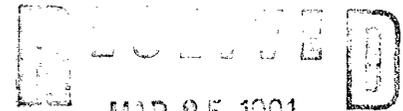


523

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mammoth Cave Historic District  
other names/site number see sec. 7 for individual site numbers

2. Location

street & number Mammoth Cave National Park  not for publication NA  
city, town Mammoth Cave, KY  vicinity NA  
state Kentucky code KY county Edmonson, Barren code 061, 009 zip code 42259

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>11</u>	<u>1</u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>17</u>	<u>1</u> objects
			<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of Mammoth Cave National Park  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. 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.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date 3/20/91  
State or Federal agency and bureau National Park Service

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of commenting or other official David L. Morgan Date Jan. 8, 1991  
State Historic Preservation Officer, Kentucky Heritage Council  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrus 5/8/91  
 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Industry/Processing/Extraction:

Extractive facility

Health Care: hospital

Religion: Ceremonial Site

Recreation and Culture

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Landscape: Conservation Area

Recreation Area

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

N/A

foundation

walls

roof

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Historic Resources of Mammoth Cave National Park, MPS  
Edmonson, Hart, and Barren Counties, Kentucky,  
Mammoth Cave Historic District

Section number 7 Page 1

7. Description of present and historic appearance.

Mammoth Cave, in south central Kentucky, is located within the boundaries of Mammoth Cave National Park. The nominated area, roughly twelve miles of underground passages, includes those portions of the cave that were used for early mining, medical, exploratory, and commercial purposes. The district includes five contributing sites: the Historic Entrance, Carmichael Entrance, Violet City Entrance, and Frozen Niagara Entrance, and Gothic Avenue (where the historic signatures, monuments, and rock walls are found); eleven contributing structures: the Mushroom Beds, Rock Stairs and Walls near Olive's Bower, Saltpetre Mining Works, Rock Wall at the Bridal Altar, Rock Wall at Jenny Lind's Armchair, Rock Wall at the end of Gothic Avenue, Rock Stairs at end of Gothic Avenue, two stone Tuberculin Huts, Albert's Stairway, and the Landing at Crystal Lake; and one contributing object: the cable at Aerobridge Canyon. Non-contributing elements include one site: the New Entrance to Mammoth Cave; and several structures: the gate at the historic entrance, the electrical system, a series of modern metal handrails (considered one structure), the metal bridges, and the metal gates and fences. The entire list of contributing and non-contributing resources are listed and described below.

Though Mammoth Cave was explored and used by Indians several thousand years ago, the prehistoric resources of the cave are outside the scope of this nomination. The resources included are those dating from the cave's rediscovery by Kentucky pioneers in the late eighteenth century.

One large natural opening and five man-made entrances lead into the Mammoth Cave District. The cave's temperature is a constant 54 degrees year round. In addition to numerous passages, the cave contains large chambers and small crawl spaces, deep pits and steep domes, intricate formations, and artifacts of prehistoric and historic significance which have attracted visitors for nearly two centuries. The cave is also home to numerous endangered animal species, such as the varieties of eyeless fish that inhabit the underground streams.

The earliest visitors, led by slave guides, would have experienced the cave with only the aid of grease or oil-fueled lanterns. Early trails were probably narrower, littered in

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetHistoric Resources of Mammoth Cave National Park, MPS  
Edmonson, Hart, and Barren Counties, Kentucky  
Mammoth Cave Historic DistrictSection number 7 Page 2

places with uncleared rocks and rubble, and wet and slippery in some spots. The few handrails would have been made of wood, as would most of the early bridges. Rock and wooden stairways would have led to the various levels of the cave. In the early to mid-nineteenth century, visitors may have eaten a meal in a dining room located near the cave's entrance or attended church services further into the depths of the cave in the area now known as the Methodist Church.

Most of the Mammoth Cave district has been altered to some degree but is in good condition and exhibits a high degree of overall integrity. The alterations, described below in more detail during the discussion of non-contributing resources, have included the replacement or addition of entry gates, handrails, and bridges, and the introduction of an electric lighting system into certain of the most heavily toured areas of the cave. All alterations have been made to enhance the enjoyment, accessibility, and safety of visitors to Mammoth Cave, causes which have their roots in the cave's historic utilization as a tourist attraction; thus, these alterations are compatible with the historical motives which led to the development of the cave.

The following is a descriptive list of the non-contributing elements and contributing historic resources in Mammoth Cave. Due to time limits and the very nature of the cave, all passages could not be systematically surveyed for resources. Though this list contains the best known of Mammoth Cave's historic resources, it is probable that additional resources exist. The system of cave trails has not yet been surveyed or evaluated systematically, though it is likely that at least portions of the system could be considered contributing resources. Because of its local, state, and national importance, the cave merits a more detailed survey. Such a survey could very well lead to an increase of this nomination's boundary and the overall number of contributing resources.

#### I. Description of Non-contributing Elements

1. The Mammoth Cave Historic District includes two principal areas in which historic resources are concentrated: the Historic Tour area and the New Entrance area, which are considered, for this nomination, as one district. Certain portions of

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Historic Resources of Mammoth Cave National Park, MPS  
Edmonson, Hart, and Barren Counties, Kentucky  
Mammoth Cave Historic District

Section number 7 Page 3

these passages have not been surveyed; thus their contribution has not been documented. Contributing resources may exist in these unsurveyed portions of the district. Further survey in this area could yield contributing resources which would update this nomination.

2. The electric lighting system, first installed in the 1950s, includes light fixtures, wiring, switches, and transformer boxes placed in the most heavily toured areas of the historic cave and the New entrance section. Though electricity radically affected the visitors' experience of the cave, the system is less than the required fifty years of age. Elements of the system have been replaced or updated repeatedly. The various components of the electric lighting system will not be mapped or discussed further in the text of this nomination.

3. Metal handrails were placed in certain portions of the cave during the 1950s and 1960s to ensure visitor safety in certain dimly lit, slippery, steep, or otherwise possibly dangerous areas of the cave. These handrails are considered a single non-contributing resource.

4. Six chain link gates and fences have been placed in various portions of the cave which require limited access, mainly for safety reasons. These gates date from the 1950s to the present. It is possible that there are more of these gates and fences, all of which should also be considered non-contributing.

5. There is one non-contributing metal bridge crossing Crystal Lake which replaced the original deteriorated wooden structure in the 1950s or 1960s.

6. Located on the south slope of Mammoth Cave Ridge on an access road entered from Old Highway 70 (State Road 255), the New Entrance to Mammoth Cave (E-10, see photo #18) was constructed by the employees of George Morrison in 1921. In the early 1960s a new door and concrete shelter were added to the entrance, though it was closed in 1967 for safety reasons. In the early 1980s the door was again replaced, as was an interior stairway, and the entrance was reopened for tours. New Entrance is currently used for the Frozen Niagara Tour. Though its location is original and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Historic Resources of Mammoth Cave National Park, MPS  
Edmonson, Hart, and Barren Counties, Kentucky  
Mammoth Cave Historic District

Section number 7 Page 4

its construction was important in the history of Mammoth Cave, the New Entrance is considered a non-contributing site because of its lack of integrity of immediate setting, design, materials, and workmanship.

7. Though the Historic Entrance itself is a contributing resource, the double concrete stairway with metal handrails leading to the cave from the surface, as well as the steel entry door and turnstile found at the cave's opening, were all added in the past two decades and are thus non-contributing elements.

II. Contributing Resources

Historic Entrance (E-01)  
[photo #1]

The historic entrance, the only known natural entrance to Mammoth Cave, is a large sinkhole, approximately 30' wide by 30' high. A steady flow of waters constantly drips from the top of the opening to the entrance floor. A steep double concrete stairway with metal handrails leads to the steel entrance door and turnstile, all of which were added in the past two decades and are non-contributing elements. The immediate setting has been somewhat altered with the recent addition of rock walls, concreted steps, and park benches in the entrance's gathering yard. These alterations do not adversely affect the integrity of the immediate setting, which is essential for integrity of feeling and association. The opening itself is original and stable, as are the rock walls of the sinkhole one encounters when entering the cave. Integrity of location, immediate setting, feeling, and association are intact.

Mushroom Beds (IC-02)  
[photo #2]

In 1881-82 the Mammoth Cave Mushroom Company attempted to grow mushrooms in a remote portion of Audubon Avenue. Though the experiment was a failure, the somewhat deteriorated remnants of the mushroom beds remain in their original location. The six mushroom beds each measure approximately 4' wide by 12' long. The soil of the beds is contained within bottomless boxes made

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetHistoric Resources of Mammoth Cave National Park, MPS  
Edmonson, Hart, and Barren Counties, KentuckySection number 7 Page 5

Mammoth Cave Historic District

with 12" wide wooden planks. Three of the beds are elevated on 3' on dirt-filled limestone rubble platforms. The other three sit directly on the cave floor. Though the wood boards supporting the beds are deteriorated, integrity of location, setting, design, materials, feeling, and association are intact.

Rock Stairs and Walls to Olive's Bower (IC-3)  
[Photo # 3]

Leading to the area of the cave named "Olive's Bower," the rock stairs and walls are believed to have been constructed sometime in the late nineteenth century. They consist of stacked limestone rocks and slabs. Beginning at Audubon Avenue, the 14 stairs ascend approximately 10 feet to the trail leading to Olive's Bower. The limestone rubble walls, which were stacked when the path was being cleared, line the trail for about forty yards from the end of Audubon Avenue to Olive's Bower. Both are in good condition. Integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are intact.

Saltpetre Mining Works (HS2A & B)  
[photos 4, 5, 6]

Located in the Rotunda, along Broadway, and at Booth's Amphitheatre in Mammoth Cave are a system of wooden leaching vats, pipes, and collecting tanks used in the mining and processing of the cave dirt for saltpetre, a major component of gunpowder, during the War of 1812.

The rectangular leaching vats (3 in the Rotunda and 6 in Booth's Avenue) with sides measuring between 9' and 12' and stand approximately 3 1/2 feet high, are constructed of hand hewn and sawn oak and poplar and rest on low stone walls. Water was drained through cave dirt placed in these vats to extract calcium nitrate, which could be converted to saltpetre. The vats in the Rotunda are somewhat obscured by piles of discarded cave dirt. The features of those in Booth's Avenue are more visible. These show mortise and tenon frames, tongue and groove siding, and hand hewn nailing studs.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetHistoric Resources of Mammoth Cave National Park, MPS  
Edmonson, Hart, and Barren Counties, Kentucky  
Mammoth Cave Historic DistrictSection number 7 Page 6

The wooden collecting tank in the Rotunda, which "collected" the mineral-rich water after it had been leached through the cave soil, measures approximately 3' by 10'. The fifty sections of log pipes, used to transport water to and from the cave, located along Broadway range in size from 3' to 26' long. The logs were hollowed out and tapered at one end so that they fit together.

The remains of the mining operation are in fair condition. All wood which has been in extended contact with the cave dirt is deteriorated. The leaching vats are in their original locations. Though they remain in the passages in which they were used, most of the pipes were moved from their original positions decades ago--and relocated many times since. The park staff has layed out an extension of pipes end to end along the Broadway. Around the Methodist Church area is one section of pipes believed to be in their original positions. Despite deterioration and instances of relocation, integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association are maintained.

Rock Monuments, Walls, and Signatures in Gothic Avenue  
(IC-10) [photo # 7]

The rock "monuments," stacks of limestone rubble put together by visitors to the cave in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, take on various shapes and sizes and sometimes bear the name of the state or group of visitors that constructed them. Local tradition holds that early cave guides encouraged this practice in order to quicken the arduous process of clearing trails. The rock walls, also made of rubble which once blocked the trails, vary in size from two to five feet. The signatures of visitors and dates of their visits were inscribed with candle smoke on the ceilings and walls of Gothic Avenue. Though monuments and signatures are found in various other portions of the cave, the largest intact collection of both are found in Gothic Avenue. Integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association are maintained.

Rock Wall at the Bridal Alter (IC-05)  
[photo #8]

Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Historic Resources of Mammoth Cave National Park, MPS  
Edmonson, Hart, and Barren Counties, Kentucky  
Mammoth Cave Historic District

Section number 7 Page 7

---

this semi-circular, cut and cemented limestone wall measures approximately 2' high and 21' long and surrounds the formation known as the bridal altar. The wall is a good example of the rock work done by the CCC at Mammoth Cave. Integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are intact.

Rock Wall at Jenny Lind's Armchair (IC-08)  
[photo #9]

The semi-circular rock wall that protects the formation known as Jenny Lind's Armchair was constructed in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. It measures 2' high, 24' long, and 1' wide. The wall is a combination of uncut and cut limestone cemented in some places and simply stacked in others. Integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are intact.

Rock Wall at End of Gothic Ave (IC-09)  
[photo #10]

This "question mark" shaped rock wall at the end of Gothic Avenue was constructed in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps to block the passage, which drops steeply beyond the wall. The wall, which is a good example of the rock work of the CCC at Mammoth Cave, measures approximately 2' high, 1' wide, and 24' long. The limestone slabs are cemented into place. Integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are maintained.

Rock Stairs at End of Gothic Avenue (IC-04)  
[photo #11]

Constructed in the late nineteenth century, approximately 27 irregularly shaped limestone slab steps lead from the end of Gothic Avenue through the "Elbow Crevice." Park officials estimate that up to 45 steps were part of the original stairway, some of which have been destroyed with the construction of the concrete stairway next to it. Though the setting and design have been somewhat altered, integrity of location, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are intact.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Historic Resources of Mammoth Cave National Park, MPS  
Edmonson, Hart, and Barren Counties, Kentucky  
Mammoth Cave Historic District

Section number 7 Page 8

Tuberculin Huts (HS3A and HS3B)  
[photos #12 & #13]

Believing that Mammoth Cave's uniform temperature and humidity would prove beneficial for people with tuberculosis, Dr. John Croghan, a Louisville doctor who owned the cave, built a hospital in the cave. In 1842-43 he constructed a series of wooden and stone huts to accomodate patients with the disease. Of the twelve huts originally built, only the two made of stone survive.

Located along Broadway, the two remaining tuberculin huts were constructed of loosely fitted limestone blocks measuring about two feet thick. The original canvas roofs no longer exist. The plank floor of the most intact hut (HS3A) remains, although the floor of HS3B is no longer present.

The walls of HS3A, the first hut one encounters when traveling down Broadway from the Historic Entrance, are approximately 7'8" tall, although the height varies slightly due to the uneven terrain. The cave wall serves as the rear wall of the structure. The front wall, parallel to the cave wall, has an unglazed window and measures approximately 17' long. The wall closest to the second structure measures approximately 12' long. The final wall, which has the structure's wood framed doorway, is just over 10' long.

HS3B, the larger of the two huts, is believed to have been used as a common dining hall for the tuberculin patients. Measuring approximately 8' high, 20' 6" long, and 16' wide, the structure has one door on the wall closest to HS3A. The wall opposite the door is partially collapsed.

One of the tuberculin huts is in fair condition and the other is deteriorated. Despite the structural deterioration, integrity of location, setting, design, materials, feeling, and association are intact.

Albert's Stairway (IC-11)  
[photo #14]

Constructed around 1908, Albert's Stairway consists of 52 limestone rubble stairs located along the right wall of Eliza-

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetHistoric Resources of Mammoth Cave National Park, MPS  
Edmonson, Hart, and Barren Counties, KentuckySection number 7 Page 9

Mammoth Cave Historic District

beth's Dome (from the view of one climbing the steps). A metal railing was added to the stairway for safety, probably during the 1930s when the Civilian Conservation Corps was working in the cave. The structure is in good condition. Aside from the addition of the railing, the site is unaltered. Integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are maintained.

Violet City Entrance (E-20)  
[photo #15]

Reached by a limited access road which continues the westerly route of state road 255 (old Highway 70) after its intersection with the park entrance road, Violet City Entrance was constructed in 1931 by George Carmichael, an engineer with Kentucky Asphalt Company, just prior to the park's development. The entrance was named after Violet Blair Janin, the last of the Croghan heirs and Mammoth Cave trustees. Built into a hillside, the entrance has a concrete gathering yard, concrete outer walls, and gothic shaped double iron doors with strap-like hinges. The entrance currently serves as the exit for the park's Lantern Tour. Though the immediate setting was slightly altered with the addition of metal handrails near the entrance, integrity of location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship, feeling, and association are intact.

Carmichael Entrance (E-21)  
[photo #16]

Carmichael Entrance was constructed in 1931 by George Carmichael, an engineer with the Kentucky Asphalt Company, just prior to the park's development. The entrance, which was named after Carmichael, is reached by a limited access road which continues the westerly route of State Road 255 after its intersection with the park entrance road. Concrete stairs descend from the access road to the double, iron, Gothic shaped doors with strap-like hinges, which are set into concrete outer walls. Though the original doors were taken out in the 1970s, they were replaced with exact copies of the ones removed. The opening currently serves as the entrance for the park's Half-day Tour. Though the immediate setting was altered with the addition of

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Historic Resources of Mammoth Cave National Park, MPS  
Edmonson, Hart, and Barren Counties, Kentucky  
Mammoth Cave Historic District

Section number 7 Page 10

metal handrails and concrete steps, integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship are intact.

Cable at Aerobridge Canyon (IC-06)  
[photo #17]

In 1921 and 1922 this 1" steel cable, measuring approximately 200' in length, supported a wooden cable car which transported visitors to the New Entrance Cave across the length of the canyon. The cable car and wooden loading platforms have been dismantled. Integrity of location, setting, materials, feeling, and association are intact.

Landing at Crystal Lake (IC-08)  
[photo #19]

This concrete boat landing was built in 1923 for the loading and unloading of passengers touring the Frozen Niagara portion of the cave. The landing, which was used until 1955, measures approximately 11' by 3'. A small boat is still docked at the site. Across the small lake are four concrete stairs associated with the landing. Integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are intact.

Frozen Niagara Entrance (E-11)  
[photo #20]

Located on the south slope of Mammoth Cave Ridge on an access road entered from Old Highway 70 (State Road 255), the Frozen Niagara Entrance was constructed by the employees of George Morrison in 1924. The exterior tunnel that originally led to the cave's entrance was dismantled in the late 1920s. Limestone boulders were added around the entrance, probably in the 1930s, to give the entrance a more natural appearance. The original wooden door, set into a sandstone retaining wall, was replaced with a metal door in the late 1970s. Inside the door 10 concrete steps lead to the cave. Because the most prominent alterations were made within a decade of the entrance's construction, the current appearance of the Frozen Niagara Entrance does not vary much from its most well-known historical appearance. Integrity of location, immediate setting, the majority of materials, feeling, and association are intact.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G    N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation  
Industry  
Health/Medicine  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1816-1941  
1806-1814  
1842-1843

Significant Dates

1816  
1806  
1842

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See section H of the documentation form.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References

A          
Zone Easting Northing

C

B          
Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description  
\_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification  
\_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kelly A. Lally, consultant

organization Kentucky Heritage Council date June 1989

street & number 701 D Daniels St telephone 919-828-9123

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27605

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Historic Resources of Mammoth Cave National Park, MPS  
Edmonson, Hart, and Barren Counties, Kentucky  
Mammoth Cave Historic District

Section number 8 Page 1

8. Statement of significance, criteria justification, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance.

The Mammoth Cave District is historically significant under the contexts discussing "Discovery and Early Uses of Mammoth Cave (1798-1849)," "Commercial Cave Development in the Mammoth Cave Area (1849-1926)," and "The Development of the Mammoth Cave Area into a National Park (1926-1942)." Mammoth Cave is nationally significant in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation, Industry, and Medicine.

Mammoth Cave's most prominent claim to fame is and always has been its use as a major tourist attraction. From the earliest commercial tours circa 1816 to the day it was established as a part of Mammoth Cave National Park in 1941, Mammoth Cave has received national and international attention and acclaim which continues into the present. Among the prominent nineteenth century visitors to the cave were Jenny Lind, the famous Swedish opera singer, and the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia. A number of British travelers wrote of their cave experiences in their travel accounts and diaries. Most of the historic sites in the Mammoth Cave district, mainly the entrances, rock walls, stairs, and monuments, and the candle smoke signatures reflect the cave's use for the entertainment of countless numbers of visitors who have come to see the most extensive of the world's caves.

In the years before and during the War of 1812 (1806-1814) when trade with British-controlled India was cut off, Mammoth Cave was a major source for saltpetre, an essential ingredient in gunpowder. Mined and processed by slave labor, it is estimated that the Mammoth Cave facility produced over 400,000 pounds of the mineral in 1814 alone. Without the gunpowder made from Mammoth Cave saltpetre, it is possible that the War of 1812 could have ended with a British victory. The remains of the saltpetre mining works in the cave provide a remarkably intact picture of an important early nineteenth century extractive industry.

Dr. John Croghan (the owner of Mammoth Cave from 1839 to 1849) and other contemporary medical experts had believed that the even temperature and humidity would prove beneficial to the health of people stricken with tuberculosis. In 1842-1843, a number people with this disease from as far away as New York and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Historic Resources of Mammoth Cave National Park, MPS  
Edmonson, Hart, and Barren Counties, Kentucky  
Mammoth Cave Historic District

Section number 8 Page 2

---

Pennsylvania were hospitalized in the cave, living in stone and wood huts. After several patients died, the experiment ended, deemed a failure by the medical world of the nineteenth century. However the results of this experiment on a then common, but little-understood and often fatal illness paved the way for an eventual cure for the ailment.

Though Mammoth Cave is nationally significant in several different areas, this resource has also had considerable impact on local and state history. Beginning in the early nineteenth century, local residents were employed to work in the hotel and in the cave as tour guides. During ownership by the Croghan heirs in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, the controversial period known locally as the "cave wars" came about as owners of other caves began to compete with Mammoth Cave for the lucrative tourist business. Finally, this unique resource, which serves as the central attraction of Kentucky's only national park, continues to bring hundreds of thousands of tourists yearly to the state of Kentucky from all over the world.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Mammoth Cave Historic District

MAMMOTH CAVE DISCONTIGUOUS HISTORIC DISTRICT

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

TO ACCOMPANY

HISTORIC RESOURCES MAP

AS DRAWN BY THE CAVE RESEARCH FOUNDATION

FOR MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK

AND THE KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL

December 6, 1990

The verbal boundary description for the underground discontinuous historic district consists of two items, a map drawn to scale, i.e. 1" = 1274' and second, the following paragraphs of explanation. This scaled map is attached

A special note, a map drawn strictly to National Register Standards as outlined in Bulletin 16, even for the relatively small section of cave encompassed in the proposed district, is very unwieldy. The scale of the base map that has been produced for this nomination is 1" = 250' and is actually a little over six feet long. This base map has been digitized and reduced to the scale of 1" = 1274' in order to make it easier to handle.

Cave passageways included in the historic district are represented by "cross hatch marks". Those represented by lines indicating only the sides of the passageways indicate non-district.

Five lines have been added to the map in order to further clarify this scheme:

Historic Entrance to Line "A\_\_A" = 3,185'

Violet City Entrance to Line "B\_\_B" = 382'

Historic Entrance to Line "C\_\_C" = 2,421'

Historic Entrance to Line "D\_\_D" = 1,019'

Frozen Niagara Entrance to Line "E\_\_E" = 3,185'

Therefore, the district includes that section of the main cave passageway known as "Broadway" between the "Historic Entrance" and line AA. The section of "Broadway" between the "Violet City

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 2

Mammoth Cave Historic District

---

Entrance" and line BB is also in the district. Conversely, the passageway(s) between Line "AA" and Line "BB" are not included. The district includes the main passageway between line "EE" and the Frozen Niagara Entrance. All cave entrances shown on the map are also in the district.

Within the contiguous areas of the district are many non-contributing resources. These resources fall into the two general categories of utilities and public safety support structures. These include trails, handrailings, metal bridges, fences, gates, lights, light fixtures, light switches, electrical wiring, electrical transformers, interpretive signs and displays, etc. All of these features are modern and are subject to change periodically given different resource and visitor protection concerns. Their existence, non-existence, or location does not contribute to the historical significance of the Mammoth Cave Historic District.

Note: The USGS surface map defines the relative spacial "limits" of the district in terms of points "A", "B", "C", and "D" and should not be confused with the underground lines just discussed.

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 91000503 Date Listed: 5/8/91

Mammoth Cave Historic District Edmonson KY  
Property Name: County: State:

Mammoth Cave National Park MPS  
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.

*for* Patrick Andrus  
Signature of the Keeper

5/8/91  
Date of Action

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

The nomination form for the district did not provide an acreage figure and did not clearly identify the non-contributing structures. Bob Ward, NPS Historian at the park, says that the acreage figure is 9.1, and that there are 9 non-contributing structures (the electrical system is counted as 1, the handrail system is counted as one, there is one non-contributing bridge over Crystal Lake, and there are 6 non-contributing gates and fences). The form is now officially amended to include this information.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



1. Historic Entrance (E-01)  
Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky



2. Mushroom Beds (IL-02)  
Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky



3. Rock stairs to Olive's Bower (IC-03)  
Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky



4. Leaching Vat, Rotunda, Saltpetre Mining Works (452A)  
Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky



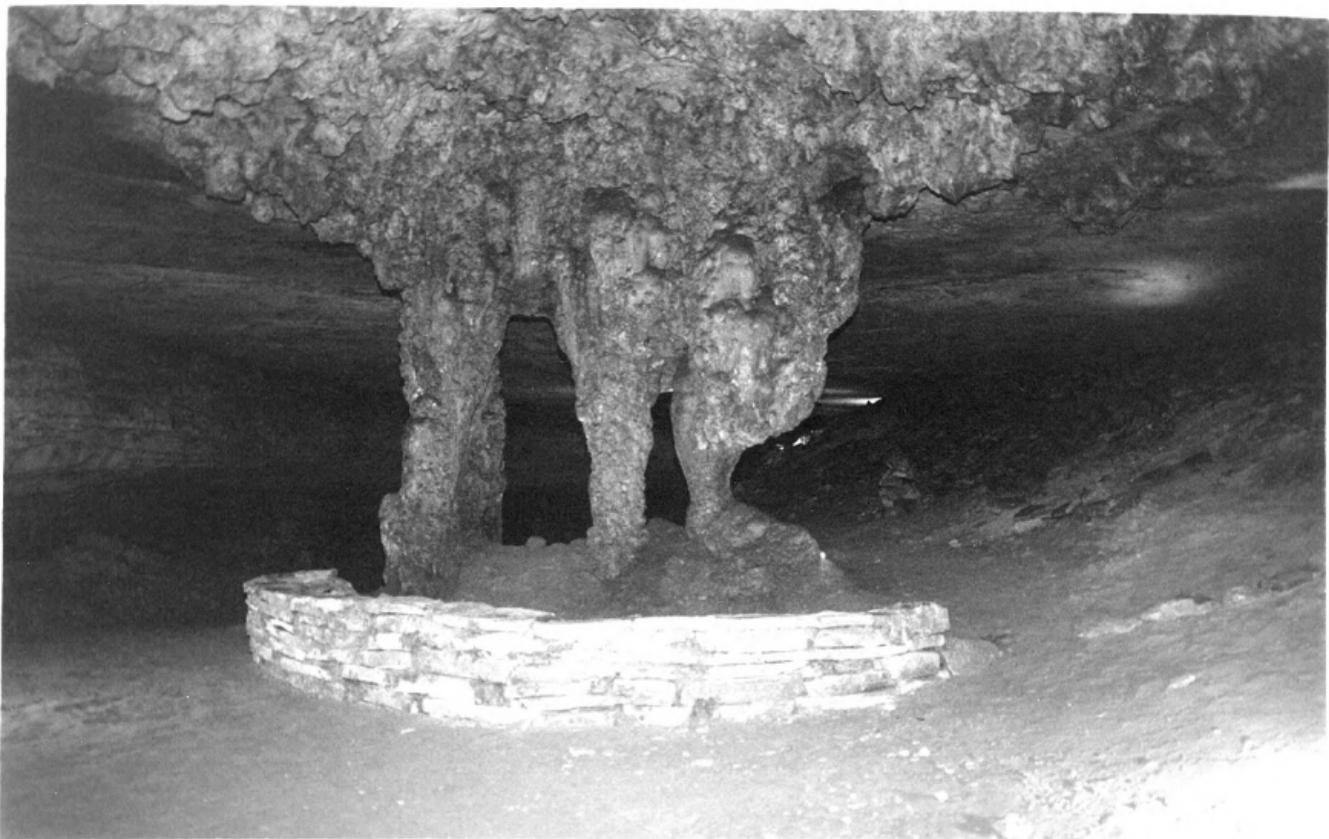
5. pipes near Methodist church, salt petre Mining works  
Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky (H52B)



6. Leaching Vats, Booth's Amphitheatre, saltpetre mining works (H53B) Mammoth Cave Nat'l Park, Kentucky



7. Rock Monuments and signatures (IC-10)  
Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky



8. Rock wall at Bridal Altar (IC-05)  
Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky



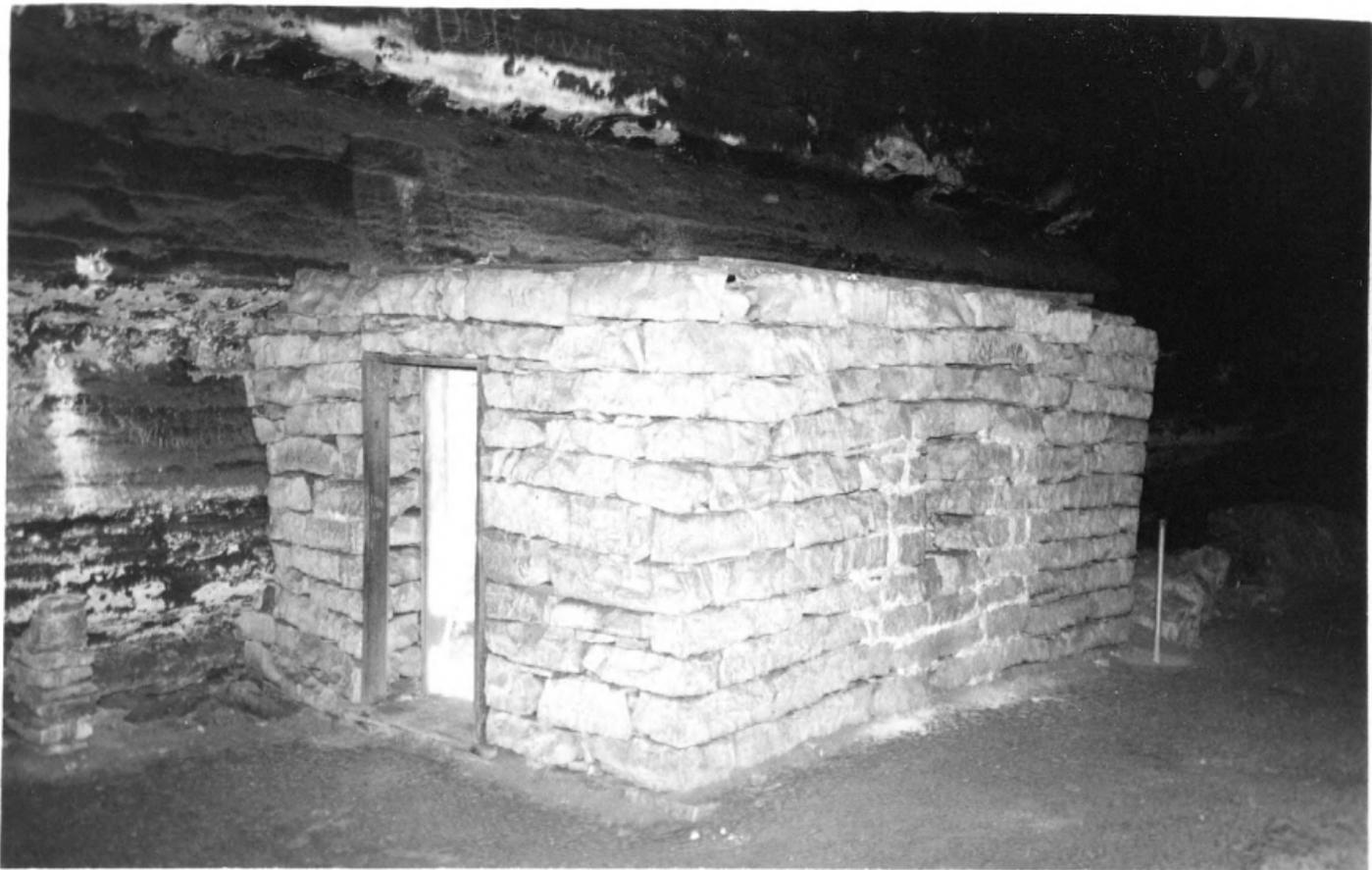
9. Rock wall at Jenny Lind's Arm Chair (IC-08)  
Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky



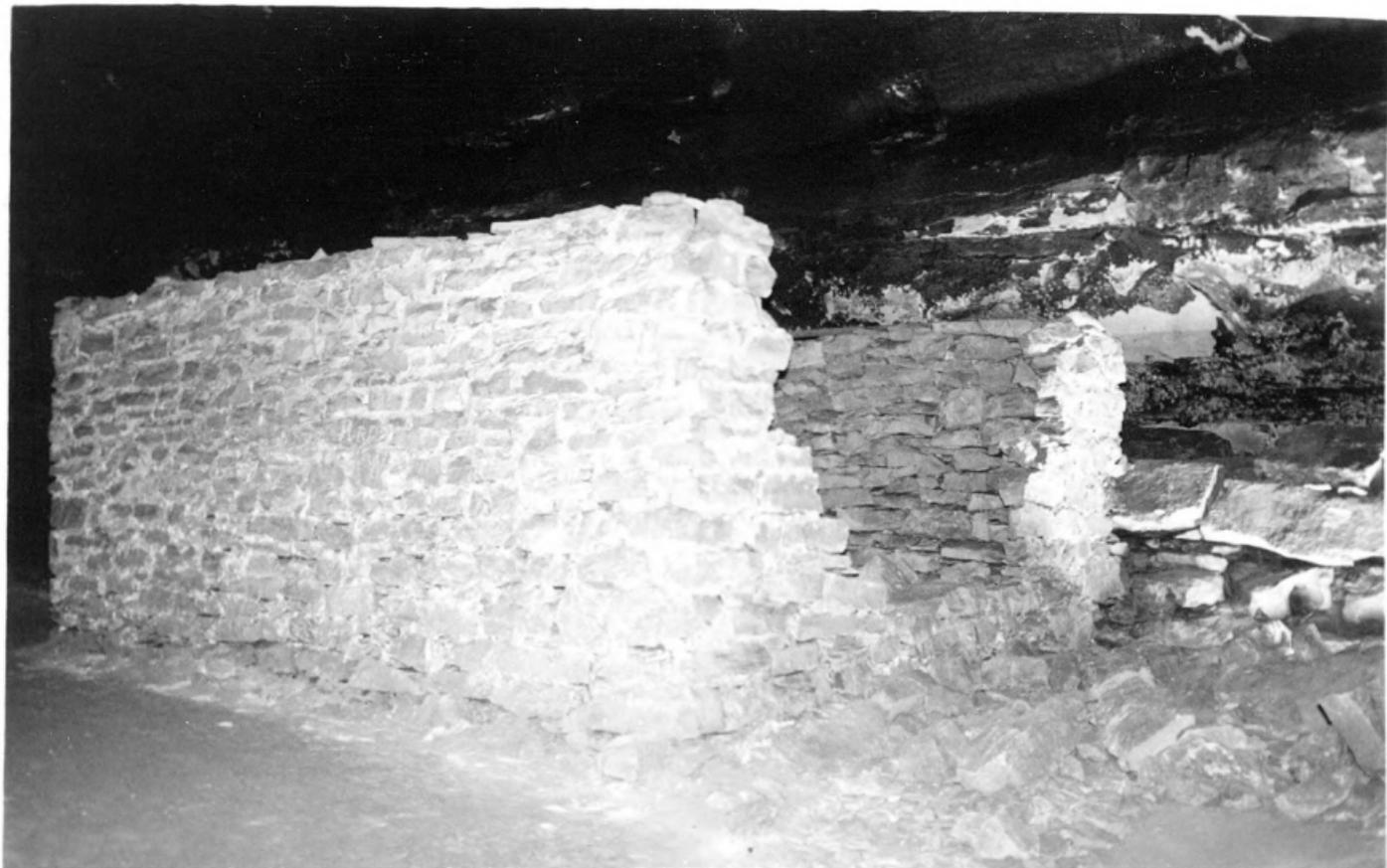
10. Rock wall at end of Gothic Avenue (LIC-09)  
Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky



11. Rock stairs at end of Gothic Avenue (IC-04)  
Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky



12. Tuberculin Huts (H53A)  
Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky



13. Tuberculin Hut (HS3B)  
Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky



14. Albert's Stairway (IC-11)  
Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky



15. Violet City Entrance (E-20)  
Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky



14. Carmichael Entrance (E-21)  
Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky



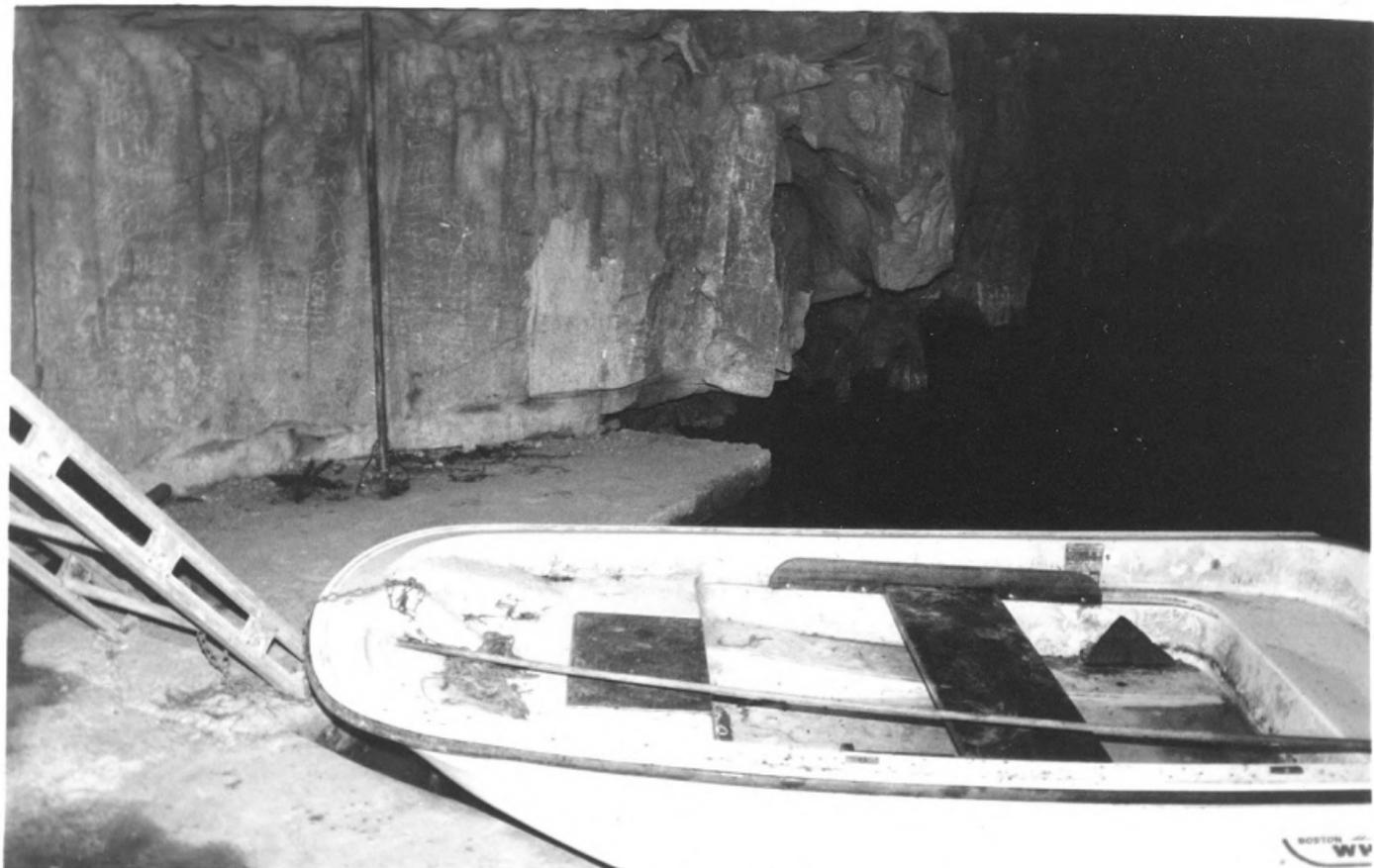
17. Cable at Aerobridge Canyon (IC-04)  
Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky



18. New Entrance (E-10)  
Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky



20. Frozen Niagara Entrance (E-4)  
Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky



19. Landing at Crystal Lake (IC-08)  
Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky



1. MASON BROWN House
2. Owen County, Ky
3. W. CHATFIELD
4. 1200
5. W. CHATFIELD
6. South facade, looking north
7. #1



1. MASON BROWN House
2. Owen County, Ky
3. W CHATFIELD
4. 12/97
5. W CHATFIELD
6. East facade, looking Northwest
7. #2



1. MASON BROWN HOUSE
2. OWEN COUNTY, Ky
3. W Chatfield
4. 12/97
5. W Chatfield
6. West facade, looking Northeast
7. #3



1. MASON BROWN HOUSE
2. Owen County, Ky,
3. W Chatfield
4. 12/97
5. W Chatfield
6. North facade, looking Southeast
7. #4