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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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

1. Name of Property

historic name ___ Rabbit Hash Historic District _____

other names/site number ___ n/a _____

2. Location

street & number _various_____ ☐ n/a not for publication

city or town _Rabbit Hash_____ ☐ n/a vicinity
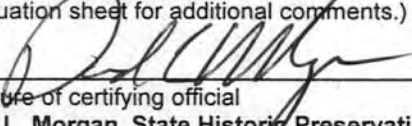
state _Kentucky_____ code _KY_____ county Boone 015 zip code _41005_

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth 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.)

_____ 9-29-03
Signature of certifying official Date
David L. Morgan, State Historic Preservation Officer
Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
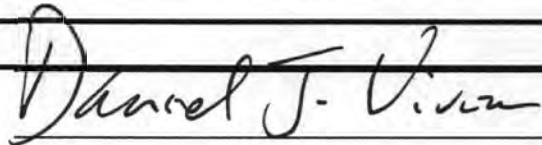
_____ _____
Signature of commenting or other official Date

_____
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
☑ entered in the National Register
  ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
  ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain): _____
_____
_____

Daniel J. Vivian 12/4/03

_____ _____
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)
- ☐ x private
- ☐ x public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)
- ☐ building(s)
- ☐ x district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
12	6	buildings
5	0	sites
6	5	structures
3	4	objects
26	15	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
Historic and Architectural Resources of the County of Boone, Kentucky, 1789-1950.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

domestic: single dwelling
commerce/trade: business
commerce/trade: specialty store
recreation and culture: monument
industry: manufacturing
transportation: water-related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

domestic: single dwelling
commerce/trade: business
commerce/trade: specialty store
recreation and culture: monument
vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

no style
Late Victorian: Italianate
Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation	limestone
roof	asphalt
walls	wood
other	stone, wood, concrete

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

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Rabbit Hash Historic District
Rabbit Hash, Boone County, Kentucky

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Section 7. Statement of Description

Summary. "Nestled in a green amphitheater" in western Boone County, Kentucky, is the village of Rabbit Hash, one of Boone County's most celebrated river towns. The nominated area, comprising approximately 33 acres on the south bank of the Ohio River. It is roughly bounded by Parks Branch, Rabbit Hash Hill Road and Little Ranty Creek. It includes 18 primary buildings along Lower River Road, including the town's historic commercial district and a line of houses to the south. Most are simple, vernacular structures of frame construction, built c. 1875 to 1925. They are related, one to another, because of their location, style, period of construction, materials and architectural character. The district includes two properties previously listed in the National Register: the Rabbit Hash General Store (BE-330) and the B.C. Calvert House (BE-329). Eleven of the buildings contribute to the district's significance. Three of the noncontributing properties are faithful reconstructions of historic buildings and represent building types common in the area; thus they complement the historic structures.

Rabbit Hash lies in the second riverine terrace of the Ohio, amongst the rich alluvial floodplain bottoms and terraces of the Hills of the Bluegrass region of Kentucky. (The first riverine terrace is currently underwater; it was inundated by the last raising of the Ohio River's pool stages by lock and dam construction.) The landscape is characterized by winding ridges and valleys originally carved out by the Ohio River and its drainage systems after the final glacial activity of 12,000 years ago. The town is located about twelve miles west of Burlington, the county seat. Directly across the river is the city of Rising Sun, Indiana. (See topographic map.)

The town is a small, rural, agricultural/commercial village. It is linear in form, its buildings oriented to the river and to Lower River Road. South of the road, the ground rises gradually in a series of ridges. The district's commercial buildings lie close to the road, while its residences sit on higher ground on the hillside or atop the ridge. The town is flanked lineally by residential and agricultural areas.

Two roads serve the community. Lower River Road, as the name implies, follows the Ohio River shoreline between Kentucky Routes 18 and 338. It is one of the most scenic rural roads in Boone County. It is a narrow roadway, barely two lanes wide, offering panoramic views of the river and the Indiana shoreline. In many places, plants and wildflowers grow close to the right-of-way and trees arch gracefully overhead, forming a green canopy. Rabbit Hash Hill Road winds through the hills east of the town to connect with Kentucky Routes 338 and 536. Both carry primarily local traffic and are maintained by Boone County.

D.J. Lake's *Atlas of Boone, Kenton and Campbell Counties, Kentucky*, published in 1883, depicts Rabbit Hash as a cluster of about twenty buildings along both sides of Lower River Road between two creeks. (See photocopy.) Almost all structures on the north side of the road have since been swept away by floods, while many of the buildings on higher ground have survived.

The majority of buildings in the nominated area date from c. 1875 to c. 1925. Most are small in scale and stand one or one-and-a-half stories high. They are simple in form, with linear or L-shaped footprints. Nearly all are of wood-frame or log construction. Most are covered with weatherboarding, either painted or stained. Gabled or hipped roofs

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are the norm, and most exhibit raised-seam metal roofing. Ornamentation, if present, is minimal, generally confined to small, wood-frame porches and plain window or door trim. Foundations are fieldstone, quarried limestone or concrete.

Nearly all buildings in the districts represent rural vernacular types of the 19th and early 20th centuries that are common in western Boone County. The hall-and-parlor house (the most common vernacular house form in the county) is represented by three buildings: the Dr. Carlton Office, the Mrs. M. Carlton House and the Thomas Marshall House. The district also includes one example each of the following plans: double-pen, center-passage, massed and L-plan. The B.C. Calvert House includes elements of the vernacular Italianate style, while the Craig House is one of the county's finest small-scale examples of the Queen Anne mode. These house types and styles are further described in "Historic and Architectural Resources of the County of Boone, Kentucky, 1789-1950" (Taylor 2000).

Outbuildings and landscape features enhance the district's sense of place and serve as reminders of past ways of life. Three barns, each of unique design, stand close to the road. Small wood-frame sheds and privies, and water pumps also can be found in several locations. Two residences feature low retaining walls of drylaid rubblestone or quarried stone. An old roadbed also runs along the district's eastern edge.

As noted previously, most buildings contribute to the district's significance. One late-20th-century residence can be found within the district boundary. In addition, the district includes three historical structures that were disassembled and moved to the town in the late 20th century. They are complementary to the district's historic buildings in form, scale and materials.

The Rabbit Hash Historic District comprises an intact river community that looks and functions largely as it did in the 19th century. It comprises a unique example of community development along western Boone County's Ohio River border.

Rabbit Hash General Store (BE-330)   **Building**   **C**
10021 Lower River Road
c. 1831, late 19th century, 1919
National Register, 1989
(not counted in contributing)

Famed far beyond Boone County's borders, this Rabbit Hash landmark is the best-known and best-preserved general store in northern Kentucky. It is also a good example of the boxed-frame or vertical-plank framing method which was prevalent in Kentucky.

The building's central storeroom, believed to date from c. 1831, consists of four pegged and mortised hand-hewn sill logs with four principal posts down each side wall. The vertical planking extends upward to support the hand-split

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rafter system. There is no ridge pole and rafters are joined together at the peak. Rough-sawn wide roof sheeting boards were nailed to the rafters and covered with wooden shakes (still visible in the attic). The vertical planking in the front facade formed the rectangular store front, hiding the front gable end. The vertical plank siding, covered by battens, was exposed on the exterior for an unknown period of time. The sill logs were originally on piers, but later placed on locust posts as river action and flooding eroded the ground underneath the building. The flanking sheds, of timber-frame construction, were added later, as was the raised parapet with Coca-Cola sign. The exterior walls were covered with poplar weatherboarding, attached by square-cut nails and painted white.

An ingenious system of iron anchor bolts, designed to tie the building to the ground in high water, was installed in the late 19th century. The anchor bolts and raised posts helped preserve the building when floods ravaged the town in 1937 and 1997.

The appearance of the store is essentially unchanged since the late 1800s. A photograph taken by traveler Reuben Gold Thwaites in 1894 and a pen-and-ink sketch made by Cincinnati artist Caroline Williams in 1961 verify that its external appearance has changed in the past century. The front door now contains a window as required by the state for a beer license. The central rear door apparently opened to a porch at one time. As river action and flooding eroded the ground underneath the building, it now opens to nothing but space and the creekbed 20 feet below.

The general store was built c. 1831 and for many years operated as a farmer's coop. The farmers would bring their produce and other goods there for shipment downriver. In turn, the supplies they needed would be deposited there for sale or barter. A post office, serving the Carlton Magisterial District, was established in the store in 1879, with the proprietor serving as postmaster. It remained in operation there until 1912, when the rural route system consolidated the smaller post offices. Parks Branch, which runs behind the store, has traditionally been considered the northern terminus of the town of Rabbit Hash.

The Rabbit Hash General Store was restored in the early 1990s and is a tourist attraction as well as a local amenity.

Woodshed	**Structure**	**C**
Pump	**Object**	**C**

Just west of the store stands the woodshed: a small, vernacular agricultural structure with rough wood siding and sloping roof, built in 1937. An open storage area has been added at the west elevation. Still actively used, the building is in good condition. Beside the store is a metal pump.

Rabbit Hash Ferry Landing Site (BE-1402)	**Site**	**C**

NW side Lower River Road
date unknown

Historically referred to as the ferry lot, this grassy lot slopes gradually to the river. During the ferry heyday it was shaded by large trees and provided an area to wait for the ferry, hitch horses and wagons, play horseshoes and

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socialize. Part of the road now is underwater since the current lock and dam systems have raised the pool stage of the river. Mature trees, foliage, and unobstructed river views contribute to its significance.

| **Three outhouses** | **Objects N/C** |

Three public privies stand beside the road at the southeast corner of the ferry lot. The largest is a frame structure clad in recycled barn siding and covered with a crude metal roof. Beside it are two prefabricated portable units of fiberglass construction. All were installed following the 1997 Ohio River flood.

Landscape features   **Site**   **C**
unknowng

Mature water maple and elm trees shade the ferry landing, the riverbank and Parks Branch, enhancing the district's aesthetic qualities and enhancing the river views. Their shade has historically created comfortable places to rest and socialize. Most of the trees appear to be 50 to 75 years of age. Also found along the riverbank are young conifers and volunteer ailanthus trees. Rabbit Hash residents maintain two large flower and vegetable gardens in the fertile soil on the northwest side of Lower River Road.

Some of the larger trees are unique in northern Kentucky for their parasitic growth of mistletoe; they are the northenmost trees in which mistletoe flourishes. It has long been traditional for local residents to harvest sprigs of mistletoe each Christmas season by shooting it out of the trees with shotguns.

Barn (BE-1404)   **Building**   **N-C**
northwest side Lower River Road
late 19th century; c. 1981

Originally located about three miles from Rabbit Hash, this barn was dismantled and relocated to the town c. 1981. It utilizes a three-part configuration, consisting of a central block flanked by lower, one-story wings. The barn is built of hand-hewn timbers secured by mortise and tenon joints. All three sections are covered by low, gable-and-hip roofs of raised-seam metal. The walls are covered with vertical wood siding. The barn rests on piers of stacked fieldstone and on bell-shaped supports of poured concrete; the concrete piers are fastened by metal straps to the sill logs, in order to secure the building during floods. Much of the foundation is covered by metal skirting.

Rabbit Hash Museum (BE-1201)   **Building**   **N-C**
northwest side Lower River Road
unknown, 1992

This diminutive log structure houses the Rabbit Hash historical museum. It was reconstructed using logs salvaged from two demolished buildings, which were found lying in a pile on the ground. Built to one-and-a-half stories, the museum is square in plan. The side-gabled roof is covered with raised-seam metal. The logs are joined with steeple or V-notching: the notch type most commonly used in the county. The street facade contains a 6/6 wood window

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and a batten door. The building rests on piers of squared limestone. Metal straps fasten the building to its
foundation.

Barn (BE-1405)   **Building**   **N-C**
northwest side Lower River Road
early 20th century, unknown

This small frame barn features a central block of rectangular form containing three sets of hinged double doors. It is
flanked by smaller shed-roofed wings, each containing a double door. The barn is covered in rough-sawn vertical
siding, painted red; the shed wings are partly covered in corrugated metal. The shed roof is covered with raised-
seam metal. A low ramp, with vestigial fieldstone wall, leads to the central doorway. The foundation is not visible.

This barn was built in the late 20th century on the foundation of an unknown structure that was lost to the 1937
flood.

   Pump   **Object C**

South of the barn is a metal pump.

Old roadbed   **Site   C**
late 19th century, unknown

An old roadbed runs behind the Ironworks Building, terminating at Rabbit Hash Hill Road. It is covered with gravel,
with close vegetation on both sides. Several large blocks of sandstone, apparently part of an old retaining wall,
remain in place at the south side. The road is indicated on Lake's 1883 atlas with no identifying label. This old
roadbed forms part of the eastern boundary of the district.

World War II Veterans' Memorial (BE-1196)   **Object C**
10056 Lower River Road
1945

Rectangular in shape, this war memorial stands approximately eight feet tall and four feet wide. It is built of wood
patriotically painted red, white and blue. The names of 30 veterans of the Carlton district are displayed in tiny
plaques arrayed in a "V" shape. The monument is supported by two wooden posts which are surrounded by a rock-
lined floral planting and a small picket fence.

Rabbit Hash Ironworks Building (BE-1197)   **Building   C**
10056 Lower River Road
1910, 1918, 1937, c. 1980

Located across from the Rabbit Hash General Store is the former Rabbit Hash Ironworks Building: one of the
town's three historic commercial buildings. It is a long, rectangular frame structure of simple design. A raised false

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front conceals the front-gabled roof, which is covered in raised-seam metal. The narrow, symmetrical facade contains a door and two 2/2 wood display windows. The walls are sheathed in clapboards that are painted gray. Part of the original limestone foundation was replaced c. 1918 with a concrete foundation, which was dug by hand. When the building was used as an automobile dealership, bays were inserted to house cars.

This Rabbit Hash landmark has a remarkably diverse history. At various times it housed a general store, a plow factory, a creamery, a Model A Ford dealer, and the Ryle Brothers feed and seed store. It was also used as a pool hall and dance hall, which was closed abruptly during Prohibition. During its tenure as a store, hogs were slaughtered in the basement; iron rails and meat hooks still remain in place, bolted to the ceiling. The building is perhaps best known, however, as the home of a small manufacturing operation that produced affordable woodburning stoves during the 1980s; pieces of scrap iron can still be found in the walls. It presently houses an antique store and a residence.

Just west of the ironworks building is a former blacksmith shop. During the 1937 flood part of this shop floated up the hill to the back of the ironworks building. The owners then attached it in place and it remains there to this day. A second addition, of post-and-beam construction with a metal shed roof, was added at the rear of the building in 1980 to house the stove manufacturing operation. This addition is unobtrusive in design and is not readily visible from the road.

Archival photographs attest that the appearance of the ironworks building has not changed since the addition of the floating outbuilding. Paint chips reveal a history of gray color for the horizontal poplar siding.

Blacksmith Shop (BE-1403)   **Building   C**
10056 Lower River Road
early 20th century, 1937, late 20th century

Part of this building floated away in the 1937 flood, coming to rest beside the Rabbit Hash Ironworks building. It is a one-story structure built of brick and concrete block, nearly square in form. The roof is metal and the foundation is concrete. The walls are covered with horizontal wood siding, painted red, which is covered with climbing vines. An open shed, supported by hand-hewn timbers, extends to the west; it was added in the late 20th century. The blacksmith shop later served as a filling/service station with two gas pumps alongside the building and a roadway/driveway between the store and pumps.

Early Settlers Memorial   **Object N-C**
southeast side Lower River Road
1984

This sign commemorating the early settlers of the Carlton Precinct is built of wooden planks, supported by in-ground wooden posts. The names of pioneers and their dates of settlement, taken from Lake's atlas, are hand-carved.

Doctor's Office (BE-1200)   **Building   C**

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10140 Lower River Road
c. 1875, 1980s

This modest frame building was built in the last quarter of the 19th century (exact date unknown). It served as a doctor's office until the 1930s, then remained vacant for about 20 years. It was then used intermittently for the next 50 years. In the 1980s it was renovated and converted to a residence.

The building is one of several examples of the hall-and-parlor house in the Rabbit Hash area. The main block is a two-room, balloon-framed structure with metal roof, on a limestone foundation. The facade is pierced by three bays arranged in symmetry. The walls are sheathed in stained horizontal hemlock siding. A simple, shed-roofed porch, added in the 1980s, covers the facade. At the rear is a large, one-story addition (not visible from the front elevation), also appended in the 1980s.

Alexandria Log House (BE-1199)	**Building**	**N-C**

10142 Lower River Road
early 19th century; c. 1979

This substantial two-story log dwelling on the double-pen plan features a side-gabled roof. The gable ends contain exposed-face chimneys built of fieldstone. The facade is pierced by five bays. The logs are secured by steeple notching. At the rear of the main block is a one-story log ell, covered in weatherboarding, that is original to the structure.

Formerly located in Alexandria, the county seat of Campbell County, this log house was dismantled and relocated to Rabbit Hash c. 1979.

Mrs. M. Carlton House (BE-1198)	**Building**	**C**

10000 Lower River Road
late 19th century; c. 1940, late 20th c.

This modest frame dwelling on the hall-and-parlor plan stands one-and-a-half stories high. A single chimney is centered in the ridgeline. The facade contains three bays, with the doorway in the center. The paired, square, multi-light windows are out of scale with the house and have no wood trim; they appear to date from a mid-to-late 20th century remodeling. A treated wood deck now wraps around and the north elevation. Part of the foundation has been rebuilt in concrete block.

Barn	**Building**	**C**
Privy	**Object C**	
Shed	**Structure**	**C**

Just south of the old roadbed is an English, side-entry barn with side-gabled roof. To the west of the house is a small frame privy with metal shed roof and tongue-and-groove siding. Behind the house is a small frame shed in very poor

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condition. It is covered with vertical wood siding.

10214 Lower River Road (BE-1406)   Building   N-C
late 20th century

This house was built in the 1980s to replace a 19th-century house that was destroyed by fire. It stands two stories high under a side-gabled roof. The main facade, which faces the road, contains three bays. The walls are covered with vinyl siding. A treated-wood deck encircles the facade and side walls.

Garage	Structure	NC
Shed	Structure	C

A gambrel-roofed detached garage stands beside the driveway. A small frame shed that appears to have been built in the early to mid-20th century stands at the north property line.

B.C. Calvert House (BE-329)   Building   C
10246 Lower River Road
late 19th century, 1990s
National Register, 1989
(not counted in contributing)

The B.C. Calvert House is a one-and-a-half-story frame dwelling in the vernacular Italianate style, built on the center-passage plan. The asymmetrically gabled roof, with long rear slope, is covered in raised-seam metal. A slope-shouldered brick chimney stands at the east gable end. A lightly bracketed wood cornice extends across the facade. Pairs of larger brackets, twice the size of the others, mark the corners and the center. The main facade contains five bays with a central doorway. Windows contain 2/2 lights and retain original blinds. The original porch was removed from the facade in the 1990s and replaced with a small treated-wood deck on concrete block foundation.

The house is built atop a low ridge. A low stone retaining wall encircles the domestic yard. Behind the house are a shed-roofed frame shed and a concrete block garage. Another frame shed stands beside the driveway.

Stone wall	Site	C
Shed	Structure	C
Garage	Structure	NC
Shed	Structure	C

10274 Lower River Road (BE-327)   Building   C
c. 1880, 1990s

Built on the center-passage, double-pile plan, this frame house stands one-and-a-half stories high. The symmetrical facade is pierced by five bays, with a centered doorway. A spindlework porch and louvered blinds have been

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removed from the facade. The walls and most of the cornice are covered with vinyl siding; the original gable returns and brackets remain exposed at the east elevation. Most of the windows have been replaced with vinyl thermal sashes and fixed shutters have been added. A three-part picture window was added at the rear of the east wall in the mid-to-late 20th century. The house is in fair condition. This house is one of two examples of this plan in the Rabbit Hash vicinity, both likely the work of the same still-unidentified builder.

Stone wall   Site   **C**

A low stone retaining wall encircles the domestic yard; it is one of two similar walls in the district, likely the work of the same unidentified mason. (See also BE-326.)

Edna Flowers House (BE-1407)   **Building**   **C**
10294 Lower River Road
c. 1925-1930

This house is a front-gabled frame bungalow of simple design, one-and-a-half stories high. The walls are covered with clapboards and aluminum siding. The full-width front porch was enclosed in the late 20th century, with three sets of 1/1 metal windows and lattice skirting. A shed-roofed dormer has been added at the rear of the east elevation.

This was the home of the late Edna Flowers, a retired employee of the Procter & Gamble Corporation. Her bequest to the Rabbit Hash Historical Society made it possible for them to purchase several key buildings in the town and thus ensure their preservation.

Tractor shed   **Structure**   **NC**

To the west of the house is a gabled, wood-frame tractor or equipment shed of rectangular plan.

Emma Craig House (BE-326)   **Building**   **C**
10304 Lower River Road
1897

Built in the late 1890s, the Emma Craig House embodies the lively and picturesque Queen Anne Style. The roof is cross-gabled; braces accent the gables. A band of vertical siding envelops the first story, and the gables wear diamond-shaped shingles. An angled cutaway bay projects from the facade. The main entrance is covered by a spindlework porch with ball pendants, which continues across the front bay. A large pane of glass and a series of small awning windows have been inserted in the front gable. Across the road from the house is a large flower and vegetable garden.
The Emma Craig House was built on land that was originally part of the Craig Farm, which extended southeast to Little Ranty Creek.

Stone wall   Site   **C**

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Shed	Structure	C
Carport	Structure	NC
Barn	Building	NC
Garden shed	Structure	NC
Gazebo	Structure	NC

Four outbuildings and one object are located on the property. A low drylaid stone retaining wall extends along the hillside. West of the house is a gabled frame shed. To the south of the shed is a Victorian-style frame carport with arched spandrels, built in the late 20th century. On the hillside behind the house is a frame barn or storage building of unknown vintage. To the south is a prefabricated frame garden shed. On the north side of the road, opposite the house, is a Victorian-style frame gazebo built in the late 20th century.

10352 Lower River Road (BE-1408)   **Building**   **N-C**
late 20th century

This is a one-story frame dwelling of L-shaped plan, clad in stucco-like wall panels with a half-timbered effect. A bay window projects from the main facade.

This house was built in the late 20th century on land that was originally part of the Craig Farm. (See also BE-326.)

C.W. Craig Barn (BE-1410)   **Building**   **C**
10352 Lower River Road
mid-20th century

Standing beside the road, this small two-story barn has a low-pitched gable roof covered in asphalt shingles. Walls faced in vertical wood siding that has been painted gray. The foundation is poured concrete. At the west elevation is an open equipment shed that appears to date from the late 20th century.

This barn was originally part of the Craig Farm. It is believed to have been built following the 1937 flood.

Pump   **Object C**

Beside the Craig Barn is a metal pump.

Little Ranty Creek Bridge (BE-1410)   **Object N-C**
late 20th century

This small single-span bridge crosses Little Ranty Creek. Of utilitarian design, it is built of concrete with highway-type aluminum guardrails. It is approximately 15 feet wide and 20 feet long.

Thomas Marshall House (BE-1202)   **Building**   **C**

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10410 Lower River Road
late 19th century

This house is located atop a steep hill on the south side of Lower River Road. It is a frame hall-and-parlor dwelling built in the late 19th century. The walls are clapboard, the foundation, fieldstone, and the roof, tin. At the east elevation is an interior gable-end chimney. The main facade, which overlooks the town and the river, contains three bays; it is sheltered by a simple, three-bay porch. At the rear is a frame ell with asymmetrical gable and interior gable-end chimney. The house is surrounded by trees and hedges and difficult to photograph.

This farm has traditionally been identified as the southern terminus of Rabbit Hash. The house is indicated on the 1883 county atlas, labeled "Thomas Marshall" (Lake).

Barn   **Building   C**

At the rear of the property is a mid-20th-century frame barn repaired with lumber salvaged from a wooden barge.

Registration requirements. The Rabbit Hash Historic District meets the registration requirements for Property Type VB, Commercial Historic Districts, as outlined in the National Register Multiple Properties Documentation Form "Historic and Architectural Resources of the County of Boone, Kentucky, 1789-1950" (NR, 2000). The district includes 18 primary buildings, 12 of which are contributing. Of the 18 buildings, 13 are residences and five are barns. Location, setting, feeling, association and overall design are the most important aspects of integrity necessary to convey the historic significance of this mixed-use district.

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Rabbit Hash Historic District
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Rabbit Hash Historic District Inventory						
Number	**Name**	**Address**	**Classification**	**Construction**	**Date(s)**	**Status[1]**
1	Rabbit Hash General Store	10021 Lower River Road	building	plank frame	1831; late 19th c.	NR
2	Woodshed	10021 Lower River Road	structure	wood frame	c. 1937	NR
3	Pump	10021 Lower River Road	object	metal	mid-20th c.	NR
4	Mature trees	various locations	site	n/a	n/a	C
5	Ferry landing	NW side Lower River Road	site	n/a	c. 1813; unknown	C
6	Privy	NW side Lower River Road	object	wood frame	late 1990s	NC
7	Privies	NW side Lower River Road	objects	fiberglass	late 1990s	NC
8	Barn	NW side Lower River Road	building	timber frame	late 19th c.; c. 1980	NC
9	Rabbit Hash Museum	NW side Lower River Road	building	log	unknown, 1983	NC
10	Barn	NW side Lower River Road	Building	wood frame	late 20th c.	NC
11	Pump	NW side Lower River Road	Object	metal	mid-20th c.	C

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[1] Key to status: C = contributing; NC = noncontributing; NR = individually listed in National Register.

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12	Old roadbed	parallel to Lower River Road	site	n/a	19th c., unknown	C
13	Veterans Memorial	SE side Lower River Road	object	wood	1945	C
14	Rabbit Hash Ironworks	10056 Lower River Road	building	balloon frame	c. 1910, 1918, 1937, c. 1980	C
15	Rabbit Hash Blacksmith Shop	10056 Lower River Road	building	brick, block, wood frame	early 20th c., 1937, late 20th c.	C
16	Early settlers sign	SE side Lower River Road	object	wood	c. 1984	NC
17	Doctor's Office	10140 Lower River Road	building	balloon frame	c. 1875, late 20th c.	C
18	Alexandria Log House	10142 Lower River Road	building	log	early 19th c; 1979	NC
19	Mrs. M. Carlton House	SE side Lower River Road	building	wood frame	late 19th c., c. 1940, late 20th c.	C
20	Shed	SE side Lower River Road	structure	wood frame	early 20th c.	C
21	Privy	SE side Lower River Road	structure	wood frame	early 20th c.	C
22	Barn	SE side Lower River Road	building	wood frame	mid-20th c.; 2003	C
23	House	10214 Lower River Road	building	wood frame	1980s	NC
24	Garage	10214 Lower River Road	structure	wood frame	late 20th c.	NC
25	Shed	10214 Lower River Road	structure	wood frame	early 20th c.	C
26	B.C. Calvert House	10246 Lower River Road	building	wood frame	late 19th c., 1990s	NR
27	Stone wall	10246 Lower River Road	site	drylaid stone	late 19th c.	NR
28	Shed	10246 Lower River Road	structure	wood frame	early to mid-20th c.	NR
29	Garage	10246 Lower River Road	structure	concrete block	late 20th c.	NR

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30	Shed	10246 Lower River Road	structure	wood frame	early to mid-20th c.	NR
31	House	10274 Lower River Road	building	wood frame	late 19th c., 1990s	C
32	Stone wall	10274 Lower River Road	site	drylaid stone	late 19th c.	C
33	Edna Flowers House	10294 Lower River Road	building	wood frame	c. 1925-1930, c. 1960	C
34	Tractor shed	10294 Lower River Road	structure	wood frame	late 20th c.	NC
35	Emma Craig House	10304 Lower River Road	building	balloon frame	c. 1897; 1990s	C
36	Stone wall	10304 Lower River Road	site	drylaid stone	late 19th c.	C
37	Shed	10304 Lower River Road	structure	wood frame	early 20th c.	C
38	Carport	10304 Lower River Road	structure	wood frame	late 20th c.	NC
39	Barn	10304 Lower River Road	building	wood frame	unknown; late 20th c.	NC
40	Garden Shed	10304 Lower River Road	building	wood frame	late 20th c.	NC
41	Gazebo	10304 Lower River Road	structure	wood frame	late 20th c.	NC
42	House	10352 Lower River Road	building	wood frame	late 20th c.	NC
43	C.W. Craig Barn	10352 Lower River Road	building	wood frame	mid-20th c.; late 20th c.	C
44	Pump	10352 Lower River Road	object	metal	mid-20th c.	C
45	Little Ranty Creek Bridge	Lower River Road	object	concrete, metal	late 20th c.	NC
46	Thomas Marshall House	10410 Lower River Road	building	wood frame	late 19th c.	C
47	Barn	10410 Lower River Road	building	wood frame	mid-20th c.	C

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)

☐ x **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 a grave.

☐ **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)

Community Development

Period of Significance
c. 1831-1945

Significant Dates
c. 1831, 1879, 1937, 1945

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
n/a

Cultural Affiliation
n/a

Architect/Builder
unknown

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.)

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
_____

Primary location of additional data

☐ x State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository:
Kentucky Heritage Council

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Section 8. Statement of Significance

Summary. The Rabbit Hash Historic District meets Criterion A and is locally significant in the area of community development in the context of "Boone County River Towns, c. 1789-1945." Rabbit Hash is important because of its continuous use as a commerce, transportation and communications center for the surrounding rural population. The relative isolation of Rabbit Hash, in relation to other primary towns of Boone County, and its close connection to Rising Sun, Indiana, allowed it to resist change and to retain its significance as a river town and a community gathering place. Its modest and unassuming character, organic form and vernacular buildings are typical of small river communities in this northern Kentucky county. Its buildings are well-preserved and few modern intrusions mar the landscape. The proposed district's period of significance, which includes the estimated construction dates of the oldest and the most recently constructed contributing structures, extends from c. 1831 to 1945. The district includes 18 primary buildings built c. 1831 to 1980, 12 of which contribute to its significance. Two properties were previously listed in the National Register: the Rabbit Hash General Store (BE-330) and the B.C. Calvert House (BE-329). The district meets the requirements for registration set forth in the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic and Architectural Resources of the County of Boone, Kentucky, 1789-1950" (NR, 2000).

Research design.

No formal study of Ohio River towns as a property type has yet been conducted on either side of the river. This was verified by contacting the historic preservation offices of Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana. National Register nominations and comprehensive surveys, however, helped provide an overview of the historical and architectural development of river towns in Boone County. Historical context was provided by newspapers, statewide gazetteers and business directories, diaries, Ohio River charts and navigational guides, accounts by travelers, and vintage photographs.

The significance of the proposed Rabbit Hash Historic District was evaluated by comparing it with similar resources within its cultural region; that is, the other seven river towns in Boone County. Using reconnaissance survey and archival materials, the historical development and physical evolution of these eight communities were compared and contrasted to look for patterns of development. This research revealed that was the proposed Rabbit Hash Historic District clearly illustrates the historical development of Boone County river towns in its orientation to the river, its mix of commercial and residential structures, its modest vernacular buildings and its casual pattern of development. In addition, Rabbit Hash has a high level of historical integrity in comparison to comparable towns in the county. It is particularly unusual because it has preserved much of its original historic character. Therefore the district presents a better picture of a small river crossing in Boone County prior to rising river levels and the transformation of the landscape by the automobile in the decades after World War II.

The proposed district includes the Rabbit Hash General Store, which was listed in the Register in 1989 for its historical significance. The best-preserved and most famous country store in northen Kentucky, it has been the center of the community for nearly one and three-quarters centuries. Thus the obvious theme to focus research was

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the development of Rabbit Hash as a community whose economy was dependent on river commerce and trade with
the surrounding agricultural area. The research and the characteristics of the proposed district are analyzed in a
broad context, entitled "Boone County River Towns, c. 1814-1945."

The Rabbit Hash National Register district nomination is based on a draft nomination prepared by Donald E. Clare,
Rabbit Hash historian, which is on file at the Kentucky Heritage Council. This thoroughly researched draft
nomination provided invaluable historical information about the history and development of the village in general
and about many of its buildings in particular, as well as archival maps and photographs.

Ohio River Towns in Boone County, Kentucky, c. 1789-1945

Overview.

> The towns along the way...are called river towns because they once depended on the Ohio for their
> existence. Today steamers and barges loaded with steel, sand or stone pass them but do not stop; dredges
> sometimes pause to clean the river channel of its silt and debris, then move on; even the shanty boats make
> a brief stay. Main St. is now the paved highway back from the river front several blocks, and only some
> old houses along Front or River St. remain to show the once-intimate relationship of town and river. These
> old houses, or their predecessors along the banks, saw the pageantry of river traffic in all its mutations....
> Before the railroad finally took over the river's commerce, towns...each had landing places, warehouses,
> creaking drays, odorous drinking taverns. All the river towns received their foodstuffs, clothing, furniture,
> raw materials, from the boats, and by them shipped out their farm and garden produce, livestock, lumber,
> and whatever products they manufactured. (F. Kevin Simon, editor, *The WPA Guide to Kentucky* [1939,
> 1996], pp. 336-337)

From the late 18th through the late 19th centuries, a series of towns along Boone County's Ohio River shoreline
developed around ferry crossings and river landings. These towns, among the first permanent settlements in the
county, illustrate the importance of the Ohio River as a means of transportation and communication for a large
segment of the county's population. For people living along the Ohio, the river was an avenue of commerce and a
link with the outside world; they depended on it to ship and import goods and to travel, and it shaped their lives, for
good or ill. Many of these river towns flourished in the era when steamboats dominated river trade and commerce,
only to stagnate in later years as river traffic declined and the county's population shifted inland. Most also suffered
significant losses from floods and rising river levels.

River transportation in Boone County. Boone County is the northernmost county in Kentucky. In its earliest days,
it prospered largely because of the Ohio River that forms its northern and western boundaries.

> With its more than forty miles of Ohio River shoreline, Boone County's transportation heritage is also
> linked inextricably to water, and the river was a vital component in the county's transportation network
> throughout the nineteenth century. Riverboats carried farm produce upriver to Cincinnati, ferries offered
> trans-river access to cities in Ohio and Indiana, and steamboats brought goods, passengers, and newspapers

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> to Boone County river towns from as far away as Pittsburgh and New Orleans. During the Victorian era,
> Boone Countians regularly traveled by steamboat to riverside picnic grounds and resorts, long since
> vanished. River traffic declined significantly after the turn of the [20th] century as rail and highway
> transportation systems matured. The great majority of the ferries ceased operations as new highways
> diverted traffic onto newly-paved thoroughfares and as high-level dams widened the Ohio River. (David L.
> Taylor, "Historic and Architectural Resources of the County of Boone, Kentucky, 1789-1950" [NR, 2000],
> p. E 6)

The use of the Ohio River for commercial transportation predates the existence of Rabbit Hash and Boone County
by many years. Prehistoric Indians may have used the river for transportation and commerce, as well as a food
source. French fur traders in the 17th century traveled by water to trade with Native Americans, and in the 1700s
there were three documented French expeditions to reclaim the Ohio Valley. As the European settlement of
Kentucky progressed, the Ohio River became a major artery of migration, with settlers arriving by canoe, flatboat
and keelboat. (Flatboats, powered only by the current, could only go downstream; keelboats could move upstream as
well as down, but at a much slower pace.) In a system of "counterclockwise trade," merchants traveled down the
Ohio and Mississippi to sell their wares in New Orleans, then returned on foot. (See Darrel E. Bigham, *Towns and
Villages of the Lower Ohio* [1998], p. 47.) For many people, travel by water was much preferable to slow and
arduous overland trips by horse or stagecoach, over primitive roads often mired in mud a good part of the year. Even
with the development of a network of toll roads by the late 19th century, long-distance travel over land remained
difficult until the advent of the automobile (and paved roads) in the 20th century.

Boone County was formed from Campbell County in 1799. Although the county seat was established inland, much
of the county's early community development occurred along the Ohio River. Because there were no bridges over
the Ohio anywhere near Cincinnati until the 1860s, a series of ferry crossings sprang up to transport people and
goods across the river. The establishment of a ferry, or a landing, often marked the beginning of community
settlement.

> All of the sites originated as boat landings or river crossings. Clusters of dwellings and small businesses
> catering to travelers, boatmen, and hunter-farmers sprang up at many of these places, which often were
> ferry crossings. A simple store might only do business if a passing boat chose to stop and trade with the
> locals or take on fuel. In larger places a general store would supply cloth, tools, salt, sugar and groceries
> and ship local produce downriver.... For pioneer farmers, these places were essential. By 1850, many of
> these spots, generally unplatted and unincorporated, were virtually unchanged. Most were so small that
> travel accounts rarely if ever mentioned them. (Bigham, pp. 56-57)

Boone County's economy was based on agriculture, and shipping goods from a nearby river access point
represented the fastest and most effective way to get farm products to large markets located up and down the river.
"Ferries were an important component of the county's transportation network for over one-and-a-half centuries.
People traveled by ferry to shop, attend school and patronize doctors; contractors and artisans also crossed the river
to find work. Herds of cattle, sheep and hogs were driven to the riverbank and ferried to Cincinnati, where they were
sent to stock yards in Cincinnati (William Conrad, *The Top of Kentucky: An Educational and Historical*

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Tour Through Northern Boone County [1985], p. 12). General stores, blacksmiths, grist mills and warehouses for farm produce soon appeared around these crossings, creating community centers that met the needs of a rural populace.

The earliest Boone County ferries were established in the 1800s. By the mid-19th century the county had six major ferry crossings to the opposite shores of Ohio and Indiana, and at least as many shipping points with warehouses. Lake's 1883 atlas identifies the following:

Name	Date	Location
Rising Sun-Rabbit Hash Ferry	1813	Rabbit Hash, KY; Rising Sun, IN
Anderson Ferry	1817	Constance, KY; western Cincinnati
Taylorsport Ferry	1827	Taylorsport, KY; Delhi & Home City, OH
Aurora Ferry	Early 19th c.	West of Petersburg, KY; Aurora, IN
Lawrenceburg Ferry	c. 1800	Tousey Town, KY (east of Petersburg); Lawrenceburg, IN
McVille Ferry	Late 19th c.?	McVille, KY; Randolph County, IN, northeast of Rising Sun.

(See D.J. Lake, *Atlas of Boone, Kenton and Campbell Counties, Kentucky* [1883], pp. 11, 15, 16.)

In the early 19th century, ferry boat navigation depended almost entirely on the river current. Daily trips were dictated by the river flow. To reach Rising Sun from Rabbit Hash, for example, using no power other than the current, the ferry would have to be towed by hand upriver, then guided downriver to its destination. The return trip also required towing the boat upriver, so it could drift downriver to the Kentucky shore. This became less of a problem when ferries began to use onboard horses on treadmills, powering paddle wheels. Steam turbines, succeeded by diesel engines, eventually replaced horse power.

In 1811, a steamboat called the *New Orleans* made her first voyage down the Ohio (Carolyn E. Banfield, "One-way Street to Settlement, Two-way Street to Commerce," *The River Book: Cincinnati and the Ohio* [1982], p. 144). The wood- or coal-powered craft revolutionized transport on the Ohio and other inland rivers by providing effective two-way travel, at greater speeds. Packet boats, which maintained regular schedules, carried goods, passengers and mail. Steam-powered towboats pushed barges loaded with bulk commodities. In Boone County, the Ohio River shoreline was dotted with public wharves and private landings, placed at irregular intervals, where a remarkable variety of goods and raw materials were stored and transported. **Boatyards operated in the river towns of McVille, Belleview and Hamilton.** Steamboats dominated river commerce and trade from c. 1840 to 1860 and continued to stop at Boone County landings until the late 19th or early 20th centuries.

Many ferries ceased operation in the 20th century after new highways began to divert auto traffic, and high-level dams widened the river (Conrad, p. 23). The Rabbit Hash ferry, for example, ceased operations in the 1940s. The

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Aurora ferry closed in the 1970s with the opening of the Interstate 275 bridge east of Petersburg. The Anderson Ferry, however, has been in continuous year-round operation for 186 years and is today one of only three full-time ferry operations remaining along the entire length of the Ohio River.

In the years after the Civil War, the commercial importance of river traffic in the Ohio Valley began to decrease following the construction of railroads and the improvement of inland roads. Shipping and transportation by river now had to compete with the faster and more extensive railroad system.

> After the Civil War fewer boats were seen on [Cincinnati's] Public Landing. In a vain attempt to keep people on the river, steamboat companies built ornate packets for overnight passenger service. These "floating palaces" enjoyed a vogue lasting several decades; then they, too, yielded to the iron march of the railroads. Finally, with the coming of the automobile and good roads, and the great ice run of 1917-1918, all but a few packets were driven from the Ohio. (Federal Writers Project of the Works Projects Administration in the State of Ohio, *The Cincinnati Guide* [1943], p. 147)

In Boone County, freight and passenger traffic decreased after rail lines were built along the county's eastern border in the 1870s and 1880s. Boone Countians were a conservative agrarian people who were content to continue in the old ways, but significant changes in nearby cities eventually forced changes to local ways of life. Despite the slowdown in river trade, people living along the Ohio still found it a convenient means of transportation. To travel from Rabbit Hash to the Louisville & Nashville Railroad station in Verona, for example, meant a journey of nearly twenty miles over jolting roads. It was far easier to cross the river and catch a train in Indiana. Farmers still depended on nearby river shipping points. For this reason, editions of the *Kentucky State Gazetteer and Business Directory* published in the late 19th century continued to state distances by water from Boone County locales and distant points (*Kentucky State Gazetteer and Business Directory*, 1884-1884, 1896).

Establishment of Boone County river towns. The first Euro-American settlement parties ventured into what is now northern Kentucky in the 1780s and soon built towns along the river. The first river community established in what is now Boone County was Petersburg, originally called Tanner's Station, which is located about twelve miles upriver from Rabbit Hash. It was established in 1789 by the Reverend John Tanner of Virginia, who traveled there by flatboat with his family and a small group of followers. Upon their arrival, they built a small stockaded development on land that had been home to Native Americans in the 12th century.

In 1805, John Grant, a North Carolina native active in the early settlement of Campbell County (from which Boone County was formed), purchased 750 acres in and around Tanners Station and established a ferry and a tavern. His elaborate plans for a community to be called Caledonia never came to fruition, and in 1806 Grant sold this property to his son-in-law John Flournoy. Over the next several years, the enterprising Flournoy laid out a town, began selling lots, built a permanent school and donated land for a cemetery. He also offered free lots for artisans and tradesmen who would become permanent settlers: a common practice in the settlement-era Ohio Valley. The town of Petersburg was officially established by the Kentucky Legislature in 1818 (Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board [BCHPRB], *Historic Structures of Boone County, Kentucky* [2002], p. 49).

Petersburg soon developed into a bustling town with a strong commercial and industrial base. In 1836 the Boone

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County Distilling Company, the largest and most successful distilling operation in the county, began operation, taking advantage of the excellent river location and surrounding agricultural abundance. The complex eventually reached a capacity of 150 barrels per day and included seven brick warehouses with a storage capacity of 10,000 barrels. Nearby were stock pens where cattle, and sometimes hogs, were fed on the spent grain prior to being shipped or driven to market. The Petersburg Milling Company, organized by Flournoy in 1816, ground grain into flour, while the Loder House Inn (BE-37; NR, 1989) and Schramm's Tavern (BE-40; NR, 1989), with their broad galleries facing the river, welcomed travelers (ibid.).

Steamboats shaped the fortunes of Petersburg. As many as three would dock at the wharf at one time while cargoes were loaded or unloaded, as well as barges loaded with coal or corn for the distillery. The distillery even acquired its own boat, named after one of the owners, which featured a whiskey barrel mounted between the two stacks (BCHPRB, p. 50). On the Indiana side an "immense" chute fed corn from a railroad car directly into a waiting "corn boat" (*Boone County Recorder,* August 25, 1897, 1:1).

By the mid-19th century, Petersburg was the largest town in Boone County, with "more life than many Kentucky villages" (*Kentucky State Gazetteer and Business Directory* [1865], p. 436). In 1865 it was described as a "flourishing post village...[with] a good landing and an active trade...and about 600 inhabitants" (ibid.). It reached its peak of population in the late 1890s, with 750 inhabitants. By the turn of the 20th century it had a bank (the first in western Boone County), grist and flour mills, public and private schools, and three churches, in addition to the distillery and cooperage (*Kentucky Gazetteer and Business Directory*, 1896).

As river traffic slowed in the late 19th century, Petersburg continued to a be a primary Boone County community because it was sited on a bluff, avoiding danger from frequent floods, and because of its easy ferry access to both Lawrenceburg and Aurora, Indiana. Eventually steamboats ceased stopping there, and the town's commercial and industrial life soon faded away. It became a residential community and quiet rural trading center.

In 1797, planter Colonel Cave Johnson settled in the North Bend Bottoms, approximately twelve miles upriver from Petersburg. The fertile Bottoms were located across the river from the Ohio village of North Bend, one of the oldest settlements in the Northwest Territory, as well as the estate of Johnson's friend William Henry Harrison. Here Johnson built a thriving plantation that included the first brick house built in the county (BE-104; NR, 1989). Johnson also laid out a community called Bullittsburg for Captain Thomas Bullitt, an early surveyor. For reasons unknown, the community failed to develop, although in 1794 a Baptist congregation located on the bluff above the river took this name for their church (BE-82).

Another of the county's earliest settlements was East Bend, located in the East Bend Bottoms south of Rabbit Hash. Its early history is closely tied to the Piatt family of New Jersey, who emigrated there around 1800. The wealthy and aristocratic Piatts prospered in commerce, banking, river transportation and shipbuilding. Captain Jacob Piatt claimed land in Kentucky because of his service in the Revolutionary War, while his older brother, Daniel, owned a large part of the land in East Bend Bottoms. The brothers founded a river landing at East Bend, including a ferry crossing to North Landing (one of several in the county operated by the family). Despite the vicissitudes of floods, it remained in operation until 1820. East Bend remained a quiet farming community that eventually came to include

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Methodist (BE-322; NR, 1989) and Baptist (BE-320) churches and a graded school (demolished) (BCHPRB, p. 71).

In 1815 Edward Meeks laid out the town of Belleview (also known as Grant), approximately three miles north of Rabbit Hash. This town grew slowly but steadily, providing services and river shipping access to the farmers along Middle Creek. An 1816 issue of the *Western Spy,* published in Cincinnati, described the town as "located in the midst of a high fertile bottom and inhabitants wealthy and industrious with their surplus products such as wheat, flour, tobacco, cheese and butter sold." By the mid-19th century, Belleview was known for the quality of goods shipped from its landing, including fine watermelons.

By the early 1880s the community had a population of 100 and included a hotel, three general stores, a number of local industries, and growing residential development (Lake). A boosterish 1897 account describes Belleview as a "beautiful little town of 150 inhabitants" (*Boone County Recorder*, September 15, 1897, 1:1). As of 1909 the town included 101 people, including basket-makers, tobacco handlers, and a "gentleman of leisure" (*Boone County Recorder*, March 31, 1909, 1:1). Lake's atlas depicts Belleview as a neat grid of streets, two blocks wide and seven blocks long (Lake).

Just south of Belleview is McVille, founded by Green Isaac McMullen in 1881. A man of varied interests, he was a wharfmaster, tobacco dealer and contractor as well as a dealer in paint and varnish. Overshadowed by its larger neighbor, McVille remained a small community whose life was centered on the river. It boasted a river landing and a ferry, and several steamboats were built there (BCHPRB, p. 63). As of 1883 it included four squares bisected by alleys (Lake). In the mid-1920s the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built a small lock and dam at McVille, which remained in operation until the 1960s (BCHPRB, ibid.). The building of locks and dams benefitted small communities along the Ohio by creating construction jobs and also for aiding year-round barge traffic.

Several miles south of East Bend is the small community of Hamilton, formerly a trading, milling and shipbuilding center built around a river landing. Little is known of its early days. Lake's atlas depicts its main street, which followed the river, closely lined with buildings on both sides. As of 1883 it had 75 residents, as well as a church, a post office, a tobacco warehouse, a boatyard and several mills (Lake).

Three small river towns developed at the northeastern tip of Boone County, opposite Cincinnati. The largest of the three was Constance, which grew up around the Anderson Ferry (NR, 1973). Established 1817 by George Anderson, it is Boone County's most famous ferry, likely because of its longevity. For a number of years it carried goods and passengers across the river, but the area surrounding it experienced no other development. In the early 1830s Anderson built an impressive stone residence (BE-116; demolished) and opened a tavern. Eventually a small community developed nearby, which attracted many German immigrants. Constance became a United States post office in 1853. At its peak in 1880 it had 133 residents, a school and a limited number of community businesses. Most activity centered around the ferry (BCHPRB, p. 25).

Just west of Constance is the aptly named Stringtown, a small residential community. Little is known of its history. It appears on Lake's 1883 as an unidentified cluster of 14 houses along an unnamed country road (now Kentucky Route 8). Unlike its neighbors, it never developed a commercial base (Lake).

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Several miles west of Stringtown is Taylorsport, which, like Constance, grew up around a ferry crossing. Ferryboat service was established by James Taylor of Newport, Kentucky, in 1827, nine years before the town officially was founded. A plat was filed in 1836 and a post office opened ten years later. In 1846 Taylor boasted of "a first rate landing for Steam Boats...two Stores, regular Packet boats...and a warehouse" on the banks of the river. There were also saw and grist mills, a distillery and a tavern "with six rooms and cellar" (*Licking Valley Register*, 1846). A neat grid of streets was lined with small houses (Lake). Over the years the town prospered but had little population growth. Once river traffic subsided in the late 19th century, Taylorsport remained a small, primarily residential community (BCHPRB, p. 25).

The importance of river transportation and commerce in Boone County river towns in the second half of the 19th century is detailed in the diaries of Lewis Loder, a tavernkeeper and justice of the peace in Petersburg. In his meticulous accounts, compiled from 1859 to 1904, Loder details how river trade pervaded every aspect of life in his community. People traveled by river to Ohio and Mississippi Valley cities such as Madison and New Albany, Indiana; Warsaw and Louisville, Kentucky; Cairo, Illinois; and Independence and St. Louis, Missouri. Riverboats brought mail and newspapers, and Boone Countians crossed the river to visit telegraph offices in Rising Sun. Boats carried livestock, bulk agricultural products, even plants and trees. Coal was sent by barge; riverboats brought corn to distilleries and shipped the finished whiskey to market. Boats brought liquor to Loder's tavern. Building materials such as lumber, millwork and mantelpieces were shipped by river. Artisans regularly crossed the Ohio to find work, such as the Indiana craftsmen who helped build Petersburg's Jenkins House (BE-55; NR, 1989) in the 1860s. The river brought visiting preachers, traveling circuses, itinerant daguerrotypists. People moved back and forth across the river with regularity and traveled by river to start new lives, such as the many northern Kentuckians who moved to Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska in the second half of the 19th century. (See Lewis Loder, *The Loder Diaries* [1857-1904], Part 1, pp. 1-26.)

While the heyday of the steamboat era came to an era in the late 19th century, the Ohio River remained essential to the rural counties along its borders.

> The demise of the steamboat did not mean that the river or its settlements were doomed.... Well after the coming of the railroads, the Ohio was a vital economic and communications link... The river was a vital artery for wholesalers and manufacturers in larger places who supplied settlements with goods obtainable only by water and who also secured raw materials such as tobacco and timber from those places.... Rich bottomlands and hinterlands not served by rail remained open to river traffic. Riverboats continued to receive government mail contracts into the early twentieth century. Shipbuilding and repair continued....
> (Bigham, pp. 189-190)

Nor did it mean the end of river towns.

> [T]he settlements offered vital services, especially for places with little or no rail service. Smaller communities were not inactive or unimportant... Whether as boat landings, ferries, or small market centers, they were indispensable.... These settlements were economic and social links for their inhabitants, nearby residents, and river travelers. Well into the twentieth century, ferry service was essential to the local

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economy.... (Bigham, pp. 189-190, 216)

The Boone County River Town as a Property Type

Historical development. As stated earlier, Boone County's river towns grew up around or in conjunction with a river landing, where steamboats and packet boats stopped to pick up and discharge passengers or cargo, or a ferry crossing, where people and freight were carried back and forth across the river; in some cases, to meet steamboats or trains. While every river town had a landing, not every landing became a town. An example is the stillborn village of Tousey Town, which was located about two miles north of Petersburg. Here Jacob Piatt established a ferry crossing to Lawrenceburg about 1800. Although the town failed to thrive, the ferry continued to be operated by several members of the family.

While no Boone County river towns are alike, they can be sorted into a three-part hierarchy according to approximate size, function and economic importance. The smallest were ferry crossings or landings such as East Bend, with few residents or amenities. "These small communities generally provided a ferry and some basic services for travelers, but had little economic significance.... Most were so small that travel accounts rarely if ever mentioned them" (Bigham, p. 56). Such places changed little in the first half of the 19th century (ibid.).

Villages such as Rabbit Hash, Constance, Taylorsport, Belleview and Hamilton, with populations of 75 to 150 people, were larger and more permanent communities. "Somewhat larger in size and function were the villages, which were usually platted and sometimes incorporated through the efforts of proprietors who ran the ferry or the general store and secured a post office. These spots...offered more services than the landings and ferries. They offered wood for steamboats and food and lodging for travelers. They shipped the produce of the interior. Often they possessed means of processing those resources–for example, by a grist or a sawmill. Their shops also preserved the needs of area residents, whether blacksmithing, carpentry, groceries, or dry goods." (ibid., p. 58)

Still larger, more substantial communities, such as Petersburg, had several hundred residents and were large enough in size and function to be called emerging towns. "Their economies were more complex and in some cases sufficiently differentiated to reveal confections to markets that extended far beyond the immediate region. Most also became county seats" (ibid., p. 62).

Regardless of size, Boone County's river towns shared community resources with much larger towns and cities in Ohio and Indiana. While hard to quantify, this relationship likely offered a window on a larger world, with opportunities for news, travel, higher education, and a wider variety of goods and services.

Physical form. River towns, by definition, are built in close proximity to the river. Old maps indicate that their front-facing streets were lined with buildings on one or both sides. Buildings tended to be built close together, on relatively small parcels of land. Vacant parcels within the towns, with the exception of planned open spaces, usually result from removal or relocation of buildings rather than a lack of development. Two buildings in Constance, for example, formerly located on the riverbank, were moved onto higher ground following the 1913 flood (BE-115, -

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743).

The physical form of river towns was governed by topographical constraints. Towns occupying a narrow strip of land between the river and the base of steep hills, such as Rabbit Hash, Constance, Stringtown and Hamilton, are linear in form. The main road, which parallels the river, is closely lined with buildings, and there are no cross-streets.

Towns on broad floodplains or terraces, by contrast, are more expansive, with grid plans. Their plats are set off in neat blocks with narrow streets, dividing alleys and lots of uniform size. These towns, all of which are associated with proprietors from the East, represent conscious efforts at town-building in settlement-era Boone County. Examples are Taylorsport, Belleview and McVille, all of have small grids of streets parallel to or perpendicular to the river. The plan of Petersburg reflects its preeminence, as well as the founders' hopes for the future. The town plat consists of a formal grid of 24 square blocks, perpendicular to the river; with two central squares reserved for public use (Lake). Vintage postcard views of the town show wide, tree-lined streets with well-kept houses, churches and shops.

By contrast, nearly all inland communities are either linear stringtowns (Florence), with a main thoroughfare lined with commercial and residential buildings, or crossroads towns (Hebron, Union, Idlewild, Verona), with a cluster of residential and commercial properties at the junction of two main roads. Walton, located in southeastern Boone County, is a classic linear railroad town, bound tightly by parallel rail lines (Lake). Like the constricted river towns, their growth appears to have been haphazard or organic. The most striking example of formal town planning in the county is the Burlington courthouse square (Burlington Historic District, NR, 1978), whose geometrical street pattern remains evident to this day (Lake).

River towns offer a greater diversity of building types and styles than many interior communities. (Notable exceptions are Burlington, the county seat, and the railroad town of Walton, both of which retain large and varied inventories of historic buildings.) This may reflect a freer movement of people and ideas, easier access to a wider range of materials, greater affluence, or earlier date of settlement. Certain building types and styles also are associated with river communities. Throughout the 19th century, major transportation routes, in particular the river and the former Louisville Turnpike (U.S. 42), were avenues for the diffusion of high-style architecture. The earliest known example was "Piatt's Landing" (BE-321; demolished), the stately Palladian villa of the Piatt family at East Bend: an early example of sophisticated architecture on the Boone County frontier. A prime example of the mid-19th century is the J.C. Jenkins House (BE-55; NR, 1989) in Petersburg, Boone County's only Italian villa. Most of the county's Gothic Revival buildings can be found along the river in or near towns. Perhaps the county's finest example of the style is the Peter Gregory House (BE-671; NR, 2000), a high-style Downing Cottage located between Hamilton and East Bend. The vernacular Gothic Revival is best represented by the Jenkins-Berkshire House in Petersburg (BE-28; NR, 2000), a frame Downing Cottage, built c. 1880. While stylish Queen Anne houses are uncommon in the county, two excellent examples can be found in Belleview: the Isaac Flick House (BE-10; NR, 1989, which dates from 1910, and the William B. Rogers House (BE-358; NR, 1989), built in 1903. River towns also have a higher overall survival rate of 19th and early 20th century buildings than interior communities, likely because of their greater isolation. (Development in Boone County is now moving from east to west but is still

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concentrating on the level uplands.)

Some vernacular house types, some of which may be associated with specific builders, occur exclusively or predominantly in river towns. A certain type of pyramidal-roofed, foursquare-plan house of the late 19th century (see, for example, Parker House, BE-1130) can be found only in Petersburg, for example, and a narrow, front-gabled, two-story house of the late 19th and early 20th centuries occurs only in Constance, Stringtown and Petersburg. (A good example was the Adam Hempfling House [BE-769] in Stringtown, now demolished.) Almost without exception, shotgun houses occur only in river or railroad towns. (See, for example, **BE-751 and -752, both located in Constance**.)

As in the interior of the county, smaller communities generally are characterized by modest architecture, while larger and more fashionable buildings appear in the larger towns. Constance, Stringtown and Taylorsport are characterized by one- and two-story frame vernacular structures of the mid-19th through mid-20th centuries. Belleview and McVille feature a mixture of one- and two-story frame buildings representing a variety of styles and types, most of which date from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Belleview's architectural landmarks include the Belleview Baptist Church (BE-7; NR, 1989), a Gothic Revival nave-plan sanctuary and the town's only brick building, and the Dr. Piatt House (BE-357), one of the county's finest Folk Victorian cottages (late 18th century, c. 1850-1870). McVille's most memorable urban image may be the riverfront row of brick bungalows built to house workers at Lock and Dam 38 (BE-1194). Few 19th-century buildings in low-lying Hamilton have survived recurrent floods and rising river levels. The town's most architecturally distinguished edifice is the J.L. Johnson House (BE-303), a cruciform-plan dwelling in hybrid Gothic Revival-Italianate style, built by local carpenter-builder James McIntyre.

Petersburg's diverse building stock ranges from the modest frame cottages of distillery workers, to the large, comfortable brick and frame residences of factory managers and business owners. Imposing, multi-story brick commercial buildings such as the Post Office and Masonic Lodge (BE-36), Odd Fellows Hall (BE-38; NR, 1989) and Gordon's Hall and Opera House (BE-46; NR, 1989) also bespeak prosperity.

Changes to river towns over time have been wrought by man and nature. The decline of river trade following the ascendance of the railroads led to a loss of commercial life. Some changes were sudden and dramatic. In Petersburg, the closure of the distillery meant the loss of hundreds of jobs. Most change, however, was gradual. In Taylorsport, the warehouse, distillery and mills of which its proprietor boasted were gone by the late 19th century, as were the distillery in Hamilton, and the boat-building works in Hamilton, Belleview and McVille. The Belleview basket works remained in operation into the early 20th century, however, and Rabbit Hash retained several small industrial concerns until the 1930s.

Community businesses serving the local population, such as general stores and blacksmith shops, remained open.

> The general store was the core of these settlements, and whatever their size, such establishments were cogs in an ever-widening network of trade.... General stores were also sources of credit and news. Competition from mail-order catalogs gradually weakened such enterprises, as did speciality and department stores in

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larger community. But the absence of rail service and good roads made these small places essential. (Bigham, pp. 189-190)

By the late 20th century, however, most of these local businesses too closed their doors.

River towns also were affected, more subtly, by larger population trends. During the early 20th century, [t]housands left farms because of 'the impact of mechanization, the consolidation of landholdings, and the rise in farm tenancy.' Although rural free delivery (1896) and parcel post (1913) brought better roads and...narrowed the distance between rural markets an urban centers, rural areas continued to lose people to cities... The improvement of city streets and country roads, of which the automobile and the truck took advantage, quickened this process immeasurably. (Bigham, pp. 184-187)

The same process took place in Boone County following the improvement of roads and establishment of high schools in central and eastern Boone County. Towns such as Florence, Walton, Hebron and Burlington expanded in land area and population, while older towns on the county's river border remained stable or slowly declined. Population data, however, is hard to come by because many communities were not enumerated separately by the decennial census. Certain types of community institutions, however, can serve as indicators of prosperity and population growth during this era. Of the eight community banks that opened in Boone County towns in the first quarter of the 20th century, only two were in river towns: Petersburg and Belleview. No dedicated high schools were built in northern or western Boone County, although the Belleview and Petersburg graded schools (built in the 1900s) initially housed grades 1-12 under one roof.

The most cataclysmic changes were wrought by the river itself. All the county's river towns, with the exception of well-sited Petersburg, suffered greatly from floods, the worst of which occurred in 1937. In the 1960s, dam construction also raised the river level from a pool of 16 to 26 feet, leaving the Front Streets of Belleview and McVille underwater. In Taylorsport, the appropriately named Water Street was submerged, along with the town's first cemetery, while in Hamilton, the rising waters claimed the river side of Ryle Road, the town's only street.

Essential features. To be considered for National Register listing within the context of this context, Boone County river towns must retain the following characteristics: unobstructed river access, not blocked by floodwalls or new development; an unobstructed viewshed with views of the river and of the opposite shore; a cohesive group of buildings related to the town's period of significance, with a high level of overall integrity; and one or more commercial buildings that bespeak the town's relationship to the river, such as general stores, taverns, warehouses; a minimal number of modern intrusions or severely altered historic structures.

Rabbit Hash: historical overview.

The notoriety of Rabbit Hash. The name "Rabbit Hash" is famous and has been perpetuated far beyond its district boundaries. It has been immortalized in oral history, novels, history books, newspapers, magazines and other print and electronic media. The town has been popularized in many myths. The novel *The Buried Treasure: A Rabbit Hash Mystery*, by resident William H. Nelson, depicted two survivors of General Lochry's defeat and a cache of

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stolen gold. The book was one of the first published uses of the now-famous Rabbit Hash moniker. Another long-running myth claimed Rabbit Hash as the setting for Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. It has even been reported that comedian Bob Hope, while entertaining troops overseas in World War II, frequently extended "greetings from the folks in Rabbit Hash, Kentucky."

Several legends account for the origin of the colorful name, the most accurate of which was included as an addendum to Nelson's mystery novel. During a winter cold spell and flood, townspeople sought refuge on higher ground. Food was scarce and, stimulated by hunger, talk soon turned to visions of Christmas feasts.

> Each man, in turn, related what he wished for or hoped to have for dinner.... At last all but one, the village jester, had responded, so they turned to him.
>
> "Well, Frank, what are you going to have for Christmas dinner?"
>
> He answered in just two words: "Rabbit Hash!"
>
> Those words were repeated in wider and wider circles, and yet remain as the name of the community. (William Henry Nelson, *The Buried Treasure: A Rabbit Hash Mystery* [n.d.])

Development of Rabbit Hash.

> Most places were so small and unorganized that they were not listed in the 1850 census or in subsequent enumerations. They offered good landings for steamboats, some basic mercantile services for area residents and travelers, and ferry crossings. A few milled grain, packed pork, or sawed timber for river trade. Even with plats or name changes, most remained quiet, unhurried clusters of buildings in clearings along an increasingly busy river. As late as the 1920s, many lacked access to the interior by good roads, let alone railroads. Local boats and some packets offered river connections to the larger world. (Bigham, p. 112)

Rabbit Hash was founded as a ferry crossing c. 1814 and evolved as a small trading center. During its heyday in the mid-to-late 19th century it was one of the liveliest communities in western Boone County, with a post office, thriving businesses and regular packet boat service. Its economic importance began to diminish following the decline of river traffic in the late 19th century, and over the past century many buildings have been damaged or destroyed by floods. Nonetheless the town retains the flavor of a small 19th-century river town built on commerce. It exhibits a cohesive collection of resources related to its heyday as a river crossing, including a ferry landing, two general stores, a blacksmith shop, and a variety of residences and outbuildings. Many of the buildings are well-preserved.

The early history of Rabbit Hash is inextricably woven with that of Rising Sun, its neighbor across the river. Rising Sun was laid out by 1814, two years before Indiana became a state. Ferry service between the two communities appears to have begun as soon as they were founded, if not before. Because the Ohio River lies within the

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Commonwealth of Kentucky, ferry bonds were issued by Boone County. In 1813 a ferry covenant bond was issued for Edward Meeks, whom local tradition identifies as the founder of the first Rising Sun ferry. Meeks was authorized to carry passengers, carriages and goods and to transport farm goods produced on the fertile land surrounding Rabbit Hash. An advertisement in the February 4, 1837 edition of the *Rising Sun Times* states that the steamboat *Dolphin* would begin service between Rising Sun and Cincinnati three times a week. This lends credence to the early date of establishment of the ferry.

Because the main river channel is on the Indiana side, making it easier to dock, Rising Sun developed into a much larger town. On the Kentucky side, a large sandbar in front of Rabbit Hash (called the Rising Sun Bar) prevented docking of larger steamboats, although some smaller packet boats could make the trip. Therefore the ferry transported exported goods across the river and returned with imported items. Local tradition asserts that packet boat and steamboat service began in the 1830s; a decade that also saw the establishment of the Rabbit Hash General Store (BE-330; NR, 1989).

Initially called Carlton, the town was renamed Rabbit Hash because the mail for Carlton kept getting sent down river to Carrollton. A general store (BE-330; NR, 1989) was built c. 1831, and a newspaper, the *Rising Sun Times*, was in operation by 1837. A post office opened in 1879 and remained in operation until 192 (William Conrad, editor, *Boone County: The Top of Kentucky, 1792-1992* [1992], p. 34).

The early development of Rabbit Hash is closely associated with the Ryle, Stephens and Wilson families, who established homes and founded businesses in and around the town. The patrons' list for Carlton Precinct in the 1883 county atlas includes 21 prominent men residing in and around Rabbit Hash. They included physician and surgeon L. Cowen; fisherman Joseph Hillis; and farmers J.J. Piatt (145 acres), J.P. Craig (40 acres) and J.A. Wilson (75 acres), who was also a former state representative. Seventeen were born in Boone County, the remainder were natives of central Kentucky, Virginia or southeastern Indiana (Lake).

During the late 19th century Rabbit Hash was one of the liveliest towns in western Boone County, its river road closely lined with houses on both sides. At its peak in the late 1800s it had a population of about one hundred,[1] including two tobacco dealers, a painter, a physician and a fisherman (*Kentucky State Gazetteer and Business Directory*, Vol. VII [1896], p. 733). Businesses served townspeople and farmers and processed and shipped local agricultural products; they included a tobacco warehouse, a sawmill, a creamery and two general stores. Methodist and Baptist churches in East Bend served the spiritual needs of town residents, and their respective cemeteries became the final resting place for many people. Local tradition asserts that residents patronized one store or the other according to their church affiliation. Children attended a one-room schoolhouse on East Bend Road approximately a mile from Rabbit Hash. As rural schools were consolidated in the early 20th century, pupils were bussed to a new graded school near Hamilton. Still other residents crossed the river to attend church or school.

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[1] The town's population in the late 19th century is a matter of conjecture. According to the 1896 *Kentucky Gazetteer and Business Directory*, it had only 60 residents; Thwaites' account, on the other hand, says 100. No totals are given in census records for Carlton Precinct.

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Traveler Reuben Gold Thwaites passed through Rabbit Hash in 1897 and recorded his impressions of the town.

> A crude hamlet of a hundred souls, lying nestled in a green amphitheater. A horse-power ferry runs over to the larger village of Rising Sun, its Indiana neighbor. There is a small general store...with postoffice and paint-shop attachment, and near by a tobacco warehouse and a blacksmith shop, with a few cottages scattered at intervals over the bottom. (Reuben Gold Thwaites, *On the Storied Ohio* [1897], pp. 189-190)

The author went on to describe a lively scene wherein the blacksmith/ferryman bantered with the shopkeeper/postmaster, who was engaged in a game of checkers with a farmer while a half-dozen kibitzers looked on (ibid., pp. 190-191).

The lives of Rabbit Hash townspeople, like those of other Boone County river communities, were dependent on and dictated by the Ohio River. Local residents relied on its flow to ship their produce, milk, meat, grain, tobacco, livestock, lumber and manufactured goods to other destinations and to receive locally unavailable goods from other sources. According to an 1882 shipping directory, Rabbit Hash shipped "Grain, Livestock, Tobacco, Country Produce and Willow ware" (baskets made from riverbank willow trees). The following Rabbit Hash news items are typical: "T.C.S. Ryle sold his wool to B.L. Rice and delivered it on the landing at this place. Z.T. Kelly and Joe Walton each shipped hogs to Cincinnati last Tuesday evening. Charlie Bode shipped 20 hogs and one horse to Cincinnati, last Thursday evening" (*Boone County Recorder*, September 22, 1897, 4:1). Farmers and townspeople used the ferry to obtain supplies and services in Rising Sun rather than traveling to Petersburg or Burlington. Mail came thrice weekly (*Haddock's Directory* [1882-1883]).

The Rabbit Hash ferry had a long line of operators and owners, including the Wilsons, Ryles, Stephens and, later, the Piatts. Best known was James A. Wilson, a native of Madison County, Virginia, who emigrated to Boone County with his family as a child and took charge of the "Rising Sun and Rabbit Hash ferry" about 1842. During his tenure he kept a very accurate and detailed daily account of his passengers and the items he transported across the river, and the fees charged. (This information was recorded in a ledger book now on file at the Rabbit Hash Museum.) Wilson also was the first owner-operator of the Rabbit Hash General Store.

The river that brought opportunity to Rabbit Hash, however, also brought danger. Floods of increasing severity occurred regularly along the Ohio in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as woodlands and wetlands were replaced with farms and settlements. Many built resources were lost to the rampaging river. The first houses were built along the river bottoms; after high water swept them away, they were rebuilt on higher ground. The deluge of 1883, which crested at 68 feet, "cleaned out" the town and left it "desolate." It carried away part of the old ferry house, several commercial buildings and numerous outbuildings. A year later the river rose again, this time to 70 feet. The tobacco warehouse was moved off its foundation, two houses floated away, and buildings in the "business portion" were submerged to the rooflines (*Boone County Recorder*, February 20, 1884, 3:4). The river again reached 70 feet in 1913.

Worst of all was the devastating flood of 1937, which crested at 80 feet. It removed over half the buildings in Rabbit Hash, including many of its commercial structures. Lost were a chair factory, creamery, blacksmith shop, tobacco

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warehouse and cattle pens. A historic photograph shows the Rabbit Hash General Store submerged to its roof peak in the floodwaters. Many other structures were badly damaged. In 1997 the river inundated the town once again, rising to 64.7 feet and leaving it a virtual island. Several smaller structures such as privies and well houses were carried away by the rising waters.

Despite the repeated floods, the community endured. A December 1899 newspaper account cites such community events as the 85th birthday of the owner of the general store, the growth of the Knights of Pythias lodge, a planned "Old Bachelors Convention," and the possibility of an electric railroad in Rising Sun. By the second quarter of the 20th century, Boone County's population began to shift to inland communities such as Florence, served by major roads, and Walton, a railroad community and site of the county's first high school. The rural population remained constant, and towns such as Rabbit Hash saw little measurable growth.

The Rabbit Hash ferry remained in operation for over one hundred and thirty years. During the winter of 1945, ice jams on the river crushed the last remaining boat, bringing the ferry operation to an end. Isolated in a rural, agricultural area, with no water transportation and no major roads nearby, Rabbit Hash slipped into obscurity. As of 1954, it had a population of "38 people and a few dogs" (*Cincinnati Pictorial Enquirer*, October 10, 1954, p. 14). Fourteen buildings remained, half of which had electricity (ibid.).

Historic preservation in Rabbit Hash. The town's isolation, however, helped ensure its preservation. With no pressure for new development, its historic buildings remained intact and its green hills, celebrated by Thwaites a century before, unspoiled. Descendants of old families remained in town, keeping its history alive. The old-fashioned general store, with its potbelly stove and quaint merchandise, remained the primary gathering place. The town also attracted people seeking a slower pace of life, including artists and craftspeople. The most famous was entrepreneur Lowell Lee Scott, who founded the Rabbit Hash Ironworks c. 1980. He purchased and sensitively renovated four buildings and relocated three historic structures to vacant lots, one of which became his personal residence.

Rabbit Hash has used historic preservation as a revitalization tool, with great success. Preservationists capitalize on the town's historic buildings and rural charm to attract compatible businesses and tourists and keep encroachments at bay. An active historical society collects memorabilia related to the town's history, which is on display in a museum. A folksy persona and a tongue-in-cheek sense of humor celebrate the town's rural character. Visitors to the town are greeted with free-ranging chickens and dogs, and a dog was elected mayor in a recent "election" (which raised money for the restoration of nearby East Bend Methodist Church).
In 1996 Rabbit Hash became the only local historic district in Boone County. The historic district overlay zone, which includes 3.5 acres, covers 10021, 10056, 10140 and 10146 Lower River Road. This zoning overlay initiates an architectural design review process whenever a building permit or demolition permit is filed for Rabbit Hash. In 2002 the Rabbit Hash Historical Society purchased the Rabbit Hash General Store and Ironworks buildings, thereby ensuring their future preservation.

Conclusion

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section ___8___   Page ___17___

Rabbit Hash Historic District
Rabbit Hash, Boone County, Kentucky

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As other Boone County communities adapted to the use of the automobile and the railroad, Rabbit Hash continued to depend on the Ohio River as a means of transportation, shipping goods and communicating with the outside world. It is unique among Boone County river communities because it has resisted significant change for the sake of progress. It retains a collection of functional buildings and structures designed to serve the surrounding populace as a commerce and communication center, while retaining a high degree of 19th-century visual character and integrity. Changes in the community's density and specific built resources were dictated primarily by the actions of the Ohio River, not outside development.

Other Boone County towns along the Ohio River failed to develop as viable communities or have been irrevocably altered by the actions of man and nature. The Lawrenceburg and Aurora ferry crossings attracted very limited commercial development, likely because of their proximity to Petersburg. McVille, Hamilton and Taylorsport retain almost no trace of their former commercial importance. As noted earlier, the lower portions of Taylorsport, McVille, Belleview and Hamilton were submerged by rising river levels in the 1960s. Most of Hamilton's original buildings have disappeared; its former tobacco warehouse, since converted to a barn, has been altered and is in dilapidated condition. The village of Stringtown, as the name implies, has always been oriented to the road rather than the river and never developed a commercial base. Forgotten places such as Tousey Town or Garrison Creek (located at the mouth of the creek of the same name), which were once known for landings or ferries, have vanished almost without a trace.

Still other river towns are markedly different in character. Petersburg retains a core of commercial and residential buildings related to its heritage as the county's leading commercial and industrial center of the 19th century. Its formal plan and large, stylish buildings, many of masonry construction, reflect its ambitions and self-confidence and present a clear contrast to the humble charms of small, rural Rabbit Hash. Constance also retains a small group of historic buildings clustered around its still-active ferry landing. Unlike Rabbit Hash, it is largely residential.

Integrity

The Rabbit Hash Historic District maintains a high degree of integrity. Twelve of 18 primary buildings contribute to its significance. Nearly all possess character-defining features such as cornices and wood trim, and retain original materials such as wood siding and windows. Additions, if present, are located at the rear of buildings where they are less noticeable from the street. Most are well-maintained and are in good condition. Many are complemented by historic site features and outbuildings. Only two modern intrusions, both late-20th-century residences, are present. The district's setting is also well preserved, with unobstructed river views, an original ferry landing, mature trees and an old roadbed. Therefore the district retains integrity of location, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association.

Four of the district's five noncontributing primary buildings are historic structures that were disassembled and rebuilt on vacant parcels in the town. While they cannot be considered contributing according to National Register standards, these buildings represent vernacular types commonly found in and around Rabbit Hash. They resemble structures that were carried away by the 1937 flood, although they are not exact reproductions. The restorations were done with great care, using historically appropriate materials and techniques. Therefore these buildings complement the district's historic structures.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9___ Page 1___

Rabbit Hash Historic District
Rabbit Hash, Boone County, Kentucky

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Section 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board. *Historic Structures of Boone County, Kentucky*. Burlington, Kentucky: Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board, 2002.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9___   Page 2___

Rabbit Hash Historic District
Rabbit Hash, Boone County, Kentucky

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Nelson, William H. *The Buried Treasure: A Rabbit Hash Mystery*. Lawrenceburgh, Indiana: Sam Chapman, the Bookbinder and Printer.

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Simon, F. Kevin, editor. *The WPA Guide to Kentucky*. Lexington, Kentucky: The University of Kentucky, 1939. New edition, 1996.

Taylor, David. "Historic and Architectural Resources of the County of Boone, Kentucky, 1789-1950." National Register multiple properties nomination, 2000. Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort.

United States Federal Population Census for Boone County, 1850 to 1910. Boone County Public Library, Union.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 33 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing
1 16 686400 4312700
2 16 686310 4312760

Zone Easting Northing
3 16 686320 4311800
4 16 686180 4311920
☐ 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___ Margaret Warminski, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization ___ Boone County Planning Commission Date July 10, 2003

street & number 340 East Second Street_ telephone_ 859-581-2883

city or town Newport_   state KY_____   zip code 41071-1702

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name multiple owners (see continuation sheet)_____

street & number _____telephone _____

city or town_____ state_____zip code _____

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10____   Page 1____

Rabbit Hash Historic District
Rabbit Hash, Boone County, Kentucky

===

Section 10. Geographic Data

Rising Sun (Indiana) Quadrangle

approximately 33 acres

A. 16/686400/4312700
B. 16/686310/4312760
C. 16/686320/4311800
D. 16/686180/4311920

Verbal boundary description:

The Rabbit Hash Historic District is located in Boone County, Kentucky. Please refer to location map with boundary line drawn.

Verbal boundary justification:

The boundaries of the Rabbit Hash Historic District were determined to create an area with a strong sense of identity and to convey the district's development as a 19th-century river town. The Ohio River forms a natural boundary to the west, and Parks Branch to the north forms a strong visual boundary. Areas of different land use or lesser integrity were excluded.

Parks Branch and the Thomas Marshall House at 10410 Lower River Road were chosen as the northern and southern boundaries of the district because they have traditionally been regarded as the town's north and south reference points. Moreover, the area north of Parks Branch is physically isolated from the rest of the district and out of its line of sight and includes several noncontributing properties. Many noncontributing buildings south of 10410 Lower River Road also were excluded.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 12____   Page 1____

Rabbit Hash Historic District
Rabbit Hash, Boone County, Kentucky

===

12. Additional Documentation

Photograph key

Name of property:
Location: Rabbit Hash, Boone County, Kentucky (same for all photographs)
Photographer: Margaret Warminski (same for all photographs)
Date taken: June 2003 (same for all photographs)
Location of negatives: Boone County Planning Commission, Burlington, Kentucky (same for all photographs)
View: Streetscape view of Lower River Road, looking north toward Rabbit Hash General Store. Rabbit Hash Ironworks and Blacksmith Shop at right. Looking northeast.
Photo 1

View: Rabbit Hash General Store, 10021 Lower River Road. Main block and added side sheds. Looking northeast.
Photo 2

View: Woodshed associated with Rabbit Hash General Store. Looking northwest.
Photo 3

View: Rabbit Hash Ferry Landing, framed by trees. Barge tow and skyline of Rabbit Hash, Indiana, visible in background. Looking northwest.
Photo 4

View: Barn, northwest side Lower River Road. Looking northwest.
Photo 5

View: World War II Veterans' Memorial, 10056 Lower River Road. Looking southeast.
Photo 6

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 12___   Page 2___

Rabbit Hash Historic District
Rabbit Hash, Boone County, Kentucky

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View: Rabbit Hash Ironworks, 10056 Lower River Road. Main facade and north elevation; c. 1980 addition visible in background. Looking southeast.
Photo 7

View: Doctor's Office, 10140 Lower River Road. Main facade and north elevation. Looking southeast.
Photo 8

View: B.C. Calvert House, 10246 Lower River Road. Main facade, north elevation and stone retaining wall. Frame shed visible in background. Looking southeast.
Photo 9

View: 10274 Lower River Road. Main facade and south elevation. Looking northeast.
Photo 10

View: Edna Flowers House, 10294 Lower River Road. Main facade and front porch, and south elevation. Looking northeast.
Photo 11

View: C.W. Craig Barn, 10352 Lower River Road. Looking southeast.
Photo 12

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 12_____ Page 3_____

Rabbit Hash Historic District
Rabbit Hash, Boone County, Kentucky

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Rabbit Hash Historic District Property Owners

Parcel # Acreage	Address(es) on Lower River Road	Owner(s)
012.00-00-001.00 (1.85)	10021, 10056	Rabbit Hash Historical Society 11646 Lower River Road Union, KY 41091
012.00-00-003.00 (0.23)	10146	Lowell L. Scott 10146 Lower River Road Burlington, KY 41005
012.00-00-006.00 (0.28)	10140	Lowell L. Scott 10140 Lower River Road Burlington, KY 41005
012.00-00-008.00 (33.89)	10000	Barbara Ann Bardes PO Box 626 Burlington, KY 41005
012.00-00-007.00 (1.05)	10142	John W. Ryle PO Box 213 2579 Union-Hathaway Rd. Union, KY 41091
012.00-00-009.00 (1.00)	10214	Joseph D. & Deborah K. Mitchell 10214 Lower River Road Burlington, KY 41005
012.00-00-010.00	10246	Lee Hartke & Carl Goderwis

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 12__   Page 4___

Rabbit Hash Historic District
Rabbit Hash, Boone County, Kentucky

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012.00-00-010.00   10246
(1.11)

Lee Hartke & Carl Goderwis
PO Box 18696
Erlanger, KY 41018

012.00-00-011.00   10274
(0.93)

James R. & Linda L. Marksberry
10274 Lower River Road
Burlington, KY 41005

012.00-00-014.00   10294
(2.29)

Ralph Kemphaus
10294 Lower River Road
Union, KY 41091

012.00-00-013.00   10304
(0.93)

Werneth J. & Betty C. Avril
10304 Lower River Road
Burlington, KY 41005

012.00-00.012.01   10352
(5.92)

Ivars J. Licis
10352 Lower River Road
Burlington, KY 41005

012.00-00.012.02   10330
(1.11)

Izalija Licis
10330 Lower River Road
Burlington, KY 41005

012.00-00.012.00   ? - house on hill behind
(34.20)   10246

Barbara Ann Bardes
PO Box 626
Burlington, KY 41005

012.00-00-016.00   10410
(10.98)

Kenny D. Williamson
10410 Lower River Road
Burlington, KY 41005

Ohio River

012.00-00-006.00

012.00-00-007.00

012.00-00-009.00

012.00-00-010.00

012.00-00-013.00

012.00-00-011.00

012.00-00-014.00

012.00-00-012.01

012.00-00-012.02

012.00-00-001.00

Parks Branch

012.00-00-003.00

012.00-00-008.00

Little Ranty Creek

012.00-00-016.00
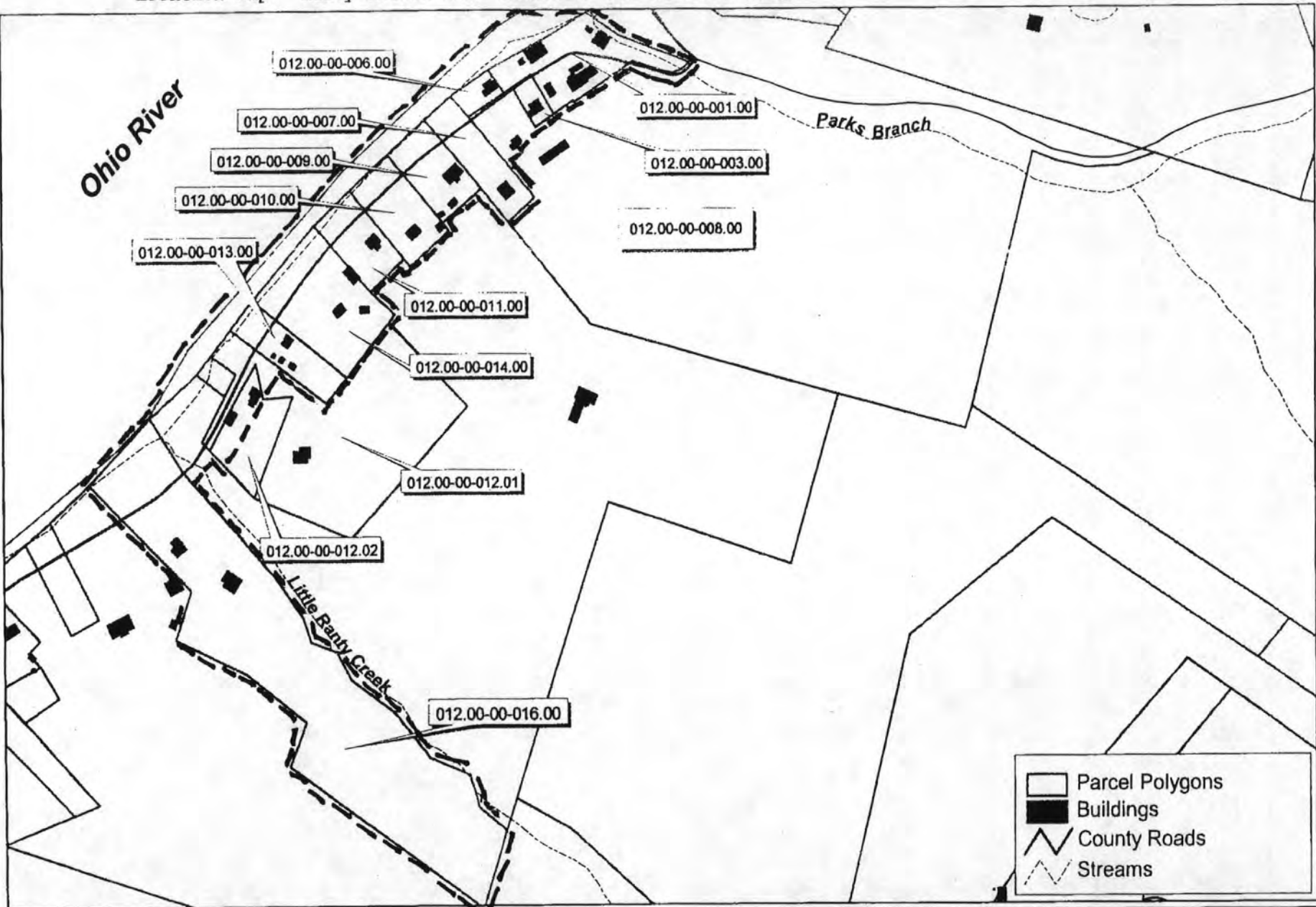
Parcel Polygons
Buildings
County Roads
Streams

200   0   200   400 Feet

Rabbit Hash Historic District
Boone County, Kentucky

Produced by the
Boone County Historic Preservation
Review Board
July 22, 2003

N
W   GIS   E
S

Ohio River

012.00-00-006.00

012.00-00-007.00

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012.00-00-014.00

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012.00-00-008.00

Parks Branch

Little Ganty Creek

Ohio River

Parcel Polygons
Buildings
County Roads
Streams

300   0   300 Feet

Produced by the
Boone County Planning Commission
GIS Services Division
July 1, 2003

N
W   E
S
GIS

Rabbit Hash Historic District
Boone County, Kentucky

Rabbit Hash Historic District,
Boone Co., KY. District Inventory
Map: cross-hatching indicates
noncontributing.
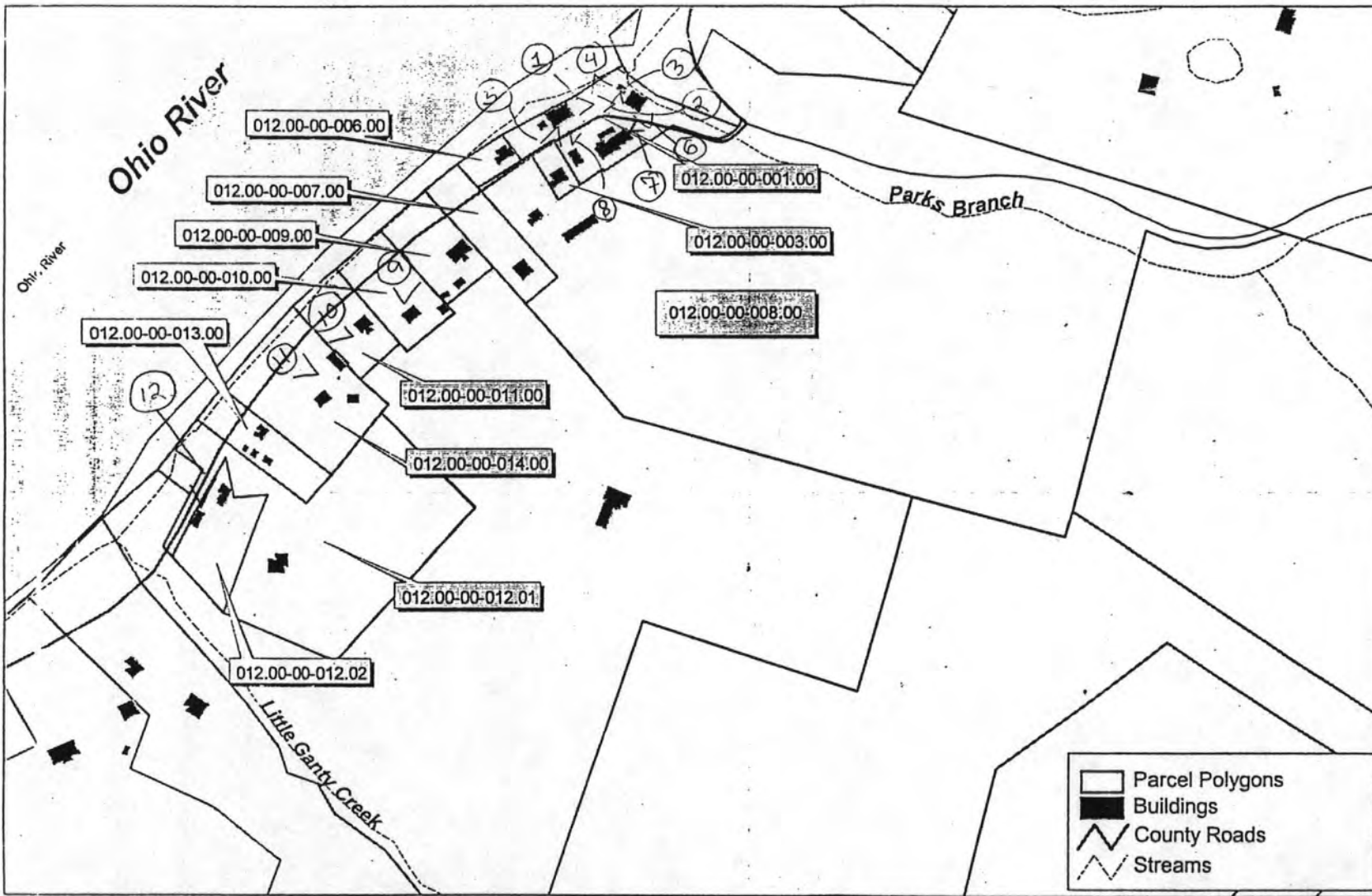
Ohio River

012.00-00-006.00

012.00-00-007.00

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012.00-00-003.00

012.00-00-008.00

Parks Branch

Little Ganty Creek

Ohio River

Legend

☐ Parcel Polygons
■ Buildings
/\ County Roads
/\ Streams

Rabbit Hash Historic District
Boone County, Kentucky

300   0   300 Feet

Produced by the
Boone County Planning Commission
GIS Services Division
July 1, 2003

Rabbit Hash Historic District,
Boone Co., KY. Photo key map:
photo numbers in circles.

CARLTON
PRECINCT
BOONE CO.

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile

RABBIT HASH P.O.

PART OF HAMILTON PRECINCT

UNION PRE.

OHIO RIVER
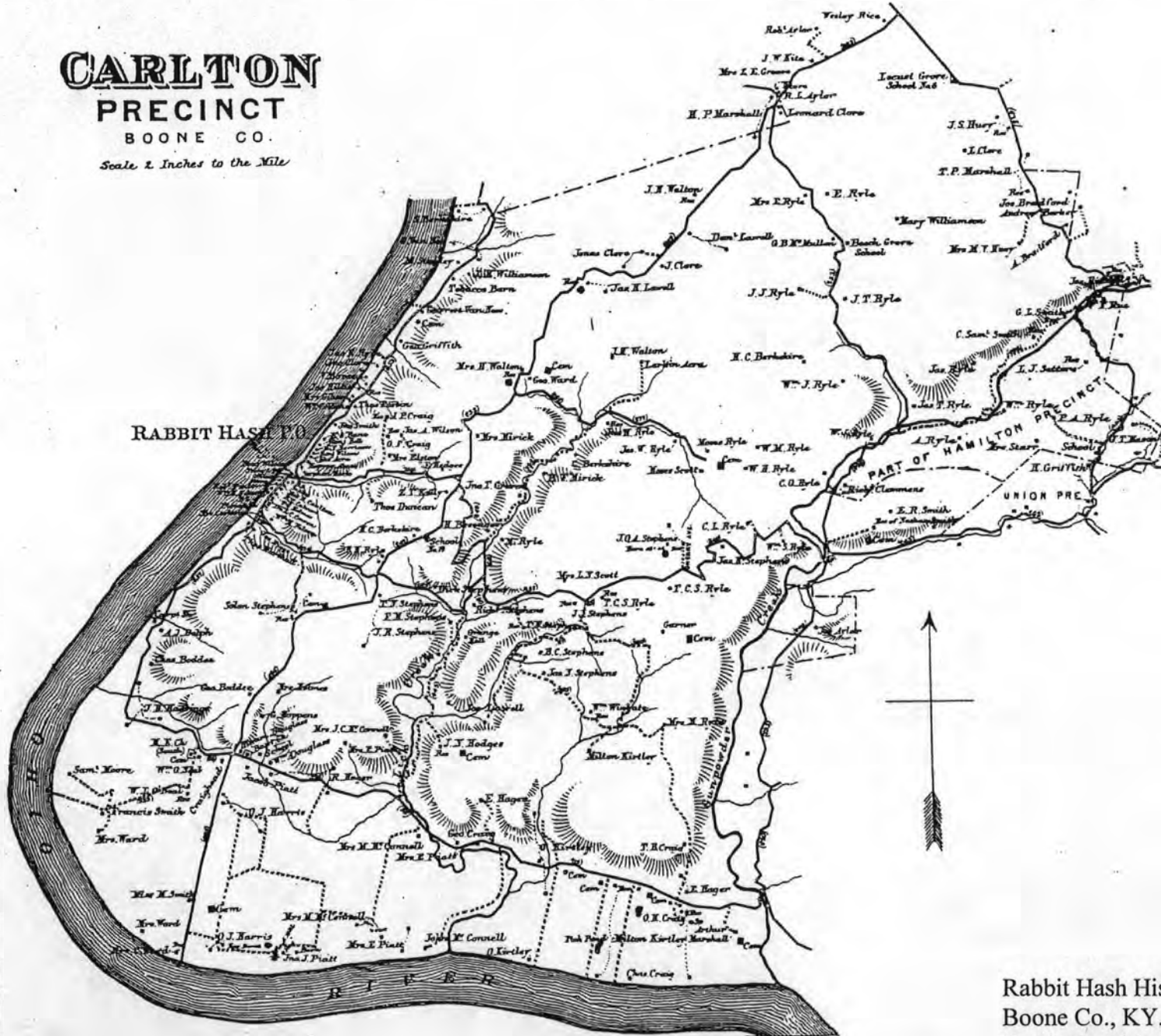
Rabbit Hash Historic District, Boone Co., KY. Map of Carlton Precinct and Rabbit Hash, from Lake's atlas (1883).

RABBIT HASH, KY
OPPOSITE RISING SUN, IND.
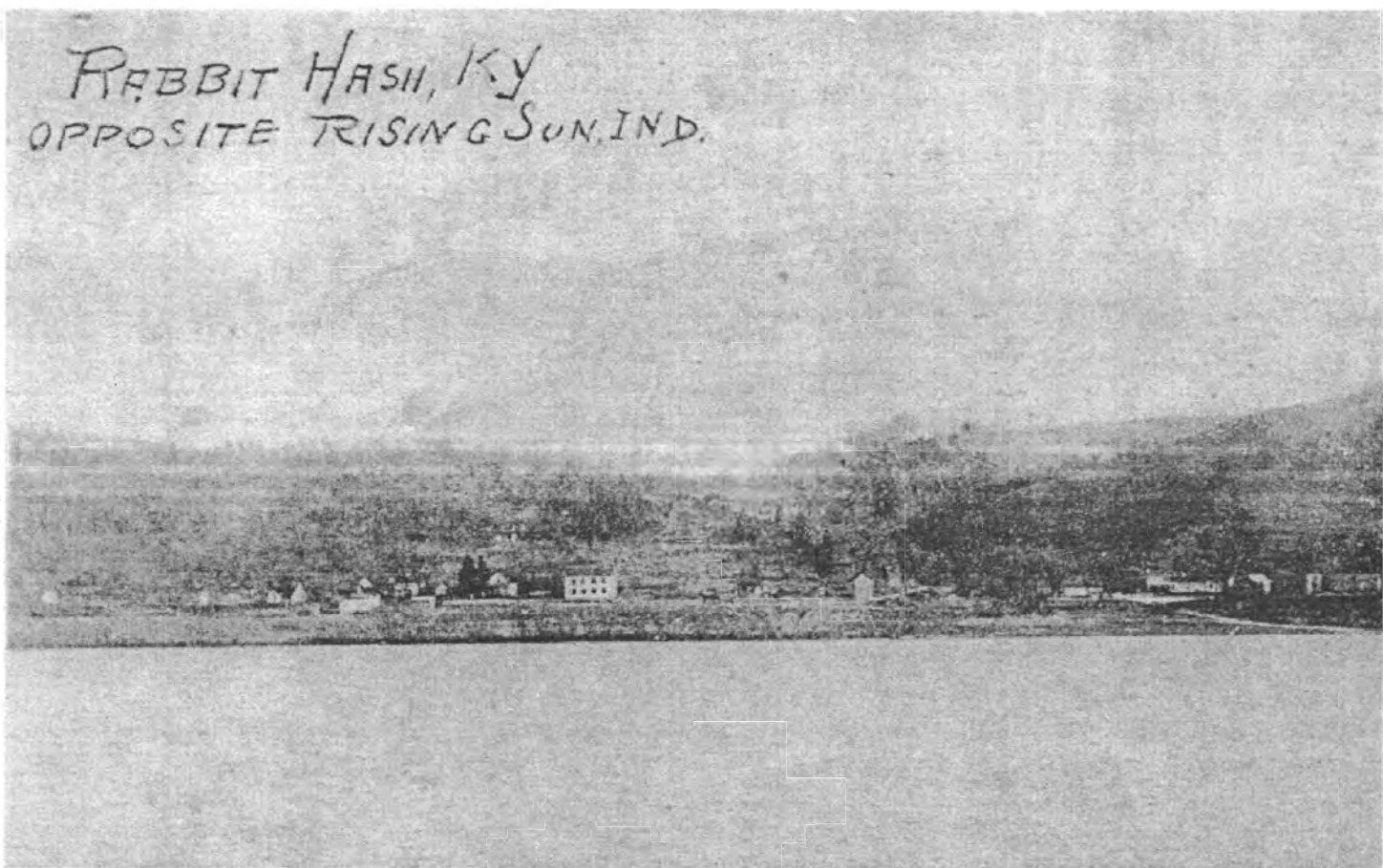
Rabbit Hash Historic District,
Boone Co., KY. Undated archival
view of Rabbit Hash, taken from
Rising Sun, Indiana
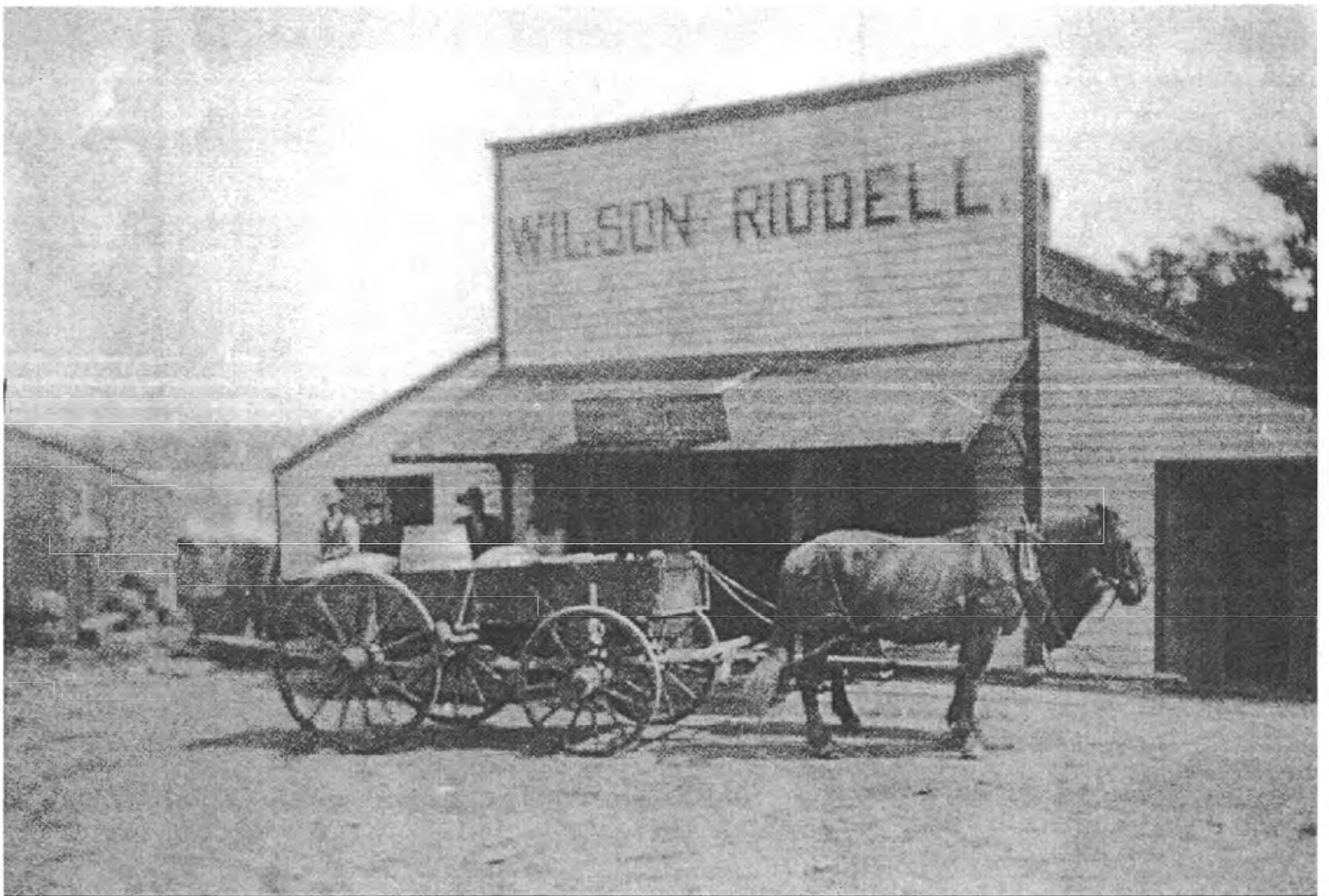
Rabbit Hash Historic District, Boone Co., KY. View of Rabbit Hash General Store, taken in 1897 by traveler Reuben Gold Thwaites.
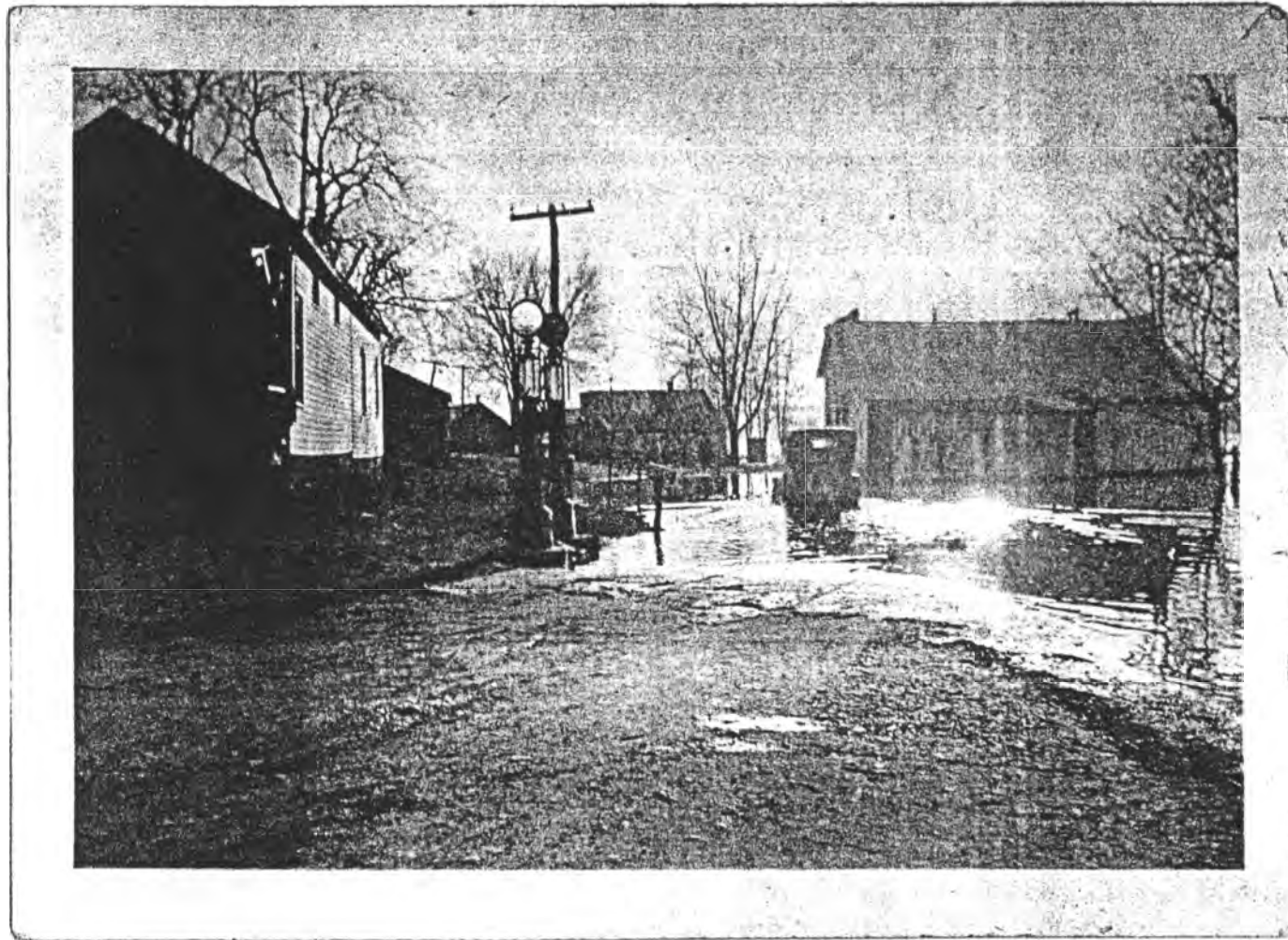
Rabbit Hash Historic District,
Boone Co., KY. 1930s flood
view: looking west on Lower
River Road.
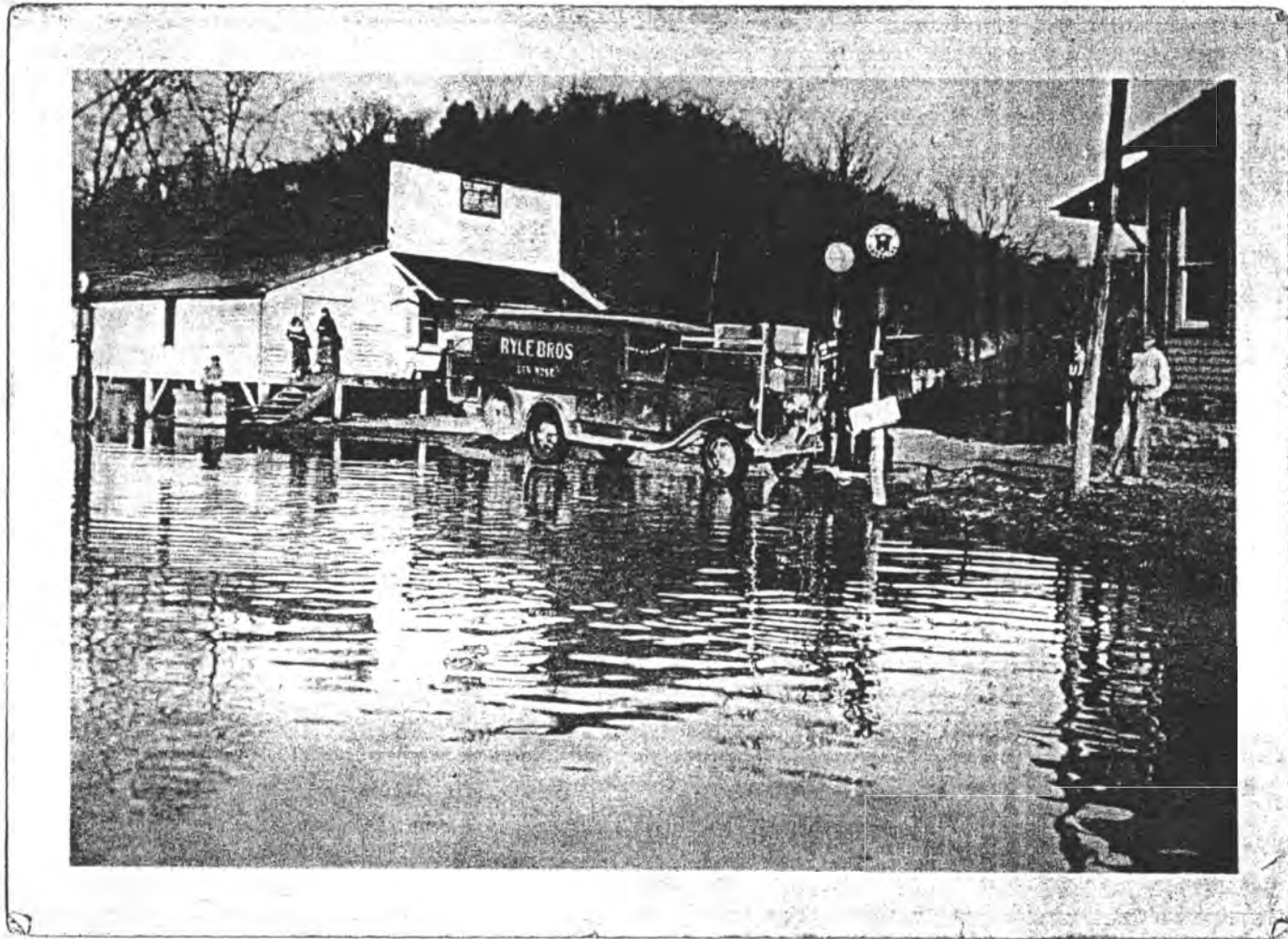
Rabbit Hash Historic District, Boone Co., KY. 1930s flood view: General Store at left, blacksmith shop/gas station at right.

Rabbit Hash Historic District, Boone Co., KY. 1937 flood damage: floating outbuilding at rear of Rabbit Hash Ironworks.
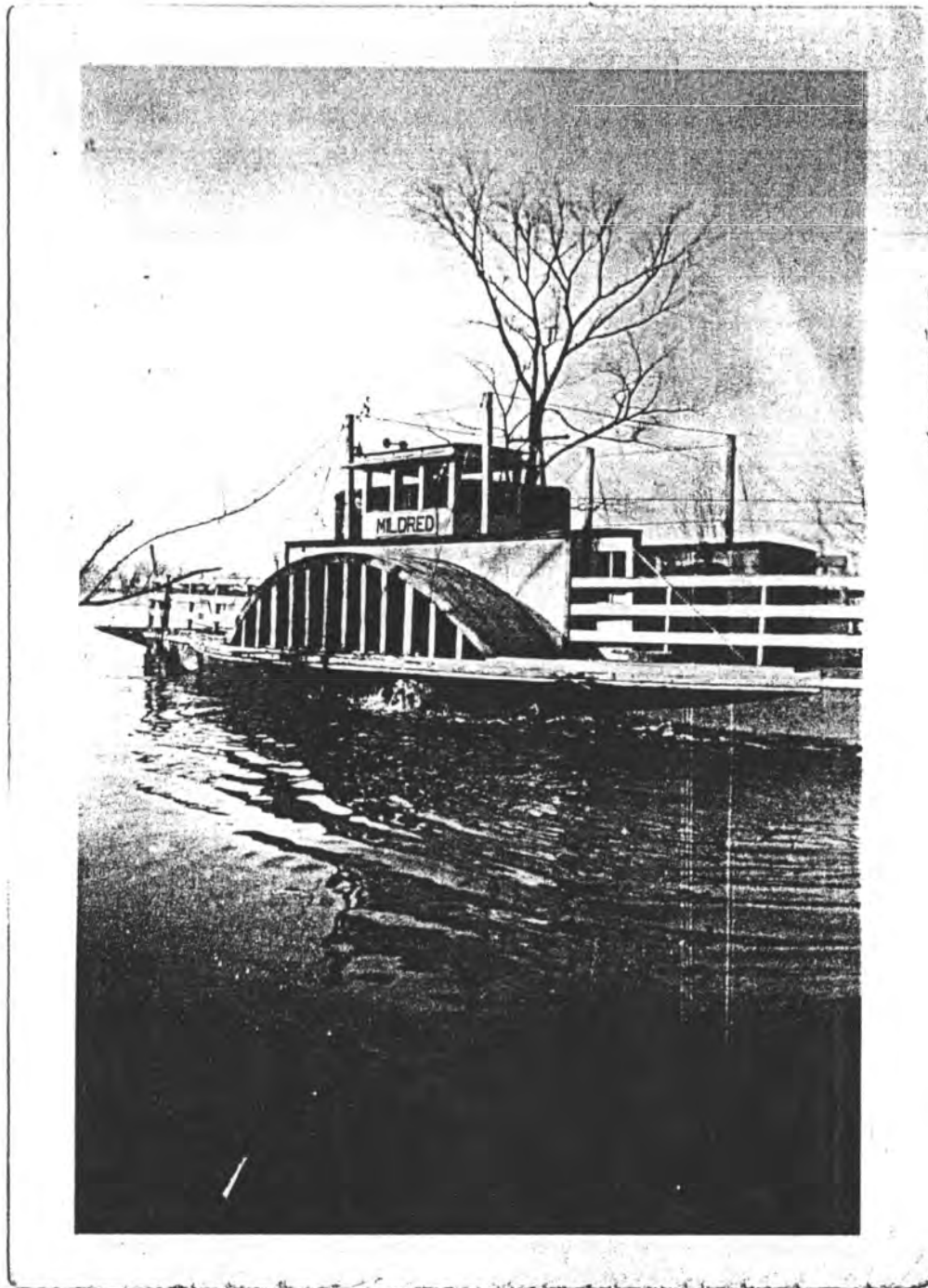
Rabbit Hash Historic District, Boone Co., KY. Undated view of *Mildred*, the last operating Rabbit Hash ferryboat.
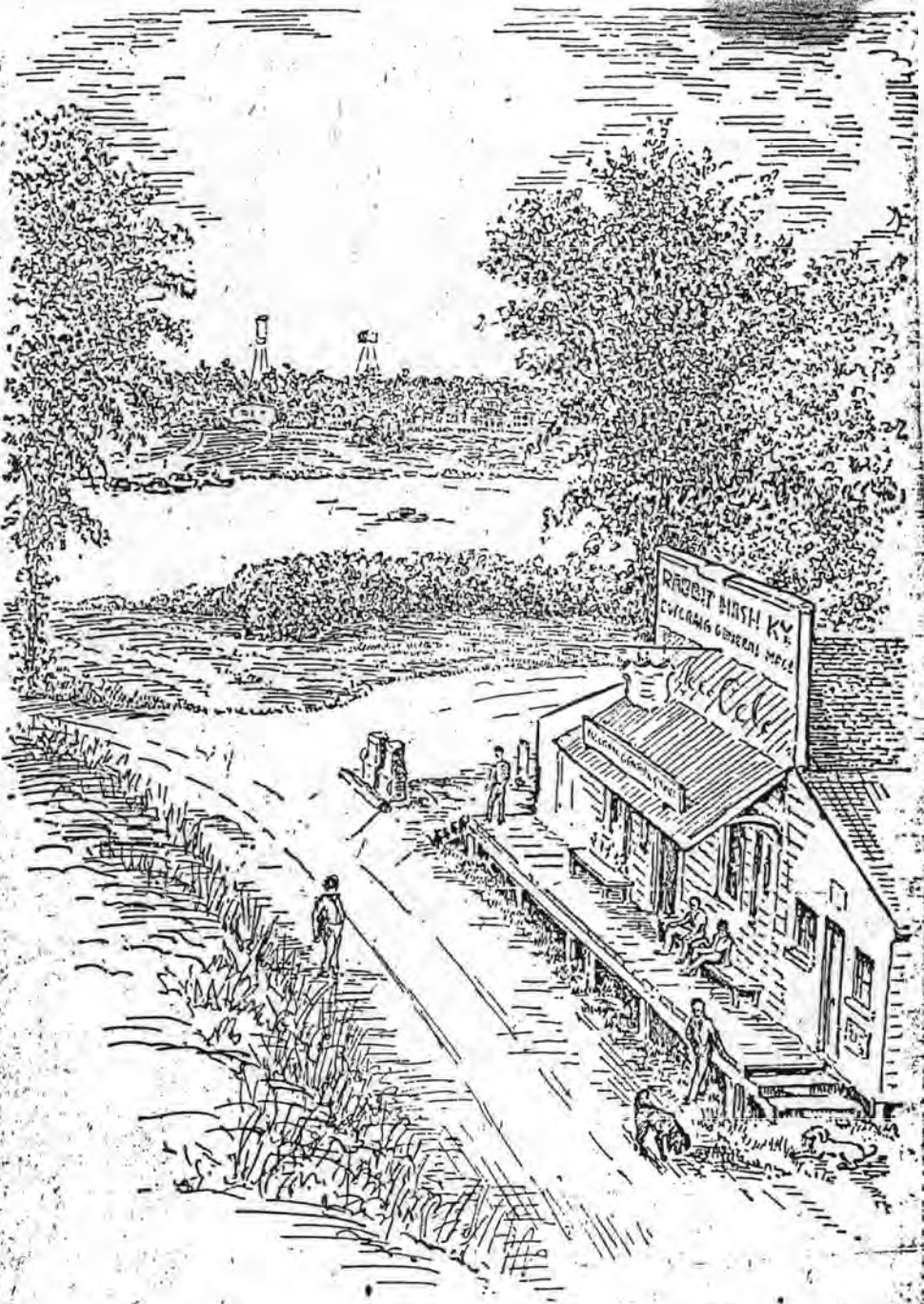
A SPOT IN KENTUCKY

Considering its size, a surprisingly large number of people seem to know, or know of, Rabbit Hash, Kentucky. It's just a tiny, friendly place on the Ohio River in Boone County, quiet and very peaceful. For many years a ferry connected the town with Rising Sun, Indiana, the first one, in 1816 run by a Mr. Meeks. It was then, so they say, that travelers were told there was "rabbit hash" to eat on the Kentucky side of the river, and so the name was acquired. Now the center of the community, in which only 14 houses were left by the 1937 flood, is the general store run by C. W. Craig, third owner of the 125-year-old business. Just a trace of the old road to the ferry harbor remains. There is no transportation to the Indiana side of the river.

—Sketch by Caroline Williams

Rabbit Hash Historic District, Boone Co., KY. 1960 line drawing of Rabbit Hash General Store, by artist Caroline Williams.

District inventory map. Cross-hatching denotes noncontributing resources.
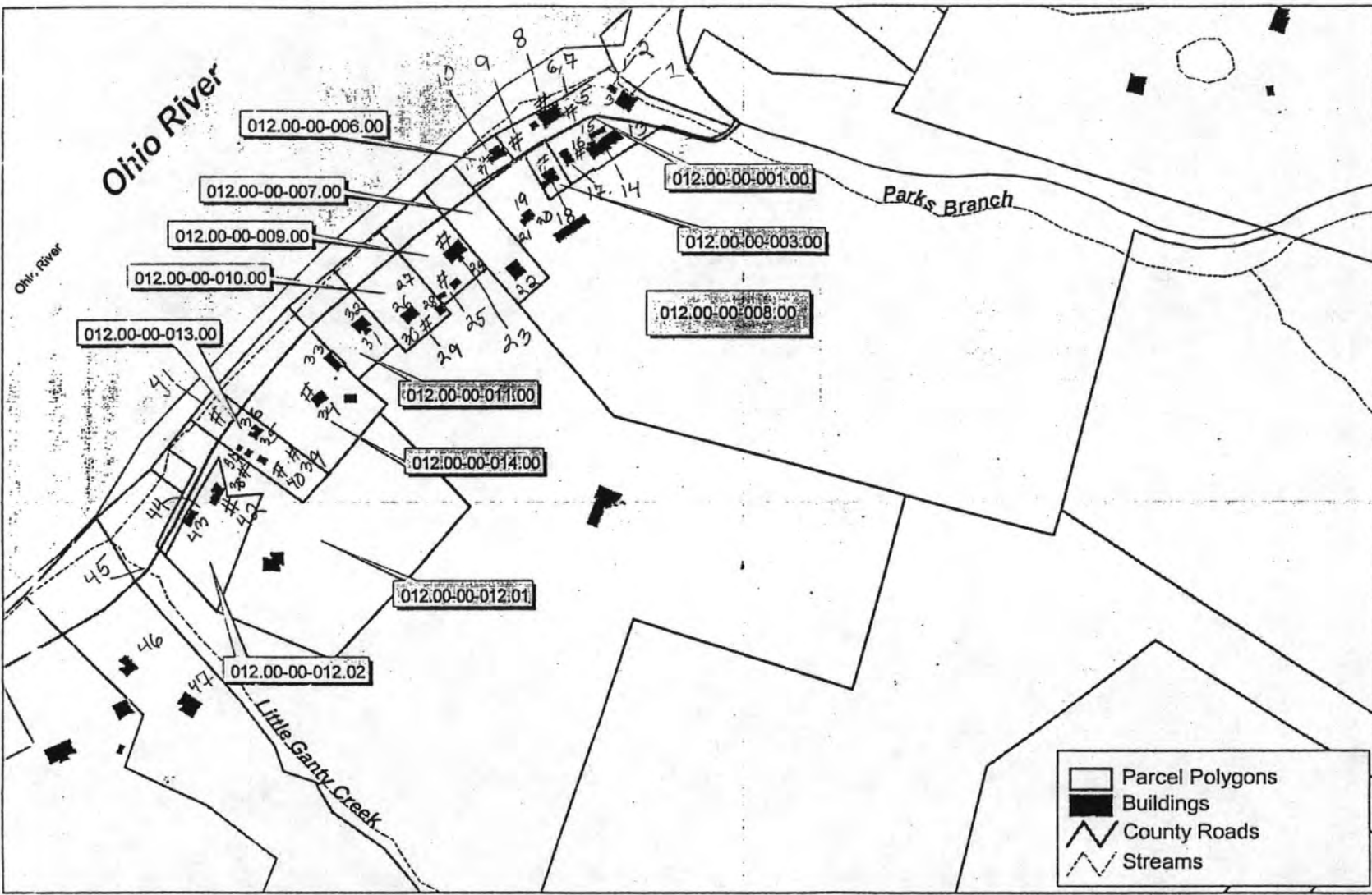
Rabbit Hash Historic District
Boone County, Kentucky

300   0   300 Feet

Produced by the
Boone County Planning Commission
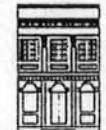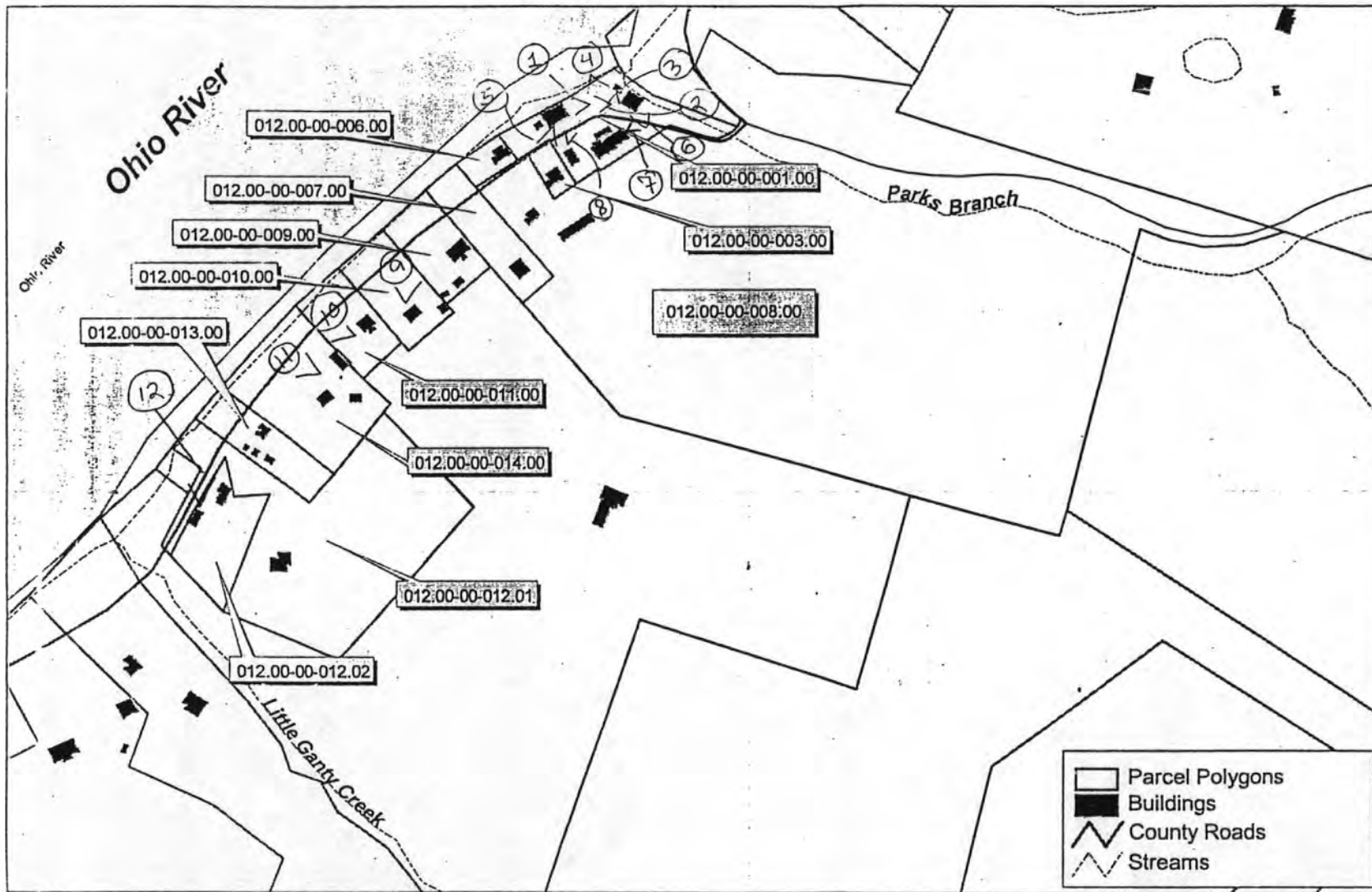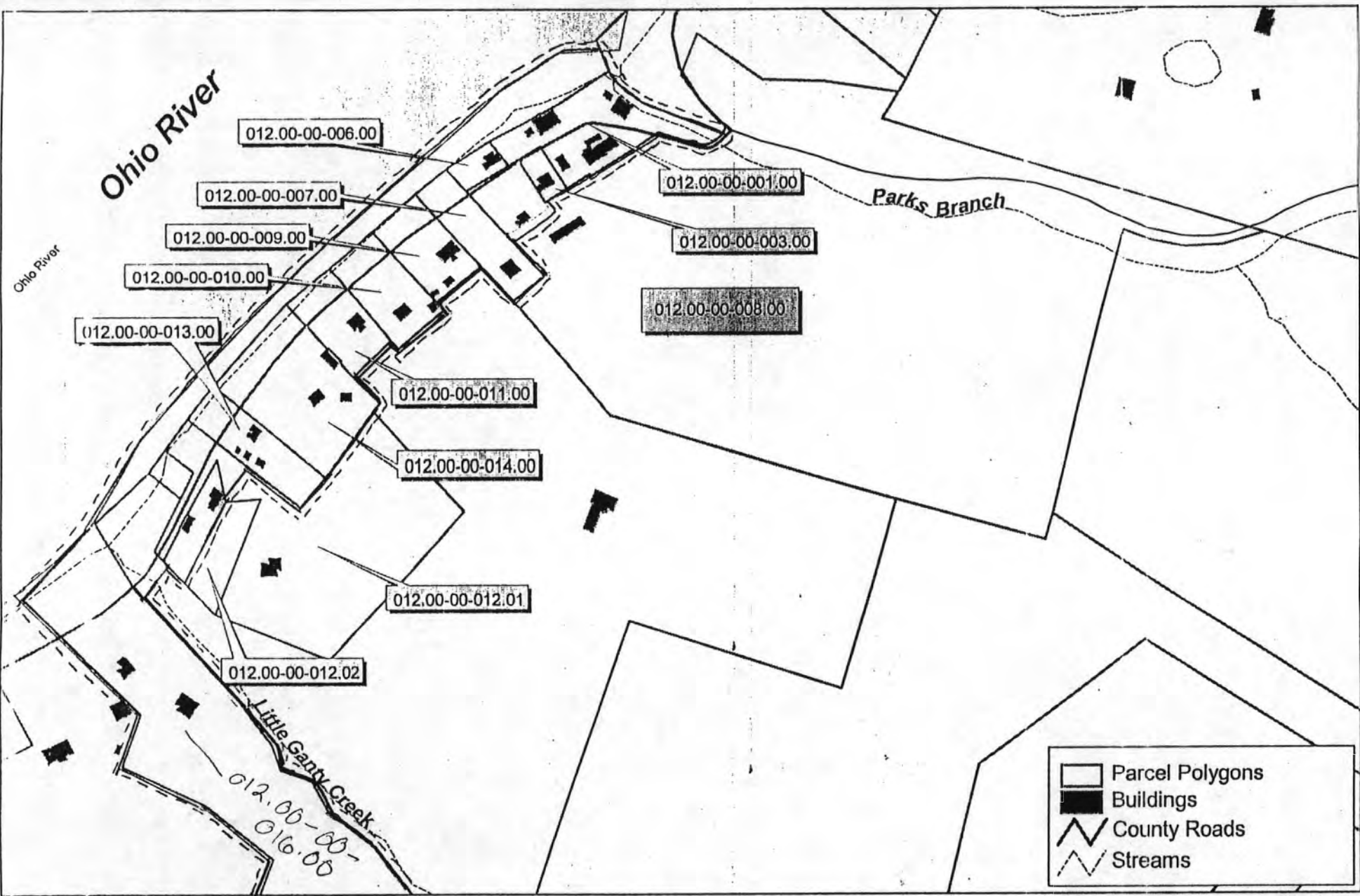GIS Services Division
July 1, 2003

Parcel Polygons
Buildings
County Roads
Streams

Photo key map. Photo numbers in circles.

Ohio River

Ohr. River

Parks Branch

Little Ganty Creek

012.00-00-006.00

012.00-00-007.00

012.00-00-009.00

012.00-00-010.00

012.00-00-013.00

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012.00-00-012.01

012.00-00-012.02

012.00-00-001.00

012.00-00-003.00

012.00-00-008.00

Parcel Polygons
Buildings
County Roads
Streams

Rabbit Hash Historic District
Boone County, Kentucky

300   0   300 Feet

Produced by the
Boone County Planning Commission
GIS Services Division
July 1, 2003

GIS

Ohio River

012.00-00-006.00

Ohio River

012.00-00-007.00

012.00-00-009.00

012.00-00-010.00

012.00-00-013.00

012.00-00-011.00

012.00-00-014.00

012.00-00-012.01

012.00-00-012.02

012.00-00-001.00

Parks Branch

012.00-00-003.00

012.00-00-008.00

Little Gunpowder Creek

012.00-00-016.00

Parcel Polygons
Buildings
County Roads
Streams

Rabbit Hash Historic District
Boone County, Kentucky

300   0   300 Feet

Produced by the
Boone County Planning Commission
GIS Services Division
July 1, 2003

N
W GIS E
S
BOONE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Dashed line indicates district boundary.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number ———— Page ————

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 03001231

Date of Listing: December 4, 2003

Property Name: Rabbit Hash Historic District

County: Boone

State: Kentucky

___none___
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

_____
Signature of the Keeper

___December 4, 2003___
Date of Action

===

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 2. Location
The entry for street & number is hereby changed to 10021 through 10410 Lower River Rd.

The Kentucky State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:
    National Register property file
    Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY   Rabbit Hash Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE   Boone County, Kentucky MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KENTUCKY, Boone

DATE RECEIVED: 10/20/03   DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/19/03
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/05/03   DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/04/03
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 03001231

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N   DATA PROBLEM: N   LANDSCAPE: N   LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N   PDIL: N   PERIOD: N   PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N   SAMPLE: N   SLR DRAFT: Y   NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

✔ ACCEPT   ___RETURN   ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Rabbit Hash Historic District is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of community planning and development. Founded as a ferry crossing on the Ohio River about 1814, Rabbit Hash emerged as a local center of commerce and transportation. By the mid-nineteenth century it was a thriving community with a post office and regular packet boat service. Its influence began to decline in the early twentieth century as the automobile and other forms of transportation dramatically reduced river traffic. Today, Rabbit Hash retains integrity from its period of significance and reflects the history of commerce and trade on the Ohio River.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept - A
REVIEWER Daniel Vivian   DISCIPLINE Historian
TELEPHONE (202)354-2252 DATE 12/4/03

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR (Y)/N

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF KENTUCKY
KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

RISING SUN QUADRANGLE
INDIANA–KENTUCKY
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE/4 RISING SUN 15' QUADRANGLE

Map labels (selected)

Camp Shor

Belleview (Grant PO)

McVille

Waterloo

RANDOLPH

OHIO RIVER

Rising Sun

Rabbit Hash

BOONE CO

UPPER EAST BEND BOTTOM

LOWER EAST BEND BOTTOM

Powerplant

Settling Pond

Norths Landing

POSEY

BOONE CO
SWITZERLAND CO

KENTUCKY
INDIANA

Hamilton

Big Bone Spring

Big Bone Lick State Park

Handwritten annotations (left margin)

Rabbit Hash
Boone Co, Ky

MPS: Historical and Architectural Resources of Boone County, Kentucky 1789–1970

All points Zone 16

easting northing
1) 686700/4312400
2) 686760/4312310
3) 686360/4311890
4) 686250/4311980

UTM correction 1/23/08
1) 16/686707/4312615
2) 16/686758/4312525
3) 16/686355/4312105
4) 16/686270/4312207

Handwritten annotations (bottom)

Rabbit Hash
Historic District
Boone Co., KY

A = 16/686400/4312700
B = 16/686310/4312750
C = 16/086360/4311890
D = 16/086250/4311900

RISING SUN, IND.–KY.
38084-H7-TF-024

1981
MINOR REVISION 1994

SCALE 1:24 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface ____
Secondary highway, hard surface ____
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface ____
Unimproved road ====

Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Education, Arts and Humanities Cabinet

KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL

The State Historic Preservation Office

Paul E. Patton
Governor
Marlene M. Helm
Cabinet Secretary

David L. Morgan
Executive Director and
SHPO

September 29, 2003

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief
National Park Service, US Department of Interior
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street, NW   8th Floor
Washington DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed is documentation for Kentucky properties recommended by the Review Board to meet the National Register eligibility criteria at their September 19, 2003 meeting. The properties include:

Dumont Hill, Allen County, KY
Glasgow Central Business District (Boundary Expansion), Barren County, KY
North Race Street Historic District (Boundary Expansion), Barren County, KY
Southwest Glasgow Residential District (Boundary Expansion), Barren County, KY
Rabbit Hash Historic District, Boone County, KY
Lebanon Junction Historic District, Bullitt County, KY
Pendennis Club, Jefferson County, KY
Stone Historic District, Pike County, KY

As State Historic Preservation Officer, I conclude that these properties meet the National Register eligibility criteria. I request that they be entered in the National Register of Historic Places.

Also included is documentation for a property we are petitioning for removal. This is the **Redbird River Petroglyph** (15Cy51), which was listed on 9/8/89 as part of the Multiple Property Submission, **Prehistoric Rock Art Sites in Kentucky MPS.** This property has been removed from its original location and put into another place, destroying its integrity of location.

Thank you for considering the eligibility of these Kentucky properties.

Sincerely,

David L. Morgan, Executive Director
Kentucky Heritage Council and
State Historic Preservation Officer

300 Washington Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
An equal opportunity employer M/F/D

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PAYS

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