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National Park Service  
Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
1999



Parker-Hickman Log Cabin & Farm  
Buffalo National River

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## Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

### Inventory Summary

#### The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

##### CLI General Information:

##### Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

##### Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

**Inventory Unit Description:**

(The following text is excerpted from Suzanne D. Rogers' "Parker-Hickman Farmstead- Buffalo National River: Historic Structure Report," May 1987, page XI.)

The Parker-Hickman Farmstead, situated along the south side of the Buffalo River in Arkansas, is a 195-acre farm dating to the 1830s. The farmstead contains eight standing structures as well as fields, fence lines, farm feeders, roadways, and sites of former buildings. The first recorded land user of this farm was the Parker family, who arrived from Tennessee in the mid-1830s. Successive land owners retained the original farm and added to it, improving both the land and the farm buildings. The final owners were the Hickman family, who farmed the property from 1912 until 1982 when it was acquired for Buffalo National River.

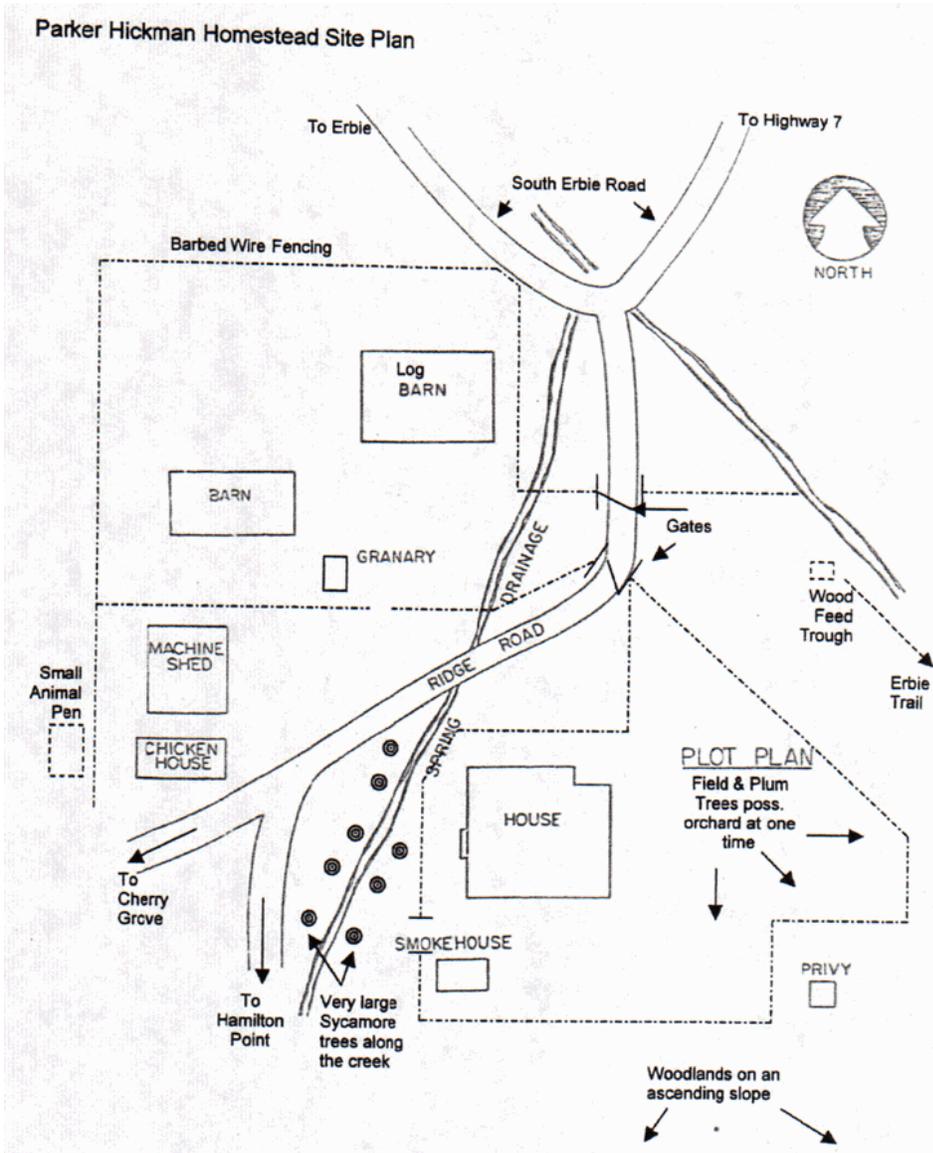
An approximate ten-acre core area can be dated to approximately 1835 to 1843. Eighty-four acres became the legal boundaries of the farm between 1847 and 1850. Additional acreage was recorded in the 1870s, including the location of the standing structures.

The farm residence, a two-story log structure, appears to date to the 1840s, to a period paralleling the establishment of the original farm. A log corn crib remains from the outbuildings of the succeeding nineteenth-century period. The other standing outbuildings date from the twentieth-century, from 1912 to 1955.

Modern intrusions on the farm have been few. Electricity and telephone service were added by the 1940s, while motor vehicles began to replace wagons. The agricultural use of the farm reflected historical patterns until the late 1950s when grasses for cattle began to replace traditional crops. Shed additions were added to the log residence in the nineteenth-century, but show little modern workmanship. Roof shingles for all the buildings were still crafted by hand until the 1960s when corrugated metal finally replaced the wood shingles.

The farm and its buildings have a content and flavor which defines an Ozark farmstead of the nineteenth century. The standing structures, both of the nineteenth and twentieth-centuries, group together to portray traditional Ozark farm usages, and in their log and frame construction illustrate traditional building styles of the Arkansas Ozarks.

### Site Plan



*Parker Hickman Homestead Site Plan (NPS sketch map, field checked and updated by Thomason & Associates 2004).*

**Property Level and CLI Numbers**

**Inventory Unit Name:** Parker-Hickman Log Cabin & Farm  
**Property Level:** Component Landscape  
**CLI Identification Number:** 500852  
**Parent Landscape:** 500851

**Park Information**

**Park Name and Alpha Code:** Buffalo National River -BUFF  
**Park Organization Code:** 7150  
**Park Administrative Unit:** Buffalo National River

## Concurrence Status

**Inventory Status:** Complete

### Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Initial research was conducted by seasonals Kathleen Fitzgerald and Richard Radford during FY99 to determine the number of landscapes for the park. Cultural Landscapes Program Leader Sherda Williams and Historical Landscape Architect Marla McEnaney reviewed the landscape hierarchy presented in CLI. Data entry will continue for the inventory unit as scheduled by the CLI Program. Research and data entry was completed by Historical Landscape Architect Gail Gladstone and National Council for Preservation Education intern Anna Thornton.

### Concurrence Status:

<b>Park Superintendent Concurrence:</b>	Yes
<b>Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:</b>	04/23/2009
<b>National Register Concurrence:</b>	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
<b>Date of Concurrence Determination:</b>	05/05/2009

### Concurrence Graphic Information:

ELECTRONIC CORRESPONDENCE - NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

Buffalo National River  
402 N Walnut  
Suite 136  
Harrison, AR 72601

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30 (BUFF)

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Midwest Region

From: Superintendent, Buffalo National River

Subject: Cultural Landscape Inventory for Parker-Hickman Log Cabin and Farm

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the cultural landscape at Parker-Hickman Log Cabin and Farm. Chief of Interpretation & Cultural Resources Caven Clark reviewed the document and noted comments directly for Gail Gladstone.

We concur with the landscape condition as "good" and the management category of "Must be Preserved and Maintained." Thank you for your continued efforts to inventory and document Buffalo National River's cultural resources.

*Park concurrence for Parker-Hickman CLI on 4/23/2009.*



The Department of  
**Arkansas  
Heritage**

May 5, 2009

Mike Beebe  
Governor

Cathie Matthews  
Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage  
Commission

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars  
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

Gail Gladstone  
Historical Landscape Architect  
National Park Service Midwest Region  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102-4226

RE: Parker-Hickman Farmstead Draft Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
Report – Buffalo National River, Arkansas

Dear Ms. Gladstone:

I concur that the Parker-Hickman Farmstead is a cultural landscape for Section 110 purposes of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended. The character-defining features associated with the cultural landscape as documented in the Parker-Hickman Farmstead Cultural Landscape Inventory (2009) contribute to the body of knowledge and overall significance of the sites which were entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.

If you need further information or have any questions, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for allowing our staff to review this report.

Sincerely,



Cathie Matthews  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:rsw

Arkansas Historic  
Preservation Program

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*SHPO Concurrence for Parker Hickman Farmstead, May 5, 2009.*

**Revisions Impacting Change in Concurrence:** Other

**Revision Date:** 03/27/2009

## Geographic Information & Location Map

### Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

(The following text is excerpted from Suzanne D. Rogers' "Parker-Hickman Farmstead- Buffalo National River: Historic Structure Report," May 1987, page 1-2.)

Parker-Hickman Log Cabin & Farm  
Buffalo National River

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The Parker-Hickman farmstead, now part of Buffalo National River, is located in northern Newton County, Arkansas, in Sections 4 and 5 of Township Sixteen North Range Twenty-One West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, on the southside of the Buffalo River along the bottomland of the river valley. All of the existing structures of the farmstead are in the east half of the fractional southeast quarter of Section 5, on the parcel of land identified in National Park Service land acquisition records as Hickman tract 50-112. Hickman tracts 50-111 and 50-109, and Lane tract 50-110 in Sections 4 and 5 include the remainder of the land which once belonged to the Parker-Hickman farmstead during its history. The total acreage of these four tracts is about 288 acres; however, the original Parker farm comprised 84 acres of land across tracts 50-109, 50-110, and 50-111.

As the crow flies, (which would be up and over a section of the Boston Mountains), the farmstead is some four miles from Jasper, the Newton County seat. However, by present roadways, the distance from Jasper is about ten miles. The former community of Erbie is just northwest of the farm on the north side of the Buffalo River.

Vehicular access to the farmstead is from state highway 7, 6.7 miles over narrow gravel roads descending down into the river valley. Present roadways run east-west and south through the farmstead. The east-west road, which connects State Highway 7 and Erbie, is passable to most vehicular traffic. The south road, a four-wheel drive road winding across the mountain towards Mutton Point and eventually Jasper, is an early settler road.

The Hickman farm house and outbuildings are about one-quarter mile from the river on a wooded slope at the far side of the river valley. To the east of the house is the orchard, garden, a small field, and a small stream called Parker Branch. A smokehouse and privy are behind the house. To the west are five other outbuildings, separated from the house area by wire fencing: two barns, corn crib, machine shed, and chicken house. There also are livestock feeders scattered about. A spring in this section provides water supply for the homestead. An access road runs between the farm buildings and the house and then west, under Mutton Point, to the old Cherry Grove cemetery, then down to a crossing on Buffalo River.

The main fields of the farmstead parallel the south side of Buffalo River and were prized acquisitions by the early owners. Land farther south on bluff benches was added to the original eighty-four acre farmstead by later owners, particularly since the Civil War.

**State and County:**

**State:** AR

**County:** Newton County

**Size (Acres):** 195.00

**Boundary UTMS:**

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected  
**Type of Point:** Point  
**Datum:** NAD 83  
**UTM Zone:** 15  
**UTM Easting:** 479,639  
**UTM Northing:** 3,992,187  
**Boundary Datum Other:** A

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected  
**Type of Point:** Point  
**Datum:** NAD 83  
**UTM Zone:** 15  
**UTM Easting:** 480,524  
**UTM Northing:** 3,992,128  
**Boundary Datum Other:** B

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected  
**Type of Point:** Point  
**Datum:** NAD 83  
**UTM Zone:** 15  
**UTM Easting:** 480,526  
**UTM Northing:** 3,991,753  
**Boundary Datum Other:** C

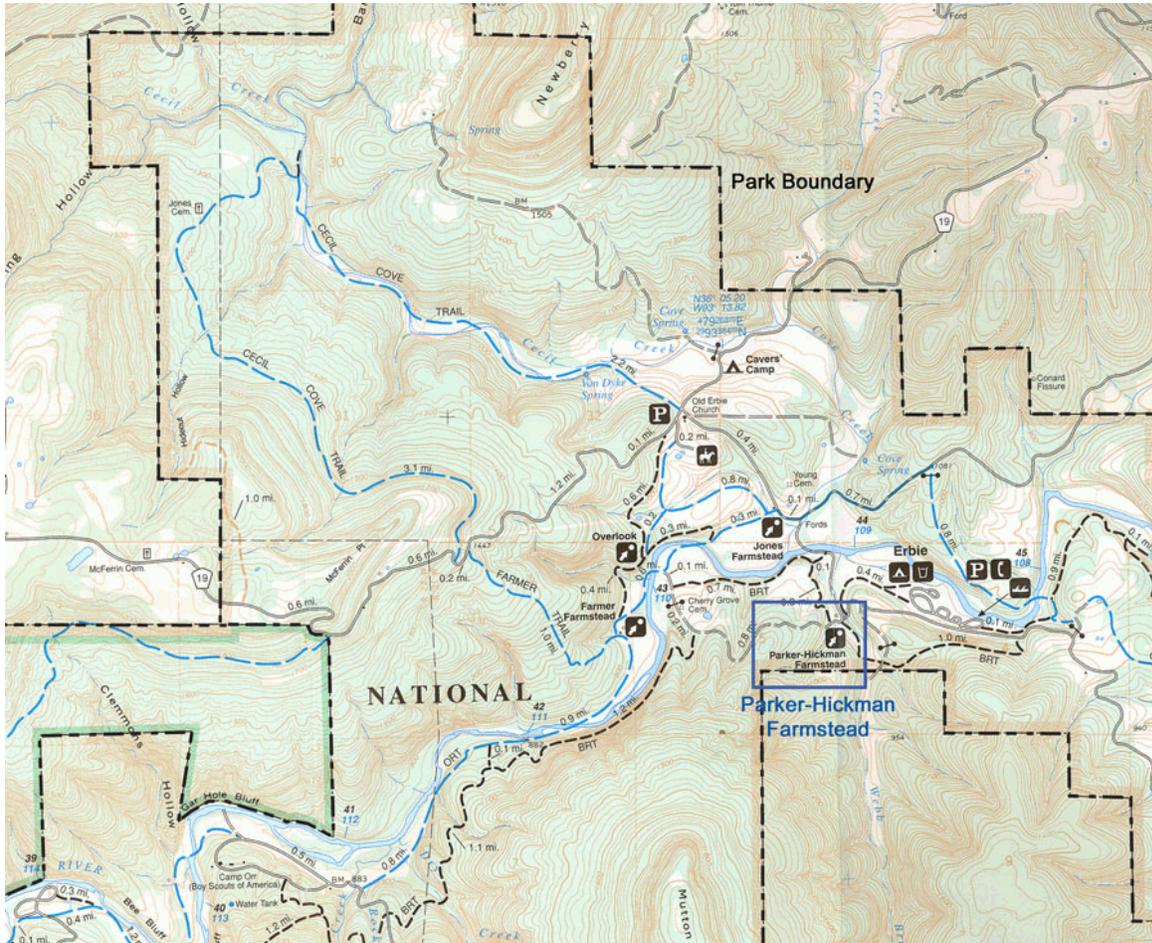
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**Type of Point:** Point  
**Datum:** NAD 83

<b>UTM Zone:</b>	15
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	480,149
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	3,991,749
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<b>UTM Easting:</b>	479,752
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	3,991,575
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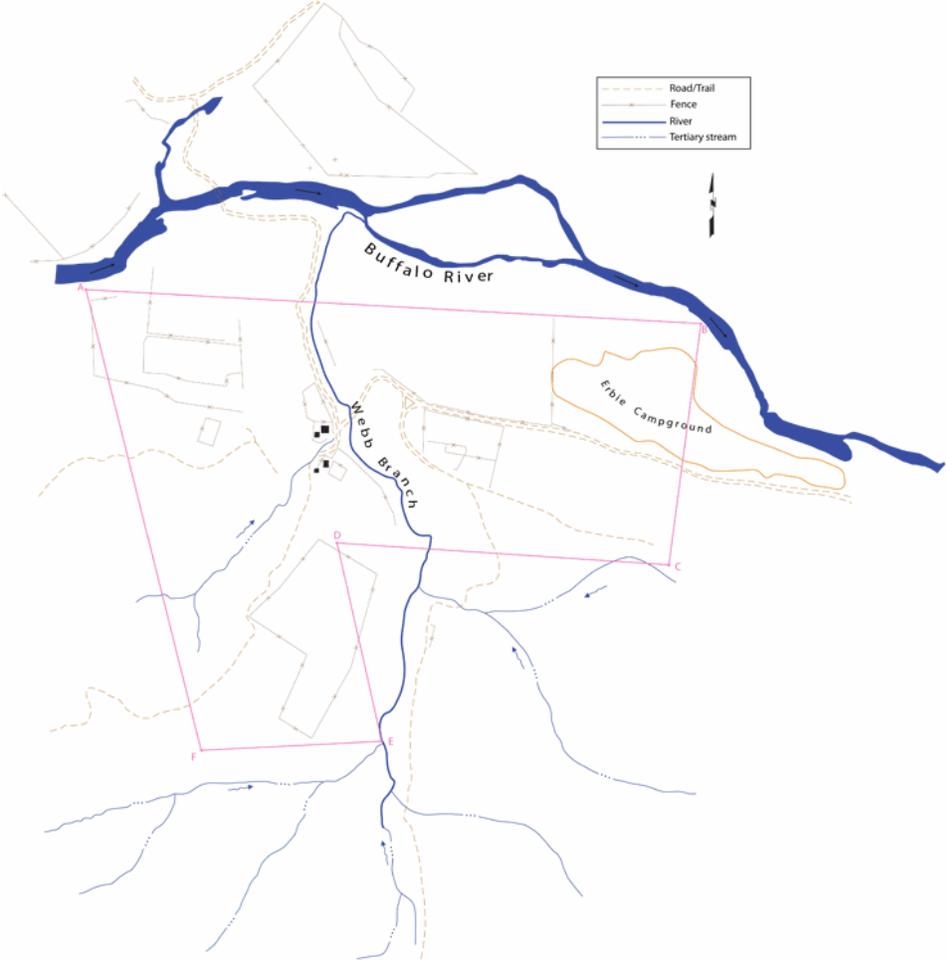
Parker-Hickman Log Cabin & Farm  
Buffalo National River

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**Location Map:**



*Parker-Hickman Farmstead location (National Geographic 1999).*



*Parker-Hickman boundary plan displaying UTM reference points A-F (NPS 2009).*

**Regional Context:**

**Type of Context:** Physiographic

**Description:**

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.

The Buffalo River flows 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 (Thomason and Associates and Hawkins Partners, 5, 2005).

**Tract Numbers:** Hickman Tracts  
50-109  
50-111  
50-112  
  
Lane Tract  
50-110 (Sections 4 and 5)

**Management Information**

**General Management Information**

**Management Category:** Must be Preserved and Maintained

**NPS Legal Interest:**

**Type of Interest:** Fee Simple

**Public Access:**

**Type of Access:** Unrestricted

## Adjacent Lands Information

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** Yes

### Adjacent Lands Description:

(The following text is excerpted from Suzanne D. Rogers' "Parker Hickman Farmstead Buffalo National River: Historic Structure Report," May 1987, page 71-72.)

The adjoining Lane tract (50 110) contains much of the original farm site; the Lane tract is also the site of the Civil War skirmish and was the site of a late nineteenth century schoolhouse. It is strongly recommended that the Lane tract on the east side of the Parker Branch be considered part of the interpretation of the Parker Hickman farmstead. The Clagett tract (50 106) on the north side of the river has been proposed as an integral part of the interpretation of the Parker Hickman site. Historically, the settlement of that site matches in time that of the Parker Hickman site. The twentieth century ties between the farms are especially close as Robert Hickman married Erta Stricklen, who spent her teenage years on this farm, and lived in the present house.

Another feature adjacent to the landscape includes the Cherry Grove Cemetery. It consists of a two-acre plot approximately a mile west of the Hickman home. It sits on a bluff overlooking the Buffalo River Valley. The cemetery is reached by a road running through the Hickman homestead. The cemetery gravestones date from before the Civil War, and continue up to 1970, being the most recent headstone. The cemetery is privately owned, however, NPS provides materials for the maintenance and preservation of the grounds. The families represented on the legible markers are: Baker, Barnes, Buchanan, Cecil, Farmer, Harp, Hickman, McGehee, and Villines.

## National Register Information

### Existing National Register Status

#### National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Documented

#### National Register Explanatory Narrative:

The structural landscape features were documented in the NR nomination, however some landscape characteristics needed better defining and a consensus was sought with the SHPO.

#### Existing NRIS Information:

<b>Name in National Register:</b>	Parker--Hickman Farm Historic District
<b>NRIS Number:</b>	87001029
<b>Other Names:</b>	Hickman Farm
<b>Primary Certification Date:</b>	08/11/1987

### National Register Eligibility

**National Register Concurrence:** Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

**Contributing/Individual:** Contributing

**National Register Classification:** District

**Significance Level:** Local

**Significance Criteria:** A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

**Significance Criteria:** C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

#### Period of Significance:

**Time Period:** AD 1840 - 1955

**Historic Context Theme:** Peopling Places

**Subtheme:** Westward Expansion of the Colonies and the United States, 1763-1898

**Facet:** The Farmers' Frontier

**Area of Significance:**

**Area of Significance Category:**

Architecture

**Area of Significance Category:**

Exploration - Settlement

**Statement of Significance:**

The period of significance for the Parker Hickman landscape is 1840 to 1955, when the last contributing structures for the farmstead were constructed.

The following text is excerpted from the National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form 1987:

The Parker-Hickman Farm is eligible under Criterion A and is significant in the areas of exploration/settlement and Criterion C, architecture. Established in the 1840s by settlers from western Tennessee, and continuously operated until 1982, this farm was actively involved in agricultural production for over 150 years. The surrounding landscape includes extant fields (bench and bottomland), fencerows, roads, cattle gates, garden and orchard plots, wooded slopes and springs and continues to reflect its agricultural history. Unlike most farms in the Ozarks, the landscape is remarkably intact and provides insights and evidence spanning portions of two centuries of Ozark history.

It conveys a feeling of enclosure and shelter, and it exemplifies adaptive 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. 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 federal 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 phenomenon 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. The Parkers (among them, Alvin and Greenberry) were in the vanguard of the 1830s, seeking land for sustenance in ways similar to what one might find in Tennessee or the Carolinas. They settled along the watercourses suitable for agriculture in the time before Civil War.

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, he had a horse and six cattle. In 1840, Greenberry Parker

reported one horse and one cow. 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 coming from Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee are reflected in the census data as were the farm's owners who followed the Parkers and sold the property in 1857.

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 in the form of timber, grains, and livestock. The farm evolved over time and across ownerships to take advantage of the variety of natural resources from the bottomland to the 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, stock-feeders, and a house. As such, the structures represent a cross-section and a 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 was attributed to those who lived in a hewed log house rather than a log cabin. The side and rear additions are common features that make the structure a 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.

Other buildings of contributory significance to the farm illustrate the variety of activities from the 1850s to 1955. 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. 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 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 primary residence for 135 years. They did,

however, make additions to the house at various times as well as added other outbuildings to the farmstead.

The Parker-Hickman farm is a rare surviving example of a typical southern upland farm in the Ozark-Quachita region. The farm continued as an agricultural enterprise for more than one hundred fifty years until it was purchased by the National Park Service.

## Chronology & Physical History

### Cultural Landscape Type and Use

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Vernacular

**Current and Historic Use/Function:**

**Primary Historic Function:** Farm (Plantation)

**Primary Current Use:** Recreation/Culture-Other

**Ethnographic Study Conducted:** No Survey Conducted

**Associated Group:**

**Name of Group:** Osage Tribe

**Type of Association:** Historic

**Name of Group:** Cherokee Tribe

**Type of Association:** Historic

**Chronology:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Annotation</b>
AD 1828	Land Transfer	After the Cherokees relinquished their lands in northwest Arkansas, settlers began moving into the region.
AD 1835	Farmed/Harvested	The Parker's agriculturally develop property near the Buffalo River.
AD 1912 - 1982	Inhabited	Hickman Family takes ownership of the property.
AD 1912 - 1920	Built	Present log barn built, old shop building on Parker Branch torn down.

Parker-Hickman Log Cabin & Farm  
Buffalo National River

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AD 1920 - 1929	Built	Smaller barn smokehouse built, old cedar log barn torn down, replacement of split rail fences by wire fencing begun.
AD 1930 - 1939	Built	Temporary Hickman house built up on the bluff, swinging bridge constructed, and WPA Privy installed.
AD 1950 - 1959	Built	Machine and chicken shed built, farm production changes from grains to grasses.
AD 1960 - 1969	Altered	Metal roof put on north side of cabin and on porch, panelling installed on interior walls of main room, floor laid over previous floor of the main room and south addition, and single-crib barn removed.
AD 1980 - 1989	Stabilized	Temporary Hickman house salvaged by Robert Hickman, with only the rock piers left in place.
AD 1982	Land Transfer	Parker-Hickman purchased by the National Park Service for Buffalo National River.
AD 1984	Stabilized	NPS preservation team performs stabilization on Hickman buildings.

## Physical History:

### Pre-History

The following text is excerpted from Suzanne D. Rogers' "Parker Hickman Farmstead Buffalo National River: Historic Structure Report," May 1987, page 19-28:

Indications of Indian presence dating back to the Archaic period have been located along Buffalo River, but only limited indicators of permanent occupation have yet been excavated. Anglo intrusions into this area began after 1541 with Hernando De Soto's expedition from Florida in search of rumored golden cities. De Soto crossed the Mississippi into what is now Arkansas and led his expedition on a route which probably did not reach as far north as the Ozark highlands.

Much of present Missouri and Arkansas was home to the Osage. As Anglo settlement west of the Mississippi increased, so did intrusions into territory the Osage considered their own. Trading concession treaties were made by the Osage during the French and Spanish administrations of the area, including one made in 1794 by August Chouteau of St. Louis. In 1803, the United States acquired the Osage lands as part of the Louisiana Purchase. These lands west of the Mississippi were seen as a place in which to move Eastern Indians such as the Cherokee. As early as the 1790s, Cherokee groups had begun to leave Tennessee, Georgia and North Carolina for the Arkansas River area. The Cherokee, as well as Anglo hunters and traders who had also entered the area, began to clash with the Osage over the territory. Treaties between the Osage and the United States relocated the boundaries of the Osage in 1818, until the Osage were eliminated from the Arkansas Ozarks all together. The Cherokee, demanding that there be set boundaries that were off limits to Anglos as well as other Indian groups, were given lands which included the entire Buffalo River watershed and extended south to the Arkansas River and east to the White River. This land concession lasted until 1825, when it was decided that the Cherokee should be moved out of Arkansas. The treaty of 1828 ceded the Arkansas lands of the Cherokee back to the United States and moved the Cherokee to lands in Indian Territory.

Anglo settlement along the Buffalo was very limited before 1828. Although some whites did live in the area, some through marriage with the Cherokee or other Indian groups, the primary use of the area seems to have been for hunting. Henry R. Schoolcraft's journal of his 1819 trek along the White River indicated that the Buffalo was used for hunting by settlers along the White River. Arkansas Territory had been created out of the Missouri Territory in 1819. With the removal of the Cherokee, in 1828, permanent Anglo settlement began in the Ozarks and along the Buffalo River.

The earliest settlers arrived in the late 1820s. Two early areas of settlement were along the Buffalo, and along the Crooked Creek Valley in what is now Boone County. A number of these settlers were noted on the early federal township surveys which date to 1829.

### 1830s to 1850s- Early Settlement

During the 1830s, settlement rapidly increased as settlers followed streams and old trails to lands that remained uninhabited by other settlers. In 1833, Carroll County was formed from Izard County, and included what is now Carroll, Newton, and Boone counties. The county seat of Carrollton was a stop on the Batesville to Fayetteville road, one of the earliest roads in Arkansas. The county tax rolls, which began in 1834, show the increasing population of the area. Yellville, the Marion County seat, and Carrollton were the major towns of the area. They served a variety of the settlers' town needs, which included access to postal services, government services, and constructed roads.

The difference between the number of names on the 1830 and the 1840 census is considerable, indicating a substantial increase of settlers in the trans-Buffalo area. In 1836, Arkansas had become a state, a factor which also encouraged settlement. The townships had been surveyed and were being subdivided thus increasing the area's attractiveness for settlement. The majority of these new settlers came from Tennessee or the Carolinas, in many instances from the same county areas. Although male family members may have scouted out the area before bringing their families, the names on the 1840 census are those of family groups rather than lone settlers. Almost all were farmers, 'farming' being an all inclusive name/occupation for those who chose to maintain their independence, especially in areas like the Buffalo where subsistence farming was necessary for survival. Most of these settlers had undoubtedly come from similar situations in Tennessee, and before that North Carolina, as the pattern of migration spread to the Ozarks during the early settlement period. On later censuses, birthplaces like Alabama, Texas and Missouri appeared in greater numbers. Overall, however, the Tennessee background continued to be most prevalent, although never as strongly as in the 1835 to 1850s period of settlement.

In 1842, Newton County was formed and the county seat at Jasper was platted. As the township subdivisions were concluded, the land was offered for public sale. Purchases could be made for a minimum of forty acre pieces at \$1.25 an acre. The Crooked Creek area was offered for sale beginning in 1840; the Jasper and Buffalo River area, near the Parker Hickman farmstead, was offered about 1844, while adjoining townships were not offered until 1860. Most of the entries did not come until the 1870s after the introduction of the Homestead Act of 1862; some as late as the 1900s, and a few as late as 1956. The terrain of the Ozarks in Newton County made settlement something for the hardy, and even for the hardy, land was no good if one could not find access to the land itself, as well as a continuous supply of water and good soil.

The 1850s brought a continued migration in and out of the area. Interestingly, in the 1850s some of the early Newton County settlers began to migrate north to the Crooked Creek area. The flatter land there was certainly easier to till than in the Newton County hills. The sons of early settlers also began to relocate their own homesteads, not necessarily staying near the original family farm. Another migration pattern was that of Ozark families moving westward to California. The ill fated wagons of the Mountain Meadows massacre left from Carroll County in 1857.

By 1860, the population of Newton County had increased to nearly 3,400, almost double from

1850. New communities formed in the area. The Mill Creek area (near present Dogpatch) had a water mill since 1837. The 1860 census for Mill Creek listed two millers, a blacksmith, a sawyer, teamster, wagon maker, mechanic, two schoolteachers, a chair-maker, and minister. The agricultural census schedule for 1860 also reflected the increasing population as well as developing farms. Corn, oats, wheat, and some tobacco were planted. Livestock predominantly included cattle, some sheep, and swine. More farm acres were improved and older settlers purchased additional tracts for their farms.

#### The Civil War

The period of the Civil War had a definite effect on the area even though Arkansas was a secondary battle area and no major battles were fought in the Buffalo River Ozarks. The people of the area would have preferred to avoid the conflict altogether. Many felt sympathetic toward the North but had relatives in Tennessee or the Carolinas and blood ties to the South. Some joined the Confederate forces, with others enlisting in the Union forces, often resulting in the splitting of families between the two sides.

Others later deserted from the Confederate forces and rejoined the Union forces in Missouri, or became part of independent and irregular troops at home. For those who remained at home, the external trials of wartime were brought to them in the form of marauding groups called Bushwhackers or Jayhawkers, who raided homesteads by force demanding food and goods.

The Confederates retained initial control of the northern Arkansas area until 1862, when the Union dominated after the battle of Pea Ridge. The last years of the war were ones of extreme trial with regular Confederate forces gone and the Union forces stationed as scouting parties. This created a vacuum that served to encourage the guerrilla groups. Death and home burnings became commonplace. Accounts state that by the end of the war only a few buildings were left standing in Carrollton, Jasper, along the Crooked Creek Valley, or in Yellville. In 1864, one of many frequent skirmishes took place along the Buffalo River Valley. Rebel bands conflicted with Union scouts, and retaliatory raids by irregular troops became common. The Crooked Creek area was predominantly Confederate in sympathy, while the Boston Mountain area of the Buffalo was the stronghold of the "Mountain Feds," sympathizers for the Union. Families caught in the middle began to flee the area, Union families went to Missouri, while Confederate families fled to the south. The isolated mountain valleys remained safe except from those who knew the accesses and byways.

Another effect of the Civil War period was the suspension of county government functions such as the collection of taxes or recording of deeds. This, added to the destruction of numerous Arkansas courthouses during or shortly after the war period, created a gap in the county record keeping of the pioneer period before the 1860s, and thus a gap in the historical records.

#### The Homestead Act of 1862

The late 1860s and 1870s were a period of rebuilding and new arrivals. The 1862 Homestead Act provided free land for settlers who could "prove up" in five years. The war period had kept

settlers away. The Homestead Act encouraged settlement as those from other war torn areas moved west, or northerners moved south. The majority of transactions in the state land tract books for this area are from the period of the 1870s and 1880s. Many of these claims were made with the Homestead Act, although not all entries received the final patent. Many were cancelled, some of the settlers moved on, and others chose different pieces of land to enter.

To the north, the town of Harrison, named for a Union officer who was surveying the area for the railroad, was laid out in the newly created Boone County (1869). The land office functions of Fayetteville to the west were soon transferred to the growing county seat. Some of the early settlers of the Crooked Creek Valley donated land for the city square.

The names on the censuses began to reflect fewer and fewer of the settlers of the pre war period. More communities were established; post offices were established in tiny hamlets; school districts were formed; and roads were maintained with county residents as overseers.

By 1900, the population of Newton County was 12,538. During the early 1900s another wave of migrating settlers were entering the area. Local residents would meet the new arrivals and show them the available land, and in some cases even help them build a log cabin.

This was also a period of discovery, with settlers realizing the potential of the vast virgin timber in the Ozarks. Many settlers and homestead entrants sold timber warrants to lumber companies or their representatives. Buyers selected trees for the purpose at hand, be it barrel staves or pencils. Sawmills were no longer uncommon. The overlooked wooded bluff lands of the Buffalo had been penetrated.

The twentieth century came slowly to the Ozarks. For many Ozark residents electricity did not come until the mid 1900s. The railroad reached Harrison in 1901, thus making markets and goods more accessible. Area farmers began to sell their produce in Jasper and Harrison in order to trade for goods they could not produce. The 1930s Depression had a mixed effect on this area. One Newton County resident thought that the 1892 depression was worse because there had been no aid of any kind during that period. Other subsistence farming families said that they had balanced diets and enough to eat from the production of their own farm. After the 1930s and 1940s, population declined in the Ozarks and has never really recovered. The numerous homesteads that once dotted the valleys of the Buffalo at the turn of the century are now overgrown with new cedar and grasses.

#### History of Ownership Parker Hickman Farm

There were nine families associated with the Parker Hickman farm during its history from the 1830s to 1982. All of these families owned the original Parker farm of the 1830s; several added to it. The history of the farm begins with the arrival of the Parker family in the 1830s. The following owners were Thomas Rains, William Love, John Carlton, J. B. Wynne, P. I. Atwood, William Hall, and Robert L. Madison. The final owner of the farmstead was the J. D. Hickman family, who retained the farm longer than any other owner, from 1912 to 1982. Most of the present outbuildings of the farmstead were constructed during the Hickman years.

The Parkers' association with the Parker Hickman farmstead began in about 1835 with the arrival of Alvin Parker along the Buffalo River. Although Alvin Parker farmed within the boundaries of the present farmstead, the house may not have been constructed until the arrival of his brother, Greenberry in 1840.

Alvin Parker was part of the earliest settlement along this section of the Buffalo River and is associated with events such as the formation of the first Baptist Church Association. (Parker attended the Baptist meeting where the great grandfather of Lyndon Baines Johnson served as pastor.) Parker was from the same community in Tennessee as other early settlers to the area, including several who gave their family names to local land features. In 1843, the federal surveyor crossed the Parker farm and noted it in his records. Alvin and his brother Greenberry left the Buffalo River in the 1840s, leaving the farm to Alvin's son William Hiram. William H. Parker's name appeared on the first legal entry for the property a cash entry in 1847 for forty acres of government land made for the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 5. Another forty-four acres were purchased later, bringing the farm to its historic eighty-four acres.

In 1857, William's family, together with their neighbors the Cecils, left the Buffalo River with a Carroll County wagon train, leaving the group en route only days before the wagon train was attacked in Utah. The Parkers and Cecils settled in Tulare County, California, never returning to the Buffalo River Valley.

The eighty-four acre Parker farm was purchased by Thomas Rains, an early Carroll County settler and slaveholder from Kentucky. He moved to the Buffalo River area in about 1858, purchasing the Parker farm at that time. There is evidence that Rains served in the state legislature. Although Rains died during the Civil War, his widow Nancy remained at the farm. During the war, a skirmish occurred near the farm and wounded men were brought to the log house and laid on the floor. Rains' widow sold the Parker farm to William P. Love in 1867, but retained her dower homestead in Section 4, indicating that her residence may not have been the present Parker Hickman house.

William and Sarah Love of Virginia moved to Arkansas in the early 1850s, moving to the Buffalo River area by 1860. Although another Love was a famous Confederate guerrilla fighter of Searcy and Newton counties, William does not seem to be related; nor is there any record of his war service. In 1867, William Love purchased the Parker farm from Nancy Rains, but died in 1868. His widow Sarah added more acres to the farm by filing a homestead entry for the forty acres where the majority of the present structures stand; however, the entry was cancelled in 1872 when she remarried and moved away. It is possible that William and Sarah Love lived in the log house in the 1860s.

Sarah Love and her children sold the Parker farm to John Carlton in 1871. The Carltons had come to Newton County from Tennessee in 1852; around 1860 they lived along the Parker Branch. During the Civil War John Carlton joined the Union infantry. In 1873, he re-entered Sarah Love's cancelled entry, receiving the final patent in 1876. From 1877 to 1881, Carlton made additional land purchases of acreages adjoining the Parker farm, until the original eighty

four acre Parker farm had increased to more than two hundred acres. The farm was an extensive producer. The site became a reference point for area navigation along the Buffalo. John Carlton sold the enlarged farm to J. B. Wynne of Mill Creek Township in 1887. There is no record that the Wynne family lived on the farm during the year and a half they owned it.

In December, 1888, J. B. Wynne sold the Carlton farm to P. I. and Lucia Atwood, who are known to have lived in the log house. They may have added the east addition to the house. They also made additional land purchases of adjoining land. The Atwood children were remembered by area residents and attended school on the Parker Branch with the Hickman children. Ten years later, in 1896, Atwood sold the farm and moved to Vermont. In selling the farm, he divided it selling part to William Hall and part to J. W. Hickman.

William J. Hall, a Georgia native, purchased 220 acres, including the site of the present structures. His farm included land on the west side of the Parker Branch, and wooded land to the south, from which he made timber contracts.

J. W. Hickman purchased land east of Parker Branch adjoining his own farm. This purchase also included a section of the old Parker farm.

In 1906, William Hall sold his 220 acres to Robert Madison, a buyer of cedar trees for a Tennessee pencil company. Madison had moved to Arkansas in 1901. Madison's daughter Pearl married J. W. Hickman's son, J. D., in 1912. J. D. Hickman purchased the 220 acre farm from his father in law and moved into the house with his bride.

For the next seventy years the farm remained in the Hickman family. When J. W. Hickman died in 1926, his son, J. D. Hickman, purchased the land from the J. W. Hickman estate which had been part of the old Parker farm, thus rejoining the Parker and Carlton farms. (After J. D. Hickman's death, a piece of the farm east of Parker Branch was sold to James Lane.) On the Hickman farm, old farm buildings were replaced with newer buildings; repairs were made to the house, electricity arrived. But essentially, life at the farm continued much as it always had. Four children were born in the log house and grew up on the farm. Three Hickman children eventually moved away from the Buffalo River while Graden Hickman, a bachelor, stayed on at the farm until his death. In 1982, the farm was purchased by the National Park Service to be incorporated within the Buffalo National River boundaries.

Cultural

## Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

### **Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:**

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its historic identity or the extent to which a property evokes its appearance during a particular historic period, usually the period of significance. The National Register of Historic Places recognizes seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Aspects of integrity deemed most important for evaluation are based on a property's significance under National Register criteria. Retention of these aspects is essential for a property to convey its significance, though not all seven aspects of integrity need to be present to convey a sense of past time and place. Collectively, these aspects help foster an understanding of the landscape's historic character and cultural importance (NPS, 1998).

The Parker Hickman log cabin and farm retain a great amount of historic identity, possessing integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It is a reflection of a typical Ozark style farmstead as evidenced by the retention of the various buildings and structures almost in their original state. Eight structures remain on the farm as well as fence lines, fields, farm feeders, the remains of former buildings, and roadways. The farmstead is also unique in that its workmanship was of such quality that it remains one of the few Ozark farmsteads that have withstood time and the elements, whereas many other farmsteads have been greatly diminished since their beginnings. The original farm has seen various additions over the years, which have served to improve both the historic structures and the surrounding acreage.

While there have been various modern additions to the farm, their numbers have remained relatively low. During the 1940s, the farmstead received telephone service and electricity for the first time, as motor vehicles began to replace wagons. Historical crops continued to be farmed until the late 1950s, while traditional crops were set aside and replaced by grasses for cattle. Despite the various influences, the farmstead continues to maintain a high degree of historic integrity.

The National Register period of significance for the farmstead spans from 1840 to 1945. For purposes of the landscape evaluation, the period of significance is extended to 1955 to include the continued agricultural activity that contributes to the historical significance of the site. The Parker Hickman log cabin and farm retain a high degree of architectural integrity. The organization of the site reflects that of a traditional Arkansas Ozark farmstead and maintains a unique semblance to the historic time period. As a result, this cultural landscape retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

- Aspects of Integrity:**
- Location
  - Design
  - Setting
  - Materials
  - Workmanship
  - Feeling
  - Association

**Landscape Characteristic:**

**Land Use**

(The following text is excerpted from Suzanne D. Rogers' "Parker-Hickman Farmstead- Buffalo National River: Historic Structure Report," May 1987, page 14- 15.)

Orchard, Garden, Fields

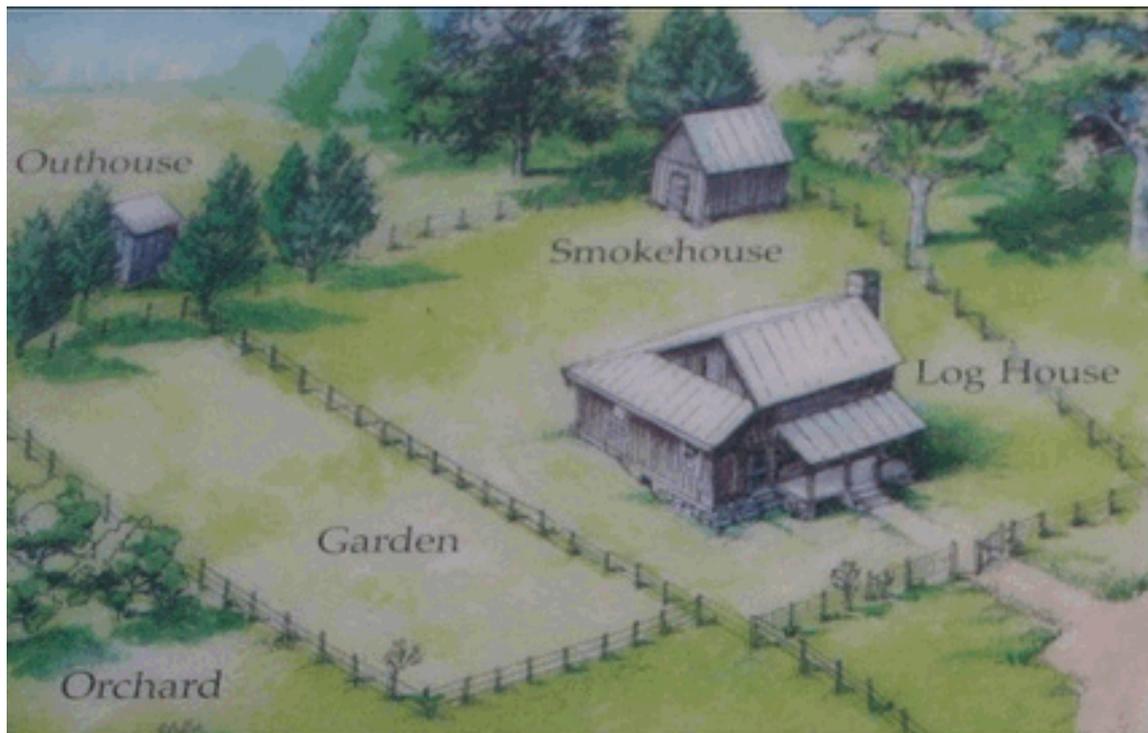
The garden lay immediately east of the house and served the family's everyday needs. It was fenced in with cedar posts and had an entrance gate. Behind the garden and along the small field paralleling Parker Branch was a fruit orchard of apple, peach, plum, and apricot trees. Corn and cane was grown in the small field along with vegetables for "truck patches." The sorghum press was also in this location for several years.

The bottom land fields of the Hickman farm were up and down the Buffalo. Here, wheat, oats, corn, vegetables, and melons were grown. The upland fields were to the west and the south. Cotton was grown along Parker Branch.

**Character-defining Features:**

- Feature: Cherry Grove Cemetery Tract
- Feature Identification Number: 134580
- Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
  
- Feature: Orchard, Garden, Fields
- Feature Identification Number: 134582
- Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Layout of the farmstead displaying the garden and orchard (<http://www.arkansasties.com> 2009).*

### **Natural Systems and Features**

(The following text is excerpted from Suzanne D. Rogers' "Parker-Hickman Farmstead-Buffalo National River: Historic Structure Report," May 1987, page 15.)

#### **Parker Branch and Springs**

The Parker Branch is a three to four mile long drainage of the Buffalo running northwest to the river. It was identified on the 1843 federal survey map of the township and in the survey field notes as "Parker's Branch." The current USGS Jasper Quadrangle topographic map identifies the stream as Webb Branch. Robert Hickman indicated that the Branch had several names over the years, although he usually referred to it as "Parker Branch." A Benjamin F. Webb entered land in the northeast quarter of Section 8 along the upper end of the Branch in 1893. Robert Hickman recalled that Webb had plans to harness the power of the creek for a mill, but the attempt eventually failed.

The Branch divides the present Hickman and Lane tracts as it apparently divided property for previous owners. There are four springs on the Hickman property which provided water for the family. The spring nearest to the house was the most frequent source of water. The water was always carried rather than piped.

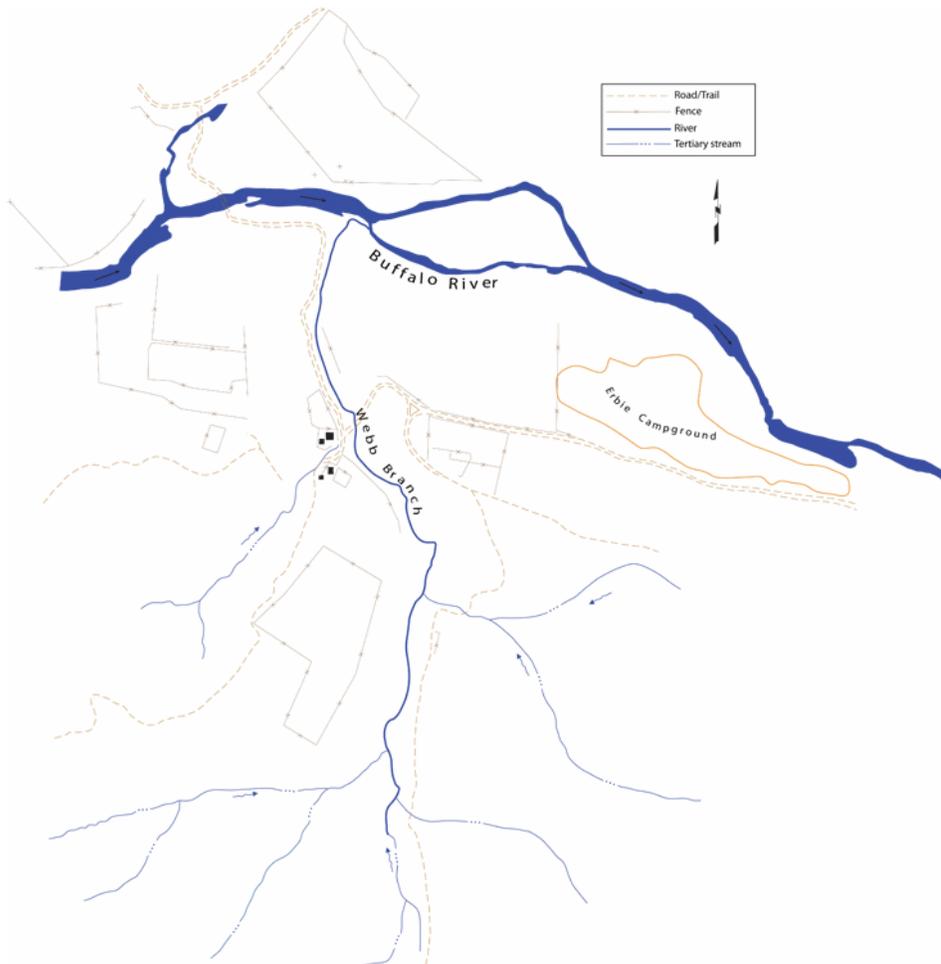
#### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Parker Branch and Springs

Feature Identification Number: 134584

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Map displaying the Webb'or Parker Branch'and tertiary streams in relation to the Parker Hickman farmstead (NPS 2009).*

**Small Scale Features**

(The following text is excerpted from Suzanne D. Rogers' "Parker-Hickman Farmstead- Buffalo National River: Historic Structure Report," May 1987, page 13, 16.)

**Farm Feeders and Fences**

There are several feeders of rough wood construction still standing about the farmstead, both at the entrance gate, and behind the outbuildings on the access road which runs through the

farmyard.

A wire fence with gate runs north in front of the house and along its sides, separating the house area from the fields and outbuildings. A fence also follows the road into the farmstead, paralleling the road and the spring. Another fence runs along the small field to the east of the house. The remains of the garden fence and gate are still visible. Robert Hickman stated that the fence lines are the same as they were throughout the years of the Hickman farm. The one change he could remember came after extensive river flooding in the 1920s and 1930s when the fence line near the present Erbie campground had to be changed.

The original fences were made of split rail. The fences began to be replaced with wire fences in the 1920s. This continued on up until the 1960s, although most of the fences had been replaced by the 1930s.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Farm Feeders and Fences

Feature Identification Number: 134576

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

<u>Feature UTM Source</u>	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	15	479,931	3,991,868

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Feeding structure (NPS 2004).*



*Feeding structures behind the garage and chicken house (NPS 2004).*

### **Circulation**

The following text is excerpted from Suzanne D. Rogers' "Parker-Hickman Farmstead- Buffalo National River: Historic Structure Report," May 1987, page 14:

#### Roads

A county road that runs east to west along the Buffalo River skirts the farm structures and the bottomlands. The road joins State Highway 7 in the east; it crosses the river at a low water crossing and continues into Erbie to the north. Portions of the road have been changed on either end during this century. To the west, the road originally crossed a short distance below the existing low-water bridge; proceeding east, instead of turning at the Erbie Ranger Station as the present road does, it continued straight, crossing the river twice.

An early settler road runs south behind the Hickman house and climbs up the mountain to Mutton Point. The road branches to the right as mainly a timber or logging road, and goes to the foot of Mutton Point. It then continues upriver while the left branch ascends the mountainous elevation past old settlement areas, located beyond park boundaries, eventually connecting with the old Jasper road.

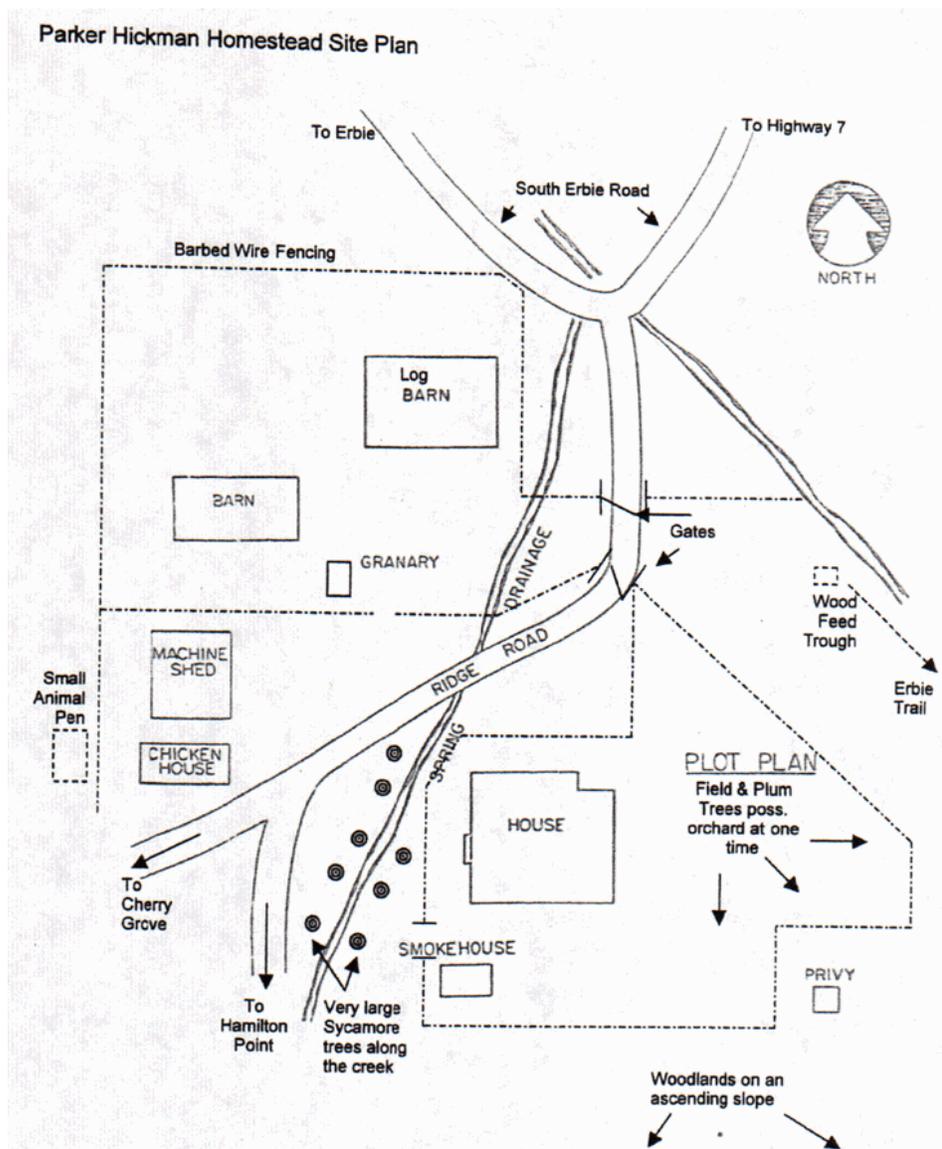
A road through the farmstead connects to the Cherry Grove cemetery, to the west of the farm, then winds back down to the river. This road section was rerouted by the county sometime during the twentieth century. The original road followed the river upstream to Camp Orr and on to Ponca and Boxley.

Another road trace parallels the Parker Branch a short distance, crosses the branch and swings up the bluff and back to the main road. Just beyond the branch crossing are the sites of a Civil War skirmish, an old schoolhouse, and a home. When Robert Hickman was young, the main county road to Jasper went on the east side of the branch to what is now called Stridden Point, across to the present Hudson ranch, and down the south side of the mountain to Jasper, coming to the Little Buffalo River on the northeast side of Jasper.

### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature:	Roads
Feature Identification Number:	134578
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

### **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Parker Hickman homestead site plan displaying the various roads on the property (NPS sketch map, field checked and updated by Thomason & Assoc., 2004).*

### Cluster Arrangement

(The following text is excerpted from Suzanne D. Rogers' "Parker-Hickman Farmstead-Buffalo National River: Historic Structure Report," May 1987, page 1, 2.)

The Hickman farm house and outbuildings are about one-quarter mile from the river on a wooded slope at the far side of the river valley. To the east of the house is the orchard and garden and a small field, and a small stream called Parker Branch. A smokehouse and privy are behind the house. To the west are five other outbuildings, separated from the house area by wire fencing: two barns, corn crib, machine shed, and chicken house. There also are livestock

feeders scattered about. A spring in this section provides water supply for the homestead. An access road runs between the farm buildings and the house and then west, under Mutton Point, to the old Cherry Grove cemetery, then down to a crossing on Buffalo River.

The main fields of the farmstead parallel the south side of Buffalo River and were prized acquisitions by the early owners. The original eighty-four acre farmstead was expanded further south along the bluff benches by later owners, particularly in the time period following the Civil War.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Farmstead  
Feature Identification Number: 134586  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*View of farmstead including the farm house, wire fencing, and two other structures (NPS 1985).*

**Buildings and Structures**

The following text is excerpted from Suzanne D. Rogers' "Parker-Hickman Farmstead-Buffalo National River: Historic Structure Report," May 1987, page 5-12:

### Log House

The main structure of the farmstead is an 18'5" by 18'8" one-room two-story dwelling constructed of hand-hewn cedar logs (probably cut on the farmstead). The house has a central chimney on the west elevation; a closed stairway leading to the second-story; wood-frame shed additions on the south and east elevations; and a wood-frame porch across the front. The foundation is dry-laid native rock.

Oral tradition claims that the log portion of the house was built by the Parker family in the 1830s. Historical and architectural evidence have not been able to verify this statement, although it does seem probable that the original house pre-dates the Civil War period, thus making it one of the oldest structures standing along the Buffalo River.

The house was lived in until 1978 when the last resident died. The ownership of the house passed to the National Park Service in 1982. The Hickmans—the last owners—did considerable maintenance on the house during the 1930s and 1940s, as well as periodic upkeep. This included re-shingling of the roof, rebuilding the kitchen (or south) addition to give the roof line more pitch, residing the exterior, paneling the interior, and converting the fireplace to a wood stove heater. In the summer of 1984, a National Park Service preservation team carried out stabilization of the house, including re-daubing log walls, foam entraining deteriorated logs, installing flashing and guttering, repairing window sashes and sills, repairing roofing, relaying the foundation, and dismantling and relaying the stone chimney and firebox.

### Log Barn

The log barn is the largest outbuilding of the property and measures 34'9" by 38'. It consists of a double log crib with open shed roof additions on the sides. There is a closed half-story loft above the central structure; the gable ends are covered with vertical boards over peeled poles. The cedar poles used in the barn's construction are joined by saddle notching. Originally the barn had a shingled roof, but a metal roof was installed in the early 1960s when all the other outbuildings were re-roofed with the present metal roofs.

The barn was built after J. D. Hickman moved to the farm, probably shortly after 1912. Work animals (cattle, horses, and mules) were housed and fed on the lower floor. Hay for the animals was stored in the barn as was corn for the cribs.

Substantial stabilization was done in 1984, including installing Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA) treated collar ties and braces and CCA-treated 4 X 4 posts and beams across the dog trot.

### Board Barn (Pole Barn)

This barn, the smaller of the two barns, is a one and one-half story pole barn constructed by J. D. Hickman in about 1926. It is covered by rough-sawn vertical siding and has a metal roof, although the original roof was shingled oak. The building measures 20'10" x 31'6". Cattle and other animals were housed in the stalls; hay was stored in the loft. Six lateral cable ties were installed in 1984 to halt the southern lean of the structure. Rafters were re-nailed and corner braces added on the gable ends.

#### Corn Crib

This is the only structure of the farm outbuildings which was built before the Hickman residency. It is unknown when or who built the structure, but it probably dates from pre-1900. The homestead proof for John Carlton (property owner 1871-1887) indicated that two structures identified as "corn cribs" stood on the property in 1875.

The structure measures 4'9" x 10'3" and consists of a wood frame on squared log sills. Again, the roof is metal, although the Hickmans once had a shingled roof on the building. The Hickmans originally used the building to store grains such as wheat, but later when they changed farm production from grains to grasses (late 1950s) the structure was used to store harnesses, saddles, and miscellaneous items, evidenced by "Y" shaped branch hooks fastened on the interior.

After the farm was vacated, vandals turned over the structure. The Park Service re-righted the building. In 1984, the collapsed north gable end was restored to the original roof-line; boards were re-nailed, and CCA-treated 2 X 4 cross-ties added at the top plate.

#### Machine Shed

The machine shed was built by J. D. Hickman about 1955. It measures 11'3" by 21'6" and is constructed of vertical rough-sawn boards. The roof is metal. Its construction technique is what Robert Hickman described as a pole building in which one sets posts as in building a fence and frames from there. The Hickmans used the building to shelter plows and farm vehicles.

#### Chicken Shed

This structure was constructed in 1955 at about the same time as the machine shed. It measures 16'3" by 10'6" and was constructed as a box building: first a foundation was laid and then framing put on as with a house. The frame is vertical sawn boards on a stone foundation. It has a metal roof. The building housed poultry, with the ability to hold up to fifty laying hens at a time.

#### Smokehouse

The smokehouse measures 10'3" by 12'2" and is constructed of vertical board siding on a wood frame. It currently has a metal roof, although the original roof had oak shingles. The

smokehouse was built by J. D. Hickman sometime in the late 1920s. It was used for curing meat and storing vegetables. In the winter months some four to six hogs would be butchered and hung in the smokehouse, hickory-smoked and salt-cured.

Stabilization work completed in 1984 included re-nailing siding, laying new stone piers at mid-span, and nailing down two existing wood supports.

#### WPA Privy

The privy was constructed in the 1930s as part of a Works Progress Administration program in the area. Other homes in the Ozarks acquired privies of similar design. J. D. Hickman applied to have the privy constructed. A hole was dug one day and the prefabricated outhouse was brought out and installed. Robert Hickman said that this was the only federal aid that his family received during the Depression years. The privy is made of vertical rough-sawn boards on a poured cement foundation. A narrow screen ventilator runs across the back. The current roof is metal. Its dimensions are 4'2" by 4'2". The privy stands in the vicinity of the previous outhouse. The farmstead has never had any kind of indoor plumbing.

In the 1920s and 1930s, the need to combat the endemic problem of contaminated water supply on rural farms was identified. Diseases such as typhoid and cholera spread through contamination of the water supply and house-fly population contributed to this spread. The WPA program, as a Great depression-era recovery program designed by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, employed people to do public works as well as bring sanitary sewage techniques to rural areas. The design of the 'WPA Outhouse' was result of collaboration between the WPA and the U.S. Public Health Service. It was a vented pit formed of a pre-cast concrete base with a fitted wooden seat. The intention of the design was to discourage flies and vermin and to raise the standard of cleanliness and sanitation in rural areas.

The floor and wall sections of the building were prefabricated and mass produced. They were then brought to the site and positioned once the pit was dug. The structures measured 4x4 feet with a sloping shed roof. The side with the door measured 6 feet 6 inches tall while the rear wall was 5 feet 6 inches high. They were sided with lap wood siding on the outside that was ready for painting. The vent system was an innovative design that consisted of a T-shaped flue which vented from the pit. The horizontal T-piece brought air in from the outside via flush-mount openings in the siding on the rear and right wall. The open ends were covered with wire mesh. This design enabled a continuous circulation of air from the pit to the outdoors.

To purchase an outhouse, one had to fill out a request at the WPA office and pay the cost of materials ranging from 5\$-13\$. If you could not afford the cost, another form was available to waive the fee. The outhouse was then constructed by WPA labor.

Between 1933 and 1945, federally trained 'Specialists' built and installed 2,309,239 sanitary outhouses across the United States. The fly-proof outhouse designed to Federal standards proved effective in reducing the spread of disease (Barlow, 1989, 22).

#### **Character-defining Features:**

Parker-Hickman Log Cabin & Farm  
 Buffalo National River

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Feature: Log House

Feature Identification Number: 134588

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Log Barn

Feature Identification Number: 134590

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

<u>Feature UTM Source</u>	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	15	479,968	3,991,876

Feature: Board Barn (Pole Barn)

Feature Identification Number: 134592

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

<u>Feature UTM Source</u>	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	15	479,967	3,991,957

Feature: Corn Crib

Feature Identification Number: 134594

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Machine Shed

Feature Identification Number: 134596

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

<u>Feature UTM Source</u>	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	15	479,941	3,991,864

Feature: Chicken Shed

Feature Identification Number: 134598

Parker-Hickman Log Cabin & Farm  
 Buffalo National River

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Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

<u>Feature UTM Source</u>	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	15	479,931	3,991,868

Feature: Smokehouse

Feature Identification Number: 134600

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

<u>Feature UTM Source</u>	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	15	479,951	3,991,826

Feature: WPA Privy

Feature Identification Number: 134602

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

<u>Feature UTM Source</u>	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	15	479,973	3,991,808

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Parker Hickman farm house (NPS 2004).*



*Log Barn-South and East elevations (NPS 2004).*



*Log Barn-West elevation (NPS 2004).*



*Board Barn-East elevation (NPS 2004).*



*Machine Shed-North end (NPS 2004).*



*Machine Shed- Southeast elevation (NPS 2004).*



*Chicken Shed (NPS 2004).*



*Smokehouse-East elevation (NPS 2004).*



*WPA Privy (NPS 2004).*

### **Cultural Traditions**

(The following text is excerpted from Suzanne D. Rogers' "Parker-Hickman Farmstead-Buffalo National River: Historic Structure Report," May 1987, page 5-8.)

The house shows a variety of workmanship. The original builder was a person skilled in carpentry. The loft rafters are fixed with wooden pegs. The original ceiling was hand-planed and beaded for tongue and groove installation. A curved end-plate piece on each corner of the original exterior walls attests to a pride in workmanship. The log walls are joined with the type of dove tailing refined in North Carolina to effectively shed rainwater. However, later additions and replacements do not show this same attention.

The log part of the house fits a style of log architecture common to the Carolinas and Tennessee, resembling plank or log architecture found in Coastal and Piedmont North Carolina. It has been noted that the double-crib "dogtrot" dwelling was common in the Buffalo River area, or at least was a more predominant survivor in the hills during the early part of the twentieth

century. Historical depictions of contemporaneous homes are very similar to the log portion of the Hickman house: one-room dwellings of hewn logs, with a large stone fireplace on one side.

The second story probably was an early addition to the house. It is one-room, 18'5" by 18'8", constructed of chinked logs like the first story. A half window is cut into the east wall. An enclosed wooden stairway to the left of the downstairs fireplace leads to the second story. A door at the stairway base closes off the loft to the main house.

The south or kitchen addition is also a relatively early addition to the original cabin. This addition measures 18'5" by 11'5" and contains doorways leading to the original structure and the east addition, and to the outside on the south. There are two windows, four over four: one on the west and one on the south. In the 1930s, Robert Hickman took this addition down to the ground and rebuilt it to give more pitch to the roof line.

The east or side addition measures 29'8" by 9'1" and is divided into two rooms and a pantry off the kitchen. The forward rooms have a window on the east; and the pantry also has a window on the back (south). Deteriorated window sills were replaced during the stabilization work and a ventilating louver was installed in place of the upper sash of the south east window. The side addition is constructed of vertical boards and shows the least workmanship of the entire structure. Robert Hickman replaced some of the "weatherboarding" on the exterior walls when he redid the kitchen addition in the 1930s, and again in 1976. The vertical boards of this addition did not have battens, so during the stabilization work, flashing was installed to seal the openings normally covered by battens. The door is a replacement from the early 1960s.

The chimney is a striking construction of sawn stone, and is beveled from the base to the narrower chimney stack. Robert Hickman stated that it had never needed repairs while his family lived there and did not appear to have been repaired previously. The only maintenance he performed on the chimney was to reseam some of the joints. The most extensive part of the 1984 stabilization project was the dismantling and relaying of the chimney. The chimney and firebox were found to be examples of quality craftsmanship and sound construction.

The roof of the house, including the porch roof, was covered during the Hickman occupancy by red oak shingles, made by the Hickmans from timber on the farm. The roof was last reshingled in 1939, and when those shingles finally began to deteriorate in the late 1950s, the present metal roofing replaced the shingles on the house as well as the outbuildings. Robert Hickman stated that the metal roofing was added because with the proper care (a rust preventative applied every few years) the metal roof would last indefinitely. In 1984, the metal covering was primed and painted.

Oral tradition has it that the original house floor was stained by the blood of Civil War victims. J. D. Hickman, Robert Hickman's father, installed a new floor in the original log structure soon after acquiring the house in 1912. In the 1960s a linoleum floor was laid over this floor and paneling was added to the interior walls.

There are windows on each side of the front entrance to the house. The west window, and a window on the west elevation, were original openings replaced by J. D. Hickman in the early 1900s. These are eight-light, four-over-four windows. The deteriorated sill of the west elevation window was replaced during stabilization work and a ventilating louver was installed. Robert Hickman installed the east front window in the 1960s.

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Parker Hickman farm house (<http://www.arkansasties.com> 2009).*



*Parker Hickman fireplace (<http://www.arkansasties.com> 2009).*



*Interior view of Parker Hickman house (<http://www.arkansasties.com> 2009).*

## Condition

### Condition Assessment and Impacts

**Condition Assessment:** Good  
**Assessment Date:** 02/20/2009

### Impacts

**Type of Impact:** Vandalism/Theft/Arson  
**External or Internal:** Both Internal and External  
**Impact Description:** Reports of vandalism have been cited since the death of the last resident of the Hickman farm. These include, “locks broken off the doors; a door wrenched off the smokehouse; the granary turned over; a sill log dragged out of place; items from the loft taken downstairs and strewn all over; and campfires in the barns” (Rogers 1987, 72).

As the area has become more well known, and since the construction of the nearby campground, the threat of vandalism has increased for the Parker Hickman farmstead. A recent incident of vandalism occurred on October 16th, 2008 in which several windows were broken at the house.

## Treatment

### Treatment

**Approved Treatment:** Undetermined  
**Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:**  
There is no approved document specifying a landscape treatment for the Parker-Hickman Farmstead.  
**Approved Treatment Completed:** No

## Bibliography and Supplemental Information

## Bibliography

- Citation Author:** Barlow, Ronald S.  
**Citation Title:** The Vanishing American Outhouse  
**Year of Publication:** 1989  
**Citation Publisher:** Windmill Pub. Co.  
**Source Name:** Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal
- Citation Author:** Rogers, Suzanne D.  
**Citation Title:** Parker-Hickman Farmstead-Buffalo National River, Arkansas  
"Historic Structure Report"  
**Year of Publication:** 1987  
**Citation Publisher:** NPS
- Citation Author:** Thomason and Associates and Hawkins Partners.  
**Citation Title:** Buffalo National River: Theme Identification Context Studies and  
Property Evaluations.  
**Year of Publication:** 2005

## Supplemental Information

- Title:** Arkansas Family Library Index-"Cherry Grove Cemetery"  
**Description:** <http://www.arfamilies.info/afcemnewtoncherrygrove.htm>
- Title:** Arkansas Ties website "Parker-Hickman Homestead"  
**Description:** <http://www.arkansasties.com/Newton/Parker.htm>
- Title:** National Geographic - Buffalo National River Topographic Map-West Half
- Title:** National Register of Historic Places Inventory--Nomination Form "Parker-Hickman  
Farm Historic District/Hickman Farm."  
**Description:** 1987