

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES
Individual Inventory Form

Resource # MeH-56
Mercer County

1. Name of Resource: Pioneer Memorial State Park

2. Original Owner: Pioneer Memorial Association

3. Other Names: Fort Harrod State Park

4. Prehistoric Site Building Object
Historic Site Structure X Other

5. Location: west side of College Ave.
between Lexington and Poplar Streets

6. Owner's Name: Kentucky Department of Parks []

7. Owner's Address: Capital Plaza Towers
Frankfort, Ky. 40601

8. Evaluation: [N]

9. Recognition & Date:
Nat.Landmark _____ Local Landmark _____
Nat.Register _____ HABS/HAER _____
Highway Marker _____ KY Inventory _____
KY Landmark Certificate _____

10. N.R.Status & Date:

11. N.R.Group:
District Name: []
Mult.Resource Area: Mercer Co. []
Thematic Name: []

12. Historical Theme:
Primary: Other (commemorative property) [300]
Secondary: Exploration/Settlement [140]
Other: []

13. Statement of Significance:
See Attached.

[]

14. History:

(See attached for history)

15. Source of historical information and/or contact person: KHC form: Clay Lancaster, 1981
Rebecca Conover
Chinn & Conover, Through 200 Years,
pp. 25-27, 246-249.

16. Date: Original Building 1927 [3]
Addition []

17. Style: Colonial Revival [7C]
[]

18. Architect/Builder: Nevins/Weschmeyer & Morgan/P. N. Wilson

19. No. of Stories: [1.0]

20. Original Floor Plan: NA []

21. Single Pile Double Pile N.A. X

22. Roof Form & Material: Original X
Not Original

23. Structural Material: Log timbers (round) [L]

24. Exterior Material: [L]
Log []

25. Foundation Material: Stone (dry-laid) [S]

26. Major Alterations: None
Moved/Rebuilt Other
Additions

27. Special Features:

28. Outbuildings: None []

29. Original Function: Commemorative property []

30. Present Use: State park []

31. Condition: Good [G]

32. Endangered: Yes _____
No X

33. Attach Photos:
Roll: Photo Nos: No. of Slides:
17 26-36

34. Prepared by: F. Keightley, H. Powell

35. Organization: Harrodsb/Mercer Co. L. A.

36. Date: 1986

37. New Survey _____ Resurvey X

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38. UTM Point of Primary Building:	Zone	Easting	Northing	39. G.I.S. Mod.	[]
Quadrant: <u>Harrodsburg</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>689560</u>	<u>4101360</u>	40. Coordi.Accuracy	[]

41. UTM Points of Boundary (for N. R. eligible sites only):

A. ---	D. ---
B. ---	E. ---
C. ---	F. ---

42. Total Acreage in Present Property: 43. Acreage included in proposed N.R. boundary:

44. Site Plan (and boundary description and justification for N.R. sites):

See attached

45. Description and House Plan:

Pioneer Memorial State Park consists of a reconstruction of late eighteenth century Ford Harrod. The reconstruction is located on a site south of the original fort. The original fort site became a quarry in the late nineteenth century and is now a parking lot. The reconstructed fort is a square stockade 200 feet on a side. The original fort was a 240 foot square according to a description and drawing by Van Cleve who stayed there in the late 1790's. Two two-story block houses are located on the northeast and southeast corners. A row of one-room log cabins is located on the north side. The school house and spring have also been reconstructed.

Within the boundary of the park is a section of the original pioneer cemetery with crude eighteenth century headstones. East of the fort is the Lincoln Marriage Temple which is a brick superstructure over the log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln's parents were married.

Continuation sheet: Pioneer Memorial Park (Me-H-56)

Statement of Significance

The Pioneer Memorial Park is significant under Criterion A for its association with the theme of commemoration for the period 1927. The replica of Fort Harrod built at Pioneer Memorial Park has become symbolic of the veneration that the people of early twentieth century Mercer County had for their ancestors or the late eighteenth century farmers who settled Mercer County.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary was chosen to include the contributing elements of the fort and to exclude the parking lot on the east, the residential neighborhood on the south, the theater on the west, and West Lexington Street on the north.

The nominated area contains fourteen contributing buildings.

14. History

The Pioneer Memorial Association was formed in the 1920's to create a monument to the founders of Harrodsburg. No evidence of the original fort remained. Even the hill on which the fort stood had been destroyed when a quarry opened on the site in the 1890's. When Lexington Street was extended west of College Street, the excavation for the road also took part of the site and a portion of the pioneer cemetery as well.

The original fort had been abandoned after the decisive defeat of the Indians at the Battle of the Blue Licks in 1783. Settlers were eager to leave the crowded conditions of the fort and began building houses on their own land. The fort was used as a place for people to stay who were in transit to the west. Its conditions during the late eighteenth century were described by Van Cleve and others. Gradually, the fort itself decayed or was dismantled. It was the site of a local academy before being used as a quarry. James Taylor, who lived in the Matheny-Taylor House (MeH-57) adjacent to the present fort site, began the process of creating a memorial by maintaining and protecting the pioneer cemetery which was located virtually in his backyard. Interments continued to be made in the pioneer cemetery until the mid-nineteenth century. James Taylor's granddaughter, Irene Moore, lived in the Matheny-Taylor House during the 1920's. She deeded the Pioneer Memorial Association the section of land on which the fort now stands in 1925. Very shortly afterwards, she also gave the group the house in which her family had lived for 95 years.

History cont.

The Pioneer Memorial Association enlisted the help of the Kentucky State Parks Commission and hired the architectural firm of Nevins, Wexchmeyer, and Morgan of Louisville. Frederick Morgan was the project director and worked closely with the contractor Peter Nolen Wilson. Wilson was a Mercer County native who also built the Mercer County Courthouse. Archival research on the appearance and dimensions of the original fort was augmented by trips to eastern Kentucky to study methods of log construction. Construction of the fort was completed in 1927. Kentucky Governor W. J. Fields dedicated the forts and other smaller memorials.

Even before undertaking the fort, the Pioneer Memorial Association had been collecting structures associated with historic Kentuckians. In 1910, they moved the log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln's parents were married from the Washington County farm on which it stood to Harrodsburg. A building called the Lincoln Marriage Temple was built to house the log structure in 1931. The structure was designed by the Louisville architectural firm of Nevings, Morgan and Kolbrook. The design was based on an old log meeting house constructed near Mt. Sterling in 1799. Peter Nolen Wilson was the contractor. He moved the log structure and erected the brick structure around it.

In 1934, the U. S. Congress provided funding for the construction of a memorial to the Appalachian pioneers. The sculptor chosen to ornament the monument was Ulric Ellerhosen. The architect was Francis Kealy. Both designers were from New York. President Franklin Roosevelt came to Harrodsburg and dedicated the monument.

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY SUPPLEMENT
BOUNDARY AND LOCATION INFORMATION

Historic Property Name Fort Harrod State Park Site # ME-H-56
Multiple Resource/Thematic Nomination Title MERCER COUNTY MRA

U.T.M. Coordinates - List multiple UTMs if property is ten or more acres.

A. _____ D. _____
B. _____ E. _____
C. _____ F. _____

Verbal Boundary Description Acreage 1.0

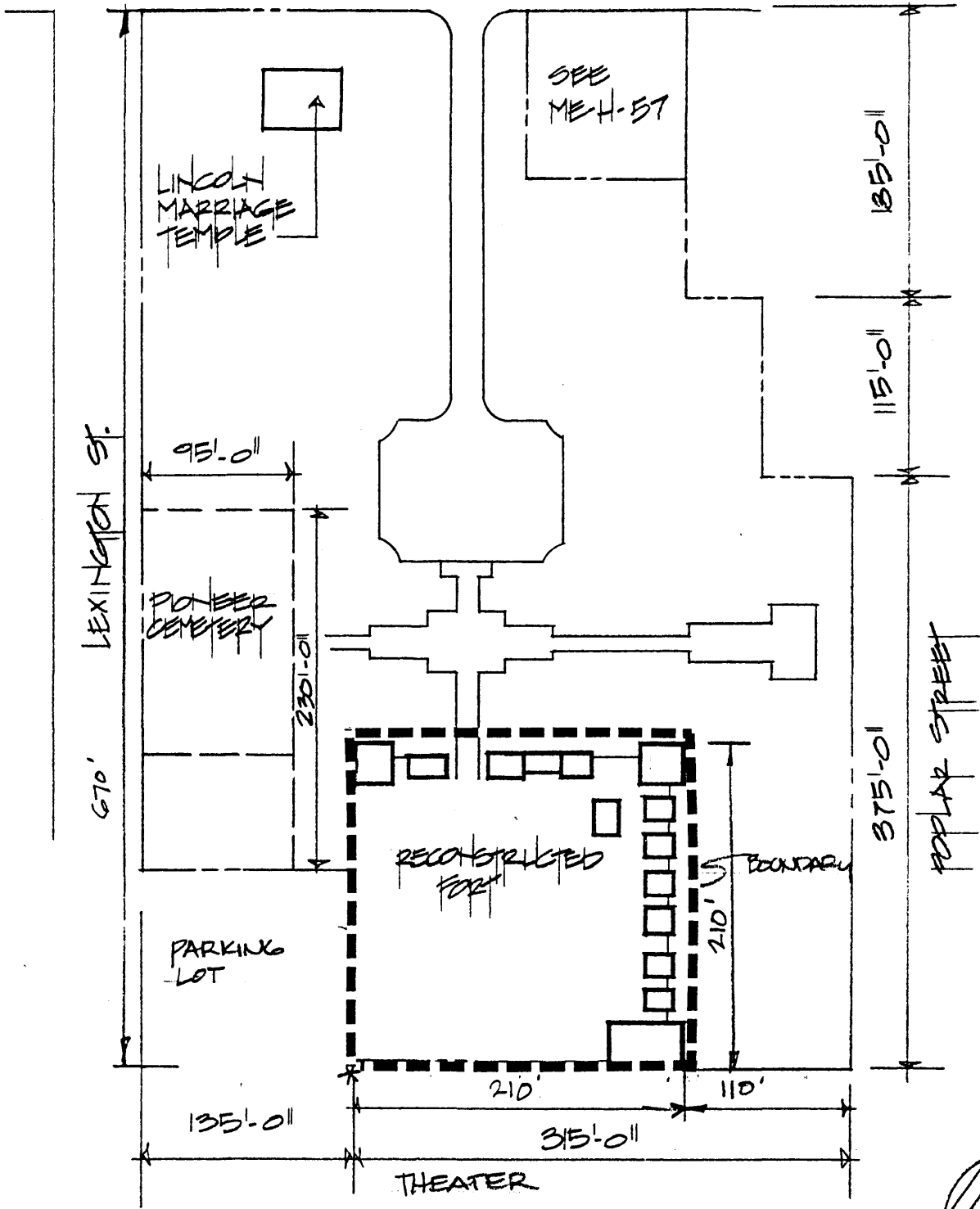
Starting at a point 670 feet west and 130 feet south of the southwest corner of the interior of US 127 and Lexington St. then east 210 feet to a point; then 210 south to a point; then 210 feet west to a point; then 210 north to the point of beginning.

Sketch of Site Plan (Showing outbuildings, structures, landscape features and the site boundary as described above.)

See attached.

Official Courthouse Property Reference:

US 127



SITE PLAN

SCALE 1" = 100'-0"

