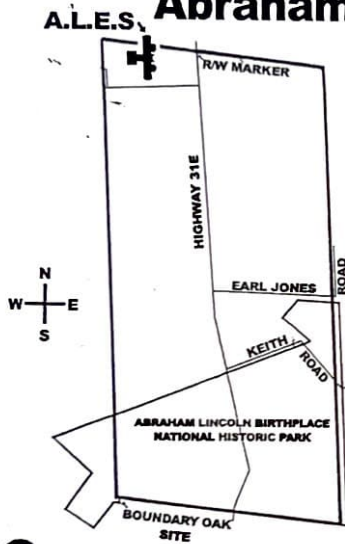


In 2018 it was discovered that Abraham Lincoln Elementary School had been unknowingly constructed straddling the forgotten stated northern boundary of the farm on which the future president was born.

The following sign has since been placed in the school's main hallway.

THE LINCOLN FARM BOUNDARY

The far northern portion of this building lies astride the stated northern limit of the 300 acre, nearly mile-long Sinking (or Rock) Spring Farm on which Abraham Lincoln was born February 12, 1809.

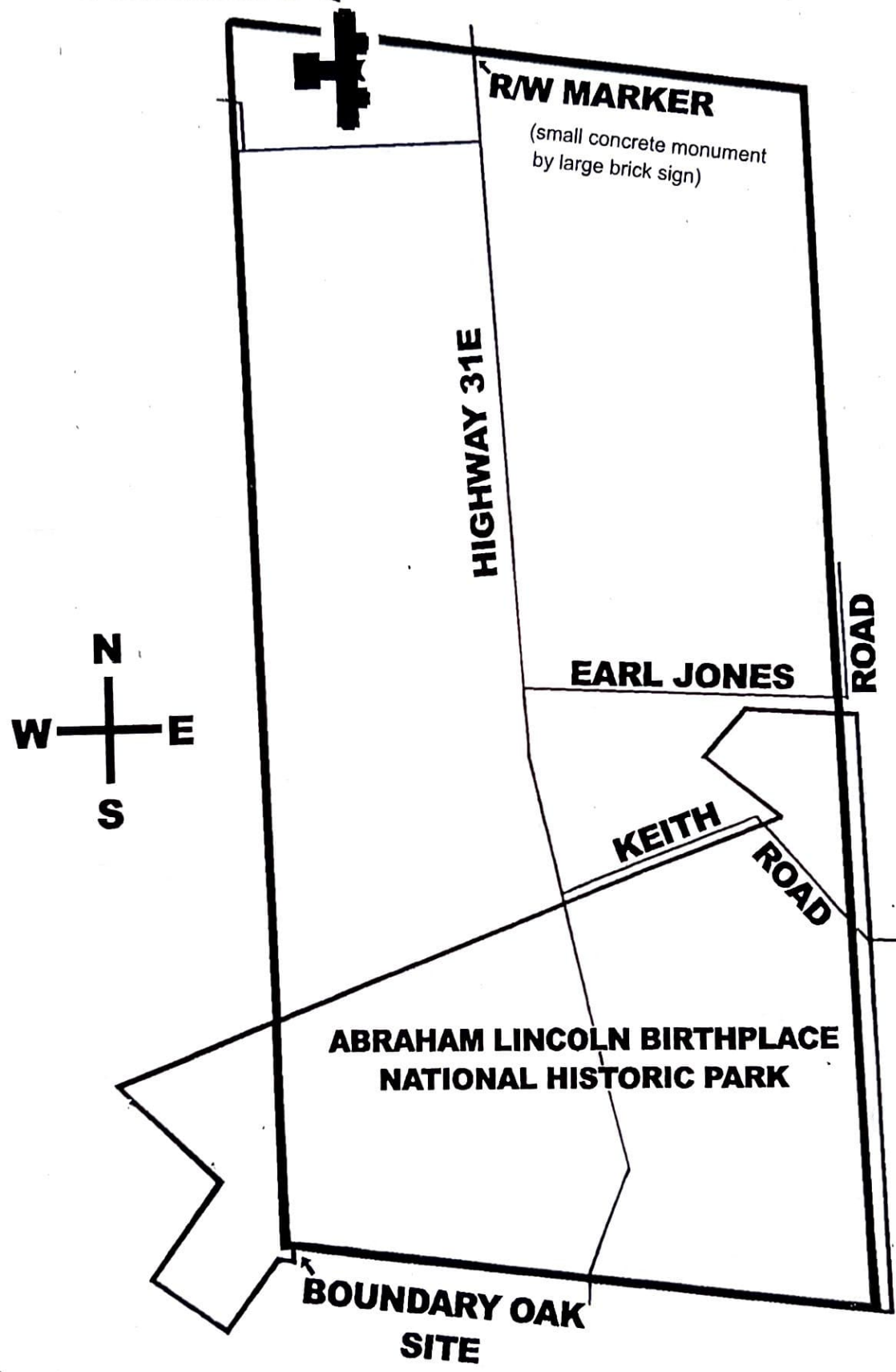


The old property line extends eastwardly through the small concrete Kentucky Right-of-way marker located barely across Highway 31E.

The southern boundary of the twice as long as wide tract is represented by that of the Lincoln birthplace park from 2557.5 feet east of the "Boundary Oak" site.

C. Cantrell 2021

A.L.E.S.



Enlargement of map portion of sign

**A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SINKING SPRING FARM
ON WHICH ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS BORN**

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2019

(Excerpts from the author's 2018 denoted highly documented report, "The Sinking Spring Farm and the Lincoln Family's Occupation.")

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SINKING SPRING FARM ON WHICH ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS BORN

-Map scales correct for an 8 ½ inch wide page

Introduction

Around 1800 Richard Mather obtained some 15,000 acres in the Nolin River watershed which he then subdivided. In May 1805 he sold the "twice as long as wide" (5115' x 2557.5') 300 acre Sinking (Rock or Cave) Spring Farm to David Vance. In November 1805 the latter sold the property to Isaac Bush for 200 dollars who in December 1808 then sold it to Thomas Lincoln for the same amount. (Thomas, his wife Nancy, and their daughter Sarah had likely recently moved from a small cabin near the square in Elizabethtown.)

The farm extended approximately 2 to 3 miles south of Hodgenville and was bisected lengthwise by the Old Cumberland (i.e. Nashville) Road, now KY Hwy 31E. The property occupied the southern 7/8s of the still visible nearly parallelogram-shaped old fence pattern of **Figure 1**.

On 12 February 1809 most believe son Abraham was born on the hill above the spring. Although still desiring to keep the Sinking Spring tract, in 1811 the family moved to Sugar Camp Hollow along Knob Creek 7 miles NE of Hodgenville ("The Boyhood Home").

Reasons for leaving the prior site included (among possibly others) the ownership dispute of the latter, better soil, access to surface water along the creek, shallow hand-dug wells, and the availability of goods and services provided by the nearby communities.

In September 1813 Mather sued the trio of Lincoln, Bush, and Vance for a stated \$61.50 still owed him by the latter on the Sinking Spring place who had since left the state.

In September 1816 a Hardin County judge ruled that Thomas could obtain title to the farm if he paid the debt and interest within 10 days or the property would be auctioned off. (LaRue Co. did not split from Hardin until 1843.) Lincoln could not or would not accept this offer. In fairness, he was then authorized to attempt to recoup the 200 dollars he had paid Isaac Bush. Likewise, Bush was given authority to try to recover his payment from Vance. It is unknown how much, if any, either ever received.

In 1816 the property sold at auction to John Welch for the minimum bid of \$87.74. (After Nancy Hanks Lincoln's death in 1819, Thomas married Isaac's widowed sister, Sarah Bush Johnston—See "*Sarah Bush Johnston's Elizabethtown KY Cabin Sites*", C. Cantrell 2018).

Property Details

In 1837 as part of the McKelvey Fogle-vs.-John Welsh Heirs suit, the Sinking Spring tract was surveyed so as to represent the old 300-acre ex-Vance property. Although some adjoining neighbors' names had changed, the Vance/Bush/Lincoln corner locations could still be identified or calculated as shown on **Figure 2**. Recall that directions such as "N 9½ W" mean from north, measure 9½ degrees to the west and that one pole equals 16½ feet. That in [] is the author's.

Beginning at a large white oak [the Boundary Oak] 13 poles [214.5 feet] above the sinking or rock spring running thence N 9½ W 310 poles [5115 feet] to a stake in John Taylor's field thence S 89½ E 155 poles [2557.5 feet] to a forked black jack [a type of oak] thence S 9½ E 310 poles to a black jack, thence N 89½ W 155 poles to the beginning [300 acres]

(Source – Louis Warren, "*Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood*", 1926, p. 317)

The following year Fogle purchased approximately 40 acres abutting the ex-Vance/Bush/Lincoln property (Hardin Co. Deed Book "R", p. 458) as described in **Figure 3**.

Thirty-nine acres thereof were directly north of the old Vance tract—possibly a more accurate measurement of the "extra" 48 of **Figure 2**.

The 2017 aerial photograph of **Figure 4** shows the approximately 5775-foot-long fence outline (or projections of portions thereof) consisting of the combined ex-Fogle and Lincoln properties.

This distance was derived from a map scale developed by the author from highly enlarged, distortion-free regional aerial photographs. The park's eastern and southern lengths (the latter east of the Boundary Oak site) as given on the October 1978 survey by C. E. Pence were used as major references. The ratio of these 2 dimensions were also utilized as checks for enlargement-induced image distortion.

Note that today's fence pattern is rotated clockwise only about 4 degrees NW from the Boundary Oak compared to the 1837 property description, as the local magnetic field direction has since changed approximately 5.5 degrees.

Presently a small concrete "KY R/W" (right of way) monument signifies the old fence pattern's and thus Fogle's northern limit. The highly deteriorated marker is located in an often-flooded sinkhole 35 feet east of Hwy 31E, some 20 feet south of the "Mile 8" sign.

The ex-Fogle/Vance (Lincoln) survey line is likewise indicated by another R/W monument 660 feet to the south at the brick "*McDowell's Lakeview Cabins*" sign across from the Abraham Lincoln Elementary School. (The distance was determined by the author with a pedometer measuring to the nearest foot. The pair of markers between these two represent later property divisions.)

When the Fogle/Lincoln line is projected through the R/W monument at the McDowell sign parallel to the fence pattern's southern boundary (or northern one east of Hwy 31E), it intercepts the front of the school building in the vicinity of the northernmost doorway. (See Figure 4.)

Warren's text includes a photograph of two by then gone large brick columns entitled "The north traditional boundary of Lincoln Farm." It is unknown how their locations related to the author's 2018 measurement.

Once it was deduced that the Lincoln's property was (or very nearly) its "advertised" 5115 Foot length (i.e. 5775' minus Fogle's 660' portion), its reconstructed stated northern boundary can be easily replicated on a distortion-free map or air photo of even questionable or unknown scale by following the steps below:

- 1) Note the image's width of the park's southern border from the oak site to its eastern edge.
- 2) Reduce this distance by .2 percent, i.e. multiply by .98 (as the present park width is this amount greater than the farm's originally stated 2557.5 feet).
- 3) Double this length then plot to the north of the park's SE corner to create a map distance of 5115 feet along the fence pattern's eastern edge.
- 4) At this point construct a westwardly line parallel to the park's southern border. If done correctly, it should pass through the school building at or very close to that determined via creating a precise map scale—naturally the larger the image and the smaller the ruler divisions used, the greater the accuracy of these methods.

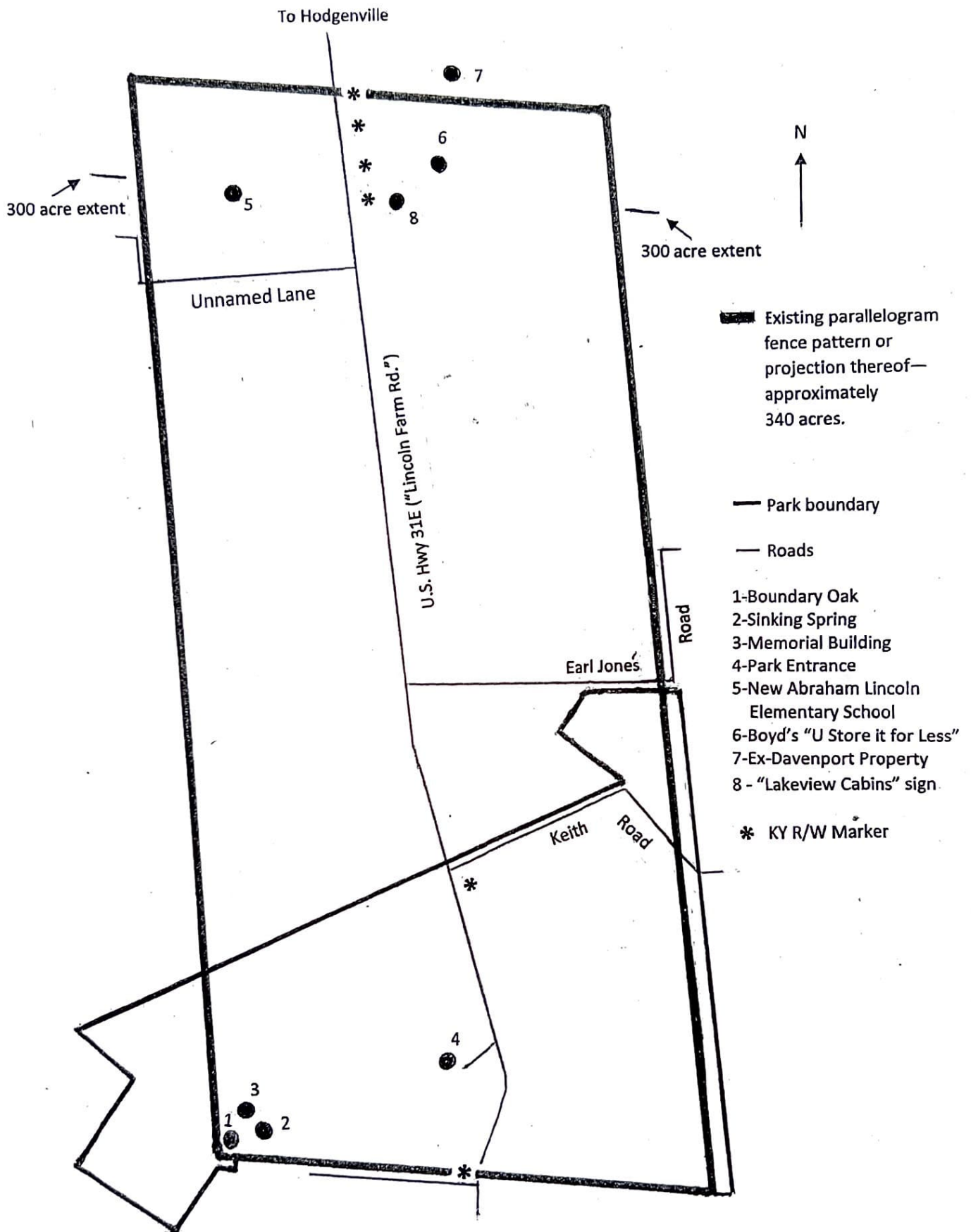


Figure 1: The Sinking Spring Farm Area and Today's National Park
 Scale: 1 inch = 720 feet

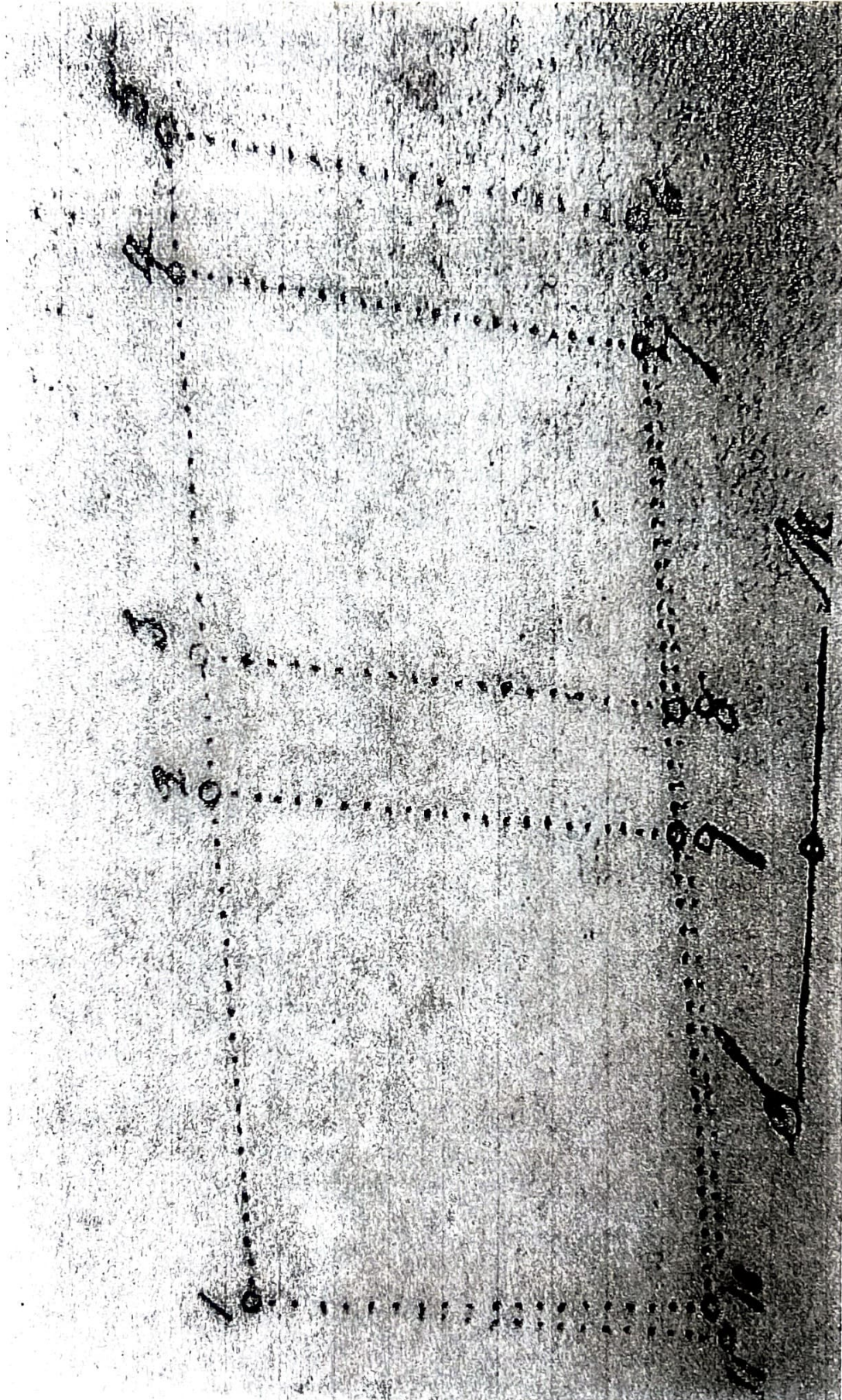


Figure 2: The Old "Vance's Survey"
(on display in visitor center)

1 (the Boundary Oak), 4, 7, 11 – the Vance/Bush/Lincolns' 300-acre tract

1, 5, 6, 11 – stated 348.5-acre extent

Scale: 1 inch = roughly 720 feet

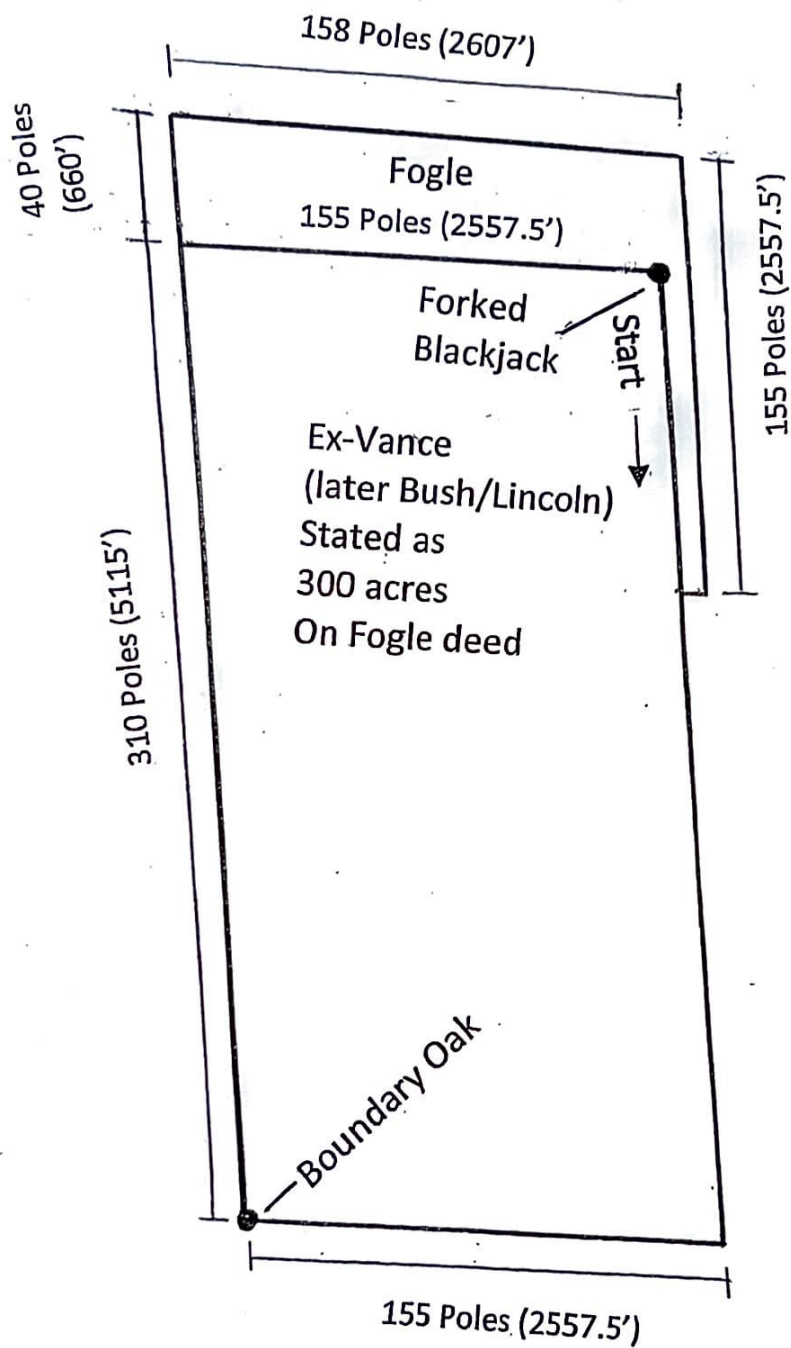


Figure 3: Fogle's 1838 Forty-Acre Plat with Adjoining 300 Acre ex-Vance (later Bush/Lincoln) Sinking Spring Farm
 Total stated length 5775 feet
 Scale: one inch = 1000 feet

5115 feet

5115 feet

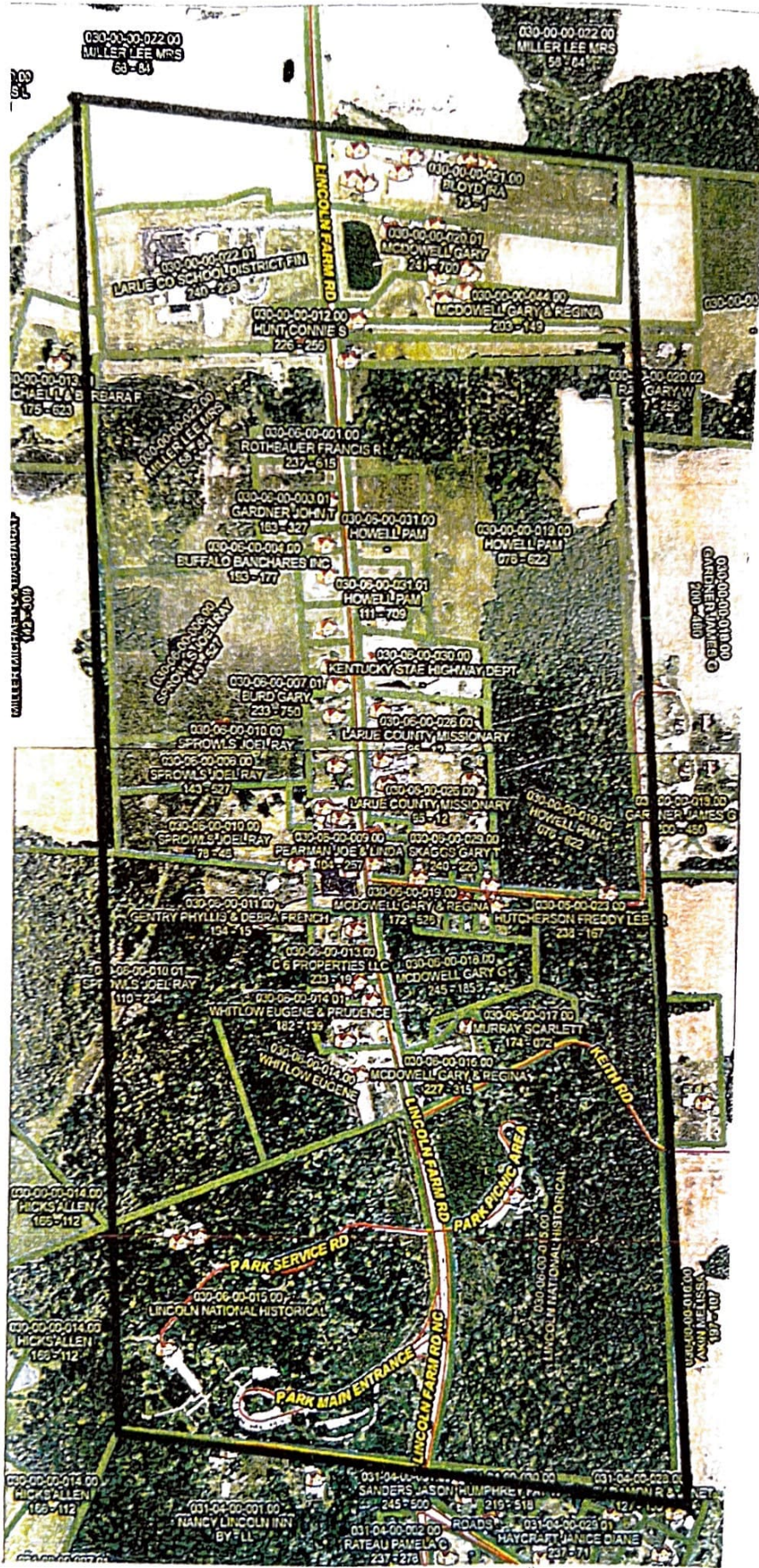


Figure 4: 2017 Lincoln Farm Area Subdivisions

-Number beneath owner indicates deed book number and page

Scale: 1 inch = 720 feet

Aerial view courtesy of LaRue County Property Valuation Administration

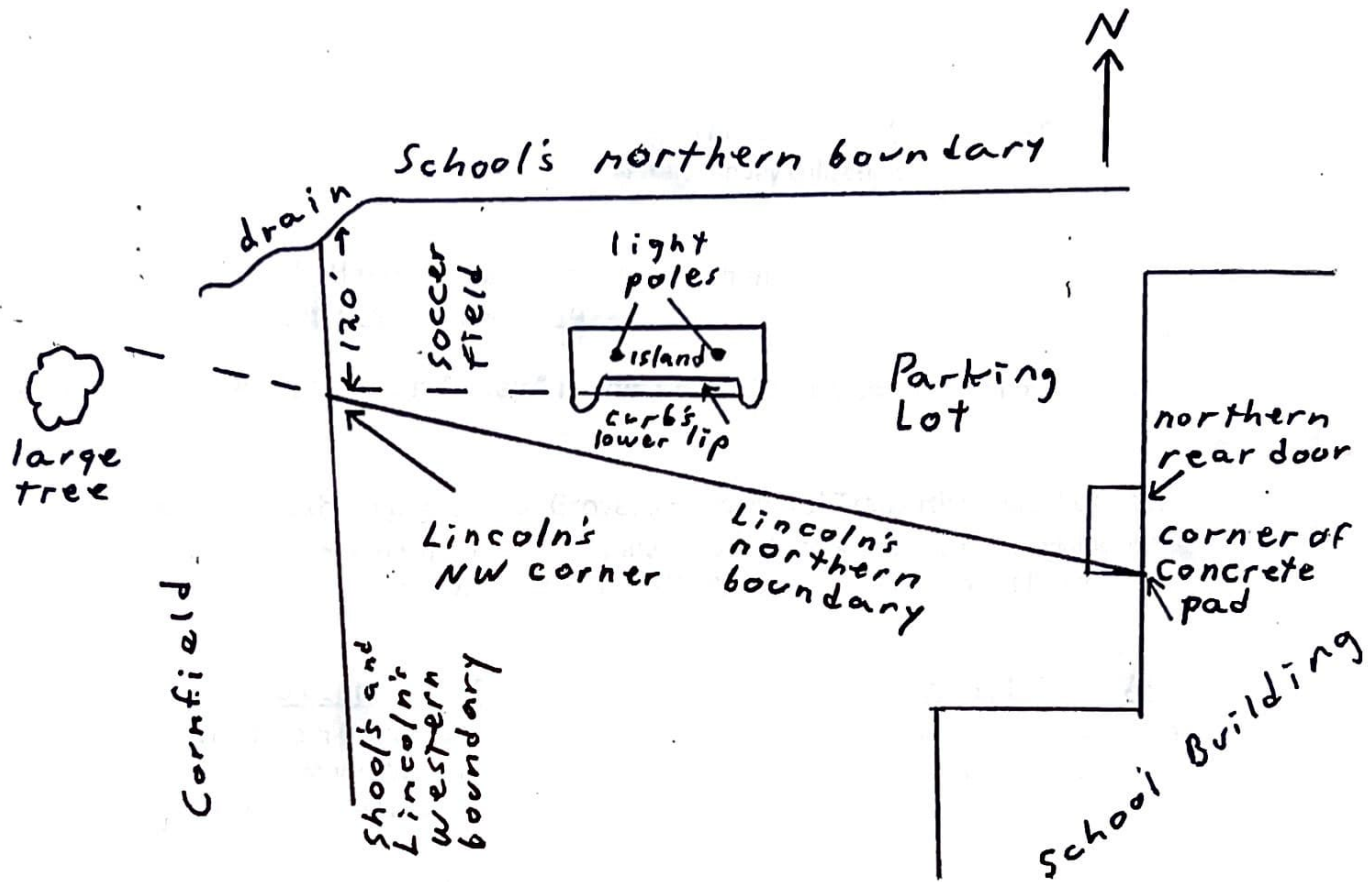


Figure 5: The Lincoln's NW corner behind the Abraham Lincoln Elementary School (120 feet south of the schoolground's NW corner)

Note the Lincoln's western line is approximately 490 feet behind northern half of the school building. The intersection of the Lincoln's northern boundary and the school's (i.e. Lincoln's) western is in line with southern lower lip of light island's extended curb.

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NOAA. Historical Declination Viewer.

https://maps.ngdc.noaa.gov/viewers/historical_declination/

Maps of projected magnetic declination over the past centuries.

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One of the classic Lincoln research publications. Detailed appendix includes transcripts of the entire Mather suit with crossbills, Knob Creek suit, deeds, wills, letters, etc. Available locally through Elizabethtown Community and Technical College interlibrary loan program.