THE CRIDER CORNCRIB

HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT

Prepared by the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Submitted to the National Park Service,
National Trails Intermountain Region,
Santa Fe, NM
September 2015
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MTSU Center for Historic Preservation
Scholars • Partners • Leaders
INTRODUCTION

This study was made possible by a Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) Task Agreement with the National Trails Intermountain Region of the National Park Service in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

In 2012, the National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR) certified the “Crider Tavern Complex” in Fredonia, Kentucky, as an official site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The complex includes the ca. 1836 Crider Tavern and corncrib, along with two cemeteries established in the 1830s. Seeing a need to better understand the history and construction of the log corncrib located on the property, NTIR approached the Center for Historic Preservation (CHP) at Middle Tennessee State University to complete a Historic Structure Report for the building.

In April 2015, CHP Graduate Research Assistants Tiffany Momon and Noel Harris, along with CHP staff members Amy Kostine and Dr. Carroll Van West, visited the property in preparation for the report. Thanks are due to Alice Murphree (President of the Kentucky Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association) and Donnie Boone for accompanying us on our visit and for sharing their vast knowledge of the site’s history. A special thanks is due to property owners Linda and Elbert Bennett for allowing us to complete this study and for their kind hospitality.

Although the focus of this report is on the construction and preservation of the hand-hewn log corncrib at the Crider Complex, brief information is also provided about the Crider Tavern and the two 1830s cemeteries located on the property.
In 1836, Jacob B. Crider purchased 200 acres of land in present-day Caldwell County, Kentucky, and established a homestead, complete with a hand-hewn log tavern, corncrib, and likely a number of additional outbuildings. Both the log tavern (UTM NAD 83, Zone 16N: 405568E, 4119007N) and corncrib (UTM NAD83, Zone 16N: 405467E, 4118900N) survive today, along with the Crider-Wyatt family cemetery (UTM NAD83, Zone 16N: 405518E, 4119054N), which was established in 1839, and the Brooks Cemetery (UTM NAD83, Zone 16N: 405626E, 4118925N), which was established in 1831. The corncrib and both cemeteries are located on parcel 3-27, 28, & 28A on the west side of Old Mexico Road in Fredonia (see Figures 1-2). This 425-acre parcel surrounds parcel 3-28B, which contains the Crider Tavern, now covered in a brick veneer. The corncrib is situated almost directly southwest of the Crider Tavern and among a complex of twentieth-century agricultural outbuildings. Once freestanding, the corncrib is now housed beneath a modern, metal, pyramid-shaped, hip-roofed, shed barn (see Figures 3-4).
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

JACOB B. CRIDER (1798-1875)

The Crider Tavern and Crider corncrib, built about 1836 of hand-hewn logs, are two of the oldest standing structures in Caldwell County, Kentucky. The corncrib and the nearby tavern were built by Jacob B. Crider, Jr., who was born in Pittsylvania County, Virginia in 1798 (see Figure 5). At the age of seven, he relocated with his parents, Jacob Sr. and Mary (Reiter), to Kentucky. They lived at the Piney Campground in Livingston County, now Crittenden County, where Jacob Sr. received seventy acres of land through a Kentucky land grant. Jacob Crider, Sr.’s brothers, David and Samuel, also relocated with their families to Kentucky. This branch of the Crider family descended from the first Criders to arrive in the United States through Pennsylvania and were Swiss/German Mennonites seeking religious freedom.

On February 20, 1820, Jacob B. Crider married Orpha “Harpy” Bivery in Caldwell County, Kentucky. To this union, eleven children were born: Polly (1821-1823), Jasper (1822), Mary Jane (1823-1898), Zacariah Johnson (1825-1911), Susan (1828), Mary R. (1830-1831), Louisa (1831-1864), Eliza (1835), Infant Male Crider #1 (1839), Infant Male Crider #2 (1839), and Jacob Ewing (1847-1927). Four of these children, Mary Jane, Zacariah Johnson, Louisa, and Jacob Ewing, lived to adulthood.

In 1836, Jacob B. Crider, Jr. purchased 200 acres of land from Harvey W. Bigham, the founder of Fredonia, at $10 per acre. This acreage included the site where Crider would build his log tavern. This parcel of land was originally part of Kentucky land grant #3763 and was previously owned by James Armstrong. Armstrong sold the land to JB “Jesse” Pemberton in 1819, and Pemberton, in turn, sold the land to Bigham in 1835. After building the Crider Tavern, Crider used it as an inn and general store. It also served as a stage coach stop. Crider later acquired an additional 500 acres of land and prospered as a stock farmer, shipping stock to New Orleans while also running a steam flouring mill.

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1786</td>
<td>James Armstrong receives ownership of the land through Kentucky land grant #3763.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1819</td>
<td>James Armstrong sells land to JB “Jesse” Pemberton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1831</td>
<td>Thomas Brooks, namesake of Brooks Cemetery, dies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1835</td>
<td>Harvey W. Bigham purchases the land that would become the location of the Crider Tavern and corncrib from JB “Jesse” Pemberton on April 22, 1835.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1836</td>
<td>Town of Fredonia, Kentucky founded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1836</td>
<td>Jacob Crider purchases 200 acres of land from Harvey W. Bigham that would become the location of Crider Tavern and the Crider corncrib. Crider relocates his family from Piney Campground to his new land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1836</td>
<td>Crider Tavern and corncrib built.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1837</td>
<td>Detachment of Cherokee led by B.B. Cannon passes Crider Tavern en route to Indian Territory and buys supplies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1839</td>
<td>First documented burial in the Crider-Wyatt cemetery – Jasper Crider (November 4, 1834 – March 4, 1839).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1875</td>
<td>Jacob B. Crider dies. Crider Tavern and land left to his son Jacob Ewing Crider.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>Jacob Ewing Crider dies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1950s</td>
<td>Land purchased by Gross and Ellie Ferguson.</td>
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<td>1959</td>
<td>Land purchased by Wilford and Gwendel “Sis” Baker.</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Land owned by Elbert and Linda Bennett.</td>
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By 1840, Jacob B. Crider, Jr. had firmly established himself in Fredonia, Kentucky. In addition to being an innkeeper, Crider was also a farmer and slaveholder. In 1840 he owned eight enslaved African Americans. These enslaved African Americans would have been present as Cherokee detachments passed by the property during the Trail of Tears. According to the 1850 U.S. Census, the value of Crider’s real estate holdings was $3750, and although he operated a tavern, his occupation was listed as a farmer. Thus, it appears that farming was his main source of income, which was supplemented by income from the Crider Tavern.

Between 1840 and 1850, Crider increased his slave holdings to fourteen enslaved African Americans. A review of the 1860 U.S. Census revealed that the value of his personal estate was $25,060, and the value of his real estate had increased significantly to $28,000. His occupation was still listed as a farmer. The 1860 U.S. Slave Schedules revealed that Crider owned twenty-two enslaved individuals, and his son Jacob Ewing was employed as their overseer. These twenty-two enslaved individuals lived in four dwellings on the Crider property. Crider’s original will, composed before slavery was abolished, included bequests of slaves, as well (see Appendix A).

An 1863 IRS Tax Assessment List displaying the taxable occupations and the taxable items of residents of Caldwell County shows that Jacob B. Crider, Jr. had a seventh-class hotel and that he owed a tax of $6.67. Hotels were classified based on their yearly rental amounts with a first-class hotel having a yearly rental amount of $10,000 and an eighth-class hotel having a yearly rental amount of less than $100. Due to the low amount of the tax assessed and the class assigned to the tavern, it is probable that the Crider Tavern acted as supplementary income for the Crider family at this time.

1870 is the last year that Jacob B. Crider, Jr. appeared in the U.S. Census. On this census, his occupation was listed as hotelkeeper. He still had a considerable amount of wealth, with his real estate worth $4500 and his personal estate worth $5218. During this time, the Crider farm was also home to twelve African Americans employed as farm laborers and domestic servants. All twelve African Americans had the surname Crider, indicating that they were conceivably former members or descendants of the enslaved community that had called the Crider

Figure 5. Jacob B. Crider, Jr. Image Courtesy of Ancestry.com
Historical Background & Context

Figure 6. The hand-hewn log Crider Tavern was covered with a brick veneer in the 1970s.

farm home. These twelve individuals were James Crider (B: 1837), Laura Crider (B: 1842), Henry Crider (B: 1866), Frank Crider (B: 1869), Evanah Crider (B: 1830), Tamer Crider (B: 1780), Tamer Crider (B: 1850), Alice Crider (B: 1862), Elizabeth (B: 1860), Charles Crider (B: 1858), James Crider (B: 1860), and Adam Crider (B: 1853). With the exception of Tamer Crider (B: 1780), who was born in Virginia (the home state of Jacob B. Crider, Jr.) all of the other African Americans were born in Kentucky. In 1880, several of these individuals were still living near the Crider property, with occupations of domestic servants or farm workers.

Jacob B. Crider, Jr. died on August 20, 1875, leaving his real estate property to his son Jacob Ewing Crider. His will, published May 20, 1870, indicates that his son, Jacob Ewing, is to inherit the portion of his real estate property on which the Crider Tavern and corncrib stand (see Figure 6):

I direct that my son Jacob E. CRIDER shall have a tract of land containing 7 acres, lying in Caldwell Co and on which my dwelling house now stands, and bounded as follows: beg. at a stone in the middle of the state road between a large locust tree and the Blacksmith’s shop, running with the middle of sd. Road North & W to a stone in the middle of sd. road, thence South… to a stone at the south west corner of the garden, thence South… to a stone in a wagon road, with white oak and gum pointers, thence South East… to a stone at the south east corner of a stable, North East… to a rock, North W… to a stone with a black oak pointer, north East … to the beg. In 2012, the National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR) of the National Park Service certified the “Crider Tavern Complex” as an official site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The Crider property is located on the Northern Route of the Trail of Tears (see Figure 7). This route began in southeastern Tennessee with detachments traveling northwest across the state and entering Kentucky west of the town of Guthrie. In Kentucky, detachments traveled through Hopkinsville, Princeton, Fredonia, and Salem before crossing the Ohio River via Berry’s Ferry. From there, detachments traveled through southern Illinois and crossed the Mississippi River, entering Missouri via Willard Landing (also known as Green’s Ferry) or Jacob Littleton’s Ferry at Hamburg Landing (also known as the Bainbridge Ferry). Detachments traveled through Missouri and entered Arkansas near Pea Ridge National Military Park before continuing to Oklahoma. Using this general route to reach Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma), twelve detachments of Cherokee traveled down the Old Mexico Road and passed by the Crider property from 1837-1838. Thus, both the Crider Tavern and corncrib bore witness to the Cherokee Trail of Tears.

In early November 1837, a detachment of approximately 365 Cherokee, led by B.B. Cannon passed by the Crider property on its
Hopkinsville, Ken, halted at Mr. Northern's ½ past 5 o'clock P.M. Encamped & issued corn & fodder, Flour and bacon, 19 miles to day.

**Nov. 2nd, 1837.**
Marched at 8 o'clock A.M. and halted one mile in advance of Mr. Mitchersons, 3 o'clock P.M., encamped and issued corn and fodder.

**Nov. 3rd, 1837.**
David Timpson and Pheasant, emigrants belonging to the party, came up last night in the stage, having been heretofore enrolled, and mustered, marched at 8 o'clock A.M., passed thro' Princeton, Ken., halted and encamped near Mr. Barnett's, at ½ past 4 o'clock P.M. Issued corn & fodder, Flour & bacon, 17 miles to day.

**Nov. 4th, 1837.**
Marched at 8 o'clock A.M., halted and encamped at Threlkelds branch, 4 o'clock P.M., Issued corn & fodder, 15 miles to day.

**Nov. 5th, 1837.**
Marched at 8 o'clock A.M., passed thro' Salem, Ken., halted and encamped at another Mr. Threlkelds branch at 4 o'clock P.M., Issued corn & fodder, corn meal, a small quantity of flour, and bacon, 13 ½ miles to day.

**Nov. 6th, 1837.**
Marched at 7 o'clock A.M., arrived at Berry's ferry 9 o'clock A.M., every thing in readiness to commence ferrying, but Prevented on account of the extreme high winds and
consequent roughness of the river, which continued the remainder of the day, encamped in the evening. Issued corn & fodder, 5 ½ miles to day.

**Nov. 7th, 1837.**
Commenced ferrying at ½ past 5 o’c. A.M., moved the Party as it crossed one mile out and encamped. Completed crossing 4 o’c. P.M., all safely, Issued corn & fodder, corn meal & bacon, 1 mile to day.\(^\text{10}\)

While traveling, foodstuffs and supplies were purchased for the detachment. Payment vouchers or receipts, signed by the detachment’s disbursing agent Mr. Reynolds, were issued for the items acquired. While none of the known receipts for the Cannon detachment were issued to any Criders, names mentioned in Cannon’s journal, such as Barnett and Threlkele [Threlkeld], appear on the receipts (see Figures 8-9). A receipt to Moses Threlkele in Salem, Kentucky for $17.29, for example, was issued for 307 ½ bushels of corn and 360 bushels of fodder for the detachment’s horses. Another receipt, issued in Princeton, Kentucky (approximately 13 miles from the Crider property), indicates that a coffin was purchased for a deceased Cherokee, along with fabric to make a tent for a Cherokee family.\(^\text{11}\)

In 1838, an additional eleven detachments of Cherokee followed in the general footsteps of B.B. Cannon, taking the Northern Route to Indian Territory and passing by the Crider property on their journey (see Figure 10). One of these eleven detachments was led by Richard Taylor. Taylor’s detachment included approximately 1,029 people and 50 wagons. One of the many individuals traveling with Taylor’s detachment was the Reverend Daniel S. Butrick. Like Cannon, Butrick kept a journal detailing his journey with the Cherokee to Indian Territory. Butrick’s entries are much more thorough than Cannon’s, though, and include detailed information on numerous deaths, illnesses, and dangers faced en route. Illness and death were not uncommon on the journey, and, in some instances, the deceased Cherokee were buried in cemeteries or land right along the trail. For example, Butrick notes in his journal that on the night of December 6, 1838, a Cherokee woman traveling with his detachment had died and was buried on December 7, 1838:

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*Figure 8. Receipt to Robert S. Boyd for $19.17, received at “Barnetts’” Caldwell County, KY, November 4, 1837. Courtesy of Alice Murphree.*

*Figure 9. Receipt to Moses Threlkele for $17.29, received at Salem, KY, November 5, 1837. Courtesy of Alice Murphree.*
Conductor | Assistant | Departure Location | Number of People at Departure | Disbandment Location
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Hair Conrad (replaced by Colston around August 28, 1838) | Daniel Colston | Cherokee Agency Area | 729 | Woodhall Farm
Elijah Hicks (died en route — replaced by William Arnold) | White Path | Gunstocker Creek/ Camp Ross | 858 | Mrs. Webbers Plantation (?)
Jesse Bushyhead | Roman Nose | Chatata Creek, Cherokee Agency Area | 950 | Beattie’s Prairie
Situwakee | Peter / Evan Jones | Savannah Branch, Cherokee Agency Area | 1,250 | Beattie’s Prairie
Old Field | Stephen Foreman | Candelies Creek, Cherokee Agency Area | 983 | Beattie’s Prairie
Moses Daniel | George Still | Cherokee Agency Area | 1,035 | Mrs. Webber’s Plantation—although ordered to Lee’s Creek
Choovalooka (replaced by Thomas N. Clark on January 22, 1839) | J.D. Wofford | Taquah Camps/Mouse Creek, Cherokee Agency Area | 1,150 | Beattie’s Prairie
James Brown | Lewis Hildebrand | Vann’s Plantation, Ooltewah Creek | 850 | Key’s at Park Hill (?)
George Hicks | Collins McDonald | Mouse Creek, Cherokee Agency Area | 1,118 | Beattie’s Prairie
Richard Taylor | Red Watt Adair | Near Vann’s Plantation, Ooltewah Creek | 1,029 | Woodhall Farm
Peter Hildebrand | James Hildebrand | Ocod Camp Cherokee Agency Area | 1,766 | Woodhall Farm (?)

"During the night a Cherokee woman died in the camps. Though she had given birth to a child but a few days before, yet last evening she was up, and no danger was apprehended, but in the morning she was found dead, with the infant in her arms. As the man living near was not willing to have her buried there, and as no plank could be obtained for a coffin, the corpse was carried all day in the wagon, and at night a coffin was made, and the next morning she was buried near the graves of some other Cherokees who had died in a detachment that had preceded us."¹²

Locating burial sites of Cherokee who died en route can be very difficult, as few, if any, details of their locations are given in primary source accounts. In a December 13, 1838 entry, Butrick indicates that the detachment passed through Princeton on December 7th, the day the woman was “buried near the graves of some other Cherokees who had died.”¹³ Detachments typically averaged between 10-12 miles per day, but it is unknown whether the Taylor detachment passed by Princeton early in the morning or towards the evening. If the detachment passed by Princeton in the morning, it is possible that the detachment made it to the Crider property and camped nearby. This is purely speculation, though.

**Figure 10.** 1838-1839 Cherokee Removal Detachments Traveling the Northern Route: Conductors, Assistant Conductors, Number of People at Departure, and Probable Locations of Departure and Disbandment. *Source:* Duane King, *The Cherokee Trail of Tears* (Portland, OR: Graphic Arts Books, 2008), Appendix A, 170-173.
Some believe the Crider property is the final resting place for some of the Cherokee who died en route to Indian Territory, perhaps even those mentioned by Butrick. The Crider property does contain two known cemeteries: Brooks Cemetery and Crider-Wyatt Cemetery. The first marked burial in Brooks Cemetery was in 1831, and the first identifiable burial in Crider-Wyatt Cemetery was in 1839. Although it could be possible that Cherokee graves are located on the Crider property, there is no known evidence that definitively identifies either cemetery or even the Crider property as burial sites for Cherokee.

In addition to being the rumored location of Cherokee graves, Jacob Ewing Crider, the son of Jacob B. Crider, recalled that his father sold the government agents supplies for the Cherokee while they were on their journey. While payment vouchers from Cannon’s detachment do not indicate that Crider sold supplies to them, it is possible that he sold supplies to some of the eleven detachments that passed by the property in 1838. Locating payment vouchers for these detachments would further validate Jacob Ewing’s statement.
Corncribs are types of granaries used to store and dry corn. They were essential buildings on early farmsteads. Those built of log are some of the earliest varieties and range in size and shape, but most share some basic architectural features. Typically, historic log corncribs rest on a wooden or stone pier foundation and lack chinking and daubing in order to allow airflow to circulate through the crib to dry the corn. In addition, they commonly have an overhanging, gable roof to protect the log walls from rain and to keep the corn dry, and it is not uncommon for an access door to be located on a gable end.

The Crider corncrib is almost a perfect square and consists of a single crib made of hand-hewn logs, which rests on a stone pier foundation (see Figures 11-13). Extant cribs, such as the Crider crib, are rare. Not only is the Crider example exceptional in construction and age, but in size, as well. Square corncribs in Kentucky tend to measure between six and twenty-five feet in length. However, the Crider crib measures about thirty-one feet on each side, making it an unusually large example. While many nineteenth-century corncribs, like the Crider crib, consist of a single room, more complex designs contained multiple rooms.
Figure 12. East corner and northeast elevation of the Crider corncrib.

Figure 13. Crider corncrib door.
The northeast elevation of the crib measures approximately 31’ wide and would have been partially visible from the Crider Tavern (see Figure 14). The only openings to the crib, which include a door and a small opening to the loft, appear on this wall. Although the door seems centrally located at first glance, it is slightly off-center, with the crib measuring roughly 13’ 8” to the right of the door and 12’ 7” to the left.

The crib’s batten door consists of five vertical wood planks, reinforced with an upper batten, diagonal brace, and lower batten, which are collectively known as a “Z” brace (see Figure 15). The door measures about 3’ 9” wide and appears to be original. It was at some point repaired and reinforced with small wood braces. The door’s hand-wrought iron strap hinges have also been reinforced with modern hardware (see Figure 16). The hand-hewn door bucks are held in place by wooden pegs, rather than nails (see Figure 17). This is likely an indication of the crib’s early age, but could also mean that there was a lack of resources when the crib was built, or that the builder was unable to afford more costly nails during construction. Either way, the corncrib door is a unique and rare architectural feature of the crib.

To the right of the batten door, a small, handmade, wooden ladder has been hung on the outside of the log walls, likely to provide access to the loft opening.
Figure 15. Batten door with “Z” brace.

Figure 16. The door’s hand-wrought iron hinges were reinforced with modern hardware.

Figure 17. Detail of one of the wooden pegs used to hold the door bucks in place.
The southeast elevation of the corncrib measures approximately 31’ 3” wide (see Figures 18-19). Construction methods on this elevation are consistent with the northeast elevation. A distinguishing feature of log construction that is visible on this elevation, though, is the end-cuts of the loft joists near the top of the wall. Typically, you might also see the end-cuts of the floor joists on the bottom of this wall, as well, which would have supported a wooden plank floor. However, the corncrib originally had a puncheon floor. End-cuts of the puncheons rather than the floor joists are visible on this elevation (see Figure 20).

Figure 18. Crider corncrib, southeast elevation.

Figure 19. Southeast elevation.

Figure 20. Puncheons resting on the sill.
The southwest elevation measures approximately 31’ wide (see Figures 21-22). Four planks of modern lumber, running vertically, support its log walls. Additional vertical planks and strapping further brace the wall, offering structural support.

The center stone pier on the southwest elevation has collapsed, and the stones are now displaced several feet from the building. As a result, the load-bearing beam supporting the puncheon floor now has no support on its southwest end, but is supported by a northeastern stone pier and a stone pier at the center of the building.
The northwest elevation measures approximately 31’ 3” wide (see Figures 23-24). Similar to the southwest elevation, end-cuts of the loft joists and puncheon floors are visible on this side of the building. Modern wood braces nailed into the logs support the wall. In addition, modern, wood planks lean against the stone piers, masking them from view.
FOUNDATION

Well-designed corncribs are elevated at least eighteen inches off the ground, not only to reduce the infiltration of rodents but, also, to encourage airflow. Pier foundations, as opposed to continuous foundations, were typically found on log buildings in warmer climates. Airflow underneath the building helped to cool the structure in the summer and, also, helped to keep sills and joists from rotting. The Crider crib rests on stacked stone piers, which vary in height from thirteen to forty inches (see Figure 26). Additional pier stones may become visible if the excess soil built up over time and now resting against the piers on the north and east corners of the building are removed. Over time, rain and wind probably eroded uphill soil, washing it to where it now rests under the crib.

FLOOR

A unique feature of the Crider corncrib is its floor. Rather than utilizing hand-hewn joists to support a floor, round logs flattened and roughly finished on the top, known as puncheons, measuring 6” in diameter and long enough to span the width of the crib, were cut on the ends and center to rest on the building’s sills and center cross beam. The tops of the logs reveal many applications of flooring nails, both from initial installation, and from later repairs (see Figure 25). Nails include both nineteenth-century cut nails, as well as modern wire nails. The original floor likely consisted of wide planks nailed to the round logs, some of which lie beneath the puncheons (see Figure 27).
WALLS

The Crider corncrib consists of hand-hewn log walls that were likely constructed using a number of tools, including axes and an adze. The logs range in size from approximately 10-13" wide and 6-8" in depth. The logs on the Crider corncrib were hewn on the sides, but bark was left on the top and bottom.

The tool marks along the hewn sides are inconsistent (see Figure 28). A regular pattern of cuts might reflect the work of a single, skilled laborer. However, the marks in the Crider crib reflect the work of multiple workers who were either less skilled, or powerful, and illustrate the difficult, laborious process for the workers.

Another unique aspect of the crib’s construction is the use of small wooden support logs between a number of the hand-hewn wall logs, particularly in the middle of the building’s southeast and northwest elevations (see Figures 29-32). Typically, chinking, which usually consisted of small wooden billets and/or small stones, was covered with daubing (typically a mixture of sand, clay, lime, and animal hair) to fill the space between the logs. Once hardened, it would not only help seal the building from weather and insects, but it would also bolster the structure of the wall, helping to prevent the logs from sagging. However, corncribs were not chinked in order to allow airflow throughout the building to dry the corn. Many of the Crider crib’s logs span thirty-one feet and the logs do not fit tightly together. To provide additional support, small pieces of log were placed between the wall’s hewn-logs, creating a sort of “broken” stud or structural beam, particularly on the southeast and northwest walls.

Figure 28. Tool marks on the log from the hewing process.

Figure 29. The tool marks on the ends of the logs are very shallow, demonstrating either the dullness of the cutting blade, the hardness of the lumber, or the relative weakness of the laborer.
Figure 30. Wooden supports, northwest elevation.

Figure 31. Detail of wooden supports, southeast elevation.

Figure 32. Wooden support, northeast elevation.
CORNER NOTCHES

One of the most distinguishing features of a log building is its corner notch. Notches lock the logs in place, thus ensuring the structure’s stability. There are a number of different notch types, including square, half-cut, saddle, V, half-dovetail, dovetail, and diamond. The corner notches in the Crider crib are inconsistent throughout the building, sometimes appearing as square notches and some as half-cut notches (see Figures 33-35).

Of all of the notch types, the square notch offers the least stability, as it does not allow the logs to lock in place; thus, structures built with this notch type are significantly less stable and more susceptible to collapse. Both square and half-cut notches can be pegged to prevent movement, although no pegs are readily visible in the Crider crib walls. Square and half-cut notching is a more primitive, or crude, notch type. The use of these notching types may reflect that the building was meant to be temporary or that the builder simply did not understand more complex joining methods. These joints are uncommon, but can be found in other surviving log structures throughout the Southeast.
CENTRAL POST

Because the headers support such a wide span of wall and roof structure, a central post with bracing was constructed in the center of the building (see Figures 36-38). The post rests on a massive cross beam, which also supports the floor joists, running the length of the structure. The post is the central member of a triangulated knee brace that supports a small header beam. The diagonal bracing sets into a modified scarf joint that appears to be pegged into place. This header beam bolsters three loft beams that run the length of the structure. These beams appear to set into notches cut into the header beam. The construction, placement, and possible purpose of the beam brace is truly unique. Typically, such a beam would run the entire length of the building, bolstering each loft beam. Supporting each beam would lend strength and rigidity to the structure, especially in support of the second floor or loft area. The short length of the header beam suggests the possibility that the entire knee brace and post was a later addition. It could have been installed to support sagging loft beams at an unknown time, but it is assumed to be constructed in the nineteenth century.

ROOF

Little remains of the Crider crib’s roof or roofing structure, as a result of a tornado that damaged the building in the 1980s. Further investigation within the structure, where remnants of the decking structure or shingles may now rest, could reveal more information regarding the original roof, though. John F. Rice’s 1931 drawing of the Crider Tavern and a nearby outbuilding depicts a gable roof with wooden shakes on the buildings (see Figure 39). It is likely that the corncrib shared a similar roof to these buildings. Modern corncrib designs call for gutters or other methods for redirecting rain away from the exterior walls of the structures. In lieu of gutters, the roof of the Crider crib may have extended past the building, creating an overhang, in order to deter the entry of rainwater. The overhang may have been extended in the form of a shed roof on one or multiple sides, housing horses or farming equipment. After the tornado damaged the building, a modern metal barn was built to cover and protect the crib from further damage (see Figures 40-41).
Figure 39. 1931 drawing of the Crider Tavern and an outbuilding by John F. Rice.

Figure 40. Interior of the corn crib looking up through the loft beams to the roof of the modern metal barn.

Figure 41. Interior of the corn crib looking up through the loft beams to the roof of the modern metal barn.
CRIDER CORNCRIB DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

In the opinion of the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, the Crider corncrib is National Register-eligible as a contributing structure under Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, it has local significance under Agriculture for its association with antebellum era market-based agricultural production. As this report discusses, it also has local significance under Criterion A for its association with the Cherokee removal and the Northern Route of the Trail of Tears in western Kentucky. Under Criterion C, the property is locally significant as an extant example of vernacular-styled antebellum log agricultural outbuilding, as well, as the log craftsmanship that is conveyed through the notching, log puncheon floor, stone pier foundation, and the height and mass of the structure. The property retains most of its character defining features, having only lost the roof due to a tornado in the past, and is in good condition. It retains its characteristics of association, feeling, location, and still conveys its original materials, design, and craftsmanship.

National Register Criteria for Evaluation from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service

The National Register of Historic Places documents the appearance and importance of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in our prehistory and history. These properties represent the major patterns of our shared local, state, and national experience. To guide the selection of properties included in the National Register, the National Park Service has developed the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. These criteria are standards by which every property that is nominated to the National Register is judged.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

B. That are associated with the lives of significant persons in or past; or

C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D. That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.
PRESERVATION NEEDS & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CRIDER CORNCRIB

In the 1980s, a tornado damaged the Crider corncrib and completely destroyed its historic roof. Without a roof, the corncrib’s interior and exterior walls and floor would be exposed to the elements, leading to rapid deterioration. In order to protect the building from further damage, the owners constructed a metal barn over the corncrib, keeping the log structure dry, thus impeding moisture-related deterioration of the building. As a result of this effort by the owners to protect the corncrib, its log walls remain largely in excellent condition.

Despite the lack of ongoing, moisture-related problems usually associated with historic log buildings, the corncrib does have several preservation concerns. When addressing these concerns, it is always advisable to contact experienced professionals and to follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation.

- **Collapsed foundation pier.** Addressing issues with the foundation should be the starting point for any preservation project, because problems found there will affect the entire structure. The center, dry-stacked stone pier on the southwest elevation of the Crider corncrib has collapsed (see Figure 75). As a result, the load-bearing beam supporting the puncheon floor no longer has support on its southwest end, thus affecting the stability of the entire crib. The loose foundation stones should be reset in their original place. Although the rest of the piers seem to be intact, they should be professionally inspected for stability.

- **Load-bearing beam showing signs of rot.** A load-bearing beam extends from the northeast to southwest elevation and rests directly on the center stone piers. As with the foundation, this beam helps support the entire corncrib. Although the entire beam is not rotted, its northeast-end has split and shows signs of deterioration (see Figures 42-44). A professional consultation would be advisable to determine the extent of the damage and whether or not any major repairs are needed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. A property will be used as it was historically, or be given a new use that maximizes the retention of distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships. Where a treatment and use have not been identified, a property will be protected and, if necessary, stabilized until additional work may be undertaken.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The replacement of intact or repairable historic materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.</td>
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<td>3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Work needed to stabilize, consolidate, and conserve existing historic materials and features will be physically and visually compatible, identifiable upon close inspection, and properly documented for future research.</td>
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<td>4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.</td>
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<td>5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.</td>
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<td>6. The existing condition of historic features will be evaluated to determine the appropriate level of intervention needed. Where the severity of deterioration requires repair or limited replacement of a distinctive feature, the new material will match the old in composition, design, color, and texture.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.</td>
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Figure 42. The center pier on the southwest elevation has collapsed, leaving the load-bearing beam with no support on this end.

Figure 43. Center, load-bearing beam on the northeast elevation.

Figure 44. Detail of the northeast-end of the load-bearing beam.
**Preservation Needs & Recommendations**

- **Silt deposits.** The corncrib appears to be built in a hillside, which was common at the time, and rests on stacked, stone piers, varying in height from thirteen to forty inches between the ground and the nearest surface of the log sills. A minimum of 18” of clearance should exist underneath the entire crib in order to allow airflow under the building to keep sills and joists from rotting. Low clearance between the ground and the northeast-end of the load-bearing beam may have been a contributing factor of its deterioration (see Figure 45). Remove soil and other debris from under the building so there is at least 18” of clearance between the ground and the nearest surface of the log sills or load-bearing beam.

- **Address moisture issues from the sloped ground surface/subsurface.** As mentioned previously, the Crider corncrib is encased in a surrounding metal-clad barn that does not touch any of the historic structure. The metal-clad barn protects the crib from rain and wind. However, a gated entrance allows cattle and outside moisture to enter the protected barn area, and has led to deterioration due to drainage to the ground surface on which the stone pier foundation of the crib rests. It is recommended that steps are taken to divert moisture away from the protected barn area and to mitigate the impact that cattle and moisture are having on the sloped ground surface/subsurface of the crib.

  - **Keep barn clear of cattle.** If possible, keep cattle out of the barn and away from the corncrib. Livestock may scratch, bump, and damage the building. In addition, access dirt they may bring in and their feces can aid in the build-up of silt under the corncrib.

  - **Rotted wall logs.** There are some rotted wall logs near the top of the corncrib’s northwest elevation (see Figures 46-47). It is always preferable, and less costly, to repair a partially deteriorated log rather than replacing it, but if the log is completely rotted through, then the log should be replaced with one of the same size and wood species. Although repairs should be made by an experienced restoration specialist,
“Preservation Brief 26: The Preservation and Repair of Historic Log Buildings” by Bruce D. Bomberger, offers some excellent information on various techniques to repair rotted logs:

**Wood Splicing**
Wood splicing can involve several types of techniques. Also referred to as "piecing-in" or "Dutchman" repair, it involves treating a localized area of deterioration by cutting out the decayed area of the log, and carefully carving and installing a matching, seasoned wood replacement plug or splice. The wood species, if available, and the direction and pattern of the grain should match that of adjacent original wood. The location and depth of decay should determine the splicing technique to be used. In a case where decay runs deep within a log, a full-depth segment containing the affected area can be cut out, severing the log completely, and a new segment of log spliced in, using angled "scarf" joints or square-cut "half-lap" joints. The splice is secured to the severed log by angling lag screws or bolts through the upper and lower surfaces that will be concealed by daubing.

Splicing can also be performed using epoxy as an adhesive. A log with shallow decay on its outer face can be cut back to sound depth, and a half-log face spliced on, adhered with epoxy, screws or bolts. A technique for the repair of badly deteriorated log crowns involves cutting them back to sound wood, and into the notching joint if necessary, and installing new crowns cut to match. Fiberglass or aluminum reinforcement rods are inserted into holes drilled into the new crowns, and into corresponding holes drilled in the ends of the original cutoff logs. Epoxy is used as an adhesive to attach and hold the new crowns in place. Long lag screws can be angled up through the underside of the crown into the log above to provide additional support for the repair.

**Epoxy Consolidation and Repair**
In some instances, epoxies may be used by themselves to consolidate and fill the voids left by deteriorated wood. Epoxies are versatile in performance, relatively easy to use by experts, and,
after curing, may be shaped with woodworking tools. Their use requires that sufficient sound wood survives for the epoxy to adhere. But they can be used to stabilize rotted wood, return full or greater than original strength to decayed structure-bearing members, and to reconstitute the shape of decayed log ends. Epoxies resist decay and insects, and while epoxy itself is resistant to moisture, epoxy tends to cause adjacent wood to retain moisture rather than dry out, and if not used in the right location, can actually further a continuing cycle of wood decay. Hence, epoxy repairs are most successful in areas where they are protected from moisture. Epoxies, of which there are a variety of commercially-available products on the market, are prepared in essentially two forms: a liquid consolidant and a flexible putty filler. Each consists of a resin and a hardener which must be mixed prior to use.

The technique of treating, for an example, a decayed log crown with epoxies is begun by removing loose decayed wood, and drying the area if necessary. The rot-affected cavity and surface of the log end is then saturated with liquid epoxy by repeated brushing, or by soaking it in a plastic bag filled with epoxy that is attached to the log. The porous condition of the rot-damaged wood will draw up the epoxy like a lamp wick. Once the liquid epoxy has saturated the log end and cured, the log end has been consolidated, and is ready for the application of an epoxy putty filler. The filler resin and hardener must also be mixed, pigments must be mixed with the filler epoxy to color the patch, and more importantly to protect it from ultraviolet sunlight. The filler can be applied with a putty knife, pressing it into the irregularities of the cavity. The cured patch can be worked like wood and painted with an opaque stain or a dull finish paint to help it blend with surrounding wood, although epoxy repairs can be difficult to disguise on natural, unpainted wood.

Epoxies can be used to consolidate and repair other areas of a log, including rotted internal areas which have not yet progressed to damage the log's outer surface. Saturation of small internal areas can be accomplished by drilling several random holes into the log through an area that will be concealed by daubing, and then pouring in liquid epoxy. If a pure resin is used, it should be a casting resin to minimize shrinkage, and it is best to fill voids with a resin that contains aggregates such as sand, or micro-balloons. Epoxy is frequently used by architectural conservators to strengthen deteriorated structural members. The damaged log can be strengthened by removing the deteriorated wood, and filling the void by imbedding a reinforcing bar in epoxy filler, making sure the void is properly sealed to contain the epoxy before using it. Sometimes larger decayed internal areas of a log can be more easily accessed and repaired from the interior of a structure. This may be a useful technique if it can be accomplished without causing undue damage to the interior finishes in the log building. However, despite its many advantages, epoxy may not be an appropriate treatment for all log repairs, and it should not be used in an attempt to conceal checking, or extensive log surface patching that is exposed to view, or logs that are substantially decayed or collapsed.

**Log Replacement**

Repairing or replacing only a segment of a log is not always possible. Replacement of an entire log may be the only solution if it has been substantially lost to decay and collapsed under the weight of logs above it. Log replacement, which should be carried out only by experienced craftsmen, is begun by temporarily supporting the logs
above, and then jacking them up just enough to insert the new log. Potential danger to the structure may include creating inadequate temporary bearing points, and crushing chinking and interior finishes which may have settled slowly into non-original positions that cannot withstand jacking.

To begin the process of log replacement, the entire length of the log must be inspected from the exterior and the interior of the structure to determine whether it supports any structural members or features, and how their load can be taken up by bracing during jacking and removal. On the exterior, sheathing such as weatherboard, and adjacent chinking, must be removed along the length of the log to perform this inspection. Likewise, on the interior, abutting partition walls and plaster may also need to be removed around the log to determine what, if any, features are supported by or tied into the log to be removed.

A replacement log should be obtained to match the wood species of the original being removed. If it is a hewn log, then the replacement must be hewn to replicate the dimensions and tool marks of the original. If the same wood species cannot be obtained in the original dimensions, a substitute species may have to be used, and may even be preferable in some instances if a more durable wood can be found than the original wood species. It should, however, be chosen to match the visual characteristics of the original species as closely as possible.26

- **Apply a wood preservative.** It is recommended that a borate wood preservative be applied to the surface of the corncrib’s log walls by spray or brush. Borate solutions help prevent and kill wood-boring beetles, carpenter ants, termites, and wood rot.

- **Perform annual inspections.** Remember to inspect the corncrib on a regular basis for new damage or deterioration. Check the foundation for stability, the logs for rot, increasing silt deposits under the building, and make sure that there are no leaks in the metal roof protecting the corncrib.
ADDITIONAL 1830s RESOURCES AT THE CRIDER COMPLEX

CRIDER TAVERN

The two-story Crider Tavern was built in ca. 1836 by Jacob B. Crider out of hand-hewn logs (see Figures 48-49). The tavern has undergone many changes over the years and appears little as it did in 1838 (see Figure 50). In 1991, a state survey form was filled out for the building, assigning the tavern with the resource number CA-29.

The survey form states the following information:

According to the present owner, Mr. Bennett, the inn has been remodeled twice in the past forty years, once around 1960 and again in the early 1970s, greatly altering its original appearance. On the north side of the building a cut limestone fireplace and two-story pen were removed as was an outside stairwell used by the men to gain access to their rooms on the second floor. The women used the inside stairs in the center passage. Mr. Bennett, who removed the pen from the north side, stated that the logs were square notched and pegged. The walls of the remaining log portion are 18” thick. The second story’s beaded floor joists are visible in the central passage. The front door with its transom and side lights exhibits Greek Revival detailing [see Figure 52]. The original cut limestone chimney remains on the south side.27

In the 1970s, the tavern’s exterior log walls were covered in a brick veneer. Although renovations over the years have obscured much of the building’s historic fabric, the tavern’s original floor joists can be seen from the basement and the original limestone chimney is visible on the building’s south elevation (see Figures 51 and 53). As a result of all of the changes, though, the Crider Tavern was determined ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
Figure 51. Original limestone chimney on the south elevation.

Figure 52. Front door with sidelights and transom.

Figure 53. Taken from the basement of the Crider Tavern looking up at the floor joists.
BROOKS CEMETERY

The Brooks Cemetery, measures approximately 10’ by 17’, and is located southeast of the Crider Tavern. It is visible from Old Mexico Road and takes its name from Thomas Brooks, the first individual to be buried in the small cemetery. At the time of Thomas Brooks’s burial in June 1831, the land was owned by Jesse Pemberton, Thomas’s son-in-law who was married to his eldest daughter, Tabitha. There appears to be at least four other marked burials in the Brooks Cemetery: Susanna Brooks, Rebecca Brooks, Sirrida Minner, and Eliza Minner. Although Sirrida was Eliza’s mother, there does not appear to be any familial connections between the Minners and the Brooks. None of the headstones in the cemetery appear to be in their original place. Some of the headstones are propped against an old iron fence, while others are leaning against headstone bases in the grass (see Figures 54-56).

BROOKS FAMILY

Thomas Brooks was the youngest of ten children born to Matthew Brooks and Elizabeth Warren in Frederick County, Virginia, in 1748. Around 1775, he married Susanna Teague in Newberry County, South Carolina. Susanna was the daughter of Elijah Teague and Ailsey Davis and was born around 1754 in Rowan County, North Carolina. Thomas and Susanna had nine children together: Tabitha, Thomas, Elijah, Jesse, David, Mary, Elizabeth, Susannah, and Rebecca.28

Some information about the Brooks family can be gleaned from the autobiography of Susannah (Brooks) Johnson entitled, Recollections of the Rev. John Johnson and his Home: An Autobiography, published in 1869.29 Susannah described her father Thomas as “quick and excitable, though all his words and actions bespoke the Quaker; and a more tender and compassionate father I never saw. He was a couple of inches over six feet tall; and he was perfectly erect, and his step firm and elastic, till he was more than eighty years of age.”30 When Thomas was a boy, both of his parents died and his upbringing fell under the care of a man whose name Susannah could not recall. According to Susannah, “When grown nearly to manhood, unable to endure this man’s severity, [Thomas] ran away to South
Carolina, and took refuge with his sister [Judy] Pemberton, making his home there until he was married in 1775.\textsuperscript{31}

Susannah described her mother (also named Susanna) as “less excitable—her emotions were deep, strong, and abiding. She held the reins over us with a steady hand, and yet—I know not why—we feared our father more.”\textsuperscript{32} Just as had her husband Thomas, Susanna suffered tragedy in her family, as well:

[Susanna’s] father, Elijah Teague, was captain of a company of what might be called Regulators, who before, and at the beginning of, the Revolution, were employed to hold in check the outlaws that abounded in that part of North Carolina. When the war came on, the desperadoes received such accessions from that wild and profligate class of men which wars always let loose to prey upon the country, that they soon became too strong for the Regulators, and Captain Teague was compelled to fly the country…

Captain Teague left his home and family, as before stated, and fled to South Carolina. In a short time, his family followed him. One day, when none of his family were at home but his wife, eight villainous-looking fellows came upon him as he sat at his fireside, and without stopping to ask or to answer questions, seized him, and conveyed him, by force, to the lawn in the front of the house. He was a powerful man, but his strength was vain against such odds. Perfectly heedless of the tears, and entreaties, and frantic shrieks of the poor woman, they fastened a rope about his neck, swung him to a tree, and completed their bloody and dastardly work by sending half a dozen balls through his body before life was extinct. But the feud did not end here. My grandmother had recognized the murderers; she had three sons, and some other relatives; and these soon united, prepared themselves, and set out in pursuit. And such was their desperate determination that, though months were required to complete their terrible task, not one of the heartless band, except one Ned Mitchusson, escaped their deadly rifles.\textsuperscript{33}

Thomas and Susanna first moved to Kentucky in 1796 and established themselves on the Red River near Thomas’s brother Jesse Brooks. After this first relocation, at the request of his wife Susanna, they soon moved back to South
Carolina, but later returned to Kentucky in the spring of 1801. According to Susannah’s autobiography, Thomas bought four hundred acres of land on Eddy Creek, now known as Princeton, in Caldwell County, Kentucky, and “erected a double cabin of logs—two large rooms, with an open passage between them—and in this house he resided till death.” Just before his death, Thomas shared his household with his wife, a white male aged 40-49, a white female aged 15-19, and one female slave who was between 10 and 23 years of age.

Figure 58. Rebecca Brooks (b: October 21, 1798; d: 1851) was the daughter of Thomas and Susanna Brooks, and appears to be the only one of their children buried in the Brooks Cemetery. The square tablet headstone is broken in half and is propped against a headstone base. The bottom of the headstone is either missing or buried. The inscription reads, “Rebecca Brooks. Born [illegible].”

Figure 59. Susanna (Teague) Brooks (b: abt. 1754; d: aft. 1834) was the wife of Thomas Brooks and mother of Rebecca Brooks. Her rectangular tablet headstone is lying face-up on the ground and is positioned approximately 3’ away from the other headstones. The headstone is broken into several pieces and remains largely indecipherable. The font and styling are very similar to Thomas's and Rebecca's headstones, though, with the names embossed and the rest of the writing engraved. Courtesy of Linda Bennett.
MINNER FAMILY

Reverend John Wesley Minner was born on February 15, 1812, in Livingston County, Kentucky. He married Sirrilda (also spelled Serelda or Zerilda) Marsena Jones on August 26, 1852 (see Figure 60). They had one child together: Eliza Minner, born on December 11, 1852. According to her death record, Eliza died of dysentery or croup on July 3, 1856 (see Figure 61). Just twenty days later, her mother Sirrilda died of the same illness. Eliza and Sirrilda are both interred at the Brooks Cemetery. Less than one year after Sirrilda’s death, Rev. John Wesley Minner married Massena Griffith-Terry on October 29, 1857. John died on April 24, 1891, and is buried in Love Cemetery in Crittenden County.36

Figure 60. Sirrilda (Serelda or Zerilda) M. Minner (b: 1831; d: July 23, 1856); the rectangular tablet headstone is partially buried and rests against the iron fence. It states, “Sirrilda M. Wife of John W. Minner. Died July 22, 1856”.

Figure 61. Eliza Minner (b: Dec 11, 1852; d: July 3, 1856); The headstone appears to have been a rectangular tablet. The top portion of the headstone has broken, thus cutting off a portion of the inscription. The missing piece of the headstone did not appear nearby. The remaining inscription reads, “Eliza. Daughter of J.W. and S.M. Minner. Born Dec 11, 1852. Died July 3, 1856”.

Brooks Cemetery
CRIDER-WYATT CEMETERY

The Crider-Wyatt Cemetery is located to the northwest of the Crider Tavern and is visible from Old Mexico Road (see Figures 62-64). The cemetery takes its name from Jacob B. Crider and from John Thomas Wyatt, husband of Mary Jane (Crider) Wyatt (Jacob B. Crider’s daughter). There are fifteen marked burials in the cemetery, with the earliest burial dating to March 1839 and the latest burial dating to October 1898. Several of the headstones in the cemetery share similar designs and appear to have been made by the same artisan. For example, three of the obelisk headstones that were made within a thirteen-year period are inscribed with the name of the gravestone’s artisan and their location: D. Markey Princeton. The four “head and shoulders” tablet-style headstones, made in a one-year period, appear to have all been made by the same artisan, as well.

Figure 62. Crider-Wyatt Cemetery Map

Crider Wyatt Cemetery Map

1. John Travis and Mary Jane Crider Wyatt
2. Jacob J. Wyatt
3. James H. Wyatt
4. Herbert Lee Crider
5. Jacob B. Crider
6. Orpha Crider
7. Mary E. Wyatt
8. Infant Son Wyatt
9. Emeline Crider
10. Infant Sons Crider
11. James H. Crider
12. Jasper N. Crider
13. Louisa Crider Myers

LEGEND
- Monument
- Obelisk
- Tablet
- Propped Tablet
- Face Up Tablet
- Footstone

Figure 63. Arial view of Crider-Wyatt Cemetery. Courtesy of Googlemaps.

Figure 64. Crider-Wyatt Cemetery.
The fifteen marked burials in the Crider-Wyatt Cemetery are as follows:

**Jasper N. Crider – b: Nov 4, 1834; d: Mar 4, 1839**

Jasper N. Crider was the son of Jacob B. and Orpha Crider. His “head and shoulders” headstone is very similar in style and font to the headstones of James H. Crider, Emeline Crider, and the two Infant Sons Crider. The headstone was broken into three pieces and then restored. The inscription reads, “IN MEMORY OF JASPER N. CRIDER born Nov 4, 1834 died March 4, 1839” (see Figure 65).

**James H. Crider – b: Jan 11, 1837; d: Mar 16, 1839**

James died just twelve days after Jasper. His “head and shoulders” headstone is nearly identical in style to the headstones of Jasper Crider, Emeline Crider, and the two Infant Sons Crider, suggesting that the same artisan created them all. The inscription reads, “IN MEMORY of JAMES H. CRIDER born July 11, 1837 died March 16, 1839” (see Figure 65).

**Infant Crider Son #1 – b: Nov 2, 1839; d: Nov 2, 1839**

**Infant Crider Son #2 – b: Nov 2, 1839; d: Nov 2, 1839**

These twin infants were the sons of Jacob and Orpha Crider. The double “head and shoulders” tablet headstone is for both twin brothers and is similar in style to the headstones of Jasper, James, and Emeline Crider. A line is carved down the center of the stone, and the inscription is split between both halves of the headstone. It states, “IN MEMORY of two Infint [sic] Sons of JB & ORPHA CRIDER born Nov 2, 1839” (see Figure 66).
Emeline G. Crider – b: 1828; d: Sept 13, 1840

The “head and shoulders” headstone is similar to the headstones of James Crider, Jasper Crider, and the two Infant Sons Crider. The inscription states, “IN MEMORY of EMELINE G. CRIDER was born [ineligible] 1828 died Sept 13, 1840.” The headstone was broken into three pieces, with only two pieces remaining and restored (see Figure 61).

Infant Son Wyatt – b: Dec 4, 1851; d: Dec 6, 1851

Infant Son Wyatt was the son of John and Mary Jane (Crider) Wyatt and the grandson of Jacob B. and Orpha Crider. Infant Son Wyatt and Mary E. Wyatt appear to have been twins born on the same date, with Infant Son Wyatt dying two days after birth. His headstone is upside-down and propped against a pedestal base that it shares with the headstone of Mary E. Wyatt. The top of the headstone is partially buried and obscured by the groundcover. The inscription reads, “INFANT Son of JOHN & MARY J. WYATT BORN Dec 4, 1851. DIED Dec 6, 1851” (see Figure 67).

Mary E. Wyatt – b: Dec 4, 1851; d: Oct 23, 1858

Mary E. Wyatt is the daughter of John and Mary Jane (Crider) Wyatt and the granddaughter of Jacob B. and Orpha Crider. Mary and her brother, Infant Son Wyatt, appear to be twins, with only Mary living to childhood. Mary’s domed tablet tombstone features a broken bud or a branch in a quatrefoil carved into the top, which typically signifies an untimely or premature death. Mary’s tombstone and Infant Son Wyatt’s headstone are resting against the same pedestal. The inscription states, “MARY E. Daughter of JOHN and Mary WYATT BORN Dec 4, 1851 DIED Oct 23, 1858” (see Figure 68).

Figure 67. (left) Emeline Crider Headstone. (right) Infant Son Wyatt Headstone.

Figure 68. Mary E. Wyatt Headstone.
Orpha “Harpy” Bivery Crider – b: Oct 20, 1797; d: Jan 1, 1863

Orpha Crider was the wife of Jacob B. Crider and the mother of his eleven children. Her gothic, lancet arch tombstone is leaning against Jacob B. Crider’s headstone and features a hand pointing upwards toward heaven, a symbol also featured on Orpha’s daughter Louisa (Crider) Myers’ headstone. Orpha’s tombstone states, “ORPHA C. WIFE OF J.B. CRIDER BORN Oct. 20 1797 Died Jan. 1, 1863” (see Figure 69).

Louisa (Crider) Myers – b: Dec 14, 1831; d: Nov 7, 1864

Louisa (Crider) Myers was the daughter of Jacob B. and Orpha Crider. The headstone is currently lying flat on the ground with the inscription face-up. Louisa and her mother died almost two years apart, and like her mother’s tombstone, Louisa’s tombstone features a hand pointing upwards toward heaven. The inscription reads “LOUISA WIFE OF F. C. MYERS BORN Dec. 14, 1831 DIED Nov. 7, 1864.” The remainder of the inscription is illegible (see Figure 70).

Figure 69. Orpha “Harpy” Bivery Crider Headstone.

Figure 70. (left) December 2012 image of the Louisa (Crider) Myers Headstone. (right) April 2015 image of the Louisa (Crider) Myers Headstone.
**John Travis Wyatt – b: Feb 28, 1817; d: Mar 12, 1866**

**Mary Jane (Crider) Wyatt – b: July 27, 1823; d: Oct 31, 1898**

John Travis Wyatt married Mary Jane (Crider) Wyatt, the daughter of Jacob B. and Orpha Crider. The couple shares a headstone with each other, in addition to two footstones inscribed with “Father” and “Mother” (see Figures 65-67). The headstone pedestal bears the inscription “WYATT” in capital letters. The body of the headstone has the birth and death dates for John T. Wyatt and Mary Jane (Crider) Wyatt, and the top portion of the headstone is inscribed with a “W” surrounded by a vine and flower buds.
James H. Wyatt – b: Oct 27, 1846; d: Jan 5, 1870

James H. Wyatt was the son of John and Mary Jane (Crider) Wyatt and the grandson of Jacob B. and Orpha Crider. The ornate pillar headstone rests on a two-tier pedestal with a decorative flourish on the top. Flowers are carved into the pillar just above the inscription, which states, “JAMES H. SON OF J.T. & M.J. WYATT BORN Oct. 27, 1846 DIED Jan. 5, 1870. AGED 23 Yrs 2 Mo’s 9 Days.” Below, there is another inscription, but only the words “His Lord hath taken” is legible (see Figure 74).

Jacob B. Crider – b: Sept 30, 1798; d: Aug 4, 1875

Jacob B. Crider was the husband of Orpha Crider and the first owner of the Crider Tavern and corncrib. Jacob’s obelisk headstone rests on a pedestal inscribed with “D Markey Princeton”, the name of the artisan who made the headstone. The obelisk contains the inscription, “JACOB B. CRIDER,” written in an arch. “BORN” is inscribed within the arch with tildes above and below the inscription. “Sep 30, 1798 DIED Aug 4, 1875” is inscribed beneath. “A loving husband, father, dear, faithful friend he’s buried here” is inscribed below the dates. Orpha Crider’s headstone is leaning against the obelisk (see Figure 75).
Herbert Lee Crider – b: July 17, 1873; d: May 2, 1876

Herbert Lee Crider is the son of Jacob Ewing and Allie Crider and the grandson of Jacob B. and Orpha Crider. Herbert’s obelisk headstone rests on a pedestal. A rose stem is inscribed within a circle in the middle of the stone. The inscription is located below the rose stem and reads, “Our Little HERBERT LEE Son of J.E. & ALLIE CRIDER BORN July 17, 1871 DIED May 2, 1876” (see Figure 76). An inscription on the pedestal reads, “Budded on earth to bloom in Heaven. D. Markey Princeton”. “D. Markey Princeton” is found on Jacob Crider’s and Jacob Wyatt’s headstones, as well.
Jacob J. Wyatt – b: Mar 13, 1849; d: Dec 24, 1888

Jacob J. Wyatt was the son of John and Mary Jane (Crider) Wyatt and the grandson of Jacob B. and Orpha Crider. Jacob’s obelisk headstone rests on a three-tier pedestal. The second tier of the pedestal bears the inscription “WYATT”, and the inscription on the top-tier of the pedestal reads, “JACOB J. WYATT BORN MAY 13, 1849 DIED DEC 24, 1888.” The left side of the top-tier pedestal contains the following inscription: “Although he sleeps his memory [ineligible] and cheering comforts to us [ineligible] he followed virtuous in farest [ineligible]. He lived as a Christian – as a Christian died”. “D. Markey Princeton” is also inscribed on the headstone (see Figures 77-79).

Figure 77. Jacob J. Wyatt Headstone Inscription.

Figure 78. Jacob J. Wyatt Headstone Inscription.

Figure 79. Jacob J. Wyatt Headstone.
APPENDIX A: JACOB B. CRIDER’S WILL


B: 288 Will of Jacob B. Crider, 20 May 1870
I have made advancements in money and property to my children as follows: To Mary Jane WYATT, wife of John T. WYATT, a horse saddle and bridle and other personal property valued by me at $200, a negro woman valued at $500 and $1500 in money, and in the way of land conveyed to her $1100, making in the aggregate $3300 advanced to her. To Z.J. CRIDER, a horse saddle and bridle and other personal property valued by me at $200, in money to assist him in pay for Dry Goods $1000, in money to assist him in paying for the TINSLEY land $1000, and a credit on his note to me for borrowed money of $1100, amounting to $3300 advanced to him. To Louisa MYERS and her husband F.C. MYERS, a negro woman & negro boy valued to me at $1000, and $1000 in money to pay for the tract of land on which F.C. MYERS now lives, and a horse saddle and bridle and other personal property valued by me at $200, amounting to $2200 advanced to them. To Jacob E. CRIDER, a horse saddle and bridle, and other personal property valued by my at $200, in the price of the undivided half of 2 acres of land, a carding machine, Steam Grist Mill, boilers, engine, Machinery, and other fixtures and the building and appurtenances thereto belonging conveyed by me to him $1500, and in part of the the price of another piece of land containing 204 acres, conveyed by me to him, $1600, amounting to $3300 advanced to him. I direct that my son Jacob E. CRIDER shall have a tract of land containing 7 acres, lying in Caldwell Co and on which my dwelling house now stands, and bounded as follows: beg. at a stone in the middle of the state road between a large locust tree and the Blacksmith’s shop, running with the middle of sd. Road North & W to a stone in the middle of sd. road, thence South… to a stone at the south west corner of the garden, thence South… to a stone in a wagon road, with white oak and gum pointers, thence South East… to a stone at the south east corner of a stable, North East… to a rock, North W… to a stone with a black oak pointer, north East … to the beg. My son Jacob E. CRIDER shall account to my estate in the reasonable cash value of sd. tract of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon at the time after my death that he may receive same, less the sum of $300, which shall be deducted on account of improvements heretofore made by him. The remainder of my real estate to be
kept and owned by such of my children as may out live me, but my executors may sell and convey the same if they deem proper. Debts due to me to be collected, the personal property I own converted to money, my funeral expenses and debts paid, the expenses of settling my estate paid, then $1100 with interest thereon at the rate of 6% per annum from this date until paid, to be paid to the children of my deceased daughter Louisa MYERS, share and share alike, which with what I have advanced to their mother and father will be equal to what I have advanced to any one of my children. Also wish my grand children, the children of my sd. dec’d daughter Louisa MYERS, or the survivors of them, if any of them should die without issue, to be paid a further sum that shall be equal in value to one fourth of the value of all the remainder of my estate, including one fourth of the value of sd. real estate herein given to Jacob E. CRIDER, less the $300 directed to be deducted from the value of sd. real estate and that shall be paid to them, share & share alike. The residue of my estate, including what my son Jacob E. CRIDER may have to pay on account of the real estate devised to him, I wish divided equally among my three children, Mary Jane WYATT, Z.J. CRIDER, and Jacob E. CRIDER so that each one may have one fourth in value of the net value of all my estate and the sd. children of Louisa MYERS dec’d may have the remaining fourth. Appoint my two sons Z.J. CRIDER and Jacob E. CRIDER executors and having confidence in their pecuniary responsibility and in their skill and integrity, I request the Caldwell County Court to require of them no security. /s/ Jacob B. CRIDER. Wit: Sumner MARBLE, Willie MARBLE. Codicil, 4 Jan 1872: Having advanced to my three children, Mary Jane WYATT, Z.J. CRIDER and Jacob E. CRIDER, $1000 each, I now, in addition to what I gave by sd. will to the children of my dec’d daughter Louisa MYERS, 5 in number, $200 each with interest on same, at the rate of 6% per annum. Should any of my sd. grandchildren die without issue, the share of any one may so die shall go to the survivors. /s/ J.B. CRIDER. Wit: Willie MARBLE, S. MARBLE. Second Codicil, 22 Mar 1873: Whereas in my last Will and Testament I did give $1100 with interest to be paid to the children of my dec’d daughter Louisa MYERS and whereas in my Codicil I did give to the sd. children of Louisa, five in number, $200 each with interest in addition to what had been previously give them and whereas one of the children of Louisa, namely J. William MYERS, has on 20th day of Mar 1873, attained the age of 21 years and whereas I have given sd. J. William MYERS since he became 21 years of age, the sum of $400 in money. Therefore, I modify my last Will and Codicil so that in the settlement of my estate after my death, the sum of $400 given J. William MYERS shall be
considered an advancement to him and be charged to him and he shall receive his share of the bequest, less this advancement of $400. From and after sd. bequests to children of Louisa remaining after deducting the $400 to J. William MYERS, no interest shall be counted in $400 of sd. bequests. /s/ J.B. CRIDER. Wit: Willie MARBLE, M. JONES. “I have received the above mentioned $400, this April 2/73.” /s/ W. J. MYERS. Wit: J. E. CRIDER, W.R. EDEN. Proven by oath of Sumner MARBLE 16 Aug 1875. Proven by oath of Willie MARBLE and rec. 26 Aug 1875.
ENDNOTES


3 Dot Rogers, “The History of Fredonia,” 28; TRTE-KY-CA-03-01 & TRTE-KY-CA-03-02 [Crider Tavern Complex] file, Center for Historic Preservation, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN.


11 Receipt to Charles Reese for $4, received at Princeton, Kentucky, November 3, 1837, receipt copy provided by Alice Murphee, President of the Kentucky Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association.


13 Ibid.


29 Ibid.

30 Ibid., 10, 25.

31 Ibid., 11.


33 Ibid., 11-13.

34 Ibid., 18-20.