

AN ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED BUFFALO RIVER TRAIL,
HEMMED-IN HOLLOW, PONCA AREA, NEWTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS AND A
RECONNAISSANCE OF THE HENDERSON FARM HISTORIC SITE

With Sections
by
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and
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Arkansas Archeological Survey
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701
Project Number 336
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Report submitted to the National Park Service, Southwest Regional Office,
Santa Fe, New Mexico, Purchase Order PX 7029-9-0429

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

On May 16, 1979, the Arkansas Archeological Survey conducted an archeological field survey of the proposed construction area for a nature trail in the Hemmed-in-Hollow area of the Buffalo National River. The field investigation was conducted under National Park Service Contract PX 7029-9-0429 to determine the location, nature and condition of any archeological sites to be adversely impacted by the construction of the proposed trail. Surface visibility varied from poor to good. In the pasture of the "Granny" Eva Barnes Henderson farm, thick grass restricted surface visibility to a minimum. Intensive shovel testing was used to determine the presence or absence of cultural material. The trail route within the forested area which had recently been cleared afforded good ground visibility. With the presence of recorded bluff shelter sites in the general project area, an important element of the survey was to determine whether occupied bluff shelters occurred within sight of the trail. No indications of surface artifacts were observed along the two areas where rock overhangs were present.

Four sites were recorded during the survey. One of these, a prehistoric site (3NW489), will be directly affected by the construction of the proposed trail. Artifact analysis indicates that this site may provide information concerning the prehistory of the Buffalo River. It is recommended that the proposed trail avoid site 3NW489.

A second site which will be affected by construction, the historic "Granny" Eva Barnes Henderson farm, was visited by a team from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program accompanied by Skip Abernathy of the Arkansas Archeological Survey on June 5, 1979. The fieldwork and archival research conducted by the team indicates that the "Granny" Eva

Barnes Henderson site may be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. With the increased pedestrian traffic which the proposed trail will introduce into the area, there is a very high probability of serious secondary impact from vandalism. As a result, the Arkansas Archeological Survey recommends that the route of the proposed trail be altered to avoid the Henderson farm. If avoidance is not possible, a program of archeological testing and dendrochronology studies should be undertaken to determine the eligibility of the farm for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

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AN ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER TRAIL

by

Robert D. Jones

INTRODUCTION

The National Park Service, Southwest Region, under Purchase Order PX7029-9-0429, contracted with the Arkansas Archeological Survey to conduct an archeological survey in a project area along the Buffalo National River (Figure 1). The survey was conducted to determine the location and nature of any archeological sites that may be adversely impacted by the proposed construction of a nature trail in the Hemmed-in-Hollow, Ponca area. The survey, conducted on May 16, 1979, recorded four sites (3NW489, 3NW490, 3NW491, 3NW492). Two of these sites, 3NW489 and 3NW491, will be directly impacted by the proposed construction of the trail.

The artifact collection from 3NW489, along with photographs and other data from the recorded sites, are on deposit at the Arkansas Archeological Survey's station at Arkansas Tech in Russellville, with copies of photos and records at the Coordinating Office in Fayetteville.

ENVIRONMENT

The Ponca area lies within Newton County. Physiographically, this area is within the Boston Mountain Plateau region of the Ozark physiographic province and is an area of substantial relief with a

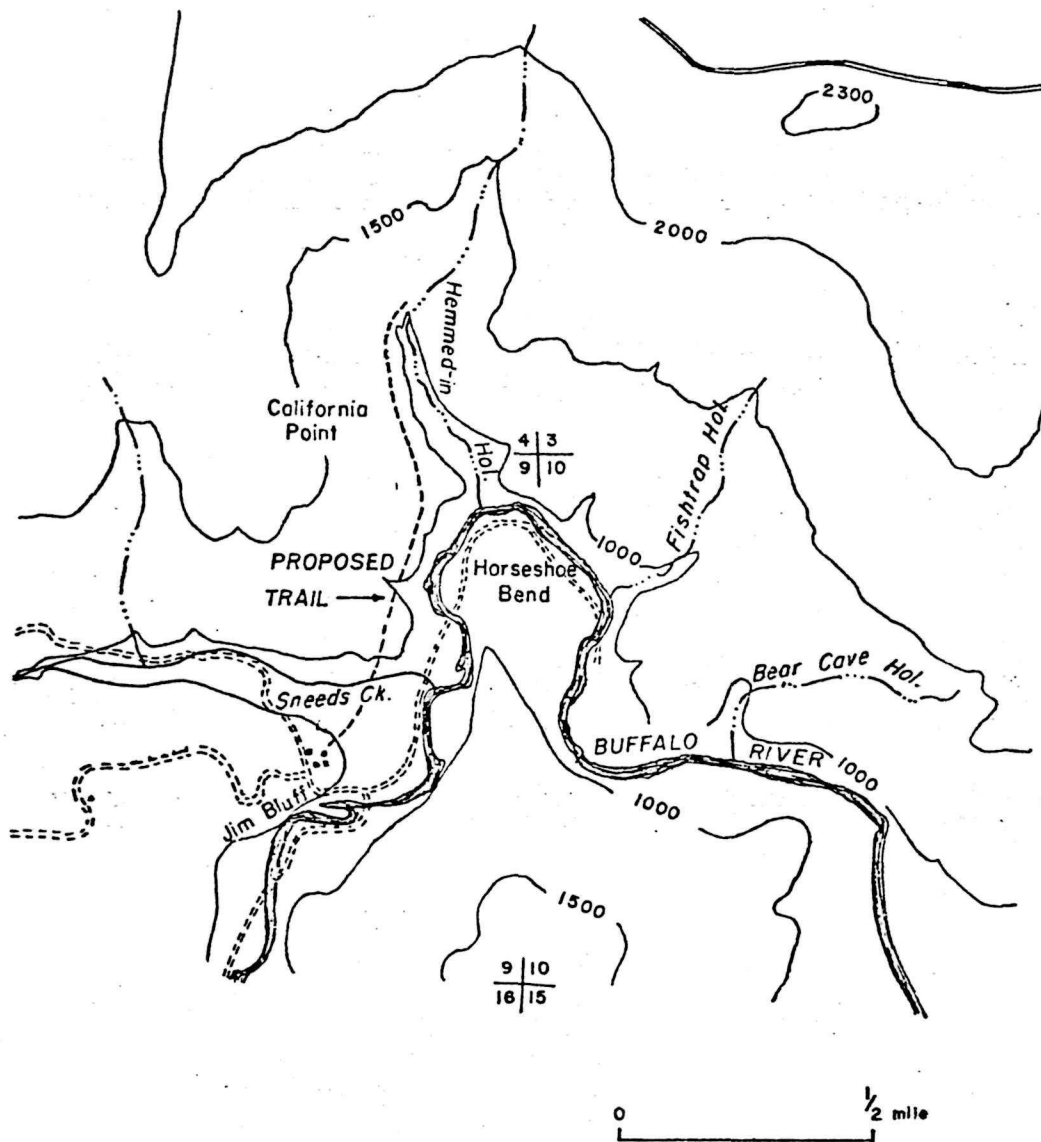


Figure 1. Project area with an approximation of the proposed trail

maximum elevation of 2,420 feet at the Compton Lookout Tower, and a minimum of 860 feet in the valley of the Buffalo River (National Park Service 1975). Many small creeks and intermittent streams flow into the Buffalo River and serve as an outlet for runoff after heavy rainfall. Many of these streams remain dormant except for a few months during the year.

Geologically, the project area is underlain with Ordovician age strata of the Everton formation. All rocks exposed in this area are sedimentary in origin. Lithology includes sandstone, siltstone, shale, limestone, dolomite, chert, and some conglomerates. Ordovician rocks are limestone, dolomite, and calcareous sandstone. Of particular interest is the Everton formation which is composed of fine grained limestone interbedded with sandstone. The strata of this formation are alternating limestone, dolomite and sandstone with a small amount of shale (Morrison 1971). Erosion of underlying less resistant strata in the Everton formation cause dry shelters in the area.

Also of interest is the Boone formation, a light gray, medium crystalline and fossiliferous limestone. In this formation is a white chert known as Boone chert (Morrison 1971), which was a major source of lithic raw material used in the manufacture of tools by the aboriginal population in the Ozarks. Ninety percent of the lithics in the artifact collection from site 3NW489, for example, are manufactured from Boone chert.

The soils are generally part of the Clarksville-Nixa-Baxter association, which are moderately deep and moderately well to somewhat

excessively drained, rapidly to very slowly permeable, acid, loamy soils derived from cherty limestone.

The vegetation in the project area is diverse. The Buffalo National River is within the oak-hickory forest association, near the center of the Interior Highlands natural region. Oaks and hickory are the predominant tree species, with minor representations of elm, maple, sassafras, persimmon, walnut, hackberry, black gum, shortleaf pine and red cedar. "Fern falls" occur on the north facing slopes. These cascades of ferns blanket the precipitous, treeless inclines. They also make up the major form of undergrowth in the maturing deciduous forest (National Park Service 1975).

PREVIOUS ARCHEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Archeological investigations in the vicinity of the project area began early in this century (Peabody 1903) with additional work following in the 1920s and 1930s (Harrington 1924, 1960; Dellinger 1932, 1936). Much of this earlier work focused on bluff shelters which often have excellent preservation of archeological materials because of their dry character.

In 1972 the Buffalo National River was created and two reports dealing with the park's historic structures (Pitcaithley 1975) and recorded prehistoric sites (Wolfman 1974) were prepared as part of the Final Environmental Impact Statement. The prehistoric and historic occupations documented by Pitcaithley and Wolfman suggest the long and complex human use of this area. Before any detailed understanding of

the park's past is possible, however, a systematic survey and testing program will be necessary.

SURVEY METHODS

Two different survey methods were used. From the vicinity of the Henderson cabin to Sneeds Creek the proposed trail's surface was covered in dense pasture. Here shovel tests were placed every 15 m along the trail route to determine the presence or absence of cultural materials (Figure 2).

Site 3NW489 was discovered during this shovel testing. Following the discovery of the site more intensive shovel testing was conducted in the immediate area to determine the nature and extent of the site. Combined shovel testing and examination of eroded areas in the pasture indicated that the site included the proposed trail area as well as the pasture area east and south of the trail. Artifact density was greater in a pronounced rise on the site south of the trail. Shovel tests placed in this area were extended to 40 cm below the surface. Attempts to deepen the test were hampered by heavily cherty soil. Artifacts were found throughout the 40 cm and their presence at the bottom of the shovel tests indicate the possible presence of further undisturbed deposits below 40 cm.

From Sneeds Creek onward, the proposed trail route was within a forested area. Vegetation in the trail route had been cleared by hand shortly before this survey and ground surface visibility was good. No cultural materials were found within the cleared trail route. In parts of the route the bluff line was visible. These bluff lines were examined for the presence of bluff shelters. Although such shelters

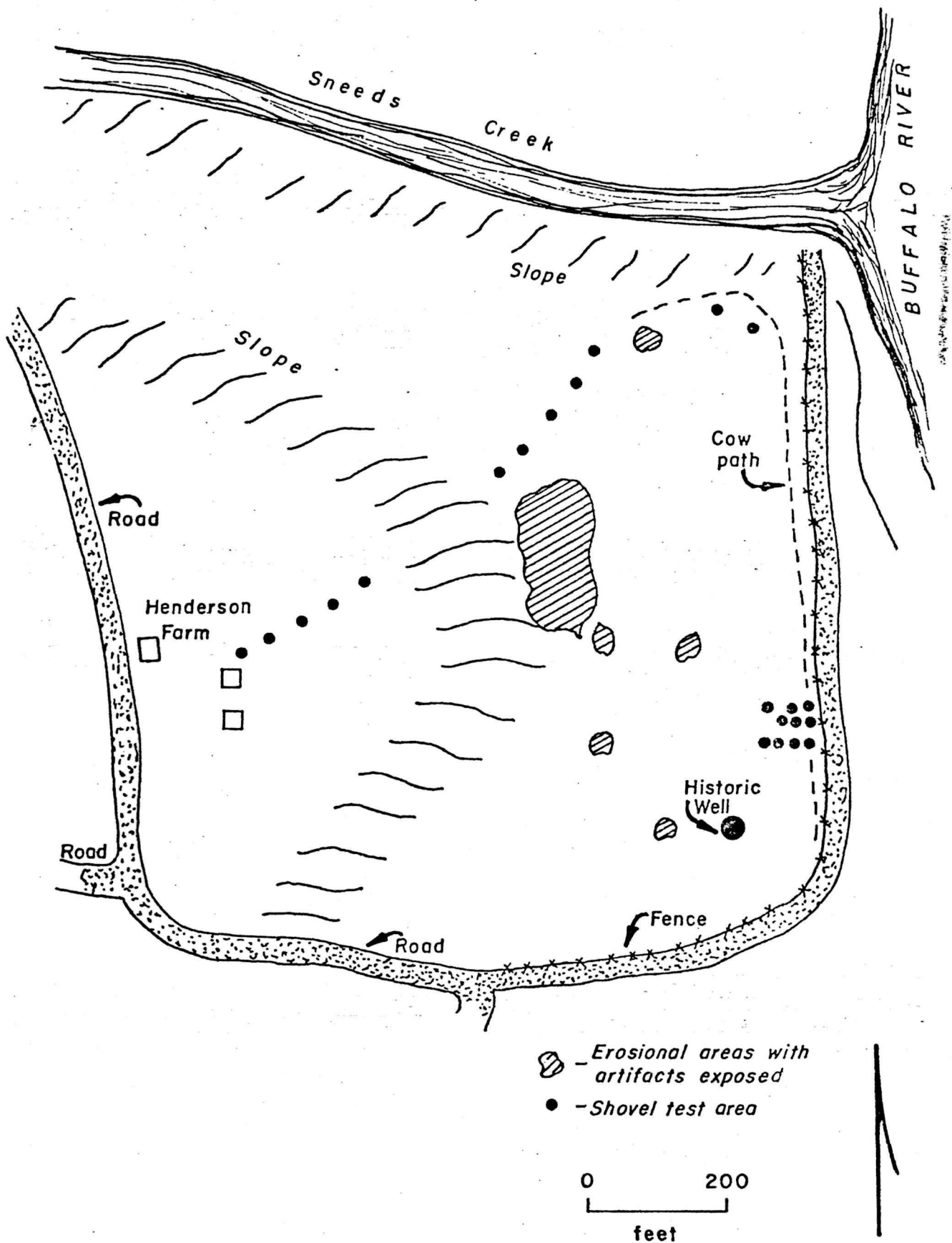


Figure 2. The survey area in the Sneeds Creek vicinity

which would be visible from the trail might not be directly impacted, they could receive severe secondary impact because of the enhanced access created by the trail. Two overhangs were observed from the trail route. These were examined and no cultural materials were present.

SITE DESCRIPTIONS

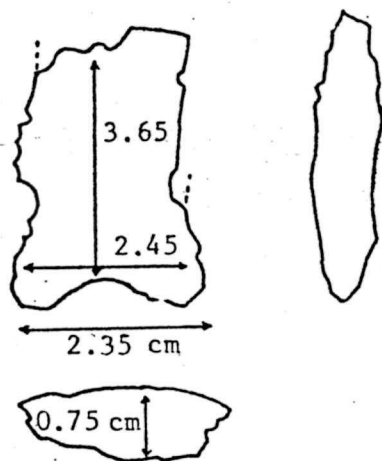
One historic (3NW489) and three historic sites (3NW490, 3NW491, 3NW492) were located by this survey.

3NW489

This is a prehistoric site of unknown total extent but at least 40,000 sq m. Because of the heavy vegetation the total extent could not be determined. Site 3NW489 is located in the Henderson pasture along the first terrace of the Buffalo River (Figure 4). A 625 sq m area is distinguishable from the rest of the site, appearing as a knoll-like feature rising out of the pasture. Most of the artifacts listed below including the Archaic projectile points (Figure 3) are from ten shovel tests placed in this core area. All of the artifacts are manufactured out of Boone chert except for three debitage items of an unknown raw material.

Table 1. Artifacts found in shovel testing site 3NW489.

Boone chert					Unknown raw material	
Projectile Point	Uniface	Core	Utilized Flakes	Flakes	Debitage	Misc. Debitage
2	2	1	10	49	10	3



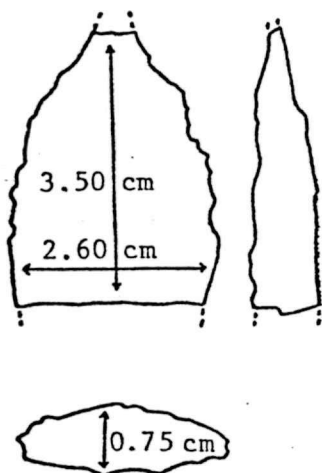
Description

This is a medium sized point with an expanded stem and deeply incurvate base. The cross section is biconvex. While one shoulder is distinct, the other is absent. This appears to have resulted from an impart fracture. This is a well made point, initially modified by percussion and finished by pressure flaking.

Raw Material: Heat treated white Boone chert with fossiliferous inclusions.

Similar Types: This point is similar to Uvalde points (Bell 1960) and Jakie stemmed (Marshall 1959). The Uvalde point ranges from 4,000 B.C. to A.D. 1,000 and the Jakie stemmed ranges from the early to late Archaic.

Provenience: General surface collection.



Description

This is the mid and distal section of a medium sized point. The body edges are parallel and even. The cross section is biconvex. This is a well made point that was initially modified by percussion and finished by pressure flaking.

Raw Material: Heat treated white/gray Boone chert with fossiliferous inclusions

Similar Types: Undetermined

Provenience: General surface collection

Figure 3. Artifacts from site 3NW489

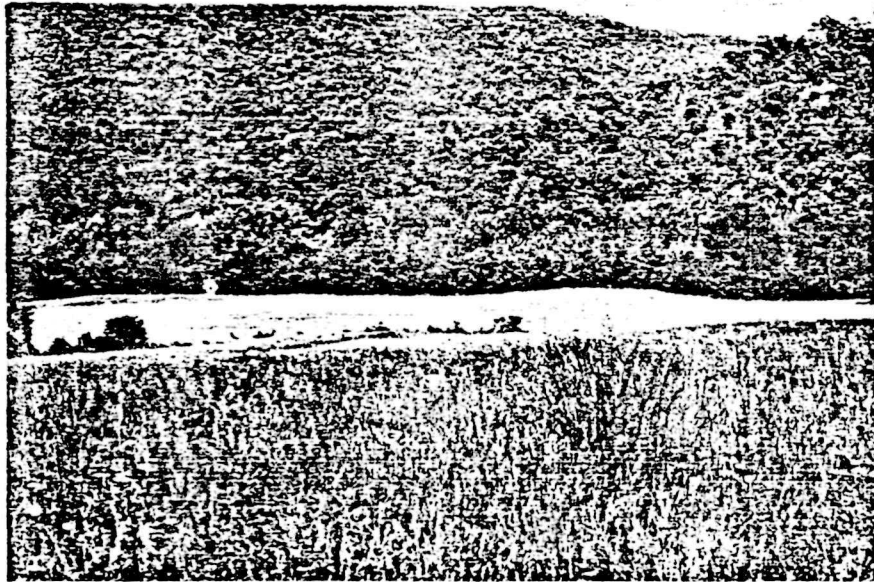


Figure 4. Prehistoric site 3NW489, looking northeast

3NW490

This historic site is of unknown extent, but is at least 2,500 sq m. It appears on the USGS 1967 7.5' Ponca Topographic Map as a house structure. The structure may be the Center Point schoolhouse which was in use early in the 1950s (Ken Smith, personal communication). No present evidence indicates where the structure stood, but the area does have indications of occupation through a scatter of historic material. (Figure 5). Presently the site is overgrown in small brush and is used as a camping area, indicated by remnant campfires and recent trash heaps. A cement and natural stone well is situated about 25 m northwest of the historic scatter and is probably associated with this site (Figure 6).

3NW491

The "Granny" Eva Barnes Henderson farm site is located above the Buffalo River on the first ridge. The site consists of a house structure and several outbuildings (Figure 7). The house is a frame structure with carpenter gothic at each peak. However, construction of the frame portion of the house (Figure 8) seems to be an addition to a previously built structure. In addition to the house, there is a barn (Figures 9 and 10) with square hewn logs showing the half dovetail construction. The nearby pasture appears on the 1845 general Land Office Map as Chaney's field. Total extent of the site including outbuildings, (but excluding the pasture) is approximately 10,000 sq m.

3NW492

The Rudd cabin historic site is located outside the project area on a hilltop approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of the Henderson site (3NW491) along an access road. The site contains the remnants of a square hewn log structure with dovetail construction (Figure 11). This site is shown



Figure 5. Probable location of Center Point schoolhouse, 3NW490, looking north

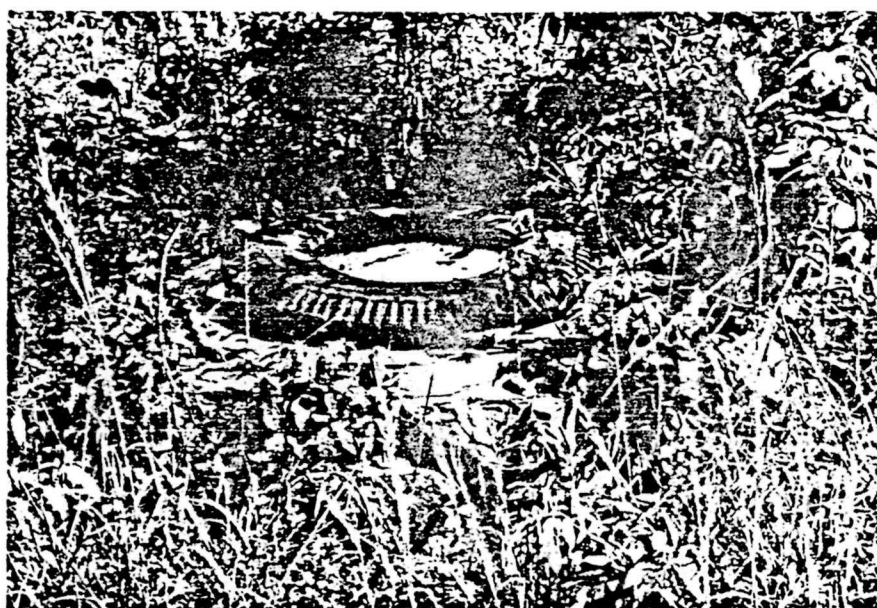


Figure 6. Well associated with 3NW490, looking southwest



Figure 7. Granny Henderson site, 3NW491. Farmstead looking southwest

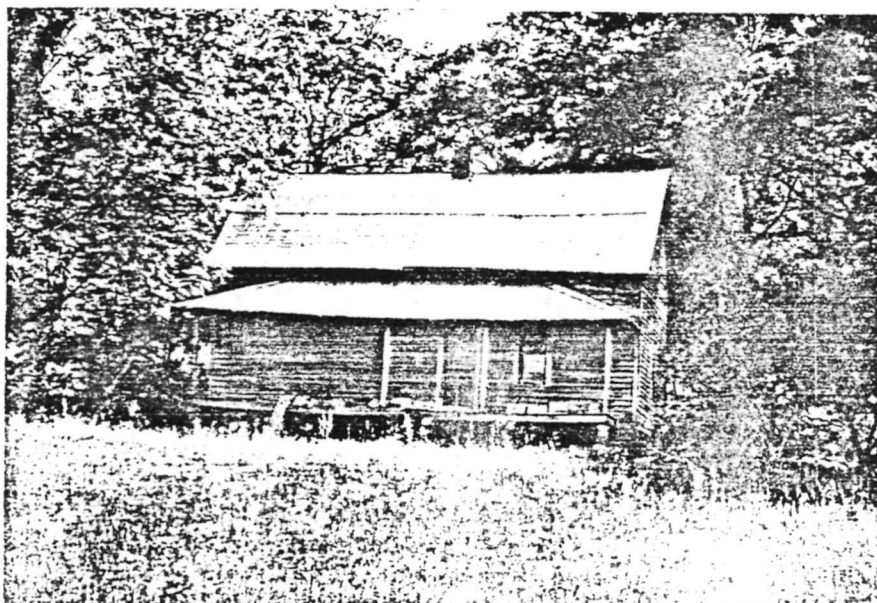


Figure 8. Granny Henderson site, 3NW491. Farmhouse looking west

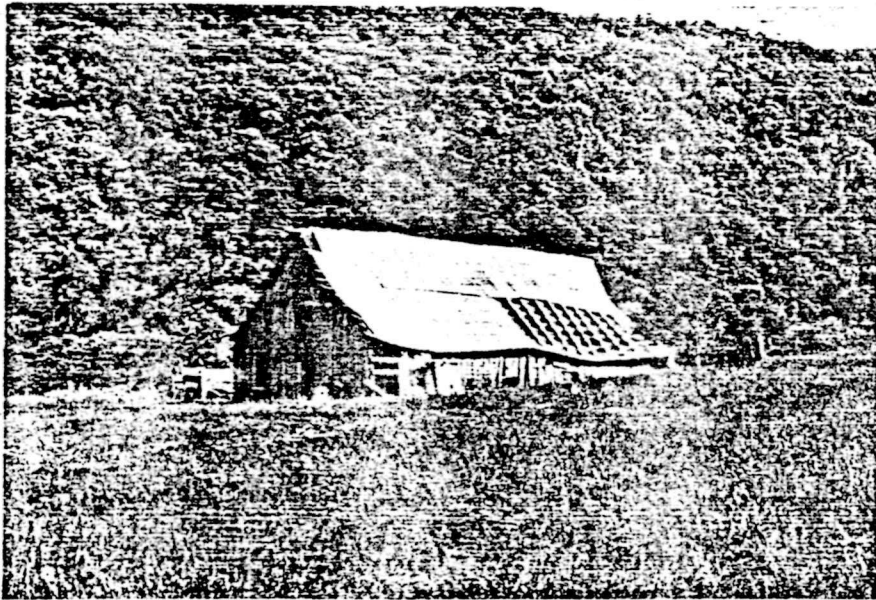


Figure 9. Granny Henderson site, 3NW491, barn structure looking southeast



Figure 10. Granny Henderson site, 3NW491. Interior barn construction

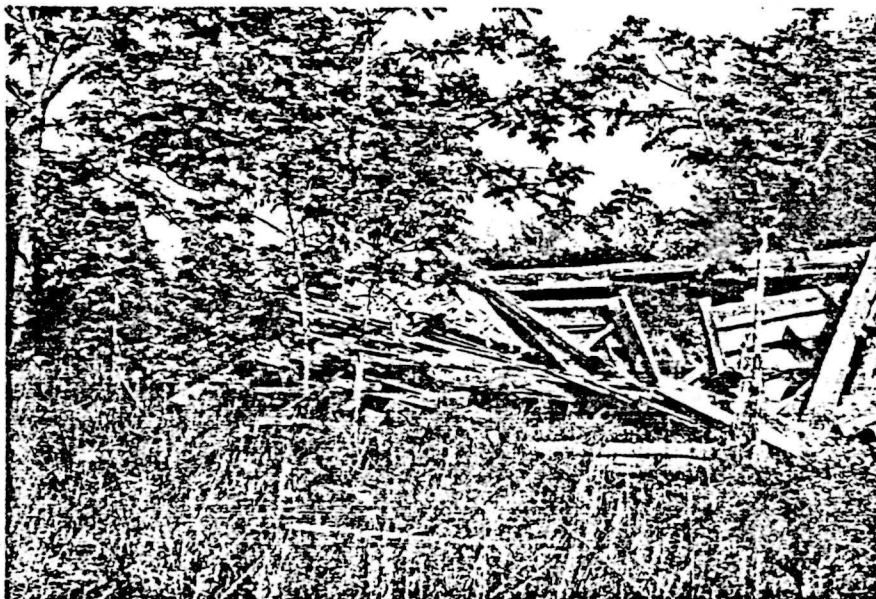


Figure 11. Rudd house, 3NW492, 1979, looking east

as a house on the 1905 Harrison Topographic Map. Construction of the house is probably pre-1900 and may be contemporary with the "Granny" Eva Barnes Henderson site (3NW491). Total extent of the site is approximately 500 sq m.

PRESERVING THE PAST

In conducting documentary research for this project, additional information concerning 3NW492 was discovered. When the site was seen in May it was recorded as the collapsed logs of a structure. In looking through Buffalo River County (Smith 1972), photographs of a log cabin indicated as the Henderson House were found. Discussion with Ken Smith revealed this to be the site recorded as 3NW492. Smith had photographed the house in 1959, and again in 1965 (Figure 12 and 13). According to information from the National Park Service, it was recommended that the structure not be preserved because of its architectural similarity to many others in the area. Every log cabin cannot be saved. This one was not. It must be presumed that the total historic milieu of the area was taken into account when making this decision, not simply its architectural merits or uniqueness. Such decisions are always difficult.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PREHISTORIC SITES

The prehistoric site 3NW489 will be directly and adversely impacted by the construction of the nature trail. Indications are that undisturbed deposits of cultural material are present. It is therefore recommended that the entire pasture contained within the first terrace of the Buffalo River in this area be avoided by trail development. However, if avoidance is impossible it is recommended that testing be carried out to



Figure 12. Rudd house, 3NW492, 1959, looking east
(reproduced by permission of author--Ken Smith 1972)



Figure 13. Rudd house, 3NW492, 1965, looking east
(reproduced by permission of author--Ken Smith 1972)

determine the total extent and nature of the site. This was not possible under terms of the present agreement for this survey.

The results of a reconnaissance of the Henderson Farm (3NW491) historic site and recommendations for continued management of the cultural resources present there are included in the following portion of this report. Sites 3NW490 and 3NW492 will not be directly affected by the proposed trail.

HENDERSON FARM RECONNAISSANCE

by

Skip Abernathy

INTRODUCTION

Following Jones's initial survey of the project area, on 5 June 1979, a reconnaissance visit was made to the Buffalo National River park, Ponca area, in order to evaluate the historical archeological potential of the "Granny" Eva Barnes Henderson farm, 3NW491 (not recorded by Pitcaithley 1975). This farm will be affected by continued development of the national park in this area and specifically by the proposed construction of a nature trail in the Hemmed-in Hollow area. Present during this reconnaissance was a team from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program as well as Skip Abernathy, historical archeologist for the Arkansas Archeological Survey.

Fieldwork included photographing the various structures on the Henderson farmstead, preparing a measured plan for the barn on the Henderson stead, and conducting subsurface survey in the vicinity of this barn including auger and shovel testing. Further, due to its similarity to the log cabin now serving as the Henderson barn, the Rudd cabin, 3NW492 (Henderson house, Pitcaithley 1975: 135-142, location number 26-106) was also examined and photographed. In addition, an informant interview was conducted with Mr. Milton "Pete" Peters, a long-time nearby resident. Finally, other sources were contacted for additional oral history about the Henderson farmstead and the barn in particular.

HEMMED-IN HOLLOW HISTORIC SUMMARY

Conclusions drawn from this reconnaissance can be presented as a chronological interpretation of historical events in the Hemmed-in Hollow area, summarized as follows. Prior to 1845, several families settled along the Buffalo River north of what would later become Ponca. One of these was the Chaney family, whose field was recorded by the plat surveyor in 1845 in the location corresponding to the Henderson farm, 3NW491. About 1910, with the beginning of occupation by Granny Henderson, the primary residential structure on this farm became a one and a half story frame structure of several rooms replacing the one room long cabin. The frame structure is still standing and known as the Granny Henderson house. This house is identical to the nearby White house (Pitcaithley 1975), 26-105), built in 1919 on Sneeds Creek except the Henderson house does not have a kitchen ell as does the White house. The log cabin continued in use on the farm, first in its original location at the stead, then moved to the 3NW490 site (the probable location of the Center Point School), and finally moved back to its present location near the Henderson house.

The Rudd cabin, similar in design to the original cabin on the Henderson farm, was built on Center Ridge above the Henderson farm about 1890. It was occupied by a number of different families, including that of Jim Henderson, brother of Frank Henderson, husband of Granny Henderson. The Rudd cabin was in excellent condition when photographed by Ken Smith in 1959, in good condition when photographed again by Smith in 1965, and in fair condition when examined by Pitcaithley in 1975.

However, since 1977 the Rudd cabin has collapsed in ruins.

THE HENDERSON FARMSTEAD: 3NW491

The Henderson stead consists of two structures of interest. The first is the Granny Henderson house. This is a frame, one and a half story, center chimney house with an abutted pen or saddlebag plan. Although most houses of this type have two front doors, the Henderson house does not, thereby giving the impression that the doorless south half belongs to a different construction episode. The house does have two rear doors, one for each pen. Cooking and heating were provided by wood stoves piped to the central chimney. The house also has a full front porch on the east face. According to Mr. Peters, the house was built when Granny Henderson was 16, therefore about 1908. This coincides approximately with the 1919 construction date of the similar White house. The present condition of the Henderson house is fair, although the house is filling with trash and is being ill-treated by unauthorized temporary use.

The second interesting structure is the Henderson barn, hereafter referred to in this report as the "Chaney" cabin (Figure 14). This cabin now serving as the core of a hay barn (Fig. 10), is approximately 5.5 x 5 m, one story, and constructed of logs hewn square to 25 cm on a side and then split to 25 x 15 cm, locked together with half dovetail notching. As it is presently oriented, the fireplace chimney column was on the north side, as evidenced by a 1.8 m cut in the north wall. A door was cut in both the east and west walls, with a window cut in the south wall opposite the chimney. The cabin now sits on wood blocks. The barn shell is pole

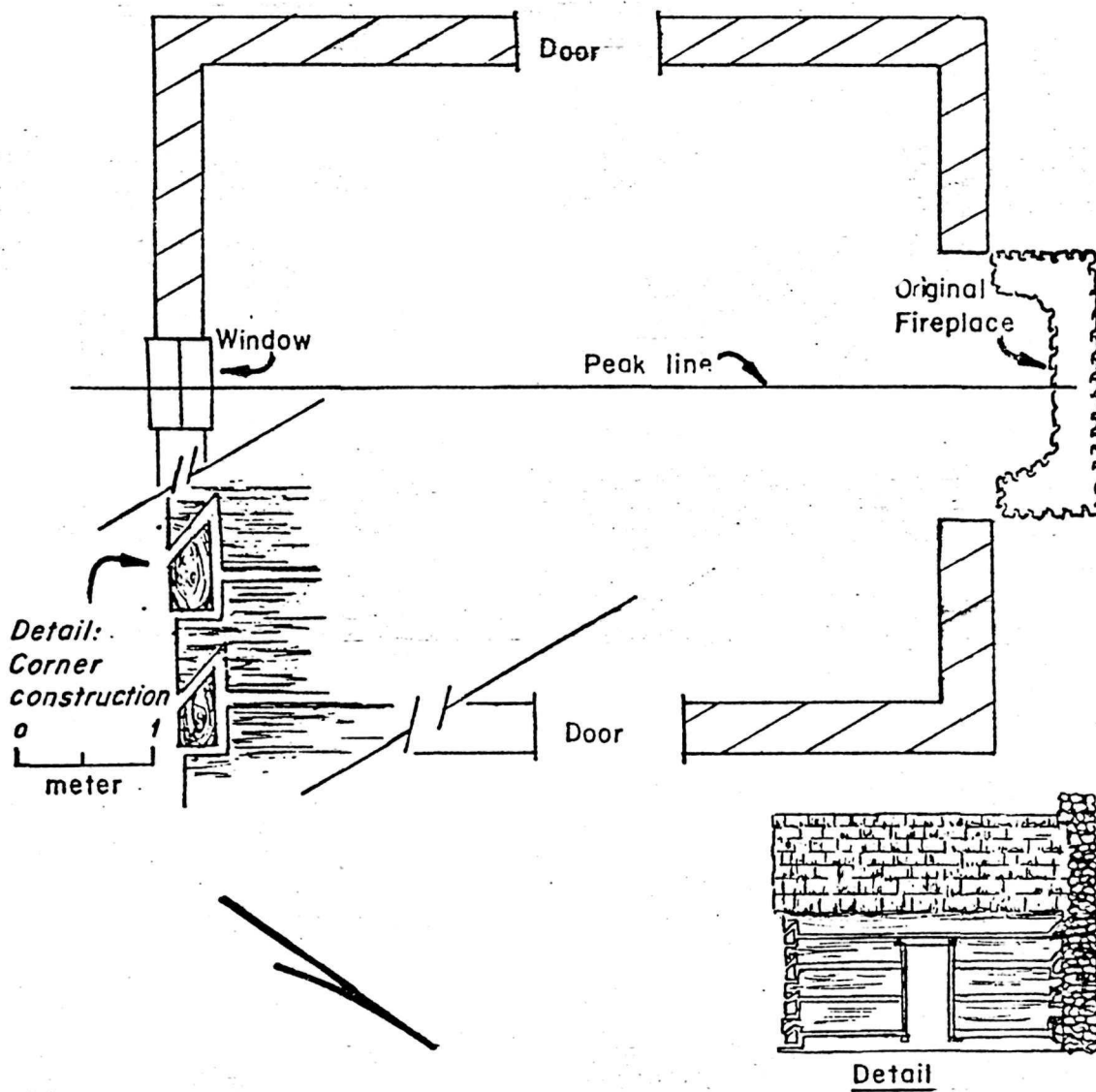


Figure 14. "CHANEY" CABIN

framed and roofed with tin. The present roof is about the same height or a little lower than the original height of the "Chaney" cabin roof. At this time the date of construction of the Chaney cabin is uncertain. The specific construction techniques of hewn log and half dovetail notching date back to the eighteenth century in areas such as Pennsylvania and Virginia, and continue to the late nineteenth century in the Arkansas Ozarks (cf. Glassie 1968).

Although missing its original roof and the chimney column, the condition of the "Chaney" cabin is excellent. The logs, for example, show little sign of rot. The corner notching, the most vulnerable part of a log structure, is still sound. The excellent condition is a result of its use as a hay barn, with the considerations for protecting the hay, keeping it dry and off the ground, providing excellent conservation circumstances for the cabin as well.

Constructed originally as a residential structure on the same plot as the Henderson house, and possibly for the Chaney family, the cabin has had a peripatetic life. According to Mrs. Gurdy Sturtevant, interviewed by Jerry Krakow, Department of History, Southwestern Missouri State University, in March 1979, the cabin is in its third location. The first location was the same as the Henderson house, and was in fact an earlier house on the site. The second spot was at the southeastern edge of the Henderson farm at the location tentatively identified as the Center Point schoolhouse, 3NW490 near the well shown in Figure 6. At this time the cabin was used as a barn. At some time the "Chaney" cabin was moved

back to the Henderson farmstead area and placed in its present location.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HENDERSON FARM

According to the presently available documentary material, oral history, and architectural evidence, it appears that the bottom and terrace land on the Buffalo River now occupied by the Henderson farm has been utilized by farming families since at least the mid-1840s. Evidence of this occupation since just after the turn of the nineteenth century is quite visible, represented by both the standing farmstead of the Henderson family and the surviving field pattern indicative of the mixed farming practices that provided the most efficient agricultural exploitation of varied topography of the Ozarks. The same landscape is indicated in the 1840s by the General Land Office plat map of 1845, a map that shows the "Chaney field" at the same location as the Henderson farm.

The Henderson farm therefore represents a significant site in the historic period, beginning with the pioneer activity period (1780-1850) and continuing beyond the hardship of both the Civil War and the Great Depression into the present. Consequently, activity that will affect the farm must be considered in terms of its importance to the cultural record of the state and the nation.

The visible evidence of this occupation is fragile, however, more so even than the archeological record that lies below the ground surface. This fragility is well represented by the fate of the Rudd cabin (3NW492),

the center of a farmstead dating to at least the 1890s. The cabin is now in ruins and the stead is obscured by second growth vegetation, the results of a rapid decline brought about by planned neglect after 1975. In fact, the critical period in terms of the loss of the cabin dates only since 1978, when, according to Mr. Peters, the cabin collapsed eight or nine months after he found the chimney had been taken down by a thief stealing the stones. The Henderson house is another example of decline, at present only superficial, as a result of neglect, in this case since 1978 when Mrs. Henderson moved from the property.

The construction of the proposed Hemmed-in Hollow trail will apparently not directly impact the Henderson house site. However, the resulting increase in visitors to the site area will create a substantial secondary impact which in light of the Rudd cabin experience could result in the rapid deterioration of the structure.

Because of the potentially significant cultural resources represented by the Henderson farm, it is recommended that the proposed trail be routed to avoid the Henderson farm. Should this be unfeasible, prior to trail construction, further work is recommended to evaluate and protect the important cultural resources it represents. Prior to a decision made to permit the Henderson farmstead to become ruins, naturally or artificially, archeological testing should be conducted at the farmstead in the vicinity of the Henderson house to examine the archeological record of earlier occupations of the stead, perhaps dating all the way back to the 1840s. In addition, dendrochronology should be

employed to obtain cutting dates on the logs of the "Chaney" cabin, thereby providing a date for that structure. This work will aid the determination of significance and eligibility to the National Register.

If a decision is made to preserve the Henderson farm in whole or in part, archeological testing and dendrochronology should be used in planning further development. It might be noted here that the condition of both the Henderson house, the "Chaney" cabin, the Henderson stead, and the Henderson farm in general would be preserved if the use of the farm as a farm were continued. The "Chaney" cabin, for example, would continue in excellent condition in its present unrestored state as long as it was in use as a hay barn.

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ARKANSAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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OCT 3 1979

September 28, 1979

Mr. Ronald J. Ice
Acting Chief, SWCRC
National Park Service
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Re: H4217 (SWR) PCR

Dear Mr. Ice:

Please find enclosed a revised report of an archeological survey of the proposed Hemmed-In Hollow trail in the Buffalo National River, Purchase Order Number 7029-9-0429. The report augments the earlier draft prepared by Robert Jones with a section prepared by Dr. Skip Abernathy. Dr. Abernathy and a team from the Arkansas Historical Preservation Program (AHPP) visited the proposed trail area as recommended by Jones in order to examine the "Granny" Henderson historic site. The results of the Abernathy and AHPP visit materially enhance the earlier draft.

Eight numbered items were noted in your review of the draft report dated June 28, 1979. I would like to comment on these.

1. With draft reports we normally furnish photocopies of the photographs, because several copies of draft reports must be circulated within the Survey, and the cost of multiple copies of original prints would get prohibitive. Printed halftones of the photographs will accompany the final report.

2. The Arkansas Archeological Survey does not normally include USGS topographic maps or comparably detailed site location information in reports which will be easily available to the general public. We do, however, submit such maps as a separate document accompanying the correspondence on the project. The separation of these documents serves to reduce the probability that information will reach the public and that prehistoric and historic sites will be destroyed by vandals and looters. Of course, it is impossible to eliminate all location information from the report, but it is our policy to reduce site location disclosure to the minimum feasible. Again, I should emphasize that we are quite willing to prepare such information for your agency--we simply are interested in reducing its exposure. We have found that separate documents

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are an effective answer to this problem. A xerographic copy of the appropriate portions of the project area with the sites shown is attached as well as a map indicating the survey area and locating the areas where artifacts are exposed which has been added as Figure 2.

3. The Arkansas Archeological Survey does not include site forms as part of the report. We are attaching the site information to this letter for management use only, not for publication. The basis for this action follows the logic presented in item 2, above.

We would like to emphasize that the information contained on the site survey forms is current only to the date of the last survey. Future management decisions which involve these forms should assess the reliability of the data at the time of this future use.

4. The reference to Pitcaithley was changed.

5. The survey methods used for bluff lines is now discussed at the bottom of page 5.

6. The section prepared by Abernathy addresses this question.

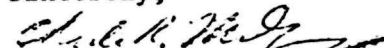
7. "Preserving the Past" has been rewritten. However, information about the extent and rate of collapse in the Rudd cabin (3NW492) presented in this section has an important bearing on the recommendations for the "Granny" Henderson site. As a result we believe that the rewritten section should remain in the report.

8. The section prepared by Abernathy addresses this item.

In your final item you request that we delete reference to the need for a comprehensive survey of the Buffalo National River. We have noted in this revised draft: "Before any detailed understanding of the park's past is possible, however, a systematic survey and testing program will be necessary." Such a statement is essential in the report because it indicates the limits of our knowledge of the past. Indicating that information which would be developed by a systematic survey is not now available is critical in evaluating the effectiveness of the current report and its recommendations. As a result we strongly believe that such a statement has a proper place in a discussion of previous archeological work in the area.

I hope these responses have effectively dealt with the troublesome items noted in your review. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Charles R. McGimsey III
Director



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NORTH ATLANTIC REGION

15 STATE STREET

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109

October 16, 1979

REPLY REFER TO:

LR(PC)

Memorandum

To: Ron Ice, Regional Archeologist, Southwest Regional Office

From: Regional Historian, North Atlantic Region

Subject: Hemmed-in-Hollow report

Here are my comments on the Hemmed-in-Hollow report:

- p.10 - The Rudd cabin has half-dovetail notches. A cabin with full dovetail notching in Arkansas would be a real "find."
- p.15 - Preserving the Past--
I am still a bit confused about the relevance of this paragraph. I think it was intended to be a slap at the park service. I would request that it be removed. If it does remain, it should discuss the philosophy of discovery sites and should be much less preachy!
- p.20 - Use of the term "chaney" cabin may be a bit premature until a dendrochronological study has been done on it. (I forget the name of the fellow at U. of A. with whom I corresponded, but a copy of the memo should be in the files. Early 1977?)
- p.24 - Again, I think this is an attempt to embarrass us. In reality, it only reveals their sloppy research. My photographs, taken in 1974, should clearly show that the chimney was down then. I think the cabin did collapse around 1977 or 1978, but the chimney had been down for at least four years prior to that time. Perhaps a clear statement of the "discovery site" concept would set the Arkansas folks straight.
- p.25 - Even if the "chaney" cabin did date from the 1840's, I doubt that it would qualify for the National Register.

Keep in touch.

Dwight Pitcaithley



Ponca Quad.
7.5 1967

Appendix. Map of Site Locations.
Scale: 1:24,000

This map is not for public
release, in order to prevent
damage to the sites by relic
hunters.

