

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Buck, Napoleon, House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 2/5 mi. s. of jct. U.S. 24 & Co. Rd. 273 [n/a] not for publication

city or town Waverly [X] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Lafayette code 107 zip code 64096

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
 nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my
opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered
significant nationally statewide locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Claire F. Blackwell 9 October 1997
Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet [].
- determined eligible for the
National Register
See continuation sheet [].
- determined not eligible for the
National Register.
- removed from the
National Register
- other, explain
See continuation sheet [].

Signature of the Keeper

Date

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	0
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	0	0
		0	0
		0	0
		1	0

Name of related multiple property listing.

Antebellum Resources of Johnson,
Lafayette, Pettis and Saline Counties,
Missouri

Number of contributing resources
previously listed in the National
Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
GREEK REVIVAL

Materials
foundation Brick
walls Brick

roof Wood
other Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance

ca. 1873

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	453735	4338570			

C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing
---------	---------	----------	---------	---------	----------

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roger Maserang/Historic Preservation Coordinator
organization Pioneer Trails Regional Council date March 31, 1996
street & number 122 Hout Street telephone 816/747-2294
city or town Warrensburg state Missouri zip code 64093

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Robert K. Sowers Estate /c/o Brad Sowers
street & number Rt. 1, Box 274 telephone _____
city or town Waverly state Missouri zip code 64096

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Buck, Napoleon, House
Lafayette County, MO

Antebellum Resources of Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline Counties, MPS

The Napoleon Buck House, Lafayette County Road 273 near Waverly, Missouri, is a brick, central passage, vernacular Greek Revival I-House with an ell supporting a double-gallery porch (see MPS cover document, "Antebellum Resources of Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline Counties, Missouri: Associated Property Types: Greek Revival I-Houses, Central Passage Subtype"). This three-bay, circa 1873 house exemplifies the "Entry Porch less than full height, or absent" subtype as described by McAlester and McAlester.¹ Typical of frontier Greek Revival, stylistic details are simplified or lacking. Surrounds of the central entrances contain the obligatory sidelights and the first floor doorway is also transomed. Door and window openings have segmental arches, however, unlike the flat arches favored by most of the Southern builders. Integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location and setting is retained.

The Buck House rests on a brick foundation and faces east from its location on the west side of County Road 273. The property is approximately 0.4 mile south of U.S. 24, with the main block approximately 244 feet west of the county road. Waverly is less than a mile northeast. Apparent 20th century properties in the immediate vicinity of the Buck House include a root cellar, a transverse frame barn and a garage.

Exterior dimensions of the main block are 45 feet wide by 18 feet deep. A two-story ell, attached left (south) of center, is 37 feet long and 26 feet wide. A two-story side porch accounts for eight feet of the ell's width. Exterior walls, constructed of soft brick laid in common bond, are approximately one foot thick.

Paired central chimneys of shaped masonry pierce the main block and two additional chimneys emerge from the ell. *The chimneys have been stuccoed. The primary elevation contains a plain entablature with a simple frieze board. Cornices have returns, including those terminating at the west end of the ell, creating the usual pedimented effect. An old, replacement front porch of one story which probably had a railing deck is supported by smooth, square wood columns. A simple balustrade and frieze are intact.*

Centered in the primary east facade, the relatively subdued main entrance is flanked by panels of five narrow sidelights and a two-light transom within a segmentally arched opening infilled with a wood panel. The upstairs entrance onto the porch deck is similar but lacks a transom. Doors are the inverted cross type, with four vertical panels.

The double porch along the south axis of the ell is supported by a system of square wood columns with modest capitals. A balustrade with a jig-sawn design of a type associated with local Greek Revival architecture in the Lexington area is intact on the upper deck. The lower porch had a similar balustrade but only a remnant remains.

Main block windows are double-hung 6/6s. Some wooden shutters assembled with pegs are extant. Ell windows are double-hung 2/2s. All of these door and window openings are segmentally arched, with the exception of a first-floor window at the kitchen end of the ell which possibly was added or altered.

The Buck House floor plan follows the usual I-House formula, with rooms arranged in rows. In the main block of this central passage variation, a hallway containing a free-standing stairway to the second floor (of the main block only) is flanked by matching, 16' x 16' parlors. Two similar-sized bedrooms are upstairs. The ell contains a hallway with a free-standing stairway to two second floor bedrooms but the second floor of the ell does not communicate with the main block. The dining room and kitchen are behind the ell hallway. The rearmost (west) ell bedroom, probably for servants or guests, does not communicate with the adjacent

¹McAlester, Virginia and Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985, p.179.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

Buck, Napoleon, House
Lafayette County, MO

Antebellum Resources of Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline, MPS

bedroom and must be accessed from the porch.

Interior woodwork is generally similar to woodwork in many other local Greek Revival I-Houses. Door and window surrounds in the central hallway and parlor rooms feature pediment-shaped architraves which are shouldered or "dog-eared," while those in less public areas of the house have simple pediment-shaped heads. Doors with four vertical panels predominate. A variation contains five horizontal panels. Pilaster mantels are intact in both parlors and in the main block bedrooms. Most interior woodwork is painted white but at some point, dark wood-graining was applied to the baseboard, enframements, doors and floor in the central passage only. Interior walls, three of which contain chimneys, are plaster on brick. Most wallpaper has been removed.

The ell stairway, with a newel post featuring a tapering octagonal midsection between areas of lathework, is intact but the newel post and part of the balustrade is missing from the main stairway.

The Buck House had a relatively sophisticated, late Victorian heating system involving heat exchangers under the floors. Extant remnants include pipes and radiators.

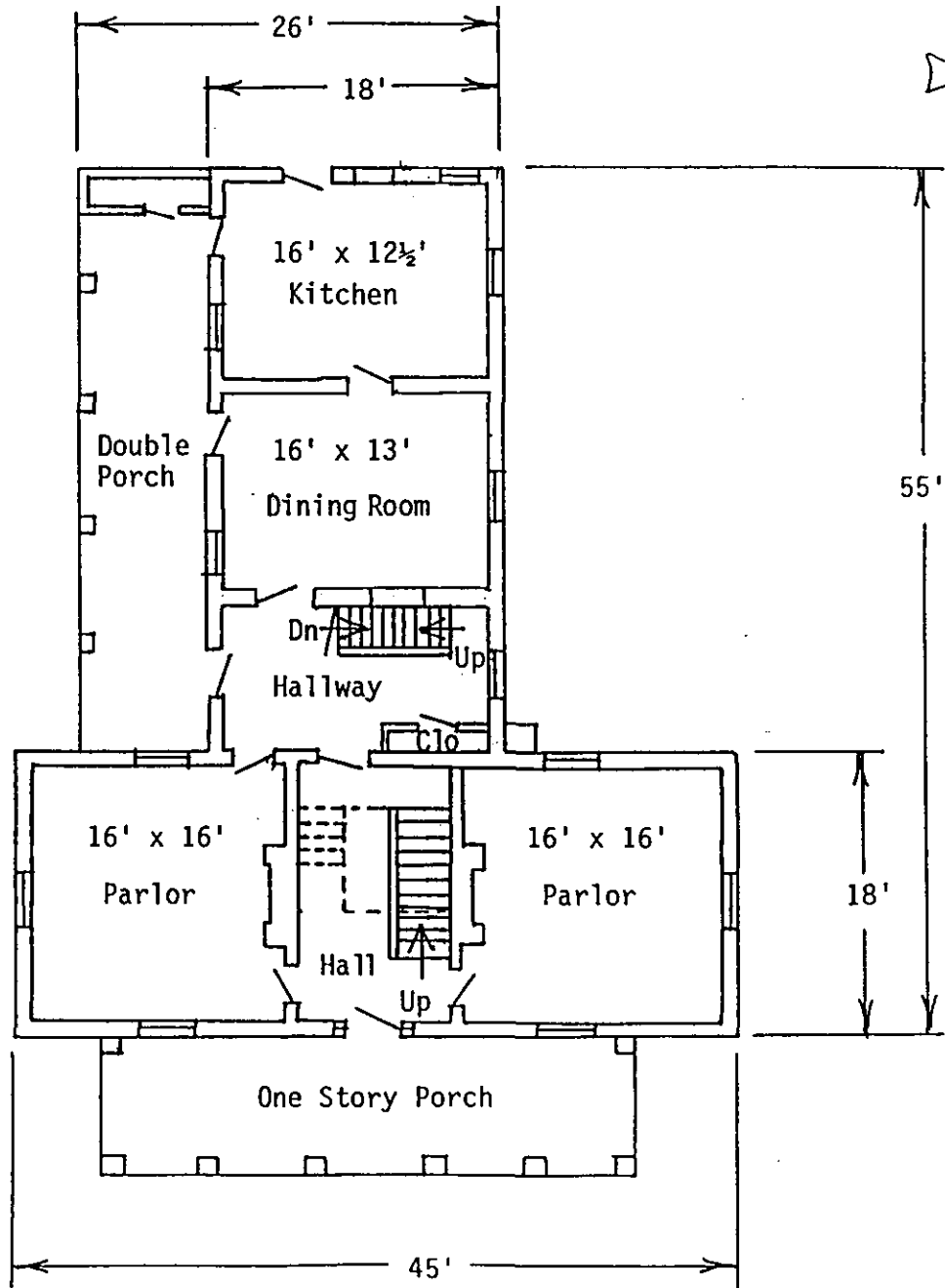
Alterations have been few but deterioration, primarily from a leaking roof, is a serious problem. Much of the damage is in the ell. Sky is visible in the kitchen through ragged, water-rotted openings in the roof, upstairs ceiling and downstairs ceiling/upstairs floor.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 3

Buck, Napoleon, House
Lafayette County, MO
Antebellum Resources of Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline, MPS



First Floor Plan

Scale: 1" = Approximately 12'

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4

Buck, Napoleon, House
Lafayette County, MO

Antebellum Resources of Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline Counties, MPS

The Napoleon Buck House, Lafayette County Road 273 near Waverly, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. The circa 1873 Buck House was a late arrival on the local plantation landscape but its vernacular Greek Revival architecture reflects many of the same traditions as somewhat earlier buildings (see MPS cover document, "Antebellum Resources of Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline Counties, Missouri: Associated Property Types: Greek Revival I-Houses, Central Passage Subtype"). The Civil War ended the slave-based plantation culture but not its architecture. Locally and throughout the Missouri River Valley, Greek Revival forms were applied to I-Houses constructed through the 1870s. Unlike the earlier plantation houses erected by Southerners, however, the Buck House was apparently built by the son of a pioneer from New York. Details such as segmental arches and pairs of internal chimneys are a departure from most local I-Houses, but sufficient Greek Revival elements are present to identify the style. The house's impressive double gallery side porch is a particularly strong Greek Revival feature. Overall, integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location and setting are retained.

Although Greek Revival's popularity waned following the Civil War, the style can still be seen in local I-Houses constructed well into the 1870s, such as the circa 1873 Napoleon Buck House. Like most Greek Revival I-Houses erected by migrating Southerners who established plantations locally, the Buck House features simplified Greek forms applied to a traditional plan. In addition to overall balance and an elegant appearance, "Greekness" is apparent in such details of the Buck House as the classical entrance, the cornice treatment with a wide trim band and returns, square columns with simple capitals supporting a double side porch, shouldered architraves and pediment-shaped top boards which are employed throughout the interior, and pilaster mantels. Although its segmentally arched window and door headers are a local variation that has been associated with German craftsmen, instead of the flat window and door headers preferred by the region's Southern builders, the Buck House clearly belongs within the same architectural context as its slightly older counterparts.

Napoleon Buck was born in Lexington in 1832. His father was Dr. Percy G. Buck, a native of New York who built one of the first houses (some say it was the first) in what became Lexington, in 1819. His mother was Rebecca Thomas, of Maryland. Buck's formal education included a year at the Masonic College in Lexington. He later worked as a carpenter for several years before moving to the eastern part of Lafayette County in about 1862, where he began farming. In 1869, Napoleon Buck is said to have married Margaret Prichard, whose parents were from Georgetown, Kentucky.²

By 1870, Buck owned 200 acres in Middleton Township of which 160 acres were improved, valued at \$8,000. This farm produced 1,500 bushels of corn, 800 bushels of wheat, 50 bushels of oats, 75 bushels of potatoes and 300 pounds of butter. Buck owned relatively few animals--3 horses, 6 mules and asses, 4 cows, 2 swine and 2 working oxen.³

In August 1873, Buck purchased 80 additional acres including the site of the Buck House from Charles Thomas for \$4,250. A month later he mortgaged this property for \$3,300, probably for construction purposes.

²*History of Lafayette County, Missouri* (St. Louis: National Historical Company, 1881), p. 662; *Portrait and Biographical Record of Lafayette and Saline Counties* (Chicago: Chapman Publishing Co., 1893), p. 159. Some biographical information regarding Napoleon Buck apparently conflicts with the 1870 manuscript census of population. For example, the census lists the household as consisting only of Buck and his mother, Rebecca, although by this time Buck is said to have married. Buck's age is given as 35, which is not consistent with the 1832 year of birth reported elsewhere.

³Manuscript Census, Agriculture, Lafayette County, Missouri, 1870.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8,9,10 Page 5

Buck, Napoleon, House
Lafayette County, MO

Antebellum Resources of Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline Counties, MPS

(In 1868, John J. Snoddy sold the property plus another 20 acres for \$5,500, slightly more than twice what he paid for the original 80 acres in 1865, possibly but not necessarily indicating that some construction occurred during his three years of ownership.)⁴

In any case, Buck prospered. By 1881, he owned 740 acres and his herd of beef cattle eventually reached 300 head. By 1893, the herd was larger still and Buck had clearly become one of the "landed" men of Lafayette County. His farm then encompassed 1,830 acres. Buck and his wife Margaret had seven children.⁵ The nucleus of the farm including the house remained in the Buck family until a year ago.

Missouri Historic Inventory Survey Form No. 153. "Napoleon Buck House." Lafayette County Survey, October 1988. Copy in Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, MO.

(For additional bibliographic information, see MPA cover document "Antebellum Resources of Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline Counties, Missouri.")

Telephone interview with Mrs. Joanne Buck, December, 1995.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the southwest corner of the intersection of U.S. Highway 24 and Lafayette County Road 273, proceed south 2325 feet along the west right-of-way of County Road 273 to the north edge of a private drive, the point of beginning; then proceed west 325 feet along the north edge of the private drive; then proceed north 200 feet; then proceed east 325 feet to County Road 273; then proceed 200 feet south along the west right-of-way of County Road 273 to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary has been drawn to include only the Napoleon Buck House and its immediate surroundings; it excludes a barn and garage to the west of the house which do not relate to the areas or period of significance and the adjacent farmland, much of which was part of the original farmstead but which has been converted to modern practices of cultivation and processing and no longer retains integrity.

⁴Lafayette County Deed Records, Book 9, p. 234; Book 12, p. 549; and Book 16, p. 104.

⁵History of Lafayette County, Missouri, *op cit.*, and Portrait and Biographical Record of Lafayette and Saline Counties, *op cit.*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section photographs Page 6

Buck, Napoleon, House
Lafayette County, MO
Antebellum Resources of Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline Counties, MPS

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Buck, Napoleon, House

Waverly Vicinity, Lafayette County, MO

Date: November 1995

Photographer: Roger Maserang

Negative location: Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

- #1: View from east
- #2: View from south
- #3: View from north
- #4: View from northwest
- #5: View from southwest
- #6: Entrance detail, facing west
- #7: Upper deck of side porch, facing east
- #8: Hallway view from staircase landing, facing southeast
- #9: North parlor with mantel, facing south
- #10: South parlor with mantel, facing west toward ell
- #11: Detail of newel post in ell
- #12: West room in ell, facing northwest



BUCK, NAPOLEON, HOUSE
 LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MO
 15/453735/4338570





