

Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
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First Vineyard
Name of Property

Jessamine County, Kentucky
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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
		district
1		site
2	1	structure
		object
3	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE: Processing

AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE: Processing

AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NA

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone

walls: NA

roof: NA

other: NA

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The First Vineyard (JS-550) was established by John James Dufour in the spring of 1799. The site is located in Jessamine County, Kentucky, in the Big Bend of the Kentucky River. It is situated about 9 miles south of the county seat, Nicholasville, at nearly the most southern point of the county. The area proposed for National Register listing is six acres, the historic vineyard area of Dufour's operation; that acreage sits within the current owner's larger property, which is approximately 29.82 acres. Dufour developed his vineyard by clearing the large stones from the ground and using them to build a stone fence that today still surrounds the vineyard.¹ Dufour also used the stones to construct the open air winery. The winery is of dry laid stone and is round at one end where the vat would have been placed and square at the other end for the press. The winery is located at the bottom of the vineyard in the property's southeast corner, still intact. The current owner obtained the property in 1994, but did not discover its relationship to Dufour or early wine-making until 2002; since then, he has been carefully investigating the property's history and restoring the remnants of Dufour's effort. Workers have cleared and replanted the 1.2 acres of terraces created by Dufour. The remaining area, 4.8 acres, remains as wild growth, covered with trees and large vines, growing intertwined among the branches. Some of the original type of grapes, the Cape Grape or "Alexander" (as it was later classified by William Robert Prince²), which grew successfully for Dufour and started the wine industry in the United States, are growing in this portion of the vineyard. The area proposed for listing includes 1 contributing site, 2 contributing structures—the winery and the stone fencing-terracing—and 1 non-contributing structure, a gazebo. The property is being interpreted for its use by Dufour from 1798-1809.

Establishment of the Site

The original survey of the property defined 750 acres, as platted by Daniel Boone for William Hazelrigg on June 27, 1780.³ A deed was issued for the property by Patrick Henry on December 2, 1785.⁴ When Dufour received the property from John Hazelrigg, executor of William Hazelrigg, the property had been reduced to 633 acres.⁵ The original vineyard only contained six acres and sat within the larger tract of property that was bordered by the Kentucky River to the south and east. At that time, the Kentucky River was the most reliable travel corridor, and connected the site to the eastern seaboard and other international seaports.

Historic Transportation Access to the Property

Outside of the stone fence surrounding the vineyard, is a road that leads down to the river opposite the landing of Quantico. In August of 1799, two members of the Kentucky Vineyard Society, Walker Baylor and Robert Patterson, petitioned the Jessamine County Fiscal Court for a road from Nicholasville to the vineyard, to terminate at the Kentucky River.⁶ In September, 1799, the proposed path for the road is reported to the Jessamine County Fiscal Court and submitted for approval.⁷ This road, locally called Sugar Creek Road, connected to the Wilderness Road.

¹ John James Dufour, *The American Vine-Dresser's Guide*, (Cincinnati: S.J. Browne, 1826), p. 125.

² William Robert Prince, *A Treatise On the Vine: Embracing Its History From the Earliest Ages to the Present, with A Dissertation On the Establishment, Culture and Management of Vineyards* (New York: T & J Swords, NY, 1830), p.173.

³ Boone/Hazelrigg Survey #2917, Kentucky Secretary of State, Frankfort, KY.

⁴ Deed to Hazelrigg, deed on treasury warrant #3885 issued 12/2/1785

⁵ Deed from Wm Hazelrigg to Joshua Hazelrigg Book E, P. 176, Jessamine Co. Courthouse, Nicholasville, KY.

⁶ Jessamine County Court Order Book 1A, August 1799, p.39, Jessamine Co. Courthouse, Nicholasville, KY.

⁷ Jessamine County COB 1A, September 1799, 52

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On the other side of the Kentucky River was the landing of Quantico that in the late 1700s and early 1800s was a shipping port on the Kentucky River. There was a road on the south side of the river (Quantico side) that forked off of the Wilderness Road. Today, people in the area refer to this road as the Danville Road and U.S. 27. Historically this road allowed farmers to bring products to Quantico for shipment. Warehouses at Quantico housed flour, salted meats, hemp, liquors and tobacco.⁸ *Patches of Garrard County*⁹ tells how tobacco was shipped all the way to Europe. There was also a ferry authorized on this side of the river at this landing by the Madison County fiscal court in the name of Thomas Harris (May 5, 1789).¹⁰ Dufour's business plan, published in the *Lexington Gazette*, said that within 10 years he anticipated enough production that wine could be shipped to New Orleans, as well as the West Indies and the Atlantic states.¹¹ The shipping port at Quantico would have fulfilled this need. In 1900, when the Corps of Engineers constructed Lock 8 and Dam on the Kentucky River, the river widened and partially obscured the ferry ramp to the river; part of it remains exposed.

"Discovery" of the Site

The current owner was informed in 2002 that the First Vineyard had been located somewhere near his property, along the Big Bend of the Kentucky River. This led the owner to undertake research to find the location. Numerous articles describe the vineyard as surrounded by a stone fence, just below the confluence of Sugar Creek and the Kentucky River. For example, the November 17, 1899 edition of the *Jessamine Journal* newspaper carried an article by T. R. Dean stating, "the place chosen was a hill slope on the Kentucky River just below the mouth of Sugar Creek... There is also a map of the grounds, river, etc., surrounding it." The article also noted the rock wall as identifying the site, one of the key features still present today.

Dufour said the vineyard was terraced and had southern exposure. These were all true of this piece of property, but still not enough to confirm the location. The owner had the good fortune to come upon *Sketch of the Evolution of Our Native Fruits* (1898) by Liberty Hyde Bailey, which said the vineyard was on the Michael Salter tract, as local deed records could confirm the relationship between his property and First Vineyard. John and James Butler's book, *Indiana Wine*, showed a survey that Dufour had done of the property, which identified two parcels, one being Michael Salter's, as it was divided off and sold after Dufour's death.¹² A title search of the property found the Michael Salter deed, which included the phrase, "commonly called the vineyard tract".¹³

Prior to making any changes in the vineyard, the present owner contacted the viticulture department at the University of Kentucky, to see if there were any academic interest in these vines. From the university, Dr. John Strang, Dr. Dewayne Ingram, and S. Kaan Kurtral visited the vineyard on February 16, 2007, and took cuttings, however, nothing came from their investigation. After the visit, 1.2 acres of the previously terraced property were cleared and replanted with grape vines, some of which were the Alexander or Cape grape. The balance of 4.8 acres remains in a wild condition.

⁸ *Littell's Laws of KY*, Vol. 1, 606 (Johnston & Pleasant, 1810) Vol. 1, 606; Vol 2, 196; Vol. 3, p. 239.

⁹ Lancaster Woman's Club, *Patches of Garrard Co.* (Danville, KY: Bluegrass Printing Co, 1974), pp. 289-292

¹⁰ Madison County Court Order Book "A", April 25, 1787, p. 37, Madison County Courthouse, Richmond, KY.

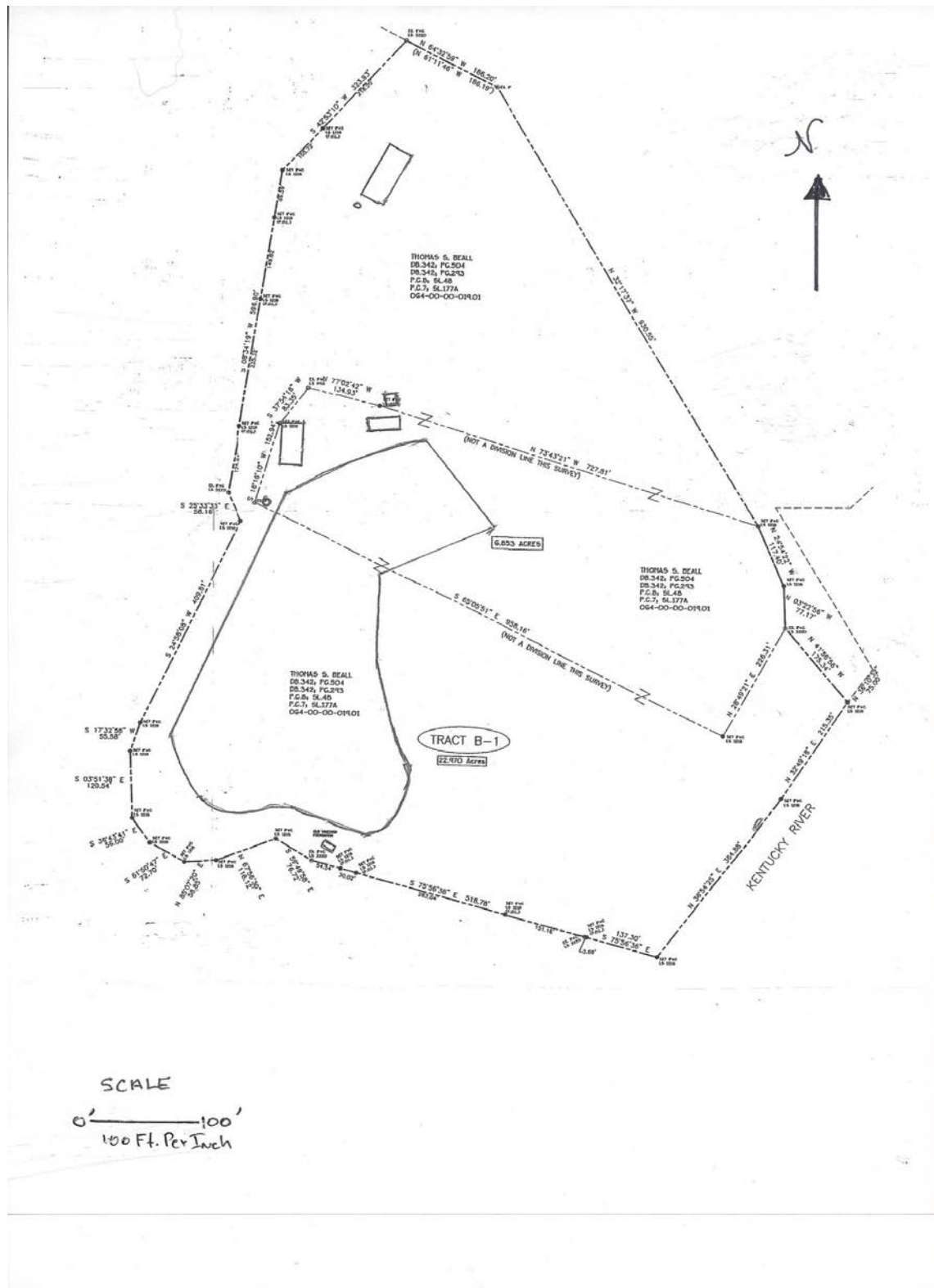
¹¹ *Kentucky Gazette*, Jan 17, 1798.

¹² *Indiana Wine*, p 19

¹³ Jessamine County Courthouse, Deed Book K, p 32

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Map of the 29.82 acres, with the nominated area shown at the southwest

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Description of the Contributing Features

Site

The site is situated just below the brow of a steep hill arising from the river. Dufour, a Swiss immigrant, had about 1.2 acres of the top portion of the hill terraced. The stones exposed while creating the terraces were used to construct the fence that enclosed the vineyard, as well as the winery used to process the grapes. The site has southern exposure and continues down the slope for one-third of its entire distance toward the Kentucky River below. The lower levels of the slope are rocky, comprised of Trenton limestone. Bailey identifies the top and middle courses as Hudson sandstone,¹⁴ which is uncommon to find in the central bluegrass; the 1988 geological map of this site identifies the layer as Garrard siltstone. The site's combination of topography, geology, and soil, combined to make the spot attractive for Dufour to establish the wine-making operation. In his book, *The American Vine-Dresser's Guide*, Dufour writes that the best soil is a mixture of gravel and sand with one third of rich loam which is well drained, adding that the vineyard should be placed on the south side of a hill.¹⁵ He also found it desirable to have the slope facing a large river, lake or sea.¹⁶ An adequate amount of rainfall, as well as a growing season which lasts long enough for cultivation of grapes is also needed. Wine makers refer to a place's natural factors as its "terrior." Terrior is a French word, related to *terre*, which translates to "land," but means something closer to the taste embedded in the product grown and produced in that place.



Photo 4: Northeast corner of uncleared vineyard area



Photo #5 Northwest corner of uncleared vineyard area

Terraces and Rock Fence

There are seven terraces beginning just below the brow of the hill that are approximately 335 feet long and follow the curvature of the earth. At either end the terraces blend into the existing grade of the earth

¹⁴ Bailey, *Sketch of the Evolution of Our Native Fruits*, p. 33.

¹⁵ Dufour, p. 109.

¹⁶ Dufour, p. 112.

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surrounding the vineyard. The top of the terraces are level to prevent erosion and allow water absorption. The height of the terraces varies to keep them level when following the contour of the earth and blending into the sides.



Photo 6: NE portion of replanted vineyard (terraces)



Photo #3 East façade of stone fence

The fence is a 986-foot-long structure made of dry laid limestone and sandstone which currently surrounds the south and west sides of the vineyard. The top of the vineyard contains limestone and sandstone, so the stones at the north portion of the fence are sandstone and limestone. The southern portion of the fence is composed only of limestone.

Winery

The winery is an open-air structure made of dry piled stone. It is 26 feet long and 20 feet wide at the widest point. It is oriented in length from east to west. It is round on the east end, the diameter of this circle being 20 feet where the vat would have been placed and square on the west end for the wine press. There is a grade difference from the north side to the south side of the winery. The grade on the north side is higher than the south side. This would have allowed a wagon loaded with grapes to have been on the same plane as the top of the vat, making for easier unloading. With the wagon loaded with barrels on the lower side that would allow gravity feeding of grape juice into the barrels.

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Photo #1 South façade of winery, camera facing north

Photo #2 East façade of winery, camera facing west

Non-Contributing Resource within the nominated area: Gazebo

A 12-foot octagonal shaped gazebo now sits at the northwest corner of the vineyard, near the place where the remains of a dilapidated shed were found and removed. The shed's date of construction and possible connection to Dufour's operation have not been discovered. Some artifacts; an implement that was later discovered to be a vine cutter, a small single-tree, which was used on goats for collecting grapes in the vineyard, and a hollowed out log (later found to be used by Dufour in making peach brandy) were found in the shed and saved. The gazebo is constructed of wood with a metal roof and is located in the northwest corner of the vineyard.



Photo 9: Gazebo



Photo 12: Vine-cutting tool



Photo 10: hollowed log

Description of the 29.82-acre property outside of the nominated area

The current owner purchased the property in 1994 as a rural retreat, unaware of its use nearly 200 years earlier—the subject of this nomination—nor of uses subsequent to Dufour. For nearly 5 years, he cleared the site of the dilapidated building and other trash and debris. Upon discovering the historic identity of the property in 2002, he began to exercise a greater stewardship toward the property's historic qualities that remained. He noted the features and artifacts that resulted from the efforts from 1994-2002, as well as activities until the present; those are described below.

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Tobacco Barn

An old tobacco barn, 40' X 98' was built in the 1940s, located about 20 yards north from the vineyard.

Horse Stable on the site of the Domed Corbelled Well and possible Home site

About 500 yards to the north of the vineyard, on the ridgeline, was a domed corbelled well, in the style that was commonly built by the French, German and Swiss. Not recognizing it for what it was, the owner began construction of a 40' X 98' horse stable, with lodging on the second floor, about 6 yards northeast of the domed well.

During the stable's construction, more artifacts were found. There was a blob of molten glass, a broken bottle neck of old glass that was molten, pottery and china shards, old hand cut nails, a vine dresser's medallion, etc. One of the china shards has the name Blue Willow, originating in England. The design is credited to either Thomas Turner in 1780 or Thomas Minton in 1790. The pottery shard was salt glazed. Salt glazing was popular in North America from the 17th until the 19th century.

Liberty Hyde Bailey, who wrote *Sketch of the Evolution of Our Native Fruits* (1898), came to First Vineyard to view the property and conduct interviews for the book. He talked with a resident of the property, G. C. McQuerry, who told him that there had been a log house on the property that had been destroyed sometime between 1845 and 1850.¹⁷ As this has been the only well found on the property, and given the artifacts found in proximity to the well, one can hypothesize that this could also have been Dufour's home site. A grape cultivating hoe and a multi-prong hoe were also found with the other artifacts. In the *History of Switzerland County* (Indiana), the author tells of Francis Lewis Siebenthal, a blacksmith and one of the original Swiss settlers that came to First Vineyard in 1801, who made the multi-prong hoes for cultivation of young grape vines.¹⁸



Photo #20 Domed corbelled well



Photo #13 Vine-dresser's medallion



Photo #19 Pottery and china shards

Tasting Room

¹⁷ L. . H. Bailey, *Sketch of the Evolution of Our Native Fruits*, (New York: MacMillan Company, 1898), p. 31.

¹⁸ *History of Switzerland County, Indiana 1885*, reproduced by the Switzerland County Historical Society, Vevay, IN, 1999. The portion of the book relating to Switzerland County in the 1885 printing of the "History of Dearborn, Ohio, and Switzerland Counties, Indiana" (Evansville Bindery, Inc.), p. 1118-9

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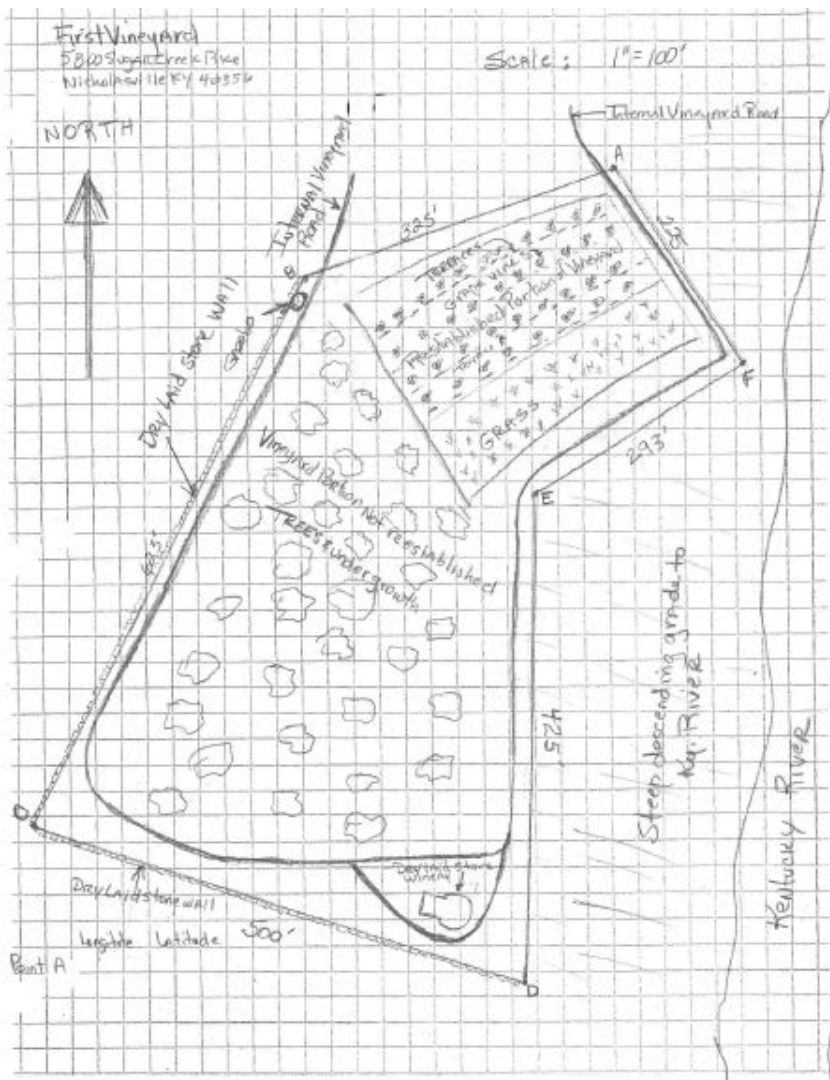
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Currently two other buildings stand on the ridge line. One is a small tasting room, 16' X 16' which is constructed in 2011-12 to look like hand-hewn logs. It is cantilevered over its front and back wooden decks. This is about 50 yards north of the vineyard.

Pavilion

Also on the ridge, adjacent to the tasting room, is a larger pavilion, 40' X 64', constructed in 2012-13 of hemlock, with a brown metal roof. This is about 35 yards north of the vineyard.



Sketch Map of Site

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Period of Significance

1798-1809

Architect/Builder

Dufour, John James (designer)

Significant Dates

1799

Period of Significance

The Period of Significance selected is 1798-1809. That is the span of time in which the significant use of the property is explained and justified in this nomination. Later use of the property, from 1809-1981, has not been explored, and little evidence of that later use, beyond a 1940s tobacco barn, remains on the landscape to demonstrate later uses of the property.

Criteria Considerations: NA

Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

First Vineyard (JS-550) meets National Register Criterion A, significant for its association with wine making in the United States. This Kentucky site was the birthplace of the wine industry in this nation. Its significance is evaluated within the historic context, "Winemaking in the US, 1626-1830." From this nation's start came numerous endeavors to grow *vinifera* grapes, grapes not native to the US from which to make wine. These early attempts resulted in grapes that would wither and soon perish due to disease. Dufour encountered similar problems; however, in 1802 he recognized the two species of grapes, the Cape grape and the Madeira grape, that were resistant to most diseases, and would, therefore, flourish in the U.S. Dufour sent cuttings of these grapes throughout the nation and even abroad.¹⁹ Dufour made delicious wine from these grapes that was first enjoyed in 1803 by members of the Kentucky Vineyard Society,²⁰ and foreigners at John Postlethwait's Tavern in Lexington, Kentucky. In 1805 President Jefferson received wine from First Vineyard and in 1806 James Madison received wine also.²¹ We know that in his day, Dufour was considered an authority on growing grapes

¹⁹ Dufour, *AVDG* 1st ed, p. 24.

²⁰ *Kentucky Gazette*, March 29, 1803

²¹ Papers of Jefferson image 585 of 860 Doc #256744 Library of Congress, Wash, D.C 2/2/1805, Papers of Jefferson image 611 of 860 Doc # 25657 2/23/1805, and James Madison Papers, Feb 22, 1806, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

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and making wine. His *The American Vine-Dresser's Guide* became the authoritative text for fledgling wine makers. Published in 1826, the book "stood as the best reference for American grape growing and winemaking for more than 50 years."²² Dufour stated the effects of First Vineyard very eloquently in the preface of his book when he said, "millions will accrue to the country at large, from the school made there."²³ Thomas Pinney says of Dufour that his career "was in many ways unimpressive . . . Had he not written *The American Vine-Dresser's Guide*, Dufour would by now have been wholly forgotten. As it is, he has a secure niche in the early history of American wine growing. Despite the failure of the Kentucky Vineyard Society, and despite Dufour's failure to recognize the true nature of the Cape grape, it was with the grape that he selected and at the place he selected that commercial viticulture and wine making began in the United States."²⁴ Dufour not only taught aspiring viticulturist how to establish a vineyard and make wine; he also helped them obtain the vines that would grow. Pinney states that in 1802 the Swiss colony went from First Vineyard to their land grant in New Switzerland (Switzerland County) and began planting Second Vineyard with the Cape and Madeira varieties already selected by Dufour as the best hope of American growers. Pinney goes on to say, "As a condition of their land grant, the Swiss at Vevay undertook to promote viticulture generally, and they honored the obligation, giving advice and instruction to those who sought it and distributing cuttings free."²⁵ Thomas Pinney also states that when Nicholas Longworth in Cincinnati, Ohio began his vineyard in 1823 he used the Cape and Madeira grapes from the Swiss at Vevay.²⁶ Longworth's vineyard and some others surrounding him grew to be so large that this area was called the Rhine of America. As shown above, Dufour not only taught how to grow grapes and make wine in his book; through his venture at First Vineyard, he supplied the grape vines that he found that would grow in the United States to Vevay, Indiana, Cincinnati, and numerous vineyards beyond. Just how much wine was produced and sold from First Vineyard is not known; we do know that Dufour's business plan projected that his six-acre tract would yield 3,000 gallons per year, and he anticipated receiving \$1.00 per gallon, which would result in sales totaling \$3,000.²⁷ From this small beginning in 1803, by 2007 there were 4,929 wineries—at least one in each state—with sales of \$11.4 billion.²⁸ Vineyard acreage has steadily grown; by 2012 there were 962,160 acres,²⁹ with 754,140,774 gallons of wine produced.³⁰

Historic Context: Winemaking in the US, 1626-1830

There were numerous attempts in the past to plant vineyards and produce wine on the North American continent. In Thomas Pinney's book, *A History of Wine in American from the Beginnings to Prohibition Volume I*, he says that one of the early attempts was made by the Spanish Franciscans at the Mission of Socorro in 1626 in the area of what is now New Mexico. This mission ended in 1680, due to an Indian uprising and has now vanished without trace; remarkably, there is still viticulture at this site. Pinney says there is no record of what grapes were planted to provide wine for the celebration of the mass. Pinney does say that this area

²² Dufour, *AVDG* 3rded. (La Valsainte & Purdue Univ. Press, 2003), p. 23.

²³ Dufour, *AVDG* 1st ed, p. 8.

²⁴ Thomas Pinney, *The Makers of American Wine: A Record of Two Hundred Years*, (Berkeley and Los Angeles, University of California Press, 2012), p. 21.

²⁵ Thomas Pinney, *A History of Wine in American Vol. I*, (Berkeley and Los Angeles, University of California Press, 2007) p 122.

²⁶ Pinney, p 157.

²⁷ *Kentucky Gazette*, January 17, 1798.

²⁸ MKF Research the Impact of wine grapes and grape products on the economy of 2007. Report, accessed via internet on 1/29/15 at https://www.wineinstitute.org/files/mfk_us_econ_report07.pdf.

²⁹ [Wineinstitute.org/resources/pressroom/04242014](https://www.wineinstitute.org/resources/pressroom/04242014)

³⁰ Alcohol and Tobacco and Trade Bureau wine reporting period Jan 2012 – Jan 2013; May 6, 2013

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remained Spanish until Mexican independence in 1821. It was after this time that the eastern United States began to hear about small vineyards that were scattered along the Rio Grande.³¹

Sometimes, even more important than informing the reader about grapes that were being grown or wine being made, Pinney also investigates rumors of commercial wine production to see whether they are true or not. One such rumor of viticulture by the French Huguenots in Florida is proven false by Pinney. In 1564, a colony of Huguenots were sent to the mouth of the St. John's River, and when pirate Hawkins found them a year later, they were on the verge of starvation. Failing to grow any food for themselves, they supposedly had produced 20 hogheads of wine, possibly from the muscadine grape, a story Pinney doubts. He says that the French testified themselves that they had no wine at all except for what they obtained from outside sources.³² Another rumor of large quantities of wine being made occurred in the present day state of California as early as 1769. Pinney says that Padre Serra supposedly brought vines and planted them at San Diego, as witnessed by soldiers sent to Alto California. Pinney writes, "such documentary evidence as exists for the earliest mission years plainly contradicts their testimony. As father Serra moved back and forth along the coast, founding mission after mission in the chain that ultimately stretched north of San Francisco Bay to Sonoma, he regularly complained of the difficulty of obtaining a supply of wine for the celebration of the mass; such wine as he did get was clearly imported from Mexico or Spain, not the produce of local missions (See, e.g., Junipero Serra, *Writings*, ed. Antonine Tibesar, O.F.M. [Washington, D.C., 1955-66], I:263, 281 as cited by Pinney, 2007). In the early part of the nineteenth century, for example, Mission San Gabriel was recognized as the largest producer of wines in California, yet as late as 1783, fourteen years after the first mission had been founded and twelve years after the founding of San Gabriel, Serra wrote that San Gabriel had no wine at all, the barrel sent to it on muleback from the coast having slipped and broken so that all the wine was lost (See, e.g., Junipero Serra, *Writings*, ed. Antonine Tibesar, O.F.M. [Washington, D.C., 1955-66], 5: 195 as cited by Pinney, 2007).³³ These episodes establish a theme for the story of early winemaking: the high desire for the product was met with frustrating experience during its making.

Although there were many, many attempts to cultivate grapes, not until the end of the 18th century was there a commercial vineyard and winery in the United States. We now know that lack was due, in part, to the use of imported European grape stock, which was unable to flourish outside its native habitat. Thankfully, Jean Jacques Dufour, a Swiss immigrant who came from a long line of vinedressers, learned of this scarcity of wine from French soldiers who had served in the U.S. Revolutionary War. Political turmoil in Europe, and a desire to establish a foothold in the United States for his family's business, led Dufour to leave Europe for the U.S in 1796.³⁴

Dufour Americanized his name to John James Dufour upon his arrival in Philadelphia later that year and immediately set out exploring the New England area, searching for existing vineyards and wineries. He soon discovered there were no vineyards producing wines for public sale. Dufour mentions in this book, *The American Vine-Dresser's Guide* that he viewed a small vineyard kept by a French vinedresser where they had a few sorts of indigenous grapes on the estate of Mr. Carroll of Carrollton, Maryland. He also tells of visiting a vineyard near the Susquehanna River that had been planted by a German who had died a while before so the vineyard was neglected.³⁵ One of the new vineyards, located in Spring Mill, Pennsylvania, did have some vines

³¹ Pinney, 234

³² Ibid., 11

³³ Ibid., 238

³⁴ Dufour, *AVDG*, 1st ed., 12

³⁵ Dufour, *AVDG*, 1st ed., 23-4

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that still appeared to be healthy, and Dufour was told by the owner, Peter Legaux,³⁶ that these were known as the Cape Grape, as they had been imported from the Cape of South Africa. Legaux had a private vineyard until January 31, 1801 when he incorporated.³⁷ The first vintage of wine from Legaux's vineyard was from the Cape grape and made in 1809.³⁸ Dufour discovered another healthy grapevine being grown in Baltimore by a Mr. Hewsler.³⁹ Later, in 1799, Dufour returned again to the New England area to visit Thomas Jefferson's *Monticello*. He found the vineyard there unkempt and abandoned.⁴⁰

Having found few vineyards in the areas he visited, Dufour extended his search down the Ohio River, financing his travels by selling manufactured goods he had purchased while in New England, and by performing land surveys. In February 1797, Dufour left Pittsburgh for Kaskaskia, a town on the Mississippi River, having heard that the Jesuits had established a successful vineyard. He found the site abandoned, with a bed of asparagus where the garden had been. At this point Dufour noted that, "... no good grapes, however were found either there, or in any of the gardens of the country."⁴¹ In August of 1797 while still in the area, Dufour purchased 13,372 pounds of lead. He hired six oarsmen and a captain to take the lead up the Mississippi River thence to the Falls of the Ohio (Louisville).⁴² While coming up the river system he sold, bartered, and consigned the lead. By October of 1797, he had reached Cincinnati and at a later time took lead on up to Pittsburg.

Dufour then turned toward Kentucky, arriving in Lexington. He spent the rest of 1797 and early 1798 looking around Kentucky, always returning to Lexington where "he accepted a proposal of an association for the culture of the grape in Kentucky."⁴³ With this encouragement, Dufour published his business plan in the *Kentucky Gazette*, January 17, 1798, soliciting stockholders to establish a vineyard and winery in Kentucky.

In September, 1798, Dufour reported to the Kentucky Vineyard Society that he had found 3 or 4 places that suited him on which to establish the vineyard and they concluded to purchase the James Hazelrigg property in the Big Bend of the Kentucky River. On November 5, 1798, Dufour named his property First Vineyard,⁴⁴ believing it would become the first commercial vineyard in the United States.

History of the First Vineyard Property

The Vineyard Society of Kentucky was incorporated on November 21, 1799 by the Kentucky General Assembly which made it the first business of record incorporated in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.⁴⁵ Since Henry Clay was both a subscriber and the attorney⁴⁶ for the Kentucky Vineyard Society, he may have served as

³⁶ Dufour, *AVDG*, 1st ed., 24

³⁷ Statutes at Large of Pennsylvania, Chapter MMCLXXI, p. 516.

³⁸ Legaux, Journal, Sept. 1809, Vol. 3, p. 6, 26-29.

³⁹ Dufour, *AVDG*, 1st ed., 24

⁴⁰ Ibid., 22-3

⁴¹ Ibid., 19

⁴² Perret Dufour, *Swiss Settlement of Switzerland County*, (Indiana Historical Commission, 1925, Reprint by Heritage Books, 1987), p. 273

⁴³ Dufour, 8

⁴⁴ P. Dufour, p 293

⁴⁵ LLK, Vol 2, p 268

⁴⁶ Bernard Mayo, *Henry Clay*, (Riverside Press Co., 1937), 117

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the author of the Articles of Incorporation. A 633-acre tract of land was procured by an Article of Agreement⁴⁷ upon which Dufour intended to plant a vineyard, described as six acres to be cleared and planted the first year.

On January 29, 1799, after the vineyard was cleared and terraced, he left First Vineyard and returned to the New England area. There he purchased 10,000 cuttings of over 35 different species of grapes from Spring Mill (near Philadelphia), and from other vineyards in New York and Baltimore. These were planted on the six acres at First Vineyard on a hillside overlooking the Kentucky River, just across from the shipping port of Quantico.

Dufour entered into a contract with the Kentucky Vineyard Society on August 5, 1800.⁴⁸ The 99 subscribers received 143 shares in the Kentucky Vineyard Society. An attachment at the end of this nomination gives the names and titles of some of the members. The contract spelled out the responsibilities of both parties, based on the goal of raising grapes and making wine. The contract stipulated that each KVS member was to receive 1000 cuttings of the vines, as well as permitting them to send their male heirs and owned workers to First Vineyard to learn all aspects of the trade.

In June 1801, Dufour's brothers and sisters, along with four other Swiss families, joined Dufour at First Vineyard to assist in the endeavor. They brought with them other grape vines which were planted there as well.⁴⁹ In 1802, Dufour petitioned Albert Gallatin, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, President Jefferson, and Congress for 7,000 acres in the Indiana territory since it was anticipated that a large number of Swiss families would be settling there. When fewer of the Swiss families migrated to the U.S., he reduced his request to 2,000 acres.⁵⁰

As in other locations, most of the 35 species of vines originally planted at First Vineyard perished, with the exception of the Cape grape and the Madeira grape. These were later found to be a naturally occurring hybrid, which he used to replant the vineyard, increasing the number of vines planted each year.⁵¹

After many struggles and setbacks, in 1802 Dufour was able to write: "A great many species of vines showed fruit the third year; one vine of the sweet water was full of eminently good grapes, fully ripened by the first of September. A few bunches that I carried to Lexington were admired beyond any thing."⁵² Then, on March 29, 1803, Dufour presented a white wine from the Madeira grape and a red wine from the Cape grape from First Vineyard to the Kentucky Vineyard Society members and several foreigners at Postlethwait's Tavern in Lexington, Kentucky. At this celebration they drank eight toasts to the success of the Swiss, the Vineyard, the United States, and the production of wine in the United States.⁵³

Dufour was something of a renaissance man, with a vision beyond wine making. At First Vineyard, he started a small silk industry, planting mulberry trees and writing instruction in his book⁵⁴ so that other growers could pursue the production of silk as well as wine. He also invented a grain kiln, to prevent spoilage of grain after

⁴⁷ Jess Co Courthouse, Deed Book "T" Volume I, p 134

⁴⁸ KY Court of Appeals, DB "E" August 5, 1800, 73-77, Frankfort, KY.

⁴⁹ P. Dufour, p 14

⁵⁰ Butler James L. and John J. Butler, *Indiana Wine*, (Indiana University Press, 2001), p36.

⁵¹ AVDG, p 10

⁵² AVDG, p 9

⁵³ *Kentucky Gazette*, March 29, 1803

⁵⁴ AVDG, p 97-108

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harvest.⁵⁵ On October 5, 1798 he asked that an electric machine along with other items be procured for him.⁵⁶ Julie LeClerc Knox, a great granddaughter writes that Benjamin Franklin was a friend of Dufour's father, John James Rudolph Dufour, and that Franklin encouraged the Dufour family to immigrate to the U.S. to take advantage of the new country.⁵⁷ Since Franklin's invention was limited to DC electric, Dufour was probably experimenting with building an electrostatic generator.

On January 20, 1805, Dufour left First Vineyard to go to the Great Saltpetre Cave (National Register 2013, NRIS: 13000565) in what was then Madison County, now Rockcastle County. He did the first survey of a cave in the United States using instruments. While performing the survey of the cave, Dufour improved on the method of extracting the saltpetre by using a hollowed out log as a secondary sedimentation device which allowed the finer particles to progress and be filtered out while traveling down the hollowed out log. A log like the one used in the Great Saltpetre Cave was found at First Vineyard in 1994 under a shed that had collapsed in the vineyard. He also used the same principle in making peach wine and peach brandy.⁵⁸

On February 2, 1805, Kentucky U.S. Congressman John Brown wrote a letter to President Thomas Jefferson, introducing John Frances Dufour, brother of John James Dufour. John Frances delivered two five gallon casks of wine from First Vineyard to the president.⁵⁹ In reply, on February 23, 1803, President Jefferson wrote a letter of thanks along with a critique of the wine.⁶⁰ In 1806, Dufour left First Vineyard, planning to return to Switzerland to escort the remainder of his family back to the United States. He left his brother, John Francis Dufour, in charge of First Vineyard.⁶¹

While passing through Washington, D.C., Dufour presented James Madison with wine from the 1805 harvest from First Vineyard.⁶² Dufour then traveled to Philadelphia to meet with the Philadelphia Vineyard Society (Legaux's vineyard). During this meeting, society members asked Dufour how it was that his vineyard was successful, while theirs had failed. When he arrived in New York, his departure point to Europe, he attempted to gain stockholders to finance an invention to make the steam engine more efficient.⁶³

Dufour left the United States aboard the brig "*Young Edward*", which was captured by an English ship and taken to Plymouth, England, where Dufour was held from May 5 until June 7, 1806.⁶⁴ Once in Switzerland, he found that the deteriorating relationship between the United States and England, which resulted in the War of 1812, he could not return to the United States until 1816. During his absence his two brothers continued growing grapes and making wine at First Vineyard. The work at First Vineyard came to an abrupt end in the March of 1809, when a killing freeze destroyed the grape crop. After this tremendous blow, the remaining

⁵⁵ KY Gazette, October 1, 1802

⁵⁶ SS of SC, pg 291

⁵⁷ *The Dufour Saga 1796-1942*, by Julie LeClerc Knox, printed by Howell-Goodwin Printing Co., Crawfordsville, IN, 1942, p 16

⁵⁸ History of Switzerland County, p 1004

⁵⁹ Papers of Jefferson image 585 of 860 Doc #256744 Library of Congress, Wash, D.C 2/2/1805

⁶⁰ Papers of Jefferson image 611 of 860 Doc # 25657 2/23/1805

⁶¹ Jess Co Courthouse, Deed Book "B" pg. 163

⁶² Indiana Wine, Butlers, p. 45

⁶³ *Centennial History of the City of Washington, D.C.*, by Harvey W. Crew, William Bensing Webb, and John Wooldridge, published 1892.

⁶⁴ SS of SC, p 327

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Dufours left First Vineyard and resettled on the property the Swiss had purchased in Switzerland County, Indiana.⁶⁵

While at First Vineyard, Dufour composed most of his book *The American Vine-Dressers' Guide*, both to answer inquiries from the many people who needed information about growing grapes and making wine⁶⁶ and to satisfy an agreement he had made with Congress. The legislators had given him preferential treatment in the length of time he was granted to pay for property in the territory of Indiana.

Evaluation of First Vineyard's historic significance within the context "Winemaking in the US, 1800-1830."

First Vineyard is a nationally significant place in this country's past. First Vineyard was the first viable commercial winery and vineyard in the United States. With Dufour's adaptation of the two grape types that would prosper in the United States, along with his writing of *The American Vine-Dresser's Guide*, he provided guidance for others who wished to expand the wine industry in this country. The attachment at the end of this form, showing First Vineyard as the first business incorporated by the Kentucky General Assembly, demonstrates that Dufour achieved these things in pioneer conditions.⁶⁷ Together, these several accomplishments show First Vineyard as a nationally significant place in this country's effort to commercialize the production of grapes into wine. Dufour's energy, intelligence, mobility, and scientific approach to business proved to the country that the fledgling wine-making industry could be successfully conducted.

Evaluation of the Integrity of the historic significance of First Vineyard in light of its current physical condition

All seven integrity factors - location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association – were examined in assessing the historic integrity of First Vineyard in order to demonstrate how this property's physical features relate to its significance.

Integrity of **location** means more than the vineyard is simply in the same place as it was established—it calls us to explain what is valuable about this location. The First Vineyard is located in the peninsula of property in the Big Bend of the Kentucky River, in Jessamine County, Kentucky, exactly as it was in 1799 when it was established.

The site has integrity of **setting**. Dufour selected the location or setting of the property using features that are still important in the growing of grapes today. The property is close to the Kentucky River, which creates a good micro-climate in which the grapes would grow, and in addition, the fog coming in off the river is very beneficial to fruit. Fog helps to shelter the plant from late spring frost damage and also causes an irrigating effect by the condensation dripping off the leaves. The site has a southern exposure to the sun and begins just over the brow of the hill which helps protect the grape vines from winter winds and storms. The top terraces (1.2 acres of the 6 acres) have been cleared of trees but the exact lines of the terraces were followed in clearing so the integrity of this feature was preserved. New vines, some of which are the same variety as Dufour grew,

⁶⁵ SS of SC, preface VII

⁶⁶ AVDG, p 311, Note 7

⁶⁷ *LLK-A complete index to persons, places, and subjects mentioned in Littell's Law of KY* by W.T. Smith, Clearfield Printing, 1931, Baltimore, Maryland, p 40

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have been planted, but all retain the beautiful contours of a terraced vineyard. The stone fence that surrounds much of the vineyard has some spots that need to be reworked, but the majority is in good condition and the integrity is maintained. The remainder of the vineyard has not been touched and grapevines still grow intertwined in the trees. At the bottom, southeast corner of the vineyard is the dry laid stone winery. The relationship between the winery and other features of the vineyard remains the same. All design features are incorporated in Dufour's *The American Vine-Dresser's Guide*.

In order to educate others in America as to the correct **design** and manner of planting a vineyard, Dufour laid out the vineyard in 1799 as he had been taught in Switzerland. In establishing the vineyard, Dufour cleared the land and created terraces on the top 1.2 acres for planting vines. Dufour took the large stones from the ground and constructed a stone fence surrounding the vineyard. He also used the stones to construct the winery. The winery is very distinctive as it is round at one end where the wine vat would have been placed and square at the other end for the wine press. All of these features are still very apparent to anyone viewing the vineyard today.

The property has sufficient integrity of **materials** to tell its important story. The stone fence and the dry laid stone winery as well as the earth for the terraces and other remaining acreage are the major materials; these characteristics are intact.

The site retains an integrity of **feeling** and **workmanship**. When a person views the vineyard just over the hillside with the stone fence, the terraces, and then walks down to the winery, they are taken back into the past with a feeling of how grapes were grown and wine processed long ago rather than in the stainless steel tanks of today. This vineyard retains enough of its original historic features, that it conveys the historic character.

The property retains its most important factor for eligibility, integrity of **association**. A great deal of research and physical investigation has been undertaken to establish the identity of the site and its place in early winemaking efforts in this nation. First Vineyard is a property like no other. When you stand atop the hill overlooking the vineyard and view the stone fence, the terraces, the trees with the massive vines; through the trees in the winter you can catch a glimpse of the river and the remains of the landing of Quantico, you know you are at a historic place; not a new modern day vineyard.

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All reference material is on file and available to readers at First Vineyard, 5800 Sugar Creek Pike, Nicholasville, KY. Owner can be contacted at 859.229.3154

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 # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): JS-550

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6.0 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

Buckeye quad

UTM Coordinates calculated with ArcGIS Explorer

Coordinates according to NAD 27: Zone 16; Easting 714 317.45; Northing 4179 121.33

Coordinates according to NAD 83:

1	<u>16</u>	<u>714 312.12</u>	<u>4179 326.30</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See Map 1, page 5 above, which shows the nominated area on the property map from the Jessamine County, Kentucky, Property Valuation Administrator. The boundaries of the nominated area are shown as an irregularly shaped area near the southwest sector of the property. A more detailed depiction of that area is shown on page 8, above.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries encompass the stone fence, winery and vineyard. These features of this property were all the significant features of First Vineyard.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas S. Beall III/owner
organization _____ date February, 2015
street & number 5800 Sugar Creek Pike telephone _____
city or town Nicholasville state Kentucky zip code 40356
e-mail thefirstvineyard@aol.com

Additional Documentation

A portion of members of the Kentucky Vineyard Society

Photographs:

Same information on all Photographs:

Name of Property: **First Vineyard**
City or Vicinity: **Nicholasville**
County: **Jessamine**
State: **Kentucky**
Photographer: **Roberta W. Carpenter**
Date Photographed: **Various-on each photo in log**

Description of 20 Photograph(s) and number:

Photo #1 (KY_Jessamine County_First Vineyard_0001)
South façade of winery, camera facing north (taken 01-31-2015)

Photo #2 (KY_Jessamine County_First Vineyard_0002)
East façade of winery, camera facing west (taken 01-31-2015)

Photo #3 (KY_Jessamine County_First Vineyard_0003)
East façade of stone fence, camera facing west (taken 01-16-2015)

Photo #4 (KY_Jessamine County_First Vineyard_0004)
Northeast corner of uncleared portion of vineyard, camera facing west (taken 01-17-2015)

Photo #5 (KY_Jessamine County_First Vineyard_0005)
Northwest corner of uncleared portion of vineyard, camera facing east (taken 01-17-2015)

Photo #6 (KY_Jessamine County_First Vineyard_0006)
Northeast portion of vineyard which was replanted-shows terraces, camera facing northeast (taken 05-10-2010)

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Photo #7 (KY_Jessamine County_First Vineyard_0007)

Northeast portion of vineyard which was replanted-shows Cape grapes, camera facing southwest (taken 06-30-2014)

Photo #8 (KY_Jessamine County_First Vineyard_0008)

Top portion (north end) of vineyard which was replanted, camera facing south (taken 06-30-2014)

Photo #9 (KY_Jessamine County_First Vineyard_0009)

Gazebo in the northwest corner of vineyard, camera facing west (taken 06-30-2014)

Log of Supplemental Photographs

Photo #10 (KY_Jessamine County_First Vineyard_0010)

Hollowed out log that was found in the shed that had collapsed in the northwest corner of vineyard (taken 01-31-2015)

Photo #11 (KY_Jessamine County_First Vineyard_0011)

Small singletree used on goats that was found in the shed that had collapsed in the northwest corner of vineyard (taken 06-16-2012)

Photo #12 (KY_Jessamine County_First Vineyard_0012)

Grape cutter that was found in the shed that had collapsed in the northwest corner of vineyard (taken 01-31-2015)

Photo #13 (KY_Jessamine County_First Vineyard_0013)

Vine-dresser's medallion that was found by the domed corbelled well (taken 12-31-2009)

Photo #14 (KY_Jessamine County_First Vineyard_0014)

Italian grape hoe that was found by the domed corbelled well (taken 07-23-2012)

Photo #15 (KY_Jessamine County_First Vineyard_0015)

Multi-prong cultivating hoe that was found approximately 25 yards to the west of the domed corbelled well (taken 07-23-2012)

Photo #16 (KY_Jessamine County_First Vineyard_0016)

Molten glass that was found about 5 yards north of the domed corbelled well (taken 01-18-2015)

Photo #17 (KY_Jessamine County_First Vineyard_0017)

Hand cut nails that were found about 5 yards north of the domed corbelled well (taken 01-18-2015)

Photo #18 (KY_Jessamine County_First Vineyard_0018)

Caster that was found about 5 yards north of the domed corbelled well (taken 01-18-2015)

Photo #19 (KY_Jessamine County_First Vineyard_0019)

Pottery and china shards that were found about 5 yards north of the domed corbelled well (taken 06-16-2012)

Photo #20 (KY_Jessamine County_First Vineyard_0020)

Domed corbelled well about 300 yards north of the vineyard (taken 01-18-2015)

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Thomas S. Beall III/owner

street & number 5800 Sugar Creek Pike

telephone _____

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Name of Property

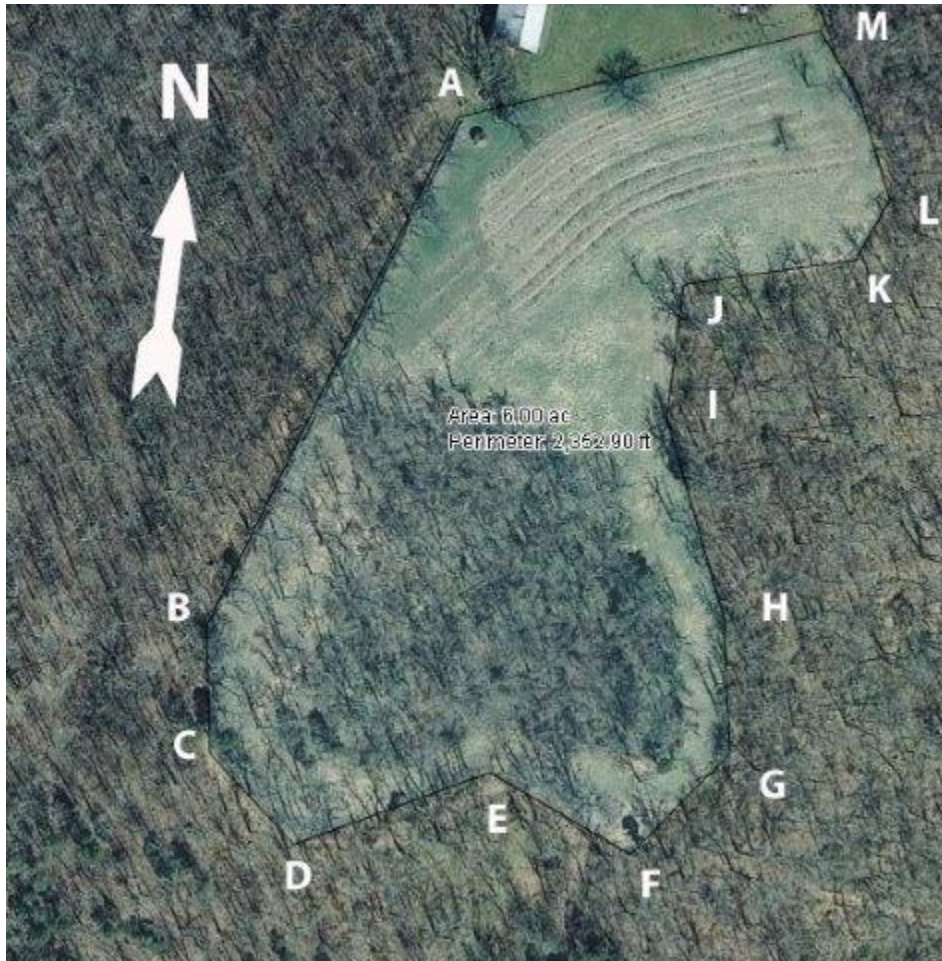
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city or town Nicholasville state Kentucky zip code 40356

First Vineyard
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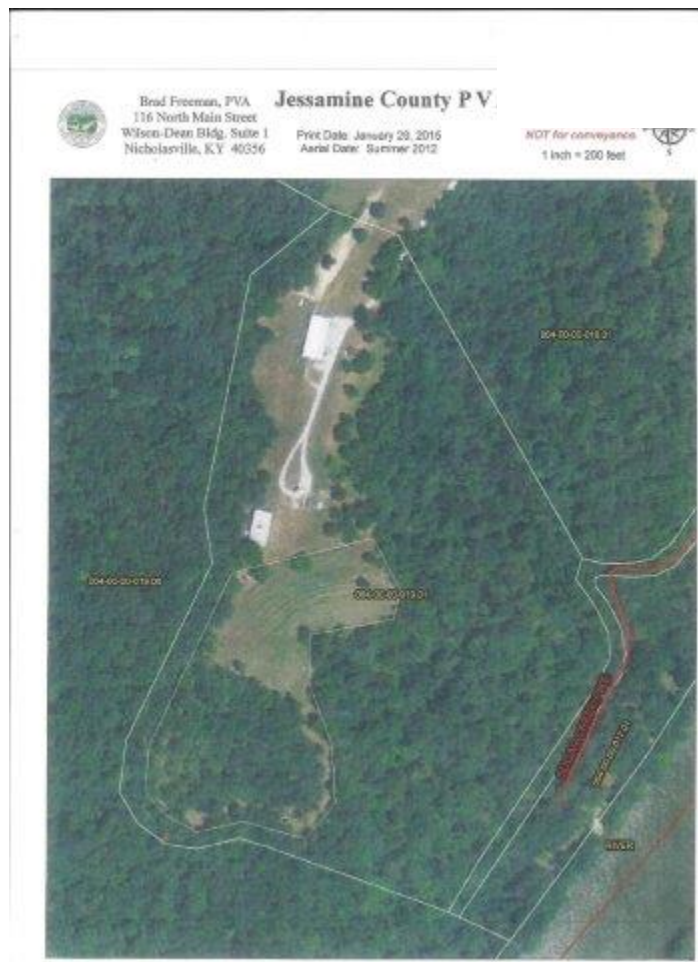
Aerial Photo of property



Point	Latitude	Longitude	UTM mE	UTM mN
A	37.737441	84.567286	45S 285638	4179470
B	37.736198	84.568074	45S 285704	4179330
C	37.735871	84.568068	45S 285703	4179294
D	37.735646	84.567795	45S 285678	4179270
E	37.735825	84.567183	45S 285624	4179291
F	37.735625	84.566760	45S 285587	4179270
G	37.735880	84.566427	45S 285558	4179299
H	37.736215	84.566448	45S 285561	4179336
I	37.736694	84.566636	45S 285579	4179389
J	37.737029	84.566583	45S 285575	4179426
K	37.737093	84.566041	45S 285527	4179434
L	37.737237	84.565934	45S 285518	4179450
M	37.737657	84.566154	45S 285539	4179496

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Map 1

Below is a list of people involved in some manner with the Kentucky Vineyard Society, First Vineyard and/or the founder John James Dufour. I have also added a brief comment why they are of importance, both historically and their association with First Vineyard.

Person	Association	Historical Significance
Daniel Boone	Surveyed property	KY explorer and surveyor helping to settle Ky.
Patrick Henry	Signed Deed for property	Governor of VA., one of founding father of U.S.
John Brown	KVS member	First of 2 U.S. congressmen for KY; responsible for KY statehood
John Edward	KVS member	Second of 2 congressmen for KY, later KY Senator
James Garrard	KVS member	Second governor for state of KY
Thomas Bodly	KVS member	Clerk of Lex. District Court; a general in KY militia
Henry Clay	Atty. & member KVS	U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, U.S. Sec. of State
Green Clay	KVS member	Rev. War soldier; War 1812 general; wealthiest man in KY during this era
James Brown	KVS member	KY Sec. of State; U.S. Senator
Samuel Brown	KVS member	First dean of medicine at Transylvania Univ.; saved Lexington from smallpox epidemic by doing experimental vaccination.
George Nichols	KVS member	First dean of law at Transylvania Univ.; wrote the KY Constitution
Buckner Thurston	KVS member	U.S. Senator; Federal judge for district

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John Bradford	KVS member	Owner & editor of KY Gazette, 1 st newspaper west of Allegheny Mts
Achilles Sneed	KVS member	Clerk for KY Court of Appeals; KY Atty. General
Col. Robert Patterson	KVS member	Revolutionary War soldier; founder of Lex, KY and Cincinnati, OH
Paschal Hickman	KVS member	Captain in War of 1812
Col. Thomas Owings	KVS member	Operated Licking River iron works, later called Bourbon Iron Works-1 st in KY
Walter Beall	KVS member	Shareholder in Bourbon Iron Works, founded cities of Greensburg, Warwick and Beallborough; shipping ports in all of them
William Leavy	KVS member	Owned Lexington White Lead Manufacturing Co., one of the earliest businesses in KY
George Bibb	KVS member	KY House of Rep., U.S. Senator, Chief Justice Court of Appeals; U.S. Sec. of the Treasury
Harry Toulmin	KVS member	Secretary to Gov. James Garrard
John Logan	KVS member	Delegate to KY Constitution convention, KY State Treasurer
Thomas Jefferson	Received wine from First Vineyard while president	U.S. President; wrote Declaration of Independence
James Madison	Received wine from First Vineyard while president	U.S. Sec. of State; U.S. President; author of U.S. Constitution