

# DATA SHEET

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Tennessee</b>
COUNTY: <b>Knox</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>APR 1 1975</b>

### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Alfred Buffat Homestead**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**The Maples**

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Love Creek Road**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Knoxville**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**Second**

STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47** COUNTY: **Knox** CODE: **093**

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <b>Vacant</b>
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**John A. Parker**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**5515 Parker Drive**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Knoxville**

STATE:  
**Tennessee**

CODE:  
**47**

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
**Knox County Register's Office**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**County Courthouse**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Knoxville**

STATE:  
**Tennessee**

CODE:  
**47**

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  
 State  
 County  
 Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

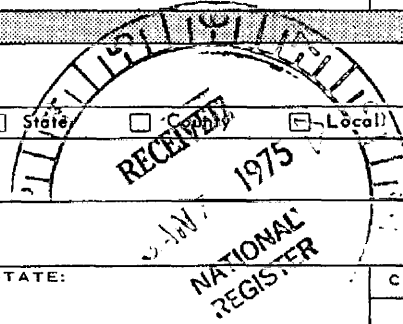
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Knoxville**

STATE:  
**Tennessee**

CODE:  
**47**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: <b>Tennessee</b>
COUNTY: <b>Knox</b>
ENTRY NUMBER: <b>APR 1 1975</b>
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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Homesteads  
LEBOVICH

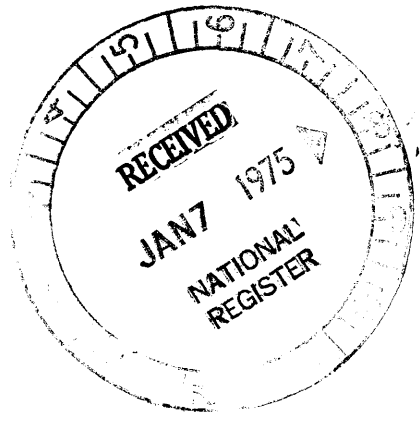
The Alfred Buffat homestead is one of the few pre-Civil War (frame structures) left in Knox County. The home is set among large red-leaf maples in a still fairly undeveloped portion of the County. It is presently unoccupied and has deteriorated somewhat since the last occupant left some eight years ago. However, the property has been recently purchased by John Parker, a direct descendent of Buffat, and restoration plans are being considered.

Originally built as a simple one-story 4-room and hall structure in 1867, the house was expanded to two stories three years later. The porticoes were also added at that time.

The house, known as "The Maples," was the center of community life until the turn of the century. This was primarily because of the mill Buffat owned. The cottage next to the house was built for the miller and his family and was constructed about the same time as the house. The cottage is also of frame construction and both the house and cottage have yellow poplar siding. Lumber for the community's houses was cut from the Buffat farm, sawed into timbers and boards at the Buffat mill and the structures assembled by neighbors and friends. The interiors of the cottage and house have soft pine flooring and both had plastered walls and ceilings. The plaster has deteriorated through the years and will probably be replaced by drywall in restoration.

The granary, blacksmith shop, wagon scales, springhouse, one-room schoolhouse, and mill have either fallen or been torn down. The stone pillars which supported the mill wheel as well as the raceway remain. Several of the grindstones are in the possession of Mr. Parker.

Besides the main house and the miller's cottage, other buildings of the farm-mill complex still standing are the smokehouse, washhouse, barns, and utility buildings.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**5. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

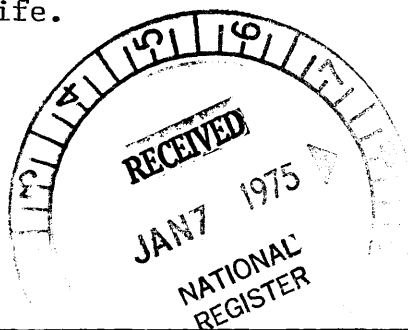
Alfred Buffat (1840-1908) came to Knox County at the age of 10 with his parents from Switzerland in search of religious tolerance and economic opportunity.

In 1851 the watermilling enterprise was started to supplement the Buffat's farm income. During the Civil War the mill was in possession of both Confederate and Federal troops. According to Alfred Buffat's memoirs the mill at one time was the largest gristmill south of the Ohio River.

In 1859 Alfred Buffat took over the mill from his father and eight years later started to build "The Maples" for his bride, the daughter of a Swiss consul.

By this time the Buffat Mill and home with its attendant facilities were the center of community life. Alfred and his father, Pierre, taught in the one-room schoolhouse on land donated by P. Buffat. (Pierre Buffat had been a university professor before immigrating from Switzerland.) The Buffat community, known as Spring Place, also was one of the major grist mills in the county and supplied much of the area with cut timber from the wood mill. The Buffats also ran a blacksmith shop as well as farming several hundred acres. A road was built to Knoxville, still called Buffat Mill Road, for the express purpose of transporting the goods manufactured by the Buffats to Knoxville.

The major significance of the home and remaining buildings is that it is one of only a few visual reminders of the influence the Swiss had in the area, and the industries which they established to carry on their way of life.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

The Knoxville News Sentinel, May 24, 1931 "When Hands Were Wheels of Industry."  
 The Knoxville News Sentinel, May 17, 1931, "By Steerage in a Sailing Ship."  
 The Knoxville News Sentinel, May 10, 1931 "A Swiss Family Turns to Knoxville."  
 The Daily Journal and Tribune, Knoxville, Tenn., Sept. 5, 1908, "Sudden Death of A. Buffat."  
 Memoirs of A. Buffat, McClung Collection, Lawson McGee Library, Knoxville.

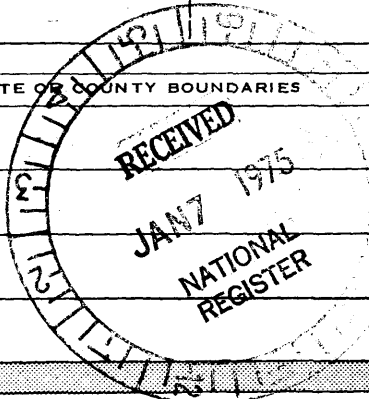
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36 ° 01' 43 "	83 ° 51' 48 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9.5

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



NO  
UTM  
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Jon Coddington

ORGANIZATION: East Tennessee Development District DATE: 4-28-74

STREET AND NUMBER: 1810 Lake Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Knoxville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Lauren C. H.</u></p> <p>Title: <u>Executive Director Tennessee Historical Commission</u></p> <p>Date: <u>4/2/75</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert W. ...</u>                  Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>4/1/75</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>W. J. ...</u>                  Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>4 1 75</u></p>
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APR 4 1977

DESCRIPTION OF MEETS AND BOUNDS

Beginning at a point on the east right-of-way line of Love Creek Road, thence South  $29^{\circ} 41' 04''$  West a distance of 53.99 feet to a point, thence South  $71^{\circ} 10' 09''$  West 171.51 feet to a point, thence South  $54^{\circ} 20' 27''$  West 178.26 feet to a point, thence South  $13^{\circ} 24' 53''$  East 308.53 feet to a point, thence South  $47^{\circ} 45' 05''$  East 217.36 feet to a point, thence South  $38^{\circ} 05' 15''$  East 195.43 feet to a point, thence North  $54^{\circ} 13' 17''$  East 128.85 feet to a point, thence South  $19^{\circ} 33' 40''$  East 122.80 feet to a point, thence North  $64^{\circ} 25' 13''$  East 210.80 feet to a point, thence South  $83^{\circ} 49' 47''$  East 26 feet to a point, thence South  $45^{\circ} 50' 13''$  East 43.18 feet to a point, thence South  $58^{\circ} 57' 32''$  East 29.10 feet to a point, thence South  $60^{\circ} 17' 16''$  East 21.77 feet to a point, thence North  $69^{\circ} 52' 04''$  East 17.33 feet to a point, thence North  $27^{\circ} 19' 33''$  West 555.61 feet to a point, thence South  $62^{\circ} 17' 17''$  West 49.53 feet to a point, thence North  $27^{\circ} 49' 23''$  West 384.43 feet to the point of beginning containing approximately 7.97 acres.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 4 1977

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE

ALFRED BUFFAT HOMESTEAD

Request for determination of boundaries:

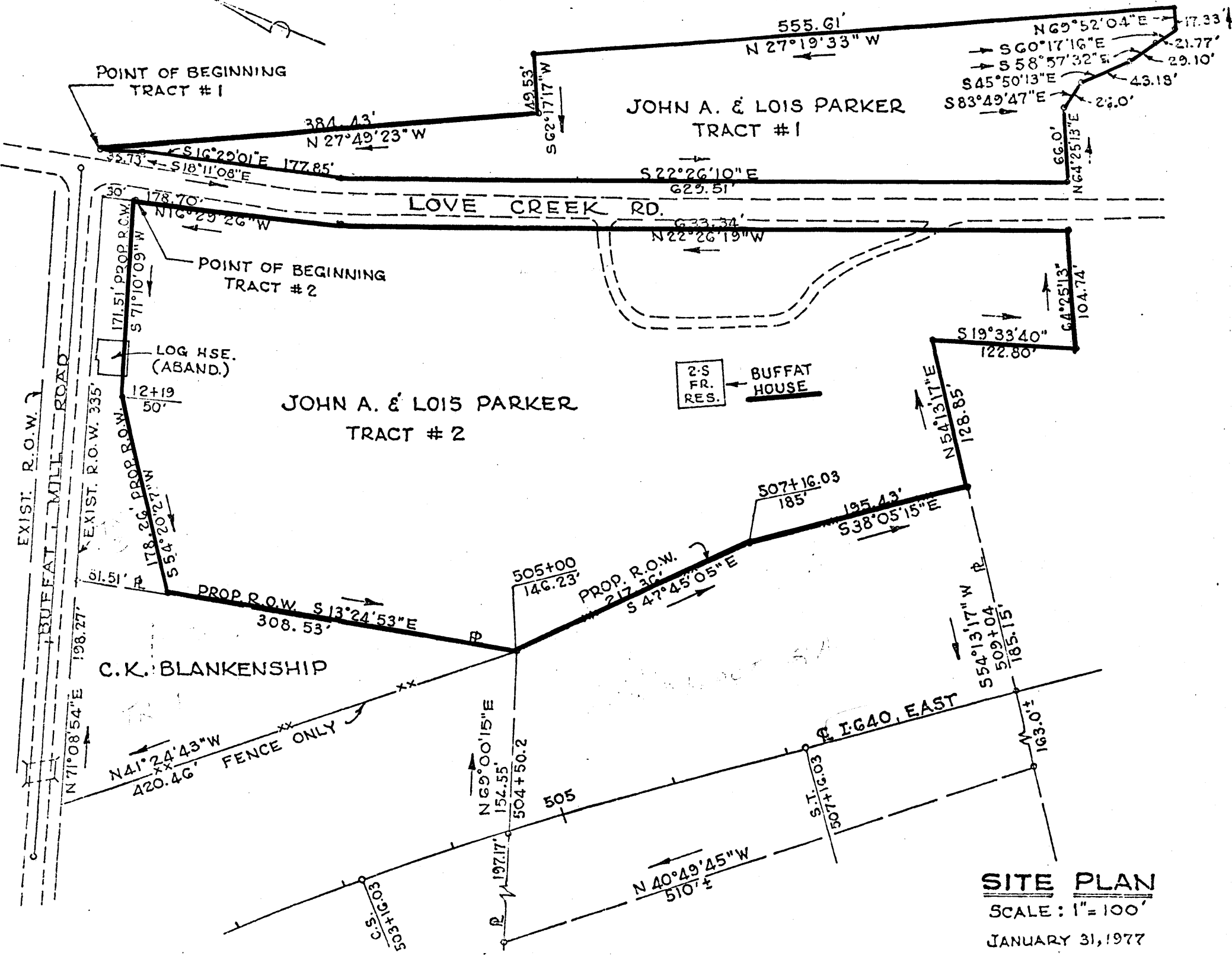
On December 30, 1974, a nomination for this property was submitted to the National Register. The approximate acreage of the nominated property was listed as 9.5 acres, with the latitude and longitude coordinates of only one point shown. The listing of 9.5 acres appears to have been somewhat arbitrary, and the boundaries of the nominated property undefined.

There are currently in progress plans for the construction of Tennessee Highway Project I-640 in the area, with the proposed right-of-way being located a considerable distance back of the house. A Section 106 meeting was held at the site, and a Memorandum of Agreement has been executed in which procedures for mitigating the adverse effect of the project have been agreed upon.

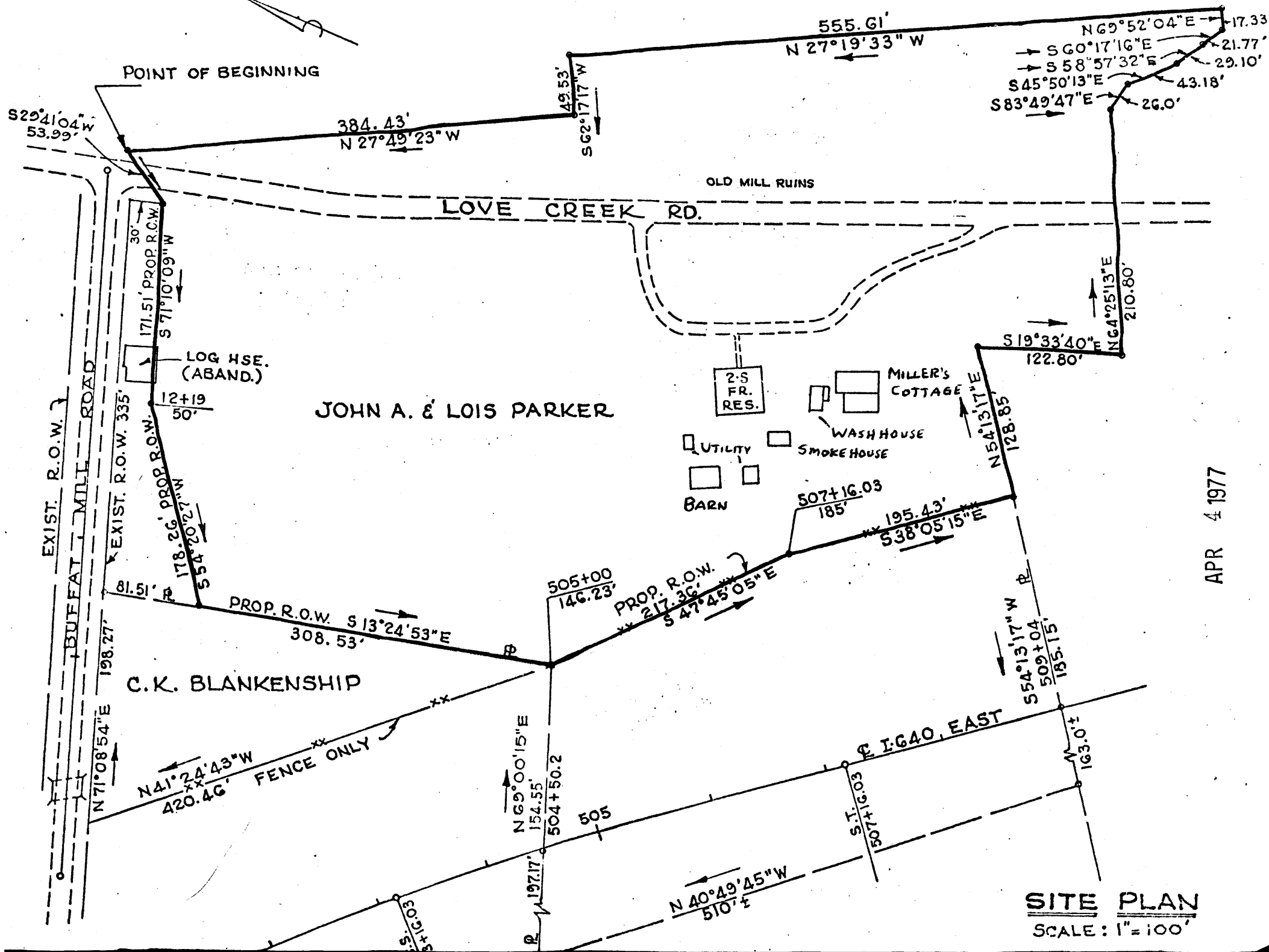
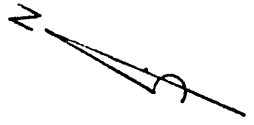
Inasmuch as the boundaries of the Buffat Homestead property are currently undefined, it is requested that the boundaries for the property as shown on the enclosed map be accepted and that the acreage be reduced to approximately 7.97 acres. The property west of this proposed tract is a wooded hillside area, and has no significance relating to the Buffat settlement. There are no buildings located on this property, nor were there ever any known to exist there. It is my opinion that all of the known resources relating to the Buffat settlement are included within the proposed revised boundaries.

Enclosures:

Sketch map showing proposed boundaries and existing structures  
USGS map showing boundaries  
Verbal boundary description



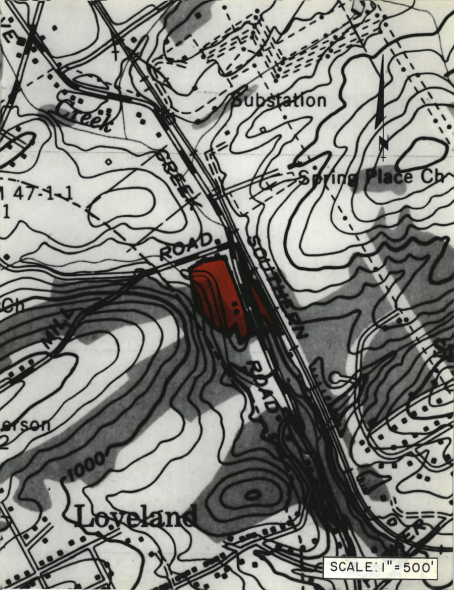
**SITE PLAN**  
 SCALE: 1"=100'  
 JANUARY 31, 1977



APR 4 1977

**SITE PLAN**  
SCALE: 1" = 100'





Creek

Substation

Spring Place Ch

ROAD

SOUTHMAN ROAD

1 47-1-1  
1

Ch

MILA

erson  
2

1000

Loveland

SCALE: 1" = 500'

ALFRED BUFFAT JAMES STARR  
KNOX CO. TENN