



April 26, 2021

Joshua Adams
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Louisville, Kentucky 40223-5308

RE: Cultural Historic Overview Study for the Mercer County Solar Project in
Mercer County, Kentucky
CRA Project Number: K20S007
CRA Publication Series: 20-399

Dear Mr. Adams:

In August and September 2020, Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. (CRA), personnel completed a cultural historic due diligence overview study for the proposed Mercer County Solar project in Mercer County, Kentucky. The cultural historic overview study examined the project area and a 1,000 ft buffer (study area) surrounding the project area north of Harrodsburg in Mercer County, Kentucky (Figures 1 and 2). The study area includes a portion of Louisville Road (US 127, extending in a general north-south direction along the eastern portion of the study area), Bohon Road (KY 390, extending in a general east-west direction in the southern portion of the study area), Jackson Pike (extending in a general east-west direction and bisecting the northern portion of the study area), and the Norfolk Southern Railroad (extending in a general north-south direction along the western portion of the study area). The objective of the cultural historic overview study was to verify, to the extent possible from the existing public roadways, the location and condition of previously recorded cultural historic resources and note the locations of any additional potentially significant properties that should be taken into consideration in project planning. These potentially significant properties may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and were identified so that they may be taken into consideration as project plans develop. This letter report was prepared by architectural historian Sarah Reynolds, MHP. An archaeological study is being conducted by CRA in conjunction with the cultural historic component.

CRA personnel completed a records review at the Kentucky Heritage Council (KHC) on August 31, 2020. Geographic information system (GIS) data provided by the KHC (FY21-4053) identified 44 previously surveyed resources within and adjacent to the study area (ME 57, ME 129, ME 130, ME 150-ME 152, ME 167, ME 169, ME 170, ME 178, ME 193, ME 252, ME 254, ME 256-ME 258, ME 474, ME 475, ME 476, ME 479, ME 503, ME 504-ME 524, ME 534, and ME 539). The KHC GIS data identified the Thomas Logan House easement as well; however, this property is located outside the study area according to the KHC GIS data. Upon closer examination of property boundaries in the vicinity of the study area, it was determined that only 25 of the 44 resources identified by the KHC GIS data actually are located in or adjacent to the study area, with property boundaries extending into the study area (ME 129, ME 130, ME 150-ME 152, ME 170, ME 178, ME 193, ME 476, ME 479, ME 504-ME 515, ME 520, ME 534, and ME 539). Six of these resources (ME 129, ME 150, ME 151, ME 152, ME 170, and ME 178), all residences, are listed in the NRHP under the Historic Resources of Mercer County, Kentucky Multiple Resource Area (MRA). A review of recent aerials indicates the house associated with ME 129 is no longer extant.

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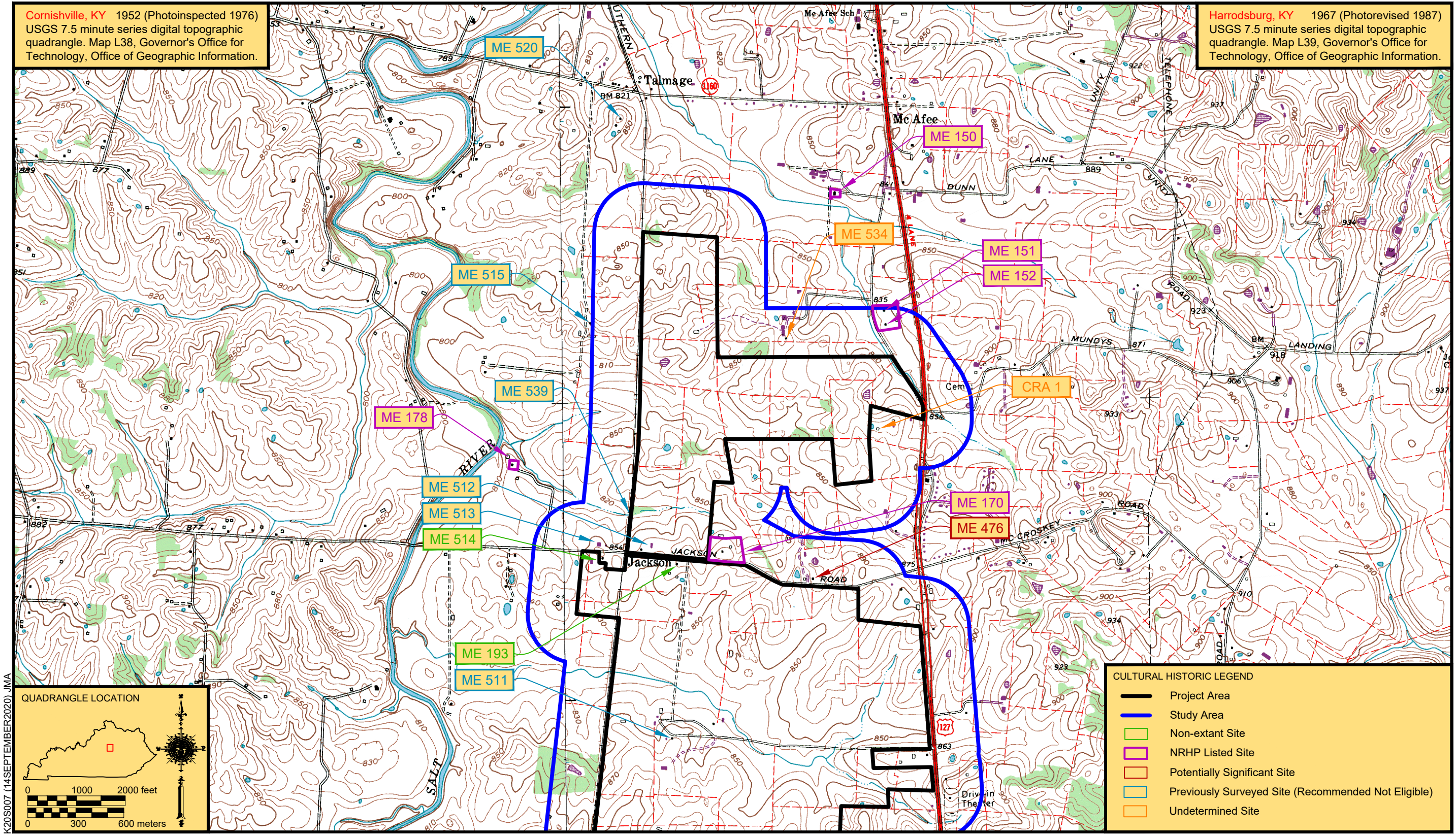


Figure 1a. Topographic map depicting the study area, project area, and locations of resources within and adjacent to the study area.

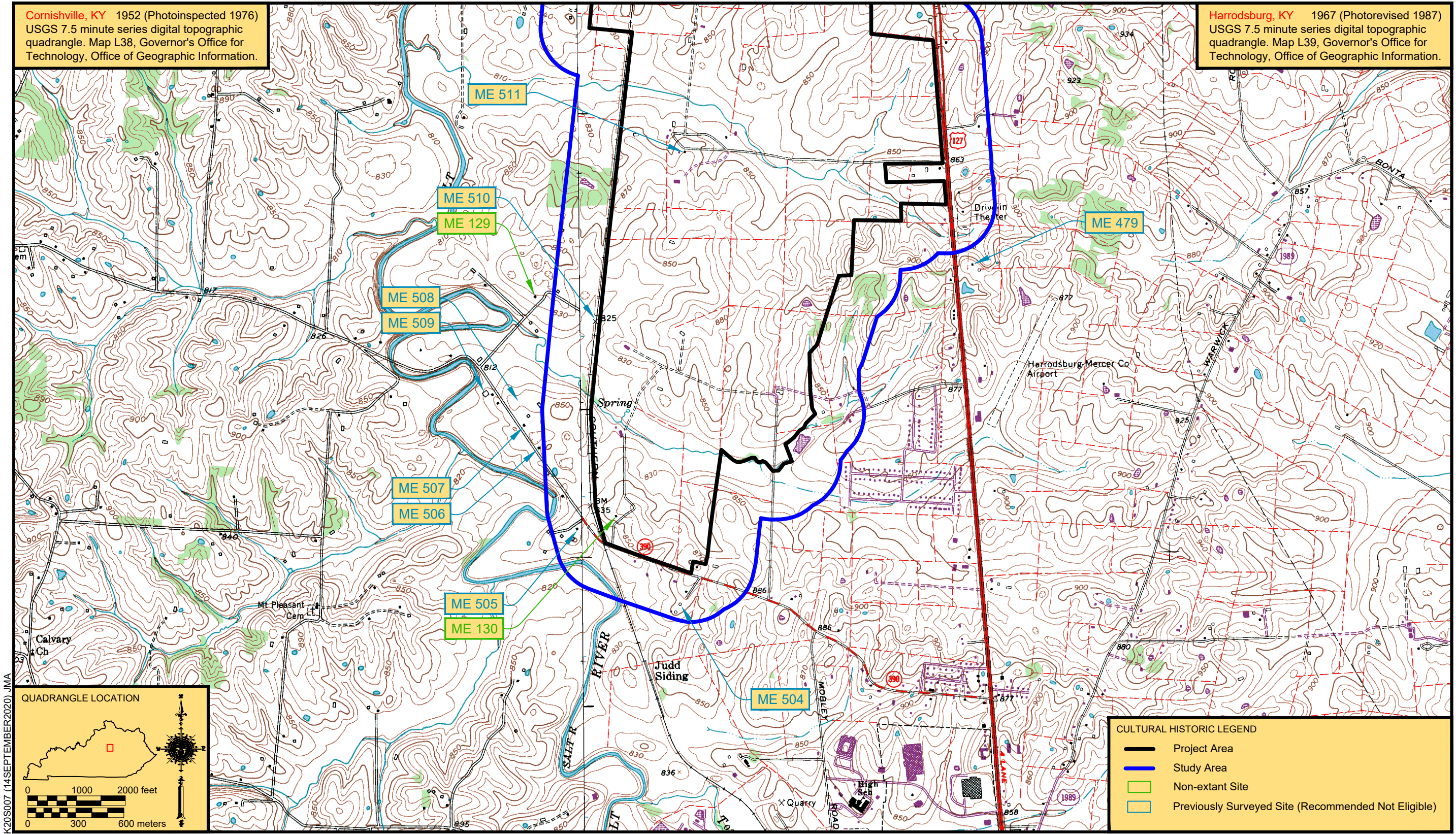


Figure 1b. Topographic map depicting the study area, project area, and locations of resources within and adjacent to the study area.

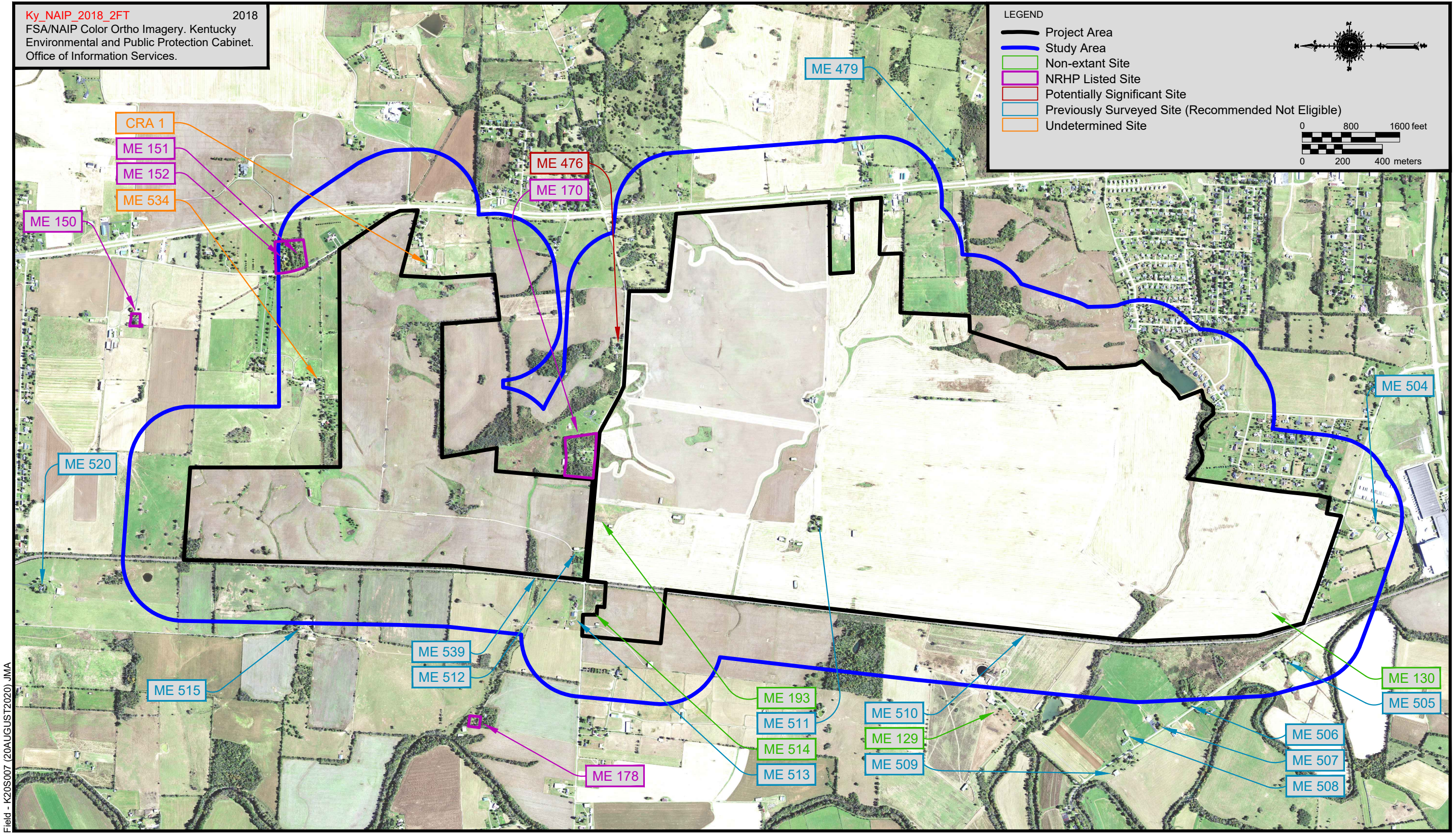


Figure 2. Aerial photograph depicting the study area, project area, and locations of resources within and adjacent to the study area.

The houses associated with ME 150 and ME 178 are situated on large parcels that reach into the study area; however, the NRHP boundaries for the NRHP-listed resources include only the house and domestic yard. As such, the NRHP boundaries for ME 150 and ME 178 are located outside the study area. The residences associated with ME 151 and ME 152 are included within the same NRHP boundary and comprise the McAfee Farm Historic District; the NRHP boundary is located within the study area. The NRHP boundary for ME 170 is located within the study area and adjacent to the project area. The remaining resources (ME 130, ME 193, ME 476, ME 479, ME 504–ME 520, ME 534, and ME 539) have an “undetermined” NRHP status according to KHC’s database. In addition to ME 129, the following resources are no longer extant: ME 130, ME 193, and ME 514.

Previous Surveys

A review of surveys and reports on file at KHC revealed several surveys overlapping the current study area. These reports have been summarized in Table 1 and include reports completed between 1988 and 2012 (Brother 2009; McCarley and Kirkwood 2001; Martinolich and Spurlock 2012; Powell 1988). The previous reports did not identify any additional resources that were not already included in KHC’s GIS database.

Table 1. Previous Survey Reports.

Report Title	Report Author and Associated Company	Prepared For	Report Date	Associated Surveyed Resources in Study Area
Cultural Historic Resource Survey for the Proposed Mercer County Industrial Park-Van Arsdell 69 kV Transmission Line Project in Mercer County, Kentucky	Kathy Martinolich and Trent Spurlock, Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.	East Kentucky Power Cooperative	August 6, 2012	ME 129, ME 130, ME 150, ME 170, ME 178, ME 193, ME 504–ME 515, ME 520, ME 534, and ME 539
Agricultural and Domestic Outbuildings in Mercer County, Kentucky	Janie-Rice Brother	James Harrod Trust	July 2009	ME 150, ME 170, ME 178, and ME 479
A Cultural Historic Survey of the Proposed Cellular Communication Tower Site, North Harrodsburg Vicinity, Mercer County, Kentucky	Rebecca Lawin, McCarley and James T. Kirkwood, Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.	American Environmental	October 15, 2001	ME 150
Historic Resources of Mercer County, Kentucky Multiple Resource Area (MRA)	Helen Powell	n/a	December 1988	ME 129, ME 150, ME 151, ME 152, ME 170, and ME 178

Results of Field Study

The study area was subject to a windshield survey from the public right-of-way (ROW). Trent Spurlock and Sarah Reynolds of CRA completed the windshield survey on September 2, 2020. To the extent possible, the fieldwork verified the location and condition of previously recorded cultural historic sites and noted the locations of any additional potentially significant properties that should be taken into consideration during project planning. During the windshield survey CRA staff attempted to verify the locations and conditions of the 25 previously identified cultural historic sites (ME 129, ME 130, ME 150–ME 152, ME 170, ME 178, ME 193, ME 476, ME 479, ME 504–ME 520, ME 534, and ME 539) within and adjacent to the study area. Those that were visible from the ROW were photographed in order to make preliminary assessments of each site’s potential eligibility for listing in the NRHP. No additional potentially significant properties or potential historic districts other than those mentioned in this report were identified during the windshield survey. All surveyed resources are identified on a topographic quadrangle and aerial image (see Figures 1 and 2). Photographs of the previously recorded resources are located in Appendix A. Many of the resources have undergone material changes, including replacement siding and windows and non-historic additions (see Appendix A).

Five resources are listed in the NRHP and remain extant (ME 150–152, ME 170, and ME 178) (Table 2). Four of these resources (ME 150–152 and ME 170) were visible from the ROW and appear to retain sufficient integrity to maintain their NRHP listing. The house associated with ME 178 is not visible from the ROW and thus was inaccessible. However, the NRHP boundary includes only the domestic yard with the house and an outbuilding noted as contributing. The NRHP boundary is located well outside the study area for the proposed project. Four additional sites (ME 510, ME 515, ME 534, and ME 539) were inaccessible during the survey and therefore were not assessed; however, three of these properties (ME 510, ME 515, and ME 539) were previously

recommended not eligible in a 2012 report and KHC concurred with the recommendation (Martinolich and Spurlock 2012). The property associated with ME 534 was recommended undetermined in 2012 and remains as such due to its inaccessible location (Martinolich and Spurlock 2012). One newly identified resource (CRA 1), a barn, was identified during the survey, but was inaccessible. Thus, it is recommended to have an undetermined NRHP eligibility status. The resources associated with ME 476 are potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP, but would require additional research to confirm. The remaining resources 50 years of age or older observed in the study area are generally characterized by early to mid-twentieth-century residences and outbuildings that exhibit common building forms such as T-plans, side-gable cottages, Bungalows, and transverse-frame barns that lack significance and/or have undergone material changes that have diminished or compromised their integrity so that they are unlikely to be eligible for listing in the NRHP (Table 3).

Based on the results of the overview study and a review of recent aerials, 4 of the 25 previously surveyed resources were found to be non-extant (ME 129, ME 130, ME 193, and ME 514) and, as such, are not eligible for listing in the NRHP due to their compromised integrity. In addition, the following resources do not appear eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A, B, or C because of lack of significance and/or integrity: ME 479, ME 504–ME 513, ME 515, ME 520, and ME 539.

ME 476 is potentially significant, but requires additional investigation. The resources associated with ME 534 and the barn associated with CRA 1 were not visible from the ROW during the overview study and therefore could not be assessed. Thus, these sites require further examination to determine their eligibility under Criterion A, B, or C. Therefore, the NRHP eligibility of ME 534 and CRA 1 is recommended undetermined for this overview study.

In summary, 4 of 25 previously identified resources appear to no longer be extant. Two properties that were inaccessible and one property that may be significant should be further investigated for eligibility for listing in the NRHP. Four of the five NRHP-listed resources are recommended as continuing to be eligible for listing in the NRHP. The fifth NRHP-listed resource was inaccessible; however, its NRHP boundary is located well outside the study area. The remaining 14 previously identified resources do not appear eligible for listing in the NRHP. Although not all properties were visible from the ROW, no other previously unidentified properties that were visible from the ROW in the study area appear eligible for listing in the NRHP.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Trent Spurlock, MHP
Architectural Historian, Principal Investigator

Table 2. NRHP-Listed/Significant Architectural Resources in and Adjacent to Study Area.

Site/Survey No.	Resource Name/Function	Address/Location	NRHP Status	Condition	Photo Figure No.
ME 150	Peter Dunn House	360 Hudson Road (former segment of Old Louisville Road)	Listed under Mercer County MRA; Significant under Criterion C as an excellent example of a mid-nineteenth-century single-pile, central passage plan flanked by two one-room wings. NRHP boundary includes domestic yard with a stone outbuilding noted as contributing.	Good; retains historic materials and integrity	3 and 4
ME 151	James Jackson McAfee House, McAfee Farm Historic District	201 Hudson Road (former segment Old Louisville Road)	Listed under Mercer County MRA (Part of McAfee Farm Historic District); Significant under Criterion A for its continued use throughout the nineteenth century and under Criterion C as an example of a Greek Revival and Italianate house. NRHP boundary includes domestic areas only with ME 151 and ME 152 noted as the contributing resources.	Good; retains historic materials and integrity	5
ME 152	John Armstrong McAfee House, McAfee Farm Historic District	201 Hudson Road (former segment Old Louisville Road)	Listed under Mercer County MRA (Part of McAfee Farm Historic District); Significant under Criterion A for its continued use throughout the nineteenth century and under Criterion C as an example of settlement-era architecture. NRHP boundary includes domestic areas only with ME 151 and ME 152 noted as contributing.	Poor; historic form and majority of historic materials remain intact, but structural deterioration diminishes the integrity of historic materials and workmanship	6
ME 170	John J. McGee House (Oakview)	Jackson Pike	Listed under Mercer County MRA; Significant under Criterion A for continued use of site and expansion of house to accommodate growing family and wealth. NRHP includes parcel boundary with three contributing outbuildings.	Good; retains historic materials and integrity	7 and 8
ME 178	John McGee House	685 Jackson Pike	Listed under Mercer County MRA; Significant under Criterion C as a good example of an early stone house built by an early settler. NRHP includes domestic area with one contributing outbuilding.	Not visible from ROW, but NRHP boundary located outside study area	9
ME 476	Farmstead	265 Jackson Pike	Previously surveyed with no NRHP evaluation provided (Brother 2009); undetermined status in KHC database. Potentially eligible based on CRA field observations.	Common house and outbuilding forms; outbuildings losing structural integrity	11 and 12

Table 3. Previously Surveyed Architectural Resources in and Adjacent to Study Area (Not Eligible/Non-Extant).

Site/Survey No.	Resource Name/Function	Address/Location	NRHP Status	Condition	Photo Figure No.
ME 129	Boise House/Fountain Bleu	1383 Bohon Road	Listed, but review of recent aerials indicates it has been demolished; Not eligible based on CRA review of recent aerials.	According to the previous survey the NRHP boundary included only the Boise House; all other buildings on the property were noted as non-contributing. The buildings are not visible from the ROW, but recent aerial photographs indicate the Boise House is non-extant (demolished between 2012 and 2013).	10
ME 130	House	Bohon Road	Recommended not eligible (Martinolich and Spurlock 2012); KHC concurred. Not eligible as it is non-extant based on CRA field observations.	Non-extant; the resources were non-extant at the time of the previous survey and according to aerial photographs were demolished prior to 1997.	n/a
ME 193	John McAfee/Joseph Woods House	Jackson Pike, just east of railroad	Recommended not eligible (Martinolich and Spurlock 2012); KHC concurred. Not eligible as it is non-extant based on CRA field observations.	Non-extant; according to aerial photographs the buildings were demolished between 2017 and 2018.	n/a
ME 479	James Ellis Farm	1749 Louisville Road	Previously surveyed with no NRHP evaluation provided (Brother 2009); undetermined status in KHC database. Not eligible based on CRA field observations.	Common house and outbuilding forms; alterations	13
ME 504	Two barns, outbuildings, and modern house	1406 Bohon Road	Recommended not eligible (Martinolich and Spurlock 2012); KHC concurred. Not eligible based on CRA field observations.	Common building forms; alterations	14
ME 505	House and modern barns	1108 Bohon Road	Recommended not eligible (Martinolich and Spurlock 2012); KHC concurred. Not eligible based on CRA field observations.	Common building forms; alterations	15
ME 506	House and barn	1220 Bohon	Recommended not eligible (Martinolich and Spurlock 2012); KHC concurred. Not eligible based on CRA field observations.	Common building forms; house in poor condition (vacant), affecting its integrity of materials and workmanship.	16
ME 507	House, barn, and garage	1271 Bohon Road	Recommended not eligible (Martinolich and Spurlock 2012); KHC concurred. Not eligible based on CRA field observations.	Common building forms; alterations	17
ME 508	Barn and modern house	1327 Bohon Road	Recommended not eligible (Martinolich and Spurlock 2012); KHC concurred. Not eligible based on CRA field observations.	Common building forms; alterations	18
ME 509	Barn and residence	1330 Bohon Road	Barn recommended not eligible (Martinolich and Spurlock 2012); KHC concurred. House also located on parcel, but not previously surveyed. House and barn not eligible based on CRA field observations.	Common building forms; alterations	19 and 20
ME 510	Concrete culvert	Carrying Norfolk Southern Railroad over defunct Fountain Trace	Recommended not eligible (Martinolich and Spurlock 2012); KHC concurred. Not eligible based on previous recommendation and concurrence. Not visible from ROW.	According to the previous survey, the culvert is an unexceptional example of its type. The structure is not visible from the ROW, but through prior report recommendation and concurrence by KHC the resource has been determined not eligible.	21
ME 511	Farmstead	1920 Louisville Road	Recommended not eligible (Martinolich and Spurlock 2012); KHC concurred. Not eligible based on CRA field observations.	According to previous survey, the property lacks architectural and historic significance. Buildings features common forms and alterations.	22–28
ME 512	Barn	Jackson Pike, east of railroad	Recommended not eligible (Martinolich and Spurlock 2012); KHC concurred. Not eligible based on CRA field observations.	Common barn form; missing materials	29

Site/Survey No.	Resource Name/Function	Address/Location	NRHP Status	Condition	Photo Figure No.
ME 513	Barns, shed, modern house	589 Jackson Pike	Recommended not eligible (Martinolich and Spurlock 2012); KHC concurred. Not eligible based on CRA field observations.	Common barn form; materials intact	30-33
ME 514	House and outbuilding	600 Jackson Pike	Recommended not eligible (Martinolich and Spurlock 2012); KHC concurred. Not eligible based on CRA field observations.	Non-extant; according to aerial photographs the buildings were demolished between 2016 and 2017.	n/a
ME 515	House, barns, and outbuildings	586 Talmage Mayo Road	Recommended not eligible (Martinolich and Spurlock 2012); KHC concurred. Not eligible based on previous recommendation and concurrence. Not visible from ROW.	According to previous survey, the house, barns, and outbuildings are undistinguished building forms that lack significant architectural features and integrity. The buildings are not visible from the ROW, but through prior report recommendation and concurrence by KHC the resource has been determined not eligible.	34
ME 520	House	532 Talmage Mayo Road	Recommended not eligible (Martinolich and Spurlock 2012); KHC concurred. Not eligible based on CRA field observations.	Common house form; alterations	35
ME 534	House, barns, and outbuildings	202 Hudson Road	Undetermined (Martinolich and Spurlock 2012); Undetermined based on CRA field observations.	According to the previous survey, this property is comprised of a house and collection of agricultural buildings that have no associations with significant events or persons. The buildings are not visible from the ROW and as such, their current condition is unknown.	36
ME 539	Steel railroad trestle bridge	Unnamed tributary of the Salt River under Norfolk Southern Railroad	Recommended not eligible (Martinolich and Spurlock 2012); KHC concurred. Not eligible based on previous recommendation and concurrence. Not visible from ROW.	According to the previous survey, the trestle is an unexceptional example of its type. It is not visible from the ROW, but through prior report recommendation and concurrence by KHC, the resource has been determined not eligible.	37
CRA 1	Barn and modern house and barns	2406 Louisville Road	Undetermined	Historic barn not visible from ROW and, as such, its current condition and potential significance is unknown.	38

References Cited

Brother, Janie-Rice

2009 Agricultural and Domestic Outbuildings in Mercer County, Kentucky.

McCarley, Rebecca Lawin and James T. Kirkwood

2001 A Cultural Historic Survey of the Proposed Cellular Communication Tower Site, North Harrodsburg Vicinity, Mercer County, Kentucky. Contract Publications Series 01-157. Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc., Lexington, Kentucky.

Martinolich, Kathy, and Trent Spurlock

2012 A Cultural Historic Resource Survey for the Proposed Mercer County Industrial Park-Van Arsdell 69 kV Transmission Line Project in Mercer County, Kentucky. Contract Publications Series 12-174. Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc., Lexington, Kentucky.

Powell, Helen

1988 Historic Resources of Mercer County, Kentucky Multiple Resource Area. National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form. National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, Washington D.C.

APPENDIX A. PHOTOGRAPHS OF SURVEYED RESOURCES.



Figure 3. ME 150: NRHP-listed house and outbuilding, looking northwest.



Figure 4. ME 150: Overview of parcel associated with ME 150, looking west.



Figure 5. ME 151: NRHP-listed house associated with McAfee Farm Historic District, looking northeast.



Figure 6. ME 152: NRHP-listed house associated with McAfee Farm Historic District, looking southeast.



Figure 7. ME 170: NRHP-listed house, looking northwest.



Figure 8. ME 170: Contributing outbuildings associated with ME 170, looking north.



Figure 9. ME 178: View towards NRHP-listed house, which is not visible from the study area looking northwest.



Figure 10. ME 129: View towards non-extant NRHP-listed house, looking northeast.



Figure 11. ME 476: House, looking east.



Figure 12. ME 476: Outbuildings, looking east-northeast.



Figure 13. ME 479: House and barn, looking northeast.



Figure 14. ME 504: Barns and outbuildings, looking south-southwest.



Figure 15. ME 505: House, looking southwest.



Figure 16. ME 506: Vacant house, looking north-northeast.



Figure 17. ME 507: House and outbuildings, looking northeast.



Figure 18. ME 508: Barn and modern house, looking north.



Figure 19. ME 509: Barn, looking west-northwest.



Figure 20. ME 509: House associated with ME 509, looking west-southwest.



Figure 21. ME 510: Railroad leading to culvert, looking south.



Figure 22. ME 511: Overview of large farmstead located in project area, looking south.



Figure 23. ME 511: House associated with farmstead, looking south.



Figure 24. ME 511: Three barns associated with farmstead, looking south.



Figure 25. ME 511: Barn associated with farmstead, looking south-southwest.



Figure 26. ME 511: Barn associated with farmstead, looking south-southeast.



Figure 27. ME 511: Barn associated with farmstead, looking south-southeast.



Figure 28. ME 511: Barn associated with farmstead, looking south-southeast.



Figure 29. ME 512: Barn located in project area, looking north.



Figure 30. ME 513: Barn, looking north-northeast.



Figure 31. ME 513: Barns, looking north-northwest.



Figure 32. ME 513: Shed and modern sheds, looking north.



Figure 33. ME 513: Non-historic house, looking northeast.



Figure 34. ME 515: View towards ME 515, looking south.



Figure 35. ME 520: House, looking south-southwest.



Figure 36. ME 534: View towards ME 534, looking southwest.



Figure 37. ME 539: View towards trestle, looking south.



Figure 38. CRA 1: View barn located behind modern outbuildings, looking west.