Klepzig Mill and Farm
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2013
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The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is a database containing information on the historically significant landscapes within the National Park System. This evaluated inventory identifies and documents each landscape’s location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics as character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved inventory records when all required data fields are entered, the park superintendent concurs with the information, and the landscape is determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places through a consultation process or is otherwise managed as a cultural resource through a public planning process.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures (LCS), assists the National Park Service (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 (2001), 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 responds to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two goals are associated with the CLI: 1) increasing the number of certified cultural landscapes (1b2B) servicewide; and 2) bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (1a7). The CLI is maintained by the Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program, WASO, and is the official source of cultural landscape information servicewide.

Implementation of the CLI is coordinated and approved at the regional level. Each region annually updates a strategic plan that prioritizes work based on a variety of park and regional needs that include planning and construction projects or associated compliance requirements that lack cultural landscape documentation. When the inventory unit record is complete and concurrence with the findings is obtained from the superintendent and the State Historic Preservation Office, the regional CLI coordinator certifies the record and transmits it to the national CLI Coordinator for approval. Only records approved by the national CLI coordinator are included in the CLI for official reporting purposes.

Relationship between the CLI and a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR)

The CLI and the CLR are related efforts in the sense that both document the history, significance, and integrity of park cultural landscapes. However, the scope of the CLI is limited by the need to achieve concurrence with the park superintendent, and resolve eligibility questions when a National Register nomination does not exist, or when an existing nomination inadequately addresses the eligibility of landscape characteristics. Ideally, a park’s CLI work (which many include multiple inventory units) precedes a CLR because the baseline information in the CLI not only assists with priority setting when more than one CLR is needed it also assists with determining more accurate scopes of work for the CLR effort.

The CLR is the primary treatment document for significant park landscapes. It therefore requires a more in depth level of research and documentation, both to evaluate the historic and the existing condition of the landscape and to recommend a preservation treatment strategy that meets the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for the treatment of historic properties.

The scope of work for a CLR, when the CLI has not been done, should include production of the CLI record. Depending on its age and scope, existing CLR’s are considered the primary source for the history, statement of significance, and descriptions of contributing resources that are necessary to complete a CLI record.
The Klepzig Mill and Farm is located within Ozark National Scenic Riverways, in Shannon County, Missouri. The 121-acre landscape is situated along Rocky Creek and backed by Mill Mountain to the south-east. The mill and farm structural complex is surrounded by open agricultural fields and forested hillsides. Access is provided via NPS 730, a narrow gravel drive that connects State Highway H and State Highway NN. The road fords Rocky Creek and passes through the farm landscape in a roughly east west direction, splitting the mill and dam structures to the north and the farmstead to the south. Three buildings remain standing – the mill, the springhouse, and the smokehouse. Extensive structural ruins and a collection of small scale features further articulate the integrity of the historic landscape’s spatial organization.

Following a succession of multiple owners over a 55 year period, Walter Klepzig purchased the property in 1912 and improved upon it during the following decades. Although a mill was already in place, it was replaced by Klepzig. He also cleared additional acreage, improved the road, replaced the log cabin residence with a larger house, and built a springhouse and a milking barn. Klepzig used the mill to grind meal and saw boards. The combined mill and agricultural operations allowed his family a relative degree of prosperity. However, as store bought meal became increasingly available in the 1930s, commercial activity at the mill slowed considerably. The Klepzig family traded the mill and farm property for land in nearby Dent County in 1935. That same year it was purchased by Arthur C. Brandt, a businessman from St. Louis. Brandt ended the mill’s commercial operations and instead used it to power a generator that provided electricity to a number of buildings on the farm. In addition to updating and improving the dam, turbine, and mill structure, Brandt also constructed a sizable second residence in the rustic style that was typical of recreational lodges and cabins of that period.

The Klepzig Mill and Farm is listed on the National Register of Historic Places at a local level of significance under Criterion A for its representation of the combination of agriculture and commerce on a small “New South Ozarks” farm, and Criterion C for the architectural significance of the sawmill constructed mill. The period of significance is 1912-1936, beginning with Walter Klepzig’s ownership of the property and ending shortly after Arthur Brandt’s purchase and initial improvements to the dam and mill, and construction of the second house. The cultural landscape still retains a sufficient degree of integrity to convey the functionality and character of the historic period.
The Klepzig Mill and Farm cultural landscape NR established boundary is shown in red; derived from Google Earth imagery (Jackson/NPS 2012)
Site Plan of existing conditions at Klepzig Mill and Farm circa 1985 (Corless 1990)

USGS topographic map segment from the 1987 NR nomination.
Chapter 2: Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative

In October 2011, MWRO Landscape Historian Dan Jackson and OZAR Archeological Technician Renata Culpepper conducted a site visit to survey and document the Klepzig Mill Area cultural landscape. Jackson subsequently completed a CLI draft. Following review by OZAR staff, park concurrence was provided on 5/22/2013. SHPO concurrence was provided on 6/18/2013.

Concurrence Status:

- Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes
- National Register Concurrence: Yes
VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAYS
404 Watercress Drive
P.O. Box 490
Van Buren, Missouri 63965-0490

H3023 (MWR/CR-HAL)

May 22, 2013

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Midwest Regional Office
From: Superintendent, Ozark National Scenic Riverways
Subject: Klepzig Mill and Farm Cultural Landscapes Inventory

This memorandum serves as general concurrence provided to the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) for Klepzig Mill and Farm. Park staff reviewed the CLI document and we concur with the general findings. It accurately reflects the current condition of "Poor" and the management category of "Should Be Preserved and Maintained." We feel that the appropriate Integrated Management Resources Applications (IRMA) category for this document is "reference viewable to public."

We understand that the information in the CLI and LCS databases can be amended by contacting the CLI coordinator and requesting an update. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Chief of Resource Management Eric Daniels at 573-323-4868.

/s/ William N. Black

Park concurrence, 5/22/2013
June 18, 2013

William Harlow
National Park Service - Midwest Region
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, Nebraska 68102-4226

Re: Cultural Landscape Inventory, Klepzig Mill & Farm, Ozark National Scenic Riverways (NPS)
Shannon County, Missouri

Dear Mr. Harlow:

Thank you for submitting information on the above referenced project for our review pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (P.L. 99-601, as amended) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s regulation 36 CFR Part 800, which requires identification and evaluation of cultural resources.

We have reviewed the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Klepzig Mill and Farm, a property listed in the National Register of Historic Places. We concur with your assessment that the historic district does retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and association, but that the feeling has been somewhat diminished due to the loss of buildings and structural decline. Regardless, the Klepzig Mill and landscape and landscape features retains integrity and is still worthy of its National Register status. We also concur that the overall condition may be described as “Poor”, and that the appropriate, and immediate, treatment is stabilization and preservation.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please write Judith Deel at State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 or call 573/751-7962. Please be sure to include the SHPO Log Number (014-SH-13) on all future correspondence or inquiries relating to this project.

Sincerely,

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Mark A. Miles
Director and Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer

MAMjd

c Dan Jackson, NPS/Omaha

Missouri SHPO concurrence, 6/18/2013
Chapter 3: Geographic Information & Location Map

State & County:

State: Missouri
County: Shannon

Size (Acres): 121

Boundary Description:

The boundary for the Klepzig Farm and Mill Cultural Landscape adheres to the historic district boundaries established by the 1990 National Register nomination. The historic district, in turn, correlates to the 121-acre tract of land that defined the Klepzig period of ownership. The following boundary description is quoted from the nomination. Note: a chain equals 66 feet.

In Shannon County, Missouri: A part of Sections 5 and 6, both in Township 28 North, Range 2 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, being more particularly described as: W½ L2 NW¼ Sec. 5, E½ L1&2 NE¼ Sec. 6, and all that part of the NE¼ of the SE¼ Sec. 6 described as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner of said northeast quarter of the southeast quarter thence running 7 chains to the creek, thence south, 2 degrees east, 1.85 chains, thence south 84 degrees east, 7.71 chains to the section line 6.34 chains to beginning.

Boundary UTMs

Source: Google Earth
Point Types: Area
Datum: NAD 83
## Map Point Information

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Regional Context: Cultural

European-American settlers first came to the Current River region in the early 1800s. The area’s rugged terrain made it one of the last areas of Missouri to be settled, and very few individuals lived in what is now the boundary of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways prior to 1820. Between 1820 and 1850 the number of settlers increased. The majority were American-born and migrated from upland southern states such as Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, and the Carolinas. The new residents shared a strong Scotch-Irish heritage and were well accustomed to a demanding pioneer lifestyle. The landscape of steep hills, thick forests, and fluctuating water courses made transportation difficult, and individual homesteads were typically a mile or more apart. The largest concentration of settlement centered on the confluence of the Current and Jacks Fork rivers, the area between Round Spring, Owls Bend, and Alley Spring (Thomason 2004, 15).

As settlers entered the region, they established a scattering of small farms and communities along the banks of the two rivers. With the exception of a few fertile valleys along the southern portion of the Current River, the majority of the region was not conducive to major agricultural production. The steep hills of the northern region were largely untillable, and squatters and settlers in this area primarily engaged in subsistence farming supplemented with hunting and fur trading. Some individuals established commercial farms on the southern section of the Current River (Thomason 2004, 15-16).

A second wave of settlement began in the mid-1850s and continued into the 1890s as land prices dropped and the railroad and lumber industries were established in the region. Populations swelled as people migrated to the area in search of employment. Railroad and lumber companies established villages and towns to accommodate the large number of workers. The second wave of settlers primarily came from the Midwest and states such as Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and Kentucky, and brought more progressive ideas about education and community development. The railroads provided a new access that lessened the region’s isolation and opened it further to outside markets. However, the region retained its rural character and the traditional subsistence lifestyle persisted (Thomason 2004, 16).

In the early twentieth century, the lumber industry faded as timber resources in the Ozarks were depleted. Companies shut down their large mill operations and local populations diminished as a result. Those who remained in the Current River valley continued the tradition of the self-sufficient farmer. In the following decades recreation and tourism became the dominant industries in the region. A national movement toward conservation and preservation of natural areas brought about a growing concern and interest in the Ozarks and Current River area, and the eventual establishment of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways (Thomason 2004, 24-26).

Regional Context: Physiographic

The Current and Jacks Fork rivers are located in southeastern Missouri 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 Current and Jacks Fork Rivers flow through the Courtois Hills region, which has the most rugged terrain of any part of the Missouri Ozarks. The sharp ridges rise between 500 and 700 feet above the valley floors creating a maze of deep narrow valleys. The forested ridges are primarily made up of oak with a spattering of hickory and pine. Chert, a flinty, hard rock, dominates the soil atop layers of dolomite and limestone, and numerous karst features such as springs, caves, and sinkholes, are common throughout the area. The Klepzig landscape is situated along Rocky Creek, which is characterized by its numerous shut ins – canyons formed where uplifts of rhyolite have constricted water erosion into narrow channels.
The climate of the region is seasonally variable. Winter temperatures average around 35 degrees Fahrenheit and summer temperatures average in the high 70s. However, extreme highs and lows can occur often. Storms and tornadoes are common throughout the area, and the region’s average precipitation of about 45 inches is mostly rain. Flash floods induced by heavy rains can cause water levels of the Current and Jacks Fork rivers and streams to rise and fall quickly.

The Current River begins 1,000 feet above sea level at Montauk Springs and drops approximately five feet per mile to 250 feet at its mouth. The majority of the river’s water supply comes from the hundreds of springs that empty into its stream daily. The largest of these is Big Spring, which supplies the Current with an average of 279 million gallons a day. Others include Round Spring, Blue Spring, Welch Spring and Montauk Spring, and on the Jacks Fork, Alley Spring. Rocky Creek flows into the Current River to the south of Buttin Rock Mountain.

Regional Context: Political

Klepzig Mill and Farm is located in Shannon County, Missouri. Although it is the second largest county in the state with an area of 1,003.99 square miles, the population is only around 8,324. Shannon County retains a highly rural character and contains large tracts of both the Ozark National Scenic Riverways and the Mark Twain National Forest. Primary routes through Shannon County include U.S. Route 60, and state routes 19, 99, and 106. The four incorporated cities include Winona, Birch Tree, Summersville, and Eminence, the county seat.

The Klepzig property is, as the crow flies, close to nine miles from both Winona and Eminence. However, as related by Claude Klepzig, the farm was socially and economically more closely associated with Winona than Eminence.

Tract Numbers: OZAR Tract 15 142; formerly Tract 802
Chapter 4: Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Should be Preserved and Maintained
Management Category Date: 05/22/2013

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:
Type of Agreement: Special Use Permit
Expiration Date: 12/31/2015

Management Category Agreement Narrative:
Ozark National Scenic Riverways maintains an Agricultural Special Use Permit (SUP) with John W. Martin that includes a portion of the Klepzig Mill and Farm (Tract #15 142). The permit allows Martin to mow hay in the existing fields, thereby “maintaining selected open meadows to enhance and perpetuate the pastoral scene and to develop a suitably diversified habitat assuring the maximum production of a wide variety of wildlife” and “increasing the enjoyment and recreational opportunities of the public.”

NPS Legal Interest:
Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Adjacent Lands Information
Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

FMSS Location Numbers
70782
70784
70806
Chapter 5: National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation: Entered Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

The earliest National Register draft nomination for Klepzig Mill and Farm was written in 1976 by Milton F. Perry, who also wrote nominations for the Big Spring Historic District, the Alley Spring Roller Mill, and the Chilton Williams Farm Complex. While the latter three nominations successfully led to National Register listings, the Klepzig nomination did not. On 10/25/1977, Alex Outlaw, Ozark National Scenic Riverways’ (OZAR) acting superintendent, wrote a letter to the NPS Midwest Regional Director disputing the property’s historic merit, stating, “It is recommended that this Complex not be included on the National Register.” This view was again asserted a year later by Superintendent Arthur L. Sullivan. In a 12/7/1978 letter to the regional director he wrote, “We cannot […] recommend [Klepzig Mill and Farm] for National Register inclusion – there are literally hundreds of Ozark farms with similar attributes, and many are in better condition.”

Although Perry’s nomination did not go forward, at a later date the Missouri SHPO determined the Klepzig Mill and Farm to be potentially eligible for the National Register (Fritz 1985, 160). In 1985, OZAR Historian James P. Corless wrote a new draft nomination. This was likely necessitated by the loss of three primary structures to arson in 1979 1980, which greatly altered the landscape evaluated by Perry in 1976. Corless also conducted an in depth oral history interview with Claude Klepzig (son of Walter Klepzig) that revealed a great deal of previously unknown information about the mill and farm. The draft was submitted for review, at which time numerous revisions were suggested. A revised draft was then submitted in 1987 and approved by the Keeper on February 13, 1990.

Corless’ second submitted draft became the official nomination, but both his first draft and Perry’s 1976 draft are important documents, in that they contain significant historical information that is not readily available from other sources. Perry’s nomination, for example, provides a very detailed history of the real estate transactions involving the Klepzig property, as well as descriptions of the structures that would later be destroyed by arson. It is also the only known document to reference that the Brandt Cabin had already burned down prior to 1976. Corless’ 1985 draft contains information about a 1987 NPS restoration of the mill and landscape characteristic descriptions that are excluded from the final draft.

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence: Yes
Contributing/Individual: Individual
National Register Classification: District
Significance Level: Local
Significance Criteria:
A  Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
C  Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values
Period of Significance: CE1912 - 1936
Historic Context Theme: Changing Role of the U.S. in the World
Subtheme: Commerce
Facet: Commerce

Areas of Significance:
Agriculture
Architecture
Commerce

Existing NRIS Information:
Name in National Register: Klepzig, Walter, Mill and Farm
NRIS Number: 90000001
Primary Certification Date: 02/13/1990
Statement of Significance

The following statement of significance is taken directly from the text of the Klepzig Mill and Farm National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (Corless 1990).

Introduction
The Klepzig Mill is one of five extant mills in the portions of Reynolds, Shannon, Dent, Wayne, Oregon, and Carter counties within the Southern Courtois Hills region, the most rugged district within the Missouri Ozarks. The Klepzig is the only one of “sawmill” construction. The majority of the other mills have survived partly because of their unusual size for the region. They were built and/or operated as merchant roller mills, constructed or enlarged in the 1800s and later. Of the dozens of smaller, rural grist mills once in the region, only the Klepzig survives. The Klepzig Farm is one of the very few grist mill sites which continues to communicate the relationship between a small Ozark mill and the farm of which it is a part. It also illustrates a progression of such a complex through the second of three major periods of southeast Missouri Ozarks history, the “New South Ozarks.” Thus, the farm is significant for its representation of the combination of agriculture and commerce on a small New South Ozarks farm, and the mill is also significant for its architectural style as the only surviving representative of sawmill construction of a mill. Sawmill construction is a once-popular regional vernacular style. The farm and its mill are eligible for National Register inclusion under criteria A and C.

Klepzig Farm
Rural Ozark grist mills were usually operated by the farmers who owned them as part of their self-sufficient farming endeavors. The Klepzig Mill today does not stand isolated as do each of the other mills still in the Southern Courtois Hills region. Surrounding the mill are other structures and a landscape substantially unchanged since the years of the mill’s operation. The 78-acre grant originally made by the United States government to David Reed in 1857 had been expanded to 121 acres prior to Walter Klepzig’s 1912 purchase and the farm remained substantially the same size and configuration from 1890 until after 1935. When Walter Klepzig acquired the farm in 1912, improvements included a log cabin and the remains of a flood-destroyed mill. A poorly improved road led from the Current River to the farm and continued southwest toward Winona. The pre-1912 farm appears to have been laid out according to traditional criteria, with the house in close proximity to a spring and located 20 to 100 feet above the valley floor, and with only a very small number of its 121 acres cleared or even potentially available for cultivation. The location’s suitability as a mill seat was likely immediately apparent to early owners. Most stream beds in the area were too choked with chert gravel to build dams, but fast flowing spring branches and narrow shut-ins were ideal mill sites. The per acre price of the farm varied widely from its second sale in 1877 ($10.00) to Klepzig’s purchase in 1912 ($5.50), reaching a low of one dollar in 1890. Perhaps the fluctuations in part reflected the existence and condition of the pre-1912 mill. Among the farm’s early owners were G.W. McCaskill and Joshua Sholar, two local leaders in the New South Ozarks era sparked by the timber boom and the introduction of the railroad into the region. McCaskill was one of three ambitious native Shannon County brothers who built and operated numerous grist and sawmills and other large-scale commercial operations in the area. He purchased this farm in 1890, only three years before he bought at auction a similar small gristmill and farm at Alley, Missouri, where he constructed a modern roller mill. The Rocky Creek farm must have appealed to him as an excellent mill site. However, only two months after his purchase he sold the Rocky Creek farm. Joshua Sholar bought it eight months later and kept it until 1898, part of which time he was editor of the Current Wave in Shannon County. As editor, in 1896, he wrote deploring the reluctance of Shannon County farmers to join the new, i.e. the New South, business order. He advocated increased crop production and the conversion of excess grain to flour and meal for market sales. It is not unlikely that a mill was in place by the 1890-1898 ownership of the farm by McCaskill and Sholar. Local legend substantiates that the mill had been there for years before the 1895 “Winona flood.” The price per acre of the farm remained at a high $6.50 through three transactions during this period.
Walter Klepzig made further improvements after his 1912 purchase. Additional acreage was cleared, but still only about 45 acres were suitable for cultivation. In addition to the reconstruction of the mill, the road to the farm and mill was greatly improved, a new house equal to any house “in town” replaced the log cabin, and a springhouse and large milking barn were constructed. Klepzig, son of “Prussian German” Charles Klepzig, another Shannon County entrepreneur, also was influenced by the New South business order. Among his neighbors he was first to introduce both barbed and woven wire fence and a refined breed of milk cow, and to take advantage of outside marketing opportunities such as shipping cream to Beatrice, Nebraska, for processing. With his progressive agricultural methods and his mill running at times to near capacity, the family enjoyed a simple prosperity that allowed them small luxuries such as the first radio “in the country.” However, their life remained typically Ozark as well. Like their neighbors, the Klepzigs’ diet was primarily cornbread, with some flour biscuits “of a morning.” Walter’s son, Clause, recalls the hike along the shut-ins to his one-room school as being “bad on sore toes.” Trading was done in the closest town, Winona, but only about four times a year. Oak trees were cut from the farm and railroad ties hewed from them as an additional source of cash income. Self-sufficiency was still a must – Klepzig had his own blacksmith shop and was an excellent carpenter, but he also found it necessary to hire out as a carpenter on building projects in the region. He sawed boards for his new house and barn at the mill, adding extra horsepower to his turbine from the axle of a Ford truck belonging to another of his sons. Ozark neighborliness also endured. Klepzig routinely bought “good boards” for use in building coffins for his neighbors and he frequently ground corn without toll for neighbors “on starvation.”

Walter moved to a new farm closer to a mail route in 1925, leaving the Rocky Creek farm in the care of a son. The mill was operated through 1930, when younger Claude at fifteen years of age rented it from his father for its last year of operation. His customers included neighbors and transient timber workers who were “squatting” on nearby timber land and cutting trees for gasoline-powered portable saws set up in the small hollows. In 1931, the whole place was rented out, and in 1935 it was traded for land in Dent County. It was soon after purchased by A.C. Brandt, a St. Louis electrical equipment supplier. Brandt modernized the farm but only slightly affected the historic fabric and landscape. In 1935-1936 the dam and race were improved and the turbine well was covered by a vertical board “ell” added to the mill shed. Later, new fences were added, wood roof shingles were replaced with metal, additional farm buildings were constructed, and the road in front of the house was moved a few yards toward the creek. Additional acreage was also acquired. Claude Klepzig, who helped move the Brandts from St. Louis, believes they came to the farm to retire. “They just liked it down here. First they were coming down maybe once or twice a year for a month or three weeks and then later moved permanently down here.” The Brandts represent a new influx into these rugged hills – that of large, lasting outside influences. Government was one of these, the influx of urban sportsmen and recreationists another. Two changes to the farm reflect the transition into the third period of Ozarks history – the “Cosmopolitan Ozarks” – and the Brandts’ purpose here. A new four-bedroom house with a 38’x10’ dormitory on the second floor was built in 1936. The house was of a re-created rust log construction and was representative of numerous recreational and sporting lodges and cabins built along the Current River in the early twentieth century. The house was lighted by a generator which replaced the grist milling equipment in the mill shed, the second significant change. Walter Klepzig is the more significant of the two builders.

The Klepzig Mill
The mill, known as the Klepzig Mill, is significant on its own merits. Constructed circa 1912 to replace an earlier mill building at the same general site, it is representative of the many grist mills which dotted the Ozark landscape in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Each such mill reflected the environment and era in which it was constructed and operated, and the needs of the surrounding populace.

Except in the case of the occasional steam- and later, gasoline -powered mills, a consistent source of running water was required to operate these rural mills. Such sources were plentiful in the spring-rich Ozarks. But mill seats were also separated by the rugged terrain which slowed cross-country traveling. The Klepzig
Mill is located at an ideal mill seat along a narrow section of Rocky Creek, where the creek’s waters drop through a series of narrow gorges, regionally known as “shut-ins.” The narrow gorge made damming the creek easier, and the quick drop in elevation provided the required force to the water’s flow. Early mills on this site utilized a twelve foot overshot wheel to capture the water’s energy. From 1912 to 1930, Walter Klepzig upgraded both the hydraulic system and the mill, changes compatible with his progressive farming practices. The improvements included the replacement of the wheel with a more modern secondhand turbine and the updating of the mill stones. He also rebuilt the mill shed and later moved it adjacent to the new turbine well to improve the efficiency of the power transfer to the stones.

The three-bushel-an-hour mill provided additional income to its self-sufficient-farmer owner. It served as a custom mill, grinding corn into meal and returning all but a 1/8th toll to the customer. Klepzig operated the mill three days each week, often from dawn to after sunset on Saturdays, but business was sometimes much slower during the week. His customers included farmers from a radius of more than ten miles, a common situation in the Southern Cortois Hills, where mills were often greater than fifteen miles apart. The improvements he made perhaps made his a more popular mill and they allowed him to increase the mill’s capacity. He also used the mill’s power to operate a saw and shingle mill to produce materials for new structures on his farm. After the farm and mill were sold to A.C. Brandt in 1935, the turbine was used to power an electric generator housed in the mill shed. The mill’s commercial potential was waning, as store-bought meal was increasingly available and utilized, and flour was increasing in popularity. The change represented not only the decreased demand for corn milling, but also the intentions and occupancy of the new owner. Brandt, who was retiring here, found the shut-in area useful for its beauty as well as its potential for power.

Architecture
The mill shed built by Klepzig was constructed in a vernacular style regionally common during the timber era of 1880-1920. Known as “sawmill” and sometimes “box” construction, the structure is built of vertical boards and battens nailed to a top and bottom sill with no framing. The style is also found in the farm’s smokehouse and springhouse, both constructed near the same time. This style of construction is rare among extant mills. For professional historical millwright Derek Ogden, the Klepzig Mill is the only known example of sawmill construction in a mill anywhere in the United States.

Conclusion
A.C. Brandt’s purchase and modification of the mill and farm culminates the continuum of the complex from the Old Ozarks Frontier – the farm in its earliest form – through the New South Ozarks represented in the maximization of the farm’s potential by McCaskill, Sholar, and most completely by Klepzig, to the Cosmopolitan Ozarks where change has come most rapidly to the region. The principal features – mill seat, mill, dam, and race – remain in context to illustrate the second phase and beginning of the third phase of this continuum. The key to the significance of this complex is in its integrity of context. The mill was an important component to the farm’s “new business order” operation – a part of its commercial activities, benefitting both its owner and his customers. Both the farm and mill were greatly influenced by the rugged topography of the immediate and larger Ozark environment. The farm was limited in productivity by the scarcity of arable land, as seen in the small acreage in crops compared to the large amount of less useful forest land. The forest itself contributed to the farm’s economy. Mills were necessarily located according to environmental criteria, and it was natural that owners of this property, when progress was sought, would seek to capitalize on the commercial potential of a mill. It was also the environment, with its rugged topography which limited access to the mill, that prevented it from being a great commercial success while allowing it to at least moderately increase the standard of living for its owner. The farm with its mill most completely represents a rural response to the New South Ozarks environment and also illustrates in the moderate change in its use the threshold of the Cosmopolitan Ozarks.
Chapter 6: Chronology and Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape type: Vernacular

Current and Historic Use/Function:
  Primary Historic Function: Farm
  Primary Current Use: Vacant

Other Use/Function:
  Type: Historic

Current and Historic Names:
  Name: Walter Klepzig Mill and Farm  Type of Name: Both Current And Historic
  Brandt Place  Historic
Cultural Landscape Physical History Narrative

1857-1935

In 1857, a 78-acre tract of land was granted to David Reed from the United States government. Reed held the property for 20 years, until he sold it to Alvin Marsh for $10.00 an acre on January 26, 1877. About six months later, on July 8, 1877, Marsh sold the property to A.M. DePriest, who, about six months later, on January 30, 1878, sold the property back to David Reed. Reed next sold it to John M. Crawford on July 5, 1882. Crawford lived there until he died eight years later. The land was then sold at auction to George W. McCaskill for $1.00 an acre on May 13, 1890. McCaskill then sold it to W.H. Powell six days later on May 19, 1890, reportedly turning a significant profit. About a year-and-a-half later, Powell sold the property to Joshua Sholar on January 19, 1898. Five years later Sholar sold it to William Kinard on June 18, 1898. Kinard then sold it to Silas Weaver on September 3, 1902. Seven years later, Weaver sold the property to Maudie Braulet on November 1, 1909. Braulet sold it to M.B. Dunn on July 22, 1912. Walter Klepzig purchased the property from Dunn on September 16, 1912 for $5.50 an acre (Perry 1976, 6; Corless 1990, 10). By 1890, the property's size had grown from 78 to 121 acres. It would not substantially increase again until after 1935 (Corless 1990, 3).

At the time of Klepzig's 1912 acquisition, the property included a log cabin, a number of outbuildings, an old mill that used "a 12' overshot wheel for power," and a dam constructed of "sticks and stones" (Perry 1976, 5). It is unknown who built the first mill and dam, but George McCaskill has been speculated as a possible candidate. A few years after his brief ownership of the Klepzig property, McCaskill purchased the Alley Spring Mill and substantially invested in modernizing the equipment. Additionally, the transfer deed from McCaskill to Powell mentioned “appurtenances” and was the “only deed in the history of the farm to do so” (Perry 1976, 6). However, McCaskill owned the farm for less than a week, and the available timeframe for the construction of a mill would have been accordingly brief. The original mill was located about 20 to 25 yards upstream (west) of the mill later built by Walter Klepzig.

The Klepzig family essentially practiced subsistence-level farming; they produced enough to feed themselves. They grew two-to-three acres of corn, hay, beans, potatoes, peas, and other vegetables. They also maintained apple and peach orchards and harvested plums and wild blackberries. They raised cattle, including an average of five milk cows and some beef cows, swine, and chickens (Corless 1986, 14, 23, 25, 40).

Walter Klepzig was very industrious and continually worked to improve his property. He built the smokehouse between 1912 and 1915, and the springhouse in 1918 (Corless 1986; 12, 19). Klepzig did much to modernize the mill operations. Around 1915, he constructed a small cabin for his fifteen-year-old daughter Lottie on the north side of Rocky Creek shortly after her brother Claude was born (Klepzig 1986, 26). In 1919, he bought a turbine wheel to replace the old overshot wheel and also rebuilt the race. In 1921, he completed the mill that is now in place (Corless 1986, 2-3). In 1923, Walter Klepzig built a new house to replace the old log cabin residence. In 1930, Walter Klepzig built a one-room house for his son, Claude Klepzig, who rented the property and operated the mill for one year between 1930 and 1931. (The site of this cabin is uncertain, as there is no known additional documentation beyond a mention by Claude Klepzig’s in Corless’ interview.)

Despite the onset of the Great Depression in the 1930s, many Ozark families began purchasing pre-ground cornmeal from the store, rather than raising their own crop to be ground at a mill. During the Klepzig Mill’s final year of commercial operation, 1930-1931, customer demand was greatly reduced. But Claude Klepzig did not cease operations because of a lack of business; he had saved enough money to purchase an automobile and was ready to venture into the wider world. With Claude gone, no Klepzig family occupants remained. From 1931 to 1935, Walter Klepzig rented the property to John Wilson, until he lost the farm and mill in a disadvantageous land trade (Corless 1986, 10-11, 40-41).
1935-1968

In 1935, the Klepzig family traded the mill and farm for land in Dent County. The property was then purchased by Arthur C. Brandt. The 1940 federal census identified St. Louis as his primary place of residence and his employment as the treasurer of a retail electric company. With an annual salary of $5,400, Brandt earned more than five times the median income for men in America at that time (Dept. of Commerce 1940). Claude Klepzig recalled that the Brandt family initially would make month-long visits to the area a couple of times a year until Arthur retired. They later (presumably after 1940) permanently relocated to the farm (Corless 1986, 28-29).

Brandt effected some significant changes to the mill operations and farm landscape. Rather than sawing lumber or grinding corn, he harnessed an electrical generator to the turbine and provided power to the original Klepzig house (used by Brandt for tenant occupancy) and the new main residence he built. The Brandt House, constructed circa 1935, exhibited many elements of the Rustic-style architecture popular with recreation-oriented lodges of that era. The sizable, two-story structure featured log walls, hardwood floors, and multiple fireplaces. The stone fireplace in the living room was massive enough to hold logs up to five feet in length. The second floor was an open, dormitory-type bedroom, and the basement included a garage, forced air wood-burning furnace, and water heater (Brown 1969, 152).

The presence of the deliberately-designed Brandt House marked a substantial shift from the vernacular subsistence farmstead landscape of the Klepzig period. This was reinforced by the conversion of the mill to generating electricity rather grinding corn or sawing lumber. In conjunction with his other projects, Brandt improved and rerouted the road to its current configuration. The Brandts did continue to farm the land to an extent, and raised livestock such as hogs and chickens (Corless 1986, 28). When the NPS acquired the property there was a sawmill chicken coop, four or five brooder houses, and another coop adapted from an old truck body (Corless 1985, 6-7).

1968-Present

In 1964, congress enacted and President Lyndon B. Johnson signed legislation establishing Ozark National Scenic Riverways. In the following years, the federal government systematically acquired tracts of land from private property owners for the new park unit. On March 19, 1968, Arthur Brandt sold 636.97 acres of land, including the 121-acre mill and farm property, to the federal government for $56,000. Federal acquisition effectively ended the era of residential occupation. Initially, park management considered preserving the entire complex as a working example of an Ozark farm. As late as 1969, the Klepzig Dam was still intact and functional, as was the mill’s turbine machinery (Brown 1969, 152). The large, Rustic-style Brandt residence was even seen as a viable park lodge or day camp. There was also particular interest in the operational restoration of the mill itself (Fritz 1985, 157-159). The complex was included in a number of resource studies; Lenard E. Brown and Charles W. Lessig evaluated it separately in 1969, Donald F. Dosch in 1970, Lenard Brown and Merrill Mattes together in 1971, and Milton F. Perry in 1976. All advocated for varying levels of preservation. Ultimately, the property’s remote location proved a significant logistical challenge. The maintenance and preservation of cultural resources more conveniently located to facilitate visitor access took a higher priority.

The property’s decline through vacancy and disuse was compounded by active destruction. At some point between 1970 and 1976 the Brandt House was destroyed by fire. The structure was described by Brown in 1969 and photographed by Dosch in 1970. The next available detailed documentation of the Klepzig landscape – Perry’s 1976 draft NR nomination – noted that the Brandt House had already burned down. The loss of the large residential structure likely ended any consideration of the possibilities of a park lodge at the site. Following the fire, any remaining structural elements of the house were razed and removed.
Despite the loss of the Brandt House, Milton Perry still considered the property highly significant. His 1976 evaluation led him to draft a National Register nomination. However, park management vigorously opposed the nomination. Acting Superintendent Alex Outlaw in 1977 and Superintendent Arthur in 1978 successively wrote letters to Midwest Regional Director Merrill Beal. They both viewed the Klepzig landscape as lacking historic integrity and representative of a very common Ozark property type. Perry’s nomination did not go forward to the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office.

On April 6, 1980, the Klepzig House, Barn, and Stock Shed were destroyed by arson. Fortunately, the building footprints were not razed this time, and elements of the foundations were left intact. Between 1986 and 1999, a stone and concrete wall that joined to the northwest corner of the springhouse was removed. This wall was not considered historic, but rather, likely dated to the post-1935 Brandt era.

Meanwhile, OZAR Historian James Corless wrote a new nomination for the property and on 2/13/1990, the Walter Klepzig Mill and Farm was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The mill gained recognition for its sawmill construction and was identified as quite possibly the only mill of this type in the country.

In 1998, the Klepzig Springhouse was identified as at risk of “structural failure.” Subsequent stabilization occurred between 1999 and 2001 and included roof and foundation repairs (PMIS 39307). The mill has also been maintained through preservation and stabilization work. The farm’s fields have been maintained through a special use permit with a local farmer who mows the hay.
Klepzig Mill and Farm
Ozark National Scenic Riverways


1979 view of the tenant house and the smokehouse (NPS Photo, Fritz 1985, figure 115).

1979 view of Klepzig Mill (NPS Photo, Fritz 1985, figure 121).
Klepzig Mill and Farm
Ozark National Scenic Riverways

1978 view of the Klepzig House (NPS Photo, Fritz 1985, figure 116)

1978 view of the Klepzig Barn to the left and the Klepzig Granary to the right (Fritz 1985, figure 117).
1978 view of the Klepzig Smokehouse (NPS Photo, Fritz 1985, figure 119).

1978 view of the Klepzig Spring House (NPS Photo, Fritz 1985, figure 120).

1988 view of Klepzig Mill with the dam and race in the foreground (Corless/NPS 1990).
1986 view of the springhouse (Corless/NPS 1990). The wall visible in the lower left foreground is no longer extant.

1986 view of farm landscape with fence row, equipment shed ruin, and smokehouse (Corless/NPS 1990).
1986 view of the smokehouse and house foundation (Corless/NPS 1990).

1986 view of Klepzig Road (Corless/NPS 1990).
### Chronology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Annotation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CE 1857</td>
<td>Purchased/Sold</td>
<td>In 1857, a 78 acre tract of land was granted to David Reed from the United States government. Between then and 1909, the property would expand to 121 acres.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE 1877</td>
<td>Purchased/Sold</td>
<td>In 1877, David Reed sold the farm to Alvin Marsh for $10.00 an acre. That same year, Marsh then sold it to A.M. Priest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE 1878</td>
<td>Purchased/Sold</td>
<td>In 1878, A.M. Priest sold the property back to David C. Reed, the original owner.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CE 1882</td>
<td>Purchased/Sold</td>
<td>In 1882, David C. Reed sold the property to John M. Crawford.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE 1890</td>
<td>Purchased/Sold</td>
<td>In 1890, George McCaskill purchased the farm from John M. Crawford at a price of $1.00 an acre. McCaskill is believed to have constructed the first mill on site. That same year, McCaskill sold the property to W.H. Powell.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE 1891</td>
<td>Purchased/Sold</td>
<td>In 1891, W.H. Powell sold the property to Joshua Sholar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE 1898</td>
<td>Purchased/Sold</td>
<td>In 1898, Joshua Sholar, sold the property to William Kinard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE 1902</td>
<td>Purchased/Sold</td>
<td>In 1902, William Kinard sold the property to Silas Weaver.</td>
</tr>
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<td>CE 1912</td>
<td>Purchased/Sold</td>
<td>In 1912, Walter Klepzig purchased the 121-acre farm property, which included a log cabin and a flood ravaged mill (Corless 1990).</td>
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<tr>
<td>CE 1918</td>
<td>Built</td>
<td>In 1918, Klepzig built the springhouse (Corless 1986, 12).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE 1923</td>
<td>Built</td>
<td>In 1923, Walter Klepzig built a new house to replace the old log cabin residence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE 1928</td>
<td>Built</td>
<td>In 1928, Walter Klepzig “rebuilt the mill shed and moved it adjacent to the new turbine well to improve its efficiency” (Thomason 2004, 82).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE 1930</td>
<td>Built</td>
<td>In 1930, Walter Klepzig built a one room house for his son, Claude Klepzig, who rented the property and operated the mill 1930-1931.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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In 1935, the Klepzig family traded the mill and farm for land in Dent County. The property was then purchased by Arthur C. Brandt.

In 1964, congress enacted and President Lyndon Johnson signed legislation establishing Ozark National Scenic Riverways.

On March 19, 1968, Arthur C. Brandt sold 636.97 acres of land, including the 121 acre mill and farm landscape, to the federal government for $56,000.

As late as 1969, the Klepzig Dam was still intact and functional, as was the mill’s turbine machinery (Brown 1969, 152).

At some point between 1969 and 1976 the Brandt House was destroyed by fire.

On April 6, 1980, the Klepzig House was destroyed by arson.

Between 1986 and 1999, a stone and concrete wall that joined to the northwest corner of the springhouse was removed.

The Klepzig Mill was stabilized and partially restored by the NPS in 1987. This included the in kind replacement of support posts and vertical boards, and a stabilization of the stone foundation.

On 2/13/1990, the Walter Klepzig Mill and Farm was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1998, the Klepzig Springhouse was identified as in risk of “structural failure.” Subsequent stabilization occurred between 1999 and 2001 and included roof and foundation repairs.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CE 1935-1936</td>
<td>Purchased/Sold</td>
<td>In 1935, the Klepzig family traded the mill and farm for land in Dent County. The property was then purchased by Arthur C. Brandt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE 1964</td>
<td>Established</td>
<td>In 1964, congress enacted and President Lyndon Johnson signed legislation establishing Ozark National Scenic Riverways.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE 1968</td>
<td>Purchased/Sold</td>
<td>On March 19, 1968, Arthur C. Brandt sold 636.97 acres of land, including the 121 acre mill and farm landscape, to the federal government for $56,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE 1969</td>
<td>Maintained</td>
<td>As late as 1969, the Klepzig Dam was still intact and functional, as was the mill’s turbine machinery (Brown 1969, 152).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE 1969-1976</td>
<td>Destroyed</td>
<td>At some point between 1969 and 1976 the Brandt House was destroyed by fire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE 1980</td>
<td>Destroyed</td>
<td>On April 6, 1980, the Klepzig House was destroyed by arson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE 1986-1999</td>
<td>Removed</td>
<td>Between 1986 and 1999, a stone and concrete wall that joined to the northwest corner of the springhouse was removed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE 1987</td>
<td>Stabilized</td>
<td>The Klepzig Mill was stabilized and partially restored by the NPS in 1987. This included the in kind replacement of support posts and vertical boards, and a stabilization of the stone foundation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE 1990</td>
<td>Established</td>
<td>On 2/13/1990, the Walter Klepzig Mill and Farm was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE 1999-2001</td>
<td>Stabilized</td>
<td>In 1998, the Klepzig Springhouse was identified as in risk of “structural failure.” Subsequent stabilization occurred between 1999 and 2001 and included roof and foundation repairs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 7: Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity

Summary:

LANDSCAPE INTEGRITY
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.

LOCATION
Location refers to the place where the cultural landscape was constructed or where the historic event occurred. The locations of extant structures and other contributing features remain unchanged from the period of significance.
Evaluation: Retains location

DESIGN
Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a cultural landscape. Klepzig Mill and Farm retains its historic form. The site for the mill was chosen to take advantage of the channeled flow of the Rocky Creek shut-in. The bottomland of the valley suited the agricultural development of the farmstead, while the surrounding hills limited the expanse. The topography directly shaped the land use and influenced the circulation patterns and structural arrangements. Despite the loss of several prominent historic structures, the design of the farmstead remains intact and readable.
Evaluation: Retains design

SETTING
The aspect of setting refers to the physical environment of a property, or how the site is situated and its relationship to surrounding features and spaces. The immediate setting at Klepzig has been adversely impacted by the loss of a number of historic structures and small scale features. It has been further degraded by encroaching vegetation and successional forest growth throughout much of the area that formerly comprised a complex of farmstead structures, open spaces, orchards, and gardens. However, the encompassing natural setting imparts a sense of the isolation that fostered Walter Klepzig’s resourcefulness and ingenuity.
Evaluation: Retains setting

MATERIALS
Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during the historic period. All types of construction materials and other landscape features are included under this aspect of integrity. The three remaining buildings – the mill, springhouse, and smokehouse - retain a significant amount of their original materials. When structural components have been replaced, such as siding boards at the mill, care has been taken to use in-kind materials. The property’s structural ruins also provide examples of historic building materials, such as concrete and stone foundations, wire fence-lines, and the detritus of farming operations.
Evaluation: Retains materials
WORKMANSHIP
Workmanship refers to the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular period. At Klepzig, the extant historic buildings retain their original designs. Walter Klepzig cut and milled all of the boards used in the construction of buildings. The mill in particular is significant, as it may be the only remaining mill in the country that is of the “sawmill” type construction. And although the Klepzig House is no longer intact, the poured concrete foundation remains as an example of Walter Klepzig’s willingness to innovate with new construction materials and techniques long before his neighbors.
Evaluation: Retains workmanship

FEELING
Feeling is a property’s expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular time period. With the majority of structures gone, and former open spaces and orchards overgrown by vegetation, many details of the historic period are either heavily camouflaged or missing entirely. The complex along Rocky Creek that includes the dam, mill, and springhouse is the only portion of the landscape intact enough to be readily interpreted by a casual visitor.
Evaluation: Diminished feeling

ASSOCIATION
Association refers to the direct link between the historic event and the cultural landscape. The Klepzig landscape, despite years of neglect and ruin, has benefited from the lack of any subsequent layers of development. Most existing structural elements are associated with activities dating to the period of significance, when the mill was operational and the land was farmed.
Evaluation: Retains association

INTEGRITY OF THE PROPERTY AS A WHOLE
The historic district retains integrity in location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association. The feeling is diminished. According to National Register guidelines, a property either does or does not retain its overall integrity, and does or does not convey its significance. Although encroaching vegetation and structural decline have negatively impacted its historical integrity, overall the landscape retains the characteristics, physical attributes, and historic associations it had during the period of significance as a rural Ozark mill and farmstead, from 1912 to 1936.

Aspects of Integrity: Location
Design
Setting
Materials
Workmanship
Association
Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

The Klepzig Mill (HS-355) was built circa 1912 by Walter Klepzig. It is believed to have replaced an earlier mill likely constructed between 1880 and 1890. It is located on the south bank of Rocky Creek, approximately 700’ northeast of the Klepzig house site. The original 12’ x 20’ single story building was appended with a 7’3” x 9’2” extension, resulting in an ell configuration. The construction type is local known as “sawmill” or “box,” reflecting its construction without framing of vertical boards nailed to a sill at the top and bottom, and with corner boards nailed together. The original portion is of 10-to-13 inch boards, while the addition is of 4- to 12-inch boards. The exterior of both sections has battens and traces of silver paint.

The south wall rests on grade on a rubble stone foundation wall, while the remainder of the structure is supported by various dimension timber posts. The gable roof is covered with corrugated iron. On the south face is a 31-inch three board plank door. An additional 11.5” single-board door is 46” east. One window punctuates each of the east and west walls and the east wall of the ell. On the interior, the original building and add-on forebay are open as one room, with the top of the 14’ deep concrete turbine well in the forebay. The well has an inside diameter of 48 inches, with walls approximately five inches thick. At the bottom of the well is a 10” Sampson turbine manufactured by the James Leffel & Co. of Springfield, Ohio. A meal storage bin is built onto the interior east wall.

The Klepzig Mill Dam (HS-355A) was built between 1910 and 1912. Located about 100 feet upstream of the mill, it is an approximately 75’ long dam of reinforced concrete that once filled gaps between natural rock formations of Rocky Creek. There are two steel sluice gates and at the base of the dam are the remains of a sluice-way that emptied the impounding pond. The dam was designed with a batter on the upstream side. Remnants of the concrete foundation still span the width of the creek bed.

The Klepzig Mill Headrace (HS-355B) was built between 1935 and 1936. It is a 60’ long concrete and natural rock race leading from a small holding pond to the turbine well at the mill. Sections of the race are missing.

The Klepzig Springhouse (HS-350) was built circa 1912. It is a one-story, two-room 8’ x 14’ “sawmill” structure located about 575’ east of the house site. It features a post-1944 corrugated iron-covered gable roof, rough sawn clapboards over most of the exterior planks, a partial concrete foundation with a concrete storage trough, a single door into the south room and single windows on the east and west walls, and widely spaced vertical boards covered with chicken wire as the walls of the south room. At one time the structure was painted white. The interior features a dirt floor and a waterway that channels the flow from the nearby spring.

The Klepzig Smokehouse (HS-348) was built circa 1912. It is a single story, single room, 14’4” x 16’4” sawmill structure located 20’ southeast of the Klepzig house site. It has a corrugated iron gable roof, concrete foundation, standing height root cellar, single windows on the north and south walls, a wood floor, a loft, and 3’x4’ plank walled room in the northeast corner, two plank doors (one with four concrete steps leading up to it, one with three concrete steps), and three wood steps inside leading down into the cellar. The cellar has one four-light window on the south wall, and a small hinged door on the north foundation wall. One-room smokehouse with a dirt floored cellar, front gable roof covered with corrugated metal, frame box construction, rough sawn vertical boards, unpainted, plank wall interior, and plank doors.

The Klepzig Mill Chicken Coop Ruins (HS-348A) consist of at least five separate sites that once contained chicken coops built anywhere between 1912 and 1940. Remnants include a collapsed wood frame building that apparently had a corrugated metal roof. Aside from piles of rotted wood and rusted scraps of metal, there are no longer substantial chicken coop ruins.
The Klepzig House Ruin (HS-343) was built in 1923 and destroyed by arson on April 6, 1980. It consists of the remnants of a one-and-a-half story frame building, to include a 4’6” tall concrete foundation with water table, a 10’ x 12’ concrete front porch with ornamental stairs, and a tall concrete chimney with brick-lined fireplace. The structure is readily visible from the road and other farm structures.

The Klepzig Barn and Granary Ruin Complex (HS-347) consists of two separate ruins: a barn and a granary. The structures, built between 1912 and 1922, are marked by 6” to 30” high foundation walls, a concrete milking pad, and the stone foundation of a shed extension. The ruins are in good condition, although obscured by vegetation.

The barn was formerly a two-and-a-half-story 26’ x 48’ frame structure with a 16’ x 24’ addition on the northwest side. It featured corrugated iron roofing and a square hip louvered cupola mounted near the north end of the roof gable. The walls featured 12” boards that were placed vertical on the main section and horizontal on the addition. It was destroyed by arson in 1980.

A machine shed (also known as an equipment shed) was formerly located about 150’ south of the Klepzig House. The roof was corrugated iron, the walls were of vertical rough-sawn boards and corrugated metal sheets, and the foundation was comprised of rubble and concrete posts (Fritz 1985, 152). Portions of the foundation remain extant.

A stock shed and granary was noted to have been blown down in a wind storm circa 1980 (Fritz 1985, 153). The former location and description of this structure is not currently known.

The Brandt Residence, built circa 1934-1935, was located on the south side of Klepzig Road, approximately across from the springhouse. It was constructed by A.C. Brandt in the style of a rustic lodge. The two-story structure featured walls of peeled pine logs and cement chinking. There were at least three fireplaces and a wood-burning furnace in the basement. The house was wired for electricity that was generated by the mill (Brown 1969, 152). Aside from evidence of ground disturbance, there are no extant features of residence that remain.

The Brandt Retaining Wall and Steps (HS-355C) postdates 1935 and is a noncontributing feature. James Corless’ 1987 interview with Claude Klepzig, which provides the foundation for the National Register nomination, indicates that the retaining wall was not constructed during the Klepzig period of occupation. In the interview, Clause asserted that the original path of the Klepzig Road was routed a bit further south of Rocky Creek, passing through an area of the farmstead that is now densely foliated. The post-1935 portion of the road that runs between the Klepzig House Ruin and the Klepzig Mill has been identified in the nomination as noncontributing. This raised section of roadbed is supported by a stone rubble retaining wall on the north side. Depending on the topography, the wall varies in height between two and four feet. Stone steps are built into the wall near the springhouse. Although the retaining wall is considered noncontributing, it does not overtly detract from the historical character of the cultural landscape.

Near the confluence of Rocky Creek and Little Rocky Creek is a structure site identified by a number of foundation stones that appear to have potentially supported a narrow porch. Larger stones scattered nearby may have supported the house itself, and then later moved. Large white oak trees stand in what would have been the front yard area. The main road right-of-way passes directly in front and there are visible stones that have been pushed aside during road-grading activity. Nearby is a small standing open sided structure that is constructed of four wooden posts and a tin roof. It is leaning and generally in very bad condition. A woven wire fence runs south the house site to meet a large wall of stones stacked and piled to a height of between five and six feet and a width that varies between six and eight feet. It features an opening for a small drainage coming from the northwest. Because the house site area is completely overgrown in briars, honeysuckle, thorn trees, cedar and other saplings, the visibility of features is very limited. A
short distance upstream Little Rocky Creek from the house site are neatly stacked stone “walls” atop the bluff lined bank that may have been used for bank stabilization (Culpepper 2012).

While nothing substantial is currently known about this house site, it offers an intriguing possibility. Claude Klepzig stated that his father, Walter Klepzig, built a log cabin “across the creek” for Claude’s older sister shortly after he was born in 1915. She was 15 years old at the time and evidently so unhappy with the introduction of her infant brother that she wanted to move out of the family home. The residence Walter built her came to be known by the family as “Lottie’s Cabin” (Klepzig 1986, 26). Because much of the grade is so steep on the north side of Rocky Creek, potential sites for a cabin are extremely limited. The location of the house site previously described represents the most viable place to build in that area. There is a good possibility that this may be the site of Lottie Klepzig’s cabin. Even so, the extant ruins potentially represent a secondary layer of development. It is conceivable that an original cabin built by Klepzig was removed and another put in place by Brandt or another third party. While there is not currently enough information to determine whether or not this ruin contributes to the Klepzig cultural landscape, it is likely to yield information about the property’s development pending future research.
Character Defining Features:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Klepzig Mill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributing?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS Structure Name:</td>
<td>Klepzig Mill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS ID Number</td>
<td>6484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS Historic Structure Number</td>
<td>HS-355</td>
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Locational Data:

- UTM Source: GPS-Uncorrected
- Point Type: Point
- Datum: NAD 83
- Zone: 15
- Easting: 660,051
- Northing: 4,110,431
Feature: Klepzig Mill Dam
Contributing?: Yes
LCS Structure Name: Klepzig Mill Dam
LCS ID Number: 101386
LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-355A
Locational Data:
  UTM Source: GPS-Uncorrected
  Point Type: Point
  Datum: NAD 83
  Zone: 15  Easting: 660,039  Northing: 4,110,433

Klepzig Mill Dam (Jackson/NPS 2011)
Feature: Klepzig Mill Headrace
Contributing?: Yes
LCS Structure Name: Klepzig Mill Headrace
LCS ID Number: 101388
LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-355B
Locational Data:
  UTM Source: GPS-Uncorrected
  Point Type: Point
  Datum: NAD 83
  Zone: 15  Easting: 660,042  Northing: 4,110,430
Feature: Klepzig Mill Retaining Wall & Steps
Contributing? No
LCS Structure Name: Klepzig Mill Retaining Wall & Steps
LCS ID Number: 101389
LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-355C
Locational Data:
   UTM Source: GPS-Uncorrected
   Point Type: Point
   Datum: NAD 83
   Zone: 15
   Easting: 660,010
   Northing: 4,110,422

Klepzig Retaining Wall and Steps (Jackson/NPS 2011)
Feature: Klepzig Chicken Coop Ruins

Contributing? Yes

LCS Structure Name: Klepzig Chicken Coop Ruins

LCS ID Number 101392

LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-348A

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS-Uncorrected
Point Type: Point
Datum: NAD 83
Zone: 15 Easting: 659,903 Northing: 4,110,345

Collapsed ruin of a chicken coop (Jackson/NPS 2011)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature:</th>
<th>Klepzig House Ruin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributing?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS Structure Name:</td>
<td>Klepzig House Ruin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS ID Number</td>
<td>6476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS Historic Structure Number:</td>
<td>HS-343</td>
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**Locational Data:**

- UTM Source: GPS-Uncorrected
- Point Type: Point
- Datum: NAD 83
- Zone: 15  
- Easting: 659,864  
- Northing: 4,110,376
Feature: Klepzig Smokehouse
Contributing?: Yes
LCS Structure Name: Klepzig Smokehouse
LCS ID Number: 6480
LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-348A
Locational Data:
  UTM Source: GPS-Uncorrected
  Point Type: Point
  Datum: NAD 83
  Zone: 15
  Easting: 659,879
  Northing: 4,110,372
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature:</th>
<th>Klepzig Barn and Granary Ruins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributing?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS Structure Name:</td>
<td>Klepzig Barn and Granary Ruins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS ID Number</td>
<td>6479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS Historic Structure Number:</td>
<td>HS-347</td>
</tr>
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Locational Data:

- UTM Source: GPS-Uncorrected
- Point Type: Point
- Datum: NAD 83
- Zone: 15
  - Easting: 660,001
  - Northing: 4,110,411
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature:</th>
<th>Brandt Log Cabin Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributing?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS Structure Name:</td>
<td>Klepzig Log Cabin - Ruin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS ID Number</td>
<td>6477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS Historic Structure Number:</td>
<td>HS-345</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Locational Data:**

- UTM Source: GPS-Uncorrected
- Point Type: Point
- Datum: NAD 83
- Zone: 15
- Easting: 660,001
- Northing: 4,110,393

Brandt Log Cabin Site - no extant features (Jackson/NPS 2011)
Feature: Klepzig Machine Shed Ruin

Contributing? Yes

LCS Structure Name: Klepzig Machine Shed Ruin

LCS ID Number 6478

LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-346

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS-Uncorrected

Point Type: Point

Datum: NAD 83

Zone: 15 Easting: 659,870 Northing: 4,110,312
Feature: Klepzig Springhouse
Contributing? Yes
LCS Structure Name: Klepzig Springhouse
LCS ID Number 6482
LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-350
Locational Data:
UTM Source: GPS-Uncorrected
Point Type: Point
Datum: NAD 83
Zone: 15 Easting: 660,014 Northing: 4,110,421
Feature: Klepzig Stock Shed and Granary Ruin
Contribute?: Yes
LCS Structure Name: Klepzig Stock Shed and Granary Ruin
LCS ID Number: 6481
LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-349
Locational Data:
UTM Source: GPS-Uncorrected
Point Type: Point
Datum: NAD 83
Zone: 15 Easting: 659,898 Northing: 4,110,386

Klepzig Stock Shed and Granary Ruin foundation (Jackson/NPS 2011)
Feature: House Site Ruin
Contributing?: Undetermined
LCS Structure Name: N/A - not listed
LCS ID Number: N/A
LCS Historic Structure Number: N/A
Locational Data:
  UTM Source: GPS-Uncorrected
  Point Type: Point
  Datum: NAD 83
  Zone: 15  Easting: 659,614  Northing: 4,110,204

House Site Ruin (Culpepper/NPS 2012)
Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

The Klepzig Road (HS 355D) is the historic primary route of circulation to and through the Klepzig landscape. It was partially rerouted and improved during the Brandt period of ownership. It now comprises segments of roadbed that run in an approximate east west direction. The current route fords Rocky Creek near the western end of the Klepzig property and crosses through the farmstead complex. However, the portion of roadbed that extends from the Klepzig House to just east of the mill postdates 1935 and is considered noncontributing. This section includes a rubble stone retaining wall that varies in height from two to four feet. The Ozark Trail follows the historic roadbed in places, as does NPS 730.

To the west of the Klepzig House Foundation an unimproved road trace extends south from the Klepzig Road. It accesses the property’s expanse of agricultural fields within the Rocky Creek valley. As this track passes the site of the Machine Shed ruin and provides access to fields that were cleared by Walter Klepzig, it likely reflects a historic pattern of circulation.

The Ozark Trail passes through the Klepzig property. From the north, it enters from the direction of Barnett Mountain and crosses Rocky Creek at a point near the mill. It then handrails Klepzig Road west to the juncture of the road trace described above. It then follows the road trace south through the fields to a point where it closely converges with Rocky Creek. It then runs parallel to the creek to exit the property boundary through the narrow shut in between Mill Mountain and Buzzard Mountain. The route of the Ozark Trail has little visual impact upon the Klepzig landscape, particularly as it generally follows pre established patterns of circulation.
### Character Defining Features:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature:</th>
<th>Klepzig Road</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributing?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS Structure Name:</td>
<td>Klepzig Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS ID Number</td>
<td>101390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS Historic Structure Number:</td>
<td>HS-355D</td>
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</table>

### Locational Data:

- UTM Source: GPS-Uncorrected
- Point Type: Point
- Datum: NAD 83
- Zone: 15
- Easting: 659,974
- Northing: 4,110,423
### Feature:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Service Road Through Fields</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contributing?</strong></td>
<td>Undetermined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LCS Structure Name:</strong></td>
<td>N/A - not listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LCS ID Number</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LCS Historic Structure Number:</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Locational Data:

- **UTM Source:** GPS-Uncorrected
- **Point Type:** Point
- **Datum:** NAD 83
- **Zone:** 15  
  - **Easting:** 659,862  
  - **Northing:** 4,110,353

South-facing view of field, with the service road visible in the middle ground to the right (Jackson/NPS 2011)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature: Ozark Trail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributing? No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS Structure Name: N/A - not listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS ID Number N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS Historic Structure Number: N/A</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Locational Data:**
- UTM Source: GPS-Uncorrected
- Point Type: Point
- Datum: NAD 83
- Zone: 15
- Easting: 660,084
- Northing: 4,110,353

The Ozark Trail passes along the front of Klepzig Mill and crosses Rocky Creek (Jackson/NPS 2011)
Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Extant small scale features within the landscape are minimal. Most notable are the extensive remnant post and wire fence lines, which indicate the form of the historic farmstead area. Scattered debris is concentrated in different locations, indicating scrap piles and outbuilding sites. The primary modern, noncontributing feature is an NPS interpretive wayside marker near the mill. As it is unobtrusive and provides information that helps visitors to read the landscape, any detraction from the historic setting is negligible.

Character Defining Features:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>NPS Wayside Sign</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributing?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS Structure Name:</td>
<td>N/A - not listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS ID Number</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS Historic Structure Number:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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</table>

Locational Data:

- UTM Source: GPS-Uncorrected
- Point Type: Point
- Datum: NAD 83
- Zone: 15
- Easting: 660,062
- Northing: 4,110,428

NPS wayside interpretive sign next to Klepzig Mill (Jackson/NPS 2011).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature:</th>
<th>Post and Wire Fencing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributing?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS Structure Name:</td>
<td>N/A - not listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS ID Number</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>LCS Historic Structure Number:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Locational Data:

- UTM Source: GPS-Uncorrected
- Point Type: Point
- Datum: NAD 83
- Zone: 15
- Easting: 659,914
- Northing: 4,110,380

Example of the remnants of wire and post fencing found throughout the landscape (Jackson/NPS 2011)
Noncontributing wooden posts likely put in place by the NPS (Jackson/NPS 2011)

An example of the small piles of debris found throughout the landscape (Jackson/NPS 2011)
Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features

Klepzig Mill and Farm occupies a valley along Rocky Creek. The bedrock of the creek and valley walls is primarily rhyolite porphyry, an igneous rock that is much harder than the dolomite limestone that characterizes much of the region. Normally, a stream eroding through dolomite would create a wider valley. With rhyolite, “the stream tends to stay within whatever cracks that it finds, deepening them only a little by erosion. Thus a ‘shut in’ is formed where the harder rock has ‘shut in’ the stream” (Rocky Falls NPS Wayside). Located at such a shut in, the Klepzig Mill was well positioned to take advantage of the naturally channeled water. Further integrating the integrating the natural resources of the environment, the mill originally utilized a grinding stone cut from rhyolite, which proved to be a highly durable material.

Southwest of the mill, the farmstead lies in an area near the confluence of Rocky Creek and Little Rocky Creek where the valley bottom expands to accommodate nearly 100 acres of gently rolling agricultural fields. In this area the soil is a combination of silt loam, silty clay loam, and gravelly clay loam. To the southeast is Mill Mountain, a rocky uplift that rises from approximately 700’ base to over 1,000’ in elevation.

“Mill Mountain is a rugged igneous knob formed of rhyolite that rises 400 feet above Rocky Creek at its base. The natural area contains igneous glades and associated dry woodlands and cliffs on steep, rocky northwest facing slopes. A talus slope of rhyolite boulders and cobbles is found on the south facing slopes of Mill Mountain below a large glade complex. Stunted and gnarled post oak, blackjack oak, and black hickory dominate the dry woodlands with scattered shortleaf pines. Mill Mountain itself is a remnant of a 1.5 billion year old volcanic mountain range that is at the core of the Ozarks' geologic structure” (mdc.mo.gov/node/2296).

Character Defining Features:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Rocky Creek</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributing?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS Structure Name:</td>
<td>N/A - natural feature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS ID Number</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCS Historic Structure Number:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
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Locational Data:

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</thead>
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<td>Easting:</td>
<td>659,786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northing:</td>
<td>4,109,595</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Klepzig Mill and Farm
Ozark National Scenic Riverways

East-facing view of Rocky Creek from below Klepzig Mill (Jackson/NPS 2011)

Exposed rhyolite porphyry of the Rocky Creek shut in (Jackson/NPS 2011)
Feature: Mill Mountain
Contributing?: Yes
LCS Structure Name: N/A - natural feature
LCS ID Number: N/A
LCS Historic Structure Number: N/A
Locational Data:
  UTM Source: GPS-Uncorrected
  Point Type: Linear
  Datum: NAD 83
  Zone: 15    Easting: 660,622    Northing: 4,110,259

Southeast-facing view from across Rocky Creek of Klepzig Farm with the topography of Mill Mountain seen beyond the fields (derived from Google Earth satellite imagery, 2013).
Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

The natural and cultural features of the Klepzig landscape combine to create scenic views. Rocky Creek itself provides multiple points of pause along the narrow channel it cuts through the steep valley near the mill. Perhaps the most iconic image of Klepzig is the view of the mill across Rocky Creek from the north-west.

The open expanse of fields southwest of the farmstead complex also offers a range of views. A panoramic perspective of the farm’s valley is framed by the low, densely forested ranges of Mill and Buzzard mountains. These views are key to helping visitors understand the rugged natural beauty that attracted settlers to the Ozarks and the immense challenges presented to those who worked to sustain themselves off of the land.
East-facing view of Rocky Creek (Jackson/NPS 2013)

West-facing view of Rocky Creek (Jackson/NPS 2013)
Southwest facing view across Klepzig Farm agricultural fields toward Buzzard Mountain (Jackson/NPS 2011)

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

The Klepzig Mill and Farm was an agricultural landscape carved out of the Ozark wilderness. The surrounding woodlands are dominated by post oak, blackjack oak, black hickory, and shortleaf pines. Walter Klepzig was noted to have cleared much of the land, initially expanding the area of land “suitable for cultivation” to about 45 acres (NR Registration Form 1990, Continuation Sheet 8-1). In the following years, the fields and pastures were expanded and improved upon. During a 1986 site visit and oral history interview, Claude Klepzig, Walter’s son, noted the fields retained the same essential sizes and shapes, although crop production was entirely given over to hay. Corn had been the dominant crop during the historic period.

In the area around the mill and farmstead structural complex, vegetation patterns retain much less of the historic character. Successional growth characterized by dense groves of young trees and thick underbrush has overtaken the historically open grounds and obscured the visibility of extant structures and ruins. An apple and peach orchard was cultivated by the Klepzig family in this vicinity, and it is now either heavily obscured by other foliage or no longer extant. Although the agricultural fields retain their form and the surrounding forest setting is intact, the immediate mill and farmstead landscape has lost the historic character of the Klepzig and Brandt-era vegetation patterns.
View toward south elevation of the smokehouse shows historically open grounds in succession (Jackson/NPS 2011)

Former field west of the barn foundation (Jackson/NPS 2011)
Mowed hay field in foreground, the foliage in the background exhibit a mix of deciduous forest and shortleaf pines (Jackson/NPS 2011)
Chapter 8: Condition and Treatment

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Poor
Assessment Date: 5/22/2013

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative

The Klepzig Mill and Farm cultural landscape condition is irreparably impacted by the loss of the majority of contributing buildings and other structures. Also, the three standing structures – the mill, the springhouse, and the smokehouse – all pose significant maintenance challenges, as structural deterioration outpaces the availability of resources for proper maintenance.

The second major impact is vegetation encroachment and secondary succession. Although the spatiality of the large agricultural fields in the southwest area of the property is maintained, the open spaces within the farmstead complex itself are reverting back to forest. Aside from the loss of historic fields of vision, growths occurring within ruin sites accelerate the degradation of spatial placeholders. Standing structures are also threatened by unmanaged vegetation. Thick understory growth against structures traps moisture, while tree root systems can undermine foundations. The smokehouse, in particular, exhibits these impacts.

Through the development and implementation of a vegetation management plan that reduces succession and keeps structures cleared, the cultural landscape condition could be brought up from poor to fair.

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Preservation
Treatment Document: General Management Plan
Document Date: 12/07/1984

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative

The approved treatment plan identified in the park’s first GMP for “Klepzig Brandt Farm” was “stabilization/preservation; wayside interpretation” (OZAR GMP 1984, 53). As of December 2013, the new Draft General Management Plan/Wilderness Study/Environmental Impact Study was at the public review stage. It identifies “preservation and rehabilitation” as the preferred treatment of cultural landscapes (OZAR Draft GMP 2013, 88).
Bibliography and Supplemental Information


Supplemental Information

OZAR Tract 802 Warranty Deed: The 121 acre Klepzig Mill and Farm cultural landscape is contained within the 636.97 acre Tract 802. This property was transferred from A.C. Brandt to the federal government on 3/19/1968.

OZAR Tract 802 Warranty Deed, page 1
OZAR Tract 802 Warranty Deed, page 2
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said parties of the first part have hereunto set
their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

[Signature]
A. W. Brown

[Signature]
Emma Brown

STATE OF MO
COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS

On this 19th day of March , A.D. 1968, before me personally
appeared A. W. Brown and Emma Brown, his wife

to me known to be the persons described in and who executed the foregoing
instrument, and acknowledged that they executed the same as their free act
and deed.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official
seal, the day and year first above written.

[Signature]
Notary Public

My term of office as a Notary Public will expire April 5, 1968.

OZAR Tract 802 Warranty Deed, page 2