NPS Form 10-900 1024-0018 (Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

======================================
other names/site number: Grassy Cove; BO-348
<pre>street & number: South Buster Pike, 3/10 mile so. of Faulconer Rd. not for publication: N/A city or town: Danville vicinity: X state: Kentucky code: KY county: Boyle code: 021 zip code: 40422</pre>
 3. State/Federal Agency Certification
======================================

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this <u>X</u> nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National

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USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form RICE-WORTHINGTON HOUSE BOYLE COUNTY, KY PAGE 2

Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide _x___ locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.) David L. Morgan, Executive Director/ State Historic Preservation Officer 2/16/95 Signature of certifying official/Title Date Kentucky Aeritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office State or Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.) Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau 4. National Park Service Certification I, hereby certify that this property is; lignature of thad Keeper entered in the National Register See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register in the Entered" National Register See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register ____ other (explain): _____ 5. Classification Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) X___ private ____ public-local ___ public-State ___ public-Federal

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form RICE-WORTHINGTON HOUSE BOYLE COUNTY, KY

PAGE 3

Category of Property (Check only one box) X____building(s) ____ district ___ site ____ structure ____ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
2	buildings
	1 sites
1	structures
	objects
3	1 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A_____

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.): N/A____

6. Function or Use والترجيب والترجيب والترجيب والترجيب والترجيب والترجيب والترجيب والترجيب Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions): DOMESTIC/ single dwelling_____ EDUCATION/ school _____ AGRICULTURE/ processing Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) VACANT/NOT IN USE WORK IN PROGRESS 7. Description Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions): EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration	Form		
RICE-WORTHINGTON HOUSE			
BOYLE COUNTY, KY		PAGE	4

Materials (Enter categories from i	
foundation STONE: limestone_	
roof METAL	
walls BRICK	
WOOD: weatherboard	
other STUCCO	

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- Property is associated with events that have made a Α significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ____ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- х____ с Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history. D

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- owned by a religious institution or used for ____ A religious purposes.
- removed from its original location. ____ B
- ____ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ____ D a cemetery.
- a reconstructed building, object, or structure. ____ E

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form RICE-WORTHINGTON HOUSE BOYLE COUNTY, KY	PAGE 5
F a commemorative property.	
G less than 50 years of age or achieved sig within the past 50 years.	nificance
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instruction ARCHITECTURE	I S) .
Period of Significance 1808-1837	
Significant Dates 1808 1837	
Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked ab	ove)
Cultural Affiliation NA	
Architect/Builder unknown	
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the signif the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	
<pre></pre>	ring this
<pre>Previous documentation on file (NPS) preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CF been requested previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Regis designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #</pre>	ter
Primary Location of Additional Data X State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government	

	Y, KY ====================================	PAC =====
Universi Universi Other Name of repo		
10. Geograph		
Acreage of H	===== Property 1	
UTM Referencesheet)	ces (Place additional UTM references on a cor	ntinua
Verbal Deve	Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Nor 1 16 695680 4174900 3 2 See continuation sheet.	
property on	ndary Description (Describe the boundaries a continuation sheet.)	s oi
a continuati	stification (Explain why the boundaries were se ion sheet.)	
11. Form Pre		
	=== Karen E. Hudson	-
organizatio	on er 1994	_

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form RICE-WORTHINGTON HOUSE
BOYLE COUNTY, KY PAGE 7
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Continuation Sheets
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)
Property Owner
street & number Rt. 4, Box 436
telephone (904) 462-4678
city or town Alachua state FL zip code 32615

NPS Form 10-900-a RECEIVED 1024-0018 (8 - 86)United States Department of the Interior National Park Service NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET INTERAGENCY **ICES DIVISION** NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Section 7_ Page 1 RICE-WORTHINGTON HOUSE

BOYLE COUNTY, KY

The Rice-Worthington House (BO-348) is a two-story, brick and frame, central-passage plan structure with a hip roof, centered gable, and a two-story portico in antis. Though no longer surviving, there is physical and archival evidence of a rear service ell. The ornamentation and plan of the home reflect the transitional period between the Federal and Greek Revival styles in Central Kentucky. Constructed during several building efforts, the house is an excellent example of the way homes were adapted to reflect changing social status, tastes, attitudes, and uses over a period of time. Though the building has been abandoned for a number of years, during which time it received little maintenance, rehabilitation efforts are currently taking place. This carefully planned work is being carried out in a way to insure the preservation of those features which are necessary for the building to continue to convey its significance.

The home is located on a rural site in Boyle County, 4 miles from Danville, the county seat and 5 miles from the seat of Mercer County, Harrodsburg. Buster Pike, which is lined with dry laid rock fences, makes a large curve in front of the home. The home is located at the end of a long drive which winds from the public road. It is surrounded by open fields, rock fences and the waters of Harrods Run. It is also placed between two branches of the Southern Railroad. Today the property consists of approximately twenty acres. One acre surrounding the home is being nominated. A contributing rock fence and stone distillery as well as a noncontributing site are located within the boundary. The farm on which the Rice-Worthington house is located is best known as the original site of Transylvania University. The Colonial Dames undertook considerable historical research to confirm this location. The Filson club concurred with their findings and in 1935 the Colonial Dames erected a sign commemorating the site near the stone entrance gate to the Rice-Worthington home (Anderson 1935). The site of the school is located within the boundary of the nomination and although it falls outside the period of significance, its eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places should be further investigated.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7____ Page 2___ RICE-WORTHINGTON HOUSE BOYLE COUNTY, KY

House (contributing)

The Rice-Worthington house began as a c.1808, two-story, brick, side-passage plan home. The brick walls rest on a limestone foundation. The basement is reached by an exterior entry on the south elevation. The thick brick walls of the facade are keyed together with elegant Flemish bonding while the other walls are keyed with Common bonding (Roger Pearson). The mortar line between each brick is "grapevined" or scored. The home is entered through a door which leads into the passage. The original opening has reeded jambs, a transom and a six-panel door. An open-stringer stair is located along the south wall of the passage. Though the handrail and balustrade appear to be late nineteenth century alterations, the construction method and material of the stringer indicate that the stairs are in their original location. Also, there is physical evidence that a door originally lead under the stairs.

One original 9/6 sash window has survived in the parlor. The splayed jambs are reeded. The parlor features a Federal mantel with elliptical sunbursts in end blocks (no central tablet), beaded baseboards and a chairrail. Arched niches flank the mantel. The mantel and niches are very similar to those at the John Bowman House (ME-83) which have been attributed to Matthew Lowery. Lowery, one of the state's most distinguished craftsmen, moved from Madison County to Mercer County about 1800 and produced carved wood fittings in the Bluegrass during the balance of the Federal period (Lancaster 1991:108-09).

In about 1837, the Rice-Worthington house underwent a major remodeling. A two-story, timber-frame (brick nogging) addition was constructed on the north end of the home and the original sidepassage became the central-passage of the new home. Another room was added to the back of the addition, connecting the out kitchen to the larger home in the form of an ell. At the same time or soon after, two small, two-story, frame additions were constructed on each end of the facade and the entire home was covered by a hip roof. The result was a portico in antis supported by four square piers resting on tooled stone bases. The cornice lines of the new roof are emphasized with a wide band of trim divided by dentils.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3 RICE-WORTHINGTON HOUSE BOYLE COUNTY, KY

The centered gable and two-story recessed portico gave the home an up-to-date Greek Revival facade. The space under the portico was stuccoed to conceal the fact that the original home is brick while the additions are frame. The foundation of the addition is constructed of limestone ashlar and tooled stone steps lead onto the porch. While the parlor of the original brick home retains its Federal ornamentation, the passage and new rooms are decorated with wide base boards and trim, reflective of the new Greek Revival style. The chair railings, which are common on Federal period homes but not Greek Revival, were removed from the hall (the ghost of the railings can be seen on the plaster). While the construction method and material of the roof appears to date to the late nineteenth century, it does not appear that the form of the roof was changed and thus would not effect the integrity of the home.

Rock Fence (contributing)

A series of dry laid rock fences are located on the property. They were probably constructed during the late 1830s for it was during this time that rock began to replace wood as a preferred fencing material in Central Kentucky.

<u>Stone Distillery</u> (contributing)

This small finely crafted stone building is in ruinous condition. It has splayed slit openings flanking a horizontal vent with diagonally set bars in the west wall. Small openings are located at different heights on the north wall, including just below the beam end. While some historians have suggested that this was a fort, Nancy O'Malley, author of <u>Stockading Up</u>, suggests that there were no stone forts. It seems more likely that this is the stone distillery which Worthington referred to in his 1803 sales advertisement.

Original Site of Transyvania (non-contributing)

This is the approximate location of the log structure where the first classes of Transylvania were reported to have been held. Though outside the period of significance, this sites eligibility for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places should be further investigated.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1 BOYLE COUNTY, KY

The Rice-Worthington house is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterian C as a significant of embodies distinctive example а resource which the characteristics of a period. The ornamentation and plan of the home reflect the transitional period between Federal and Greek Revival styles in Central Kentucky. Constructed during several building efforts which range from 1808 to 1837, the house is an excellent example of the way homes were adapted to reflect social status, tastes, attitudes, and uses over a period of time. Thus, the Rice-Worthington house is significant because of its contribution to our understanding of how Central Kentuckians employed architecture to convey material messages about culture.

The land on which the Rice-Worthington house is located was legally transferred by the executors of Col. John Bowman to Rev. David Rice in 1788 (D.B.1, pg. 50). Apparently, however, Rice had already been living on the property for Filson placed him on the site when he made his 1784 map of Kentucky. The Rev. David Rice came to Kentucky in 1782. In May 1783, the General Assembly of Virginia passed an act incorporating Transylvania Seminary. In 1784 the trustees decided that the school should be opened at or near the Rev. Rice's dwelling. According to local historians, Rice began conducting the school in his log home on the farm owned by John Bowman. Bowman was one of the Trustees of Transylvania. The log structure, which survived as late as 1935, was located just to the north of the current home. According to the Colonial Dames' research, Rice constructed another home in 1793. It faced north, toward the Wilderness Road and was later incorporated into the current home as the rear service ell.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2 RICE-WORTHINGTON HOUSE BOYLE COUNTY, KY

Transylvania Seminary was transferred to Lexington in 1789. On February 14, 1797, Rice advertised his farm for sale in <u>Stewart's</u> <u>Kentucky Herald</u> (Vol. III). The add read:

FOR SALE, 500 ACRES OF LAND, IN Mercer county, on Harrod's run, 4 miles from Danville, and 5 from Harrodsburg: 130 acres of cleared land, good dwelling-house, barn and kitchen, with other out-houses, fine peach and apple orchards; ten acres of timothy meadow, and about twenty more which may be conveniently watered. No description of the quality of the soil of this excellent farm is necessary, as the purchaser would choose first to see it. For terms, apply to the subscriber on the permits.

It appears that Rice's advertisement was not immediately successful for it was not until 1799 that he sold his property to Edward Worthington (D.B.4, pg. 117). Worthington was born in Maryland in 1773 (died 1846). He migrated to Kentucky in 1775 where he married Elizabeth L. Madison in 1798. The couple purchased the Rice farm in 1799. Just four years later, in 1803, Worthington advertised his farm for sale in the <u>Kentucky Gazette</u> (Vol. XVII/891):

For Sale, THAT VALUABLE FARM, or tract of land, On which I now live, formerly occupied by the Reverend David Rice, containing 509 acres, in the county of Mercer, near Danville--it is in good repair, and in complete farming order; it is as well watered as any tract of land of its size in the state. There is on said farm, a good Dwelling House, Kitchen, Barn, Stables & other out Houses. Likeways, a large Stone Distillery, a good bearing Apple and Peach Orchard, with sundry other valuable properties....

In 1803, the same year of the advertisement, Worthington became a Mercer County Judge, a position which he held until 1833. Obtaining this prestigious office must have convinced him not to sale his farm for he retained ownership for the next thirty years. It is also likely that his new occupation provided an incentive for him to construct a new brick home.

NPS Form 10-900-a 1024-0018 (8-86) United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8____ Page 3____ RICE-WORTHINGTON HOUSE BOYLE COUNTY, KY

In his study of early settlement period dwellings in Central Kentucky, Gibson Worsham suggests that evidence indicates that Kentucky's economy could not support the building of brick structures before the last years of the eighteenth century (Worsham 1993). As soon as possible, however, wealthy Kentuckians began constructing brick homes. Two of Kentucky's most well known architectural statements, Liberty Hall and the Old Governor's Mansion, were built in the mid-1790s in Frankfort. Worsham suggests that these two-story brick houses, one built for U.S. Senator John Brown and the other for the Governor of Kentucky, are important expressions of political intention and are not typical of Kentucky's domestic architecture at the end of the eighteenth century. Their owners deliberately selected architectural forms and details which were more elaborate and carefully finished than most Kentucky homes in order to reflect their political power. It is not surprising then that, in order to express his new won political office, Worthington would have chosen brick when constructing his new home.

The description of Worthington's farm, which appeared in his 1803 advertisement, provides important clues to the evolution of the Rice-Worthington house. Camille Wells has shown that silences in eighteenth century Virginia newspaper advertisements are as important as architectural specifications (Wells 1993). For example, while the early Virginia landscape was likely dominated by houses built of wood, Wells discovered that newspaper references to masonry prevail. In fact, in 75 percent of the advertisements which mention construction material the buildings were built of brick or stone. Wells concluded that this discrepancy occurred because brick and stone were exceptional materials worthy of emphasis while framed, plank, and log structures were so commonplace that their constitution did not warrant comment. Most advertisers assumed that their readers shared a general familiarity with the landscape, so they often relied on such conventionalized phrases as "sundry other valuable properties" to keep their advertisements moderate in length. While brick began to be used in Kentucky during the 1790s it did not become common until 1820 (Riesenweber 1992:254). Thus, in 1803 when Worthington wrote his advertisement, the typical Central Kentucky home would not have been brick. A survey of Boyle

Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8____ Page 4___ RICE-WORTHINGTON HOUSE BOYLE COUNTY, KY

County, for example, located only seven brick dwellings built before 1820 (Worsham 1991). Thus, Worthington would have made a special effort to advertise a brick home. Instead he only mentioned a "good dwelling house," indicating that he was probably still living in Rice's log dwelling.

five years after becoming Mercer In 1808, County Judge, Worthington's property was, for the first time, assessed as "first rate" land (1808 Mercer County Tax). A change in rate would have resulted from improvements made to the property, such as the construction of a new home. It appears then that Worthington constructed his two-story, brick, side-passage home sometime between 1803 and 1808. As previously stated, surveyors have only identified seven brick houses in Boyle County built before 1820. Worthington knew that his neighbors were familar with the surrounding landscape and would realize that by building a twostory brick home he was making a material expression of his new found political and social status. Worthington was also making a statement by choosing the side-passage plan for his home. Sidepassage homes are usually seen in urban settings, but in this case it is standing on open farmland. Worthington was probably inspired by side-passage plan homes which he observed in the nearby county seat, Harrodsburg, to which, given his occupation, he undoubtedly made frequent visits. By choosing the urban form, Worthington was making a statement about his association with the county's political and economic seat.

Between 1780 and 1820, the wealthiest Kentuckians had separate kitchen buildings for cooking and other household work such as laundry and soapmaking (Riesenweber 1992:254). Often, the kitchen was the original home, regulated to a support function after the construction of a larger new home. When present, out kitchens were typically located in the back yard. In this case, it appears that Edward Worthington transformed the home built by Rice in 1793 into his kitchen. Built to face the Wilderness Road, Rice's home sat behind Worthington's new house at a right angle.

OMB No. 1024-0018

Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8____ Page 5___ RICE-WORTHINGTON HOUSE BOYLE COUNTY, KY

Edward Worthington remained Mercer County Judge until 1833. In the same year, he sold his farm to John McClain (D.B.18, pg.339). He held, however, four promissory notes, the last of which came due in 1836. It was McClain who made the substantial changes to the Rice-Worthington home, transforming it from a Federal side-passage house to an up-to-date central-passage Greek Revival structure. It is unlikely that McClain would have invested the money necessary to make such substantial changes before he had paid off the promissory notes. In fact, in 1837, the year after the last note came due, the value of McClain's property rose from \$18,750 the previous year to \$31,000 (Mercer County Tax Records). This indicates that, released from the burden of the notes, McClain spent the money to make the substantial updates to his home.

Riesenweber has noted that beginning in the 1830s, many owners of small houses sought ways to create extra spaces in which they could neatly separate work and leisure and public and private activities. One of the most common solutions was to build a rear wing or ell that provided one or two additional rooms for household work. The central passage home which allowed owners to make clear spatial separations between activities were also popular. In fact, Riesenweber suggests that by 1850 a two-story, single-pile, central-passage plan home with a rear service ell was one of the most common house types being constructed in Central Kentucky. It was precisely this form which McClain looked to when updating the Worthington house. The side passage of the earlier home became the central passage of the larger new home and an additional room was added to the out kitchen so that it was connected to the new home in the form of a rear ell.

According to Rexford Newcomb, by 1825, Greek Revival details were beginning to make their appearance upon otherwise Georgian structures in Kentucky and by 1830 the style was clearly established in the state (Newcomb 1940). The portico, an elaborate porch supported by columns, was the Greek Revival element most popular in Kentucky. It was also the portico where McClain made his most unusual architectural statement. By constructing two-story additions at each end of the facade and covering the entire house with a hip roof, McClain created a portico in antis. The two-story recessed portico, centered gable and hip roof of the McClain Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8_____ Page 6____ RICE-WORTHINGTON HOUSE BOYLE COUNTY, KY

additions are similar to other transitional Federal to Greek Revival homes traditionally identified with the work of Matthew Kennedy, the first self-proclaimed Lexington architect (for example, BB-307 and BB-282). Interestingly, a construction date of 1837 has also been attributed to one of these structures, Auvergne (BB-307), the home of Brutus Clay, famed agriculturalist and congressman from Bourbon County. The typical Kennedy home consists of the basic eight-room central hall main block with a superimposed frontispiece consisting of four colossal pilasters supporting a gable serving as a pediment (Lancaster 1991:168-173). McClain's decision to emphasize the portico by recessing it rather that projecting the section does, however, seem to be unique.

John McClain retained ownership of the home for 26 years. In 1859 he sold the farm to A.P. Faulconer. Except for the removal of the rear service ell, few changes have been made to the home since the 1837 remodeling.

The rock fence and stone distillery contribute to our understanding of how Worthington and McClain used architecture to materially express their social and political standing. In their study of rock fences, Murray-Wooley and Raitz found that they could take years to build, thus requiring a substantial investment of money and management time. They suggest that since well-built fences required skilled masons they represented a kind of conspicuous consumption of labor and that the public came to associate them with wealth, desired social status, and the region's landed plantation families (Murray-Wooley 1992:82). As previously stated, assuming that their readers had a general knowledge of the area's landscape, early advertisers usually only gave specific architectural descriptions, such as "stone distillery", for structures that were not typically found on the landscape. Given the fact that Edward Worthington made a special effort to mention his stone distillery in his 1803 advertisement, it appears that these structures were probably not typical features on area farms. This finely constructed building contributes to our understanding of how Worthington used architecture to materially express his social standing.

OMB No. 1024-0018

Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9____ Page 1___ RICE-WORTHINGTON HOUSE BOYLE COUNTY, KY

Anderson, Annie Stuart 1935 "Transylvania Seminary's First Site and Some Circumstances of its Beginnings." <u>Register of Kentucky</u> <u>Historical Society</u> 33:356-67.

Kentucky Gazette Vol. XVII/891.

- Lancaster, Clay
 - 1991 <u>Antebellum Architecture of Kentucky</u>. University Press of Kentucky.
- Mercer County Various deeds and tax records.
- Murray-Wooley, Carolyn and Karl Raitz 1992 <u>Rock Fences of the Bluegrass</u>. University Press of Kentucky, Lexington.
- Newcomb, Rexford 1940 <u>Old Kentucky Architecture</u>. Bonanza Books, New York.
- O'Malley, Nancy 1987 <u>Stockading Up</u>. Archaeological Report 127, Kentucky Anthropological Research Facility, Lexington.
- Pearson, Roger
 - 1994 Personal Converstion. Pearson is the mason in charge of the stabilation of the brick walls of the Rice-Worthington house.

Riesenweber, Julie

1992 "Historic Architecture. In <u>Our Kentucky: A Study of the</u> <u>Bluegrass State</u>, James C. Klotter, ed. University Press of Kentucky.

Shepperson, Shirley

n.d. "History of the Rice-Worthington House." Typed manuscript, the author.

Stewart's Kentucky Herald Vol. III.

Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9____ Page 2___ RICE-WORTHINGTON HOUSE BOYLE COUNTY, KY

Wells, Camille

- 1993 "The Planter's Prospect: Houses, Outbuildings, and Rural Landscapes in Eighteenth-Century Virginia." <u>Winterthur</u> <u>Portfolio</u> 28/1:1-31.
- Worsham, Gibson
 - 1993 "Early Settlement Period Dwellings in Central Kentucky."Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort.
 - 1991 "Boyle County Survey Report." Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort.

Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10____ Page 1____ RICE-WORTHINGTON HOUSE BOYLE COUNTY, KY

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION See Map

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary was selected in order to include the greatest number of significant resources and to exclude the largest number of those which date outside the period of significance. The boundary includes the Rice-Worthington house and a contributing rock fence and stone distillery as well as a non-contributing site. The fence and distillery contribute to our understanding of how the Rice-Worthington house materially conveyed a message of power, prestige, and fashionability.



