

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Roberts Farmstead

Other names/site number Roberts-Dryer Log Cabin

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

## 2. Location

Street & number 1120 South Farm Road 193 (primary); 715 South Farm Road 193

N/A
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 not for publication  
City or town Springfield

X
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 vicinity  
State Missouri Code MO County Greene Code 077 Zip code 65809

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification


As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria: X A     B     C     D

  
Signature of certifying official/Title

12/17/24  
Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

    entered in the National Register

    determined eligible for the National Register

    determined not eligible for the National Register

    removed from the National Register

    other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Roberts Farmstead  
Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri  
County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

### Category of Property (Check only **one** box.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

### Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	2	structures
0	0	objects
2	2	<b>Total</b>

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field

### Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

WORK IN PROGRESS

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Single Pen Log cabin

### Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone

walls: Wood: log

roof: Wood: shake shingles

other:

☒ NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Roberts Farmstead  
Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria  
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ 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  
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

☒

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Areas of Significance  
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

ca. 1853

Significant Dates

ca. 1853 (cabin)

Significant Person  
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Roberts Farmstead  
Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri  
County and State

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

☒ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☒ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other

Greene County, Missouri, Historic Sites Board  
Name of repository: (local landmark designation)

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 31.18 Acres

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	37.193016 Latitude:	-93.198106 Longitude:	5	37.193179 Latitude:	-93.194473 Longitude:
2	37.192991 Latitude:	-93.196983 Longitude:	6	37.193185 Latitude:	-93.193645 Longitude:
3	37.193212 Latitude:	-93.196961 Longitude:	7	37.190306 Latitude:	-93.193712 Longitude:
4	37.193322 Latitude:	-93.195681 Longitude:	8	37.190416 Latitude:	-93.198161 Longitude:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (On continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification** (On continuation sheet)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mason Martel/Historic Preservation Specialist  
organization Rosin Preservation, LLC date July 1, 2024  
street & number 1712 Holmes Street telephone 816-472-4950  
city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64108  
e-mail mason@rosinpreservation.com

Roberts Farmstead

Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri

County and State

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log:

Name of Property: Roberts Farmstead

City or Vicinity: N/A

County: Greene State: Missouri

Photographer: Mason Martel

Date

Photographed: February 2024

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

**01 of 12:** Landscape, looking at the field from near the Roberts Log Cabin, view E.

**02 of 12:** Landscape, looking towards the northeast corner from the southwest corner of the field, view NE.

**03 of 12:** Landscape, looking towards the lake and cabin from the southwest corner of the field. The non-historic pond is in the center of the image view N.

**04 of 12:** Landscape, looking towards the lake and cabin near the center of the east end of the field, view W.

**05 of 12:** Landscape, looking at the field from near the center of the east end of the field, view SW.

**06 of 12:** Non-historic well wall, view E.

**07 of 12:** Roberts Log Cabin, south and west (primary) elevations, looking from South Farm Road 193, view NE.

**08 of 12:** Roberts Log Cabin, east and south elevations, view NW.

**09 of 12:** Roberts Log Cabin, north and east elevations, view SW.

**10 of 12:** Roberts Log Cabin, interior, looking from southeast corner, view NW.

Roberts Farmstead

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**11 of 12:** Roberts Log Cabin, interior, looking from northwest corner, view SE.

**12 of 12:** Roberts Log Cabin, interior, loft, looking from northwest corner, view SE.

Roberts Farmstead

Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri

County and State

## Figure Log:

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

**Figure 1:** Location map. Google Maps, 2024.

**Figure 2:** Site map. Greene County, Missouri, Assessor, online GIS property information map, <https://www.greenecountyassessor.org/assessor/maps/mapadv.aspx>, accessed February 2024.

**Figure 3:** Survey of the property with resources identified. Carlson Consulting Engineers, Inc., “ALTA/NSPS Land Title Survey” (Bartlett, TN: Carlson Consulting Engineers, Inc., 2023).

**Figure 4:** Detail of T29N R21W S26 (outlined in purple), showing current development (Google Earth, 2024).

**Figure 5:** Detail of a series of typical half dovetail notches at the southwest corner of the Roberts Log Cabin (Mason Martel, Rosin Preservation, LLC, February 2024).

**Figure 6:** Excerpt of 1876 atlas map showing Sections 23 and 26 of Township 29N, Range 21W. The approximate outline of the nominated farmstead is in red. Farmhouses are denoted with solid squares (*An Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Greene county, MO* (Philadelphia, PA: Brink, McDonough & Co., 1876), 33, <https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/plat/id/1814/> (accessed February 2023).

**Figure 7:** Comparison of selected data from the 1860, 1870, and 1880 agriculture schedules Compiled by Mason Martel, Rosin Preservation, LLC (Agricultural Schedules (Washington, D.C.: United States Census Bureau 1860-1880) <https://www.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/census/pages/agsup> (accessed June 2024).

**Figure 8:** Diagram of common log cabin footprints (“Single Pens, Saddlebags, and Dog Trots,” *Shiloh Museum of Ozark History* (accessed March 2024).

**Figure 9:** Diagram of common log cabin notches (Diagram appears in W. Dale Carter, “Daniel Boone Cabin at Netherland Inn in Kingsport,” *Sullivan County [Tennessee] Department of Archives and Tourism*, (accessed March 2024).

**Figure 10:** Aerial of the current extent of the Nathan and Olive Boone Homestead State Historic Site (Google Earth, 2024).

**Figure 11:** Nathan and Olive Boone House. Missouri State Parks, “Nathan and Olive Boone Homestead State Historic Site,” *Missouri State Parks*, <https://mostateparks.com/park/nathan-and-olive-boone-homestead-state-historic-site> (accessed March 2024).

**Figure 12:** Excerpt of 1835 survey showing Sections 22, 23, 26, and 27 of Township 29N, Range 21W (U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, “Township 29 North of the base line Range 21 West of 5<sup>th</sup> principal Meridian,” *General Land Office Records*, [https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/survey/default.aspx?dm\\_id=442229&sid=1tadj2e.1ie#surveyDetailsTabIndex=1](https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/survey/default.aspx?dm_id=442229&sid=1tadj2e.1ie#surveyDetailsTabIndex=1) (accessed February 2024).

**Figure 13:** Excerpt of 1904 plat map showing Sections 23 and 26 of Township 29N, Range 21W. The black dots represent buildings, the Roberts Cemetery is shown near the center of the north boundary (*Plat Book of Greene County, Missouri: Compiled from County Records and Actual Surveys* (Missouri Publishing Co., 1904), <https://www.loc.gov/item/2007626859/> (accessed February 2024).

**Figure 14:** Excerpt of a 1930 plat map showing the Roberts family land (*Plat Book of Greene County, Missouri* (Rockford, IL: W. W. Hixson & Co., 1930), 8).

**Figure 15:** Excerpt of a 1960 aerial showing the William Roberts Log Cabin. Approximate boundaries are outlined in red (Photo BLJ-3AA-45 (1960); Box 70, folders 1-9, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Aerial Photographs of Missouri* (P0335); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia, <https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/aerial/id/1306> (accessed March 2024).

**Figure 16:** Enlarged detail of the west end of the William Roberts Log Cabin property, showing the primary buildings as they existed in 1960 (BLJ-3AA-45 (1960); Box 70, folders 1-9, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural*

Roberts Farmstead

Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri

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*Stabilization and Conservation Service, Aerial Photographs of Missouri* (P0335); SHSMO-Columbia, <https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/aerial/id/1306> (accessed March 2024).

**Figure 17:** Photograph of the William Roberts Log Cabin shortly after it was uncovered, looking northeast from S. Farm Road 193 ("Century-Old Cabin Exposed," *The Springfield [Missouri] News-Leader*, October 3, 1973, 7).

**Figure 18:** Photograph of the 1847 log house at the Buford-Carty Farmstead (Photograph by Kevin Skibiski, included in Joan L. Gould, "Buford-Carty Farmstead," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (Fayetteville, AR: Preservation Matters, 2003), photograph #1).



National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Roberts Farmstead
Name of Property
Greene County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

### Summary

The Roberts Farmstead is located at 1120 S. Farm Road 193 near Springfield in Greene County, Missouri. The nominated 31.18-property includes the Roberts Log Cabin (ca. 1853, Contributing Building), and associated approximately eighteen-acre field (Contributing Site), along with other small-scale non-historic site features (described below). The cabin has a one-and-one-half-story single pen configuration with a stone foundation, hand-hewn logs joined with a half dovetail notch, and a gabled roof. The interior contains a single room with a loft above. The associated field is known to have been under active cultivation since at least ca. 1853.<sup>1</sup> The period of significance for the farmstead is 1853 to align with the date that William Roberts acquired the original forty acres of land and likely built the associated cabin. Although William acquired additional land over the years, the nominated property has largely remained intact with few alterations or divisions. Importantly, this nominated property contains the cabin, which is an integral aspect of a pioneer farmstead. Non-contributing resources are small and include a well that has been significantly altered and no longer retains integrity, and a lake that was constructed after the period of significance. The Roberts Farmstead retains integrity as an example of a mid-nineteenth century farmstead in Greene County.

### Elaboration

#### SETTING & SITE

The Roberts Farmstead is located just over five miles southeast of the Springfield, Missouri town square (*Figures 1 through 4*). Springfield is the county seat of Greene County and is the third-largest city in Missouri. Greene County is located along the western edge of the Ozarks, a hilly, sometimes mountainous and rugged, region that generally spans an area of over 45,000 square miles and encompasses a significant portion of southern Missouri, along with northwest Arkansas, and pieces of Kansas and Oklahoma.<sup>2</sup> The immediate area around the nominated property is relatively rural. It is hilly and generally heavily wooded except for agricultural fields and private residential lots, which are typically between one and ten acres and have 1980s-early 2000s one- to two-story houses. Private lots border the east, south, and parts of the north boundaries of the relatively square property. South Farm Road 193 forms the west boundary. This narrow two-lane

<sup>1</sup> It is likely that the field was under some form of cultivation before ca. 1853, but this is the earliest date it can be positively attributed to that use.

<sup>2</sup> Brooks Blevins, "An Introduction to the Ozarks: It's Not What You Might Expect," *Smithsonian Folklife Festival*, <https://festival.si.edu/blog/ozarks-introduction> (accessed June 2024).

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Roberts Farmstead
Name of Property
Greene County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

road runs north-south, parallel to the property. An unnamed intermittent creek and wooded area form the north boundary. Barbed wire fencing generally lines the east and south boundaries of the property, along with the east two-thirds of the north boundary and the north one-third of the west boundary. The Roberts Cemetery is located near the northwest corner of the property, outside of the boundaries.<sup>3</sup>

Within the 31.18-acre property, a large (approximately eighteen-acre) open field occupies most of the southeast quarter of the property (Contributing Site *Figures 2 & 3; Photos 1 through 6*). A steep hill generally runs adjacent to the north side of the field and drops down to an unnamed intermittent creek and associated basin that runs roughly east-west to form the north boundary. The area around the creek is heavily wooded and contains the rest of the land within the nominated boundary. It appears to have changed little since the period of significance.

**ROBERTS LOG CABIN (CA. 1853, CONTRIBUTING BUILDING)**

The Roberts Log Cabin, built sometime between ca. 1840 and 1854, is located near the center of the west boundary of the site, about forty feet east of South Farm Road 193 (*Figures 2 & 3; Photo 7*). Looking from the road, the cabin sits on a slightly elevated position given the sloping land nearby. The Roberts Log Cabin is a one-and-one-half-story cabin with a gabled roof covered with cedar shake shingles, a dry-laid stone foundation, and hand-hewn walnut logs laid horizontally. Character-defining half dovetail notches join the logs at each of the cabin's four corners; a mixture of non-historic Portland cement chinking fills the spaces between the logs, inside and out (*Figure 5*). A cut stone chimney extends out from the center of the south elevation (*Photos 7 & 8*). Non-historic wood board-and-batten siding cover the gables in the north and south elevations. Non-historic wood-framed casement windows fill all openings; these sashes have an eight-light configuration (varying sizes). Non-historic porches along most of the east and west elevations have wood-framed lean-to roofs supported by four round wood posts. Non-historic wood shake shingles, similar to the main cabin roof, cover the porch roofs. A dry-laid stone foundation supports the porch along the west elevation, and wood piers support the east porch. A line of joist pockets is visible near the bottom of the lean-to along the east and west elevations. Timbers that support the interior loft floor fill the pockets (discussed below).

<sup>3</sup> The cemetery contains the burials of many members of the Roberts family but is not included in the nominated boundary, as it is currently on a separate parcel with separate ownership and does not contribute to the pioneer significance of the farmstead.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Roberts Farmstead
Name of Property
Greene County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

EXTERIOR

Three bays visually define the primary *west elevation* that faces South Farm Road 193 (*Photo 7*). The main entrance pierces the center bay; a non-historic wood plank door fills the opening. A single tall window opening pierces the north bay. The south bay does not have any openings; a non-historic sign hangs near the south end of the wall.

The cabin's stone foundation is visible for a few feet along the bottom of the *north elevation* (*Photo 9, right side of cabin*). A single narrow window opening pierces the center of the wall at the ground floor. A smaller opening pierces the gable directly above.

The *east elevation* is a near mirror image of the west except the window opening pierces the south bay (*Photos 8 & 9*). This opening is smaller than the one in the west wall.

Three bays defined by the central stone chimney, divide the *south elevation* (*Photos 7 & 8*). Two small openings pierce the east bay adjacent to the chimney at the ground floor and in the gable. A small wood box extends out beyond the ground floor window. Its purpose is not known. A square piece of board and batten siding fills a small hole below the window in the gable that was cut for a non-extant air conditioning unit. No openings pierce the west bay.

INTERIOR

The interior of the Roberts Log Cabin has a single pen configuration that consists of a single open room on the ground floor (*Photos 10 & 11*). This is a historic configuration. The historic hand-hewn logs are visible along the perimeter of the room, and non-historic wood planks cover the floor. Non-historic wood joists run east-west above the window openings, in the approximate location of the historic ones, and the upper loft floor is visible above the joists. Wood cross-bracing between the joists provides lateral support. A stone mantle and hearth fill most of the south wall (*Photo 11*). The mantel and hearth are old, and may be original, but this has not been confirmed. A non-historic wood ladder in the southwest corner leads up to a historic loft with similar materials and construction (*Photo 12*).

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Roberts Farmstead
Name of Property
Greene County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**FIELD (NO DATE, CONTRIBUTING SITE)**

At approximately eighteen acres, the field is the largest resource on the property (*Figures 2 & 3, Photos 1 through 5*). It has a relatively square footprint and is generally flat; a ridge gradually falls to the southwest. As stated earlier, the field appears to have been under constant cultivation since at least circa 1853, though the exact mix of crops is not known.

**WELL (2023, NONCONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE)**

A non-historic dry-laid circular rock wall, built in 2023, marks the location of a historic well (*Figure 3, Photo 6*). It is located about one hundred fifty feet south of the Roberts Log Cabin (discussed above), and about forty feet east of South Farm Road 193. Although the well itself may date to circa 1853 (exact date unknown), it is counted as a noncontributing structure due to the wall alteration and has lost integrity.

**POND (CA. 1981-1996, NONCONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE)**

The pond is a manmade body of water with earthen embankments and an irregular shape that roughly measures 95 feet by 47 feet (*Figures 2 & 3, Photo 3*). It is located about three hundred feet south of the cabin, close to the west boundary. The exact depth of the pond is not known. Aerial photographs of the farmstead show that the pond was constructed sometime between 1981 and 1996. It is a noncontributing structure due to age.

**INTEGRITY**

The Roberts Farmstead retains historic integrity. The farmstead cabin has not been moved from its historic *location*, and retains its historic *setting*, both within the site and around it. Although some limited development has occurred nearby, the immediate area is rural and in keeping with the historic setting of the cabin, field, and associated land. The field retains its agricultural use, and the cabin retains its historic pioneer *feeling*. Although the cabin was enlarged at some point, that addition has been removed, and the cabin retains its historic single pen *design*, and most importantly, its half dovetail notching. The porches are not historic but resemble ones found on similar log cabins of the era in Missouri (see Section 8 for further discussion of the porches). Many of the cabin's *materials* such as the hand-hewn logs, are historic, and replacement materials and features such as the shake shingles and porches are in keeping with the historic character of the

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Section number 7 Page 5

Roberts Farmstead

Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

cabin. The cabin's *workmanship* is evident in the intricate half dovetail notches that are used to join the logs at each corner. Although the Roberts Farmstead was expanded over the years, the original forty acres remains mostly intact; 8.82 acres along the north edge has been subdivided into residential lots and a cemetery. The property retains its historic *association* with agriculture as an example of a nineteenth-century pioneer farmstead in Greene County, Missouri.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Roberts Farmstead
Name of Property
Greene County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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### Summary

The Roberts Farmstead, located at 1120 S. Farm Road 193, in Greene County, Missouri was established ca. 1853. It is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT as an example of a pioneer farmstead in Greene County. The county has a long agricultural history, and the nominated Roberts Farmstead is a typical example of a pioneer farmstead that retains its character-defining cabin and field components. Like other farmsteads in the area, the Roberts Farmstead produced a variety of crops such as wheat and corn and livestock. The property illustrates agricultural practices in Greene county around the mid-nineteenth century.

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### Elaboration

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT AND AGRICULTURE IN GREENE COUNTY, MISSOURI

The Osage Nation historically occupied the land that became Greene County, Missouri, where they hunted and fished.<sup>4</sup> Members of the Kickapoo Nation established a small community around 1812 on the present-day site of Springfield, Missouri. The US Congress admitted Missouri to the Union in 1821. This opened the new state to Euro-American settlement, and some of the earliest permanent settlers at the time included John P. Petticoat, Joseph Price, and August Friend.<sup>5</sup> In the following years, the population of Greene County steadily grew as more settlers arrived from states such as Tennessee and Kentucky. Recognizing this population growth, the Missouri State Legislature passed a special act to establish Greene County on January 2, 1833, opening this part of the state to Euro-American settlement.<sup>6</sup> After establishment, the population of the county began to steadily grow. The town of Springfield became the county seat in 1835 after Joseph P. Campbell, the first settler in the Springfield area, pledged fifty acres for the county courthouse.<sup>7</sup> The Roberts family likely arrived in Greene County during this period of growth and settled well outside the city limits in a burgeoning agricultural region.

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<sup>4</sup> R. I. Holcomb, ed., *History of Greene County, Missouri* (St. Louis: Western Historical Company, 1883), 125.

<sup>5</sup> Holcomb, *History of Greene County, Missouri*, 126.

<sup>6</sup> A. M. Haswell, "Chapter IV: Organization of County," in *Past and Present of Greene County, Missouri: Early and Recent History and Genealogical Records of Many of the Representative Citizens, vol 1*, eds. Jonathan Fairbanks and Clyde Edwin Tuck (Indianapolis, Indiana: A. W. Bowen & Company, 1915), 120.

<sup>7</sup> Haswell, "Chapter VI: County Government," in *Past and Present of Greene County, Missouri*, 158.

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Section number 8 Page 7

Roberts Farmstead
Name of Property
Greene County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Outside of Springfield, agriculture was the predominant industry in Greene County. Given the region's temperate climate, historian A.M. Haswell boasted that the average farmer could choose "...almost any standard crop," and many planted a variety to ensure that a disease would not wipe out their entire harvest.<sup>8</sup> A 1889 booklet entitled *Springfield, Missouri, and Surroundings* optimistically described the county as "the most productive in the world," and that an estimated 20 percent of all land was under some form of cultivation or other agricultural use.<sup>9</sup> Given the variety of available crops, Haswell pointed out that the most farms in Greene County were less than eighty acres, and that "[t]he man with a quarter-section of cheap land could afford to scratch over fifty or sixty acres and raise twenty bushels of corn to the acre...."<sup>10</sup> These settlement trends appear to have remained relatively constant throughout the decades. Over 50 percent of all farms in Greene County are less than fifty acres today.<sup>11</sup>

ROBERTS FARMSTEAD

Located in Section 26, Township 29 north, Range 21 West, the Roberts Farmstead is a remaining example of a pioneer farmstead in Greene County, Missouri. Specific documentation of other farmsteads in S26, T29N, R21W during the period of significance does not exist, so a direct comparison during the period of significance is not possible. An 1876 atlas map is the earliest known document that shows the farmsteads within the section (*Figure 6*).<sup>12</sup> The atlas shows eleven separate farmsteads, including the nominated Roberts Farmstead, plus a forty-acre parcel in the northwest corner that was owned by the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad.<sup>13</sup> Of these, few currently retain any visible agricultural use, but development is not dense and the section still retains its historic rural feeling, especially around the nominated farmstead (*Figure 4*). A roughly forty-acre parcel in the northeast corner of Section 26 adjacent to the Robert's Farmstead mostly contains a heavily-wooded area and two small fields. A large field stretches along much of the south section boundary. In 1876, this area appears to have contained at least three different farmsteads.

<sup>8</sup> Haswell, "Chapter VIII: Farming and Stock Raising," in *Past and Present of Greene County, Missouri*, 199.

<sup>9</sup> *Springfield, Missouri, and Surroundings* (1889), available online at the Springfield-Greene County Library, <https://thelibrary.org/lohist/spfd1889/index.htm> (accessed May 2024), 5.

<sup>10</sup> Haswell, "Chapter VIII: Farming and Stock Raising," in *Past and Present of Greene County, Missouri*, 199.

<sup>11</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, "2017 Census of Agriculture County profile: Greene County, Missouri," (Washington, D.C.: United States Department of Agriculture, 2017), 1.

<sup>12</sup> *An Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Greene county, MO* (Philadelphia, PA: Brink, McDonough & Co., 1876), 33, <https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/plat/id/1814/> (accessed February 2023).

<sup>13</sup> Note: Many of the farmsteads in Section 26 extend into neighboring sections.

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Information from the agricultural census schedules between 1860 and 1880 shows that production on the farmstead was generally in-line with other nearby farms. Therefore, the Roberts Farmstead can be considered a representative (if slightly above average) example of a Greene County farm (*Figure 7*).<sup>14</sup> In 1860, the total acreage of the Roberts Farmstead was listed as 160 acres. Of that, forty acres, likely including the nominated field, were “improved.” The average farmstead at that time contained 256 acres (79 acres improved and 177 acres unimproved). The average farmstead size decreased in the two following schedules to around forty acres of improved land. By comparison, the Roberts Farmstead contained sixty acres (1870) and ninety-three acres (1880) of improved land.

In 1860, the stated value of the farmstead was about \$1,400 less than the average, though it was within a few hundred dollars in 1870 and 1880. The agricultural schedules show that the Roberts Farmstead was diverse in terms of both crops and livestock. The farmstead contained a number of animals, including cows, horses, oxen, sheep, pigs, and mules, which were valued at \$800 in 1860, \$1,000 in 1870, and \$600 in 1880. These values are roughly the same as, or higher than the average of neighboring farms.

In addition to livestock, the Roberts Farmstead grew a variety of crops, including wheat, corn, and oats. As with the livestock, crop production on the nominated farmstead was similar to neighboring ones. In 1860, the average production of wheat and corn in terms of bushels was greater than production on the Roberts Farmstead, but oat production was lower than the Roberts Farmstead. In 1870, the Roberts Farmstead produced more bushels of wheat, corn, and oats than the average of the surrounding farms.

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<sup>14</sup> Agricultural Schedules (Washington, D.C.: United States Census Bureau 1860-1880) <https://www.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/census/pages/agsup> (accessed June 2024). Note, an entry for William Roberts was not able to be located in the 1850 schedule, so the comparison was written using data from the 1860-1880 schedules. This may be due to the fact that William did not own the land in 1850, but an entry for Sarah Roberts was found. Although the available schedules are after the period of significance (ca. 1853), they provide valuable context on the nominated farmstead as well as neighboring farmsteads of the day. Values from the 1860 and 1870 schedules were obtained by averaging the farms across three schedule pages – the one containing the Roberts Farmstead, and the pages before and after for a total comparison of 119 farmsteads in 1860 and 120 farmsteads in 1870. The 1880 schedule page is formatted differently, with ten farm entries on each page. Values for 1880 were obtained from a comparison of 49 total farms on pages before and after the Roberts Farmstead entry.



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**VERNACULAR LOG CABINS IN GREENE COUNTY, MISSOURI**

Like many farmsteads in the mid-nineteenth century, the Roberts Farmstead historically contained a simple cabin that sheltered the family. The presence of a cabin, or some other permanent building is an important character-defining feature for pioneer farmsteads. The Roberts Log Cabin is one of the few known extant examples of a log cabin in Greene County, Missouri, and the only known example in Section 26, where the farmstead is located.

Used in this context, a log cabin refers to a building “whose structural walls are composed of horizontally laid or vertically positioned logs” with corner notching.<sup>15</sup> Log building technology and methods are thought to have been brought to North America by Finnish and Swedish colonists who landed in present-day Pennsylvania in the 1630s. The form proved popular, and settlers brought log construction west as they cleared and settled land across the eastern and central United States.<sup>16</sup>

Early Greene County settlers took advantage of the abundant timber in the region to construct their houses. Log cabins typically started out with a single pen configuration that consisted of a square room (pen) that could be anywhere up to twenty feet wide. The pen served multiple purposes, including the dining room, living room, and kitchen. Some cabins had an upper story sleeping area or an attic accessed by a trap door or a steep set of stairs in one corner. The main entrance usually faced the road, and had a chimney to one side, as was the case with the Roberts Log Cabin. Cabins typically had few windows, as the opening had to be framed, which slowed construction, and glazing was tough to acquire in frontier communities.<sup>17</sup>

The popularity of the single pen configuration was due, in part, to its ease of construction, as it was difficult to join multiple logs over a long span. If an owner wished to expand their log cabin, they almost always built additional pens adjacent to the original one. The three most common expansion configurations were the double pen, the saddlebag, and the dogtrot (*Figure 8*). The double pen configuration consisted of two pens connected with a single opening, and chimneys were located on opposite ends. Two pens shared a central chimney in a saddlebag configuration, and an opening to one side of the chimney provided access between the two rooms. The dogtrot

<sup>15</sup> Bruce D. Bromberger, *Preservation Brief 26: The Preservation and Repair of Historic Log Buildings* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1991), 1.

<sup>16</sup> Bromberger, *Preservation Brief 26*, 2.

<sup>17</sup> Foreman, “Home Sweet Home,” 56.

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configuration resembled a double pen configuration, except a central corridor ran between the two pens.<sup>18</sup>

Although a cabin could take many different forms, most included an attached porch or some other open shelter that a family could utilize both for relief from warm summertime temperatures inside the cabin, and as a place to gather, work, and eat.<sup>19</sup> The historic presence or configuration of the porches at the Roberts Log Cabin is not known, but the joist pockets visible along the east and west elevations are clearly supporting the loft above and are too low in relation to the doors to have been used for a porch roof. It seems reasonable that a historic porch would have been attached at the present location near the roof eaves. This is a common placement for porches on log cabins of the era in Missouri, as is the case with the porch at the 1847 log house at the Buford-Carty Farmstead, near Black, Reynolds County, Missouri (NRIS #04000603, listed 06/16/2003, *Figure 18*). The historic porch along the east elevation closely resembles the ones on the Roberts Log Cabin.

As families grew, they often added pens or lean-to additions around the cabin's original footprint. Some added "modern" features such as lap siding for additional insulation and to improve the look of the cabin. Log cabin construction in Greene County and much of the general Ozark region (which includes most of south Missouri, along with the northwest part of Arkansas, and parts of northeast Oklahoma) generally ceased near the end of the nineteenth century as milled lumber became readily available and frame construction became the dominant building method.<sup>20</sup>

The Roberts Log Cabin exhibits the half dovetail notch, its most significant character-defining feature. Most cabins of the era have either been demolished or substantially altered with additions and new materials, as the Roberts Log Cabin was. The exact number of log cabins historically built in Greene County is unknown, as is the number of remaining examples, as no county surveys exist. The Roberts Log Cabin is one of three known extant examples.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>18</sup> "Single Pens, Saddlebags, and Dog Trots," *Shiloh Museum of Ozark History*.

<sup>19</sup> Diana Foreman, "Home Sweet Home," *Bittersweet* V, no. 4 (Summer 1978): 60.

<sup>20</sup> "Single Pens, Saddlebags, and Dog Trots," *Shiloh Museum of Ozark History*; Bruce D. Bromberger, *Preservation Brief* 262.

<sup>21</sup> Research for this section sought to determine the number of log cabins in Greene County, Missouri, using information from county archives, National Register of Historic Places nominations, and newspaper database searches.

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The hewn logs that make up the Roberts Log Cabin are joined using a half dovetail notch. Other notches such as the square notch, saddle notch, and V-notch required relatively little skill to execute and were typically employed for temporary cabins (*Figure 9*). According to historian William D. Carter, the half dovetail notch was a complicated, but effective notch that required a “craftsman with some special skills” to execute but created a strong joint that retained warmth and repelled better than other notches.<sup>22</sup> The presence of the half dovetail notch suggests that the builder had experience with this type of construction and intended the cabin to be permanent.

NATHAN AND OLIVE BOONE HOUSE, 1837 (NRIS #69000103, LISTED 10/01/1969)<sup>23</sup>

The Nathan and Olive Boone farmstead (7850 N. State Highway V, Ash Grove, MO) is likely the only other example of a pioneer farmstead in Greene County (*Figures 1 & 10*). The house, built ca. 1837 by Nathan Boone, is a one-and-one-half-story saddlebag log house with a rectangular footprint, stone foundation, and hand-hewn oak logs clad with lap siding, which obscures the notching (*Figure 11*).<sup>24</sup> The house has a gabled saltbox roof with wood shingles and stone chimneys along the north and south walls. Five bays divide the main elevation, which faces west. A single window opening pierces each of the four outside bays; the main entrance pierces the center bay. The interior of the house has a dogtrot configuration that consists of two opposing rooms connected by a central hall. The upper attic area has a similar configuration.

Nathan Boone (1871-1856) was the youngest son of famous pioneer Daniel Boone. Born in Kentucky, Nathan came to Missouri in 1799, and manufactured salt with one of his brothers. He also served in the war of 1812, traveled with William Clark, and worked as a surveyor. In 1837, Boone purchased land in Greene County and built the house. He lived on the homestead site until his death in 1856.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>22</sup> W. Dale Carter, “Daniel Boone Cabin at Netherland Inn in Kingsport,” *Sullivan County [Tennessee] Department of Archives and Tourism*; Diana Foreman, “Home Sweet Home,” *Bittersweet V*, no. 4 (Summer 1978): 57.

<sup>23</sup> Note: The house is listed in the National Register as the “Nathan Boone House.” Olive’s name has been added here to align with current Missouri State Park designation as a state historic site.

<sup>24</sup> Martha L. Kusiak, “Nathan Boone House,” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (Jefferson City, Missouri: Missouri State Park Board, State Historical Survey and Planning Office, 1969), Section 7.

<sup>25</sup> Martha L. Kusiak, “Nathan Boone House,” Section 8. It is not known how much land Nathan Boone originally acquired, but the State of Missouri currently manages approximately four hundred acres as the Nathan and Olive Boone Homestead State Historic Site.

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**WILLIAM ROBERTS (1820-1894) – SETTLER AND ATTRIBUTED BUILDER**

William Roberts was born in 1820 in or around Burke County, North Carolina, to Reuben and Sarah Roberts. Little is known about William's early childhood, but it appears that the Roberts family moved to Greene County, Missouri sometime in the 1830s after the county opened to settlement. A 1973 article about the discovery of the cabin included a short family history written using oral histories from living family members. That article stated that Reuben died during the journey to Missouri from North Carolina. Sarah continued to Greene County with William and five other siblings. She ultimately acquired approximately eighty acres of land north of the present-day location of the nominated property.<sup>26</sup> Evidence of the Roberts family in the area appears in an 1835 survey of T29N, R21W in Greene County (*Figure 12*). Although the survey does not show any buildings or land under cultivation, the "Robert's Spring Branch" is labeled in Sections 26 and 27. This suggests that the (or a) Roberts family had settled in the area by 1835.<sup>27</sup> It is likely that the Robert's Spring Branch shown in the survey is not the same as the present-day intermittent creek near the north end of the property since the Robert's Spring Branch flowed into Pierson's Mill Branch from the west, and the intermittent creek is to the east.<sup>28</sup>

The earliest known *official* record of the William Roberts family on the land occurred in 1848, when Sarah, his mother, received a Land Patent Certificate for forty acres just north of the nominated property described as "the North East quarter of the North West quarter of Section Twenty-Three, in Township Twenty-Nine north, of Range Twenty-One, west."<sup>29</sup> On April 15, 1853, the thirty-three year old William acquired forty acres (including all of the nominated property) in the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of S26, R21.<sup>30</sup> Both William and Sarah

<sup>26</sup> "Century-Old Cabin Exposed," *The Springfield [Missouri] News-Leader* (3 October 1973): 7.

<sup>27</sup> United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. "Township 29 North of the base line Range 21 West of 5<sup>th</sup> principal Meridian." *General Land Office Records, 1835*: Records from the Bureau of Land Management show that in 1884, a John Roberts acquired eighty acres in Section 27, to the west. No connection between John Roberts and William Roberts has been found, and the two are likely not related, but this is the earliest known record of a Roberts in the area.

<sup>28</sup> The Robert's Spring Branch still flows less than one quarter of a mile from the cabin.

<sup>29</sup> United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Certificate #7374, *General Land Office Records, 1848*, <https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=MO5290.131&docClass=STA&sid=argw2i25.34r#patentDetailsTabIndex=1> (accessed March 2024); Sarah was granted the patent as an assignee of John S. Phelps (relation unknown).

<sup>30</sup> United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Certificate #12558, *General Land Office Records, 1853*,

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received their land patents under provisions of the Land Act of 1820 (PL 16-51). Generally, the US government allowed settlers to purchase public land once they had occupied it for at least fourteen months or had made improvements to the land over a span of five years.<sup>31</sup> The 1820 act eliminated an earlier practice of using credit to purchase public lands and lowered the minimum payment per acre.<sup>32</sup>

Given the Land Act provision and the date of William's Certificate, 1853, he, or a local craftsman, likely built the cabin sometime around 1853. Local histories generally give a construction date of 1837, though research up to this point has not identified anything that can corroborate this date. This may have been the date the Roberts family reached Greene County, but it seems unlikely that William built the cabin at that time, as he would have been just seventeen years old. The exact date of construction is difficult to discern, given the lack of available documentation. The Greene County Tax Assessor's records are not available for the 1850s (when he acquired the land and likely built the cabin), and records after then are inconclusive, as the assessed value of Robert's forty acres in the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of S26 fluctuates wildly from a low of \$160 in 1868 to a high of nearly \$1500 in 1889.<sup>33</sup>

On July 29, 1850, William\* married Susan\* (nee Holten) (1829-1861).<sup>34</sup> The two had several children. Their child, Sarah H.,\* was born in 1855 and died in 1859. According to information on her headstone, Sarah H. is the first burial in the Roberts Cemetery. William first appeared in the 1860 census as the head of household along with Susan and four children: Hester (1851-?), Mary (1853-1922), and James (1855-?). His occupation was a farmer, and the value of his real estate and personal estate were both estimated at \$1,000.<sup>35</sup> Susan died in November 1861 and is buried in the

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[https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=MO5400\\_092&docClass=STA&sid=hktfmzal.kpx](https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=MO5400_092&docClass=STA&sid=hktfmzal.kpx) (accessed March 2024); U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management records show that William acquired over two hundred acres in Section 23 between 1857 and 1870.

<sup>31</sup> "Land Acts," National Archives website, <https://www.archives.gov/files/calendar/genealogy-fair/2014/handouts/session-11-handout-5of5-martinez-land-other-land-acts.pdf> (accessed March 2024).

<sup>32</sup> James Muhn and Hanson R. Stuart, *Opportunity and Challenge: The Story of BLM* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, 1998), Chapter 1, [https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online\\_books/blm/history/chap1.htm](https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/blm/history/chap1.htm) (accessed March 2024).

<sup>33</sup> Greene County Assessor's Tax Lists, various years between 1856 and 1912. Original Assessor's books and transcriptions are available at the Greene County Archives & Records Center.

<sup>34</sup> *Marriage Records, Greene County, Missouri: Book "A" and "B," 1833-1860*, Ancestry.com (accessed March 2024), 26.

<sup>35</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *Campbell Township* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, 1860), 111, ancestry.com (accessed February 2024).

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Roberts Cemetery. In the 1870 census, William appears as the head of household with his wife Nancy\* (nee Jennings) (1840-1901), and six children: Hester, Mary, James, John B.\* (1860-1874), Martha S. (1865-1899), and George G.\* (1868-1957). Fredric Packard, a farmhand, also lived with the family.<sup>36</sup>

In 1876, an atlas map showed that William owned approximately one hundred twenty acres in S26, and one hundred eighty acres in Section 23 (*Figure 6*). A farmhouse, depicted as simply a small dark square, is shown on the map in the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of S26 with a small field to the east and a road to the west and north. The alignment of the road does not resemble the current alignment of Farm Road 193, but the location of the field and a stream to the west strongly suggest that this is the Roberts Log Cabin.<sup>37</sup> In addition to the farmhouse depicted on William's property, the 1876 atlas shows seven other farmhouses. None of which are believed to be extant from aerial images of the area.

William Robers died on November 1, 1894, and is buried in the cemetery to the north. His brief obituary described him as "an old and highly respected citizen."<sup>38</sup> Much of William's estate appears to have gone to Nancy, who owned eighty acres in S26 according to the Greene County Tax Assessor's tax list.<sup>39</sup> Nancy died in 1901 according to the inscription on her headstone in the nearby cemetery. After her death, the land passed through members of the Roberts family for much of the following seventy years.

Given the size of the Roberts family, it is extremely likely that the log cabin was expanded at some point before the end of the nineteenth century, possibly after Susan's death. To accommodate their growing family, William and Nancy may have expanded the cabin in the late 1860s or 1870s. As discussed above, log cabins were typically expanded from the single pen form to accommodate family growth, but information is not available on the cabin's subsequent expansions.

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<sup>36</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *Campbell Township* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, 1870), 163, ancestry.com (accessed February 2024).

\*William, Susan, Nancy, Sarah, John B., and George G. are all buried in the cemetery to the north.

<sup>37</sup> *An Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Greene County, MO*, 33; the cemetery is not shown on the map.

<sup>38</sup> *The Springfield [Missouri] Democrat*, November 2, 1894, 5.

<sup>39</sup> Tax Book of Greene County [Missouri], 1897, no page, tax book available at the Greene County Archives.

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THE FARMSTEAD AFTER WILLIAM

By 1904, a plat map showed that a “W. W<sup>m</sup> Roberts,” possibly William’s son, owned the forty acres in S26 (*Figure 13*). A short section of road is shown running north-south close to the west side of the house depicted in the approximate location of the cabin.<sup>40</sup> The cemetery is shown at the north end of the land, along the border with S23. Charles and Carrie Roberts each owned twenty acres of land north of the cemetery. George G. Roberts owned twenty-eight acres near the center of the west side of S23, and another forty in S22 to the west. According to a 1930 plat map, “W Roberts” owned the forty acres in S26 where the cabin sits (*Figure 14*). The roads are better mapped on the 1930 plat, and Farm Road 193 is generally depicted in its current alignment.<sup>41</sup>

Little appears to have changed in the landscape between 1930 and the early 1970s. Aerial images from the 1930s and 1960s generally do not offer good resolution at this scale, but it appears that there were at least three other buildings on the property aside from the cabin, including what appears to be a large barn and two smaller barns/storage sheds.<sup>42</sup> The cabin appears to have a saddlebag configuration with a north-south orientation in a 1960 aerial, but the exact form is unclear, given the image resolution at scale. The field continued to be cultivated (*Figures 15 & 16*). Six acres (+/-) in the northeast corner of the original forty-acre parcel that are no longer associated with the property were likely sold off between 1960 and 1970, as the 1960 aerial does not show any buildings in that area.<sup>43</sup>

In 1972, W. J. and E. Pauline Roberts sold the land with the cabin and field to Floyd and Gloria Dryer.<sup>44</sup> The cemetery continued to remain with the Roberts family. Shortly after the Dryer family purchased the property, they uncovered the cabin during work to demolish the building and build a new house (*Figure 17*). Once they uncovered the lap siding, the Dryers demolished the ca. 1900s addition in an effort to return the cabin to what they believed to be its original configuration and

<sup>40</sup> *Plat Book of Greene County, Missouri: Compiled from County Records and Actual Surveys* (Missouri Publishing Co., 1904), 9-10, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2007626859/> (accessed February 2024).

<sup>41</sup> *Plat Book of Greene County, Missouri* (Rockford, IL: W. W. Hixson & Co., 1930), 8.

<sup>42</sup> Greene County, Missouri 1936 Aerial Photograph F56-94, *U.S. Department of Agriculture*, Missouri State Digital Collections, <https://cdm17307.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/AerialPhotos/id/591/rec/1> (accessed March 2024); Photo BLJ-3AA-45 (196); Box 70, folders 1-9, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Aerial Photographs of Missouri* (P0335); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia, <https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/aerial/id/1306> (accessed March 2024).

<sup>43</sup> Photo BLJ-3AA-45 (1960), SHSMO-Columbia.

<sup>44</sup> Greene County, Missouri Warranty Deed 16316, Book 1562, page 1515.

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built their new house further to the northeast. The current owners purchased the land from the Dryer family in late 2022 and demolished the non-historic house east of the cabin along with several other non-historic farm buildings and structures.<sup>45</sup>

## CONCLUSION

The Roberts Farmstead is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT. The farmstead is a typical example of a family farm in the mid-nineteenth century and is significant to the developmental history of Greene County, Missouri. The farmstead was in-line with many nearby properties of the time in terms of both size and production. The cabin is a notable example of a log cabin with half dovetail notches to join the logs at each of the four corners. Although the period of significance for the farmstead, circa 1853, corresponds with the date that William Roberts acquired the nominated property, it continues its historic agricultural use to this day.

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<sup>45</sup> Steve Pokin, "Answer Man: Couple Says They're Worried About Future of 1837 Log Cabin," *Springfield [Missouri] Daily Citizen*, October 18, 2023, <https://sgfcitizen.org/springfield-culture/steve-pokin-columns/answer-man-couple-says-theyre-worried-about-future-of-1837-log-cabin/> (accessed March 2024).



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Photo BLJ-3AA-45 (1960). Box 70, folders 1-9. *U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Aerial Photographs of Missouri* (P0335). The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia.

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United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. "Township 29 North of the base line Range 21 West of 5<sup>th</sup> principal Meridian." *General Land Office Records, 1835*. [https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/survey/default.aspx?dm\\_id=442229&sid=1tadj2e.1ie#surveyDetailsTabIndex=1](https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/survey/default.aspx?dm_id=442229&sid=1tadj2e.1ie#surveyDetailsTabIndex=1) (accessed February 2024).

\_\_\_\_\_. Certificate #7374, *General Land Office Records, 1848*, <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=MO5290.131&docClass=STA&sid=arqw2i25.34r#patentDetailsTabIndex=1> (accessed March 2024).

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Roberts Farmstead

Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri

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\_\_\_\_\_. Certificate #12558, *General Land Office Records*, 1853,  
<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=MO5400.092&docClass=STA&sid=hktfmza1.kpx> (accessed March 2024).

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Roberts Farmstead
Name of Property
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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The nominated property includes 31.18 acres on two parcels described by the Greene county, Missouri, Assessor as follows:<sup>46</sup>

**Parcel 1226100088 (generally contains the cabin and immediate vicinity):** 6.73A M/L W 450 FT N 1000 FT NW1/4 NE1/4 26/29/21 (EX N 374 FT W 349.5 FT) & (EX N 282.44 FT E 100.5 FT)

**Parcel 1226100089 (generally contains the field):** 23.98A M/L NW1/4 NE1/4 26/29/21 (EX W 450 FT N 1000 FT) & (EX N 282.44 FT E 870 FT)

The property is visually bounded by the right-of-way of South Farm Road 193 (west), an intermittent creek (north) and fences along the property lines to the east, and south.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION (ON CONTINUATION SHEET)**

The nominated boundary includes most the original forty acres that the United States granted to William Roberts in 1853 and was historically and currently associated with the Roberts Farmstead less the 8.82 acres that has been subdivided into non-historic residential lots and the cemetery. That land no longer retains its association with the farmstead and has been excluded from the nominated property.

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<sup>46</sup> See Photo Map 1 for parcel boundaries within the nominated boundaries.

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Roberts Farmstead

Name of Property

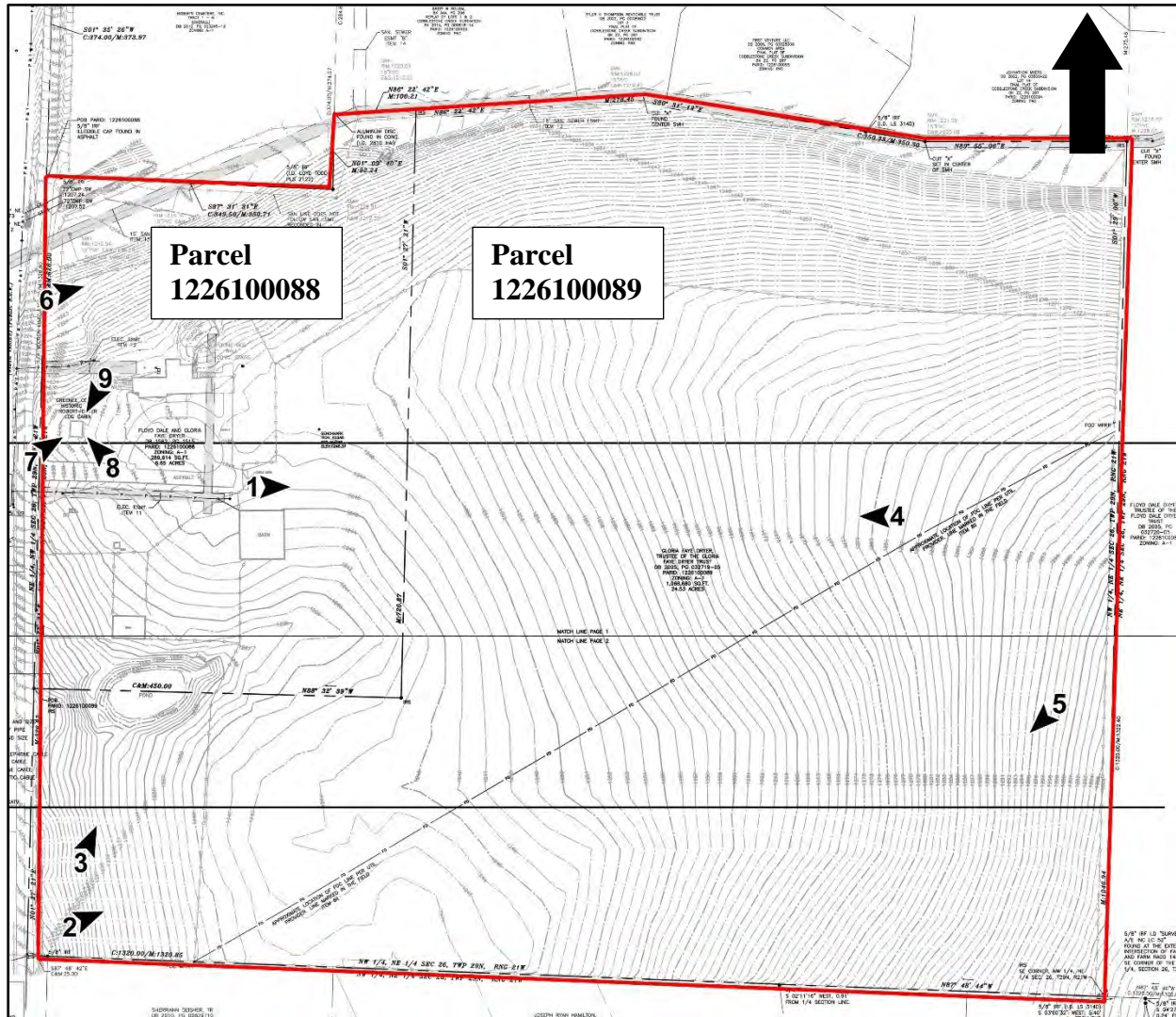
Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Photo Map 1.** Property Map. The dashed lines denote the parcels (Carlson Consulting Engineers, Inc., "ALTA/NSPS Land Title Survey" (Bartlett, TN: Carlson Consulting Engineers, Inc., 2023).



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Name of Property

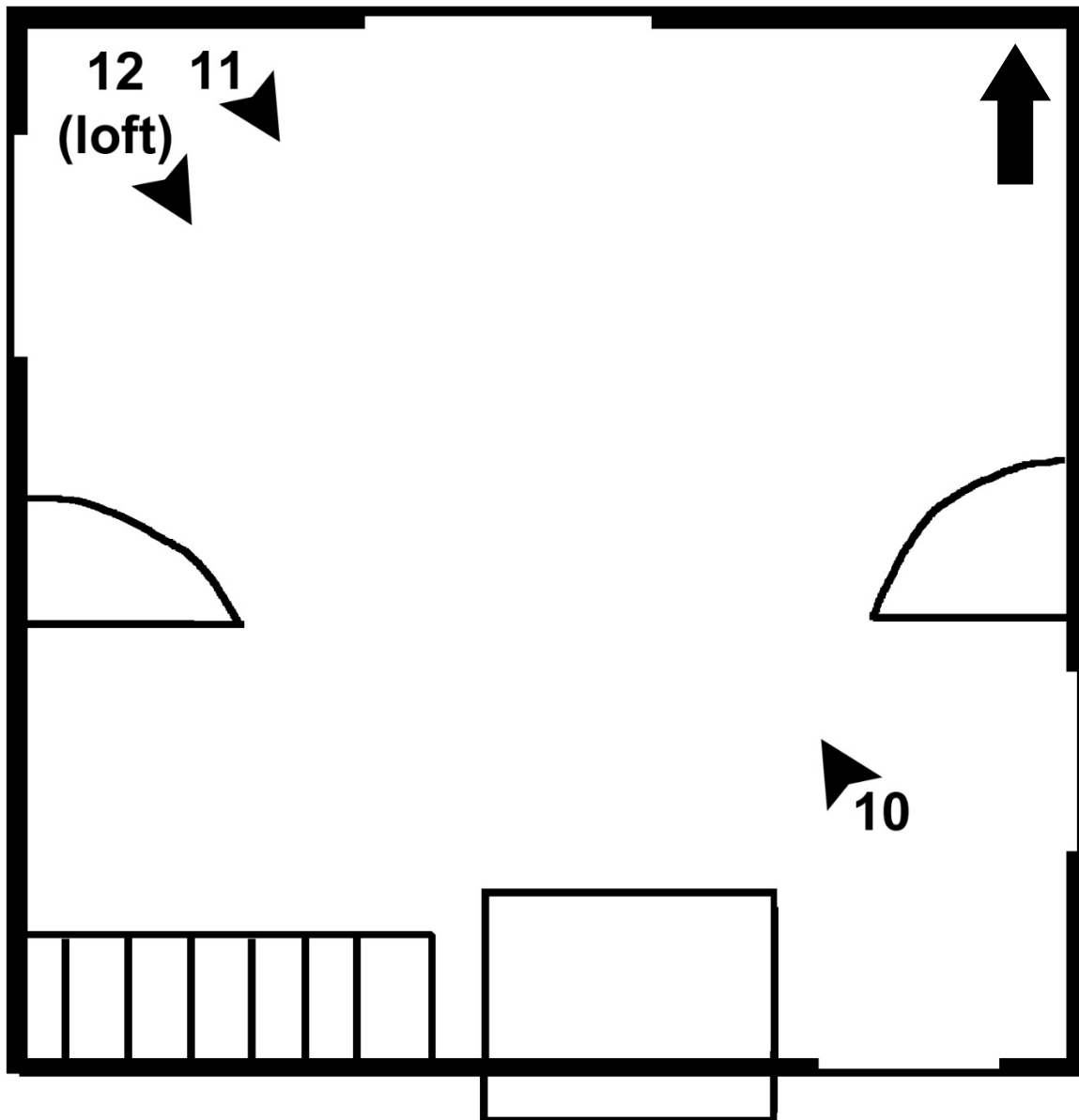
Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Photo Map 2:** Cabin interior map, first floor shown. Not to scale, window and door locations approximate (Sketch by Mason Martel, Rosin Preservation, LLC, 2024).





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Roberts Farmstead

Name of Property

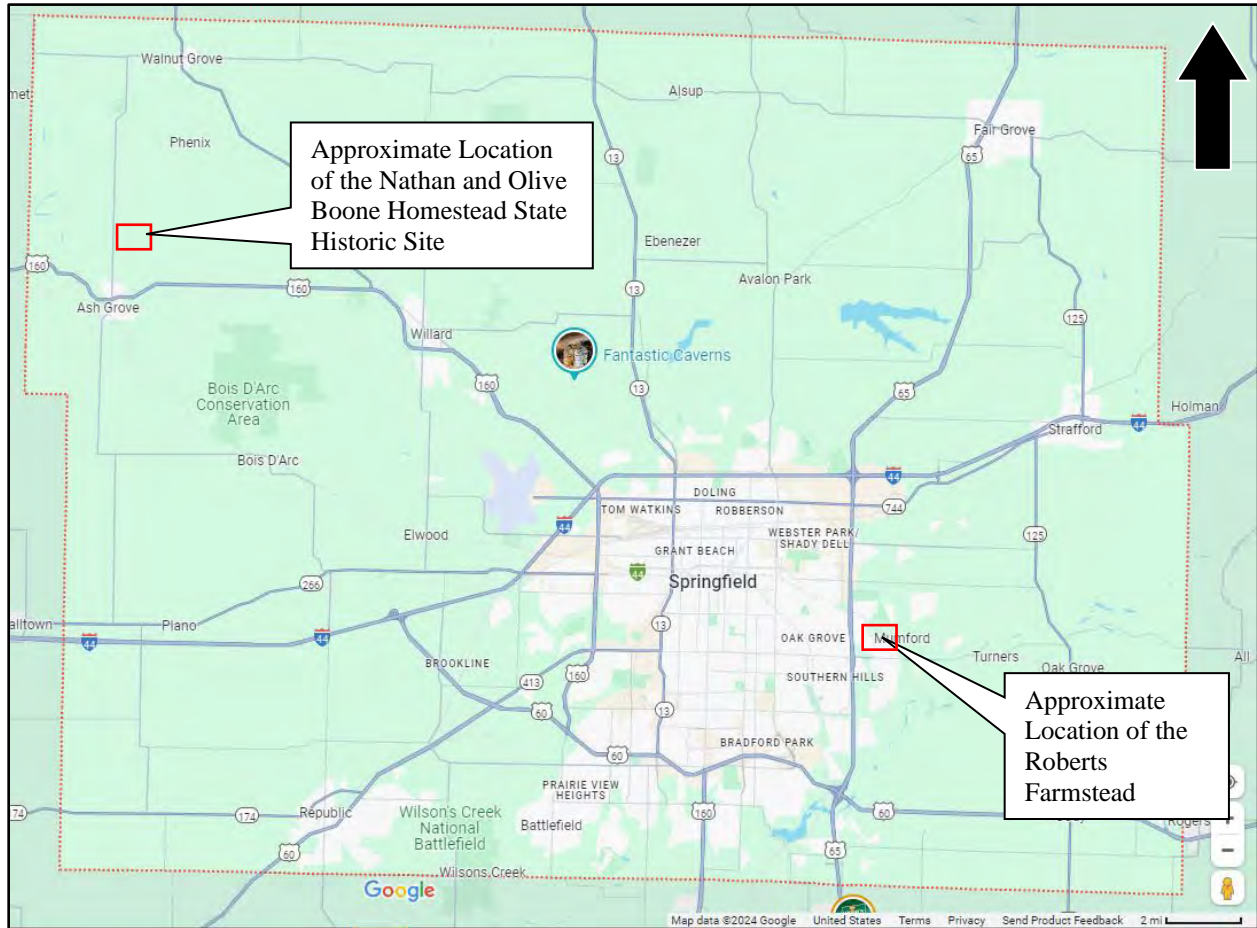
Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 1:** Location map. Greene County is denoted with dotted line (Google Maps, 2024).



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Roberts Farmstead

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N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 2:** Site map, see section 10 for table of coordinates (Greene County, Missouri, Assessor, online GIS property information map, <https://www.greenecountyassessor.org/assessor/maps/mapadv.aspx>, accessed February 2024).<sup>47</sup>



<sup>47</sup> Note: Although this is the most up-to-date image available, all buildings and structures within the site and the P-shaped drive have recently been removed except for the cabin.



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Roberts Farmstead

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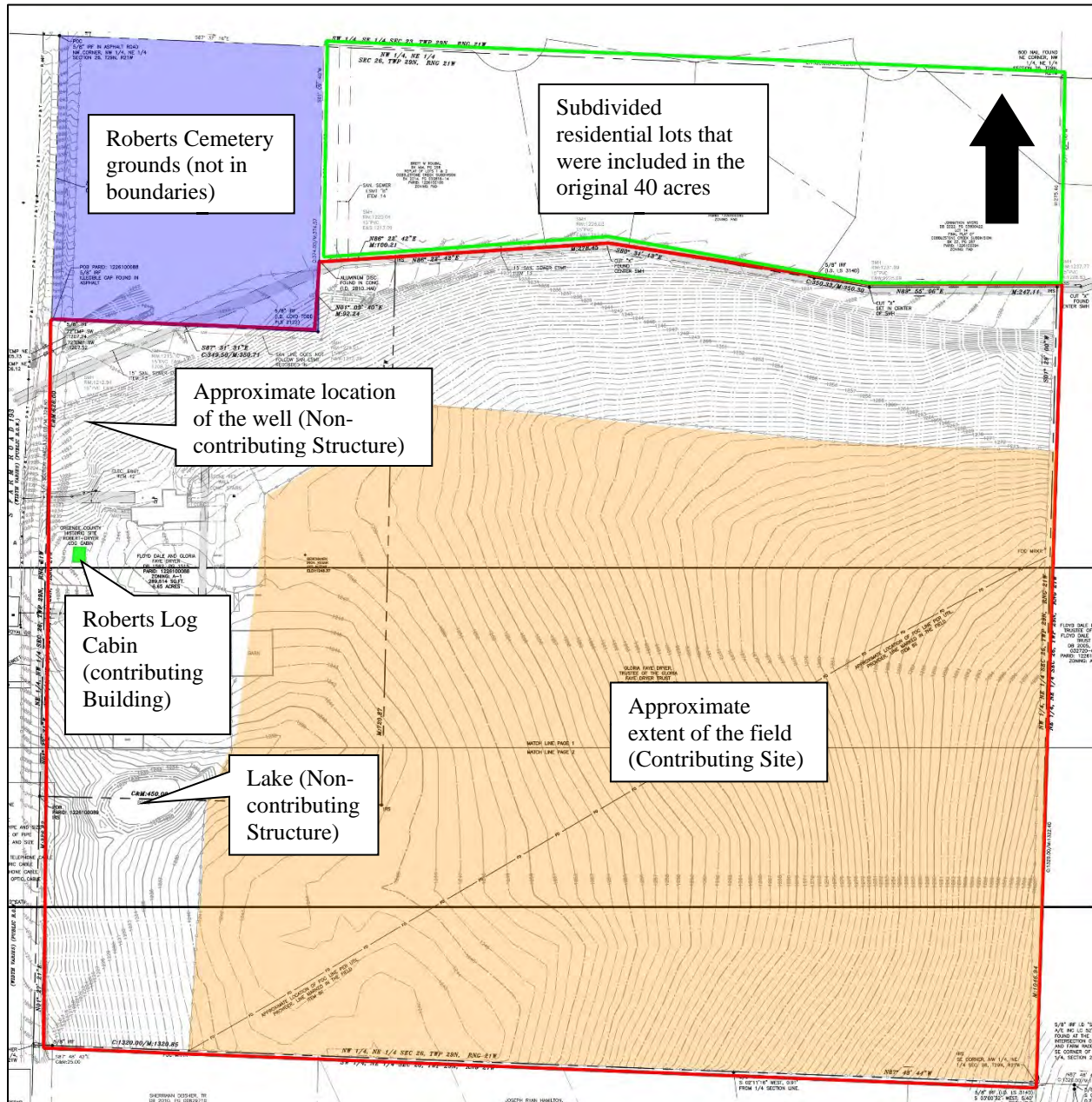
Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 3:** Survey of the property with resources identified. The dashed lines denote parcels (Carlson Consulting Engineers, Inc., “ALTA/NSPS Land Title Survey” (Bartlett, TN: Carlson Consulting Engineers, Inc., 2023)).<sup>48</sup>



<sup>48</sup> Note: This survey was conducted before the non-historic buildings were demolished.



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Roberts Farmstead

Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri

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N/A

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**Figure 4:** Detail of T29N R21W S26 (outlined in purple), showing current development (Google Earth, 2024).





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Roberts Farmstead

Name of Property

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**Figure 5:** Detail of a series of typical half dovetail notches at the southwest corner of the Roberts Log Cabin (Mason Martel, Rosin Preservation, LLC, February 2024).





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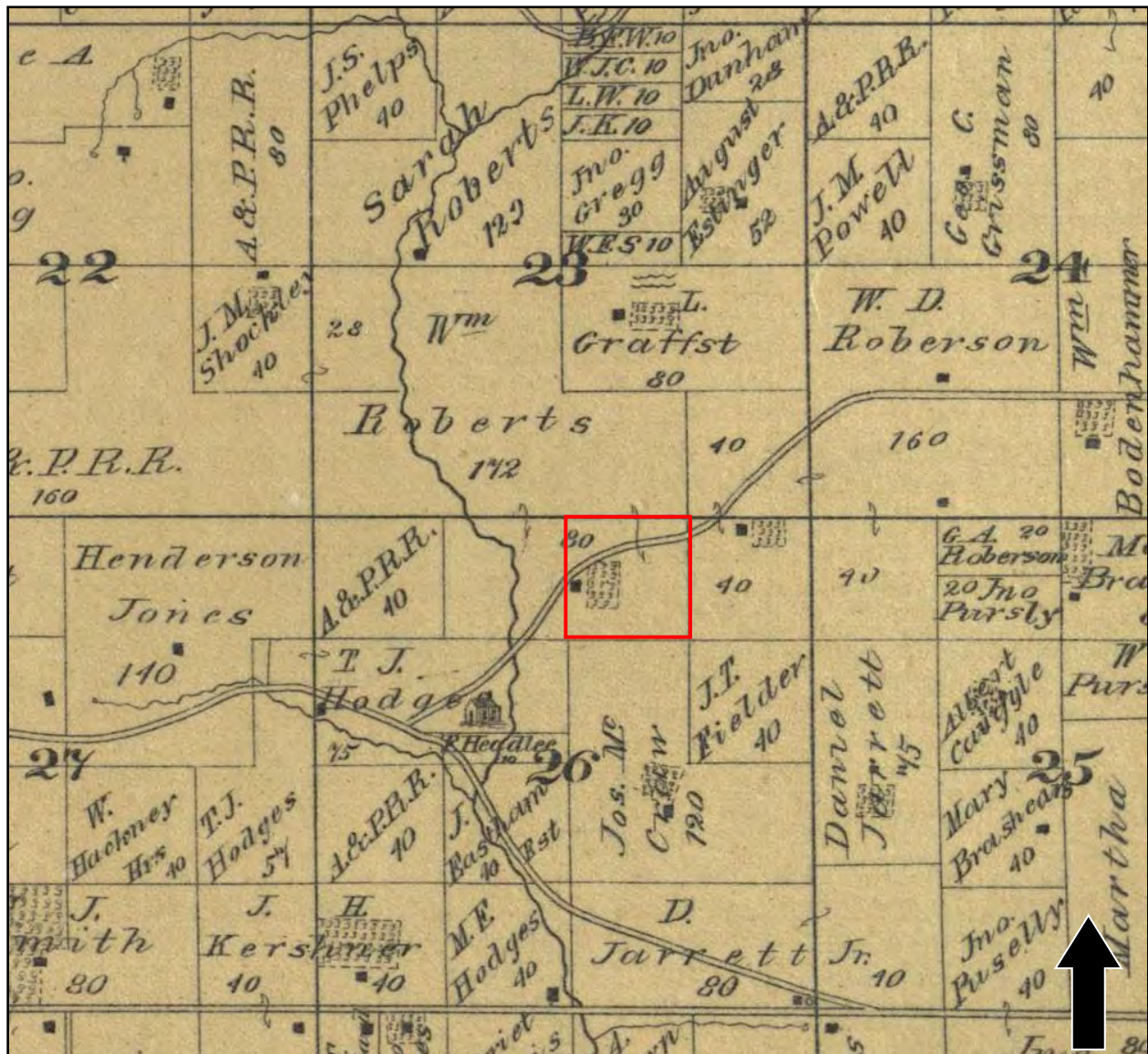
Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 6:** Excerpt of 1876 atlas map showing Sections 23 and 26 of Township 29N, Range 21W. The approximate outline of the nominated farmstead is in red. Farmhouses are denoted with solid squares (*An Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Greene county, MO* (Philadelphia, PA: Brink, McDonough & Co., 1876), 33, <https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/plat/id/1814/> (accessed February 2023)).



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Roberts Farmstead

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N/A

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**Figure 7:** Comparison of selected data from the 1860, 1870, and 1880 agriculture schedules  
Information compiled by Mason Martel, Rosin Preservation, LLC (Agricultural Schedules  
(Washington, D.C.: United States Census Bureau 1860-1880)  
<https://www.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/census/pages/agsup> (accessed June 2024).

	Acres Improved	Acres Unimproved	Cash Value of Farm	Value of all farm production	Value of Livestock	Wheat, bushels	Corn, bushels	Oats, bunches
<b>1860 Schedule</b>								
<b>Williams Farmstead</b>	40	120	\$1,000.00	Not asked	\$800.00	90	400	200
<b>1860 average</b>	79	177	\$2,437.00	Not asked	\$722.00	180	1131	162
<b>1870 Schedule</b>								
<b>Williams Farmstead</b>	60	60	\$2,400.00	\$1,084.00	\$1,000.00	107	600	100
<b>1870 average</b>	43	47	\$2,512.00	\$638.00	\$404.00	67	413	83
<b>1880 Schedule</b>								
<b>Williams Farmstead</b>	93	38	\$2,522.00	\$364.00	\$469.00	297 (26 acres planted)	630 (23 acres planted)	193 (16 acres planted)
<b>1880 average</b>	42	56	\$2,544.00	\$228.00	\$338.00	245 (16 acres planted)	751 (33 acres planted)	151 (15 acres planted)

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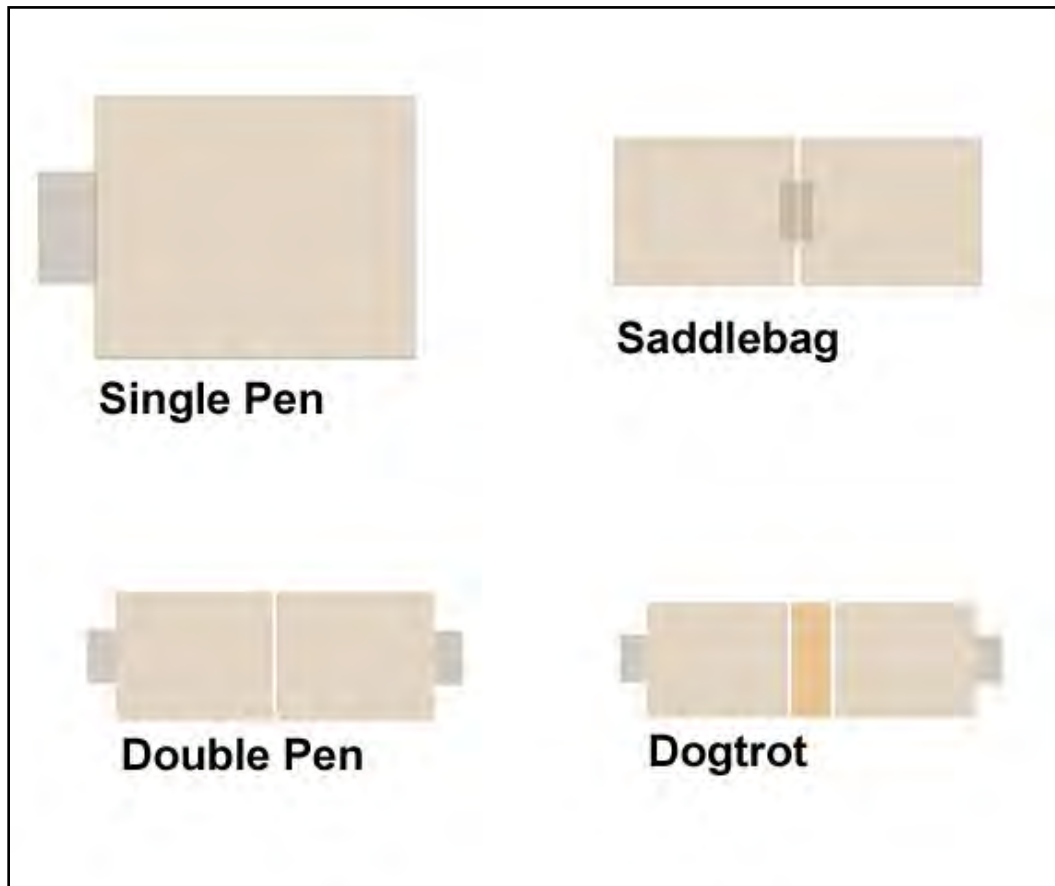
Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 8:** Diagram of common log cabin footprints (“Single Pens, Saddlebags, and Dog Trots,” *Shiloh Museum of Ozark History* (accessed March 2024)).



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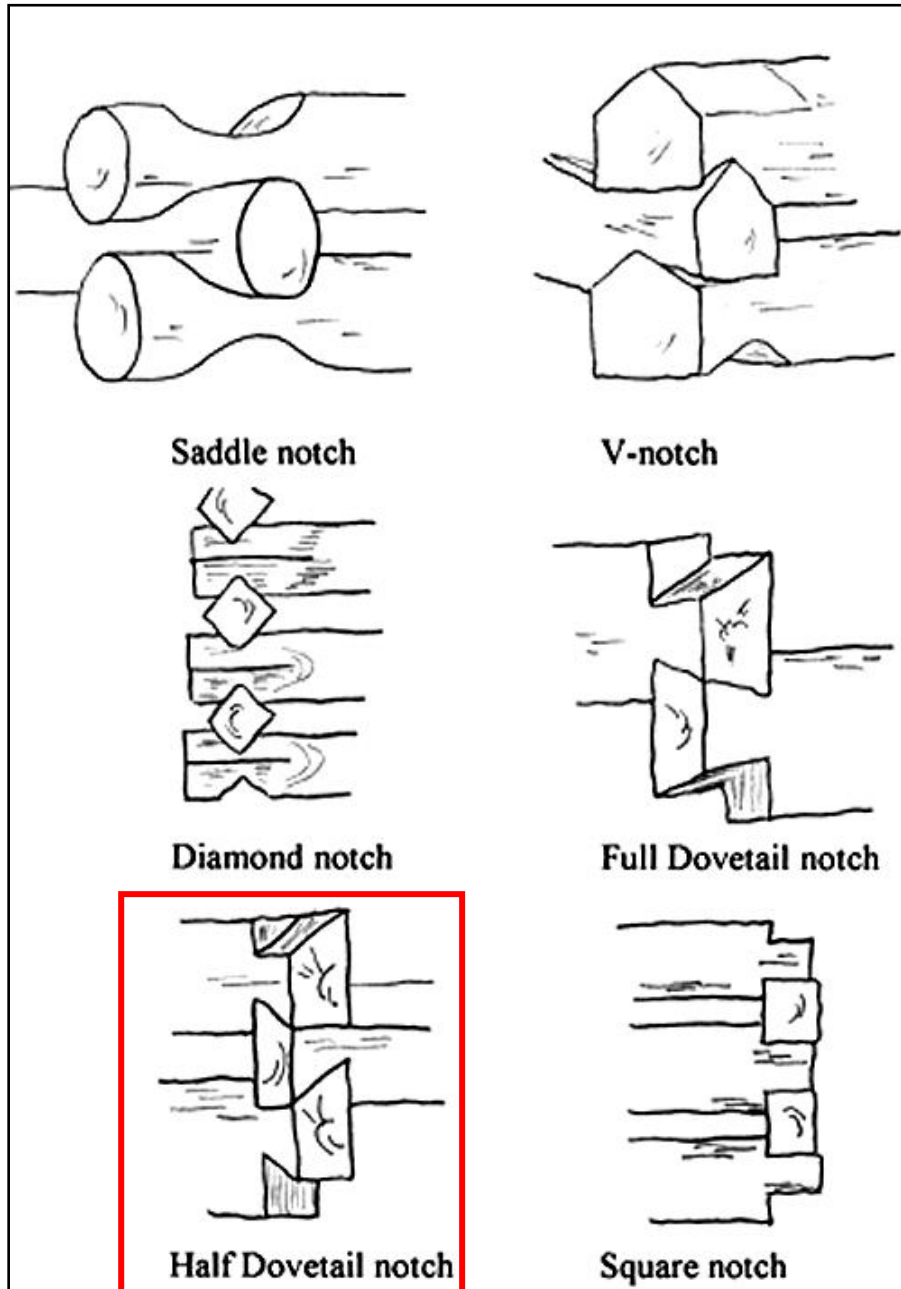
Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 9:** Diagram of common log cabin notches (Diagram appears in W. Dale Carter, “Daniel Boone Cabin at Netherland Inn in Kingsport,” *Sullivan County [Tennessee] Department of Archives and Tourism*, (accessed March 2024).





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Roberts Farmstead

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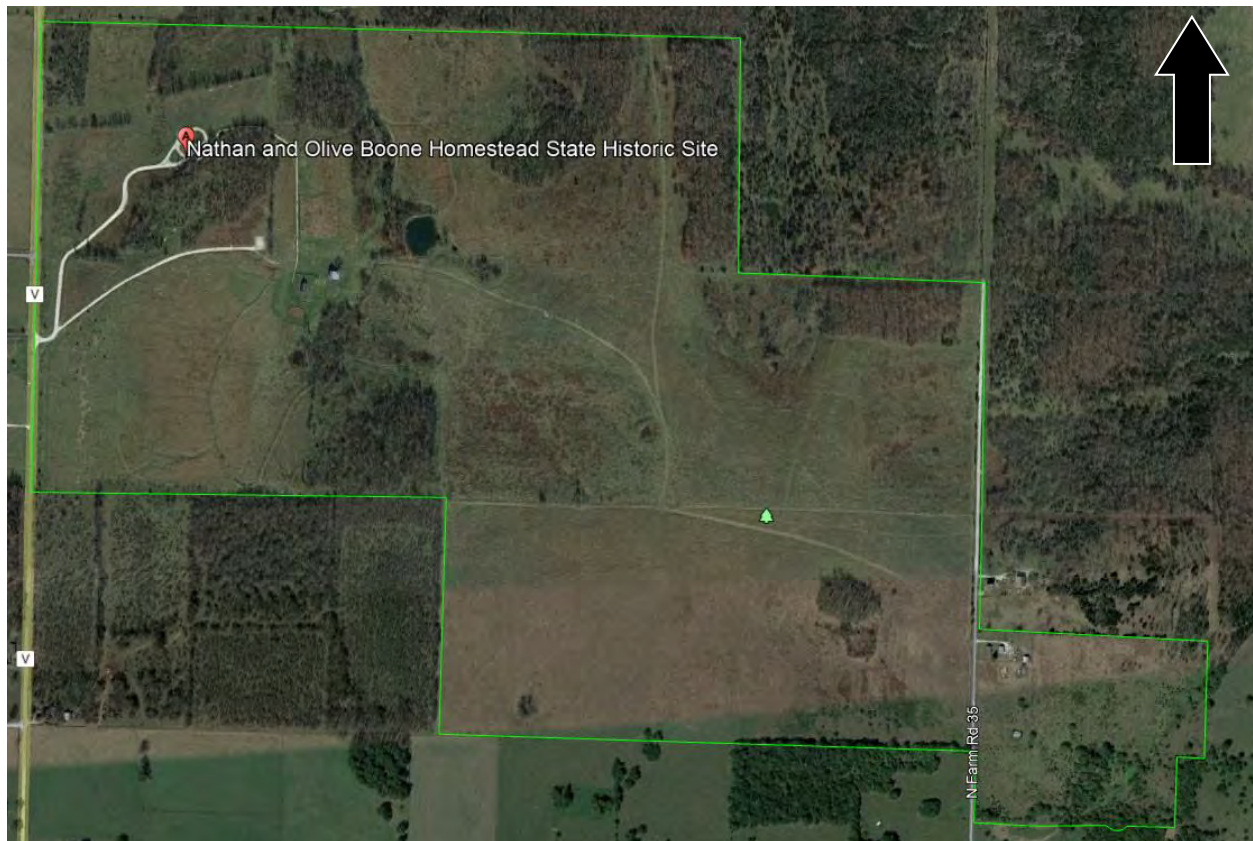
Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 10:** Aerial showing the current extent of the Nathan and Olive Boone Homestead State Historic Site (Google Earth, 2024).





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Roberts Farmstead

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Greene County, Missouri

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N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 11:** Nathan and Olive Boone House. Missouri State Parks, “Nathan and Olive Boone Homestead State Historic Site,” *Missouri State Parks*, <https://mostateparks.com/park/nathan-and-olive-boone-homestead-state-historic-site> (accessed March 2024).



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Roberts Farmstead

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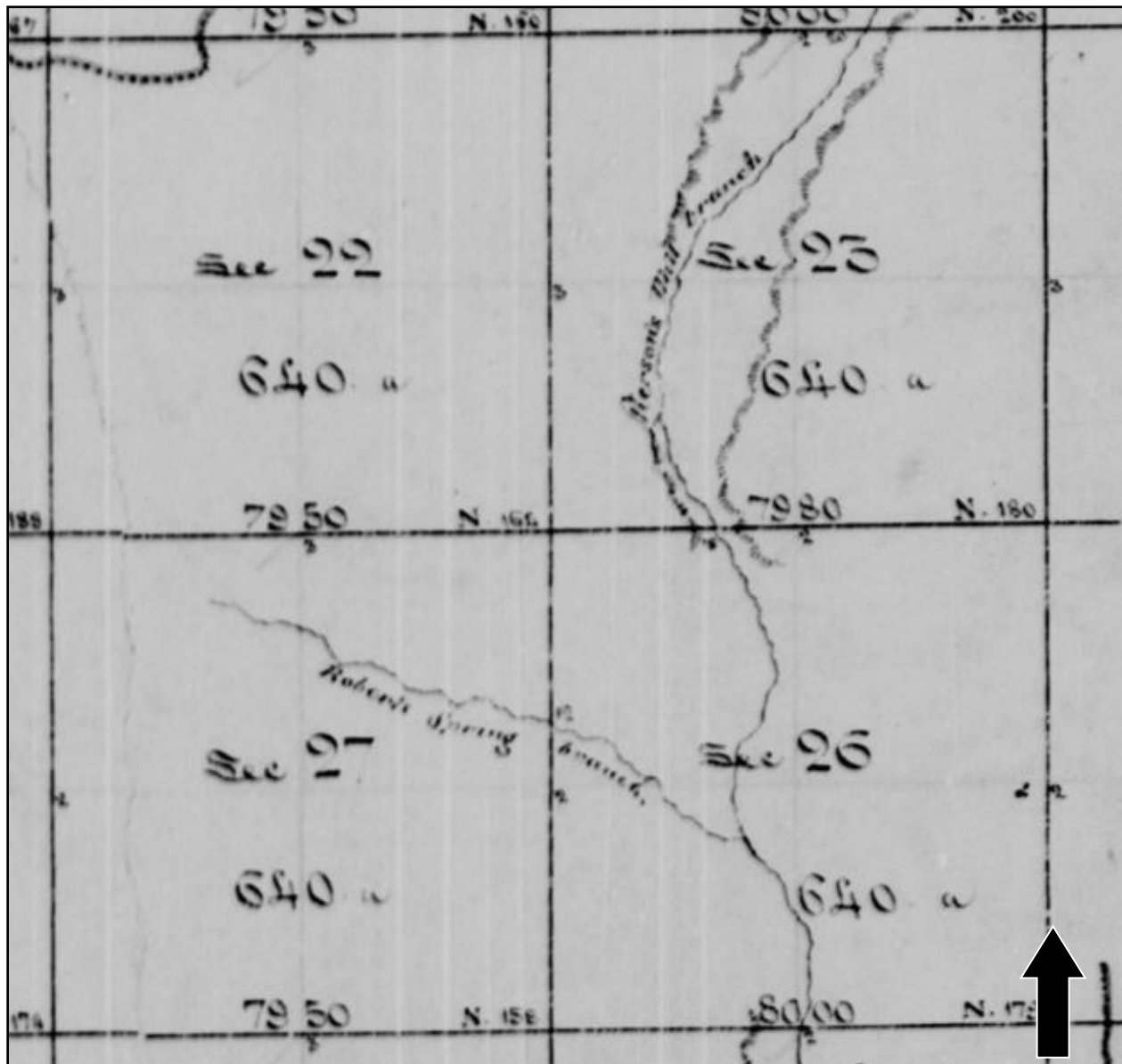
Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 12:** Excerpt of 1835 survey showing Sections 22, 23, 26, and 27 of Township 29N, Range 21W (U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, "Township 29 North of the base line Range 21 West of 5<sup>th</sup> principal Meridian," *General Land Office Records*, [https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/survey/default.aspx?dm\\_id=442229&sid=1tadj2e.1ie#surveyDetailsTabIndex=1](https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/survey/default.aspx?dm_id=442229&sid=1tadj2e.1ie#surveyDetailsTabIndex=1) (accessed February 2024)).



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Roberts Farmstead

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N/A

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**Figure 13:** Excerpt of 1904 plat map showing Sections 23 and 26 of Township 29N, Range 21W. The black dots represent buildings, the Roberts Cemetery is shown near the center of the north boundary (Plat Book of Greene County, Missouri: Compiled from County Records and Actual Surveys (Missouri Publishing Co., 1904), <https://www.loc.gov/item/2007626859/> (accessed February 2024)).



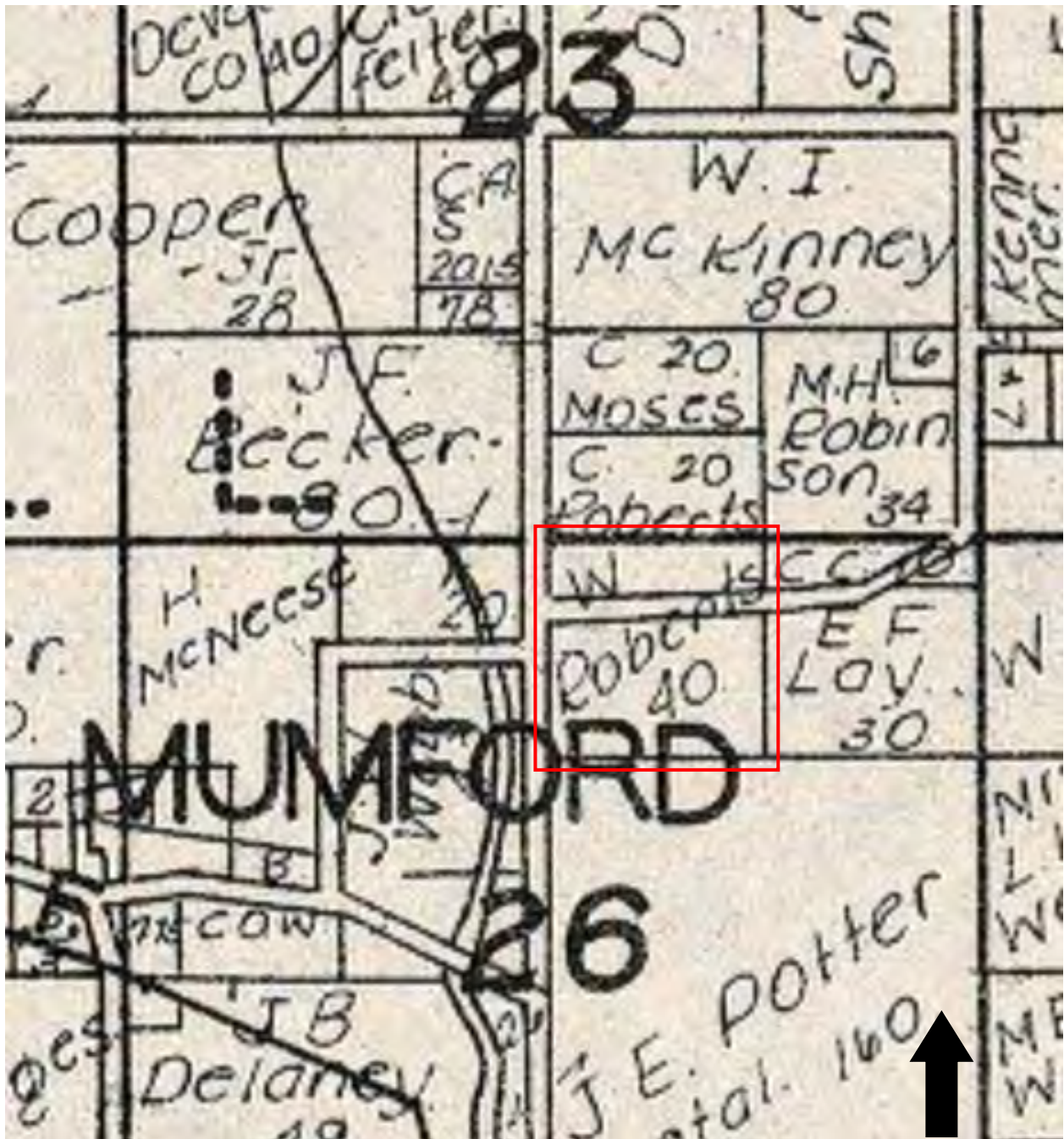


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**Figure 14:** Excerpt of a 1930 plat map showing the Roberts family land (*Plat Book of Greene County, Missouri* (Rockford, IL: W. W. Hixson & Co., 1930), 8).



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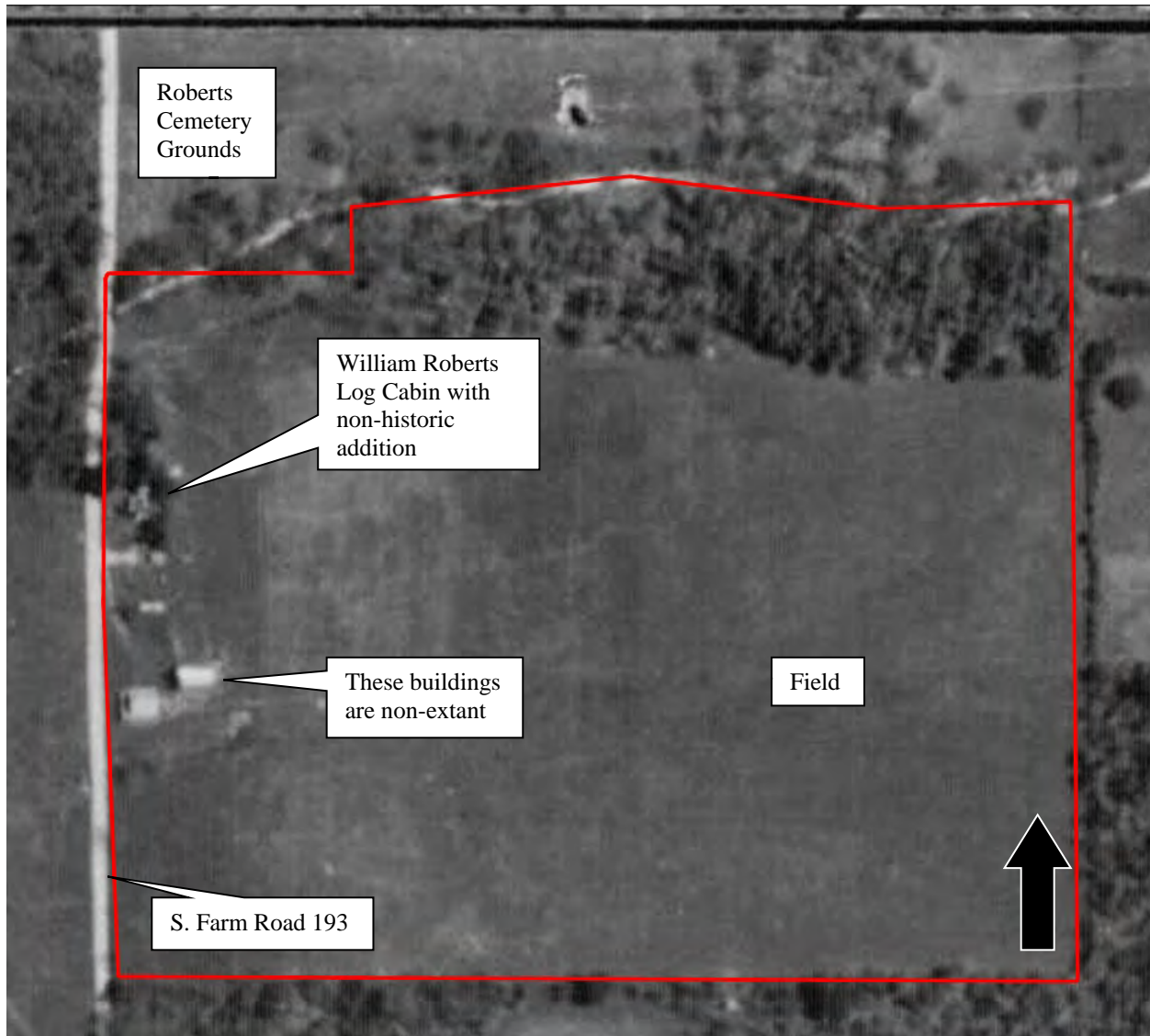
Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 15:** Except of a 1960 aerial showing the William Roberts Log Cabin. Approximate boundaries are outlined in red (Photo BLJ-3AA-45 (1960); Box 70, folders 1-9, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Aerial Photographs of Missouri* (P0335); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia, <https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/aerial/id/1306> (accessed March 2024)).



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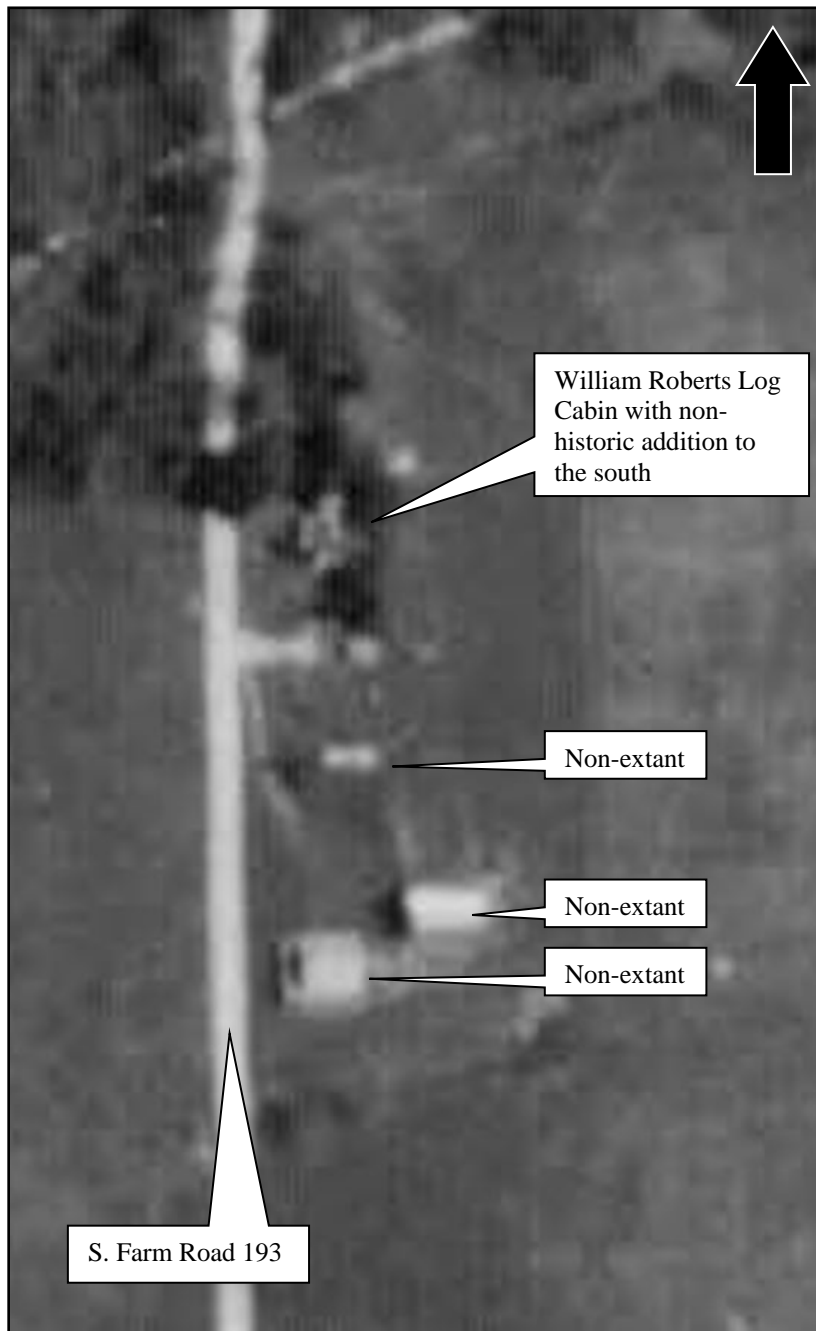
Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 16:** Enlarged detail of the west end of the William Roberts Log Cabin property, showing the primary buildings as they existed in 1960 (BLJ-3AA-45 (1960); Box 70, folders 1-9, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Aerial Photographs of Missouri* (P0335); SHSMO-Columbia, <https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/aerial/id/1306> (accessed March 2024).





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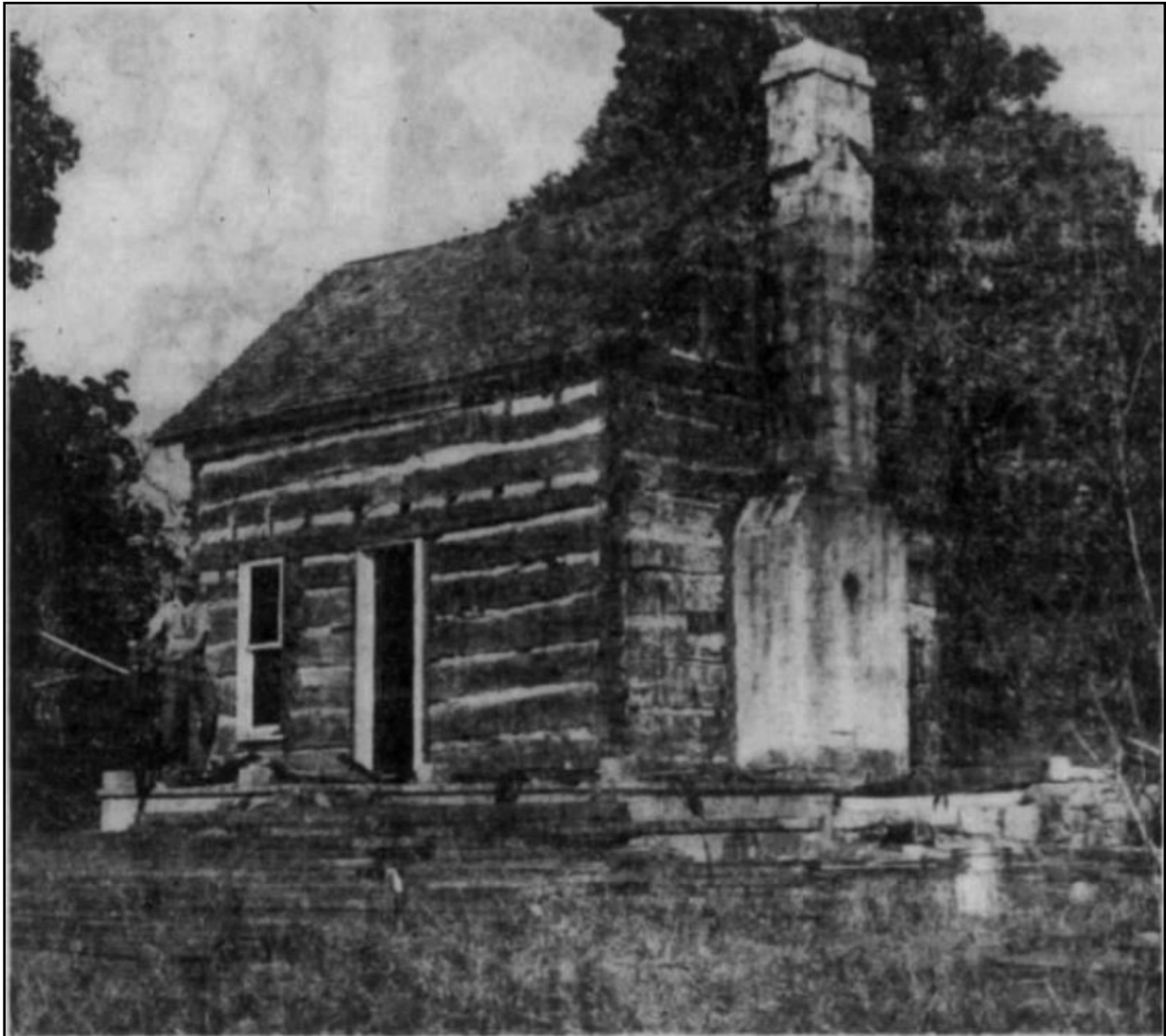
Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 17:** Photograph of the William Roberts Log Cabin shortly after it was uncovered, looking northeast from S. Farm Road 193 (“Century-Old Cabin Exposed,” *The Springfield [Missouri] News-Leader*, October 3, 1973, 7).



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Roberts Farmstead

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N/A

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**Figure 18:** Photograph of the 1847 log house at the Buford-Carty Farmstead (Photograph by Kevin Skibiski, included in Joan L. Gould, "Buford-Carty Farmstead," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, photograph #1).

















































