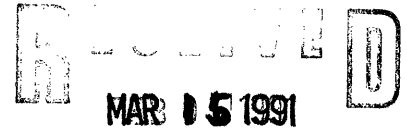


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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Reed Log House

other names/site number Macy Cabin; HS-351; Prather House; Keller House

2. Location Ozark National Scenic Riverways

street & number not for publication
city, town Eminence vicinity
state Missouri code MO county Shannon code 203 zip code 65466

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public and building/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing:
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: Cheryl A. Beards
Date: 3/7/91
State or Federal agency and bureau: Cheryl A. Beards, National Park Service

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official: Cheryl A. Beards
Date: 4 Jan. 1991
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)
Signature of the Keeper: Beth Boland
Date of Action: 4/29/91

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: residence

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Vacant/not in use

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Other: Ozark vernacular

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foundation Stone: limestonewalls Wood: otherWood: logroof Metal: tinother 

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Reed House is an Ozarks log house in rural Shannon County, Missouri, dating from around 1857 with two additions from roughly 1885 and 1910. The house is surrounded by open fields. To the east of the house is the historic Buttin Rock Road. To the west is the Current River, distinguishable by the trees that line its banks. The river is 400 feet west of the house according to the 1965 United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographical map, although the river has changed course since construction of the cabin.<sup>1</sup> The ground slopes gently down from east to west toward the river. A small spring north of the house provided drinking water for the inhabitants. To the south-southwest of the house about 3000 feet is Buttin Rock School, an Ozarks rural school. There are no other buildings in the area. A section of Buttin Rock Road, one of the oldest roads in Shannon County, connects the house and the school. The name of the area is derived from Buttin Rock, a bluff which "butts in" to the river on the opposite side of the Current

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<sup>1</sup>See USGS quad map, Powder Mill Ferry, Missouri, 1965. The river was documented on the east side of the house in a 1931 plat map and in an early district school map available in the Shannon County Clerk's Office. Examination of the terrain indicates that it is unlikely that the river was ever that far east, although the USGS map indicates that topographically it could have been only a few feet to the west of the house at one time. The original survey map of Town 32N, Range 2W, available from the Land Survey Program, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Rolla, Missouri, indicates that the river was in a similar place in 1840 as it is now, although it was much wider and an island was in the middle of section 28. See James E. Price, Cynthia R. Price, and Roger Saucier, Archeological Investigations in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, 1984-1986 (Springfield, Missouri: Center for Archeological Research, March, 1987) 122-165, for information on the shifting river.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Architecture  
Social History  
Exploration/Settlement

Period of Significance  
1857-1940  
1857-1940  
1857-1860  
Cultural Affiliation

Significant Dates  
1857, c. 1888,  
c. 1907

Significant Person

Architect/Builder  
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Reed House is significant as a vernacular architectural example and expression of historical periods of the Missouri Ozarks. The house reveals in its three primary components the pioneer era, through the log structure; the entrance of the lumbering industry and the railroads, in its board-and-batten L and limestone cellar; and the widespread availability of consumer goods and the desire for stability in the early twentieth century, expressed through the poured concrete porch.

Missouri was first settled by U.S. citizens around the time of the Louisiana Purchase, although the land was not immediately opened to sale. The Ozarks remained a wilderness area through much of the antebellum era, with only .5 persons per square mile in 1840, 1.61 in 1850, and 3.60 in 1860.<sup>2</sup> The Ozarks, like other areas of the country, were made available to settlers through three

<sup>1</sup>For surveys of the historic context of these three phases of Ozark development, see James Lee Murphy, A History of the Southeastern Ozark Region of Missouri (Ann Arbor: University Microfilms International, 1982); Donald L. Stevens, Jr. A Homeland and A Hinterland: The Current and Jacks Fork Riverways, Historic Resource Study of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, draft ms. at Midwest Region, National Park Service; and Milton D. Rafferty, The Ozarks Land and Life (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980). For a discussion of Ozarks dwellings see Robert Flanders, "The Places We Call Home: Ozarks Dwelling," Ozarks Watch, II:1 (Summer, 1988), 1, 3-6. In particular, note the Parker-Hickman House (National Register of Historic Places, Erbe, Arkansas) on 3., which was registered 8/11/87 using criteria A and C and which is similar to the Reed House.

<sup>2</sup>Murphy, 67, 77.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Ozark National Scenic Riverways

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 17.45 acres

UTM References

A 

1	15
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6	6	2	5	4	0
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4	1	1	3	3	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	15
---	----

6	6	2	7	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	1	1	3	0	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

B 

1	15
---	----

6	6	2	7	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	1	1	3	3	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

D 

1	15
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6	6	2	4	6	0
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4	1	1	3	0	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Reed House property is an area of 17.45 acres in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 28, Town 29N, Range 2W, Shannon County, Missouri, which includes two contiguous shapes: a square centered on the Reed structure and a right triangle which shares its eastern points with the western points of the square. The square is 800 feet by 800 feet, allowing 400 feet to the north, south, and east of the structure.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This boundary designation is important because it incorporates the major features of the former farmstead, which had an area of 114 acres and encompassed the entire SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 28. The eastern boundary of this nomination includes a portion of the ridge which rises sharply in front of the house. This wooded ridge is an important feature of the landscape. To the north and south of the house are open fields which are

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kimberly Scott Little, Historian

organization Midwest Region, National Park Service date August 17, 1990

street & number 1709 Jackson Street telephone 402-221-3426

city or town Omaha state Nebraska zip code 68102

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and more than a mile southwest of the house.

The original log structure is a single pen and approximately 17' by 24' on the exterior with interior measurements of 15'4" by 23'.<sup>2</sup> The front eave side is oriented to the east. The structure is composed of ten-inch hewn pine logs which have been covered with clapboard siding attached with furring strips on the south side and vertical board with additional partial coverage of clapboard siding on the north side.<sup>3</sup> These sawmill products are probably original to the structure.<sup>3</sup> The logs are notched with half-dovetails. Square nails were used and are evident in the interior construction.<sup>4</sup>

The log structure was subdivided into two rooms at the time of construction using a single thickness of vertical, hand-planed, tongue-and-groove boards, supported only by visible horizontal boards across the top, bottom, and middle. The north room has one four-over-four, double-hung window, the casement of which is original to the structure. The south room has one four-over-four, double-hung window on the south side and one six-over-six, double-hung window on the west side. In the south room one door opens into the west (or L) addition, one opens into the north room, and two doors open into the east (or porch) addition. The southernmost east door and the west door are probably original to the cabin. They were both hung on strap hinges originally, but these have been replaced with factory-produced hardware.

A limestone fireplace was on the south wall of the south room in the early period of significance but was removed when stoves became available in the area. The floor of the structure is composed of wide boards. The original floor was hewn logs, which

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<sup>2</sup>C. Price and J. Price, "Field Notes: Macy Cabin, 23SH-270," November 8, 1985, Midwest Region, National Park Service, is an excellent archeological and architectural survey of the Reed Log House. The description given in this nomination was compiled from the Price "Field Notes," field examination by the author and Historian Donald Stevens, and examination through videotape by Historical Architects Mark Chavez and William Harlow.

<sup>3</sup>This siding was milled before circular saws came into widespread use, dating them from before 1870. Because many of the mills were not rebuilt from the Civil War by this date, these were probably antebellum boards. There were several antebellum mills in the county from which the wood could have been obtained. James R. Price, telephone conversation with the author, July 30, 1990. See also Price, Price, and Saucier (1987), 73-74.

<sup>4</sup>The square nails were noted in Price and Price (1985) to be of a post-1830s vintage.

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were replaced around 1885 and were used under the primary structure and first addition as supporting beams. The pier foundation is composed of rubble fieldstone, supporting these wooden beams. The ceiling is original and is composed of wide ship-lap boards. The roof rafters are a pole construction without a ridge board and is believed to be original. Corrugated tin has covered the pole frame probably for much of this century, although previously the only roofing materials available would have been wood shingles.

The first addition to the structure is a board-and-batten "L" on the west side, built between 1885 and 1888. The boards are of variable width, although the battens are about three inches wide. The L's roof is gabled, and it intersects the roof of the original structure. The L has a single room with four-over-four, double-hung windows on the north and west sides. A window on the south side is missing. There is a thin door on the south side, and it had steps leading to it at one time. There are indications that the L may have been divided into two rooms, east and west, in the past.<sup>5</sup> The floor of the L is raised about ten inches above the floor of the original structure and is wooden. The foundation is a wall composed of limestone, the upper part of which is held together with mortar. Some of the stones for the foundation came from the original fireplace. The foundation for the L forms a cellar, about 5'8" maximum height.

The L is on ground sloping from east to west, so the cellar is about three and a half feet deep where it meets the original foundation. The cellar had a window opening on the south side and a single door on the west side. Inside the cellar on the north wall are shelves, which hold jars in various conditions. The floor of the L has been stabilized with abundant vertical posts which support a floor beam and with equally abundant diagonal studs which extend from the center of the cellar floor to the floor above. The exterior dimensions are about sixteen feet by eighteen feet. The west addition probably was the first addition to be completed as it is now. The use of sawed lumber indicates that the structure probably was completed around 1885.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>Price and Price (1985) noted that the ceiling paint and wallpaper in the room was different on the eastern half than on the western half. Although there is no other evidence of a partition, this division would indicate that the space was once two rooms.

<sup>6</sup>The Chain of Title for this property, available at the Shannon Abstract Company, Eminence, Missouri, indicates a jump in the price of the farmstead, then more than 260 acres, from \$500 to \$3000 in three years (1885-1888). The higher price may be explained in part by the entrance of the lumber industry and increased land values, but the higher price also could correspond

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The east addition is composed of a porch and an additional room and can be dated from around 1900-1910.<sup>7</sup> The original structure probably had a porch with shed roof such as this current one. The floor of the porch, however, appears to be poured concrete but maybe a concrete surface with field stone underneath. It includes a two-foot concrete wall on the north half. If the porch were reconstructed when the concrete was poured, the addition can be dated from around 1910 or later. The porch could have been part of the original structure, with only the concrete having been added; however, this is unlikely because it appears the eave of the original house was altered with the shed addition. The east addition is divided into two parts: the south side, which is a screened porch with a door to the outside, and the north room, which is enclosed with clapboard siding. The lower half of the screened porch is covered with one layer of clapboard siding over a simple frame. The upper half is wire screen. The floor is concrete. The north room, which may have been enclosed when the concrete was added, has one pair of four-over-four, double-hung windows on the east side. There is a built-in open cupboard which juts out of the wall to the east and is about four feet wide. A door leads outdoors from the north wall. The floor is wood over concrete. The walls are vertical siding. The exterior dimensions measure nine feet by twenty-four feet. The entire structure is roofed with corrugated tin. A cistern is located just north of the east addition.

The Reed Log House is structurally sound, despite its age and disuse for human habitation for fifty years. Examination of the roofline, the primary foundation, and other features indicate a sturdy, stable structure. The cellar walls have crumbled partially in two places, where the door to the cellar formerly stood on the west wall and on the south side directly under the L where there is a window opening. Both of these areas were in good condition in 1967 when the Park Service took over the building, as evidenced by early survey photographs. Fortunately, the corners of the cellar walls are firmly supporting the L. Inside the house, the wallpaper is deteriorating because it was pasted over newspapers which have a high acid content. Nevertheless, the print on the wallpaper is distinguishable, despite being around one hundred years old. Most of the windows are in good condition, with white

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to improvements, such as the addition of the L.

<sup>7</sup>James R. Price, telephone conversation with the author, July 30, 1990. Price and Price (1985) had indicated a possible later date for the porch (1950s), but this date is well beyond the known dates of use for human habitation in the structure, with which James Price concurs.

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paint visible on the frames and looking almost fresh. One window is missing, as is one door. The floor is in good repair except for a hole near the door from the porch to the house.

The house has not been occupied since the late 1930s or early 1940s but was used for an outbuilding for the farm. Apparently the house was used to store chicken feed at one time, as evidenced by a feed box in one corner of the south room and an auger pipe for pumping feed. This box erroneously was labeled a fruit box in some previous drawings. The National Park Service has boarded over all of the windows, doors, and screens, which protects the structure from large animals and people entering it. The Park Service crew commissioned to remove the building from the Riverways had begun to disassemble the clapboard siding when they discovered the logs underneath, although only a small section was removed.

Despite the evidences of disuse and the work of the Park Service around the Reed House, it retains a high degree of integrity and probably looks much as it did when it was occupied around the turn of the century. It is an example of a pioneer log house which was adapted over time into a larger dwelling. Features such as the cellar are indicative of specific movements within Ozark history, and the changing material and cultural values of the region may be seen in its construction.



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federal land laws, the first one allowing purchase of 640 acres at \$1.25 per acre. This law was particularly useless in the Ozarks where settlers were sometimes poor and unable to make the huge payments required for 640 acres of land, and where they appeared to not feel the need to purchase land that they could squat on for free. In response to the great number of squatters across available land in the United States, Congress passed the Preemption Act in 1841, which allowed squatters to purchase the land they lived on after it was surveyed. Still, most of the Ozark land was not purchased by settlers until the Graduation Act of 1854. This law allowed settlers to purchase land in plots up to 320 acres and graduated the cost of land based on how long it had been on the market unsold. If land had been on the market for thirty years or more, it cost only twelve and a half cents per acre. Under this law, most of the land in the Ozarks was purchased in five years.<sup>3</sup>

While the usual purchaser of Ozark land under the Graduation Act was a speculator, bona fide settlers did take up residence on the newly purchased land, and former squatters became legal owners. One of these squatters was Thomas Reed, who purchased 114.15 acres in Section 28, Township 32, Range 2 West, in 1857.<sup>4</sup> Reed was a doctor and farmer in his late fifties with a large family. According to letters which he wrote to his brother in Choctaw County, Mississippi, from 1852 to 1959, Reed and his family had been squatting on Current River land ten miles below the mouth of Jacks Fork River in Shannon and Carter Counties since the late 1830s.<sup>5</sup> Under the Graduation Act, Reed and his children purchased 700 to 800 acres along the Current River from 1854 to August, 1856. He told his brother of his intention to purchase another 180 acres north of him and on adjoining property late in the fall of 1856.

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<sup>3</sup>Ibid, 53-72.

<sup>4</sup>Patent Certificate No. 25441, Eastern States Office, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, Alexandria, Virginia.

<sup>5</sup>Reed made reference to the formation of Shannon County since his brother had visited him in the Ozarks several years before. See Thomas Reed to Elijah Reed, 1852-1859, rep. in Charles L. Orchard and Marjory Orchard, The Chiltons: Their Ancestors and Descendants (Eminence, Missouri: n.p., 1977), Vol.II, 872-883. Shannon County was formed in 1841, indicating that he had been in the area for at least a few years before that. Further indication of his long tenure as a squatter was that he appears to have migrated with his brother-in-law, one of three Thomas Chiltons to settle the area. The Thomas Chiltons had taken up residence in the Ozarks in 1823, 1832, and 1833. See Murphy, 48, 62.

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This was probably the land on which the Reed House is located.

Thomas Reed was the first doctor in Shannon County, and he like his neighbors had emigrated from eastern Tennessee.<sup>6</sup> His wife was Mary Chilton, of one of the foremost families in Ozarks society. He was on good terms with his Chilton in-laws although he and his family were political rivals of some members of the Shannon County Chiltons. His children intermarried with the other families in the valley such as the Fanchiers near Owl's Bend. His status as a physician probably gave him respect in the community, and one of his sons, David Reed, was appointed to the three-man committee which selected the location of the seat of Carter County when it was formed in 1859.<sup>7</sup> Dr. Reed strongly opposed the Know-Nothings and probably held Southern sentiments, although his letters indicate a distaste for politics generally.

There are no known sources on the construction of the log house on Section 28. Settlement patterns of the Reed family offer few clues to who might have occupied it first. Thomas Reed and his family remained in a tight-knit group along the Current, and they appear to have held the surrounding land as if in common. Any of the children who were grown in 1857 could have taken possession of the land. It was Thomas's son David C. Reed who sold it in 1871.<sup>8</sup>

Evidence that the log house was built in the antebellum era is more extensive than evidence of the builder. The construction of the house indicates that it was built prior to common use of balloon frames in the Ozarks. The clapboard siding was milled before the introduction of circular saws around 1870. In this area of Shannon County, which lost all of its mills during the Civil War and did not rebuild them until circular saws would have been available, the siding must have been milled prior to 1861. Further indication of an early date of construction for the house was the presence of a stone fireplace, which appears to have been the exclusive means for heating and cooking originally. Had the house been constructed in the postbellum era, factory-produced stoves as were used later in the Ozarks would have been available.<sup>9</sup> Evidence points to the date of construction of the cabin as prior to 1861,

<sup>6</sup>Orchard and Orchard, 198.

<sup>7</sup>Murphy, 51; Orchard and Orchard, 872-883.

<sup>8</sup>Chain of Title for SW 1/4 of NE 1/4 of Section 28, Township 32 Range 2 West developed by Charlotte Hunt, Shannon Abstract Company, Eminence, Missouri.

<sup>9</sup>James Price, telephone conversation with the author, July 31, 1990; C. Price and J. Price, "Field Notes: Macy Cabin, 23SH-270," November 8, 1985, Midwest Region, National Park Service.

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and it could have been constructed as early as about 1840, when the Reeds began squatting in Shannon County.

The Reed family suffered during the Civil War as did other Ozarkians. They were subject to outlaw raids, and Dr. Reed and three of his children died in the course of the war. His daughter was shot by a solitary robber at her home in Oregon, Missouri. And, in late March, 1865, Reed and two of his sons were dragged from their home and shot by "Lieutenant McHenry's mob."<sup>10</sup> Dr. Reed may have died intestate, because there are no extant probate records for him, and the right of his son David to sell the land in 1871 appears to have been contested by the other Reed offspring in the next several years, until the sheriff granted full title to the next landowner in 1884. The children and their heirs were listed as defendants in yet another claim dispute over the land in 1907.<sup>11</sup> Regardless, David C. Reed apparently took possession of the property and was responsible for it in 1871, when he sold a portion. The sale appears to have not been completed, because Reed and two of his sisters sold the surrounding land to Richard M. Rouse in 1883 and 1884. Rouse turned the land around the next year, selling it at a small profit to James and Lucy Prather.

The Prathers were the last family to hold the property for any appreciable time from 1885 through 1907. They sold the house and surrounding land at a huge profit--the price jumped from \$500 to \$3000 in just three years--and no doubt they had made some significant improvements. They are probably responsible for the first addition to the house and for the removal of the fireplace and its replacement with the wood stove.

The last two decades of the nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth century in the Missouri Ozarks were a time of change. The entrance of railroads and corporate lumbering, meant rising land values, increased standards of living, and new residents.<sup>12</sup> The large-scale lumber industry brought some of the settlers' first cash crop, and the railroads brought consumer goods to buy with the new money. The Reed Log House adapted with the times in the last two decades of the century. The west addition to the house, dating from the Prather's tenancy around 1885, is of frame construction, a design increasing in Ozark popularity in the late nineteenth century. The unknown builders made use of lumber which had been milled using circular saws, and they replaced the log house floor with milled boards. They used the old floorboards,

<sup>10</sup>Orchard and Orchard, Vol. I, 198.

<sup>11</sup>Chain of Title developed by Charlotte Hunt, Shannon Abstract Company.

<sup>12</sup>Murphy, 140.

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to stabilize the new addition and the older section. They also removed the old fireplace and used the dressed stone from it in the cellar walls. The hearth was replaced by a factory stove, which could have been brought to within a few miles of the house on one of the new railroad lines.<sup>13</sup> Around 1890, the occupants began using newspapers from St. Louis and from other once nearly inaccessible places as wallcoverings, and they also began employing mass-produced Victorian wallpaper.<sup>14</sup>

The wallpaper, newspapers, and stoves reflect the influx of new people and new ideas that came with lumbering and the railroads. One new person or family almost every year from 1888 to 1907 owned the land surrounding the Reed House. While earlier immigrants had travelled from the mountains of eastern Tennessee and other southern Appalachian communities, some of the new owners were from Illinois and St. Louis.<sup>15</sup> The frequency with which the owners of the Reed property changed mirrored the instability of all aspects of Ozark life at the time. Even the river shifted slightly, driven off its centuries-old course by the gravel runoff from the deforested hillsides.<sup>16</sup> Features of the frame addition, such as the rapidity with which it could be constructed, reflects this Ozarks era of growth and reveals the housing expansion process for the area.

Shannon County and the Ozarks entered a new phase of development around 1910, when the lumber companies began to pull out of the region.<sup>17</sup> The Reed House exemplifies this period of

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<sup>13</sup>Price and Price (1985); and Murphy, 128-129; Stephen M. Knight and Melinda Campbell, "Nichols Farm," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Midwest Region, August 22, 1986.

<sup>14</sup>See "Compilation of Historic Structure Reports on the Ozark National Scenic Riverways," U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Van Buren, Missouri, 1974. for references to the Worlds Fair Record from 1893 which was pasted to the wall of the log house. The wallpaper was identified as Victorian in Price and Price (1985).

<sup>15</sup>Murphy, 134, 142-143.

<sup>16</sup>James R. Price, Cynthia R. Price, and Roger Saucier, Archeological Investigations in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, 1984-1986 (Springfield, Missouri: Center for Archeological Research, March, 1987), 122-165.

<sup>17</sup>Murphy, 194-266, discusses the rise and fall of the Ozarks around the turn of the century.

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## REED LOG HOUSE

stability, the first such time in the Ozarks' history of squatters, partisan warfare, and fast dealing from railroads and lumber companies. In 1907, M.V. Keller and his wife Minnie purchased the Reed property. The Keller family owned and lived on the land until 1916, when they sold it to the Moon-Larkin family, who held it until 1946.<sup>18</sup> The Kellers probably added the concrete porch to the Reed House and enclosed the north end of it. They also built the first school in the area, located about three-quarters of a mile south of them and called Buttin Rock after the nearby bluff. Both the concrete in the porch and the school are a physical representation of the new stable society. A community with a school had a cohesiveness that would have been impossible in the earlier stage of rapid changes of ownership. A family who poured a concrete porch had intentions to stay a while. Both the Kellers and the Moon-Larkin family viewed the land as a family venture; they either sold it or willed it to their own kin, and they stayed long enough to cultivate the fields for more than one season.

The last person to live at the Reed House was Laura Moon, Alex Larkin, or his niece Sally Moon. In 1946, Sally Moon sold the property to Clarence and Irene Macy, residents of nearby Ellington who became absentee owners of the farm. The Macys sold the farm to the U.S. government for the Ozark National Scenic Riverways in the summer of 1967. At the time the Macys purchased the property, there was at least one other dwelling on the grounds, which was referred to as the main house, and a third dwelling, referred to in the government reports as the new tenant house, was constructed in the 1950s or 1960s. These structures were dismantled and removed by the National Park Service according to the plans for the Riverways, but their former presence indicates the long disuse of the Reed House. For several years--possibly in the 1940s, 50s, and 60s--the Reed House was used as an outbuilding on the farm, as a chicken feed box in the south room of the original log structure indicates. There is no evidence that the structure was used for anything other than storage. Even this last phase of the Reed House is typical of the fate of Ozarks old homes, which often were used as outbuildings after they were replaced with modern dwellings.

The Reed House is significant because of its architecture, typical of Ozark log houses which were added on to as new consumer products became available through the railroads and mills. It is also significant because it is one of the oldest standing

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<sup>18</sup>Chain of Title developed by Charlotte Hunt, Shannon Abstract Company.

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**REED LOG HOUSE**

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structures within the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. The Reed House deserves recognition as an outstanding example of Ozark vernacular architecture and as one of the few extant pioneer structures in the Ozarks which has retained features from the pioneer era.

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REED LOG HOUSE

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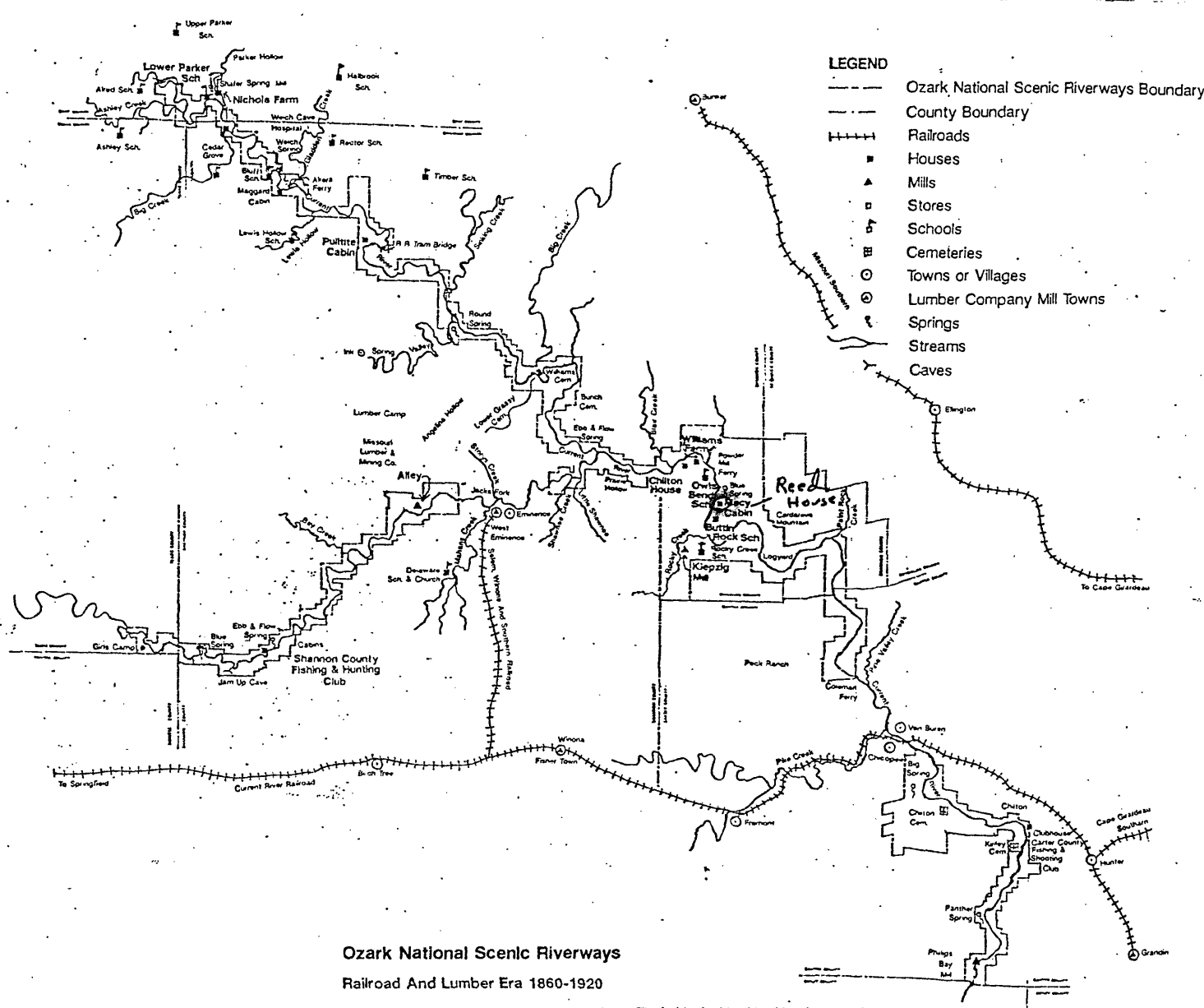
Verbal Boundary Description

The triangle has a height of 800 feet and a base of 300 feet. Its two eastern points are located at the western points of the above-mentioned square, and its other point is located 300 feet due west of the southwest point of the square. The entire 17.45 acres are in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways and are on the Current River about ten miles south of Jacks Fork.

Boundary Justification

are in similar condition to what they were during the later period of significance. They are important to the feeling of the farmstead. About twenty yards to the north is a little spring that the residents would have used for drinking water. To the west, the boundary selected touches the Current River, another water source and one food source for the farmstead. The southern boundary extends to the midpoint of the river as it was documented on the 1985 U.S.G.S. quadrangle map. This area also includes an extant 400-foot stretch of Buttin Rock Road, a historic river road. The 17.45 acre area as described above is the minimal acreage necessary to give the sense of the property during its period of significance.





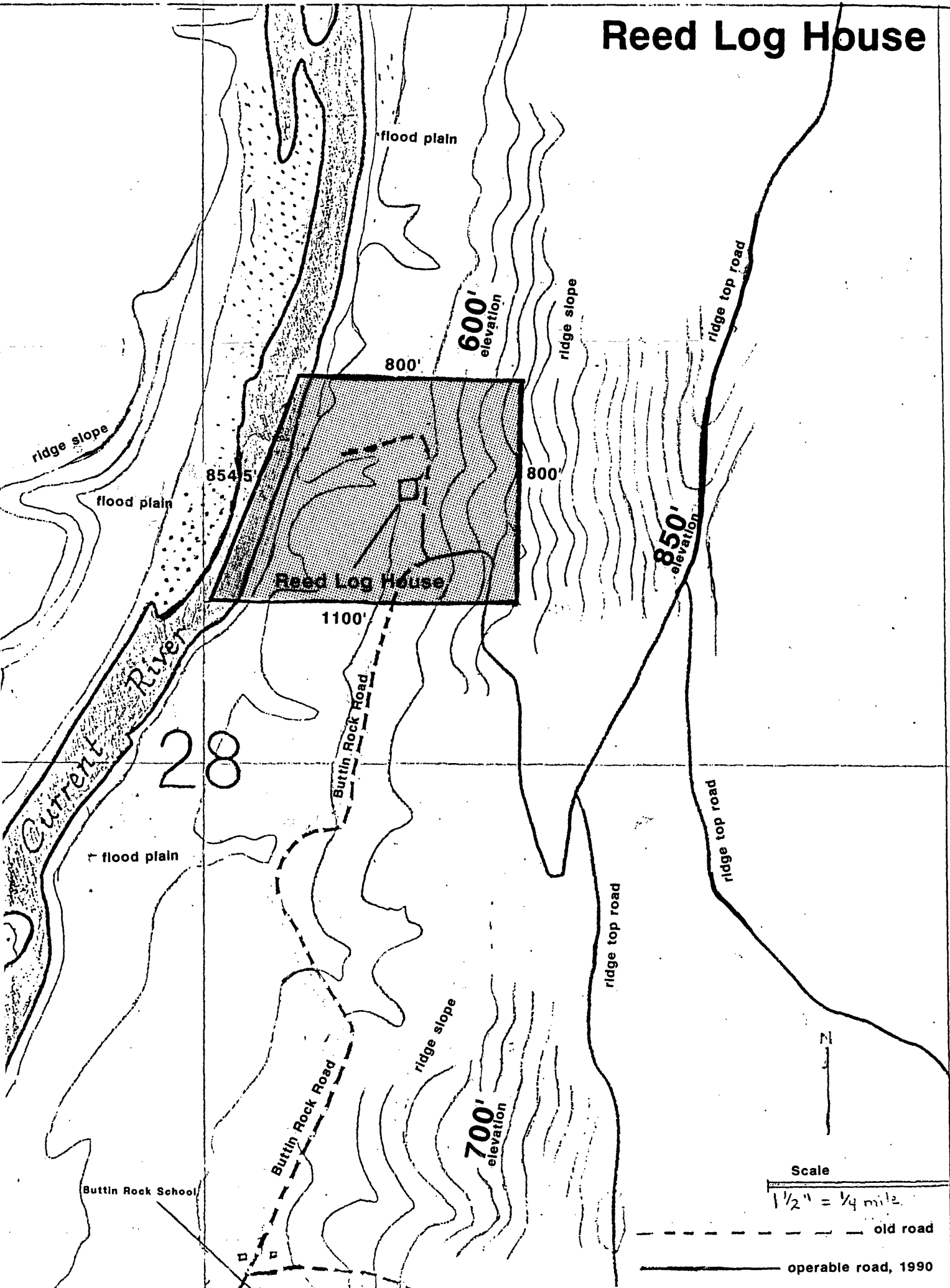
**LEGEND**

- Ozark National Scenic Riverways Boundary
- - - County Boundary
- ||||| Railroads
- Houses
- ▲ Mills
- Stores
- Schools
- ⊞ Cemeteries
- Towns or Villages
- ⊙ Lumber Company Mill Towns
- Springs
- ~ Streams
- Caves

**Ozark National Scenic Riverways  
Railroad And Lumber Era 1860-1920**

Note: The bold print identifies historic properties extant in the park in 1990

# Reed Log House

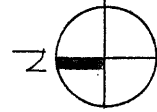
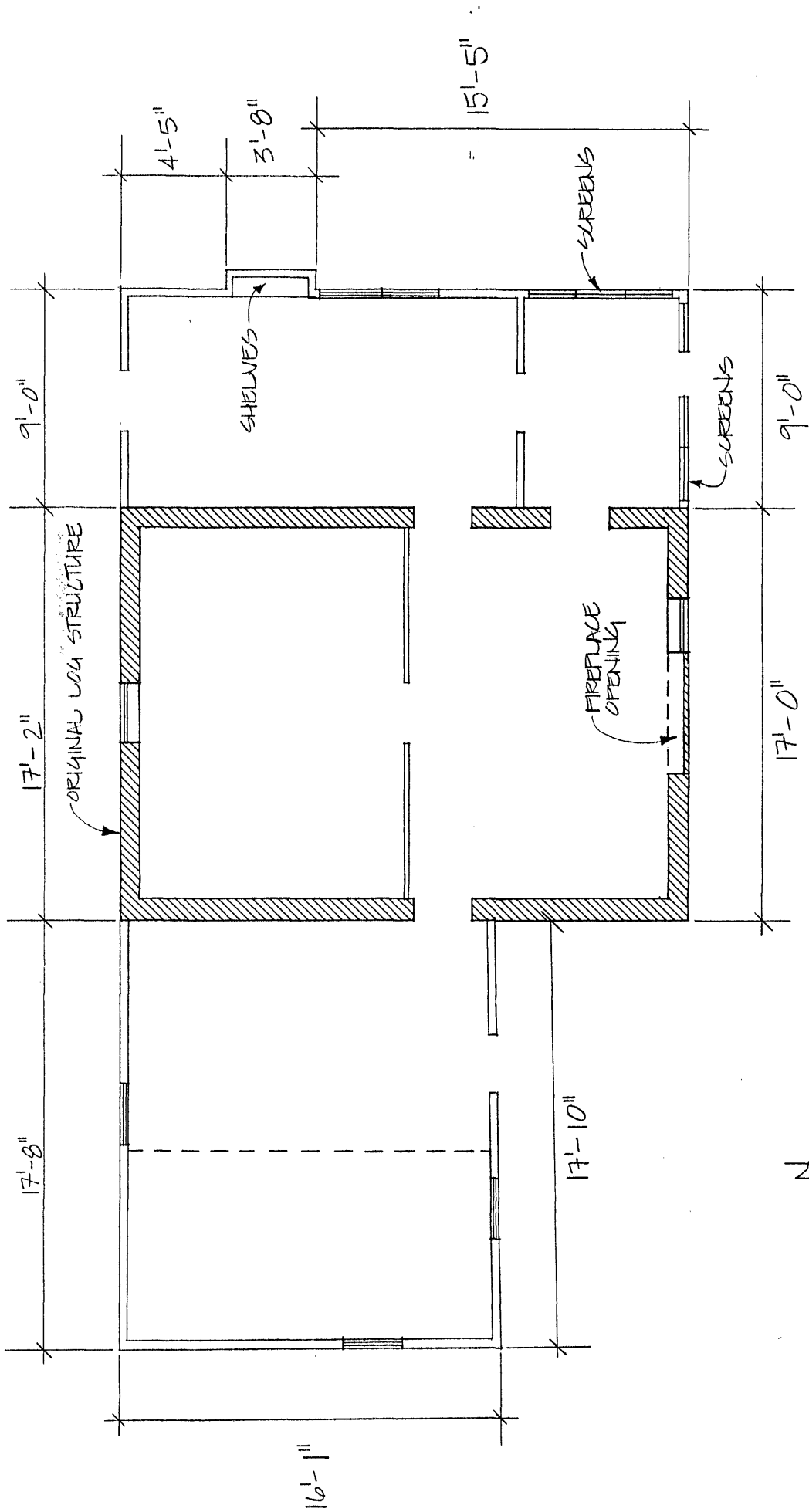


Scale

1/2" = 1/4 mile

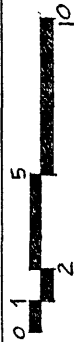
----- old road

———— operable road, 1990



REED HOUSE

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91000456

Date Listed: 4/29/91

Reed Log House  
Property Name

Shannon  
County

MO  
State

**Multiple Name**

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland  
Signature of the Keeper

4/29/91  
Date of Action

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

Item #8: Significance:

The level of significance was omitted. The correct level is local, as stated in the 3/14/91 letter from the NPS History Division.

This information was confirmed by Ben Levy of the History Division and Don Stevens of the Midwest Region.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)