National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Mantle Rock
other names/site number KY Survey # 15LV37/ LV-14

2. Location

street & number State Route 133
city or town Smithland
state Kentucky code KY County Livingston code 139

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title David L. Morgan DSHPO Date 10-12-04

State or Federal agency and bureau Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 11/26/04

Edson Beall
Mantle Rock  
Livingston, Kentucky

5. Classification

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<th>Ownership of Property</th>
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Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic and Historic Archaeological Resources of the Cherokee Trail of Tears, 1837-1839

0

6. Function or Use

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<tr>
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<td>VACANT/NOT IN USE</td>
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7. Description

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

## Name of Property

### Livingston, Kentucky

### County and State

### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Mark “x” in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.</th>
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<tr>
<td>□ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ 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 who’s components lack individual distinction.</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

#### Criteria Considerations

Mark “x” in all boxes that apply.

- □ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- □ B removed from its original location.
- □ C moved from its original location.
- □ D a cemetery.
- □ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- □ F a commemorative property
- □ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

#### Areas of Significance

Enter categories from instructions.

- ETHNIC HERITAGE/Native American

#### Period of Significance

1838-1839

#### Significant Dates

1838-1839

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

N/A

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- □ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 87) 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
  - Record #
- □ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

#### Primary location of additional data:

- □ State Historic Preservation Office
- □ Other State Agency
- □ Federal Agency
- □ Local Government
- □ University
- □ Other

Name of repository:

- National Park Service, Long Distance Trails Office
  - Santa Fe, New Mexico
Mantle Rock
Name of Property

Livingston, Kentucky
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 215 acres

UTM References
(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Philip Thomason/Teresa Douglass
organization Thomason and Associates
date June 30, 2004
street & number P.O. Box 121225
city or town Nashville
state TN
telephone 615-385-4960
zip code 37212

Additional Documentation
submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets
Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.
Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Kentucky Nature Conservancy
street & number 642 W. Main St.
city or town Lexington
state KY
Telephone 859-259-9555
zip code 40508

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.
DESCRIPTION

Mantle Rock consists of a natural sandstone arch, woodlands, several springs, and a section of the original Salem-Golconda Road. The property is located southwest of State Route 133 in Livingston County, Kentucky, approximately one mile east of the Ohio River. Mantle Rock is located in a shallow valley in the watershed of McGilligan Creek at an elevation of approximately 450' above sea level. The property encompasses approximately 215 acres, and is now owned and protected by the Kentucky Nature Conservancy.

Mantle Rock is reached by a gravel road directly off State Route 133, west of the small crossroads community of Joy. Adjacent to the gravel road along State Route 133 is a state historic marker containing text describing the historic significance of Mantle Rock during the Trail of Tears (Photo 7). This freestanding marker is included as a non-contributing object to the property. The driveway leads to a gravel parking lot and a dirt trail leads from the parking lot to Mantle Rock (Photos 6 and 7). Approximately 600' from the parking lot the trail crosses the roadbed of the historic Salem-Golconda Road. Within the boundary of the Mantle Rock property this roadbed extends approximately 450'. The roadbed is ten to twelve feet in width and has embankments ranging up to five feet in height (Photos 8 and 9). This roadbed is well defined and the roadbed itself contains bushes and small trees. This roadbed was utilized by the Lt. B.B. Cannon party in 1837 and by the various detachments of the Cherokee on the Northern Route in 1838 and 1839. The roadbed is included as a contributing site to the property.

Following the roadbed, the trail passes a wood wayside marker erected within the past twenty years which describes the geology and history of Mantle Rock. This wayside exhibit is included as a non-contributing structure to the property (Photo 5). The trail then leads to Mantle Rock which is a natural rock formation. Mantle Rock is a 30 foot-high sandstone arch which spans 188 feet in length (Photos 1-3). It is one of the longest natural arches in Kentucky and provides an ample amount of shelter beneath. In addition to Mantle Rock itself, the property contains other natural rock outcroppings and features. Several springs emerge near the base of Mantle Rock and flow into nearby McGilligan Creek. The remainder of the Mantle Rock property is covered with a hardwood forest and is accessible via hiking trails. No buildings or other structures are within the boundary of the Mantle Rock property.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE - SUMMARY

Mantle Rock is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A for its significance during the Cherokee Trail of Tears. Mantle Rock is a natural sandstone rock formation which is thirty feet high and spans 188' in length. Beneath this arch and in the nearby woods, thousands of Cherokee camped over a period of several months. Under criterion A, Mantle Rock is significant under the associated property type of "Campsites." Eleven of the thirteen overland detachments of Cherokee traveled on the nearby Salem-Golconda Road and camped at the Mantle Rock site over a period of several months. The identification and location of campsites is important to understanding the exact routes taken by the Cherokee and to better understand the progression of their journey. Identification of campsites can help clarify the actual routes taken by the detachments, typical mileage completed each day, and the types of roads and road conditions that hindered or assisted their journey.

The Mantle Rock property is also significant under the associated property type of "Roadbeds." To the east of the Mantle Rock formation is the highly defined roadbed of the Salem-Golconda Road. The Cherokee detachments marched along this road from Salem to the Ohio River crossing at Berry's Ferry, approximately 2.5 miles west. Some 450' of this roadbed remains intact through the Mantle Rock property and is included as a contributing structure. The roadbed is significant under criterion A for its direct connection and association with the routes taken by the Cherokee detachments. The roadbed provides a physical link and sense of time and place of the actual Cherokee experience. Roadbeds provide an understanding of the difficulties inherent in overland travel in the 1830s and the challenges faced by the Cherokee on a daily basis.

It is also possible that Mantle Rock may be significant under the associated property type of "Gravesites." Oral accounts of the Trail of Tears mention numerous deaths and burials while the Cherokee camped at Mantle Rock. It is possible that the property contains one or more graves from this period but no gravesites have yet been identified.

Mantle Rock meets registration requirements for the property type of "Campsites" and "Roadbeds" as outlined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "The Historic and Historic Archaeological Resources of the Cherokee Trail of Tears, 1837-1839." The period of significance is 1838-1839 when eleven detachments of Cherokee camped at this location. Earlier in 1837, the Lt. B.B. Cannon party of Cherokee journeyed along the Salem-Golconda Road but there is no evidence that they camped at Mantle Rock. This nomination only addresses Mantle Rock within the context of the Cherokee Trail of Tears. Mantle Rock also contains fifteen recorded pre-historic archaeological sites, one of which is on the National Register of Historic Places (site location restricted). These archaeological sites are not within the period of significance of the Cherokee Trail of Tears and are discussed in other reports at the Kentucky Heritage Council.¹

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Treaty of New Echota signed in December of 1835, led to the forced removal of the Cherokee Nation in 1838 and 1839. Several groups of Cherokee left voluntarily in 1837 including the party of Cherokee led by Lt. B.B. Cannon. This group contained some 365 Cherokee and they began their journey west from Tennessee in October of 1837. The decision of the Cannon party to take a route northwest through Tennessee, Kentucky, and on into Illinois and central Missouri was an effort to bypass the poor roads and swamps of Arkansas and southeast Missouri. This route also allowed the party to utilize the Ohio River crossing at Berry's Ferry and continue on the Golconda-

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet  

Hamburg Landing Road, which was a well known and popular route through southern Illinois. Established in the early 1800s, the road was widely used by settlers traveling west into Missouri and Arkansas. Beginning at Golconda, Illinois, this road terminated west of Jonesboro, Illinois at two ferry sites: the Hamburg Landing/Bainbridge Ferry crossing; and the Willard Landing/Green's Ferry crossing.

The Salem-Golconda Road, which passes just east of Mantle Rock was constructed and financed by James Lusk who operated a ferry on the Ohio River. Originally from South Carolina, Lusk moved to Kentucky in 1796 and was granted a license to operate a ferry in 1797. In order to increase his business, Lusk paid for the completion of a road to connect his ferry with the Mississippi River, which became known as the Golconda-Hamburg Road. As a result of these road building efforts, Lusk’s Ferry became the best known and most widely used on this section of the Ohio River. In 1829, the ferry operations were taken over by John Berry, a prominent landowner and politician of Livingston County. During the late 1830s the Golconda-Hamburg Landing Road remained an important east-west corridor through southern Illinois as shown on maps of the period (Maps 1 and 2). A map of Kentucky from 1835 also shows the road on the Kentucky side of the river leading from Salem to “Berrys Ferry” (Map 3). Berry owned and operated the ferry opposite Golconda in the late 1830s when the Cherokee began their emigration west. Because of the importance of this crossing, a small community known as Berry’s Ferry formed at this location with a post office and several stores and dwellings. Across the river, Golconda contained the brick Pope County courthouse, three stores, two taverns, and about twenty dwelling houses in 1837.

During their journey, Cannon’s party of Cherokee camped west of Salem on November 5, 1837 but from his description it does not appear that this campsite was at Mantle Rock. Cannon’s party reached Berry’s Ferry the next day and finished the crossing to Golconda on November 7th. This group of Cherokee then proceeded west on the Golconda-Hamburg Landing Road to the Mississippi River and then on to the Indian Territory.

The majority of the Cherokee were rounded up by US soldiers and state militia in May of 1838, and during the summer the Cherokee were concentrated at three emigration depots in Tennessee and Alabama. Here the Cherokee were divided into various detachments of 800 to 1,900 persons each for the journey west. After delays due to drought conditions, the Cherokee detachments began their overland march to the Indian Territory in early October. The majority of the detachments utilized the “Northern Route” passing through Nashville, Tennessee and Hopkinsville and Princeton, Kentucky. At Salem, the Cherokee took the Salem-Golconda Road which passed within 1,500 feet of the Mantle Rock formation.

The first Cherokee detachments under Daniel Colston, Elijah Hicks, and Situwakee traveled through Kentucky and began arriving at the Ohio River by mid-November. These three detachments contained approximately 2,750 Cherokee. As the thousands of Cherokee waited to be ferried across the river, many camped at Mantle Rock. During the 1830s, the property encompassing Mantle Rock was owned by the Bullitt Academy of Bullitt County, Kentucky. A large tract of 2,342 acres in Livingston County was granted to this academy in 1803 when Kentucky began the allocation of its lands after the state was created from Virginia. As part of this allocation of land, property was set aside to help fund various academies and seminaries across the state. The Mantle Rock property appears to have remained in woodlands during its ownership by the Bullitt Academy Trustees in the early 19th century.

From mid-November into December, Mantle Rock served as a campsite for those waiting to cross at Berry’s Ferry some 2.5 miles west. Mantle Rock’s location near the Salem-Golconda Road and its physical characteristics made it a logical place for the Cherokee to camp. The natural rock shelter and open ground below provided a good campsite for the various detachments, which ranged from around 700 to over 1,600 in number. The site also contained various springs and tributaries of McGilligan Creek.

While most of the detachments remained at Mantle Rock for only a few days, the last detachment of Cherokee, conducted by Peter Hildebrand, was forced to camp at the property for almost two weeks. By mid-December, the bitter winter weather caused extensive ice to form in the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers shutting down ferry operations on both rivers. The Rev. Daniel S. Butrick, a Baptist missionary who accompanied the Richard Taylor detachment, noted on December 29th..."It is distressing to reflect on the situation of the nation. One detachment stopped at the Ohio River, two at the Mississippi, one four miles this side, one 16 miles this side, one 18 miles, and one 3 miles behind us. In all these detachments, comprising about 8,000 souls, there is now a vast amount of sickness and many deaths."

Peter Hildebrand’s detachment, stopped at the Ohio River, was the largest of those that traveled the Trail of Tears and contained approximately 1,700 individuals. It was the last detachment to depart on the overland journey, leaving the Cherokee Agency in East Tennessee the first week of November. When the detachment reached the Ohio River in mid-December, Berry’s Ferry was closed due to the ice in the river. Hildebrand’s detachment was forced to camp at Mantle Rock for two weeks until the Ohio River became passable. The 1,700 persons comprising this detachment would have camped over a large area in the vicinity of Mantle Rock and along the Salem-Golconda Road. In addition to the Cherokee themselves the campsite would have been filled with livestock and over one hundred wagons. No contemporary accounts or descriptions of this detachment’s experience at Mantle Rock have yet to be identified. Certainly there would have been significant interaction between the Cherokee and nearby property owners as they purchased supplies and sought aid, however, research has yet to provide any information on this period of the Hildebrand’s detachment’s journey. Future archaeological investigations may provide more data on how the site was utilized by the Cherokee during the fall and winter of 1838-1839.

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9 Livingston County Plat Book, 1803, p. 126.

10Ibid., 15.

Numerous deaths occurred within this detachment while camped at Mantle Rock but the exact number is not known. When the detachment reached the Indian Territory, unofficial records stated that 55 deaths occurred along the journey. Peter Hildebrand’s detachment was the last to cross the Ohio River at Berry’s Ferry, and this detachment crossed into Illinois during the second week of January, 1839.

The property encompassing Mantle Rock was sold by the Trustees of the Bullitt Academy to Ephriam Davis in 1844. During the remainder of the 19th century the property was owned by Davis and his son-in-law, William T. Hughes. In the 20th century the property passed through several owners until it was sold to the Reynolds Metal Company in 1958. The property was conveyed to the Kentucky Nature Conservancy by the Reynolds Metal Company in 2001. The Mantle Rock property is now used as a nature preserve and open to the public for hiking and viewing Mantle Rock arch and other features.

The section of the Salem-Golconda Road from the community of Joy west to the bluff overlooking Berry’s Ferry was abandoned in the 1930s when the new right-of-way of State Route 133 was constructed. Between Joy and the bluff there are many visible sections of the original roadbed over a 3.5 mile length. One of these abandoned sections is within the property of Mantle Rock and this roadbed remains highly visible and well defined.

Mantle Rock meets the registration requirements for the property types "Campsites," and "Roadbeds," as outlined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, “The Historic and Historic Archaeological Resources of the Cherokee Trail of Tears, 1837-1839." For “Campsites” these registration requirements outlining integrity are as follows:

Location: Under the registration requirements for campsites, Mantle Rock is well documented through local historians and oral tradition as a camping ground for the various Cherokee detachments. The site remains in woodlands and the natural features of the property provide integrity of setting, feeling and association from its period of significance. With the exception of a small wayside exhibit and gravel parking area, there are no post-1839 intrusions within the property.

Design/ Materials/ Workmanship: As a campsite, no intentional design to reconfigure this land for this property type is apparent. Integrity of design, materials, and workmanship are not applicable for this property type.

Feeling/ Setting/ Association: Integrity of feeling, setting, and association is conveyed through a campsite’s ability to evoke a sense of time and place of its period of significance. The landscape of Mantle Rock has not been extensively disturbed since the 19th century and it remains in dense woodlands. With the exception of the paved parking area and addition of the wayside exhibit, there are no intrusions within the 215 acre boundary for the property.

Within the Mantle Rock property boundary is a section of the Salem-Golconda Road which meets registration requirements under “Roadbeds” for its intact section of roadbed used by the Cherokee during the period of significance. These registration requirements outlining integrity are as follows:

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13 Livingston County Deed Book GG, Page 632.
Location: Approximately 450' of the Salem-Golconda Road is within the Mantle Rock property boundary. The Salem-Golconda Road has been accurately identified as one of the roadbeds used by the Cherokee through historical research, early 19th century maps, and on-site field investigations. The identification of this roadbed as the location of a section of the Salem-Golconda Road has remained consistent throughout the 19th and 20th century. This roadbed extends to the north and south on adjacent tracts and it is hoped that additional sections of this roadbed can be nominated in the future.

Design/ Materials/ Workmanship: The Salem-Golconda Road within the Mantle Rock property boundary retains physical characteristics typical of an early 19th century roadbed. The roadbed has a dirt surface, widths of ten to twelve feet, and embankments ranging to five feet in height. This is typical of category 2 roadbeds of the 19th century which were generally ten to fifteen feet in width to allow wagons to pass one another. The road also has multiple tracks.

Feeling/ Setting/ Association: The Salem-Golconda Road within the Mantle Rock property boundary retains its physical characteristics of an early 19th century roadbed including original widths, embankments, and earth surface. The road retains its rural setting and the roadbed is located within a rural area of woodlands and cultivated fields. This road was abandoned in the early 20th century and its original features remain intact except for some vegetative growth. With the exception of the nearby State Route 133, there are no post-1839 intrusions within the immediate vicinity and the roadbed retains integrity of its setting, feeling, and association.

Mantle Rock may also be significant under the property type of gravesites. Historical accounts provide varying estimates of the number of deaths that occurred among the detachments at Mantle Rock. It is not known if the Cherokee were buried in individual graves or mass graves and the exact location of the burials is also unknown. Future archaeological investigations may provide more information concerning this property type.

Mantle Rock possesses sufficient integrity and significance to meet National Register criteria for its association with the Cherokee Trail of Tears. As a known campsite, this property retains its sense of time and place from the period of the Trail of Tears.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Cannon, B.B. *An Overland Journey to the West (October-December 1837).* Transcribed and edited by E. Raymond Evans, Washington, National Archives, Office of Indian Affairs, "Cherokee Emigration" C-553, Special File 249.


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number  9  Page  8  Mantle Rock
Livingston County, Kentucky


United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. "Trail of Tears (The Cherokee Removal
Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Mantle Rock property is illustrated on the accompanying Livingston County tax map and is designated as parcel 26 of map 24. This map is drawn at a scale of 1" = 400'. This tract includes approximately 215 acres. This property is bounded on the north, west, and south by property lines which extend through woodlands and cultivated fields. The northeast boundary is defined by the right-of-way of Kentucky Route 133.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary for the Mantle Rock property includes the access road, parking lot, hiking trails, and natural feature known as Mantle Rock as well as adjacent springs and woodlands. The boundary includes the campsite associated with Mantle Rock from the period of significance. This property is owned by the Kentucky Nature Conservancy which preserves and maintains the site for the public. Also included in the boundary is a section of the 19th century Salem-Golconda Road. Although this roadbed continues to the north and south outside of the Mantle Rock property, no additional sections of this roadbed are included with this nomination. Potentially eligible, these sections of roadbed are hoped to be nominated at a later date following discussions with property owners.
Mantle Rock
State Route 133, Livingston County, Kentucky
Photo by: Thomason and Associates
Date: March, 2002
Location of Negatives: Thomason and Associates, Nashville, TN

Photo No. 1: Mantle Rock, view to the northwest.

Photo No. 2: Mantle Rock, view to the southwest.

Photo No. 3: View of campsite area to the east of Mantle Rock, view to the east.

Photo No. 4: View of the 19th century Salem-Golconda Road, view to the southeast from the hiking trail.

Photo No. 5: View of the 19th century Salem-Golconda Road, view to the northwest from the hiking trail.

Photo No. 6: Non-contributing wayside marker at Mantle Rock.

Photo No. 7: Access road and parking lot at the Mantle Rock site.

Photo No. 8: Historic marker for Mantle Rock at State Route 133.
Map 1: The Henry Tanner Map of Illinois in 1836 shows the prominence of the Golconda-Hamburg Landing Road across the southern section of the state. Berry’s Ferry was directly across the Ohio River from Golconda.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Mantle Rock
Livingston County, Kentucky

Map 2: David Burr Map of Illinois in 1840 showing the Golconda-Hamburg Landing Road and the crossing at Berry's Ferry.
Map 3: The Salem-Golconda Road is shown on the David Burr Map of Kentucky and Tennessee from 1835. “Berrys Ferry” is shown opposite Golconda, Illinois.
Map 4: Boundary of the Mantle Rock site outlined with a dashed line on the Livingston County Tax Map 24, Parcel 26 (not to scale).
Map 5: Site plan for the Mantle Rock property (Scale 1" = 400’).
Map No. 6: Site plan and photo key of the Mantle Rock property (not to scale).