



August 14, 2020

Ms. Emily Truebner  
Mercer County Solar Project, LLC  
422 Admiral Boulevard  
Kansas City, MO 64106

**Re: Desktop Cultural Resources Review for the Mercer County Solar Project, Mercer County, Kentucky**

Dear Ms. Truebner:

Ecology and Environment, Inc. (E & E) is pleased to provide this letter report to Mercer County Solar Project, LLC (Mercer County Solar) summarizing our desktop cultural resources review for the proposed Mercer County Solar Project (Project), located in Mercer County, Kentucky.

## **INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION**

Mercer County Solar proposes to develop a solar energy project on private agricultural land encompassing approximately 1,843 acres. The proposed Project is located west of Louisville Road (U.S. Route 127) and north of Bohon Road (Route 390). The Project area, plus a 1-mile buffer, is depicted in Figure 1 in Attachment A.

## **METHODOLOGY**

E & E reviewed historic structures and cemeteries within the Project boundary and a 1-mile buffer of the Project boundary (collectively, the Study Area) which is consistent with typical background research studies conducted for cultural resources evaluations. Archaeological information is provided for resources located within the Project boundary and the immediate vicinity (defined as approximately 30 meters [m] from the boundary line).

To conduct the desktop cultural resources review, E & E first examined historic topographic maps to provide context and an understanding of the potential for historic resources to be present within the Study Area. E & E then examined digital, geospatial cultural resource data obtained from the National Park Service's (NPS) website for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and National Historic Landmark listings, as well as archaeological site, historic above-ground structure, cemetery, and survey data obtained from the Kentucky Heritage Council (KHC - State Historic Preservation Office [SHPO]) and the Kentucky Office of the State Archaeologist (KY OSA). This desktop cultural resources review resulted in a list of known historic structures and cemeteries within the Study Area and archaeological sites within the Project boundary and the immediate vicinity.

Data provided by the KHC included a list of above-ground resources and spatial data files. The data provided by the KHC is noted as confidential information that is not for public release. The locational information is included herein in accordance with the flow-down agreement signed between E & E and Mercer County Solar.

Information obtained from the KY OSA for a preliminary records review is limited to a listing of resources within the Project boundary and the immediate vicinity; no locational information is provided as part of the KY OSA request. Per informal discussions with the KY OSA, the preliminary records review was the appropriate request for this type of evaluation. A review that would provide additional information on archaeological sites would require registering the project, an action typically done for compliance projects (i.e., Section 106). Therefore, the specific locations of archaeological sites are not included as part of this desktop cultural resources review.

## **RESULTS**

### **Historic Map Review**

Publicly available historic maps indicate that structures were once present within the Study Area, which suggests that archaeological sites potentially could be found. A 1905 United States Geological Survey (USGS) map identifies structures within the Project area, both along the railroad tracks and near what is now Highway 390 and within the northern portions of the Project area (see Figure 2 in Attachment A). Structures located within the Study Area primarily are located along the roadways surrounding the Project area (USGS 1905). Some of these structures appear to match the location of previously identified historic resources noted in the KHC records.

A 1941 Road Map from the Kentucky Department of Highways depicts the location of structures in similar locations as the 1905 topographic map (see Figure 3 in Attachment A). These structures largely are located along roadways, such as the current Highway 390 and McCroskey Pike (in the northern portion of the Project area) (Kentucky Department of Highways 1941). As with the 1905 USGS map, some of these structures appear to match the location of previously identified historic resources noted in the KHC records.

### **Archaeological Sites and Surveys**

Based on a review of the archaeological information obtained from the KY OSA, seven archaeological sites are located within the Project area or within its immediate vicinity (defined as the area within 30 m of the Project boundary). These include five archaeological sites noted as open habitation without mounds and two archaeological sites noted as historic farms/residences (KY OSA 2019).

Among the five open habitation without mounds sites, three have not been assessed for their NRHP eligibility, and two are noted inventory sites that do not presently meet NRHP criteria. Among the historic farms/residences, one is eligible for the NRHP, and one is shown as an inventory site that does not presently meet the NRHP criteria (KY OSA 2019).

One previous archaeological survey was conducted within the Project boundary. This survey appears to follow the railroad tracks, located near the western portions of the Project. Four additional archaeological surveys were conducted in the vicinity of the Project to the east of Louisville Road (U.S. Route 127), and one was conducted south of Bohon Road (KY OSA 2019).

## **Above-Ground Historic Resources**

No NRHP-listed properties are located within the Project boundary. However, eight individual properties and one historic district are located within the Study Area, including a historic district that is immediately adjacent to the Project boundary. These records include the following:

- George McAfee House
- James McAfee House
- John McGee House
- Aspen Hall
- Peter Dunn House
- McGee House
- Boise House
- Joseph Morgan House
- McAfee Farm Historic District

The McAfee Farm Historic District was evaluated as a point feature in the NPS dataset. This resource is shown as being within approximately 130 feet of the Project boundary. Therefore, the district may in fact overlap with the Project area. Additional research is needed to confirm the boundaries of this district.

Based on a review of KHC records, five above-ground historic resources are located within the Project boundary. These resources are listed in Table 1. The KHC data also includes an additional 74 above-ground historic resources that are present within the Study Area, are noted in Table 2 in Attachment B, and are depicted on Figure 4 in Attachment A. Based on the review of the KHC records, among the 74 resources, 62 resources have an undetermined status with regard to the NRHP-eligibility; one resource is part of a NRHP-listed complex; eight are listed on the NRHP; one meets the NRHP criteria (i.e., potentially eligible for the NRHP); and two are demolished (KHC 2019). The KHC records noted that resources with an undetermined NRHP-status could actually be eligible for the NRHP as that designation includes features that have been previously determined eligible for listing in the NRHP as part of a consensus determination between the SHPO and a Federal agency, but the determination field has not yet been updated. One of the resources listed as having an undetermined NRHP-status is shown in the KHC records as having a “poor location,” meaning that it may not be depicted in the proper location in maps. In addition, one of these resources is a linear resource, the Norfolk Southern Railroad Trestle (KHC 2019). The KHC records also noted the presence of a historic easement within the Study Area. This easement is approximately 97 acres in size and is associated with Site Identification Number ME-191, the Thomas Logan House. No information was provided on the status of this resource within the KHC records (KHC 2019).

**Table 1 KHC Records for Above-Ground Historic Resources Located within the Project Boundary**

Site Identification Number	Historic Name	Location	NRHP Status
ME 130	House	Bohon Road, east of the Southern railroad tracks	Undetermined
ME 193	John McAfee/Joseph Woods House	Jackson Pike, just east of the railroad	Undetermined
ME 193 <sup>1</sup>	Barn	Jackson Pike, just east of the railroad	Undetermined
ME 511	Farm	1920 Louisville Road	Undetermined
ME 512	Barn	Jackson Pike, just east of the railroad	Undetermined

Source: KHC, 2019.

Notes:

NRHP – National Register of Historic Places

1. This site has the same site number (ME193) as the John McAfee/Joseph Woods House. However, it includes a sub-number (001) indicating the barn is a part of the overall John McAfee/Joseph Woods House, but it was recorded as a separate structure.

The KHC data was compared against the NPS data. While some overlap existed between the location of sites and names of sites, not all NPS listed properties were accounted for within the KHC records. For this reason, both datasets are shown in Attachment A, Figure 4. Among those sites noted in both datasets are the James McAfee House (ME 180), the John McGee House (ME 178), the Peter Dunn House (ME 150), the McGee House (ME 170), and the Joseph Morgan House (ME 172).

## Cemeteries

Per a review of ESRI files, no known cemeteries are located within the Study Area.

## SUMMARY

Seven known archaeological sites are located within the Project area or within its immediate vicinity. Additional research may be necessary to determine the location of these previously identified sites in order to evaluate the potential for avoidance and to understand the potential for additional archaeological resources to be present and/or the need for further archaeological studies.

In addition, five known above-ground resources noted with undetermined NRHP-statuses are located within the Project area. Consideration will need to be made whether these resources are significant (i.e., eligible for listing on the NRHP) and if there is the potential for indirect impacts (e.g., visual effects). Direct impacts would not be anticipated to occur, unless the proposed Project were to require demolition of existing structures.

While no known cemeteries are located within the Study Area, the potential exists for smaller unmarked cemeteries or family plots to be present. Kentucky cemeteries (and human burials in general) are protected from disturbance.

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As resources are present within the larger Study Area, additional consideration may be needed if the Project boundary was to change, thereby incorporating additional known resources or reducing the distance between the Project boundary and known historic structures.

Furthermore, if a federal and/or state permit is needed for construction of the Project, consultation with the relevant agencies and/or KHC is recommended to confirm that additional studies or investigations would not be needed prior to construction.

If you have any questions concerning the information provided in this report, please contact me at (312) 578-9243 or at [scooper@ene.com](mailto:scooper@ene.com).

Sincerely,

ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT, INC.



Scott Cooper  
Project Manager

Attachments:  
A – Figures

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## REFERENCES

Kentucky Department of Highways. 1941. Mercer County. Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.  
Accessed June 27, 2019 at:  
<https://transportation.ky.gov/Planning/Maps/MercerCo1941.pdf>.

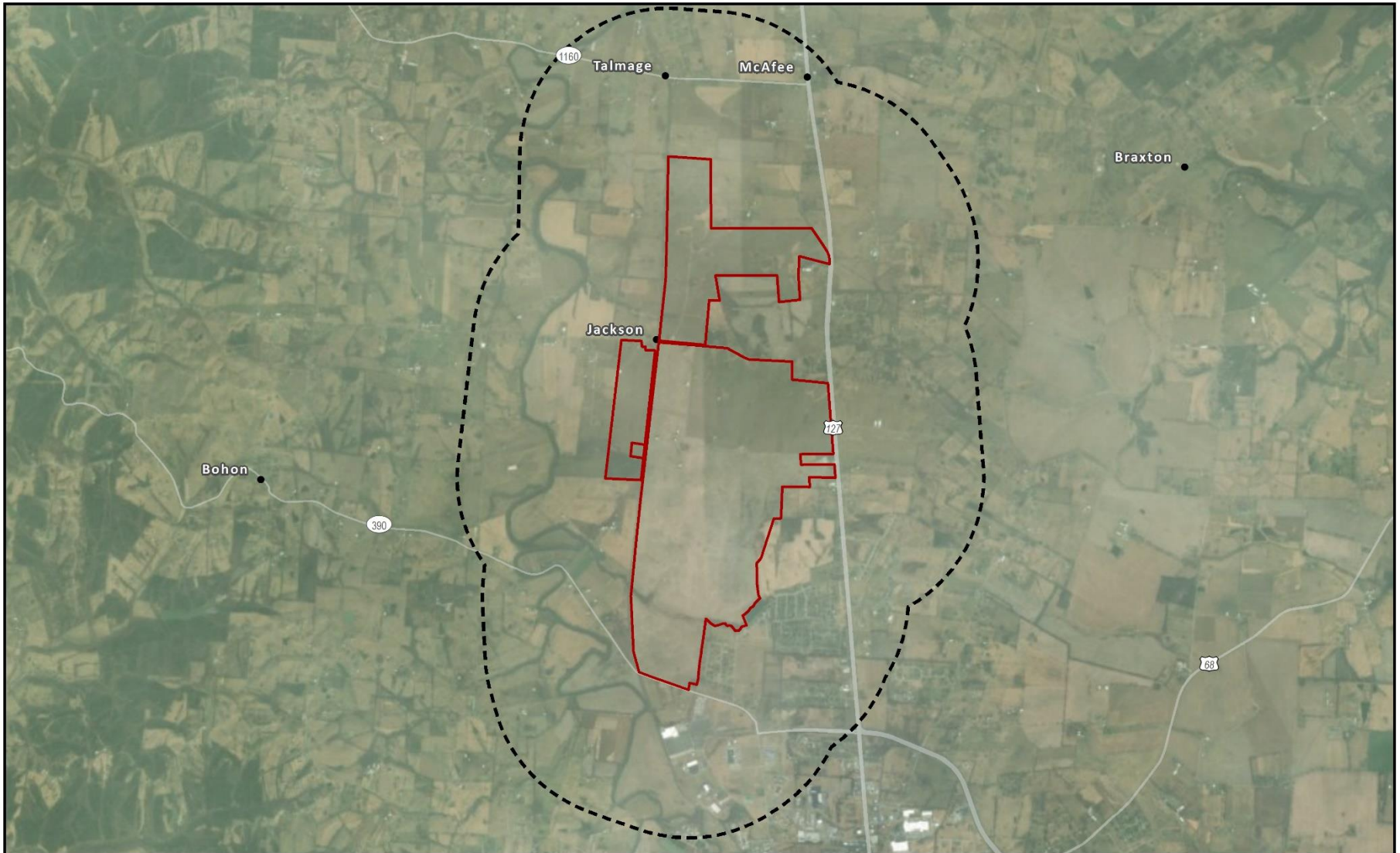
Kentucky Heritage Council (KHC). 2019. GIS Report and Project Information. Dated June 19, 2019.  
[Confidential].

Kentucky Office of the State Archaeologist (KY OSA). 2019. Archaeological Information. June 26,  
2019. [Confidential].

United States Geological Survey (USGS). 1905. Harrodsburg. Accessed June 27, 2019 at:  
[https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/img4/ht\\_icons/overlay/KY/KY\\_Harrodsburg\\_708838\\_1905\\_125000\\_geo.jpg](https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/img4/ht_icons/overlay/KY/KY_Harrodsburg_708838_1905_125000_geo.jpg).

**ATTACHMENT A**

**FIGURES**



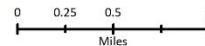
- Populated Place
- ▭ Project Boundary (03-13-2019)
- - - Study Area



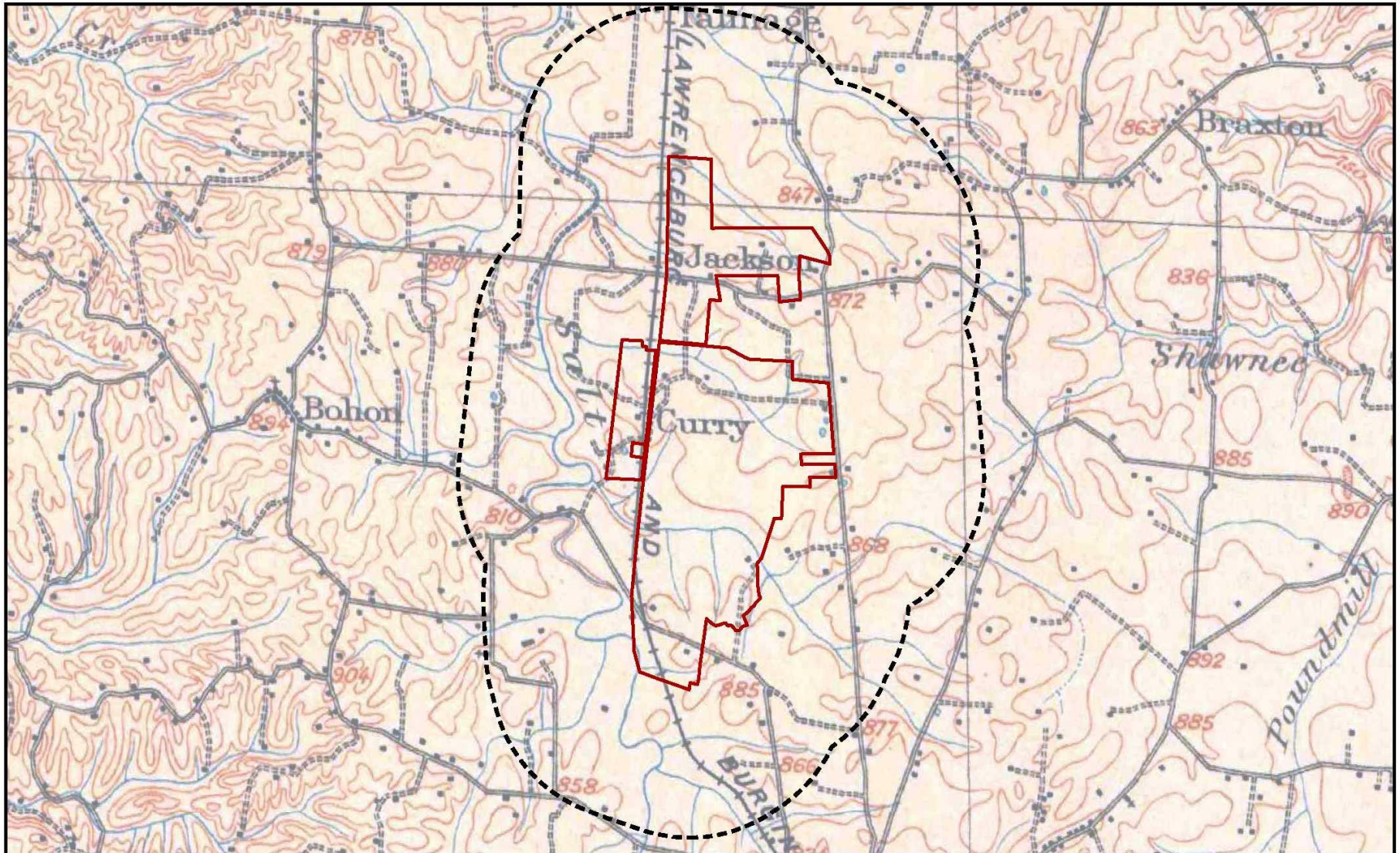
Data Sources:  
 ESRI 2012, 2018;  
 E&E 2019; TWE 2019.

**Figure 1**  
**Project Area**  
**Mercer County Solar Project**

Mercer County, Kentucky







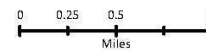
- Project Boundary (03-13-2019)
- Study Area

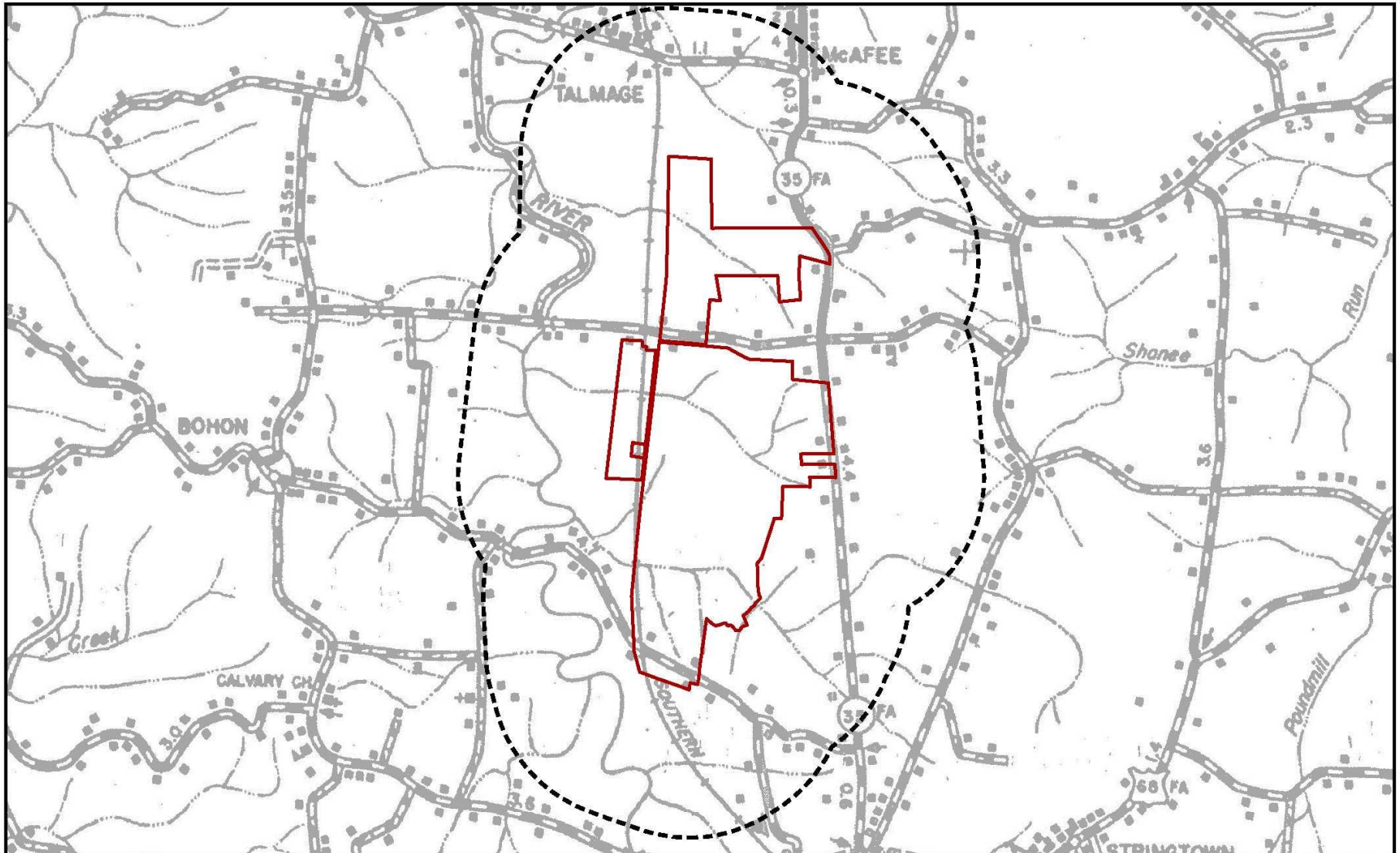


Data Sources:  
 ESRI 2012, 2018;  
 USGS 1905;  
 E&E 2019; TWE 2019.

**Figure 2**  
**1905 USGS Topographic Map**  
**Mercer County Solar Project**

Mercer County, Kentucky





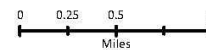
- Project Boundary (03-13-2019)
- Study Area

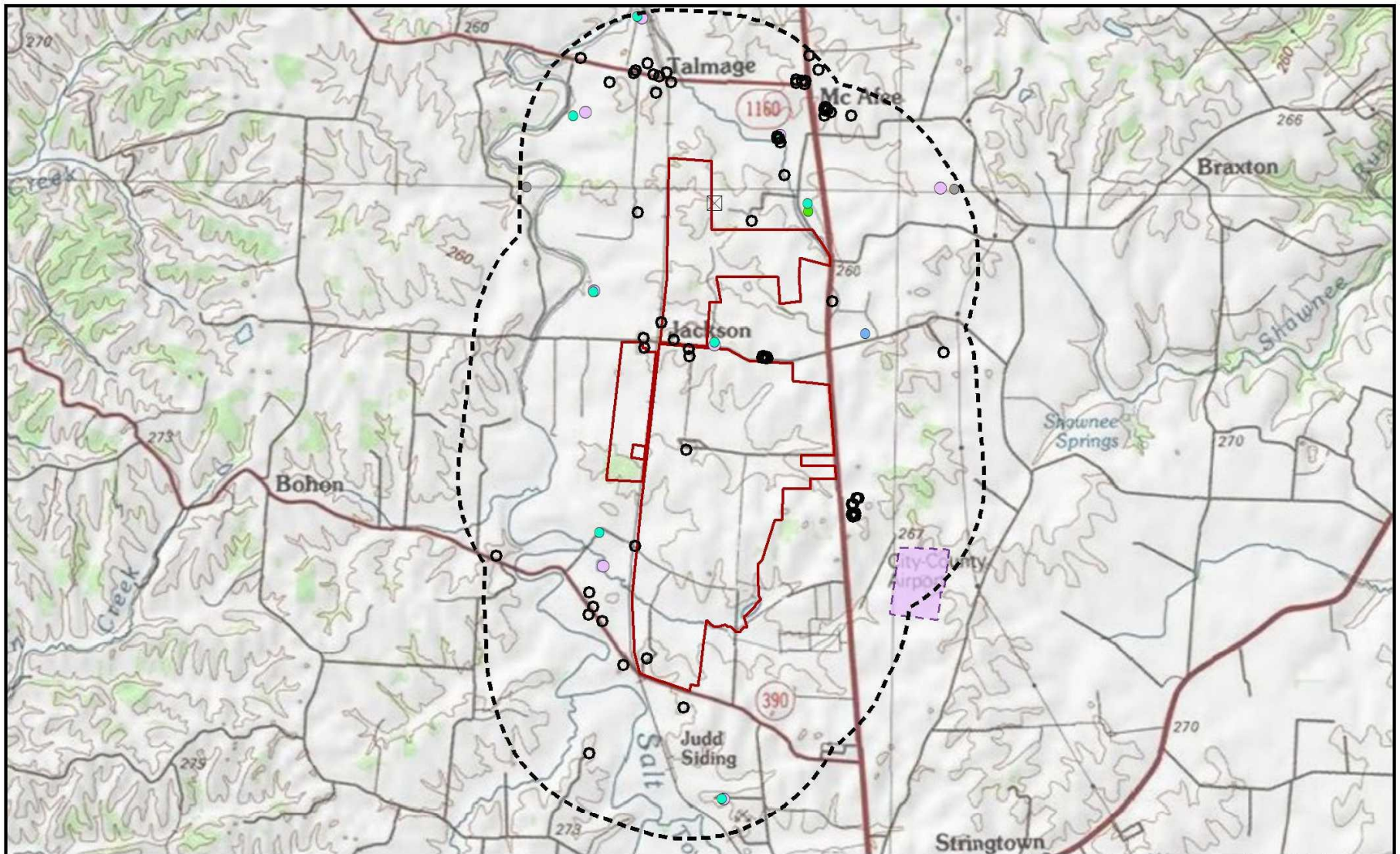


Data Sources:  
 ESRI 2012, 2018;  
 E&E 2019; TWE 2019;  
 Kentucky Department of Highways 1941.

**Figure 3**  
**1941 Road Map**  
**Mercer County Solar Project**

Mercer County, Kentucky





**KHC - Historic Resources**

- Undetermined
- Part of National Register Complex
- NRHP - Listed
- Demolished
- Meets National Register Criteria
- Easement

**NPS - NRHP Listing**

- NRHP-Listed Historic Structures
- NRHP-Listed Historic District

- Project Boundary (03-13-2019)
- Study Area



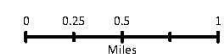
*CULTURAL RESOURCE DATA ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND SHOULD NOT BE PUBLICLY DISTRIBUTED*

*NRHP: National Register of Historic Places*

Data Sources:  
 ESRI 2012, 2018;  
 KHC 2019, NRHP 2017,  
 ESE 2019, TWE 2019.

**Figure 4  
 Cultural Resources  
 Mercer County Solar Project**

**Mercer County, Kentucky**



**ATTACHMENT B**

**TABLES**

**Table 1 KHC- Records Above-Ground Historic Resources within the Study Area**

Site Number	Sub-Site Number	Historic Name	Location	NRHP Status
ME 38	-	House (Demol. 1987)	Mundys Landing Road & Unity Road	Demolished
ME 56	-	Evan Thompson/John Dean House	397 Mccroskey Road	Undetermined
ME 57	-	John & Joseph Lillard House	218 Mccroskey Road	Meets N/R Criteria
ME 128	-	Samuel McAfee House	.25 miles east of 1160 on East Bank of Salt River (Talmadge Road)	National Register
ME 129	-	Boise House (Fountain Blue)	1383 Bohon Road; North Side of Bohon Road, East of Salt River	National Register
ME 130	-	<b>House</b>	<b>Bohon Road East of Southern Railroad Tracks</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
ME 133	-	House (Burned 1981)	Keonon Road Between Talmage Jackson Roads	Demolished
ME 140	-	W. S. Vanarsdall House	Bohon Road Just West of Salt River	Undetermined
ME 150	002	Smokehouse # El #	360 Hudson Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 150	003	Servant's Quarters # El #	360 Hudson Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 150	004	Pump House # El #	360 Hudson Road	Undetermined
ME 150	005	Stock Barn	360 Hudson Road	Undetermined
ME 150	-	Peter Dunn House (Lone Pine)	Old US 127 South of McAfee (360 Hudson Road)	National Register
ME 151	-	McAfee Complex (James J. McAfee House)	Old Louisville Road	National Register
ME 152	-	McAfee Complex (John A. McAfee House)	201 Old Louisville Road	Part of N/R Complex
ME 167	-	Little Peter Dunn House	Harrodsburg-Frankfort Pike, 2.75 miles North of Harrodsburg	Undetermined
ME 169	-	Viney Grove	6 miles north of Harrodsburg	Undetermined
ME 170	-	McGee House (Oakview)	Jackson Road, 5 miles Northwest of Harrodsburg	National Register
ME 172	-	Joseph Morgan House (Round Ridge)	Moberly Road Across from Mercer Co. High School	National Register
ME 178	-	John McGee House	Jackson Pike East of Salt River	National Register
ME 180	-	James McAfee House	Off N Side Talmage Rd/.4 M East of Salt River	National Register

**Table 1 KHC- Records Above-Ground Historic Resources within the Study Area**

Site Number	Sub-Site Number	Historic Name	Location	NRHP Status
ME 193	001	Barn	Jackson Pike, Just East of River	Undetermined
ME 193	-	John McAfee/Joseph Woods House	Jackson Pike, Just East of River	Undetermined
ME 194	-	Wm. & Geo. Robinson House	3049 Louisville Road	Undetermined
ME 473	-	Smokehouse	Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 474	-	House	2910 Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 474	002	Garage	2910 Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 474	003	Smokehouse	2910 Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 474	004	Tobacco Barn	2910 Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 474	005	Dairy Barn	2910 Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 475	-	John Preston Farm	2839 Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 475	002	Smokehouse	2839 Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 475	003	Chicken House	2839 Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 475	004	Cistern	2839 Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 475	005	Servant's Quarters	2839 Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 475	006	Stock/Dairy Barn	2839 Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 475	007	Tobacco Barn	2839 Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 475	008	Tobacco Barn	2839 Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 476	-	House	265 Jackson Pike, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 476	002	Well	265 Jackson Pike, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 476	003	Meathouse/Root Cellar	265 Jackson Pike, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 476	004	Cart Shed/Garage	265 Jackson Pike, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 476	005	Outbuilding	265 Jackson Pike, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 476	006	Tobacco Barn	265 Jackson Pike, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 479	-	House	1749 Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 479	002	Root Cellar	1749 Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 479	003	Tool Shed/Workshop	1749 Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 479	004	Garage	1749 Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 479	005	Multi-Purpose Barn	1749 Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined

**Table 1 KHC- Records Above-Ground Historic Resources within the Study Area**

Site Number	Sub-Site Number	Historic Name	Location	NRHP Status
ME 479	006	Chicken House	1749 Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 479	007	Multi-Purpose Barn	1749 Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 479	008	Agricultural Outbuilding	1749 Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 479	009	Tobacco Barn	1749 Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 479	010	Stripping Shed	1749 Louisville Road, Harrodsburg, KY	Undetermined
ME 503	-	Kirby House	1411 Cornishville Road	Undetermined
ME 504	-	Barns (2)	916 Bohon Road	Undetermined
ME 505	-	House	1108 Bohon Road	Undetermined
ME 506	-	House	1220 Bohon Road	Undetermined
ME 507	-	House	1271 Bohon Road	Undetermined
ME 508	-	Barn	1327 Bohon Road	Undetermined
ME 509	-	Barns (2) and Silo	Bohon Road, 1.7 Miles Northwest of Junction with Industry Road	Undetermined
ME 510	-	Culvert Over Fontaine Trace	Supporting Norfolk Southern Railroad Track Over Fontaine Trace	Undetermined
ME 511	-	<b>Farm</b>	<b>1920 Louisville Road</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
ME 512	-	<b>Barn</b>	<b>Jackson Pike, Just East of Railroad</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
ME 513	-	Barns (3)	589 Jackson Pike	Undetermined
ME 514	-	House	600 Jackson Pike	Undetermined
ME 515	-	House and Barns (4)	586 Talmage Mayo Road	Undetermined
ME 516	-	House	496 Talmage Mayo Road	Undetermined
ME 517	-	House	509 Talmage Mayo Road	Undetermined
ME 518	-	Talmage Mayo Store	527 Talmage Mayo Road	Undetermined
ME 519	-	House	557 Talmage Mayo Road	Undetermined
ME 520	-	House	532 Talmage Mayo Road	Undetermined
ME 521	-	House	581 Talmage Mayo Road	Undetermined
ME 522	-	House	605 Talmage Mayo Road	Undetermined
ME 523	-	Barns (2)	South Side Talmage Mayo Road, 1.19 Miles W. of Junction with Us 127	Undetermined

**Table 1 KHC- Records Above-Ground Historic Resources within the Study Area**

Site Number	Sub-Site Number	Historic Name	Location	NRHP Status
ME 524	-	Barns (and Modern House)	658 Talmage Mayo Road	Undetermined
ME 525	-	House	761 Talmage Mayo Road	Undetermined
ME 534	-	Farm and Farmhouse	202 Hudson Road	Undetermined
ME 539	-	Norfolk Southern Railroad Trestle	.16 miles North of Railroad's Intersection with Jackson Pike	Undetermined

Source: KHC, 2019.

Notes:

**Bolded text** indicates that resource is located within the Project boundary.

NRHP – National Register of Historic Places