

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 20 1980
DATE ENTERED JUN 19 1980

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Superintendent's House and Workmen's Office (Federal Hill)
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Woodbury Park

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
01

CITY, TOWN
Woodbury

— VICINITY OF

STATE
Kentucky

CODE
021

COUNTY
Butler

CODE
031

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Butler County Fiscal Court

STREET & NUMBER
Butler County Court House

CITY, TOWN
Morgantown

— VICINITY OF

STATE
Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Butler County Deed Books 19:353; 90:616

STREET & NUMBER
Butler County Court House

CITY, TOWN
Morgantown

STATE
Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The two buildings included in this nomination are situated on a high bluff overlooking Lock and Dam #4 of the Green River at Woodbury, Ky. Both buildings are presently located within the 8.59 acre recreational park owned by Butler County. The park, which includes game courts, picnic facilities, open fields, and an early 18th century cemetery is part of the government reservation deeded to the county in 1975. Both buildings have essentially been vacant since November of 1973 when the Corps of Engineers removed their last employee from Woodbury.

The larger of the two buildings, often called the superintendent's house, is a large, picturesque, two-story brick building situated on the point of the bluff. From either the south or east side of the house it was possible for the lockmaster or superintendent to oversee operations on the river itself, at the lock and dam, and all support operations in the staging area adjacent to the lock. The house is unaltered since its construction in 1912-1913.

The superintendent's house is 30'x35' with an 8' wide, wraparound first story porch on the south and east sides. The pyramidal roof is covered with asbestos shingle slate, and the eaves are 30" wide. A large gable dormer dominates the roof line on the south side. There are three pontil shaped casement windows with small lights in the stuccoed dormer facade. The eaves of the dormer are 2' wide. A single central chimney with a concrete cap is at the apex of the roof.

The walls of this house are made of hard yellow brick, 13" deep, set in a Flemish bond pattern. Red brick belt courses surround the house at the floor levels of the 1st and 2nd stories. The belt courses are capped with cut stones at the corners of the house. All windows on the north, east, and west side are 1/1, plate glass sash windows set on cut stone lug sills. The sash windows on both stories of the south elevation are also on cut stone sills, but the lights are either 12/1 or 6/1. The house itself rests on a concrete and cedar post foundation which encloses a full basement.

The main porch is raised 3' above ground level. The floor is concrete and a 9" thick brick wall rises 3' above the floor. The porch wall is capped with cut stone coping. The porch roof is supported by square concrete pillars, each of which has a red brick placed vertically below the Doric, cut stone cap. Stuccoed, flat arch supports join the columns together. At the northeast corner of the house is a small screened in porch with detail work similar to that on the front porch.

The floor plan of the superintendent's house is 4 rooms over 4 rooms around a central chimney. The downstairs consists of a stair hall which has a panelled, U-shaped stair well descending into it; a spacious living room with a brick fireplace and large French doors which open on to the east side of the main porch; a dining room; a pantry with a built in press and clothes chute; and a large open kitchen. The upstairs houses four bedrooms, three with walk in closets, and a full bath. All of the woodwork in the house is either yellow poplar or yellow pine except for a white oak border around the hearth and 800 sq.' of tong and grooved white oak flooring.

To the west of the main house is a one and one-half story office building with a medium pitched gable roof. The walls are of hard yellow brick and set in a Flemish bond pattern. The header bricks in the pattern are burnt orange which gives the building a pleasing polychromatic effect. The windows are

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1912-1913 BUILDER/ARCHITECT F.I. Louckes, Jr. Engineer

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Corps of Engineers' Superintendent's House and Workmen's Office in Woodbury is intimately associated with the development of the Green River drainage system in western Kentucky. As was the case in most of the eastern United States, pioneer exploration, frontier settlement, and later economic development occurred along the natural causeways of the great river basins. The Green River was the natural avenue of access into western Kentucky, and until the third decade of the 20th century it was the principle avenue of commerce for that area. The importance of these two buildings is that for forty years they served as the headquarters for all government trade, communication, and river maintenance for the entire Green River Navigation System of the Corps of Engineers.

The Green River flows through 25 counties in Kentucky, forming the largest drainage basin in the state. It has been the access point into the interior since pre-contact times, as witnessed by the archeological remains of hundreds of native American encampments along the river banks and adjacent to the main house in the Woodbury Park. In 1775, the right to settle the Green River valley was negotiated with the Cherokee Indians by R. Henderson of the Transylvania Company. By the late 18th century, a healthy flatboat trade had developed along the Green, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers. Following the U.S. Congress' example, the state legislature of Kentucky passed a series of acts directing the counties along the river to clear the river of snags and to make it navigable for commercial trade. Flatboat trade continued to flourish along the river until the first steamboat, the United States, powered past the town of Woodbury on its way to Bowling Green.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers first became involved with the Green River on February 11, 1828 when the state of Kentucky asked the U.S. War Department to conduct a navigation survey of the river from Evansville, Indiana to Bowling Green, Kentucky. As a result of the survey conducted by Lt. Wm. Turnbull and Lt. Campbell Graham, the state of Kentucky authorized construction of Locks and Dams # 1-4 on the Green River and Lock and Dam # 1 on the Barren River. The canal system designed by Gen. Abner Lacock and Alonzo Livermore was the first slackwater canalization project ever built in the United States. In later years, this system of river improvement was repeated on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. The 175 mile project on the Green River was completed in 1842 (the Woodbury Lock and Dam was opened in 1839), and the communities within the basin enjoyed the economic benefits of regularly scheduled steamboat trade for the next 100 years.

The Civil War came to Woodbury on October 29 & 30, 1861 when Federal and Confederate troops skirmished beneath the bluffs where the Corps houses now stand. Twice during the war, the Lock and Dam at Woodbury was

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Crocker, Helen B. The Green River of Kentucky. Lexington, Ky.: University of Kentucky Press, 1976.
- Greene, W.P. The Green River Country: From Bowling Green to Evansville. Evansville, Ind., 1898.
- Johnson, Leland R. Falls City Engineers: The History of the Louisville Corps of Engineers. Louisville: U.S. Corps of Engineers, Louisville District, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.6 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Morgantown

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	5,3,2,6,7,0	4,1,1,5,2,6,0	B	1,6	5,3,2,6,7,0	4,1,1,5,2,2,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,6	5,3,2,5,9,0	4,1,1,5,2,2,0	D	1,6	5,3,2,5,9,0	4,1,1,5,2,6,0
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the northwest corner, the boundary runs from the east side of the entrance drive located approximately 25' to the west of the Workmen's Office and extends eastward about 375', following the top of the knoll in a line parallel to the rear of the two

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Eric L. Eisemann Heritage Conservation Intern March 1, 1980

ORGANIZATION

Barren River Area Development District

DATE

(502) 781-2381

STREET & NUMBER

740 E. 10th St.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bowling Green

STATE

Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Eduard W. Meeter

TITLE

DATE 5-13-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

J. W. Ray Luce
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6/19/80

ATTEST: *Kristin O'Connell*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 6/18/80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 20 1980
DATE ENTERED	JUN 19 1980

Butler County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

2

1/1 sash windows set on concrete lug sills. The house rests on a concrete foundation which encloses a full basement. A full open porch extends across the west face of the house. The roof of the porch is supported by five, plain concrete pillars.

The floor plan of the office building is rectangular and is divided into a front hall, living area, and dining room -kitchen complex. There are two entranceways into the building on the west face. There is a plain, cast iron fireplace in the living room. The companion fireplace in the dining area was removed at an unknown date. The half story attic is unfinished. All interior woodwork is yellow poplar and pine.

The nominated area includes the Superintendent's House and Workmen's Office and the knoll on which the two buildings are located and to which they visually relate. Also encompassed within the boundary are two frame garages and a brick smokehouse constructed in 1912, and located to the rear of the two main buildings (see sketch maps).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Superintendent's House & Workmen's Office
Butler County, Kentucky

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 20 1980
DATE ENTERED	JUN 19 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

obstructed and damaged as both side struggled to gain control of the river. After the war, the river system was in need of emergency repair. The state of Kentucky leased all operations on the river to the Green and Barren River Navigation Company in 1868. The Navigation Company reopened the river, but maintained a monopolistic strangle hold on river traffic for the next 20 years.

The Corps of Engineers was again called to the river in 1879 to investigate complaints of excessive toll rates charged by the Navigation Company. As a result of the Corps' investigation, the Navigation Company was found to be at fault and the river was closed to commercial traffic again. In 1886, Kentucky ceded its rights of eminent domain along the river on the condition that the United States maintain control of the river. In 1888, Congress appropriated \$135,000 for the purchase of the maintenance operations on the river. On December 11, 1888, the U.S. took possession of the river operations and immediately initiated repairs of the locks and dams, and began construction of the government reservation at Woodbury.

During the heyday of government operations at Woodbury, the Lock and Dam #4 reservation included a dry dock, shipyards, a dredging fleet, a railroad system, two large warehouses, and a support crew of nearly 80 people. Although the exact date of construction is unknown, many people who worked out of the Woodbury sub-station believe that the Corps office building was built as early as 1889. Because Woodbury was chosen by the Corps as the operations center for the entire Green River Navigation System, the Corps may have built the office building first to coordinate all future activities. All government communications, river maintenance operations, and construction orders for the Green, Barren, Rough, Mud, and Nolin Rivers emanated from the office complex in Woodbury. River traffic quadrupled when the government set up offices in Woodbury, and as many as 16 steamboats regularly plied the waters between Bowling Green and Evansville.

The District Superintendent's house was completed in 1913, and Captain Overstreet was the first district officer to live there. Oral tradition credits Mrs. Overstreet with the design of the house, although the plans were drafted by Corps engineers.

The government houses at Woodbury functioned as the nerve center of the Green River trade route from the late 1800's to roughly 1930. In 1927, operations at Woodbury were gradually shifted to Paducah, Kentucky. In 1947, all maintenance and supervisory operations were transferred to the Corps of Engineers' district office in Louisville. Coincidentally, river traffic on the Green River fell from 60,000 tons in the 1920's to 46,757 tons in 1948. The government houses at Woodbury served as the lockmaster's headquarters from 1927 to November of 1973, when the last government employee left Woodbury Lock and Dam #4. On May 24, 1965, the dam at Woodbury was breached, cutting off all commercial river traffic above that point.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 20 1980
DATE ENTERED	JUN 19 1980

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Superintendent's House & Workmen's Office
Butler County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

The superintendent's house and government office building at Woodbury was deeded to Butler County as surplus federal real property in 1975. The county now uses these structures for recreational and civic purposes for all citizens of Butler County.

The two Corps of Engineers houses, particularly the Superintendent's House, are among the finest examples in Butler County of the architecture representative of the first quarter of the twentieth century. This western Kentucky county, which is hilly, with few economic resources, is characterized largely in its residential architecture by frame vernacular dwellings.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 20 1980
DATE ENTERED	JUN 19 1980

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Superintendent's House and Workmen's Office
Woodbury, Butler County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2

Verbal Boundary Description

main buildings about 60' from the north walls of those buildings. The line then turns southward, running parallel, or about 15' to the east side of the Superintendent's House and extending about 175' at which point the line turns westward. The boundary extends from the south wall of the main buildings about 50' in a parallel line, following the crest of the knoll for about 375'. The line then turns northward, following the east side of the entrance drive to the point of beginning.

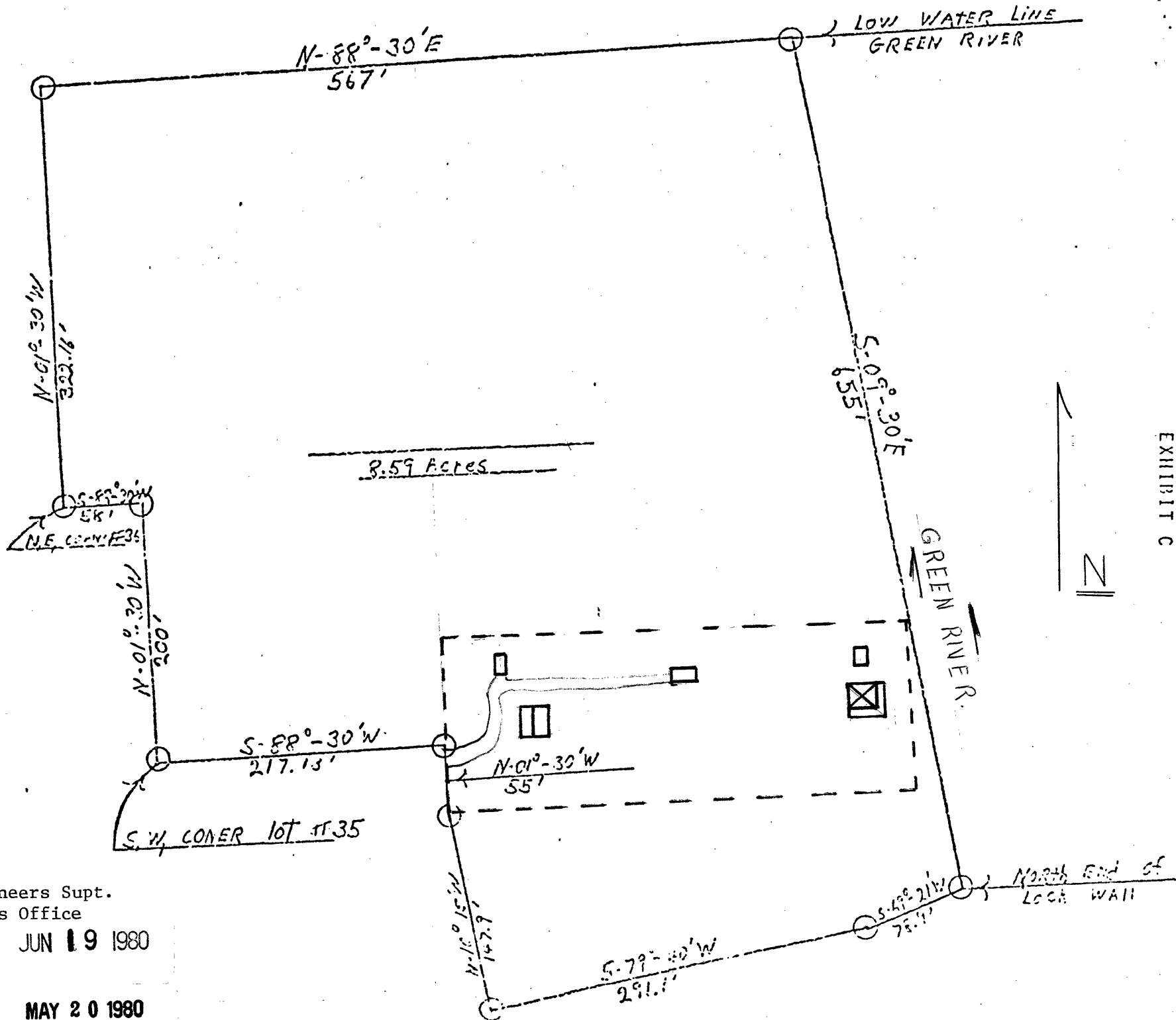


EXHIBIT C



U.S. Corps of Engineers Supt.
 House and Workmen's Office
 Woodbury, Kentucky JUN 19 1980
 Property Map 1975
 Scale not known.

Map 3 MAY 20 1980