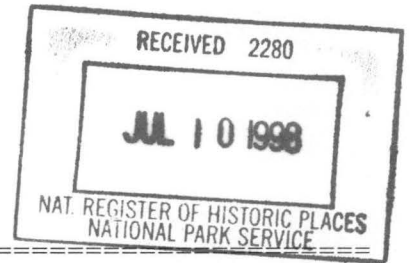


984

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name Cave-In-Rock

other names/site number Big Cave, Rock and Cave

2. Location

street & number Cave-In-Rock State Park
not for publication N/A
city or town Cave-In-Rock vicinity _____
state Illinois code IL county Hardin code 69 zip code 62919-0338

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William C. Chul 15440 6-25-98
Signature of certifying official Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

=====

I, hereby certify that this property is

☒ entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register

See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

☐ private
☐ public-local
☒ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☐ building(s)
☐ district
☒ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

Caught In The Middle; The Civil War on the Lower Ohio River

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Defense</u>	Sub: <u>Military facility</u>
<u>Commerce/Trade</u>	<u>Restaurant</u>
<u>Religious</u>	<u>Religious facility</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>camp</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Recreation and Culture Sub: Outdoor recreation

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other-Natural Cave

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestone
roof limestone
walls limestone

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets)

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

our B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in past.

 C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

 D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Military History

Period of Significance 1861-1864

Significant Dates November-December 1861
February 1862

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

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=====**7. Description**

Cave-in-Rock, located on the Ohio River in Hardin County, Illinois, is the best known and one of the largest naturally occurring limestone caves to be found in the geological Pennyroyal Region of Western Kentucky and Southeastern Illinois. The impressive cave entrance is one of the most distinctive navigational landmarks along the Lower Ohio River. It was more important as a mark of progress, travelling either up or down the river, in lieu of providing navigational guidance or an orientation point. The cave is visible only from its immediate frontage and quickly disappears into the rock face when one is on either side of it. This secluded aspect of its location no doubt played a role in its selection as a protected and isolated point of operations for numerous generations of river pirates.

The Pennyroyal Region (7800 square miles) includes Livingston and Crittenden counties in Kentucky and parts of Hardin, Pope and Gallatin counties in Illinois. This sub-region has an average elevation of 400-500 feet, while to the east the land rises to between 600-700 feet above sea level. Loess soils covers the uplands while alluvial clays are found in the river bottoms. The cave lies in what is termed the Southeastern Unfaulted Zone, which covers the southeast portion of Hardin County. St. Louis limestone is the term given the rock which forms the bluffs here and a few miles downstream at Tower Rock.

The Ohio River defines the southern boundary of the State of Illinois. Turning sharply south at Old Shawneetown, in Gallatin County, the river turns due west just below Battery Rock, in Hardin County. Cave-in-Rock, situated on the Illinois side of the river, is the next striking natural limestone feature found along this stretch of the river. Tower Rock, several miles further west, is a point of observation, from the same limestone foundation. The river turns south past Rosiclaire and the limestone bluffs end in middle-Pope County, Illinois. Between Smithland and Paducah, Kentucky, the river makes its final westward turn and reaches the Mississippi River in a final long arc.

The cave is set into an exposed 60-foot high limestone bluffs. It is part of the 150-acre Cave-In-Rock State Park. Works Progress Administration-era stone stairways descend to the cave from the west, following a decline which might well be a collapsed cave or a quarrying site. The walkway follows the narrow riverbank to approach the cave. The Ohio River dam system has raised the river water level so that the mouth of the cave is just 10-15 feet above the water. Historically, the cave fronted on a much broader exposed riverbank and a narrower main channel. The first dam, originally located about five miles upstream, had less impact on the river level than does the replacement dam which is above Smithland. The increase is about ten feet.

Cave-in-Rock Island lies immediately across the main channel of the river to the south and southeast of the cave mouth. It is located between river miles 867 and 868.5, and was historically termed Island #87 prior to the Civil War years. The island, once more distinct was largely silted into the Kentucky shore at its head as early as 1868-69. The town of Cave-in-Rock is located downstream, about one half mile distant. Four or five miles upstream is the site of Ford's Ferry, a major historic river crossing point. The Ford's Ferry Road no longer extends to the Ohio River.

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The Ohio River limestone bluff outcropping into which Cave-in-Rock is set, actually extends but a mile or so along the river, the Cave being located close to its western terminal point. The town of Cave-in-Rock is located about half a mile downstream from the bluffline and cave. A free public car ferry at the town, links Kentucky State Highway 91 and Illinois State highway. The Cave is not visible from the ferry, and can be viewed from the Kentucky side only by hiking along the riverbank for a quarter of a mile distance east. The limestone bluffs which feature the cave do not reoccur downstream until Tower Rock is reached. This periodic reappearance of these bluffs adds to the visual impact of the cave itself.

The current state park site superintendent Mike Gullett penned the following physical description of the cave:

The mouth of the Cave is an arched opening, semi-elliptical in form, and about fifty-five feet wide at the base. The cavern extends back horizontally one hundred and sixty feet with an almost uniform depth of forty feet. The walls and roof, which change more or less [from] an elipse near the mouth, again change near the center into a semi-ellipse and retain that curvature to the end. The ceiling is horizontal throughout its length, while the floor, beginning about seventy-five feet from the entrance, gradually inclines upward toward the rear, and at the extreme where it comes within a few feet of the arched ceiling. At this end there is a hole large enough to permit a man to climb out onto an old sinkhole on the surface above. In recent years, the hole has been reinforced by a rock wall [on the surface above the cave] and somewhat enlarged to allow visitors to the Park to peer down into the mysterious cavern from above. Near the middle of the ceiling are two perpendicular crevasses with an average width of less than a foot, extending across and beyond the Cave, and upward to within about fifteen feet of the surface of the cliff....To the right, in the immediate rear of the Cave, lies another area called the "Side Room." In the lower part of what may be designated the "Lower Room," [the back portion of the main cave] the mouth-like opening is a large, level, wedge-shaped space about five feet lower than the floor of the Cave which extends toward the rear of the Cave. Above on each side of this channel is level rock which resembles a platform. These two platforms soon reach near the rear of the Cave, and one time were level with the rear floor, which has in recent times dropped. The channel may have been made by men....When the river is at pool stage, the mouth of the cave is approximately seventy feet from the edge of the river, but in the Spring when the water is high, the Cave may be entered by boat."

Local historian Ruby Franklin Hall offers the most detailed account of the formative forces which produced the cave. She states as follows:

The Cave was formed by an underground stream called Spring Hollow Creek, that flowed into a saucer-like formation about 2 miles northwest of the village of Cave-in-Rock [which she calls Big Zinks]. There it went underground and flowed out through the cave hole.

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Early French maps show the cave hole at the edge of the water of the Ohio River, with Spring Hollow Creek flowing out into the river through the cave.

The New Madrid Earthquake of 1811 pushed the cave from the edge of the water to its present location. Spring Hollow Creek now flows out into the Ohio River about 50 yards above the Cave Hole.

The elevated setting of the cave and the several large cross-fissures in the rear of the cave are attributed to the 1811 earthquake and if this could be documented, the cave would offer very tangible evidence of that notable natural and historic catastrophe.

Earlier descriptive accounts offered varied cave dimensions, estimates being just that. Arch Hulbert penned a description of the cave as it appeared in 1906:

"...This was a cavern measuring about two hundred feet long and eighty feet wide; at its mouth it is eighty feet wide and twenty-five feet high. The floor was very smooth throughout, and the walls arose in grades like seats in a theatre. Strange hieroglyphics dating far back in prehistoric days covered the gloomy walls. The mystery of the place was enhanced by another room-like apartment over the cavern; the passageway to this second cavern was like a large chimney some fourteen feet long."

Hulbert also described carved names which dated back as far as 1812. No historic carvings survive. The earliest dated carved initials or names date from 1890 and 1913. The latter reflects record floods which provided access to the cave ceiling. Persons in boats could reach the ceiling. There is some smoke staining on the ceiling of the cave as well. The advent of spray paint graffiti has taken its toll on the cave front and interior and the regular cleanings which remove the paint has necessarily taken away anything of earlier date.

Like all caves, stories are told concerning subterranean passages for which no trace can be found today. The *Crittenden Press* (November 21, 1901) described "an underground passage, thirty miles long, with an opening at the town of Equality, in Gallatin County. This passage is large enough to lead a laden horse through." The same source credits the robber John A. Murrell with maintaining a stable for 20 horses 300 feet back in the cave, with grain and hay sufficient to last a year. A second chamber was above these stables, reached by ladder. "Just beyond the stables there are a number of natural tunnels of considerable size and forming a bewildering maze through which none but men of long experience can travel, without becoming hopelessly entangled and lost." It is true that the back portion of the cave is mud floored due to silting caused by inundations. No archeology has ever been conducted inside the cave.

Cave-In-Rock was formed by the out-flowing of underground springs which eroded the softer limestone rock. More erosion-resistant limestone which forms the nearly flat cave floor along the front of the cave, remains intact save for the channel which is described in Mr. Gullett's account. It is perhaps a drainage channel, quarried out to remove flood or spring water from the lower rear of the cavern. The back portion of the cave is lower in elevation and mud covers the cavern floor, so any measurement of the actual cave is not possible. The eroding forces which formed the cave have long-since ceased, when the water source disappeared. Another unknown in the cave is what is termed the "Upper Cave" which is pictured in historical images as being reached

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by means of a pole or ladder from a point 40 or so feet back in the cave along its east sidewall. The opening to this second chamber has been sealed shut and could not be inspected.



"Havencroft" house stood atop Cave-In-Rock and was last occupied by the McDonald family who sold the property to the State of Illinois in 1933, at which point the house was demolished.

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8. Statement of Significance:

Cave-In-Rock, located on the Ohio River in eastern Hardin County, Illinois, is nominated as part of a Multiple Property listing entitled "Caught In The Middle, The Civil War Years on the Lower Ohio River" within the context of "Federal and Confederate Military Operations On and Along the Lower Ohio River, the War on the Land, 1861-65." The cave is an example of the property type "Non-military properties having Civil War Period historical associations." Cave-In-Rock is locally significant and meets National Register Criterion A for its several Civil War era associations with important historical events.. First and foremost, the cave offered a temporary shelter to wartime Unionist refugees who fled to that point at the end of 1861. Their plight drew the attention of Federal military district commander, Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant who had them removed to better quarters elsewhere. During November and December 1861 the cave or its immediate setting was mined for building stone for the construction of the Federal defenses at Cairo. Finally, Cave-In-Rock was the "jumping off point" for a punitive Federal military raid on Caseyville at the end of 1862, to punish the residents of that town for allowing Confederate irregulars to plunder a steamboat.

Early Cave-In-Rock History:

Kentucky historian Lewis Collins in his History of Kentucky described prehistoric animal paintings of extinct large mammals which were observed on the cave walls and early accounts claim that the cave was used by Native Americans for important meetings and gatherings.

Europeans first recorded the "*Cavern dans Le Roc*" or Cave-In-The-Rock in 1729. The cave was first mapped in 1744. By the early 19th century the site was already highly rated as a natural curiosity by foreign visitors to America. The linkage of the cave with illicit activities dates back at least by 1790. A number of shady characters briefly utilized the cave and as would be expected their identities, their several tenures, and other details of their lives enjoy little consensus amongst those who have written about the cave. It is even unclear as to when the cave last housed any of these "river pirates." What is certain is that the accuracy of the alledged crimes certainly falls well short of the legends which attach to the cave and it is the legendary reputation which made the cave so well known on the regional and national levels. The first cave occupant, in the early 1790s, was a counterfeiter named John Duff (?-1804). Former Revolutionary War soldier Samuel Mason operated out of the cave circa 1797-99. He operated the "Cave-Inn-Rock" and started the tradition of luring unsuspecting river travelers to his lair in the cave, where they were robbed and murdered. He also attacked rafts and flatboats from Hurricane and Wolf Islands below the cave if they escaped his lure at the cavern. Mason was apparently followed by one Jim Wilson who ran a combination tavern and residence in the cave which was titled "Wilson's Tavern." Wilson worked with another counterfeiter, William Hall. Like Mason, Wilson was said to have a gang of 45 men living on Hurricane Island downstream from the cave and they would seize passing rafts, killing the occupants. Wilson died at the hands of these men and it is at this time that it is claimed that 60 skeletons were discovered in the cave's upper room following his death (Gullett, pp. 4, 7, 8, McDonald, Magee, pp. 27-8).

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Mason and Wilson were briefly succeeded by the notorious Harpe brothers, "Big Harpe" and "Little Harpe." They were American loyalist refugees from North Carolina. The Harpe family reached Hardin County by 1798 at which time they were first arrested, but escaped, regrouping at the cave. The Harpes continued the tradition of river piracy but quickly alienated even their colleagues by their exceptional cruelty. They were driven off into Kentucky, after but a brief stay at the cave. Both Harpes were executed by 1804 (Gullett, pp. 2-3, 7-11, Magee, pp. 31-2).

This stretch of the Lower Ohio was generally infested with river pirates and the towns of Elizabethtown and Rosiclair, immediately downstream had their origins as local fortified posts, founded to protect area residents from the outlaws. Counterfeiter Capt. Jack Sturdevant operated out of the cave early in the 19th Century. He used Ferryman James Ford to pass many of his bills. Sturdevant was the target of a U.S. army raid by "Illinois regulars" in 1831. At that time he had a protective stockade at Rosiclair, a western Hardin County river town. James Ford was the last of the area river pirates, although he had no direct Cave-In-Rock connections. He combined a legitimate public life with an illicit one, serving as a county judge and later as sheriff. Ford established Frazer's Ferry, 2.5 miles upstream from the cave, in 1823. What was termed Ford's Ferry Road, linked Princeton and Marion, Kentucky, to the south, with Equality and Shawneetown, Illinois, to the north. There were numerous salt producers in Gallatin County, Illinois, and this commodity resulted in considerable trade, supplementing a large immigrant traffic into Illinois from Kentucky. Ford is said to have worked in tandem with William Potts who operated Potts' Inn from a tavern, on the Ford's Ferry Road, some 10 miles distant from the river. These two men and their many associates are credited with the disappearance of many a traveller along the Ford's Ferry Road on the Kentucky side of the river, some five miles upstream from the cave. "Regulators" executed Ford in 1834, ending the linkage of the cave with river crimes. (McDonald, Magee, pp. 27-43).

The lists of river scoundrels differs with the source. Unmentioned by other authors is one John A. Murrell, a Louisianian who operated a 40-man gang out of the cave from 1820 through 1850. Murrell continued the tradition of raiding flatboats and he was the subject of numerous Federal posse raids. He was finally killed during the winter of 1849-50 by one of his own men. Murrell was said to have escape routes from the rear of the cave and he maintained a stable deep within the cavern. The *Crittenden Press* (November 21, 1901) reprinted this story from the *Paducah Democrat*. The source is dubious because it states that Murrell was followed by the Harpes and then the Fords Ferry gang (Gullett, pp. 6-7, Dumphy, p. 21).

To assume that the cave was, during this entire period, simply beyond the pale of the law is inaccurate, because numerous travellers record dining in the cave and surviving the visit quite nicely. A French engineer Victor Collor visited the "Big Cave" during the summer of 1796. Surveyor Andrew Ellicott dined there on December 15, 1796. The English astronomer Francis Bily visited the cave on April 16, 1797. Other authors of travel books toured the cavern between 1806 and 1807 and wrote about their visits. These travellers' accounts stressed the cave's prehistoric past as a source of interest. The cave walls were then adorned with the names of travellers, offering another point of interest. Throughout the early history of the cave, up until the raising of the river level in the 1920s, the entrance to the cave was largely wooded over, enhancing its use as a shelter, but

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certainly detracting from its visual attractiveness. All drawings of the cave up until World War II show one or more trees standing in front of the immediate cave entrance.

The Kaskaskian Indians sold the cave and surrounding land to the U.S. government in 1803 and much of the area opened to regular settlement over the next 15 years. The river pirates, as noted above, continued to operate in the region of the cave but it is no longer mentioned as being central to their operations. Ford was as much a land pirate as a river one, victimizing overland settlers who used his ford and road, more than river travelers. The area immediately surrounding and including the cave was by this time becoming settled with the first arrivals coming in 1816.

The village of Cave-In-Rock had its first merchant as of 1832 in the person of John Mitchell, an Irish-born farmer and merchant. He was joined by general merchants Pell & Madden in 1840. A post office was established there on March 13, 1832 under the name of "Rock and Cave" and that name persisted until October 24, 1849 when the present name was selected. The village site was used as a reference point in setting the Gallatin-Hardin Counties dividing line on March 2, 1839, when the latter county was formed from the former. The village was then in Gallatin County. It was finally placed within the present Hardin County boundary lines in 1847. Isaiah Gustin was running a tavern in the village as of 1860. C. D. Miller was a wood merchant,. William and Reuben and William Young operated the flour mill (Miles, pp. 299-309).

G. W. Hawes, in his 1861 Commercial Gazetteer and Business Directory of the Ohio River observed that the cave was "a noted place...viewed with interest by all travelers on this river." He credited this interest to its criminal associations but added that the cave was the favored gathering point for religious retreats (Hawes, History of Hardin County, p. 38).

The Civil War Years:

The Civil War experience along the Hardin County, Illinois, stretch of the Ohio River was largely a continuation of the outlawry which had typified the area's early settlement years. The early 1850s struggle between the "Flatheads" and the "Regulators," resulted in the imposition of some minimal lawful security for the residents in the Ohio River counties of Massac, Pope, Hardin and Gallatin counties. The war offered new opportunities to plunder one's neighbors and as a result, Hardin County in particular suffered for several generations after the war from a continuing pattern of outlawry. The county courthouse was finally burned in 1883 after several unsuccessful efforts, to destroy public records of the many illegal acts and murders. Cave-in-Rock appropriately symbolizes this aspect of frontier settlement. During the war these activities were conducted under the guise of irregular warfare.

Cave-in-Rock had a front row seat on the Civil War's main stage, the Ohio River. Its location just below the northward turn of the river, past Battery Rock and Shawneetown in Illinois and Caseyville in Kentucky, placed it just below what would be the active Confederate area of operations along the river during the years 1861 and 1864.

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The first and only known Federal camp at Cave-in-Rock was in place as of November 29, 1861, when Capt. John Seaton, Company B, 22nd Illinois Infantry, reported from "Camp Altona," located at the cave, that a large Confederate raiding party was at nearby Caseyville, in Union County, Kentucky. Seaton had 40 men at the camp. The date of his arrival is not known, the 22nd being stationed at Bird's Point, Missouri, opposite Cairo as of the end of October, 1861. Refugees brought the news to him by rowboat, coming downriver. The next day Capt. Seaton forbade the captain of the steamer *Golden Age* to land at Caseyville. The captain's report resulted in an order to send a force to Caseyville, via Cave-in-Rock (Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies..., Series I, Vol. 7, p. 462).

Federal Lt. Col. James Peckham brought three companies of the 8th Missouri Infantry and one gun of Lt. Tobey's Battery A, Chicago Light Artillery to the cave on the steamboats *Golden Age* and *Lake Erie No. 2* on November 30, 1861, coming up from Paducah. The purpose of the movement was to make a raid on Caseyville, just up the river. Confederate cavalry Col. Nathan Bedford Forrest was thought to be in the Caseyville area. Peckham's force awaited the arrival of the gunboat *U.S.S. Conestoga* and the combined force descended on Caseyville on December 1. Their prize was 60 hogs. The force returned to Paducah on December 2. Peckham reported a large salt business underway between the cave and Caseyville. He stated further "It is known that vast quantities of goods find their way to Nashville through that section of the country of which Caseyville is a leading point" (Union County Past and Present, American Guide Series, Louisville, Schuhmann Printing Company, 1941, Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series II, Vol. 36, pp. 622, 628).

Simultaneously, Company A, 29th Illinois Infantry, moved to Cave-in-Rock from Cairo and spent ten days quarrying rock there for use in the defenses at Cairo which were being finished. The company returned to Cairo on December 10, 1861. It is possible that the actual quarry work was not carried out in the cave. Today there are working open-pit rock quarries located several miles northeast of the cave (Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series II, Vol. 10, pp. 311-12).

Hardin County's Civil War record is shrouded due to the extensive loss of both public records and period newspapers. The earliest war-related events focus on Cave-in-Rock. Unionist refugees from Kentucky took shelter in and around the cave in late 1861. District commander, Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, journeyed past the cave on or about December 25, en route to an inspection of his garrison at Shawneetown, in Gallatin County. Grant saw the refugees himself and had them removed to Paducah and Cairo where they were sheltered and provided for. He reported on the 29th that "At Cave-in-Rock there are many refugees who have been driven from their homes in Kentucky and are now living in the Cave in very destitute circumstances." Although the Shawneetown post was outside of Grant's jurisdiction, he acted to take care of the refugees, given that there were no other commanders with resources in the region. The Cave refugees were not alone, there being similar groups at Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and Paducah and Smithland, Kentucky. Grant ordered on the 28th of December that given that the refugees

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"have been driven from their homes and deprived of the means of subsistence by the acts of disloyal citizens of Kentucky and Missouri, and their substance taken for the support of the rebellion against this Government, humanity dictates that these people should be comfortably supported, and justice demands that the class of persons who have caused their sufferings should bear the expense of the same...The refugees at Cave-in-Rock will be invited and means of transportation provided to Smithland or Paducah" (Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies..., Series I, Vol. 7, p. 518-19, The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant, Vol. 3, pp.353-55).

Local resident John Mitchell, helped the refugees across the river to Illinois and provided their initial care. Mitchell was the first merchant in Cave-In-Rock village and owned a farm near the cave (see map below). Mitchell was born in Londonderry, Ireland in 1812, trained for the ministry there, but came to America in 1831, starting a mercantile business in New Albany, Indiana, before moving to Cave-In-Rock. An obituary states, "In 1861, when rebel [Confederate Col. Nathan Bedford] Forrest was in Kentucky killing, burning and driving out Union men, Mr. Mitchell ferried hundreds of refugees over the river, and killed 11 head of his own cattle to feed them. Being asked by his brother if he could stand it he replied that if he couldn't stand it he could lie down to it. He was very conscientious in his political views..." Mitchell recorded his vote for Lincoln and Andrew Johnson in his family Bible, adding that he had "been an unconditional Union man ever since the fall of Sumpter [sic]" [Undated obituaries, clipped from the *Crittenden Press* and the *Harrisburg Chronicle*).

One of the Kentucky refugees was one Jonathan Belt who was then living at Marion, Ky. when Col. Forrest made his raid through that area in December 1861. Belt was on Forrest's target list and he killed one of Forrest's men when they sought to apprehend him. Belt fled to Hardin County to the vicinity of Cave-In-Rock and he founded a mini-reign of terror which would last for several generations in Hardin and Crittenden counties. It is indeed suggested that the central story of the war on this portion of the Ohio River is the story of the depredations which the Belt family committed first as members of the Federal army against pro-Southern victims, and then finally as irregulars, acting against all parties. Belt's story is representative of the effect of the irregular war on Hardin County residents. Jonathan Belt became captain of Company F, 15th Kentucky Cavalry. Logan Belt served in the 48th Kentucky Mounted Infantry. Local historian Frances Dyhrkopp, of Shawneetown, Il. has studied the history of the Belt family of Hardin County and has concluded that the war provided such men as Logan and Jonathan Belt a rare opportunity to effectively steal from their Kentucky neighbors. The Belt family would terrorize the county for many years following the war and the post-war arson burning of the Hardin County courthouse is linked to them. Belt's operations centered on this area but no specific events can be linked to the cave itself.

All subsequent wartime references to the Cave involve the positioning of gunboats in the area or the temporary halting of steamboats opposite it. The river reach above Hurricane Bar and Island, as far upstream as Shawneetown Bar, was one of a number of natural river pools which offered deeper water during periods of low water. Gunboats stationed along the Ohio River to suppress illegal trade could be marooned within these pools for weeks at a time. Gunboats were, at times, simply assigned to patrol the river between the bars, moving as water levels allowed them to do so. The *U.S.S. Brilliant* was placed at Cave-in-Rock during the latter half of

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

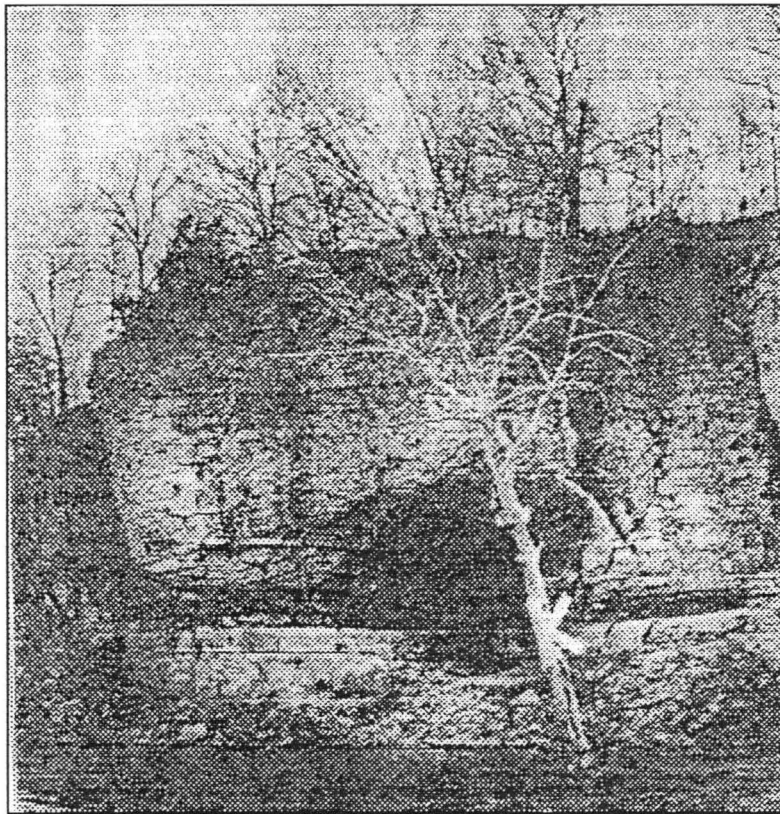
Section 8 Page 10

Name of property Cave-In-Rock

County and State Hardin County, Illinois

Name of multiple property listing "Caught In The Middle; The Civil War Years on the Lower Ohio River"

December 1863, to watch Confederate operations in Union County. The Steamer *Cottage* anchored off the cave in August 1864 when the Confederates briefly blockaded the Ohio River mid-month (Official Records...Armies, Series I, Vol 7, p. 6, Official Records...Navies, Series I, Vol. 25, pp. 131-2, 145-47, 223-24, *Evansville Daily Journal*, August 16, 1864).



1931 View of Cave Showing Lower Water level (Miles)

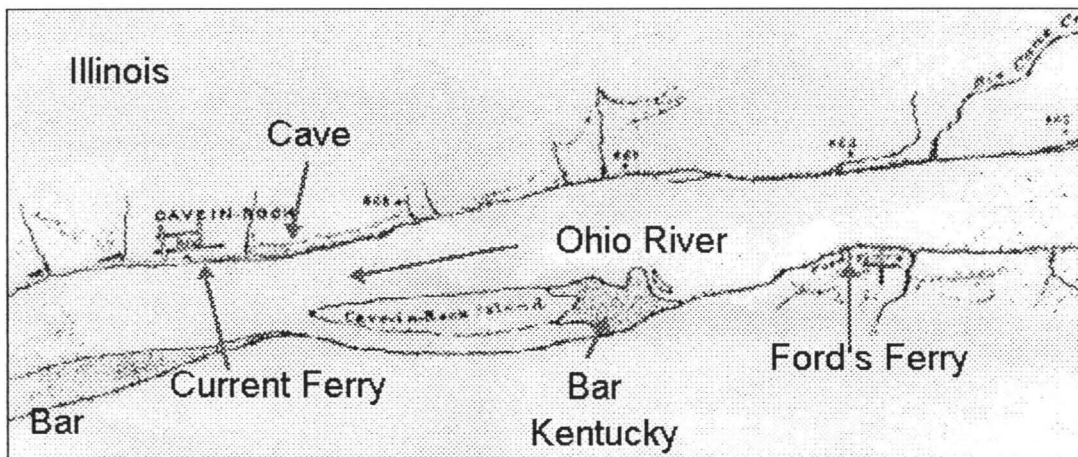
There are no war stories concerning the Cave in 1865, the last year of the war. In late April 1865 A. H. Wallace was operating the horse-drawn ferry opposite Cave-in-Rock (Crittenden County Court Order Book 3, pp. 119-20, 152).

After the War:

The cave and surrounding area were known as the "Yeakey Place" after the war. By 1901 the cave was being investigated as a mining source for kaolin. The cave front was being used for commercial advertising and the words "St. Jacob's Oil" was painted above the cave's mouth in large black letters. Adolphus D. And Ella McDonald purchased the land in 1919 from Mary F. and R. L. Yeakey (who had owned the land only since 1910). The McDonalds planted an orchard above the cave and farmed the six acre

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEETSection 8 Page 11Name of property Cave-In-RockCounty and State Hardin County, IllinoisName of multiple property listing "Caught In The Middle; The Civil War Years on the Lower Ohio River"

plot. A. D. McDonald died in 1925 and his widow continued to live on the property. There was a navigational light on the shore at the cave which the landowner maintained under government contract. She was persuaded by her son-in-law to sell the land to the State of Illinois for use as a park in 1933. The initial park, consisting of 64.5 acres was established in 1929 and increased to 200 acres over time. The various Federal public works park programs added stone culverts and walkways, providing improved access to the cave. They also sealed one fissure with concrete and constructed a circular stone protective wall around the open "chimney" in the rear of the cave (McDonald, not-paginated, Chapter 10, Douglas, pp. 40-41).



Annotated Corps of Engineers Ohio River 1868-69 map segment, north to top of map

Architect/Builder	N/A
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Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

— preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

_____ Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>397540</u>	<u>4147140</u>	3	—	—	—
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description (see continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (see continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, Historic Preservation Consultant

```
organization    History Pays!                                date    June 14, 1998
```

street & number	4215 Northwest Drive	telephone	(515) 2
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city or town	Des Moines	state	IA	zip code	50310
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=====

Property Owner

[illegible]

name Illinois Department of Natural Resources, c/o Mr. Mike Gullett, Site
Superintendent, Cave-In-Rock State Park

street & number P.O. Box 338 telephone 618-289-4325

```
city or town Cave-In-Rock          state IL  zip code 62619-0338
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEETSection 9 Page 12name of property Cave-In-RockCounty and State Hardin County, Illinoisname of multiple property listing "Caught In The Middle; The Civil War Years on the Lower Ohio River"
=====**9. Major Bibliographical References:**

Collins, Lewis, Historical Sketches of Kentucky, Maysville, 1847-50 (republished by son Richard H. Collins as Historical Sketches of Kentucky The History of Kentucky, Covington, Collins & Company, 1874).

Coates, Robert M., The Outlaw Years, New York: The Macauley Company, 1930.

Crittenden Press, November 21, 1901.

Douglas, Kay, "The Birth of the Cave-In-Rock Illinois State Park," Hardin County Past and Present, Vol. I, pp. 40-41.

Dunphy, John J., "The Saga of Cave-in-Rock, Illinois Magazine, Vol. 25, No. 4, July-AUGust 1986, pp. 21-22.

Gullett, James M., "The History, Legends, and Folklore of Cave In Rock, Cave In Rock, typed MS, n.d.

Hall, Ruby Franklin, *History of Hardin County, Illinois*, Carbondale; Ruby Franklin Hall, n.d. (copy located in New Shawneetown Public Library).

Hawes, G. W., Commercial Gazetteer and Business Directory of the Ohio River, Indianapolis; G. W. Hawes, 1861.

Map of the Ohio River Reduced from the following surveys...1867-68 [by] W. M. Roberts, U.S. Civ. Engr, Clipper Mills to Cairo, 696 miles, With additions & corrections from later surveys. Made under the direction of Major W. E. Merrill, Corps of Engineers. By C. Moser (Courtesy Louisville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

The Historical Committee for the Centennial, History of Hardin County, Illinois, n.p. 1939.

Hulbert, Arch Butler, The Ohio River-A Course of Empire, New York; G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1906.

Kentucky Writers' Program, Union County Past and Present, American Guide Series, Louisville, Schuhmann Printing Company, 1941.

Magee, Judy, Cavern of Crime, Smithland: The Livingston Ledger, 1973.

McDonald, Leslie, Echoes of Yesteryear, Smithland: The Livingston Ledger, 1972 (Chapter 10, "Ferryman Ford, Master of the Cavern of Crime").

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 13

Name of property Cave-In-Rock

County and State Hardin County, Illinois

Name of multiple property listing "Caught In The Middle; The Civil War Years on the Lower Ohio River"
=====

Miles, Judge Arthur A., "Hardin County, Illinois," Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, Vol. XXIV, No. 2, July 1931, pp. 298-309.

Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion, Washington; Government Printing Office, 1895-1927.

Rothert, Otto A., The Outlaws of Cave-in-Rock: Historical accounts of the famous highwaymen and river pirates who operated in pioneer days upon the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and over the old Natchez Trace, Cleveland: Arthur H. Clark Company, 1924, also 1970 reprint (SUI has, F549.R7440).

Simon, John Y., editor, The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant, Carbondale; University of Southern Illinois Press, 1967-82.

Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Wilmington; Broadfoot Publishing Company, 1994-98.

Trovillion, Mary E. "Our Romantic History: Cave-in-Rock," Illinois Journal of Commerce, September 1936.

Union County Past and Present, American Guide Series, Louisville, Schuhmann Printing Company, 1941.

War of the Rebellion; Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Washington; U.S. Government Printing Office, 1901, Series I, Vol.38/1, p. 503.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 14

Name of property Cave-In-Rock

County and State Hardin County, Illinois

Name of multiple property listing "Caught In The Middle; The Civil War Years on the Lower Ohio River"

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property-Less than one acre

Verbal Boundary Description:

The cave itself only is included in the nomination, boundaries are the external surfaces of the stone cave itself, and the immediate frontage of the cave to the river. The legal description for the location of the cave is the Northeast quarter of the Southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 13, Cave-in-Rock Township, Township 12 South, Range 9 East. This parcel includes 20 acres.

Boundary Justification:

Listing the cave itself, divorced from its broader surroundings, is the traditional approach to listing this property type on the National Register. The listing includes any and all sealed off chambers or passageways which are large enough to have been used by human beings. The listing therefore includes only the immediate property, defined by the property itself, in the listing.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

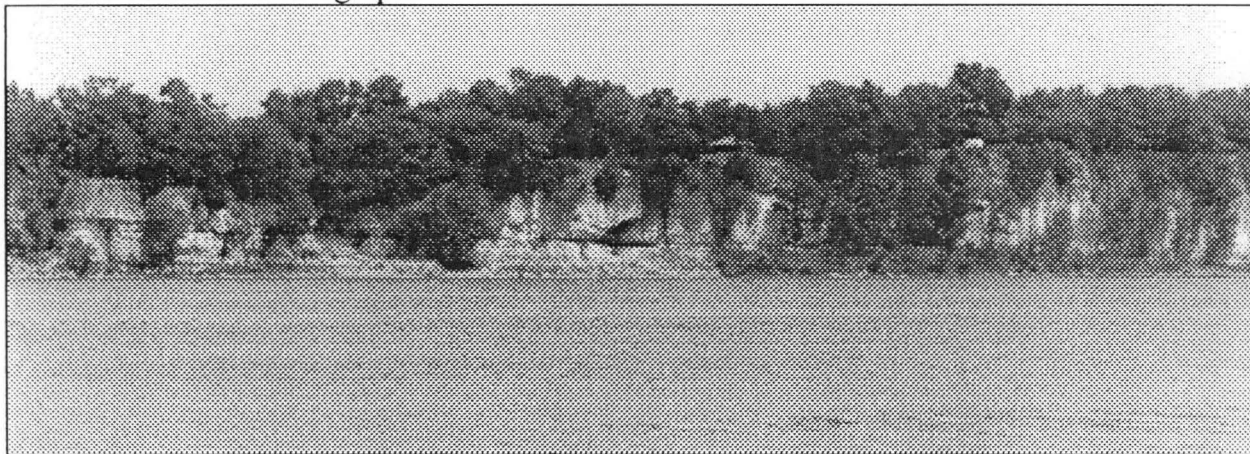
Section Other Page 15

Name of property Cave-In-Rock

County and State Hardin County, Illinois

Name of multiple property listing "Caught In The Middle: The Civil War Years on the Lower Ohio River"

Additional Documentation-Photographs



View of Cave-In-Rock from Kentucky Shore, Photographed September 15, 1997
Cave appears in center of image

1. Name of Property:	Cave-In-Rock
2. County/State	Hardin County, Illinois
3. Name of Photographer:	James E. Jacobsen
4. Date of Photograph:	September 15, 1997
5. Location of Original Negative:	Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
6. Description of View:	Cave entrance, view east from point west of entrance, river to right
7. Photo Number:	1

1. Name of Property:	Cave-In-Rock
2. County/State	Hardin County, Illinois
3. Name of Photographer:	James E. Jacobsen
4. Date of Photograph:	September 15, 1997
5. Location of Original Negative:	Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
6. Description of View:	Mouth of cave, note cut in cave floor, view north from entrance
7. Photo Number:	2

1. Name of Property:	Cave-In-Rock
2. County/State	Hardin County, Illinois
3. Name of Photographer:	James E. Jacobsen
4. Date of Photograph:	September 15, 1997
5. Location of Original Negative:	Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
6. Description of View:	Cave interior, view north
7. Photo Number:	3

1. Name of Property:	Cave-In-Rock
2. County/State	Hardin County, Illinois
3. Name of Photographer:	James E. Jacobsen
4. Date of Photograph:	September 15, 1997
5. Location of Original Negative:	Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
6. Description of View:	View to river from mouth of cave, view south to Kentucky
7. Photo Number:	4

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Cave-In-Rock
NAME:

MULTIPLE Caught in the Middle: the Civil War on the Lower Ohio River
NAME: MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ILLINOIS, Hardin

DATE RECEIVED: 7/10/98 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/20/98
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/05/98 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/24/98
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 98000984

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 8/6/98 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



Cave - In - Rock

Hardin County, Illinois

Photo #1



Cave-In-Rock

Hardin County, Illinois

Photo # 2



Cave-In-Rock

Hardin County, Illinois

Photo #3

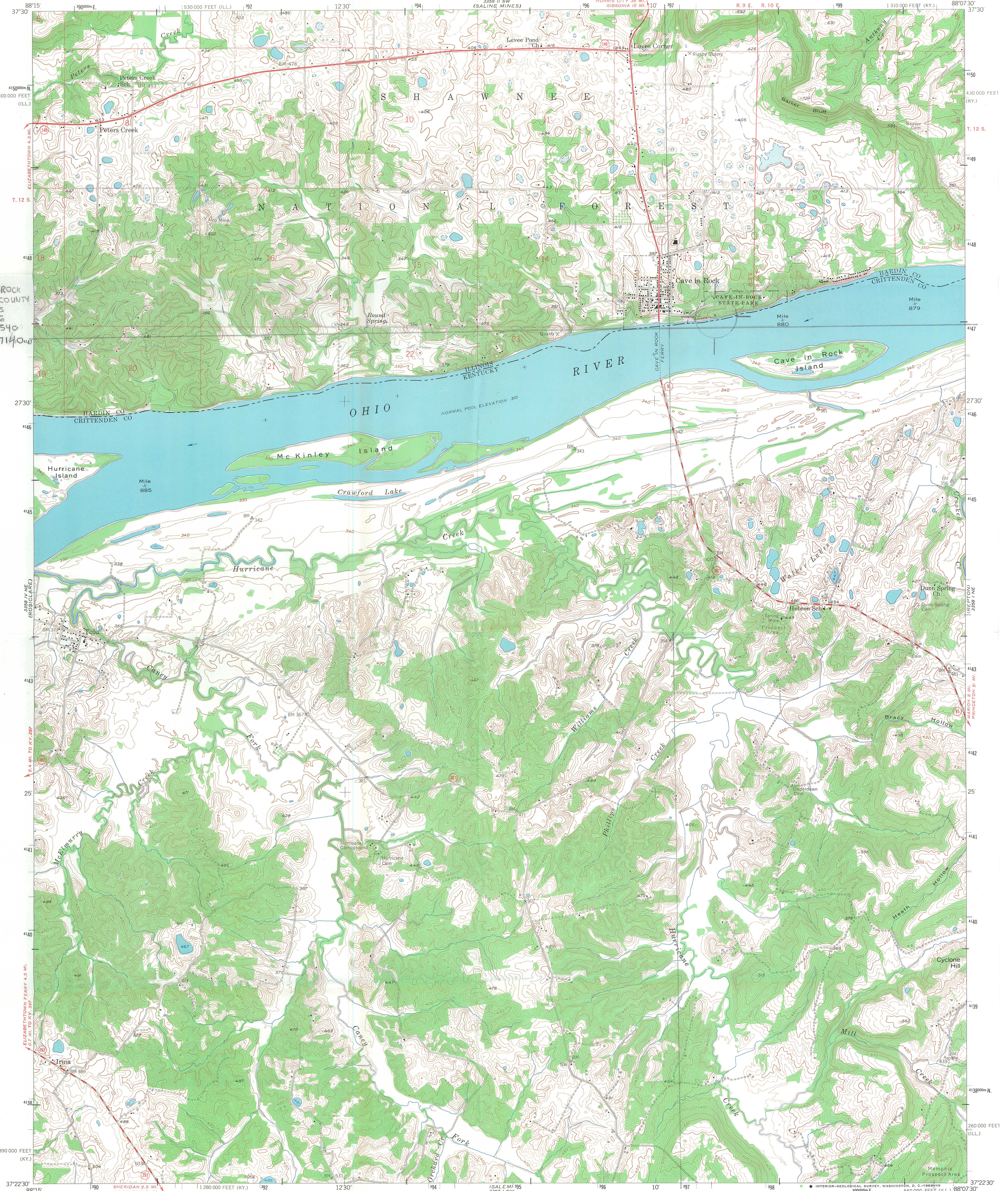


Cave-In-Rock

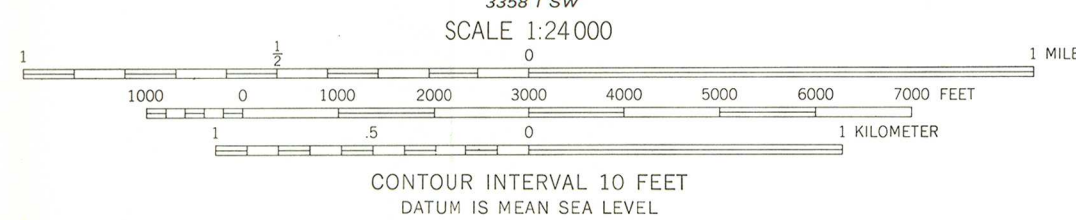
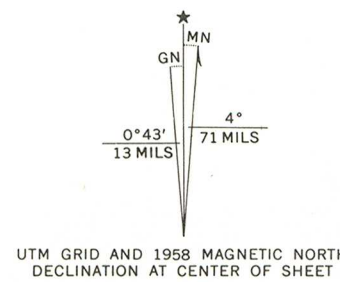
Hardin County, Illinois

Photo # 4

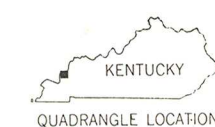
CAVE-IN-ROCK
HARDIN COUNTY
ILLINOIS
ZONE 16
E 397540
N 4147140



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USCGS, and USCE
Topography in Kentucky from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1954
Topography in Illinois from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1957. Field check 1958
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Kentucky coordinate system, south zone, and Illinois coordinate system, east zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue
The state boundary as shown represents the approximate position of the low waterline as determined from U. S. Corps of Engineers Ohio River charts, surveyed 1912, 1913, and supplementary information



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242,
KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506,
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
AND BY THE STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
State Route ———

CAVE IN ROCK, KY.—ILL.
NW/4 CAVE IN ROCK 15' QUADRANGLE
N3722.5—W8807.5/7.5

1958
AMS 3358 1 NW—SERIES V853