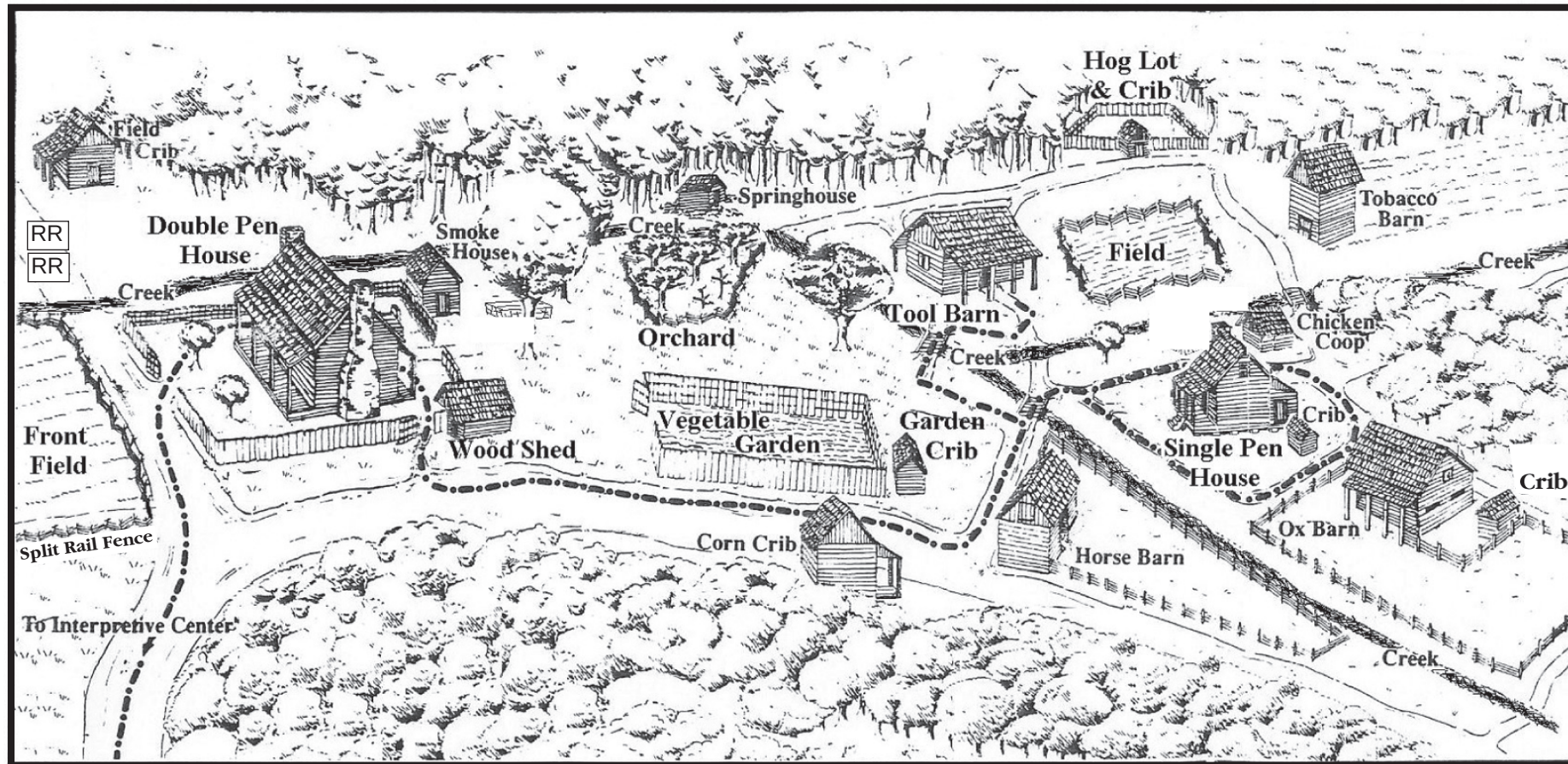


The Homeplace, A Living History Farm



You are responsible for your own safety.

Wheelchair Accessible

RR Public Restroom/Drinking Fountain

No Smoking on the Farmsite. Please
Do Not Feed or Chase the Animals.



Land Between The Lakes®
National Recreation Area



Did you know an aluminum can will survive in a landfill for 500 years, but if recycled the aluminum will be in a new can in about 60 days? Recycle your aluminum cans, plastic bottles, metal cans, and glass containers at our new Recycling Station.

THE HOMEPLACE

The Homeplace is a living history farm recalling the work, play, and customs of a rural family between the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers in the mid-19th century.

THE OUTDOOR MUSEUM

A blending of artifacts, restored historic structures, and traditional activities re-creates the rich heritage of farming in the decade prior to the War Between the States. Explore the 16 reconstructed log buildings furnished to re-create a mid-19th century farm.

THE LIVING COLLECTIONS

All farm livestock are representative of those found on a mid-19th century farm, including rare and endangered breeds of domestic animals. Explore crop fields and gardens planted with heirloom seeds — historic varieties which are not commonly grown today.

Visit with historic interpreters, dressed in period clothing, as they demonstrate skills of the past. You might find them plowing, farming tobacco, spinning, gardening, or carrying out many other activities of mid-19th century rural life.

Feel free to ask questions. The staff will be glad to talk with you about the work and life of the period.

Additional information about The Homeplace can be found on the reverse side of this map.

The Homeplace

GPS Coordinates
W 87° 58' 25.17"
N 36° 39' 20.07"

For more information write:
Land Between The Lakes
100 Van Morgan Dr.
Golden Pond, KY 42211-9001

Phone: 270-924-2000

Visit our web site
at www.lbl.org

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Front Field

While corn was “king” between the rivers in the mid-19th century, oats and tobacco were common crops as well. Corn was a dominant part of southern agriculture because it was easily grown, fed to livestock, milled for human consumption, and the full plant could be utilized.

Split Rail “Snake” Fence

Throughout the mid-south, there were no rural stock-laws to prohibit livestock from ranging freely. Farmers fenced their fields and yards to protect them from the domestic stock and wildlife. As a result, rural fences were described as “horse-high, bull-strong, and pig-tight.” Rails were laid end to end, overlapping at angles, “snaking” their way through the countryside.

Double Pen House with Breezeway

The most notable feature of this single-family, double-pen house is an open, central hall-way that separates two equal sized “pens” or rooms. Connected by the gable roof, the pens and hallway are flanked by porches that extend the breadth of the house. Common throughout the mid-south, this open central hallway—in later times called a “dog-trot”—often faced the direction of the prevalent wind and served as a shady setting where family members sought relief from oppressive summer heat as they ate their meals, gathered for socializing, or worked. During other seasons, one pen was used intensively as living space, while the other pen, the parlor, was kept ready for visiting guests and social occasions.

Woodshed

During winter months, when agricultural demands eased, farmers provided heat for their homes by cutting and splitting firewood and stovewood. Pulled from the surrounding forest by yokes of oxen, oak, hickory, and maple logs were cut to length for the fireplace or woodstove. Large logs were stacked outside but stovewood was stored within the woodshed.

Smokehouse

Laying away a supply of meat for the next year began shortly after the first frost. Slaughtering day was often a social event where farm families would gather together. The men and older boys would butcher while the women and girls prepared a feast that centered around a rarity, fresh pork. Dry salt curing, rather than using brine, preserved the meat while the smoking process flavored it. Finished hams, shoulders, and bacon were stored in barrels of salt or ashes. These buildings were designed to be as “tight” as possible to ensure the proper preservation of this important food.

Orchard

When properly planted and annually pruned, an orchard could yield an abundance of fruit for a farm family in 1850. This orchard consists of Old Mixon peach, Bartlett pear, Limbertwig apple, Red June apple, Horse apple, and Sheep nose apple trees.

Springhouse

A clean, cold spring was a major consideration in the selection of a good farm site. Not only a source for fresh water, the spring provided a solution to the difficult problem of storing perishables in the summer months. Milk, butter, and cream were placed in stoneware crocks and set into the pool of cool water or stored on shelves fitted into the sides of the building.

Tool Barn

A tool barn provided a sheltered work space for the 19th century farmer to build simple home furniture and furnishings or to repair tools and farm implements. Tools and equipment were grouped in one of the “cribs” or rooms while plows, wagons, and buggies were stored under the barn lean-to or in the breezeway.

Hog Lot and Crib

The average farmer from between the rivers owned about 30 hogs. Typically, these animals roamed loose through woods, foraging for a “mast” of acorn, chestnut, or hickory nuts. Owners identified their hogs by a pattern of ear notches and turned them loose for most of the year. In the fall, hogs were rounded up and some were fattened on corn for winter slaughter.

Tobacco Barn and Field

By 1850, tobacco cultivation was becoming significant in the region. Dark-fired tobacco, the only commercial type raised here, was so-named from the curing process. Small fires, built in the floor trenches, slowly dried and cured the tobacco leaves and stalks. This early 20th century barn is representative of those used to cure dark-fired tobacco in the mid-19th century.

Chicken Coop

Chicken coops were necessary protection from night predators for all fowl, which included chickens, roosters, ducks, geese, turkeys, and guineas. The fowl had free range over the farm and hillsides but were put up at dusk. Fried chicken was a welcome change to the steady diet of salt pork. Surplus eggs were often bartered or sold to a local merchant, giving farm women income for household necessities.

Single Pen House and Crib

Settlers moving from East Tennessee or North Carolina brought with them the knowledge to build a one-room or pen, log house. Within one 16’ by 20’ room, families carried on all the functions of daily living, working, eating, socializing, bathing, and sleeping in the close confines of the log walls. By the mid-19th century, a timber-framed addition was occasionally added to the back of the single pen, concentrating cooking and eating in this back room and creating space for a sitting room by the fireplace and hearth. The small crib near the Single Pen House is used to store feed for the livestock and poultry.

Ox Barn and Crib

This four-crib barn offers shelter to the oxen. Two front cribs provide them relief from the summer heat and contain mangers where cattle are fed. The loft provides storage space for hay and straw and two back cribs store corn fodder. Originally built by John T. Nolin in 1900, this unusual barn was relocated to The Homeplace in 1976.

Horse Barn

Horses were the most common draft animals used in this region during the mid-1800s. The team of horses is pure-bred Percheron, the only draft breed to be imported from Europe prior to the War Between the States.

Vegetable Garden and Crib

As the family’s main source of produce, a large garden was planted with beans, peas, turnips, sweet potatoes, squash, cabbage, tomatoes, carrots, parsnips, and cucumbers. Farm women air-dried, sun-dried, salted, sugared, or pickled with vinegar to preserve fruits and vegetables for the winter. Root vegetables were stored in a root cellar or buried below the frost line to keep food throughout the winter and spring. Heirloom seeds are planted today to provide historic vegetables and to extend the life of these endangered plants. The nearby garden crib is used to store bean poles, hoes, and other garden tools.

Corn Crib

After being picked, cut, and “shocked,” the corn stalks were usually stored in a crib and were fed to the cattle during the winter. When the ears were harvested, neighboring families gathered for a social event called a “husking bee.” The kernel corn was ground at the local grist mill, stored, or distilled.

Field Crib

As an outbuilding, this crib is used for storage.