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Form 10-306 (Oct. 1972)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Ownby, John--Cabin
Building #604
Reccommended level of Treatment: Preservation
Cost Estimate: N/A

This is a rectangular building 19'6"x17'8". It is one story, with hewn, split log walls. The logs are white pine and poplar, some 25" in width. There is some rot present, but the logs are generally in good shape. The cracks between the logs are chinked in some cases and in others there are split board battens covering the openings. In a few instances vandals have removed both battens and mud from the wall cracks.

The corners of the building are dove-tail notched. They exhibit excellent workmanship in the notching, and many logs show both broad axe and adze marks. The gable ends of the cabin are split poplar and pine weather board.

There is a porch across the front of the building. It is 4' wide, and floored with sawn boards, random-width, over a hewn sill. There are two split poplar log steps leading from the ground to the porch. The porch is covered by a roof which butts into the wall six inches below the eaves of the roof of the house. The porch roof is shingled, and supported by four hardwood posts resting on the porch floor. The roof of the structure is gable, covered with split oak shingles.

Chimney: The chimney is located on the north end of the cabin. It is rubble masonry. The mortar is red clay from the nearby spring branch. It exhibits fine workmanship, and although the rest of the building has been repaired or rehabilitated over the years, little has been done to the chimney, which still appears much as it must have when it and the cabin were new.

Interior: The interior is one room, unceiled, with no loft or attic. The floor is random width, sawn board, with large cracks in places. Many of the boards exhibit considerable wear, especially in front of the doorways. The walls are hewn log, unpainted, with battens. The fireplace is in the north end of the cabin, and hearth, firebox, and chimney piece are all rubble limestone masonry.

Windows: There are two windows in the cabin. All sash and glass are missing. Both openings are rectangular in shape. One is in the south wall, and the other, a smaller opening, is in the north wall, on the east side of the fireplace.

SIGNIFICANCE PERIOD (Check One or More as Appr	opriate)		
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Campbell, John C., <u>The Southern Highlander and His Home</u>. University of Kentucky Press: 1921.

Hall, Joseph H., <u>Smoky Mountain Folks and Their Lore</u>. Cataloochee Press, Asheville: 1960.

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
Tennessee	
COUNTY	
Sevier	
FOR NPS USE	ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JAN	1976

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries) Item #7 cont'd (1)

Doors: There are two doorways into the cabin. Both are rectangular openings, 6'6"x3'. One is located in the east wall, and there is a stone serving as a step. The other in the west wall opens onto the porch. The doors are built of split boards with battens. Both are hung on butt hinges, and the west door has a manufactured lock and knob. The door on the east has no latch of any sort.

General Location: The cabin is located on the Sugarlands Nature Trail, in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.



Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

DATE

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries) Item #8 cont'd (1)

The mountain communities were characterized by extreme isolation, and the consequences of this were seen in a certain amount of social stagnation and little exposure to or acceptance to change. However, the outside world crowded in on the mountain people, first by the logging industry cutting the timber from the mountains, and then the National Park movement resulting in a total disappearance of a number of communities.

Today the people of Forks of the River are gone, although many of them and their descendants still live in nearby communities. The fields have grown over and disappeared, and the fences, roads, and gates are gone. Of all the buildings that once made up the community only the John Ownby cabin remains, a reminder of a time and way of life gone by.

The cabin was originally built in 1860. Some 104 years later, in 1964, the structure was rehabilitated. Most original material was used, except the front porch which was deteriorated to the point where it had to be completely replaced. Care was taken to preserve the integrity of workmanship and architecture of the cabin.

