DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 479 711 SO 034 930

TITLE	A Kentucky Journey--The Land and the People. Teacher's Guide.
INSTITUTION	Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort.
PUB DATE	2002-00-00
NOTE	21p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Kentucky Historical Society, 100 West Broadway, Frankfort, KY 40601. Tel: 502-564-1792; e-mail: KHS@mail.state.ky.us; Web site: http:// history.ky.gov.
PUB TYPE	Guides - Classroom - Teacher (052)
EDRS PRICE	EDRS Price MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Art Education; Community Resources; *Curriculum Enrichment; Educational Facilities; *Exhibits; Intermediate Grades; *Land Use; Language Arts; Middle Schools; *Museums; Social Studies; *State History
IDENTIFIERS	*Kentucky

ABSTRACT

This guide to the core exhibit of the Kentucky History Center (Frankfort) focuses on the relationship between Kentuckians and the land. The guide extracts text from the exhibit's eight chronological areas and lists environments, displays, and other exhibit features to help students understand the ways people have settled, farmed, mined, and otherwise interacted with the land for the state's 12,000-year history. Although parts of the exhibit include more material than others, interaction with the land is a persistent theme. It is divided into three sections: (1) "Introduction"; (2) "Diagram of 'A Kentucky Journey'"; and (3) "Exhibit Guides" (Area B: First Kentuckians; Area C: Kentucky Frontier; Area D: Antebellum Age; Area E: War and Aftermath; Area F: Continuity and Change; Area G: A New Century; Area H: Depression and War; Area I: Many Sides of Kentucky). (BT)

A Kentucky Journey

The Land and the People

(Face 91) An Early Settler in the West.

1

Teacher's Guide

Kentucky Historical Society

2002

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

This guide to the core exhibit of the Kentucky History Center focuses on the relationship between Kentuckians and the land. It pulls pertinent text from the exhibit's eight chronological areas and lists environments, displays, and other exhibit features that can help students understand the ways people have settled, farmed, mined, and otherwise interacted with the land for the state's 12,000-year history. Although parts of the exhibit include more material than others, interaction with the land is a persistent theme.

We hope these materials will help you introduce your students to this important theme in Kentucky history. If you would like to plan a tour with an agricultural focus, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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KENTUCKY HISTORY CENTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A KENTUCKY JOURNEY

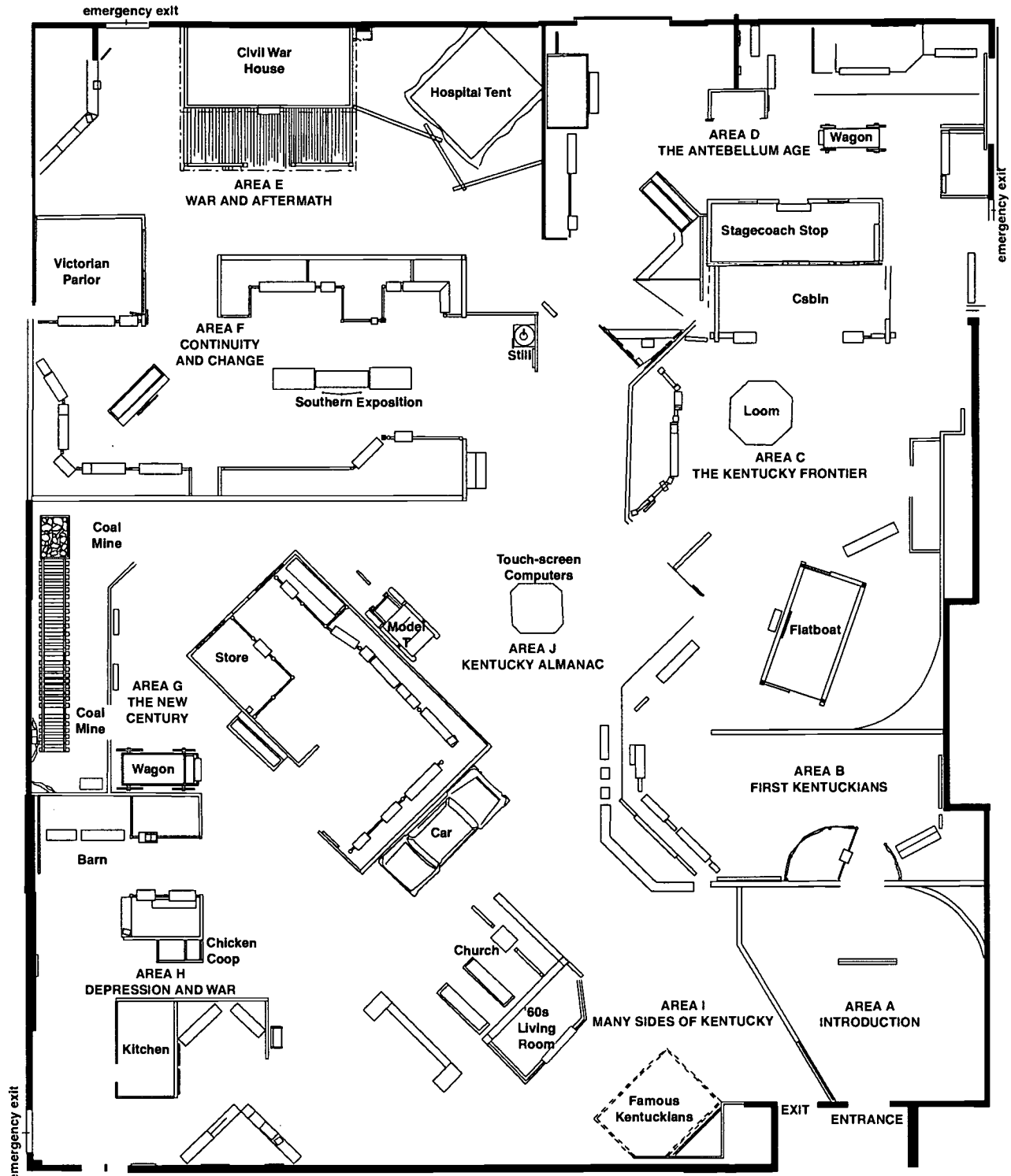
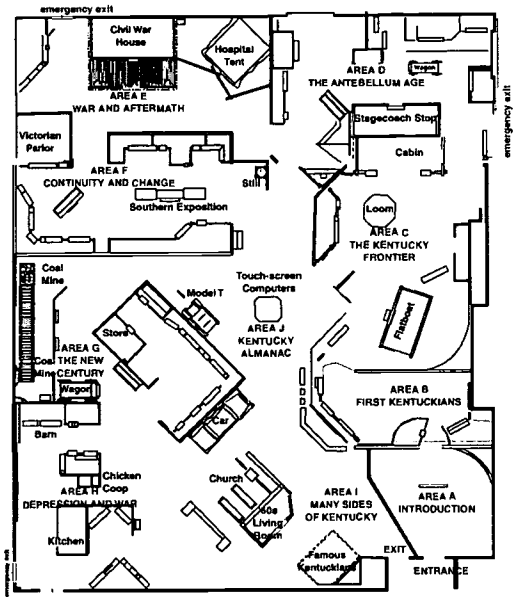
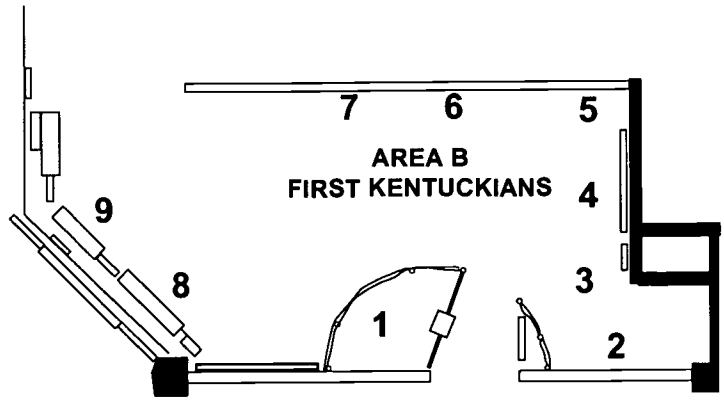


EXHIBIT GUIDE
AREA B: FIRST KENTUCKIANS





OVERVIEW

This area examines Kentucky's native people—from ancient Paleoindian hunters to the Shawnee and Cherokee who claimed the region when the first white explorers arrived. Exhibit features include:

- A life-size structure and mural of a Green River hunting camp of the Archaic Period, 5000 years ago
- Displays about lifeways, native communities, rituals and ceremonies, and contact between cultures

THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

The first prehistoric people to live in Kentucky hunted Ice Age mammals and gathered wild plants for food. This Paleo Period began as long ago as 10,000 years B.C. and lasted for 2,000 years. Archaic people living in the region between 8,000 and 1,000 B.C. continued to hunt, fish, and gather wild foods, until the end of the period, when they began to grow squash. Woodland Period people (1,000 B.C.-A.D. 1,000) expanded horticultural practices with corn and beans. During the Late Prehistoric Period, Mississippian cultures in the western part of Kentucky and Fort Ancient groups in the rest of the state continued this pattern of hunting, fishing, and cultivating food crops.

Native peoples depended on the land for sustenance. They crafted a variety of tools from stone, bone, shell, and wood. Furs and tanned hides were the foundation of Indian clothing. Native women also wove grasses, feathers, and other natural materials into cloth. Twined slippers found in Mammoth Cave are evidence that weaving was invented before the Woodland Period.

Based on the practices of historic groups like the Shawnee and Cherokee, archaeologists feel that prehistoric cultures revered the natural world and believed that the land belonged to all. The European Americans who came to settle Kentucky in the 1770s felt that land, like goods, could be bought and owned by individuals. The two cultures could not come to a compromise and the conflicts that resulted were often hostile. Eventually, the descendants of Kentucky's first peoples were forced from their ancestral lands.

RELATED EXHIBIT FEATURES

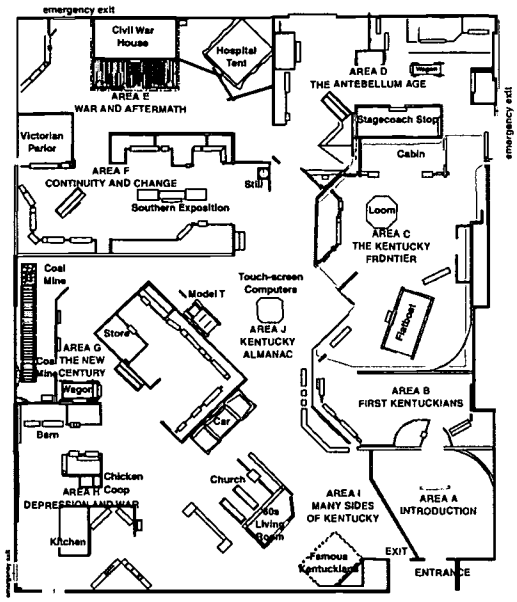
- An Archaic Period house made of native grasses (1)
- A vignette showing tool making and food preparation (2)
- A drawer containing farming and fishing tools (3)
- An interactive graphic illustrating the uses of deer parts (4)
- A video showing stone tool production (5)
- A mural of an Archaic Period village on the Green River (6)
- An Archaic Period trash pile including food remains (7)
- Images of People, Woodland, Mississippian, Fort Ancient, and Historic communities (8)
- A description of Shawnee corn festivals (9)

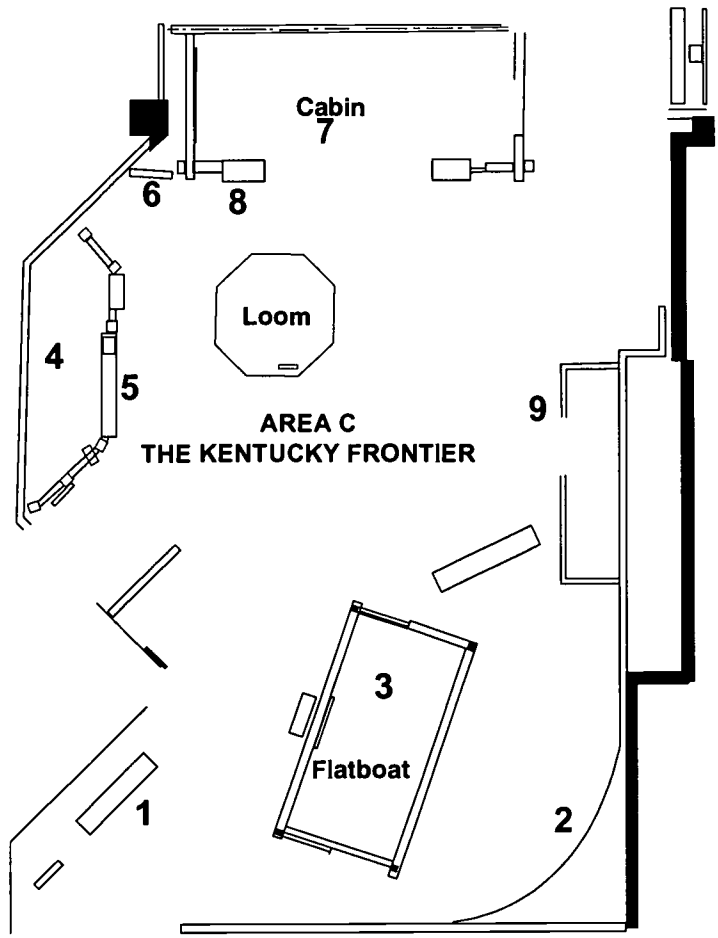
WORDS FROM THE PAST

No one was allowed to use any corn, even from his own field, until the proper authority was given. When the corn was sufficiently advanced for use, the one who had the authority fixed the date for the corn feast and dance. On this occasion great quantities of roasting-ears were prepared, and all ate as freely as they desired. After this feast, all could have what they wished from the field. This was probably the most highly esteemed peace festival. Very properly it might be called "the feast of first-fruits."

From a interview with the Shawnee Charles Bluejacket conducted by folklorist J. Spencer sometime after 1858

EXHIBIT GUIDE
AREA C: FRONTIER KENTUCKY





OVERVIEW

This area examines the settlement of Kentucky by European and African Americans. Exhibit features include:

- Two buildings, a portion of a flatboat, and a mural representing the boat landing at Limestone (Maysville)
- Displays about exploration, agriculture and domestic life, early towns and commerce, military events, and statehood

THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

Economic gain was the dream that lured the first Euroamericans over the mountains. Buffalo, deer, and beaver attracted white fur traders and long hunters in the 1760s. Fertile land and the mild climate drew farmers, rich and poor, to the region.

Most of the white settlers were farmers, and clearing the land for planting was their first task. One man could labor all winter to clear three acres. Corn was typically the first crop to be planted, since it could feed both people and livestock. Beans, squash, wheat, and oats soon followed. Settlers also planted valuable cash crops like tobacco and hemp. As the farm grew, settlers acquired sheep for clothing, a cow for milk, and hogs and chickens for meat and eggs.

African American slaves accompanied the first white settlers to the frontier. By 1790, slaves made up sixteen percent of Kentucky's population. About one percent of blacks were free. Most of Kentucky's slaveholders owned only a few slaves and worked alongside them in the fields.

RELATED EXHIBIT FEATURES

- A display and reading rail of tools used in hunting (1)
- A mural of flatboats and keelboats at the Limestone landing (2)
- A flatboat containing farm and household equipment (3)
- A display of farm tools (4)
- A reading rail of pictures and text about frontier agriculture (5)

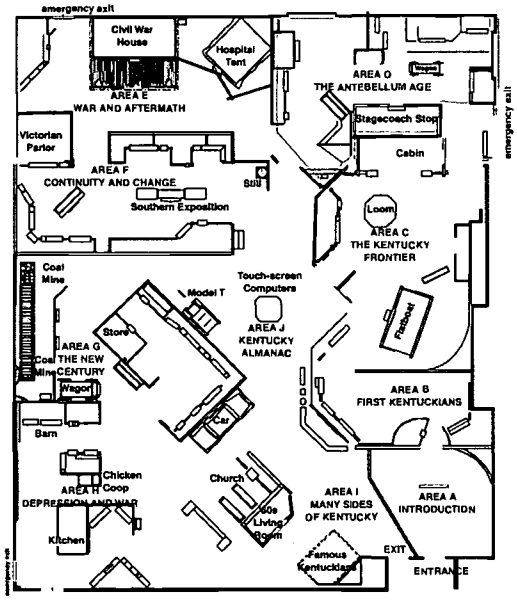
- A display of tools and text about log building construction (6)
- A room setting showing the daily lives of frontier farmers (7)
- A reading rail that includes the inventories of an average and a well-to-do farmer (8)
- A reading rail that lists goods sold in frontier stores (9)

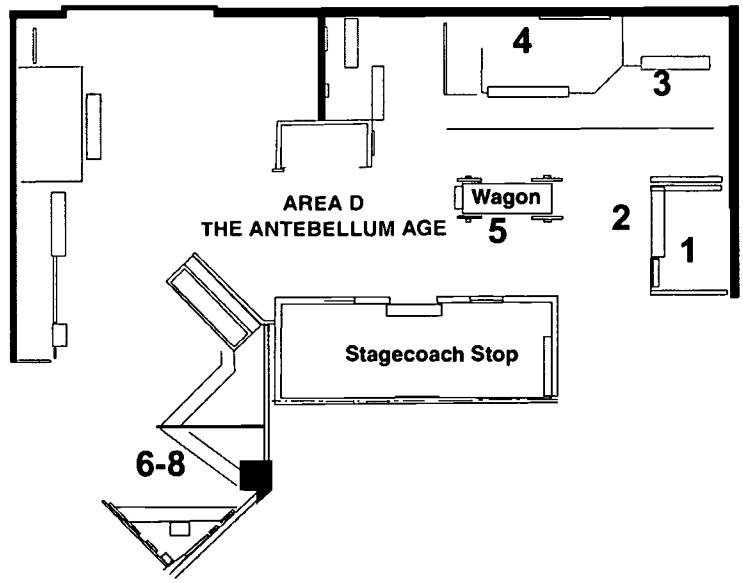
Words from the Past

November, December, January, February, March, and April are employed in clearing lands and rendering them fit for the plow. They likewise beat out hemp and flax in those months, thresh grain and get firewood, but this is done in clearing the land. Oats and flax are sowed in March or April. In May they plant the Indian corn. In June it is cultivated in plowing between the rows and hoeing with the hand. They likewise pull and secure the flax in stacks and sow hemp in May or June. July is employed in the harvest of wheat or other small grain or timothy (for the clover is cultivated for pasture only). Those patches of new land which are designed for turnips are also prepared for seed in this month. In August they thresh for seeding, but a new settler clears his land, and it is the best month in the year for that purpose. September is employed in securing the corn, fodder, in seeding wheat, rye, and barley, till about the 20th of October, when they begin to gather the Indian corn, which finds employ till some time in the month of November.

From *The Western County in 1793* by British clergyman Harry Toulmin

EXHIBIT GUIDE
AREA D: THE ANTEBELLUM AGE





OVERVIEW

This area spans the first half of the nineteenth century, a time of growth and change for Kentucky. Exhibit features include:

- A life-size setting of a stop along a turnpike, including a toll gate, wagon, and tavern interior
- Thematic areas that explore the antebellum economy and early-nineteenth-century society

THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

A growing population of free and slave labor boosted Kentucky's economy during the antebellum period. Agriculture and related industries such as milling, distilling, and rope making brought prosperity to the commonwealth.

Farms provided most Kentuckians' livelihood through the Civil War. Fertile land supported a variety of crops, and the development of road and river traffic opened national markets. The state was an agricultural leader for much of the period.

Hemp was the first major cash crop in Kentucky and by the Civil War, the commonwealth was the leading tobacco-growing state. Kentucky farmers gained a national reputation for the excellence of the livestock they bred. Importing some from Europe and breeding some at home, they boasted prize horses, cattle, sheep, and hogs.

Working the land was a way of life. Slaveholding farmers dominated the state's economy. On large farms in central and southern Kentucky, hemp, tobacco, and grain were the cash crops. Livestock provided added income. The owner or his overseer supervised field slaves. His wife, assisted by female slaves, tended the kitchen garden and produced food products like butter for the market.

In contrast to the South, there were few plantations in Kentucky. The type of crops and shorter growing season did not make slave labor as profitable. As late as 1860, a typical slaveholder owned five or fewer slaves. Slavery was the most profitable on large farms with labor-intensive crops like hemp and cotton. When housing, feeding, and clothing slaves became too costly, owners hired them out or sold them to other Kentuckians or southern slaveholders "down the river."

The small independent farmer was more typical. A man without land usually worked as a tenant, since most farmers could not afford to pay hired hands. On subsistence farms through the state, men cleared the land and planted corn and wheat or oats. Cash crops of hemp or tobacco were added when possible. A horse, a cow, some hogs, and chickens comprised the livestock. The farmer's wife managed the vegetable garden. Children worked beside their parents.

Manufacturers who could convert crops into goods were in demand in antebellum Kentucky. Mills for grinding grain were among the state's first industries and distilleries were not far behind. By 1810 some 2,220 distillers were producing 2.2 million gallons of

whiskey annually.

In Lexington and Louisville, factories turned hemp into rope and bags used to bale cotton in the South. Other industries that converted fibers into goods included textile and paper mills. Factories in Louisville manufactured cigars, pipe, and chewing tobacco.

Abundant fuel and raw materials encouraged an early iron-making industry. The Bourbon iron furnace in Bath County, built in 1791, was Kentucky's first. Buena Vista furnace in Boyd County and Laurel furnace in Greenup County were hewn into solid rock cliffs. Aetna, in Hart County, covered more than 10,000 acres.

Caves across Kentucky were a rich source of calcium nitrate, used to make saltpeter for gunpowder. In Mammoth Cave, nitrate leached from the soil by water carried underground in wooden pipes was pumped to the surface and boiled to crystallize the saltpeter. Saltpeter production peaked in 1812.

Related Exhibit Features

- A display of agricultural tools (1)
- A reading rail about crops, farms, and slavery (2)
- A reading rail about the development of cities as centers of commerce (3)
- A display of artifacts related to agricultural and extractive industries (4)
- A wagon driven by a white male with a slave and produce in the bed (5)
- A display panel about Kentucky's "Second Society"—small farmers, tradesmen, laborers, and slaves (6)
- A flipbook of personal narratives from interviews with and autobiographies by former slaves (7)
- A display of cooking and household utensils illustrating women's work in the home (8)

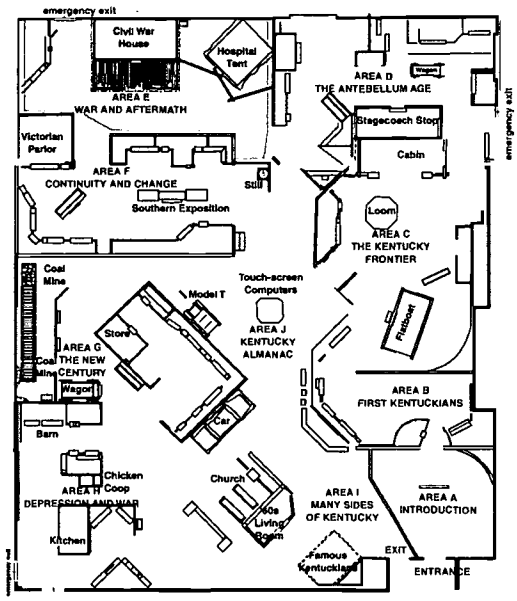
Words from the Past

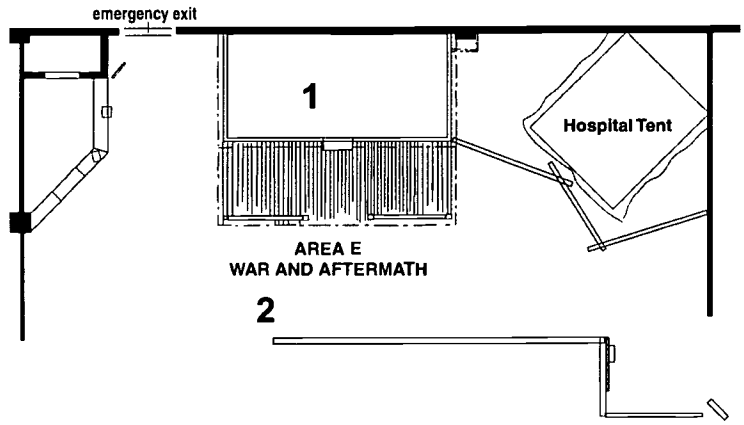
I have been busy as possible lately picking & preserving. Blackberries are very abundant this year. I have also gone two or three times today to look at the men at work in the meadows, & the folks say I am a better farmer than you. Mr. Lucas says that the front meadow has produced double as heavy a crop as he has ever seen on it, and several say it is the finest piece of timothy any where in the country around. After a rain or two to bring on the fresh growth I will have the cattle removed to it from the orchard lot, & then after eating it down, the clover will afford them a fine fall pasture if you think fit, as it has been resting for some weeks & will grow out considerably by September. . . .

I was very much surprised on Friday afternoon at the receipt of a wagon load of pork, sent by Mr. H. Skiles without waiting for any further message from me. It fretted me for a few minutes but I soon reasoned that there was no way but to see all the hands to work, which I did & had everything finished, a tub full of sausage meat, lard & all at a late hour Saturday night, being obliged to wait until morning for cleaning process. The ten hogs weighed 1611 lbs., and were in fine order. I shall write to Mr. Skiles when to send the rest, & ask an earlier day in the week.

From a letter written in November 1850 by Elizabeth Underwood in Warren County to her husband, then a senator Living in Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT GUIDE
AREA E: WAR AND AFTERMATH





OVERVIEW

This area examines the causes, events, and results of the Civil War in Kentucky. Exhibits features include:

- A life-size setting representing a field hospital near the Perryville Battlefield
- Thematic areas that explore the causes of the war, its effects on civilians and the state, and Reconstruction

THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

The war affected all Kentuckians—rich, poor, black, and white. Divided loyalties tore families apart. Perhaps as many as thirty thousand Kentucky soldiers died from battle wounds, accidents, and disease. While not participants on the battlefield, women played vital roles by running farms and businesses and raising families alone. Slaves who joined the Union army faced discrimination, while those who remained at home were closely watched.

Battles left lasting scars on the towns, farms, and houses around them. The largest battle ever fought on Kentucky soil took place on a farm near Perryville in Boyle County. The fighting occurred in a cornfield. The farmhouse became a temporary headquarters for Union officers and a field hospital for the wounded.

Few Kentucky communities were untouched by the war. Louisville prospered, while towns like Frankfort and Bowling Green, occupied at different times by both armies, experienced the positive and negative effects of military presence. In other communities from Paducah to Paintsville, raiding soldiers and civilians terrorized citizens and destroyed property.

Rural Kentuckians felt the war in many ways. Soldiers from both armies made off with crops, livestock, and firewood. The Shaker communities at Pleasant Hill and South Union suffered great losses feeding Union and Confederate troops.

RELATED EXHIBIT FEATURES

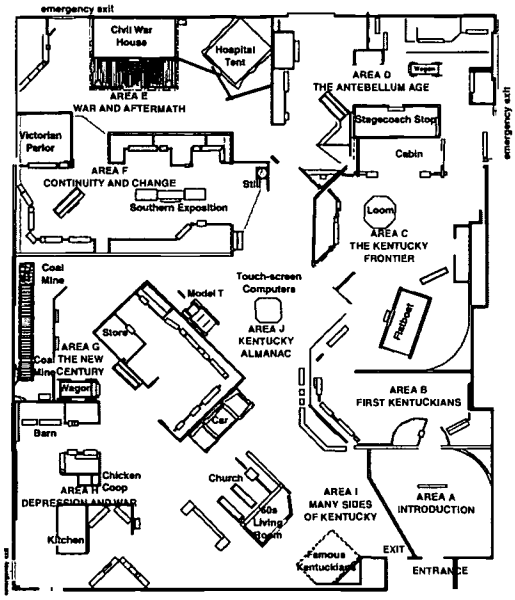
- A life-size scene of a farm house converted into a field hospital (1)
- A flipbook of urban and rural women's experiences during the war

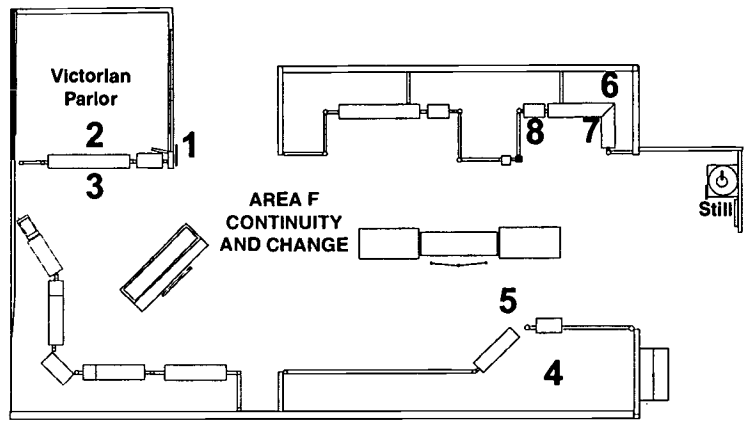
Words from the Past

22nd [January 1862] There were ninety wagons belonging to the Secesh army passed thro' our village on to Yosts Tavern where they put up for the night. About two hundred artillery horses with their horsement stopped here. They drove into the Lot facing the Office; or, rather, the old Post Office Lot, and there struck their tents and built camp fires. This company burned some new fence rails from around the Fowl yard and robbed two Bee hives. The next morning this company moved on to Russellville. The artillery wagons were taken on the R. Road. Also the same evening Colonel Scott's regiment of Cavalry nearly one thousand strong called and wished to remain with us a day or two; or, until they would receive further orders from headquarters at B[owling] Green. The Sisters began to make preparations for cooking, believing they would have it to do. The brethren made enquiry of the Officers. They said they did not wish any cooking done for their soldiers at present. So it was deferred, as we hoped for the night, but as is common for them, they do not very well understand their duty or their business. Just as the family were retiring to rest at nine O'Clock; an order came from the Officers to the Sisters for six hundred pounds of bread. The Sisters without murmuring set to work to fill the order.

From *The Journal of Eldress Nancy* by Shaker Eldress Nancy Moore, living with about 300 others at South Union in Logan County during the War

EXHIBIT GUIDE
AREA F: CONTINUITY AND CHANGE





OVERVIEW

This area explores the last quarter of the nineteenth century, a period of great change for the nation but one when many Kentuckians lived as they had for generations. Exhibits features include:

- A life-size setting representing the 1883 Southern Exposition
- A Victorian parlor setting
- Thematic areas that explore industry and agriculture, social life, and the violence that plagued Kentucky into the early twentieth century

THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

By 1900, only one of five Kentuckians lived in towns of more than 2,500. It was in these places that people could most easily adopt a Victorian lifestyle. While men worked in offices or factories, their wives reared children and furnished the house with mass-produced goods. Easy access to stores, schools, and cultural activities made for a comfortable lifestyle for those who could afford it. Urban Kentuckians also benefited most from the electricity, indoor plumbing, and telephones that began to appear at the end of the century.

The majority of Kentuckians lived in the country, where life centered on work and family. Those with access to towns and railroads adopted new ways when they could afford it. In more remote places, life continued as it had before the Civil War. For most rural people, church and the local store were the main sources of social life outside the home.

More than two-thirds of the state's labor force worked on farms in 1880. Kentuckians were less likely to be tenants and less burdened by debts than their southern neighbors but less prosperous than their northern and midwestern ones. The typical farm was a small, family-owned operation that relied on one crop. Those who could manage to buy new farm equipment increased their productivity. The first modern iron plow became available by the late 1870s. Other factory-made machines promised to speed a variety of agricultural tasks.

Kentucky had one of the most diversified farm economies in the South. In 1879, the state ranked first in tobacco and hemp production and high in the production of rye, corn, wheat, and flax. Kentucky was also known for its livestock, particularly horses, cattle, and sheep.

The hemp market declined during the Civil War as farmers turned to jute bagging and iron bands for baling cotton. By 1890, Kentucky produce 94 percent of the hemp in the country, but only a thousand farmers still grew it.

With the decline of hemp, tobacco became the leading Kentucky crop. The white burley strain was introduced during the Civil War. It could be air-cured rather than fire-cured, and mechanically harvested. This bitter, golden-leaf tobacco was preferred for making plug tobacco and later, cigarettes.

Tobacco production increased steadily as consump-

tion rose during the last decades of the century. Some farmers began selling directly from their barns to bypass the tobacco auctions in Louisville and Cincinnati.

Even rural Kentuckians benefited from one of the marvels of the industrial age—railroads. The state's railroad mileage tripled between 1879 and 1900. Although they brought markets closer and provided greater mobility, railroads created problems, too. The state encouraged construction, but many counties went into debt trying to win the railroad's favor. The Louisville & Nashville (L&N) became a powerful political force little affected by the weak Railroad Commission created in 1880.

The growth of the coal mining industry was directly linked to the expansion of the railroads. In the 1870s, railroads began to burn and transport coal. Booming coal towns quickly appeared along the railroad lines in formerly isolated rural areas. The allure of electricity, well-stocked stores, convenient schools, and hospitals prompted many Kentuckians to give up farming for jobs in the mines. When profits were up, wages and benefits were good. When profits sank, miners suffered, and the gap between the workers and managers widened.

Another rich natural resource was timber, but Kentucky never developed major wood-based industries. Many farmers supplemented meager incomes by logging their woodlands during the winter. Farmers took logs to dumps where a "splash dam" backed up water to float the timber. The logs were tied together in huge rafts that were then released into the river. Loggers guided the rafts through treacherous waters to mills in downriver towns. In 1890 a raft might fetch between $150 and $300—one or two year's wages for a laborer.

Timbering took its toll on the land as entire forests were stripped and not replanted. Although the governor called for legislation to reforest land and preserve the remaining timber as early as 1887, no action was taken. The timber boom continued until 1920, when the timber began to run out. Logging would not resume until later in the century.

Related Exhibit Features

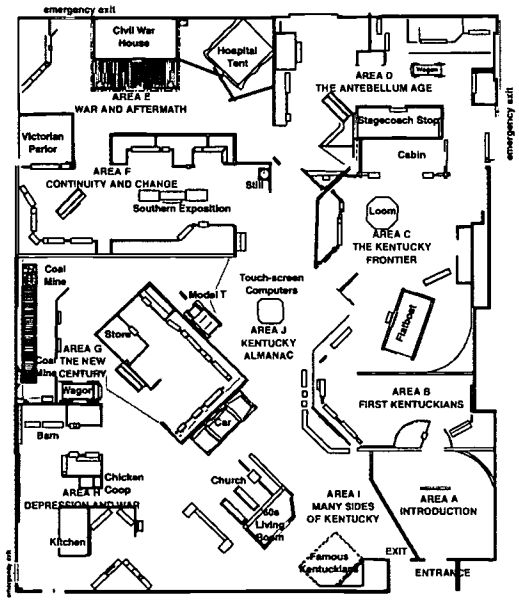
- A flipbook of photos including some rural scenes (1)
- A room setting that shows a middle-class lifestyle often not associated with rural life (2)
- A reading rail that describes the differences between urban and rural life (3)
- A display of artifacts related to agriculture (4)
- Reading rails that describe late-nineteenth-century agriculture" (5)
- A display of equipment used in the timbering industry (6)
- A reading rail about timbering (7)
- A reading rail about the developing coal industry (8)

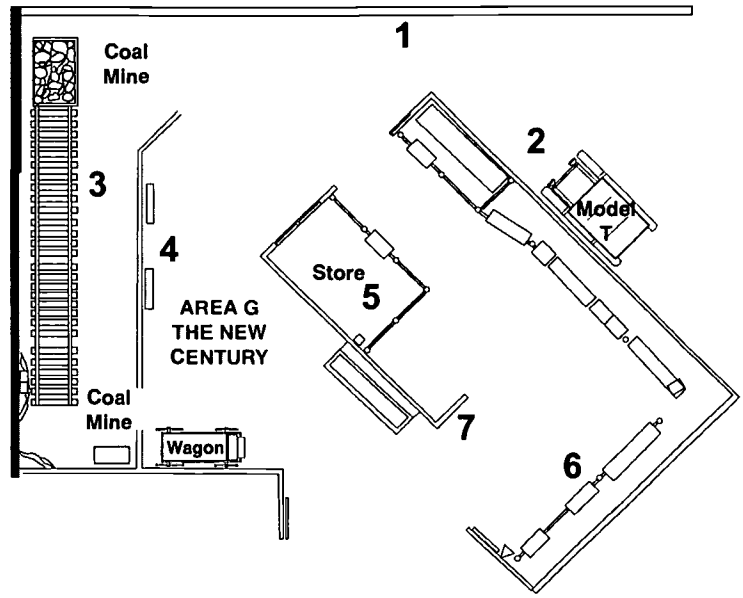
Words from the Past

When I was a boy in Kentucky the only equipment necessary for a young farmer was a husky girl wife, a child or two, a pair of mules, a two-horse wagon, a two-horse turning plow generally made by the local blacksmith, a one-horse turning plow, a jumping coulter, a scythe, a wheat cradle, a baby cradle generally made at home out of a box, a harrow, an axe, a hoe, and a grindstone. The most important of these was the girl wife. Without her and without the babies to crawl in bed and play with him early in the morning, the farmer was a poor fish.

From *Kentuckians Are Different*
by M. B. Morton (1859-194?)

EXHIBIT GUIDE
AREA G: THE NEW CENTURY





OVERVIEW

This area examines changes that took place in Kentucky during the first third of the twentieth century. Exhibits features include:

- A walk-through coal mine
- A life-size setting representing a company store
- Thematic areas that explore coal mining and coal town life; reform movements that affected civil and women's rights, education, and health care; and the "Americanizing" influences of mass merchandising and media on everyday life

THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

Life in Kentucky was increasingly affected by national issues and events during the early twentieth century. Urban areas grew in number and size. The development of the coal industry focused state and national attention on the mountains of eastern Kentucky. Mass communication, gas-powered vehicles, and labor-saving devices were changing traditional ways of life.

The first quarter of the century was a time of growth and change for the eastern Kentucky coal industry. Until 1912, the western Kentucky coalfields produced the majority of the state's coal. Poor transportation slowed efforts to develop the rich eastern Kentucky fields. As railroads made their ways into the mountains, coal towns operated by national corporations like International Harvester and U.S. Steel sprang up almost overnight. Between 1900 and 1918, Kentucky coal production increased six-fold. The introduction of new equipment aided Kentucky's coal boom. By the end of the 1920s, Kentucky was third in coal production in America.

The promises of good wages and the comforts of a "modern" company town convinced natives to abandon their farms and attracted European immigrants and African Americans from the Deep South to the mines. While some prospered, all confronted dangerous working conditions and the limits placed on economic and political freedom by the companies. For many, mining introduced a new kind of poverty that ultimately led to the labor unrest of later decades.

For Kentuckians living across the state, the new century brought inventions that changed basic ways of life. The first Model Ts arrived in 1910, and an assembly operation was established in Louisville. Although automobiles were common in Kentucky's towns and cities by the 1920s, many rural roads were rough and unimproved.

Developments in mass communication brought the outside world to people living in isolated places. Radios powered by batteries and electricity became a source of news and entertainment. Improved telephone service opened up communication across the state and to the rest of the nation. Mass merchandising informed consumers of the latest national trends and fashions, and mail-order catalogues allowed everyone to purchase the latest goods.

Related Exhibit Features

- A photomural of Lynch in 1918 showing the way coal towns were carved into the mountains (1)
- A Model T Ford (2)
- A walk-through coal mine with displays of photographs and tools (3)
- A photo album and display of images of life in Kentucky coal towns (4)
- A store that shows the kinds of goods people could purchase in the early twentieth century (5)
- Displays of artifacts and images that illustrate the mass media and mass merchandising that affected Kentuckians across the state (6)
- A photo album of images of daily life, including rural scenes, from 1900-1950.

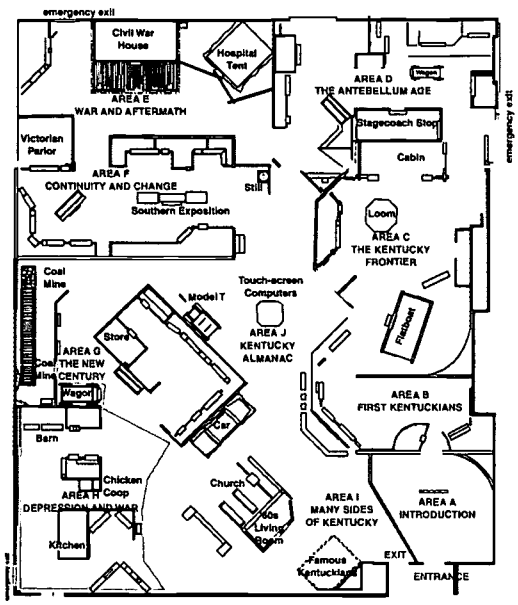
Words from the Past

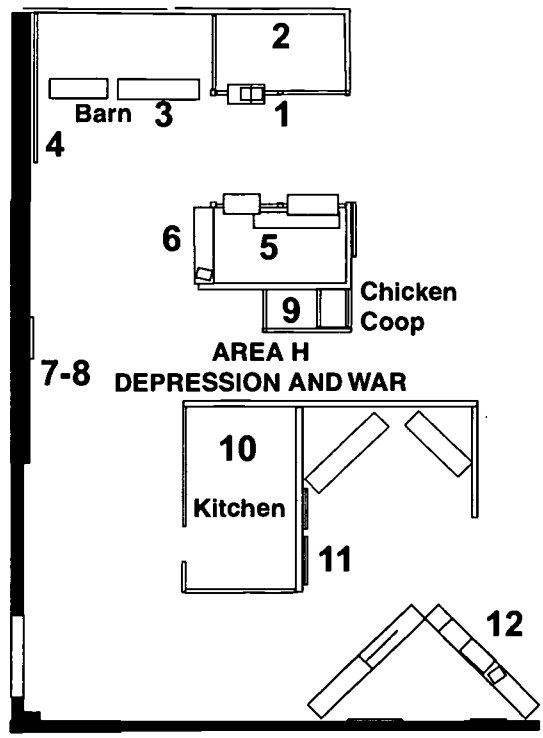
. . . [My father] greeted his animals morning, noon, and night, fed them, bedded their stalls, and was kind to them. He planted potatoes on high hilltops in new ground to grow them good and big if the season had plenty of rain. And, as insurance, he planted some in the old land down in the bottoms, where, if the season was dry, there would still be potatoes. He raised tomatoes in new ground so they would be soft and flavorful. He was kind to the earth and it returned the favor. There has never been a better gardener in W-Hollow. He studied land, plants, and seasons each year. He never could learn enough.

It took so much work to make a living on this land that was considered nonproductive. There were human mouths to feed, swine to be fattened for port, cows and other livestock to be cared for. And with all this my father had to pay half of his crops to the landowners. It took a lot of work. My father used to say, "It takes all hands and the cook to make a living here. . . ."

I was introduced to the hoe when I was six years old and to the plow when I was ten. I was strong for a young boy and I could do the work. So could my younger brother James in the years to follow. Work with a hoe, cutting weeds and raking fresh clean dirt that had a pleasant smell, was for me an education. Watching plants grow, calling corn a beautiful flower when one of the stalks silked and tasseled, was also part of my education. Later I wrote a poem about corn as a flower.

From *My World* by Jesse Stuart, born in 1906 in Greenup County, Kentucky





OVERVIEW

This area focuses on the impact of the Depression and World War II on Kentucky. Exhibit features include:

- A walk-through stock barn filled with agricultural tools
- A Depression-era farm kitchen setting
- Thematic areas about the Depression and World War II

THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

From its earliest years, Kentucky staked its future on agriculture. In 1920, for the first time, the American population became more urban than rural. In Kentucky, the population remained mainly rural until 1970. As America became an industrialized nation, many Kentucky farmers clung to a traditional way of life.

Kentucky farmers continued to use many nineteenth-century tools and equipment well into the twentieth century. Horse-drawn wagons and shovel plows were commonly seen on farms as late as the 1940s. The power equipment which would revolutionize agriculture after World War II was too expensive for small family farms.

Before New Deal controls on production, the unpredictable tobacco market could make or break a farmer. Low prices meant little or no reward for hard labor. In good times, tobacco could produce a large income per acre. This led to a dependence on tobacco that made it difficult to diversfy to other crops.

Erratic prices for hemp, corn, and tobacco meant that farmers often had trouble making ends meet. Most crop farmers also raised hogs and cattle for both the table and the market. Chickens were a reliable source of food that could also be sold for cash when crops did not bring in enough income.

On family farms where everyone worked, the barnyard and chicken coop were the responsibility of women. Eggs, milk, cream, butter, and hens paid for flour, sugar, coffee, baking soda, children's shoes, and other items the family could not grow.

A woman might spend three hours a day caring for up to 200 chickens. She supervised the hatching of eggs, cared for the young chickens or "pullets," monitored the laying hens, and selected chickens to be slaughtered or sold for cash. Egg incubators became available in the 1930s, although poorer women would not have been able to afford them.

The Great Depression hit hard in a state suffering from the effects of a decade-long agricultural depression. A 1930 drought devastated many farms. Ken-

tucky farmers welcomed drastic government programs. They praised the Tobacco Control Act of 1934, which placed mandatory quotas on growers and guaranteed a minimum price for tobacco. The New Deal's Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA) gave farmers twenty dollars for each acre they removed from tobacco production. The establishment of the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Rural Electrification Administration brought power to some, although as late as 1940 only one of five rural homes had electricity.

World War II was a watershed for Kentucky. After years of stagnation, the economy boomed as farms and factories produced goods essential to the war efforts. Record numbers of enlisted Kentuckians fought all over the world. Those who stayed at home prospered as the war ensured jobs for everyone.

Related Exhibit Features

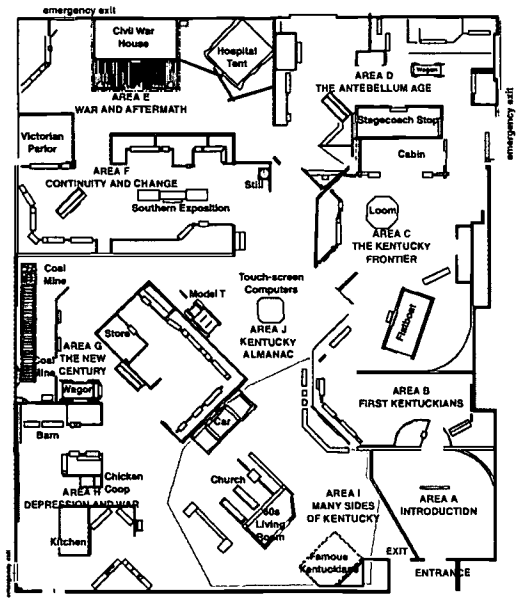
- A walk-though stock barn (1)
- A display of tobacco cultivation tools (2)
- A reading rail of text and images about "the thirteen-month crop" (3)
- A color photomural of a dark fire tobacco barn in western Kentucky (4)
- A display of farm tools (5)
- A reading rail of text and images on rural economy and Depression-era assistance programs for farmers (6)
- A display of home appliances powered by electricity (7)
- A panel of text and images about rural electrification (8)
- A coop inhabited by robotic chickens (9)
- A farm kitchen setting that illustrates daily life in a Depression-era home without electricity or running water (10)
- A visitor-activitated audio unit that includes stories of the Depression years by former farmers (11)
- A display of artifacts and images illustrating activities on the World War II home front, including home gardening and canning (12)

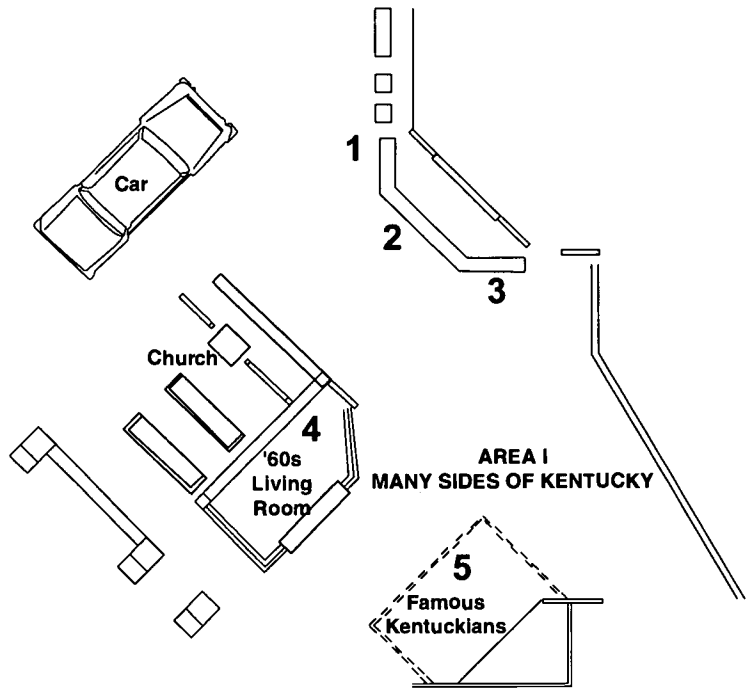
Words from the Past

. . . When I was a boy growing up in rural Lyon County [during the 1930s] . . . very few farmers owned a wheat thresher. . . . The owner of the threshing machine would set up a schedule and route with local farmers in the spring and when the threshing season began, they would move from farm to farm until all the wheat was threshed in a given community. The threshing machine was pulled and powered by a steam engine . . . [which] came in huffing and puffing and belching smoke and steam. The placing of the threshing machine on a farm was called a "set." . . . When the set was ready, wagons equipped with large frames had been loaded with the bundles of wheat in the field and were lined up, waiting. Two wagons could unload into the thresher at the same time, one on each side, and the thresher would take the bundles of wheat as fast as the men could throw them off the wagon. As soon as a wagon was unloaded, another was in line waiting. The straw was blown through a large, long pipe to a pile or stack, the grain came down a pipe where two men sacked and loaded it on wagons. This operation took a lot of labor and a lot of teams and wagons, but neighbors swapped work and teamed up to help each other. . . . As the steam engine moved out, the operator gave several long blasts on the steam whistle that could be heard for several miles. This was a signal to everyone in the community that the thresher was moving to the next set and everyone could make their plans accordingly.

From *Profiles of the* Past, a reminiscence about life in Lyon County, Kentucky, during the 1930s, by Odell Walker

EXHIBIT GUIDE
AREA I: MANY SIDES OF KENTUCKY





OVERVIEW

This area focuses on Kentucky's last fifty years. Exhibit features include:

- A walk-through African American church setting of the Civil Rights era
- A 1960s living room setting
- Thematic areas about the impact of national events and issues on Kentucky, the state's changing economy, and celebrities from authors to sports heroes

THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

Although Kentucky has grown more urban since World War II, agriculture has persisted as one of the state's main industries. Tobacco continues to rank as the largest cash crop, although cattle, horses, and soybeans have become increasingly important.

The state's cattle industry has risen and fallen in the postwar years. Although Kentucky ranks eights nationally in the production of beef cows, the number of small farms and part-time farmers post challenges in a market that calls for large quantities of animals.

Soybeans are a promising new crop in Kentucky. Between 1928 and 1990, acreage grew from 5,000 to 1.1 million. Capable of two crops in a growing season, soybeans may become a key crop if tobacco declines.

Mechanization and new scientific techniques have made farming more professional and less personal. New plant strains, chemical pesticides, and fertilizers have increased productivity on Kentucky farms. At the same time, the need to keep up with the latest developments requires higher levels of education among farmers. In Kentucky, as in the rest of the nation, the number of farms and full-time farmers is declining.

Traditional industries related to agriculture continue to thrive today. Kentucky has been known for its thoroughbreds since the early nineteenth century. Although there is competition from other states, Kentucky produced almost 20 percent of the foals registered in North America in 1992. With horse farms in 108 of the 120 counties, the commonwealth is the only state in American where horse breeding is a major source of farm receipts.

Kentucky's distilling industry has remained strong in the postwar years despite competition from foreign markets. At the beginning of 1990, the state produced 70 percent of the nation's distilled spirits and nearly 90 percent of its bourbon. Distilleries like Brown-Forman's Labrot-Graham combine age-old and contemporary techniques to create a product with international appeal.

Coal mining, timbering, and other extractive industries have continued to play important roles in Kentucky's economy in the postwar years. Coal still dominates the economy in part of the state and generates $4 billion in business yearly. By the 1992, the commonwealth had become the fourth-largest producer of hardwood timber in the nation. Yet three-quarters of its lumber is shipped to other states to be processed. Experts believe that proper management of Kentucky's forest and the development of training and support programs will aid in making the most of this important resource.

In recent years, safety and environmental concerns have changed the way extractive industries do business. Decades of destructive mining and logging practices severely degraded Kentucky's forests, lakes, and streams. In 1966 the commonwealth passed the most stringent strip-mining reclamation law in the nation. In 1988 citizens approved a constitutional amendment outlawing the broad-form deed by which owners of minerals below the surface had precedence over surface landowners' rights. In recent years activist groups have been strong advocates for environmental reform.

Related Exhibit Features

- A reading rail of text and images illustrating "Kentucky Farms and the Future" (1)
- A reading rail of text and images illustrating "Traditional Industries" (2)
- A reading rail of text and images about extractive industries (3)
- A 1960s living rooms setting that reflects a suburban lifestyle removed from the land (4)
- A recording of songs by contemporary musicians from Kentucky, including some that reflect the state's ties to the land (5)

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