



BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER

THEME IDENTIFICATION
CONTEXT STUDIES
AND
PROPERTY EVALUATIONS
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**THEME IDENTIFICATION, CONTEXT STUDIES,
AND PROPERTY EVALUATIONS**

BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER

**NEWTON, SEARCY, BAXTER,
AND MARION COUNTIES, ARKANSAS**

**THOMASON AND ASSOCIATES
PRESERVATION PLANNERS
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

SEPTEMBER 2004

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICE
LIST OF CLASSIFIED STRUCTURES
AND
CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY**

Reviewed: _____
Superintendent, Buffalo National River

Date

INTRODUCTION

The Buffalo National River (BUFF) was established March 1, 1972 and encompasses 135 miles of the 150-mile Buffalo River in northwest Arkansas. The park is administered by the National Park Service (NPS) and was intended to preserve and protect the Buffalo River in its natural state as a free-flowing stream. As the park was formed, The NPS either purchased tracts within the proposed park boundaries or protected them through scenic easements.

In addition to purchasing the land, the federal government also acquired dozens of buildings and structures occupying the land. These included significant resources such as the Rush Historic Mining District, the Parker-Hickman Homestead, and Cold Springs School. Absorbed within the park were also numerous nineteenth and early twentieth century dwellings and farmsteads. Some of these properties were preserved and maintained. Others were razed or abandoned. Since the 1970s, eight properties within the park have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places or have been determined eligible for the National Register.

This report contains a brief historic overview of the Buffalo River Valley and a summary of eight identified historic contexts within the park. Following each historic context is a review of related property types as well as a list of properties associated with those property types. The report also provides an evaluation of cultural landscapes within the park and a discussion of National Register status or eligibility of individual properties. The report examines the park's cultural landscapes through eight geographical divisions, and individual properties are addressed within their associated areas. Only contexts associated with the above-ground resources of the park are addressed. A comprehensive analysis of all archaeological contexts was not within the scope of this study.

In addition to this report, final products for this project include a list of all surveyed properties, assessment of integrity, and National Register status or eligibility. A total of 110 sites were inventoried within the park and each site was recorded through a Cultural Resources Inventory (CRI) form. The forms contain data on the history, architecture, and landscape elements of each site as well as site plans and photographs.

From these efforts, this project provides a comprehensive inventory of buildings, structures, and above-ground sites within the park boundaries that are fifty years old or older and the application of National Register criteria to each surveyed site. From this analysis, properties meeting National Register criteria can be considered as part of future planning efforts for the BUFF. This inventory and assessment are part of the National Park Service's responsibilities in its cultural resource management under Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

Methodology

This project has been completed in accordance with guidelines and methodology outlined in *National Register Bulletin 15, "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation,"* and *National Register Bulletin 30, "Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes."* Published by the National Park Service, these bulletins provide information on how to recognize and evaluate overall National Register criteria and the specific significance of land use and occupation in rural America.

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the nation's official list of properties significant in architecture, history, and culture. Eligible properties may be significant on a local, state, or national level. The NRHP is administered by the National Park Service and Keeper of the Register who makes the final decision about whether a property should be listed. Properties that are eligible for the NRHP receive the same consideration as those that are listed.

In order to be listed on the NRHP, a property must possess historic significance and integrity. A property is eligible for listing on the NRHP if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Criterion A: association with historic events or activities;
- Criterion B: association with important persons;
- Criterion C: distinctive design or physical characteristics; or
- Criterion D: properties that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information about prehistory or history.

In addition, the property must retain integrity (i.e., its sense of time and place.) Integrity is composed of seven qualities, which are: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The analysis of resources within Buffalo National River includes evaluations of potential eligibility of its cultural landscapes, which are rural in character. A rural historic landscape is defined as a "geographical area that historically has been used by people, or shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention, and that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, roads and waterways, and natural features."¹ The evidence of human use or activity is examined through eleven landscape characteristics:

1. Land use and activities;
2. Patterns of spatial organization;
3. Response to the natural environment;
4. Cultural traditions;
5. Circulation networks;
6. Boundary demarcations;
7. Vegetation related to land use;
8. Buildings, structures, and objects;
9. Clusters;
10. Archaeological sites, and;
11. Small-scale elements.

These eleven landscape characteristics were referenced in evaluating each above-ground property during the course of this project.

In order to complete this project, historical data was reviewed at the BUFF headquarters in Harrison, Arkansas. A substantial amount of cultural information is on file at this office including historical accounts, photographs, and other data. This material was accessed and utilized during the course of this project. Two excellent histories

¹ "National Register Bulletin 30, Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes," (Washington DC: National Park Service, n.d.), 1-2.

of the BUFF and the region were utilized in this study: *Let the River Be* by Dwight Pitcaithley and *The Ozarks, Land and Life* by Milton D. Rafferty. A number of NPS studies and reports that discuss cultural landscapes and specific segments of the park were also used. Chief among these were “Parker-Hickman Homestead Historic Structures Report,” “Historic Resources of the Tyler Bend Development Area,” and the “Erbie Development Plan/Cultural Landscape Report.” A wealth of information was garnered from park historian Suzanne Rogers, who has been with the park for many years and is the person most familiar with its resources.

Historical data was used to develop specific historic contexts such as agriculture, industry, education, recreation, and other important themes and trends within this section of the Ozarks. The historic contexts within this report are not intended to be comprehensive histories, but serve as overviews that provide a general historic background of the Buffalo River Valley.

On-site field investigations were made of all recorded sites. All accessible roads within the boundaries of the BUFF were driven in order to record and locate properties and landscapes within the park. The rugged terrain and poor roads within some sections of the park restricted vehicular access. In these situations, park personnel were consulted regarding their knowledge of standing structures and site features along roads which were inaccessible. Sites within designated Wilderness Areas of the park were accessed either by horseback or canoe. Recorded sites throughout the park include man-made features such as dwellings, schools, churches, house foundations, spring houses, mill sites, and ferry landings. At each location a site plan was prepared detailing each visible feature and associated landscape elements. Many buildings within the park are on the NPS List of Classified Structures (LCS) and have a designated LCS number and Structure number. This numbering system was utilized during the survey in the recordation of sites. All recorded sites were

also identified by their associated Tract number. No archaeological testing or evaluations were completed and this survey focused on above-ground remains and features on the landscape.

The cultural landscape survey in the BUFF recorded 110 sites within the park. Within each site was at least one recorded property and many were composed of multiple properties or features. Each property was evaluated within its specific historic context. Once a context for a property was established, its historic integrity within that context was evaluated. Each property was also evaluated for its integrity as a cultural landscape or as a component of a surrounding cultural landscape.

For rural landscapes, historic integrity requires that the various characteristics that shaped the land during its historic period be present today in much the same way they were historically. While no landscape will be the same over the course of fifty years or more, the general character and feeling of the historic period must be retained for National Register eligibility.² Using historic maps, photographs, historical accounts and other descriptive information, a site’s integrity from its period of significance was evaluated in accordance with National Register criteria. At each site the seven aspects of integrity were applied in terms of retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. At each site a property’s sense of “time and place” from its period of significance was assessed.

From the development of historic contexts, on-site field investigations, and the application of established aspects of integrity, each site was assessed for its ability to meet the criteria of listing on the National Register of Historic Places. National Register assessments are provided for each property and are discussed under

² Ibid, 21.

the Cultural Landscape section of this document and in individual Cultural Resource Inventory (CRI) forms. A sample CRI form is located in the appendix.

Current National Register Status

Within the BUFF the following properties have previously either been listed on the National Register or determined eligible. This list does not include archaeological sites.

Property	National Register-Listed?	National Register-Eligible?
Parker-Hickman Farm Historic District	Yes – 08/11/87	
Rush Historic District	Yes – 02/27/87	
Boxley Valley Historic District	Yes – 07/29/87	
Boxley (Whiteley) Mill	Yes – 07/31/74	
Buffalo River State Park	Yes – 10/28/88	
Highway 7 Bridge	Yes – 04/1990	
Cold Spring School	Yes – 07/16/92	
Sod Collier Farmstead	No	Yes – June 1990

GEOPHYSICAL SETTING AND BACKGROUND

The Buffalo River is located in northwestern Arkansas in the Ozarks region of the United States. The landscape of the Ozarks is characterized by steep slopes and narrow valleys, thick forests, and meandering streams and rivers. The Buffalo River flows through the Boston Mountains region, which contain some of the Ozarks' steepest slopes. The mountainous area ascends sharply on its northern boundary and gradually tapers off on its southern border. Newton and Searcy Counties, through which the Buffalo River travels, contain the highest elevations in the Boston Mountain region. The highest elevation is located in western Newton County and reaches 2,578 feet.³

The Buffalo River flows through the region and is primarily a low water stream and supports only shallow watercraft. A number of streams and creeks enter and leave the narrow valleys nestled between the high ridge tops. These waterways produce a number of natural springs through the rocky hills. The ridge tops are primarily made up of cedar, pine, and oak. The climate throughout the region is variable. Winters are generally mild with average temperatures around 37 degrees Fahrenheit and average summer temperatures around 75 degrees. Heavy spring rains can quickly cause the Buffalo and area streams to rise and create flash floods. During the dry warm summer months the upper portion of the river can become quite shallow.

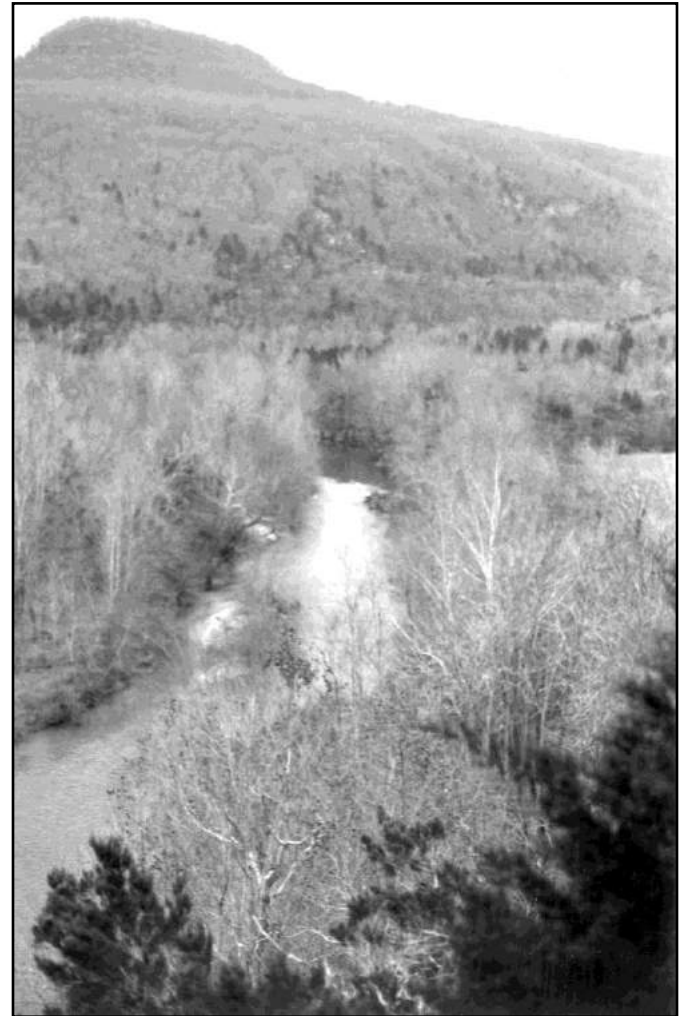


Figure 1: View of the Buffalo River from Farmer Trail Overlook towards Mutton Knob.

³ Milton Rafferty, *The Ozarks Land and Life* (Fayetteville: The University of Arkansas Press, 2001), 17.

HISTORIC OVERVIEW

In 1972, the United States Congress created the Buffalo National River, a National Park property, along 135 miles of the 150-mile long river in northwest Arkansas. The Buffalo River flows through Newton, Searcy, and Marion Counties and has played a continuous role in the history of the Boston Mountain region of the Ozarks since its initial settlement. A source of water, food, transportation, and livelihood, the Buffalo has shaped the lives of generations who have lived near its borders.

As early as 12,000 years ago, various prehistoric peoples occupied the flood plains, ridgetops, upland plateaus, and bluff shelters of the Arkansas Ozarks with more intensive use of river bottom areas such as the Buffalo between 3000 BC and 1000 AD. Little is known about the cultures that occupied the area during these periods. Native American occupation of the Buffalo River valley during the early historic period is believed to be minimal, although the Osage tribe used the region as a hunting ground throughout the 1700s. In the early 1800s, the Osage relinquished all claims to land north of the Arkansas River and the Cherokee began to move into the region as they were forced from the Eastern United States. Most Cherokee settled along the Arkansas River, although some did make their homes near the Buffalo watershed. In 1828, the Cherokee signed a treaty resigning their interest in the land to the United States.⁴

White settlers began to move into the Buffalo River area as early as the 1820s, prior to the removal of the Cherokee. Settlements were few and scattered, however, and the region remained largely remote and unsettled well into the 1830s. The Buffalo River was named after the American bison that once roamed the area. The name was in

⁴ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 5-8.

common use for the watershed by 1807 and appears on Zebulon Pike's 1810 topographical map of the region. A surveyor for the United States, Pike explored the upper Arkansas River area in 1806-1807. During his expedition, Pike detached a party headed by Lieutenant James B. Wilkinson to explore southward down the Arkansas River. Wilkinson learned of the Buffalo watershed from travelers and others he encountered and forwarded a map of the area to Pike, who marked the river the Buffalo Fork of the White River in his final report.⁵

During the 1820s and 1830s, white settlers began to trickle into the Buffalo River area. Settlement was slow at first largely due to the remoteness of the region and transportation difficulties. The terrain was rugged and what few roads penetrated the area were primitive at best. The river itself was not navigable for vessels other than simple keel or flat boats, and frequent flooding made it unreliable. Pioneers traveling westward often found suitable farmland in other areas before reaching northwestern Arkansas.

Despite these obstacles, settlers gradually came to the Buffalo River area and established a scattering of small farms and settlements in the picturesque valleys and hills. Most settlers originated from adjacent states, particularly Tennessee and Missouri. The rugged terrain was not conducive to large-scale commercial farming, and initial settlers engaged in subsistence agriculture, producing most of the food, clothing, and other products that they required. The area's richest soils were found in the fertile bottomlands along the river in the narrow valleys among the hillsides. These areas were settled first and supported the region's most prosperous farms. Many initial

⁵ *Ibid.*, 9-11.

settlers were squatters and sometimes families did not officially purchase the land they occupied until the second generation.

During the 1840s and 1850s settlement in the region gradually increased. However, the events of the Civil War during the 1860s brought a halt to the region's development. Although no major battles took place near the Buffalo River, a number of skirmishes occurred in the area and the region experienced devastating losses at the hands of violent guerilla groups and bands of outlaws who took advantage of the circumstances of the conflict and wreaked havoc across the land. Residents experienced numerous hardships as farms were destroyed and families and neighbors were divided over the conflict. Many residents temporarily fled the region during the war to escape the violence.

In the post Civil War era, settlement increased primarily due to the passage of the Homestead Act, which allowed settlers to acquire land by living on it and improving it over a period of time. A number of small hamlets and villages emerged and several post offices were established. These communities typically consisted of a small cluster of dwellings, a general store, school, church, and various industries such as a grist mill, sawmill or cotton gin.

Farming continued to be the primary occupation of residents in the Buffalo River valley during the late nineteenth century. Farms tended to move from the subsistence level to a more general type of agriculture. The variety of crops increased with cotton emerging as a chief cash crop, and the average size of farms increased.

The development of the lumber and mining industries in the late nineteenth century and the construction of a railroad line through the area in the early twentieth century brought a brief period of prosperity to the region, encouraged immigration, and enhanced the local economy. Commercial lumber activity emerged as the area's

abundance of hardwood trees drew a number of lumber companies and timber product businesses. By the 1920s, the lumber industry boom began to fade as the region's timber resources were depleted.

Industrial activity in the Buffalo River valley during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was dominated by lead and zinc mining. Lead mines were scattered throughout the area by the 1870s and in the following decade the discovery of zinc in the rugged hillsides along the river resulted in the development of numerous substantial mines particularly in the region of Rush and Clabber Creeks along the lower Buffalo. Numerous prospectors flocked to the area and several large mining companies were established. The region's mines gained national recognition and were among the top producers of zinc ore in the country. Mining camps along the creeks quickly developed into bustling towns and the industry fueled the local economy.

The mining and lumber industries were aided by the construction of the Missouri and North Arkansas railroad, which was completed through the region in 1902. The rail line helped to bring a wider variety of goods to the Buffalo River and connected the area to regional markets.

The mining boom, however, was also short-lived and faded following World War I. By 1920, lumber and mining industries had diminished significantly along with the prosperity they had brought. The economy took a downturn only to be followed by the Great Depression of the 1930s. Residents fell back on agriculture and their heritage of self-sufficiency to see them through these difficult times.

In the decades following World War II, the region experienced increasing population loss and turned to recreation and tourism for economic development. The creation of a state park along the Buffalo in 1938 helped to spur interest in the region as a destination

for vacationers, and the region became well known for its hunting, fishing, camping, and other outdoor recreational activities. The development of a state highway system through the region in the late 1920s aided the recreation and tourism industry. Modern paved highways greatly improved access to and travel through the mountainous area. Throughout the mid-twentieth century, recreational-based businesses such as campgrounds, rental cabins, and other tourist related industries emerged throughout the area.

In the 1950s, a proposal to build dams and hydroelectric power facilities along the river led to concern for the natural environment of the Buffalo River and its surrounding landscape. A debate over the fate of the river raged on into the late 1960s and gained national attention as local residents, conservationists, politicians, and government agencies chose sides. Preservation of the river in its natural state finally prevailed, and in 1972, Congress established the Buffalo National River as a property of the National Park Service.

A number of historic contexts have been identified and researched for properties within the Buffalo National River. The following section provides an overview of these contexts and identifies associated property types and surviving examples. Many properties are associated with more than one context. For example, dwellings and other buildings of an early farmstead can be identified with both settlement and agriculture. A detailed discussion of individual properties is provided in the Cultural Landscape section under the geographical area with which they are associated.

HISTORIC CONTEXT #1: SETTLEMENT

National Register-Listed and Previously Determined Eligible

Properties: The Parker-Hickman House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places August 11, 1987 as a contributing building to the Parker-Hickman Farm Historic District. The Parker-Hickman Farm is also a contributing property to the proposed Erbie Rural Historic District. The Sod Collier Homestead was determined eligible for the National Register in June 1990.

Properties Identified as National Register-eligible:

Two cemeteries within the Buffalo National River were identified as individually eligible for the National Register. Both Hall Cemetery and Collins Cemetery contain good examples of local mortuary traditions. Three additional cemeteries were identified as contributing elements to the proposed Erbie Rural Historic District. These are the Adair, Cherry Grove, and Young Cemeteries.

Overview

Settlement of the Buffalo River area began in the 1830s. Families and individuals slowly came to the largely isolated area via area rivers and narrow wagon trails. Most originated from adjacent states particularly Tennessee and Missouri. Settlers established small farms and lived a subsistence lifestyle well into the late nineteenth century. The more fertile areas were settled first and these properties typically developed into the region's more sizeable farms over the years. A large percentage of settlers were squatters and often the land was not officially purchased or homesteaded until the second generation.

Settlement increased in the post Civil War era in large part due to the passage of the Homestead Act, which allowed settlers to acquire land by living on it and improving it over a period of time. As the number of residents increased a number of small hamlets and villages emerged and several post offices were established. These

communities typically consisted of a small cluster of dwellings, a general store, school, church, and various industries such as a grist mill, sawmill or cotton gin.

The development of the lumber and mining industries in the late nineteenth century and the construction of a railroad line through the area in the early twentieth century brought a brief period of prosperity to the region, encouraged immigration, and enhanced the local economy. By 1920, these industries had diminished significantly causing a downturn in the economy. The years of the Great Depression followed and area residents relied upon farming and a self-sufficient lifestyle to see them through. Government public assistance programs provided additional support during these difficult times. In the decades following World War II, the region experienced increasing population loss and turned to recreation and tourism for economic development.

Initial Settlement & Development ca. 1830-1860

Permanent Anglo settlement of the Buffalo River valley largely began in the 1830s. Prior to 1819, the land that is now Arkansas was part of the Missouri Territory and was primarily a wilderness frontier. The Cherokee laid claim to the land and the Osage continued to penetrate the Buffalo River area. In 1819, the United States created the Arkansas Territory, which as a whole attracted relatively few settlers during the following decade. In 1830, Arkansas Territory claimed just over 30,000 inhabitants, while neighboring Missouri had over 215,000.⁶ Arkansas drew fewer settlers for various reasons. The terrain was rugged and roads were few, which made the region difficult to access and intensified its remoteness and isolation. Many of those who traveled westward in search of a place to settle stopped before they ever reached Arkansas

⁶ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 19.

because they found good quality farmland along the Ohio or Mississippi Rivers. The mountainous terrain of northwest Arkansas made it especially remote and isolated, and the presence of Indians in the region, put off many prospective settlers.⁷ Another probable hindrance to the settlement of northwest Arkansas was the negative publicity the region received in Timothy Flint's 1828 publication *A Condensed Geography and History of the Western States or the Mississippi Valley*. This popular work gave an unfavorable description of the area referring to the mountainous terrain as "broken land, and unfit for cultivation." It also warned of frequent flooding in the lands limited fertile valleys. This description surely discouraged many from making northwest Arkansas their preferred destination.⁸

Few whites lived in the vicinity of the Buffalo River during the initial decades of the nineteenth century. Settlers along the White River commonly used the area for hunting, and trappers and traders traveled through the area and occasionally established small homesteads. Following his 1819 exploration of the region, ethnologist Henry Rowe Schoolcraft described the Buffalo River area as sparsely populated. These initial settlers lived independent subsistence lifestyles, relying primarily on hunting for their survival along with a small crop of corn to provide basic staples. Schoolcraft's description of those he encountered reveals the harsh nature of their life in the wilderness:

In manners, morals, customs, dress, contempt of labour and hospitality, the state of society is not essentially different from that which exists among

⁷ Ibid., 21.

⁸ Ibid., 21-22.

the savages. Schools, religion, and learning, are alike unknown. Hunting is the principal, the most honourable, and the most profitable employment. To excel in the cace [sic] procures fame, and a man's reputation is measured by his skill as a marksman, his agility and strength, his boldness and dexterity in killing game, and his patient endurance and contempt of the hardships of the hunter's life. They are consequently, a hardy, brave, independent people, rude in appearance, frank and generous, travel without baggage, and can subsist any where in the woods, and would form the most efficient military corps in frontier warfare which can possibly exist.⁹

During the 1820s, a few permanent settlers began to trickle into the Buffalo River valley despite the rugged terrain and the continuing presence of Indians in the region. One of the earliest settlers to come to the area was Robert Adams, who established a small farm on Bear Creek around 1822. The fertile lands along Richland Valley contained a scattering of settlers by the mid 1820s, and around this same time Tennessean John Brisco settled near present-day Jasper. Also during the 1820s, Solomon Cecil homesteaded near what is now the Farmer farmstead south of Erbie, and Nancy and Mitchell Hill initiated the settlement that later became Mt. Hersey. Around 1830, the village that later became Buffalo City began to emerge at the confluence of the Buffalo and White Rivers.¹⁰

⁹ As quoted in Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 20-21.

¹⁰ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 22-23.

In 1828, the Cherokees relinquished their rights to land in Arkansas and began to move westward. With their removal from the region, the land became more open to white settlement and the number of settlers increased. Although some Indians remained in the area, white settlers quickly became the majority. In 1833, the Arkansas Territory had 40,660 inhabitants, an increase of over 10,000 in just three years.¹¹

Throughout the 1830s and 1840s a scattering of small homesteads and farms began to emerge across the hills and valleys surrounding the Buffalo River and initial settlements began to take shape. Federal land surveys began in the Buffalo River valley in 1829 and continued through the 1840s. Surveyor notes reveal that a number of settlers were in the Richland and Calf Creek areas as well as a number of farms in the vicinity of Tyler, Arnold, Cash, and Lane Bends as early as 1834. That same year a surveyor noted fifteen families living in what is now western Searcy County.

By the early 1840s several families had settled in the central Buffalo area in a series of bends that continue to bear the names of early pioneer families. The areas now known as Tyler Bend, Arnold Bend, Cash Bend, Lane Bend and surrounding areas offered fertile farmlands and were among the choicest lands along the Buffalo River. The Dean family was one of the first to come to the area, settling in what is now known as Arnold Bend as early as 1834. Martha Elizabeth Dean married William Arnold and as the Arnold family accumulated most of the land in that area, it became known as Arnold Bend.¹²

¹¹ Ibid., 24.

¹² Suzanne D. Rogers, "Historic Resources of the Tyler Bend Development Area," (National Park Service, Buffalo National River, Arkansas, 1987), 2-3.

The Tyler and Lane families were also early settlers in this region. Baker Tyler had a farm north of the Buffalo River as early as 1839 and in the 1840s his son Peter developed a farm south of the river. Joseph Lane established his farm in the river bend that now bears his family's name by 1842. Other early settlers in this area were the Cash, Hodges, Turney, Grinder, and Brown families.¹³

Settlers were also establishing homes along portions of the upper Buffalo. Early settlers in this area include Alvin Parker and John Adair. Alvin Parker had established his home along the Buffalo River by 1835. His brother Greenberry Parker and his family joined him around 1840. The Parkers developed a productive farm of around forty acres in the rich bottomland of the river valley. Alvin's son William H. Parker inherited the property and enlarged it to eighty-four acres making it one of the most substantial farms in the area.¹⁴ The property is situated south of the Buffalo River in Newton County approximately four miles northwest of Jasper. The Parkers left the region in the late 1850s, and the farm passed through various owner's hands before J. D. Hickman purchased the property in 1912. The farm remained in the Hickman family until the National Park Service purchased the land in 1982. A one- and one-half story, single pen log dwelling was constructed on the property ca. 1850. This dwelling remains standing and is one of the oldest surviving structures in the Buffalo National River. The house features half-dovetail notched cedar logs and has early nineteenth century side and rear frame additions.

¹³ Ibid., 2-3, 6, 27.

¹⁴ Suzanne D. Rogers, "Parker-Hickman Farmstead Historic Structures Report," (National Park Service, Buffalo National River, Arkansas, 1987), 42-48.

John Adair was also in the region by the mid-1830s and established a farm on the Buffalo downstream from the Parkers. Like the Parkers, Adair settled in select bottom lands south of the river and developed a sizeable farm. The Adair farm reached 160 acres in the 1850s and was the largest farm in that area of the Buffalo River.¹⁵ The Adair homestead is no longer extant, but the Adair family cemetery remains on the property. The graveyard contains twenty-one graves with stones dating from 1845 to 1898. Among them are those of John and Sarah Adair, who died in 1878 and 1874 respectively.

The growth in population in northwest Arkansas during the 1830s was sufficient to warrant the formation of additional counties, and in 1835 what is now Marion County was formed out of the land that made up Izard County. The territorial legislature initially named the county Searcy, but later bowed to area residents' wishes and renamed the county Marion in honor of American Revolutionary war hero General Francis Marion.¹⁶ The town of Yellville in the northern region of the Buffalo River was selected as the seat of county government.

Arkansas became a state in 1836 and two years later the southern portion of Marion County was taken to form Searcy County, named after a prominent attorney in the region. Searcy County government was initiated in the town of Lebanon, but was moved to the town of Burrowsville in 1846. The town later changed its name to Marshall. In 1842 Newton County was established and named after early settler Thomas Willoughby Newton, who later served as a United

States congressman. The town of Jasper was platted south of the Buffalo River as the Newton County seat.¹⁷

The majority of settlers who came to the Buffalo River valley were from neighboring states, particularly Tennessee and Missouri. Around fifty percent of those who arrived in Searcy, Marion, and Newton Counties prior to 1850 originated from Tennessee. Through the mid-nineteenth century, Missouri became the most prominent state of origin of settlers.¹⁸ Additional states represented throughout the settlement period included Kentucky, Illinois, Virginia, and North Carolina.

Those who traveled to the Boston Mountain area were largely of a hardy Scotch-Irish heritage familiar with the struggles and harshness of frontier life. Agriculture served as the primary occupation of early settlers in the Buffalo River valley. Most operated small farms and lived a self-sufficient lifestyle making or growing most of what they needed and consumed. Farms averaged around thirty productive acres and produce a variety of crops including corn, wheat, oats, and potatoes. Some farmers also raised small amounts of tobacco and most families had a vegetable garden. Domestic livestock included cattle, sheep, and swine, which were raised in an open range system and allowed to forage through the surrounding forest for food. Wild game was plentiful and supplemented the family diet.¹⁹

Many of the early settlers to the Buffalo River valley did not initially own the land on which they settled, but instead were squatters. The

¹⁵ Ibid., 54.

¹⁶ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 24.

¹⁷ Ibid., 24-25.

¹⁸ Ibid., 27.

¹⁹ Ibid., 30; Rogers, "Parker-Hickman Farmstead," 32, 54.

practice of squatting had become a well-established, if not accepted, practice of the American frontier by the 1830s. Federal land surveys could not keep pace with the ever moving frontier line as pioneers continuously pushed westward, and settlers refused to wait for official titles to establish their homesteads. This was true in the Buffalo River valley as Federal land surveys did not begin until 1829, and only the township boundaries were completed by 1834 by which time numerous families had established homes in the region. Interior surveys continued on into the late 1840s. In the meantime, a steady stream of settlers entered the valley.²⁰

A series of pre-emption laws passed during the 1830s gave squatters first chance at purchasing their lands once the government platted the area and prevented the land being sold out from under them. Long term settlers purchased property as soon as it became available, which in some cases took decades. Acreage sold at the reduced price of \$1.25 an acre, and a minimum purchase of forty acres was required.²¹

Some settlers purchased additional acreage as well as the land they settled. In 1844, early settler John Adair purchased the initial forty acres he had occupied since the mid-1830s. In 1847, William H. Parker, purchased the forty acres that his father Alvin had settled the previous decade, and in 1850 he expanded his holdings by purchasing an additional forty-two acres.²² A number of residents in the Tyler Bend area purchased land in the early 1850s, including those who had first settled the area. Among them were Ambrose

²⁰ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 27-28.

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² Rogers, "Parker-Hickman Farmstead," 52.

Williams, John M. Cash, Granville Hodges, James Mays, Peter Reeves, Jonathan Dean, Josiah Lane, and John Hensley. Samuel Grinder, Peter Tyler, and Bowman Turney also purchased lands in this area in the 1850s.²³

The population of the Buffalo River valley continued to rise during the 1840s and 1850s as the number of settlers increased. During the 1840s, the populations of Marion and Searcy Counties grew 74 and 111 percent respectively. The decade of the 1850s brought even greater growth. Between 1850 and 1860 the population of Marion County increased over 168 percent, that of Searcy County rose 166 percent, and the number of residents in Newton County increased 93 percent. During this same period, the population of Arkansas rose 107.5 percent. Percentages aside, the area remained sparsely settled. In 1860, Newton County contained 3,393 residents, while Searcy County had 5,271 and Marion had 6,192. The population density for the region averaged between six and seven persons per square mile.²⁴

African Americans were also present in the Buffalo River valley and were part of its growing population. The vast majority of blacks in the region were slaves. Slavery, however, was not nearly as prevalent in the Buffalo River area as it was in other parts of Arkansas or other southern states. This was in large part due to the fact that large scale, labor-intensive agriculture, particularly cotton production, did not take place in the Buffalo River region during the early nineteenth century. Farms in this area tended to be small operations that were

²³ Rogers, "Historic Resources of the Tyler Bend Development Area," 8-9.

²⁴ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 25.

primarily subsistence enterprises. Very few farmers had slaves, and those that did typically owned only one or two.²⁵

A large percentage of the state's free black population also lived in the Buffalo River region during the 1840s and 1850s. During this period Marion County contained more free blacks than slaves, and in 1850 over twenty-one percent of the state's free black population lived in the county. The majority of the county's free blacks were landowners who, like their white counterparts, operated small farms in the area. Little is known about the relationship between black and white settlers in the Buffalo River valley during this period, but as historian Dwight Pitcaithley points out in his study of the region, the long-term presence of free blacks in the area demonstrates that "they were established members of the community, or at least tolerated, by the hill folk of northwest Arkansas."²⁶ As slavery became an increasingly heated issue approaching the Civil War, Arkansas passed a law that forbid free blacks to remain in the state. The free blacks in Marion County soon departed and their population dwindled from 129 in 1850 down to 8 in 1860.²⁷

On the eve of the Civil War, approximately 15,000 people lived in the Buffalo River valley. The majority of residents were American born whites who emigrated from adjacent states. Most were farmers who tended small to average size farms and lived a simple self-sufficient lifestyle. Farmsteads were scattered and often isolated in the rugged hills. The county seats of Jasper, Marshall, and Yellville served as the primary towns in the region, but a number of small

²⁵ Ibid., 41-42.

²⁶ Ibid., 30.

²⁷ Ibid., 26, 30.

hamlet communities were beginning to emerge. As the business of clearing land and creating a homestead were far enough along to provide a sustainable life, residents formed churches, built schools, and began industrial and commercial enterprises such as grist mills and blacksmith shops.

Impact of the Homestead Act & Industrial Development, 1865-1920

The Civil War temporarily disrupted life in the Boston Mountain area. Although no major battles took place near the Buffalo River, lawless bands of outlaws terrorized the countryside targeting the isolated farmsteads. Many people fled the region for safer territory and several homes were destroyed. Following the war came a period of rebuilding and a new flow of immigrants.

Continued settlement in the post-Civil War period was encouraged by the passage of the Homestead Act of 1862. The act provided free land to homesteaders who lived on and worked a piece of property for a period of five years. The requirements were minimal. As long as a person was the head of a household and at least twenty-one years of age, he or she could claim a 160-acre parcel. The homesteader had to live on the land, build a home, make improvements and farm for five years before the land was transferred. A total filing fee of eighteen dollars was the only financial commitment required. Many newcomers to the Buffalo River valley took advantage of this opportunity to "prove up" and worked hard to develop and own their homestead. Those who already had an established farm also took advantage of the Homestead Act to expand their holdings.

Examples of homesteaders in the Buffalo River region include John Carlton, who purchased the Parker farm in 1871 and expanded his holdings under the Homestead Act by adding an additional forty acres to his farm. Albert J. Reeves homesteaded 160 acres along

Parker Branch adjacent to Carlton. Both Reeves and Carlton received their patents for their lands in 1876.²⁸

Under the Homestead Act a number of new farms sprouted up across the landscape of the Buffalo watershed. The majority of farms in the region were small, some only a few acres in improved land. Most larger farms were those of established early settlers who had acquired land over many years and often generations.²⁹ Farming remained the primary occupation in the valley with cotton emerging as the chief cash crop.

The largest number of entries under the Homestead Act occurred during the 1870s and 1880s, but people continued to establish farms and homes in the area under this act into the 1930s. The best example of this is the homestead of the Collier family. Solomon “Sod” Collier, his wife Ida Mae, and their children immigrated to the Buffalo River valley from Kentucky in February 1928. The journey took a full week and the Colliers had only fifteen cents when they arrived. Within three years the Colliers secured a forty-acre tract of land in the Tyler Bend area under the Homestead Act. The family cleared the land, constructed a log house, and cultivated fields, and in 1937 they received their patent for the land, signed by then President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The Colliers raised corn, oats, cane, apples, peaches, and other produce. They supplemented their crops with hunting and fishing, and Sod occasionally worked as a guide for fishing trips down the Buffalo. The Colliers lived on the property into the 1960s and never installed electricity or modern plumbing.

²⁸ Rogers, “Parker-Hickman Farmstead,” 77.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, 37-38.

As the region’s population increased, small hamlets and villages emerged. Many consisted of a general store, post office, school, and church near a small cluster of dwellings. Post offices were typically located in the local store, which was often a center of social interaction where area residents came to purchase supplies, meet their neighbors and catch up on local news. In 1860 there were thirteen townships in Searcy County and eleven post offices. Bids were taken for the mail routes. An advertisement for bids to carry mail between Jasper and Burrowsville reveals that the route went “From Jasper to Mt. Judea, Borland and Point Peter to Burrowsville, 46 miles and back once a week. Leave Jasper Wednesday at 8 a.m., arrive in Burrowsville, next day by 12 m. Leave Burrowsville Thursday at 1 p.m., arrive Jasper next day at 8 p.m.”³⁰

Among the emerging communities was Willcockson on Mill Creek, which had developed around Peter Beller’s water mill. The community was later renamed Marble City and in the late twentieth century became Dogpatch. Willcockson was a chief producer of cotton in the late nineteenth century. West of Willcockson was the community of Erbie just north of the Buffalo River near the farm initially established by early settler Alvin Parker. The community of Duff emerged north of the Buffalo River in the Tyler Bend area in the 1870s. Billy Mays established a store here and later added a cotton gin and a hotel.³¹

During the early twentieth century, Mays’ son Frank built a home in the small hamlet of Mt. Hersey near the mouth of Davis Creek. Mt.

³⁰ James Johnston, “Searcy County, Arkansas, During the Civil War” (University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, 1963), 5.

³¹ Rogers, “Parker-Hickman Farmstead,” 80; Rogers, “Historic Resources of the Tyler Bend Development Area,” 14.

Hersey had developed in the 1870s and by the turn-of-the-century was a thriving community with a school, store, and post office in addition to five or six homes. Frank Mays and his wife Dora operated the local store, which had one corner dedicated to the functions of the post office. The mail was delivered on horseback or mule six days a week and originated from the village of Pindall. The Mays's son, Armon Mays, recalls the social role that the store and post office played in the surrounding community:

People who lived within three miles or so of the store, would come often to get their mail, which was important in the extreme, to buy merchandise that was needed, and as much as anything else, to get the news in the Buffalo River valley. There was always gossip, and they wanted to know that. They also wanted to know who of our people in the valley were sick, who the preacher would be Sunday, and to bring their turn of corn to the grist mill.³²

In addition to the store, the Mays family operated a grist mill, sawmill, and cotton gin. As in many small communities, the residents of Mt. Hersey were a close-knit group that looked out for one another. Most of the families in the village were related and if a family in the area was in need, others readily helped. The Mays family would often forgo the toll of one-eighth of the meal for use of the grist mill without the needy family's knowledge.³³

³² Armon Mays, "Early Life in Mt. Hersey Along the Buffalo," (Copy on file at the Arkansas History Commission, 1988), np.

³³ Ibid.

The communities of Woolum and Snowball also emerged in the post-Civil War era. Woolum was a small hamlet just north of the Buffalo River near the mouth of Richland Creek. By the early twentieth century, this community had a general store and cotton gin. The local post office was in operation between 1917 and 1924. There was not a school in Woolum though, and local children had to travel a mile or more to Point Peter to attend classes. The Point Peter post office was in operation from 1893 to 1912.³⁴ The community now known as Snowball formed in the 1870s. A post office was established in this area in 1870 and was originally named Calf Creek. Ben F. Taylor established a mill along the creek in 1875, and by the 1880s the small hamlet also had a store and a hotel, both of which were operated by the local physician, Dr. Ruff. In 1887, the local chapter of the Masons constructed a building to serve as school, church, and lodge. The community building was dubbed Snow Hall after an elder Mason, and when the community applied to have the local post office name changed to Snow Hall, the application was misread as Snowball, which has since remained the official name of the town. The community prospered and at one time contained seven stores, two cotton gins, two grist mills, and a blacksmith shop.³⁵

It was also during this period that the town of Harrison was established north of the Buffalo River in Boone County. The county was created in 1869 and Harrison was platted as the county seat. The town quickly emerged as the major commercial center for the region.

³⁴ Community files, Buffalo National River, Harrison, Arkansas.

³⁵ Mary Frances Harrell, ed. *History and Folklore of Searcy County, Arkansas* (Harrison, AR: New Leaf Press, Inc., 1977). 143-144.

Population in the Buffalo River valley continued to increase throughout the late nineteenth century. Between 1870 and 1900, growth in each of the three counties was steady. Marion County had the largest percentage of growth and had the largest number of residents during the first part of this period. But by 1900, Newton and Searcy Counties had both surpassed Marion County in their number of residents. Between 1870 and 1900, the number of residents in Marion County increased from 3,979 to 11,377. During this same period, Searcy County went from 5,614 residents to 11,988, and Newton County's population rose from 4,374 to 12,538.³⁶

This period of growth was also a period of relative prosperity for the Buffalo River area. Although life was by no means easy, farming was active and provided most with a decent living. Average farm size increased slightly and the majority of families produced enough food to eat plus sell or trade surplus for needed products.

Adding to the growth and prosperity of the region were the development of the lumber and mining industries and the emergence of the railroad. The cutting of lumber gained momentum in the late nineteenth century and became the region's leading industry. Milling of lumber had been a common activity since the initial settlement of the region, but until the post Civil War period, most was done on a small-scale basis for local use. In the 1870s, commercial lumbering began to emerge and a number of lumber companies as well as pencil, stave, and other wood-product companies began to look to the Buffalo River region for their wood supply. The industry provided a short boom to the local economy and supported numerous jobs in cutting and hauling timber.

The discovery of zinc in the earth around Rush Creek in the 1880s led to an intense period of mining operations along the Buffalo River. Several mining companies quickly established a number of mines in the area around Rush Creek as the region drew national attention for its quality and capacity for zinc production. Thousands of people flocked to the area to work in the mines. The town of Rush emerged as a bustling community complete with hotels, stores, mining offices and workshops, and a number of homes. The mining industry fueled the local economy and encouraged commercial and agricultural development. The mining boom lasted through World War I, after which it quickly faded.

Assisting the prosperity brought by the lumber and mining industries was the construction of a rail line through the region. The St. Louis and North Arkansas Railroad was completed to Harrison in May 1901 and by 1909 reached Helena, Arkansas on the Mississippi River. The rail lines provided access to wider markets and eased shipping of goods in and out of the area. The line also influenced the development of towns and villages. The town of Gilbert was established as a railroad construction camp along the line near its crossing of the Buffalo River. Gilbert, named after railroad executive Charles Gilbert, became a chief shipping point for local products such as lumber and zinc ore. As the town flourished, its prosperity caused the demise of the community of Duff to the west, which had been the focal point of commerce in the Tyler Bend area prior to the construction of the railroad.

Other communities inspired by the railroad were Pindall and St. Joe. Pindall emerged as a shipping point for ore and became a thriving community with several stores, a hotel, school, and grist mill. The railroad came close to but not through the village of St. Joe, which

³⁶ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 57.

had formed in the 1860s. So its residents chose to expand by adding a new section and naming it New Town.³⁷

Economic Challenges & Population Decline, ca. 1920-1955

The promising prosperity initiated by the railroad and the lumber and mining industries in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries began to fade by the 1920s. The lumber industry boom was short-lived as companies quickly depleted the area's forests without replenishing it, and the mining industry faded rapidly after World War I. Small operations in both industries continued but made little impact on the local economy. A lack of significant industry in the region hurt the operation of the railroad, which was also suffering from poor management and a serious strike. The relatively small regional population proved insufficient to sustain the railroad. Although it continued to function for several years, the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad eventually failed and the line was abandoned in the mid-1940s.

The economic downturn created by the loss of industry in the region was amplified by the onset of the Great Depression during the 1930s. Residents of the Buffalo River valley turned again to farming as their primary occupation and were able to get by on what they could raise on their family farms. Federal assistance programs brought some relief to the area through the construction of schools, the establishment of canning facilities, and available employment through New Deal work relief programs. Several area residents benefited from the work of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), which improved health standards throughout the region by installing more sanitary privies. The WPA introduced privies with ventilation panels and concrete bases. WPA privies remain extant on

³⁷ Ibid, 82-83.

the Parker-Hickman Farm south of Erbie and the Mays property in Mt. Hersey.

From the World War II era on into the late twentieth century, the population in the Buffalo River valley steadily declined. As the nation's economy began to turn around many left the region to seek opportunity elsewhere. Many who left the region to either fight in the war or work in a war-related industry did not return after experiencing life in more progressive areas. During the 1940s, Newton County lost over twenty percent of its population, and Searcy and Marion Counties lost twelve and nine percent respectively. The economic boom of the 1950s resulted in even greater population losses with Newton, Searcy, and Marion Counties losing an additional thirty-one, twenty-two, and thirty percent of their residents. In 1960 the combined population of the three counties was 20,128, a substantial decrease from their in 1920 of 35,943.³⁸

By the 1950s, recreation and tourism emerged as a regional industry based on hunting, fishing, and appreciation for the natural environment. However, agriculture remained the prominent source of livelihood. The tradition of resourcefulness established in the region by early settlers continued into the modern era. Rather than relying on a single source for income, many area residents performed a variety of jobs or services to make ends meet. For example, in the mid-1950s Richard Holland of the Pruitt area worked as an automotive mechanic, assisted with his family's campground business, farmed, and built his family's home.³⁹

³⁸Ibid, 57, 88-89.

³⁹ "The Bivens, McGowan, Hammons and Holland Families of Pruitt," On file at the Buffalo National River Headquarters, Harrison, Arkansas.

As the Buffalo National River was being formed in the late twentieth century, the Buffalo River valley continued to be primarily rural in character with an emphasis on agriculture and recreation. With the creation of the National Park, many farmsteads and homes along the river's banks were razed, yet many elements of the historic landscape remain to convey the region's rich history.



Figure 2: National Park Service Map of the Buffalo National River.

ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES

Introduction

Properties associated with the settlement of the Buffalo River valley include dwellings, cemeteries, house sites, and small rural hamlets. As settlers entered the region they established homes in the hills and valleys along the Buffalo River. Those who immigrated to the area were primarily from the Upland South, especially Tennessee, and the dwellings they constructed reflect the cultural traditions of those areas. These were primarily single- or double-pen log dwellings. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries area populations increased and the Homestead Act eased and encouraged the settling of property. The small rural hamlets that emerged are demonstrative of the growth and development of this period. These rural communities served the social, industrial, and commercial needs of the region as it developed. The cemeteries that settlers established also reflect the growth and development of the region. From small family plots to larger community cemeteries, gravesites echo cultural traditions and economic development through the designs and materials of markers and headstones.

Settlement Era Dwellings

Few dwellings remain extant in the BUFF from the early settlement era of the Buffalo River region. The log dwellings constructed by early settlers were typically small houses of single- or double-pen plans. Perhaps crude by today's standards, these were typical frontier dwellings of the period. By the late nineteenth century, the economy and the availability of sawn lumber led some residents to enlarge their homes with rear or lateral wings. Many others abandoned or razed their log dwellings and constructed modern homes of balloon frame construction. After building a new frame home, residents often used older log dwellings as outbuildings. The loss of settlement

period dwellings continued well into the twentieth century. Many of these early homes were abandoned as residents moved out of the area or as new generations opted for more modern dwellings. Some abandoned homes were used for storage of hay or other materials and others were simply left to deteriorate. In either case, they rapidly evolved into ruins. Following the federal government's acquisition of lands in the area in the 1970s, the NPS recommended preservation of most of the log dwellings within the park boundaries and razed many frame dwellings that in more recent decades have been identified as representative of the settlement era.

Characteristics of Settlement Era Dwellings

Single- and double-pen dwellings are the most common house forms of the American frontier and the settlement period of the Arkansas Ozarks. These house types have roots in English, Scotch-Irish, and German building traditions appear in both square and rectangular forms. In the Arkansas Ozarks, single-pen and double-pen dwellings were constructed from the initial settlement period in the 1830s through the early decades of the twentieth century. Single-pen dwellings are typically square in dimension and will often have a shed roof addition at the rear or side elevation. Double-pen plans common to the Arkansas Ozark include the basic double-pen design and dogtrot forms. Each has two rooms of approximately equal size each with a door on the dwelling's main façade. The two rooms of a basic double-pen plan share a common wall which has a connecting door. In the dogtrot plan, or often called simply double house, the two rooms or pens are separated by an open breezeway.⁴⁰

⁴⁰ Jean Sizemore, *Ozark Vernacular Houses, A Study of Rural Homeplaces in the Arkansas Ozarks 1830-1930* (Fayetteville: The University of Arkansas Press, 1994), 45-53.

These house types were imported to the region from settlers throughout the Upland South, particularly Tennessee. The earliest examples were built of logs, and after sawn lumber became more readily available in the late nineteenth century, frame versions were constructed. It was common for settlers to expand on their original single-pen log dwellings as they became more prosperous. This was accomplished by adding frame additions or enlarging them into double-pen houses. If a family could afford to do so, they would often cover the exterior of log dwellings with weatherboard siding to make it appear more modern.

Surviving Examples of Settlement Dwellings

The Parker-Hickman House is the earliest surviving dwelling within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River. The Parker-Hickman House was built ca. 1850 and is the principal structure on the surrounding farmstead, which also consists of various twentieth century outbuildings. The dwelling consists of a single-pen of log construction and two frame wings, one of which dates to the late nineteenth century. The dwelling remains in good condition and is an excellent example of a settlement era dwelling in the Buffalo River valley. The Parker-Hickman House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987 as a contributing building to the Parker-Hickman Farm Historic District.

Surviving frame dwellings associated with the settlement of the Buffalo River area date from ca. 1875 to ca. 1920. The earliest example is the Valentine Williams House, a two-story dwelling built ca. 1875 in a two-room plan with a rear “T” wing. The large size and design of the dwelling are unusual for the Buffalo River area and reflect the original family’s prosperity. Although the dwelling has deteriorated, it retains much of its original design and its setting retains its traditional agricultural landscape. The Valentine Williams House meets the criteria of the National Register.

The Arnold Double Door House and Luther Arnold House date to ca. 1900 and ca. 1910 respectively and were constructed by one of the early families to settle in what is now known as Arnold Bend. These one-story frame dwellings were built in common designs of the period and are representative of the traditional architectural designs of the region. However, both Arnold houses are in an advanced state of deterioration and do not meet the criteria of the National Register.

Three dwellings that remain extant in what is now the Ponca Wilderness area of Buffalo National River are associated with the context of settlement. The Granny Henderson House, the Arbaugh House and the Evans-White House date to the early twentieth century. Built between ca. 1915 and ca. 1920 these three dwellings reflect similar one- to one and one-half story side gable designs with varying decorative detail. The Evans-White House and the Arbaugh House are in advanced states of deterioration and no longer retain sufficient architectural form to meet National Register criteria. The Granny Henderson House, however, retains much of its original design and form. The house was the home of Eva Barnes Henderson, who was known throughout the Buffalo River area simply as “Granny.” Her life in the hills above the river became legendary as she lived a basic subsistence lifestyle well into her eighties. Her home meets National Register criterion B for her significance in the history of the Buffalo River valley.

The Sod Collier Homestead reflects the later settlement era of the Buffalo River valley. The property was developed in the early 1930s under the provisions of the Homestead Act of 1862. One of the last properties in the area to be patented under this law, the Collier Homestead is representative of the growth and development of the region during the early twentieth century. The Collier Homestead was determined eligible for the National Register in 1990.

In addition to these properties, the ruins of the Charlotte Mahoney Cabin and various house sites within the Buffalo National River are also associated with the settlement period. A few intact log courses and a scattering of debris are all that remain of the ca. 1866 Charlotte Mahoney Cabin, and the surrounding setting no longer retains its traditional agricultural use. House sites associated with the context of settlement largely consist of some remaining foundation stones or other minor features that are insufficient to convey the history of the site. None of these properties possesses sufficient integrity to meet National Register criteria. In Table 1 below is a list of dwellings and house sites associated with the context of settlement. The table identifies the geographical area in which each property is located and the property's National Register status. The properties are discussed individually under the Cultural Landscape portion of this document.

Table 1: Settlement Era Dwellings & House Sites

Site Name	Geographical Area	National Register Listed or Eligible?
Parker-Hickman House	Erbie	Yes - listed
Granny Henderson House	Ponca	Yes - eligible
Evans-White House	Ponca	No
Arbaugh House	Ponca	No
Valentine Williams House	Tyler Bend	Yes – eligible
Arnold Double Door House	Tyler Bend	No
Luther Arnold House	Tyler Bend	No
Sod Collier Homestead	Tyler Bend	Yes - eligible

Charlotte Mahoney Cabin	Ponca	No
Brewer House Site	Central	No
House Site (Tract 08-108)	Eastern	No
Sanders House Site	Eastern	No

Rural Hamlets

The majority of the small rural hamlets that developed in the Buffalo River region during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries lie beyond the boundaries of the Buffalo National River. Communities such as Gilbert, Snowball, St. Joe, Ponca, and Hasty are located near the park and continue to be active communities of the surrounding area. Within what are now the park's borders, the small rural hamlets of Erbie, Carver, and Mt. Hersey once existed. Although these are no longer working communities, remnants of each remain. Also within the park's boundaries is the community of Boxley, which was settled in the 1830s and developed as one of the dominant agricultural areas within the Buffalo River valley. Boxley continues to be a viable agricultural community with numerous residents. The area retains much of its historic character with resources including a variety of dwellings, outbuildings, churches, agricultural fields, and industrial buildings. The Boxley area was listed on the National Register in 1987 as the Boxley Valley Historic District.

Characteristics of Small Rural Hamlets

The rural hamlets that emerged in the Buffalo River valley during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries typically consisted of a cluster of homes and farmsteads and various commercial, industrial, and community buildings. Many developed around a grist mill and

had a general store, which also served as a post office. Other buildings might include a church and/or school, a sawmill, or a cotton gin or blacksmith shop. These buildings were generally located along the primary road in the area or sometimes a major crossroads.

Surviving Examples of Small Rural Hamlets

Other than the National Register-listed Boxley Valley Historic District, no active rural hamlets remain extant within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River. Remnants of the Mt. Hersey, Carver, and Erbie communities, however, remain on the landscape. The Erbie area retains a significant number of intact farmsteads, cemeteries, a church, and the foundations of various homes and buildings. This collection of properties effectively conveys the agricultural and community history of the area and forms a viable rural historic district.

Little remains of the community of Mt. Hersey. This once bustling area was home to a store, school, sawmill, grist mill, and several homes. Only one home of the Mt. Hersey area remains extant, and it is in very poor condition. Even less physical evidence remains of the Carver community. No dwellings or outbuildings are extant at Carver and only a cemetery remains. Below is a table of the surviving rural hamlets in the Buffalo National River. The table identifies each hamlet’s geographical area and its National Register status. These areas are discussed in more detail in the Cultural Landscape section of this document.

Table 2: Surviving Rural Hamlets

Hamlet	Geographical Area	National Register Listed or Eligible?
Boxley	Boxley Valley	Yes-listed
Carver	Central	No
Erbie	Erbie	Yes-Eligible
Mt. Hersey	Central	No

Cemeteries

A number of cemeteries were established during the settlement period. Twenty-eight cemeteries within the boundaries of the BUFF were surveyed for this project. They are: Adair, Brown, Carver, Cherry Grove, Christie, Collins, Cow Creek, Deffenbaugh, Hall, Hamilton, Hensley, Horton, Jones, Lafoon, Lane, Lawrence, McFadden, Morris, Nars, New Arnold, Old Arnold, Sanders, Shaddox, Slay, Sullivan, White, Woodcock, and Young. Many cemeteries within the parks’ boundaries remain in use and are well maintained. Other cemeteries are in isolated locations and are overgrown with vegetation. At least five other cemeteries--Brantley, Dye, Hepsey, Maxey, and Shipman—are also known to exist within the park’s boundaries. These cemeteries either could not be located or were inaccessible.

Characteristics of Family and Community Cemeteries

A total of twenty-eight cemeteries within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River (excluding Boxley Valley) were documented for this project. These include both family and community graveyards. Family lots are typically small in size and scale and contain less than twenty graves, with many having only two or three. These cemeteries are often tucked away in remote wooded areas at

the edge of fields or a meadow near a former house site. Many are heavily overgrown and difficult to detect. This overgrowth can be deceiving as past investigations of cemeteries in the Buffalo National River have discovered that what appeared to be a small family plot actually was a much larger cemetery once vegetation was cleared. Community cemeteries are usually larger than family graveyards and have up to 200 graves. These are often located near main roadbeds and many are still in use. The boundaries of both community and family cemeteries are commonly marked with a simple metal and/or wood fence.

The cemeteries within Buffalo National River contain a variety of headstones. The earliest are simple native fieldstones, most of which are unmarked or their markings have eroded over time. Examples of hand carved stones are generally rough stones that have been minimally altered or shaped. They are typically rectangular tablet designs. Lettering on these early stones is often roughly hand-etched. A few slab stone and boxed stone graves also appear in cemeteries within the Buffalo National River. Among the more notable designs are tiered boxed vault graves and coffin graves, examples of which appear in several of the cemeteries within the park's boundaries. The tiered boxed vault graves have large stone slabs covering the length of the graves and stacked in a tiered fashion. Coffin graves are stone box graves cut in the shape of a coffin. These graves primarily date to the late nineteenth century, although at least one example dates to as late as 1917. While a few examples exist, these designs overall are not common in the region and use of the style has not continued. Many of the examples of this grave type found in the Buffalo National River are in poor condition and have collapsed or eroded over time; however, excellent examples exist in the Hall and Collins cemeteries. Other cemeteries containing examples of these grave types are Deffenbaugh, Christie, Old Arnold, Arnold, and White. Graves with a single stone slab covering the length of the grave are also found in McFadden and Sullivan Cemeteries. The example in

the Sullivan Cemetery is of cut stone and dates to 1942. The Adair Cemetery contains unique versions of the stone box design that are arranged in a "tent" fashion.

Surviving Examples of Community and Family Cemeteries

Cemeteries are ordinarily not considered eligible for listing on the National Register. A cemetery may be eligible under National Register Criteria Consideration D "if it derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events."⁴¹ Notable design features include aesthetic or technological achievements in areas such as landscape architecture, mortuary art, or sculpture. Cemeteries can also be significant as part of the surrounding community and its history. Cemeteries eligible under Criteria Consideration D must also meet the requirements of Criterion A, B, or C.

The majority of the cemeteries identified in the Buffalo National River are common rural community and family cemeteries of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and are not eligible for the National Register under Criterion C. They contain headstones and markers typical of the represented periods and do not possess notable design values. Also, research for this project did not reveal sufficient evidence that these cemeteries are associated with important historical events or significant historical figures. Many of the cemeteries inventoried for this project are small graveyards in remote areas that are heavily overgrown. They contain few legible headstones and their history is not known. Detailed research on the numerous individuals interred in these cemeteries is beyond the

⁴¹ U.S. Department of the Interior, National Register Bulletin 15, "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation," 34.

scope of this project. Future research, however, could reveal associations with important local historical figures or events. Many of the larger community cemeteries documented remain active and contain headstones from recent decades. These graveyards reflect the region’s growth and history, but do not possess notable historical importance.

Two exceptions to this assessment are the Collins and Hall Cemeteries. Both of these cemeteries contains unique mortuary designs that are representative of local folk traditions. The Collins Cemetery is a small family cemetery that features several tiered boxed vault graves of native stone. Hall Cemetery is a large community cemetery that contains a variety of headstone and marker designs, family plots, and several coffin graves. The Collins and Hall Cemeteries are representative examples of rural family and community cemeteries and each contains significant examples of traditional folk mortuary art. Both the Collins and Hall Cemeteries meet National Register Criterion C and Criteria Consideration D.

Three additional cemeteries, the Cherry Grove community cemetery and the Adair and Young family cemeteries, are associated with the Erbie area and are considered contributing elements to the proposed Erbie Rural Historic District. The following table lists the cemeteries surveyed for this project and notes their geographical area and their National Register status. Details of individual cemeteries are provided in the Cultural Landscape section of this document under the geographical area with which each is associated.

Table 3: Cemeteries of the Buffalo National River

Cemetery	Geographical Area	National Register Eligible?
Adair	Erbie	Yes
Brown	Erbie	No
Carver	Central	No
Cherry Grove	Erbie	Yes
Christie	Central	No
Collins	Central	Yes
Cow Creek	Lower Wilderness	No
Deffenbaugh	Central	No
Hall	Central	Yes
Hamilton	Central	No
Hensley	Central	No
Horton	Eastern	No
Jones	Ponca	No
Laffoon	Lower Wilderness	No
Lane	Eastern	No
Lawrence	Central	No
McFadden	Pruitt	No
Morris	Central	No
Nars	Central	No
New Arnold	Tyler Bend	No
Old Arnold	Tyler Bend	No
Sanders (Still)	Eastern	No
Shaddox	Pruitt	No
Slay	Central	No
Sullivan	Central	No
White	Tyler Bend	No
Woodcock Military	Lower Wilderness	No
Young	Erbie	Yes

HISTORIC CONTEXT #2 AGRICULTURE

National Register-Listed and Previously Determined Eligible Properties: Properties associated with the context of agriculture that are currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places include the Parker-Hickman Farmstead and the Boxley Historic District. The Sod Collier Farmstead is also associated with agriculture and was determined eligible for the National Register in 1990.

Properties Identified as National Register-Eligible:

Additional properties associated with the context of agriculture identified in this study as potentially eligible for the National Register are properties associated with the proposed Erbie Historic District.

Overview

Agriculture has been an important part of life in the Buffalo River valley since its initial settlement in the 1830s. The region's remoteness and rugged terrain have limited agricultural development in the area. The richest soils are those in the fertile bottomlands along the river in the narrow valleys among the hillsides. These areas were settled first and supported the region's most prosperous farms. The mountainous terrain also made transportation difficult and limited accessibility to major markets. Most settlers established self-sufficient farms growing basic crops such as corn and wheat for their own consumption.

During the late nineteenth century, farming evolved into a more general level of farming with farms increasing in size and producing a larger variety of crops. During the 1880s, cotton emerged as the chief cash crop in the region, but by the turn of the century, local farmers realized the need to diversify their products. During the early twentieth century, farming continued much as it had in the previous

century with an emphasis on small to medium size family farms. Modern agricultural and technological developments were slow in coming to the region and did not become common until after World War II.

Early Agricultural Development, ca. 1830-1870

Agriculture has continuously played an important role in the history of the Buffalo River area since its initial settlement in the early nineteenth century. Settlers sought out the most fertile lands first. These were located in the narrow valleys and were rather limited as the rocky hillsides dominated the region and were largely unsuitable for cultivation. The vast majority of settlers were farmers and lived a subsistence lifestyle growing or making most of what they consumed or needed. Corn was an essential crop on the frontier. It was easily grown and served a number of purposes. In addition to providing corn and meal for family consumption, the crop was used to feed livestock and make whiskey, the shucks were used for mattress stuffing, to make brooms and the seats of chairs, and other items. The remaining cobs were also put to use serving as fuel for fires or used to make pipes or children's toys.⁴²

Farmers also raised wheat or other grains for flour and various garden vegetables. Livestock primarily consisted of a few hogs or cattle, and some farms held sheep for the production of wool. Most farmers used oxen to pull their plows and later horses and mules were used. The open-range system was commonly used for livestock, which were left to roam freely through the woods to forage for food. Families supplemented farming by hunting and trapping wild game, fishing in area streams and rivers, and gathering nuts and fruits from the surrounding forests.⁴³

⁴² Rafferty, *The Ozarks Land and Life*, 152-153.

⁴³ Ibid.

Some of the most fertile lands along the Buffalo River were in the Richland Valley and Boxley areas and along Parker Branch in the middle Buffalo region and the Tyler Bend area on the lower Buffalo. While generally characterizing the area as difficult for cultivation, those who surveyed the land around the Buffalo River in the 1830s noted these areas as being “first rate bottom” land that was level and “very good and highly fit for cultivation.”⁴⁴ These areas had wide terraces of fertile soil and were settled as early as 1834. Among the earliest farms was that of Baker Tyler who had the largest livestock herd in Searcy County in 1839 with eight horses and thirteen cattle. In 1842 the Dean, Tyler and Lane families had farms along Calf Creek in the vicinity of Cash Bend.⁴⁵ Most of those who lived in the area were like Peter Tyler, and operated small to medium-sized farms. In 1847, Tyler owned one horse and one cow. By 1850 his farm included eight improved acres sown in corn, peas, and beans and thirty additional acres of woodlands. His livestock had substantially increased to three horses, four milk cows, ten additional cattle, and seventeen hogs.⁴⁶

Boxley Valley contained some of the richest farmland in the region and early settlers arrived in this location by the 1830s. By 1850 a number of small farms were located in the valley. The fertile lands supported substantial farms by the turn of the century and the valley became one of the more prosperous areas along the Buffalo River.

⁴⁴ Rogers, “Parker-Hickman Homestead,” 48, 51; Rogers, “Historic Resources of the Tyler Bend Development Area,” 5.

⁴⁵ Rogers, “Historic Resources of the Tyler Bend Development Area,” 9.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, 27.

Alvin Parker, who settled south of the Buffalo along what is now known as Parker Branch around 1835, developed a sizeable farm of eighty-four acres by 1850. Parker started out with just one horse and two cows in 1835. By 1850, he had five milk cows, eight oxen, twenty cattle, twelve sheep, and eighty hogs. His acreage produced eighty bushels of wheat, 100 bushels of oats, and 700 bushels of corn. Parker’s was one of the largest and most prosperous farms in the area, a fact that is reflected in his ownership of \$80 worth of farm implements and machinery, one of the highest values in the township.⁴⁷

Despite the size and production of his farm, Parker did not have slaves. Although slavery was an accepted practice in the region, the majority of farmers along the Buffalo River did not own slaves. The region did not engage in the types of large-scale, labor-intensive farming, particularly cotton production, that typically gave rise to slavery. Throughout the antebellum era, there were relatively few slaves in the Buffalo River valley. In 1840, there were thirty-nine slaves reported in Marion County and three in Searcy County. (Newton County was not organized until 1842.) In 1850 the number of slaves had increased to 126 in Marion County, forty-seven in Newton County and twenty-nine in Searcy County. On the eve of the Civil War in 1860, there was a total of 378 slaves in the three counties, which was a small percentage of the over 110,000 slaves in the state of Arkansas. At this time there were a reported 101 slaveowners in the counties. The majority of these were in Marion County, and most owned just one or two slaves. Early settler Baker Tyler claimed one slave in 1830, as did John M. Hensley. The

⁴⁷ Rogers, “Parker-Hickman Homestead,” 48, 54.

Bowman Turner family, who had a large farm in the Calf Creek area, are believed to have had a number of slaves.⁴⁸

Commercial farming in the Buffalo River area was limited. The terrain was not conducive to large-scale farming and the isolated region was a good distance from suitable markets. Transportation was difficult and primarily limited to rugged wagon roads. The Buffalo River was unreliable as a method of transportation due to general low water levels and periodic floods, and railroad lines did not enter the region until the early twentieth century. The most accessible market was Springfield, Missouri, and several times a year area farmers made the five- to eight-day round trip there to sell their products and buy supplies. In an attempt to find a more lucrative market several farmers in the Buffalo River region made the eighty-mile trek to Russellville, Arkansas in 1880. The caravan consisted of between two and three hundred wagons and the trip took two weeks.⁴⁹

Diversification and Growth, ca. 1870-1955

In the late nineteenth century, area farms began to make the transition from subsistence farming to general farming as initial settlers accumulated more lands and newcomers continued to migrate and homestead in the area. The amount of improved acreage on farms in the Buffalo River area increased from twenty-one acres in 1860 to thirty-four by the end of the century. The types of crops grown became more diversified and included wheat, corn, cotton, potatoes, oats, and small amounts of rice and tobacco. Several farms also had orchards of apples, peaches or other fruits. Cattle and swine

⁴⁸ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 26, 42; Rogers, "Historic Resources of the Tyler Bend Development Area," 40.

⁴⁹ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 56-58.

were the most common livestock. Some farms raised sheep and many had poultry. Many family farms consisted of only a few cultivated acres. The few large farms in the area were typically those of families, such as the Parkers, who arrived in the region early, established farms in the most fertile areas, and had been in the region long enough to develop a prosperous farm and expand their landholdings overtime.⁵⁰

One of the most extensive and diversified farms of the 1880s was that of John Carlton. Carlton had purchased the Parker farm in 1871 and added eighty acres under the Homestead Act. In 1877, he expanded his holdings by purchasing the adjacent Reeves farm of 160 acres. By 1881, Carlton at around age fifty was one of the oldest and most prosperous farmers in the area. In 1880, Carlton's farm consisted of sixty-five acres in cultivation, two acres of apple orchards, and one hundred acres of woods. His tilled acreage was divided into twenty acres of corn, eight of oats, four of wheat, and six of cotton. He also had small plots of sorghum and potatoes. Carlton also had a variety of livestock including four horses, five milk cows, fourteen cattle, twenty sheep, thirty-five hogs, and twenty poultry. He also kept bees for the production of honey.⁵¹

Another sizeable farm of the region was that of James W. Ferguson who owned around 150 acres in the Tyler Bend area. Ferguson planted thirty acres in corn, three in oats, five in wheat, and ten in cotton. He also had a few acres dedicated to sorghum, peas, and sweet potatoes. His livestock consisted of three mules, three milk cows, ten additional cattle, thirty hogs, and thirty-one poultry.

⁵⁰ Ibid. 55; Rafferty, *The Ozarks Land and Life*, 152-153; Rogers, "Parker-Hickman Homestead," 39.

⁵¹ Rogers, "Parker-Hickman Homestead, 77-79.

Ferguson's was a profitable enterprise valued at \$1,000 in 1879 and sufficiently lucrative to pay wages to hired help.⁵²

By the 1880s, cotton, a crop that had not been grown to any great degree in the region, became the chief cash crop. In 1886 farmers in the Marble City area produced 200 bales of cotton. That same year the Harrison Times reported that "Cotton seems to be the principal crop through the Buffalo Creek country and looks even better than usual at this season."⁵³ Cotton production spread throughout Arkansas in the post Civil War period largely due to improved transportation provided by an increasing number of railroads in the state. Railroad lines gave farmers better access to markets and thus made it easier for farmers to specialize in a particular crop. Access to wider markets allowed farmers to purchase supplies more cheaply and devote more land to a cash crop such as cotton. Also, the growth of the timber industry led to the clearing of many unimproved acres and made more land available for agriculture. As cotton was the dominant cash crop, most newly cleared lands were sown with it.⁵⁴

Reliance on a single crop, however, was a risky method of farming as it made farmers dependent on the vagaries of that crop's market value. During the last decades of the nineteenth century, cotton prices steadily declined, and in 1900 several cotton crops were ruined by an infestation of the boll weevil. In addition cotton especially drained the soil of its nutrients and left it depleted. By the end of the century Buffalo River valley farmers began to realize that

⁵² Rogers, "Historic Resources of the Tyler Bend Development Area," 12-13.

⁵³ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 55-56.

⁵⁴ Hanson and Moneyhon, *Historical Atlas of Arkansas*, 54.

reliance on cotton was not a long-term viable option and that they needed to diversify their crops.⁵⁵ As one local paper noted in 1899, "Everybody acknowledges that the more cotton a farmer raises the poorer he gets. Yet it seems the poorer he gets the more surely he is to plant cotton. Sow wheat and oats, plant corn, potatoes and a little of everything..."⁵⁶

Another development of farming in the late nineteenth century was the emergence of various farmer organizations in the counties surrounding the Buffalo River. These types of organizations were popular across the country and were advocates for farm-related issues. While there were no known chapters of the Grange in the Buffalo River area, there were divisions of the Agricultural Wheel and the Brothers of Freedom. The Agricultural Wheel began in Prairie County in 1882 and then quickly spread to other counties and a state organization. In 1885 the Wheel merged with the Brothers of Freedom and reached over 40,000 members in Arkansas. In 1889, the farming organization merged with the regional Southern Farmers' Alliance. Lodges of the Agricultural Wheel appeared in the Buffalo River area by 1883 and were active for around ten years. Some chapters, particularly those in Newton County, were politically active, while others, such as those in Marion County, avoided political involvement. In spite of their presence in the region, farmer organizations did not appear to constitute "a fundamental motivating force in the general life of the Buffalo River inhabitants" and the organizations began to fade by the mid-1890s.⁵⁷

⁵⁵ Ibid., Pitcaithly, *Let the River Be*, 56.

⁵⁶ Pitcaithly, *Let the River Be*, 56.

⁵⁷ Ibid., 58-59.

In 1901 the St. Louis and North Arkansas Railroad was completed to Harrison, and the line was extended to Helena, Arkansas on the Mississippi River by 1909. The railroad provided improved transportation to area farmers and gave them increased access to regional markets. The rail line was completed between Joplin, Missouri and Harrison, Arkansas in 1901 and in 1909 reached Helena, Arkansas on the banks of the Mississippi River. At Helena, rail connections could be made to New Orleans. Local farmers shipped cotton, grain, and other locally grown products to outside markets and sold produce in area towns such as Jasper and Harrison, where they purchased items they could not make on the farm. A typical early twentieth century farm was that of J.D. Hickman who owned land that had been part of the Parker and later Carlton farms. In the 1920s, Hickman raised much the same crops as his late nineteenth century predecessors including corn, oats, and rye. In addition he raised various vegetables and some tobacco. Hickman also raised sorghum for molasses and operated a sorghum mill. Hickman had a varied orchard of peaches, apples, plums, and apricots, and his livestock consisted of cattle, hogs, horses, mules, and poultry. He made regular trips into Harrison, a two-day round trip journey, to sell his products and buy supplies and other goods, and sold cream and butter to area hotels as well as his neighbors. For extra cash, Hickman sold the timber off his unimproved acreage.⁵⁸

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, families in the Buffalo River valley managed to scrape by on what they could raise on their small farms. The self-sufficient farming lifestyle that had supported early settlers became area residents' best defense against the harsh economic times. The reduction of lumbering and mining industries in the 1920s caused many people to leave the area in search of work during the 1920s, but many returned in the following decade to

⁵⁸ Rogers, "Parker-Hickman Homestead," 90-91.

pursue farming as employment was scarce. During the 1930s, the number of farms increased in the Buffalo River basin an average of four percent while area counties reported population growths of between three and eight percent.⁵⁹

Although the times were hard, the majority of people in the Buffalo River valley owned the land that they farmed. In a time when tenancy was high throughout the state and the nation, the Ozark region of northwestern Arkansas maintained a low rate of tenant farms. In 1930, sixty-three percent of all farms in Arkansas were worked by tenant farmers. In the Buffalo River area, the rate was significantly lower and ranged between twenty-seven and thirty-three percent.⁶⁰

Like many people across the country, Buffalo River valley residents received assistance through various federal relief programs. Many local men found work in the New Deal organizations of President Roosevelt's administration, particularly the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). In Arkansas thirty-five CCC camps employed 5,670 men. Members were selected through county welfare agencies and were required to have been unemployed between six months and two years. A number of public parks, buildings, roads and infrastructure built during the 1930s can be attributed to the CCC and many of the men enlisted learned usable skills that benefited them later on. During their service in the CCC, workers received thirty dollars a month and were required to send a minimum of fifteen dollars home to their families each month.⁶¹

⁵⁹ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 87.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, Hanson and Moneyhon, *Historical Atlas of Arkansas*, 56.

⁶¹ Buffalo Point National Register Nomination, 8-4A.



Figure 3: Farming continued to be the primary occupation of residents in the Buffalo River area into the mid-20th century. Here local farmer Sod Collier stands in his crop of Kentucky “Wonder Beans.” (Source: NPS, *Buffalo National River*.)

Another New Deal program, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) was responsible for bringing improved sanitary conditions to Buffalo River families during the 1930s. The WPA designed and constructed privies on several area farms including those of J.D. Hickman and the Mays family in the Mt. Hersey area. The privies were designed with ventilation panels on the back and sides.

The hardships of the Depression were accentuated by an extended drought through the area during the first half of the 1930s. Crops suffered and even the Marion County Fair was cancelled due to the poor quality and lack of sufficient crops. In response, the State Relief

Commission established canning centers to preserve surplus crops. Each county had at least one of these “canning kitchens” by 1932, and three were located in Searcy County.⁶²

Technological advancements introduced in the early twentieth century that improved and eased agricultural activity across the country were slow to develop in the isolated Ozark region. Developments such as the introduction of electricity, tractors and other mechanical devices were late in coming to the Buffalo River valley. The most significant advancement in agriculture during this period was the development of the combustion engine. As motorized tractors were fast replacing work animals on farms throughout the nation, farmers in the Buffalo River area continued with traditional methods. As late as 1945, nine out of ten farmers in North Arkansas continued to use animal power to work their fields.⁶³ Most area farms did not have the benefit of electrical power until the late 1940s as well, and many homes did not have indoor plumbing well into the 1960s.⁶⁴ The rise of farm cooperatives and county extension services helped to introduce progressive farming methods to the region and advance the modernization of area farms. These organizations began in the state as early as the 1930s, but increased greatly following World War II.

⁶² Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 88.

⁶³ Rafferty, *The Ozarks Land and Life*, 159.

⁶⁴ Rogers, “Parker-Hickman Homestead,” 94; Special Committee, The Buffalo River Improvement Association, “An Overall Economic Development Program For The Buffalo River Basin of Searcy, Newton, Marion, and Baxter Counties, Arkansas,” (Marshall, AR, n.d.), 22.

Agriculture continues to be an important aspect of life for many in the Buffalo River valley today. As an integral part of the region's history, agriculture has contributed to the development of the identity and character of the Buffalo River valley, and this heritage is often conveyed through the region's historic landscapes.

ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES

Introduction

Agriculture in the Buffalo River valley through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries primarily consisted of small to medium sized farms located in the region's fertile valleys along the bottom lands of the river. These farm complexes developed from subsistence level farming during the early settlement period to a more general diversified commercial farming by the late nineteenth century. Barns and smokehouses were the most common outbuildings constructed on area farms, and most farms also had root cellars, corn cribs, and privies. Wells and springhouses were also common and provided the farm with necessary water.

Several farm complexes remain extant within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River; however, many of these examples are in poor condition and no longer retain their full historic character. The majority of these date to the late nineteenth century and typically consist of a dwelling, barn, privy, smokehouse, and one or two additional outbuildings. Many of these surviving buildings have deteriorated due to years of disuse and neglect, and a number of them are near ruins. The survival of agricultural fields helps to define the agricultural history of the area. While some fields are leased to area farmers and continue to possess their historic agricultural character, others have reverted back to natural vegetation and are no longer recognizable as agricultural properties. Several properties associated with the context of agriculture were razed by the NPS following its acquisition of the area in the 1970s.

Characteristics of Farmsteads

Surviving farmsteads in the Buffalo River valley are primarily those of the larger and more prosperous farms of the region. These were

located along the bottomlands of the Buffalo River where land was more fertile and suitable to agricultural production. Farmsteads in these areas contain simple one to two-story frame and log dwellings that reflect traditional architectural practices of the region. They also contain a variety of outbuildings such as barns, sheds, privies, smokehouses, wells and root cellars. In addition to fields and pastures, landscape features include fence lines, banked ponds, and roadbeds.

Surviving Examples of Farmsteads

The most intact collection of surviving farm complexes in the Buffalo National River is located in the Boxley Valley National Register Historic District (NR 1987). The district contains numerous working farms and agricultural fields that retain their historic character. Excluding Boxley, the largest collection of extant farmsteads is in the vicinity of the Erbie community. This area along the Buffalo River contained some of the region's best bottom land and supported many of the largest and most prosperous farms along the watershed. The three surviving farmsteads in the Erbie area are the Parker-Hickman Farm, the Farmer Farm, and the Claggett Farm. These farmsteads have changed little from their nineteenth and early twentieth century development and retain a strong degree of their historic character. Also within the surrounding area are remnants of the Lane, Hutchingson, and Tinsley farms, which also contribute to the overall historic rural landscape. Together these properties along with additional buildings and structures of the Erbie community compose the National Register-eligible Erbie Rural Historic District.

Other surviving properties associated with agriculture are the Arnold and Rufus Robertson properties in the Tyler Bend area and the Evans-White House and Granny Henderson House in the park's Ponca Wilderness area. The dwellings and outbuildings that remain on these properties have deteriorated to a near ruinous state and the

surrounding landscapes do not reflect a strong sense of their traditional agricultural uses.

In addition to these properties, several remnants of farmsteads also exist across the landscape of the Buffalo River valley. These include some extant dwellings and outbuildings known to be associated with area farms. These buildings and structures are in poor or ruinous condition and do not retain sufficient integrity of design, materials, or workmanship to meet National Register criteria. The landscape features for these properties are also minimal and associated fields are largely no longer in use. The traditional agricultural landscapes have largely been lost as much of the land has gone untilled for decades and is now covered with a dense growth of undomesticated vegetation. None of these properties are part of an identifiable village or hamlet and are not part of a sufficient collection of similar agricultural properties to justify an historic district.

Also within the context of agriculture are various house or outbuilding sites that have features that suggest the property was involved in agricultural activity. The history of many of these sites remains largely unknown, however, their location near tillable fields and area streams suggests that it is most likely the sites were engaged in agriculture at some level. The remaining physical features of these sites are minimal. Some have a few remnants of stone or concrete foundation, while others are only noted by the appearance of domestic plantings. The remains of outbuildings such as root cellars, privies, or barns are at times extant. Occasionally, some vestiges of the former domestic landscape such as driveways, fence lines, and yard or garden organization are discernible, but these elements are generally not sufficiently visible for the site to retain integrity. A formal archaeological survey was not conducted as part of this study, and a future investigation may reveal more information.

None of the additional properties associated with the context of agriculture were identified as eligible for the National Register. These properties do not appear to meet National Register criteria for structures or cultural landscapes. Further research, including archaeological work, multiple property groupings and other variations of National Register eligibility should be explored before a final determination of eligibility is made. A description of each of the additional sites associated with agriculture follows.

Table 4 below lists the sites associated with agriculture surveyed as part of this project. The table identifies the geographical area in which each site is located and the property’s National Register status. Properties are discussed individually in detail under the appropriate geographical area in the Cultural Landscape section of this document.

Table 4: Properties Associated with the Context of Agriculture

Site Name	Geographical Area	National Register Listed or Eligible?
Parker-Hickman Farm	Erbie	Yes – listed
Jones Farm	Erbie	Yes – eligible
Farmer Farm	Erbie	Yes – eligible
Shake Roof Cabin	Erbie	Yes – eligible
Hickman House Site	Erbie	Yes – eligible
Lane House Site	Erbie	Yes – eligible
Huchingson House/Farm Site	Erbie	Yes – eligible
Tinsley Farm Site	Erbie	Yes – eligible
Fuller House Site	Erbie	Yes – eligible
Adair House Site	Erbie	Yes – eligible

Valentine Williams House	Tyler Bend	No
Arnold Double Door House	Tyler Bend	No
Luther Arnold House	Tyler Bend	No
Reavis Cabin	Ponca	No
Barn (Tract No. 52-119)	Central	No
Muller House Site	Erbie	No
Angle House Site	Pruitt	No
McFadden House Site	Pruitt	No
Armor House	Ponca	No
Evans-White House	Ponca	No
Granny Henderson House	Ponca	No
Arbaugh House	Ponca	No
House Site (Tract 20-103)	Ponca	No
House Site (Tract 22-100)	Ponca	No
Stock Barn, Hwy 5	Boxley	No
Josephine Hamilton Property	Pruitt	No
Hiner Property	Pruitt	No
Scott Property	Pruitt	No
Clarence Eaton Property	Pruitt	No
House Site (Tract No. 87-112)	Central	No
Earl Eddings Property	Central	No
Sharp Property	Central	No

House Site (Tract No. 57-104)	Central	No
House Site (Tract No. 59-104)	Central	No
John Reddell Property	Central	No
Barns (Tract No. 55-105/102)	Central	No
Manes Property	Central	No
Barn (Tract No. 01-117)	Central	No
Brewer House Site	Central	No
House Site (Tract No. 92-106)	Eastern	No
House Site (Tract No. 93-107)	Eastern	No
House Site (Tract No. 97-102)	Eastern	No
House Site (Tract No.74-110)	Lower	No
House Site (Tract No. 81-103)	Lower	No
House Site (Tract No. 82-119)	Lower	No
House Site (Tract No. 55-101)	Central	No
House Site (Tract No. 74-105)	Lower	No
House Site (Tract No. 23-113)	Ponca	No
House Site (Tract 55-103)	Central	No

HISTORIC CONTEXT #3: TRANSPORTATION

National Register-Listed and Previously Determined Eligible Properties: Currently the Highway 7 Bridge across the Buffalo River in the Pruitt area is listed on the National Register. Also the Old Boxley Bridge abutments, the low water Ponca Bridge, and the Leatherwood culvert, are contributing elements to the Boxley Valley Historic District. Likewise, several roads in the National Register-listed Rush Historic Mining District are contributing elements to that district.

Properties Identified as National Register-Eligible:

The existing railroad grade, bridge piers, and other site features associated with the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad are representative of the development of rail transportation in the Buffalo River area and were found to be eligible for the National Register.

Overview

Transportation in the Buffalo River valley has historically developed along three major networks – rivers, roads, and railroads. These networks provided a connection between local villages and settlements and connected them to points outside the region as well. Roads dominated the frontier period of settlement and initial development. Because the Buffalo River has never been very navigable, river transportation in the valley has been limited to flatboats and keelboats during much of the region’s history. However, the Buffalo played an important role in the development of the lumber industry as logs were floated or rafted downstream.

Railroads came to be the dominant force in transportation in the region during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The completion of the Missouri and North Arkansas line was completed through the region in 1902 and connected the Boston Mountains to

regional markets. The rail line helped to bring a wider variety of goods to the Buffalo River valley and increase its connection to outlying areas. The railroad was especially beneficial to the burgeoning lumber industry.

Early road systems in the Buffalo River valley largely developed out of existing Indian trails and paths. Settlers expanded these routes into wagon roads and used them to reach neighboring settlements as well as transporting goods for trade. Road networks were slow to develop due to the rugged character of the terrain. The mountainous landscape with numerous watercourses made significant road building difficult at best.

Roads throughout the Buffalo River valley remained little more than dirt paths until the early twentieth century and the rise of automobile use. The development of a state highway system in the 1920s led to the construction of modern paved highways. Where earlier roads had generally followed the paths of rivers and streams, modern roads tended to follow the ridge lines. The first paved roads were completed through the area in the late 1920s and included the construction of major bridges across rivers and ravines. This development greatly enhanced travel in the mountainous area.

Roads

Roads throughout the Arkansas Territory in the early nineteenth century were little more than paths in the wilderness marked by blazed trees. Native Americans and early frontiersmen had established trails in the region and as settlers arrived, they transformed the trails into wagon roads. Following the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the United States government funded improvements to a trail that extended southwest from Missouri through Arkansas to Fulton on the Red River. This road became part of what was known as the Southwest Road or Southwest Trail that ran between Kentucky and Texas. The Southwest Trail was the main

route in the Territory and crossed the White River near Shield's Ferry around present-day Batesville, then extended on to the Little Rock settlement. Another major road in the Arkansas Territory was the Natchitoches Trace, which extended from Louisiana to Hot Springs and then on to Little Rock.⁶⁵

In 1824, the U.S. government began to make improvements to trails in the region in order to make them passable for wagons. These "improvements" were minimal as most roads remained in poor condition as was typical of roads in a frontier area. Most were laden with rocks and tree stumps and were often thick with mud. The military road connecting Memphis and Little Rock was reportedly completed in 1828; however, a traveler along the route in 1836 noted that "much of the roadway was either under water or so muddy that his coach averaged only three miles an hour."⁶⁶ Travelers made similar complaints about the Southwest Trail. After traveling that route in 1834, George W. Featherstonhaugh reported that the road was full of rocks and stumps and that fallen trees, missing bridges, and mud impeded his progress.⁶⁷ Given that these were the main routes through the region, the less used trails leading deeper into the interior were most likely worse.

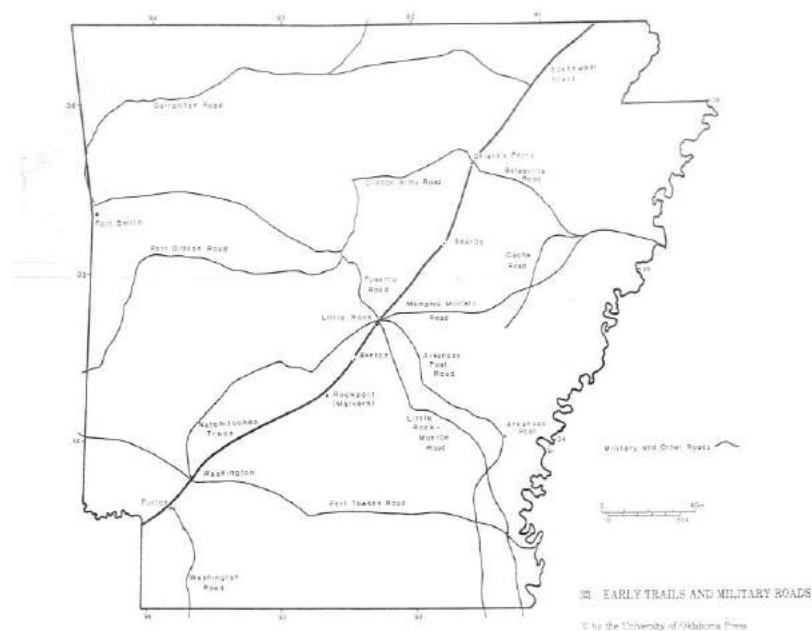


Figure 4: Early Road System in Arkansas (Source: Hanson and Moneyhon, *Historical Atlas of Arkansas*).

The route crossed through Carrollton, the county seat of Carroll County, and continued on to Fayetteville.⁶⁸ Many settlers to the area followed this road as well as other established trails. Once in the region, settlers transformed trails into wagon roads. These routes connected individual settlements and provided a means for social interaction among settlers. Routes in the Buffalo River valley typically followed the paths of creeks and rivers or traversed the top of ridgelines. The paths were crude and narrow and fraught with

⁶⁵ Hanson and Moneyhon, *Historical Atlas of Arkansas*, 33.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, Rogers, "Parker-Hickman Homestead," 32.

rocks and tree stumps making passage slow and tedious. Those along the streams in the lower elevations were quickest, but they were also susceptible to flooding and erosion.⁶⁹

Insight into the difficulties of overland travel near the Buffalo River during the frontier period is found in the example of settler Greenberry Parker's experience. Parker, a widower, emigrated to the area ca. 1840 from Tennessee with five young children in tow. The story of his journey was related over generations. He described a narrow path through the mountains on which wagons would not pass. He was forced to dismantle his wagons and pack all his family's belonging into the hills on horseback.⁷⁰

Road maintenance was the responsibility of local citizens, who made repairs as needed. State law required males between the ages of eighteen and forty-five to work on public roads up to five days per year, and if they failed to do so they were fined. Most residents voluntarily assisted with road maintenance, as it was necessary for travel.⁷¹ The roads throughout the Buffalo River area, while rugged, fit the transportation methods of the era, which were horses and wagons. While road maintenance improved, travelers still had to contend with the rugged terrain of steep hills, which impeded transportation more so than road surfaces.

⁶⁹ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 62; Hanson and Moneyhon, *Historical Atlas of Arkansas*, 33.

⁷⁰ Rogers, "Parker-Hickman Homestead," 49.

⁷¹ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 62.

Roads remained the primary means of travel throughout the Buffalo River area throughout the nineteenth century. The river was not navigable by vessels other than flatboats or keelboats, and railroads eluded the region until the early twentieth century. Local farmers were reliant upon the region's coarse roadways to transport their goods to market. As they traveled in large wagon trains the possibility of a wagon rolling off the road and losing one's load was always a threat. The most accessible market was in Springfield, Missouri, and a round trip to the town took five to eight days. In 1880, when area farmers ventured to try markets in Russellville, Arkansas, the journey took about two weeks.⁷²

Roadways were slow to improve well into the twentieth century in the Buffalo River valley. In 1915, it took J.D. Hickman, who lived south of the river near the Erbie community, two full days to travel to Harrison and back to buy and sell goods. The road to Harrison at this time was wide enough for a wagon, but remained unpaved. The route crossed various creeks as well as the Buffalo River.⁷³ During the early 1920s, Eph Woodward traveled what is now Highway 7 to Russellville with a team of mules and a wagonload of goods. This trip took two days each way due to the steep hills and road conditions. Hairpin turns, which still remain today, and large rocks slowed his pace and he typically spent the night with family friends along the way.⁷⁴ Good roads remained a concern of citizens and in 1916 the Harrison-Ponca Good Roads Club was formed. Substantial funds of approximately \$2,000 were raised for road improvements with the

⁷² *Ibid.*, 57-58.

⁷³ Rogers, "Parker-Hickman Farmstead," 91.

⁷⁴ *The Newton County Times*, 11 January 1996.

construction of a “satisfactory highway” between the two communities being a priority.⁷⁵

Fording the Buffalo River and the region’s numerous streams was especially troublesome for overland travelers. Locals often crossed watercourses by horseback or horse-drawn wagons at shallow points. Ferries operated at a few points on the river and offered a quick, inexpensive, and usually dry alternative. Ferries were typically boats rowed or poled back and forth across the water. One of the primary ferry operations along the Buffalo was Grinder’s Ferry near where Highway 65 crosses the river today. Josh and George Grinder began to operate a ferry at this location as early as the 1870s. Initially the men poled a flatboat to transport people back and forth. They later developed a cable and pulley system to propel the ferry using the force of the river itself. The cable was fastened to a tree on one side of the river and an anchor was used on the opposite bank to hold it in place. This method allowed the river current to carry the ferry, which crossed at an angle to meet the connecting roadbed.⁷⁶

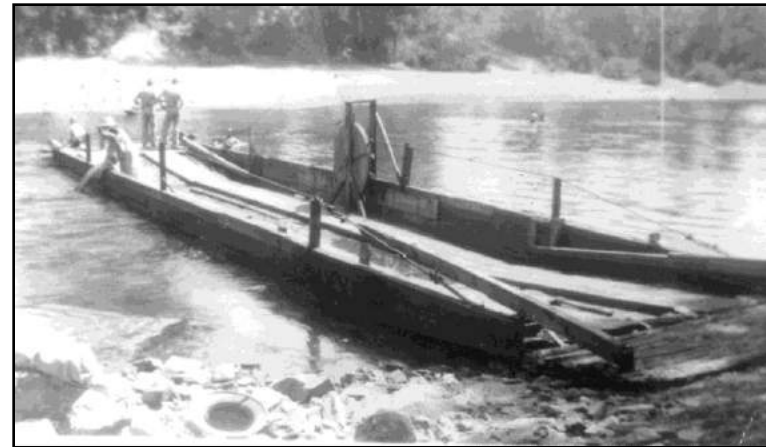


Figure 5: Dillard’s Ferry operated near Buffalo Point in the early twentieth century. (Source: NPS, Buffalo National River.)

The Grinder family managed the ferry across the Buffalo River for over fifty years before the Passmore family took over the operation. A ferry operated at this location until a modern bridge was constructed at the site in 1929. The Arnold family also operated a ferry near their home in Arnold Bend during the late nineteenth century. The ferry landing was washed out and ceased operation in 1901. Another ferry crossed the Buffalo River near the community of Maumee. Dillard’s Ferry operated near Buffalo Point along what is now Highway 14 in the early twentieth century.

Crossing the river and area streams remained a challenge to the local community well into the twentieth century. Area residents were familiar enough with the river to know where they could cross by boat or horseback, however, heavy rains often made these passages as well as ferry crossings difficult if not impossible to ford. Some residents constructed swinging bridges across the river to enable them to reach schools, churches, and neighboring communities. Such

⁷⁵ *Harrison Daily Times*, 23 December 1916.

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, 23-24.

a bridge was built across the Buffalo in the Erbie area in the late 1930s, and another spanned Calf Creek near Brown School.⁷⁷



Figure 6: One of the first motorized vehicles in Newton County had to contend with rough and rocky unpaved roadbeds. (Source: NPS, *Buffalo National River*.)

The Arkansas state highway system developed in the 1920s and introduced modern roads to the Buffalo River valley. The first state law in Arkansas that provided for highway construction passed in 1907. The act established local districts to fund road construction projects through bonds and taxes. This system did not achieve good results and in 1923, the state legislature passed the Harrelson Road

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, 92.

Act, which established a state highway department to supervise road construction. The Act also authorized funding of road projects through gas and motor oil taxes and the collection of auto license fees. By 1926, Arkansas had 8,346 miles of road under state maintenance. Only 734 miles, or about nine percent, of these roads were paved.⁷⁸

State highways typically followed the general paths of established roads. What are now Highways 123 and 7 in the Buffalo River valley developed out of what was the Old Cheatham Turnpike built in 1850. The route was originally “wide enough for a wagon with iron wheels to travel with most of the larger rocks moved,” and its course went from Mt. Judea to Lurton. In 1925, the Arkansas State Highway Department built Highway 123 along much of this same course. The road had a gravel surface into the 1990s.⁷⁹

In 1927, the state took over the previously established local districts and embarked on an ambitious four-year construction program. The project made headway until economic conditions of the Depression brought it to a halt. During this time the amount of roads in the state did not increase significantly, but the percentage of roads that were paved rose to 2,179 miles by 1935. Following World War II, the state began a second road building effort and by 1955 the state boasted over 10,000 miles of state maintained roads, 69 percent of which were paved.⁸⁰

⁷⁸ Hanson and Moneyhon, *Historical Atlas of Arkansas*, 62.

⁷⁹ *The Newton County Times*, 11 January 1996.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

The major route constructed through the Buffalo River valley during this period was Highway 65, which was completed in the late 1920s. Highway 7 connecting Harrison to Jasper was completed around this same time. In addition to improved roads, a large benefit of the state highway system in the Buffalo River valley was the construction of bridges across the river. The bridge over the Buffalo along Highway 65, built in 1929, was especially helpful in giving people north of the river access to the town of Marshall, the county seat. The original 1929 concrete deck arch bridge along Highway 65 was razed and replaced in the late 1980s.

Likewise, the bridge along Highway 7 in the Pruitt area aided travel to Jasper, the Newton County seat. This early steel bridge is a unique interpretation of the Pennsylvania through-truss design. Construction of the Highway 7 Bridge over the Buffalo River was contracted to Fred Luttjohann of Topeka, Kansas, in 1931.⁸¹ The bridge spans 375 feet and features a center span flanked by two end spans. This bridge remains in use and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990 under the multiple property listing of “Historic Bridges of Arkansas.”

⁸¹ “Historic Bridges of Arkansas,” National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1990, E-19.

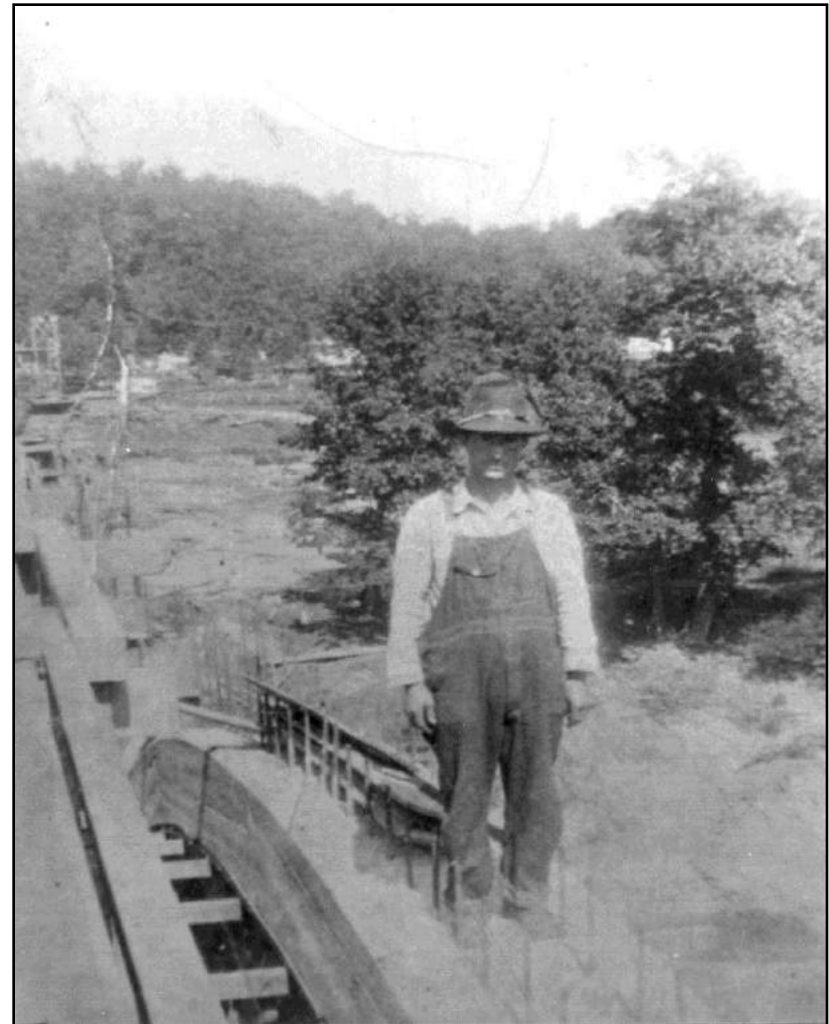


Figure 7: Ferry operator Harve Grinder stands on the Highway 65 Bridge as it was being constructed in 1928. The bridge eliminated the need for Grinder’s ferry operation. (Source: NPS, *Buffalo National River*.)

Waterways

Many settlers came to the Boston Mountain region by river. From the east they traveled along the Cumberland, Tennessee, and Ohio Rivers to reach the Mississippi, then followed the Arkansas River to its major tributaries with the White River leading to the Buffalo River area.⁸² The Buffalo River itself, however, has never been a very navigable waterway. Often its flow is too low to support sizeable watercraft and at other times its banks overflow due to periodic floods. Those who settled in the area used flatboats and rafts to transport themselves down the river and to take goods to markets. Flatboats were simple shallow-draft crafts that were cumbersome to navigate, but easily and cheaply constructed. After goods reached the White River, keelboats were commonly used to transport products to market. These boats ranged from forty to seventy-five feet in length and from eight to twelve feet in width and had rounded bottoms. A thick keel in the boat's center allowed it to withstand scraping over sandbars and other obstacles.⁸³

The advent of the steamboat in the early nineteenth century increased commercial connections and access to the Boston Mountain region in general, which in turn benefited the residents of the Buffalo River valley, but these faster and more powerful vessels were unable to navigate the often shallow and rocky waters of the Buffalo. Steamboats first traveled downstream on the Mississippi River in 1811 and were able to make the trek upstream by 1817. These boats could carry large loads of goods and people and played a key role in the settlement and commerce of the Ozark region. Their large size,

⁸² Rafferty, *The Ozarks Land and Life*, 51; Hanson and Moneyhon, *Historical Atlas of Arkansas*, 33.

⁸³ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 62-63; Rafferty, *The Ozarks Land and Life*, 97.

however, limited them to only a few of the largest streams in northwestern Arkansas. Small steamboats for a time plied the waters of the Osage and Gasconade Rivers in the late 1830s, but the White River was the only watercourse sizeable enough to be an important channel for steamboat travel.⁸⁴

Steamboats first successfully traveled the White River in the late 1830s or early 1840s. By 1845 the vessels were able to reach Batesville, Arkansas. Steamboats on the White River were specially designed with shallow drafts to cross the river's rocky shoals. A steamboat route between Batesville and Forsyth, Missouri became a major commercial route for the region with forty-five landings between the two towns by 1876. One of the major shipping points along the route was Buffalo City at the mouth of the Buffalo River and many ships hauled mail between Batesville and Buffalo City in addition to farm products and merchandise. McBees Landing in Marion County, was an important shipping point for residents in the Flippin and Yellville areas. The trip from Batesville to McBees Landing took twenty-four hours, while the return trip heading downstream took half that time.⁸⁵

During the late 1800s, efforts were made to improve steamboat navigation in the region and to the Buffalo River as well. In 1880, the US Army Corps of Engineers constructed a series of spur-dikes at the mouth of the Buffalo River that increased water levels at shallow points and aided river travel above Buffalo City. Owners of area lead and zinc mines were especially interested in the benefits of steamboat transportation and in the late 1890s petitioned the Corps of Engineers to make the Buffalo River navigable for small

⁸⁴ Rafferty, *The Ozarks Land and Life*, 97-99.

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, 99.

steamboats. Most minerals were transported out of the mountainous area via wagons and steamboats would ease this task considerably.⁸⁶

The miners were encouraged by the successful steamboat trip of Captain Will T. Warren, who in 1896 completed a trip up the Buffalo River to the community of Rush to deliver mining machinery via his steamboat the *Dauntless*. Although successful, the trip was fraught with navigation problems. Throughout the two-day trip overhanging limbs continuously hit the steamboat's smokestacks and the boat had to be winched from shoals a number of times.⁸⁷ Warren, who mostly undertook the trip on a boast, said he would never do it again.

Still, Warren's success increased demand for steamboat navigation on the Buffalo. In 1896, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers looked into the matter and conducted a survey of the river from its juncture with the White River to Rush Creek. The survey concluded that the only way the Buffalo River would be navigable by steamboat would be to construct a series of locks and dams along the waterway. The cost of such a project was estimated at \$750,000 and far outweighed any commercial benefits it would bring. The Corps recommended an alternative plan in which overhanging timber would be trimmed and rock outcroppings above the general plane of the streambed would be removed. The cost estimate for this plan was \$3,500, considerably less than the larger project. Work began on the project by 1900, but unpredictable water levels continued to prevent steamboat navigation on the Buffalo.⁸⁸

⁸⁶ Ibid., 99-100; Pitcaithly, *Let the River Be*, 63-64.

⁸⁷ Rafferty, *The Ozarks Land and Life*, 99-100; Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 63.

⁸⁸ Rafferty, *The Ozarks Land and Life*, 99-100; Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 64.

River transportation, however, did play a significant role in the region's lumber trade. Throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, residents used the Buffalo River to transport logs to the nearest rail line or mill. Sawn logs floated downstream from collection points in the area to the White River and on to Batesville, or later to train stations at Gilbert or Buffalo City.

Road improvements and the rise of the automobile lessened the importance of water travel in the Ozarks during the early twentieth century; however, as tourism and recreation increased, the Buffalo River became an important aspect of those developing industries. Wooden johnboats were commonly used for fishing trips, and in the second half of the twentieth century, canoes became the preferred boats of tourists. Canoe and johnboat rental remains a profitable industry along the Buffalo River.

Railroads

The development of rail lines across the nation revolutionized transportation in the late nineteenth century. Trains could carry large loads of people and products at rapid speeds and allowed for a greater dispersion of goods. Unlike steamboats, rail lines were not limited to river towns and reached previously undeveloped areas. The construction of a railroad through an area typically brought prosperity, increased population, and economic development.

The first railroad completed in Arkansas was the Memphis and Little Rock, which was chartered in 1858 and completed between the two cities in 1871. Three years later the Little Rock and Fort Smith line was completed. A number of other major lines were built in the state, but none penetrated the Ozark region in the northwest quarter. Many short-line railroads emerged throughout the state as local interests sought to connect their area to state and national lines. These shorter

lines were largely financially supported through locally raised funds. By 1900, thirty-three short-line railroads were in operation in Arkansas. These ranged in length from less than one mile to seventy-four miles with the average length being twenty-eight miles.⁸⁹

Around the turn of the century, a short-line railroad was constructed through the Buffalo River valley. The Missouri and North Arkansas line was built in segments between 1883 and 1909 and upon completion connected Joplin, Missouri with Helena, Arkansas on the banks of the Mississippi River. The line climbed the Boston Mountains then followed the Little Red River as it headed southeast. The line initially began as a short-line to serve Eureka Springs and was originally called the St. Louis and North Arkansas. The line was completed to Harrison, Arkansas on March 22, 1901. A large crowd gathered to see the engine, which pulled a pair of flat cars loaded with hand-hewn crossties, and welcome this new stage of development to the region.⁹⁰

The railroad primarily belonged to the people who lived in the area who had financed it largely through cash donations and giving the line free right of way across their land. Although the people were successful in getting a railroad built through the mountainous terrain, operating it at a profit proved to be a different story. As railroad historian Clifton Hull notes, “Locomotives cannot lift a string of high cars over two per cent grades on sentiment, and those serpentine curves certainly put a strain on the budget.”⁹¹ Upon completion the

⁸⁹ Hanson and Moneyhon, *Historical Atlas of Arkansas*, 49-50.

⁹⁰ Rafferty, *The Ozarks Land and Life*, 106; Clifton E. Hull, *Shortline Railroads of Arkansas* (Conway, AR: UCA Press, 1988), 51-52.

⁹¹ Hull, *Shortline Railroads of Arkansas*, 53.

line proved to be one of the most expensive railroads constructed in Arkansas due to the tremendous engineering difficulties of building through the mountains. The area’s soil was prone to sliding as the deep cuts were made to build the road and workers often encountered subsurface water, which created additional problems.⁹²

By 1906, the St. Louis and North Arkansas Railroad was operating at a huge deficit. In August of that year the company was reorganized as the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad (M&NA). The company soon arranged for an extension to be built south from Harrison to Searcy, Arkansas and then on to Helena along the Mississippi. An extension northward to Wayne and Neosho, Missouri was also planned. By 1907, the M&NA had fourteen locomotives and 350 boxcars, cattle cars, and flat cars of the latest design. In February 1908 passenger service began into the town of Sculin south of Leslie and by June of that year the line reached Heber Springs. The M&NA was officially completed between Helena, Arkansas and Joplin, Missouri on March 27, 1909.⁹³

The M&NA gave the Buffalo River valley connections to Kansas City, Joplin, Missouri, and Helena, Arkansas. At Helena, another railroad connection could be made to New Orleans. The line hauled timber, cotton, grain products and other goods produced in the region to outside markets and enhanced the availability of goods, supplies, and merchandise imported from other areas. Passenger service allowed greater connection and access to and from the region, lessening the cultural isolation it had previously known. A full trip along the line between Helena and Joplin, a distance of 368 miles, took just a little over seventeen hours, a speed unheard of via horse and wagon. Rail service also improved mail delivery and the first

⁹² *Ibid.*, 70.

⁹³ *Ibid.*, 65-72.

regular mail schedule began April 12, 1909 between Helena and Neosho.⁹⁴

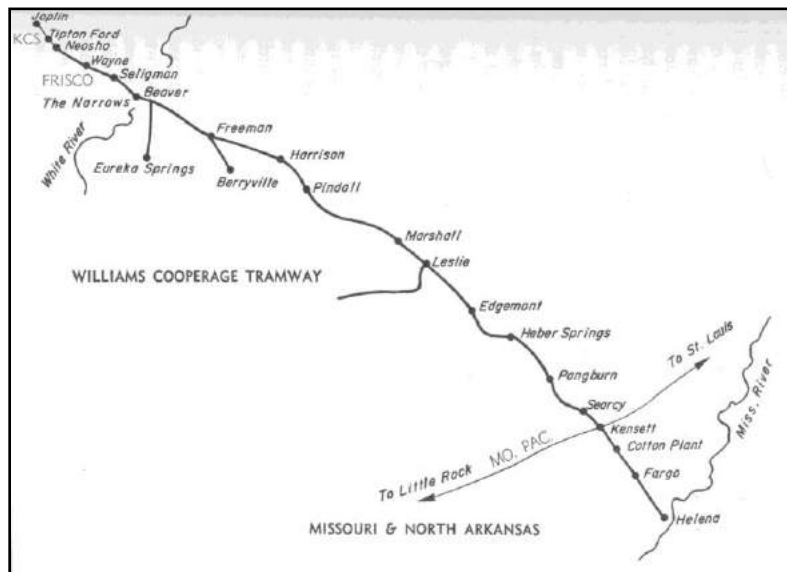


Figure 8: Corridor of the M&NA Railroad Line (Hanson and Moneyhon, Historical Atlas of Arkansas).

The railroad was especially beneficial to the rising lumber industry and encouraged the development of communities along its line. As timber was excavated across the landscape surrounding the Buffalo River, logs were floated downstream to rail shipping points where they were exported to regional mills. A key shipping point was the town of Gilbert, along the upper Buffalo River. The area that is now Gilbert was the homestead of William and Agnes Moore in 1879 and later belonged to the Vinson family. Around 1900, W. S. Mays

⁹⁴ Ibid., 66-74; Rafferty, *The Ozarks Land and Life*, 106.

purchased the property in anticipation of the rail line coming through the area. Mays foresaw the opportunity the railroad provided and relocated his general store business from the community of Duff to the new community along the tracks. The town of Gilbert was officially formed in 1902 and named after railroad executive Charles Gilbert.⁹⁵

As the trains began to move along the line, Gilbert grew into one of the area's central shipping points with timber, minerals from area mines, cotton, and other farm products being shipped to outlying markets. Several people worked in the Gilbert area as teamsters of freighters transporting products such as timber or bales of cotton to the town for shipping via the M&NA line.⁹⁶ The Eagle Pencil Company established a mill within a mile of Gilbert to supply lumber for its products, and a spur line extending across Dry Creek connected the mill to the main railroad line at Gilbert. A switch track also ran parallel to the railroad through town to a bluff by a spring along the river. Near the switch track were lumber yards, barrel staves, a stave mill, and cattle pens.⁹⁷

Gilbert also served as a chief commercial area and at one time had as many as four stores, two hotels, a saloon, and two or three doctors. The Battenfield Canning Company established a tomato canning factory adjacent to the railroad (this factory was later moved to another location), and a flour/feed mill and a sorghum molasses mill

⁹⁵ Ray Jordan, Jeannie Moore, and Stan Vivion, comp., *Gilbert, Arkansas*, n.p., 1, 18.

⁹⁶ Rogers, "Historic Resources of the Tyler Bend Development Area," 15.

⁹⁷ Jordan, et al., *Gilbert, Arkansas*, 1, 7-8.

were located in the town. A dozen or so houses, a church, and a school dotted the hillside just north of the railroad, making Gilbert one of the more concentrated population areas along the Buffalo River.⁹⁸

The railroad also had a significant impact on growth and development of the town of Leslie, south of Harrison. At the turn of the century Leslie was a small community of less than one hundred inhabitants. After the M&NA line was completed to the town in 1903, it became a center of railroad activity and quickly expanded. In 1907 the H. D. Williams Cooperage established a large plant in the town and became one of the region's largest employers. The company employed nearly a thousand people and could produce up to 5,000 barrels a day. In order to bring logs to its mill, the cooperage company built a twenty-mile tram rail line west of Leslie that penetrated the surrounding forest and connected to the M&NA line.⁹⁹



Figure 9: Downtown Gilbert in the 1920s. (Source: NPS, *Buffalo National River*.)

The railroad benefited residents in the Buffalo River area in many ways. By providing export shipping for area products such as lumber and ore, the line bolstered the timber and mining industry and thus helped to stimulate the economy. These industries along with the construction and operation of the railroad itself provided employment for many individuals in the Buffalo River area. Some, such as Jesse White Morre, found work with the railroad as a youth and continued on to make it his life's work. Starting as a water boy hauling water to workers on the line when he was thirteen, Morre eventually became a roadmaster with the line repairing tracks and installing new sections. He remained with the railroad until it closed

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, 7, 10, 34.

⁹⁹ Hull, *Shortline Railroads of Arkansas*, 57, 66.

in the late 1940s.¹⁰⁰ The railroad line also made a wider variety of products available from outside markets. Stores, such as those in Gilbert, carried a wide variety of items including ready-made clothes and shoes to hardware and farm machinery in addition to groceries. Local residents could also ship products such as cream, eggs, and chickens to outlying markets.¹⁰¹

Local merchants prospered from the activity surrounding the railroad. As people brought in loads of timber products to ship they would go to the stores and buy supplies. Also the arrival and departure of the passenger train brought potential business as large crowds would gather to see who was coming and going.¹⁰²

Despite the benefits it brought to the surrounding communities, the railroad continued to experience financial troubles and had stiff competition from the larger railroad lines in the region. In order to strengthen its business, the company moved its shops and offices to Harrison in the Buffalo River area, made Pullman sleeping-car services available, and offered improved schedules. But two events during the 1910s and 1920s dealt the railroad serious blows that prevented it from ever becoming a prosperous enterprise.

The first event occurred in August of 1914 when a small passenger train collided with another locomotive on the M&NA track just south of Joplin, Missouri. The tragedy left thirty-eight people dead and

¹⁰⁰ Shona Bing, "Gilbert," *Marshall Mountain Wave*, 18 November 1983.

¹⁰¹ Jordan, et. al., *Gilbert, Arkansas*, 15.

¹⁰² S. Wyatt III, "Manestown," (newspaper clipping on file at the Buffalo National River, Harrison, Arkansas.)

many others wounded. M&NA shared the responsibility for the accident with the other railroad company involved, but the financial repercussions were devastating and M&NA's treasury was depleted due to payments to victims' families.¹⁰³

Another major blow came to the beleaguered railroad in the 1920s as its workers initiated a strike that proved to be one of the longest railroad strikes in the country's history. The strike also took its toll on the people of the Buffalo River valley who suffered for months as conflict between the opposing sides often erupted in violence. The strike began in February 1921 after M&NA general manager C.A. Phelan notified employees that wages would be cut. The employees counter-offered suggesting that the number of positions be cut, but the pay scale be maintained. Phelan refused to consider this and he also refused to meet with the men who were willing to accept the reduced wage under protest and have a conference with management over the issue. Phelan declined the conference and said that the men were no longer considered employees. This action inflamed remaining employees and they quickly called a strike.¹⁰⁴

The strike continued for nearly two years, during which time violence mounted between striking railroad workers, the railroad company, and those who came to fill the positions vacated by the strikers. Most of the local citizens initially supported with the strikers, many of whom were family and friends. Most of those who were hired by the railroad were outsiders.

On March 16, 1921 a trestle near Pindall south of Harrison burned and brought the trains service to a halt. Railroad management

¹⁰³ Hull, *Shortline Railroads of Arkansas*, 77-78.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, 80-82.

accused strikers of arson, and strikers pointed to the poorly maintained and defective trains as the cause of the fire. Violence and vandalism continued to mount and the strike created extreme animosities between residents. The destruction of the trestle cut Harrison off from rail service and “supplies of staple goods were either exhausted or dwindling and prices were soaring.”¹⁰⁵ Without rail service, area residents had to resort to wagon roads as the major transportation routes. Many of the strikers threatened to boycott Harrison merchants if they sold goods to the replacement railroad employees. Many businesses went bankrupt and several people began to move out of the area in order to find work. Fed up with the impact on their town and lives, the citizens of Harrison formed the Harrison Protective League to preserve order. Among their activities, citizens guarded the rail line to prevent further vandalism.¹⁰⁶

In February 1922, the railroad company was sold to Charles Gilbert of St. Louis. The following May train service through Harrison was restored. However, by this time the strike had gone on for fifteen months and the railroad had been shut down for nine months. The line was in poor condition and locomotives were deteriorating from disuse. The strike finally ended in January 1923, but the M&NA line never fully recovered from this setback. Over the years the shipments from lumber mills and farms declined and the company had to abandon segments of the line. The line was abandoned by the mid-1940s, and in following years M&NA closed down its railroad shops and offices in Harrison and the tracks were taken up and sold for scrap.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁵ Ibid., 85.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid., 87-93.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.; Rafferty, *The Ozarks Land and Life*, 106.

ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES

Introduction

Properties associated with the transportation history of the Buffalo River valley can be categorized by their association with rivers, roads, or railways. Travel along the Buffalo River itself was primarily conducted via raft or flatboat and later johnboats and canoes. Ferry landings are associated with overland and river travel. Few bridges were constructed in the region prior to the development of the modern highway system. Most overland transportation routes intersected the river at shallow points where the water could be crossed via foot, wagon, or horseback. Ferry sites typically developed at wide, deep points on the river. In the early to mid-twentieth century a number of concrete slab fords were installed for vehicular crossing at low water areas. Ferry crossings continued to be important as the automobile came into use in the region. Prior to modern bridge development, ferry boats transported vehicles across the river to continue on local roads. Ferries operated in the area until the construction of modern bridges in the late 1920s through the 1950s.

Roads

Roads have been the main avenues of transportation in the Buffalo River valley throughout its history. Roads throughout the region remained primitive and of poor quality well into the twentieth century. Modern road development began in the 1920s and provided a few main paved roads for automobile traffic. A large majority of the roads along the Buffalo River, however, have remained unimproved dirt roads. Throughout the Buffalo National River are roadbeds that date to the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. Many of these roadbeds have been graded and improved to ease passage. Still others remain rugged and receive little or no

maintenance and require a heavy four-wheel drive vehicle, while a few are virtually impassable by vehicles. Roads that have been unused for decades have faded and become overgrown and are no longer recognizable components of the landscape.

Bridges

Modern bridge construction was an important development in the transportation history of the Buffalo River valley. A number of steel truss bridges were constructed throughout the state during the early twentieth century as the modern highway system evolved. These bridges provided greater access and improved transportation to rural areas throughout the state.

The oldest surviving example of modern bridge construction within the Buffalo National River is the Highway 7 Bridge at Pruitt. This steel truss bridge was constructed in 1931 and replaced an earlier wooden structure. The bridge remains in good condition and is an excellent example of early twentieth century bridge construction in Arkansas. It was listed on the National Register in 1990 under the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Bridges of Arkansas." A concrete span arch bridge was constructed across the Buffalo River along Highway 65 at the Grinders Ferry site in 1929; however, this bridge was torn down in the 1980s and a new bridge built in its place.

Ferry Landings

Ferry sites occur at wide deep points along the Buffalo River where late nineteenth or early twentieth century overland routes developed. Typically a roadbed leads to a landing along the banks of the river and slopes down to the river's edge. Ferries have not been in use along the Buffalo River for several decades and the combination of modern bridge construction, development of river access points, and

natural erosion have all but obliterated any discernible landscape features of the region's ferry landings.

Two ferry landings were documented during this survey. These are Dillard's Ferry where Highway 14 crosses the Buffalo River, and Grinder's Ferry, where Highway 65 crosses the river. The landscape in both these locations has been altered through the construction of modern bridges and neither retains sufficient integrity to meet National Register criteria. At the Dillard's Ferry site, a portion of original roadbed remains discernible on the north side of the river, but south of the river the historic landscape is lost.

Railroads

Rail transportation in the Buffalo River valley is associated with the construction and development of the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad line through the eastern section of what is now the Buffalo National River. The railroad bed was abandoned in the mid 1940s and the tracks later removed; however, evidence of the line remains on the landscape.

The rail line constructed through the Buffalo River region in the early twentieth century cut through the mountainous terrain and often followed the edge of a ridgeline and a small portion followed the course of the river. The remaining grade or bed of the railroad corridor is a flat, level earthen roadbed that is approximately fifteen feet in width. Depending on its location, the grade is either elevated or travels through deep embankments.

At the town of Gilbert the existing railroad grade is visible along the northern banks of the Buffalo River. The grade extends northeastward approximately one and one-half miles before crossing the Buffalo and continues to extend southeastward another quarter of a mile before exiting the boundary of the Buffalo National River.

The grade remains highly intact throughout this area and retains a high degree of integrity. Several large intact concrete bridge abutments also remain extant where the line crossed the Buffalo River. Other features associated with the site include the foundation remains of a water tower and a concrete spring box that supplied the railroad with water. The railroad grade, bridge abutments, and other associated site features are significant in the transportation history of the Buffalo River valley and are eligible for the National Register.

The following table lists properties associated with the context of transportation identified during this survey. The table lists the geographical area in which each property is located and its National Register status. These properties are fully discussed in the Cultural Landscape portion of this document.

Table 5: Sites Associated with Transportation

Site	Geographical Area	National Register Listed or Eligible?
Dillard's Ferry	Eastern	No
Grinder's Ferry	Tyler Bend	No
M&NA Railroad Grade & Associated Properties	Eastern	Yes – Eligible
Highway 7 Bridge	Pruitt	Yes – listed

HISTORIC CONTEXT #4: CIVIL WAR

National Register-Listed and Previously Determined Eligible Properties: Currently there are no National Register-listed or eligible properties associated with the context of the Civil War within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River.

Properties Identified as National Register-eligible:

No properties associated with the context of the Civil War were identified within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River during this survey.

Overview

The era of the Civil War was a tumultuous time for the Buffalo River valley as it was throughout most of the state. Troop movements of both Union and Confederate forces occurred throughout the area and often resulted in skirmishes, but not major battles. Union forces held the upper hand throughout the region following victories at Pea Ridge and Batesville, Arkansas, and in 1862 they successfully raided a Confederate arsenal at Yellville.

Although no major military battles took place along the Buffalo River, the region experienced devastating losses at the hands of violent guerilla groups and bands of outlaws who took advantage of the circumstances of the conflict and wreaked havoc across the land. Families suffered food shortages and other hardships as a result of raids and many residents fled the area.

The Civil War along the Buffalo River, 1861-1865

On the eve of the Civil War, Arkansas was divided politically. Despite the fact that it was a slave state and largely Democratic, Arkansas was not a staunch supporter of secession and the majority of its residents preferred to preserve the union. Following the election of Lincoln, the Arkansas congress met to determine the

future of the state, but could not reach an agreement and chose to wait several months before committing to a decision. The war, however, began in the meantime, and Arkansas joined the other southern states and seceded.

Political sentiment in the Buffalo River valley varied as well. Northwest Arkansas was not a large slaveholding area and so did not readily relate to the political position of the deep South. The region had the least number of slaves and slaveowners in the state. The mountainous terrain did not support the types of large-scale agriculture, especially cotton production, that heavily depended on slave labor. Only a small percentage of the population in northwest Arkansas owned slaves. In Newton, Marion, and Searcy Counties along the Buffalo River, less than one percent of the population were slaveowners. A number of people in the Buffalo River valley considered themselves Southerners and favored secession, but a large portion of the population were either politically indifferent or favored the Union cause.¹⁰⁸

Most Buffalo River residents simply wanted to be left alone to farm and continue their lives without disruption. During the early stages of the war many formed secret organizations to protect their homes, families, and property. Several were organized in the counties surrounding the Buffalo River with various names including the Peace Society, the Peace Organization Society, the Home Protection Society, and the Home Guard. It is not clear whether these organizations were motivated by pro-Union sentiment or simply a desire to remain politically neutral. Regardless of their intent, the Confederate government viewed the organizations as a threat and

¹⁰⁸ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 40-41.

rounded up and jailed many who were involved in the secret societies.¹⁰⁹

The secret organizations were especially popular in Searcy County where seventy-eight men of the Peace Society were taken prisoner. Among them were Peter Tyler, Sam Grinder, and Josiah Lane, of the Tyler Bend area. The men were taken in chains to Little Rock where they were given the choice of “volunteering” for the Confederate army or waiting possibly months in jail to stand trial. In his testimony regarding the mission of the society, Peter Tyler stated “I told him I was no northern man what I have is here and he said it was for home protection.”¹¹⁰ Like the majority of those arrested, Tyler joined the Confederate army. Many of these men later deserted, and after returning home, enlisted in the Federal army. Others, like Tyler, lost their lives fighting for the Confederacy.¹¹¹

The Confederacy was not without its supporters in the Buffalo River region. Confederate units were formed throughout the area with Yellville in Marion County being the center of Southern sympathies. Confederate troops established supply warehouses and a munitions arsenal in the town, and operated a saltpeter works nearby. Saltpeter was used to make gunpowder, and several areas along the Buffalo River were mined for this purpose, including a large operation just south of Boxley and smaller developments along Cave, Tomahawk, and Big Creeks.¹¹²

¹⁰⁹ Ibid., 41-43.

¹¹⁰ Rogers, “Historic Resources of the Tyler Bend Development Area,” 11.

¹¹¹ Ibid.; Pitcaithly, *Let the River Be*, 43.

¹¹² Ibid., 44, 48.

Divided loyalties often pitted family members against one another. For example the conflict divided six brothers of the Carlton family. Three of the Carlton brothers joined troops and fought for the Confederacy, while the other three fought with the Union army. To complicate things further, their sister was married to a Union captain who commanded troops in the Missouri and Arkansas area.¹¹³ Two Bolin brothers also supported opposing sides in the war, and are known to have fought against one another in a local battle. Family history relates that after finding his Confederate brother wounded, the Union brother sought permission to care for his brother and removed him from action.¹¹⁴

These types of situations must have taken a significant toll among families who already had to contend with the upheaval and harsh circumstances of war. As a reminder of the cost of war and the turmoil that area residents experienced, a number of gravestones throughout the valley bear inscriptions reflecting their favored cause. For example, in Cherry Grove Cemetery the stone of Joseph M. Buchanan reads, “Was killed by Conferates Mrach [sic] the 5, 1864 whilst in the service of the natianal army [sic] as a recruiting officer.” And several stones in the region, such as that of William Adair in the Adair Cemetery, note their loyalty to the South with “CSA” (Confederate Soldiers of America). Adair’s stone has a flag and gun motif and declares that he “Died for His Country.” The twenty-seven year old was killed in Duneslane Wall, Newlands, Arkansas, in April 1864.

¹¹³ Rogers, “Parker-Hickman Homestead,” 76.

¹¹⁴ Norman R. Martin, *Civil War in Newton County*, 74.

Official military activity in the Buffalo River valley during the Civil War was limited. Both Union and Confederate forces conducted reconnaissance expeditions throughout the area, but no major battles took place. Arkansas and neighboring Missouri were important to both armies due to their location bordering the Mississippi River. Early in the conflict, Federal troops moved into Missouri and gradually pushed the Confederates southward into Arkansas. In March 1862, the Union won a decisive battle at Pea Ridge, Arkansas that assured their control of Missouri. As the Confederates withdrew to the Arkansas River, the Union army moved eastward down the White River and captured the town of Batesville, Arkansas in May 1862. The Union then had the upper hand in northwest Arkansas. The region was not under Union control, but the nearby presence of Federal troops kept the Confederates from having a stronghold in the area. The following November, Union forces raided the Confederate arsenal at Yellville destroying those supplies and the nearby saltpeter mine. This victory eliminated any concentration of Confederate troops in northwest Arkansas.

As troops moved throughout the Buffalo River valley, skirmishes often occurred between Federal and Confederate troops. These were generally inconsequential encounters having little impact on the overall development of the war. Fighting along the river increased during 1864. The most substantial encounter took place in May 1864 near the mouth of Richland Creek when Confederates attacked a Union wagon train carrying supplies. The attack left thirty-seven men dead and eleven wounded. The exact location of this confrontation is not known and no above ground remains have been identified.

Another skirmish is known to have taken place near the Parker Farm south of the river in the Erbie area (by then owned by the Thomas Rains family). Four to six men were wounded in the confrontation

and taken to the nearby farmhouse.¹¹⁵ An altercation between Confederate and Union troops also took place near Whiteley's Mill in the Boxley area. Here Union forces fought Rebel soldiers under the command of John Cecil, who was well-known for his guerilla war tactics and had evaded capture by the Union army due to his extensive knowledge of the local mountainous landscape. After intense fighting, which resulted in few casualties, Cecil's men disappeared into the mountains.¹¹⁶ (Whiteley's Mill was razed in the late 1860s and replaced by a larger mill, which remains extant.)

The greatest impact of the Civil War on the Buffalo River valley, however, came not from military confrontations but from the activities of various bands of outlaws that roamed the countryside taking advantage of the circumstances of war. Following the fall of Yellville, the northwestern region of Arkansas entered a period of lawlessness that lasted through the end of the conflict and into the 1870s. Neither the north or the south had definitive political or military control of the area nor both largely ignored the region. In the absence of order, numerous criminal bands emerged. Some groups claimed loyalty to either the North or the South, but most "maintained a common interest in murder, pillage, and the creation of general mayhem."¹¹⁷ Known as jayhawkers, bushwhackers, or boomers, the men in these groups were known for their violent plundering across the land. They raided farmsteads, destroyed crops and property, stole food and supplies, and murdered residents. The mountainous terrain and isolation of the Buffalo River region eased

¹¹⁵ Rogers, "Parker-Hickman Homestead," 43, 67.

¹¹⁶ Norman R. Martin, *Civil War in Newton County*, 71-75.

¹¹⁷ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 45.

the marauders' ability to attack unexpectedly and quickly hide upon retreat.

In addition to these criminal groups were bands of guerilla soldiers affiliated with either the North or South. These were independent companies of local men who were no longer officially in the military, but desired to continue to help their chosen side at the local level. The strongest Southern sympathies were in Searcy County, with the most influential group led by James Harrison Love. The town of Jasper in Newton County was the headquarters of similar bands of Union sympathizers. Under the leadership of James R. Vanderpool, the guerrillas worked to suppress the recruiting of local men for the Confederate army and relayed information to Union troops in the area. In an effort to capture Vanderpool and stifle his group's efforts, Confederate forces raided Jasper in May 1863, but the guerrilla leader evaded their grasp.¹¹⁸

The Civil War left the Buffalo River area in a ravaged state. By the end of the conflict much of what earlier settlers had accomplished was destroyed. Farmsteads and fields had been plundered and lay in ruins. Crops, livestock, and other assets were depleted. Communities and families had been torn apart over support to one cause or the other. Many residents had been killed; others abandoned the region. Those that remained were surely weary from living through years of terror at the hands of outlaws and scraping by as best they could.

The area's major towns – Jasper, Yellville, and Buffalo City – sustained heavy damage and had few buildings remaining. Some former residents reportedly were living in caves or other temporary shelters. Late in the war, several hundred Buffalo River families that had relocated to Missouri asked for troop protection in order to

¹¹⁸ Ibid., 46-47.

return to the valley.¹¹⁹ It is not known if they received permission, but displaced families did not return to the Buffalo River area until after the war was over. Although the area quickly recovered from the physical damage of the war, violence and lawlessness remained active in the region well into the 1870s. As families returned home, repaired their farms, and rejuvenated the land, the region embarked on a period of growth and prosperity.

ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES

This survey of the Buffalo National River did not reveal any properties primarily associated with the context of the Civil War. Future studies, however, could reveal properties related to this context.

¹¹⁹ Ibid., 48.

HISTORIC CONTEXT #5: INDUSTRY

National Register-Listed and Previously Determined Eligible

Properties: The Boxley (Whiteley) Mill and associated mill race and pond were individually listed on the National Register in July 1974. These properties are also considered contributing elements to the National Register-listed Boxley Valley Historic District (NR-07/39/87). The Casey Sawmill constructed ca. 1945 is also a contributing building to the Boxley Valley Historic District. Also within the context of industry is the Rush Historic District, which was listed on the National Register in February 1987.

Properties Identified as National Register-Eligible:

This survey of the Buffalo River National Park found no additional properties within the context of industry to be eligible for the National Register.

Overview

Initial industrial activity along the Buffalo River during the early settlement period was primarily limited to grist mills and sawmills. These were typically small family-owned operations that served the immediate surrounding community. Most relied on the water power of the areas streams and springs. Grist mills were often a focal point of small villages or hamlets and served as a gathering place for residents to visit and exchange news.

For a short period during the late nineteenth century, commercial lumber activity became a prominent industry in the Buffalo River region. The area's abundance of hardwood trees drew a number of lumber companies and timber product businesses to the area and mills throughout the region began to produce lumber for outside markets. The boom period for the lumber industry quickly faded as the area's best timber resources were depleted by the 1920s. Small

timber operations, however, continued throughout the region and the lumber industry remained active into the mid twentieth century.

The most significant industrial development in the Buffalo River valley in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was the mining of lead and zinc, which were abundant in the region's rocky hillsides. Lead mines were established in the area as early as the 1850s with large-scale mining activity taking place by the 1870s. During the 1880s, the discovery of zinc in the region led to a tremendous influx of prospectors and mining operations. Several large mining companies were organized and a large mining district was established. One of the largest mining areas was near Rush and Clabber Creeks, and mining camps along these streams quickly developed into bustling towns. The region's mines gained national recognition and were among the top producers of zinc ore in the country. The mining boom continued through the first two decades of the twentieth century and fueled the local economy. Area populations soared as people migrated to the area to work in the mines and businesses flourished. After World War I the mining industry faded and after a small rebirth during the late 1920s came to a halt.

Frontier Industries ca. 1830 – 1875

Early industrial development in the Buffalo River valley were those that supported the self-sufficient lifestyle of frontier life – primarily sawmills and grist mills. These operations were vital to sustaining life in the rugged wilderness of the Ozark region and typically became the center of budding hamlets and villages. Mills of this era were generally family-owned and operated and served the surrounding community. Grist mills of this era were either hand-, animal-, or water-powered. Rudimentary hand-operated mills were commonly used at individual home sites, especially those in isolated areas. These were simple mortar and pestle operations devised from

a tree stump and large weighted pestle. Commercial operations had more complex water- or animal-powered mills.

Around 1840 Abner Casey built a water-powered mill in what later became the community of Boxley. Sam Whiteley later purchased the mill and it became known as Whiteley's mill. The community grew up around the milling operation, which by 1850 was surrounded by a number of small farms. As the community grew its needs increased and around 1870 the original mill was razed and replaced by a larger building and mill operation. This three-story, frame structure contained a grist mill, flour mill, cotton gin, sawmill, and later a hammer mill. Robert Villines became the miller and his descendants continued to own and operate the mill over generations until it ceased operations in the 1960s.¹²⁰ The mill was an important part of life in the Boxley community and served as a landmark in the valley for generations. The Whiteley Mill, as it is still known, remains standing and is a prominent feature in Boxley valley. The building and associated mill race and pond were individually listed on the National Register in 1974 and are also considered contributing elements to the Boxley Valley Historic District (NR 07/29/87).

At least some Buffalo River valley occupants were involved in blacksmithing and distilleries. Little information is available regarding these early industrial enterprises; however they were common activities to frontier life. It is likely that individuals in the area were skilled blacksmiths and carpenters and used these talents to enhance their farms and probably did work for others in exchange for other goods or services. Early settler Greenberry Parker is one example. Parker came to the region ca. 1840 to join his brother who

¹²⁰ Edward P. Baxter, "Old Boxley Water Mill," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, July 1974; Boxley Cultural Landscape Report, 19-21.

had established a farm along the Buffalo River. In the 1840 census, Greenberry was noted as being involved in commerce rather than agriculture and his descendants listed their occupations as blacksmith and carpenter. Possibly Greenberry's contribution to the family farm was through these skills.¹²¹

Commercial Lumber Era ca. 1875 – 1920

During the late nineteenth century, the extraction and milling of lumber became the chief industry in the Buffalo River region. By the 1870s, timber resources in New England, Pennsylvania, and New York had been depleted and lumber companies and businesses that produced lumber based products began to look elsewhere for this natural resource. Sawmills had existed throughout the Buffalo River valley since its initial settlement, but only produced for local markets. By the mid-1870s, they began to produce for outlying areas.

The Boston Mountain region's abundant supply of cedar, oak, and walnut drew the interest of a number of companies. The Houston, Ligett, and Canada Cedar Company, the Consolidated Lumber Company, A.L. Hayes Stave Company, and the Eagle Pencil Company were among the many businesses that came to the region to cut and market its timber resources.¹²² Many of the companies purchased timber warrants from homesteaders and landowners, who had acres of unimproved lands. This arrangement benefited local landowners by clearing lands for cultivation and by contributing to the household income. For example William Hall signed a contract with the Houston, Liggitt, and Kennedy Corporation in 1902 for "all

¹²¹ Rogers, "Parker-Hickman Homestead," 50.

¹²² Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 59.

the cedar timber” on his land through 1904. Hall received \$25.00 in return.¹²³

The season for cutting timber lasted several months. When the Buffalo’s waters ran high, typically following periods of heavy rain in the spring and fall, the logs were dropped into the river to transport downstream. The logs were tied into makeshift rafts which floated to the White River and on to lumber yards in Batesville. The Calf Creek and Tyler Bend areas were among the key logging points where floats began. The surrounding terrain determined the method used in getting timber to the river. If roads sufficient enough for a wagon were located nearby and the hills were not too steep, logs would be transported on wagons. If the timber being harvested was on a cliff, it was cut to fall into the river’s deep waters. Others were dragged via mules to areas known as “tie slides” located at various points along the Buffalo River. Here logs were slid down the hill to the river, where men waited to tie them into rafts to float downstream. One of the largest floats on record consisted of 175,000 logs and lasted twenty-two days.¹²⁴

Batesville, Arkansas was the primary market for timber during this period. Walnut and cedar logs were the chief marketable logs. Railroad cross-ties made out of white oak were also produced locally and then floated down river on rafts to Batesville to be sold. Rafts were typically made of alternating heavy walnut and light cedar logs. When the heavy walnut logs were transported loose or “free floated”

¹²³ Rogers, “Parker-Hickman Homestead,” 39, 87.

¹²⁴ Ibid; Rogers, “Historic Resources of the Tyler Bend Development Area,” 15-16; “Floating Timber Down the Buffalo River – 1890’s” *Mountain Wave* 25 May 1972.

it was common practice to bore holes in the ends of the logs and insert corn cobs to make them more buoyant.¹²⁵

In 1902, the St. Louis and North Arkansas Railroad (later the Missouri and North Arkansas) line was completed to the town of Gilbert and logs were then transported from this point on the river by rail. The railroad itself spurred the lumber business as a substantial amount of timber was needed for ties as the tracks were being laid. Likewise the growing mineral industry encouraged further reduction of area forests as the large smelting operations required tremendous amounts of wood for fuel.



Figure 10: Floating logs down the Buffalo River ca. 1890. (Source: NPS, *Buffalo National River*.)

¹²⁵ “Floating Timber Down the Buffalo River – 1890’s” *Mountain Wave* 25 May 1972.

One of the largest timber related enterprise in the region was the H.D. Williams Cooperage in Leslie, approximately ten miles southeast of Marshall. The Williams company moved its operation from Poplar Bluff, Missouri to Leslie around 1907 after the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad was constructed through the region. It built a large plant in the town and became one of the region's largest employers. The company employed nearly a thousand people and could produce up to 5,000 barrels a day. In order to bring logs to its mill, the cooperage company built a twenty-mile tram rail line west of Leslie that penetrated the surrounding forest and connected to the M&NA line.¹²⁶

The lumber industry provided a number of jobs and temporarily fueled the economy of the region. It brought new people to the region such as Robert Madison who worked as a timber buyer for a Tennessee pencil company and moved to the area in 1901. Railroad ties and barrel staves became key products of the area, and around shipping points such as Gilbert and Harrison a number of men were employed as freighters or teamsters to haul the logs to the railroad station.¹²⁷ During the early twentieth century Arkansas was the fifth largest producer of timber in the country.

The Eagle Pencil Company and the Wallace Pencil Company were among the corporations that purchased thousands of cedar logs along the Buffalo River. The labor-intensive work required crews of around thirty men to cut down the timber, transport it, and float it down the river. They set up camps along the way and slept in tents on beds of hay or straw. The crews left at daybreak and returned

¹²⁶ Hull, *Shortline Railroads of Arkansas*, 57, 66.

¹²⁷ Rogers, "Parker-Hickman Homestead," 88; Rogers, "Historic Resources of the Tyler Bend Area," 14.

after sundown. Cutting the virgin forests was hard and often dangerous work. Trees averaged around twenty-two inches in diameter and did not come down easily. One laborer recalls that it took a crew of thirty men seven months to cut one particularly dense tract of land before the crew moved to another location.¹²⁸ After the logs were cut they had to be hauled to the river's edge and stacked, a task that required great finesse with mules and chains. Floating was especially dangerous. The river itself could be treacherous and log jams created added risks as workers walked the logs to loosen the bottleneck.¹²⁹

The work was grueling, but the pay was good. One area resident recalled that timber harvesting provided the first "big money" folks in the area experienced.¹³⁰ In 1906 timber cutters and haulers typically received \$1.00 per day for their labor, and floaters, particularly those with the most experience, often made more due to the high risk of their job. Some of these men made up to \$2.00 per day.¹³¹

The timber industry had a ripple effect through the economy. In addition to those who worked the timber, others who benefited from the industry were landowners who sold the timber, owners and employees of the numerous stave mills, cooks and water boys who

¹²⁸ Daniel Boone Lackey, "Cutting and Floating Red Cedar Logs in North Arkansas," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* Vol XIX No. 4 (Winter 1960), 362-363.

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*, 366-369.

¹³⁰ Armon T. Mays, "The Amazing Buffalo River Pencil Harvest," *Ozark Society Journal*, Vol. XVI No. 4 (June 1983), 14.

¹³¹ Lackey, "Cutting and Floating Red Cedar Logs," 366-367.

found work with the camps, and locals from whom food and supplies were purchased. The money gained from the timber industry enabled many families to purchase items they otherwise could not afford. Former timber laborer Daniel Lackey remembered:



Figure 11: Extracting logs from the rugged terrain was a difficult and time-consuming process in the late 19th century. (Source: NPS, *Buffalo National River*.)

Pa was able to buy a new set of harness. Sonny Boy, after working a few months, bought a new saddle and a pair of long shank spurs with the rowels large enough to be used for a rip saw. Ma was soon the proud owner of a metal washboard and a clothes wringer. Pa's pet, Matildy Sue, lost no time in throwing away her ring that had been fashioned from a penny and always left a green mark on her finger,

and picking out a ring in the catalog that featured a "Hot Springs" diamond as big as a Sunday-morning biscuit."¹³²

The lumber industry's prosperity was short-lived, however, as timber harvesting was indiscriminant and companies depleted the region's best timber resources by the 1920s. Poor management resulted in a "cut-and-run business" of denuding the regions' forests, and the lumber companies moved on after the best timber disappeared. By 1939 only one lumbering or finishing firm was operating in Newton County, and none were located in either Searcy or Marion Counties.¹³³ Small independent operations remained in the valley, but their impact on the local economy was minor compared to the boom at the turn of the century. Timber production in the Buffalo River valley continued well into the mid-twentieth century and remains a limited industry in the area.

Mining Industry, ca. 1870-1931

By far the most significant industry in the history of the Buffalo River valley was mining. Soon after its initial settlement, the Buffalo River area was identified as having extensive deposits of lead in the surrounding hillsides. In 1858 a state geological study noted the existence of a lead ore mine at the mouth of Cave Creek and another in Newton County at the headwaters of the Buffalo River. Use of lead increased during the Civil War for supplies of munitions.

¹³² Ibid., 365.

¹³³ Pitcaithley, 59-61; Hanson and Moneyhon, *Historical Atlas of Arkansas*, 51.

Confederate forces are known to have worked the Cave Creek mine for lead.

Large-scale mining began in the Buffalo area in the 1870s. Around 1877 the Boston Mountain Mining and Smelting Company began to operate the mine at Cave Creek. It later sold the property to Granby Mining and Smelting Company. A number of other mines were also initiated in the region. The companies extracted the lead from the mines and then hauled it via wagons to Russellville, Arkansas, where it was shipped to Pennsylvania.¹³⁴

During the 1880s, zinc was discovered and mines began to focus on that mineral. Miner John Wolfer found large zinc deposits along Rush Creek in Marion County and developed a small smelter at the site. In 1891 he sold the operation to George W. Chase who organized the Morning Star Mining Company. The company built a large smelter and soon became one of the largest zinc producers in the state.¹³⁵

During the late 1880s and early 1890s the area around Rush and Clabber Creeks became the focus of mining activity in Buffalo River valley. Between 1887 and 1888 alone, two hundred claims were made and the area around Rush Creek was organized as the Buffalo Mining District. In addition to the Morning Star Company, the Buffalo Zinc and Copper Company and the Arkansas Mining and Investment Company made claims in the area. Prospectors flocked to the Rush Creek mining district and the larger companies set up

mining camps that quickly developed into thriving towns complete with houses, stores, post offices, and hotels.¹³⁶



Figure 12: Morning Star Mine at Rush was one of the largest producers of zinc in Arkansas. (Source: NPS, Buffalo National River.)

The mining boom along the Buffalo River drew interest from around the country. Articles about the area were published in industry journals, and the Arkansas exhibit at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago featured a 12,750-pound mass of zinc carbonate from the Rush mines. By the late 1890s investors from New York, Boston, and London were showing interest in the mines of northwestern Arkansas. The Marion County Bureau of Immigration was

¹³⁴ Ibid., 78-79.

¹³⁵ Ibid.

¹³⁶ Ibid., 78-80.

overwhelmed with requests for information and had to set up individual township bureaus to deal with the influx of residents.¹³⁷



Figure13: Mining provided jobs for many area residents. (Source: NPS, Buffalo National River.)

Mining had a tremendous effect on the development and economy of the Buffalo River region, especially in the lower Buffalo area where the largest concentration of mines were located. The impact went far beyond the hundreds of jobs the mines supplied and the development of surrounding mining towns. The vast amounts of zinc ore extracted were hauled by wagons and barges to Buffalo City for shipment via steamboat. In addition to being a shipping point for the mines,

¹³⁷ Suzie Rogers, "Rush Historic District" National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, February, 1987, 8-2.

Buffalo City became the main commercial center for the region as merchandise, machinery, and supplies were hauled into the area to support the burgeoning communities.



Figure 14: Buffalo City near the confluence of the Buffalo and White Rivers became the primary shipping point for zinc extracted from area mines. (Source: NPS, Buffalo National River.)

Mining assisted the lumber business as massive amounts of wood were needed to fuel the large smelters, and the industry encouraged the development of the railroad line through the area to enhance transportation. Following the railroad's completion, the town of Gilbert became a major shipping point for area mines.¹³⁸ Local farmers also benefited as the surge in population increased the demand for food products. At times, the demand was more than area farmers could produce. As one observer noted in 1899:

¹³⁸ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 81-84.

There is absolutely no beef in that country. I ate salt pork from the time I went in there until I came away – not a bite of fresh meat for anybody. Neither are there any chickens, eggs or butter. In fact, so many have gone there, and the facilities of the people already settled there are so limited that the latter have almost been eaten out of house and home by the prospectors, immigrants and strangers.¹³⁹



Figure 15: Yellow Rose and Edith Mill Mines at Rush in 1916. (Source: NPS, *Buffalo National River*.)

¹³⁹ Ibid., 81.

The prosperous mining industry continued well into the twentieth century. The United States involvement in World War I fueled demand for zinc and the number of mines in the Buffalo River valley increased from 30 to 100. Production rose from eight tons to over three thousand. The mining area around Rush Creek boomed as hundreds of people came to the area to work in the mines or developing businesses. The population of the once small village soared to around three thousand. Rush mines produced up to forty percent of the zinc ore mined in Arkansas.¹⁴⁰

While the mining industry boomed during World War I, forces were in motion that were weakening the industry. During the war, zinc production in the state peaked in 1917 at 6,800 tons and lead production at 382 tons. High production, however, translated into lower costs, and thus brought companies less profits. The circumstances of war also resulted in high production costs. Many able-bodied young men were involved in the armed forces, which resulted in a labor problem for the highly physical mining jobs. In addition, the industry continuously had to combat with inadequate transportation and fuel supplies. Construction of the railroad enhanced shipment of the ore, but getting it to the rail shipping points was a cumbersome task of hauling it overland via wagons or down the Buffalo to the White River via barges, which were unreliable. Timber, the mining industry's fuel source, was becoming in short supply as the lumber industry was depleting area forests. Difficulties were also encountered transporting lumber to the mining areas. Finally, in the post-war period, competition for the production of zinc ore increased heavily. The culmination of these effects ultimately led to the demise of the mining industry in the Buffalo River valley and throughout the state. By 1918, zinc production in the state had fallen drastically to 951 tons. By 1924 this total had

¹⁴⁰ Ibid. 84-85; Rogers, "Rush Historic District," 8-3, 8-8.

dropped to a mere four tons. Lead production had also decreased significantly with only eight tons produced in the state in 1920.¹⁴¹



Figure 16: Rush soon became a “ghost town” after the mining industry diminished. (Source: NPS, *Buffalo National River*.)

The decline of the mining industry had a harsh impact on the local economy. The mines had been a major source of employment in the region and their closure left many without work. Many individuals returned to farming as their primary occupation while several families moved out of the region in search of employment elsewhere. Some of the mines reopened in the mid-1920s and provided a brief boost to the local economy, but the industry never regained its former prowess.¹⁴² A few individual “free-oreing” miners continued to work the area into the 1940s when the processing mills were eventually dismantled for salvage. The Rush community dwindled to a shadow of its former heyday years. The post office closed in the 1950s and by the following decade all inhabitants had left leaving Rush a ghost town of empty dwellings, stores, and the remnants of the once thriving mining industry.

¹⁴¹ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 85-86.

¹⁴² *Ibid.*, 86; Rogers, “Rush Historic District, 8-3.

ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES

Introduction

Industrial development in the Buffalo River valley has been minimal and limited to early settlement period industries such as grist mills and sawmills, commercial lumber-based operations of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and mining activity. The type of small grist mills and sawmills that local residents constructed in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries rarely survive. They were primitive operations and quickly dismantled when they were no longer in use. Others were abandoned and quickly deteriorated.

Mill Sites

The only substantial grist mill to survive within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River is the Whitley or Boxley Mill, which was individually listed on the National Register in 1974. It is also a contributing building to the Boxley Valley Historic District (NR 07/29/87). This three-story, frame structure contained a grist mill, flour mill, cotton gin, sawmill, and later a hammer mill. The mill operated until the 1960s and remains a prominent landmark in Boxley Valley.

Lumber Industry

Also in Boxley is the Arvel Casey sawmill. This large, frame, L-plan building was constructed in 1945 and reflects the continued importance of small lumber operations to the community through the mid-twentieth century. The Casey sawmill remains in fair condition and is a contributing property to the National Register-listed Boxley Valley Historic District (NR 07/29/87).

No other sites associated with the commercial lumber industry were identified within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River for this project. The lumber industry in this region largely consisted of crews of men who cut and hauled lumber to mills in outlying areas. No substantial mills were located in what is now the boundaries of the Buffalo National River. The river itself was used to transport logs to the mills. Lumber camps were temporary in nature and left little physical evidence behind. Extraction sites have changed significantly due to new growth over several decades. Evidence of tie slides and portions of old logging roads possibly remain on the landscape; however, none were recorded during this project.

Mining Industry

The most significant industrial sites in the Buffalo National River area those associated with the mining industry of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The area surrounding Rush Creek was the center of mining activity along the Buffalo River during this period and a number of significant properties associated with this development are contributing elements to the National Register-listed Rush Historic District. These properties include dwellings, mining company offices and building sites, commercial buildings, roadways, and mines. The Rush community was listed on the National Register in February 1987.

Mining activity occurred throughout the Buffalo River area and several old mines and foundation sites of associated facilities exist in various areas of the national park. These types of sites were not surveyed for this project and no other sites within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River associated with the context of industry were identified for this project.

HISTORIC CONTEXT #6: RELIGION

National Register-Listed and Previously Determined Eligible Properties: Walnut Grove Church (Boxley Community Building) and Beechwood Church are listed on the National Register as contributing elements to the Boxley Valley Historic District (NR 07/29/87).

Properties Identified as National Register-eligible:

Erbie Church is considered a contributing element to the proposed Erbie Rural Historic District. The ca.1900 frame building was continuously used as the community's religious facility from its construction to 1992. Erbie Church was a significant part of the surrounding community and is one of the few remaining buildings associated with the village of Erbie.

Overview

Religious life in the Buffalo River valley has historically been community-oriented with churches serving as important gathering places in the small villages and hamlets scattered throughout the region. Churches doubled as civic centers and educational facilities and were often the location of social events. Religious emphasis throughout the region has been primarily of a conservative or fundamentalist nature with Baptist and Methodist representing the largest denominations. Although worship was an important part of life along the Buffalo River, loyalty to a particular denomination or church was not a priority as less than one third of area residents were strongly affiliated with an individual organization.

Pre-Civil War Era, ca. 1830-1860

Religion has been an important aspect of life in the Buffalo River valley from the time of its initial settlement. Prior to constructing permanent church buildings, settlers worshiped in brush arbors or gathered at an individual's home for religious services. Once the

business of clearing land, sowing crops, and establishing a home were completed, churches were among the first buildings settlers erected. Early church buildings were typically simple one-room log structures and often served multiple purposes. As often the only public building in a small settlement or village, the church also provided space for local meetings, social gatherings, and doubled as schools for the community's youth. Religious gatherings themselves also provided an occasion for isolated families to visit with friend and neighbors.¹⁴³

Missionaries and itinerate preachers traveled through the area soon after the first settlers arrived. The Baptist Home Mission Society of New York City sent missionaries to the Buffalo River area by 1838, and a number of Methodist missionaries were known to be in the area by the 1840s. By 1852 a Methodist organization was formed at Yellville.¹⁴⁴

One of the earliest church organizations formed in the area was the Crooked Creek Baptist Church, which was founded July 3, 1834 with forty-three original members. The group initially met in one another's homes before a permanent building was erected just south of Harrison. Local family's involved in the church included the Parkers and the Gaithers. The Baptist denomination expanded and

¹⁴³ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 29, 66; Boxley Cultural Landscape Report, 24.

¹⁴⁴ Evelyn Flood, "Kinfolks," *The Newton County Times* 07 September 2000; Thomas M. Yoder, "Methodist Church History Told," *Mountain Echo*, 01 June 1988.

around 1840 the Buffalo Association was formed as an umbrella organization for all area Baptist church meetings.¹⁴⁵

The Crooked Creek congregation was active. In addition to hosting various functions, the church regularly sent representative to association meetings of area churches, had assorted committees, visited members who had gotten off course, and aided in the formation of other churches. In 1838, George Washington Baines was selected as pastor of the Crooked Creek congregation. Baines, who also served in the state legislature, was the great-grandfather of President Lyndon Baines Johnson.¹⁴⁶

Baines remained pastor of the organization until 1843 when a rift in the church split the congregation. The rift was over the issue of missionary work and its role within the church. The controversy began when some members began to attend meetings of a Methodist missionary group. Many members of the Crooked Creek congregation were “hardshell” Baptists and had a strong belief in predestination, thus they regarded missionary work as futile. Those who attended the missionary meetings, including Pastor Baines, were warned and eventually excluded from the church. Other members requested to be dismissed from the Baptist organizations.¹⁴⁷

One of the early Methodist organizations was initiated in what is now the Erbie area. Methodist preacher Nathaniel Villines settled in the area sometime in the late 1800s and after living in the community

¹⁴⁵ Flood, “Kinfolks,”; Rogers, “Parker-Hickman Farmstead,” 33, 48.

¹⁴⁶ Rogers, “Parker-Hickman Farmstead,” 49.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid., 51.

for two or three years began to preach at meetings held at individuals’ houses. Eventually a building that served as both a church and a school was constructed near what is now Fitton Cave Road and became known as Villines Chapel.¹⁴⁸ Another church was built ca. 1900 near the crossroads of the Erbie community on high ground to avoid flooding. This also became known as Villines Chapel. A split in the Methodist congregation led the Erbie Church to be used as a non-denominational community church for citizens in the Erbie area. This one-story, frame, gable front building remains extant and was in continued use as a church until 1992.

Churches were an integral part of life along the Buffalo River and like schools, general stores, and grist mills were a common part of most of the small hamlets and villages that dotted the landscape. A church on Cave Creek in Newton County was a two-story, log structure that served several purposes. The first story functioned as a church and school while the second floor served as the local Masonic lodge. A similar situation took place in a building along Richland Creek.

Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries, 1860-1950

As communities grew and sawn lumber became the favored building material, frame buildings often replaced the original log structures. These new buildings remained simple in design and like their predecessors were constructed by the members of the local community.

The vast majority of residents in the Buffalo River area were Protestant in faith. Historian Dwight Pitcaithly states that there was little distinction between denominations throughout the valley and

¹⁴⁸ Ibid., 33.

that “few were active in a particular church.”¹⁴⁹ Likewise, local church buildings commonly were not limited to any one denomination, but accommodated various denominations. Pitcaithley cites an inventory conducted in 1906 that reveals that eighty percent of residents within the Buffalo watershed area were not members of a specific denomination. Within each county, only a small fraction of the population declared a commitment to an organized church. In Newton and Marion Counties between thirteen and fourteen percent belonged to a specific church, while in Searcy County it was just over twenty percent.¹⁵⁰

Throughout the late nineteenth century, the Methodist denomination was the most dominant among area residents. By the early twentieth century, there were various denominations represented with none being a prevalent leader. In 1906, forty-four percent of Marion County residents affiliated with a church were Methodist and forty percent were Baptist. In Searcy County, Baptists were more common with over forty-eight percent of the church going population and thirty-five percent Methodists. There were also eighty Catholics in Searcy County in 1906, which made up three percent of those who attended church in the county. In Newton County, forty-three percent of residents associated with a church belonged to the Disciples of Christ. The second largest denomination represented in Newton County was Baptist, with sixteen percent.¹⁵¹ The state Methodist organization despaired over its inability to make better headway in the Boston Mountain area. Those who traveled to the area to extend the denomination found the locals difficult to organize due to their

¹⁴⁹ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 66.

¹⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, 66-67.

¹⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 67.

independent nature and strong individual personalities. These characteristics did not bode well with the political structure of the Methodist church.¹⁵²

These statistics however, do not adequately reflect the importance of religion in the lives of Buffalo River area residents. The low percentage of dedicated churchgoers is more a reflection on the individuality and lifestyle of the area’s residents rather than a lack of religious faith. Life in the rugged hills of the Boston Mountains required tremendous amounts of time and energy and little of each was left over for formal religious activity. Still residents went to great lengths to attend church and religious functions, often traveling miles over rugged territory to attend religious services and events. The strong character and individual nature of the people also served as a factor. Many of those who settled in the area also came from a Scotch-Irish background, which had a heritage of unceremonious faith, and commitment to a single church was not considered essential to commitment to a religious life. The irregular nature of church services also should be considered. Services were often irregular as most communities were not large or prosperous enough to support a full-time minister. Instead, services were held on alternate weeks or as infrequent as every fourth or fifth week.¹⁵³ Preachers often traveled from one community to the next, and it was not uncommon for individuals to travel to a different community in order to attend church.

The role of religion in life along the Buffalo River during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries is more apparent in the

¹⁵² *Ibid.*, 68.

¹⁵³ Robert K. Gilmore, “The Church as Entertainment,” *Ozarks Watch*, (Fall 1988), 11.

occurrence of numerous religious revivals and camp meetings throughout the area. Many area residents participated in these gatherings, and baptisms in the waters of the Buffalo were heavily attended events. Baptisms often took place just downstream from Grinder's Ferry (now where Highway 65 crosses the Buffalo) with as many as three hundred people in attendance. One resident recalls that those who gathered "would sing wonderful songs, and the pastor would baptize those waiting, one at a time."¹⁵⁴ A ca. 1916 photograph of a baptism at Grinder's Ferry confirms the types of large crowds these events drew. Another photo taken in 1934 reveals that these religious events along the Buffalo River continued to be important community gatherings (Figure 16). Another early twentieth century source mentions "big baptizings" being held nearly every Sunday along the Buffalo and states that close to one hundred individuals were baptized in Mill Creek near St. Joseph on one Sunday. Within a period of two months over 200 people were baptized in the waters of the Buffalo River in the Arnold ford area during the same period. (The date of the document is not clear but appears to be from the 1920s.)¹⁵⁵

Religious gatherings also served as a form of entertainment or social event for the local population. This is not to say that they took these events lightly, but simply enjoyed them as well as finding them spiritually fulfilling. As one writer put it, Ozarkers "took their religion seriously but seldom somberly."¹⁵⁶ They offered residents

¹⁵⁴ Armon T. Mays, "Early Life Along The Buffalo River," *Ozark Society Bulletin* (Volume XI, No. 2, 1977), 9.

¹⁵⁵ Printed in James Johnston's *Search County Exchange*, February 1996.

¹⁵⁶ Gilmore, "The Church as Entertainment," 11.

one of the few opportunities they had to engage in fellowship with their neighbors and kinfolk and others from surrounding communities. At revivals and camp meetings they enjoyed the emotional and often dramatic orations of evangelists and actively participated in the event through shouting, singing, and other forms of "testifying" their faith. It became an engaging experience for all.



Figure 17: A baptizing event along the Buffalo River in 1934. (Source: NPS, *Buffalo National River*.)

Faye Scroggins who grew up in the Erbie community during the late 1930s and 1940s recalls that revivals were very social events attended by all. Large dinners and singings were part of the enjoyment and people came from not just the Erbie area but from surrounding communities as well. Faye and her parents would walk approximately two miles to the Erbie church each night of a revival even though her father had to leave before daybreak for work the

following morning. “Because when they had a revival everybody went.”¹⁵⁷

Preachers in the Buffalo River area often traveled by horseback to preach in different communities and typically boarded with church members. Some developed a reputation for their interesting sermons and had a following.¹⁵⁸ Most preachers depended upon an additional occupation to support themselves. Many farmed or taught school. Religion and education were closely linked throughout the Ozark region. As mentioned earlier, a single building commonly served as both church and school and it was not unusual for the preacher to also serve as educator to the children. In the larger region surrounding the Buffalo River several religious colleges were founded in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Methodist denomination founded John Brown College in Siloam Springs, Arkansas in 1919, and Congregationalists formed Springfield College in Springfield Missouri in 1873. By 1923, thirteen of the fourteen colleges in northern Arkansas were church supported.¹⁵⁹

The construction of churches or church/school buildings were always a community effort with residents supplying the land, materials, and labor for the structure. In the community of Duff just north of the Buffalo River local residents came together to build their Baptist church in the early 1890s. Members of the community cut and

¹⁵⁷ Faye Scroggins, Interview with Suzanne Rogers, September 24, 1987. (Transcript on file at Buffalo National River, Harrison, AR), 28-29.

¹⁵⁸ Gilmore, “The Church as Entertainment,” 11.

¹⁵⁹ Stanley Burgess, “Perspectives on the Sacred: Religion in the Ozarks,” in *Ozarks Watch* (Fall 1988), 6-7.

hailed donated logs to a mill that sawed them free of charge, others provided the time and energy it took to construct the building. Local resident James Mays hauled doors, windows, and trim from Russellville, Arkansas, a trip which took over two weeks.¹⁶⁰ The Erbie Church, constructed ca. 1900, was likewise a community effort. Local resident W.R. Farmer, when interviewed in 1977, recalls that a nearby sawmill sawed the lumber for free and people of the community donated materials and helped construct the building. A child at the time, Farmer too helped the carpenters and was given the privilege of driving the first nail in the building.¹⁶¹ Erbie Church played a central role in the rural hamlet and was the site of many revivals, suppers, and other community events as well as regular church services. In addition, the building served as the local school and the local voting precinct. The Erbie Church remains standing and is one of the few surviving structures in the Erbie village.

One of the most notable church buildings in the Buffalo River area is the Walnut Grove Church in Boxley. The church was constructed in the 1870s by local residents and is representative of the central role such structures played in the isolated communities of the Ozark region. The Walnut Grove building served as both church and school and was a focal point of social and civic activity. The two-story, white, frame structure stands out among the rolling landscape of Boxley valley. It is “in every sense of the word a town building. The residents of the valley intended it as such when they constructed the building and intended that it make such a statement to all who viewed it.”¹⁶² The church remains a landmark in Boxley valley and

¹⁶⁰ Mays, “Early Life Along the Buffalo River,” 9.

¹⁶¹ W.R. Farmer, Interview with Bob Schellhous, April 28, 1977, (Transcript on file at Buffalo National River, Harrison, AR), 10-11.

¹⁶² Boxley Cultural Landscape Report, 22.

continues to serve as a community building. Also in Boxley Valley is the Beechwood Church. This is a single-story frame structure with a stone foundation, a hipped metal roof, and an exterior of weatherboard siding. The building has changed little from its early twentieth century construction and has an adjacent cemetery.

In the early twentieth century, the millennialist religious sect the Incoming Kingdom Missionary Unit established a community in the town of Gilbert along the Buffalo River. John A. Battenfield formed the group in 1912. He was a minister in the Christian Church and founded the sect after having a revelation about the millennial prophecies of the Bible. Battenfield preached that a world-wide battle between Protestants and Catholics would take place, and he and his followers sought out an isolated area in which to wait for the approaching holocaust.¹⁶³

In Gilbert, Battenfield and his followers spread their prophecy and converted residents from the surrounding areas. The sect grew and remained in Gilbert for many years. The organization operated a printing press in Gilbert and published the weekly religious journal the *Kingdom Harbinger*, and various other religious studies and publications. It also printed letterheads for local businesses. The group suffered a blow in February of 1925, when it lost its leader. Battenfield prophesized that he would resurrect a member from the dead. After failing to do so, he claimed he had suffered a nervous breakdown and quickly left the area bound for Washington, D.C. Without its charismatic leader, the sect soon dissolved. However, having established roots, a number of the families associated with the sect remained in the Gilbert area and surrounding counties, and their descendants continue to reside in the area. Their deep religious

background has had a strong influence on the communities in which they live.¹⁶⁴

¹⁶³ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 68-69.

¹⁶⁴ *Ibid.*; Jordan, et. al., 2-3, 17.

ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES

Churches serve as the primary property type for the context of religion in the Buffalo River valley. Churches were among the earliest buildings constructed as settlements and villages began to take shape in the nineteenth century. Area residents historically have taken a community approach to religion. Churches often served as multi-purpose community buildings and housed the local school and/or lodge and served as a public meeting place in addition to housing local religious services. These buildings often were not dedicated to a specific denomination, but welcomed all in the community. As the center of much community activity, these churches played an important role in the region's isolated villages and hamlets and were often the defining element and local landmark of the surrounding community.

Characteristics of Community Churches

The community churches built throughout the Buffalo River area were generally constructed by members of the surrounding area and reflected vernacular building techniques and designs. Many early church buildings were simple log structures, and as communities grew these were replaced by more permanent frame buildings. One-story frame examples are typically small in scale and rectangular in form with a gable front roof. Two-story versions of this basic design were commonly used for multi-purpose community church buildings. Interiors typically have open floor plans with wood floors and horizontal board wood walls. Churches of this era generally did not have bathroom facilities, and outdoor privies were often located to the rear of the buildings.

Surviving Examples of Community Churches

Three churches are located within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River. In the Boxley community the Walnut Grove Church (Boxley Community Building), constructed in the 1870s, and the Beechwood Church were listed on the National Register in 1987 as contributing buildings to the Boxley Valley Historic District. The Erbie Church was built ca. 1900. This simple, frame, gable-front church served area residents until the early 1990s and is one of the few remaining standing structures in the rural hamlet. The Erbie Church has not been significantly altered from its original design and its materials and workmanship also maintain high degrees of integrity. The Erbie Church is eligible for the National Register as a contributing building to the proposed Erbie Rural Historic District.



Figure 18: Erbie Church.

HISTORIC CONTEXT #7: EDUCATION

National Register-Listed and Previously Determined Eligible

Properties: Cold Springs School was listed on the National Register 7/16/92 for its significance in the educational and social history of the Ozark region of northwestern Arkansas. The school was constructed ca. 1935 by the Works Progress Administration.

Properties Identified as National Register-eligible:

No additional properties within the boundary of the Buffalo National River associated with the context of education were identified as eligible for the National Register.

Overview

Formal education in the Buffalo River valley was limited until the late nineteenth century. To accommodate their youth, area residents constructed a number of simple one-room schoolhouses throughout the area. Often the local structure served as both school and church and was often the center point of the community's social activity. Area schools provided a basic education to the isolated communities along the Buffalo River. Each school typically had one teacher and offered instruction to children from first through eighth grade.

Throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, schooling often took a back seat to the more pressing needs of the farm or homestead. While those who lived in the Buffalo River region made continued efforts to provide their children with an education, the degree and quality of schooling remained relatively low throughout the region. Knowledge in farming and other rural life skills were more valued than formal education, and illiteracy rates were high. During the 1920s, advancements in education were made as the state-wide school system took shape and state support of education increased. Education in the state experienced severe drawbacks in the 1930s due to the economic difficulties of the Great

Depression, but began to recover in the post World War II period. At this time a movement toward consolidation of schools resulted in the closure of many small community schools.

Education in the 19th and Early 20th Centuries, ca. 1830-1910

Formal education was slow to develop in the Buffalo River region as it was throughout much of rural Arkansas. Prior to the Civil War there was no general education system in the state. The Territorial legislature passed the first law concerning public education in Arkansas in 1829. This law designated townships as local school districts and declared schools under local control by township.¹⁶⁵ Initial settlement of the Buffalo River region began in the 1830s and Federal land surveys established township boundaries by 1834.

During this early phase of development, education in Arkansas was largely determined at the local level. The type and degree of educational opportunities available in any given region reflected the values and character of its residents. Private academies, which students paid tuition to attend, were common in the more populated areas of the state, which had a greater concentration of wealthy, educated, and progressive citizens. In rural areas such as the Buffalo River valley, there was generally little emphasis on education. Formal education was not a high priority for most residents, who were primarily occupied with the work of farming and establishing a homestead.

As the number of settlers in the Buffalo River valley increased during the nineteenth century, small community schools began to spring up in the settlements, villages, and hamlets as they emerged.

¹⁶⁵ Morgan R. Owens, "The Development of White Secondary Schools in Arkansas," (Ph.D. diss., George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee, 1940), 3-4.

Sometimes classes were held in a local home or more often the neighborhood church doubled as the community's school. Buildings constructed solely as educational facilities were typically a community effort with the land, labor, and materials supplied by those families that lived in the area. The earliest school buildings were simple one-room, log structures, with spartan furnishings and equipment. There was no electricity or plumbing and a fireplace or small stove typically provided heat. Books and other school supplies were at a bare minimum as communities could afford little, and pupils sat on homemade benches and chairs. Each school typically had one teacher who taught grades one through eight. Pupils ranged in age and came from the surrounding area.

In 1860, there were about twenty schools in the Buffalo River valley.¹⁶⁶ The first school in the Snowball area near Calf Creek is believed to have been established in an old saloon sometime before the Civil War.¹⁶⁷ The first school in the Richland Creek area was built prior to the Civil War. The building was constructed of hewn oak logs and measured approximately 18' x 20'. The building had no windows, but one log on the main façade had been cut out to allow light to enter. The structure, which was also used as a church, was razed ca. 1897.¹⁶⁸

¹⁶⁶ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 29.

¹⁶⁷ Orville J. McInturff, *A History of Searcy County Schools and Their Relation to The Economic Development of the County* (Marshall, AR: *Marshall Mountain Wave*, 1969), 17

¹⁶⁸ Transcript of Interview with Tom A. Tate, October 22, 1970, Harrison, AR. (From files of James T. Johnston, Fayetteville, AR, copy on file at the Buffalo National River Headquarters, Harrison, AR.

The amount and quality of education in the region was limited during this period, which was typical of a remote area. Many residents in the Buffalo River area did not have a strong interest in or commitment to formal education. This was primarily an outgrowth of the agrarian subsistence lifestyle common to the region. The tradition of farming and living off the land was a well-established and well-honored lifestyle in most families that settled in the region, and there was little formal education offered to sustain this. Education was not a priority for most individuals. Instead, the life skills of farming and pioneer life were more important to success and survival in the rural mountainous area. The comments of a census taker in Marion County in 1850 reveals disinterest in education: "There appears to [be] a greater degree of apathy here than I have ever witnessed in any county whatever," states the report.¹⁶⁹ The result of such apathy was a high illiteracy rate for the region as forty percent of adults in Marion County and sixty percent in Newton County were illiterate.¹⁷⁰

Still, those who lived in the region often went to great lengths to provide their children with some schooling. Residents came together to build and maintain schools, and to pay, feed and house teachers. Students had to walk long distances, often a mile or more, over rugged terrain to get to school. In 1878 Mollie and Valentine Williams moved from their farm in Cash Bend to the town of Marshall in 1878 so that their children could attend school. In 1887 they re-located again, this time to St. Joseph, for the same reason.¹⁷¹

¹⁶⁹ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 30.

¹⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁷¹ Williams Family File, Buffalo National River, Harrison, Arkansas.

School terms were arranged to avoid planting and harvesting times so children could help out on the farm. Farming was a priority, but it was out of necessity. As area residents Emma Clark and Opal Reavis recalled, “school was difficult to attend because family needs came first. . . . it took an entire family to make crops and a living in those lean years.”¹⁷²

School districts were established in the Buffalo River area during the late nineteenth century and area landowners paid a tax for school maintenance. The area’s rugged terrain and the isolated nature of communities required a number of small schools scattered across the landscape, with schools appearing every few miles. One local resident recalls that two schools were located about 300 yards from the mouth of Davis Creek in the Mt. Hersey area.¹⁷³ Transportation was limited and children primarily walked to school. This often meant crossing creeks or the river, which created problems when the water was high.

Among those schools established in the Buffalo River area was Brown School along Calf Creek in what was determined District Number Four. This district appears on tax assessment records in 1882. A school was possibly located here as early as 1876. Elisha Brown donated the land for the school and the schools at this location have since been known as Brown or “Pap Brown” school.

¹⁷² Newspaper clipping, Education files, Buffalo National River, Harrison, Arkansas.

¹⁷³ Ken Smith’s notes on Mt. Hersey and Transcript of a 1965 interview with Jack McCutcheon (Copy on file at the Buffalo National River Headquarters, Harrison, AR).

The school building that currently remains on the property was built ca. 1915.¹⁷⁴

Baker Springs School District was one of the first district formed on the north side of the Buffalo River followed by Tomahawk and Dry Creek Districts. The original school at Center Point was constructed in 1877. It later burned and another school was built about a mile away below the mouth of Sneed Creek. A photo taken of this school in 1910 reveals it was of log construction with a split shingle roof. At least forty-four students attended the school at this time. This second school at Center Point burned in the 1920s or 1930s and was replaced with a third building. This frame structure was in use as late as 1949, but following its closure the building fell into ruins and is no longer extant.¹⁷⁵ School in the Erbie area took place in Villines Chapel and later in a vacant home. There were also schools in Duff, north of the Buffalo River in the Tyler Bend area, and the Point Peter School was situated west of Richland Creek at the mouth of George Hale Hollow.

¹⁷⁴ Rogers, “Historic Resources of the Tyler Bend Development Area,” 14, 53-54.

¹⁷⁵ Billie Touchstone Hardaway, *These Hills, My Home, A Buffalo River Story* (n.p.), 116-119.



Figure 19: Brown School along Calf Creek was constructed ca. 1915.
(Source: NPS, *Buffalo National River*.)

Like area churches, schools were considered community buildings and were often the location for social gatherings such as pie suppers. Many communities took the resourceful approach of combining church, school, and lodge in one building. Such was the case in the village of Snowball south of the Buffalo River. On March 20, 1886, the local chapter of the Masons purchased land on which a two-story building was constructed for the cost of \$329.25. The building served as the school and church for the community as well as a meeting lodge for the Masons. The building was named Snow Hall in honor of the current sheriff, Ben Snow. It is reported that when the community later applied to change the name of the local post office to Snow Hall, the application was mistakenly read as Snowball, thus giving the area its current name.¹⁷⁶

¹⁷⁶ McInturff, *A History of Searcy County Schools*, 17.

The nearby Hall School along Calf Creek also served the multiple purposes of church, school, and lodge. This was also a two-story structure with the upper story serving as the lodge hall. Residents of the town of St. Joe also constructed a multi-purpose community building. The small square structure measured 18' x 18' and was of log construction.¹⁷⁷

By the early twentieth century, education in the Buffalo River area lagged behind that of much of the country. Although a number of schools dotted the landscape, educational opportunities were limited. Teachers were poorly trained and facilities were largely inadequate. An isolated culture with a tradition of family farming curbed interest in education, and schools supplied a basic education up to an eighth grade level.

Progression of Education in the 20th Century, 1910-1950s

During the early twentieth century educational reforms at the state level gradually brought improvements to schools in the Ozark region of northwestern Arkansas. Beginning in the 1920s, a series of legislative initiatives brought significant developments to education throughout the state through increased funding and raising educational standards. These efforts experienced a setback during the 1930s due to the economic circumstances of the Great Depression, and many school districts gained federal assistance through the New Deal programs of the Roosevelt administration. As the nature and character of schools changed throughout this period, the physical appearance of schools also evolved, and the little one-room school houses began to fade. Improved roads and a movement toward consolidation resulted in the closure of many one-room community schools in the Buffalo River area by 1950.

¹⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, 19.

Steps toward standardization of schools began with the development and acceptance of public high schools. During the late nineteenth century most high schools throughout the state were private academies. These were located only in the more populated areas and were virtually nonexistent in rural regions of the state. In 1911 the state first passed legislation that appropriated funds for public high schools. The 1911 legislation also created the State Board of Education, and the move toward a more structured and standardized state educational system was initiated.¹⁷⁸

This development was followed by a movement to improve elementary education with the newly created State Board of Education having considerable control over the curriculum. High schools slowly developed with 159 in the state in 1919. By 1928 the number of public high schools in Arkansas rose to 433. As the number of public high schools in the state increased, grades one through twelve began to be viewed as a unitary system, which enhanced the organization and approach to education.¹⁷⁹

Schools in the Buffalo River area began to offer high school grades during this period. However, financial constraints commonly limited what each community could offer, and schools gradually added additional grades as finances allowed. For example, after completing the tenth grade in 1923 in the community of Bruno, Marion County resident Marian Burnes was unable to continue on to the eleventh grade the following autumn because the school lacked the funds to

¹⁷⁸ Owens, *The Development of White Secondary Schools in Arkansas*, 3-6.

¹⁷⁹ "Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940," (National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, July 1992), E-3-E-5.

offer this level. The following year, however, the school was able to provide eleventh grade instruction and Marian resumed her studies. School funding though was still limited and all high school students were required to pay a five-dollar per month tuition fee.¹⁸⁰

Two school terms were typically offered during the early twentieth century, one in winter and one in summer, each lasting three months. The summer term began after planting season was over and the winter term began in late autumn following the harvesting of crops. Children typically walked to school a distance of a mile or more and a few rode horses. They brought their lunch, which often consisted of biscuits and potatoes or a piece of pork and perhaps some fruit or jam. Schools typically had one teacher who taught grades one through eight. Students ranged in age from four or five to young adults of twenty or twenty-one. The number of students per school varied considerably with some reporting as few as three or four while others had sixty or more.¹⁸¹

Teachers were often not much older than some of their students and began teaching right out of high school. Some, like Marian Barnes, began teaching before they received their high school degree. During her year "off" from her studies between tenth and eleventh grades, Marian Barnes found a job teaching the lower grades in the DeSoto District along the Buffalo River. She taught during the winter term and was paid fifty dollars per month for the three-month term. While teaching she roomed with a local family for ten dollars a month. When she returned home to complete her high school education she was invited to teach two subjects to seventh and eighth

¹⁸⁰ Marian Burnes, "Country School Teaching in the Early Days of Marion County," *Mountain Echo* 19 January 1998.

¹⁸¹ Education Files, Buffalo National River, Harrison, Arkansas.

grade students in lieu of paying the required five-dollar a month tuition fee.¹⁸²

Another advancement in the organization of the public education system was the de-politicizing of the county superintendent position. In 1919 the superintendent's position was changed from an elected seat to one appointed by the local school board. This change proved to be a constructive move as more professional educators than professional politicians took the job. Improvements included increased community support for schools, better instructional methods, and the introduction of new programs.¹⁸³

Other educational opportunities appeared in the form of vocational education. In 1917 the U.S. Congress passed the Vocational Education Act, which provided states with matching funds for vocational education. The state in turn allocated funds to local school districts. The Arkansas legislature acted quickly to comply with the federal law and covered up to fifty percent of program costs in local schools. The program focused on children age fourteen and older and in rural areas offered agricultural education to boys and home economics to girls.¹⁸⁴ Interest in vocational education was high and by the late 1920s, 158 vocational school centers had been established in the state. The program's success is also reflected in the appearance of agricultural clubs such as the Future Farmers of America. Also during the late 1920s, the state established two state vocational schools, both of which were located in the Ozark region of

¹⁸² Marian Burnes, "Country School Teaching in the Early Days of Marion County," *Mountain Echo* 19 January 1998.

¹⁸³ "Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940," E-3-E-5.

¹⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, E-5 – E-6.

northwestern Arkansas. The schools were located within fairly close proximity to the Buffalo River valley in the towns of Huntsville and Clinton in Madison and Van Buren Counties. These schools were in operation until the mid-1950s.¹⁸⁵

It is not known whether or not schools in the Buffalo River area participated in these vocational programs or the degree to which local students attended the state vocational schools. However, given the traditional agricultural heritage of the region and the limited local funding available for education, it is likely that at least some schools and students took advantage of these opportunities. Area residents also likely benefited from the Extension Service of the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, which provided agricultural and home economic services to the counties.

Despite these advancements, the quality of education in Arkansas remained poor, and rural areas such as the Buffalo River valley suffered from inadequate funding. In 1920, the average expenditure per student in Arkansas was \$23.63, while surrounding states averaged between \$59.00 and \$65.00. The state's contribution to the per student ratio was only \$2.74. State funding for education increased significantly in the 1920s under the administration of Governor Thomas McRae, who had campaigned on improving schools and roads. By the end of his term, McRae had succeeded in practically doubling the state's funding to \$5.00 per student.¹⁸⁶

At the beginning of the century, school funding was limited and primarily came from local property taxes. This created significant differences in the quality of education across the state with poor rural

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, E-9 – E-10.

areas such as the Buffalo River valley having extremely limited funds. A movement to redistribute resources based on need began to gain momentum in the late 1910s. In 1927 a state equalizing fund law was passed that brought increased revenues to poorer communities. Twenty-five percent of these funds were set aside for the construction of new school buildings. In order to receive funds, school districts had to comply with state standards. And if districts were still short they could receive financing up to seven percent of the assessed value of the district's taxable property.¹⁸⁷

While one-room schools remained the norm throughout the state, steps toward the standardization of school design also began in the early twentieth century. In 1916, the State Department of Education initiated a program to aid the construction of new schools and provided local districts with blueprints for model school buildings. Financial assistance required adherence to state standards and as new schools were constructed in the Ozark area during the 1920s, most were based on the state's designs. In 1924, a separate division within the Department of Education, the Division of Buildings and Grounds, was established to provide professional architectural advice on school design and construction. By 1928, ninety-five percent of school facilities built in Arkansas were based on the division's designs.¹⁸⁸ Schools in the Ozark region were built in a utilitarian design using local materials with the most common being native fieldstone. A number of frame school buildings were also constructed. These typically had weatherboard or shiplap siding with a brick chimney. The buildings commonly faced south with rows of windows on the east and west elevations.¹⁸⁹

¹⁸⁷ Ibid., E-3-E-4, E-10-E11, E-20.

¹⁸⁸ Ibid., E-19-E-20.

¹⁸⁹ Ibid., E-21.

Schools continued to be a community effort in the Buffalo River valley during the early twentieth century, and residents commonly pooled their finances and skills to provide their youth with an education. The town of Gilbert provides one example. The Gilbert school district formed in 1921. School was first held in an older unused building and then in the local church. In order to provide a more permanent facility, local residents came together donating money, land, time, and labor to produce a school building. Landowner Eli Jordan donated the land, and residents of Gilbert gave funds for lumber and building materials. Men hauled lumber from a local mill (a two-day trip), and provided the labor for the building's construction. The school was expanded in 1938 to accommodate a high school. Gilbert school was closed in 1948 when it was consolidated with other area schools.¹⁹⁰

School buildings also commonly doubled as churches and were typically the center of community life. School fairs were common and children from two or more schools would meet for these events, which included foot races, competitions in school subjects, and other activities. For example, during the 1920s students from Dillard gathered early to walk as a group to a school fair held at Rush School. The fair lasted all day and the students then walked home.¹⁹¹

¹⁹⁰ Jordan, et. al., *Gilbert, Arkansas*, 22.

¹⁹¹ Marian and Lester Burnes, *Early Days of Marion County, Arkansas*, 56.



Figure 20: School children in the Rush area in the early 20th century.
(Source: NPS, *Buffalo National River*.)

Much of the advancements made in education in Arkansas during the 1920s diminished during the economic upheaval of the Great Depression. The state suffered tremendous setbacks and financial problems and many of its residents were destitute. By 1933 the state had one of the highest percentages of residents on relief in the nation with approximately fifteen percent dependent on the Red Cross for food. As funding for education decreased, the new programs, physical improvements, and professional support and development of the 1920s came to a halt. School districts that were already in debt suffered extensively. Revenues were dropped, school terms were shortened, and positions and salaries were cut. Many school districts during this time benefited from the New Deal programs of the Roosevelt administration, particularly the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The WPA built a number of public buildings and facilities and provided numerous jobs to the unemployed. The WPA constructed 423 schools in Arkansas during the 1930s. The

federal program also initiated school lunch programs and devised models for more sanitary privies.¹⁹²

The WPA was known for its masonry work and a great number of the schools the organization built in the Ozark region were of native fieldstone. These buildings typically had thick walls and deep set windows. They were generally symmetrical and designed with either a central main entrance or two symmetrically placed entrances on the main façade.

Among the Arkansas schools built by the WPA was the Cold Springs schoolhouse in Marion County. The Cold Springs community was isolated within the already remote region of the Buffalo valley. The river and mountainous terrain cut off the Cold Springs area from other communities, the closest of which was the small town of Big Flat in adjacent Baxter County. The WPA built a one-story school building at Cold Springs, ca. 1935. The building constructed of native cut-stone and was designed in the Craftsman style.¹⁹³ The first modern school building in the area, the Cold Springs School was of great benefit to local residents. Cold Springs School remains intact and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.

The election of J. Marion Futrell as governor of Arkansas in 1933 was another blow to education in the state. Futrell was not a proponent for education and considered secondary education unnecessary. His refusal to use state funds to support educational initiatives and relief organizations came to a head in the mid-1930s

¹⁹² “Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940,” E-15 – E-17, E-21.

¹⁹³ Kenneth Story, “Cold Springs Schoolhouse,” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, July 1992, 7-1, 8-1.

and nearly cost the state all of its federal funding. In addition to supporting various relief efforts, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) provided the majority of funds for teacher salaries and other educational costs. States were expected to contribute to the fund, but Arkansas, under Futrell's administration did not. In late 1934, the director of FERA gave Governor Futrell an ultimatum – the state would either appropriate significant funding or it would lose FERA funds and all other federal funding as well. Various funding measures were brought up before the state legislature, but none passed before the March 1, 1935 deadline. The federal government immediately withdrew all federal funding to Arkansas, which forced the governor to support a controversial sales tax bill to support educational costs. At the same time dog and horse racing were legalized and related state fees from gambling enterprises were to provide additional educational funds. Within two days of the passage of this legislation, federal funds to the state were restored.¹⁹⁴

The importance of education in the Buffalo River area continued to grow during this period and by the early 1940s school terms in the had been extended to nine months. The experiences of Faye Scroggins, who grew up in the Erbie community in the late 1930s and 1940s, reveal the efforts many made to obtain an education. Getting to school itself was still a task. Faye and her siblings traveled about two miles to Erbie village to school. On their way, they had to cross two creeks. When the creek was high, the children spent the night with relatives rather than risk crossing the high water. Faye and her siblings later transferred to a school at Compton, which required them to walk about one and a half miles “straight up the mountain.” Because there was no direct road between their home and the school,

¹⁹⁴ “Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940,” E-16-E-17.

Faye's father cut out a path up the mountainside for his children to follow. Still the trail was dangerous, as Faye recalls:

We had to cross the Compton Hollow . . . and we had a log that we walked across and when it was up real real high we scooted across it on our stomachs because we was afraid we might fall in. It was very very rocky and rough so it was quite dangerous.¹⁹⁵

The children left a bicycle at a relative's home on the top of the mountain and then rode it to school. They would drop the bike off again when heading home. In the winter they carried a lantern, which they stored under a bluff at the top of the mountain, as it would be dark before they arrived home. Despite this arduous journey five days a week, Faye notes that she and her siblings “hardly ever missed a day of school.”¹⁹⁶

In the years following World War II, the movement toward consolidation of schools, which had begun in the late 1920s, gained momentum. A study conducted in the late 1920s reported that larger schools were more economical and better for students. The study called for the formation of larger school districts, but recommended smaller districts remain “where transportation conditions, community histories and neighborhood ties justified them.”¹⁹⁷ Several small districts merged in the 1920s, but those in the Ozarks region largely stayed intact until the late 1940s.

¹⁹⁵ Faye Scroggins, Interview with Suzanne Rogers, September 24, 1987 (Transcript on file at Buffalo National River, Harrison, Arkansas), 2.

¹⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, 2-3.

¹⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, E-7.

ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES

The small rural schoolhouse embodies the history of education in the Ozarks during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The rugged terrain and scattered isolated communities in the Buffalo River valley required the construction of a number of these small educational facilities to accommodate the region's youth. Some initial schoolhouses were of log construction. No known examples of these early log school buildings remain extant. Surviving schoolhouses in the Buffalo River area from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries are of frame or stone construction.

School districts in the Buffalo River valley were consolidated in the late 1940s, which resulted in the abandonment of many rural schoolhouses. These buildings largely remained idle or were used as storage for hay or other farm items. Few were maintained, and after years of abandonment, most suffered from neglect and deterioration. Only two schoolhouses remain standing within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River. These are the Brown School along Calf Creek, and Cold Springs School in the lower Buffalo area. The Cold Springs School was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992 as part of the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940."

Characteristics of Rural Schoolhouses

The majority of schoolhouses in the Buffalo River valley from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were typically one-story buildings of frame, stone masonry, or stone veneer construction. Community buildings that served multiple purposes including schools, were often two-stories in height. They were primarily built by local citizens and exhibited traditional basic designs with the entrance and chimney on opposing elevations and rows of windows on either side. The buildings were minimally equipped and furnished

with no plumbing or electricity. Most schools had nearby outdoor privies.

Surviving Examples of Rural Schoolhouses

The oldest surviving school building remaining in the Buffalo National River is the Brown School along Calf Creek. Built ca. 1915, this frame, one-room schoolhouse features weatherboard siding and a small belfry at the roofline. Brown School has been unused for several decades and suffers from deterioration; however, the setting aptly conveys a sense of time and place from the school's period of significance and the school retains a sufficient amount of its original form, materials, and design to meet the registration requirements for rural schools established in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940."

Cold Spring School is a stone veneer Craftsman influenced school building constructed ca. 1935 by the WPA. The school was the first modern school building in the area and reflects the craftsmanship and design of WPA-built structures. The Cold Springs School remains in good condition and possesses integrity of location, design, and materials. The school was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992 under the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940."



Figure 21: Cold Springs School.

Also within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River are sites of Cedar Creek School, Center Point School, and Whiteley School. Remnants of foundations are all that remain at the buildings that once occupied these sites. The table below lists all the properties associated with the context of education identified during this survey. The table includes the associated geographical area for each site as well as its National Register status. Each site is discussed in detail under its respective geographical area in the Cultural Landscape section of this document.

Table 6: Sites Associated with Education

Site	Geographical Area	National Register Listed or Eligible?
Brown School	Tyler Bend	Yes - eligible
Cold Springs School	Lower Wilderness	Yes - listed
Cedar Creek School Site		No
Center Point School Site	Ponca	No
Whiteley School Site	Boxley	Yes - listed

HISTORIC CONTEXT #8: RECREATION/CONSERVATION

National Register-Listed or Previously Determined Eligible

Properties: Buffalo River State Park (Buffalo Point) was listed on the National Register October 28, 1988.

Properties Identified as National Register-Eligible:

No additional properties associated with the context of Recreation/Conservation were identified as eligible for the National Register during this project.

Overview

Recreation and tourism in the Ozarks developed out of the growing interest in outdoor recreation and rural areas during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Urban businessmen began to travel to the Ozark region for hunting and fishing expeditions and introduced many to its recreational potential. Improved roads increased accessibility to the region as automobile use became more common.

One of the most substantial recreational developments in the Buffalo River valley was the creation of Buffalo River State Park in 1938. Built primarily by the CCC, the park promoted hunting, fishing, camping, and other outdoor recreational activities along the lower Buffalo River. Through the mid-twentieth century, recreational-based businesses such as campgrounds, rental cabins, and other tourist related industries emerged throughout the area. A proposal to build dams to harness the river's flow and support hydroelectric power facilities gained momentum in the 1950s, but by the end of the decade strong opposition against this development emerged. The anti-dam movement was largely supported by conservationists from across the state while local residents remained in favor of the project. The resulting debate raged on for over a decade and gained national attention. The cause to preserve the river in its natural state finally

prevailed, and in 1972, Congress established the Buffalo National River as a property of the National Park Service.

Recreation and Conservation 1938-1972

Recreation and tourism in the Buffalo River area has been continuously centered around the region's natural resources. For decades visitors to the area have enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and other outdoor activities, as well as taking in the scenic beauty of the Buffalo River and surrounding countryside. Modern tourism development began in the region during the early twentieth century as interest rose in rural areas and access to them increased. Recreational tourism is also closely tied to the conservation movement.

The conservation movement began to form in the United States during the late nineteenth century as a few visionary people became concerned about the deforestation of public lands. This concern ultimately led to the development of the U.S. Forest Service. In 1891, Congress passed the Forest Reserve Act, which authorized the federal government to set aside forest lands on the public domain. The conservation movement flourished under Theodore Roosevelt's administration (1901-1909). Roosevelt was an avid outdoorsman and strongly supported the conservationist cause. Their goal was not to end exploitation of federal lands, but to advocate rational, planned use of the lands and their natural resources to benefit society.

In 1905, the U.S. Division of Forestry was renamed the U.S. Forest Service, and Gifford Pinchot, a principal leader of the conservation movement became its first Chief. The establishment of national forests soon followed. In Arkansas, what is now the Ouachita National Forest consisting of 1.8 million acres in central Arkansas and southeast Oklahoma, was established in 1907. In 1908, the Ozark National Forest was established in northwest Arkansas containing over one million acres.

On the heels of the conservation movement came a growing interest in outdoor recreation and an increasing idealization of rural America. These two developments aided by modern technological advances spurred growing tourism in rural areas. Much of this was due to the increasing urbanization and industrialization of the United States. Between 1870 and 1920, city populations rapidly expanded resulting in the nation being more urban than rural by the end of the period. During roughly this same era numerous technological advances such as railroads, electricity, telephones, and modern heating and plumbing devices appeared. Industrial development heightened employment and pay scales and per capita wealth increased substantially.¹⁹⁸

As the nation became more industrialized and urban, Americans began to regard rural areas as “a refuge for escape from the pressures of urban living, a retreat to a simpler, less-stressful way of life.”¹⁹⁹ As life in the city became more hectic, crowded, grimy, and demanding, urban residents increasingly looked to the country as a place of simplicity and relaxation, a place to regenerate the spirit and restore health. This view of the country as a “pastoral playground” made outdoor recreation such as hunting and fishing, once activities associated with either the idle rich or the needy poor, increasingly acceptable for members of the middle class. And with more money and leisure time than ever before, the growing urban middle class began to spend both in America’s countryside. Weekend trips and holidays were made increasingly possible by the expanding

¹⁹⁸ Lynn Morrow and Linda Mays-Phinney, *Shepherd of the Hills Country: Tourism Transforms the Ozarks, 1880s-1930s* (University of Arkansas Press, 1999), 19-20.

¹⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, 21-22.

availability of transportation through growing railroad systems and eventually automobiles.²⁰⁰

Interest in the greater Ozark region as a vacation destination began in the late nineteenth century and blossomed in the early twentieth century as railroads introduced urban upper and middle classes to the region’s beauty and natural resources. One of the key groups to initiate tourism in the Ozarks were urban businessmen who came to the region on hunting and fishing expeditions. During the late nineteenth century corporate executives, often of railroad and lumber companies, traveled from St. Louis, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Illinois to the Ozark interior. They initiated and popularized the float trip and introduced many to river recreation. The gentlemen typically arrived in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, which had become a hub of rail networks by 1872. Here they then took spur lines to timber camps and other outlying areas where they were dropped off. After several days of floating down the river hunting, fishing and camping, they were picked up at a prearranged destination. The Current and Black Rivers in Missouri were favorite choices and the urban sportsmen often formed exclusive clubs and built private clubhouses in the woods along the rivers.²⁰¹

During the early 1900s, the James and White Rivers also became popular destinations. In southern Missouri, the city of Springfield became a transportation hub with connections to St. Louis, Kansas City, and other areas. As extensions were added to these lines, the White and James Rivers became easily accessible to urban dwellers. In 1906 the White River Railway was completed between Carthage, Missouri to Newport, Arkansas and basically followed the course of

²⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, 21-23.

²⁰¹ *Ibid.*, 116-119.

the White River. In the ensuing years individual entrepreneurs, the media, and the railroad companies themselves promoted the region to potential tourists and sportsmen. Recreational float fishing was established at several points on the White River and many towns in the region, including Branson, Missouri and Eureka Springs, Arkansas became favored tourist destinations. Float trips soon became “the common vacation experience for tourists, male and female, investors, artists, and writers.”²⁰² The trips promoted the surrounding scenery as a salable commodity and spurred folklore of the area through colorful stories told by local guides.

The Ozark region was also promoted through souvenir postcards and coverage in national magazines such as *Forest and Stream*. Harold Bell Wright’s novel, *The Shepherd of the Hills*, used the Ozarks as its setting. Published in 1907 the widely popular novel also boosted interest in the region. In 1913 Powersite Dam and the impoundment of Lake Taneycomo were completed on the upper White River. These high profile events led to further interest in the area.²⁰³

The decade of the 1920s was a period of “unrivaled boosterism” for the Ozarks that secured its status as a tourist destination for the middle-class as well as the elite. Increased development in the form of hotels, resorts, electricity, improved roads and the affordability of automobiles encouraged tourism in the area. As the region became a favorite of the middle class, its use by the elite began to fade as this group expanded their travels to California, Europe, and other areas. However, the Ozarks continue to attract a regular middle-class tourist crowd from the Midwest.²⁰⁴

²⁰² Ibid., 13-14.

²⁰³ Ibid., 6-9.

²⁰⁴ Ibid., 16.

The James and White Rivers were by far the favored destination of tourists in the Ozark region, and development such as resorts and tourist camps were more heavily concentrated in these areas. The Buffalo River valley was less accessible. With fewer rail lines and passable roads, its location was more remote. Still, outdoorsmen and tourists increasingly explored the Buffalo River area by the 1930s. Some area residents saw the growing interest in recreational use of the river as an opportunity and opened businesses catering to the tourist dollar. Several campgrounds, cabin rentals, and boat rental facilities were established along primary roads near the river.

In the Pruitt area, Frank A. Hammons established a tourist camp and fishing resort, along with a general store near the Highway 7 Bridge over the Buffalo River. During the 1910s, Hammons and his father-in-law, John Parry, had made an unsuccessful attempt at establishing a goat ranch. After this venture failed, Parry purchased forty acres along the Buffalo River and salvaged the wood from his goat sheds to construct a housestore along Highway 7. Frank Hammons purchased the property in 1923 and two years later a post office was established in the store and named Pruitt. Hammons eventually purchased additional land to expand his tourist business. In 1931, a new bridge was constructed over the Buffalo on Highway 7, which improved access to the area. Hammons utilized the old bridge to enhance his business by constructing several overnight rental cabins on it. Hammons also built a bathhouse with showers and toilet facilities, rented lockers, beach towels, and swimsuits, and maintained a sandbar for visitor use. Cabins and campsites could be rented by the night, week, or month. Later a dance hall was added to the campground.²⁰⁵

²⁰⁵ “The Bivens, McGowan, Hammons, and Holland Families of Pruitt,” On file at the Buffalo National River Headquarters, Harrison, AR.

Tourism in Arkansas continued to increase during the 1920s and 1930s and throughout the state was “beginning to be the means of livelihood of an increasing number of people.”²⁰⁶ The 1935 business census reveals that there were 351 year-round hotels in the state that employed an average of 2,388 people. In addition there were 193 tourist camps in Arkansas. The automobile was becoming increasingly important to the tourist trade and forty-eight of these 193 facilities were equipped with filling stations. In his 1938 thesis on tourism in the state, James Clark noted that, “The motor car has made it customary for families to make short trips on Sundays and holidays to nearby attractions,” and noted that a majority of tourists came from within the state or bordering states. “Good roads, advertising and courteous treatment,” were declared as key benefits to tourism.²⁰⁷

The establishment of state parks in the region also boosted tourism of the area. Arkansas developed a state park system in the 1920s. The first state park established was Petit Jean. The park was formed primarily due to the efforts of Dr. Thomas William Hardison, who after failing to get the area recognized as a national park, turned to the state legislature. In 1923, the Arkansas legislature approved the state’s acceptance of the donated land for the park. As no state agency yet existed to oversee such property the state highway commission was given charge of its custody. Later, the Arkansas State Parks Commission was established in 1927. In addition to overseeing Petit Jean, the agency was to create a system of parks by

²⁰⁶ James Clark, “The Tourist Industry in Arkansas,” (Master’s Thesis, University of Arkansas, 1938), 22.

²⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, 26, 42.

acquiring “areas of natural beauty and historical interest.”²⁰⁸ Other Arkansas state parks soon followed beginning with Mt. Nebo in 1927, Arkansas Post in 1929, and Crowley’s Ridge and Devil’s Den in 1933. Buffalo River State Park was formed in 1938.

Established in March 1938, Buffalo River State Park was one of four Arkansas State Parks to be developed by a joint effort of the Arkansas State Park system and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the popular work relief program of Roosevelt’s New Deal program. CCC projects included the construction of park buildings and structures as well as the development of roads, infrastructure, and landscaping.

CCC Company #4733 initiated the work at Buffalo State Park. By 1939, the crew had built a two-mile entrance road, developed a water and sewer system, and constructed a garage, workshop, and sixty picnic tables. The next project on their agenda was the construction of a lodge and a series of cabins for rental use. The lodge was completed first in 1939. The two-story frame structure was sited on a bluff some 500 feet above the Buffalo River and contained four individual rental units with all modern amenities. A local newspaper boasted of its “modern plumbing and bathroom faculties, electric wiring, closets and full length front and back porches.”²⁰⁹ Built in the rustic style common to park architecture, the lodge’s exterior features rough sawn siding and stone foundation and chimneys.

²⁰⁸ Jim Taylor, “Arkansas State Parks: From Vision to Reality,” copy on file at Buffalo National River, Harrison, Arkansas.

²⁰⁹ Pitcaithley, et al. “Buffalo River State Park” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, October 1988, 7-1A



Figure 22: CCC Tent Camp at Buffalo Point during in the late 1930s.
(Source: NPS, *Buffalo National River*.)

The grand opening of Buffalo State Park took place on May 5, 1940. By this time the first cabin was also completed in the park. Two more cabins were complete except for the interior by April 1941 and work on the remaining three cabins was underway. While work continued on these structures, cutbacks in the CCC program threatened to leave the project unfinished. Due to reductions in the federal budget, the number of CCC camps across the nation were to be reduced in 1940. The camp at Buffalo State Park was one of the camps scheduled for elimination. Arkansas congressmen, the governor, and representatives of the state park system and the National Park Service lobbied for the camp to remain. Officials granted the request with the stipulation that the acreage of the park had to be expanded. As there were no state funds available, Marion County citizens raised a significant portion of the money to acquire an additional 160 acres and donated it to the state. The state in turn

provided the additional \$560 needed out of its emergency fund to secure the park for the community.²¹⁰

Despite these efforts the Buffalo Point CCC company was disbanded in July 1941. But another crew, CCC Company #1781, which had been stationed at Petit Jean State Park, was transferred to Buffalo Point to complete the work. This CCC Company was well-known for its work at Petit Jean, which was the “most extensive and ambitious of the CCC camp parks developed in Arkansas.”²¹¹ The six, free-standing cabins at the park were completed in 1942, and a large picnic pavilion was constructed in late 1941.

Buffalo State Park introduced many to the Buffalo River as a recreational destination. Visitors came to the park and engaged in hunting, fishing, and water sports. The park was also the location of numerous public picnics and celebrations including a local Fourth of July gathering and county fairs. The park was heavily promoted in the late 1940s bringing thousands of visitors to the area. It was advertised as “one of the best fishing areas in Arkansas with beautiful scenery, caves, springs, water falls and virgin timber of almost every species.”²¹²

²¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 8-4A – 8-5A.

²¹¹ *Ibid.*, 7-1A.

²¹² *Ibid.*, 8-5A.



Figure 23: Beautiful views of the Buffalo River and surrounding landscape were key draws to Buffalo State Park. (Source: NPS, *Buffalo National River*.)

Karst features such as springs and caves were favorite tourist draws throughout the Ozark region. Urban travelers enjoyed such natural formations as Marble Cave or Big Springs and were especially interested in the Native American artifacts typically found within these areas. Many visitors collected prehistoric “relics” for souvenirs resulting in the looting of many native settlement areas in the Ozarks. By the early twentieth century, Ozark caves were common settings for social events such as dances, picnics, or group meetings as well as for illegal activities such as production of moonshine.²¹³

²¹³ Morrow, et. al., 10-11.

Several caves are located near the banks of the Buffalo River area. The extent to which these caves were visited by tourists is unclear, however it is likely that at least some of those who toured the area also explored these sections. Diamond Cave near Jasper was mentioned as a popular tourist attraction in a 1930s.²¹⁴

Also near the Buffalo River, Cob’s Cave in Lost Valley was “discovered” as a potential tourist attraction in the 1940s. An article appearing in the *Tulsa Daily World* in May 1946 promotes the cave and surrounding valley as an adventurous destination for travelers. The idealistic vision of rural areas as Eden-like retreats from the urban world is apparent in the article as it describes the area in glowing terms. The article paints a picture of an idyllic natural setting assured to revive one’s spirit. It declares Lost Valley is a “‘Shangra La’ that compares with that fictional valley of eternal contentment by the same name.”²¹⁵ The author of the article describes routes taken to get to the valley as being “inspiring” and having “breath-taking vistas of some of North America’s most picturesque country,” including mountains, forests, and “picture-postcard” valleys. The main attraction to the valley is Cob’s Cave, which is locally known for the numerous Indian artifact found. The article reveals that the area is being promoted as a tourist destination as it has appeared on recent travel brochures and maps.

The newspaper article appeals to the adventurous tourist interested in natural wonders and a physical experience in the natural environment. It describes a rigorous two-mile hike through rugged terrain, scaling a seven-foot wall along side a waterfall, and

²¹⁴ Clark, “The Tourist Industry in Arkansas,” 55.

²¹⁵ “Arkansas Ozarks Hide Wonderland of Nature,” *Tulsa Daily World* 12 May 1946.

“cathedral-like caves which may be entered only on hands-and-knees.”²¹⁶ The article strongly recommends hiring a guide as the entrance to the valley is unmarked. This suggests that the spot was not yet a well-known tourist attraction, but also reveals that local guides must be available. Although challenging physically, the trip, it is assured, is one that “affords a tranquility that salves fatigue.” Ironically, the article follows its glowing promotion of the valley as a tranquil wilderness with suggestions for its development. “The threshold of Lost Valley is an ideal site for a summer lodge or even a dude ranch,” the article surmises. “Green [Glenn A. Green, publicity chief of the Arkansas resources and development commission] estimates that \$50,000 would turn the threshold and valley into an incomparable retreat for those who desire to escape temporarily from the bustle of the outside world.”²¹⁷

This article reveals that by this time the Buffalo River area was being promoted as a tourist destination and that there was substantial tourist potential in the surrounding region. It also demonstrates that the scenic beauty and natural resources were key draws to the area and that the romanticized notion of rural areas as therapeutic refuges from the daily grind of city life continued to be an accepted vision of the American urban public.

Throughout the rise of recreational tourism, the Buffalo River maintained its rural character. Motels and restaurants appeared in area towns, particularly Harrison and Jasper, but the land along the river itself continued to be much as it had been in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries – forested hills and farm fields – only with a scattering of campsites and cabins now added. Tourism

²¹⁶ Ibid.

²¹⁷ Ibid.

throughout the Arkansas Ozarks flourished from the 1940s through the 1960s. The construction of Norfolk Lake in the 1940s and Bull Shoals in the early 1950s drew more visitors to the region and recreational tourism became increasingly significant to the regional economy. Overnight facilities for tourists at Norfolk increased from 13 to 133 between 1940 and 1962. In the Bull Shoals area, the number of facilities rose from 6 in 1945 to 254 in 1962. Prior to the creation of Bull Shoals Lake in 1952, area businesses sold approximately \$6,000 worth of fishing supplies. A decade later this value soared to over \$700,000. The creation of the lake increased the number of visitors to the area from 413,000 to over two million within ten years.²¹⁸

While these figures do not reveal the direct impact of tourism along the Buffalo River, they do identify the overall increase of tourism in the region during this period. And while areas such as Bull Shoals and Norfolk Lakes remained centers of the tourist trade, the growing number of visitors to the region introduced more people to the Buffalo River as a tourist destination. A 1963 report to the U.S. Department of Commerce claims that the tourism-recreation industry is the “dominant, most rapidly growing sector of the region’s economy.”²¹⁹ The report lists three major focal points of tourism activities and development in the Arkansas Ozarks region. These are: the Bull Shoals and Norfolk Lake areas, Ranger Districts of the Ozark National Forest, and the region’s four state parks (Petit Jean, Mount Nebo, Buffalo River, and Bull Shoals). Fishing, hunting, camping, picnicking, and water sports are listed as the principal

²¹⁸ Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, “Tourist and Recreation Potential, Arkansas-Ozark Region,” (Area Analysis Staff Report, prepared for the U.S. Department of Commerce, August 1963), 14.

²¹⁹ Ibid.

activities of visitors. The report also lists the Buffalo River as one of the more promising areas for potential growth of recreational tourism.²²⁰

Guided float trips on the Buffalo River came relatively late compared to the surrounding region. Local resident Tom Tougaw floated down the Buffalo in 1955 and fished between Ponca and Erbie catching around 200 fish. He recalls that his party did not see anyone else on the river during their excursion. On later fishing trips, Tougaw recalls seeing other fishermen, but not many floating. Most fished from the bank of the river or tied their boat up at a favorite fishing hole.²²¹

As float trips became increasingly popular, some Buffalo River area residents found work as guides. One widely-known river guide on the Buffalo was local resident Bill Houston. Having grown up along the river, Houston was familiar with the watershed and surrounding countryside. As a youngster he recalls day-long float trips between Erbie and Pruitt in the large johnboat of a family friend. He too recalls that few people floated the river in the 1950s. In a recent newspaper article in which he spoke of river traffic during this period, Houston noted that, “No one used the river.” He recalls one man from Branson who came to the Buffalo but never put in above Pruitt because the water was too rough.²²²

²²⁰ Ibid., 3-4.

²²¹ Conversation between Suzie Rogers and Tom Tougaw, 10 January 1996, notes on file at Buffalo National River, Harrison, Arkansas.

²²² “Houston Spent Life Guiding on Buffalo,” *Harrison Daily Times* 2 February 2001.

Houston started guiding people down the river after a seasonal resident lost his johnboat and told Houston he could have the boat if he found it. Houston found the boat in a drift and dug it out. He began guiding folks down the river soon after. He became a popular guide with numerous repeat customers. His intricate knowledge of the river and surrounding area, familiarity with good fishing spots, topped with patience and a good sense of humor were qualities that visitors looked for in a river guide. During the 1960s a client of his from Missouri commended his work:

Bill always gives me an interesting day trip. He knows all the history, folklore and nature of ‘his’ river, and he’s never in too big a hurry for a side trip to see a pretty waterfall, an odd rock formation or even a special clump of wild flowers. . . .Bill knows exactly where between two rocks I can catch a fish and he always gives me the first try.²²³

Houston entered into the canoe rental business with Harold Hedges, the first to operate such a trade on the Buffalo and then eventually ventured out on his own. At one point Houston operated his business behind what is now the Pruitt Ranger Station before moving to a location on Mill Creek. Business was good and at one time he had around 125 canoes rented.²²⁴

One of Houston’s regular customers was artist Thomas Hart Benton (1889-1975). A native of Neosho, Missouri, Benton rose to fame during the 1930s as a leader of the “Regionalist Movement” in American art, which focused on scenes of everyday life the Midwest.

²²³ Ibid.

²²⁴ Ibid.

Benton is especially known for his mural paintings, which include works in the Missouri State Capitol and the Truman Presidential Library. Benton often came to the Buffalo River to paint. Bill Houston served as his guide for a number of years and recalls that Benton liked to go to a spot repeatedly at different times of the day in order to study the changes in light. Benton floated the Buffalo into his eighties and his trips typically included an entourage of people consisting of his private doctor and others to attend to his health.²²⁵

As tourism was building in the Buffalo River area, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was making plans to harness the river for electrical power. In the 1930s the federal government formed the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to produce a series of dams and hydroelectric power stations along the Tennessee River and its tributaries. These projects had positive results and received widespread public approval. The work created a number of jobs and provided electricity to poor rural areas. In the mid-1930s, the Rivers and Harbors Acts authorized the development of public works on rivers for flood control and other purposes, and included several impoundments on the White River. In 1937, the Drainage and Basin Committee, published a report on the White River and proposed the construction of a dam on the lower Buffalo for power development and flood control. The report also suggested the construction of smaller dams on Rush and Mill Creeks. Congress approved the project, called Lone Rock, in June 1938. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proceeded to conduct a study of the area and recommended the dam be built one mile from the mouth of the Buffalo and estimated the cost to be \$11,422,000.²²⁶

²²⁵ Ibid.

²²⁶ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 95-96.

The outbreak of World War II and the United States entry into the conflict delayed the Lone Rock project. In the years following the war, various federal developments occurred that affected water projects. The Flood Control Act of 1944 authorized various Corps of Engineers water development projects. This authorization was limited to navigation, flood control, and other water projects that would have significant benefits for navigation and that would be consistent with other river uses. The Corps was required to consult with the Secretary of Interior and the governors of states that would be affected.

During President Harry Truman's administration, a series of floods that swept through the Red River Valley in 1950 prompted the federal government into action to further prevent floods. In a speech given in Fargo, North Dakota on May 13, 1950, Truman declared that, "Relief after floods is not good enough. We have got to prevent floods." To so he felt the government "must construct large dams and levees on the rivers. By doing these things, we will not only prevent disastrous floods, we will make water serve our purposes in agriculture, navigation, recreation, and the production of power." The following June, the federal government established the Arkansas-White-Red-River Basins Interagency Committee. The purpose of the committee was to facilitate the study and development of plans for water improvement projects in those areas.

It was not until 1954 that the Lone Rock project on the Buffalo River again drew the interest of developers. After reviewing the project, the Corps recommended building two dams on the Buffalo River – a 230-foot high dam (Lone Rock) three and one-half miles from the mouth of the river, and a 218-foot dam sixty miles upstream near the community of Gilbert. During the late 1950s various flood control

bills were introduced that called for the dam projects, but were vetoed by President Eisenhower.²²⁷

Throughout most of the 1950s, the majority of local residents approved the dam projects. They realized the need for flood control and viewed the power plants as a benefit to the region. However, by the end of the decade opposition to the dams began to grow due to interest in preserving the natural environment of the Buffalo. The debate over the issue raged on for years as government agencies, politicians, and area residents were strongly divided on the fate of the Buffalo. Chief proponent of the dams was Arkansas Representative James Trimble. Key figures in the anti-dam campaign were S.C. Dellinger of the University of Arkansas, Dr. Neil Compton of Bentonville, and Mrs. Laird Archer of Fayetteville. Support groups emerged for both sides. The first anti-dam group to organize was the Arkansas Nature Conservancy (ANC) in 1961. Its members largely consisted of conservationists throughout the state who sought to create a national park along the river. The ANC was able to secure the support of Senator J. William Fulbright, who had funds appropriated for a National Park Service (NPS) survey of the Buffalo River area. In October 1961, the NPS concluded that the area definitely had park potential.²²⁸

Dam supporters formed the Buffalo River Improvement Association in 1962. Its members consisted of local business owners, newspaper editors, and others concerned about the economic growth of the valley. They believed that the dams would bring much needed economic development to the region and increase the area's standard of living. The group published an economic study of the region

²²⁷ Ibid., 96.

²²⁸ Ibid., 97.

comparing counties that had experienced economic growth from similar projects on the White River to counties along the Buffalo River that would be impacted by the proposed dams. The study compared statistics regarding such issues as the percentage of homes that had plumbing, telephones, washing machines, and televisions, and the number of automobiles per household. The statistics revealed that counties in the Norfolk and Bull Shoals areas were much more economically advanced than those surrounding the Buffalo River.²²⁹ Not totally opposed to the idea of a national park, the group suggested establishing a smaller version of the park upstream from the community of Gilbert.

The conservationists cause, however, gained significant momentum after Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas took a well-publicized float trip down the Buffalo with several opponents of the dams in April 1968. Douglas was an avid outdoorsman and became a strong advocate of preserving the Buffalo River. His trip received widespread media coverage and brought national attention and interest to the conservationists' cause. To focus their objective, conservationists quickly formed the Ozark Society, which had the goal of "the preservation of the Buffalo River and adjacent areas in their natural state."²³⁰

Another group formed that was opposed to both the dam and park projects. Originally named the Searcy County Farmers Association, the group was later renamed the Buffalo River Landowners'

²²⁹ Special Committee, The Buffalo River Improvement Association, "An Overall Economic Development Program For The Buffalo River Basin of Searcy, Newton, Marion, and Baxter Counties, Arkansas," (Marshall, AR, n.d.), 22.

²³⁰ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 98-99.

Association and was comprised primarily of Searcy County property owners along the river. The organization had 365 members by 1963.²³¹

In 1963 the NPS completed an intensive study of the Buffalo River area and officially recommended the river become a national park. They claimed that construction of the dams would drastically alter the character of the river and thus diminish its significance. The report stated: “Here lies the last opportunity for preservation of a river typical of the Arkansas Ozarks, and, indeed, the opportunity for preservation of a river considered by many to be the most outstanding free-flowing stream in the Southwest.”²³²

The official stance of the NPS heightened the conservationists’ cause, but support for the dams remained strong, especially among those who lived in the Buffalo River area. As the debate raged on, Congress chose to postpone taking any action due to the controversy surrounding the issue. Meanwhile, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers published a new study of the area and changed their recommendation to a single dam site at Gilbert. Conservationists counterattacked with a strong media campaign in support of preserving the Buffalo River. Various petitions, letters to political figures, and newspaper articles and editorials gave the controversy national media attention and strengthened the movement to preserve the Buffalo. The deciding blow against the dams came in 1965 as first President Johnson’s administration supported the conservationists and later Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus opposed the dam construction. The Corps of Engineers had never authorized a project that was opposed by the governor of the state in which the

²³¹ Ibid., 99.

²³² As quoted in Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 99.

project was to take place, and in April 1966 it removed its recommendation to build dams on the Buffalo River.²³³

Conservationists knew that this status could change with the upcoming election and a shift in political positions. They quickly embarked on what became a successful campaign to defeat Representative Trimble, who remained the only strong political proponent of the dam projects. Once Trimble was out of office, the NPS had an opportunity to pursue its plans for a national park. On January 30, 1967, Senator Fulbright introduced a bill to make the Buffalo River a national park property. The decision was delayed as the majority of local residents opposed the creation of the park. They did not want to lose their lands, some of which had been in their families for generations, and feared erosion of the local tax base due to a significant increase in federally-owned property. The strongest opposition was in Newton County, where ninety-five percent of the residents in 1968 were against the creation of a national park along the river. In 1971 a series of public hearings took place to hear both sides of the issues. Many local residents traveled to Washington, DC to attend the hearings and voice their opinions, others engaged in a heavy letter writing campaign. Despite this local opposition, Congress approved the measure and in February 1972 President Nixon signed the law establishing the Buffalo National River.²³⁴

While the issue of whether or not the Buffalo River would become a national park brewed during the 1960s, a group of Harrison businessmen were embarking on their own tourist project in the Buffalo area. Taking a chance on the rising interest in folk culture and the popular stereotypical image of Ozark natives, a group of

²³³ Pitcaithley, *Let the River Be*, 100-101.

²³⁴ Ibid., 101-102.

investors developed a large theme park that played on the “hillbilly” image of mountain folk. Called Dogpatch, U.S.A., the park was based on the popular comic strip of Al Capp and featured a number of frame and log dwellings, stores, and gristmills that served as a caricature of a mountain village. The park was developed on 852 acres around the site of the original community of Wilcocks along Highway 7 between Harrison and Jasper.²³⁵

There was concern that the park was presenting a distorted view of the Ozark region and its people and would hurt the state’s image in general. However, this was overlooked in anticipation of the park having a tremendous positive economic impact on the region. It was estimated that over one million people would visit the park annually, which would in turn deposit five million dollars into the local economy. The park opened on May 18, 1968 and was a “blatant exploitation” of the Ozark culture with costumed hillbilly characters shooting at one another amidst ragtag shacks speckled with statues of goats on the roofs. The park also offered demonstrations of regional woodworking, music, and crafts. That summer, the park attracted 300,000 visitors.²³⁶

In October 1968, a businessman from Little Rock, Jess P. Odom, purchased the company that owned and managed Dogpatch, U.S.A, and revamped the park by adding various amusement rides and hiring former Arkansas governor Orval Faubus to run the park. Much to the dismay of local residents, Odom built a new post office on park grounds and officially changed the surrounding community’s

²³⁵ Brooks Blevins, *Hill Folks A History of Arkansas Ozarkers & Their Image* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2002), 262-263.

²³⁶ *Ibid.*, 263-264.

name from Marble Falls to Dogpatch. Odom also made an effort to establish an extensive winter sports resort and a hunting resort in the region, neither of which came to fruition. The theme park continued to operate for over two decades, but never became the major success that its owners and creators imagined. The park closed in the early 1990s, and in 1997, the local post office was renamed Marble Falls.²³⁷

Recreation and tourism remain viable industries in the Buffalo River region. Cabin and canoe rentals remain a popular business along the river’s edge and the Buffalo National Park continues to draw a number of visitors each year.

²³⁷ *Ibid.*, 264-265.

ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES

Introduction

Recreation emerged as a viable industry in the Buffalo River valley primarily during the 1940s and 1950s. The river itself as well as the surrounding natural environment were at the center of recreational activity and were the main draw for tourists. Fishing, camping, hiking, hunting, and canoeing down the river were popular tourist activities. The establishment of Buffalo River State Park in the late 1930s initiated the era of commercial recreation and tourism in the Buffalo River valley. The park spurred interest in the surrounding area as a natural recreation area. During the following decades a variety of recreational or tourist-based businesses appeared near the Buffalo to take advantage of this new economic opportunity. These primarily included fishing and hunting camps, tourist campgrounds, and related shops and stores. Private cabins or seasonal recreational dwellings were also constructed in the area.

Characteristics of Park-Related Properties

The buildings and structures in Buffalo River State Park were constructed by the CCC and reflect the rustic style architecture and skilled craftsmanship commonly associated with the New Deal program. These structures employ native materials such as wood and stone in building designs that tend to complement and blend into the surrounding natural landscape. The cabins are clustered in a wooded area adjacent to the primary access road. Although within close proximity of one another they have sufficient separation to provide occupants with privacy. The lodge is located toward the end of the main road into the park and is sited on a bluff overlooking the river. The CCC picnic pavilion is located in a separate area of the park with a large treed yard and nearby parking facilities.

Surviving Examples of Park Properties

Properties related to the development of Buffalo River State Park include recreational cabins, picnic shelters, and infrastructures such as retaining walls and culverts. Structures within the park were built by the CCC, which was well-known for its construction of park properties across the country during the 1930s. The Buffalo River State Park includes six recreational cabins, an overnight lodge, and a picnic pavilion. The park also includes stone retaining walls and culverts constructed by the CCC. The Buffalo River State Park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988 for its architectural and historic significance.

Other Recreational Properties

Aside from the Buffalo River State Park, few historic properties remain in the Buffalo National River that are associated with the context of recreation and conservation. Although recreation continued as a viable industry, the Buffalo River valley did not experience major tourism development such as surrounding areas like Bull Shoals. The cabins, campgrounds, and fishing camps established along the Buffalo were relatively small in size and scale and did little to alter the traditional landscape.

Much of what existed in the way of recreational development along the banks of river was razed following the establishment of the national park in the 1970s. The large tourist cabin and camping facilities of the Hammons family that existed in the Pruitt area are no longer extant. Much of this area has become largely overgrown and does not retain any above-ground remains or features of its recreational use. The Hammons Store, however, remains extant and was converted into the NPS Pruitt Ranger Station. The area

surrounding the ranger station has been reconfigured to accommodate modern picnic facilities.

A similar tourist camp existed along Highway 14 where it crosses the Buffalo River at the Dillard’s Ferry location. A row of several cabins was located on a hillside south of the river facing the water, and a laundromat was located close to the river’s edge. These buildings were razed following the federal government’s purchase of the property. This area is now a river access point. A NPS maintenance shed is now located where the cabins stood and there are no above ground remains of any of these structures.

Recreational Dwellings

The Buffalo River was a popular spot for hunting and fishing and often individuals would build private seasonal cabins for their recreational activities. These were typically small, simple structures tucked away in the woods near a favorite fishing spot or hunting ground. Little information is available on specific properties, but the Flowers Cabin and Ezekial Shaddox Cabin appear to have been used for recreational purposes given their location and site features. They are typical designs and styles of the period and do not possess any notable architectural or historical significance. Neither of these properties was identified as being eligible for the National Register.

The following table lists the properties identified during this survey associated with the context of recreation. The table identifies the geographical area with which each property is associated and its National Register status. These properties are discussed in detail under their respective areas in the Cultural Landscape section.

Table 7: Sites Associated with Recreation

Site	Geographical Area	National Register Listed or Eligible?
Buffalo River State Park	Eastern	Yes – listed
Pruitt Ranger Station	Pruitt	No
Flowers Cabin	Ponca	No
Ezekial Shaddox Cabin	Pruitt	No
Seamster Cabin	Ponca	No

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OVERVIEW

Cultural landscapes are the results of human occupancy on the land over time. They consist of both natural and manmade features and are characterized by the interrelationship of these components. Cultural landscapes are formed by human activity, which is influenced by cultural traditions, preferences, and values, and by human reaction to and manipulation of the natural environment. These landscapes evolve over time and reflect both continuity and change over generations.²³⁸

The traditional cultural landscape of the Buffalo River valley is primarily one of rural agricultural development of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Farming was consistently the primary occupation of area residents during this period with small to medium sized farms being developed across the land. Farming practices evolved from an initial subsistence level in the early settlement period to more general farming by the turn of the century.

The traditional agricultural landscape of the Buffalo River is reflected in settlement choices, field use and field patterns, and boundary demarcations such as fence lines and creek beds. Area residents also commonly altered the natural environment with features such as stock ponds, dams, and spring or well developments. The built environment of the farmstead is also a reflection of the cultural landscape and includes smokehouses, root cellars, privies, sheds, barns, and other outbuildings in addition to the main dwelling. Garden production and ornamental plantings were often part of the cultural landscape as well.

²³⁸ Robert Z. Melnick, "Protecting Rural Cultural Landscapes: Finding Value in the Countryside," *Landscape Journal* (Fall 1983), 86-87.

Industrial development has also shaped the cultural landscape of the Buffalo River area. The growth of the lumber and mining industries in the region during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries altered the landscape as residents extracted natural resources from the environment. The removal of timber brought dramatic, but temporary, change to the landscape. Although remnants of tie slides and portions of logging roads remain, new timber growth has largely obscured these features. The mining industry has had a more lasting impact on the landscape of the Buffalo River with the remnants of area mines, mining operations and their associated communities still remaining as testimony to that period of the region's history.

Human occupation of the Buffalo River area is also reflected in various transportation networks, including roads, rail lines, and ferry crossings, and in the physical manifestations of community development such as schools, churches, and house sites. As recreation and tourism became important industries in the region, properties such as recreational cabins, parks, and campsites joined the Buffalo's cultural landscape.

The establishment of the Buffalo National River and the presence of the National Park Service have also impacted the landscape of the watershed. Since the formation of the park in 1972, various aspects of the Buffalo's traditional cultural landscape have changed or have been altered while some continue to persevere. The most dramatic impact resulting from the creation of the park is the fact that people no longer occupy much of the land within the park's boundaries. Many dwellings and farmsteads were razed or left to deteriorate. Others have been maintained as examples of life in the region before the existence of the park.

The main exception to this is Boxley Valley, where residents continue to occupy the dwellings and farm the land. Boxley is a unique area of the park that is listed on the National Register as a historic district. Because people continue to occupy the valley, Boxley has a different dynamic than other preserved areas of the park such as the Parker-Hickman Homestead. Whereas the latter is somewhat “frozen in time,” Boxley continues to have a human element that contributes to and impacts the landscape. Here established design guidelines help to retain the historic look and feel of the landscape.

In areas of the park other than Boxley, some agricultural fields are leased to area farmers and remain in use, while others have been allowed to revert back to natural vegetation. The NPS has also developed campsites, picnic areas, river access points, and other visitor accommodations throughout the park. This survey identified the following general characteristics of the Buffalo National River’s cultural landscape:

Much of the traditional agricultural landscape remains intact; however, some areas are quickly losing or no longer retain integrity.

The rocky soil and hilly topography surrounding the Buffalo River have historically limited the amount of arable land suitable for cultivation in what is now the Buffalo National River. Throughout the area, farmlands have traditionally been established along the more level sandstone uplands and in the small alluvial valleys along the river. Here, the bottomlands near the river offered wide terraces of fertile soil. Farms initially operated on a subsistence basis producing basic crops such as corn and wheat. During the late nineteenth century, farms in the Buffalo River valley became more diversified adding such crops as potatoes, oats, and cotton as well as small amounts of rice and tobacco. Several farms also had orchards

of apples, peaches or other fruits. Farms were typically small to medium in size and averaged around thirty-four acres.

After the NPS acquired the land along the Buffalo River, land use along the watershed became dependent on the federal government’s management. In some areas, easement or use and occupancy arrangements were made with individuals to reside on and maintain the land. The most notable example of this is in Boxley Valley, where traditional field patterns and land use remain intact and the built environment of historic farmsteads retains integrity. In other areas of the park, such as the Lane Bend and Richland Valley locations, local farmers are allowed to lease the land for pasture or hay production. At these locations the traditional land use is also maintained.

In other areas, however, the traditional farmland has been left untilled and allowed to re-vegetate. On some farmsteads, such as the Farmer Farm, buildings remain extant to define the farmstead, and fence rows and field locations remain discernible, but after several years of nonuse the fields are reverting back to natural growth. In still other areas, particularly those in the sections of the park designated as wilderness areas, the land has been allowed to return to its natural environment and the traditional cultural landscape is largely no longer discernible. The delineation of field patterns and fence lines is not readily visible and what were traditionally cleared areas of croplands are now covered with dense foliage. Here the integrity of setting, feeling, and association with historic landscapes is no longer extant.

Several dwellings, barns, and other outbuildings associated with farmsteads along the Buffalo River remain extant within the park’s boundaries. Some, such as those of the National Register-listed Parker-Hickman Farm, the Sod Collier Homestead, and the Jones Farm, remain intact and in good condition. However, the majority of

the remaining farm buildings in the park (excluding the Boxley area) have not been maintained and are in various stages of deterioration. Other sites consist only of foundation remains or site features such as wells, root cellars, and remnants of fence lines. Many of these areas are heavily overgrown with new trees, shrubs, and weeds.

Recreational development has transformed some cultural landscapes.

After the NPS acquired the land for the Buffalo National River in the 1970s, it added many recreational sites and features within the park boundaries. These include the construction of new campgrounds, picnic areas, parking lots, and river access points. This modern recreational development has resulted in the loss of the traditional landscape. In areas such as Pruitt, Tyler Bend, and Dillard's Ferry the landscape has been altered through the removal of pre-1955 structures and/or the addition of post-1970 buildings and structures.

An example of an altered landscape is the Pruitt area. The area along Highway 7 in the Pruitt area contained a recreational complex of several cabins, a bathhouse and other associated properties in the early twentieth century. Following its purchase of the property, the NPS razed all cabins and buildings associated with the property except a store building, which was transformed into a ranger station. A modern picnic area was constructed along the riverbank, and a NPS maintenance facility was erected across the highway from the ranger station. On the west side of the highway the original location of overnight cabins has become heavily overgrown with dense vegetation and a portion of it has been cleared for a large gravel pull-off leading to the Pruitt river access. The site no longer retains integrity of its setting, feeling, and association as a recreational complex of the early twentieth century.

Domestic landscapes are disappearing.

As part of NPS policy in the 1970s, many of the dwellings along the Buffalo River were either razed or abandoned following their purchase by the federal government. Within the park boundaries are a number of dwellings and outbuildings in ruins as well as a number of house sites that retain some form of above-ground remains such as sections of stone or concrete foundations, stone foundation piers, portions of a chimney, or stone steps. Many of these sites retain features such as stone root cellars or wells, and remnants of wood post and wire fencing. Others have few visible surface remains.

The majority of these sites are heavily overgrown with dense brush and vegetation and are quickly deteriorating. Common domestic plants continue to appear at many sites and help to identify yard organization and building placement. Yucca, a hardy plant with white flowers and sword-like leaves, and Narcissus (Daffodils) are the most prevalent domestic plants found at house sites. In many instances these flowers are arranged linearly along walkways, as edging along driveways or foundation walls, or in clusters in yards.

Other domestic plants commonly found at house sites in the Buffalo National River are English Ivy and Daylilies. English Ivy is a non-native vine first brought to the United States by early colonists. Gaining popularity from use in formal gardens, it has been grown around homesteads as an ornamental ground cover or on walls. Along the Buffalo River, English Ivy can be found growing on chimneys and foundation walls. In some areas mature vines have enveloped large trees. Daylilies, introduced from Europe and Asia, were used on farmsteads as ornamentals because they did not require much time or effort in order to grow. Daylilies were identified growing along fence lines.

Additional domestic plantings documented at house sites include ornamental shrubs such as Crape Myrtle and Lilac, and varieties of Rose and Iris. Ornamental plants, such as the Lilac and Crape Myrtle, might have been traded by farmers. Plant nurseries and seed trade became more prevalent during the nineteenth century when use of ornamental plants became increasingly popular. A few fruit trees, notably pear and plum, also exist at some house sites, as do naturally occurring and domestic grapevines.

House sites typically have a variety of trees that provided shade for the yard and house or provided wood for fences, firewood, or other uses. Trees commonly associated with sites throughout the park include varieties of Cedar, Oak, Walnut, Ash, Sycamore, Elm, Hickory, and Catalpa. In many areas, a dense growth of River Cane can be found, particularly along the lower lying edges approaching the river. This native cane found along stream banks has been used for fishing poles and the foliage for mats and baskets.

The degree to which the traditional cultural landscape remains at house sites varies depending on the number of, if any, surviving buildings and other above-ground site features. The majority of sites retain a sufficient degree of features to define at least some landscape characteristics such as yard organization, building location, fence lines or driveways. However, these characteristics are continuously deteriorating and becoming less visible due to erosion and dense vegetation and will become increasingly difficult to detect. While these sites may retain some aspects of the traditional landscape, they typically are not strong enough to meet National Register criteria. As components of a larger area some sites might contribute to a potential rural historic district by helping to define the traditional landscape.

The disappearance of house sites, modern recreational development, and changes to agricultural lands have all impacted the cultural

landscape of the Buffalo National River. However, many significant properties and cultural landscapes have been preserved and maintained, and many are either listed on the National Register or have been identified as potentially eligible.

The following section examines the cultural landscapes of the Buffalo National River in eight individual geographical areas of the park. These areas are: Boxley Valley, Ponca, Erbie, Pruitt, Central, Tyler Bend, Eastern, and the Lower Buffalo. For each area, an overview of the cultural landscape is provided and individual properties are discussed and assessed for National Register eligibility.

BOXLEY VALLEY

The Boxley Valley area is located in the western portion of the park along the upper Buffalo River. The valley extends southward from the community of Ponca and is characterized by a gently rolling terrain of agricultural fields interspersed with homesteads and surrounded by steep forested hills. State Highways 43 and 21 extend through the valley and are paved, two-lane roads that largely follow the path of the Buffalo River. In addition to the river, Leatherwood Creek, Arrington Creek, and Beech Creek pass through the valley.

Boxley Valley historically has contained some of the region's richest farmland and has supported the most prosperous farms along the Buffalo River. Early settlers arrived in the 1830s with the community of Boxley taking shape primarily in the late nineteenth century. The area developed into one of the more prosperous regions in the Buffalo River area with several large and prominent homes constructed along its hills and hollows.

The traditional cultural landscape of Boxley Valley has been preserved through the concerted efforts of its residents and the NPS via National Register listing, use and occupancy arrangements, and approved design guidelines. The Boxley Valley Historic District was listed on the National Register July 29, 1987 for its significance in the history of the Buffalo River area and as a significant cultural landscape of the Arkansas Ozarks. As the resources in Boxley Valley have been previously identified and assessed, this study provides an update on the condition of Boxley Valley resources that are listed on the List of Classified Structures (LCS), the NPS database. These properties are as follows:

Whiteley School

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
School (Foundations)	23250	1A	Ruins

Comments: The Whiteley School was destroyed by fire in 1997. All that remains are the stone foundations, which are quickly being engulfed by the surrounding vegetation.



Figure 24: Whiteley School Foundations.

Doy Edgmon Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
Feedhouse/ Cattleshed	23251	1B	Fair
Barn	23252	1C	Good
Rock Wall	23253	1D	Fair

Fruit Cellar	23255	1F	Fair
Low Water Crossing	23256	1G	Good

Comments: The livestock chute associated with the Edgmon property (LCS ID 23254, Structure # 1E) is no longer extant.

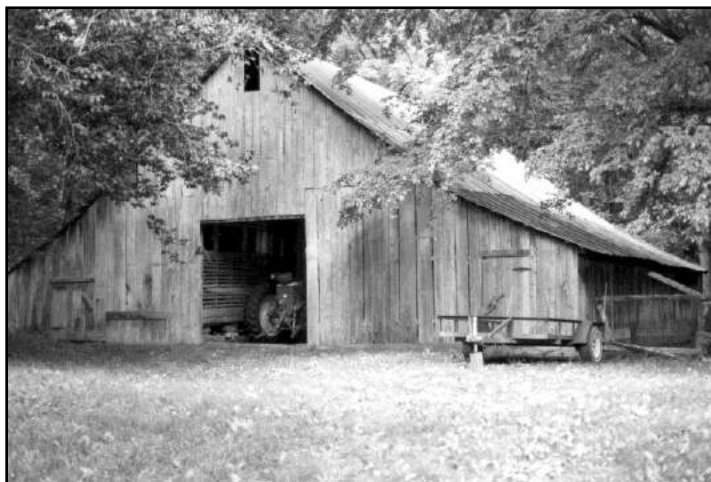


Figure 25: The barn on the Doy Edgmon Property in Boxley.

J.T. Edgmon/Luallen Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
House Site	23258	2A	Poor
Fruit Cellar	23259	2B	Poor
Barn	23262	2E	Good
Scale House	23264	2F	Fair



Figure 26: The Stock Scale of the Luallen Property in Boxley.

Troy Fowler Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
House	23265	3A	Good
Barn	23266	3B	Good
Saltpetre Kettle	60855	3H	Poor
Stone Walls	60854	3G	Fair

Comments: A second dwelling associated with the Troy Fowler Property is listed in the LCS as the Old Troy Fowler House (LCS ID 60818, Structure # 3C), but was not located during this survey. When inventoried in 1987, the dwelling was noted as “very deteriorated” and “uninhabitable.” No on-site inspection was conducted of this dwelling in 1987 and no photographs accompanied its LCS report. A stone culvert on the Troy property (LCS ID 60856, Structure # 3I) also was not located during this survey.



Figure 27: The Troy Fowler House.



Figure 28: The Edgmon/Fowler House.

Marion Edgmon/Bill Fowler Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
House	23267	4A	Good
Old Barn	23268	4B	Good
Store/Garage	23306	4C	Good
Granary	23307	4D	Poor
Caretaker's House	23308	4E	Poor

Comments: The Store/Garage is also noted as being a post office. This building has some slight roof damage but otherwise is in good condition.



Figure 29: The Caretaker's House on the Edgmon/Fowler property in Boxley.

A.F. Casey/William Clark Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
House	23310	7A	Good
Spring House	23311	7B	Good
Fruit Cellar	23312	7C	Fair
Log Building	23313	7D	Fair
Privy	23314	7E	Fair
Smokehouse	23315	7F	Fair
Main Barn	23317	7H	Fair

Arvel Casey Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
House	60858	8G	Good
	23319	8A	
Store/Café	23346	8B	Good
Big Barn	23320	8C	Fair
Barn	23321	8D	Fair
Sawmill	23322	8E	Fair
Pumphouse	60859	8H	Fair
Smokehouse	60860	8I	Poor

Comments: The Casey-Clark House was expanded in 1996 with a rear addition. This addition is in keeping with the dwelling's historic character and does not detract from its integrity. A hay barn associated with the property (LCS ID 23318, Structure # 7I) and a garage (LCS ID 23316, Structure # 7G) are no longer extant.



Figure 30: The Casey-Clark House.



Figure 31: The sawmill on the Arvel Casey property.

Junior Fowler Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
House	23438	9A	Good



Figure 32: The Junior Fowler House.

Comments: Also located on the Orpheus Duty property are a shed, privy, pumphouse, and well. None of these structures are listed on the LCS. All are in poor condition.



Figure 33: The Orpheus Duty House.

Orpheus Duty Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
House	23347	10A	Fair
Barn	23348	10B	Poor
Granary/Stable	23349	10C	Poor
Wash House	23350	10D	Poor
Smokehouse	23351	10E	Poor
Brooder House	23352	10F	Poor
Garage/cellar	23353	10G	Fair
Old House/shed	23354	10H	Poor
Barn in field	23356	10J	Poor



Figure 34: The washhouse and smoke house on the Orpheus Duty property.

Boxley Mill

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
Mill	23358	11A	Fair
Race	60827	11L	Fair
Pond	60826	11K	Fair



Figure 35: The Boxley Mill.

Clyde Villines Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
House	60820	11B	Good
Fishing Cabin	60825	11J	Poor
Fishing Cabin	60823	11H	Poor
Barn A	60822	11E	Fair
Stone Shed	60824	11I	Good
Barn C	60635	11G	Poor
Fishing Cabin	60821	11C	gone
Barn B	60634	11F	gone

Comments: LCS Reports lists 3 fishing cabins on this property. There are currently only two that remain. Barn B also is no longer extant.



Figure 36: A fishing cabin on the Clyde Villines property.

J.L. Villines/Scroggins Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
House	23357	12A	Good
Barn	23383	12B	Fair
Smokehouse/ Toolhouse	23385	12D	Good
Garage	23386	12E	Fair
Outhouse	23384	12C	Good

Comments: The smokehouse/toolhouse on this property has been moved since it was last surveyed in 1987. It originally sat immediately to the rear of the house. It is now positioned directly

behind the garage, facing south. The outhouse on the property has been rebuilt.



Figure 37: The Scroggins House.

Robert Villines Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
House	60828	13A	Fair
Barn	60829	13B	Fair
Wagon Shed	60830	13C	Poor
2 nd House	60831	13D	Poor
Fruit Cellar	60832	13E	Fair



Figure 38: The dwelling on the Robert Villines property.

Lieu Duty Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
House	23387	15A	Good
Barn	23388	15B	Good
Garage	23389	15C	Good
WPA Outhouse	23390	15D	Good
Fruit Cellar	23391	15E	Good
Smokehouse	23392	15F	Good
Old House	23396	16A	Poor

Frank Scroggins/Larry Fowler Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
House	23397	17A	Poor
Barn	23398	17B	Fair
Pump House	60833	17C	Poor
Shed	60834	17D	Fair

Comments: This property has been vacant for some time and is in very poor condition. The interior of the house has many collapsed floors and ceilings. The surrounding area is becoming overgrown and heavy vegetation is beginning to cover the shed and pumphouse. Two other outbuildings– a root cellar and a second shed – are not listed on the LCS but are on the premises. These outbuildings are located to the rear of the dwelling, and are covered with vegetation and barely visible.



Figure 39: The Scroggins-Fowler House.

Audie Ramsey/Clark-Emmett Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
House	23399	18A	Good
Spring House	23400	18B	Good
Fruit Cellar	23401	18C	Good

R. Hezekiah Villines Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
House	23437	19A	Good

Store	23402	19B	Fair
Garage	23403	19C	Fair
Barn	23405	19E	Fair

Waymon Villines Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
House	23410	20A	Good
Study/ Smokehouse	23411	20B	Good

Joe Villines/Paul Villines Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
House	23408	21A	Good

Jess Shroll/Howard Barn

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
Barn	23414	24A	Good



Figure 40: The Shroll/Howard Barn.

William Villines Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
Log House/Barn	23415	25A	Fair
Harness Shed	23416	25B	Fair
Corn Crib	23417	25C	Fair



Figure 41: The William Villines House.

Beaver Jim Villines Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
House	23427	27A	Fair
Barn	23428	27B	Fair
Smokehouse	23429	27C	Poor
Corn Crib	23430	27D	Poor
WPA Privy	23431	27E	Fair
Fruit Cellar	23432	27F	Fair
Chicken House	23436	27G	Poor

Comments: The smokehouse and corn crib on this property are in poor condition, but have been stabilized and protected with a metal gable roof supported by wood posts, and a wire fence surrounds the wood posts.



Figure 42: The Beaver Jim Villines corn crib.

Sam Clark Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
Old Keeton House	23409	28A	Poor
Spring	60835	28B	Poor

Comments: This house is becoming heavily overgrown with weeds and vines.

Henry Villines Pumphouse

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
	60836	29A	Poor

Fultz/Seamon Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
House	60837	36A	Poor
Chicken House	60838	36B	Poor
Privy	60839	36E	Poor

Comments: This house was undergoing renovations at the time of survey. Its condition will need to be updated upon completion of renovations.

Eubank Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
House	60840	37A	Poor
Well House	60841	37B	Poor
Fruit Cellar	60842	37D	Fair
Shed	60843	37E	Poor
Privy	60844	37F	Poor

Comments: This property has been vacant for some time and is heavily overgrown with vegetation.

Pickle Edgmon Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
Barn	61506	39C	Poor
Well	60636	39E	Poor
River Wagon Road Stone Walls	60637	39G	Fair

Comments: This property is located in a Wilderness Area near the river at the southern end of Boxley Valley. The property is heavily overgrown; however numerous stone walls remain intact and in fair condition. Also on the property is the house site of a 1960s dwelling. The site consists of stone foundations and two standing stone chimneys.



Figure 43: Several stone fences remain intact on the Pickle Edgmon property in Boxley valley.

Boxley Valley House

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
House	60863	44B	Poor

Comments: This dwelling is heavily overgrown with vegetation and near ruins. Several portions of the roof and walls are missing.

Pleas Guthrie Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
House	60848	48A	Poor
Fruit Cellar	60850	48C	Poor

Comments: This dwelling is in ruins and heavily overgrown. It was difficult to get a photograph due to the thick vegetation surrounding the building. The privy associated with the dwelling (LCS ID 60849, Structure # 48E) is no longer extant.

Marion Hurley Property

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
House	60851	49A	Poor
Rock Wall	60853	49D	Poor/Fair

Comments: This property is heavily overgrown. It is difficult to detect the rock wall that extends in front of the dwelling due to the vegetation. It appears to be at least partially intact. Clearing/removal of the vegetation would make its condition more visible. An outbuilding associated with the property (LCS ID 60852, Structure # 49B) is no longer extant. A few rotted boards and foundation stones remain.

Bridges & Culverts

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>	<u>Condition</u>
Ponca Low Water Bridge	23309	41A	Good
Leatherwood Culvert	60846	41B	Fair

Comments: Old Boxley Bridge Abutments (LCS ID 60862, Structure # 44A) were not located during this survey.



Figure 44: The Ponca Low Water Bridge.



Figure 45: The Leatherwood Culvert in Boxley.

Additional Boxley Properties

Two properties within the Boxley Valley Historic District that are listed on the LCS were not surveyed during this project due to inaccessibility. These are the Villines and Arrington Creek (Bell) properties, both of which are located east of Arrington Creek. Surveyors were unable to ford Arrington Creek at the time of survey. The resources associated with these properties are listed below:

	<u>LCS ID</u>	<u>Structure #</u>
Dennis Villines Old House	60845	40A
Henry Villines Outbuilding	60639	40D
Jeff Villines Corn Crib	60638	40E
Arrington Creek Barn (#1)	23419	26B
Arrington Creek Barn (#2)	23420	26C
Arrington Creek House (#2)	23424	26I

Arrington Creek Fruit Cellar
& Stone Wall 23426 26H

Also, one property outside the Boxley Valley Historic District but still within the boundaries of Buffalo National River was inventoried for this project. The property is located along Highway 5 approximately two miles southwest of its intersection with Highway 21/43. Details of the property are provided below.

Stock Barn, Highway 5
Tract No. 65-109

On this property is a gambrel roof stock barn built ca. 1950. The barn has vertical board siding and a metal roof. The barn has a central runway and livestock stalls. The barn has a shed roof drive-thru wing on both the east and west elevations. The upper story has a hayloft opening on the south elevation. The west elevation of the west drive-thru has corrugated metal siding. The other drive-thru on the east elevation is open. To the south is a 3' x 3' concrete well that was associated with a two-story house at this location. This well still has a pulley and chain attachment. No above ground evidence of the house remains on the site.



Figure 46: Remaining Barn and Well on Tract 65-109.

PONCA

The Ponca area extends northeast from the community of Ponca between Boxley Valley and Erbie. The area is characterized by steep forested ridges with elevations reaching 2000 feet on Kilgore Mountain south of the Buffalo River, and 2100 feet at Pickert Point north of the river. One of the more rugged areas of the National Park, the Ponca area has been designated an official Wilderness Area and has been allowed to revert back to its natural state. Closed to motorized vehicles, this region of the park is limited to only foot and horse traffic, or travel via the river.

This area was home to several families during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Being a rather mountainous area, the terrain was not conducive to major agricultural development, however residents were able to establish a number of small farms along the river and its tributaries. The bottom and terrace land adjacent to the river provided the best tillable land and the raising of livestock was common.

A few early cabins dating to the late 1800s are known to have existed in the region, but none remain extant. The largest cluster of farms and residences in the Ponca area were situated in a narrow valley along Sneys Creek north of the Buffalo River. This area supported a few small farms during the early twentieth century, and a sprinkling of dwellings appeared along the road south of the creek, which was one of the few roads that penetrated the area. Enough people lived in the region to support a school by 1877, and a school existed near the mouth of Sneed Creek until the late 1940s. Residents lived primarily off of the land raising a few crops and livestock. Residents developed a close-knit community in which neighbors commonly came to each others aid.

The landscape of the Ponca Wilderness Area has been allowed to revert back to its natural state. Fields have not been maintained and are consumed by naturally occurring vegetation, and dwellings and other structures that were not razed following their acquisition by the federal government have been largely allowed to deteriorate. Various dwellings and outbuildings from the early twentieth century remain standing in the Ponca Wilderness, but most are in poor or ruinous condition. Although remnants of the cultural landscape continue to exist in this area, these elements are quickly fading into the consuming natural environment.

National Register-eligible Properties:

One property surveyed in this area for this project was found to meet National Register criteria: the Granny Henderson House. This ca. 1915, one and one-half story, frame dwelling was built in a simple two-room, side gable plan and features handmade saw-tooth shingles in the gable fields. The dwelling is a representative example of the common house forms constructed in northwestern Arkansas in the early twentieth century. The house was home to Eva Barnes, “Granny,” Henderson, who along with her husband and daughter operated the surrounding farm, and then lived alone on the property for many years following her husband’s death. She continued to live a largely subsistence lifestyle not very different from that at the turn of the century with no telephone, electricity, or indoor plumbing and raising or making most of what she needed. She became well-known throughout the area as she came to exemplify the mountain lifestyle that so many people in the Buffalo River valley had experienced. Ms. Henderson’s home remains largely unchanged from its original construction and reflects her life on the property. The dwelling is significant for its association with Ms. Henderson and meets National Register criterion B.

Granny Henderson House

Tract No. 26-108

LCS ID/Structure No.:

House – 060568/B4-60H

Barn – 060569/B4-96H

Well – 060570/B4-60A

Fruit Cellar – 060573/B4-60B

This one and one-half story, frame dwelling was constructed ca. 1915. It has a stone foundation, gable roof of ca. 1985 corrugated metal, and an exterior of weatherboard siding. On the east elevation is a full-width shed roof porch with square wood posts and floor replaced in 2000. The house has a central interior brick chimney. The east elevation has an entrance with the original no longer extant. On the west façade are two entrances also missing their doors. Windows no longer have their sash units. The gable fields retain original handmade saw-tooth shingles.

The interior of the dwelling has original wood floors, horizontal plank siding with some remnants of wallpaper, and in the southeast corner is an enclosed staircase leading to the loft. The loft has two rooms divided by a central frame partition wall. The loft has horizontal plank ceilings.

A barn associated with the property is now in ruins. The logs have half dovetail notching, but most logs are deteriorated. The logs have adze marks. Surrounding the log ruins are sections of the metal roofing material. The shed south of the house is now on the ground with some sections of metal roof in the vicinity. The hog shed is extant and has vertical board siding, and a shed roof with a metal surface. The two sheds north of the house are no longer extant and only a few foundation stones remain.



Figure 47: The Granny Henderson House.

The Granny Henderson House meets National Register criterion B for its association with Eva Barnes “Granny” Henderson, who was a significant figure in the history of the local area. Born in 1892, Granny Henderson spent a lifetime living along the Buffalo River, during most of which she lived in the small frame dwelling along Sneed’s Creek. Her life (1892-1979) is a strong representative of the simple pioneer lifestyle that many in the region experienced during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and is a reflection of the history of the Buffalo River area. Following her marriage at age sixteen, she and her husband settled on the tract near Sneed’s Creek around 1908. They built the house themselves, and raised chickens, cattle, and hogs. A garden provided much of their needs and occasional trips were made into Ponca for staples. Her home was never equipped with plumbing, electricity or other modern amenities, and she never found the need to learn to drive a car. Following her husband’s death in 1955, Eva continued to live on their farm

maintaining the hardy lifestyle she had always known well into her eighties.

Over the years, Granny Henderson, as she had come to be known, became somewhat of a local legend as one of the last persons to continue the subsistence lifestyle of early pioneers. She was featured in local newspaper articles and national magazines, including *National Geographic*. Granny Henderson came to represent the rugged independence of those who settled in the mountains surrounding the Buffalo River, and her home documents the pioneer lifestyle that she maintained. The dwelling retains its original form and design and alterations are limited to those required for basic maintenance. The Granny Henderson House is the principal structure associated with her life and meets the criteria of the National Register. The traditional agricultural landscape of the Granny Henderson House is beginning to fade as native vegetation is reclaiming the land. However, if these areas were cleared and maintained, they would enhance the property's integrity of setting.



Figure 48: Detail of the Granny Henderson House.



Figure 49: A view of the fields associated with the Granny Henderson House.



Figure 50: Granny Henderson's root cellar.

Granny Henderson Cabin Site Plan

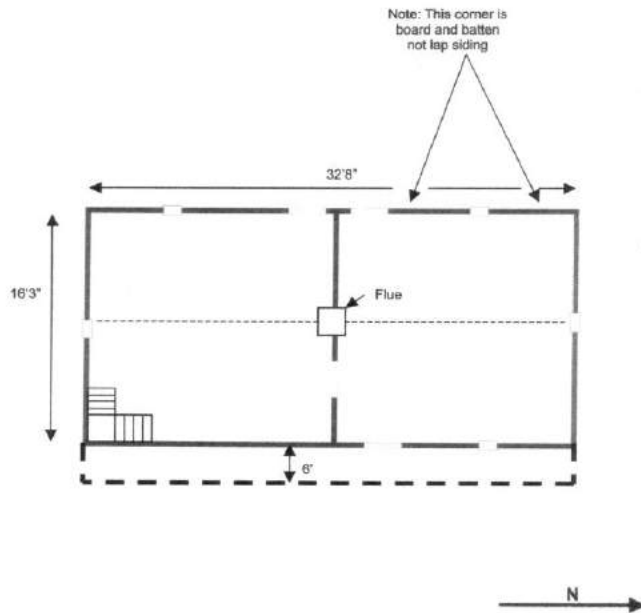


Figure 51: Granny Henderson Cabin Site Plan.

No other properties documented in the Ponca area possess sufficient integrity or significance to meet National Register criteria. The dwellings documented are common house forms and designs of the early twentieth century and do not possess adequate integrity of materials or design to qualify for National Register status. The dwellings are in various stages of deterioration and many are near ruins. Several house sites and the site of a school building were also inventoried. These properties retain little above ground evidence to convey their history and do not meet National Register criteria. Descriptions of the remaining individual properties documented in the Ponca region follow:

1) Charlotte Mahoney Cabin Ruins

Tract No. 28-102

LCS ID: 060566

Structure No. 28-102

The Charlotte Mahoney Cabin was a single-pen log dwelling constructed ca. 1866. The cabin was built of hand-hewn logs with half dove-tail notching and at one time had an exterior of weatherboard siding. The top logs of the dwelling extended about two and one half feet past the edge of one wall. The timbers in the structure were large and well-fitted.

The Charlotte Mahoney Cabin is now in ruins. Three courses of logs remain intact and other logs are randomly strewn about on the ground. Some stone foundation stones are visible. What were cultivated fields in 1967 to the south of the dwelling are now grown up in cedar trees and brambles. The property does not retain sufficient integrity of design or materials to qualify for National Register status.

Ineligible Properties



Figure 52: Ruins are all that remain of the Charlotte Mahoney Cabin.

2) Armor House
Tract No. 25-101

This is a one- and one-half story frame dwelling built ca. 1940. The house has a gable roof of asphalt shingles, an interior brick chimney, a stone foundation and an exterior of aluminum siding. On the main (east) façade is a full-width, hipped roof porch with a wood floor and ca. 1960 wood posts and cedar posts. The main entrance has an original four-panel wood door. Windows are original four-over-four rectangular wood sash. On the south façade is a ca. 1950 shed roof wing containing a bathroom. This wing has aluminum siding and hinged six-light windows. In the gable fields in the half story area ca. 1970 one-over-one aluminum sash windows. At the rear (west) elevation is an original shed roof wing with six-over-six wood sash windows. This elevation also has an exterior wall concrete block flue. The north façade of this wing has an original vertical board

door. The interior of the house has been remodeled with added ceiling panels, carpeting, and wall paneling. The house was built in a double-pen plan with a rear wing containing a kitchen and mud room and side wing with a bathroom. The upstairs has an open floor plan with a bead board ceiling.



Figure 53: The Armor House was constructed ca. 1940.

To the north of the house is an original storage shed of frame construction. This shed has board and batten siding, a shed metal roof, and a stone pier foundation. To the east of the house is a stone and concrete well with a concrete cap and metal well cover.

The Armor House is a common house type of the mid twentieth century and does not possess sufficient historical or architectural significance to meet National Register criteria. The dwelling is in a deteriorated condition and does not retain integrity of materials or design.

3) Evans-White House

Tract No. 26-105

LCS ID/Structure No:

House – 060572/B4-111H

Fruit Cellar – 060573/B4112H

This is a one- and one-half story, frame dwelling built ca. 1919 with two interior brick chimneys, weatherboard siding, a stone foundation, and a gable roof of corrugated metal. On the main (east) façade is a collapsed shed roof porch with one original chamfered wood column remaining. The main façade has two entrances, which retain original four-panel wood doors. Windows are original two-over-two wood rectangular wood sash with all of the glass missing. One intact window at the rear elevation is a six-over-six wood sash design. The main façade has two gable wall dormers at the roofline with one-over-one wood sash windows. In the gable fields are original hexagonal wood shingles. The house has an original one- and one-half story rear gable wing. On the north side of this wing is a shed roof porch with ca. 1980 cedar posts. Leading to this porch is an original vertical board door. On the south side of this wing is a shed roof porch with original chamfered wood columns and a ca. 1930 concrete floor. Leading to this porch is an original vertical board door. This porch connects with a barrel vault root cellar/well house, which is of stone and concrete construction. The lower section is of stone and the barrel vault is of poured concrete. The interior has a poured concrete floor.

The house was built in a double-pen plan with wood floors covered with linoleum, horizontal plank walls with wallpaper and wood plank ceilings. Connecting the two main rooms is an original five-panel door. The north pen contains a brick and concrete flue opening. The second floor has wood floors, plank ceilings and walls with newspaper insulation. There are flue openings for both main rooms and rear ell.

To the south of the house are the ruins of a frame smokehouse with horizontal boards and metal roofing on the ground. To the east of the house across a small creek are the ruins of a ca. 1950 blacksmith shop with vertical board walls, a shed roof of corrugated metal and interior horizontal board siding. Much of this is collapsed and with sheets of corrugated metal roof on the ground.



Figure 54: The Evans-White House.

The Evans-White House was built ca. 1919 for Jim Evans who emigrated to the Buffalo River area in the 1880s. Evans was a blacksmith and miller for the surrounding area and his home became the social center for residents along Sneed Creek. Subsequent owners abandoned the property ca. 1959 and it has since remained vacant. A study conducted in 1988 found the property ineligible for the National Register. Currently the dwelling is in an advanced state of deterioration and no longer possesses sufficient integrity of design, feeling, or association to meet the criteria of the National Register.

4) Arbaugh House
Tract No. 29-100

This is a one-story, frame, double-pen plan dwelling constructed ca. 1917. The dwelling has a stone foundation, gable roof of corrugated metal, and an exterior of board and batten siding. The main (north) façade has a full-width shed roof porch with ca. 1990 cedar posts and a concrete floor. The main entrance on this elevation no longer retains an original door. The south elevation has two entrances and the east entrance has an original five-panel door. Window openings no longer retain any sash units. Across the south façade is a full-width open drive-thru with cedar posts added ca. 1990. The original wing on this elevation was removed prior to 1990.

The interior of the dwelling is missing its ceiling with exposed roof rafters and metal ceilings. The interior has an original wood floor and horizontal board walls over the studs. There is no other detailing on the interior. The dwelling faces an old roadbed that is eight to ten feet in width and has several sunken sections. A fence line with wood posts and wire fencing runs along the road in front of the house.

This dwelling is a common house form of the early 20th century and there are no other historic associated outbuildings. The property does not possess sufficient architectural distinction to meet National Register criteria.



Figure 55: The Arbaugh House.

5) Villines Cabin
Tract No. 21-102

On this tract is a one-story, frame, double-pen plan dwelling built ca. 1945. According to the guide through the area, this is the third house to occupy this site. The house has a cobblestone and concrete foundation that has partially collapsed. The exterior is of vertical board with asphalt rolled siding. The house originally had a stone flue, which is now missing. The gable roof has a ca. 1960 corrugated aluminum roof. On the main (east) façade is a shed roof, full-width porch with ca. 1990 wood posts. The main entrances have original vertical board and batten doors. Window openings no longer have any sash units. At the west elevation is a shed roof wing. The south bay of this wing has an incised porch and door opening. The interior

of the dwelling has three rooms with a wood floor and vertical board walls. Newspaper on the walls dates to February 17, 1951.

Also on the property is a springbox of stone and concrete construction that measures approximately 3' x 3', and a chicken house that is 6'8" x 10'. The chicken house has half dovetail notched logs, a metal gable roof and vertical board siding in the gable field.

This dwelling is a common house form of the early 20th century and there are no other historic associated outbuildings. The property does not possess sufficient architectural distinction to meet National Register criteria.



Figure56: The Villines Cabin.

6) Flowers Cabin Tract No. 25-105

The Flowers Cabin is a one-story, single-pen, log dwelling built ca. 1925. The building has a stone foundation, gable roof of corrugated metal, and an exterior of hewn and unhewn logs. Most logs are unhewn and the corners have V notching. The hewn logs have adze marks. On the main (east) façade is an entrance that is now missing its door. The north façade has a tripart window opening with added shutters. A large open window opening has been cut into the west façade of the building. On the south façade there is no fenestration. The building has some wood slat and concrete chinking but most chinking is no longer extant. In the gable fields is vertical board siding. The interior has some added wall paneling over the logs, a wood floor, and a partially intact wood rafter ceiling and loft area. A tree trunk was moved into the center of the building to provide access to the loft space. In the southeast corner is a cast iron stove.



Figure 57: The Flowers Cabin.

This dwelling appears to have been used as a hunting cabin during the early 20th century. It is located on the side of a steep slope and there are no nearby agricultural lands. The dwelling has been altered with added windows and substitute materials and does not meet National Register criteria.

7) Lockheed Barn/Seamster Cabin

Tract No. 26-102

On this tract is a frame and log barn that appears to have been rebuilt in the late twentieth century. The barn has a single log pen that was built with logs from a previous structure using concrete chinking. A larger frame barn was built around the log pen and appears to date to the 1960s. Located on this same tract, but across the river are the foundation remains of a ca. 1945 cabin. This site is situated in a small clearing within a wooded area adjacent to the riverbank and consists of a few stone piers. This barn was rebuilt in the 1960s –70s and does not possess its original design or integrity.



Figure 58: Lockheed Barn.

Ponca also contains four readily visible house sites and a school site. None of these sites retain sufficient integrity or significance to meet National Register criteria.

8) House Site

Tract No. 22-110

This site consists of a barn foundation and dwelling and shed ruins. The barn foundation is of continuous stone approximately two feet in height. It measures 30' x 42'. There is a scattering of metal cans and car pieces in the general vicinity. Within the barn foundation is a tree that is over fifty years old. The house ruins consist of a poured concrete foundation on a slope and ranging from 8" in height to 4' 6" in height. The dwelling appears to date to ca. 1940 and was built with vertical board with rolled asphalt siding. A screen door is visible along with a metal stove flue. To the west of the house ruins are the ruins of a frame shed. Some stone foundations are visible along with the vertical board siding and asphalt roof.

9) House Site

Tract No. 20-103

This house site is located off Highway 74 and has the remains of a house, two outbuildings and a standing root cellar. The root cellar measures 11' wide by 11' 8" deep. The building is of poured concrete with a random course stone veneer. The house foundations consist of four concrete steps that led to a porch and a poured concrete foundation ranging from 1' to 3' in height. The rear section of the house appears to have an enclosed porch and a concrete partial height wall 3' 4" in height is at this location. The house foundations are 24' wide and 42' in length.

10) House Site
Tract No. 23-113

This house site consists of two small sections of concrete sidewalks and some remaining foundation stones. To the north of the house site are the ruins of a log smokehouse with saddle notching and round logs. Beneath the smokehouse is a stone and concrete lined root cellar with stacked stone walls leading to the opening, which is approximately 5' in height. Also on the property is a poured concrete springbox that measures approximately 10' x 10'. A wood post and wire fence line runs parallel to the road that extends past the house site.

11) House Site
Tract No. 23-124

This house site is located adjacent to Highway 43 and consists of poured concrete foundations measuring 25' 6" deep and 32' 9" wide. There is also a poured concrete foundation at the southeast corner that was either a porch or mud room and has a drain hole in the middle. The foundation is rectangular in plan and ranges from 8" to 3' in height.

12) Center Point School Site
Tract No. 26-103

The last school constructed on this site was built ca. 1930 and was of frame construction. Following its closure in the late 1940s, Center Point School fell into ruins and all that remains are foundation stones. The foundation is of cut stone and measures 36' 6" x 21'. Stones within the foundation measure up to 2' in width and 3 1/2' in length. The remainder of a porch is also visible and measures 5' x 9' 8". The porch foundation is of stone and has a concrete cap.



Figure 59: Foundations of the Center Point School.

Centerpoint School Site Plan

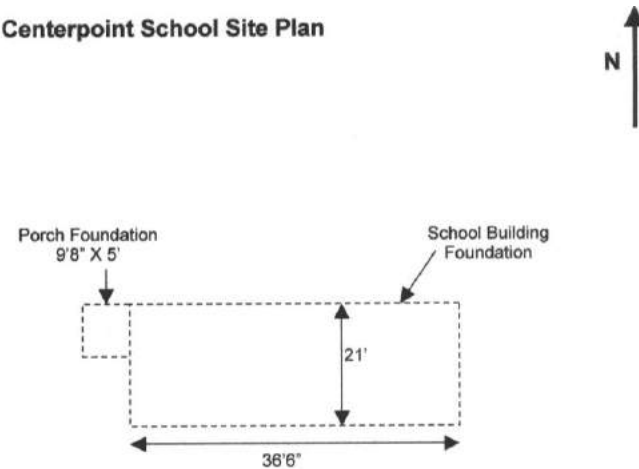


Figure 60: Center Point School Site Plan.

TABLE 8: PONCA AREA PPROPERTIES

	Property Name	USGS Quad	Tract Number	National Register-Listed	National Register-Eligible	LCS #	Strucutre #
1	Mahoney Cabin	Ponca	28-102	No	No	060566	28-102
2	Armor House	Ponca	25-101	No	No	N/A	N/A
3	Evans-White House	Ponca	26-105	No	No	060572 060573	B4-111 (house), B4-112H (cellar)
4	Granny Henderson House	Ponca	26-108	No	Yes	060568 060569 060570 060573	B4-60H (house) B4-96H (barn) B4-60A (well) B4-60B (cellar)
5	Arbaugh House	Ponca	29-100	No	No	N/A	N/A
6	Villines Cabin	Ponca	21-102	No	No	N/A	N/A
7	Flowers Cabin	Ponca	25-105	No	No	N/A	N/A
8	Lockheed Barn	Ponca	26-102	No	No	N/A	N/A
9	House Site	Ponca	22-110	No	No	N/A	N/A
10	House Site	Ponca	20-103	No	No	N/A	N/A
11	House Site	Ponca	23-113	No	No	N/A	N/A
12	House Site	Ponca	23-124	No	No	N/A	N/A
13	Center Point School Site	Ponca	26-103	No	No	N/A	N/A

ERBIE

This area of the Buffalo National River is located in a broad valley surrounded by sloping hills and steep bluffs. It includes land both north and south of the river which contain agricultural fields and forests. Cecil and Cove Creeks meet approximately one mile north of the Buffalo River to form a tributary watershed. What was once the village of Erbie is situated north of the river just south of Cecil Creek. Originally settled in the 1830s, Erbie progressed into a thriving small community with a church, store, and various dwellings, and was the center of social interaction among those who lived on the scattering of farms in the surrounding valley.

Erbie's cultural landscape is one of a rural agricultural community and evolved as settlers farmed, lived, and worked in the area. Reflecting early settlement patterns, the valley's fertile bottomland attracted settlers who carved a home and life out of the isolated wilderness. They cleared fields and initiated crops. The surrounding forests supplied materials for the dwellings and structures they built, provided shelter and food for their livestock, and offered wild game and other foods to supplement their diet. As the number of settlers increased, their social interaction resulted in a network of trails and roads, and a village emerged as a church, school, and store were established. Their initial subsistence lifestyle gradually developed into a modest agricultural economy. As families prospered around the turn-of-the-century, farms grew, crops became more diversified, and improved dwellings and outbuildings began to appear. By the mid-twentieth century, modern conveniences, such as electricity, had brought some changes to life in Erbie, but the landscape changed little as most farms retained their early twentieth century character.

Erbie's history and development is reflected in its landscape through the existing farmsteads, field patterns, and transportation networks. The remaining foundations in the village and house sites, as well as

features of the landscape such as fence rows and stock ponds represent the relationship between the inhabitants and the land over time. Extant buildings reflect traditional building patterns and materials, and area farmsteads retain arrangements and spatial organization representative of the Arkansas Ozarks.

National Register-Eligible Properties:

Erbie Rural Historic District

The community of Erbie and its surrounding area is representative of agricultural and community development in the Buffalo River valley during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Erbie remained an active agricultural community into the late twentieth century when the NPS purchased the property. Services continued in the Erbie Church until the early 1990s. The church is the only remaining building in what was the village of Erbie, however the surrounding area includes three intact farmsteads, various house and building sites, agricultural fields, transportation networks, and cemeteries. Collectively these properties effectively communicate the rural agricultural heritage of the Erbie area, convey its community history, and retain a sufficient degree of integrity to meet National Register historic district criteria.

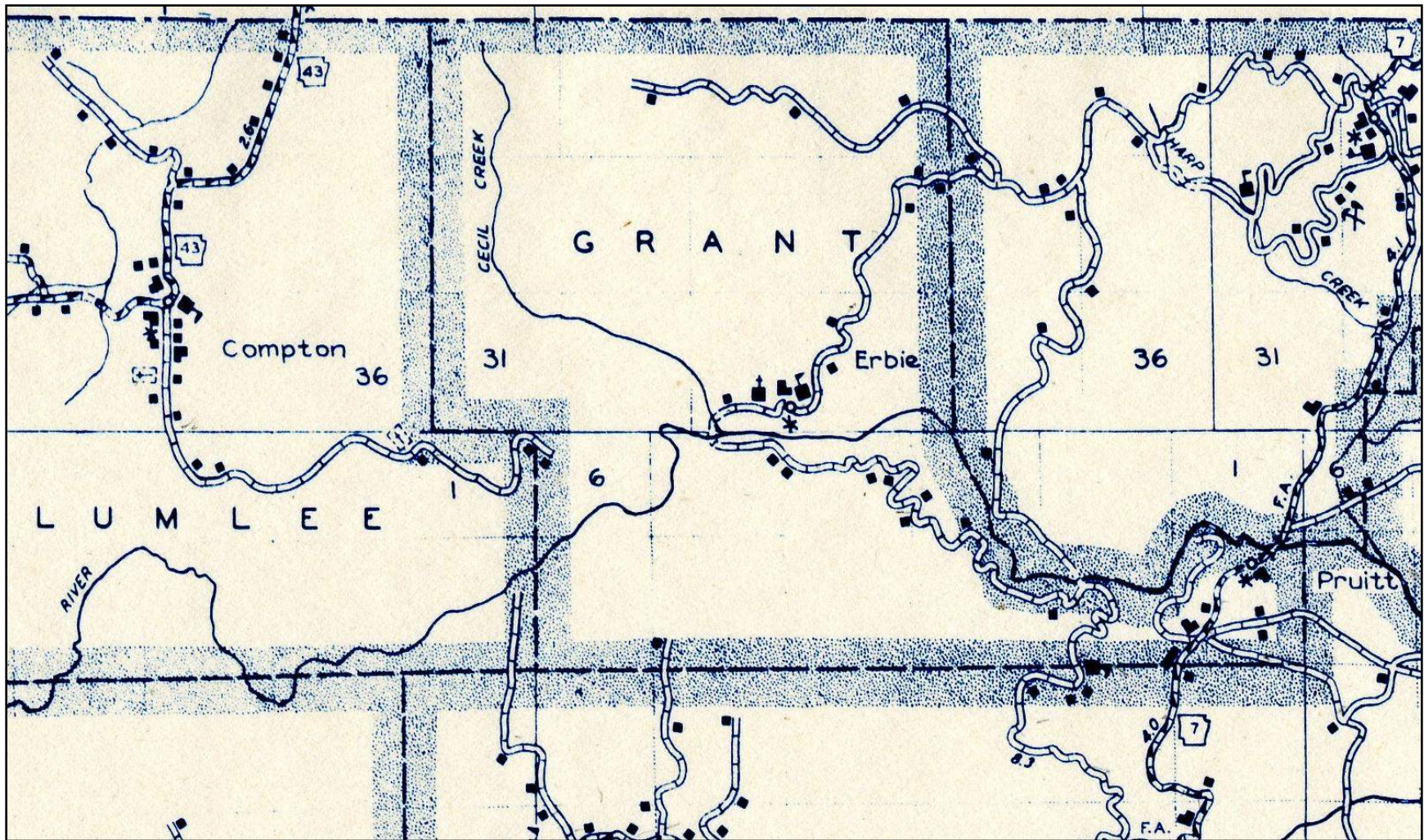


Figure 61: Highway Department Map-Newton County 1943 showing dwellings, schools, churches and the road system in Erbie (Source: Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries: Fayetteville, Arkansas).

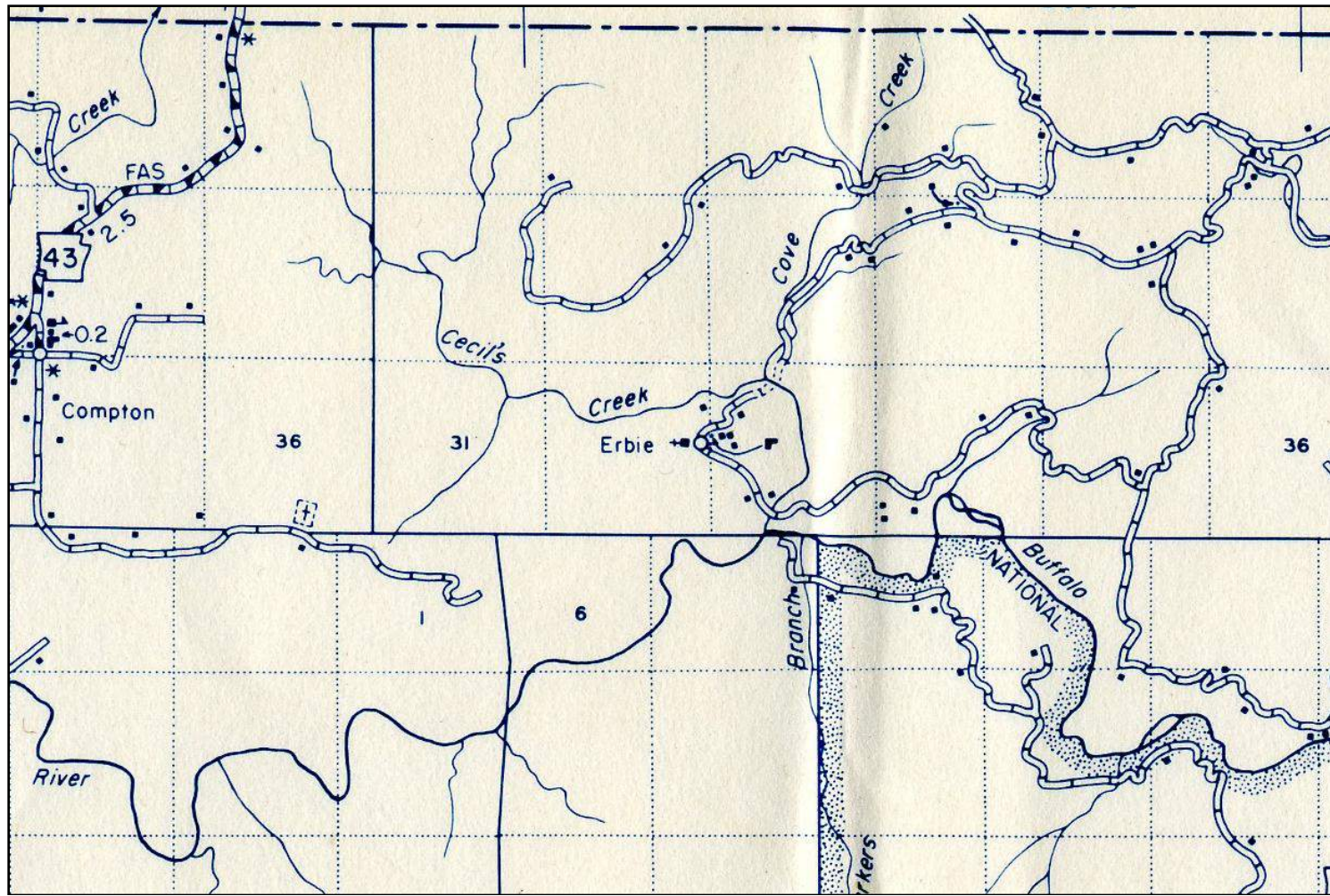


Figure 62: This 1950 Highway Department Map of Newton County compared to that of 1943 shows a reduction in the number of buildings in the Erbie area (Source: Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries: Fayetteville, Arkansas).

In 1986 the NPS completed a Development Plan/Cultural Landscape Report for the Erbie area. This report recognized the area's cultural resources and identified boundaries for a Historic Zone to plan for its care and preservation. The recommended boundaries for the proposed Erbie Rural Historic District expand upon those established for the Historic Zone created in 1986 to include additional properties associated with the community of Erbie. These include lands of the Adair and Reavis families, and additional cemeteries associated with Erbie residents. John Adair was an early settler in the region and became one of the area's largest and most prosperous landowners. By 1860, Adair owned multiple tracts of land along this section of the Buffalo River and the rich bottomlands have remained in agricultural production. His grave along with that of his wife and other family members are located in the Adair Cemetery on the property. The Adair family farmed the surrounding area during the late nineteenth century. In the early twentieth century, the Taylor family occupied the land and the foundations of their ca. 1925 dwelling and outbuildings remain on the property. The property reflects its early twentieth century character and reveals the evolution and continued agricultural use of the land from the nineteenth to the twentieth centuries. The Taylor House Site and the Adair Cemetery help to define the agricultural landscape and history of the Erbie area.

The Reavis family came to the Erbie area around 1900 and settled a 160-acre tract along Cecil Creek. After living in an existing log cabin on the property, the Reavises built a one- and one-half story, double-pen log dwelling in which they raised ten children. They established a sizeable farm and although situated about a mile and a half from the village of Erbie, considered themselves to be very much a part of the Erbie community. The Reavis House remains extant and retains much of its original form and design. The surrounding landscape includes associated fields that remain in pasture. The Reavis House

demonstrates the history and development of the Erbie community during the early twentieth century.

Non-contributing properties within the proposed boundaries are few and largely consist of NPS primitive campgrounds. Two small campground areas are located near the Erbie village site and consist of a small clearing with a vault toilet and one or two picnic tables. A small gravel parking area and restroom facility (vault toilet) are located at the intersection of the two roads through the village site. These facilities are minimally intrusive and do not significantly detract from the district's setting and association. The larger Erbie Campground is located in the eastern portion of the district. This campground is located northeast of the southern road leading into Erbie and is largely concealed with trees. It is primitive in design and blends in well with the surrounding landscape.

Contributing properties to the proposed Erbie Rural Historic District are: Parker-Hickman Farmstead, Jones Farmstead, Farmer Farmstead, Shake Roof Cabin, Taylor House/Adair Farm Site, Huchingson House/Farm Site, Lane House Site, Tinsley Farm Site, , Erbie Church, Erbie Store Site, Reavis House, McFadden House Site, Angle House/Farm Site, three additional house sites, and the site of a swinging bridge. Five cemeteries, the Cherry Grove community cemetery and the Adair, Young, Jones, and McFadden family cemeteries, are also associated with the Erbie area and are considered contributing elements to the proposed Erbie Rural Historic District. These cemeteries served the families and community of Erbie throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They contribute to the overall sense of time and place of the district and help to convey the community's history. Each of the contributing properties to the proposed Erbie Rural Historic District are individually addressed below.

1) Parker-Hickman Farm

Tract No. 50-112

LCS ID/Structure No.

House – 60760/B4-56H

Frame Barn – 23209/B4-54H

Log Barn – 23211/B4-55H

Smokehouse – 23212/B4-57H

Privy – 23213/B4-58H

Corn Crib – 60629/ER-7

Chicken House – 23234/B4-51H

Machine Shed – 23210/ER-6

The Parker-Hickman Farm is one of the most intact farmsteads in the Buffalo National River. Agricultural development of the property dates to the 1830s and was initiated by early settlers Alvin and Greenberry Parker. The farm changed hands several times over the course of its history with acreage occasionally expanding. The last occupant and longest owner of the farm was the Hickman family, which owned the property from 1912 to the 1970s when it was purchased by the NPS. The dwelling on the Parker-Hickman Farm dates to the ownership of the original settlers, the Parkers, while most of the outbuildings date to the ownership of the Hickman family. The buildings remain in good condition and are unaltered from their periods of significance. The surrounding landscape includes agricultural fields, ponds, fence lines, creeks, and roadbeds, and continues to reflect its agricultural history. The Parker-Hickman Farm retains a strong degree of its historic character and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.

The Parker-Hickman House is one of the earliest known surviving structures within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River. The house is one- and one-half stories in height and has a central single-pen log core of native red cedar that dates to ca. 1850. Late nineteenth century frame additions appear on the south and east

elevations and have vertical board or board and batten exteriors. The house has a gable metal roof and an exterior stone chimney. On the main (north) façade is a full-width shed roof porch with wood posts. Windows in the dwelling are four-over four wood sash designs.

Although the exact builder of the house is unknown, the Parker-Hickman House dates to the mid-nineteenth century and the ownership of the Parker family who originally settled the land in the late 1830s. The house exhibits signs of superior craftsmanship, and it is believed that Greenberry Parker and his descendants were capable wood craftsmen. Later owners added the frame wings, which demonstrate the evolution of building techniques as well as the property's history. The Parker-Hickman House is an excellent example of traditional building styles of the Arkansas Ozarks.

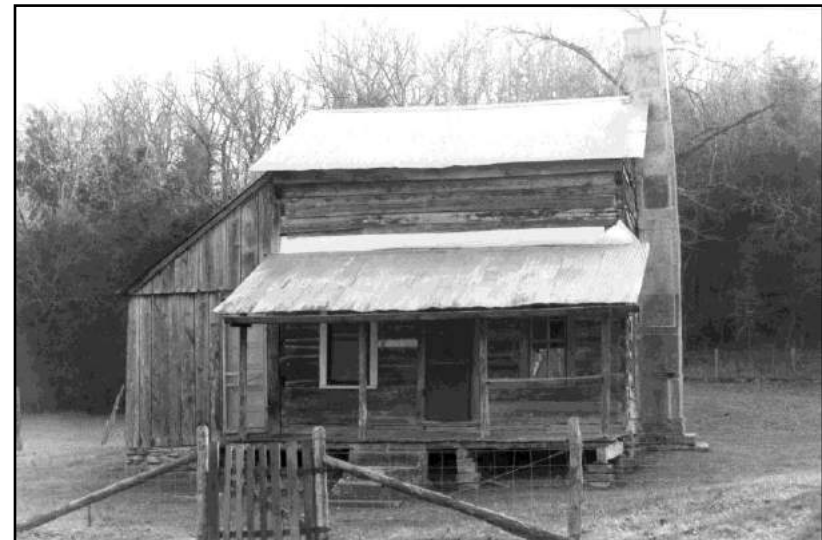


Figure 64: The Parker-Hickman House is one of the oldest structures in the Buffalo National River.

The Parker-Hickman Farm also includes a 1912 double-crib log barn with a central drive-thru bay. The barn features saddle-notched logs and a gable metal roof. A 1926 frame addition is on the north elevation, and a 1926 shed roof addition is on the south elevation. The oldest outbuilding on the Parker-Hickman Farm is a small corn crib built ca. 1890. The corn crib is of squared log construction and rests on stone piers. Also on the farmstead are a 1926 frame barn, a ca. 1935 WPA-built privy, and a ca. 1925 frame smokehouse.

A frame machine shed and a frame chickenhouse are also on the property and date to 1955. These two structures were noted as non-contributing elements to the farmstead when it was listed on the National Register in 1987 due to the fact that at the time they were not yet fifty years old. In 2005 these two structures will reach this benchmark and should be considered as contributing buildings to the Parker-Hickman Farm. They reflect the continued use of the farm into the late twentieth century and reflect traditional agricultural development in the Ozark region.

The surrounding landscape of the Parker-Hickman Farm fence rows, creekbeds, earthen ponds, feeding troughs, and farm roads, all of which contribute to the farm's historic character and setting. The landscape also includes several very large Sycamore trees that are growing along the spring drainage on the farmstead and are indicative of riparian corridors and contribute to a healthier creek. Plum trees are growing near the house within old fence line posts. Though several plum species occur naturally in this region, these appear to have been planted, due to their clustering and proximity to the house and fields. A mature walnut tree is located near the house at the edge of the field.

The Parker-Hickman Farmstead was actively involved in agricultural production for over 145 years. The buildings and structures on the property remain in good to fair condition, and the farmstead remains

an excellent example of the agricultural development of the Buffalo River valley.



Figure 65: A general view of the Parker-Hickman Farmstead.

Parker Hickman Homestead Site Plan

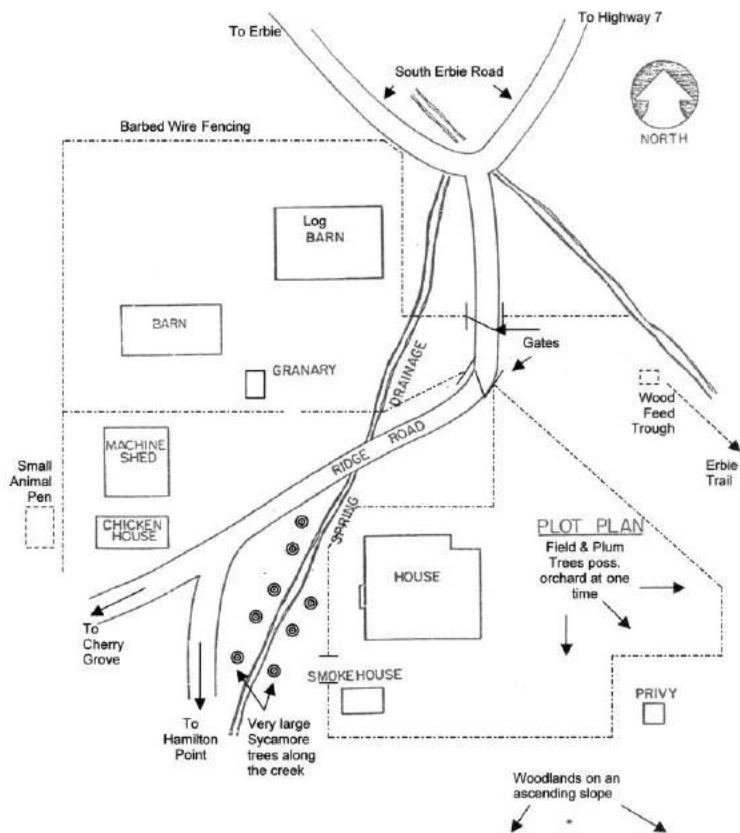


Figure 66: Site Plan for the Parker-Hickman Farm.

2) Jones Farm

Tract 50-106

LCS ID/Structure No.:

House – 232108/B4-77H

Barn – 23237/B4-78H

Springhouse – 23236/B4-80H

Smokehouse – 23238/B4-29H

The Jones Farm is one of the earlier farms in the Erbie area. Currently, the farm primarily reflects its early twentieth century development and consists of a ca. 1913 barn, smokehouse, and springhouse, and stock pen. The frame dwelling was constructed, ca. 1922, to replace an earlier dwelling on the property.

The Jones House is a one- and one-half story, frame dwelling built in 1922. The house has a stone foundation, a gable roof of corrugated metal panels, a central interior brick chimney, and an exterior of weatherboard siding. On the main (south) elevation is a three-quarter width shed roof porch with original turned wood posts. The porch is supported by tapered posts on poured concrete piers. The porch has a wood floor. Leading to the porch are poured concrete steps framed with an uncut stone wall capped with concrete. The porch has an original tongue-and-groove ceiling. Entrances and windows in the dwelling are boarded up with wood panels to prevent vandalism. The house originally had two entrances on the main façade. One has been enclosed with weatherboard siding. Second story windows in the side gable field are paired one-over-one wood sash designs. The dwelling has an original rear T wing with a central interior brick chimney, stone foundation and an exterior of weatherboard siding. On both the east and west elevations of the wing are original shed roof porches with turned wood posts. The east porch has two entrances. A portion of the west porch has been enclosed. The east porch has a poured concrete floor and the west porch has a wood floor supported by concrete piers. A window in the gable field of the

wing has a four-over-four wood sash window. Adjacent to the east porch is a stone well that is now capped. A fence line runs north-to-south parallel to the road east of the house.

Directly south of the house is a dirt roadbed that extends westward off the main Erbie Road. The roadbed leads to the barn and fades into a field road. This road was initially an early community transportation route that extended to the river and an early Erbie town site location.

Several domestic plantings were noted at this site. A Lilac shrub and multi-trunked Crape Myrtle are growing in front of the house between the house and the road. A Rose is growing against a mature elm tree on the fence line west of the house. Along most of the entirety of the fence line surrounding the house are mature shade trees, including Catalpas, Elms, and Walnut trees. The Northern Catalpa tree is native to this region and adaptable to a range of soil and moisture requirements. The wood was commonly used for fence posts and railroad ties.



Figure 67: The Jones House was built in 1922.

To the rear of the house is a frame smokehouse built ca. 1913. It has a corrugated metal gable roof, a board and batten exterior, and a stone pier foundation. The door to the building is missing. The interior has a wood floor and some wood shelving. A stone step is situated outside of the entrance.

West of the dwelling is a large frame barn built ca. 1913. A dirt road extends in front of the dwelling and leads to the barn and associated fields. The barn has a stone foundation, a vertical board exterior, and a gable corrugated metal roof. The barn has a central drive-thru bay shed roof wings on either side. The central bay is divided into stock pens and cribs. Interior steps lead to the loft area. There is some use of diagonal board on the interior of the barn. The pens have triangular cutout openings that access feed bins. A fence line runs behind the barn's west wall and large fields that are still in use are located to the south and west of the barn.



Figure 67: The barn on the Jones Farm is an excellent example of an early 20th century agricultural building.

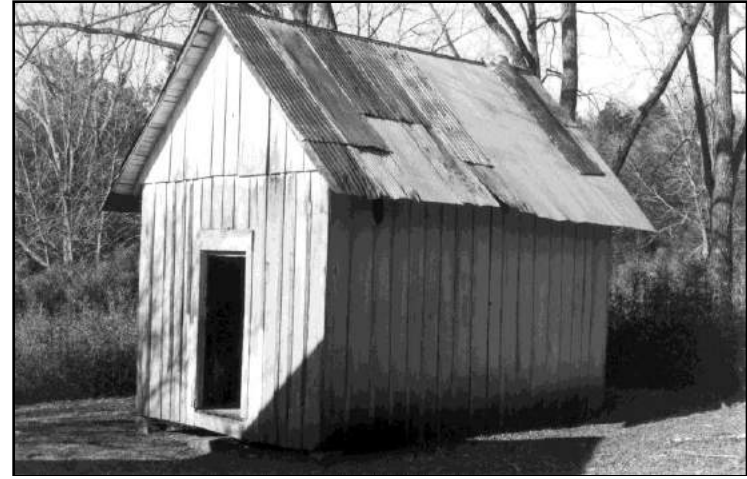


Figure 69: The smokehouse on the Jones Farmstead.

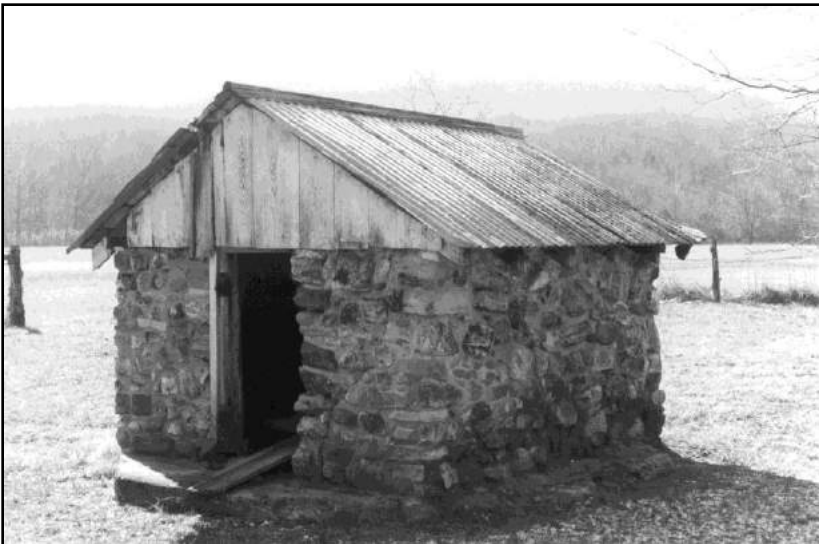


Figure 68: The springhouse on the Jones Farmstead.



Figure 70: The agricultural fields of the Jones Farmstead remain in cultivation.

Approximately eight feet southeast of the barn is a stone springhouse built ca. 1913. The springhouse is constructed of uncut stone arranged in a loose course with a concrete mortar. It has a corrugated metal panel gable roof, exposed roof rafters, and a poured concrete foundation that is octagonal in shape.

Across the road and east of the house is a frame stock pen built ca. 1913. It is of wood post construction and has a corrugated metal shed roof and corrugated metal panel exterior siding. The interior is divided and has a dirt floor. The stock pen is situated in a field approximately 100 feet from the road. The field is no longer in use and is becoming overgrown. A metal and wood post and wire fence line runs up the hillside, and a stock pond is located on the hill northeast of the chicken house. Young Cemetery is located at the top of the hill.

The Jones Farmstead is an excellent example of an early twentieth century farm. The dwelling, barn, and springhouse remain in good condition and have been unaltered from their construction in the 1910s and 1920s. The majority of the fields associated with the farm remain in use and are leased to local farmers. The setting is largely unchanged from the farm's period of significance and fencerows, ponds, and farm roads help to convey the cultural landscape. The Jones Farmstead possesses a strong degree of integrity of feeling and association as well as setting, location, design, materials, and workmanship.

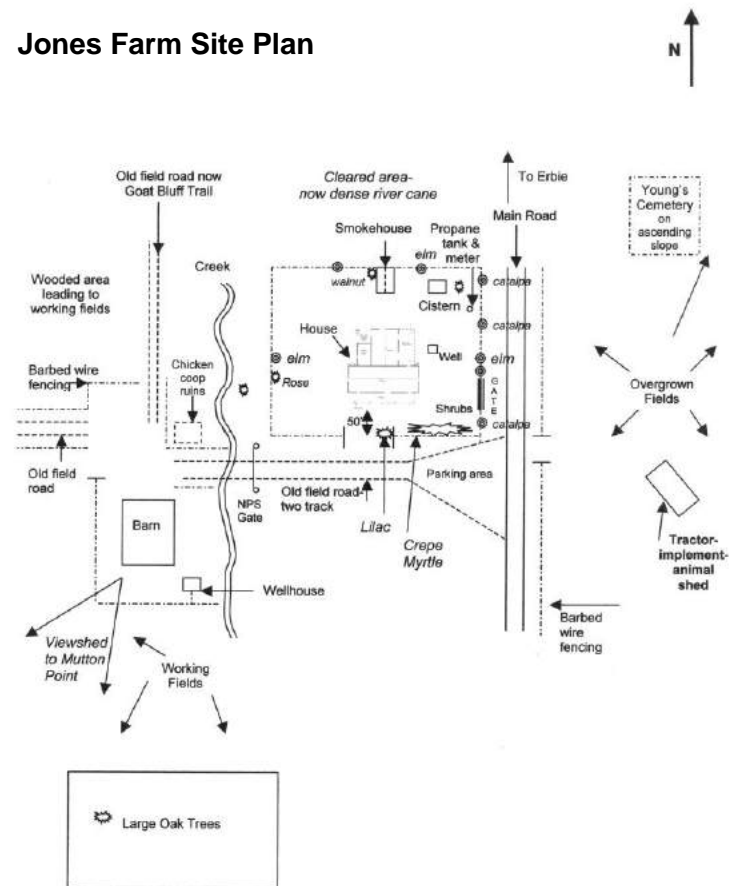


Figure 71: Site Plan for the Jones Farm.

3) Farmer Farmstead

Tract No. 46-100

LCS ID/Structure No.

House – 061555/62-HB22

Cabin – 061556/B4-63H

Barn – 061557/B4-64H

Smokehouse – 061558/B4-65H

Feedhouse – 061559/B4-66H

Privy – not numbered

Springhouse – not numbered

This farmstead is one of the earliest farms developed along the Buffalo River and is the home site of early settler Solomon Cecil. The Farmer family acquired the property around the turn of the century and the property reflects the development of agriculture in the Buffalo River valley during this period. It includes two dwellings, a smokehouse, feed house, barn, springhouse ruins, and a privy, which were constructed between 1895 and 1913. Landscape features include fence rows, fields, and roadbeds that help to define the farmstead and contribute to the rural setting.

The main Farmer House is a one- and one-half story, frame dwelling built ca. 1905. It has a stone pier foundation, a gable corrugated metal panel roof, a central interior brick chimney, and a board and batten exterior. On the main (west) façade is a full-width shed roof porch with chamfered wood posts. The porch has a wood floor and a rock pier foundation. There are two entrances on the main façade. One is missing a door and the west entrance has a paneled wood door that is in ruins. This entrance has a metal mesh screen over it. On the north side of the porch two large and one small stone serve as steps leading to the ground. The south side of the porch has a poured concrete ramp that is lined with brick. At the north end of the porch is an electrical outlet. There is weatherboard siding in the gable fields of the house. There is no extant siding on the north or east

elevations. The house has an original rear T wing with shed roof porches on both the north and south elevations. The porches have sawn wood posts and rock pier foundations. The ceiling of the north porch has caved in. Window openings in the dwelling are rectangular in shape and are covered with metal wire mesh screens.

The rear T wing has a continuous dry stack stone foundation and beneath it is a root cellar. An entrance to the cellar is at the rear (east) elevation. A vertical board wood door remains partially attached at the entrance. The cellar entrance is framed in and supported by stone and had an angled cellar door. Hinges remain demonstrate this. The cellar has a dirt floor.

The interior of the dwelling is divided into three rooms with the rear T wing being the kitchen. The cabinetry in this room is in ruins. There is some use of linoleum and “wood paneling” wallpaper. Interior boxed steps lead to two rooms in the half story. A brick flue has openings to both front rooms. The interior has original wood floors. A wood post and wire fence runs north-south approximately ten feet in front of the house. Opposite the fence is an old roadbed that now serves as an NPS hiking trail.



Figure 72: The main dwelling on the Farmer Farmstead.

The second dwelling on the Farmer Farmstead is situated approximately sixty feet southeast of the first dwelling. This is a one-and one-half story frame cabin built ca. 1910. It has a gable roof of corrugated metal panels, a stone pier foundation, a board and batten exterior, and an interior metal flue. On the main (west) elevation is a full-width shed roof porch with square wood posts and a wood floor. The dwelling has a central entrance flanked by two windows, all of which have metal mesh screens. The rear (east) elevation has an original shed roof wing with a board and batten exterior and stone pier foundation. The rear (east) wall of this wing is gone except for support posts. The interior of the house has one main room plus the rear wing room. The interior has wood floors and remnants of wallpaper. Interior steps slant down from the attic/loft area. This dwelling is in very poor condition. It has lost some roof panels and the entire rear is exposed due to the missing wall.



Figure 73: The second dwelling on the Farmer Farmstead.

A wood post and wire fence runs east-west about five feet behind the house and turns north-south along the north side of the house. Approximately twelve feet south of the dwelling is a ca. 1900 frame feed house with a gable roof of corrugated metal panels, a vertical board exterior, and a wood post and stone foundation. The feed house has an open bay on the east side and two open bays on the west side. The west side has a small pen area made with metal fencing around the wood support posts. A vertical board door encloses the pen. Another vertical board door leads to the east side of the structure.

Two or three feet south of the feed house is a frame ca. 1910 privy. The privy has a corrugated metal panel shed roof, a vertical board exterior, and a stone pier foundation. The privy is a two-seater and has a vertical board door, a portion of which is missing.

The fence line continues behind these outbuildings and meets with another one that extends in front of the house. The fences form a loose triangle in which the dwelling, feed house, and privy are located. The two fences do not join, but allow for a small opening to access the adjacent field.



Figure 74: The Feedhouse on the Farmer Farmstead.

A large barn is located about 150 feet east of the main Farmer House. The barn dates to ca. 1900 and has two interior log cribs on stone pier foundations. The north crib has unhewn logs with V notching and the south crib has hewn logs with half dovetail notching. A portion of the south crib has collapsed. A central drive thru (east-west) extends between the log cribs. A frame structure was built around the log cribs and has vertical board siding, a gable corrugated metal panel roof, and a stone pier foundation. The barn has a loft area and most of the exterior walls of the frame portion of



Figure 75: The privy on the Farmer Farmstead.

the barn are gone. A fence line extends around the barn and overgrown fields are to the southeast. To the rear (north) of the barn about twenty feet are the ruins of a feed pen or small chicken house. This structure had horizontal board siding and a standing metal seam roof. It has largely collapsed.



Figure 76: The large barn on the Farmer Farmstead has two interior log cribs.



Figure 77: An interior view of the Farmer Barn showing the log crib construction.

The area between the barn and the main house is largely overgrown with tall grass and many small trees. A small tree line runs along the fence between the house and the barn. There are several large mature trees around the dwellings. Ornamental domestic plantings at the site include Irises that are growing between the two houses, where there are also mature English Ivy vines enveloping large trees. Irises and Narcissus bulbs also were noted on the north fence line beside the main house. A Lilac shrub is located just behind the main house. Several mature Muscadine grapevines are growing along the southern edge of the fence at the property's southeastern border. Though some grapevine species are naturally occurring to the region, these large vines appear to have been trained along the south-facing fence line adjacent to what was once a cleared field. This would have allowed ample sunlight for the grapes to grow.

Approximately thirty-five feet west of the barn is a frame ca. 1900 smokehouse/tool shed. This building has a vertical board exterior, a corrugated metal panel gable roof, and a stone pier foundation. A large stone provides a step into the building. On the north elevation is a shed roof wing that is open on the east side. This appears to have been a garage or storage area. The interior has a wood floor and one main room with two storage areas near the entrance.

Approximately fifteen feet northeast of the main dwelling is a lot of debris including hardware pieces, frame boards, and strips of metal roofing. A chicken house possibly stood at this location.

North of the house along a stream and adjacent to the path are the remains of a ca. 1900 log springhouse. This structure was built with unhewn logs with V notching and measures 5' 6" x 7'. The springhouse is situated over the creek and set on rock. The roof of the building has collapsed.



Figure 78: The log springhouse on the Farmer Farmstead has collapsed.



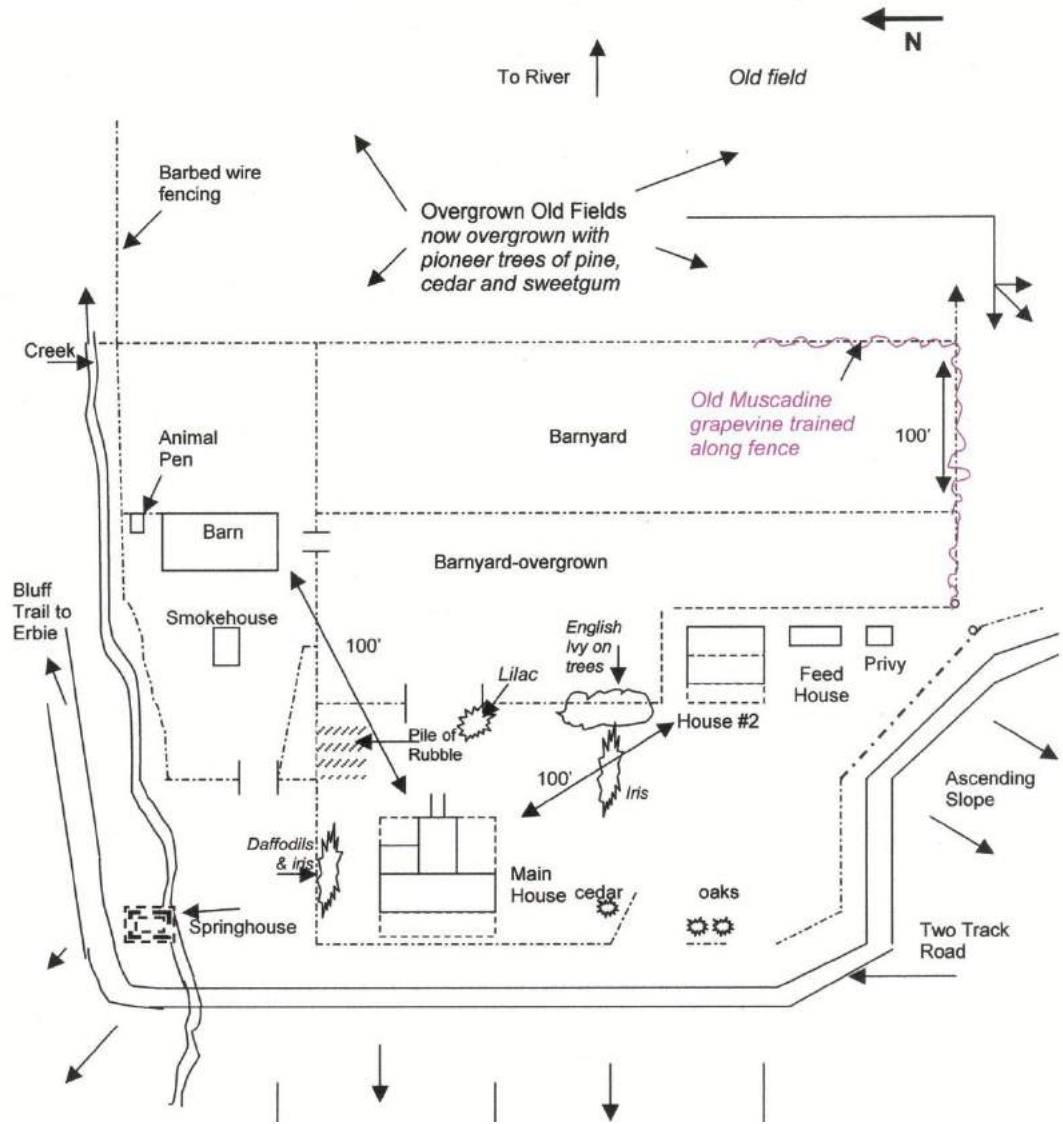
Figure 79: Farmer Farmstead smokehouse/tool shed.



Figure 80: A distant view toward the Farmer Farmstead from a bluff to the north.

The Farmer Farmstead is a representative example of a turn-of-the-century farmstead of the Buffalo River valley. The farm's location in a rather isolated area near a small village or hamlet is indicative of the settlement patterns of the area, and the configuration of the farmstead's buildings and structures reflects a typical farm layout and how area residents adapted to the surrounding natural environment. The buildings on the Farmer Farm are in poor condition with some being near ruins and the associated fields are becoming overgrown from disuse. However, the cumulative appearance of these buildings and their arrangement combined with fence rows and road patterns is such that it conveys a strong sense of time and place. Although deteriorated, the farmstead has integrity of setting, feeling, and association, and demonstrates the agricultural traditions of the Buffalo River area.

Figure 81: Site Plan for the Farmer Farm.



4) John Reavis Cabin
Tract No. 49-110/115;
LCS ID: 061562
Structure No. B4-45H

This site is located at the top of a ridgeline west of the Erbie area at the end of Fitton Cave Road. On the site is a ca. 1918, one- and one-half story, double-pen log dwelling with ca. 1955 frame additions. The dwelling has a gable roof of corrugated metal panels and a stone foundation. The exterior is of hewn logs with half dovetail notching and concrete chinking. Windows in the dwelling are four-over-four and one-over-one wood sash designs. In the gable fields the house has a wood shingle exterior. On the main (east) elevation is a full-width screened in porch that was added to the dwelling ca. 1955. The porch has a shed roof, a wood floor and ceiling, a stone veneer skirt wall, wood frame screens, and a poured concrete foundation. Three stone steps lead to the porch. Two entrances from the porch lead into the cabin – one has a vertical board door and the other has a flush ca. 1980 wood door.

The north elevation of the original log section of the house has a corrugated metal panel exterior. In the half story are paired four-light glass and wood attic windows. At the rear of the dwelling is a ca. 1955 frame shed roof wing with an exterior of wood shingles and a poured concrete foundation. The wing has three-over-one and one-over-one wood sash windows. The rear entrance has a vertical board door and exterior screen door. Concrete covered stone steps lead to the entrance.

The interior of the dwelling has exposed ceiling rafters, linoleum flooring, and vertical board doors. One of the front rooms has a curved corner shelf. The rear shed roof wing is a kitchen area and has a plywood floor and walls, and shelving. The half story is divided into two rooms.

Southeast of the dwelling is a stone well that is rectangular in shape. The concrete cap has an extended rectangular trough or basin. A wood post and wire fence line encloses the yard around the cabin. A collapsed stone wall fence is south of the cabin. Remnants of outbuilding foundations appear opposite the fence line north of the cabin. The foundations are of stone and measure 7' x 12'. Also nearby are remnants of a frame or log outbuilding. Within a 5' x 4' area are rotted logs with nails, boards, and metal debris. Southwest of the house is a large concrete slab foundation measuring approximately 17' x 12' with an additional foundation line or edging extending another 10'. Northwest of the house is a frame feed pen with corrugated metal roof panels and a vertical board exterior.



Figure 82: The Reavis Cabin was constructed ca. 1918.

A field is located to the rear (west) of the dwelling and is becoming overgrown. In the field is a large rectangular stone measuring 4' x 7' that is possibly part of an outbuilding foundation. At the south edge of the field are a number of sawn boards nailed to wooden posts, which appear to be a portion of either a fence line or a small outbuilding.

East of the house roughly 150 yards up the hill along a stream is a small poured concrete springhouse banked into the north side of the hill. The springhouse appears to be about four or five feet in height and four feet wide.

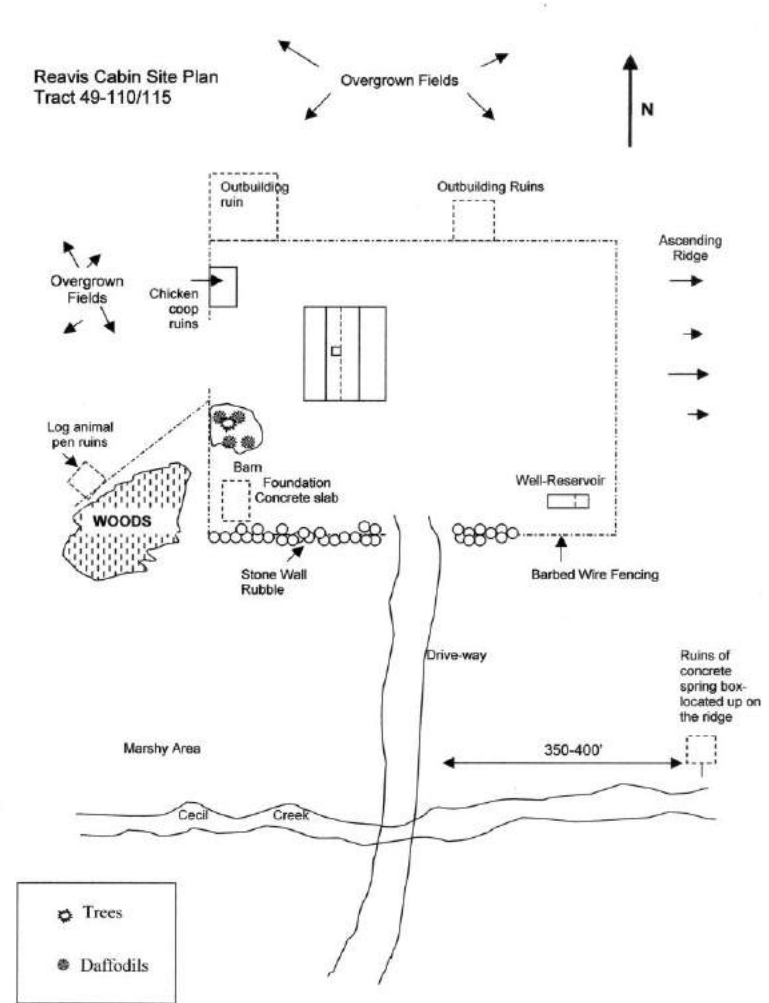


Figure 83: Site Plan for the Reavis Cabin.

5) Erbie Church (Villines Chapel)

Tract No. 48-104

LCS ID: 061551

Structure No.: B4-74-H

The Erbie Church was erected ca. 1900 near the crossroads of the small rural hamlet just north of the Buffalo River. Often called Villines Chapel after its first minister Nathaniel Villines, Erbie Church served as non-denominational religious facility for the surrounding community and was a central part of life in the rural village. Religious services continued take place in the Erbie Church after the formation of Buffalo River National Park in the 1970s and on into the 1990s, long after the surrounding community had diminished. Located near the village's main crossroads the church was a definitive structure in the Erbie community, and it remains one of the few remaining buildings in the area to convey Erbie's history.

The Erbie Church has not been significantly altered from its original design. Its materials and workmanship also maintain high degrees of integrity. The church is located on a slight hillside near the intersection of the two dirt roads that pass through the Erbie area. Woods surround much of the church and consist largely of cedar and oak trees. The setting has changed little from the time of the church's construction, and the site retains a high degree of its historic character.

Erbie Church is a one-story, gable-front, frame building constructed ca. 1900. The church has a stone foundation, a corrugated metal gable roof, an interior brick chimney, and an exterior of weatherboard siding. On the main (east) façade is the main entrance, which has paired ca. 1960 diamond light glass and wood doors. Concrete block steps lead to the entrance and have metal railings. Above the entrance is a wooden sign that reads "Erbie Church." Above the sign is a simple metal light fixture. On the south elevation

is a small shed roof wing built ca. 1930. This wing has exposed roof rafters and at the basement level has a vertical board entrance. The church has original four-over-four wood sash windows that appear on the side elevations. There is no fenestration on the rear elevation.



Figure 84: The church at Erbie was in use until the early 1990s.

The interior of the church has an open floor plan, original tongue-and-groove wood floors, horizontal board walls, and wood ceiling. Simple wooden pews and benches serve as seating, some of which have racks for hymn books on the back. Original light fixtures hang from the ceiling. Across the rear of the church is a raised pulpit area, and an upright piano sits in one corner. The chimney is brick at the top and then framed in at the bottom with added shelving. A flue opening with a plate cover is in the brick portion of the chimney. The interior entrance leading into the wing has an original five-horizontal

light glass and wood door. The wing has a small kitchen area with a sink and cabinets.

A small gravel parking area is in front of the church and is lined with stone. South of the church approximately twenty feet is a short, small, dry stack stone retaining wall. Another fifteen to twenty feet south of the retaining wall is a wood post and wire fence. To the rear (west) of the church are piles of stones that appear to be the remains of a privy.



Figure 85: An interior view of the Erbie Church.

6) Shake Roof Cabin

Tract No. 50-114

LCS ID: 061550

Structure No. HB-00

According to local informants, this single-pen log structure was built in the 1930s from logs salvaged from a previous nearby dwelling. The building was used for storage. NPS personnel refer to the building as the “shake roof cabin” due to its roofing material. It is located south of the Lane House Site and east of the Parker-Hickman Farmstead. It is of log construction with the bottom four logs hewn and the upper four logs are unhewn. There is no chinking between the logs. The structure has a gable roof of wood shake shingles, which has largely collapsed. The roof has a large overhang above the entrance. The building has a stone foundation and horizontal boards in the gable field. A central entrance is beneath the gable end and is missing its door. Metal hinges remain intact. The interior has no flooring. The building is deteriorated and in poor condition. Some of the bottom logs are rotting and many roof shingles are gone. A wood, post and wire fence runs along the south side of the building.



Figure 86: The Shake Roof Cabin was built of “recycled” logs.

The building sits in a wooded area off of an NPS hiking trail. A small footpath leads to the building from the trail. It is not clear whether or not this building is within NPS boundaries. An NPS boundary marker lies about twenty-five feet to the north of the building. Despite its poor condition, the Shake Roof Cabin adds to the overall setting of the Erbie Rural Historic District. Its construction of “recycled” logs reflects a common practice of reusing materials from older dwellings, and its shake roof is an example of local building traditions and craftsmanship.



Figure 87: Detail of the log construction of the Shake Roof Cabin.

Near the Shake Roof cabin are three large earthen depressions west of the access road. These were presumably where an area resident initiated developing commercial minnow ponds. Just north of this area is what appears to be a fragment of an old roadbed. The road is not readily recognizable and is loosely defined. It has two to three

foot embankments on the north side and up to one-foot embankments on the south side.

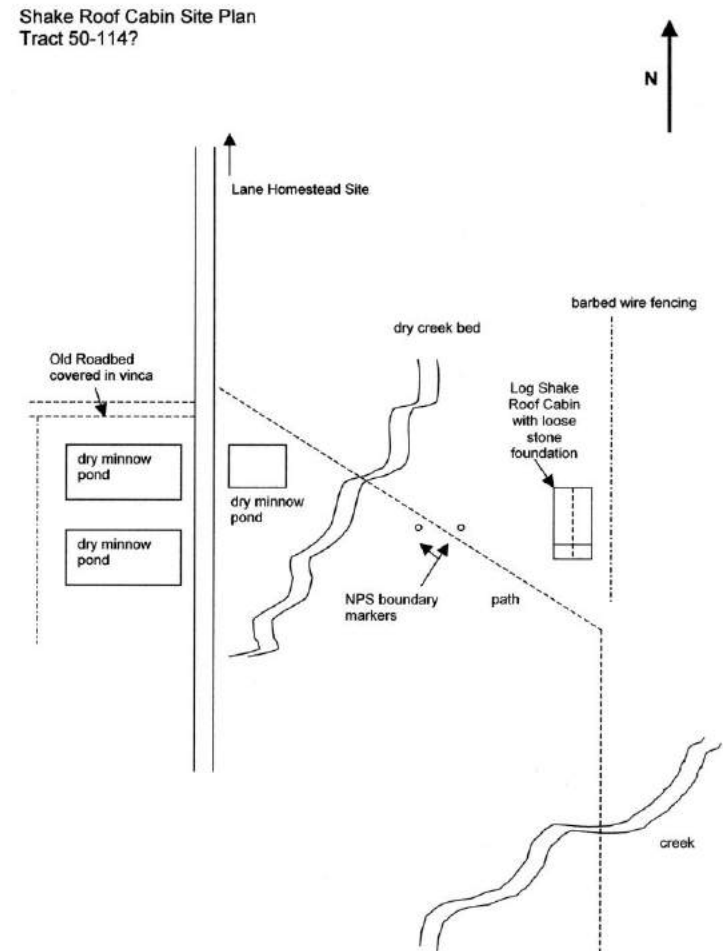


Figure 88: Site Plan for the Shake Roof Cabin.

7) Hickman House Site
Tract No. 50-112

This is the site of a ca. 1935 dwelling built by the Hickman family who owned the Parker-Hickman Farmstead. The site is located on the hill above the Parker-Hickman House along the road leading to Cherry Grove Cemetery. J.D. Hickman built a house at this site in the 1930s after doctors advised him to move out of the damp valley due to his asthma. The frame dwelling was razed in the early 1970s.

This house site is tucked into a mature forest of White Oaks, Walnuts and Hickories, which was probably not cleared much at the time of construction. The site consists of eight stone pier foundations that are two to three feet in height and measure 24' x 32'. At the southwest corner is a pile of stone possibly where a couple of foundation piers have collapsed. The site is heavily overgrown. Approximately twenty-five feet west of the house site are the remains of a log smokehouse, which measures 14' 2" x 10' 2". The building is in ruins. Its roof caved in during the mid-1980s and only a few logs remain visible.



Figure 89: Remains of the log smokehouse on the Hickman House site.

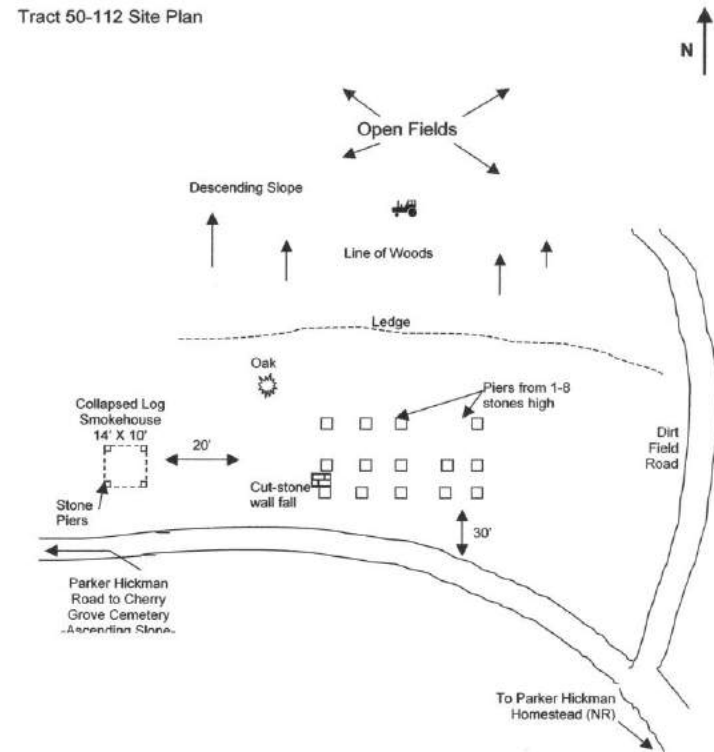


Figure 90: Site Plan for the Hickman House Site.

8) Lane House Site

Tract No. 50-110

This site contained a house and barn that were constructed ca. 1922. The site currently consists of remnants of a wood post and wire fence, a scattering of stone and some brick, but no discernible foundations. The site is situated on a hillside above the south Erbie Road. A dirt roadbed leads off the main Erbie Road and curves up the hill toward the site. The area is largely overgrown with brush and saplings east of the road, and west of the road is a steep slope that is heavily overgrown. A number of mature Walnut, White Oak, and Cedar trees are in the area. Features of the site include a rectangular cement privy base that is located behind a cedar tree east of the road bed about fifty feet. The privy base is similar to that of the WPA privy on the Parker-Hickman Farm. A scattering of trash debris is located along the slope on the west side of the road and includes a metal tub. The fields associated with the Lane House lie to the north/northeast. The majority of these fields continue to produce hay while the far eastern section has been developed into a primitive campground.



Figure 91: Privy base at the Lane House site.

9) Huchingson House/Farm Site

Tract No. 48-100

LCS ID/Structure No.

Spring – 061552/HUTCH-1

At this location are the stone foundations of a ca. 1932 dwelling and barn. The site is located south of Fitton Cave Road just west of the Erbie town site. A fence line runs along the road adjacent to the house. The house foundations sit approximately fifty feet from the road. A portion of a stone wall remains and is approximately two feet in height. A stone chimney and fireplace remain standing. A depression within the foundation area is possibly a cellar and measures roughly 10' x 15' and is 3' deep. A flat concrete slab denotes the location of a small porch. Outside the foundations is a cylinder metal container embedded in the ground that has pipes and a gauge. This was most likely an underground propane tank. Approximately 22' from the rear of the chimney is a deep pit, which is possibly the location of a privy. The pit is about two feet deep and measures 1' x 3'.

English Ivy is growing on the chimney that still stands, and two roses were observed growing on the front and corner fencepost. These are not the multi-flora rose, as might commonly have been planted as a barrier. The two roses here have tight, fuchsia-colored blooms and are likely a variety of a miniature, climbing rose, planted as an ornamental.

There are open fields south and west of the house site. A fence-lined driveway east of the house site leads back to the field. A tree line breaks the larger field from the smaller one behind the house site. A second driveway west of the house leads to a barn site. Here are intact foundations measuring 48' x 40'. The foundation is of concrete with some stone mix and measures about 6" in height. Metal anchor

pins remain in the foundation. Nearby is a metal commercial soft drink cooler.



Figure 92: A stone chimney remains intact at the Huchingson House Site.

Northeast and across the road from the house site are remains of various spring structures along a spring in the overhanging bluff. Under the bluff is a curved manmade dam of concrete that creates a spring pool. The dam is about ten feet long and two feet high. It has a

rectangular depression on the top about three or four feet in from the edge. Along the spring is a three-bay, concrete tank that is 2' 6" in height and measures approximately 4' x 11' 6". Curved metal pipes extend out from the bottom of the tank. East of the dam over the stream are two large flat stones that were placed here to form a foot bridge over the stream. The bridge has built up stone underneath and a dirt path leads to it on either side.



Figure 93: Minnow tank at the Hutchingson Spring.

The Huchingson House/Farm Site serves as a contributing property to the Erbie Rural Historic District. The site reflects early twentieth century agricultural development and settlement of the area. The spring structures and bridge demonstrate vernacular engineering techniques and reflect the resourcefulness that area farmers commonly exhibited. The site adds to the overall setting of the Erbie area and helps to convey its history.



Figure 94: Rock bridge structure on the Huchingson property.

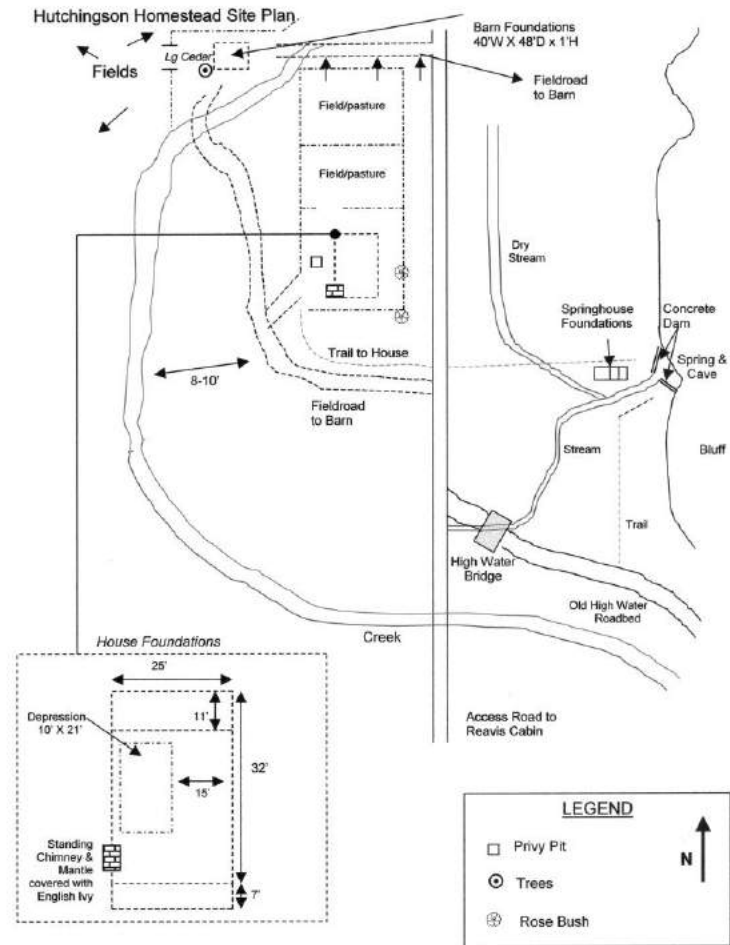


Figure 95: Site Plan for the Hutchingson House Site.

10) Tinsley Farm Site
Tract No. 50-100

At this site are the concrete foundations of an early twentieth century barn and milkhouse. The barn foundations are of concrete and measure 53' x 41'. Approximately 100 feet southwest of the barn foundation is the foundation of the milkhouse. This foundation is of concrete block with rock infill and is around three feet in height. The foundation is long and narrow and has concrete ramps on both the north and south sides, and pairs of concrete steps appear on the east end of the foundation.

Remnants of a wooden fence line run behind (east) of the milkhouse to the barn site. East of the barn site approximately twenty feet is the poured concrete foundation of another outbuilding, possibly a smokehouse. Fence remnants border this foundation. There is a scattering of stone throughout the area.



Figure 96: Remaining foundations of the Tinsley milkhouse.

Tract 51-100 – Allen Tinsly Homestead Site Plan

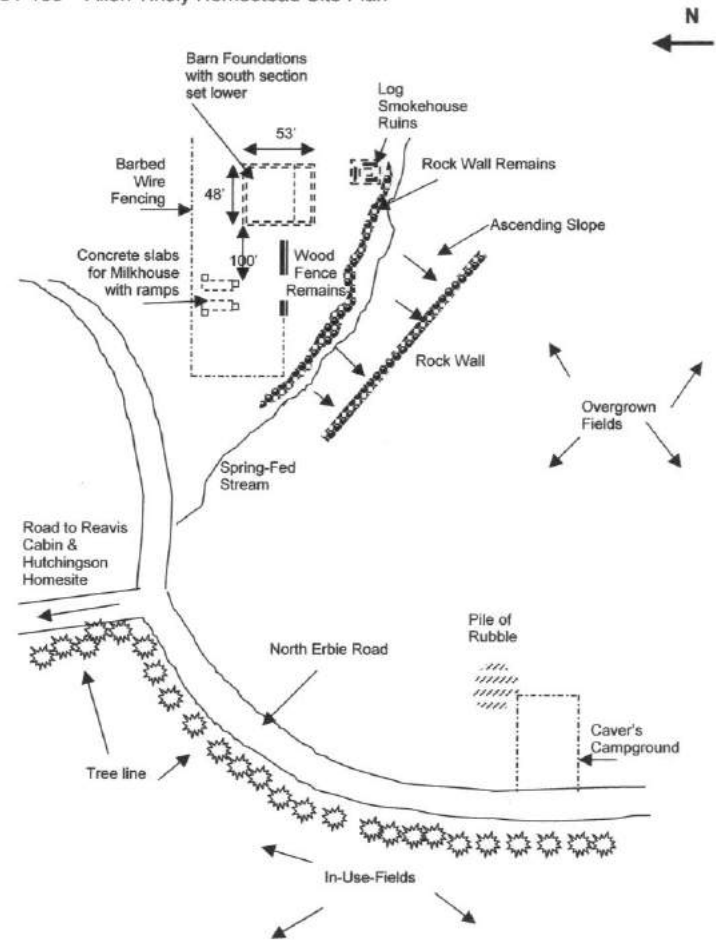


Figure 97: Site Plan for the Tinsley Farm site.

11) House Site
Tract No. 50-105

This House Site is located approximately 0.75 mile east of the Erbie town site. Fields along the road leading to the property are no longer in use and are beginning to become overgrown with tall grass, brush, and some saplings. The house site is located twenty feet east of the road and retains the foundations of a ca. 1931 dwelling. The stone foundations measure approximately 18' x 26' and the stone ranges from 6" to 3' in height. The house site is surrounded by young trees and a number of saplings are within the foundation. A fairly old Pear tree (~25-30") is growing near the northwest corner of the house foundations. A large grapevine just north of the foundation appears to be a natural occurrence rather than a domestic planting. Approximately ten feet north of the house foundations is an earthen depression that measures 5' x 2'. A lead pipe protrudes from the ground in this area and appears to connect to the house site.



Figure 98: Foundation Remains on Tract 50-105.

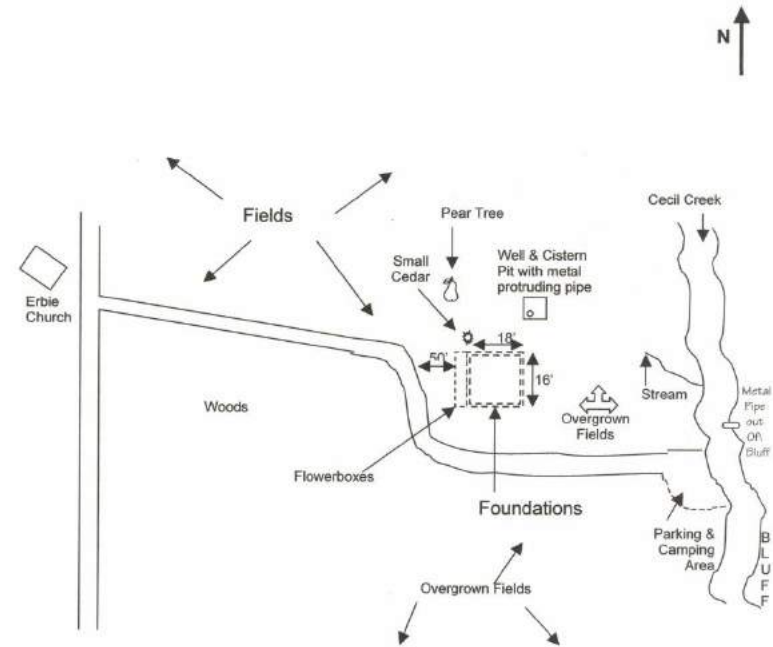


Figure 99: Site Plan for House site on Tract 50-105.

12) Taylor House Site/Adair Farm
Tract No. 51-110

The Taylor House Site is located southwest of the southern Erbie Road and is reached via an access road that leads to the Adair Cemetery. The house site contains the stone and concrete foundations of a ca. 1930 frame dwelling. The foundation measures approximately 36' x 28'. In the center of the foundation is metal debris, including the hood of a truck. Several old, large oak and cedar trees surround the house foundation, particularly on the northern side and between the house and the road. There are possible remnants of fruit trees located on the western side of the foundation, though it is difficult to tell if they would have been planted or occurred naturally. To the south of the house site is an area once cleared, possibly for a garden, which is now becoming overgrown with small trees.

Approximately 130 feet southeast of the house foundations is a standing root cellar banked into the ground. It is constructed of stone and poured concrete and has an arched roof and a vertical board door. The root cellar measures ten feet in width and is fifteen feet long. The interior has a dirt floor, concrete walls and ceiling, and remnants of broken jars are scattered across the floor.

Just north of the root cellar are possible remnants of a shed. This area has a few boards and a piece of tin roofing. Fence posts are near by and possibly a road led between the house and the route cellar to nearby fields. To the rear and south of the root cellar is a small depression with concrete slabs. Adjacent to this is stone and brick scatter, metal debris, and concrete. The ground has been disturbed here and is uneven. A discernible path leads to an adjacent field. Along one side of the road near the field is a stack of stones measuring approximately 4' 6" x 15'. There are also pieces of metal roofing in this area. A few standing fence posts appear along the road

at the end of the stone stack. A 2' x 10' "sidewalk" leads from the main trail toward where the ground is disturbed near the root cellar.

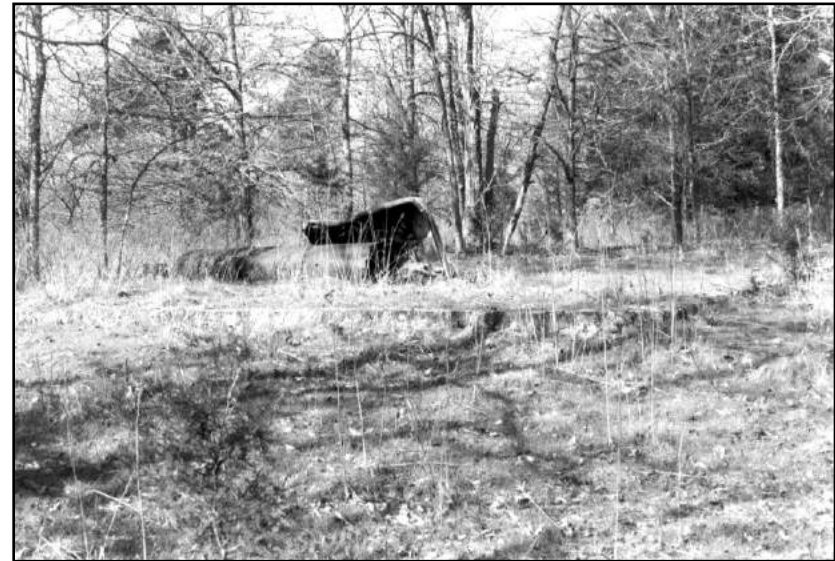


Figure 100: Remaining foundations of the Taylor dwelling.

Approximately 200 feet south of the sidewalk on the opposite side of the trail is a stone foundation that measures 14' 6" x 11' 6" and is 1' 4" in height. Scattered stone is within the foundation. This was possibly a garage or other outbuilding. Some pieces of metal roofing and a piece of rubber tire are in the general area. A drive is adjacent to the foundation and leads to a small field behind the foundation and heads toward the bluff along the river. The drive curves around behind the field and adjacent to the drive is scattered debris of a possible outbuilding. This area consists of several pieces of corrugated metal roofing, charred fence posts, four dry stack stone piers about one foot high and six feet apart.

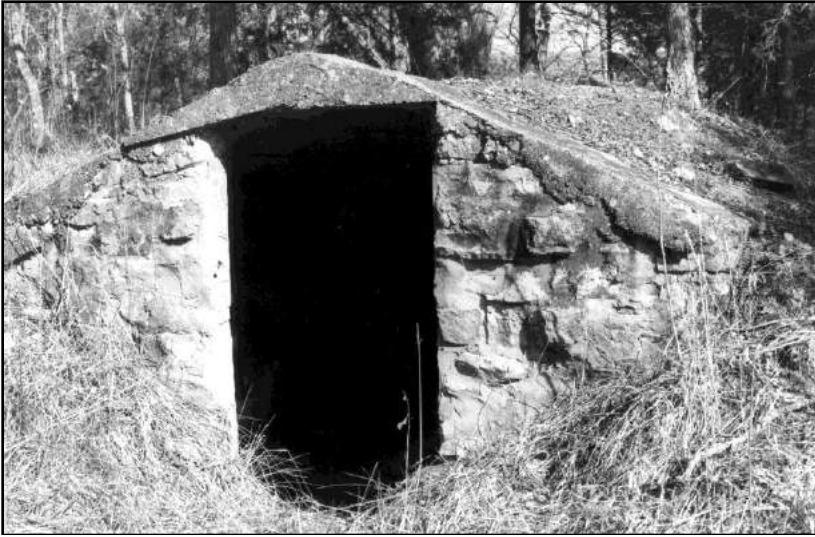


Figure 101: A root cellar remains intact at the Taylor House Site.

Down the hillside on the opposite side of the drive is a stone springhouse that measures 10' 3" x 12' and is approximately 6' in height. The springhouse is of cut stone with concrete mortar. The entrance to the springhouse is about three feet high and is missing its door. The roof of the structure has caved in and there are pieces of corrugated metal and remnants of roof framing and asphalt shingles in the area. The spring leads to a large oval pond. Adjacent to the springhouse is a large thicket of river cane that is about 30 feet tall. Midway up the hill are the remnants of a stone retaining wall and a wood post and wire fence. Close to the top of the hill is a fenced area that measures 20' x 10'. Within the fencing is a collapsed animal pen. There are boards and metal roofing fragments in the area.



Figure 102: Springhouse remains on the Taylor property.

The Taylor House Site is situated on what was the original tract of the early settler John Adair. It remains unknown exactly where the Adair dwelling was on the property, however the Adair Cemetery is located only a few yards from the Taylor House Site. The fields between the house site and the Buffalo River were among those originally farmed by the Adair family. The Taylor family raised cattle on the property in the twentieth century.

Taylor House Site Plan

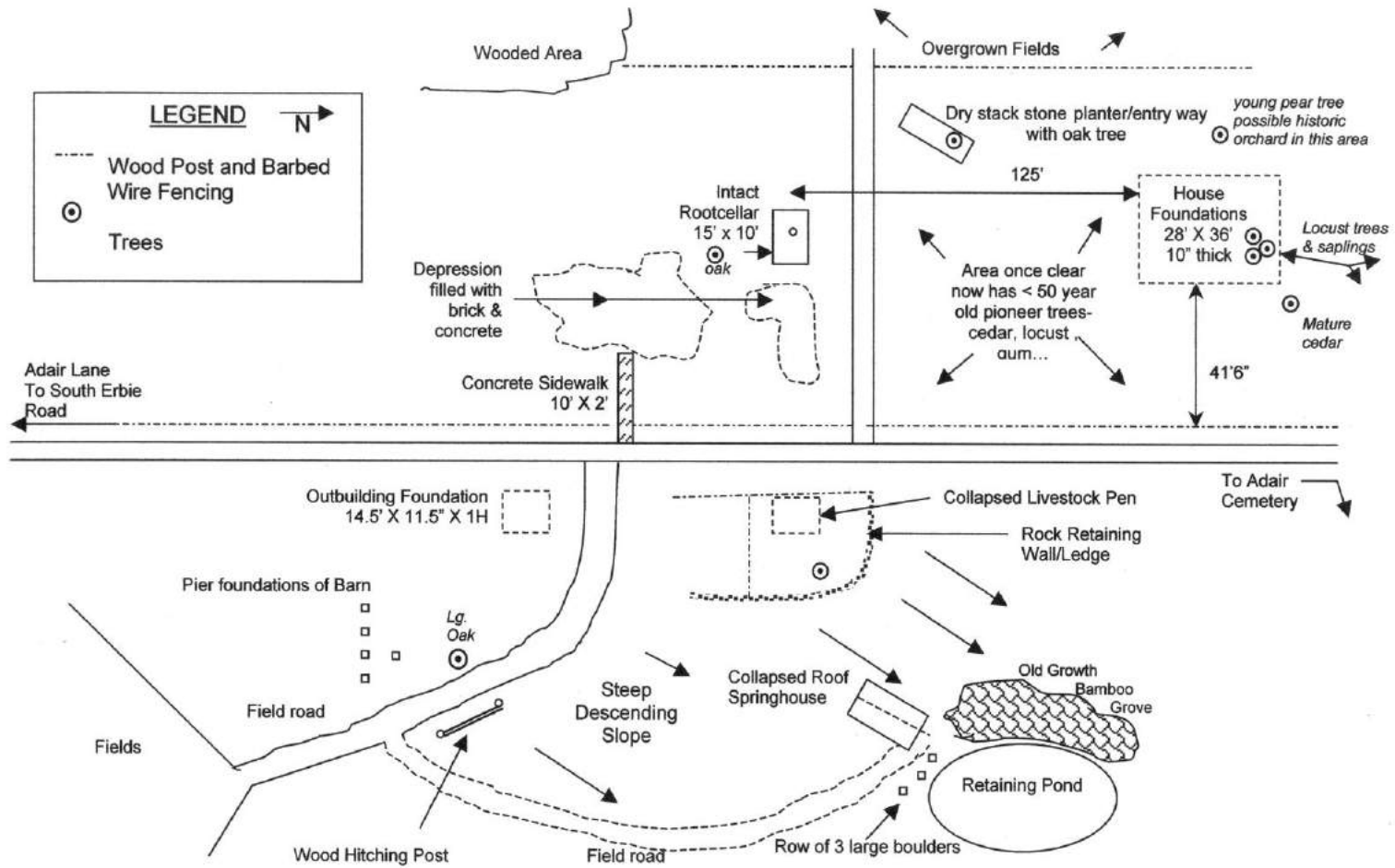


Figure 103: Site Plan for the Taylor House Site/Adair Farm site.

13) Erbie Store Site
 Tract No. 48-103

Near the crossroads of the Erbie village is the site of what was the hamlet's general store. Stone foundations remain approximately 100 feet north of the road and form a discernible line about two feet in height and nine feet in length. The line then breaks and another short foundation line about one foot in height and five feet in length appears. A metal pipe protrudes from the ground next to this shorter line. Stones are scattered throughout the area. Another two-foot stone foundation section that appears to be the corner of the building is located another eight feet away. A wood post and wire fence line runs east-west about twenty feet north of the last foundation stone. The area is largely overgrown with new cedar trees, saplings, and brush. English Ivy is growing on the foundation walls and Daylilies are growing along the fence line to the north. An NPS comfort station is a few hundred yards to the northwest.

14) Erbie House/Building Sites
 Tract No. 48-103

South of Erbie Road near the crossroads of what once was the village of Erbie are the remains of a stone foundation. The foundation is not sharply defined, but an approximate 5' x 43' x 15' section is discernible. About two or three feet east of the northeast corner of the foundation is a concrete slab/platform that measures 1' 11" x 4' 10" and is 7.5" in height. The slab is lined with brick on the north side and has two metal pipes that protrude from the center. Approximately 100 feet east of the southeast corner of the foundations are the stone foundations of another structure. A square of about 10' is visible and there is a lot of stone scattered throughout the general area. To the south is a wood post and wire fence. This side of the road is heavily overgrown with new growth and cedar trees. English Ivy grows along the foundation.

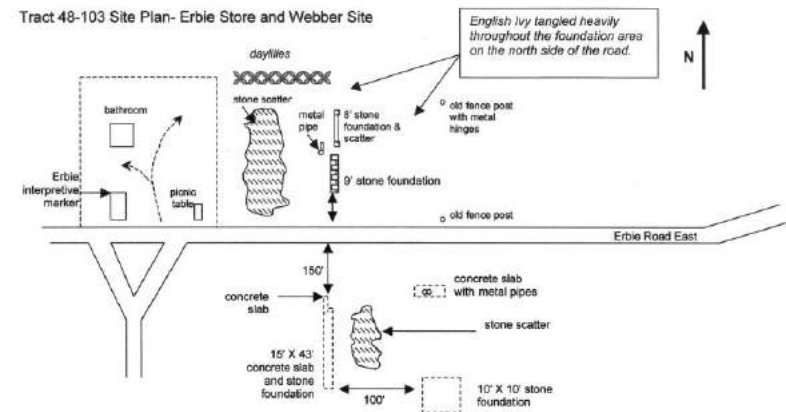


Figure 104: Site Plan for properties in Erbie Village area.

15) Angle House/Adair Farm Site
Tract No. 11-100

At this site are the remnants of a house and outbuilding foundations. The site is located at the edge of a field adjacent to the road leading to the field. The outbuilding foundations are of poured concrete, are about two feet in height and are banked into the hillside. The house foundations are from a ca. 1953 dwelling and measure 34' x 44', which includes the porch that is 8' wide and 22' 6" long. There are five poured concrete steps leading to the porch. A large stone hearth and concrete chimney remain standing. The house foundations are divided into two large sections. At the rear northeast corner are concrete steps. Approximately twenty feet to the rear of the house foundations is an underground propane tank. Remnants of wood fence posts are nearby. There are small overgrown clearings on either side of the road east of a creek and large boulders are along the side of the road. A wood post and wire fence runs along the north side of the road past the creek. West of the creek there are large yucca plants on the north side of the road.

The large field adjacent to the house site is maintained as open pastureland. This field was part of early settler John Adair's property as early as 1849. Adair was a prominent landowner and in the area and had one of the most extensive farms along the Buffalo River. Prior to government acquisition of the property it was owned by the Angle family and came to be known as the Angle field.



Figure 105: Foundations and chimney at the Angle House Site.

16) McFadden House Site
Tract No. 11-102

At this site are the foundations of a ca. 1890 dwelling that was moved to this location, and a late nineteenth century log barn. The foundations are stone and cement and measure up to 5' 6" in height in places. The walls have small square openings and there are flat concrete slabs in front of the walls. The dwelling's front porch remains intact and is constructed of poured concrete with four steps leading to it framed by concrete walls. The porch measures 5' 6" in width and 32' 6" in length and has a stone veneer exterior. The dwelling appears to have had a rear L wing and had a small side and rear porch as well.

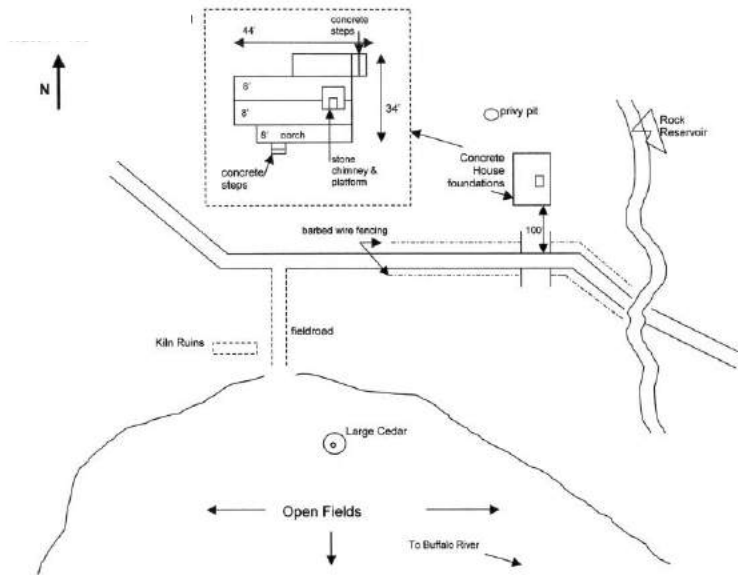


Figure 106: Site Plan for the Angle House site.



Figure 107: Remaining foundations at the McFadden House Site.

Adjacent to the house foundations approximately four feet to the west is a stone or rock reservoir with a rounded top. In front of the reservoir is a well area of poured concrete that measures 10' in length and 2' in width. To the rear of the house foundations approximately fifty feet are the ruins of a log barn. The building was constructed of unhewn logs with saddle notching and measured approximately 10' x 20'. A wood post and wire fence is nearby. A rock-lined depression sits about twenty feet southeast of the log ruins and measures 3' x 4'. A discernible driveway leads to the area near the outbuilding ruins. Across the road are the remains of a barn foundation. A single foundation line of poured concrete extends for about 28' and there is some rock scatter throughout the site. The surrounding area is wooded.



Figure 108: Rock reservoir at the McFadden House Site.

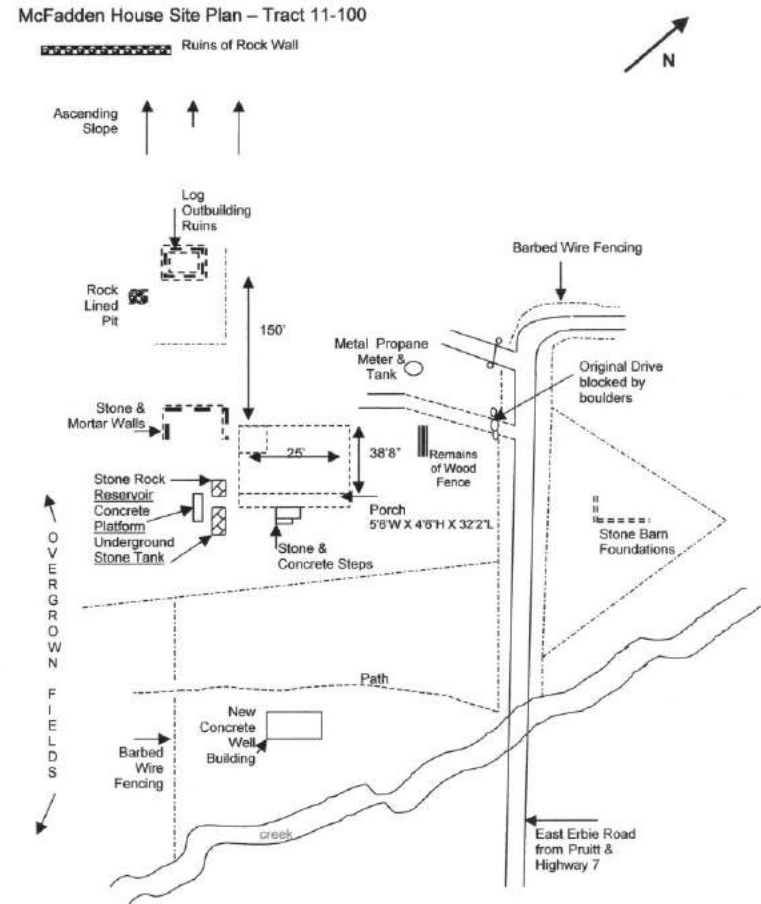


Figure 109: Site Plan for the McFadden House Site.

17) House Site

Tract No. 50-102

This site consists of a poured concrete foundation situated approximately 100 feet south of the road. The foundation measures 9' 6" x 28'. A hollow concrete block and poured concrete foundation continues another 36' 10" to the west then 33' north down a slope. North of this are nine square poured concrete columns or piers. These are around five feet in height and three have fallen to the ground. The dwelling appears to have been built on a slope and had a half basement level and possibly a deck. A 4' high foundation wall remains with small square window openings. Historically the house might have had a view of the river, but this area is now overgrown with a number of mature trees. South of the house site about fifteen feet is a poured concrete and hollow concrete block foundation that measures 5' x 4'. The remnants of a loose stone wall appear on the hill south of the house site. There is an opening in the wall about twelve feet parallel to the house site and is possibly where the driveway was located. Around 100 feet northwest of the house site and 50 feet from the road is a well opening. Along the roadside are nine or ten large boulders placed to block the entrance to the drive. A wood post and wire fence runs along the road.



Figure 110: House Site on Tract 50-102.

18) Swinging Bridge Site

Local residents constructed a swinging bridge across the Buffalo River in the Erbie area during the late 1930s. The bridge eased access to the village and allowed people to get to the school, church, and store, and have greater contact with one another. The NPS dismantled what remained of the bridge in 1986. The bridge was located approximately one quarter mile downstream from the Parker-Hickman Farmstead. What remains at the site today is an iron axle shaft that is driven into the bedrock ledge on a bluff south of the river. On the north side of the river is a decayed A-frame that supported the bridge's north end.

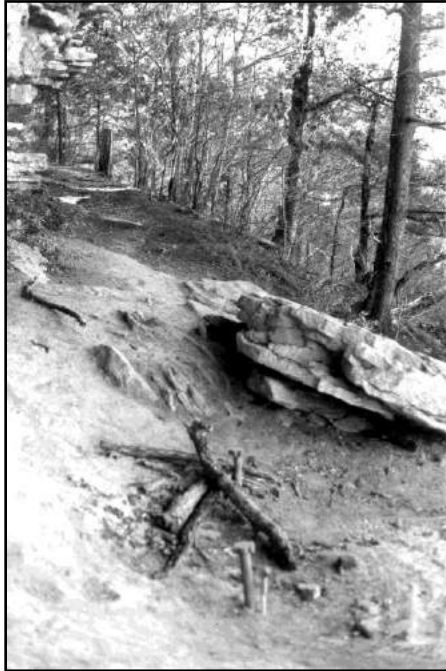


Figure 111: The anchor pins of the Erbie swinging bridge.

19) Adair Cemetery

Tract No. 51-110

LCS ID: 061516

Structure No.: CEM-23

This family cemetery contains twenty-one graves in a fenced lot that measures approximately 48' x 59'. There are eight legible headstones which date between 1845 and 1890. These are primarily those of the Adair family and also members of the Lawson, Cooper, and Davis families. The cemetery is in excellent condition and is well maintained. Headstones are typical of the period and are rounded arch and pointed arch tablet designs. Common motifs are clasped hands, a finger pointing to heaven, and a weeping willow. The cemetery contains the grave of William Adair, a Confederate soldier killed in the Civil War. His stone has a flag and gun motif with "C.S.A." inscribed on it as well as the words "Died for his Country." The stone of John Adair, Jr. (1828-1854) reveals the family's agricultural background with a plow, sheath of wheat and pitchfork on his stone. Two graves located in the center of the cemetery have stone boxed tent graves, which are large stone slabs that are arranged in a tent fashion. One of the examples in the Adair Cemetery has collapsed. The graves are those of John and Sarah Adair who died in 1878 and 1874 respectively. Two large Cedar and Ash trees are within the cemetery.

The Adair Cemetery is located off the southern Erbie Road. Access to the cemetery is via a one-lane tree-lined dirt road lined with embankments up to three feet in places. The cemetery is adjacent to the road and is bordered by a new wooden fence. The cemetery is surrounded by woods. The Adair farm was located southwest of the cemetery at the eastern edge of the Erbie area. John Adair was one of the early settlers to this area and developed one of the region's largest and most prosperous farms. The cemetery is a significant component of the surrounding rural landscape of the Erbie community.



Figure 112: General view of Adair Cemetery.



Figure 113: The graves of settler John Adair and his wife, Sarah.



Figure 114: The plow and sheaf of wheat portrayed on the headstone of John Adair, Jr. demonstrates the family's agricultural background.

Adair Cemetery Site Plan

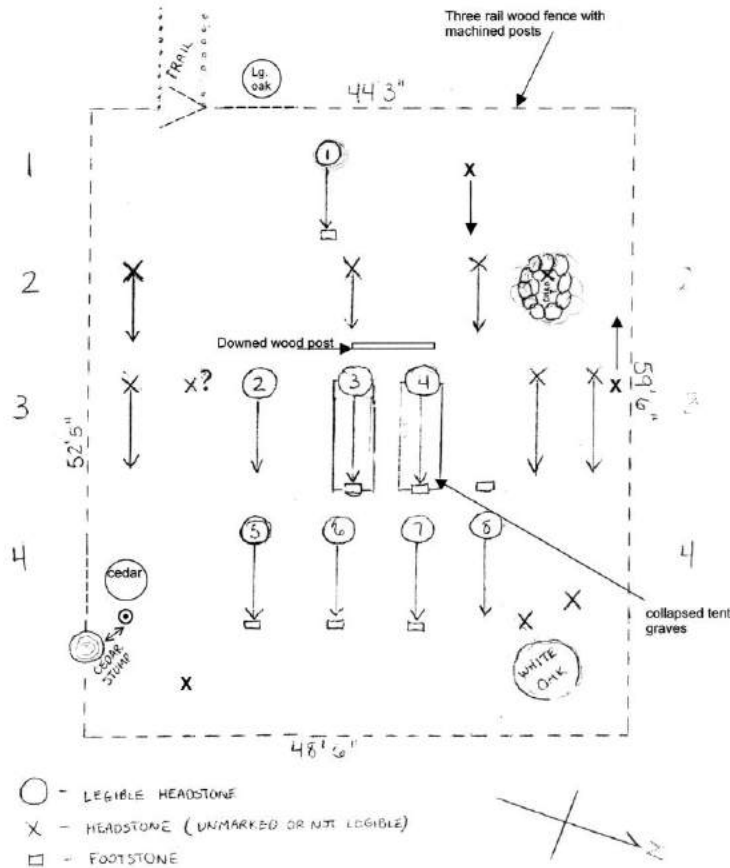


Figure 115: Site Plan for the Adair Cemetery.

20) Cherry Grove Cemetery

Tract No. 46-101

LCS ID: 061513

Structure No.: CEM-20

Cherry Grove Cemetery is a sizeable community cemetery located south of the Buffalo River near the Parker-Hickman farm. The cemetery is accessible via a dirt road that leads from the Parker-Hickman Farmstead or via a NPS hiking trail that follows the bluff along the Buffalo River. The cemetery contains approximately 168 graves, the majority of which have unmarked or illegible headstones. The cemetery is surrounded by a metal and wood post and wire fence and measures approximately 149' x 207'. There are seven or eight trees within the graveyard. An open field lies east of the cemetery and the bluff and woods are to the west. A large number of fieldstones are located in the southern portion of the cemetery lot. This area is becoming overgrown with tall grass.

There are sixty-one legible headstones in Cherry Grove Cemetery. These date from 1857 to 1970. Stones are typical of the represented periods. The vast majority are tablet designs with segmental arched tops. Common motifs include lambs, flowers, doves, bibles, and a finger pointing toward heaven. Graves are largely arranged by family and there are significant numbers of the Hickman, Farmer, Villines, Buchanan, Barnes, Cecil, and Baker families.

Cherry Grove Cemetery is the only community cemetery for the Erbie area and contains the graves of numerous residents from this rural hamlet. Well-known family names associated with the area for generations are represented in the graveyard. Cherry Grove Cemetery is a significant feature of the Erbie community and is considered a contributing property to the proposed Erbie Rural Historic District.



Figure 116: General view of Cherry Grove Cemetery.



Figure 117: General view of Cherry Grove Cemetery.



Figure 118: A typical headstone from the 19th century in Cherry Grove Cemetery.

Cherry Grove Cemetery
Tract 46-101

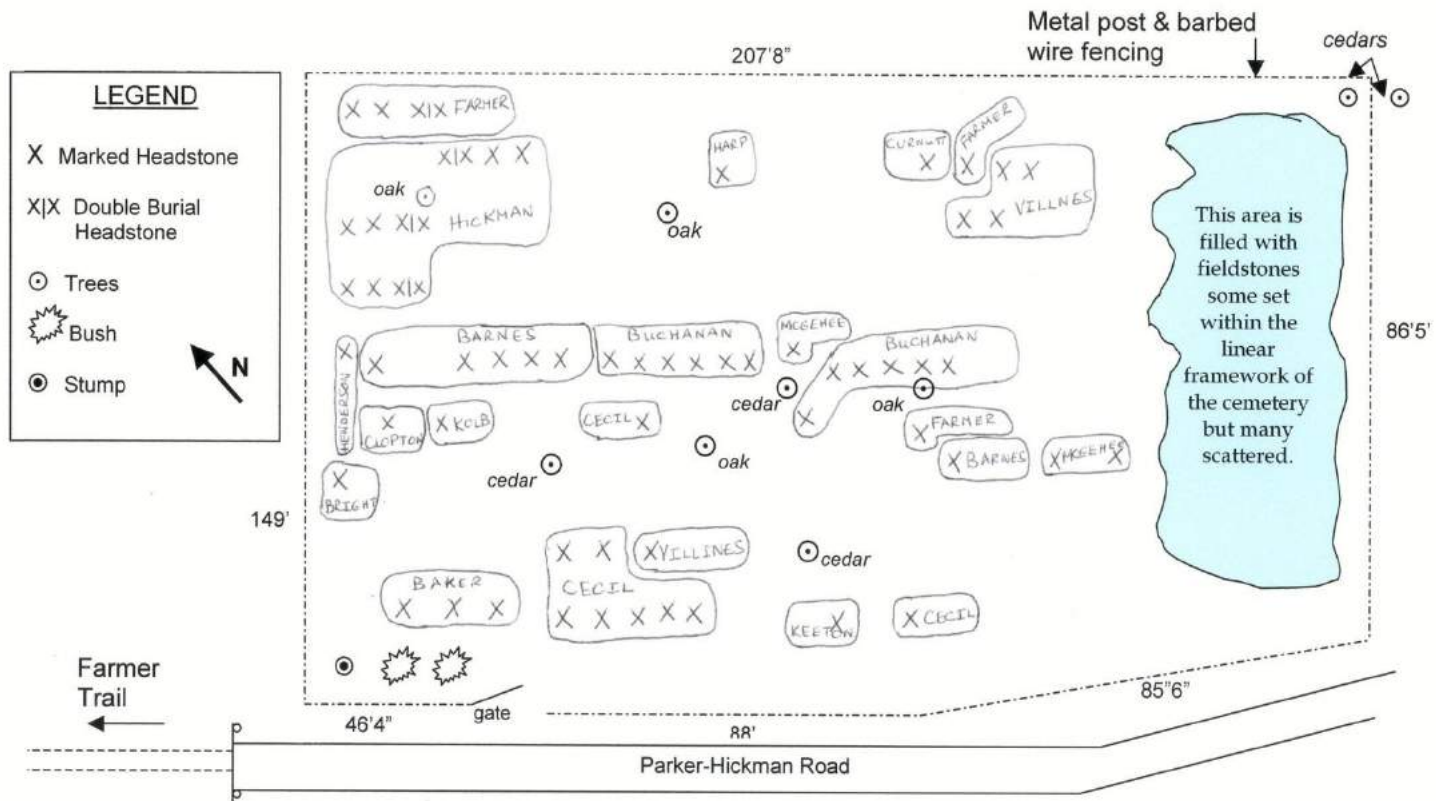


Figure 119: Site Plan for the Cherry Grove Cemetery.

21) Young Cemetery

Tract No. 50-106

LCS ID: 061515

Structure No.: CEM-22

Young Cemetery is a small family cemetery located on a hillside adjacent to agricultural fields near the Jones Farm. Young Cemetery measures 22' x 14.6' and contains three graves. A metal post and barbed wire fence enclose the cemetery. A large tree in a corner of the cemetery has been cut almost through near the base and poses a danger to the headstones. The graves in the cemetery are those of J.T. Young, W.J. Young, and Jemima Young and date between 1899 and 1910. The three stones are very similar in design and are commercial pedestal forms with an opened bible on top. Two have bases inscribed with the name "Young." Decorative elements on the stones include swags, the gates of heaven, and floral designs. Jemima Young's headstone also has beveled edges.

The Young Cemetery is a good example of the types of small family cemeteries that residents in the region created as many families established graveyards adjacent to their agricultural fields. The history of the Young family is not known, however the cemetery is located on the Jones Farm and perhaps has a connection to past owners or residents of this property.



Figure 120: Young Cemetery.

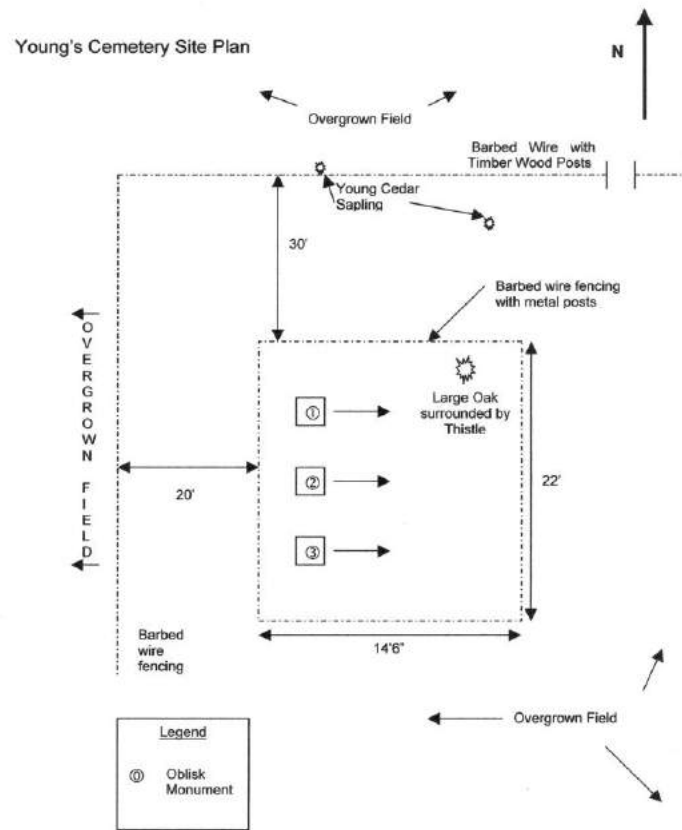


Figure 121: Site plan for the Young Cemetery.



Figure 122: The three markers in Young Cemetery are pedestal design.

22) McFadden Cemetery

Tract No. 11-102

LCS ID: 061517

Structure No. CEM-24

McFadden Cemetery is a small family cemetery located near the McFadden House Site. The cemetery is located about one quarter mile south of the house site and is set inside the edge of the woods adjacent to an overgrown field. The cemetery is surrounded by a wooden fence and measures approximately 32' x 18'. The cemetery contains at least five graves, none of which are marked with legible headstones. Four of the graves have ledger stones, including one that appears to be the grave of a child. These are large flat fieldstones that are level with the ground and cover the length of the grave. The stones are covered by dirt and leaves and only one is readily visible. All graves have fieldstone markers and the child's grave also has a footstone. There are four tree stumps within the cemetery boundary and a number of cedar trees and some oak trees surround the fenced graveyard. The cemetery is not well maintained and is becoming overgrown with weeds, tall grass and saplings



Figure 123: A ledger stone covers a grave in the McFadden Cemetery.



Figure 124: McFadden Cemetery

McFadden Cemetery Site Plan

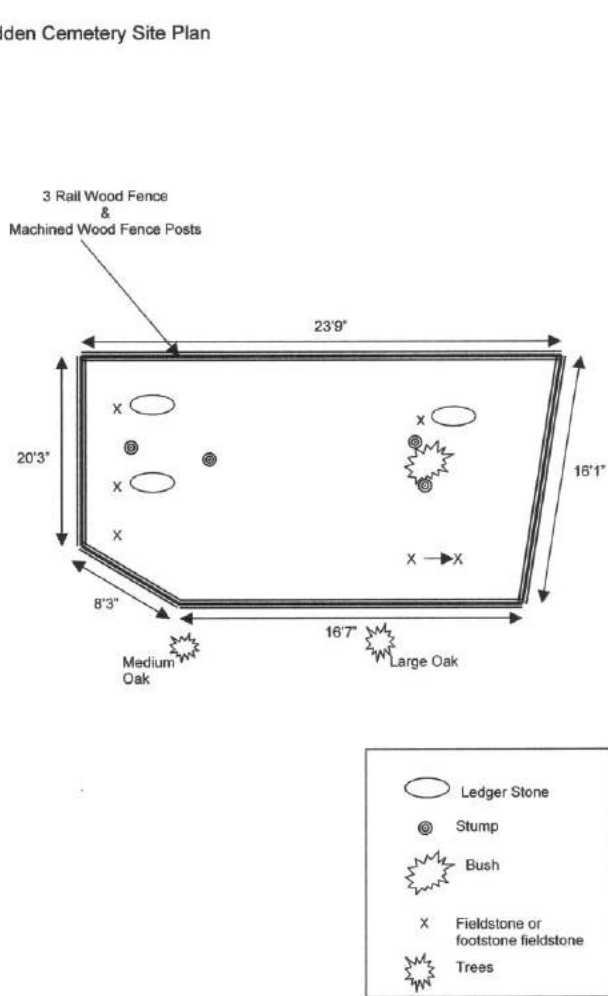


Figure 125: Site Plan for the McFadden Cemetery.



23) Jones Cemetery
 Tract No. 49-100
 LCS ID: 061514
 Structure No.: CEM-21

The Jones Cemetery is a small cemetery that contains nineteen graves. The earliest burial date is 1906 and the latest is 1933. Families represented are the Jones, Sturgill, Lamb, and Reavis families. There are twelve legible headstones, three of which are hand carved. The majority of headstones are a pointed arch tablet design with common motifs and phrases. These include doves, bibles, and the gates of heaven. The stone of Bessie M. Sturgill, who lived only one day in March of 1918, reads “Budded on Earth to bloom in heaven,” a common phrase found on infant graves. That of nine-year old Earnest Reavis reads “The rose may fade, the lily die, but the flowers immortal bloom on high.” The rear of this stone continues, “Gone to a brighter home, Where grief can not come.” In contrast, the epitaph of Rutha L. Sturgill (1872-1914), is somber: “Remember friends as you pass by the lonesome tomb where I doth lie, I was once as you are now, but now as you must be. Prepare for death and follow me.” At the grave of James Sturgill (d. 1918) a new stone replaces the original, which is broken and lies flat over the grave. The graves of A.K., E. Lamb, and O.B. Lamb have hand carved fieldstones for markers.

The cemetery is located northwest of the central Erbie town area along a NPS hiking trail. A wood post and wire fence encloses the cemetery, which measures approximately 40' x 53'. The surrounding area is heavily wooded with mature trees.



Figure 126: A general view of the Jones Cemetery.

Jones Cemetery Site Plan
Tract 49-100

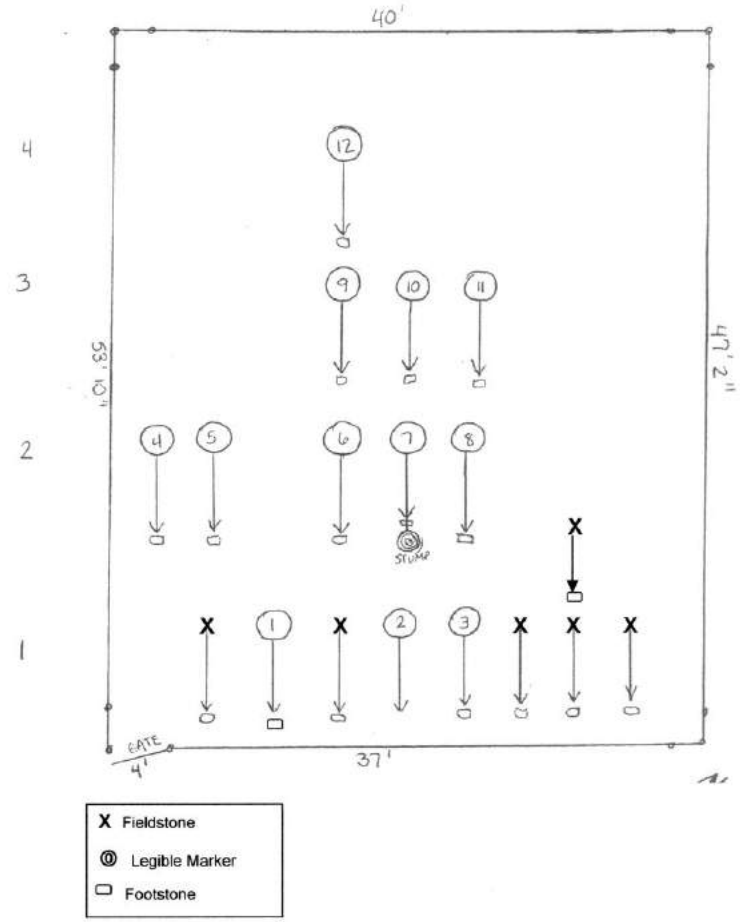


Figure 127: Site Plan for the Jones Cemetery.

TABLE 9: CONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES IN THE PROPOSED ERBIE HISTORIC DISTRICT

	Property Name	USGS Quad	Tract Number	National Register-Listed	National Register-Eligible	LCS #	Strucutre #
1	Parker-Hickman Farm	Jasper	50-112	Yes	-	60760 23209 23211 23212 23213 60629 23234 23210	B4-56H (house) B4-54H (frame barn) B4-55H (log barn) B4-57H (smokehouse) B4-58H (privy) ER-7 (corn crib) B4-51H (chicken. house) ER-6 (machine shed)
2	Jones Farm	Jasper	50-106	No	Yes	232108 23237 23236 23238	B4-77H (house) B4-78H (barn) B4-80H (springhouse) B4-29H (smokehouse)
3	J.T. Farmer Farm	Jasper	46-100	No	Yes	061555 061556 061557 061558 061559	62-HB22 (house) B4-63H (house #2) B4-64H (barn) B4-65H (smokehouse) B4-66H (feedhouse) (privy & springhouse not on LCS)
4	Reavis Cabin	Ponca	49-110/115	No	Yes	061562	B4-45H
5	Erbie Church	Jasper	48-104	No	Yes	061551	B4-74-H
6	Shake Roof Cabin & Minnow Area	Jasper	50-114?	No	Yes	061550	HB-00
7	Hickman House Site	Jasper	50-112	No	Yes	N/A	N/A
8	Lane House Site	Jasper	50-110	No	Yes	N/A	N/A

	Property Name	USGS Quad	Tract Number	National Register-Listed	National Register-Eligible	LCS #	Strucutre #
9	Huchingson House/Farm Site	Jasper	48-100	No	Yes	061552 (spring)	HUTCH-1
10	Alvin Tinsley Farm Site	Jasper	50-100	No	Yes	N/A	N/A
11	House Site	Jasper	50-105	No	Yes	N/A	N/A
12	Taylor House Site/Adair Farm	Jasper	51-110	No	Yes	N/A	N/A
13	Erbie Store Site	Jasper	48-103	No	Yes	N/A	N/A
14	Erbie House/ Building Site	Jasper	48-103	No	Yes	N/A	N/A
15	Angle House Site/Adair Farm	Jasper	11-100	No	Yes	N/A	N/A
16	McFadden House Site	Jasper	11-102	No	Yes	N/A	N/A
17	House Site	Jasper	50-102	No	Yes	N/A	N/A
18	Swinging Bridge Site	Jasper		No	Yes	N/A	N/A
19	Adair Cemetery	Jasper	51-110	No	Yes	061516	CEM-23
20	Cherry Grove Cemetery	Jasper	46-101			061513	CEM-20
21	Young Cemetery	Jasper	50-105	No	Yes	061515	CEM-22
22	McFadden Cemetery	Jasper	11-102	No	Yes	061517	CEM-24
23	Jones Cemetery	Ponca	49-110	No	No	061562	B4-45H

PRUITT

The Pruitt area is centered around the Highway 7 Bridge at the Buffalo River. A post office was established at Pruitt in the 1920s and a sizeable recreational tourist area developed along the highway. The community was named Pruitt after local landowner William Wilshire Pruitt. A number of families lived in the Pruitt community during the early to mid twentieth centuries and Hammons general store/post office was the community's social center with most residents stopping by several times a week to pick up mail, purchase a few items, and catch up on local news.

For the purposes of this study the Pruitt area includes the area approximately two miles both east and west of the Highway 7 Bridge and south to the Little Buffalo River. Highway 7, a modern, two-lane, paved road, extends north-south through the area and the Buffalo River winds west-east between forested ridgelines. The Pruitt Ranger Station (originally Hammond Store) lies just south of the bridge adjacent to Highway 7. A modern concrete block NPS maintenance building is across the highway from the Ranger Station. North of the bridge and east of the highway is a gravel pull-off from which extend two gravel roads. One of these roads leads to the Pruitt access point to the river, the other extends eastward toward Braden Mountain. The Shaddox Cabin, a ca. 1935 recreational cabin built of logs from the original settlement cabin on the site, and Shaddox Cemetery, a large community cemetery, are located along this route. Gravel roads extend westward off of Highway 7 both north and south of the bridge and largely run parallel to the Buffalo River to the Erbie area.

The Pruitt area no longer retains its historic recreational landscape. The 1931 bridge that spans the Buffalo River and the Pruitt Ranger Station, which originally served as the community's store, are all that remain of the central Pruitt community in the Highway 7 area. The

tourist cabins, baths, and associated properties along Highway 7 were razed in the 1970s. Natural vegetation has overtaken much of this area and no above ground evidence remains of these properties.

Along the gravel roads that extend east and west off of the highway are several house sites that reveal the number of residences that once occupied the area. Some of these were associated with area farms; however, the agricultural landscape no longer remains intact in these areas as fields and barnyards have not been maintained and are largely no longer discernible. One dwelling remains extant in the Pruitt area and that is the Shaddox Cabin. This log dwelling is located approximately one-quarter mile east of Highway 7 and was built ca. 1935 from the logs of the original dwelling on the property.

National Register-Listed or –Eligible Properties

One property in the Pruitt area, the Highway 7 Bridge, is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The 1931 bridge spans the Buffalo River and was listed on the National Register in 1990 under the Multiple Property listing “Historic Bridges of Arkansas.”

1) Highway 7 Bridge

Tract No. 14-122

The bridge spanning across the Buffalo River along Highway 7 at Pruitt is a steel truss bridge constructed in 1931. The bridge has three large and one small poured concrete supports and contains a modern two-lane asphalt highway. The bridge has a concrete open railing at each end. A plate on the bridge acknowledges Fred Lutjohann as the contractor and the Virginia Bridge and Iron Company of Roanoke, Virginia as the builder of the structure. Lutjohann was a little known figure, but was involved with a number of Arkansas bridges constructed during the 1920s and 1930s.

A number of steel truss bridges were constructed throughout the state during the early twentieth century as the modern highway system evolved. These bridges provided greater access and improved transportation to rural areas throughout the state. The Highway 7 Bridge across the Buffalo River is an excellent example of this type of bridge design and is the only surviving early twentieth century bridge in the Buffalo National River. The bridge remains in good condition and was listed on the National Register under the Multiple Property Documentation Form “Historic Bridges of Arkansas.”



Figure128: The Highway 7 Bridge spans the Buffalo River.

Ineligible Properties:

No other properties documented in the Pruitt area possess sufficient integrity or significance to meet National Register criteria. Of the standing structures, neither the Pruitt Ranger Station/Hammons Store nor the Shaddox Cabin retain integrity of setting, association,

feeling, or design. Both buildings have been altered and their settings no longer convey a sense of time and place of their historical periods. Several house sites were also inventoried. These properties retain little above ground evidence to convey their history and do not meet National Register criteria. Descriptions of the remaining individual properties documented in the Pruitt area follow:

1) Shaddox Cabin

Tract No. 12-112

LCS ID: 060628

Structure No.: B4-91H

The Shaddox Cabin is a single-pen log dwelling built ca. 1935 using logs from the original dwelling on the site, which was constructed ca. 1870. The original dwelling was two-stories in height, of log construction with an exterior of weatherboard siding. The Shaddox Cabin has a continuous stone foundation, a gable roof of metal standing seam, an interior metal flue, and an exterior of hewn logs with half dovetail notching and cement chinking. The house originally had a shed roof porch on the main (south) elevation. The porch is no longer extant; however, stone piers from the porch foundation remain in place. The dwelling’s main façade has a central entrance, which has a three-panel wood door. The door panels are missing and are now metal and wire mesh. Window openings in the cabin are small rectangular openings and have wire mesh screens to help protect the structure. Two windows flank the main entrance. On the rear (north) elevation is a shed roof wing of frame construction. This wing has a horizontal board construction with an exterior of asphalt shingle siding. The wing has one window on each side elevation and three on the rear elevation. Windows have metal mesh panels. The entrance lacks a door. The interior of the dwelling has original wood floors and ceiling. There is evidence of wallpaper on the walls and newspaper on the walls and ceiling. Rock chinking is visible in the interior log walls.

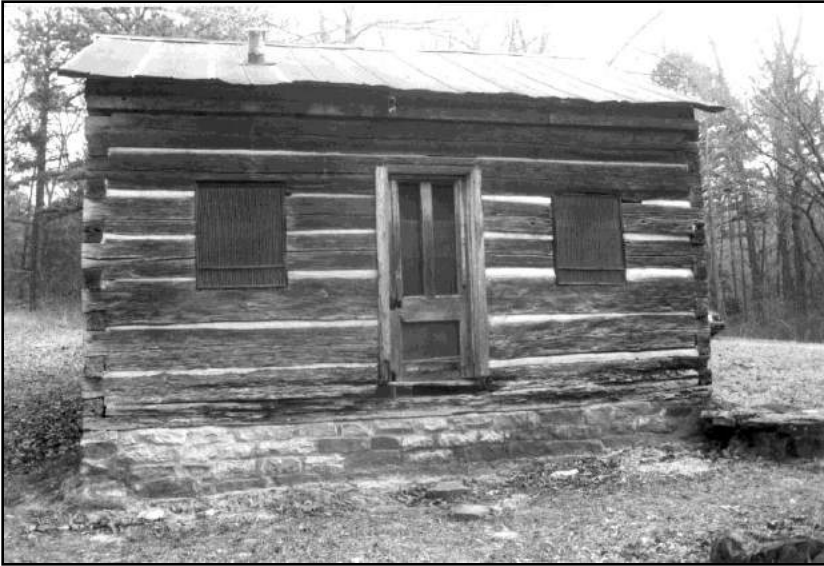


Figure 129: Shaddox Cabin

The Shaddox Cabin is situated in a small clearing in a wooded area. A NPS hiking trail extends through the area and leads into the nearby woods. A dirt drive extends south from the main road to the clearing in which the cabin is located. The 1974 survey of this tract denotes a privy and animal pen on the property. No above-ground evidence of these outbuildings remains.

The Shaddox family homesteaded this property in the early 1870s and constructed a two-story log dwelling. During the 1930s, descendants of the original Shaddox settlers used the logs from the original log dwelling to build the present single-pen cabin for recreational purposes. The cabin was used primarily as a hunting and fishing cabin. Logs from earlier buildings were commonly used to construct later cabins, barns, or other structures. While the Shaddox Cabin reflects the recreational history of the area and serves as an

example of “recycling” building materials, the cabin does not adequately convey a sense of time and place of its period of significance. The cabin’s porch is no longer intact and the surrounding setting is more reflective of late twentieth century recreational development.

2) Pruitt Ranger Station/Hammons Store
Tract No. 14-120

The current NPS Pruitt Ranger Station was constructed ca. 1920 as a housestore along what is now Highway 7 just south of the Buffalo River. The Hammons family built the combination store and residence and established a tourist-based business around the site. Local tradition states that the building was constructed from wood salvaged from several goat sheds on the Hammons’ unsuccessful goat farm.

The building is a one- and one-half story, frame structure with a gable front roof of asphalt shingles, a concrete foundation, an interior concrete chimney, and an exterior of asbestos panels. On the main (east) façade is a partial-width incised porch with a square wood corner post and a poured concrete floor. The main entrance leading to the porch has a ca. 1970 glass and metal door. A second entrance on the main façade has an original five-panel wood door. Windows in the building are original one-over-one wood sash with exterior storm panels. The building has exposed rafters at the roofline of the side elevations. On the south elevation is a small, frame, shed roof addition with a vertical wood panel exterior and a concrete block foundation. This addition has a solid metal door on the south elevation. At the rear is a flat roof addition with one-over-one horizontal metal windows and a concrete exterior. This addition has a basement level of concrete block and on the north elevation at the basement level are paneled metal doors to a garage/storage area.

An NPS picnic and camping area is along the river to the rear (west) of the building. The building faces Highway 7 and across the road is a modern (ca. 1980) three-bay garage of concrete block construction. This building serves as an NPS maintenance building.

The Hammons Store/Pruitt Ranger Station was the center of a sizeable tourist camp in the 1930s and 1940s. The building has been altered from its original design with two late twentieth century additions, and the interior has been remodeled to serve as a ranger station. The surrounding area no longer resembles its early twentieth century recreational development. The cabins and tourist camp and associated properties were razed in the 1970s following NPS acquisition of the site, and no above ground evidence of these properties remain. The Hammons Store/Pruitt Ranger Station does not possess sufficient integrity or historical significance to meet the requirements of the National Register.



Figure 130: The Pruitt Ranger Station originally housed a store for a tourist camp.

3) Josephine Hamilton House Site Tract No. 14-116

This tract originally contained a ca. 1940 frame dwelling, a ca. 1930 frame barn with an interior log crib dating to ca. 1900, a frame and log chicken house, and a frame shed and privy. Presently the site consists primarily of the ruins of the barn, which lie east of the gravel drive that leads to the site. A portion of the standing seam metal roof as well as a few frame support posts are all that remain of the structure. The surrounding area contains scatter of metal roof panels and various wood and metal debris. One log on the ground has saddle notching. There are no other logs in the vicinity.

No foundations or other evidence of other buildings were found at the site. Across the road from the barn site is a level area that is heavily overgrown with tall grass and brush. A number of yucca plants appear around the border of this area, which possibly was the location of the dwelling. Remnants of wood post fencing are southwest of the house site, and wood post and wire fencing lines the gravel drive that leads to the site. Nearby fields have been overtaken by new growth and are reverting back to forest.



Figure 131: Remains of a barn at the Josephine Hamilton House Site.

4) Hiner House Site
Tract No. 11-116

This house site is located on a bluff at the river's edge. The site originally contained a 1940 dwelling and a 1969 dwelling as well as a barn, privy, and shed. A grass/dirt drive leads to the site from the main road. The only above ground evidence that remains at the site is a large concrete foundation that measures 11' 10" x 42' 3". A poured concrete porch measuring 12' x 42' 3" is connected to the foundation. These remains appear to be those of the 1960s dwelling. No other remaining foundations or other evidence were found at the site. The surrounding area is mostly wooded.

5) Scott House Site
Tract No. 12-107

The Scott House Site is located north of the Buffalo River along the road that leads into Erbie. The dwelling that originally stood on this site was built ca. 1948. The property also contained a well house, storage buildings, shed, barn with an attached garage, a modern metal barn, and an older third barn, a portion of which was log. None of these buildings remain extant; various foundations, however, do remain. The stone foundations of the dwelling sit north of the road and measure approximately 28' x 21'. A portion of a large stone chimney remains extant along the east line of the house foundations. On the southern foundation line are five stone steps. Extending east from the chimney is a stone wall that is approximately 37 feet in length.

West of the stone foundations are the hollow concrete block foundations of a later addition to the house. These measure approximately 24' x 40'. North of the house addition foundations are the remnants of additional stone foundations.

South of the house site approximately 15' is a portion of a rock retaining wall that runs about 30 feet. Approximately 20' south of this are the stone foundations of what was probably the storage building. These measure 13' x 22'. Approximately two feet to the rear (north) of the house site is another stone retaining wall that extends around 40 feet. Directly behind the house site are rock outcroppings.

East of the house site approximately 100 feet are the foundation remains of the barn and attached garage. The barn foundations are of native stone and measure roughly 25' x 13'. The garage was attached to the east side of the barn and its foundations are of concrete block and measure 23 ½' x 39'.

There is a scattering of brick and stone throughout the site. The site is very overgrown with cedar saplings and brush. A number of yucca plants are around the house site and there are several mature cedar trees in the front yard area. A driveway leads off the main road at the corner and curves toward the barn/garage site.

Across the road and east of the house site is a pile of concrete block and concrete and stone rubble. About 20 feet east of this are remnants of a wood post and wire fence. A NPS horse trail is nearby. There is a scattering of stone throughout this area along with some sawn wood board remnants, but no discernible foundations. This area is heavily overgrown and wooded.

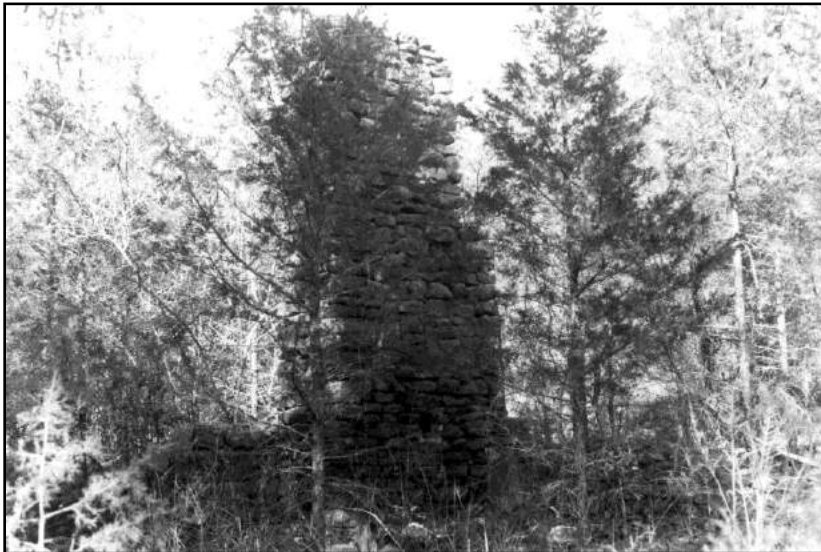


Figure 132: Stone Chimney and House Foundations on Tract 12-107.



Figure 133: Dry Stack Stone Retaining Wall on Tract 12-107.



Figure 134: Outbuilding Stone Foundations on Tract 12-107.

6) Clarence Eaton House Site

Tract No. 15-105

The Eaton property originally contained a ca. 1920 dwelling and smokehouse and a ca. 1960 metal shed and a ca. 1970 horse corral. Foundations of the house remain and are located approximately 200 feet north of the road. A dirt/grass driveway leads to the site from the road. The site is located just east of a small creek that extends from the Buffalo River. The house foundations are of stone, and three stone steps capped with concrete remain standing on the south elevation. The foundations measure approximately 25'4" x 29' 5". Brush and small trees have grown within the foundations. A large depression within the foundation measures about 4' x 7' and is lined with stone on the south end.

Approximately 15 feet east of the house foundations is a wood post and wire fence that runs north-south. At the south end, the fence begins at a large oak tree and continues north several yards into the woods. The driveway appears on the east side of this fence line. Around 200 feet north of the house site, a fence line runs across the rear of the property and meets another north-south fence line that runs alongside the creek. The yard area within the fences is heavily overgrown with tall grass and brush.

A log smokehouse was located just east of the dwellings northeast corner. There are several foundation stones in this area that roughly form a rectangular pattern approximately 7' x 10'. Several stones are along the north-south fence line in this area, and possibly a stone wall was here at one time. There are numerous yucca plants along both sides of the creek bed at the front of the property.

The 1970s horse corral associated with the property was located north of the house site. It is no longer extant. In this area are some concrete slabs and a concrete ramp.



Figure 135: The Clarence Eaton House Site.

7) Shaddox Cemetery

Tract No. 14-118

Shaddox Cemetery is a large community cemetery located just east of Highway 7 in the Pruitt area. The cemetery contains approximately 300 graves and covers a little over two acres. The cemetery is surrounded by a metal post and wire fence and has a large gate at the front. An arched sign at the gate has the name "Shaddox". A sign on the fence reads "Shaddox Cemetery Founded by Sion Lafayette Shaddox." Inside the gate is a modern open-air pavilion with a poured concrete floor and metal roof supported by metal posts.

There are 258 legible headstones in the cemetery. The earliest dated stone dates to 1864 and is that of brothers Jesse T. and William

Atchely, who were both killed September 4, 1864 in the Civil War. The most recent burials took place in 2003. The majority of graves date between 1890 and 1950. Numerous families are represented in the cemetery and graves are typically grouped by family association. Several graves are those of the Shaddox family, for which the cemetery is named. They include the grave of Ezekiel Shaddox (1791-1883) and his wife Lillithia (1794-1887), whose cabin remains extant nearby.

Gravestones in Shaddox Cemetery are common designs and forms of the representative periods They include tablets, columns, and obelisks and have typical epitaphs. Representative motifs include bibles, lilies, clasped hands, doves, and the gates of heaven. Common epitaphs are “At Rest,” “Gone, but not forgot,” “Asleep in Jesus,” and “Gone to be an angel.” Some gravestones reflect organizations with which the deceased was affiliated, such as the Masons or the Woodmen of the World. The headstone of W. P. Pruett (1881-1906) notes that he was a member of the Farmer’s Educational Co-operative Union of America and has a plow symbol. The stone notes that “Funds appropriated by Newton Co. – Union No. 71.” On its side, the stone also lists J. A. Cowell as president and J. Satchley as secretary.

Some graves, including those of the modern era, are outlined with stone, and many graves have footstones in addition to headstones. The vast majority of stones are commercially produced with only a few hand carved examples. Around forty-five graves are marked with simple fieldstones and have no dates or other markings. Shaddox Cemetery is well maintained and remains in use. It is a typical rural community cemetery and does not possess notable artistic or landscape significance.



Figure 136: The graves of brothers Jesse T. and William Atchely who were killed in the Civil War.



Figure 137: Vernacular Stone Marker at the Shaddox Cemetery.



Figure 138: The stone of W.P. Pruett in Shaddox Cemetery.

8) Brown Cemetery

Tract No. 11-105

Brown Cemetery is located in a large clearing adjacent to a roadbed. The lot is surrounded by a wood post and wire fence. The fence has a wooden double door gate that opens to a dirt path leading to the cemetery. Near the gate is a metal sign with the words "Brown Cemetery" on a metal pole set in concrete. The graveyard sits approximately 235 feet east of the fence gate and contains fifteen

legible headstones dating from 1881 through 1992. Stone designs include tablet and obelisk designs with common motifs such as doves, swags, and clasped hands. Most stones are inscribed with a brief message such as "Gone but not Forgotten," or "Gone Home," and references to God, Mother, and Father. Infant stones have especially touching phrases. The stone of three-month-old Mary Bethel who died in 1922 conveys that she "Budded on Earth to blume (sic) in Heaven." On the back of three-year-old Velma Alice Hickman's (1916-1920) stone are the words "Gone to a better land. Darling, we miss thee." There are also a number of broken and illegible fieldstones in the cemetery and it is difficult to determine what is a headstone or a footstone. It is also difficult to determine how many graves the cemetery contains. Many foot and headstones are a short distance apart and are most likely the graves of children. Rows in the cemetery are loosely organized.



Figure 139: A general view of Brown Cemetery.

TABLE 10: PRUITT AREA PROPERTIES

	Property Name	Quad	Tract Number	National Register-Listed	National Register-Eligible	LCS #	Strucutre #
1	Highway 7 Bridge	Jasper		Yes	-	N/A	N/A
2	Shaddox Cabin	Jasper	12-112	No	No	060628	B4-91H
3	Pruitt Ranger Station	Jasper	14-120	No	No	N/A	N/A
4	Josephine Hamilton Property	Jasper	14-116	No	No	N/A	N/A
5	Hiner Property	Jasper	11-116	No	No	N/A	N/A
6	Scott Property	Jasper	12-107	No	No	N/A	N/A
7	Clarence Eaton Property	Hasty	15-105	No	No	N/A	N/A
8	Shaddox Cemetery	Jasper	14-118	No	No	N/A	N/A
9	Brown Cemetery	Jasper	11-105	No	No	N/A	N/A

CENTRAL

The portion of Buffalo National River identified as the Central Area for this project is that which lies east of the confluence of the Little Buffalo and the Buffalo Rivers to one mile east of the Newton-Searcy County line. This covers a large area in few standing structures remain. Only one dwelling was recorded in the overall Central Area along with a few remaining outbuildings. House sites and cemeteries by far dominate this area with respectively fifteen and twelve of each documented. Throughout the Central Area, the Buffalo River flows through a corridor of steep forested hills that average around 1000 feet in elevation. Large tributaries of the river in this section include Big Creek, Cave Creek, and Richland Creek. Pockets of small communities developed throughout this region during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and inventoried properties are largely clustered around where these communities developed. To reflect this, the Central Area is divided into four sub-areas that are associated with nearby small communities and are: Hasty, Carver, Mt. Hersey, Woolum/Richland Valley, & Redell-Hensley. Each sub-area will be addressed separately.

A. HASTY

The community of Hasty is located outside the boundaries of the Buffalo National River along Highway 123 approximately two miles east of the river. A settlement developed the area by the 1880s known as Gum Tavern or Agee. The area eventually became known as Hasty Ridge, and when a post office was established there in 1902, residents chose the name of Hasty.

Two cemeteries located along the Buffalo River approximately two-and one-half miles west of Hasty were inventoried for this project. These are the Collins/Armstrong and Deffenbaugh Cemeteries. The

Collins/Armstrong Cemetery was identified as meeting National Register criteria.

1) Collins/Armstrong Cemetery, ca. 1899

Tract No. 85-100

LCS ID: 061520

Structure No. CEM-25

The Collins/Armstrong Cemetery is a small cemetery that is located near the banks of the Buffalo River approximately two and one-half miles west of the community of Hasty. The cemetery is located about one-half mile west of the Hasty low water bridge over the Buffalo River. A dirt road angles north off of this main road towards the cemetery, which sets off of the road approximately 200 feet. The cemetery is situated on a hill at the edge of an overgrown field approximately 500 feet south of the Buffalo River. Woods cover the hillside north of the cemetery.

This cemetery is identified in NPS files as the Collins Cemetery. However, a newspaper article in the *Newton County Times* identifies it as the Armstrong Cemetery.⁴⁷⁷ It notes that the cemetery contains the grave of early settler Meredith Armstrong, who settled just west of the Hasty low water bridge in the mid 1850s. Armstrong died in 1899 and the article states that all of those interred in the cemetery are his descendants. Early stones are unmarked, but both the Armstrong and Collins surnames are found on stones from the mid-twentieth century.

A metal post and barbed wire fence enclose the cemetery, which measures approximately 75' x 50'. A dozen or so cedar trees are

⁴⁷⁷ "Armstrong Led Wagon Train To Area," *The Newton County Times* 31 January 1991.

within the fenced cemetery and appear largely around the perimeter of the graves. There are thirty-five visible graves arranged in four rows. Fifteen of the graves have legible makers. The earliest dates to 1902 and is that of infant Thomas Edgar (Oct. 30, 1901 – Feb. 28, 1902), son of John and Juda Edgar. The most recent burial occurred in 1984. The majority of marked graves date to the 1930s and 1940s. Surnames represented include Collins, Armstrong, Edgar, Upton, Davis, Riggs, and Hill.

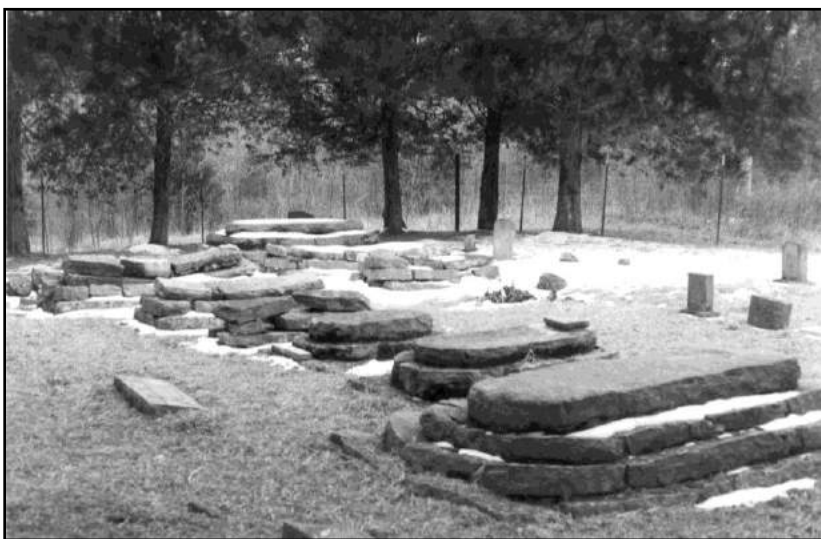


Figure 140: Collins Cemetery

The most significant feature of the Collins Cemetery are ten tiered boxed vault graves that are centrally located in the graveyard. These graves feature three tiers of large slabs of native stone with rounded edges that cover the length of the grave. None of these graves have headstones or are dated. One has the name Mary Tennison Armstrong hand carved on a small stone on top of the grave, and it is assumed the graves are those of the Armstrong family. Five of the

tiered box vault graves appear to be those of adults and the other five are children, one of those an infant. The stones are in excellent condition and are an unusual type of grave design. A few examples of tiered stone graves exist in other cemeteries within the Buffalo National River as well, but none match the style, size, or quality of those found in the Collins/Armstrong Cemetery. The majority of other examples are in poor condition and do not have the rounded corners. The Collins Cemetery contains the largest collection of this grave type and its examples remain in very good condition. The cemetery is distinctive in the used of this folk grave tradition and is notable for its artistic merit. The cemetery reflects a significant local mortuary tradition and meets the criteria of the National Register.



Figure 141: Tiered box vault grave in Collins Cemetery.

Collins Cemetery Site Plan

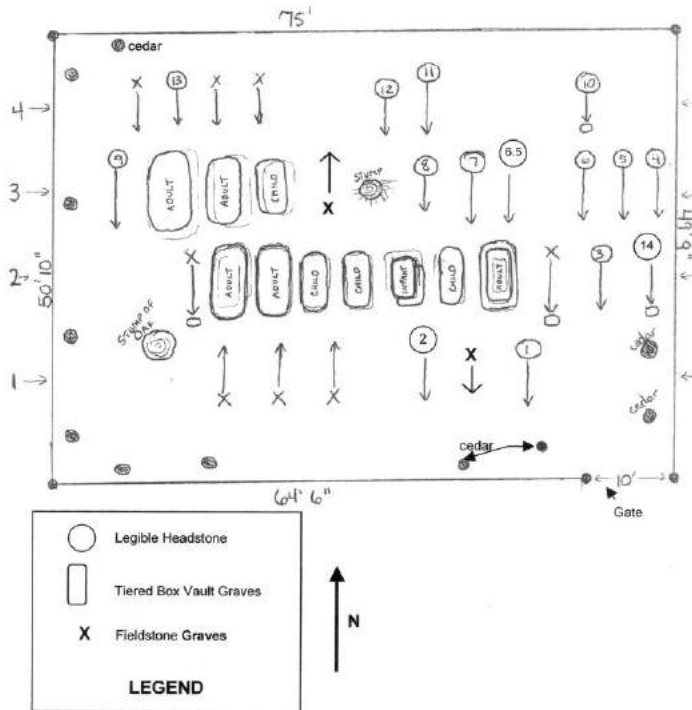


Figure 142: Collins Cemetery Site Plan.

2) Deffenbaugh Cemetery
Tract No. 84-103

Deffenbaugh Cemetery is located on a wooded slope along the northern bank of the Buffalo River approximately two and one-half miles west of the community of Hasty. The cemetery is accessible only via the river and a small path leads up the slope to the site. In recent years the NPS has installed a wooden fence around the cemetery, however the graveyard is not well maintained. The lot is heavily overgrown with weeds and saplings and contains a number of trees. The cemetery contains at least forty identifiable graves, none of which are marked with legible stones. There are at least five tiered box vault graves within the cemetery, and these have all collapsed and are in poor condition. Weathered fieldstones mark most graves and a number of depressions suggest additional burials. The heavy vegetation makes graves difficult to detect and the exact number of burials is unknown. No historical information about the cemetery is known, but it appears to date to the late nineteenth century.

The Deffenbaugh Cemetery does not meet National Register criteria for cemeteries or burial grounds. Numerous cemeteries such as this exist in rural areas throughout the region and this example does not display any notable mortuary art or landscape features.



Figure 143: This tiered box vault grave in Deffenbaugh Cemetery has deteriorated substantially.

B. CARVER

The community of Carver once existed where the Buffalo River and Big Creek meet. Highway 123 crosses the Buffalo River at this point and is the principal road in the area. South of the river, the flow of Big Creek made for pockets of productive farmland and a small village developed here by 1913, at which time a post office was established. It was named for P.T. Carver who settled the area and operated a store, grist mill, blacksmith shop, sawmill, and sorghum mill in addition to farming. In 1916 a steel truss bridge was completed over the Buffalo River at Carver and enhanced access to the area. This bridge was replaced in 1976. Carver remained a small community with a few homes and medium sized farms. A one-room school served grades one through eight and had thirty-four students

enrolled in 1934-35. The school closed in 1948 when it consolidated with those in Western Grove.⁴⁷⁸

The Carver area no longer retains its historic landscape of the early twentieth century. Following federal government acquisition of the land in the 1970s, dwellings and outbuildings were razed and the majority of fields have not been maintained. Also during the 1970s, the landscape was further altered through the realignment of Highway 123 as the new bridge was constructed over the Buffalo River. The school, abandoned in the late 1940s, is no longer extant., and there is no evidence of the store or mills that existed here in the early twentieth century. Currently, two fields along the river, one north and one south, remain maintained as pasture. At the river's edge just north of the bridge and east of the road is a small picnic area. A third pasture extends east of the Carver Cemetery, which is well maintained and is situated east of Highway 123 along a gravel road approximately 800 feet south of the river.

In addition to the cemetery, three house sites were documented for this project in the Carver area. None of these properties meet the criteria of the National Register. Little above ground evidence remains at each house site, and the areas surrounding them are heavily overgrown. The setting no longer conveys a sense of the community that once existed in this area. The remaining fields hint at the agricultural tradition of the area, but otherwise there is little physical indication that speaks to Carver's history. The cemetery is well maintained and is a common community cemetery with typical headstones and markers. While it stands as testimony to those who

⁴⁷⁸ "Western Grove Consolidation History Is Traced," *Newton County Times* 02 March 1995; *History of Newton County, Arkansas*, 177; "This Was Newton County," *Harrison Daily Times* 8 May 1992.

lived and worked in the area, it does not possess sufficient historical, design, or landscape significance to meet National Register criteria.

1) House Site

Tract No. 87-112

This site is located east of Big Creek approximately one-half mile south of the Buffalo River. The site consists of three concrete steps and a small portion of a concrete walkway. The steps are poured concrete over stones and are located about thirty feet from the gravel road that crosses Big Creek. Tract records indicate that this site contained a 1959 dwelling and a 1910 dwelling. It is unclear to which dwelling the remaining steps and walkway belong. No other historic fabric is visible. The surrounding area is heavily wooded and overgrown and no sense of historic landscape is detectable.

2) House Site - Earl Eddings Property

Tract No. 86-105

This site is located west of Highway 123 approximately 1000 feet southwest of the Buffalo River. NPS tract files show a complex of several buildings on this property with some dating to the late 1870s or early 1880s. The site also included a modern dwelling and outbuildings. A gravel driveway extends west off of Highway 123 to the site and site features are located south of the drive.

No buildings remain extant on the site, but some foundation remnants remain. These include the remains of what the tract records termed a “bunkhouse.” This appears to have been a stone root cellar banked into the hillside with a frame building erected on top. The NPS files note that the interior of the structure had linoleum and carpeted floors and was heated with a gas heater. What remains of this structure is a poured concrete and stone foundation that is banked into the hillside. Portions of the cellar walls remain. In front

of the bunkhouse remains is a single concrete block pier where the modern house was located. The surrounding lot is heavily overgrown and contains a number of saplings. Adjacent to the bunkhouse is the concrete block foundation of a small shed that measures 3’ x 4’. A large metal pipe sticks out of the ground within the foundation.

Southwest of this is a pile of concrete and stone rubble. North of the rubble pile and adjacent to the drive is a stone well lined with concrete. The well is approximately three feet in diameter. The driveway continues west and then turns north where it ends at a field along the river.



Figure 144: Bunkhouse Ruins at the House Site on Tract No. 86-105.

3) House Site - Walter Eddings Property
Tract No. 87-106

This site is located just north of the Highway 123 bridge over the Buffalo River in the Carver community. The site is west of the road and consists of the foundations of a 1914 dwelling. The foundations are visible from the highway and are about 300 feet north of the bridge. The foundation is of dry stack stone and is about three feet high. It is long and narrow measuring roughly 12' x 50'. The area is heavily overgrown with trees and brambles. Several large yucca plants and daffodils are near the site. Approximately 200 feet north of the house foundations are foundation remnants of another building. This foundation is also of cut dry stack stone. It is banked into the hillside and has a wall 3 ½' high and 6 ½' long. Outer walls extend from this wall approximately one and one-half feet and then fade. NPS tract files indicate a shed and chicken coop were on this property; however this second foundation appears to be more substantial. Remnants of pavement are throughout the area. This is possibly remnants of a driveway or the old alignment of Highway 123.



Figure 145: The remnants of a foundation on the Walter Eddings property.

4) Carver Cemetery
Tract No. 87-111

Carver Cemetery is a community cemetery located just east of Highway 123. The cemetery is adjacent to a gravel road leading east off of Highway 123 toward Big Creek. The Buffalo River lies approximately 1000 feet to the northeast. The cemetery occupies approximately one acre and is enclosed by a modern chain link fence. A number of trees (around eleven) grow within the fence line. The cemetery is well maintained.

The cemetery contains approximately 155 legible gravestones dating from 1880 to the present. The earliest legible graves are those of the Jones family, which date to the 1880s. These headstones are tablet designs with a clasped hands motif and the word "Farewell" engraved on the front. Stones throughout the cemetery are typical designs of the representative periods with tablets being the most common. Only one or two are hand carved and the vast majority are commercially produced stones. A few graves are marked with illegible fieldstones.



Figure 146: Family tree outlined on a vernacular marker at the Carver Cemetery.



Figure 147: A general view of Carver Cemetery.

C. MT. HERSEY

The Mt. Hersey area is located north of a sharp bend in the Buffalo River near the mouths of Davis and Mill Creeks just west of the Newton-Searcy County line. Settlers were in this area by the 1830s and the community of Mt. Hersey developed during the 1870s. By the turn-of-the-century a school, store, and post office in addition to five or six homes existed in the area. Frank and Dora Mays operated the local store and post office, which were the center of the community. The Mays family also operated a grist mill, sawmill, and cotton gin.

The buildings and structures that remain at Mt. Hersey are in advanced states of deterioration and as such do not adequately convey the historic appearance of the once thriving community. House sites in the area are heavily overgrown and are limited in their

ability to convey the area's history. The Mays House and its associated outbuildings are the only remaining buildings of the Mt. Hersey community, and they do not retain sufficient integrity of design, materials, or workmanship to warrant listing on the National Register. The surrounding landscape as a whole does not retain the feeling and association of a small rural hamlet. The Mt. Hersey properties do not individually or collectively meet the requirements of the National Register.

1) Mays House Tract No. 91-107

The primary property that remains in the Mt. Hersey area is the Mays House and its associated outbuildings. The dwelling was the home of local resident Frank Mays and his wife Ida. The Mays House is a two-story frame dwelling built ca. 1915. The dwelling has a hipped roof of corrugated metal panels, a central interior stone chimney, a weatherboard exterior, and a stone pier foundation. The dwelling originally had a wraparound porch on the main (north) and east elevations. The porch roof on the north elevation has collapsed, and porch floors on both elevations have collapsed and are in an advanced state of deterioration. The dwelling has two entrances on the main façade. One retains remnants of a six-panel wood door. Similar remnants remain on an entrance on the east elevation. Window openings are rectangular; no windows remain intact. The dwelling has exposed roof rafters at the eaves.

The interior of the dwelling has wood floors, horizontal board walls with remnants of wallpaper. The floor plan is divided into four rooms, two in the front and two in the rear.

Approximately ten feet east from the northeast corner of the house is a large stone well. The well stands above ground level approximately two feet and has ca. 10" thick walls and a diameter of about 4' 10".

The interior of the well is stone for approximately five feet. The total depth of the well is approximately twelve feet.



Figure 148: The Mays House has deteriorated significantly after several decades of disuse and neglect.

To the rear (south) of the dwelling is a frame ca. 1915 shed with a corrugated panel metal shed roof, a stone pier foundation, and an exterior of vertical sawn boards. On the east elevation are remnants of a vertical board door. The interior has a dirt floor.

Approximately ten feet southeast of the shed is a frame privy. The privy is similar to those in the region identified as WPA privies. It has a corrugated metal shed roof and an exterior of vertical boards. The door is missing, although the hinges remain. On the side elevations, the walls come to about two and one-half inches below the roof rafter leaving an opening for ventilation. The interior has a poured concrete floor and a poured concrete commode with a

chamfered base. The commode is positioned in the corner at an angle and has a wooden seat, frame post and crossbar. A metal brace holds the seat together at the corners. The rear elevation has a small louvered wooden vent in the center of the wall. A similar vent appears on the east elevation. The vents extend from the interior crossbar support. Adjacent to the privy on the west is a debris pile containing tin cans, glass jars, metal, panels, etc.



Figure 149: The privy at the Mays House was likely constructed by the WPA during the 1930s.

To the south of the privy and shed, the hill slopes down and at the bottom is a large open field. A wood post and barbed wire fence line run north from a tree on the east side of the privy toward the house. A fence line also runs in front of the house parallel to the road. At a break (gate area) in the fence are remnants of a poured concrete walkway leading to the house. The house sits approximately thirty feet south of the road.

Approximately 300 feet west of the dwelling is a frame, gable front barn built ca. 1915. The barn has a gable metal corrugated panel roof, a stone pier foundation, and an exterior of vertical and horizontal sawn boards. Much of the exterior walls are deteriorated and no longer intact. The barn has a loft area with a central square opening under the gable. The barn also has a central drive-thru bay, four stock pens on the south side, and two pens or storage bays on the north side. A drive extends from the road and leads around the south side of the barn to the area behind the barn, where it disappears into a small overgrown yard.



Figure 150: The barn on the Mays property has also deteriorated.

Approximately 100 feet southeast of the barn is a frame stock pen with a shed roof of corrugated metal panels and a vertical board exterior. The pen is largely in ruins. Remnants of a wood post and wire fence extend south and west from the pen. Remnants of a stone

wall runs north and south on the west side of the pen. The pen is situated down the hill from the road about thirty feet in a wooded area. Further down the hill another thirty feet or so is the body of a small automobile.

2) House Site – Joe Wages Tract

Tract No. 91-106

The property located across the road from the Mays House originally contained a ca. 1860 dwelling with a ca. 1935 addition and a small shed. This area is now thickly overgrown with new trees and brambles and no above ground remains of a dwelling or outbuilding were detected. Both buildings had stone pier foundations. The area has a lot of stone scattered about, but no discernible piers or house site can be determined. Remnants of a fence line run perpendicular to the road (north-south) and then parallel to the road (east-west). To the rear of the property appears to be the remnants of perhaps what was a stone retaining wall.

3) House/Building Site

Tract No. 91-115

On this track on the west side of the road are portions of a stone foundation and a stone retaining wall approximately thirty-five feet in length. There are large yucca plants near the foundations stones. A portion of a poured concrete walk appears between the wall and the remnants of the foundation.

4) House Site

Tract No. 60-100

This property originally contained a frame dwelling, a log and frame barn, and a frame shed built ca. 1905. The site now consists of remnants of dry stack stone foundations, a stone well or cistern, and

portions of a wood post and wire fence. The area is becoming overgrown with tall grass and saplings.

The house foundations measure approximately 35' x 15'. Within the foundations is a pit that is roughly 5' x 10' and is 5' deep. This was possibly a cellar beneath the dwelling. At the east end of the foundations is the base of a well or cistern based on dry stack stone approximately 1 ½' in height. The cistern is in the northeast corner of the foundation and is approximately 2' 4" high. The top of the cistern is carved "Earl Sullivan, Nov 30 1941, Made By G.W. Henson." Various metal debris and automobile parts are scattered throughout the area. A number of daffodils appear south of the house foundations.

Approximately 15 feet east of the cistern are foundation remnants of a log shed. These measure roughly 7' x 10' and consist of a few stone piers and three deteriorated logs. Remnants of a wood post and wire fence run north-south along the eastern border of the property. Southwest of the house foundations are some stone piers that were possibly the foundations for the barn.



Figure 151: The remaining foundations on Tract No. 60-100.

5) Mill Creek Dam

Tract No.

Along Mill Creek in the Mt. Hersey area is a stone, brick, and concrete dam that appears to date to ca. 1930. The dam is largely of cut stone with brick at one end, and is topped with poured concrete. In the center is a poured concrete gate. The dam has deteriorated on the west end and water flows around it here. This area possibly was a mill race for a mill at the site. There is no evidence of a mill or other building remains on the site.



Figure 152: Mill Creek Dam-Lower View.



Figure 153: Mill Creek Dam-Upper View.

6) Morris Cemetery
Tract No. 88-103

Morris Cemetery is a small family cemetery located at the edge of a pasture north of the Buffalo River approximately three miles southwest of the Mt. Hersey community. A wood and metal post and barbed wire fence surrounds the cemetery and has a metal gate. The cemetery consists of approximately eighteen graves, only four of which have legible headstones. Some graves have fieldstone markers. The four marked graves date to 1878, 1888, 1899, and 1916. They represent members of the Morris, Maberry, and Carver families. The stones are all tablet designs and have common motifs such as flowers, clasped hands, and a lamb. The 1899 stone of the infant son of JDC & MS Morris has been repaired.

The cemetery is not maintained and is heavily overgrown with a number of mature trees and saplings. A thick layer of leaves, briars,

and brambles cover the ground making it difficult to detect the number and location of the graves. Some trees have fallen down within the cemetery. The number and location of graves will become more apparent if the cemetery is cleaned and cleared. Mr. Charles Wallian, who farms the property, believes that there are more graves located outside the fence line. None are readily visible, but neither are the graves inside the fence line.



Figure 154:
General View of Morris
Cemetery

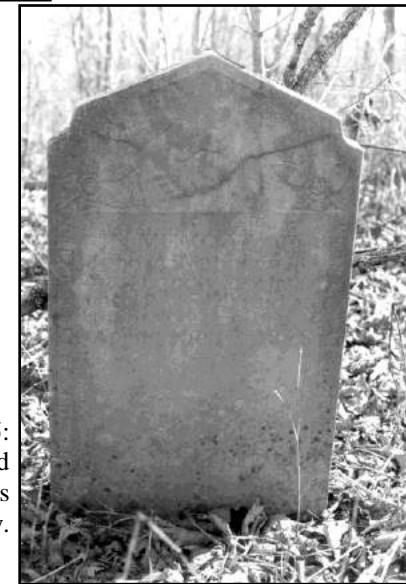


Figure 155:
One of four marked
stones in the Morris
Cemetery.

7) Sullivan Cemetery

Tract No. 60-101

Sullivan Cemetery is located approximately one mile south of the Mt. Hersey community and 1000 feet east of the Buffalo River. The cemetery contains a large number of graves (30-40), the vast majority of which are marked with fieldstones or illegible markers. A number of depressions are unmarked. There are several (15+) large trees within the graveyard and a number of saplings. Two large piles of stone and one small pile are near the front of the graveyard. Another pile of stone is near the Stickney grave. The cemetery sits in a wooded area. A road veers off the main road leading to the Sharp tract and ends at the cemetery. A wooden fence constructed in recent years encloses the cemetery.

There are six legible stones in the cemetery. The oldest of these is that of Jack Hamilton, who died June 14, 1896. His stone is a simple tablet design. Other legible stones are: 1) Joseph Hollis Stickney (1871-1942), a large cut stone body slab that covers entire grave; 2) Lucy G. (1883-1954) and James I. Gentry (1875-1940), a modern granite stone (The Gentry grave is enclosed within a modern chain link fence, and within the fence are five fieldstones. These are possibly the head and footstones of at least two additional graves.); 3) Arthur E. Hinsley (1894-1896), tablet design; 4) Ruby Hinsley (infant, 1906), tablet design; and 5) infant son of C.B. & D.L. Dickey (1909), tablet design. Another grave is marked with a metal marker with a paper insert on which the writing has faded.



Figure 156: A general view of the Sullivan Cemetery.



Figure 157: Family plot in the Sullivan Cemetery.

D. REDDELL-HENSLEY

The Reddell-Hensley Area is located approximately two miles southeast of Mt. Hersey south of a wide bend in the Buffalo River just east of the Newton-Searcy County line. This area is not particularly associated with any one community but was associated with the Reddell and Hensley families and consists of two house sites and a family cemetery. These sites are located along a thickly wooded hillside and are accessed by a primitive gravel road.

None of the three properties documented in this area meet National Register criteria. The two house sites surveyed have moderate to minimal above ground remains and both are heavily overgrown and no longer retain a strong sense of time and place. The Hensley Cemetery is a small family cemetery and all original headstones in the cemetery have been replaced with modern versions. The cemetery does not possess sufficient design or landscape features to qualify for the National Register. A description of the three properties inventoried in this area are as follows:

1) House Site

Tract No. 59-104

There are no distinct foundations on this property, which is located on a hillside southwest of the Buffalo River near the Hensley Cemetery. A rugged primitive road leads to the site, which is in a wooded area. About 100 feet south of the road are two piles of uncut stone approximately 30 feet apart. These piles are in an area that is largely overgrown with new growth trees. On the north side of the road are a number of yucca and daffodil plants. There are no discernible foundations here, but there are some piles and scatter of stone. What appears to be a flowerbed lines with stone lied perpendicular to the road and measures about 15' x 2'. Inside the rectangle are yucca and daffodil plants. Also in this area is a large

pile of stone that appears to be where the land was bulldozed. Adjacent to the road are cut stones in a loose formation roughly 10' x 4'.

2) House Site - John Reddell Property

Tract No. 59-101

This tract originally contained a 1934 dwelling and barn, a concrete block well house and a storage shed. A portion of the dwelling's chimney and remnants of its foundation remain. The remains of the cut stone chimney stand approximately 7 feet high. Cut stone is scattered throughout the area and a rough rectangular outline of stone piers reveals the outline of the foundation. The area is heavily overgrown but a few daffodils are visible on the east side of the house site. Approximately 35 feet west of the chimney is a well. The well is rock lined and appears to be about 40 feet deep. Above ground, the well has square concrete and pebble walls that are 2 ½ feet in height. The well is uncapped. Approximately 20 feet west of the well are two stone piers and some rotted boards. The boards lie parallel to one another and are just 2 feet apart. They rest in a small depression in the earth. The stone piers are centered between the boards at either end. The road leading to the site is another 10 feet to the west.

Approximately 200 feet south of the chimney, a driveway leads east from the main road to the property. In this area is a scattering of metal debris including a washtub and a portion of an old car body. The drive fades into a footpath and leads to a ravine across which is a dry stack stone wall that is 3 to 4 feet in height and 75 to 100 feet in length. The wall has partially collapsed in the center.



Figure 158: Dry Stack Stone Retaining Wall at John Reddell Property on Tract 59-101.

3) Hensley Cemetery Tract No. 59-104

This is a small family cemetery located near a house site that was most likely associated with the Hensley family. The cemetery is positioned at the end of a road within a wooded area. It is rectangular in form, measures approximately 30' x 12', and has a metal post and barbed wire fence surrounding its borders. There are six graves in the cemetery that date between 1913 and 1936. Those interred are Lemuel P., Porter, Brooks, Margaret E., and Benjamin F. Hensley, and Nellie Smith. All six headstones are identical and are modern block granite stones with a floral design in the upper corners. The stones are set in concrete bases and have smooth tops and rock-faced sides. Original fieldstones remain as footstones.



Figure 159: All of the markers in the Hensley Cemetery are identical in design.

E. WOOLUM/RICHLAND VALLEY

The Woolum/Richland Valley is the area extending approximately four miles southward from the Buffalo River along Richland Creek. Where the creek meets the river is known as Woolum, and Richland Valley extends to the south and varies from one-quarter to one-half a mile in width. The large valley is situated between two large forested ridges with elevations rising to 1400 feet on Point Peter Mountain to the east, and 2600 feet on Horn Mountain to the west. The creek hugs the eastern ridgeline with large open fields appearing west of the creek. A gravel road (County Road 24) extends north-south west of the fields along the base of the other ridgeline. Toward the end of that portion of the valley that lies within Buffalo National River, Richland Creek meanders across the fields and continues southward

hugging the western ridgeline. Richland Valley is difficult to access. The original ford where County Road 14 crossed the creek is now blocked and the newer ford just south of the original is passable only by a large 4-wheel drive vehicle under good conditions. Forging the Buffalo River at Woolum is also problematic depending on the water levels.

Richland Valley contained some of the better farmland along the Buffalo River watershed and attracted early settlers. Substantial farms developed in this area in the nineteenth century with cotton being the primary cash crop following the Civil War. The valley also provided one of the few passable north-south routes through the mountains. Both Union and Southern troops traveled through the valley during the Civil War and several small skirmishes between the two took place here. Around the turn of the twentieth century, Richland Valley was at its peak with the production of cotton, corn, and other crops. Numerous farms were sprinkled along the valley, and it contained at least two schools, a post office, store, and grist mill. Hall Lodge was a large two-story building located at the base of the eastern ridgeline near what is now the southern boundary of the Buffalo National River and served as a school, church, and Masonic lodge for the community. Another school was located near Point Peter. Tom Baker operated a large cotton gin on his property approximately two miles south of the Buffalo River. The mill remained in operation until Baker's death ca. 1904.⁴⁷⁹

⁴⁷⁹ "Our Trip To Richland [1904] A Country Flowing With Milk and Hone, Flitter Trees and Fountains of Youth," Mountain Wave 10 December 1904, reprinted in James Johnston's *Shootin's, Obituaries, Politics; Emigratin', Socializin', Commercializin, and The Press, News Items from and about Searcy County, Arkansas 1866-1901*. (Fayetteville, AR: James J. Johnston, 1991), 14-15. Buffalo National River vertical files on Woolum and Richland Valley..

At the head of the valley north of the Buffalo River, lay the community of Woolum, which had developed around the river crossing into the valley. Accounts of Woolum portray it as a bustling area of commerce and transport with a rather notorious reputation for gambling and fighting. Around the turn of the century the community had a cotton gin, grist mill, saw mill, stave mill, post office, a saloon, and at least one general store. Area residents would come to Woolum to process their grain and ship products down the river.⁴⁸⁰

By the mid-twentieth century, however, the communities of Woolum and Richland Valley had begun to fade. Decades of cotton production had depleted the valley's soil and the region's timber, another big cash crop in the valley, had been logged out. The cotton gins, grist mills, and sawmills fell silent and the stores were abandoned by the 1940s. During this same decade schools in the valley closed their doors as area schools were consolidated. Families moved out to seek a better living and to move closer to area schools.⁴⁸¹ By the mid-1960s Richland Valley was a ghost of its former self with numerous abandoned homes up and down the valley. Only one landowner, Lunceford Cash, remained in the valley at the time the Buffalo National River was formed.

Today, little remains of the built environment of Woolum and Richland Valley. The Woolum area has been largely transformed to accommodate a primitive campground along the river. The only

⁴⁸⁰ Buffalo National River vertical files on Woolum and Richland Valley; Harrell, *History and Folklore of Searcy County, Arkansas*, 293-295.

⁴⁸¹ Jim Liles, "Special Places," *Ozarks Watch*, 9; Buffalo National River vertical files on Woolum and Richland Valley, especially see Ken Smith's notes.

notable above ground remains of the village are two cement and rock foundations that are situated behind a NPS privy. These foundations are believed to be what remains of the former cotton gin that existed in the community. A large barn and remnants of house sites also appear in the general vicinity of Woolum.

More physical evidence is found in Richland Valley, although it too is scarce. Here three house sites, one of which still retains standing ruins of a dwelling, reveal the past residential pattern and a few outbuildings also remain. Richland Valley does retain a high degree of its traditional agricultural landscape as the fields are maintained through easements with area farmers. Field patterns throughout the valley remain similar to those of the early nineteenth century and are currently used as pastures for grazing cattle.

National Register-Eligible Properties

Within the Woolum/Richland Area a total of four barns, six house sites, and six cemeteries were inventoried for this project. Only one of these properties was found to meet the criteria of the National Register. Hall Cemetery, a large community cemetery located approximately four miles south of Woolum contains a wide variety of headstones that are representative of the region including a large collection of “coffin-shaped” stones. These stones are representative of traditional mortuary art and Hall Cemetery meets the criteria of the National Register.

Hall Cemetery

Tract No. 55-105

Hall Cemetery is a large community cemetery with over 200 graves. There are 163 graves with legible markers and a great number of graves with illegible stones or unmarked fieldstones. There are a number of mature cedar trees within the cemetery, which is

contained within a metal post and wire fence and measures roughly 400 feet by 800 feet. The south end of the cemetery has a new wooden rail fence. At this end of the cemetery is a ca. 1990 pavilion with a poured concrete floor, and a gable metal roof supported by metal posts. The cemetery is located in Richland Valley approximately two miles north of the community of Eula along County Road 12. The cemetery is sited at the base of a wooded hill to the east. Cattle fields and Richland Creek lie to the west.

The earliest marked grave dates to 1846 and is that of Louisa Robertson (1812-1846). Her headstone is a simple tablet design and is inscribed “Gone but not forgotten.” Aside from this stone, the next earliest graves are those of Confederate soldiers who died in 1863. The original headstones for these graves have been replaced with new markers. The majority of marked graves date between 1880 and 1950, with the most burials taking place in the 1910s. Hall Cemetery remains active and the most recent burial took place in 2000. Families interred in the cemetery include the Cole, Robertson, Ruff, Gogin, Cash, McCutchen, Rea, Hensley, Hendrix, Baker, Franklin, Wyatt, and Wells families.



Figure 160: General view of Hall Cemetery.

There are a variety of headstones and markers in Hall Cemetery. Simple tablets are most common and decorative motifs include clasped hands, doves, bibles, finger pointing toward heaven, drapery, lambs, and the gates of heaven. There are also stones inscribed with the Masonic symbol. Hall Cemetery also contains two examples of tiered box vault graves, family plots, and individual stone-lined graves. The most distinct graves are four coffin graves, also known as body stones. This grave type features a coffin-shaped stone box atop a raised stone platform. Hall Cemetery contains both adult and child examples of this grave type. Two of the coffin graves are more stylized and have pented tops where the other two have flat tops.

Another interesting marker is that of Jimmie Baker. This grave is marked with a metal marker that is approximately three feet high and has a pointed arch top. The marker has a hinged door in the center with a finger pointing to heaven and inscribed "In God We Trust."

Above the door under the "gable" is a female relief flanked by sunburst patterns. The door opens and inside is a tablet with the deceased name, birth and death dates, and his parents' name. Water damage has caused the marker to rust and make most of the writing illegible, but a birth date of December 1894 can be discerned and the death date is also in the 1890s, although the last digit is illegible. Above the writing is an oval that contained a portrait. The outline of the figure is barely visible.



Figure 161: Coffin Grave at Hall Cemetery.



Figure 162: Child's Coffin Grave at Hall Cemetery.

Hall cemetery also contains the graves of at least three people who had been slaves. The graves of Newt Wyatt (1861-1914), his mother Thene Hensley (1843-1929), and Antney Hensley (d. 1914) have new brick-shaped stones and are each marked "Free Slave." No other cemeteries documented in the Buffalo National River have known graves of African Americans.

Hall Cemetery is one of the oldest and largest community cemeteries in the Buffalo River valley. The cemetery contains a variety of headstones that are representative of local folk mortuary traditions including excellent examples of coffin graves. The cemetery also contains the only positively identified African-American graves in the park boundaries. Hall Cemetery possesses historical significance as a representative community cemetery, has notable artistic merit and meets National Register criteria.



Figure 163: A late 19th century gravestone in Hall Cemetery

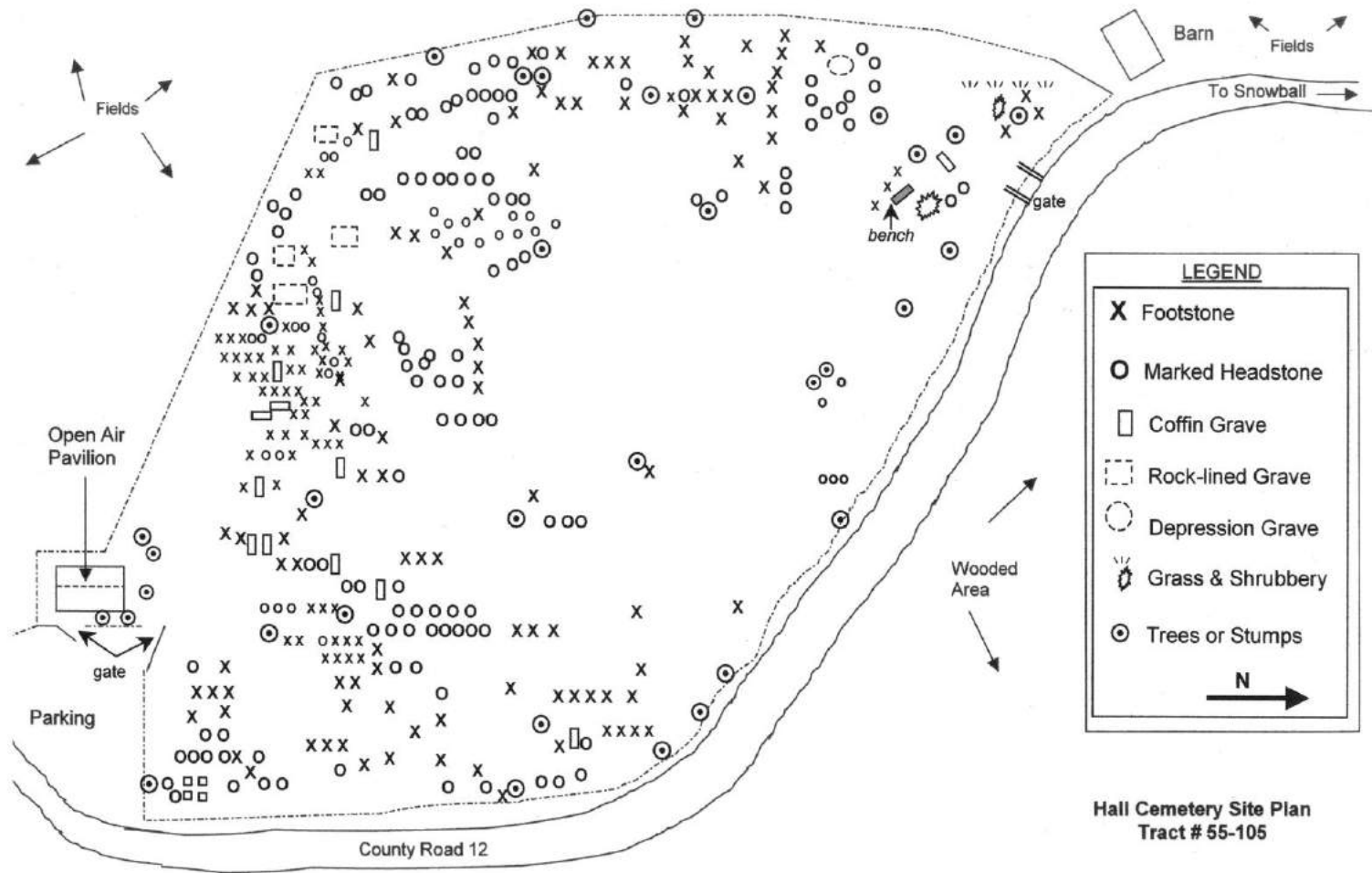


Figure 164: Site Plan of the Hall Cemetery



Figure 165: Metal marker with embossed detailing at Hall Cemetery.



Figure 166: A stone-lined grave at Hall Cemetery.

Ineligible Properties

None of the remaining properties documented in the Woolum/Richland Valley area were found to meet National Register criteria. The house sites, while demonstrative of the residential pattern of the area, retain an insufficient degree of physical material to thoroughly convey its history. The remaining outbuildings are common designs and forms of the period and do not possess any notable architectural significance. The remaining cemeteries do not possess notable design or landscape features or are known to have significant historical importance other than as common examples of graveyards in the region. Descriptions of the Woolum/Richland Valley properties found to be ineligible for the National Register follow:

1) Barn

Tract No. 52-119

This property is located just north of Woolum east of County Road 14. It contains a large frame, gable front barn built ca. 1930. The barn sits well off the road, between 300 and 400 feet and is surrounded by woods comprised mostly of new growth trees. A dry creek bed runs between the barn and the county road. The barn has a metal standing seam roof, a stone pier foundation, and a horizontal board exterior with vertical board in the upper loft area. There is a central drive-thru bay and shed roof wings on both side elevations. The interior has three or four stock pens on either side. The side wings have two stock pens each. The barn has a large loft area. A wood post and wire fence line runs behind the barn and opposite the fence is an old farm road.



Figure 167: The Barn on Tract No. 52-119.

2) Barn

Tract No. 01-117

This ca. 1940 frame barn has a gable metal roof and an exterior of vertical board siding. The barn has a central drive-thru bay and a lateral shed roof wing. It is located east of the road in a hayfield north of Slay Cemetery, which is south of the Buffalo River in the White Bluff Bend.

3) House Site

Tract No. 57-104

This property is located west of County Road 14 in the Woolum area. The site consists only of a stone well and the remains of a concrete root cellar, which sit in a small clearing adjacent to the road. Across the road are open fields.

4) Manes House Site

Tract No. 10-105

This site consists of the foundation remains of a 1930s dwelling. The site is approximately 50 feet west of the gravel road that leads off of County Road 13. A line of poured concrete over stone extends approximately 35 feet north-south, and remnants of the foundation also extend to the west of this line. The south and west lines of the foundation are not well defined. There is some scatter of stone, but nothing discernible. Poured concrete steps remain on the north and south ends of the foundations. Steps on the south end lead to a poured concrete walkway that is 2 feet wide and extends 8 feet. Within the center of the foundations is a large depression lined with cut stone. It is roughly 8' x 10' and about 4' deep. The walls have partially collapsed and the area has standing water in it. A tree has fallen over the top of this area, which was possibly a cellar. There is a scattering of brick at the northwest corner of the foundation.

A concrete block well/cistern is located on the northwestern corner of the foundations. The well sits on a concrete slab and is about 10 feet deep. It is uncapped. A fence line runs east-west about 15 feet north of the well and a number of daffodils are sprinkled along both sides of the fence. Another portion of an east-west fence line exists approximately 10 feet south of the house site. Daffodils also line this fence.

Outbuildings associated with this property were located across the road from the house site. There are no definable foundations or remains left in this area. There are some large stones that possibly were part of foundation piers and pieces of metal debris in the area.



Figure 168: Ruins at the Manes House Site on Tract No. 10-105.

5) Brewer House Site Tract No. 52-110

A two-story, frame dwelling was constructed on this site in 1887. The site also contained a frame garage and barn from the 1940s. The site is located north of the Buffalo River in a large bend east of Woolum approximately two miles. The house site sits in a cleared area within a wooded section east of a primitive gravel road that heads south toward the river. South of the house site within the bend of the river are large fields. Lawrence Cemetery is located southwest of the Brewer House Site on a wooded hillside at the edge of the field.

The Brewer House Site is east of the road that leads to the fields and is approximately 200 feet off the road. There are no discernible foundations; however there are three sets of steps that remain as well as a brick pile (possible chimney fall) and a well. Two sets of steps near the well are stone and poured concrete. Each has one long step and then a shorter second step. These set of steps are about ten feet apart. The well is located approximately 8 feet east of the southern most step. The well is circular and constructed of stone and poured concrete. It is currently filled with dirt. Two unhewn wood posts flank the well and support a third across the top.

The house site also has a stone pier that lies about six feet to the south of the front steps. Stone and brick scatter that are possibly the remains of a chimney fall lie about ten feet northeast of the front steps. A number of new growth trees and brush cover the area and what was a driveway is discernible and extends from the road to the site just south of the house site. The drive is covered with grass.

Portions of a wood post and wire fence run parallel to the road. About 200 feet south of the house site are the remnants of a wood rail gate and fence or possibly an animal pen. Adjacent to this is a stone stack mortared with concrete that stands about 2 ½ feet high and is approximately 3 ½ feet long. The stone stack is partially deteriorated. This perhaps was a gate that lead to the nearby fields.

In the Brewer field south of the house site are the ruins of a pole barn. Unhewn log posts support a standing seam metal roof. There is wire fencing around the bottom half of the posts. The barn is surrounded by a few trees and grass and sits in the middle of the field. A wood post and wire fence extends along the road leading from the house site to the field.



Figure 169: The remaining foundations of the Brewer House.

6) House Site

Tract No. 55-101

This site consists of a standing chimney and house foundations, a deteriorated barn, the remains of a log outbuilding, the remains of a frame outbuilding, a fence line, and a retaining pond. The site is located along a dirt road leading north/northwest off of County Road 12 approximately 0.75 mile east of Hall Cemetery. The road is no longer accessible by vehicle as the entrance to the road from County Road 12 has been bulldozed closed. The site is reached by hiking the road approximately 0.5 mile north of County Road 12. West of the road just north of County Road 12 are five stone foundation piers. The piers are around two feet tall and are about 15 feet apart. There is some metal debris in the area and two or three unhewn logs are on the ground. Possibly an outbuilding associated with the house site further north was located here.

A portion of a stone chimney and fireplace remain at the house site. The chimney is approximately 9 feet tall and sets on a stone foundation. A chimney fall lies directly to the north and extends several feet. A number of corrugated metal roof panels are in the immediate area. On the west side of the chimney, a small portion of a stone wall remains intact and is about 1 ½' tall and 4 ½' long. A portion of a stone foundation is visible on the west side of the house site. Another small portion of stone stack wall is directly north of the chimney about 30 feet. Ruins of an old metal stove are adjacent to the wall on the east, and an old metal sink lies southeast of the stove. A single stack of stones is to the west about two feet and stands about two feet high. The house site is roughly 30' x 50'. Directly west of the chimney is a large circular pit about 7-8 feet in diameter and 2-3 feet deep. A fence line runs north-south adjacent to the pit. Directly west of the pit on the other side of a small slope are the remains of what was probably a root cellar built into the hillside. The cellar measures approximately 14' x 15' and is constructed of dry stack stone walls. The rear or east wall is 3 feet deep and has a cement covering. The north and south walls taper down to ground level.

South of the house site and adjacent to the pond are the remains of a log outbuilding. Three or four logs remain intact, but the building is otherwise in ruins. Pieces of corrugated metal roof panels lie on top of the collapsed structure. It appears to have been a small rectangular form around 5' x 7' and had a stone pier foundation. Approximately three feet west of these ruins is a portion of unhewn wood post and wire fencing. Another 25 feet to the west down a slight slope are the ruins of a frame outbuilding. A line of stone about ten feet long marks the east foundation. All that remains of the building are a few sawn boards nailed together and a few pieces of metal roofing. A wood post and wire fence line runs west down the slope from the ruins' southwest corner. The area between the log and frame

outbuilding ruins has a scatter of debris – metal cans, glass bottles, machinery parts, tires, etc.



Figure 170: A portion of a chimney still stands at the house site on Tract 55-101.

West of the frame outbuilding ruins is a large pile of stone and what appears to be a small poured concrete slab or foundation. Possibly another small outbuilding was located here. The area is heavily covered with vegetation and fallen tree limbs.

Northeast of the house site approximately 30 yards are the ruins of a small frame barn or shed. It has a low pitch corrugated metal panel gable roof, a vertical board exterior, and a stone pier foundation. The building is divided into two pens. The north pen has some remaining six-light, one-over-one, and two-vertical light fixed windows. There is a central opening/entrance on the north elevation. The interior has some frame shelving remaining. Lots of brick is scattered over the dirt floor and the walls are horizontal boards. A pedestrian door leads

to the south pen. The south pen is open at the west elevation. Along the interior north wall is a wooden feed trough and wooden shelving is above this. The area is heavily littered with trash and debris – bottles, cans, gas cans, window frames, tires, bed frames, metal machinery pieces, a car hood, and an old metal round washing machine.



Figure 171: Ruins of a log outbuilding on Tract 55-101.

The road leading to this house site off of County Road 12 is approximately ten feet wide and has embankments up to four feet in height. The road is dirt and rock and is often covered in vegetation. The road fades as it approaches the house site and picks up again west of the house site, where it meets an NPS horse/hiking trail. As it leads to the hiking trail the road is less discernible, but can be detected. There is more growth and vegetation in this area and no embankments. Where the road connects with the trail is a portion of

a stone wall that is about two feet in height. The wall runs along the north side of the road for about fifty feet.

7) House Site

Tract No. 53-109

This house site is also located approximately one mile north of the house site on Tract No. 55-101. The dirt road becomes more of a footpath and turns slightly west from the 55-101 property before heading north again where it becomes a NPS horse trail. The house site is located east of the trail, which is lined with a wood post and wire fence. A vertical board gate in very poor condition opens to the site. A path from the gate leads to the house site, which is approximately 50 feet from the gate. The site consists of portions of a stone wall that are 3 to 4 feet in height. Segments of the wall appear in 10', 6', and 30' sections. The longer section of wall gradually diminishes in height. The foundation is roughly 24' x 42'. There is a lot of sawn lumber throughout the house site area. At the east end of the ruins is a portion of a frame wall remaining that has horizontal board siding with wood chinking, and corrugated metal roof panels. To the north of this is a square of stones that measure 4' x 4'. Within the house site are pieces of asphalt shingle, electrical wire, and a piece of masonite. A fence line runs east-west about 15 feet north of the house site.

Approximately 15 feet east of the house site is where an outbuilding once stood. There are no discernible foundations, but some collapsed stone piers, asphalt shingles, pieces of sawn lumber, and other debris in the area.

West of the trail leading to the house site are the ruins of a small log cabin or outbuilding. The building is in ruins with three walls and a portion of a fourth still standing about four feet high. The logs have V notching. No chinking material is visible, but there are some

horizontal wood pieces nailed to the exterior of the building. Nails are flat head metal style. The building has a stone pier foundation and the roof has collapsed. The main (south) elevation has a central entrance. The door is missing and only the frame remains. The building appears to have had a porch on this elevation. Stone piers sit about 8 feet from the façade wall and the area between is filled with rotting logs and wood. The building measures 13' x 14' and the porch extends an additional 8'. The building sits directly adjacent of the hiking trail, approximately seven feet west of the wood post and wire fence line that runs along the trail.

Southwest of the log building approximately 200 feet are the remains of an outbuilding or animal pen. Only the framing remains. It has unhewn wood posts that are connected with rough sawn boards. Posts are in the ground and there is no foundation or flooring. There are some unhewn log horizontal supports and the structure retains some exterior vertical board. There is no roofing. The structure is rectangular in shape and is roughly 15' x 10'. A north-south wood post and wire fence line separates the log building and the pen.



Figure 172: Log Cabin Ruins on Tract 53-109.

8) House Site

Tract No. 55-103

On this site are the ruins of a two-story, frame dwelling. The ruins are positioned west of the road about 100 feet. The house appears to date to ca. 1910 and has a stone pier foundation and an exterior of weatherboard siding. The roof is no longer intact. The dwelling had a central breezeway on the first floor and an exterior end cut stone chimney. Windows in the dwelling were one-over-one wood sash designs (frames remain, but panes are missing). Interior walls had horizontal boards. The interior floor has collapsed and caved inward. A wood post and wire fence surrounds the house and small yard. The house is difficult to detect even though it is close to the road due to the heavy foliage and growth. There appears to have been a porch on the main (east) elevation and remnants of vergeboard are located in this area. The house measures 40' 3" x 16' 5", and the dogtrot opening measures 7' 8". This appears to have been a substantial dwelling and was most likely associated with a prosperous farm in Richland Valley. The dwelling is now in ruins.



Figure173: The ruins of a two-story dwelling on Tract 55-103.

9) Barn Ruins

Tract No. 56-101

This site is located west of Richland Creek along what was County Road 14 and is now part of the Ozarks Highland Trail. This is a gravel road that is about 20 – 25 feet wide. Embankments range from one to three feet on the west side and are around one foot on the east side. East of the road are cattle fields and then Richland Creek. The east side of the road is lined with a wood post and wire fence. West of the road is dense woodlands.

Approximately 1.25 miles north of where County Road 14 crosses Richland Creek, the ruins of a ca. 1925 barn appear on the west side of the road. The barn has a corrugated metal panel gable roof and a vertical board exterior. The barn has a central drive-thru bay with two to three stalls on one side and one large stall on the other. The barn remains standing but is in very poor condition with portions of the walls and roof missing.

Approximately 200 feet south of the barn, also on the west side of the road, are five stone piers approximately six feet in height arranged in a rectangular pattern roughly 30' x 35'. The piers are of uncut stone, some have mortar and others are dry stack. These piers served as the foundation for a cotton gin.



Figure 174: The stone piers of a turn-of-the-century cotton gin.

Just south of the piers, again on the west side of the road, is a small outbuilding/storage shed. The building has a metal corrugated panel gable roof and vertical board walls supported by unhewn wood posts. The building measures approximately 15' x 30'. It is open on the east elevation, and two horizontal boards cover the bottom of this opening. The building sits off of the road about 100 feet in an overgrown field. Across the road is a large cow pasture. Near the road in the pasture is a frame animal feeding shed/pen. It is an open-air structure with a shed roof of corrugated metal panels supported by unhewn log posts. A wooden feeding trough is in the center.

10) Barns

Tract No. 55-105/102

Two ca. 1940 barns remain standing on these tracts adjacent to County Road 14 east of Richland Creek in the vicinity of Hall Cemetery. The barn on tract 55-105 sits directly north of Hall Cemetery. It has a gable corrugated metal roof, a horizontal board exterior, a central drive-thru bay with lateral shed roof wings, and a loft. The barn is in poor condition. A tree has fallen on the south wing and it has partially collapsed. North of this barn approximately 1200 feet on the opposite side of the road is a frame barn also in poor condition. This barn has a gable metal roof and a vertical board siding exterior. It has a central drive-thru with shed roof wings and is partially collapsed. A small feed shed with a metal roof and horizontal board siding stands approximately 100 feet south of the barn. It is near ruins.

11) Nars (Narrows) Cemetery

Tract No. 57-104

LCS ID: 061524

CEM-28

The Nars Cemetery is located at the northern end of Richland Valley east and south of the Buffalo River as it makes a wide bend before reaching Woolum. The cemetery is in a large fenced in area that measures approximately 220' x 195'. When the cemetery was documented in 1997, seventeen legibly marked graves were identified within the cemetery as well as sixteen graves marked only with fieldstones. The legible stones date between 1892 and 1967. The graves appear in small groups primarily in the western half of the large fenced in area. Two family plots are enclosed within smaller fences. Family names include Hurd, Hale, Akins, Hamilton, Hunter, Haddock, Gibbons, and Smith.

The cemetery is heavily overgrown with waist-deep weeds and at the time of survey only the western portion of the cemetery was accessible (where the majority of the graves are located). Stones are of common tablet designs and most are hidden in the thick vegetation.



Figure 175: General View of the Nars Cemetery.

12) Hamilton Cemetery
Tract No. 57-104

Hamilton Cemetery is a small cemetery located at the northern tip of Richland Valley just south of the Buffalo River below Woolum Ford. The cemetery is located in an open pasture and is enclosed with a new wood post and wood rail fence. There is only one legible headstone in the cemetery. It has two names inscribed on it Martha F. , Born Dec 18, 1867, Died Mar. 30, 1896, and Sarah E. The tablet is broken and the birth and death dates of Sarah remain unknown.

There are no visible last names on the stone. Two other graves in the cemetery are marked with fieldstones. No other graves were detected, although a descendant of the Hamilton family believes that there are five graves in the cemetery (one adult and four children). The cemetery has a thick ground cover of vinca, ivy, and other vegetation.



Figure 176: A general view of Hamilton Cemetery.



Figure 177: Broken Marker in the Hamilton Cemetery.

13) Slay Cemetery

Tract No. 01-127

LCS ID: 060453

Structure No.: CEM-3

This small cemetery contains twenty-five graves. Fourteen of these graves have legible headstones and the remainder are either marked with fieldstones or unmarked. The earliest marked stone is that of Major Moore, son of E.M. Moore, who died January 26, 1872 at the age of two. The latest burial was that of eighteen-year-old John Rufus Carter in May 1905. Other family names represented are Scott, Manes, Robertson, White, Jones, Slay, and Mitchell. All of the stones are tablet designs with either an arched or rectangular top. They display common details such as open bibles, doves, and clasped hands. Several stones are broken including those of Dulcina Robertson, Major Moore, and Mary Robertson. The stones of

Susanna White, Martha Slay, and Mary Jane Moore remain in one piece but are broken at the base and have fallen over.

Slay Cemetery is well maintained and is has been enclosed recently with a wood post and wood rail fence. The area surrounding the cemetery is overgrown with cane and woods.



Figure 178: General View of Slay Cemetery.

14) Lawrence Cemetery

Tract No. 52-110

LCS ID: 060452

Structure No.: CEM-2

Lawrence Cemetery is a sizeable community cemetery situated on a hill in a wooded area west of the road leading into the Brewer fields. The Brewer House Site is located approximately 1500 feet to the north on the opposite side of the road. A wood post and rail fence has

been erected around the perimeter of the cemetery in recent years. There are approximately sixty-five graves in the cemetery, most of which are marked only by fieldstones. Many of these graves are difficult to detect as it is not easy to distinguish between headstones and footstones.

There are eleven legible headstones in the cemetery that date from 1879 to 1905. These are typical tablet designs with common motifs such as a finger pointing to heaven, a dove, and clasped hands. Families represented are the Crow, Canon, Love, Clemons, Belcher, Hensley, Burns, and Quimby families. A stone simply marked Canon is broken and lying flat on the ground. The stone of Richard M. Clemons (d. 1879) is also broken. The marker for Tirzah Quimby (d. 1902) is a new replacement stone.



Figure 179: A general view of Lawrence Cemetery.

15) Christy Cemetery

Tract No. 57-104

LCS ID: 06451

Structure No. CEM-1

Christy Cemetery is located in a wooded area west of the Buffalo River approximately 1.5 miles east of Woolum. The cemetery is accessible only via the river. It contains fifty-seven graves, the majority of which are marked solely by fieldstones. There are seventeen legible headstones that date from 1897 to 1940. Families represented are Reed, Raferty, Hensley, Hamm, Brewer, and Dean. Most stones are tablet designs with common motifs such as bibles, flowers, fingers pointing to heaven, and clasped hands. There are also two examples of coffin graves, which are coffin-shaped stones atop a stone base. The two examples in Christie Cemetery are for a child and an infant. The child's grave is unmarked. The infant coffin gravestone is the oldest marked grave in the cemetery and is that of Wesley Hensley (February 23, 1880 – January 1, 1881). These stones are basic versions of the coffin style and each has accompanying head and footstones.

The cemetery is surrounded by a wood and metal post and wire fence. A sign at the entrance reads "Christy Cemetery." The cemetery is becoming overgrown with tall grass and weeds.



Figure 180: A general view of Christy Cemetery



Figure 181: The grave of an infant in Christy Cemetery.

TABLE 11: CENTRAL AREA PROPERTIES

	Property Name	Quad	Tract Number	Sub-Area	National Register-Listed	National Register-Eligible	LCS #	Structre #
1	Collins Cemetery	Hasty	85-100	Hasty	No	YES	061520	CEM-25
2	Deffenbough Cemetery	Hasty		Hasty	No	No	N/A	N/A
3	House Site	Mt. Judea	87-112	Carver	No	No	N/A	N/A
4	Carver Cemetery	Mt. Judea	87-111	Carver	No	No	N/A	N/A
5	Earl Eddings Property	Mt. Judea	86-105	Carver	No	No	N/A	N/A
6	Walter Eddings Property	Mt. Judea	87-106	Carver	No	No	N/A	N/A
7	Morris Cemetery	Eula	88-103	Carver-Mt. Hersey	No	No	N/A	N/A
8	Mays Property	Western Grove	91-107	Mt. Hersey	No	No	N/A	N/A
9	Joe Wages Property	Western Grove	91-106	Mt. Hersey	No	No	N/A	N/A
10	House Site	Western Grove	91-115	Mt. Hersey	No	No	N/A	N/A
11	Dam	Western Grove	?	Mt. Hersey	No	No	N/A	N/A
12	House Site	Eula	60-100	Mt. Hersey	No	No	N/A	N/A
13	Sullivan Cemetery	Eula	60-101	Mt. Hersey	No	No	N/A	N/A
14	Hensley Cemetery	Eula	59-104	Reddell-Hensley	No	No	061523	CEM-27
15	House Site	Eula	59-104	Redell-Hensley	No	No	N/A	N/A
16	John Reddell Property	Eula	59-101	Redell-Hensley	No	No	N/A	N/A
17	House Site	Eula	57-104	Woolum/Richland	No	No	N/A	N/A
18	Barn	Snowball	52-119	Woolum/Richland	No	No	N/A	N/A
19	Manes Property	Snowball	10-105	Woolum/Richland	No	No	N/A	N/A
20	Barn	Snowball	01-117	Woolum/Richland	No	No	N/A	N/A
21	Slay Cemetery	Snowball	01-127	Woolum/Richland	No	No	060453	CEM-3
22	Lawrence Cemetery	Snowball	52-110	Woolum/Richland	No	No	060452	CEM-2
23	Brewer House Site	Snowball	52-110	Woolum/Richland	No	No	N/A	N/A

	Property Name	Quad	Tract Number	Sub-Area	National Register-Listed	National Register-Eligible	LCS #	Structre #
24	Chrisite Cemetery	Snowball		Woolum/Richland	No	No	06451	CEM-1
25	House Site	Eula	55-101	Woolum/Richland	No	No	N/A	N/A
26	Log Cabin/House Site	Eula	53-109	Woolum/Richland	No	No	N/A	N/A
27	Hall Cemetery	Eula	55-105	Woolum/Richland	No	YES	N/A	N/A
28	Barns	Eula	55-105/55-102	Woolum/Richland	No	No	N/A	N/A
29	Nars Cemetery	Eula	57-104	Woolum/Richland	No	No	061524	CEM-28
30	Hamilton Cemetery	Eula		Woolum/Richland	No	No	N/A	N/A
31	Barn Ruins/gin site	Eula	56-101	Woolum/Richland	No	No	N/A	N/A
32	House Ruins	Eula	55-103	Woolum/Richland	No	No	N/A	N/A

THREE BEND AREA

The Three Bend section includes properties within three large bends of the Buffalo River west of Highway 65 – Cash Bend, Arnold Bend, and Tyler Bend. These three bends reflect the names of long-time residents in the area, many of whom were early settlers. The wide bends in the river provided large areas of tillable land and supported prosperous farms. In each of the bends a sizeable portion of open bottomland extends southward from the river and homes were typically built toward the edge of the field against the base of the wooded hills that rise to the south. Calf Creek extends south from the Buffalo River between Arnold and Tyler Bends and creates a small valley through the hillsides. The area is accessed by traveling northward from the community of Snowball on County Road 252 and then turning northeastward on County Road 241. This is a one-lane, gravel road that curves up the ridgeline and then splits to turn to either Cash Bend to the west or Arnold Bend to the east. In the Arnold Bend area the road has recently been improved with grading and added gravel. The road continues eastward hugging the wooded hill until it reaches Calf Creek. This area may also be accessed coming down a gravel road that turns southwest off of the paved access road to the Tyler Bend visitor center. This gravel road meanders through the woods until it reaches Calf Creek, which is fordable at times.

The wide bends in this section of the Buffalo River historically have provided residents with rich farmland. Unlike much of the surrounding area, the fertile bottomlands here provided abundant tillable soil, and the area drew many of the first settlers to the region. The Williams, Arnold, and Tyler families were among the first to purchase land in this area when it became available, and they developed some of the areas more prosperous farms. This section of the Buffalo National River also contains the site of Grinder's Ferry, which operated across the river during the late nineteenth and early

twentieth centuries where Highway 65 crosses the water today. The ferry was an important transportation center for area residents who otherwise would have to travel miles to ford the river.

The Three Bend area varies widely in its retention of the traditional landscape. In Cash Bend, this rather isolated area has retained much of its historic agricultural appearance. The primary dwelling on this property, the Mollie and Valentine Williams House, remains extant and the fields are maintained as pasture. In Arnold Bend, two dwellings associated with the Arnold family remain standing, but are in near ruinous condition. The fields in this area are largely overgrown do not readily reflect their historic character. Two cemeteries are also located in this vicinity. One has a limited number of legible headstones and the other has various common designs of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with a few examples of tiered vault graves and coffin gravestones. In Tyler Bend much of the historic landscape has been lost to the development of the NPS Tyler Bend visitor center and picnic area which was built in the late twentieth century. However, just off the road leading to the visitor center is the Sod Collier Homestead, a ca. 1932 farmstead consisting of a dwelling and associated outbuildings which retain a high degree of their historic character.

National Register-Eligible Properties

Three properties within this section meet National Register criteria. These properties are: the Sod Collier Homestead, Brown School, and the Valentine Williams House. The Sod Collier Homestead includes a ca. 1932 log dwelling and associated outbuildings that retain a high degree of their original design, form, and materials. The homestead was established in the early 1930s and reflects the agricultural traditions and continued settlement of the Buffalo River valley into the twentieth century. An official Determination of Eligibility was

completed for the Sod Collier Homestead in 1990 and the property is considered eligible for the National Register.

Brown School was built ca. 1915 along Calf Creek to serve the youth of the surrounding area. Although in poor condition, the frame structure retains its original form and is reflective of the development of education in the Buffalo River valley. Brown School is one of the few remaining early twentieth century school buildings in the Buffalo River area and meets the registration requirements of the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940" completed in 1992.

The ca. 1866 Valentine and Mollie Williams House is one of the oldest extant frame dwellings in the boundaries of the Buffalo National River. Its large size and distinctive form make it a unique example of domestic architecture in the region for the period and reflect the prosperity of those who lived in the area. Its owners, Mollie and Valentine Williams, were prominent citizens who were leaders of the surrounding community, and Mollie authored a book about life along the Buffalo River during the Civil War. After standing vacant for many years, the Williams House has suffered from deterioration, but it remains remarkably intact given its age and use. It retains an ample degree of integrity of form, design, and materials, and the surrounding setting continues to reflect its nineteenth and early twentieth century character.

Detailed descriptions of the three properties in the Tyler Bend area that meet National Register criteria follow:

1) Sod Collier Homestead
Tract No. 05-101
LCS ID/Structure No:
House – 060630/B3-09H
Barn – 060631/B3-11H

Smokehouse – 060632/B3-10H
Well/Cistern – 060633/B3-12H

The Collier family immigrated to the Buffalo River valley in the late 1920s and homesteaded forty-acres in the Tyler Bend area in the early 1930s. The Colliers were one of the last homestead patents made in the region, and their surviving homestead serves as an excellent example of the development of the area under the Homestead Act of 1862.

The Collier Homestead consists of a dwelling, well, smokehouse, and barn. The Collier House is a ca. 1932 log dwelling originally built in a dogtrot plan. The dogtrot was later enclosed with sawn horizontal boards. The house has a gable roof of corrugated metal panels, a stone foundation, a central interior stone chimney, and an exterior of hewn logs with square notching. Weatherboard siding is in the gable fields. On the main (east) façade is a full-width shed roof porch with square wood posts and wood floor. A small portion of the porch at the northern end has been enclosed and served as a kitchen area. The enclosure has an exterior of weatherboard on the east elevation, horizontal boards on the south elevation, and vertical boards on the north elevation. The dwelling's south pen has a four-panel wood door. No other doors or windows in the dwelling remain extant. The interior of the Collier House has original wood floors and ceilings and horizontal board battens over the log walls. The south pen has a large stone fireplace/hearth. The back of the large stone chimney is in the enclosed dogtrot breezeway. This area was used as a pantry and contains wooden shelving adjacent to the chimney.

At the northeast corner of the dwelling is a stone well or cistern with concrete mortar. The well is circular and stands about three feet above grade. It is topped with a square stone slab with a central circular opening. This opening has been capped with a metal device. Two unhewn wood posts frame the well.



Figure 182: The Collier House was built in a double-pen plan.

Southeast of the dwelling is a ca. 1932 log smokehouse with a gable front roof of corrugated metal panels, a stone pier foundation, and an exterior of hewn square notched logs. There is no chinking material between the logs. The building has a central entrance on the west elevation. A portion of a vertical board door remains at the entrance. The interior of the building has a wood plank floor, and there are horizontal wood battens on the log walls.



Figure 183: The log smokehouse on the Collier Homestead.

A large yard surrounds the Collier House, smokehouse and well. A wooden picket fence with unhewn wood posts encloses the yard. Portions of the fence were rebuilt by the NPS ca. 1980 using handhewn materials.

A driveway lies south of the dwelling and extends westward approximately 300 feet to a small log barn. The barn is of log construction and dates to the 1930s. Logs are unhewn and have saddlebag notching and are spaced widely apart to allow for ventilation. A small portion of a vertical board door remains. The barn has a stone pier foundation and has no interior flooring. The structure has been stabilized in recent years with added frame supports on the walls and a central interior wood post. Remnants of wood fencing are in front (east) of the building.

The Collier Homestead is representative of the continuing settlement of the Buffalo River valley into the early twentieth century. The Collier Homestead was developed under the provisions of the Homestead Act of 1862 and demonstrates the rural lifestyle common to the region. The dwelling and outbuildings remain in good condition and are largely unaltered from their early twentieth century construction. The Collier Homestead was determined eligible for the National Register in June of 1990.

2) Mollie and Valentine Williams House

Tract 02-102

LCS ID: 60574

Structure No.: B3-112-H

This property is located in the Cash Bend area of the Buffalo River and contains two dwellings. The first is the Valentine Williams House which is a two-story, frame, double-pen dwelling built ca. 1866. The dwelling has a hipped roof of metal standing seam, a central interior stone chimney, a stone pier foundation, and an exterior of weatherboard siding. On the main (east) façade is a hipped roof, partial-width porch with square wood posts. The porch posts are of recent decades and added to support the porch roof. The central entrance on the main façade has an original, four-panel wood door. Window openings are rectangular in form and have wire mesh screens. The dwelling had a rear T wing that was a later addition and has been removed. The foundation stones of the rear wing remain and are scattered throughout the area. The interior of the dwelling has wood floors, horizontal board walls, and two stone fireplaces, one in each room, from the central chimney.

At the northeast corner of the house is what appears to have been the well. A newly constructed square wood frame has a hole filled with dirt and has a corrugated metal roof over it. A wood post and wire fence line runs behind the house and encloses a small yard or garden

area. Outside the fence's northwest corner are four or five fallen wood posts and one large post with remnants of horizontal wood boards. West of the fence line about fifty feet is a wire post and wire fence. Between the two fences is an overgrown yard and west of the wire fence is a field. In the field is a pile of boards that possibly are the remains of a small outbuilding.



Figure 184: The Mollie and Valentine Williams House.

Also on this property is a one- and one-half story dwelling that is believed to have been constructed ca. 1900 by A. G. Smith, who owned the property following the Williams family. This house is in ruins and would be considered a non-contributing element to the National Register property. Most of the roof is gone and the entire rear of the dwelling has caved in. The house has a stone pier foundation, a weatherboard exterior, an exterior end stone chimney, and a gable metal standing seam roof. Doors and windows are not

extant in the dwelling and a number of boards from the siding have fallen off. The house originally had a full-width incised porch on the main (east) façade. This porch is no longer extant. To the rear of the house is a well that sits on a stone slab and has square concrete walls. The well rises above the ground about 3' 6" and extends approximately 20' deep and is lined with concrete. The well is uncapped.



Figure 185: Rear and Side façades of the Williams House Site.

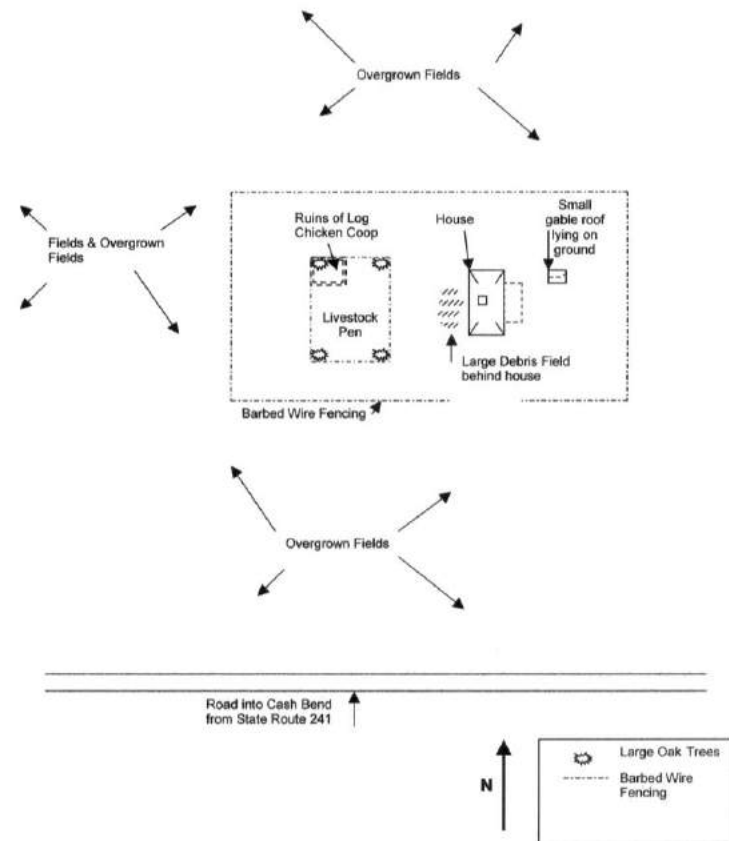


Figure 186: Williams House Site Plan.



Figure 187: Fields around the Williams House.



Figure 188: Fields around the Williams House.

About two feet from the well's northwest corner is a stone enclosure in the ground that measures roughly 1' 6" x 2' 6". It is about 1' 6" deep. The ruins of a barn lie west of the road leading to this second dwelling. Only a portion of a gable metal standing seam roof and a few boards remain.



Figure 189: The A.G. Smith House is in ruins.

The Williams family was among the earliest settlers in this area of the Buffalo River. Ambrose Williams homesteaded forty acres in the Cash Bend area by 1850, and added an additional eighty acres in 1852. Ambrose died while his son Valentine was away fighting for the Confederacy during the Civil War. Upon Valentine's return, he assumed management of the family farm and constructed the large two-story dwelling to replace the original homestead cabin on the property. The size and scale of the dwelling remain impressive today and most certainly would have been one of the more grand and notable dwellings in the area during the late nineteenth century. It reflects the prosperity of the Williams farm, especially following the

aftermath of the Civil War. In her memoir of the Civil War, Mollie Williams refers to her house on the Buffalo River as a “beautiful and prosperous home.” The Williams family continued to add to their acreage and became leading citizens in the Buffalo River valley. Valentine, or Vol as he was known, served as county surveyor, was builder of the county courthouse, owner of a local hotel, and was a chief investor in area zinc mines. Mollie made a name in her own right by authoring an autobiographical book on the Civil War. They continued to own the farm in Cash Bend until 1892.



Figure 190: The A.G. Smith House rear façade.

The NPS initiated a National Register nomination for the Williams House in 1995, but due to budget restraints it never got beyond a draft form. Although it continues to deteriorate, the dwelling maintains its historic form and character. A representative example of a double-pen dwelling, it is significant for its integrity, as well as,

its importance as a rare dwelling of this size and scale in the Buffalo River region. The surrounding landscape retains much of its late nineteenth century character as large open fields surround much of the house and provide a sweeping view of the river bend. The Mollie and Valentine Williams House meets National Register criteria for its significance in architecture, local history, and agriculture.

3) Brown School

Tract No. 04-101

Brown School is a one-story, frame, one-room schoolhouse constructed ca. 1915. The building has a gable corrugated metal panel roof and an exterior of weatherboard siding. At the roofline are the remains of a small frame belfry for a school bell. Two entrances are located on the gable end and each of the two side elevations has two window openings. The building no longer retains doors or windows. A flood in 1982 moved the building off of its original rock pier foundation and turned the building approximately 90° until it wedged against a tree. The building is in poor condition. The interior retains original horizontal board walls and tongue-and-groove wood flooring. However, much of the ceiling has caved in and the wood floor has severely deteriorated and buckled. Brick and other debris are scattered about the floor.

Portions of a wood post and rail fence and a wood post and wire fence run adjacent to the building and served as an animal corral. The school is situated at the edge of a wooded area with adjacent fields. Calf Creek is located opposite the adjacent field to the east.

Brown School was built ca. 1915 and served school district No. 4 in Searcy County. This district appears on tax assessment records in 1882, and a school was possibly at this location as early as 1876. Elisha Brown donated the land for the school and the schools at this location have since been known as Brown or “Pap Brown” school.

Although the building suffers from deterioration, Brown School remains as a testament to the development of education in the rural region of the Buffalo River. It is one of only a few remaining school buildings in the region and meets the registration requirements set forth in the Multiple Property Nomination Form, “Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940.”

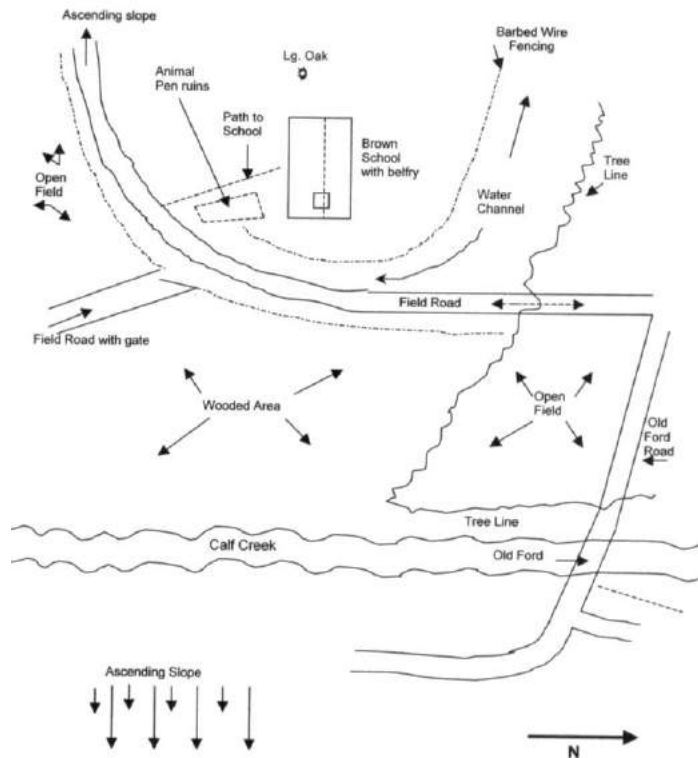


Figure 191: Site Plan for the Brown School.



Figure 192: Main façade of Brown School.



Figure 193: A side elevation of Brown School.

Ineligible Properties

The remaining properties documented in the Three Bend area do not meet National Register criteria. The two dwellings associated with the Arnold family are in very poor condition and are near ruins. These dwellings, while representative of the history and development of the area, do not possess sufficient integrity of design and materials to meet National Register criteria. Their settings are also fading as associated fields are reverting back to natural vegetation. Overall, there is insufficient integrity remaining to qualify these properties for the National Register. Other dwellings recorded in this section are also in ruinous condition. One dwelling, that along Highway 65 in the Silver Hill area, remains intact. Built ca. 1945, the dwelling is a common basic rectangular plan dwelling of the mid-twentieth century with a stone veneer exterior.

The site of Grinder's Ferry retains some residual evidence of the ferry crossing, but the land in this area has largely been altered through the construction of the original bridge over Highway 65 in the 1920s, its replacement built in the 1980s, and the subsequent realignments of the road. The three cemeteries documented in this section of the park are common examples of graveyards of the period with no distinctive design or landscape features. The Arnold Cemetery does have a few examples of coffin shaped gravestones and tiered box vault graves, but superior examples exist elsewhere in the park that better reflect these regional mortuary traditions

1) Old Arnold Double Door House

Tract 04-104
LCS ID: 060603
Structure No. A8

This dwelling is known as the double door house and is a frame, one-story dwelling built ca. 1900. It has a board and batten exterior, a

corrugated metal gable roof, and a stone pier foundation. The dwelling is divided into two rooms and has two parallel entrances on both the front and rear elevations. The house is very deteriorated.



Figure 194: The Arnold Double Door House.

2) Luther Arnold House

Tract 04-104
LCS ID: 060565
Structure No.: B3-14H

This dwelling is located south of the road that extends along the base of the hillside in the Arnold Bend area. The house is a one-story, frame dwelling constructed ca. 1910 and has a gable roof of corrugated metal panels, a stone pier foundation, an interior stone chimney, and an exterior of shiplap siding. The house has a central entrance on the main façade. On the rear elevation is an original T wing. On the west elevation of this wing is a shed roof porch, a

portion of which is enclosed. The interior of the dwelling has wood floors and horizontal board walls.

To the east and rear of the dwelling is a frame chicken coop with weatherboard and vertical board siding, wood post piers and stone foundation, and a corrugated metal shed roof. Across the road from the dwelling is a small pole barn with a corrugated metal panel roof and exterior. The building is open at either end with the elevation closest to the road having two unhewn wood rails across it.



Figure 195: The Luther Arnold House-main facade.



Figure 196: The Luther Arnold House-rear façade.

3) Dwelling Ruins

Tract No. 04-103

This dwelling is located south of the road leading west toward Calf Creek off of County Road 241. The site is approximately one half mile east of Brown School on the east side of the creek. The dwelling is a one-story frame building built ca. 1920. It has a hipped roof of metal standing seam, a stone pier foundation and an exterior of board and batten. The building is in ruins. Most doors and windows are missing and portions of walls have collapsed. The interior has a wood floor and vertical board walls and ceiling. The dwelling originally had a partial-width shed roof porch on the main (north) elevation. The porch floor is no longer intact. The dwelling is surrounded by woods and is situated adjacent to a small stream.

4) Dwelling
Tract No. 06-125

This dwelling is located on Highway 65 in the Silver Hill area near the entrance to the Tyler Bend Visitor's Center. The dwelling is a one-story, rectangular plan dwelling constructed ca. 1945. It has a gable asphalt shingle roof and an exterior of stone veneer. On the main (east) façade is a central entrance over which is a gable canopy supported by wood brackets. The entrance opens to a small concrete stoop. Windows in the dwelling are original six-over-six wood sash. The dwelling has a lateral gable roof wing on the south elevation and a hipped roof wing on the north elevation. The rear or west elevation has an enclosed shed roof porch. In front of the house is a short stone wall that extends approximately 250 feet. The fence has a central opening that opens to a stone walkway that leads to the dwelling's main entrance. South of the dwelling is a gravel driveway which extends west off of Highway 65 and leads to a garage, which is positioned to the rear (southwest) of the dwelling.

The garage was built ca. 1945 with a gable asphalt shingle roof and an exterior of weatherboard siding. On the main (south) elevation are paired vertical board doors. On the east elevation is a vertical board pedestrian door. The garage has six-light frame and glass windows that are hinged at the top. On the rear elevation is a small ca. 1980 frame, gable roof wing with an exterior of vertical board siding. The dwelling is currently being used to house park personnel.



Figure 197: Dwelling on Tract No. 06-125-main façade.



Figure 198: Garage on Tract No. 06-125.

5) Grinder's Ferry
Highway 65

A ferry was in operation at this location from ca. 1875 to 1929. At first a flatboat was used and then the owners developed a cable and pulley system to propel the ferry back and forth across the water. The cable was fastened to a tree on one side of the river and an anchor was used on the opposite bank to hold it in place.

Currently on the north side of the river one can detect what appears to be an old roadbed/approach to the river which winds down the slope to the river bank. The area is thick with tree growth and is difficult to detect. On the south side of the river is a large sand bank and brush. The landscape here has changed and there are no discernible features of the ferry landing.



Figure 199: The north bank of the Buffalo River at the Grinder's Ferry location.

6) Old Arnold Cemetery
Tract No. 04-104
LCS ID: 060454
Structure No.: CEM-4

This cemetery is located in Arnold Bend where the Arnold family lived during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This cemetery is located near the ruins of two dwellings associated with the Arnold family. Little is known about the cemetery or the identity of those interred. Only three legible headstones are in the cemetery. These three stones are for members of the Love family and date to 1884, 1887 and 1901. An earlier survey of this cemetery also lists two additional graves within the cemetery boundaries (representing the Bages and Same family), one of which dates to 1868, and an additional grave located outside the cemetery that dates to 1857 (Lee Ann Mays Cash). However, none of these stones were found during this survey.

The exact number of graves in the cemetery is difficult to determine as most of the fieldstone markers have deteriorated and other graves appear to be unmarked. It is estimated that there are at least thirty-five graves in the cemetery. Eight graves within the cemetery had tiered stone slab graves, three of which had coffin shaped tops. These graves have deteriorated and the tops have fallen over. Also in the cemetery is a plot enclosed with stacked stone. This plot measures approximately 6' x 9'. There are no extant markers for the plot, which appears to contain two graves.

At the time of this survey the Old Arnold cemetery was well maintained. It is set within a wooded area and is enclosed by a new wood post and wood rail fence.



Figure 200: A general view of Old Arnold Cemetery

7) Arnold Cemetery

Tract No. 03-104

LCS ID: 061525

Structure No.: CEM-29

This cemetery is located in Arnold Bend where the Arnold family settled and farmed during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The cemetery contains members of the Arnold family, but appears to be a community rather than a family cemetery with numerous other families represented as well as the Arnolds. These include the Worner, Jones, Dean, Rowlett, Brown, Craig, Hamby, Rackley, Brassfield, and Woods families. The cemetery covers approximately one-third of an acre and is enclosed with a metal post and wire fence. The cemetery is set in a wooded area, and there are several trees within the cemetery boundaries. The cemetery is well maintained.

There are sixty-four discernible graves in the Arnold Cemetery, thirty-one of which have legible headstones. The earliest known graves are those of E. Wilson Brown and Member Arnold, both of whom died in September 1874. The last burial took place in 1938. Arnold Cemetery contains six tiered box vault graves that are tiered stone slabs placed over the length of the graves. These graves date to the 1870s and at least two of the graves are those of children. The cemetery also contains three coffin graves, all of which are children from the Arnold family. These graves date to 1882, 1883, and 1917.

The majority of headstones in the cemetery are segmental arched tablet designs. A few examples of hand carved headstones are also present, and these are difficult to read. Over half of the graves in the cemetery do not have legible markers or are marked only by fieldstones.



Figure 200: Examples of coffin graves in Arnold Cemetery.

8) White Cemetery
Tract No. 05-102
LCS ID: 060455
Structure No.: CEM-5

The White Cemetery is located on a wooded hillside north of the Buffalo River between Arnold and Tyler Bend. It can be reached only via the river or from a trail that leads from the Highway 65 bridge. The cemetery measures 60' x 75' and is enclosed with a modern wood post and wood rail fence. The cemetery is heavily overgrown and has numerous young trees within its borders. A 1991 survey of the cemetery indicates that it contains twenty-seven graves dating from 1859 to 1911. The current survey of the cemetery identified three legible headstones and one illegible hand carved headstone. One of the legible headstones is associated with a coffin grave. Another coffin grave in the cemetery is not marked. Also within the cemetery are various fieldstones and depressions that indicate additional graves; however, the vegetation is too thick and deep to accurately determine the precise location or number of graves.

The legible stones in the cemetery include a new commemorative stone for James Mays who died in 1877. The stone reveals that Mr. Mays was a Democrat, Methodist, and Mason. It also lists the names of his fifteen children. The other legible stones are those of Elizabeth P. A. White, wife of J.C. White (Oct. 6, 1855-Nov. 9, 1914), and Nancy A. White, daughter of J.C. and Elizabeth P.A. White (August 1886-May 22, 1888). The grave of Nancy White is a coffin grave. Another unmarked coffin grave is adjacent to hers. These two coffin graves are modest versions of this grave type and do not have as definitive a coffin shape as other examples in the Buffalo National River. The headstone for Elizabeth White is a simple rectangular tablet design with minimal decorative elements.

In the northwestern corner of the cemetery is a modern commemorative marker with the inscribed heading "Mays Cemetery" and a list of individuals with some birth and death dates. A number of the individuals listed have the surname Mays, which indicates that this may be a more appropriate name for the cemetery. A connection between the Mays and White families is noted in the name Lodich Janett Mays White on the list. The earliest death date noted on the stone is 1857. The list reads as follows:

Birdie Mays Dec. 1833
Catherine Loots Mays ca. 1857
Thomas Mays 1828-1864
Mary Mays – 1859
James Taylor Mays – 1850-1861
William "Billie" Mays – ca. 1838-1862
Amanda Coots Age 14
Permelia Mays Mahoney ca. 1886
James Mays 1797-Feb. 17, 1877
Rachel Lovena Coxsey Johnson Jan 3, 1831 – ca. 1897
Florence Johnson 1880-1898
Nancy Artezenia White 1886-1888
Elizabeth P. Ann "Betsy" Johnson White Oct. 6, 1855-Nov. 9, 1911
Lodich Janett Mays White April 24, 1830-Sept. 25, 1859
Thomas Elbert James Johnson Oct. 6, 1829-Jan. 7, 1919
Johnny Johnson, Age 12
Joe Johnson, Age 24
Martha Loventa Johnson, Age 4
James Johnson
George Elbert "Ebbie" Johnson
George Washington Mays, ca. 1836-1881
Many Unknown Infants
Emily Susan Tutt May
John Shelton Mays Jan. 1, 1827 – ca. Sept. 8, 1857



Figure 201: The White Cemetery is heavily overgrown.



Figure 202: Marker in the White Cemetery.

TABLE 12: THREE BEND AREA PROPERTIES

	Property Name	Quad	Tract Number	National Register-Listed	National Register-Eligible	LCS #	Structure #
1	Valentine Williams Property	Snowball	02-108 02-102	No	Yes	060574	B3-112H (Williams House; A.G. Smith House not listed on LCS)
2	Brown School	Snowball	04-101	No	Yes	060450	A1
3	Sod Collier Homestead	Snowball	05-101	No	Yes	060630 060631 060632 060633	B3-09H (house) B3-11H (barn) B3-10H (smokehouse) B3-12H (cistern)
4	Arnold Double Door House	Snowball	04-104	No	No	060603	A8
5	Luther Arnold House	Snowball	04-104	No	No	060565	B3-14H
6	Dwelling Ruins	Snowball	04-103	No	No	N/A	N/A
7	Dwelling	Marshall	06-125	No	No	N/A	N/A
8	Grinders Ferry	Marshall		No	No	N/A	N/A
9	Old Arnold Cemetery	Snowball	04-104	No	No	060454	CEM-4
10	Arnold Cemetery	Snowball	03-104	No	No	061525	CEM-29
11	White Cemetery	Snowball	05-102	No	No	060455	CEM-5

EASTERN AREA

This section of the Buffalo National River covers a large area extending northeastward from Highway 65 to the Buffalo Point area just north of Highway 14. The river through this area makes large narrow loops as it meanders through mostly forested ridgelines. The principal tributary extending off the Buffalo in this section is Bear Creek, which extends southward approximately one mile northeast of Gilbert. The town of Gilbert is situated just outside the boundaries of the Buffalo National River approximately three miles east of Highway 65.

The primary properties located in this section of the Buffalo River are those associated with the former Buffalo River State Park and the Memphis & North Arkansas Railroad (M&NA), which anchor the ends of this section on the north and south respectively. The remaining properties documented in this section are spread out between these two locations and consist of four house sites, three cemeteries, and a ferry landing.

National Register-Listed and -Eligible Properties

One property in this section of the Buffalo National River is currently listed on the National Register, and that is Buffalo River State Park (NR 10/28/88). Buffalo River State Park was established in the 1930s along the watershed and involved the effort of the CCC. The federal relief work group constructed several cabins, a picnic pavilion, lodge, and various infrastructure features. Development of the park was a key event in the rise of recreational tourism in the Buffalo River area. The park was listed for its historic significance in the recreational history of the region and its association with the CCC. The buildings and structures of the Buffalo River State Park remain in good condition and have not been significantly altered from their 1930s period of significance.

Also within this section of the Buffalo National River are remnants of the M&NA Railroad line, which was constructed through the region ca. 1902. The town of Gilbert developed around the rail line and became a shipping point for area resources, particularly timber and zinc ore, and as a result was the largest commercial area on the Buffalo River. The tracks were removed in the late 1940s as the mining and timber booms faded and no other industry arose to support the line. While the town of Gilbert lies outside the boundaries of the park, a large portion of the M&NA railroad grade lies within the park and extends northeastward parallel to the Buffalo River. Other site features associated with the railroad include several large railroad bridge piers that stand in the Buffalo River, and a spring and the remaining foundations of a water tower associated with the railroad. The M&NA railroad was an important development in the history of transportation in the region and was significant to local industries. The grade remains largely intact and along with the additional features associated with the line meets National Register criteria for its role in local history.

1) Buffalo River State Park

Tract No.

LCS ID/Structure No.:

Lodge – 060545/B2-04H

Cabin #1 – 060546/B2-27H

Cabin #2 – 060547/B2-28H

Cabin #3 – 060548/B2-29H

Cabin #4 – 060549/B2-30H

Cabin #5 – 060550/B2-31H

Cabin#6 – 060551/B2-01H

Pavilion – 060553/B2-10H

Retaining Walls & Culvert – 060553/B2-X

Stone Utility Building

The lodge is a two-story, frame building with a gable asphalt shingle roof, one interior and two exterior stone chimneys, a stone foundation, and an exterior of weatherboard and board and batten. The building has a full-width shed roof porch on the west elevation that is supported by log posts. The east elevation also has a full-width deck with a wood floor and railing. Windows are original eight-over-eight wood sash designs, and entrances contain original three-horizontal-light and two-panel glass and wood doors. The building originally contained four units but was later remodeled to form two apartments and an office. The Buffalo River State Park Lodge remains in excellent condition.

The park's six cabins are one-story dwellings of stone, frame, and log construction. They feature stone chimneys, full-width screened-in porches, and shed roof kitchen wings with a board and batten exterior. One cabin is of log construction with square notching and concrete chinking. The others have a combination of stone and rough-cut weatherboard on the exteriors. Some of the cabins are located on a hillside and large stone columns support the porches, which extend out over the embankment. The cabin interiors feature stone fireplaces and pairs of French doors that lead to the screened-in porches. The cabins remain in good condition and retain their historic character.



Figure 203: The lodge at Buffalo River State Park.



Figure 204: The cabins at Buffalo River State Park were constructed by the CCC.

The CCC Picnic Pavilion at Buffalo River State Park is a large open shelter of stone construction with large timber frame support posts and roof beams. At each gable end of the Pavilion is an enclosed gable-roof wing with a stone exterior. In the gable fields is rough-cut weatherboard. The main central section of the Pavilion is open and contains numerous picnic tables. The wings at either end contain restroom facilities and a storage area. The Buffalo River State Park Picnic Pavilion is an excellent example of the types of ancillary park structures built by the CCC during the 1930s and early 1940s.



Figure 205: The CCC Picnic Pavilion at Buffalo River State Park.

The park also includes dry stack stone retaining walls and a stone culvert constructed by the CCC. A retaining wall extends along the main road leading into the park and the access road to the cabin sites. The wall is of native stone and is characteristic of CCC design and workmanship. A similar wall is located on the south side of the road leading into the park west of the current NPS ranger station. This wall is situated on a slope and is not readily visible from the road. A

stone culvert is located at the south end of this retaining wall and is also of CCC construction. In addition to these structures, various utility features including the remains of a small stone utility building remain on the property. The utility building sits down the hill opposite the ranger station in a wooded area. The building lacks a roof but its stone walls remain intact.

The 1988 National Register nomination for the Buffalo River State Park neglected to include these structures. Landscape features such as retaining walls and infrastructure components like the culvert are important components of the overall park setting and reflect the overall development of the park. These structures also reflect the craftsmanship and design of the CCC, which is as well-known for its construction of park landscape features and infrastructure as it is buildings. The retaining walls, culvert, and utility features at Buffalo River State Park are significant aspects of the park landscape created by the CCC, and the National Register nomination for the park should be amended to include these structures. Also an area in the park near the picnic pavilion is believed to be a work area of the CCC. Further research and investigation is needed to document this area.



Figure 206: The CCC also constructed stone retaining walls at the Buffalo River State Park.



Figure 208: Infrastructure features at Buffalo River State Park (*Photo courtesy of Buffalo National River*).



Figure 207: The CCC constructed utility building. (*Photo courtesy of Buffalo National River*)

2) The Missouri and North Arkansas Rail Road

Tract No.

LCS ID/Structure No.:

Railroad Grade – 060624/GIL-2

Railroad Bridge Piers – 060623/GIL-1

Mail Drop Foundation

Water Tower Foundation

Spring & Pumphouse Foundation

The railroad grade of the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad remains intact for approximately one and on-half miles along the northern bank of the Buffalo River northeast of the town of Gilbert. The railroad grade becomes visible near the river at Gilbert and extends northeastward. It runs parallel to the river at the base of a

ridge. The grade is clearly discernible and is about fourteen and a half feet wide with a dirt and rock surface.

In the Gilbert area west of the river near the railroad grade are the foundations of a small building, which served as a mail drop and baggage hold for the railroad. This is a solid concrete platform with remnants of stone rubble walls. At the south end of Gilbert where the railroad grade begins are twelve poured concrete pillars that served as the foundation of a water tower associated with the railroad. The pillars are approximately four feet in height. Four central pillars are arranged in a square and are connected via concrete walls. There are then two pillars on each side of this configuration. Approximately 150' southwest of the pillars is a 4' x 3' concrete slab where a pumphouse stood. Remnants of a stone wall extend southwest from the slab. Beneath the bluff is a large spring from which the water was pumped to the water tower.

The railroad grade itself is clearly discernible and is approximately fourteen and a half feet in width with a dirt and rock surface. Trees line the grade and as it moves closer to the river there is a large rock ledge.

Where the line crossed the Buffalo River approximately one and one-half miles northeast of Gilbert, four large bridge abutments remain extant in the river and along its banks. The abutments are of poured concrete construction and have buttresses on one side. The two in the center are the largest and are approximately fifty feet in height. The north abutment is approximately thirty feet in height. The abutment on the south side of the river is situated on a hill side and is significantly smaller than the others. On the north side of the river the grade is readily discernible and is elevated on embankments of about six feet or more high. A deep gully parallels the line on the north side and a wood post and wire fence runs along a portion of the grade on the north side. An NPS hiking trail follows the railroad

grade in this area. As the grade continues to the west it becomes more level with the land and gradually embankments begin to rise on either side of the grade. These embankments range from five to ten feet and then gradually fade.

On the southeast side of the Buffalo River, the railroad grade continues. Here it does not parallel the river but extends southeastward approximately a quarter of a mile before exiting the boundary of the park. After crossing the river the line initially continues at grade level on a hill then between 100 and 200 feet in embankments begin on either side. These embankments quickly become very deep and reach up to ten and twelve feet high. The grade through this area is visible, but is heavily overgrown with saplings and brush. It is approximately sixteen feet wide in this location. Along Brush Creek are two additional poured concrete abutments. These are shorter than those in the Buffalo River and one is banked into a hillside.

The existing railroad grade of the M&NA Railroad illustrates rail transportation in the Buffalo River valley. The grade is clearly visible and intact throughout its nearly two-mile length. The rail line was an important contribution to the lumber and mining industries and provided local farmers with improved access to regional markets. The grade, bridge abutments, and associated foundations retain a strong degree of historic character and integrity and meet National Register criteria for their role in the region's transportation history.



Figure 209: The M & NA Railroad Grade north of the Buffalo River near Gilbert.



Figure 211: Concrete piers near the railroad grade at Gilbert.



Figure 210: The railroad grade has deep embankments on either side as it continues south of the Buffalo River.



Figure 212: Railroad bridge abutments remain standing in the Buffalo River.



Figure 213: This view shows the railroad grade and bridge abutments looking north from the south side of the river.

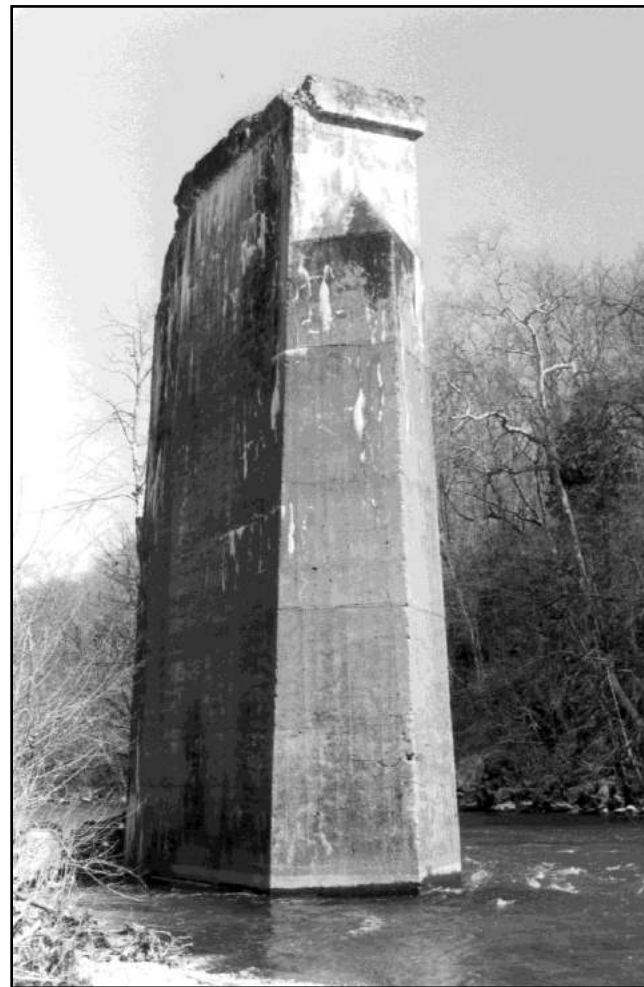


Figure 214: A close-up view of the railroad bridge abutments reveals their massive size.

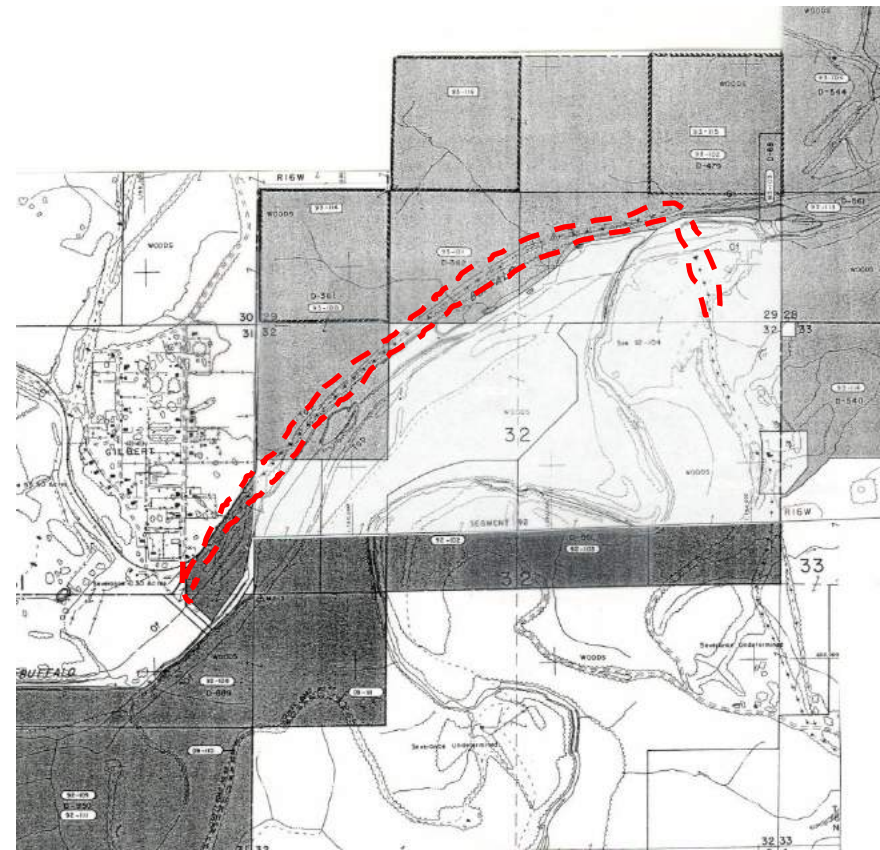
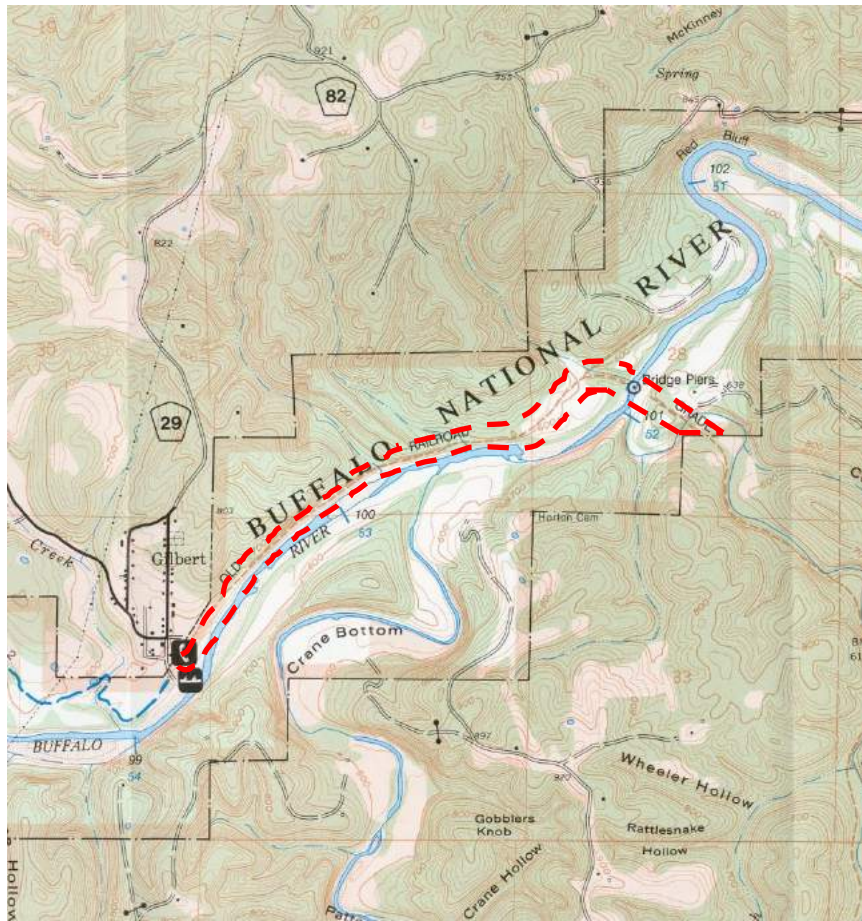


Figure 215: M&NA Railroad Site Plan & Approximate Boundaries.

Ineligible Properties

The remaining properties documented in the Eastern section of the Buffalo National River do not meet the criteria of the National Register. These include four house sites, three cemeteries, and a ferry site. Little remains of the house sites to divulge their history. Some portions of foundations remain along with some site features such as wells or in one case a small outbuilding. Segments of fence lines and a few domestic plantings help to identify yard arrangement and/or house position, but overall the sites do not have a sufficient collection of landscape or architectural features to meet National Register criteria. Each of the three cemeteries documented in this section are small family graveyards that have largely been neglected. They contain few, if any, legible headstones and are generally consumed by the surrounding vegetation. Only minimal evidence remains of the ferry crossing as well as the construction of a modern bridge and heavy overgrowth have altered the landscape in this area. Descriptions of the remaining properties documented in the Eastern Area follow:

1) Sanders House Site

Tract No. 97-102

This property originally contained a ca. 1860 log dwelling that had been enclosed in a larger, T-plan, frame dwelling around 1950. The dwelling had a stone pier foundation and a gable roof. Associated with the dwelling were a frame storage shed, barn, privy, and a concrete root cellar all dating from the mid-twentieth century. This dwelling was destroyed by fire ca. 2001. Pieces of corrugated metal roof panels and some stone foundation piers are all that remain of the dwelling. Several charred pieces of wood and various metal debris are scattered throughout the site. To the rear of the house site is a small depression measuring approximately 12' x 6' with below grade stone foundations along three sides. Southeast of the house site is an

in-ground root cellar of poured concrete. It has an arched roof and a vertical board door. Northwest of the house site approximately five feet is a stone and concrete circular well. The well rises around three feet above grade and twenty feet below grade. The well is uncapped. No above ground remains of the barn were detected. The Sanders (or Still) Cemetery is located on the ridgeline opposite the house site about 1000 feet southeast of the house site.



Figure 216: The Sanders House was destroyed by fire.



Figure 217:
The stone well
at the Sanders House Site.

2) House Site - Ramsey Property
Tract No. 08-108

This site originally contained a log dogtrot (or double-pen) dwelling constructed ca. 1885. The dwelling rested on a stone foundation and had hewn oak logs with half dove-tail notching. Strips of wood served as chinking along with mortar. When the tract was inventoried in 1979, the dwelling was being used as a barn and described as being in good condition.

The dwelling at this site is no longer extant. Some stone foundations remain and a large pit in the ground nearby was possibly an associated root cellar. The pit has a concrete roof that has caved in and there is a large pile of trash just south of the pit. The site also contains the remains of a well, which has a native stone base and a poured concrete exterior. The well is square in shape and a tree has fallen over top of the well. A number of metal panels, car tires and fenders, and other debris are strewn across the ground. To the west of the root cellar area is a stone and concrete cistern that measures approximately 3' x 7'. A large stone and concrete slab is on top of the cistern and has square and circular holes. A number of bottles, tin cans, and other debris are scattered throughout the area. There are several daffodils along the west side of the road leading to the house site. A second cistern is located approximately 145 feet north of the house site on the west side of the road. The cistern is constructed of dry stacked native stone and circular in formation. It is around two and one-half feet tall and is banked into the hillside. The cistern is now filled with dirt.



Figure 218: Dry Stack Stone Cistern located on the Ramsey Property.

3) House Site
Tract No. 92-106

This house site is located approximately one quarter mile east of Bear Creek and one half mile south of the Buffalo River. The history of this property is not known. It currently consists of various foundation remnants of a dwelling and outbuildings. The house site has an L-shaped poured concrete foundation that is about one foot above grade. There is a large concrete platform which was most likely a porch on the east elevation. This porch area measures 9' x 20'. A smaller concrete slab measuring 6' x 4' appears on the south elevation. There is a large exterior brick chimney that has fallen at the southwest end of the foundation. The brick appears to be of recent vintage and perhaps the dwelling was one constructed in the late twentieth century, possibly the 1950s or 1960s. A wood post and wire fence line surrounds the house site area.

Northeast of the house site is an open concrete structure that measures 2' x 5'. East of the house site approximately 50 feet is a solid concrete slab that measures 20' x 25' and has some metal anchors in it. Just north of this is a large circular pit in the earth.

A circular concrete and rock well is situated approximately 15 feet east of the house foundations from the corner of the large porch slab. Approximately ten feet north of the well along the fence line is a circular metal container embedded in the ground. Three metal pipes protrude from the ground next to the metal container. This possibly was an underground propane tank. There is a lot of trash scattered around this area.

Approximately fifteen feet north of the house foundations is a concrete block structure that is about five feet in height and measures approximately 3' x 2 1/2'. It has a rectangular opening on the west elevation. The interior has metal and rubber piping. Approximately 75' north of this are the remains of an outbuilding. Corrugated metal roof panels, wood siding, and some poured concrete foundations appear in this area. The foundations are roughly 20' x 8' in dimension. Approximately 300 feet to the north is another outbuilding area. Here are three stone piers and the remnants of sawn wood siding, metal roof panels, and fence posts. The area between the two outbuilding areas is becoming overgrown and has new growth trees.



Figure 219: Concrete Trough at House Site on Tract 92-106.

4) House Site Tract No. 93-107

This site is located just southeast of the Buffalo River near where the M&NA Railroad line crossed the river. The house site is located northeast of the abandoned railroad grade. A small stone outbuilding remains intact on the property and appears to have been a root cellar. It has a gable metal standing seam roof, exposed roof rafters, and an exterior of random course stone with concrete mortar. A portion of the east wall is deteriorated. There is a pedestrian entrance on the east elevation. The west elevation has a rectangular window opening. The interior has a concrete floor and in the center of the floor is a square concrete slab that measures roughly 3' x 4'. The slab has a slightly rounded top and there is wood framing around the slab. This structure possibly could be a well. Also inside the building is an old GE refrigerator.

A large clearing adjacent to the outbuilding is the presumed location of the associated dwelling; however, no discernible foundations remain. There is some scattering of stone and daffodil plants are sprinkled throughout the area. Approximately twenty feet east of the outbuilding are the remnants of a stone fence.

5) Horton Cemetery

Tract No. 92-106

LCS ID: 060457

Structure No.: CEM-7

Horton Cemetery is located approximately one half mile south of the Buffalo River and four tenths of a mile east of Bear Creek. The cemetery contains one legible commercial stone. It is a rectangular tablet design of native stone that is smoothly cut only on the side that has markings. It is inscribed "Thomas Treat, Mar. 20, 1848, Jan. 7, 1923" and has a mason's symbol. This is a new stone that has been placed in the cemetery since 1992. A large, rough-cut rectangular stone is lightly hand-etched with a "W" and "T.R.W." The etching is very faint and difficult to detect. Other than this all stones in the cemetery are fieldstones. There are twelve or so visible stones. The cemetery is heavily overgrown with ground cover and a large tree has fallen across the cemetery and divides the stones. There are some discernible depressions, but otherwise graves are barely recognizable, making it difficult to adequately determine the number or location of graves. A 1992 survey of the cemetery estimates the total number of graves to be between fifteen and thirty.

Remnants of a wood post and barbed wire fence remain along two sides of the cemetery. The site is located in a wooded area and a small trail is discernible that leads to the site from a nearby house site. The trail mostly follows a fence line to a pond before turning toward the cemetery.



Figure 220: Horton Cemetery

6) Sanders/Still Cemetery

Tract No. 97-102

This is a small cemetery that contains the graves of three children. Little historical information is known about the cemetery. It is referred to as both Sanders and Still Cemetery in various NPS files. The cemetery is situated near the Sanders House Site. It sits on the top of a steep narrow ridgeline southwest of the road leading to the South Maumee river access point. From this vantage point atop the ridge one can see across the river to the North Maumee access point during the winter months. The cemetery is enclosed with a metal post and wire fence and measures approximately 8' x 8'. Within the fence are three sets of head- and footstones, all of which are unmarked fieldstones. The graves appear to be those of children. A survey of the cemetery in 1988 notes the date 1928, but no markings at the gravesite indicate their age. A thick covering of daffodils

across the entire graveyard make it a rather poignant setting. In early spring the flowers are in full bloom and provide a bright splash of color amidst the brown and grays of the surrounding wood.



Figure 221: Still/Sanders Cemetery.

7) Lane Cemetery
Tract No. 08-104

The Lane Cemetery is located in Lane Bend and sits in a small clump of trees in the middle of a cow pasture. There are two legible stones in the cemetery. There is no fence around the cemetery and both of the stones are encased in cement and/or cinder blocks to prevent them from being disturbed by the cows in the field. This appears to have been done in the early 1990s. The first stone is a rectangular

hand cut stone with hand carved lettering written at an angle. It reads “S.E. Lane Died Mar. 12, 1881.” The stone is encased in cinder blocks with cement mortar, and a covering of cement is over the top of the stone. In the cement the words “K.E. Hubbard” are hand etched.

The second stone is a new, modern commemorative stone for Fletcher (1852-1894) and Emily Brown Reeves (1858-1878). The stone is also inscribed, “Buried in Lane Bend Cemetery, Grandparents of Edna Barnett Hubbard.” The stone is a flat rectangular design and is set in cement and then framed in with wood panels. Four small metal posts are at each corner. Hand etched in the cement are the words: “Ken & Edna Hubbard, 1991, 10-7-91.”

These stones are adjacent to one another at the edge of a small clump of trees. This area measures roughly 200’ x 100’ and has a thick ground cover. A few fieldstones can be found under the vegetation, but it is not clear whether or not these mark graves or are simply naturally placed stones. One rectangular shaped stone found lying flat on the ground has the appearance of a tablet style headstone, but has no visible markings. There are no other recognizable headstones in the area. No discernible depressions are visible either that would indicate the location of graves. An NPS inventory sheet for Lane Bend Cemetery completed in 1981 claims that the cemetery contains thirty graves, but provides no other information. These graves, if there, are no longer detectable. Perhaps if the area was mowed and the vegetation removed, more graves might be located.



Figure 222: The Lane Cemetery is not well defined.



Figure 224: One of the existing stones in the Lane Cemetery.



Figure 223:
A reinforced
stone in the
Lane Cemetery.

8) Dillard's Ferry

Tract No.

Highway 14

Dillard's Ferry operated across the Buffalo River in the early twentieth century along what is now Highway 14. On the north side of the river, an older roadbed leads east off of the present Highway 14 toward the ferry landing. The old roadbed turns off the modern road just north of the bridge and then curves back toward the river and continues to curve and leads directly under the modern bridge. There are some remnants of asphalt paving remaining on the roadbed, but it is largely overgrown with grass and other vegetation.

The area south of the river is largely a sandbar and retains no evidence of the original ferry landing. East of the bridge is a gravel parking area. A road leading to the river from the parking area is

blocked by large boulders. There are deep embankments on either side of this dirt road that range from one to five feet. West of the bridge on the south side of the river is a sandbar and river access. A small picnic area is located in a grassy area to the west. Behind the current campground area an old roadbed hugs the tree line and extends toward a field along the river. Historic maps show a house and outbuilding in this vicinity, but no evidence remains of these structures. Remnants of a low stone fence or border exist along the south side of the road. This is about 6" in height and extends some thirty feet.

The current Highway 14 Bridge that crosses the Buffalo River at the Dillard's Ferry location was constructed in 1957. This bridge was not surveyed as it is not yet fifty years old and does not appear to possess exceptional significance; however, when the structure reaches fifty years of age it should be evaluated. The bridge has four concrete abutments and four steel, five-prong abutments. The bridge has steel underpinnings and guardrails. Concrete pylons hold the guardrails in place.



Figure 226: The north bank of the Buffalo River at Dillard's Ferry.



Figure 225: The road leading to the river at Dillard's Ferry.

TABLE 13: EASTERN AREA PROPERTIES

	Property Name	USGS Quad	Tract #	National Register-Listed?	National Register-Eligible?	LCS #	Structure #
1	Buffalo River State Park	Cozahome	36-	Yes	-	060545 060546 060547 060548 060549 060550 060551 060552 060553	B2-04H (lodge) B2-27H (cabin 1) B2-28H (cabin 2) B2-29H (cabin 3) B2-30H (cabin 4) B2-31H (cabin 5) B2-01H (cabin 6) B2-10H (pavilion) B2-X (retaining walls & culvert)
2	M&NA RR Grade & Associated Site Features	Marshall		No	Yes	060623 (piers), 060624 (grade)	GIL-1, GIL-2
3	Sanders House Site	Maumee	97-102	No	No	N/A	N/A
4	House Site Ramsey Property	Marshall	08-108	No	No	N/A	N/A
5	House Site	Marshall	92-106	No	No	N/A	N/A
6	House Site	Marshall	93-107	No	No	N/A	N/A
7	Horton Cemetery	Marshall	92-106	No	No	060457	CEM-7
8	Sanders/Still Cemetery	Maumee	97-102	No	No	N/A	N/A
9	Lane Cemetery	Marshall	08-104	No	No	N/A	N/A
10	Dillard's Ferry	Cozahome		No	No	N/A	N/A

LOWER BUFFALO AREA

The Lower Buffalo Area encompasses the northeastern end of the national park boundary and extends from the Rush Historic District to the confluence of the Buffalo with the White River. This area is characterized by sharp ridgelines that often provide the Buffalo with a narrow passage. The terrain in this region offered little tillable land and was largely known for its zinc mines. The area around Rush and Clabber Creeks was the primary location for the mining industry in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and a sizeable community developed here around the large mining operations. Resources in the Rush area have been substantially documented and are part of the National Register-listed Rush Historic District.

A few miles east of Rush Big Creek extends southward from the Buffalo River to create a small valley. In this region the small community of Hepsey developed. By 1920, Hepsey had a store, post office, cotton gin and grist mill in addition to several houses. Following federal government acquisition of the area, residents left the Hepsey area and all the buildings were razed or have since deteriorated. As the Buffalo turns northward it enters Baxter County and a few cleared areas supported a scattering of small farms and dwellings near the river during the early twentieth century.

The majority of this section of Buffalo National River has been designated an official wilderness area and has been allowed to revert back to its natural state. Closed to motorized vehicles, this region of the park is limited to only foot and horse traffic, or travel via the river. The interior of the Lower Wilderness Area was not surveyed during this project. No extant buildings remain in this area and survey work was limited to those sites near the river that were accessible via canoe. A few properties on the eastern side of the Buffalo River in Baxter County were accessible by 4-wheel drive to the park's boundary followed by a brief hike. Although repeated

attempts were made to reach Hepsey Cemetery east of Big Creek, due to high water and trail conditions, it was not accessed during this survey. Previous reports on the Lower Wilderness Area conducted prior to prescribed burns reveal that a number of foundation remnants and other site features are scattered throughout this area.

For this project, six house sites, three cemeteries, a school site, and an extant school building were documented in the Lower Buffalo Area. In addition, the Rush Historic Mining District was reviewed for any significant changes since its National Register listing.

National Register-Listed Properties

1) Rush Historic Mining District

The Rush Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987 for its significance in the industrial history of the Buffalo River valley. The discovery of zinc around Rush Creek in the 1880s led to an intense period of mining operations along the Buffalo River. Mining companies established several mines in the area around Rush Creek and people flocked to the area to work in the mines. The town of Rush emerged as a bustling community complete with hotels, stores, mining offices and workshops, and a number of homes. The mining industry fueled the local economy and encouraged commercial and agricultural development. The mining boom lasted through World War I, after which it quickly faded.

The resources of the Rush Historic Mining District largely remain intact and in fair to good condition. These include such properties as the White Eagle Mill Ruins, remnants of the McIntosh Hotel and Livery, Hicks General Store, and various dwellings in the Rush residential area. Notable changes in the Rush Historic Mining District include the loss of the Brantly House. This dwelling was destroyed by arson in 1998. Stone foundation piers are all that

remain. The extant dwellings in Rush remain intact and vary in condition. The Bundy House is in fair condition. The north shed roof addition of this dwelling has been removed and portions of exterior wallboards are missing on the north elevation. The Taylor-Medley Store is in very poor condition. The majority of the exterior boards are missing and the ceiling is heavily bowed and in danger of collapsing. The Storekeeper's House is in fair condition. The floor of the side porch is collapsing and a support post is askew. The Kastning House is in relatively good condition. The front porch floor has buckled some and the interior has deteriorated, but the structure is sound. The Washhouse is in fair condition. The steps and porch of this building are deteriorating and portions of exterior walls are missing.



Figure 227: The Taylor-Medley Store in Rush is in poor condition.

The properties of the Morning Star Mine Company remain much as the same with the exception of the Morning Star Barn, which was lost to arson in 1998. A few foundation stones remain. The large smelter remains standing and in good condition. The Mill ruins, tram, mines, trails, and roadbeds are as they are described in the nomination. The same is true of the oil storage building, and Mining Office and Smith House ruins. The latter of these is heavily overgrown. The Blacksmith Shop remains in poor to fair condition. Some exterior boards are gone and it does not retain doors or windows. This building has been fenced off with a wood post and wire fence. The attached warehouse has collapsed and is in ruins. The pumphouse ruins adjacent to the roadbed near the large smelter have poured concrete walls that have partially collapsed. The footbridge pillar in this area is in fair condition. Small portions of the concrete exterior have fallen off.



Figure 228: Features of the Morning Star Mine.

The site of the McIntosh Hotel remains as it was described in the National Register nomination. The stone retaining wall and gate entrance remain intact as do the diamond-shaped and circular stone flower boxes, which have daffodils growing in them still. This area is becoming largely overgrown. The Hicks General Store remains standing and in fair condition. Window and door openings are covered with wood panels. On the main façade a portion of one panel has been broken off and the interior is exposed to the elements. The building has a great number of vines and brambles growing on it. On the rear elevation a panel coving a window is torn off and the window is broken and the interior is exposed. The rear door is not secured and is easily opened. The interior of the building is in poor condition. The walls are torn apart and there is a significant amount of garbage, mold, and insect/rodent damage.

During this review the remains of Pop Campbell's house site were not located. The railroad grade, which was initiated in the Rush area but never used, remains discernible, however it is heavily overgrown with new growth trees and river cane. The White Eagle Mill ruins remain intact as do the remains of the Rush Hilton. Here a stone chimney stands about five feet tall with a portion of a concrete and stone hearth that is largely collapsed at the rear. This is set approximately 150 feet off of the road in a thicket of trees and overgrowth on an incline. At the McIntosh Liver and Stable Ruins remnants of a stone wall remain that has mostly collapsed. The roadbed in the McIntosh area is a narrow gravel and dirt trail. At points embankments range from one to two feet in height.

Clabber Creek Road is a dirt and gravel trail and parallels the creek. It is about six or seven feet wide with embankments varying up to six feet opposite the creek. The pyramidal poured concrete pilings remain on the northeast side of Clabber Creek. The Monte Cristo Mines remain intact and are fenced in with a metal grate. In this review no evidence was found of the Edith Mine structures or New

Town Building. A discernible roadbed appears along the hillside in the Edith Mill area. It has two to four foot embankments on either side and is about twelve feet wide.



Figure 229: Concrete pilings stand on the northeast side of Clabber Creek.

2) Cold Springs School

Tract No. 73-115

LCS ID: 060567

Structure No.: BC

Another National Register-listed property in the Lower Buffalo Area is Cold Springs School. This ca. 1935 stone veneer school building was constructed by the WPA and is reflective of the federal work relief group's craftsmanship as well as the history of education in the Buffalo River valley. It was listed on the National Register in 1992.

Cold Springs School was constructed ca. 1935 by the WPA. The school exhibits influences of the Craftsman style and has a poured concrete foundation, a jerkinhead metal roof, and an exterior of stone veneer. The interior of the school retains its original wood floor, plaster walls and pressed metal ceiling. A five-foot wide sunken roadbed leads to the school along the bluff paralleling the NPS hiking trail.

Cold Springs is in what is now a very remote area in the Buffalo River valley. When it was built in the 1930s, the school provided a significant benefit to residents of the nearby community. The school was the first modern school building in the area and reflects the craftsmanship and design of WPA-built structures. The Cold Springs School remains in good condition and possesses integrity of location, design, and materials. The school was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992 under the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940."



Figure 230: Cold Springs School.



Figure 231: Interior of Cold Springs School.

Ineligible Properties

None of the remaining properties documented in the Lower Buffalo Area were found to meet National Register criteria. These include the remains of a school, six house sites, and three cemeteries. The building sites generally retain only fragments of foundations and do not possess sufficient integrity to meet the criteria of the National Register. The cemeteries are typical rural graveyards of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Two of the cemeteries have few legible headstones, and none possess notable design, art, or landscape features to merit National Register status. Descriptions of these properties follow:

1) Cedar Creek School Site

Tract No.

This site contains the ruins of an early twentieth century school building and is heavily overgrown. The site does not retain sufficient integrity to meet the criteria of the National Register. The site of the former Cedar Creek School consists of two stone walls approximately three feet in height remain at the site and are 61' and 125' in length. Another small 10' foundation wall is parallel to the 125' wall. The site is heavily overgrown and is surrounded by woods. It is adjacent to a dirt road that leads to the river, which lies south of the school site.



Figure 232: Remains of the Cedar Creek School.

2) House Site

Tract No. 73-115

This site is located south of the Buffalo River just north of Cold Spring School. It consists of a sandstone chimney fall that is about six feet in height and the remains of a ca. 1930 recreational cabin. The remaining logs of the cabin are cedar and measure 20' x 18'. The logs lack chinking and have V notching. To the southeast of the house ruins is a collapsed well. The site contains no other features.

3) House Site

Tract No. 74-110

This property originally contained a ca. 1940 dwelling, barn and other outbuildings. It is situated at the eastern edge of a field east of Big Creek and approximately one half mile south of the Buffalo

River. There are no visible above ground remains of the house or barn left on the site. There are some flowers at the site. Across from the house site are stone and concrete foundations of what appears to have been a garage. The foundations parallel each other seven feet apart and are twelve feet in length.



Figure 233: Garage Foundation at House Site on Tract 74-110.

4) House Site
Tract No. 77-417

At this site was a ca. 1955 dwelling and earlier outbuildings. Currently the site contains the concrete foundations of the dwelling. The foundations are approximately three-feet high and measure approximately 30' x 30' including a front and side porch. A walkway is visible leading to the front porch. There are no visible remains of the outbuildings. The site is located west of the Buffalo River approximately one mile south of Cow Creek.



Figure 234: Concrete Foundation at House Site on Tract 77-417.

5) House Site
Tract No. 81-103

This tract contains the remains of a ca. 1925 frame dwelling and outbuilding. There are portions of a stone foundation and a chimney fall that remain on the site. The foundation to the chimney is stone and brick and the bricks are stamped "ENS Howard Extra." A portion of a poured concrete foundation reveals a later addition to the dwelling. There are two concrete porches, one on the east elevation, and one in the southeast corner of the foundations. There are also some stone piers with unhewn logs that form part of the foundation line. The logs have square notches. The area is heavily overgrown and contains several fallen trees. A number of daffodil plants lie north of the foundations and adjacent to them is a fence line that runs east and west. The field to the east is overgrown and reverting back to forest.

At the west edge of the house foundations is a large “L” shaped poured concrete walkway or porch that is 20 feet long on one side and 16 ½’ long on the other side. Immediately west of this, the property descends gradually down hill where there is a deep depression. This appears to be either a large root cellar or possibly a basement and is about four feet deep and is the width of the house site. West of the depression is a concrete slab. Behind the house site is an overgrown yard area before the land slopes down into a wooded ravine.

North of the house site approximately 50 feet area the remaining foundations of a barn or other outbuilding. These foundations consist of a “T” shaped poured concrete slab that measures approximately 8’ x 3 ½’ and 10’ x 30’. Debris in the area includes corrugated metal roof panels, a discarded stove, and an electrical door panel.

Southwest of the house site is a concrete slab that measures 12’ x 8’ and is butted up against a wood post and wire fence line. No other visible signs of a foundation remain in this area, which is heavily overgrown.



Figure 235: Extant Root Cellar on Tract 81-103



Figure 236: Ruins for House Site on Tract No. 81-103.

6) House Site Tract No. 82-119

This site located south of the Buffalo River near Stewart Creek originally contained two dwellings built in the 1920s and various outbuildings. West of the creek is the site of one of the 1920s dwellings. Three concrete steps remain and a number of stones from foundation piers and concrete block are scattered throughout the area. There are no discernible foundations. Also on the site are the remnants of a brick chimney flue based in concrete. Debris in the area includes asphalt shingles, window screening, and an old metal stove. East of the house site is a small circular depression with some stone and brick.

Southwest of the house site approximately twenty-five feet is a root cellar banked into the hillside. It is of stone construction with a flat poured concrete roof. Remnants of a metal door casing remain at the entrance. The cellar measures approximately 5' x 10' and is 6' in height. A number of daffodils are around the root cellar. A wood post and wire fence runs north-south behind the root cellar and then turns east.

North of the house site approximately twenty feet are several corrugated metal roof panels, a metal bucket and a portion of an outbuilding foundation constructed of stone and concrete that measures approximately 10' x 7'. The field in front (east) of the house site is becoming overgrown. A fence line runs east-west along the border and a line of daffodils outline the edge of what appears to be the site of the barn. There is a large flat rock in this area and some metal debris. In the field east of the barn site is a small depression that is filled with water. It is about fifteen feet long and three to four feet wide and is possibly a spring pond. Within the depression is a large stone and concrete boulder that is possibly plugging the spring. Further north along the road/path leading to the house site is the poured concrete foundation of a ca. 1962 dwelling with a deep basement section (this is on Tract 82-11).



Figure 237: Concrete steps are all that remain of house site on Tract 82-119



Figure 238: Root Cellar Ruins from House Site on Tract 82-119.

7) House Site
Tract No. 74-105

This tract originally contained a dwelling, barn and other outbuildings dating from ca. 1940-1950. The site currently consists of the remnants of a concrete foundation, which measures approximately 20' x 10'. The site has no other notable features.

8) Laffoon Cemetery

Tract No. 44-108

LCS ID: 061526

Structure No.: CEM-13

This cemetery is located on the northern bank of the Buffalo River just a few hundred feet east of the mouth of Cabin Creek. The cemetery measures approximately 250' x 100'. It contains numerous fieldstones and depressions along with twenty-one marked graves. Two infant graves, those of Joe and Alta Wheeler from 1904 and 1916 are of cast concrete. The remaining stones are carved marble and stone and are legible. Stones are primarily simple arched tablet designs or block pedestal forms. The oldest stone is that of F.T. Laffoon, who died January 25, 1878. The latest stone dates to 1940. The majority of legible stones are those of the Laffoon family. Other surnames present are Friend, Smith, Patterson, Martin, Wheeler, Pettitt, and Nichol. The cemetery sits in a wooded area along the river and is becoming overgrown. Common decorative elements on the stones are winged angels, doves, the gates of heaven, and bibles. Six of the stones have the inscription "Gone but not Forgotten." Other inscriptions include "A good Father and true Husband," "A tender Mother and a faithful friend," and "Come Ye Blessed." Children's graves are marked "Our Darling Boy," "From Mother's Arms to the Arms of Jesus," and "Waiting for us."



Figure 239: Laffoon Cemetery.

9) Woodcock Military Cemetery

Tract No. 75-101

This cemetery is located north of the Buffalo River in a bend above Middle Creek. The cemetery is in a wooded area and is not enclosed in a fence. It contains an estimated forty to fifty graves judging from the visible depressions and fieldstones. There are no original legible markers in the cemetery. In recent years a wood plank has been nailed to a wood post in the cemetery. Hand written on the plank is: "Amy Anna (Eaton) Brantley Choctaw Indian, born 1828 died 1862, son Frank Brantley 8 years old no dates." Northwest of the cemetery is a segment of sunken roadbed with two to three foot embankments.

No historical information is known regarding this cemetery. Local tradition states that twelve Union soldiers killed in a skirmish on Spencer Ridge are buried in the cemetery. Some reports suggest that there are two cemeteries in this area, the Woodcock Cemetery and

the Woodcock Military Cemetery. The second cemetery and a cabin site were believed to be approximately one half mile northwest of the identified cemetery; however, this area is extremely overgrown and no additional cemetery or cabin site was found. Most likely only one cemetery, that identified in this survey, exists in the area and the fact that it has been referred to by two different names (Woodcock and Woodcock Military) has caused some confusion over the years leading to the impression that two cemeteries are in the area.



Figure 240: Woodcock Cemetery contains no legible markers.

10) Cow Creek Cemetery

Tract No. 80-117

This cemetery is located north of Cow Creek approximately one-quarter mile west of the Buffalo River. The cemetery measures approximately 80' x 100' and contains approximately twenty-five graves judging from the depressions and fieldstones. One legible

headstone is a simple arched tablet design and reads "M.D. Yocham, Dec. 17, 1846-Sept. 30, 1920, Gone but not forgotten." One fieldstone has the name "Lisa Y" roughly hand carved in it. These are the only legible stones within the cemetery. One grave is outlined with a two-tier stack of stone.



Figure 241: Cow Creek Cemetery is in a heavily wooded area.

TABLE 14: LOWER BUFFALO AREA PROPERTIES

	Property Name	USGS Quad	Tract Number	National Register-Listed?	National Register-Eligible?	LCS #	Structre #
1	Rush Historic Distric	Rea Valley	various	Yes	-	various	various
2	Cold Spring School	Big Flat	73-115	Yes	-	060567	BC
3	Cedar Creek School Site	Rea Valley	44-105/107	No	No	N/A	N/A
4	House Site	Big Flat	73-115	No	No	N/A	N/A
5	House Site	Big Flat	74-110	No	No	N/A	N/A
6	House Site	Buffalo City	77-417	No	No	N/A	N/A
7	House Site	Buffalo City	81-103	No	No	N/A	N/A
8	House Site	Buffalo City	82-119	No	No	N/A	N/A
9	House Site	Big Flat	74-105	No	No	N/A	N/A
10	LaffoonCemetery	Rea Valley	44-107	No	No	061526	CEM-13
11	WoodcockMilitary Cemetery	Big Flat	75-101	No	No	N/A	N/A
12	Cow Creek Cemetery	Buffalo City	80-117	No	No	N/A	N/A

SUMMARY

The Buffalo National River contains a wide variety of cultural resources. These include sites associated with the nineteenth and twentieth century settlement and agricultural development of the region, properties associated with the region’s logging and mining industries, recreational properties, and other buildings and structures. Since acquisition of the property in the 1970s, the National Park Service has been responsible for the identification and management of cultural resources within the park. Cultural resource management by the NPS has included a numbering system for all buildings, the preparation of National Register nominations and determinations of eligibility, archaeological studies, building restoration, and site interpretation.

As a result of this project, an analysis of each identified historic context within the park has been completed along with a review of related property types, a list of properties associated with the property types, and a discussion of National Register status or eligibility. Only contexts associated with the above-ground resources of the park were addressed. A comprehensive analysis of all archaeological contexts was not within the scope of this study.

In addition to this report, final products for this project include assessments of integrity, and National Register status or eligibility. A total of 110 sites were inventoried within the park and each site was recorded through a Cultural Resources Inventory (CRI) form. The forms contain data on the history, architecture, and landscape elements of each site as well as site plans and photographs.

National Register Assessment

Eight properties within the Buffalo National River have been previously listed on the National Register or determined eligible (see Table 15). In addition, this study identified seven other properties that meet the criteria of the National Register (see Table 16). One of these seven properties, Erbie, meets National Register historic district criteria. With these exceptions, no other properties within the project area were identified as National Register-listed or –eligible.

Table 15: National Register-listed and previously determined eligible properties.

Property	National Register-Listed?	National Register-Eligible?
Parker-Hickman Farm Historic District	Yes – 08/11/87	
Rush Historic District	Yes - 02/27/87	
Boxley Valley Historic District	Yes - 07/29/87	
Boxley (Whiteley) Mill	Yes – 07/31/74	
Buffalo River State Park	Yes – 10/28/88	
Highway 7 Bridge	Yes – 04/1990	
Cold Spring School	Yes – 07/16/92	
Sod Collier Farmstead	No	Yes – June 1990

Table 16: Additional properties identified as meeting National Register criteria.

Property	National Register Criteria
Erbie Historic District	A
Mollie & Valentine Williams House	A, B, and C
Granny Henderson House	B
M&NA Railroad Grade	A
Brown School	A
Hall Cemetery	A and C
Collins Cemetery	A and C

The history of the Buffalo River area is conveyed through its landscape and cultural resources. This study has documented 110 sites within the Buffalo National River that reflect common themes and contexts in the region’s history. In addition to the properties within the park previously listed or determined eligible for the National Register, this study identified seven other properties that appear to meet National Register criteria. These properties are the best examples within the park’s boundaries that reflect its rich and varied history. Other properties documented, while many are worthy of preservation, were found not to meet the criteria of the National Register.



Figure 242: Farm fields in Erbie.

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