

HERITAGE SPOTLIGHT

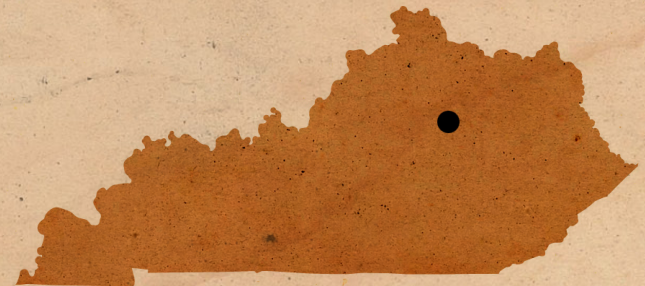


Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

SPOTLIGHT NO. 2

EARLY INNS AND HOMES ALONG THE MAYSVILLE TO LEXINGTON TRACE

A. GWYNN HENDERSON AND NANCY O'MALLEY



WHAT Archaeological sites along an historic road.

WHERE Bourbon County in Central Kentucky.

WHEN Late eighteenth to early- to-mid-twentieth century.

SUBJECT Overview of investigations at two inns and two dwellings in advance of improvements to the Maysville to Lexington Road. Companion spotlights provide overviews of the road's history (Spotlight 1); and investigations at two late eighteenth- to nineteenth-century farmsteads (Spotlight 3), and the vanished nineteenth-century hamlet of Monterey (Spotlight 4).

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Roads and their roadsides are much more than routes to get us quickly from here to there. They are a special kind of landscape, and they hold their own complex history. All Kentucky roads display a certain amount of historical character. None, however, displays as much as the Maysville to Lexington Road.

Length (only 67 miles) is no measure of this road's significance. Historically, it was one of the most important roads in post-colonial America. In the early 1800s, it was at the center of a national debate over the federal government's responsibility for maintaining regional infrastructure. For Kentucky, the Maysville to Lexington Road was a lifeline for rich and poor, farmers and businessmen. And it was a constant travel companion for locals and visitors alike.

The Maysville to Lexington Road changed during its long history – from trail, to trace, to turnpike, and finally, to highway. Despite these changes, the modern road is located no further than a mile or so from its oldest roadbed. The resulting tangle of roughly parallel roads and adjacent roadsides form a kind of archive that holds information about the road's rich history.

This archive, stories written in the ground, is the focus of archaeology. Archaeological research sheds light on the road's changing location and its many different construction methods. Archaeology also provides a window into people's lives. Although many of these people do not show up in history books, their lives form the fabric of Kentucky's past.

Historical archaeology combines archaeology with history. Through its discoveries, we

gain a richer and deeper appreciation for the “ribbon of history” that is the Maysville to Lexington Road.

SPOTLIGHT 2

This Spotlight presents what historical archaeologists have learned from archival research and through archaeological investigations at four late eighteenth- to early nineteenth-century sites – two rural inns and two homes – between Millersburg and Paris. They stood next to the Maysville to Lexington Road when it was the unimproved Limestone Trace.

Kentucky was a new state in a new country at that time, leaving its frontier era behind and growing fast. In 1790, almost 74,000 people lived in the state. By 1800, the population had exploded to nearly 221,000. Steamboats regularly traveled the Ohio River in the 1820s, moving people and goods into and out of Kentucky. The Trace became the Turnpike in the 1830s.

Most people lived on farms. They owned slaves, kept livestock, grew crops, and produced goods – animals, grains, hemp, and

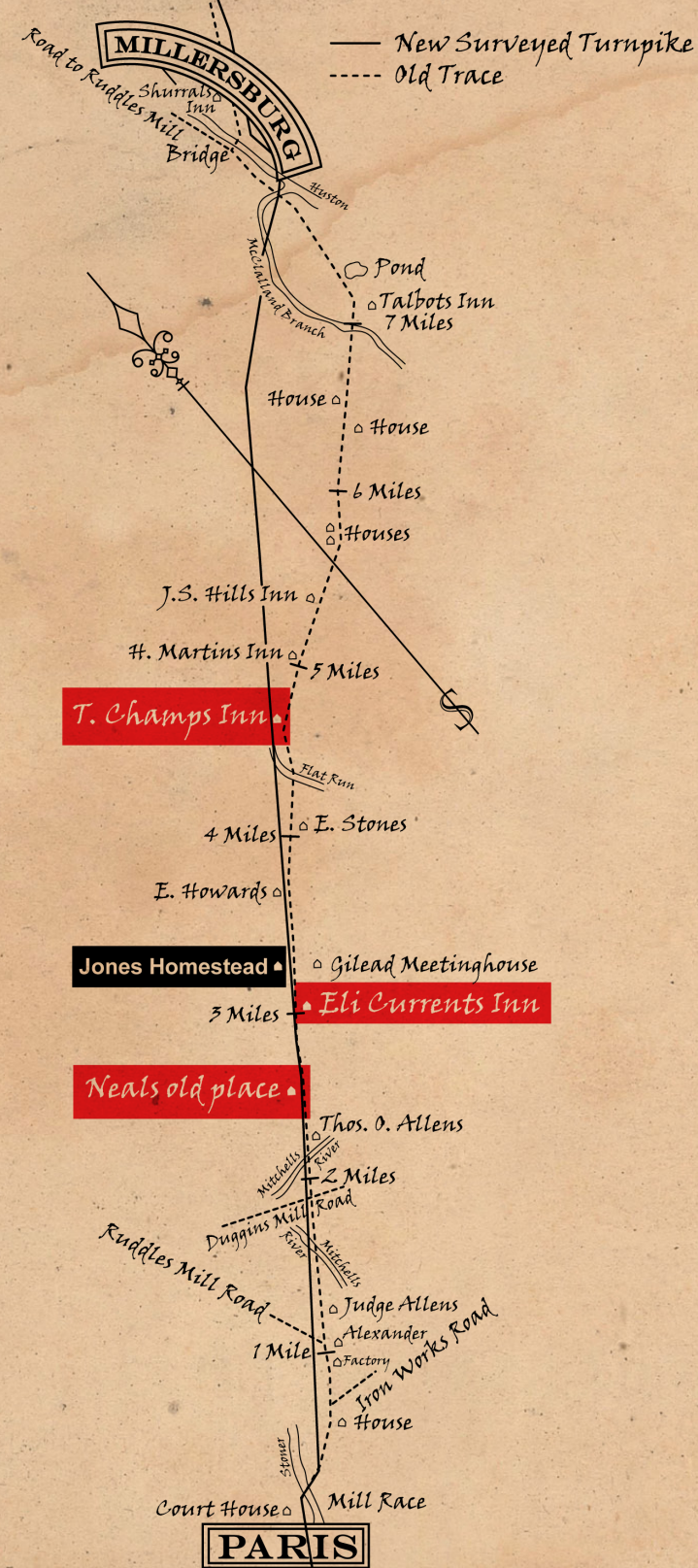
bourbon whiskey – for themselves and for others. They built mills, tobacco and hemp factories, and distilleries. Citizens founded banks and newspapers. Soon urban centers like Lexington and Louisville began to look like cities back East. Maysville and Paris were among the state’s larger towns at this time. The Civil War was a decade or more away when these four buildings disappeared from the Bourbon County landscape.

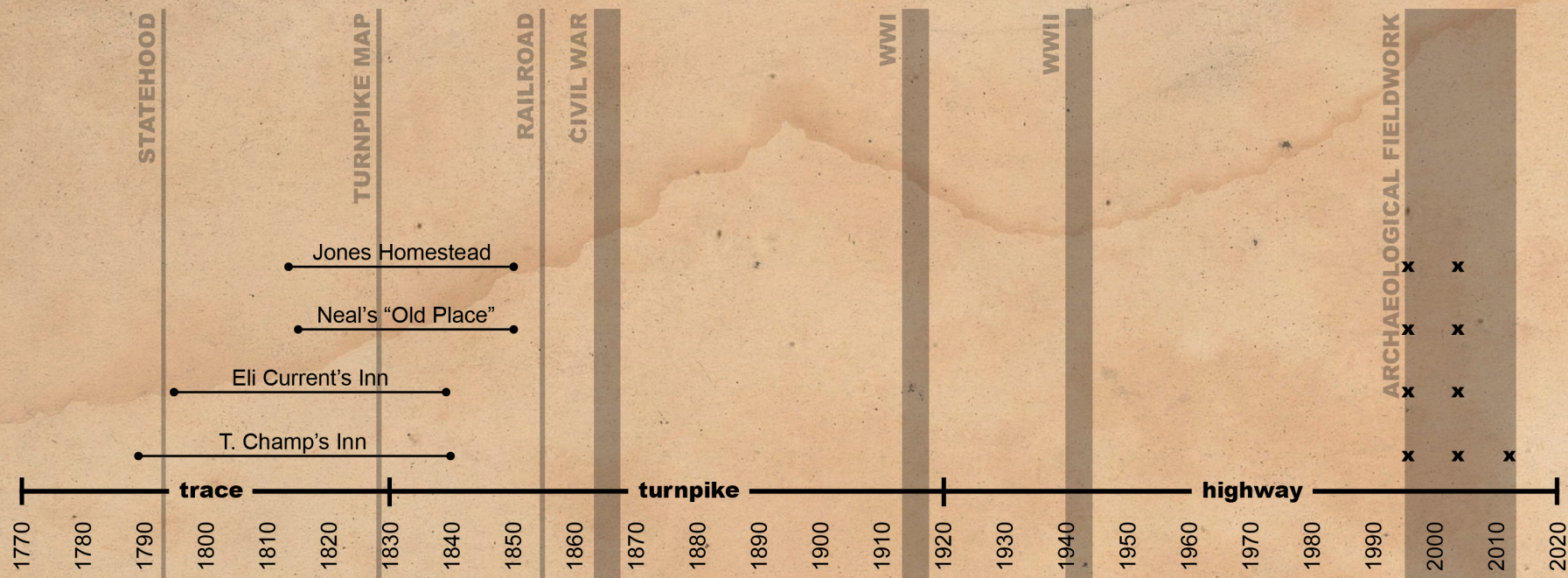
ALONG THE LIMESTONE TRACE

Travelers in the early 1800s would have passed many buildings along this eight-mile stretch of rural countryside. Darnaby and Ellis’ 1827 Turnpike Survey map shows five rural inns, nearly a dozen houses, a meeting house, and a factory (see right).

The inns were simple *latchstring* inns: private homes that took in the occasional guest. Running an inn out of their home was one way ambitious people could supplement farm income and position themselves for success. Overnight travelers ate with the family, and

Right James Darnaby and William Ellis, Jr.’s 1827 Turnpike Survey map (adapted from the original). T. Champ’s Inn, Eli Current’s Inn, and Neal’s “Old Place” appear on the original map and are highlighted here in red. Jones Homestead, highlighted in black, is shown in its correct location, although for some reason, the surveyors did not note its location on the map.





slept on the floor in front of the fireplace. After breakfast, they went on their way.

By the 1840s or 1850s, it is unlikely that many of these buildings were still visible to travelers on the macadamized Turnpike. Owners had closed the inns. Families had built new homes further from the road, salvaging construction materials from the old structures.

Building footprints and artifacts left by the former occupants remained, however, invisible to the thousands of passing travelers.

Over two centuries later, a few of these

buildings were again the focus of human activity – this time, for scientific study. The sites described here were among 13 prehistoric and historic sites archaeologists discovered between Millersburg and Paris during a 1995 survey for planned highway improvements. In 2003, they returned to excavate at these four sites. The 1827 Turnpike Survey map (see page 2) depicts three of them: two inns – T. Champ's Inn and Eli Current's Inn – and a house – Neal's "Old Place." Archaeologists also investigated a contemporary dwelling, Jones Homestead. In 2011,

Above Timeline for the Maysville to Lexington Road showing when people lived at the sites discussed in this Spotlight and when historical archaeologists investigated them.

archaeologists returned to T. Champ's Inn for more work.

Archaeologists did not excavate any of these sites completely. Nevertheless, through excavation and archival research, they learned about these buildings that had once been homes and stopovers for weary travelers. Archaeologists discovered when and how long people had lived at these sites; about the foods they ate; and about their standing in early Kentucky society.

Moving along the Trace from Millersburg to Paris – the direction travelers would have taken on their trip into Central Kentucky – we consider the inns first, and then turn to the houses.

THE INNS

T. Champ's Inn

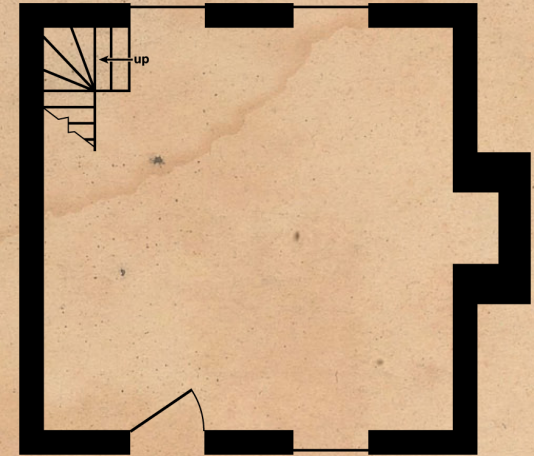
Thomas Champ built his inn sometime after 1787, the year he bought his Bourbon County property from James Parberry, its first owner. Aside from the 1827 Turnpike Survey map, no other documents prove Champ ran a latchstring inn. However, between 1787 and 1808, inn keepers did not need a license to operate an inn out of their home.

Champ's second oldest son, Robert, handled farm business and was successful at it. Daughter Mary looked after their elderly father. After

Thomas Champ's death in 1808, Mary may have lived on at the farm and operated the inn for a time. Renovations following his death may have included an addition to the structure and roof replacement. In 1827, Robert Champ bought the property, but by 1840, no one lived at the old inn. The property passed out of the family in 1911.

Archaeological investigations show that much of T. Champ's Inn was dismantled and salvaged, even down to most of its corner stones and chimney base. Thus, we do not know how big it was. It was likely a *single-pen* hewn-log or timber framed house. Archaeologists infer that the chimney base was made from limestone because they found a few cut limestone rocks where it would have been. A deep pit, which would have been located under a section of the inn or under a separate structure, was probably the remains of a root cellar. Other discoveries included the remains of a stone driveway and a few small trash pits.

The people who lived at T. Champ's Inn, and those who only stayed for a night, ate pork, beef, lamb or goat, chicken, and local wildlife (turkey, rabbit, and squirrel). This is typical of the *Upland South* diet of the time: pork was king, but people also ate other animals, both domesticated and wild. Archaeologists found



Top A common floor plan for a two-story, single-pen building. The chimney is built on the outside of the structure, and the stairs to the second floor or loft are in the corner.

Bottom A single-pen hewn-log structure with dovetail joints built in 1787 by George Mefford. Missing is its clapboard exterior. The inns and homes discussed in this Spotlight would have looked much like this Mason County building.

Artifacts Tell Stories

clockwise from top left

Tiny fragments of transfer-printed pottery show that the people who lived at T. Champ's Inn, Eli Current's Inn, and Neal's "Old Place" used plates with designs on them, like this complete example with the Blue Willow pattern.

A striped porcelain marble like this one came from Jones Homestead.

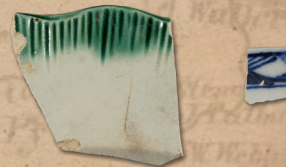
A slate pencil similar to the ones recovered from T. Champ's Inn, Eli Current's Inn, and Jones Homestead.

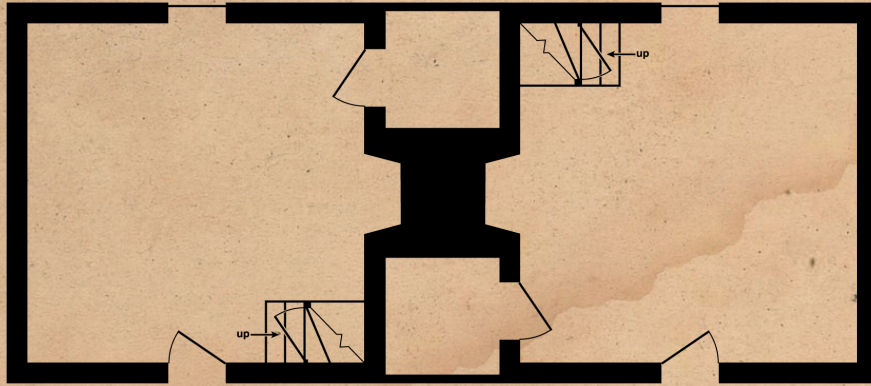
Archaeologists recovered many different kinds of buttons from these four early house sites: flat one-piece brass buttons; one-hole, four-hole, and five-hole bone buttons; and four-hole shell buttons.

Section of a slip-decorated chamber pot from Jones Homestead.

Bones, like this lower left foreleg of a young adult sheep or goat, reveal information about what the residents ate as well as how they butchered animals. Deep hack marks from a heavy knife are visible on one side.

Fragments of pottery from T. Champ's Inn: green, scalloped, shell-edged whiteware plate rim; hand-painted Chinese export porcelain teacup rim. Like other artifacts, ceramic style and shape change over time in measurable ways. For this reason, ceramics from a site can provide a date range for when people lived there. The types of ceramic vessels found at a site also provide evidence for the kinds of activities that took place.





Above A common floorplan for a two-story, double-pen, saddlebag building. The double chimney is in the center, and separate stairs lead to the second floor or loft in each pen.

Right A chimney made from hand-made brick stood on this dry-laid, cut-limestone chimney pad at Eli Current's Inn. Chimneys and chimney pads at Jones Homestead and Neal's "Old Place" also were made this way.



the remains of corn, squash, grapes, and peppers, but no Old World grains or fruits. However, Thomas Champ's estate inventory indicates he raised wheat and rye on his farm (see page 10).

The family and their overnight guests ate off of plain white or decorated earthenware plates and dishes (see page 5). They drank their tea from expensive Chinese export porcelain teacups and saucers. Archaeologists found fragments of crocks used in the kitchen during meal preparation as well as possible fragments of a chamber pot. Other household items included a serving spoon, a skeleton key, and a horse harness buckle. The recovery of a pair of scissors, and brass, shell, and bone buttons from underwear, a shirt, trousers, or a coat or vest, reflect the making and mending of clothing.

Eli Current's Inn

Archaeological research shows that Eli Current's Inn was built late in the eighteenth century or early in the nineteenth century. Historic period documents support this date range. They show that Eli's parents, Thomas and Margaret Current, moved to Bourbon County from Maryland sometime around 1794 or 1795 and set up housekeeping on the property. In 1816, 1819, and 1821, Thomas Current was granted a license to keep a tavern for a year in his house in the county.

Upon his father's death in 1827, Eli Current took over ownership of the inn and the land. Twelve years later, he sold it, but the inn may have no longer been in business at that time. The property passed out of the family in 1855. The new owners likely dismantled the building around then.

Current's Inn was probably a *double-pen, saddlebag* timber framed or hewn-log structure. It had a central double hearth. During their investigations, archaeologists discovered burned soil in one of the hearths,

and a stone-lined well near the house. An addition to the structure may have been built after 1820.

The age of the artifacts show that, besides the travelers they took in, only the Thomas Current and Eli Current families lived at the inn. Fragments of gin and wine bottles, a stemmed drinking glass, and Chinese porcelain and bone china teacups and saucers reflect entertaining and taking tea. Food was prepared and stored in glazed utilitarian ceramic bowls. It was served in plain white or decorated earthenware tureens and large bowls, and on platters (see page 5). Pork was the preferred meat by travelers and occupants alike, followed by beef, and chicken. Wild meat also was eaten. Glass vial fragments imply that the household made its own herbal medicine or could afford to purchase medicine from a doctor or an apothecary.

From the kinds of artifacts recovered, archaeologists infer an upper middle class social standing for the Current family. Period documents also show that the Currents were prosperous Bourbon County residents. Like Thomas Champ and his son, they were successful farmers. However, the Currents' property holdings were more extensive than the Champs'. In 1821, Thomas Cur-

Early Nineteenth-Century Houses

During the Early Statehood period, Kentuckians constructed their homes out of stone, brick, or wood. Stone and brick homes were more durable, but expensive. People with money built their homes from these materials.

Wooden structures were less expensive, so well-to-do arrivals and people of lesser means made their first homes – either hewn-log or joined timber framed – out of wood. These houses differed mainly with respect to how the logs were shaped and to what degree; how the logs that formed the walls were joined at the corners; and the type of wall bracing.

Workers cut or *hewed* the logs with an ax, or they may have sawed the logs. They joined house corners with notched logs, and filled the spaces between the logs with chinking. For timber framed houses, they used thinner cut logs joined at the corners by complex timber joints, for example, the mortise and tenon technique. Wooden pegs secured these joints. Braces provided additional rigidity.

Roofs consisted of poles or rectangular sawn or hewn timbers covered with shakes or shingles. Because both types of log houses were commonly sided, travelers along the Trace could not have identified which type they saw.

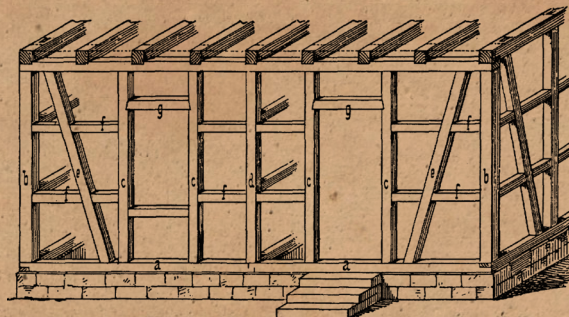


Fig. 1.

Left Cutaway view of a timber framed building.

rent owned 745 acres (valued at between \$18-25 an acre), 12 slaves, eight horses, and a lot in Paris. In 1839, the year Eli Current sold the inn and property, he owned 340 acres, 10 slaves, 15 horses, and five cows.

Other artifacts also provide a glimpse of life at Eli Current's Inn, such as the clothes they wore, the families' educational and leisure activities, and the important role horses played in transportation and agriculture (see page 5). These objects include a slate pencil fragment; a pocketknife blade; brass shirt, trousers, or vest, coat, or overcoat buttons and two buckles; lamp chimney glass; wagon parts; a piece of a horse bridle; and a horseshoe.

THE HOUSES

Jones Homestead

Jones Homestead does not appear on any early maps. We know about it only from deeds and from archaeological research.

The deeds are somewhat confusing. The house could have been Thomas Jones', for he bought the land from the first owners, James and Isabella Little, in 1799. However, Jones also owned the Paris Flouring Mill, so he and his family probably lived in Paris and not at Jones Homestead. It is more likely that the house was built around 1813 for Thomas Jones' daughter, Alisanna Brown, after his death, and continued to be her home until 1824.

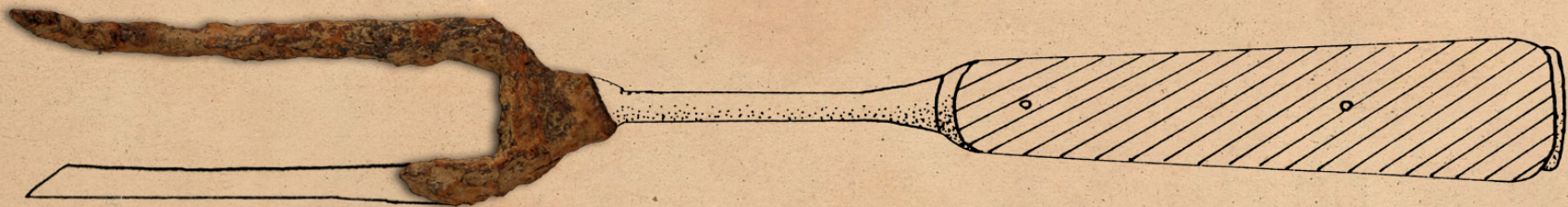
But it is also possible that the house was the early 1820s home of local well-to-do landholders William and Jefferson Scott. They later could have used it as housing for slaves or tenants.

Archaeological research suggests the house may have been built as early as the late eighteenth century. Owners continued to update the structure into the early 1850s. It was demolished, the refuse buried, and the house site cleared after that date.



Above Fragments of bone or horn lice combs, like the complete one shown here, were found at Jones Homestead and Neal's "Old Place."

Below Part of a two-tined fork from T. Champ's Inn, shown here relative to the complete item.



The building was a hewn-log or timber framed structure, likely a single pen building. Its chimney was located at the building's southwestern end. At the opposite end, beneath the house, was a subfloor pit or possible cellar.

The variety of ceramics recovered shows that several different households lived at Jones Homestead over a relatively long period of time. Some of the people used more expensive porcelain and earthenware dishes. But in general, Jones Homestead residents used inexpensive, plain white earthenware ceramics. Pork was the meat of preference, but they also ate beef, lamb or goat, and chicken; and local wildlife, in particular, turkey. Other artifacts of interest include mold-made smoking pipes; a porcelain marble and an earthenware marble; various types of buttons (brass, glass, bone, porcelain) used on underwear, shirts, trousers, or coats, overcoats, or vests; and bone or horn lice combs. These items (see page 5) are linked to recreation activities of both adults and children, the clothes they wore, and standard hygiene issues of the time.

Neal's "Old Place"

In 1827, this house was still known locally as John Neal's, even though he had been dead for three years. Neal's first land purchase was from James and Elizabeth Otley in 1793. His landholdings eventually totaled 157 acres – valued at \$22/acre in 1822 – and he did own eight slaves and 12 horses, but in comparison to the Currents, Neal was a man of more modest means.

The house could have been built as early as the 1790s. Artifacts show that it was definitely lived in by the mid-to-late 1810s. It was small, likely a single-pen hewn-log or timber

Log Houses, Not Log Cabins

Log cabins – small, crude, and temporary – were built with round logs. They lacked siding. Floors were dirt or of roughed-out wood planks which sat on flat stones that barely raised the floor above the ground. Their chimneys were not made from brick or stone. Archaeologists find only a few nails and few or no fragments of window glass at log cabin sites.

The inns and houses described in this Spotlight were hewn-log or joined timber framed structures. They were built to be permanent. Logs used in wall construction were ax hewn or were sawn. They were sided with weatherboard (sawn longer sections of wood) or clapboard (shorter sections). They had wood roofs and may have had plaster interior walls.

As is common for structures of this type, each lacked a continuous foundation – floors were raised above the ground on stone piers that stood at each corner. Nearby limestone outcrops provided stone for the piers. Wood flooring, laid across wood joists, would have been flat and even. Trim finishing outlined doors and glass windows. Chimneys, built from cut limestone or handmade brick of locally available clay, stood on dry-laid, cut-limestone pads.

It is very difficult to tell the difference between log cabins and log houses from archaeological evidence alone. However, log house sites produce more nails and window glass than log cabin sites and often contain evidence of a stone or brick chimney.

Thomas Champ's Estate Inventory

Page 4 of Thomas Champ's five-page estate inventory, prepared after his death in 1808.

Thomas Champ's estate inventory provides invaluable insights into this man and his life. He owned 200 acres of land along the Maysville to Lexington Trace, a plow and a wagon, and three slaves. At his death, the farm was raising a variety of livestock – cattle, sheep, pigs, and geese – which would have produced meat, milk, wool, eggs, and feathers, and was growing rye and wheat.

He owned a fairly large number of horses. It was not uncommon at this time for people to rent horses to travelers, so Champ may have been doing that. Or, he may have raised enough horses to sell a few every year.

Thomas Champ was involved in many different business ventures besides farming. This document lists sole leather (shoe making) and hand mill stones (processing grain). He kept bees and produced honey. The large quantity of whiskey is noteworthy. If he was running an inn, that could account for the 63 gallons of whiskey. Back then, people did make liquor for their own use, too, but distilling equipment is not listed. He owned a hemp brake, so it is likely that he also raised hemp. Weaving and spinning equipment (a loom and spinning wheels) show his household could produce thread, yarn, and cloth.

The inventory lists four beds. This suggests that Champ's Inn had more than one bedroom. The table, chairs, and possibly the cupboard would have furnished a great room. With all this furniture, the house likely had a second story.

588

	#	Gr.	ll.
cupboard & furniture	18		
five chairs	3		
one chest tobacco horn & razor	3		
one big wheel and reel	2	50	
two pocket stil yards & looking glass	1	92	
one chest	3	50	
one bedstead, bed & furniture	24		
one pair saddle bags		75	
bedstead, bed & furniture	26	66	$\frac{1}{3}$
Do. Do. & Do	16	66	$\frac{2}{3}$
Do. Do. & Do.	28	33	$\frac{1}{3}$
one calico quilt & covered	10		
one spinning wheel	3		
six old bags		50	
Wool	10		
eleven pounds sole leather	2	75	
old leather	2		
one negro man & two girls	630		
a large coat & small do. & p ^r overhats			
& waistcoats & shirts & p ^r socks & one			
pair of Mittens	20		

framed structure with a chimney situated on the southwestern end of the house. Archaeologists also found the location of a possible outbuilding and two basin-shaped pits used for storage, food cooking, or processing.

John Neal died, unmarried and without heirs, in 1824. Jackey S. Hitt bought the property in 1829. Thirteen years later, he sold it to Samuel M. Hibler. New windows and repairs to the walls and roof were made each time the property changed hands. These owners probably did not live in the house, however. It is more likely that tenants, slaves, or servants lived there until about 1850. Sometime between 1850 and 1861, the house was torn down, as it does not appear on an 1861 map of the area.

Most of the recovered artifacts were John Neal's or were those of Hitt's tenants, slaves, or servants. Less expensive dishes were used for everyday meals. The variety of food-serving vessels and the wide range of plate sizes suggest food was occasionally served in multiple courses. Porcelain tea cups and saucers reflect the practice of taking tea (see page 5). Pork was the primary meat consumed, although beef, lamb or goat, and chicken were eaten, as was meat from local wild-life. The menu also included foods made with corn and wheat. Among the other items recovered from the site were fragments of a brass eyeglass frame and a 2-tined fork with a bone handle.

Stories from Artifacts - How Can Archaeologists Say That?

Without photographs, how can historical archaeologists tell what a building might have looked like, when it was built, and how it was used? Without shopping lists or detailed garden diaries, how can they tell what residents ate or grew, and how they served their food? How can archaeologists even BEGIN to know a family's social or economic standing without reading personal diaries and letters? By studying *artifacts* (objects made or modified by people) and artifact disposal patterns (where artifacts are found and what they are found with) for the clues they hold.

Key artifacts, like nails, window glass, animal and plant remains, and ceramics, provide the best clues. Archaeologists record in detail the size, shape, material, style, and decoration of these objects. The characteristics of these key artifacts change measurably over time. They help researchers narrow down possible answers.

Other artifacts contribute information, too. Buttons, hairpins, and buckles reflect the age and sex of residents. Toys like marbles or doll parts suggest young children were part of a household. Smoking pipes, game pieces, and musical instruments like mouth harps provide insights into peoples' hobbies.

Archaeologists spend months collecting and analyzing data and carrying out comparative research. Only then can they develop interpretations about a site and its residents, its history of occupation, and the kinds of activities that took place there. This is the work that lies behind the statements and descriptions presented in this Spotlight. This is "how archaeologists can say that."

THE SITES IN CONTEXT

Fragments of porcelain tea cups and stemmed drinking glasses may seem out of place in early nineteenth-century Bourbon County log houses. But Kentucky's Early Statehood period was not the frontier. No matter their economic standing, most people's first homes were clapboard-covered hewn-log or joined timber framed buildings like those described here. Only the more affluent began their Kentucky lives in stone or brick homes (see sidebar on page 7 and Spotlight 3).

As time passed and families made their fortunes, they built more substantial homes

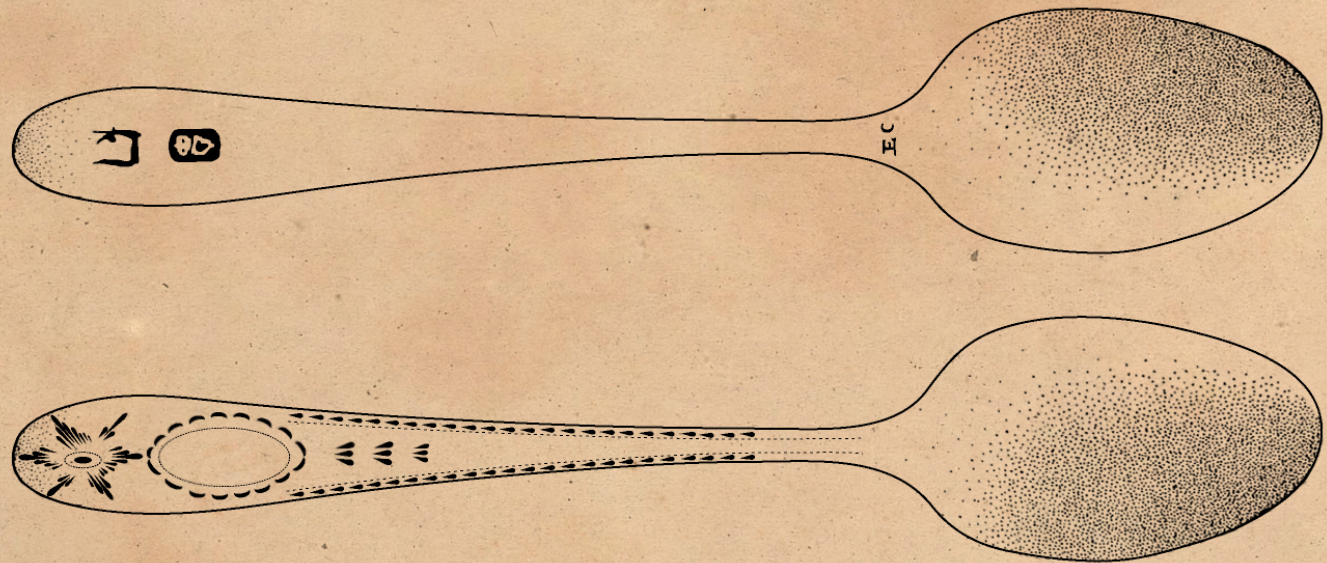
elsewhere on their property. They turned their first homes into tenant, slave, or employee dwellings. Eventually, they tore down the old wooden buildings, salvaging their usable parts. This is the general history of all of the buildings described in this Spotlight.

These four homes share other characteristics. Each was built right next to the Trace around the time of Statehood and each had been torn down long before the Civil War started. None of these log structures were the crude temporary log "cabins" of the Kentucky frontier (see sidebar on page 9). They were hewn-log or joined timber framed houses.

Three were small, single-pen buildings; Eli Current's Inn, the largest, was a double-pen structure. Residents often dug an underground storage pit or cellar beneath them. Like today, these people renovated their homes, making improvements to walls and windows, and fixing roofs. Only the inns had later additions.

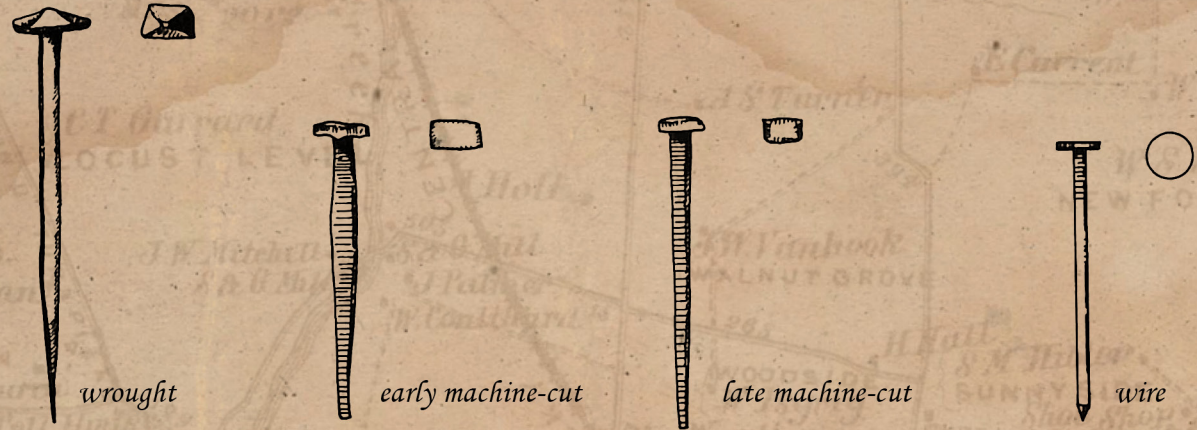
Food preferences reflect the Upland South tradition. Pork was the meat of choice for the residents of all four buildings, followed by beef, sheep or goats, and chicken. Local game (deer, turkey, squirrel, and rabbit) offered variety. Archaeological research provides less information about the domesticated and wild

Right Archaeologists found a silver teaspoon at Jones Homestead. Likely made in Ireland in the late 1700s, it was stamped with a crowned harp and the initials "EC" (probably a maker's mark). A large feather-edged six-pointed star decorated the handle. Utensils made from silver were highly valued during this period.



What We Can Learn from Nails

Top Nail shape changes over time. Early nails were handmade or *wrought*. Beginning around 1790, machines cut nails out of sheets of metal. These *cut* nails were most popular before the 1880s. Early machine-cut nail (to 1820) shanks had two tapered sides and were hand-headed. Shanks on late machine-cut nails tapered on all sides and were machine-headed. Today, *wire* nails are made from wire. The proportion of wrought to cut to wire nails from a site helps answer the question “When?”

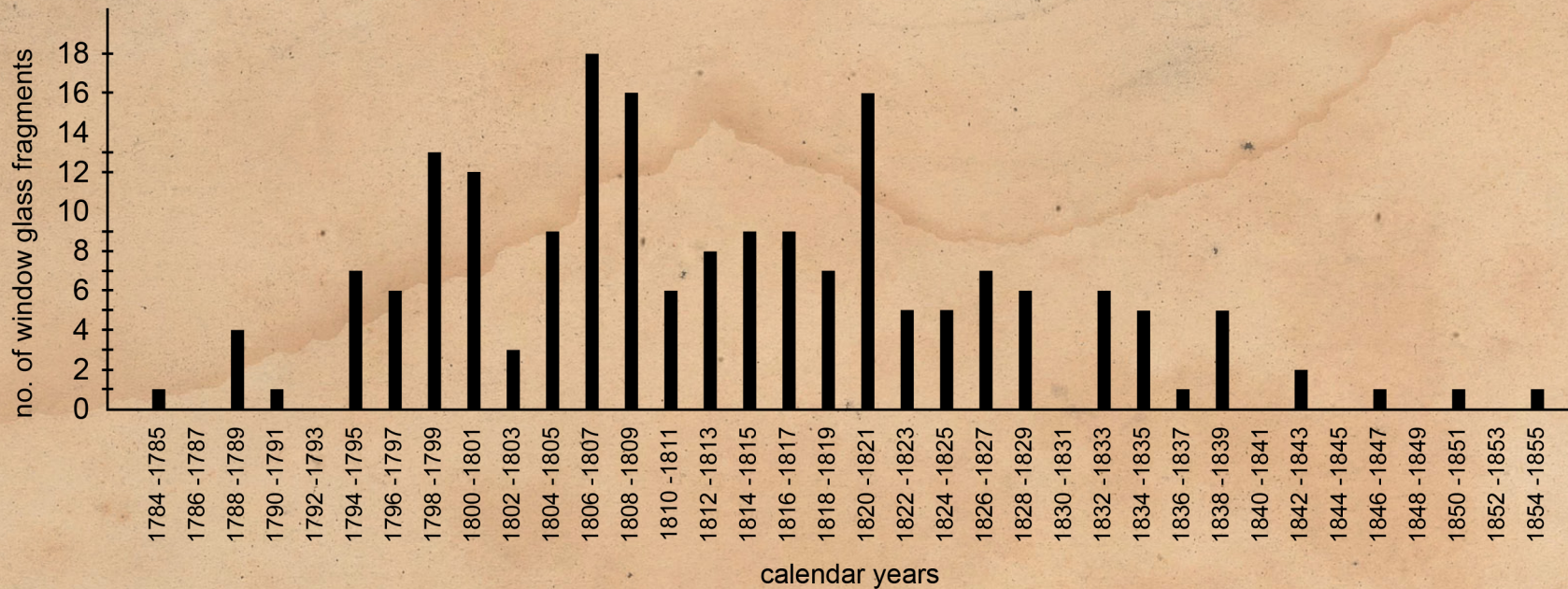


Bottom Early machine-cut nails from T. Champ's Inn. Nail condition provides clues to a building's life history. Is the nail *straight* (not bent at all), *pulled* (bent as it was pulled out of the wood), or *clinched* (bent at a 90 degree angle)? Is it burned or rusted? If a house site produces a high proportion of pulled nails, someone likely dismantled the building. If it produces more straight nails, the structure likely deteriorated in place or burned down.

The size of a nail is its *pennyweight* (4d, 6d, 8d, and so forth). Different sizes of nails are used for different purposes. Workers use shorter, smaller 3-5d nails for roofs and siding; and longer, larger nails (larger than 10d nails) for heavy framing. Archaeologists can get an idea about construction techniques from a building's nail size profile.



Left to Right Burned, clinched 8d nail; burned 4d nail; burned 4d nail; unburned 6d nail; unburned 8d nail.



fruits and vegetables they ate, but the recovery of wheat and corn seeds point to their use.

Because rural latchstring inns were also homes where people lived, worked, and played, the kinds of artifacts archaeologists found at these four sites also were very similar. They included fragments of dishes used in cooking and serving food; utensils used at mealtime; items of clothing; parts of wagons and horse equipment; housewares; and items used during leisure activities.

The differences among these sites are reflected in the arc of the people's lives who

Above Frequencies of window glass fragments by calendar year (converted from thickness measurements) for the 191 fragments of window glass archaeologists collected from T. Champ's Inn in 2003.

Window glass thickness provides information about a building's life history. That's because from the late 1700s through the early nineteenth century, window glass becomes thicker. Using a mathematical formula, archaeologists convert glass thickness to calendar year. After measuring the thickness of a sample of window glass fragments from a site, they count up how many examples of each thickness are present, and then make a graph like this one.

This graph suggests people could have lived at T. Champ's Inn from the late 1700s to the mid-1800s. This range agrees with the archival data. Two peaks (at 1799 and at 1807) suggest construction occurred in the early 1800s. Another peak at 1821 suggests the owners replaced some windows during those years.

called these places “home.” Only the Currents lived in their inn over the course of its history. More land, more slaves, wine bottles, stemmed drinking glasses, tea wares, and medicines – these indicate their well-to-do status. The successful Champ family and bachelor John Neal, farmers of more modest means, owned less land and fewer slaves.

Still, the artifacts from their homes show that taking tea and serving multiple-course meals was a way of life for them, too. Jones Homestead, likely built for the owner’s daughter, was used later as housing for slaves or tenants. These were people of lesser means.

Below “The Country Wedding,” (1820) by American painter John Lewis Krimmel, depicts the marriage at home of the daughter of a moderately prosperous Pennsylvania farmer in the late 1810s.



TO LEARN MORE

Read these books to learn more about the Maysville to Lexington Road, Kentucky history and archaeology, or Kentucky's Early Statehood period:

Stephen Aron, *How the West Was Lost: The Transformation of Kentucky from Daniel Boone to Henry Clay*, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 1996

J. Winston Coleman, *Stagecoach Days in the Bluegrass*, Standard Press, Louisville, 1935

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You also can find information on the web. For an illustrated historical record of American highway development, visit Carl Rakeman's Transportation Painting Collection at www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/publicroads/02janfeb/exhibition.cfm. These paintings relate the story of America's westward expansion.

To learn more about Kentucky archaeology, watch the *Kentucky Archaeology and Heritage Video Series* (www.heritage.ky.gov/kas/pubsvideos/archseries.htm) or visit the Kentucky Archaeological Survey's webpage (www.heritage.ky.gov/kas/kyarchynew). To access the most recent two-volume summary of archaeological research in Kentucky, *The Archaeology of Kentucky: An Update*, edited by David Pollack (2008), visit this Kentucky Heritage Council webpage at www.heritage.ky.gov/siteprotect/archofky.htm.

Permanent displays in many of Kentucky's museums, most notably the Thomas D. Clark

Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort (www.history.ky.gov), present information about Kentucky history. The Frazier Arms Museum in Louisville has exhibits that are much broader than just military and arms, and give a good sense of Kentucky settlement history (www.fraziermuseum.org). The Cincinnati Museum Center in Cincinnati has exhibits about early life in the Ohio Valley (www.cincymuseum.org/historymuseum).



Above The frontier log cabin in this 1826 engraving by Georges Henri Victor Collot was a memory when people began to build their hewn-log or timber framed houses along the Maysville to Lexington Trace during Kentucky's Early Statehood period.

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Design by Hayward Wilkerson.

IMAGE CREDITS

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