

56-747



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Old Taylor Distillery Historic District

other names/site number WD-114, E.H. Taylor and Sons Distillery, Registered Distillery No. 53, 7<sup>th</sup> District Woodford County

Related Multiple Property NA

## 2. Location

street & number 4445 McCracken Pike

|    |                     |
|----|---------------------|
| NA | not for publication |
| NA | vicinity            |

city or town Frankfort

state Kentucky code KY county Woodford code 239 zip code 40601

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national X statewide \_\_\_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

\_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

Signature of certifying official/Title Craig Potts/SHPO

Date 1-13-17

**Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office**

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action 3-13-2017

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

| Contributing | Noncontributing |              |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 18           |                 | buildings    |
|              |                 | district     |
| 2            | 2               | site         |
| 24           |                 | structure    |
|              |                 | object       |
| 44           | 2               | <b>Total</b> |

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

NA

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry/Distillery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Industry/Distillery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Italian/French Renaissance  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Romanesque Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Modern  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Classical Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

foundation:   Cut Stone Block, Concrete    
walls:   Brick-masonry Tile, Concrete Curtain Wall,    
  Cut Stone Block    
roof:   Terra Cotta Tiles, Flat Tarpaper    
other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Narrative Description**

**Summary Paragraph**

The Old Taylor Distillery (WD-114; also known as Registered Distillery No. 53) located on McCracken Pike in Millville, northern Woodford County, Kentucky, is the site of a bourbon whiskey manufacturing complex that has existed on this site since the latter part of the nineteenth century. The complex is part of a 113-acre parcel that sits on both sides of McCracken Pike (KY Route 1659, originally Glenn's Creek Pike) that travels from Frankfort to Millville, Kentucky. The distillery is a highly visible complex that contains architecturally distinctive buildings, structures, objects and landscape elements that exhibit the characteristics defined in the historic context narratives for this nomination. Twenty-seven of the contributing resources were constructed during Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr.'s ownership (1885-1919); seventeen of the contributing resources were constructed during the ownership of National Distillers, post-1935. The distillery is presently undergoing a total renovation by Peristyle, LLC for reuse as a distillery. The new name proposed for the distillery is "Castle & Key". The complex proposed for listing has integrity, with forty-four out of forty-six of the features contributing to the association with the historic operation, on a 113-acre parcel. See site map on following page.



Western portion of property



Eastern portion of property

**Physical Appearance.**

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The Old Taylor Distillery is located approximately eight miles northwest of the Woodford County seat of Versailles, about one-half mile south of the Franklin County line. The district sits in a shallow valley adjacent to the main branch of Glenn's Creek. The community of Millville is about one-half mile south of the Old Taylor Distillery. The Distillery has been analyzed as a Rural Landscape in accord with the National Register bulletin, *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes*, with discussion of all four of the historic processes, as well as five out of the seven components discussed by these characteristics. The topographic diversity of central Kentucky is historically connected to bourbon distillation as the water from the regions aquifers is ideal in mineral content necessary to produce the highest quality examples of America's home-grown spirit.

Glenn's Creek flows north to south through the property, and there are two dams on the creek that provided water for the distilling process. The property had at least two primary springs that provided the main source of water for the production of bourbon. The principal spring is located south of the Castle/Still House (Resource 1); it is covered by an architecturally significant structure, a circa 1912-1920 columned classical Peristyle pergola (Resource 8). Glenn's Creek valley is the location of several abundant limestone springs and the community is home to three extant historic distilleries: Old Taylor Distillery (WD-114); Labrot and Graham (WD-1, National Register listed 1995, NHL 2000; NRIS: 95001272); and Old Crow (WD-314).

The existence of these three facilities in such proximity is no aberration. It is a result of the vital importance of one landscape process: the availability of high quality water sources. Col. E. H. Taylor, Jr. made this point, saying, "I do not believe that you can exaggerate the vital importance of proper water in the manufacture of the finest grades of whiskey, and I am convinced that nowhere in the world can one find superior water for this purpose than in certain geological areas within the State of Kentucky. All the authentic geological data show that the whiskies having the greatest reputation in the world have been those produced from the water percolated through the strata of bird's eye limestone." (*Rule of the Regions*, Edmund Haynes Taylor, Jr. 1909).

The distillery was constructed on the east and west side of McCracken Pike; the majority of the complex is located west of McCracken Pike between the road and Glenn's Creek. Several structures stood on the east side of McCracken Pike: two brick aging warehouses, razed between 2005 and 2008, and the extant brick Craftsman style Administrative Building (Resource 12).

Although the Old Taylor Distillery is purported to have been some form of "farmer-distiller" production occurring as early as 1816-1819, no structure built before the 1887 establishment of E. H. Taylor and Sons is extant. Old Taylor appears as a sprawling district with its critical production core being supported through a multitude of other contributing structures.

The complex was also originally accessed by a local railroad line; between 1907 and 1910 the Louisville and Nashville Railroad was constructed to the Old Taylor Distillery. The Taylorton Railroad Station (Resource 10) was constructed between 1910 and 1912 (Sanborn Map Company 1910:69). With the distillery being situated in response to the accessibility of a superior water source, its success would be greatly influenced by the circulation networks that served it. A railroad, in this instance, gave the site transportation advantages.

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**East View, McCracken Pike**

**West view, McCracken Pike**

The heart of Old Taylor Historic District is centered on the stone Castle Still House—on the west side of McCracken Pike—constructed by Colonel E. H. Taylor in 1909 (Resource 1). The building is constructed of white Tyrone limestone and stands very close to the road, highly visible to passing public. The image of the building became the logo for the company, which fuses the company identity and this location. The structure may have been inspired by Taylor's European travels to study distilleries in 1868. In this vein, the construction materials for the castle's façade was not influenced by these same travels, yet rather were a response to the localized availability of high quality limestone throughout the region. Other prominent features of the designed landscape include the Sunken Garden (Resource 4) and the Peristyle Pergola Spring House (Resource 8). These were the scene of numerous celebrations and gatherings from 1909 and 1920.

The area proposed for listing contains forty-six resources; forty-five of which contribute to the property's sense of time and place. The Cemetery (Resource 46) has been cleaned up and will be preserved; however, it has been evaluated as a non-contributing resource. The number of contributing resources is subdivided into three sub-sets of buildings, structures and sites. For enumerating resources for the National Register there are eighteen buildings; twenty-four structures and four sites. Buildings that were utilized for the production of bourbon or workers' dwelling houses are counted as buildings. The twenty-four structures include resources such as Peristyle Spring House, Dams and Bridges, and small utility buildings. The Sunken Garden, Warehouse A Ruin, Botanical Trail, and Cemetery are considered sites. Production structures such as barrel runs and elevated case conveyors are counted individually; however, rock walls and pillars are considered to be a single contributing structure.

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## Building Inventory

### Listing of 46 Resources (44 Contributing/2 Non-Contributing sites);

#### 18 Buildings

1/Castle/Still House  
2/Laboratory  
3/Boiler Room  
7/Third Cistern Room  
10/Taylornton Railroad Station  
11/Guard House  
12/Administrative Building  
13/Bonded Warehouse E

14/Shooking Building  
15/Second Cistern and Storage  
16/Historic Bottling House  
17/Case Storage Warehouse  
18/Clock and Guard House  
20/Bonded Warehouse B  
21/Multipurpose Building  
22/Garage  
29/South Support Dwelling  
30/Northeast Support Dwelling

#### 24 Structures

5/Spring House  
6/Brick Shed  
8/Peristyle Spring House  
9/Creek Water Settling Basin  
23/South Water Tower  
24/North Water Tower  
25/Cut-Stone Bridge  
26/East Reinforced Concrete Bridge  
27/West Reinforced Concrete Bridge  
28/Gazebo  
31/North Glenn's Creek Dam  
32/South Glenn's Creek Dam

33/Grain Elevator  
34/Cooling Tower  
35/Utility Building  
36/Septic Building  
37/Concrete Block Storage Building  
38/Two Door Garage  
39/South Elevated Barrel Run  
40/North Elevated Barrel Run  
41/South Elevated Case Conveyor  
42/North Elevated Case Conveyor  
43/Elevated Walkway between Warehouses A & B  
44/Rock Walls/Rock Pillars/Stone Steps

#### 4 Sites

4/Sunken Garden  
19/Warehouse A Ruin  
45/ Botanical Trail (Non-contributing)  
46/Cemetery (Non-contributing)

Individual feature descriptions:

- **1. Castle/Still House (1907) - Contributing Building**

The earliest Sanborn Map identifying a stone still house structure in this location was the 1886 Sanborn that identified the property as the J. Swigert Taylor Distillery. Historic advertising photos also identify the distillery as J. S. Taylor Distillery. In 1886, the still house is shown as a 2 ½ story, side-gable, stone structure with a gambrel roof. Construction on the extant Castle/Still House (Resource 1) began in 1901.

By 1907, the Castle/Still House (Resource 1) was finished as it appears today, complete with turrets (1907 Sanborn Fire Insurance Frankfort, KY:6). The still house was integrated with grain mill rooms in the front and the rear fermenting rooms with fermenting vats. The builder of the Castle/Still House is unknown; however, it appears that it is the work of a stonemason of some note and repute. Historic

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photographs indicate that the construction walls are mortared, coursed stone block; these are veneered on the exterior with a more refined cut-stone block. Tyrone limestone—known locally as “Kentucky River Marble” or “Kentucky River Limestone”—is the exterior wall material. The mortar joints are projecting and squared. The main block of the structure has towers at its principal corners. The largest tower is square and located at the northeast corner. The remaining corners have round towers. The building has a flat roof with a parapet wall along the entire edge of the structure; the wall is capped by a smooth-cut limestone cornice with crenellated, cut-stone block parapet.

An historic cut-stone announcement sign declaring “Old Taylor Distillery Erected 1887” is located on the north elevation wall of the castle near the second floor level.

The main entrance is a striking, classic element with a semi-projecting pedimented element composed of rusticated and smooth-cut stone blocks and a round-arched door. The door is a fan-lit entrance with a segmented fan with slender wood pilasters and sidelights with paneled aprons. The wood entrance element experienced deterioration and sections have been repaired over the past two years.



**Castle/Still House (Feature 1)**



**Laboratory (2), south water tower (23), Castle**

Each of the existing windows throughout the structure have been repaired and reworked using the existing material. Six round and eight radius sash windows in the castle were rebuilt where they were missing from the original openings. The replacements match the originals in design, material and construction.

The interior of the main block of the structure has changed little from 1907 and the post-1935 rehabilitation. It is divided into three rooms with a central entrance hall. The smaller front rooms are the grain and milling rooms. The interior wood wall dividers, windows and doors are the original construction. The rear section houses fifteen 11,000-gallon fermentation tanks and six 22,000-gallon fermentation tanks. These tanks are the originals that date back to the post-repeal era when National Distillers purchased and upgraded the property. These tanks would have replaced neutral wood vessels of wood such as cypress and would have been more efficiently cleaned and maintained.

The grain was unloaded, ground, weighed, mashed and placed in the large fermenters to become beer, which was then distilled into bourbon. The building is divided into the mill, meal room, mash room, yeast room and fermenting rooms.

Additions to the structure occurred after 1910 and are documented on the later Sanborn maps and with historic photographs.

After 1912, several stone additions were made to the rear (west) and northwest elevations of the main block. They were constructed with the same mortared stone construction as the original block of the castle. One two-story north wing is of brick construction with stone veneer, which mimics the original castle construction. A four-story square brick tower—housing the 72-inch column still (National



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Distillers Still House), is located at the rear of the main block of the castle. The extensions of this building constructed by National Distillers increased the production capacity and efficiency of the building by allowing for more modernized production equipment and mechanization.

- **2. Laboratory (1909) - Contributing Building**

A three-story brick-masonry octagonal building located directly north of the northeast corner of the castle. Though not recorded on the 1912 Sanborn Map, historic photographs show this building built around 1909. American Bond masonry with no headers; the exterior walls have horizontal banding. The windows and doors are capped with double course Jack-arches. The structure sits on a rough-cut stone-block foundation similar to the castle in material and design. A smooth-cut water table and the window sills are trimmed in smooth-cut limestone. The building is capped by a pyramidal roof supported by a deep tongue-and-groove soffit with paired elaborate paired Arts and Crafts-style brackets and a denticulated cornice. The roof is sheathed in arched decorative masonry tiles.

The entrance doors are double-leaf with multi-light-glass upper sections and with paneled aprons beneath. Windows in the building are double-hung wood-sashes with 12/1 lights. Repair on the original windows has been undertaken in the past two years; the replacement windows follow the Secretary of Interior's Standards and mimic the original in materials, design and workmanship. The interior of the Laboratory is open with three floors; the interior walls are plastered. This structure was utilized as the yeast room or laboratory for the distilling process. Originally, each floor was reached by an iron stairway located on the exterior of the building. An exterior iron walkway connects each floor of the Laboratory to the distilling building. As National Distilleries increased their production capacity, their yeast production was moved into the castle, with this building being utilized as a Laboratory and production management office.

- **3. Boiler Room (1910) - Contributing Building**

Attached to the south elevation of the Castle is a brick structure on a high cut-stone block foundation; this structure was constructed as the Boiler Room by 1910 (Sanborn Map Company 1910:69). Originally a separate gable-front structure, by 1912 it was enlarged and attached to the castle by two brick hyphens.



**Boiler Room (Feature 3)**



**Sunken Garden (Feature 4)**

- **4. Sunken Garden (1906) - Contributing Site**

One of the most iconic elements of the Old Taylor Distillery is the Sunken Garden, located directly north of the castle. Installed beginning about 1906, it has a circular goldfish pond in the middle and is

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the scene of numerous historic photographs of gatherings and celebrations at the Old Taylor Distillery. It is a formal garden with three parallel sidewalks and it is bounded on the east by the four-foot mortared rock wall that lines McCracken Pike. Limestone cut-stone block steps lead from the garden up to Resources 1 and 2.

- **5. Spring House (1906-1908) - Contributing Structure**

At the south end of the garden is a one-story brick octagonal spring house. A round-arched window opening pierces each elevation of the structure; it is capped by a pyramidal roof sheathed in arched decorative masonry tiles.



Spring House (5)



Features 1, 2, 3, 4, 12, 13, 14, 17, 23, 33

- **6. Brick Shed (1906-1908) - Contributing Structure**

Near the southeast corner of the garden is a one-story brick potting shed capped by a pyramidal roof. It has double wood entrance doors, each with five panels, on the west elevation.

- **7. Third Cistern Room (1910) - Contributing Building**

This two-story brick Cistern Room was constructed circa 1910. It is a two-story square brick structure on a cut-stone foundation. It is composed of seven-course common-bond brick with recessed panels in the elevation walls and rusticated stone quoins at the corners. It is capped by a pyramidal roof. The building first used as a Cistern Room is no longer extant; the building previously used as the second Cistern Room is adjacent to the Multipurpose Building (21).

- **8. Peristyle Spring House (1906) - Contributing Structure**

Although none of the Sanborn maps record this significant structure, historic photographs record its existence beginning circa 1906. This is the main aquifer that Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. accessed to produce his bourbon and another of the signature places recorded many times through historic photographs at the Old Taylor Distillery. The spring is keyhole-shaped and lined with cut limestone blocks. A classic open-wood pergola covers the entire spring, which is supported by smooth-cut

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limestone columns. The columns at the lower end of the spring have classic Doric capitals and the columns surrounding the round section have Ionic capitals. When the property was purchased in 2014, the Spring House Pergola was in a deteriorated state, most significantly on the horizontal lintels. The Peristyle has all new southern yellow pine 1" by 6" tongue and groove decking with several rafters replaced using similarly dimensioned lumber. The original rafters were comprised of fir or cypress. The new rafters are yellow pine.

The center spindle of the higher round part is original; it is composed of one piece of red oak. Repair and replacement of members closely followed the original in design, material and workmanship. The spring still flows clearly and abundantly and the water will continue to be utilized for the distilling process.



**Peristyle Spring House (8)**

**Taylorton Railroad Station (10)**

**Creek Water Settling Basin (9)**

- **9. Creek Water Settling Basin (1906) - Contributing Structure**

Directly west of the Peristyle Spring House adjacent to Glens Creek is an octagonal, open-sided settling basin structure. The principal elevations are built of cut-stone block with round arched openings; the openings are framed with cut-stone block voussoirs. The structure is capped by a conical roof sheathed in decorative arched-clay tiles. The peak of the roof has a decorative iron ball. The circular concrete settling well is located at the center of the structure; it has an integrated bench seat for visitors. Water from the creek flows through the settling basin and into the tile holding tank beside the boiler room; that water is used in processing.

- **10. Taylorton Railroad Station (1910-1912) - Contributing Building**

The Taylorton Railroad Station was constructed between 1910 and 1912. Historical documents state that the railroad was the Kentucky Highlands Railroad; the Louisville and Nashville Railroad absorbed this line soon thereafter. The structure is a one-story, brick-masonry structure on a concrete-slab foundation. The exterior walls are American Bond with recessed brick bands; the hipped roof has an overhanging wood soffit sheathed in bead board. The roof is covered in red clay roof tiles. The entrance is in a projecting bay; the door and window openings are capped by smooth-cut limestone lintels. Windows are wood double-hung sashes with 8/8 lights; the sills are smooth-cut limestone. Wood paneled decorative aprons are located beneath the windows. In 1964, the Taylorton Railroad Station was rehabilitated by National Distillers into a museum honoring Colonel E.H. Taylor, Jr. and Old Taylor bourbon.

- **11. Guard House (1914-1933) - Contributing Building**

Around 1900, the Sanborn maps and historic photos record the first office for the Old Taylor Distillery as being located slightly east of the Castle/Still House and adjacent to McCracken Pike. The 1912 Sanborn shows the office in that location with the notation "to be moved." At some point after that, the small stone office building was razed or moved to an unknown location and the extant guardhouse was

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constructed. It is a one-story seven-row common-bond brick gable-front structure situated close to the road; a pair of mortared cut-stone block piers links the guardhouse to the road. The structure sits on a high poured concrete foundation; an entrance opening to the foundation is located on the west elevation. The architectural elements in this structure are similar to others at the Old Taylor Distillery: round-arched windows with double-rows of header brick. The windows have 4/4 double-hung wood sashes; sills are poured concrete.



**Guard House (11)**



**Administration Building (12)**



**Bonded Warehouse E (13)**

- **12. Administrative Building (1905-1910) - Contributing Building**

This office building is not noted on the 1912 Sanborn map; however, historic photographs document the construction between 1905 and 1910. It is a two-story, six-bay, brick structure on a cut-stone block foundation. This structure has Craftsman details with a castellated parapet roof; an elaborate cornice piece located beneath the parapet wall has a deep soffit supported by paired carved wood brackets and a dentil cornice with a red tile roof covering. Windows are crowned with double-row jack arches; the sills are poured concrete. Historic photos of the structure record that the windows had double-hung 16/1 wood sashes. The historic photo shows a simple flat-roofed canopy over the main entrance. Presently, the entrance is capped by a hipped-roof entablature supported by paired wood brackets and dentil cornice and a red clay tile roof. The entrance element has a simple transom and sidelights; two side windows with segmented lights give the entrance accent.

- **13. Bonded Warehouse E (1949-1953) - Contributing Building**

This four-story, reinforced concrete bonded warehouse was constructed by National Distillers circa 1935-40. It is unusual and rare construction, having concrete curtain walls. It has the original interior reinforced concrete columns, and has a capacity of approximately 60,000 barrels.

- **14. Shooking Building (1940) - Contributing Building**

This one-story, six-course, common-bond brick, gable-front building was constructed circa 1940 by National Distillers. It was utilized to brand and house empty barrels. The interior of the structure is remarkably intact with a poured concrete foundation/floor, wood rafters and cross-beams, and original metal awning windows. This building is unique as its purpose was for the deconstruction of used barrels. The practice of reverse coopering, in this way was meant to flat pack the barrels for shipment by rail car to maximize efficiency. These deconstructed barrels would then be rebuilt at their final destination, and reused in the aging process of spirits, such as Canadian whiskey or Scotch whisky.

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**Shooking Building (14)**



**Second Cistern Building (15)**



**Historic Bottling House (16)**

- **15. Second Cistern and Storage (1906) - Contributing Building**

Historic photographs indicate that the Second Cistern and Storage building was extant by 1906; the 1912 Sanborn confirms its location (Sanborn 1912:32). This was the second cistern building on the site. The first cistern room was attached to a warehouse that is no longer in existence. The second cistern room is a two-story brick structure capped by a hipped roof. It has similar Romanesque Revival characteristics such as rusticated stone-block quoins and double-row segmental arches over openings. This structure is in fair condition, the roof having partially collapsed. The windows are wood; some are casement-style. The cistern room was moved on site twice since Colonel E. H. Taylor, Jr.'s initial involvement, with each subsequent move indicative of increases in production that would have necessitated larger spirits gauging tanks and larger general capacity. This is depicted as well in the modernization of Labrot & Graham's with the site's cistern room being relocated to increase efficiency (Labrot & Grahams NR App pg 16).

- **16. Historic Bottling House (1906) - Contributing Building**

Historic photos indicate that the Historic Bottling House was completed by 1906; the 1912 Sanborn confirms its location (Sanborn 1912:32). The Historic Bottling Building is a two-story brick rectangular structure capped by a hipped roof. Similar to many of the buildings constructed during Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr.'s ownership, this building has architectural significance through Romanesque Renaissance detailing such as rusticated stone quoins at the corners of the building and a central brick tower with quoins and a castellated brick parapet cap. Some of the windows had been infilled with glass block; the original windows in the structure appear to have been wood casement-style openings.

When the property was purchased in 2014, this structure was on the verge of collapse; the owners stabilized the walls and put a roof on to halt the deterioration. Historic photos show that the interior of the structure was architecturally detailed for the comfort of the bottling workers; the bottling plant boasted several skylights and an interior fountain. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad Line was adjacent to the west elevation of the plant; historic photos show workers loading cases of bourbon directly onto the railcar for delivery ([http://www.kyhistory.com/cdm/search/searchterm/Graphic2\\_Box20\\_F003.tif](http://www.kyhistory.com/cdm/search/searchterm/Graphic2_Box20_F003.tif)). Plans for the rehabilitation of this structure will occur in the future.

- **17. Case Storage Warehouse (1940) - Contributing Building**

The one-story Case Storage Warehouse was constructed by National Distillers circa 1940 and was constructed using reinforced concrete with brick veneer. The interior is unchanged from its original design and has reinforced concrete columns with conical caps. Most of the windows are the original multi-light steel with header-rows and poured-concrete sills; however, approximately half of the windows have been infilled with glass block. A raised, poured-concrete loading dock runs the length of

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the east and south elevations. A metal canopy supported by metal anchor rods shelters the major entrances and the loading dock on the east and south elevations.

- **18. Clock and Guard House (1935) - Contributing Building**

This one-story Clock and Guard House is located adjacent to the secondary entrance to McCracken Pike. This structure is not identified on any of the Sanborn maps thorough 1912; the architecture and design of the building indicate that it was most likely built by National Distillers post-1935. Additionally, it is reflected on the 1935-1965 Sanborn Map. It is a one-story reinforced concrete structure with seven-course, common-bond brick veneer; the openings are capped by a row of headers. Windows are wood 6/6 double-hung sashes; the sills are poured concrete.



Case Storage Warehouse (17)



Clock and Guard House (18)



Warehouse A Ruin (19)

- **19. Warehouse A Ruin (1910) - Contributing Site**

Although this structure is in a ruinous state with only an entrance elevation extant, it is considered to be a contributing resource. Constructed ca. 1910, this was the first of Colonel Taylor Jr.'s Romanesque aging warehouses. The 1910 Sanborn Map records that the structure was 67' wide and 290' in length. It was three bays in width; it has an architectural entrance tower with rusticated stone quoins, stone banding, and a battlemented cornice piece. This entrance element is the architectural centerpiece of the structure and is an extant remnant of the structure. It has been stabilized and will be preserved for interpretation to visitors. The cut-stone block foundation for the structure is extant and has been stabilized and preserved. The area on the inside of the foundations has been planted as an herb garden, which will serve as a source of raw material in the distilling process.

- **20. Bonded Warehouse B (1912) - Contributing Building**

This Bonded Warehouse B was constructed by Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. in 1912 and is three stories tall and eight bays in length. The 1912 Sanborn Map records the structure as 530 feet by 68 feet with a capacity of approximately 32,000 barrels. Local historical tradition notes that this was supposedly the longest brick-masonry warehouse constructed in the world during that era. It has the same Romanesque Revival architectural characteristics as many of the other late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century buildings constructed by Colonel E.H. Taylor, Jr. during this period. The main entrance on the south end is highlighted by a projecting entrance tower with rusticated stone-block quoins, stone banding, and a battlemented cornice.

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**Bonded Warehouse B (20)**

**Multipurpose Building (21)**

**Garage-Machine Shop (22)**

The windows have segmental double-row headers and stone sills. Heavy wood shutters on iron hinges originally controlled the temperature in the unheated structure. The interior wood ricking is original. Historic Sanborn Maps indicate that originally there was an entrance tower on the north elevation similar to the one on the south end. This tower is no longer extant and repair work on the brick appears to have been undertaken at some point; the date this occurred is not known.

- **21. Multipurpose Building (1940) - Contributing Building**

Adjacent to the Bonded Bottling House is a Multipurpose Building that was constructed by National Distillers circa 1940. It is a two-story, common-bond brick veneer building on a poured-concrete foundation with a hipped roof. It is an L-shaped structure; the longest side is parallel to the secondary entrance road from McCracken Pike. The primary elevations have brick pilasters; there are rusticated stone-block quoins on the primary visible elevations facing McCracken Pike and the northwest corner of the structure. The windows on the second level are twelve-paned metal windows; however, the first floor contains multi-light awning windows. The interior of the structure is intact with wood floors and tile walls. It was used as a multi-purpose building and cafeteria structure for workers.

- **22. Garage (1908-1912) - Contributing Building**

This structure has double fire station doors and is a gable-front, brick-masonry structure on a concrete-slab foundation. It was used as a combination garage and machine shop; it is shown on the 1912 Sanborn Map. The entrance elevation has two large vehicle bays with metal oversized doors. The east and west elevations have pedimented parapet-walls. The building has rusticated stone quoins.

- **23. South Water Tower (1935) - Contributing Structure**

The south water tower is located next to the Garage (Resource 22) and includes a finial at the roof crest. The water tower was constructed by National Distillers to demonstrate advancements in fire suppression.

- **24. North Water Tower (1938) - Contributing Structure**

The younger of the two historic water towers on this site is located west of the Castle/Still House (Resource 1) near the Grain Elevator (Resource 33). The tower has a castellated crest along the circumference of the top edge incorporated in the structure that is executed in metal that is meant to be reminiscent of this same stylistic flourishes the Castle/Still House (Resources 1) displays in hand-hewn limestone.

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South Water Tower (23)



North Water Tower (24)



Cut Stone Bridge (25)

- **25. Cut-Stone Bridge (1900-1910) - Contributing Structure**

There is one cut-stone bridge located under McCracken Pike that travels over a tributary of Glenn's Creek. The limestone used in the construction of the bridge appears to be consistent with the other stone features present throughout the site.

- **26 & 27. East and West Reinforced Concrete Bridges (1940) – 2 Contributing Structures**

A tributary of Glenn's Creek drains the eastern hill near the secondary entrance to the complex. It travels under McCracken Pike and thence under the Second Cistern and Storage Building (Resource 13) and the Multipurpose Building (Resource 21). It comes to the surface again on the north side of the Case Storage Warehouse (Resource 17). There are two reinforced concrete bridges that cross the tributary at this point. Historic photographs record their construction circa 1940 by National Distillers.



West Concrete Reinforced Bridge (27)



Gazebo (28)



South Support Dwelling (29)

- **28. Gazebo (1906-1912) - Contributing Structure**

Directly east of the Peristyle Spring House (Resource 8) is a wooden octagonal Gazebo which is supported by eight square wooden posts with square wooden brackets. The roof is pyramidal with iron cresting separating the sections; an iron finial is located the roof crest. The roof is sheathed in wood shingles.

- **29. South Support Dwelling (1890-1910) - Contributing Building**

During the operational years of the Old Taylor Distillery, there were a variety of dwelling houses for the workers at the plant. Local historic tradition relates that some of the nineteenth- and twentieth-century housing in the community of Millville was moved from the distillery. There are two late-nineteenth to early-twentieth-century dwelling that are currently extant in the distillery property. The first is located at the south end of the property adjacent to Glenn's Creek and is a one-story wood-frame three-bay side-gable house on a mortared cut stone-block foundation. Paired brick chimneys are centrally located at the crest of the roof. Windows have 2/2 wood double-hung sashes with simple wood trim. An original three-quarter width porch supported by a stone foundation shelters the main



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entrance. It is accessed by cut stone-block steps. A one-story ell on a concrete-block foundation projects from the rear.

- **30. Northeast Support Dwelling (1890-1920) – Contributing Building**

The Northeast Support Dwelling is located northeast of the primary facility and lacks the flourish present in the South Support Dwelling (Resource 29). The construction of this dwelling highlights functionality as the governing principal in its form. A one-story square timber framework is centered on a mortared cut stone-block foundation. Extensive damage to the roof and sidewalls of the building are present with the structural compassion of the building severely influenced.

- **31. & 32. North Glenn’s Creek Dam and South Glenn’s Creek Dam – 2 Contributing Structures**

There are two dams on Glenn’s Creek. The North Glenn’s Creek Dam is adjacent to the Creek Water Settling Basin (Resource 31) and is the larger of the two structures, having a three-level terraced dam. The second, smaller dam is located slightly south next to the South Support Dwelling (Resource 29). It has one three-foot-high dam with sloped sides. Other water features around the site include drainages for springs and creeks.

### Resources 33-38

Directly behind the Castle/Still House (Resource 1) and Boiler House (Resource 3) are a series of six production service structures; some directly related to distilling and others merely utility or storage buildings. These structures were constructed by National Distillers post-1935 and are considered to be a cluster as they are components required to allow the distillery to operate in a rural landscape.

- **33. Grain Elevator (post-1935) - Contributing Structure**

The grain elevator is of reinforced concrete construction matching the height of Warehouse E (Resource 13) that is located directly east of the Cooling Tower (Resource 34). This structure would have been necessary for efficiency purposes to transport raw grains such as corn, barley, and rye from rail cars into the Castle/Still House (Resource 1) in order for them to be milled before the mashing and fermentation process could occur.

- **34. Cooling Tower (post-1935) - Contributing Structure**

The Cooling Tower is situated in the aforementioned cluster of production contributing structures and is an all timber frame structure that’s title is befitting of its singular purpose. The building was employed by National Distillers to reduce the temperature of water that was heated as a result of various production purposes this water could then be placed back into environment without any ecological ramifications. While the shell of the building was intact upon initial purchase of the site the interior wooden trays used to provide surface area in order to cool the water had experienced severe rotting and damage, and have subsequently been replaced with appropriate materials to use for the site’s forthcoming modern era of spirits production.



Grain Elevator (33)



Cooling Tower (34)



Utility Building (35)

- **35. Utility Building (post-1935) - Contributing Structure**

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- **36. Septic Building (post-1935) - Contributing Structure**
- **37. Concrete Block Storage Building (post-1935) - Contributing Structure**
- **38. Two Door Garage (post-1935) - Contributing Structure**
  
- **39. & 40. South and North Elevated Barrel Run (1935-1940) – 2 Contributing Structures**  
These two Elevated Barrel Runs are both constructed out of metal with the purpose of conveying barrels over McCracken Pike so as to not interfere with either traffic or the transportation of barrels. While most barrel runs in similar facilities use gravity to aid in the movement of barrels through the facility, these are unique in their usage of a mechanized conveyor to lift the barrels above the road way. While the topography of Labrot and Graham allowed for them to use this method of elevated barrel runs farther along Glenn’s Creek, the general elevations become more consistent, which demanded an alternative resource to aid in the transportation of barrels between where they were filled and on-site aging warehouses (NR Labrot and Graham).



**Elevated Barrel Runs (39 is south & 40 is north)**

- **41. & 42. South and North Elevated Case Conveyors (1940) – 2 Contributing Structures**  
Two metal hooded elevated conveyors were placed to correspond to National Distillers construction of the Case Storage Warehouse (Resource 17) in 1940. The conveyors comprised of an internal belt that surrounded and supported by a metal exoskeleton that is sheathed in corrugated metal to prevent any transported goods from potential elemental exposure. The conveyors worked in unison to transfer empty glass bottles from the Case Storage Warehouse (Resource 17) to the Historic Bottling House (Resource 16) where the bottles would be filled and returned to the Case Storage Warehouse to be inventoried and prepared for distribution. The elevated nature of this machinery would have allowed rail cars to pass underneath, while eliminating the inefficiency of having staff constantly traveling between buildings to transport cases by hand.

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**South and North Elevated Case Conveyors (41 & 42)**



**Rock Pillars (44)**

- **43. Elevated Walkway connecting Warehouse A and B (1912) - Contributing Structure**

This elevated walkway spans between the extant Warehouse B (Resource 20) and the ruins of Warehouse A (Resource 19) and appears to be a determined integration between the two warehouses during initial construction. The walkway is comprised of cement and stone with a metal waist-high metal railing. The purpose of this walkway relates to the transportation both of warehouse employees and barrels between the two buildings. To this extent there is a metal barrel run incorporated into the floor of the walkway to make it easier to maneuver barrels between the two aging facilities.

- **44. Rock Walls/Rock Pillars/Cut Stone Steps (Varied) - Contributing Structures**

Four-foot-high mortared rock walls, constructed by Colonel E.H. Taylor, Jr. beginning in the 1880s, line McCracken Pike on both sides. Square rock entrance pillars are located along the Pike at various places; the majority of these pillars are approximately eight feet tall. Some are plain cut stone-block, while others have more decorative features. Those entrances are as follows: the main entrance to the Castle/Still House (Resource 1); the entrance to the Sunken Garden (Resource 4); the entrance to the Administrative Building (Resource 12); the entrance to the Guard House (Resource 11); and the north end of the property at Hanly Lane near Warehouse B (Resource 20). There are also rock walls on the interior of the complex such as along Glenn's Creek and lining springs and water drainage systems. Cut-stone block steps, walkways, and bridges are also located throughout the complex. An unmortared joined stone wall extends from the Guard House (Resource 11) south along McCracken Pike turning West along the boundary of the property mimicking the curvature of Glenn's Creek ending South-West of the South Support Dwelling (Resource 29). This long expanse is intermingled with portions of cut stone mortared construction as well as portions of collapse. As a result of the magnitude of stone-works on property, an additional map has been included to account for their placement in regards to the site.

- **45. Botanical Trail (2015) – Non-Contributing Site**

- **46. Cemetery (1800s) - Non-contributing Site**

On the east side of McCracken Pike opposite the Clock and Guard House (Resource 18) is a small family cemetery containing approximately 15-20 burials. One marker identifies the location of the grave of Joshua M McQueen (1746-1853) a veteran of the Revolutionary War. The site challenges the historian to assign a date to, with the McQueen headstone serving as a benchmark. It is the oldest dated marker in the cemetery.

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Stone Entry Steps (44)



Cemetery (46)

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**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.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C 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.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry

Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1885-1966; 1885-1920; 1934-1966

**Significant Dates**

1887

1907

1935

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

**Cultural Affiliation**

NA

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Period of Significance (justification)**

There are two Periods of Significance, 1885-1920 and 1934-1965. The years 1920-1934 alcohol production ceased at this distillery, due to national Prohibition against alcohol production. As long as it was generally legal to produce alcoholic spirits, this facility was significant.

**Criteria Considerations:** NA

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## Statement of Significance

### Summary Paragraph

The Old Taylor Distillery meets the first term of **Criterion C** as an embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type of construction—a Kentucky bourbon distillery. The property exhibits a wide temporal range and a degree of functional completeness that is outstanding in comparison with other distilleries in the state. The modifications the distillery experienced during its operative periods (1885-1920, and 1934-1966) demonstrate shifts within the industry on state and national levels. The site possesses unique architectural sophistication, which makes it an impressive assemblage. Because the Old Taylor Distillery possesses an exceptionally high degree of integrity, it sheds light on the entire population of Kentucky bourbon distilleries, helping us to understand not only this site, but other distilleries built after 1880. With **Criterion C** having been selected as the criterion of eligibility, the discussion of the Old Taylor Distillery's value will focus upon the property's design and its embodiment of the significant type: Kentucky Bourbon Distillery. Its significance under that Criterion will be analyzed within two historic contexts: **The First Golden Age of Bourbon Distilling in Kentucky, 1885-1920** and **Post-Repeal Era Bourbon Distilling in Kentucky, 1934-1966**. These contexts identify the significant activities associated with bourbon production in Kentucky before and after Prohibition, as well as determining the level of material retention which supports an integrity between the physical plant and its historic significance. The site is intimately linked to a variety of major developments within the distilling industry, as well as being influential to a multitude of specific historic national legislative events such as the Bottle-in-Bond Act of 1897 and the Pure Food Act of 1906.

Colonel E.H. Taylor, Jr. became one of the most prominent and influential distillers in Kentucky during the last part of the nineteenth and first part of the twentieth century in Kentucky. He was a seminal force in the development of the bourbon industry during the Period of Significance 1885-1920. After the repeal of Prohibition in 1933, National Distillers purchased the distillery and continued to produce Old Taylor bourbon. This facility was in production until 1972.

The existence of bourbon distillery facilities in the Bluegrass Region is not an aberration. The particular water source, which the Old Taylor Distillery draws upon, supported three historically significant and influential distilleries. Col. E. H. Taylor, Jr. even went so far to state, "I do not believe that you can exaggerate the vital importance of proper water in the manufacture of the finest grades of whiskey, and I am convinced that nowhere in the world can one find superior water for this purpose than in certain geological areas within the State of Kentucky. All the authentic geological data show that the whiskies having the greatest reputation in the world have been those produced from the water percolated through the strata of bird's eye limestone" (*Rule of the Regions*, Edmund Haynes Taylor, Jr. 1909).

While a large share of the story of Kentucky bourbon distilling is one of tradition, a second thread—ongoing technological advancement—also defines the evolution of this activity. Any bourbon distillery is initiated within a cultural tradition, and strongly influenced by the distillery operator's view of which buildings best serve that purpose, and which transportation resources are available. It is interesting that distillation plants have a certain consistency of design, often appearing as sprawling complexes, with their production core supported by a multitude of other contributing structures. These facilities are located in rural regions that possess geographic similarities. The emergent complexes manifest similarities in the types of materials incorporated in the sites, overall building layout, and relationships to transportation networks beginning with the industrial expansion beginning in the late-1800s.

**Historic contexts: The First Golden Age of Bourbon Distilling in Kentucky, 1885-1920 and Post-Repeal Era Bourbon Distilling in Kentucky, 1934-1966.**

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### **Methodology: Defining the Distillery**

To define distilleries as a type of construction, we must establish their critical and non-critical components and use these components to assess the site's identity and integrity. The authors of this nomination first turned to Pezzoni's "An Evaluation of Kentucky's Historic Distilleries." The Kentucky Heritage Council contracted J. Daniel Pezzoni in 2000 to complete an assessment of a variety of historic bourbon distilleries within Kentucky for the purpose of evaluating these locations in comparison to the Labrot & Graham Distillery. Labrot & Graham at the time sought National Historic Landmark nomination, and that study provided useful perspective.

Pezzoni identifies five unique construction elements that are **critical** to this construction type: still house, warehouse, bottling plant, and power plant (page 3). In addition to these critical elements he demarcates an additional eight contributing, yet **non-critical** elements: administrative government offices (post-Repeal period), mills for processing grain, cooperages, support buildings such as garages, distillery owner and distiller's dwellings, dry houses/feed lots, and amenities such as landscaping and recreation centers (page 5-6). Forty-three bourbon distilleries in the inner and outer Bluegrass Region were selected for research within a general historic context of Kentucky bourbon production; the counties included: Anderson, Bullitt, Franklin, Larue, Marion, Nelson, and Woodford. An additional three distilleries located in Owensboro, Daviess County were also selected for the evaluation. By applying this framework, Pezzoni identified eighteen distilleries that adhered to these construction components, and then expanded on this by compiling integrity and significance profiles on these plants (page 3-4).

Defining the distillery as a specific construction type requires understanding how the components of these sites achieve a business goal. The primary purpose is production of spirits with the goal of selling the finished product. This is accomplished by grouping the elements identified by Pezzoni into clusters of either direct production or support/logistics. In the direct production category, you would have the five critical elements as they are necessary for first distilling, aging, and finally preparing the end product for sale. The second category of support/logistic structures involves the eight non-critical construction elements. Those work in harmony with the critical production structures, providing assorted services which help to increase general efficiency. These support services were acts such as providing an outlet for waste such as spent fermentation materials (commonly referred to as "slop") or in the case of administrative buildings, offering dedicated spaces for facility oversight and management.

### **Description of the Distilling Process**

There has been evidence of distilling, the process of refining alcohol from fermented agricultural material, as early as 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD with the Greek Alchemists. Since 3<sup>rd</sup> Century AD there has been mention of using a "still": the basic distillation apparatus that uses the difference in boiling points of liquids to separate them (Water and Alcohol predominantly). However, these processes were not developed or discovered for the purpose of consumable alcohol, but for medicines and perfumes. The first evidence of distillation for the purpose of creating consumable beverage alcohols start with the Irish Uisge Betha (*Water of Life*) and German Brandy in 12<sup>th</sup> Century AD. The distillation process of separation of alcohols hasn't changed much over time, although our scientific understanding and ability to analytically measure all known variables has.

The basic process of bourbon distillation is first milling cereal grains, converting the grain starches into sugars through the cooking process, adding yeast to consume those sugars and convert into alcohols through the process of fermentation, and then using a still and applying precise heat to extract and refine specific flavors and alcohols from all other materials present after fermentation. There are two primary distillation types, batch and continuous. Batch refers to the use of an Alembic still, or as it's more commonly known a "Pot Still", and the ability to distill a set quantity to completion before starting another batch. Continuous refers to the use of a Coffey still or "Column Still", and the ability to run many batches (up to the discretion of the distiller) continuously without stopping. Between these two types of distillation the product quality and flavor characteristics will differ significantly. A rule of thumb is that Pot distilled spirits (of any category) are heavier, oilier and more complex than Column distilled spirits, which tend to be cleaner and brighter. The

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temperature, steam pressure and proof at which you operate your distillation equipment all have major roles to play in the quality and flavor of the distillate produced.

Basic machinery required for historic distillation processes would include a mill to grind grain, a heat source for mash cooking, a vat for fermentation and the distillation equipment of choice. The scale of a distillery operation has everything to do with the sophistication of its machinery and/or the number of operators on hand to operate it. From the early days of the farmer-distiller tradition, where farmers increased the value of their crop by distilling it, the process was very simple with minimalistic equipment such as a manual grinding stone, fire pit to heat the mash, and a rudimentary pot still operation. As steam power came online, distilleries were able to expand and be more safely operated, and as Colonel E.H. Taylor, Jr. was fascinated by all modern technological advancements, he was one of the first to embrace a larger scale, more factory-like distillery. This gave the ability to use machines, rather than people or animals, to grind grain, cook it and then to transfer it to a larger fermentation vat, which typically increased the size of the fermentation from the size of a barrel to thousands of gallons. It also increased still sizes and afforded modernizations and quality controls that were unthought-of and unattainable prior to steam power. After prohibition, National Distillers took over where Colonel E.H. Taylor, Jr. had left off, continuing to increase production capacity and quality through the replacement of his pot stills for a much larger distillation column as well as replacement of the original wooden fermentation vats for significantly larger "CorTen" steel vats.

The aging process of bourbon is a mystery that has been slowly decoded over time, however, due to the important roles that the environment and nature play on this process, it is never truly predictable. As the seasons change the temperature and conditions in a warehouse will change and chemical reactions will occur in the barrel, and in the spirit it contains. Basic maturation kinetics can be described in these terms: as the temperature in the environment surrounding your barrel increases the pressure inside increases due to the hot alcohol vapor. The spirit is then forced about halfway into the staves that make up bourbon barrels. When the environmental temperature decreases, pressure decreases and the staves contract forcing the whiskey back into the center of the barrel. There are four primary processes that occur during the maturation process: concentration/evaporation, filtration, extraction and oxidation. The extent to which these chemical reactions proceed is heavily impacted and dictated by the materials of construction for your storage structure. Historic barrel warehousing is commonly made of brick and stone, these materials are very good insulators and create different warehouse conditions where the temperature changes more slowly than warehouses that are constructed of other lesser insulators, such as metal or wood. The dimensions of your warehouse and the ventilation/air flow patterns will also have significant impacts on the flavor development of the spirit inside the barrel. A short warehouse will have less temperature variation from bottom floor to top floor than a taller warehouse. This variation in temperature in some cases is adjusted in colder seasons by applying dry steam heat to the foundation, a process that Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. is attributed with developing. The maturation process accounts for 50-60% of the final flavor of whiskey, so the choice of materials and warehousing conditions are paramount in the development of quality Kentucky Bourbon.

## **Brief Historic Overview of the Industry**

### **Prologue: Early History, 1773-1862**

During Kentucky's early settlement period of development, bourbon distilling was an industry that was to become an economically significant part of the commerce of the state. There were approximately 2,000 distilleries operating in the state around 1810; approximately 140 of these were located in the Central and Northern Kentucky area, including the counties of Fayette, Woodford, Scott, Bourbon, Franklin, Nelson, and Jefferson. Due to transportation limitations and expenses, the early-nineteenth-century distiller's market was restricted to his immediate vicinity. Whiskey sales were generally influenced by local influences and the general perception of the distiller's product.

Distilling itself was commonly associated with grain mills, as operators would often accept a portion of harvested crop in exchange for milling it for the farmer. This gave millers excess grains that would have been cumbersome to transport to markets as well having a time-sensitive nature to the commodity. The solution in



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many cases was simple and rooted in the heritage of these entrepreneurial immigrants: distill the grains into alcohol. Sprints were easier to transport and acted as a highly desirable trade commodity. Industrial distillation was a fledgling industry at this point in American history, and lacked the transportation networks to distribute products in an advantageous method. Even the character of the equipment accommodated these transportation limitations. Copper alembic stills were transported by wagon, and mash tubs were quite literally tubs constructed out of wood, minuscule in capacity when compared to modern metal examples. The processes themselves were extremely labor-intensive, with most actions being manual in nature and extremely physically demanding.

It was apparent to early distillery owners that the success of their whiskey could be greatly influenced by the term "old" in the product name. The name implied that not only was the whiskey aged, but it also referred to the distiller's experience in the distilling industry.

During the middle of the nineteenth century, the growth of transportation networks throughout the state, such as steamship and railroad lines, allowed distillers to be more productive in their distribution efforts. In 1862, the Internal Revenue Act implemented an excise tax on distilled spirits, thereby causing the closure of some of the smaller distilleries in the state. However, larger distilleries that developed after the Civil War profited from many improvements in distilling technology, and Kentucky bourbon began to develop into a larger industry with markets well beyond its borders.

During this era, the production facilities were utilitarian, simple, unadorned structures. Many were built of wood frame, and some of the better facilities had brick or stone structures; many were wrapped in sheet metal. Corrugated, galvanized-iron sheeting became readily available by the 1870s; manufacturers promoted it as a fire retardant, so during the next decade its use in industrial and commercial structures grew dramatically. Transportation developments and the expansion of rail lines during the mid 1800s were also imperative in providing distillers and merchants new markets for Kentucky's unique take on whiskey.

### **The First Golden Age of Distilling in Kentucky: 1885-1920**

Of the many factors that have contributed to the industry's evolution, the largest change in the production of bourbon was the transition from pot-still distilling over open fires to steam-operated continuous still distilling. The continuous still was developed by Aenaes Coffey, an Irishman in the 1830s. These small pot distilleries resembled little more than large farms with hog lots and cattle pens adjacent to the still houses, which more often than not were located in log barns.

A more efficient productive and manageable apparatus became more commonly used after the Civil War. Because of the tall, columnar form, the continuous still required similarly scaled industrial housing that often resulted in the tower-like features of the still house that housed them from the late nineteenth into the twentieth century. Bourbon historians have noted that the redesign of the still house to accommodate the columnar still oven rose to a height of four stories (KHC 2000:4). Additional technological advances specific to the industry included:

1. The practice of maturing bourbon, which necessitated greater warehouse capacity;
2. Bottling the product on-site, which required bottling facilities;
3. The addition of cattle and swine feed lots and drying houses to dispose of silage or slop;
4. Advances in fire protection;
5. Climate control within the warehouses to ensure proper maturing of the bourbon;
6. Ingredient processing after the Bottle-In-Bond Act was a primary focus;
7. Transportation of the product required railroad access; and
8. After the Bottle-In-Bond Act, government inspection and regulation took supreme importance within the distilling plant.

Beginning in the mid-nineteenth century and prior to the Bottle-In-Bond Act, the government began increasing its regulation of distilleries. In 1862, Congress created the Office of Commissioner of Internal

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Revenue within the Treasury Department. With this establishment, “An Act to Provide Internal Revenue to Support the Government and Pay Interest on the Public Debt” was passed. The Act was an effort to help fund the Civil War, and included many excise taxes, licensing fees and an income tax. One of the excise taxes was a twenty-cent per proof gallon tax on distilled spirits; this was the first Federal tax on the industry since 1818. By 1865, the tax had jumped to \$2.00, but even more onerous were the detailed regulations set out for the industry that established a symbiotic relationship between the distillers and the Federal government that continues to this day. Distilleries were required to be licensed, and government inspectors or so-called “gaugers” in each state district were to oversee the measurement or “gauging” of whiskey before it was removed for sale. The distilleries were required to keep detailed records of the amounts of grain they use and the whiskey they distilled.

In 1868 and 1878, new additional Federal legislation further regulated the distilleries. Dropping the two-dollar tax to fifty cents helped reduce illegal distilling activity. A bonding period of one year was instituted to allow distillers to continue aging whiskey in bonded warehouses before payment of the regulations. However, this created a regulation that required distillers to submit detailed plans of their facilities indicating locations of all their buildings. Cistern rooms were required at warehouses where new whiskey was to be loaded into casks under government supervision. Both cistern rooms and warehouses were required to be built to government specifications. Pipes carrying mash, low wine, spirits and water had to be visible to inspectors and painted in specific colors for easy identification by the inspectors.

By the 1870s, another financial tool that was instituted was the introduction of the “warehouse receipt”; this allowed the distiller to sell barrels of whiskey directly from the warehouse before they finished aging. This also permitted the distiller to finance the whiskey taxes that were due after one year of aging. A huge boom in warehouse construction occurred after the bonding period was extended to three years by regulation.

During this era, the character of distilleries reflected the modern innovations and production methods that were behind the movement. The change from the pot still to the continuous still required a structure that could be as many as four stories tall. Steam power became ubiquitous for production, used for many distilling purposes such as heating the mash; vaporizing the beer in the still and later, heating the warehouses.

Federal legislation during the last quarter of the nineteenth century also resulted in massive changes to the warehouses themselves. The Act permitted the construction of warehouses built of “iron, stone or brick with metal or other fireproof roof.” When these warehouses were approved by the government collector, they were designated as “bonded warehouses of the United States”; their use was only for approved distilled spirits.

The developments to the bourbon industry during this time stood as advances in technology. Also, the impact of government oversight and interaction occurred on an unprecedented scale. Much of the government involvement was undertaken because it made taxation easier at a time when the nation obtained over fifty percent of its income through the taxation of spirits. It is the ratification of the 16<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1913 that helped to diversify the government’s coffers, through the implementation of income tax. Ironically it is this new tax, in conjunction with rising anti-German and Italian sentiments leading up to World War I, that helped to pave the way for the industry’s largest looming challenge: the rise of the temperance movement that would culminate in the begging of National Prohibition in 1920.

### **Post-Repeal Era Bourbon Distilling in Kentucky, 1934-1966**

The era of the post-Repeal Bourbon Distilling industry was dominated by alcohol production companies marketing their products on a national and international stage. The national prohibition of alcohol sales (1920-1934) nearly devastated Kentucky’s bourbon distilling industry.

“Whiskey fever” swept through Kentucky beginning in 1933 with the eminent repeal of the Volstead Act. The few distilleries that survived Prohibition were retrofitted and new facilities were constructed. However, the vast

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majority of Kentucky distilleries that once operated in Kentucky were unable to re-enter the business due to corporate competition or the lack of available capital to reinvest in buildings and equipment.

The Volstead Act could be theorized as the primary causation behind modernization and construction trends during the Post-Repeal Era. During prohibition, six entities received medicinal licenses: Brown-Foreman, Glenmore, Frankfort Distilleries, Schenley, American Medicinal Spirits, and the A. Ph. Stizel Distillery. This license granted these parties the right to procure, bottle and sell medicinal spirits, yet did not grant them the ability to produce new distillate until 1929. Of the six, many owned distilleries prior to prohibition, but quickly depleted their own aged product, forcing them to establish consolidation warehouses to house aged products from now-shuttered distilleries, in order to keep up with the demand during this time. American Medicinal Spirits did just this consolidating the aged stores from the Old Taylor Distillery (Registered Distillery number 53) and bottled it under their own Registered Distillery number 19 to adhere to government regulation. The allowance to begin the production of spirits in 1929 is extremely telling, as it was reactionary to a rapid decline in available bourbon stocks that could have resulted in the spirit disappearing from the market. This allowance was still restricted, meaning distillers were not able to adequately prepare for the consumer demand that occurred with the lifting of the Voldstead Act.

Thirty-eight percent of National Distillers was owned by American Medicinal Spirits Co. (AMS) and in 1936, AMS was dissolved, with National Distillers taking over their remaining stock. National Distillers was one of the big four conglomerates that prospered by taking over older distilleries that were unable to reopen after Prohibition. Two of the big four were located in Canada; National's largest American competitor was Schenley. With monies that they gained through the settlement of a lawsuit, National Distillers was poised to purchase distilleries and whiskey from consolidation warehouses. By the end of 1933, National had acquired very large market share of available whiskey with two hundred brand names and three of seven legal distilleries in the country. By 1937, while National had the smallest gross sales of the big four, it had the largest profits.

The lack of aged distillate within the industry, in conjunction with extreme consumer demands, necessitated an expansion unseen historically within distilling. Distilleries rapidly modernized their sites in an effort to increase their production capacity to the extremes of what was possible, with the focus being pure capability and efficiency. Larger continuous stills, mash tubs, grain bins, cookers, milling continuous stills, and aging facilities were all necessary for the now-heavily-cooperative distillation industry, to catch up to what Americans were consuming. With larger production equipment comes the need for buildings to house these mechanisms as well as support structures to ease the strain that this rapid modernization placed on the preexisting production components. This modernization occurred so rapidly that it was often interwoven into extant structures from the **The First Golden Age of Distilling in Kentucky: 1885-1920**, creating interesting juxtapositions within many of the distilleries that experienced these changes.

As the United States emerged out of the Great Depression, the only thing able to slow the growth of these large production-focused distilleries were the materials restrictions implemented during World War II to aid in the war effort. Many distilleries worked in unison with the government beginning in 1942, with their facilities being retrofitted to produce fuel alcohol and penicillin. With rationing ending in 1946, the bourbon industry once more continued to expand and modernize their distilleries, influenced in part by progressions in concrete construction—larger and more-fire-resistant buildings began to be built, with Bonded Warehouse E (Resource 13) serving as a prime example.

### **A Brief History of the Old Taylor Distillery**

#### **Chart of Ownership**

| Owner                    | Date of Purchase | Acreage | Deed Book |
|--------------------------|------------------|---------|-----------|
| Peristyle, LLC           | 5/2/2014         | 83.246  | 280/532   |
| Old Taylor Partners, LLC | 3/19/2014        | 83.246  | 280/48    |

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|  |            |     |           |
|--|------------|-----|-----------|
| Stone Castle Properties  | 12/16/1994 | 113 | 165/591   |
| Jim Beam Brands, Co.<br>FKA James B. Beam Distributing Co.                           | 5/26/1987  | 113 | 127/138   |
| National Distillers & Chemical Corporation<br>FKA National Distillers Products Corp. | 1/13/1936  | 136 | 36/213    |
| Old Taylor Distillery Company  | 9/24/1935  | 136 | 36/110    |
| Combs Distilling Company   | 8/07/1934  | 136 | 35/395    |
| Combs, Courtney and Rowena   | 5/23/1934  | 136 | 35/391    |
| Norris, Everett E. and Daly, Raymond E.  | 1/21/1929  | 136 | 33/473    |
| American Medicinal Spirits Company<br>(R. E. Wathen, President)                      | 12/01/1927 | 136 | 32/327    |
| E. H. Taylor & Sons<br>(H.M. Gayford, President)                                     | 6/01/1896  | 136 | 12/388    |
| Jacob Swigert Taylor   | 11/04/1879 | 90  | 4/133-134 |
| Johnson, John W. and Georgianna  | 12/29/1870 | 90  | 1/186     |
| Willis, Leaward G. & Adelia  |            |     |           |

Colonel E.H. Taylor, Jr. was financially aided prior to Prohibition by George T. Stagg, a partner in Gregory and Stagg, Commission Merchants and Distillers Agents from St. Louis. Old Fashioned Copper (O.F.C.) had much of its whiskey on consignment with George T. Stagg. George T. Stagg paid off Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr.'s loans and as a result gained controlling interest in O.F.C.; Colonel E.H. Taylor, Jr. stayed on as Vice President and Manager. In 1879, the E. H. Taylor, Jr. Company was established with Stagg as president and Colonel E.H. Taylor, Jr. as Vice President. It was during these years when Colonel E.H. Taylor, Jr. began to develop his ideals of the modern distillery.

Between 1879 and 1880, in response to the Federal extension of the bonding period to three years, the Carlisle Distillery, R.D.#7, 7<sup>th</sup> District, Kentucky, built several bonded warehouses on the river. In 1885, Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. resigned and a separation deal was worked out between George T. Stagg and Colonel E.H. Taylor, Jr.; George T. Stagg retained title to the O.F.C and Carlisle distilleries and Colonel E.H. Taylor, Jr. obtained title to the J. Swigert Taylor Distillery in Millville, which was owned by his son.

The J. Swigert Taylor distillery had been a small pot distillery in Millville owned by a man named Johnson. Colonel E.H. Taylor, Jr.'s son purchased this distillery in the 1870s and renamed it the J. Swigert Taylor Distillery. By 1887, Colonel E.H. Taylor, Jr. established E. H. Taylor and Sons and renamed the distillery "Old Taylor." Two of his three sons, Jacob Swigert and Kenner, joined him in this corporation. His third son, Edmund, would join the company later.

Because Colonel E.H. Taylor, Jr.'s name was synonymous with a superior bourbon whiskey product, George T. Stagg sued him to prevent his use of his own name on bourbon produced at the Old Taylor Distillery. George T. Stagg had continued to use Colonel E.H. Taylor, Jr.'s name on the bourbon produced at George T. Stagg's distillery, after Colonel E.H. Taylor, Jr. left the company in 1885. What ensued was a court battle that resulted in a split decision. Colonel E.H. Taylor, Jr. could use the name "Old Taylor" on his bourbon; but George T. Stagg's "Taylor" products were allowed to remain on the market. Colonel E.H. Taylor, Jr.'s ties with Stagg were finally severed by the turn of the century in 1903, when a Wine and Spirits Bulletin included an excerpt from the court decision and proclaimed that "there is but one Old Taylor whiskey distilled in Kentucky."

The buildings Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. had constructed for O.F.C. in Frankfort in the early 1880s were architectural masterpieces with round- or segmental-arched window openings, elaborate brick corbelling, heavy use of pilasters and horizontal brick banding with limestone details. Defined by Betsy Hunter Bradley

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as “American round-arched”, the design and materials were used to convey a marketing message of solidarity, prosperity and permanence and figured prominently in advertising his product.

By the time Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. was ready to build the Old Taylor Distillery in Millville, he had his mission and plans firmly in place. He wanted a unique showplace that would entice visitors to visit and enjoy the sites while enjoying his bourbon. The Millville site had several spring aquifers; the entire valley was karstic and led to the creation of three of the most famous Kentucky bourbon distilleries within a five-mile radius of each other: Old Taylor Distillery, Old Crow Distillery and Labrot and Graham Distillery.

With the beginning of Prohibition, Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. ceased production at the Old Taylor Distillery between 1917 and 1921; he passed away in 1923. During Prohibition, the plant was shut down. Similar to several of the larger distilleries in Kentucky, Old Taylor was converted into a consolidation warehouse during Prohibition. The 1925 Sanborn Map depicts it as “Concentration Warehouse No. 9.” Deeds to the property indicate that American Medicinal Spirits Company was in charge of the property, thus indicating that stocks were concentrated for bottling bourbon for the medicinal trade. The plant was purchased by National Distillers in 1935.

Although the distillery experienced decline during the fourteen-year absence in production, the high quality architectural design and craftsmanship with which they were constructed by Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. allowed the facilities to resist excessive decline during that era.

The Old Taylor Distillery is unique in Kentucky as a pre-Prohibition distillery that was modernized and rehabilitated without sacrificing the architectural and historic significance that was the core and mission of its founder, Colonel E. H. Taylor, Jr. The buildings and landscaping which were significant characteristics of the 1862 to 1920 period were easily adapted, modernized and repurposed to meet the needs of the new “scientifically advanced” distilling industry. Relying on the public relation plan that was the backbone of Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr.’s operations, National Distillers continued to produce E. H. Taylor and Sons “Old Taylor” whiskey to the same level of prominence as before 1920.

After 1935, the distillery prospered during the next phase of bourbon industry development. Several major buildings and structures were constructed by National Distillers, including the four-story Bonded Warehouse E (Resource 13); a Case Storage Building (Resource 17); a Shooking Building (Resource 14), a Multipurpose Building (Resource 21); reinforced concrete bridges (Resources 26 and 27) and a variety of production structures to modernize the distillation process (Resources 33-43). Production ended at the Old Taylor Distillery in 1972 and Jim Beam purchased the property in 1987.

Several of Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr.’s promotional concepts, including public relations campaigns and employee welfare, were continued after National Distillers purchased the Old Taylor Distillery. In the 1960s, the company rehabilitated the Taylorton Railroad Station (Resource 10) into a museum to honor Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. and the history of bourbon production at the Old Taylor Distillery.

### **A Brief Biography of Colonel Edmund H. Taylor, Jr. (1830-1923)**

Edmund H. Taylor, Jr. contributed to the modernization of bourbon distilling and helped lay the groundwork for the international importance of this product even after the repeal of Prohibition. He was born in Columbus, Hickman County, Kentucky, in 1830. He was the son of John Eastin Taylor (1803-1835) and Rebecca Taylor. He was named for his uncle Edmund Haynes Taylor, Sr. (1799-1873). In 1835, when the family was living in New Orleans, Taylor’s father died of cholera. His mother and the other children continued to live in New Orleans; Zachary Taylor became guardian of the children at that time. In 1850, E. H. Taylor, Jr.

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returned to Kentucky and resided with his uncle E. H. Taylor Sr.; “junior” and “senior” were added to their names at that time to avoid confusion.

When the founding Bank of Kentucky was established in 1834, Edmund Taylor, Sr. was the cashier at the branch in Frankfort and held that position for 39 years until shortly before his death. E. H. Taylor, Jr. learned the banking business from his uncle and in 1856, he entered into the banking business and established a bank named Taylor, Turner and Co. Although this bank was successful for a time, the threat of eminent civil war forced them to close in 1858. In 1852, Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. married Frances Miller Johnson. He and Frances had eight children; three of his sons would eventually join him in his distilling business.

During the Civil War era, Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. was living in Arkansas, actively trading in commodities such as corn and cotton. After the war, he became interested in the distilling industry; in 1868, he became the junior partner in the firm of Gaines, Berry and Company. That company became W. A. Gaines and Co., which built the Old Crow and Hermitage Distilleries in Frankfort. W. A. Gaines purchased the rights to the Old Crow brand in Millville in Woodford County; James C. Crow died in 1856 but Oscar Pepper continued to make Crow’s whiskey.

In 1867, Oscar Pepper died and the brand was sold to W. A. Gaines (later called “Gaines, Inc.”). Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. was named guardian for Oscar Pepper’s son, James E. Pepper, until he reached legal age to take over the distillery. In 1874, Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. and W. A. Gaines rebuilt and operated the Old Oscar Pepper distillery in Millville for his ward James E. Pepper until 1878, when it was sold to Leopold Labrot and James H. Graham. It was renamed Labrot and Graham Distillery.

During that time, Gaines, Inc. determined to upgrade their distilling process and sent Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. to Europe for a tour of England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Italy, Spain and Germany to study their distilling methods. Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. brought his knowledge back to Kentucky and established the Hermitage Distillery in Frankfort. Although he severed ties with W. A. Gaines in 1870, he aided in the upgrade the Old Crow distillery in 1874 through his ward James Pepper.

Several important areas of knowledge that Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. gained during his European travels stayed with him his entire life; these ideas became his mission for establishing the modern distillery that resulted in the formation of E. H. Taylor and Son in Millville in 1887.

During the mid-nineteenth century, the invention of the column still and steam power to fuel the production led to the establishment of more industrial plants. Although modern in their functionality, these factories were not appealing or welcoming to visitors. Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. thought that the distillery should be both modern but at the same time appealing to visitors. The second and perhaps most important facet of Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr.’s mission was the advertising or “branding” of his product. He believed in setting high standards for his distillery in both qualities of distillation and public appearance.

### **Legislation: Defining and Refining the Industry**

The First Golden Age of Distilling in Kentucky also saw a culmination of the antipathy between the producers of straight whiskey (bourbon) and the rectifiers or producers of blended or amended spirits. Since the beginning of the distilling industry, there were those producers who believed in the superiority of “straight whiskey,” the un-amended, unblended product direct from the distillery that produced it. The rectifiers were distilleries that purchased distilled spirits and re-distilled them to a higher proof or amended them with flavorings or other alcoholic products to appeal to the drinking public.

Colonel E.H. Taylor, Jr. was the utmost proponent of “straight whiskey”; he worked tirelessly to separate the classifications of pure, straight, bourbon whiskey and the adulterated version that was not regulated. The rectified whiskey was also cheaper than the straight bourbon product; Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. had to distinguish his product and create a demand among customers to spend more for his bourbon. He convinced liquor owners and saloons to carry his product and created an elaborate letterhead design and logo to go on

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the labels and letters from his company. While it was a mark of personal character to hold himself to a higher standard than much of the industry he felt it was important to transition this belief into law to help protect other reputable producers in the field as well as consumers. Thus Colonel E.H. Taylor, Jr. began a campaign leveraged with his political connections to pass a system of regulations meant to set guidelines and establish consistency in the industry that materialized in the ratification of the Bottle-in-Bond Act of 1897.

At this point in history, whiskey was so important to American society that when the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 passed, one of the most contested points was the establishment of a uniform and specific definition for the class of spirits. The debate amongst producers reached a crescendo culminating with President Taft defining the spirit on December 27, 1909 nearly three years after the initial Act went into effect. The beauty with the Taft decision was it represented an excellent compromise. Neither rectifiers nor 'pure' whiskey producers supported or agreed with the outcome of the Taft decision. While Colonel E.H. Taylor, Jr. was successful in challenging the Taft decision to tighten the description of whiskey, it did not silence his rather vocal perspective on a myriad of industry concerns.

While these pieces of legislation are tangible examples of Col. E.H. Taylor, Jr.'s legacy with the field of distillation his writings and personal letters are lasting reminders of his stewardship of quality within the industry. These works were commonly published in trade periodicals and focused on his concerns against over production and the detrimental impact that inferior quality products have on the industry as a whole. He was resolute in his belief that competition within the spirits industry should be founded on principles of quality and determination, and not through decreasing cost to expand profit margins.

**Evaluation of Significance within the historic context: The First Golden Age of Bourbon Distilling in Kentucky, 1885-1920 and Post-Repeal Era Bourbon Distilling in Kentucky, 1934-1966.**

To qualify as eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as significant within *The First Golden Age of Distilling in Kentucky: 1885-1920*, a distillery will have to have key resources that define this era of bourbon distilling in Kentucky. The Old Taylor Distillery has been described by bourbon historians as the "First distillery in the United States to be built from the ground up as a showplace, one of a kind destination that was equally focused on merchandising and branding and entertaining guests as it was on creating great spirits" (tomeblenbloginky.com).

The Old Taylor Distillery was evaluated by Daniel Pezzoni in a statewide survey of extant historic distilleries as a prime example of the Kentucky bourbon distillery construction type, with Pezzoni describing the site as, "...an architectural showcase that emphasized the marriage of industry and promotion in the late nineteenth century." (page 1). At this juncture it is important to note that four of the other distilleries identified by this evaluation have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places: the Labbrot and Graham Distillery #52 (Woodford County), the George T. Stagg Distillery RD #2 & RD #113 (Franklin Co.), the T. W. Samuels Distillery RD #145 (Nelson Co.), Old Prentice Distillery #8 (Anderson Co.).

**An Evaluation of the Historic Integrity of the Old Taylor Distillery within the Nominated Historic Context: Location; Setting; Design; Materials; Workmanship; Feeling and Association.**

The Old Taylor Distillery witnessed a long period of deterioration and demolition after the facility was closed in 1972. In 2005, the property was sold to Atlanta-based investors Heart Pine Reserve and the property was slated for architectural salvage. Two of the brick aging warehouses on the east side of McCracken Pike were salvaged for their brick and wood materials. The decline in the housing market in 2008 probably saved the majority of the Old Taylor Distillery's iconic architectural buildings and structures. Thirty years of abandonment took a toll on the site and when it was purchased by Peristyle, LLC in 2014, the new owners had to cut their way through the undergrowth to determine the extent of the property.

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The Old Taylor Distillery holds national significance in the area of architecture for its outstanding ability to exhibit major trends in the development of post-Repeal distillery architecture.

Fortunately, the complex was very well constructed using the best materials and construction techniques. Even with some loss, the Old Taylor Distillery has retained an extremely high degree of historic integrity of all seven qualities. This is further supplemented by it simultaneously possessing examples of all five of the critical elements Pezzoni outlined in his development of distilleries as a construction type along with extant representations of all eight of the non-critical. With the Old Taylor Distillery possessing examples of each of the critical and non-critical features incorporated within this definitional understanding it is clear that the integrity of the Old Taylor Distillery is beyond refute as a prime example of this type of construction.

**Location and Setting:** Originally located in rural Glenn's Creek valley in Millville, the setting of the property is intact. Surrounded by wooded, rural hillsides, the vista and view-sheds have changed little since the last part of the nineteenth century. No new construction has occurred here since the distillery was established during the late nineteenth century. The historic community of Millville remains much as it existed during that time with several historic churches and a string town village along McCracken's Pike.

**Design/Materials and Workmanship:** The only changes to the complex occurred during the post-Repeal era under National Distillers' ownership. Historic photographs from that era show the company rehabilitating the older structures that were idle during Prohibition. Structures that were built by National Distillers have their own Period of Significance and do not detract from the earlier structures constructed by Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. National Distillers continued to use the earlier production facilities and also constructed new buildings with similar materials.

Most of the distilleries that were surveyed by the KHC in 2000 were functionally complete; they retained the essential elements for distilling, storing, maturing and bottling their product. Due to the scientific changes in the distilling method during this period, the most significant element to have on site is the still house; it should be a structure of sophisticated or distinctive architectural design, or perhaps a refurbished older still house. Other resources that could contribute to the distillery's significance include: spring or spring house; column house for the continuous still; warehouses; bottling plants; water plants; power plants; bottling houses and cistern houses. The Old Taylor Distillery has retained a high level of historic integrity of contributing elements from this era. Sixteen of the resources were constructed during the period of Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr.'s ownership; seventeen were built post-Repeal.

All eleven original contributing structures at the Old Taylor Distillery were constructed with Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr.'s high standards; constructed of cut-stone block or brick-masonry with cut-stone block foundations and details. Many have classical elements such as jack-arches with keystones; rusticated, stone or concrete quoins and red clay tile roofing. The property type analysis in the 2000 study also noted that certain distilleries had resources that were not essential to industrial operations yet have significant association with the site; the Sunken Garden (Resource 4) at the Old Taylor Distillery is specifically cited.

As a significant distillery during the **Post-Repeal era (1934-1966)**, the Old Taylor Distillery has a high degree of integrity of production buildings; recreation-related structures and setting, feeling and association. None of the resources constructed by Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. were removed when the distillery was purchased by National Distillers in 1935. The Castle continued in use as the still house; a four-story, brick column still house was constructed at the rear of the castle to house an additional column still. Other buildings that were added to the plant were constructed of brick veneer to remain consistent with the materials and design for the earlier resources.

**Castle/ Still House:** The crenellated Castle/Still House at the Old Taylor Distillery is architecturally unique in the State of Kentucky and perhaps in the United States. It is cited as having sophisticated or distinctive architectural design in the 2000 survey (KHC 2000:3). Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. employed master stone masons to build a still house that served as his symbol for Old Taylor; it spoke of the quality and class of the bourbon



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produced. In effect, Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. was giving those qualities to the patron visiting his distillery and purchasing his bourbon. The Castle/ Still House is the signature structure, the one that instantly identifies the image as the Old Taylor Distillery. Completed in 1907, the still house resembles a medieval castle; it is constructed of white, Kentucky River limestone. The main entrance is a striking, classic element with a semi-projecting entrance element composed of rusticated and smooth-cut stone blocks and a round-arched door. The door is a fan-lit entrance with a segmented fan with slender wood pilasters and sidelights with paneled aprons.

Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr.'s emphasis on "pure goods" and quality are evident in his still house. During a time when fermentation rooms of many distilleries still had dirt floors, Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr.'s were "constructed of rough limestone, whitewashed to a dazzling brightness"; the floor was "grated in the best English cement, beveled by sidetroughing." The plants' pumps and machinery were described as the "the very finest that money can buy" (KHC 2000).

**Springs or Spring House:** The type, temperature and quality of water available for distilling was a primary consideration when siting a distillery. Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. enshrined his valuable and essential limestone water with an elaborate springhouse and pool which became a very popular tourist destination. The pool is supplied with water from the H. K. Ward spring located approximately ½ mile south of the distillery premises. The water is conducted underground to the hewn limestone overflow which empties into the large keyhole-shaped basin. The entire spring basin is sheathed in limestone blocks. Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. then topped it with a classic Peristyle Pergola supported by limestone columns.

**Power Plant/Boiler House:** Steam power became dominant after the Civil War, and most distilleries had a boiler house/steam house and the related smokestacks. The circa-1910 Boiler House (Resource 3) at the Old Taylor Distillery is a rare element. It was constructed south of the Castle/Still House (Resource 1) and later connected by brick and stone hyphens. A vestige of the original industrial operations, two of the original steam boilers are extant in the boiler house.

**Laboratory:** Another iconic structure constructed by Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. adjacent to the castle was the yeast room or laboratory. Historic photographs recorded the construction of this building circa 1909. The windows and doors are capped with double course Jack-arches. The structure sits on a rough-cut, stone-block foundation similar to the castle in material and design. A smooth-cut water table and the window sills are trimmed in smooth-cut limestone. The building is capped by a pyramidal roof supported by a deep tongue-and-groove soffit with paired, elaborate Arts and Crafts-style brackets and a denticulate cornice. The roof is sheathed in arched, decorative masonry tiles.

**Recreational-Related Elements:** Some elements not directly related to the industrial operations, but which have significant associations to the site, are also an intrinsic element in the distilleries of this era. At the Old Taylor Distillery, this includes the Sunken Garden area, located directly north of the Castle/Still House. Installed beginning about 1906, it has a circular goldfish pond in the middle and is the scene of numerous historic photographs of gatherings and celebrations at the Old Taylor Distillery. It is a formal garden with three parallel sidewalks; it is bounded on the east by the four-foot, mortared rock wall that lines McCracken Pike. Square mortared-rock limestone pillars and steps leading from the main road access the garden. At the south end of the garden is a one-story, brick, octagonal well house. The Peristyle Spring House also became a gathering place for visitors to the Old Taylor Distillery and became an element with recreation-related associations.

**Aging Warehouses:** Between 1910 and 1912, Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. constructed two brick aging warehouses, one of which has been reported to be the longest brick-masonry warehouse in the world constructed during that era. It is three stories tall and eight bays in length. The 1912 Sanborn Map records the structure as 530 feet by 68 feet with a capacity of 32,000 barrels. It has the same "round-arched" architectural characteristics as many of the other late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century buildings constructed by Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. during this period. The main entrance on the south end is highlighted by a projecting entrance tower with rusticated, stone-block quoins; stone banding and a battlemented cornice.

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**Bottling Houses/Cistern Houses:** Several extant production structures that were constructed prior to 1920 are the Bottling House and two Cistern Houses. The second and third Cistern Houses are extant; the first was attached to a warehouse that is no longer extant. The Bottling House constructed by Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. circa 1912-1920 is a rare element in many distilleries of this era. It is a two-story, brick-masonry structure with the castellated/classic elements that are the architectural theme in most of Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr.'s structures. Historic photos of the interior of the bottling house show great attention to detail, including plastered ceilings and an interior water fountain for the pleasure of the employees.

Although not critical to determining historic integrity, other buildings are still important to understanding the function of the site as a whole, including administration buildings; grain mills; garages; fire houses and production support buildings. The Old Taylor Distillery contains an extremely high level of support buildings including the early-twentieth-century office building; milling and grain structures; fire station; and two water towers.

**Feeling and Association:** Even with the loss of several aging warehouses, the Old Taylor Distillery has an extremely high degree of feeling and association. All the contributing structures and resources have retained their integrity of design and materials and look much as they did during *The First Golden Age of Distilling in Kentucky: 1885-1920*. The signature architectural structures have witnessed very little alteration since their period of significance; the Castle/Still House retains key design and materials from its original construction in 1907. Many of the original production components are extant from the post-Repeal ear rehabilitation completed by National Distillers. These include steel fermenting tubs; grain and milling systems; steam boilers; barrel runs; elevated barrel tracks; metal bridges and walkways.

The recreational-related features have retained a large amount of their historic integrity through the Sunken Garden with goldfish pond and the limestone column supported Peristyle Spring House over the main spring.

Other distilleries that designed with marketing and branding in mind included the Old Crow Distillery in Millville and the Old Prentice Distillery in Anderson County. Old Crow had been built by W. A. Gaines and Company; this is the company Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. helped establish during the 1860s. Beginning in 1894, Old Crow was refurbished and had a three-story stone still house and five brick, bonded warehouses.

The Prentiss Distillery in Anderson County is listed in the National Register as an example of Mission Style architecture in Kentucky. The main still house is the only building listed under Criterion C.

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- Its Fount as Fine as Its Flavor: Old Taylor Distillery One of the Show Places of Kentucky, BARRELS AND BOTTLES, at 6-7.
- Mr. Cabell, Compliments of the Commissioner, BARRELS AND BOTTLES, at 15.
- Old Taylor and Old Ham: The Delightful Combination Enjoyed by Visitors to Frankfort, Ky., BARRELS AND BOTTLES, at 4.
- Private Brands Before the Courts: Both Federal and Kentucky Statutes on the Subject, BARRELS AND BOTTLES, at 4.
- Rev. Dr. Wasson, Women Not Prohibitionists, BARRELS AND BOTTLES, at 5.
- Samuel Streit, One of the Old Guard, BONFORT'S WINE AND SPIRIT CIRCULAR, Jan. 10, 1910.
- T. M. Gilmore, E .H. Taylor, Jr., BONFORT'S WINE AND SPIRIT CIRCULAR, Jan. 10, 1910, at 230.
- T. M. Gilmore, Every Man Connected with the Whiskey Trade Aught to go to Frankfort, Ky., and Visit the Taylor Distillery, BARRELS AND BOTTLES, June 20, 1911.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Peristyle, LLC (DBA Castle & Key Distillery)

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): WD-114

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 113 acres

Old Taylor Distillery  
Name of Property

Woodford, KY  
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**UTM References**

Frankfort East Quad map  
Coordinates calculated from ArcGIS Explorer  
Coordinates expressed in NAD 1983  
See quad map on page 42

|   |                   |                              |                                |   |                   |                              |                                |
|---|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | <u>16</u><br>Zone | <u>690 380.08</u><br>Easting | <u>4224 796.90</u><br>Northing | 3 | <u>16</u><br>Zone | <u>689 766.27</u><br>Easting | <u>4223 829.43</u><br>Northing |
| 2 | <u>16</u><br>Zone | <u>690 182.62</u><br>Easting | <u>4223 829.43</u><br>Northing | 4 | <u>16</u><br>Zone | <u>689 438.89</u><br>Easting | <u>4224 605.01</u><br>Northing |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

"Property known as Old Taylor Distillery situated on Glenss Creek in Woodford County, Kentucky, and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of the south line of Glenss Creek Road with the line common to the Old Crow and Old Taylor Distilleries both of which being National Distillers & Chemical Corporation property; thence with the south line of Glenss Creek Road, North 50 degrees 90 minutes 07 seconds East, 251.00 feet and North 45 degrees 45 minutes 07 seconds East, 77.00 feet to a point in same thence leaving said south line, North 11 degrees 40 minutes 53 seconds East, 77.50 feet to its intersection with the south line of the tract conveyed to Harold S. Moore by deed of the County Court of Woodford County, Kentucky, thence with lines common to said Moore tract, North 75 degrees 56 minutes 07 seconds East 318.17 feet; North North 88 degrees 54 minutes 46 seconds East, 771.13 feet and North 6 degrees 10 minutes 34 seconds East, 366.15 feet to a corner common to the tract conveyed to Evelyn Cabe by deed of record in Deed Book 121, Page 221 in the office aforesaid; thence with lines common to said tract the following courses and distances; South 81 degrees 44 minutes 03 seconds, 769.50 feet' South 5 degrees 58 minutes 59 seconds West, 318.04 feet; South 83 degrees 15 minutes 00 seconds West, 464.26 feet; South 12 degrees 15 minutes 54 seconds East, 119.99 feet' South 11 degrees 43 minutes 11 seconds West, 282.18 feet' South 3 degrees 25 minutes 56 seconds West, 592.40 feet to a corner common to same and common to said Distillers and Arnold Heirs' thence with said Arnold Heirs tract, South 79 degrees 52 minutes 49 seconds West, 140.32 feet and North 56 degrees 46 minutes 11 seconds West, 190.07 feet and South 22 degrees 17 minutes 48 seconds West, 205.00 feet to a tack in a post at a stone fence; thence continuing with said Arnold Heirs tract, South 54 degrees 22 minutes 12 seconds East; 424.80 feet; South 41 degrees 46 minutes 20 seconds East, 196.15 feet; and South 40 degrees 42 minutes 44 seconds East, 607.92 feet to a corner common to same; thence South 22 degrees 28 minutes 48 seconds West, 100.50 feet and South 31 degrees 51 minutes 12 seconds East, 167.63 feet to its intersection with the centerline of Glenss Creek Road; thence with said centerline South 84 degrees 36 minutes 41 seconds West, 233.33 feet to a point in same; thence leaving said centerline, North 38 degrees 04 minutes 27 seconds West, 701.00 feet and South 47 degrees 28 minutes 33 seconds West, 101.67 feet to the west line of Glenss Creek Road; thence with said west line, North 37 degrees 39 minutes 19 seconds West, 299.25 feet to a point in same; thence leaving said west line, South 10 degrees 31 minutes 00 seconds West, 108.55 feet and South 31 degrees 16 minutes 58 seconds East, 143.64 feet to a point in the east line of the L. & N. Railroad; thence South 56 degrees 08 minutes 02 seconds West, 59.70 feet to a point in the west line of the L. & N. Railroad; thence South 22 degrees 27 minutes 52 seconds West, 299.70 feet to its intersection with the line common to said Distillers and the tract conveyed to James, Jr. and Mirian Cox by deed of record in Deed Book 77, Page 463 in the office aforesaid; thence with said common line, North 39 degrees 12 minutes 08 seconds West, 342.30 feet; North 41 degrees 54 minutes 05 seconds West, 316.42 feet; North 37 degrees 13 minutes 45 seconds West, 25.55 feet' North 2 degrees 08 minutes 02 seconds West, 37.31 feet' North 81 degrees 45 minutes 42 seconds West, 483.45 feet; South 82 degrees 19 minutes 51 seconds West, 161.91 feet to its intersection with the line common to Daisy Tutt; thence with same, North 5 degrees 48 minutes 02 seconds East, 192.39 feet to a corner common to the Old Crow and Old Taylor Distilleries aforesaid; thence

Old Taylor Distillery

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with the line common to same, North 13 degrees 42 minutes 55 seconds East, 613.90 feet and North 7 degrees 49 minutes 53 seconds West, 1,148.00 feet to the point of beginning encompassing 113.539 acres of which 4.90 acres are Railroad right of way pursuant to the right of way easement set out in Deed Book 18, Page 300, in the Office of the Clerk of Woodford County, Kentucky.

There is excepted and not conveyed herein all of the following described 83.246 acre tract conveyed to Old Taylor Partners, LLC, by Deed dated September 1, 2005, of record in Deed Book 230, Page 282, In the Office of the Woodford County Clerk and more particularly described as follows;

That tract of land located in Millville, Kentucky, in Woodford County, and lying on both sides of McCracken Pike, about 0.2 miles west of Duncan Road, is more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at an aluminum disc set in concrete, marked #2747, said point being the corner to the James B. Beam Distilling Company, in the southern Right-of-Way of McCracken Pike, thence with said Right-of-Way for two calls, N 50° 02' 54" E - 250.93' to an aluminum disc set in concrete, thence N 56° 37' 22" E - 77.04' to an aluminum disc set in concrete, thence crossing McCracken Pike N 11° 48' 21" W - 77.38' to an aluminum disc set in concrete on the east side of Hanly Lane, said point being a corner to James Barber Sr. and Betty Barber (DB. 160, PG. 104), thence with Barber's line for two calls, N 79° 50' 31" E - 488.17' to an Existing Concrete Monument (ECM), thence S 66° 27' 03" E - 234.32' to an Iron Pin Set, capped "Carroll, PLS #3241" (IPS), said point being a new divisional corner for Stonecastle Properties, Inc., thence with the new line for eleven calls, S 29° 02' 55" W - 88.69' to an Existing Iron Pin (EXIP) capped "J. Grider", said point being in the northern Right-of-Way of McCracken Pike, 25' from center, thence with said Right-of-Way S 56° 50' 56" E - 101.23' to an IPS, thence S 47° 54' 15" E - 76.87' to an IPS, thence S 40° 44' 45" E - 80.23' to an IPS, thence S 35° 02' 48" E - 95.02' to an IPS, thence S 27° 58' 52" E - 59.77' to an IPS, thence S 22° 14' 58" E - 33.61' to an IPS, thence leaving the roadway N 89° 13' 44" E - 262.32 to an IPS, thence S 00° 02' 52" W - 180.42' to an EXIP, capped "J. Grider" at a chain link fence corner, thence S 03° 49' 19" E - 764.12' to an IPS, thence S 46° 11' 56" E - 394.34' to an ECM, said point being a corner to William and Ruby Arnold (DB. 218, PG. 560), thence with the Arnold line for five calls S 28° 32' 54" W - 190.17' to an aluminum disc in concrete, thence S 22° 13' 00" W - 205.94' to an IPS at a corner post, thence S 54° 35' 26" E - 424.70' to an ECM, thence S 41° 52' 30" E - 196.15' to an EXIP, no cap, thence S 40° 51' 16" E - 605.27' to an IPS at a disturbed concrete monument, thence S 21° 08' 38" W - 102.03' to an ECM, thence S 32° 01' 09" E, passing a ECM on line, 168.49' to a R.R. spike set in the center of McCracken Pike, thence with the center of said road for one call, S 84° 35' 25" W - 232.96' to a R.R. spike set in the center of McCracken Pike, thence leaving said centerline N 38° 33' 32" W, passing an ECM on line, 701.58' to an ECM on the slope of the hill, thence down the hill S 47° 25' 14" W, passing an ECM on line, 101.67' to a R.R. spike set in the center of McCracken Pike, thence with the centerline of said road for one call N 37° 20' 05" W - 298.89' to a R.R. spike set in the center of the road, thence leaving McCracken Pike along the line of Margaret McKinnay (DB. 129, PG. 685) for one call S 08° 55' 39" W - 108.55' to an ECM, thence S 31° 17' 52" E - 141.06' to an IPS, said point being in the eastern edge of an old R.R. easement (DB. 18, PG. 800), thence crossing the old R.R. easement S 56° 03' 03" W - 59.70' to an IPS on the western edge of the easement, said point being a corner to Clinton Tupts (DB. 108, PG. 106), thence with Tupts for one call, S 22° 22' 53" W - 299.70', crossing Glenn's Creek, to an ECM at a 24" cedar, said point being a corner to Jim Plemmons (D.B. 151, PG. 204), thence with Plemmons for two calls, N 42° 04' 14" W - 316.42' to an ECM, thence N 37° 21' 05" W - 127.40' to an IPS near the west bank of Glenn's Creek, thence S 79° 54' 12" W - 25.55' to an ECM, thence N 01° 49' 51" W - 37.33' to an ECM, thence N 81° 52' 47" W - 483.67' to an Existing Stone, thence S 81° 57' 13" W - 79.20' to an ECM, thence N 81° 14' 11" W - 148.34' to an ECM, thence S 64° 09' 21" W - 162.01' to an ECM on the east bank of a branch, thence down the branch N 05° 41' 31" E - 192.32' to an ECM on the west side of the branch, said point being a corner to James B. Beam Distilling, thence with the Beam Line for two calls, N 13° 31' 10" E - 613.90' to an IPS on the east bank of the branch, thence N 07° 49' 53" W - 1148.00' to the point of beginning. Said tract herein described contains 83.246 Acres as surveyed by Stephen D. Carroll, KY PLS #3241, in August of 2006".

Old Taylor Distillery  
Name of Property

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**Boundary Justification**

The area proposed for National Register listing is the area associated with the property during the Period of Significance, and retains integrity of setting and feeling today.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jayne Goddard, Brett Connors & Amy Crossfield  
organization Palmer Engineering Castle & Key Distillery date 10/10/2016  
street & number PO Box 747 4445 McCracken Pike Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Winchester 40392 Frankfort 40601 state KY zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail [jgoddard@palmernet.com](mailto:jgoddard@palmernet.com), [amy@castleandkey.com](mailto:amy@castleandkey.com), [brett@castleandkey.com](mailto:brett@castleandkey.com)

**Photographs:**

**Same information for all photos:**

**Name of Property:** Old Taylor Distillery  
**City or Vicinity:** unincorporated community of Millville (Frankfort vicinity)  
**County:** Woodford  
**State:** Kentucky  
**Photographer:** Malicote Photography, Julie Cauthen, and Castle & Key Distillery employees.  
**Date Photographed:** Various; 2016

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

- Photograph 1 of 19: Feature 1. Camera facing west.
- Photograph 2 of 19: Features 1, 2, and 33. Camera facing southwest.
- Photograph 3 of 19: Feature 3. Camera facing southwest.
- Photograph 4 of 19: Features 1, 2, 4, 5, and 23. Camera facing south.
- Photograph 5 of 19: Features 4 and 5. Camera facing north.
- Photograph 6 of 19: Features 5 and 7. Camera facing north.
- Photograph 7 of 19: Feature 8. Camera facing north.
- Photograph 8 of 19: Feature 10. Camera facing northeast.
- Photograph 9 of 19: Feature 20. Camera facing northeast.
- Photograph 10 of 19: Features 16, 17, 21, 24, 41, and 42. Camera facing north.
- Photograph 11 of 19: Features 17 and 24. Camera facing northwest.
- Photograph 12 of 19: Feature 12. Camera facing southeast.
- Photograph 13 of 19: Features 4, 13, and 24. Camera facing northwest.
- Photograph 14 of 19: Feature 16. Camera facing northeast.
- Photograph 15 of 19: Features 1, 2, 3, 4, 12, 13, 14, 23, 31, and 33. Camera facing west.
- Photograph 16 of 19: Feature 41. Camera facing east.
- Photograph 17 of 19: Feature 13. Camera facing southwest.
- Photograph 18 of 19: Feature 31. Camera facing southeast.
- Photograph 19 of 19: Feature 8. Camera facing north.

Old Taylor Distillery  
Name of Property

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**Property Owner:**

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name Peristyle, LLC  
street & number 4445 McCracken Pike telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Frankfort state KY zip code 40601

Old Taylor Distillery

Woodford, KY

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Eastern Parcel of Old Taylor Distillery:



Judy Bobbitt, PVA  
103 South Main Street  
Courthouse, Room 108  
Versailles, KY 40383  
Office: 859-573-4101



**Woodford County  
Property Valuation Administration**

Print Date: August 23, 2016  
Aerials Date: December 2013



**Maps to be used  
for identification only,  
NOT for conveyance.**

**1 inch = 250 feet**



Old Taylor Distillery

Woodford, KY

Name of Property

County and State

Western Parcel of Old Taylor Distillery:



Judy Bobbitt, PVA  
103 South Main Street  
Courthouse Room 108  
Versailles, KY 40383  
Office: 856-873-4101



**Woodford County  
Property Valuation Administration**

Print Date: August 23, 2016  
Aerials Date: December 2015



Maps to be used  
for identification only,  
NOT for conveyance.

1 inch = 333 feet

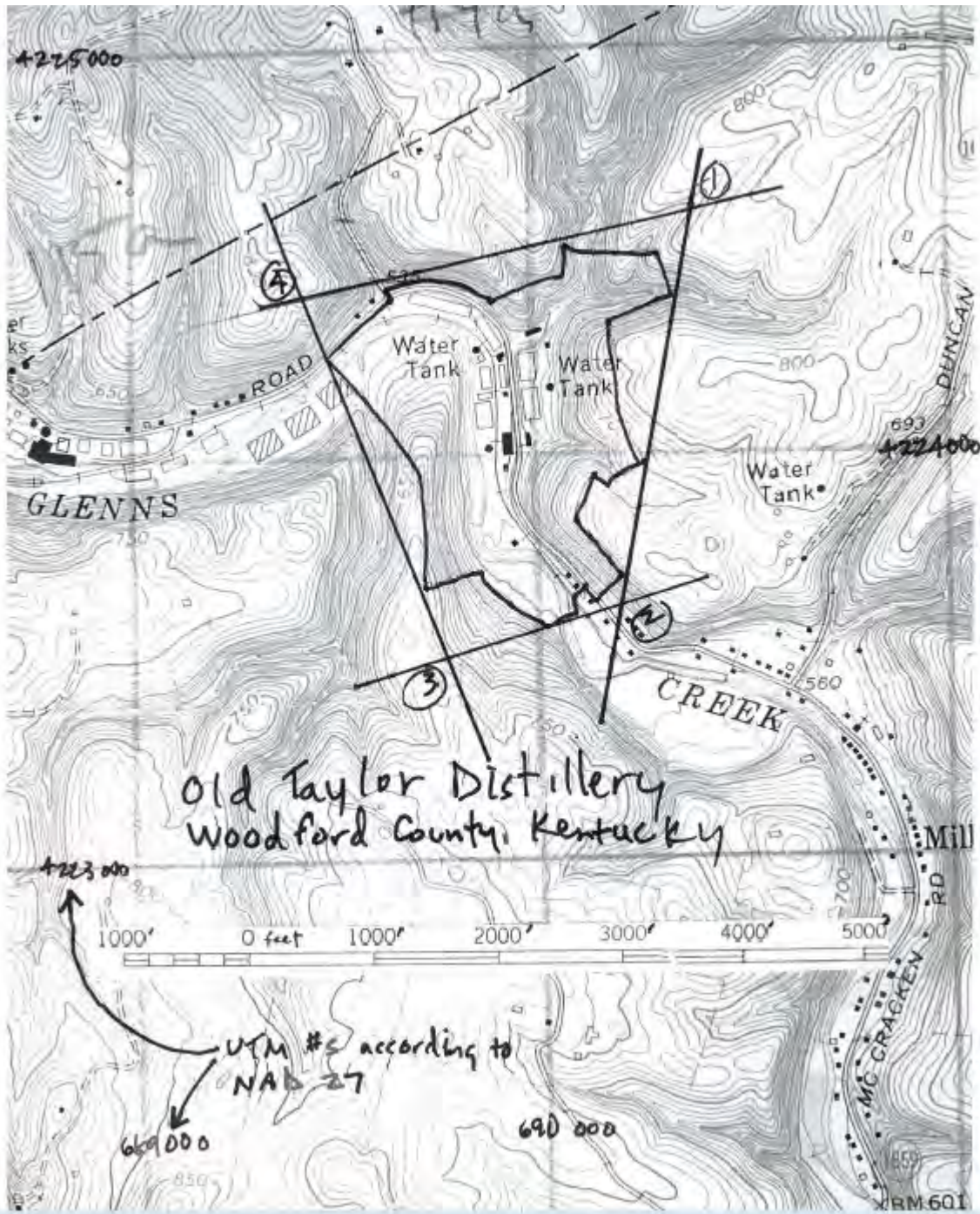
83

Old Taylor Distillery

Woodford, KY

Name of Property

County and State





*The Old Taylor  
Distillery Company*























F



PRIVATE PROPERTY

















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Old Taylor Distillery

Multiple Name:

State & County: KENTUCKY, Woodford

Date Received: 1/27/2017      Date of Pending List:      Date of 16th Day:      Date of 45th Day: 3/13/2017      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100000747

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      3/13/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Excellent example of a complete distillery facility, with an interesting architectural design - the "castle" main building is a distinct presence on the landscape and contrasts interestingly with the more typical late 19th and mid 20th century industrial buildings.

Could also be eligible under Criterion A with more industrial justification.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / C

Reviewer: Jim Gabbert

Discipline: Historian

Telephone: (202)354-2275

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No      see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



MATTHEW G. BEVIN  
GOVERNOR

**TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET  
KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL**

DON PARKINSON  
SECRETARY

THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
300 WASHINGTON STREET  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601  
PHONE (502) 564-7005  
FAX (502) 564-5820  
[www.heritage.ky.gov](http://www.heritage.ky.gov)  
January 13, 2017

CRAIG A. POTTS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER



J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye St. NW 8th Floor  
Washington DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed are the nominations approved by the Review Board at their December 12, 2016 meeting. We submit these forms so the properties can be listed in the National Register:

- Columbia Commercial District**, Adair County, Kentucky
- Bold House**, Bracken County, Kentucky
- Doyle Country Club**, Campbell County, Kentucky
- Bush Warehouse**, Clark County, Kentucky
- Haury Motor Company and Garage**, Jefferson County, Kentucky
- Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church**, Jefferson County, Kentucky
- Paducah City Hall**, McCracken County, Kentucky
- Scarce-Roush House**, Shelby County, Kentucky
- Dodson House**, Warren County, Kentucky (James Ingram Houses MPS)
- Old Taylor Distillery**, Woodford County, Kentucky

We enclose documentation for three previously listed properties:

- new information for the **Downtowner**, one property within the **Whiskey Row Historic District**, Jefferson County KY (NRIS 89000305). The form documents the Downtowner's role in Louisville's LGBTQ past.
- **Waveland (Boundary Increase and Name Change)**, Jessamine County. This property was listed under the name Craig Ashurst House (NRIS 84001587). The new area recognizes a resource called a Woodland Pasture.
- **Rowan County Courthouse** (Boundary Increase), Rowan County, Kentucky. This new nomination adds historic context and acreage on the courthouse square omitted from the first listing (NRIS 83002862).

Finally, we enclose revised versions of two returned nominations: **Maysville Downtown Historic District**, Mason County KY (16000502) and **Peaselsburg Historic District**, Kenton County, KY (16000501).

We thank you for your assistance in listing these properties.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Potts  
Executive Director and  
State Historic Preservation Officer