NPS Form 10-900-b
(June 1991)

OMB No. 1024-0018

**United States Department of the Interior**
**National Park Service**

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# National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is used for documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

x New Submission ___ Amended Submission

## A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Historic Resources of Spencer County, Kentucky

## B. Associated Historic Contexts

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

Agriculture in Spencer County, 1780-1942

Education in Spencer County, 1780-1942

Black History in Spencer County, 1780-1942

## C. Form Prepared by


name/title Gibson Worsham, architect

organization The Cultural Resources Mgt. Institute date June 22, 1993

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## D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan, Executive Director/SHPO — 12-17-93

Signature and title of certifying official — Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

for Patty S. Clausman — 2-1-94

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

E. STATEMENT OF HISTORIC CONTEXTS

Geographical Overview

Spencer County is located on the western edge of the Bluegrass section of central Kentucky in what is known as the Outer Bluegrass region. The county features rolling and hilly topography and agriculturally productive soil. It is bisected by the Salt River, flowing west. The land north of the river is drained by several streams flowing south into the river, including Crooked Creek, Little Beech Creek, Big Beech Creek, Brashears Creek, Elk Creek, and Plum Creek. The land south of the Salt River is drained by Ashes Creek, Jacks Creek, and Simpson Creek flowing north into the river and by Powells Run and Cox's Creek flowing south out of the southwest corner of the county. A dam was completed on the Salt River east of Taylorsville in 1983, creating a barrier to traffic and flooding bottom land.

When the district of Kentucky was established early in 1783 by the Virginia legislature, the region had already been divided into the counties of Fayette, Jefferson, and Lincoln by the Jefferson Act of 1780. Early settlements of significance included Louisville, Danville, Bardstown, Lexington, and Harrodsburg. In 1785 the Virginia legislature divided Jefferson County, creating Nelson County. In 1788 Bardstown was founded to serve as the county seat of Nelson County. Shelby County was created out of the eastern part of Jefferson County in 1792 and Bullitt County was founded in 1797 from parts of Nelson and Jefferson. Spencer County was then an area which straddled the boundaries of Bullitt, Shelby, and Nelson counties. It was created out of those counties in 1824, with the town of Taylorsville, at the confluence of Brashears Creek and the Salt River, as the seat of government. It was named in honor of former local resident Captain Spier Spencer, a slain hero of the Battle of Tippecanoe.

In the late nineteenth century the Cumberland and Ohio Railway constructed a link between Shelbyville to the north and Bloomfield to the south. The railroad bisected the county from north to south, running through Taylorsville.

Small towns and industries sprang up along the railroad, such as Normandy in the north of the county and Wakefield Station in the south. Other surviving villages and hamlets which grew up along main roads during the nineteenth century include Smileytown and the black community of Camp Branch in the southern part of the county and Elk Creek, Little Mount, Wilsonville, and Waterford in the central and northern areas. The town of Mount Eden on the northeast county line with Shelby County is the second largest community in the county. The town is important as an example of urban planning for the unusual provision of a public square in a non-courthouse town. Smaller hamlets in the county were principally amorphous settlements around schools, churches, and stores near crossroads or railroad crossings, including Ashes Creek and Lovesville (now under Taylorsville Lake), Yoder Station, and Rivals.

The geography of Spencer County is generally without obstacles to settlement and development. Areas to the south and east are hilly and broken, but this seems to have resulted chiefly in a larger variety of less substantial buildings than the more gently rolling areas. The latter are typified by substantial farm complexes with more stylistically sophisticated dwellings. Houses and barns in the fertile north-central portion of the county perhaps tended to be replaced more frequently, or the use of smaller traditional agricultural outbuildings and dwellings was prolonged in the less prosperous districts. Masonry and frame construction were rarely utilized for buildings in the hilly southern tier of the county until the mid-nineteenth century.

Transportation Overview

Eighteenth-century Kentucky was reached by several routes corresponding to pre-existing Indian and animal trails, most important of which was the Wilderness Trail. The road was used principally after the Revolution for access to the region from the Valley of Virginia. The road from Limestone (Maysville) to Lexington superceded the Wilderness Road as the principal route after Ohio River transportation increased in the late eighteenth century.

Some of the first fiscal acts of the new Kentucky legislature after gaining statehood in 1792 pledged funds for wagon roads to outside markets. The Spencer County area was crossed by several late eighteenth-century roads, the Bardstown-Frankfort, Bardstown-Shelbyville, and Taylorsville-Jeffersonville roads. Local roads were gradually improved as the nineteenth century progressed. In 1818 the state legislature authorized construction of a bridge across the Salt River at Taylorsville to be paid for by the Spencer and Nelson County authorities. The bridge was not built until the Salt River and Taylorsville Bridge Company was chartered in 1830.[1] Before then Taylorsville could be reached without difficulty only from the east.

Towns and farms were greatly affected by their closeness to the major transportation routes. Less important roads were originally maintained by "tithables," male inhabitants of the areas served. In 1850 the county had a bridge built across Big Beech Creek on the Taylorsville-Mt. Eden Road.[2] In 1857 seventy-five road surveyors were appointed to maintain the county roads. Workers were paid by the county to maintain the routes.[3]

By 1882 the turnpikes in the county included the Louisville and Taylorsville with a branch to VanDyke's Mill, the Taylorsville and Little Mount, the Taylorsville and Chaplin, and the Taylorsville and Fairfield turnpikes, all connecting the outlying towns and nearby cities with the county seat, as well as the Waterford and Floyd's Fork Turnpike, connecting Waterford with points west and the Louisville-Bardstown and Bloomfield turnpikes, which crossed the western section of the southern study unit. The Little Mount-Mt. Eden Turnpike Company was organized in 1882 to keep the road between those communities in repair.[4]

One of the most important transportation routes to Spencer County was the Salt River, which was navigable by flatboat and keelboat. It appears that the use of the river for transportation is a principal reason for the development of Taylorsville, in addition to its location on a major early road between Bardstown and Louisville.

In the mid-nineteenth century interest in railroad transportation was stimulated by the need to open Spencer

County trade to new markets. The Cumberland and Ohio Railroad purchased right of ways through the county in 1869, forming a link between Bloomfield to the south and Shelbyville to the north. It did not open immediately due to financial problems, but was in operation before 1882. The railroad bisected the county from north the south and ran through Taylorsville. Depots or stops were provided where local communities had goods or livestock to be transported. The railroad was owned by the Shelby and Bloomfield Railroad from 1898 until 1901, when it was sold to the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, who operated it until it was closed in the mid-1950s.[5]

Vehicular transportation gradually improved through the nineteenth century with the increase in the number of privately operated turnpikes. These were forced out of operation in the late nineteenth century. State funding of highway construction began in earnest in the early twentieth century as the structure of commercial and tourist travel relied increasingly on the truck and automobile, and a network of highways and related facilities served an increasing number of vehicles.

HISTORIC CONTEXT #1
AGRICULTURE IN SPENCER COUNTY 1780-1942

The earliest settlers of the Spencer County area were primarily of Scotch-Irish and English origin from Pennsylvania or Virginia, with substantial numbers of settlers of German ancestry. Once in the territory, settlers as quickly as possible found an eligible tract and began farming. The farms took the pattern of dispersed homesteads, following the Virginia model, as soon as the defensive "stations" broke up after the cessation of Indian resistance.[6] Commerce, trade, and manufacturing began to grow up almost immediately, but farming was the principal occupation of almost every settler.

Universally grown staple crops included corn, wheat, oats, timothy, some hemp, tobacco, and flax (this last was used primarily for domestic purposes). Livestock was an important early commodity which could be transported on the hoof. Corn and grain whiskies were popular products; the general population refused to pay excise taxes on the alcohol. Hemp that was not used was exported, stimulated by a Federal bounty. Pasture acreage was utilized in large amounts on almost every farm; crops included clover, alfalfa, tame grasses, wild grasses, hay crops, and pasturage crops grown solely for seed.

The antebellum years, beginning in 1830, saw the wealth of Spencer County farms increase, and the capitalization of agriculture became more visible as more extensive farm buildings were constructed. In related areas of the Upland South few barns date from before this time. Farming became more linked to outside economies as produce from local farms was shipped by river and turnpike to distant markets. Hemp joined the other crops as the staple cash crop in parts of the Bluegrass. Regionally, farmers responded to agricultural experimentation, farm journals, and new implements, and the quality of produce and breeding stock was improved.

By 1860, United States census records listed sixty percent of all farmland in the county as "improved land" -- higher than in most Kentucky counties. This may also account for the unusually high wheat production in Spencer

County. In 1850 Spencer County was the largest per capita producer of wheat in the state.[7] One must take into account the small population of the county as compared to surrounding counties, but another factor makes the high wheat production more outstanding. In total land area Spencer County is one of the smallest counties in the state, but successfully competed with many larger counties both inside and outside of the Bluegrass region. Several large farm seats were established in the northern part of the county in the early to mid-nineteenth century, particularly along the road to Louisville. Several great houses were built as farm seats in this area, notably at Vauclause (SP-90), built for Jacob Yoder in the early nineteenth century. The National Register farm includes many fine outbuildings.

Most farms included a variety of crops for trade and internal consumption. Primary sources for antebellum agricultural practices in Spencer County are scarce. Susan Dale Sanders, a former Spencer County slave, recounted that her master, Reuben Dale, had an orchard. In the fall a pit would be dug and lined with straw. The apples, placed in the pit and covered with straw, would be used throughout the winter.[8] Reuben Dale is listed in the 1882 Atlas as a horse breeder and trader as well as a farmer, located just northeast of Elk Creek. Vegetables and other miscellaneous crops were insignificant as market crops; like flax, these were generally grown only for domestic purposes. In the Bluegrass region tobacco production was consistently high until fairly recently. However, in 1860 tobacco production was lower in Spencer County than in surrounding counties.

Wheat production decreased steadily from the late nineteenth century into the twentieth century when the acreage devoted to wheat farming dropped from 6,598 acres in 1919 to only 898 acres in 1924. Spencer County was also known for its sugar cane and sorghum production, although the county maintained a lower acreage of these crops than did many counties. In 1890 Spencer County ranked third in tons of cane sold for sugar making in the state, and in 1900 it ranked fifth in tons of sorghum sold in the state.[9] Although the number of farms increased steadily into the twentieth century, a significant change was seen in the 1920s and 1930s. Worsening economic conditions, as well as

changes in farming methods created fewer farms throughout the nation. Census records from 1940 show that 92.9 percent of Spencer County was in farmland, in contrast to 97.6 percent in 1920.

HISTORIC CONTEXT #2
EDUCATION IN SPENCER COUNTY 1780-1942

The most common educational institutions in rural areas of early nineteenth-century Kentucky were small private schools where families pooled their resources to hire a teacher. Schools were also often associated with churches. Kentucky's first constitution did not fund public education and any education for blacks was not encouraged. Efforts made at the state level to establish a comprehensive educational system in the early nineteenth century were largely failures. When the school system was founded in 1837 it was a public system, but not a free school system. Immediately after the adoption of the new state constitution in 1850, the school systems of Kentucky were made free. However, according to one source, after the free system developed, local assistance began to disappear, and by 1867 public schools were almost a failure from lack of funding. In an effort to preserve the system, increases in property taxes, as well as other taxes (such as a one-dollar tax on dogs) were available to go directly to education to provide better buildings, teachers, and equipment.[10]

The census of 1829 indicates that only one-third of the eligible children between the ages of four and fifteen were in school in Spencer County. At this time public school teachers were paid on a district per capita basis, meaning that their pay was dependant upon the number of possible students in the district rather than actual school attendance.

One way the state attempted to improve education at a local level was through the establishment of academies for secondary education. A legislative act of 1798 established six-thousand-acre land grants for purposes of funding county academies. In 1824 six thousand acres were surveyed in Muhlenburg County and conveyed to Spencer County. The land appears to have been unprofitable. In 1839 the justices of Spencer County asked for a legislative act enabling them to sell the seminary lands. In 1841 trustees were appointed for a Spencer Seminary and the acreage was sold to Albert Boswell, who built a structure in Taylorsville for the school in 1844. The apparently coeducational seminary had

an enrollment of about 80 in 1847. It operated until 1867.[11] The seminary was succeeded by the Spencer Institute in 1877. This private school, like the seminary, suffered financial problems and closed in 1881. A new Spencer Institute, opened in 1885 by Cornelia Overstreet in Taylorsville, was more successful and operated until 1919, by which time the private academies in Kentucky had outlived their usefulness.

Other private schools are known to have been located in antebellum Spencer County, many of which were associated with churches. The Little Union Academy was apparently associated with the Little Union Baptist Church in the area southwest of Taylorsville. The academy advertised in 1882 that the course of study provided by Charles Williams, principal, was "very thorough and designed to prepare Young Ladies and Gentlemen for College or the active duties of life".[12] The Elk Creek Academy was located in the agricultural community of Elk Creek north of Taylorsville in 1882. Like the Little Union Academy, this coeducational boarding school was the equivalent of a high school. It was presided over by W. R. Ward. A school is shown in the same year next to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church northwest of Wilsonville.[13]

A total of seventeen schools were located in Spencer County by 1840. In 1850 there were nineteen school districts (all listed as one-teacher schools), fifteen of which were public schools.[14] By 1853 all counties in Kentucky had at least one public school, as was mandated in the 1850 state constitution, but attendance was not enforced. A lack of transportation was often given as a reason for poor attendance; since a school district needed twenty-five or more students to be funded unrealistic travel distances were sometimes created.[15] Private schools apparently continued to lead in quality over the public schools, which were said to be housed in inferior structures. However, in rural areas both private and public schools usually met in small log or frame, one- or two-room buildings.

The form of antebellum schools resembled that of the churches in the region. The gable front of the rectangular buildings usually held a central door. A blackboard and

teacher's desk usually occupied a raised platform at the opposite end of the school house and light was supplied through two or three regularly spaced sash windows on either side. This type of school house seems to represent a continuation of earlier educational architectural forms. Most buildings in the settlement period embodied domestic scale as suggested by the use of the term "house" for almost every kind of building. By the antebellum period many non-domestic buildings demonstrated an increased expression of a hierarchy of authority. Most public or institutional building types took analogous forms in which a general seating area facing a raised platform for the teacher, preacher, or justices, with a central axis aligned with the ridge of the roof. An earlier, less inflected floor plan utilized for several religious buildings in Spencer County appears to be embodied in what may be the only surviving antebellum educational resource in the rural county, Ashes Creek School (SP-161). The original entry to the building, which may have begun use as a church, was apparently on the long, side wall. This type of plan was consciously utilized by settlement period Protestant churches to avoid reference to social or spiritual hierarchy.

The Little Mount School is illustrative of a slightly larger form of public school in the mid-to-late-nineteenth-century, where essentially two or more of the basic one-room school blocks were combined. Essential changes in educational architecture did not appear in Kentucky until early-twentieth-century reform and consolidation programs were launched. These changes included new window forms and orientation designed to improve reading conditions, entry vestibules, asymmetrical massing, and sanitary water sources. Few examples of any significant architectural changes can be found among the surviving unconsolidated schools of Spencer County from any period. The two-room Little Mount School was in operation for some years on the Taylorsville-Frankfort Road before 1868, when the L-shaped log structure was left, and a new two-room building with small vestibules was built in the village of Little Mount. Neither building stands today, but an unusually evocative interior description exists of the second building. Written by eleven-year-old Sammie McClain as a school exercise, the paper details the location and number of lamps, seats, and

benches ("short enough for two to sit on but sometimes they wont hardly hold one.") The lower panes of the six-over-six sash windows were painted "to keep the scholars from looking out." The two blackboards had "little troughs under them for holding the chalk. One of the troughs [was] split."[16]

Schools for the former slaves were opened in the 1860s. A school house was apparently located in the black community of Camp Branch soon after the Civil War. An 1897 entry in the Spencer County deed books records a deed that had been made previously, although, according to this entry, never recorded. This deed concerned a parcel of land once owned by Jefferson Smith and conveyed by Smith to the Mount Zion Col. (colored) Church, stating that this "land is the same that the school house is now on."[17] An 1872 entry referring to this same parcel stated "use of the said piece of land is given... for [the] purpose of erecting and keeping thereon a Common School House."[18] Therefore it seems likely that the building (not standing in 1992) was constructed shortly after the signing of the deed on September 9, 1872. The 1882 Atlas shows a "Col. Bapt. Ch." located where the present schoolhouse (see below) now stands.[19]

The Common School Law, passed in 1884, regulated and uniformly defined public schools. Academies were deeded to the county systems in many cases. Black citizens had separate schools, as well as separate funding until 1882, when school funds were distributed among whites and blacks alike. At the same time mixed-race schools were prohibited.[20] Most log schools were replaced soon after 1884, except the Ashes Creek School (SP-161), which survives today on a new site. However, in 1907-1909, 740 log school houses were still in use throughout Kentucky.[21]

In the late nineteenth century the school commissioners expressed dismay with the public apathy towards education.[22] Their concern was substantiated by an early-twentieth-century Federal census that ranked Kentucky forty-ninth among fifty-two states and territories on the basis of the number of illiterate white voters of native white parentage.[23] In 1891 Lucy Vestine West was appointed the first superintendent of schools in Spencer County. She was

concerned that universal public education had not been achieved. Although she attributed poor attendance of teachers at a early training session or "teachers' institute" to poor roads, she expressed concern about a lack of interest in both white and black districts.

In 1892 there were thirty-one white school districts and eight black. School consolidation into graded elementary schools began in the early twentieth century, largely under the influence of contemporary educational theory. However, Spencer County seems to have retained more ungraded, one-room schools into the mid-twentieth century than some other Outer Bluegrass counties, based on this writer's survey experience. In 1907 a new grade and high school, the only high school in the county, was built on the knoll which rises in Taylorsville. This two-story, six-room, brick school, constructed by Innis Beauchamp, contained the only public high school in the county.[24] Black students who wished to attend high school had to travel to the Lincoln Institute in Shelby County.[25]

By 1910, only a little over sixty per cent of the county's children were attending school.[26] However, during Barksdale Hammett's tenure as state superintendent (1911-1913), the method of paying teachers was changed to a system where attendance of students helped determine a teacher's pay.[27] The 1920 census reported an 87.9 per cent attendance rate for children aged seven to thirteen.[28] Teachers' desires for increased attendance, mandatory attendance laws, and transportation improvements most probably contributed to the increase.

A publication of the Kentucky Department of Education entitled School Architecture attempted to promote a modern form of school house for both graded and ungraded schools. Sanitary, lighting, ventilation, heating, and storage issues were addressed in the plans published in the book.[29] No schools identified in rural Spencer County incorporated any of the features. The Riverview School (SP-26) was built after 1917. The frame, one-room school exhibits the simple rectangular form traditionally used in the county, with three windows lighting each side and a central door in the south gable end. The only concession to decorative effect

was the use of ornamental shingles in the front gable. This structure is the best preserved of the ten surviving post-Civil War unconsolidated schools in the rural county, most of which have been severely altered in conversion to residential use.

By the 1920s the number of one-room schools had dropped to thirty for the white and five for the black population. No buses were provided.[30] While illiteracy declined among the black population by about four per cent between 1920 and 1930, it increased by about one per cent among the white population. According to Camp Branch School alumnus Richard Downs few schools were provided for blacks in the second quarter of the twentieth century. No transportation was provided, so that access to schools was difficult for many black students.[31] In the 1930s two-room schools began to replace the one-room ungraded schools, and by the 1950s there were only four one-room schools remaining in use. Little Mount, Elk Creek, and Waterford were the last one-room schools to close, in the late 1950s and 1960s.[32]

The construction of more and better roads in the county allowed more students to travel farther to attend school. Before the end of World War I the Federal government had passed a "good roads act" and the Firestone Company had published a booklet listing the "outstanding advantages to motor over horse" transportation to school. With the obstacle of transportation nearly eliminated, the consolidation of rural schools was made easier. However, at mid-century, twenty-two per cent of Kentucky school children still attended one-teacher schools[33] and this figure included most students in Spencer County. In 1938 a new high school, still the only high school in the county, was built at the foot of the knoll in Taylorsville, funded by the Public Works Administration. Integration of black students in the school system began in 1958 at the high school and was completed by 1962.[34] Relocated in recent years north of Taylorsville, Spencer County High School remains the county's only secondary school.

While the history of schools in Spencer County parallels that of schooling across Kentucky, the survival rate of one-room schools seems high based on data collected

in Boyle, Bracken, Mason, Shelby, and Washington counties by this writer. This may indicate a later use of one-room schools than most other Outer Bluegrass counties, but the statistics cited above would suggest that ungraded schools continued in use for comparable periods in many other parts of Kentucky and in counties with sparse school populations and over-stretched budgets. The survival rate may depend on disposal policies utilized by the county for superfluous buildings or on the market for such buildings for reuse as dwellings. The surviving buildings, by their conservative form and small scale, illustrate a remarkable continuity in rural education from the antebellum period to the mid-twentieth century.

HISTORIC CONTEXT #3
BLACK HISTORY IN SPENCER COUNTY 1780-1942

People of African descent were in the state from a very early date and, as slaves, became an integral part of agricultural and industrial Kentucky's economy. In the strict economic sense, due to the type of agriculture prevalent in Kentucky, it is unlikely that slavery was very profitable for farmers.[35] The system of slavery was of questionable value in many areas of Kentucky, since it has been said that cultivation of wheat, oats, rye, corn, and perhaps hemp could be more profitably raised with free rather than slave labor.[36] However, many of the farms in Kentucky, most extensively in the Bluegrass region, did rely on slaves to perform a variety of agricultural as well as domestic tasks. Spencer County, while a predominantly agricultural county, differed from some adjacent counties in that it was a large producer of wheat and produced relatively little labor-intensive tobacco.[37] Therefore, the type of methods of farming practiced in Spencer County were apparently not generally as conducive to large-scale slave-holding as were those of the central Bluegrass and some other states.

Although no conclusive study of early slave dwellings in Kentucky has been conducted, slaves were apparently housed close to the main house on many farms, as opposed to the distant quarters often found on large single-crop farms of the plantation economy elsewhere in the South.[38] The earliest slave dwellings, those in uncleared areas, were probably very similar to those of the master. While land was being cleared and before a more substantial main house was constructed, both the slave-holder and slave were likely to have lived in small log houses. Only the difference of a finished floor or an extra room might have established a distinction between the groups.[39]

For his convenience and economy, an owner of only a few slaves likely provided them with a space in the main house. It would have been much more practical to have had one or two slaves living in the owner's house or outbuildings than to construct separate housing for their use. However, by the second quarter of the nineteenth century the one-room

log house had become the predominate slave dwelling through most of the slave-holding states.[40] Among surviving examples from the later antebellum period, the standard housing for slaves, at least those involved in work related to the domestic area, was the long or short row of linked one- and two-room dwelling units. Housing for field workers on large farms does not survive and was presumably of minimal quality.

Only a small body of primary material documents slavery in Spencer County and it expands slightly on the more general information based on research at a regional level. Susan Dale Sanders, former slave of Reuben Dale of Spencer County, was born in a dwelling "made of logs and chinked with clay and rocks." She noted, in an interview conducted by the Federal Writers' Project in the late 1930s, that each slave family had its own cabin and that her father, who was owned by neighboring farmer Jack Allen, was allowed to stay on the Dale farm at night and return to the Allen Farm to work each day. Susan Dale Sanders referred to Dale as a "very kind man," but admitted that she had heard of incidents on other farms where slaves were treated quite differently.[41] Statistically, Spencer County slaves had an alarmingly high mortality rate compared with that of the free population. In 1849 slaves represented less than one-third of Spencer County's population, but accounted for one-half of the deaths.[42]

The abolition of slavery at the end of the Civil War was a smaller step forward than many had hoped. Segregation and other forms of discrimination hindered education, housing, health, and economic advancement. In most former slave states property values decreased after the war, allowing blacks to purchase small farms and begin working their own land. However, land value in Kentucky actually rose by about ten per cent during this time.[43] This increase in the cost of land probably hindered Kentucky blacks from participating in the initial burst of farm purchasing that occurred in other Southern states during Reconstruction. Some blacks continued to work for the same people or at the same kind of work as before emancipation and settled in small communities in rural areas or on the outskirts of existing towns and villages. In other cases blacks continued to live near their former masters' or other

farmers' houses in pre-existing slave houses or new housing resembling pre-Civil War slave dwellings. At the end of the Civil War Susan Dale Sanders was working for Susan Lovell, Reuben Dale's daughter, and "stayed on doing all the cooking and washing and all the work" for four dollars a month.[44]

By the 1880s stable black communities had become established in former slave-holding areas. These communities or hamlets were usually formed in a number of ways, sometimes "with the mercenary assistance of whites."[45] Small plots on the edge of a large farm property, at the end of a dead-end road, or other out-of-the-way locations were sometimes given away by the former slave-owners, but were more often sold by the farmer or an agent at an inflated price and then subdivided into smaller one- to two-acre lots. Camp Branch, the principal surviving black hamlet in Spencer County, is uncharacteristic in its location on the main turnpike south of Taylorsville, but the size of lots and pattern of land sales corresponds to this pattern of community development.

An actual system of peonage is thought to have existed in some black hamlets.[46] Unable to sustain their own businesses, the residents of the black communities relied on the large landowners and other proprietors for anything that could not be produced in the hamlets. In many areas the out-migration of blacks from rural to urban areas began during World War One. However, in Kentucky it began much earlier. A mass exodus from Spencer County occurred during the first decade of the twentieth century, with a decrease of 493 blacks during that time (deaths may account for a portion of the number). The black population of Spencer County steadily declined from a high of 2,205 slaves and nine free blacks in 1860 to 480 people in 1940, a dramatic change in the black population of the county.[47] According to Richard Downs, a lifetime resident of Camp Branch, many of the residents of his community left Spencer County to work in neighboring counties throughout the early and mid-twentieth century.[48]

Deed books show the gradual parceling-off of land beginning in the 1870s and lasting through the 1890s. A major landowner in southern Spencer County, Matthew

Wakefield, began selling small tracts in the years following the Civil War, several acres of which were bought by Jefferson Smith and R. A. Robertson.[49] Both Smith and Robertson, who do not seem to have been part of the black community, in turn divided these parcels still further, into one- or two-acre lots and sold them within a few years.[50] At least one parcel that Smith sold (to the Mt. Zion Baptist Church) was described as being located in the community of Camp Creek.[51]

The post-Civil War black community usually consisted of a number of small residences and, later, a church and a school. Few black hamlets had their own stores or industry and were obliged instead to rely on nearby white-owned stores.[52] The small lots provided some produce, allowing a vegetable garden and perhaps a small hog pen, hen house, and even a tobacco crop. This created or maintained a dependence upon the for-profit farmer, sometimes a former slave-owner, for the small cash income on which the inhabitants of these segregated communities survived. In turn, the farmer received cheap labor from former slaves for whom he no longer was obliged to provide medical care, food, clothing, or housing. The structures in black hamlets often took part in the regional vernacular architectural tradition, as demonstrated in Spencer County in the domestic architecture of Camp Branch.

The black influence on farming in Spencer County steadily declined after the abolition of slavery. By 1900 less than five per cent of Kentucky farm operators were black and the blacks' economic base in agriculture, already small, had rapidly disappeared.[53] With the prosperity of the early twentieth century, both black- and white-operated farms increased in number until the 1920s.[54] However, between 1920 and 1940 the number of black-owned farms decreased by more than half, to a little over two per cent of the total of Spencer County farms.[55] By 1970 over a fifth of the black commercial farmers were sixty-five or older, as compared to all farmers, and only thirty-five black farmers were under age thirty-five in the entire state.[56]

NOTES

1 Mary Frances Brown, The History of Spencer County, Kentucky (Utica, Kentucky: McDowell Publications, 1990) 72-74.

2 Brown, 1990, 80.

3 Brown, 1990, 82.

4 Brown, 1990, 113.

5 Brown, 1990, 119.

6 Christine Amos, "The Bluegrass Cultural Landscape: A Regional Planning Overview," (unpublished manuscript on file at the Kentucky Heritage Council, 1988) n.p.

7 Sam Bowers Hilliard, Atlas of Antebellum Southern Agriculture (Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana State UP, 1984).

8 Susan Dale Sanders, interview, Federal Writers' Project, Slave Narratives: A Folk History of Slavery in the United States from Interviews with Former Slaves, vol. 15 (1936-38; Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1976).

9 U.S. Census Reports, 1890-1900.

10 Barksdale Hamlett, "History of Education in Kentucky," Bulletin of the Kentucky Department of Education 7.2 (1914) 116.

11 Brown, 1990, 70.

12 D. J. Lake and Co., Atlas of Nelson and Spencer Counties, 1882 (Bardstown, Kentucky: Nelson County Historical Society, 1973).

13 Lake, 1882.

14 U.S. Census, 1850.

15 Hamlett, 1914, 237-240.

16 Brown, 1990, 114-5.

17 Spencer County Deed Book W, p. 30.

18 Spencer County Deed Book O, p. 431-2.

19 Lake, 1882.

20 Hamlett, 1914, 158.

21 Hamlett, 1914, 196.

22 Brown, 1990, p. 114-5.

23 Hamlett, 1914, 198.

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35 Peter Craig Smith, "Negro Hamlets and Gentleman Farms: A Dichotomous Rural Settlement Pattern in Kentucky's Bluegrass Region," diss., U of Kentucky, 1972, 13.

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F. ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES

I. Agricultural Buildings, Structures, and Sites

II. Description

Agricultural buildings and structures in Spencer County include barns, corncribs, silos, granaries, hen houses, and other farm-related outbuildings. No agricultural outbuildings are known positively to exist in the county from before the mid-nineteenth century, but it is thought that the forms found from that period are related to the buildings of previous decades. Few agricultural buildings were surveyed that were not associated with a surveyed domestic structure.

Few, if any, structures associated exclusively with agriculture are known to survive from the earliest period of settlement, and very few from the first decades of the nineteenth century, although the clearing and fencing of the land seems to have taken place largely during those years. Fish traps were in use from prehistoric times until the late nineteenth century in some areas. The island in the Salt River at the mouth of Brashears Creek is labelled "Fish Trap Island" in the 1882 Atlas, suggesting that fish trapping went on there until a late date and that some remnant of a fish weir or trap of stone may survive there.

The survival of agricultural property types from the antebellum period appears to be slim, less than that for some other Bluegrass and outer Bluegrass counties. Early structures are found on farms of every level of size and wealth and in each section of the county, but many early buildings are undoubtedly gone from larger, more prosperous farms in the north-central section. The earliest property types encountered include principally mid-nineteenth-century frame and log stock barns. These surviving barns, with their built-in feed storage and diversified plans, are associated with substantial county families and would seem to represent a development of more intensive farming than in previous periods, where labor-saving combinations of functions were incorporated under one roof.

Poor survival rates make it difficult to characterize agricultural buildings precisely for the period. Not only do more buildings survive from the later periods because they are newer or better built, but data from other regions suggest that the scale and variety of agricultural buildings increased over time.[1] Some moderately substantial houses in western Virginia did not have associated barns until the mid-nineteenth century. Domestic outbuildings have been included under the domestic heading.

Surviving agricultural buildings in Spencer County dating from the mid-nineteenth century or before are in most cases substantial structures on prosperous farms. The large, v-notched, log, double-crib barn near the partially collapsed, brick central-passage-plan Benjamin Downs House (SP-2) in the rich bottomland near the mouth of Simpson Creek appears to date from the mid-nineteenth century. The barn features an asymmetrical plan with a square crib or pen at the south end separated by a narrow aisle from a wider rectangular pen at the north end and aligned with the other pen only on the east side (see plan). Like many log barns, the Downs Barn appears to have had integral sheds on at least one side and integral framed extensions at the ends. The top plates are carried on projecting log ends: these project about five feet along the west side of the south crib and continue into the end extensions. The loft may have been carried along the east side on a supported or cantilevered overhang. The cribs are very tall; the north crib is divided into two pens with a central aisle at the loft level only.

The large double-crib barn at the antebellum, frame, central-passage-plan J. M. Crume House #2 (SP-24) in the rolling ground near the East Fork of Coxes Creek on the south edge of the county is one of the best preserved in the county. The nearly identical rectangular cribs and aisle, overall measuring twenty-one by forty feet, are surrounded by frame sheds and end extensions. The cribs do not extend up into the loft, perhaps indicating that the framed section was built around a pre-existing log barn. The west side features a narrow, open, supported overhang or forebay. The cribs project out under the forebay, beyond the barn's upper

framing system. Such a forebay is suggested by the Downs Barn described above and by most of the barns surveyed from the period. The forebay is not commonly found in antebellum Kentucky log barns, although it is has been identified in the western Virginia region during the same period.

The well-preserved, double-crib, v-notched, log barn at the Isaac Miller Farm (SP-17) near Fairfield on the southern edge of the county also has unusual features. The wide central aisle extends into the cribs to either side, and one side of the aisle contains an early granary for convenient feeding of livestock. A supported overhang containing a loft occupies the south side. The log central section, which measures twenty-four by fifty-two feet, is surrounded by altered sheds and end extensions, but approximates the double-crib form seen on the other sites in the county mentioned above.

Surviving mid-nineteenth-century frame barns are rare in Kentucky, and those that survive often seem to be unusual. A small frame barn at the nearby J. M. Crume House #1 (SP-23) features a continuous stone foundation, hewn walnut upright members and circular sawn horizontal members, with mortice-and-tenon joints. The much-altered barn, which may date from the period when the neighboring log barn at the J. M. Crume House #2 was enlarged, has a similar forebay. The barn appears to have had a raised cutting room flanked by stalls, a corn crib separated from the barn proper by a drive-through, and a forebay along the west side.

Another small group of barns are physically smaller in size and may represent a less extensive and modern farming system. They are associated with small, often single-pen, log houses, such as the J. Rogers, Sr. House (SP-34), near Wakefield, south of Taylorsville, where a v-notched single-crib barn stands near the house. The small, double-crib barn without central aisle at the James Snider House (SP-130) appears to have originally had surrounding integral sheds.

A pair of neighboring log barns feature the more unusual half-dovetailed joints. Since both appear to date from the third quarter of the nineteenth century, this may indicate a later date in this area for that jointing technique than the more ubiquitous v-notching. The barns are located at the D. Walker Farm (SP-345) and the Wigginton Farm (SP-346) in the Plum Creek bottomland west of Taylorsville. The first is a single-crib barn associated with a log house. The second is a small (twenty by thirty-one feet) tripartite barn. The continuous log side walls surround a space subdivided by log partitions into animal pens flanking a narrow central aisle. The central aisle, as seems to be the case in many similar barns found in other Kentucky counties, functioned as a cutting room, and here a hollow log trough survives on one side to show how the feed was distributed from the center to the animals on either side. The log partitions did not extend into the loft.

A larger variety of building types survive from the late nineteenth century than from previous eras. The structures include tobacco and stock barns, corn cribs, and granaries. Many farms include one or more examples of the above types. Typical late-nineteenth-century complexes include a mix of earlier and later buildings. The J. Rogers, Sr. Farm (SP-34), near Wakefield, includes the small log barn mentioned above, but in addition there is a larger, gabled, central-aisle, circular-sawn frame barn once called, according to the present owner, a "combination barn", because it held tobacco, cows, and horses. A nearby frame corn crib appears to date from the late nineteenth century, and a silo has been added at the north end.

A late-nineteenth-century stock barn at the Cain Farm (SP-176) features a longitudinal central aisle aligned with the gable roof ridge and a continuous stone foundation. Few of the hundreds of tobacco barns in the county were examined on the interior. Since the long frame type of barn familiar in the region appeared in the late nineteenth century, and hewn and circular-sawn frame examples have been identified in other counties, it is likely that a significant number of the tobacco barns in Spencer County date from before 1900.

Fine frame granaries at the Isaac Miller Farm (SP-17) near Fairfield and the C. Cook Farm (SP-124) south of

Taylorsville, appear to date from the late nineteenth century. They consist of relatively large (approximately twenty by twenty feet), plain, weatherboarded structures with a square floor plan and a door in the center of one wall. They usually contain grain bins with removable plank walls. They seem to be associated with more substantial farm complexes that retain a group of now-outmoded outbuildings, perhaps because a recent owner resisted modernization. Granaries from this period often are located at a distance from the main house and barn. One of the most elaborate granaries stands at the J. M. Crume Farm #1 (SP-23), mentioned above. It features the familiar square shape, but is ornamented with a scalloped vergeboard. The slots for the bin walls extend to the ceiling.

The largest number of sites from the agriculture theme date from the early twentieth century. Tobacco barns, corn cribs, silos, stock and dairy barns, and secondary structures such as milk houses and stripping rooms are ubiquitous on Spencer County farms. Although most tobacco barns from this period were built of light sawn lumber, the tobacco barn at site SP-255 is built of untrimmed saplings, sheathed in vertical boards. Dairy farming became a popular farming activity in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as the technique of ensilage became widespread, encouraged by the newly established Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. Silos were built enabling farmers to feed cattle with greater economy and efficiency. While new buildings were added to existing farm complexes, there is no evidence to suggest a radical change in the way farms were structured or organized.

In 1909 the National Ice Cream Company, headquartered in Louisville, began the construction of a plant in Taylorsville to take advantage of the high volume of milk produced on Spencer County farms. Most dairy barns built for that purpose in Spencer County appear to have been built to popular published designs in the early- to mid-twentieth century and had attached rows of stanchions where the cattle were tethered in hygienic conditions. The frame barn at the Robert McClain Farm (SP-114) near Little Mount was built in 1907. Many dairy operations simply converted older barns,

as is the case at the log barn at the Isaac Miller Farm (SP-17), where stanchions and a concrete-block milk house were added. Sometimes gambrel-roofed barns were built, but few before 1920. The gambrel-roofed barn at the J. M. Chowning Farm (SP-143) in the southeast corner of the county is a rare example. Use of log cribs continued into the twentieth century. The early-twentieth-century house at SP-274 northeast of Taylorsville has an associated small pole barn with a frame upper story and split pole flooring.

III. Significance

All of the nominated agricultural buildings are significant under Criterion A. The historical methodology used to analyze the properties was strongly based in the standing structures, which were seen as codifications of regional agricultural practices. This view of their significance derives from an attempt to make parallels between their form and current understandings of historical trends in agriculture in Spencer County and the Bluegrass region of Kentucky.

The earliest buildings, those dating from the mid-nineteenth century, indicate the forms and types of agricultural buildings used on the county's most prosperous farms. Their survival rate suggests that outbuildings on middling and economically marginal farms were less common or built of less permanent materials. The greater variety of building types and their larger numbers in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries apparently relate to an increase in the intensity of Spencer County farming and a greater availability of finished building materials, as well as advances in agricultural technology tied to national trends. The use of ensilage and commercial dairying practices are examples of these developments and are demonstrated in new agricultural buildings and alterations to existing ones.

IV. Registration Requirements

For agricultural buildings, structures, and sites to be an eligible part of a district or farm complex, or to be individually eligible, they must be an example of a

particular form or style important in delineating the agricultural history of Spencer County. The site may represent the work of an individual, a pattern of life, the adaptation of buildings to cultural change, or an event important in the history of the county. In order to meet registration requirements, agricultural properties may have been changed substantially if the change is illustrative of the cultural transformations within the period of significance.

The requirements for eligibility include the National Register categories of location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, association, and feeling. The location and setting have great bearing on a building's eligibility. Properties that have been moved will not be considered unless they exhibit important features found in no other example, and retain integrity in all other categories. Setting, association, and feeling are particularly important where change through time or the ambience of an historical event are elements of a property's significance. Workmanship, design, and materials, other important elements of an agriculture-related property's integrity, may have received some limited modification, but the clarity of the design must be intact.

I. Rural Schools

II. Description

Few educational resources survive in rural Spencer County from the antebellum period. The only building identified is the Ashes Creek School (SP-161), a log, one-room school relocated to a new site by the Army Corps of Engineers when Taylorsville Lake was constructed. The well-preserved school was weatherboarded on the exterior and sheathed on the interior, probably in the early twentieth century. It resembles a typical rural Spencer County school of the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries, but its form seems to have resulted from alterations made to a much earlier log school or church. The door is now located in the center of one gable end but evidence in the fabric indicates that a principal entry was originally located in

the center of one long side wall, suggesting a floor plan resembling the Baptist Meeting House in Taylorsville (SP-T-19) of about 1834 and the two unusual churches in Waterford (SP-49 and SP-W-10) dating from the early twentieth century.

Three schools were located which date from before the turn of the twentieth century. The small, two-bay, frame, one-room School No. 35 (SP-229) near the Shelby County line was in use in 1882.[2] One of the smallest schools located, it has been converted into a house. The larger frame school (SP-292) on the Taylorsville-Little Mount Road east of Taylorsville, is more typical of schools in the period and region. The entrance is in the gable end and the side walls are both pierced by three regularly spaced windows. It is nearly identical to the rural nave-plan churches of the period. The connection between churches mentioned above may have had an effect on their forms. A similar school, located in Waterford (SP-351), appears to date from the same period.

Surviving rural schools from the early twentieth century resemble those from the previous period. A total of seven one-room schools were found and appear to date from this period. A typical one-room school was identified on Bardstown Road, just north of High Grove. Riverview School (SP-26), apparently built around 1917 on 14/100 acre of land sold to School District #14 by S. T. and Martha Lloyd.[3] The school complex included a one-room school house, cistern, coal house, and separate privies for males and females. A former Riverview teacher, Alberta Hedden (September 1940-December 1942) owns a photograph showing the white-painted school with a long shed porch across the south front. The class usually consisted of about twenty-one students in eight grade levels, who attended school from September to May, with two weeks off for Christmas (although some boys "took off" in the fall to help with tobacco crops).[4]

The Camp Branch Colored School (SP-182), in the black community of Camp Branch, is an unusually small, frame, one-room school. It resembles most of the other early-twentieth-century schools in the county except that it has only two windows on each side, like the earlier School #35 described above. Like most of the others, it is sturdily

built of framed lumber, weatherboarded, lined with tongue-and-groove boards, and set on a stone foundation. By the early twentieth century, at least, the few rural schools for blacks which were provided were apparently architecturally comparable to those of rural whites.

The educational resources of Spencer County suggest that the county retained traditional educational patterns longer than some other central Kentucky counties. The prevalence of the unarticulated, one-room, gable-entry form indicates a strong dependance on received knowledge in the community rather than a reliance on material published by state and national authorities and design experts. The lack of alteration of the buildings after construction confirms these traditional aspects of local educational design policy.

III. Significance

All of the nominated educational properties are significant under Criterion A. The buildings' form demonstrates the continuity of traditional educational practices and administrative organization in Spencer County. The widespread popularity of the one-room, gable-fronted type of school from the post-Civil-War expansion of public education to the first period of state-wide school consolidation in the 1910s and 1920s suggests an insularity in Spencer County educational design. The absence of the lighting, ventilating, and sanitary arrangements recommended by the Kentucky Department of Education in early twentieth century confirms a local and perhaps regional resistance to innovation in school design.

IV. Registration Requirements

For educational buildings, structures, and sites to be eligible, they must be an example of a particular form or style important in delineating the educational history of Spencer County. Since most educational buildings in rural Spencer saw little change during their period of significance as educational structures, retention of original plan and facade features is a primary factor in

determining eligibility, unless the change occurred during the period of significance.

The analysis of properties for eligibility includes the National Register categories of location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, association, and feeling. The location and setting have great bearing on a building's eligibility. Properties that have been moved have not normally been considered. An exception might be made, however, for structures like the Ashes Creek School (SP-161), a unique survival of an educational property from antebellum Spencer County and the central Kentucky region. Relocated properties should show strong integrity in the remaining categories. Setting, association, and feeling are important elements of a rural educational property's significance. Design is one of the most important criteria in a county where the planning of educational buildings so clearly expresses the region's educational conservatism. Workmanship and materials, other important elements of an educational property's integrity, may have received some limited modification, but the clarity of the design must be intact.

I. Black Domestic and Institutional Architecture, and Post-Civil-War Rural Hamlets

II. Description

Property types for the late eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-century periods are difficult to establish, but the residential types would probably include one-and two-room log dwellings, and garrets over other domestic outbuildings such as kitchens and washhouses. A small, one-story, single-pen, log dwelling is the only remaining example of several slave houses which once stood near the important, early-nineteenth-century main house at Vauclause (SP-90) north of Taylorsville in Study Unit Three. It is a rare example of an early-nineteenth-century slave dwelling. The small, much-altered, log pen at the Drake House (SP-132) is said to have been a slave house. No other properties identified with this period were located, and ways in which the slave population used architecture religious or community institutions is unknown.

During the antebellum period the most common surviving form of housing in Kentucky for slaves, at least those involved in work related to the immediate domestic area, is a long or short row of linked one- and two-room dwelling units. Often built of brick or stone, the buildings seem to reflect an increased interest on the part of masters in health and hygiene for slaves during the late antebellum period. The Taylor Slave House (SP-102), located north of Taylorsville in Study Unit Three, was the only representative of this type of slave housing identified in Spencer County. The two-room, saddlebag, one 3/4-story, brick structure contains four bays, with the entries in the outer bays and windows in the inner bays. Each room is served by a firebox in a central chimney. The garret rooms are reached by narrow ladder stairs beside the chimney in each room. The windows are equipped with six-over-six sash with small casements above lighting the two garret rooms. The farmhouse and other outbuildings at the Taylor farm have vanished; only the abandoned slave house remains.

The dwellings identified as being built by or for free blacks after the Civil War appear to participate in the regional vernacular tradition. For instance, most of the houses at the hamlet of Camp Branch take the double-cell form typical of small farm houses, tenant houses, and industrial worker dwellings, but the earliest house in the community is a one-story, single-pen, log dwelling (SP-184) reflecting continuity with early-nineteenth-century farm and slave dwelling forms. More typically, the well-preserved house at SP-180 utilizes a double-cell plan with a central stove flue and integral ell. Similarly churches and schools such as the Camp Branch African Methodist Episcopal Church (SP-178), the Camp Branch Missionary Baptist Church (SP-177), and the Camp Branch School (SP-182) appear related in form and decorative detail to other buildings in the region, with the exception of their smaller scale. The hamlet of Camp Branch is organized in an irregular manner along the west side of the Taylorsville-Fairfield Turnpike, possibly based on the manner in which land became available. The boundaries of the hamlet include cemeteries, roadbeds, small fields and ancillary structures such as garages, outbuildings, and barns. Additional research might result

in improved understanding of the ethnic content of the layout of the hamlet.

Houses built for the housing of domestic servants on rural sites seem to continue earlier slave housing forms. The Tichenor Tenant House (SP-295) is located near the site of the Tichenor House northeast of Taylorsville. The one-story, frame, double-cell house with late-nineteenth-century, circular-sawn framing seems to have anachronistic features connecting it with slave housing, including the two-room saddlebag form and the central, whitewashed, stone chimney. It is not known whether it was built to house black or white tenants, but it is a rare indicator of possible sources of late-nineteenth-century tenant house forms in the antebellum slave house. The post-Civil War farm complex at SP-113 incorporates a servant dwelling resembling a slave house. The two-bay, one-story, frame, double-cell building is in a state of collapse.

III. Significance

All of the nominated properties related to the Black History theme are significant under Criterion A. The form of the domestic and institutional architecture associated with slave dwellings and free black settlements is an important indicator of the way blacks were treated by the larger community in Spencer County. Initial investigation of the forms of black domestic architecture and community planning suggests a relationship with regional traditional architectural forms and practices. The form of slave houses appears to be related not only to later free black private homes and servant housing but to later housing for tenants on at least one farm. The eligible properties tangibly demonstrate some of the relationships between the larger culture and that of the architectural arrangements made by the free black community.

IV. Integrity

For houses, institutional buildings, rural communities, and associated buildings related to the history of Spencer County's black population to be eligible, they must demonstrate the kinds of shelter and work spaces slave-

owners provided for their laborers or the ways members of the black community used buildings and organizations of architectural and cultural components to preserve or augment their sense of community. Since structures relating to slavery are rare in most Kentucky counties and particularly in Spencer County and change of function or alteration of form has been a characteristic of many black-history-related properties throughout the historic period, integrity of form and detail is less important than with property types associated with some other themes.

The analysis of properties for eligibility includes the National Register categories of location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, association, and feeling. The location and setting have great bearing on a building's eligibility. Properties that have been moved have not normally been considered, and no buildings in this property type have been relocated. In the case of an historic district, integrity of design, association, and setting are of the greatest importance, while some individual structures and sites in the district may exhibit substantial levels of change in material, feeling, or workmanship as long as their inter-relationships and original designs are intelligible.

NOTES

1 Gibson Worsham, Botetourt County Reconnaissance Survey Report (Museum of American Frontier Culture and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 1988) 18-21, 32-34, 38.

2 D.J. Lake and Co., Atlas of Nelson and Spencer Counties, 1882 (Bardstown, Kentucky: Nelson County Historical Society, 1873).

3 Spencer County Deed Book 32, p. 454.

4 Alberta Heddon, Personal interview, 1992.

G. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Spencer County, Kentucky

H. SUMMARY OF IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION METHODS

The multiple property listing for the historic resources of Spencer County is based on the Spencer County Historic Resources Inventory performed in 1991-92 by the Cultural Resources Management Institute of Blacksburg, Virginia under the direction of principal investigator, Gibson Worsham. The inventory and multiple property listing were funded by the Kentucky Heritage Council with matching funds provided by the Spencer County Rural Development Committee, which also administered the grant. The initial listing was to include four historic contexts and four corresponding National Register nominations. The contract was amended to require only three contexts when it was determined that listing of the Upper Camp Branch historic District would require more effort than an individual property listing.

The county was divided into three study units based on the bisection of the county by the Salt River into northern and southern sections and the division of the larger, northern section into two parts by Brashears Creek, which flows south into the Salt River. Taylorsville, the county seat, was not included in the survey project.

Research involved analysis of all available primary and secondary sources. Deed research was performed for the nominated properties. A recent history by Mary Frances Brown of the county was extremely helpful.[57] She and other volunteers assisted with the research. In the fieldwork Kentucky Heritage Council directives were followed. Fieldwork proceeded by USGS quadrangle maps within the study units. 7.5 minute USGS maps were used to locate and travel all county routes and accessible private roads. Structures were usually considered if they were more than fifty years old. Interiors were examined where the owner allowed and when the building's age or importance suggested it. In some cases buildings were measured and the interiors photographed. Outbuildings and barns were recorded on site plans and photographed or measured when they contributed to a farm complex or were in themselves significant structures. Survey depth was limited only by the amount of time available. Approximately 422 rural properties were

surveyed. Taylorsville was not included in the survey, having been recently documented and listed in the National Register as a historic district.

The development of historic contexts was based in an analysis of the surveyed properties as participants in a regional vernacular architectural tradition. The historical data derived from censuses and state and local secondary sources was used to interpret the physical evidence in the forms of buildings, structures, and sites. Research and theoretical modelling is lacking in relation to many regionally important historical and architectural issues related to the selected themes. In addition widespread loss of a chronologically or economically representative spectrum of properties for each theme makes Spencer County a more difficult subject than some neighboring counties. Wherever parallels were apparent between the historical data and the surviving structures and sites an attempt has been made to draw out their meaning within these limitations and with a primary focus on the form and content of the standing buildings. Minor or conventionally overlooked structures, such as outbuildings, have been given attention.

The three properties nominated with the Multiple Property listing were selected to represent the three themes. They are not the only eligible properties associated with these themes. The discussions of survey sites in the property type descriptions above include most of the other eligible buildings related the themes. Additional research or a different research perspective would likely reveal additional sites among those in the survey files and in the field.

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