

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 28 1987

DATE ENTERED AUG 11 1987

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Parker-Hickman Farm Historic District

AND/OR COMMON  
Hickman Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Buffalo National River

CITY, TOWN Erbie VICINITY OF Jasper COUNTY CODE 3  
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Newton

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)  
National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER  
P.O. Box 1173

CITY, TOWN Harrison VICINITY OF Arkansas STATE 72601

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
STREET & NUMBER Headquarters, Buffalo National River

CITY, TOWN P.O. Box 1173 STATE Arkansas 72601  
Harrison

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE List of Classified Structures; Erbie Area Development Plan/Cultural  
DATE 1985 Landscape Report

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Southwest Regional Office (National Park Service)

CITY, TOWN Santa Fe STATE New Mexico

# 7 DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1840s-1945</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Parker-Hickman Farm, located in the southern Ozark Plateau occupies land along the south side of the Buffalo River in Newton County Arkansas. Following cession of lands by the Cherokee in northwest Arkansas in 1828, settlers from areas of the southern highlands began entering lands in the region. Consisting of 195 acres of bottom, bench and ridge land, it is endowed with natural resources especially mixed hardwoods and cedar; springs, creeks and river; and productive soil. Farm fields on the bottoms and benches remain while fences and farm lots delimit other areas and functions. A network of roads provide routes to other valley farms and communities, while valley to ridge roads link the farm to nearby and distant markets. The Parker-Hickman farmstead is nestled at the foot of a ridge in a widened portion of Webb Branch Creek through which a spring branch flows. Eight structures arranged roughly in a rectangle comprise the farmstead. A log house with 1-1/2 story log crib, rear and side shed-roof additions, front porch and a massive fireplace/chimney dominate the scene. Near the house is a frame, board and batten smokehouse and a Works Project Administration privy. North and west of the house stand two barns; the oldest has a double log crib with shed roof additions, driveway and haymow and the other a rough sawn frame structure with board and batten siding and a gable roof. A small, reused log corn crib stands next to the barnyard and two sheds for poultry and machinery complete the farmstead proper. Little in the way of change has occurred to fundamentally alter the integrity of the farm; structures, roads, fields, fences and the landscape remain the same.

One of the last regions to be penetrated by settlers after crossing the Mississippi River, the Ozark Plateau is an area dissected by ridges and valleys, open glades and bottomlands. The Ozarks, an old, eroded geologic peneplain covered with a mixed hardwood forest after 1920, previously had a pine covered landscape. Settlers began to penetrate the region along river corridors like the Arkansas, White and its tributary, the Buffalo. From Rhea County, Tennessee came several families in the 1830s (Parker, Gaither, Rush, Snelson, Hickman) to Carroll County, Arkansas; the Parkers initially settled along the upper Buffalo, the others along Crooked Creek.<sup>1</sup>

The Alvin and Greenberry Parker families squatted on land adjacent to the floodplain of the Buffalo and Parker branch (ne Webb) very near the site of the present farmstead. With abundant natural resources nearby, the niche alongside a sheltering ridge provided enclosure: adaptation to topographical features.<sup>2</sup> Land incorporated into the holdings included benchland fields on the ridges, woodlands and bottomlands along the creek and river. William H. Parker, son of Alvin Parker, completed the first official filing in 1847 for 41.82 acres; in 1850 he filed for an additional 42.19 acres, both tracts are part of the nomination.<sup>3</sup> Additional entries and purchases during the nineteenth century completed the holdings as nominated.

Illustrative of an agricultural enterprise which encompasses an environmental niche, the farm provided the occupants with most basic needs in the nineteenth

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

17

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RECEIVED	MAY 26 1987
DATE ENTERED	

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

century though less self-sufficient during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. An abundance of water sources existed on the tract including the spring branch which bisects the farmyard. Abundant timber on the farm, especially mixed hardwood and cedars found utilization as building materials, fencing, fuel, tools, implements, utensils and machines such as spinning and carding devices. It was cut for commercial purposes too.

Good soils on the farm, in particular the bottomlands, supported a great variety of crops and produce through the years. These included vegetables and fruit, with a garden and orchard to the east and south of the house; crops such as grains (corn and wheat in particular plus other cereal grains), tobacco, cotton, sorghum on the bottomland and upland fields; forage for livestock including cattle, hogs, mules and horses; and feed for poultry. Dairy products found markets in the immediate community or hotels in Jasper, the county seat, four miles to the south.

The farmstead displays use of available natural resources, particularly wood as a building material. Rough sawn lumber and logs form an architectural style copied from the Appalachians. Gable and shed roofs characterize the house and outbuildings and the entire farmstead reflects the efforts of the relatively small independent farmer practicing mixed agriculture. Contributory structures include all but the machine shed and chickenhouse both built in the 1950s.

The house is a square 1-1/2 story wooden structure, 18'8" x 18'8", the main portion of which is a single log crib constructed of native red cedar. A gable roof covers the log portion. Originally, covered with wood shakes or shingles it at present is covered with corrugated metal. Three double-hung windows (four over four lights) remain, along with front and rear doors. A 7' x 18'8" shed-roofed porch extends across the front of the log portion and is supported by rock piers. The walls are made of red cedar logs squared off and laid up at the corners with half dove-tail notches. The log walls are chinked with mud and wood and the exterior joints covered with wood battens nailed to the logs. Considerable skill with hand tools is observable, in particular the notching and fitting. Curved cornices add individuality to the front corners of the log portion and the loft rafters are fixed with wooden pegs.

Flush with the outside wall of the west gable end is a sawn-stone chimney and fireplace. The masonry is composed of stone slabs (flagstone) laid up on edge, an unusual but locally common nineteenth century practice. At the base it is 6' wide by 2'4" deep and about 24' high bevelled from the base to the narrower chimney stack. The hearth and mantel are constructed of native rock.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 26 1987
DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

During the nineteenth century additions were added to the south and also the east side of the cabin. Though altering it, the architectural style did not fundamentally change. Of rough sawn boards and battens nailed vertically over the joints, the addition increased the size of the entire structure to about 785 square feet. The gable roof on the south side of the cabin extended over the rear ell while a shed roof covered the added room on the east. Interior walls of the addition are boxed in and papered, mostly with newspapers; each room included windows (four over four lights); and two exterior doors added in each new section. Pine boards are nailed on the floor joists and lineoleum lays over that.

An integral part of the farmstead is a barn constructed in 1912 by James D. Hickman. It is a double-crib log structure with each crib measuring 12'8" x 16' with a 12'6" driveway between them. The logs are saddle-notched and a gable roof covers the entire structure. It has a haymow which spans the length with a hay door under the east gable. In 1926 Hickman built a rough sawn vertical board and batten addition on the north side (8' x 37'-10") covered with a shed roof. Extending along the south side is another addition dating from 1926. It is a pole shelter measuring 8' x 26' with a shed roof. At present the entire barn is roofed with corrugated metal. Another barn constructed by Hickman in 1926 stands nearby. It is a wood frame building with vertical board and batten siding and peeled pole floor for hay storage in the east one-half. The dimensions are 30' x 20' and the gabled roof is corrugated metal.

Reflecting another portion of the farming enterprise are wood frame structures for machine storage and poultry. Both buildings (non-contributing resources built in 1955 by Hickman) are shed roof style, covered with vertical board and batten siding and roofed with corrugated metal. The chickenhouse measures 10' x 10' and the machine shed 10' x 16'. A small wooden corn crib is located near the two barns. It is a wood frame structure built prior to 1900 of squared log sills on fieldstone piers. The gable roof is covered with corrugated metal and the sides are rough sawn vertical boards and battens attached with square nails. The log sills are notched in such a way to indicate use in some earlier structure.

Two wood frame buildings complete the farmstead. A Works Project Administration (WPA-1930s) privy with a metal roof and rough sawn board siding remains southeast of the house. Southwest of the house stands a frame smokehouse sided with rough sawn boards built in the 1920s; it has a gable roof covered with corrugated metal.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES                      1850s-c.1937                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT                      Various

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Parker-Hickman Farm is eligible under Criterion A and is significant in the areas of exploration/settlement and Criterion C, architecture. A) Established in the 1840s by settlers from western Tennessee, and continuously operated until 1982, this farm embodies an agricultural landscape with farmstead, extant fields (bench and bottomland), fencerows, roads, cattle gates, garden and orchard plots, wooded slopes and springs. Unlike most farms in the Ozarks the landscape is remarkably intact, and provides insights and evidence spanning portions of two centuries of Ozark history; not randomly chosen, it conveys a feeling of enclosure, shelter, and exemplifies adaptative use of topography. Among farms of its kind in Missouri and Arkansas it is typical but survives as a "baseline" for Ozark yeomanry farms of mixed economies. C) Parker-Hickman is significant for its architecture as well, with structures ranging in age from 30 to 135 years. A cross-section of rural vernacular architecture in the original location is represented by the house, barns, sheds, smokehouse and privy. Outstanding in the grouping is a hewn log house built in the 1850s which illustrates the very finest in frontier building techniques.

Land entry records demonstrate that the farm, and indeed most of northwest Arkansas had been given over to the relocated Cherokee people in the 1820s. In 1828 the Indians ceded the lands back to the national government which made way for settlers to push into the Ozark frontier. Often squatted on, lands began to have an orderliness of disposal following initial survey in the 1830s. Along reaches of Buffalo River, the 1840s saw land entries being made on the more suitable tracts by settlers coming from Tennessee and Kentucky - parallel lines of migration across the southern uplands. Not uncommon in frontier United States was the phenomena of individuals and/or families migrating from the same locale; a number of Buffalo River settlers of Newton County, Arkansas originated in Rhea County Tennessee.<sup>4</sup> The Parkers (among them Alvin and Greenberry) were in the vanguard of the 1830s, seeking land for support in ways similar to Tennessee or the Carolinas, as they settled along the watercourses suitable for agriculture during the Old Ozarks phase (pre Civil War).<sup>5</sup>

The early farms tended to be quite small; agriculture census data in 1835 note Alvin Parker had one horse and two cattle and three years later a horse and six cattle; in 1840 Greenberry Parker reported one horse and one cow.<sup>6</sup> In usual frontier fashion Parker children began their own families and took up nearby land. During the 1850s migration increased into the Ozarks and in the upper Buffalo River valley; new arrivals from Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee are

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	26
DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

reflected in the census data and as the farm's owners subsequent to the Parkers who sold it in 1857.<sup>7</sup> Settler-owners during the Civil War period reflect sympathies, both North and South, which were in keeping with regional patterns of the border states. Post Civil War owners, consistent with Ozark patterns, expanded farming operations and utilized timber available during the boom years of that industry. The last owners (Hickman), though early arrivals (1840s), presided over increased commercial agriculture in the Ozarks during the twentieth century: timber, grains, livestock. Adaptive characteristics for the Parker-Hickman farm appear across time and ownership, indicating a variety of natural resources on the bottomland to upland tract.

This launched an agricultural enterprise that continuously operated until 1982 from a farmstead which exemplifies the entire period, and a rare one for the Ozarks since it survives. Clustered around the farmstead are several structures: barns, sheds, smokehouse, privy, fences, stockfeeders and house. As such, the structures represent a cross-section and range of rural vernacular architecture at the original location.

The principal structure is a log house, quite common in the southern uplands. In quality of construction the hewn log crib portion exemplifies superior fitting together of Carolina-designed, half-dovetail notched logs. In the Ozarks a higher social status accrued to those who lived in a hewed log house rather than a log cabin.<sup>8</sup> The side and rear additions make the structure a usual and traditional dwelling. According to one close observer of rural vernacular architecture in the region, the Parker-Hickman house has a steeper pitched roof than those of German influence in the northern Ozarks and is constructed of cedar logs, not traditional oak or walnut.<sup>9</sup>

Other buildings of contributory significance to the farm illustrate the variety of activities from the 1850s to c.1937. These include two barns, a corn crib, smokehouse and privy. Constructed of logs or rough sawn lumber, they reflect the usual complement of buildings on an Ozarks' farm, and demonstrate adaptation to the topography and changing conditions of an agricultural economy over time. Very typical, and in a fair to good state of repair, they lend themselves to the farm's overall integrity.

Although other farms in the Ozark-Quachita region had similar origins, with settlement patterns that evolved from subsistence to commercial agriculture. The Parker-Hickman farm is important because it survived intact, a rarity. Though hundreds of farms in the region began as simple subsistence operations with basic structures for sheltering humans and livestock, no remnants remain and none hold preservation status. Most had a basic single-pen log cabin and

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 26 1977
DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

likewise log barns, all of which were commonly saddle-notched logs. As economic circumstances permitted, owners added additional structures as they changed more and more to commercial agriculture; some operations became oriented toward livestock while others to grain and mixed farming. For some the dwelling represented evidence of the change and hewn log houses fitted together in dove-tailed notching exhibited social status. In due course sawn lumber, pre-cut houses and various embellishments served to indicate social mobility. For owners of the Parker-Hickman farm the hewn log house remained the dwelling across 135 years; however, they did make additions to the house at various times plus add other outbuildings to the farmstead.

Until purchased by the National Park Service the Parker-Hickman farm continued as an agricultural enterprise for more than one hundred forty-five years, a rare, intact survival of a typical southern upland farm in the Ozark-Quachita region.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 26 1987
DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

1. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Parker-Hickman Farmstead Buffalo National River, Arkansas, by Suzanne D. Rogers, Historic Structure Report Historical Data, May 1984, p. 46 (hereafter cited, Rogers, Parker-Hickman Farmstead).
2. Robert Keber, "Site Selection of Pre-1940 Mountain Houses," in Doug Swaim (ed), Carolina Dwelling. (Raleigh: The Student Publication of the School of Design: Volume 26, North Carolina State University, 1978).
3. Rogers, Parker-Hickman Farmstead, pp. 54, 56.
4. Ibid., pp. 45-46.
5. Ibid., Milton D. Rafferty, The Ozarks, Land and Life. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980) pp. 39-40.
6. Rogers, Parker-Hickman Farmstead, p. 50.
7. Ibid., p. 67.
8. Wiley Britton, Pioneer Life In Southwest Missouri, Volume IX, Revised and Enlarged Edition. (Kansas City: Smith Grieves Co., Publishers, 1929). pp. 149-150.
9. Telephone conversation with Dr. Robert Flanders May 20, 1985, Director, Center for Ozark Studies, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri.



# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 195 (approximate)

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	4 7 9 4 3 0	3 9 9 1 9 7 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1 5	4 8 0 6 7 0	3 9 9 1 7 1 0

B	1 5	4 8 0 6 7 0	3 9 9 2 1 4 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	1 5	4 8 0 0 0 0	3 9 9 1 7 1 0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

E	1 5	4 8 0 1 1 0	3 9 9 1 3 2 0
F	1 5	4 7 9 5 0 0	3 9 9 1 3 3 0

The boundary of the nominated property is dealineated by a derringer-shaped parcel whose vertices are marked by the following Universal Transverse Mercator (UTMO reference points (see accompanying maps):

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NA		NA	

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jere L. Krakow, Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Denver Service Center

DATE

February 3, 1987

STREET & NUMBER

755 Parfet, Box 25287

TELEPHONE

(303) 236-8863

CITY OR TOWN

Denver,

STATE

Colorado 80225

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

*[Signature]*  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is  National  State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*[Signature]*

TITLE

Chief Historian, National Park Service

DATE

May 19, 1987

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*[Signature]*

DATE

8-11-87

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED
26 1987
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Sources

Billington, Ray A. and Martin Ridge, Westward Expansion, 5th edition. (New York: Macmillan, 1982).

Britton, Wiley. Pioneer Life in Southwest Missouri, Volume IX, Revised And Enlarged Edition. (Kansas City: Smith-Grievess Co., Publishers, 1929).

Conversation with Dr. Robert Flanders, May 20, 1985, February 1986, Director, Center for Ozark Studies, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri.

Conversation with Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hickman, November 20, 1981, Rte. 1, Harrison, Arkansas 72601, (501) 741-2749.

Conversation with Mrs. Bonnie Landureth, December 7, 1981, Rte. 6, Box 465, Rogers, Arkansas 72756, (501) 925-2462.

Conversation with Mr. Elgie Parker, November 27, 1981, Rte. 1, Harrison, Arkansas 72601, (501) 741-9316.

Conversation with Suzanne Rogers, April and May, 1985, February 1986, Research Historian, Buffalo National River, Harrison, Arkansas.

Conversation with Mrs. Ruby Hickman Webb, November 21, 1981, Jasper, Arkansas 72641, (501) 446-5099.

County Clerk's Deed Record Books, Jasper County Courthouse, Jasper, Arkansas 72641.

Lackey, Walter F., History Of Newton County, Arkansas. (Point Lookout, Missouri: S of O Press, 1950).

Logan, Roger V., History Of The North Arkansas Baptist Association. (Harrison, Arkansas: Pine Tree Press, 1978).

Pitcaithly, Dwight T., "Buffalo River: An Ozark Region From Settlement To National River." Unpublished Doctoral dissertation, Texas Tech University, 1976.

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RECEIVED	MAY 26 1987
DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

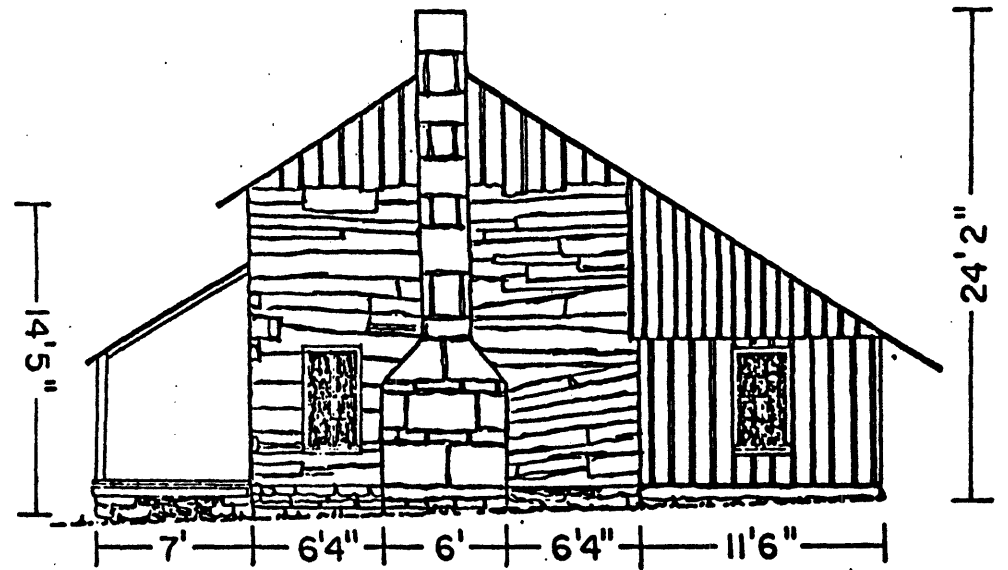
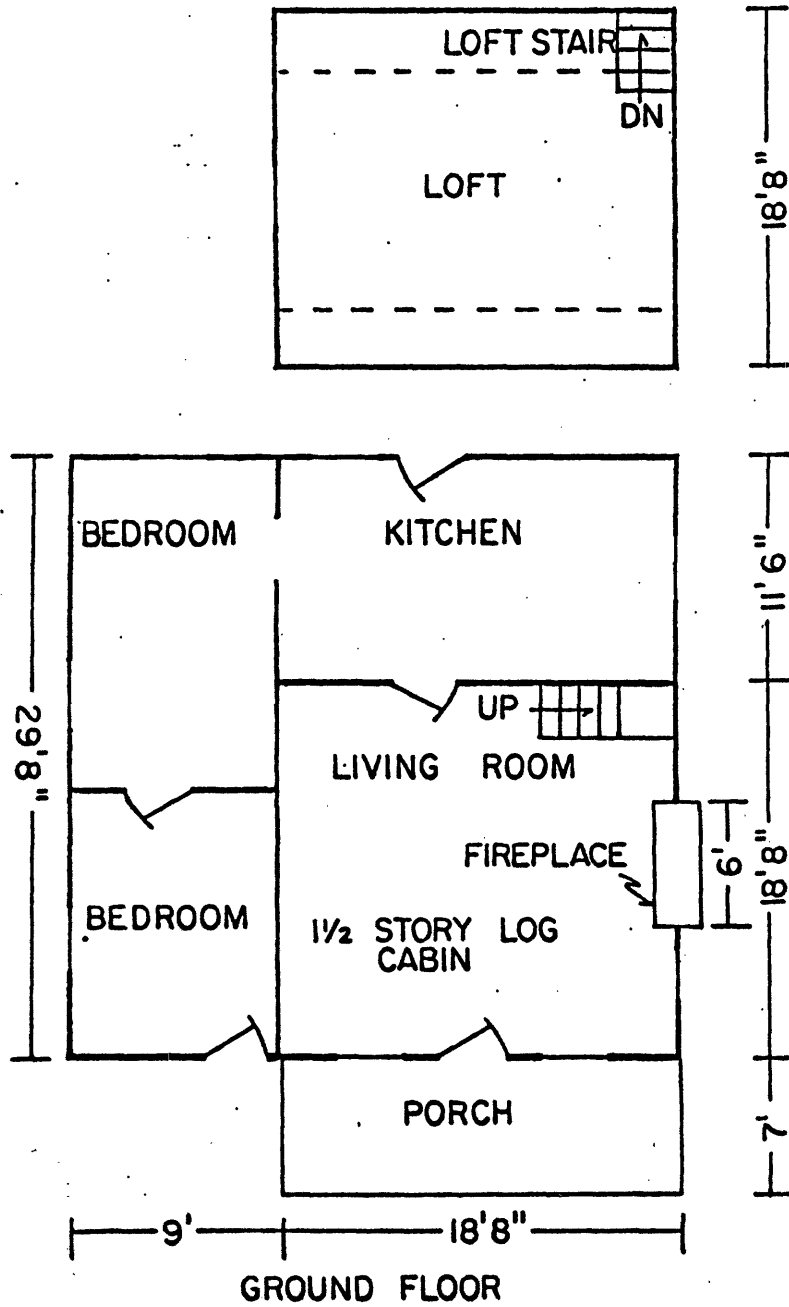
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Sources (Cont'd.)

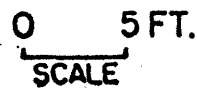
Rafferty, Milton D., The Ozarks, Land and Life. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980).

Swaim, Doug. Carolina Dwelling. (Raleigh: The Student Publication of the School of Design, North Carolina State University, 1978).

U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Parker-Hickman Farmstead Buffalo National River Arkansas, by Suzanne Rogers, Historic Structure Report Historical Data, May 1984, pp. 46-47.



WEST ELEVATION



ROBERT HICKMAN  
 TRACT 50-109  
 BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER, ARKANSAS

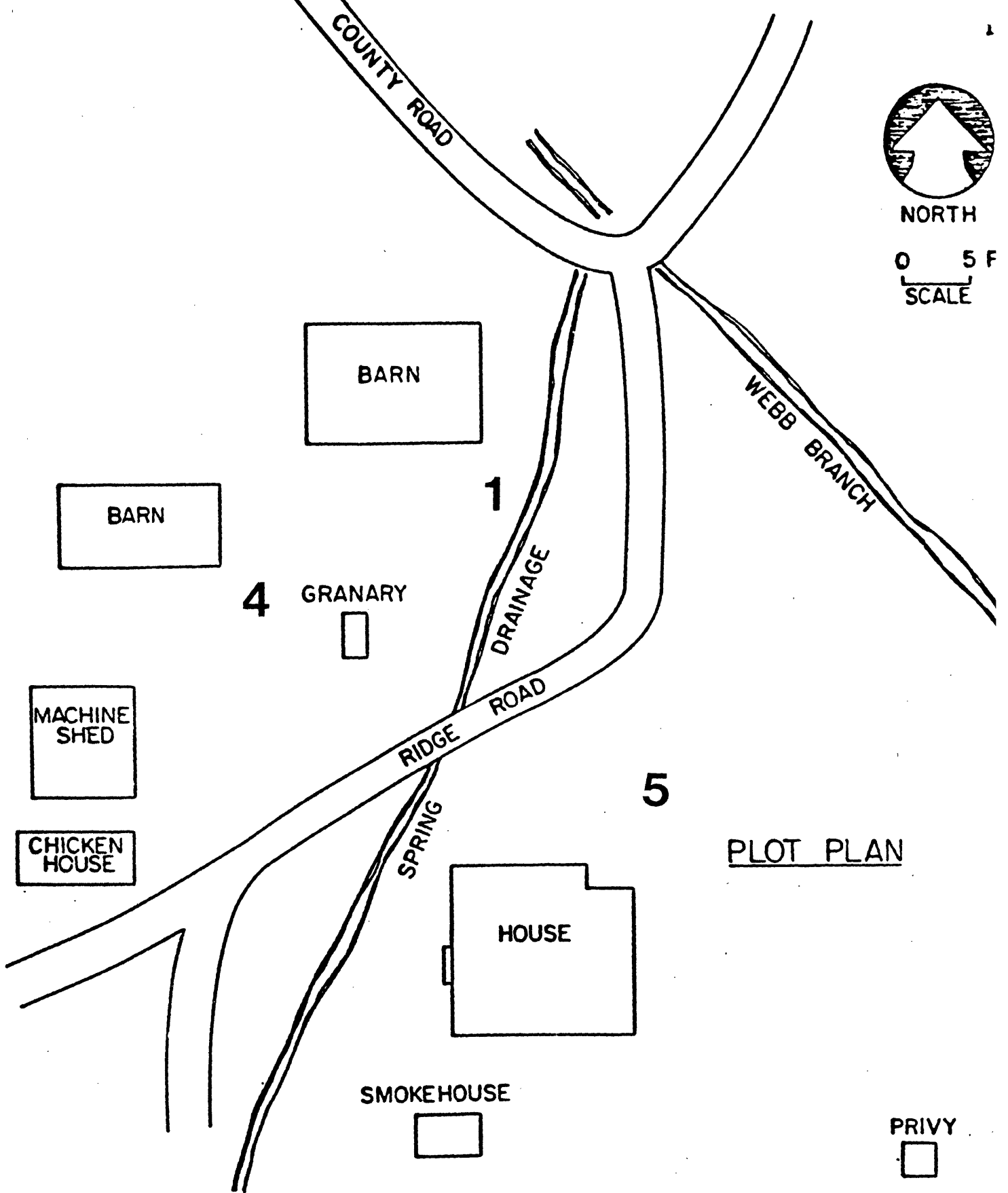


NORTH



NORTH

0 5 F  
SCALE



PLOT PLAN

ROBERT HICKMAN  
 TRACT 50-109  
 BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER, ARKANS