

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 14 1987

DATE ENTERED JUL 29 1987

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Big Buffalo Valley Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

Boxley Valley Historic District

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Buffalo National River

CITY, TOWN

Arkansas

STATE

— VICINITY OF Ponca  
CODE

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Newton

COUNTY

03

CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service plus Various Private Owners (See attached list)

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 1173

CITY, TOWN

Harrison

Arkansas

STATE

— VICINITY OF Arkansas

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Headquarters, Buffalo National River

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 1173

CITY, TOWN

Harrison

STATE

Arkansas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE List of Classified Structures/Historic Site Survey  
Boxley Valley/Buffalo National River

DATE

Summer/1983

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Southwest Regional Office (National Park Service)

CITY, TOWN

Santa Fe

STATE

New Mexico

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1840-Present</u>

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Buffalo River flows eastward through the heartland of the Ozarks and is one of the region's finest natural rivers. It traverses northwestern Arkansas across Newton, Searcy, and Marion counties before joining the White River near Buffalo City. The three counties adjacent to the Buffalo River are rural and sparsely settled. The first 16 miles of the river lie within the Ozark National Forest, which contains the headwaters of the Buffalo's major tributary streams. The remaining 132 miles of the Buffalo River and over 90,000 acres of adjacent land constitute the Buffalo National River managed by the National Park Service (NPS). The park's major resource is the clean, free-flowing river that provides opportunity for pleasurable boating, swimming, and fishing. Buffalo National River contains significant natural and cultural resources including geologic, vegetation, wildlife, prehistoric, and historic features. The river basin consists mainly of low quality agricultural land. Sparse bottomland and upland ridges confine the cleared acreage. These open fields are used primarily to graze cattle and raise hay. The land does not produce sufficient income to sustain a large population, and there is little industry. In the early 20th century, the forests were cut, but have regrown since that time.

The Boxley Valley contains roughly 8,000 acres in the upper portion of Buffalo National River. It averages about two miles wide from the boundary on one side to the other and is approximately seven miles long. The boundaries follow section lines approximating the valley width. The valley floor is 1,000-3,000 feet wide, averaging about 1,500 feet across. It contains about 1,500 acres of bottomland terrain, and about 1,500 acres of upland lands are in slopes gentle enough for agricultural uses.

The valley provides a rural cultural landscape of agricultural lands, forested bluffs and side slopes, scattered single family dwellings, barns, outbuildings, church, grocery store (nonoperating), community hall, and grist mill (nonoperating). (There are several viewpoints located along Highway 43 where motorists may get characteristic views of the Boxley Valley. See attached Viewpoint Map.)

The characteristics of its evolving agricultural pattern are similar-sized farm plots of open space subdivided by either boards, wire, and stone fences or hedges contiguous to each other. These farm plots form a linear pattern bounded by the river and the road on one side and steep slopes and forested mountain uplands on the other side. Low upland benches and mountain tops with less severe slopes remain open for cattle grazing. Two arteries, one natural and one man-made, form the backbone of the linear development: the Buffalo River and Highway 43.

Most developed land use occurs on the valley floor where building sites form clusters. Each cluster includes several agricultural structures, barn, and residence. Twenty residential structures in the valley remain occupied while 30 more are vacant. In addition, there are about 200 related structures, a church, a former schoolhouse, two community buildings, former stores, and two mills. Some of these are vacant and unused.

Historically, the principal cash crop was livestock, primarily cattle, and today, the largest single land use in the valley remains agricultural--hay and pasture

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<u>SCENIC EASEMENTS</u>		<u>PRIVATE LANDS</u> (No federal interest)	
<u>TRACT NO.</u>	<u>OWNER/ADDRESS</u>	<u>TRACT NO.</u>	<u>OWNER/ADDRESS</u>
61-113,122	Hubert Ferguson Boxley Route Harrison, AR 72601	20-111	W. F. Connell Supt., Fayetteville Dist. United Methodist Church North Ark. Conference P. O. Drawer L Fayetteville, AR 72701
61-119	Bill Duty Ponca, AR 72670	Or possibly:	
62-113	Troy Fowler, Jr. Boxley Route Harrison, AR 72601		Kenneth Villines (Appointed Caretaker) Compton, AR 72624
63-121	Orphea Duty Boxley Route Harrison, AR 72601	63-100	Claude or Clyde Clark Kingston, AR 72742
64-102	Roger T. Eubank Ponca, AR 72670		
	or:		
	Ji Kebon Sirih 52 Jakarta, Indonesia	63-106	Boxley Baptist Church Or: Church of Walnut Grove Mrs. Charles (Mary Lynn) Emmett Boxley Route Harrison, AR 72601
64-109	John Edward Seamon Ponca, AR 72670		

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(grazing) land. Grazing traditionally occurs only on hillside fields. The only lands strictly used for haying are NPS-managed lands under special-use permits. There are five hay land permits for a total of about 150 acres. Traditional grazing practices under scenic easements with the NPS account for the rest of the permits. Other than restrictions imposed by the NPS land acquisition program, there are no controls on land use in Boxley Valley.

The National Park Service conducted a survey and evaluation of the cultural values of the valley's farmlands, buildings, and other features. The survey assigned a building number to each structure based on a system adapted from Robert Melnick's earlier work in Boxley (see bibliography). This system placed each structure in one of five categories of historic/architectural significance (see Appendix 1 for additional information). Structures with NPS legal interest and that are considered to be culturally significant are designated in category 1, 2, or 3. The structure in these categories are entered on the NPS List of Classified Structures. Structures of category 1 or 2 contribute to the values of the historic district and are therefore specifically acknowledged in the National Register of Historic Places form. The five significance categories used in the survey are defined as follows:

1. historic structures of individual outstanding architectural and/or historical value and that make an important contribution to the skeletal pattern of the Boxley Valley Historic District;
2. historic structures at least 50 years old that do not possess individually outstanding or unique characteristics but do contribute to the architectural and/or historic character of the district. These structures retain cultural distinctions and are consistent with the local building traditions in terms of scale, style, material, setting, and form;
3. structures less than 50 years old that may not possess individually outstanding or unique characteristics but do contribute to the continuum of architectural and/or historic character of the district. These structures retain cultural distinctions, are consistent with the local building traditions in terms of scale, style, material, setting, and form and will be managed the same as if category 2. (In time these structures will be 50 years old and should be considered for reclassification to category 1 or 2.)
4. non-historic structures of no architectural significance, possessing modern materials (post World War II) or commonplace suburban characteristics, but serve as the spatial envelopes for living socio-cultural functions. If these structures are not in continuing use, they may fall into the fifth category; and
5. structures that are intrusions; that is, modern structures that do not contribute to the district's historic scene. An intrusion is a structure that detracts from those qualities, tangible and intangible, that make Boxley Valley eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

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The NPS evaluation is based on limited research and brief visual inspection. There are about 50 stock ponds, an historic road system, fences family cemeteries, old stone wells, and minor auxilliary structures in Boxley Valley in addition to the 240 structures examined. These cultural features were not evaluated.

Nearly one in five of the evaluated structures possess architectural/historical integrity and make a significant contribution to the Boxley Valley Historic District; i.e., 42 are listed in category 1. An additional 66% or 160 structures have been identified as possessing cultural values and make a significant contribution to the historic scene. These structures fall into category 2 or 3. This includes 41 structures built after 1935 in category 3. Thirty-nine structures have been placed in category 4. They were built in the past 20-30 years and possess no particular local cultural distinction. In category 5, there are only a few intrusions such as the main road regrading and structural improvements, the scenic pull-off, the new (1983) Ponca Bridge, and the NPS development of picnicking/camping facilities at Lost Valley. Therefore, 83 percent of the structures are identified as contributing and classified historic for management purposes and fewer than one-fifth are nonhistoric.

The oldest structures in the valley date to the 1850s and represent the early Old-Ozarks-Frontier period. The historical periods of Boxley Valley are divided into four overlapping phases (as defined by Dr. Robert Flanders, see Appendix II): Old-Ozarks-Frontier, c. 1830-1930, New-South-Ozarks, c. 1870-1930, Cosmopolitan-Ozarks, c. 1900-present, and New-Ozarks-Frontier, c. 1945-present. The extant built environment conforms fairly well to these periods with standing examples exemplary of each. Architecturally, three distinct stylistic periods are represented and with their sub-phases correlate to the four historical periods:

1. Old-Ozarks-Frontier contains two distinct architectural phases:

1-a) residential and agricultural log construction and some stone construction of the settlement or first generations period, c. 1830s-1870s. All structures of this phase are listed in significance category 1 unless integrity is largely lost; but even then, placed in category 2 as a contributor to the cultural landscape:

1-b) residential and agricultural log tradition of the second generation expressed in frame construction (two front door houses and recycled log-frame barns), post-Civil War to approximately 1930.

Outstanding examples are placed in significance category 1, those which contribute to the landscape are placed in category 2; this period includes community scale and commercial construction expressing the New-South-Ozarks phase of the post-Civil War period (all extant structures of this phase are individually distinguished and make a significant contribution to the physical definition of Boxley Valley as a cultural landscape and are placed in category 1).

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2. Cosmopolitan-Ozarks period of town-like cottage styles, affluent agricultural buildings (big barns) and "cosmopolitan" structures such as motel and stores, c. 1895-c. 1950. If individually outstanding, placed in significance category 1, 2 if contributing, and 3 if their age is less than 50 years--upon 50 years old they should be reclassified in category 2 or 1. In conjunction with the Old-Ozarks-Frontier styles of 1-b above, this is the period most dominately captured in the landscape of Boxley Valley. Architectural period 1 a (settlement) provides a distinctive historical context and architectural period 3 provides the contemporary contrast.
3. New-Ozarks-Frontier period is represented by suburban residential styles and agri-business or industrial agricultural styles, c. 1950-present. Structures of this period are less than 50 years old so that only when they make an outstanding and traditional statement that contributed to the landscape fabric are they designated in significance category 3; otherwise, if in use and contributing through function they are classed in category 4; if of a non-contributing character or not in use they are designated intrusions and fall into category 5.

Included in architectural group 1-a is the log house at the Beaver Jim Villines Farmstead, the earliest log portions of the Casey-Clark, Orphea Duty and Clyde Villines Homestead houses, the log house converted to a barn at the William Villines Homestead, the log house owned by the J. A. Clark estate, and two log cabins recently relocated from just outside the Valley and rebuilt by the Hubert Fergusons. All of these structures are category 1 or 2. Structures such as the cabins on the Ferguson farm, or the old post office building/barn on the Bill Fowler farm may make significant contributions to the integrity of the district although they have been moved because the relocation of structures (as well as their recycling) is traditional to the local culture.

The one-room log house was the basic traditional residential unit and established the building pattern and vernacular style characteristic of many of the valley's historic houses even after the rudimentary frontier settlement period. As families grew and houses evolved in size through additions/remodeling, they did so in a particular traditional pattern. The addition of one room connected by a breeze-way formed the dogtrot pattern. Further, main floor additions subsequently evolved into the central-passage form. This evolutionary pattern is evident in the log structures of the first generation Old-Ozarks-Frontier period as noted above and in many of the frame houses built during the later Old-Ozarks-Frontier period (architectural sub-phase 1-b, post-Civil War to c. 1930).

From about 1879 to 1930 (historically designated the New-South-Ozarks phase of the old-Ozarks-Frontier period), pioneer and subsistence activities continued, but broadened Boxley Valley became an identifiable community. One in five of the extant structures (coops, shops, laying houses, sheds, granaries, wash houses, stone cellars, smoke houses, etc.) is the product of this phase of development. All of these structures are listed in significance category 1 or 2.

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The New-South-Ozarks phase is characterized by increased cash flow, commercial development, establishment of community institutions, and local industries. Also, the availability of milled lumber and manufactured nails mark this period. During this time, Boxley Valley became a regional center.

A second generation of houses and agricultural buildings were constructed. These, mostly, were built of frame and usually imitated the log prototype of two rooms each with front doors covered by a simple gable. Consistently, these houses included a partial or full-length front porch and additional rooms added in fairly quick succession creating ell or 'T' plans. The earlier stone chimneys gave way to heating stoves with metal flues. Stone cellars continued to be popular, and by the turn-of-the-century, many were remodeled from timber/earth roofs to vaulted concrete or gabled frame over-structures. Outstanding examples of this second generation construction include the Luallen house, Paul Villines house, and Casey-Clark cellar. Other representatives are numerous: Old Edgmon house, Zaiser house, Old Troy Fowler house, Lieu Duty-Bill Duty old house, Bell house #1, J. A. Clark house, etc. In agricultural buildings, the simple style of this period continued into the 1930s and is not distinguishable from the construction of the Cosmopolitan-Ozark period in most cases, except by size (see below).

The second architectural expression of the New-South-Ozarks period is related to those extant non-farm structures such as the Old Boxley Watermill (Whiteley's Mill; NR 7/30/74) the Boxley Community Building, and later, the Casey Sawmill, which exhibit examples of town-scale culture, and institutional and commercial identity of community. The Watermill (two and one-half stories) contains much of its original machinery. The Community Building stands proud and imposing (two stories with belfry) at the center of Boxley Valley. Both structures manifest slight characteristics of transitional Greek Revival Styling.

There are several notable examples of the third Ozarks culture phase--the Cosmopolitan-Ozarks Period--which began around the turn-of-the-century and continues today. In the first half of this period--through World War II--state and federal involvement brought road improvements, bridges, and public schools. The one-room Whiteley Schoolhouse (ca. 1913) is still in fair condition considering it disuse. It is frame on stone foundation and includes a belfry. The one-lane bridge at Ponca (ca. 1943) is a simple three-span concrete design now dwarfed by the New Ponca Bridge. The one-and-one-half story, wood-frame, Post-Office building, (ca. 1918) now a farm building moved onto the Bill Fowler property, and the stone and concrete Boxley Bridge Abutment (1924) below the Troy Fowler home are vestiges of this time period.

The first third of the twentieth century saw the appearance of several stores and a roadside motel that further express the cosmopolitan quality influencing the cultural landscape of Boxley Valley. The Casey Store, Edgmon Store, and the Villines Stone Store are good examples. The Clyde Villines residence with its five motel cottages is another distinctive example from this period.

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However, the most distinctive architectural development of the Cosmopolitan-Ozarks period is manifest in larger barns and in house design and stylistic expressions which set Boxley Valley apart from the rude architecture of the region. Boxley became further established as a rural Cosmopolitan regional center and as a style leader. Nearly half the structures in the valley and, in particular, its houses and barns illustrate this fact. Most valley farms boasted new and comparatively larger barns than neighboring areas as in the Old Duty barn of walnut timbers, Howard barn, Clyde Villines homestead barn, and the Casey Clark, Luallen, Edgmon, and Ferguson barns. Farmhouses expanded to one and one-half or two stories, reflecting the full exterior remodeling and styling characteristic of town homes, with predominant front porches and clapboard siding. The Orphea Duty and Casey-Clark houses are outstanding examples, while other examples of town-home style residences from this period include the two-story, central-passage, standing-seam, metal-roofed Edgmon-Fowler House and the one-and-one-half-story Scroggins House.

Most of the fourth and all of the fifth category significance structures date from the late 1940s to the present--the New-Ozarks-Frontier period. During this time, an out-migration of population occurred and non-local building practices became dominate. This most recent architectural tradition incorporated the modern mass-produced material such as plywood, dimensional lumber, composition shingles, galvanized steel, and widespread use of poured in place concrete foundations and precast concrete blocks. During the past two decades, increased cash flow resulted in more "modern" and comparatively, even an ostentatious construction in the valley. The Waymon Villines steel-frame/corrugated-steel clad hay barn measuring 50' x 120' and rising to 25 feet was the premiere example, being the largest building in the valley.

The post-1940s houses in Boxley Valley show few expressions of local historic building practices. They are pleasant, generally non-stylistic functional homes, in scale, not intrusive to the valley character, but could be found throughout the United States and do not contribute to the architectural significance of the valley. The Eul Dean Clark house, Edgmon house, Dennis House house, Sattler house, the newest (3rd) Bell house, and Bill Duty house are examples. The mobile home on the Waymon Villines place is another example of imported residential-building practices.

While this discussion is by no means a complete rendition of the evaluated structures of Boxley Valley, it provides a general picture of the cultural continuum of building practices. Although most of the structures named are either residences, barns, or community-scale structures, it is the clustering of main buildings and outbuildings that play an important role in creating the historic character of the valley. The evaluated structures include; 148 secondary farm structures, 13 privys, and 14 cellars, for example, which contribute to the fabric of the cultural landscape.

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Concerning the physical condition of the Boxley Valley cultural resources, a direct relationship exists between the extent of deterioration and the extent of recent and current use. For example, fields in current use (whether for cultivation or pasture) remain clear open vistas; fences and hedgerows are maintained. Fields abandoned for several years, as is the case of many on the upland benchfields, are overgrown and returning to forest, while fences are falling down. Unoccupied houses, farm buildings, and other vacated structures of the valley are in various stages of deterioration. The Luallen fruit cellar, made of stone, Casey-Clark outbuilding and hay barn, Clyde Villines homestead log house and carriage house, William Villines log house, and the old Keeton house are just a few of the structures that may be lost within the next few years unless action is taken to preserve them. These deteriorated conditions could be rapidly reversed, however, by returning the presently abandoned fields and structures to use, be thereby restoring any individual loss of integrity and reinforcing the significance of the cultural landscape as a whole.

The prehistory of the Big Buffalo River Valley is not well known. Only limited archeological research has been undertaken in the area, but from other archeological studies of the Ozark region, it is known that people first inhabited the area approximately nine thousand years ago during the Archaic period.

The Archaic people depended on hunting and the gathering of nuts and seeds for livelihood. In the Buffalo River region they lived in the caves and rockshelters along the bluffs of the river and its tributaries. Archeologists identify these people as the Ozark Bluff-Dweller.

During the Woodland Period (1000B.C.-A.D. 900) pottery developed and burial mounds began to appear in the regions east of the Ozarks. In the Arkansas Ozarks, the Woodland period was of only minor significance. Burial mounds apparently, never were built, and pottery was used only sparingly--possibly because the Bluff-Dwellers were skillful weavers.

The impact of other cultures on the inhabitants of the Buffalo River region continued to be minimal during the Mississippian Period (A.D. 900 to 1200). During this period, temple mounds, shell-tempered pottery, large villages, and an increased dependence on agriculture characterized aboriginal life in the middle Mississippi Valley and in the eastern United States. In the Ozarks, this period was marked only by a shift from woven baskets to shell-tempered pottery and the substitution of the atlatl for the bow and arrow. Although the Ozark Indians remained cultural isolated, primarily by the Ozark Plateau itself, evidence indicates that cultural influences advanced from the White River into the Buffalo River area in the latter stages of the Mississippian Period.

Tangible remains of these occupations within Buffalo National River and Boxley Valley including campsites, village sites, burial grounds, inhabited caves, small mounds, pictograph sites; twelve archeological sites have been identified in Boxley Valley. During the summer of 1985, survey and testing activities were carried out on site 3NW539 65 National Park Service Archeologist. Preliminary results of that survey and

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testing indicate there is some evidence of an undisturbed occupation at the site, and this is expected to date to within the A.D. 900-1400 period. Sealed subsurface features are present, with excellent preservation of floral, faunal, ceramic, and lithic materials along with excellent potential for solid radiometric assay. The features, their function, and the site's role in the local settlement pattern are also important and answerable questions. The botanical and faunal evidence will also yield important baseline data on the early Boxley Valley environment.

At this point the size and extent of the site outside the features are unknown. Due to the movement of the river westward, a substantial portion of the site may have been destroyed. Conversely the site may be largely intact, residing under a slight floodplain prominence to the west of the current bankline. Only further archeological study can answer this question.

It seems likely, however, that the site was the location of a small "farm family" who also used the woodland resources to augment their corn diet. A settlement with one or a few houses and related structures would be a reasonable assumption. The group might have consisted of a nuclear family and nearby kin.

If this picture seems familiar to the Boxley Valley, it is because such a lifeway has continued up to the present day. In fact one of the most striking conclusions which may result from further study at 3NW539 is that, in the Boxley Valley, life today continues much like it has for almost 1,000 years.

Today, the valley remains an area of small family-operated farms. While it does contain a few recent modifications such as steel and concrete bridges, and a scattering of modern buildings, the face of the valley basically remains unchanged since the beginning of the 20th century. In recent years, two events dramatically impacted the valley. First, the realignment, regrading, and paving of the valley's main road (1962 and 1977) altered the way some buildings were sited in relation to the old, dirt road. Second, the establishment of the Buffalo National River (1972) followed by the acquisition of much of the valley by the National Park Service, and the subsequent relocation of some of its established residents.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1850s to 1938

BUILDER/ARCHITECT N/A

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Boxley Valley provides the most significant cultural landscape found along the Buffalo River. It is a well-preserved example of a rural Ozark Mountain Valley representing a time span of over 150 years. The valley's collection of tangible and intangible cultural features exemplify the traditional regional settlement pattern. The landscape includes a collection of agricultural fields and significant vernacular features. The valley represents a collection of single-family operated farms, whose occupants continually adapted to an everchanging agricultural economy and the forces of nature, especially flooding from the river. Descendents of the original settlers remain today in the valley.

The cultural landscape of Boxley Valley reflects a continuum of adaptive land use, architectural design, and habitation. The original settlers passed from one generation to the next, the processes of landscape control--fence building, seed planting, cattle grazing, river-bank manipulation. This continuity of use along with significant historical, architectural, cultural and scenic resources make the valley important, and perhaps unique, in the Buffalo River Basin.

The characteristics of its evolving agricultural pattern are similar-sized farm plots of open-space, subdivided by either board, wire, and stone fences or hedges. A significant portion of the material culture accumulated over the past century and a half still remains.

Examples of earlier building forms and methods of construction are in tact. More than 200 Boxley Valley structures possess two or more aspects of integrity of location, design, setting, material, workmanship, feeling, and association. The structures further embody the distinctive characteristics of vernacular architectural types associated with various periods of Ozark culture. Together, these characteristics and the evidences of landscape manipulation define the skeletal framework of the valley's material cultural significance.

While the oldest structures in the valley date to the 1850s, most of the extant historic structures were built between 1870-1930. During this time, merchants and residents from Springfield, Missouri began trading into other regional centers. This resulted in the broadening of pioneer and subsistence activities.

Boxley Valley became an identifiable regional community whose architectural elements began to exemplify town styles and town culture. This is evident in the valley's unusually high number of two-story white houses, an exception in the Ozarks architecture. These houses exemplify the characteristic styles of town, further attesting to Boxley Valley as a style leader and regional center. Nowhere is the outside influence more evident than in the valley's most imposing structure, the Walnut Grove church and

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7,900

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	4,6,4	3,9,0	3,9,8,6	8,6,0	B	1,5	4,6,5	2,0,0	3,9,8,6	8,5,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	
C	1,5	4,6,6	4,2,0	3,9,8,6	4,0,0	D	1,5	4,6,7	6,3,0	3,9,8,6	8,3,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the Boxley Valley are defined to 1) include the significant valley floor and mountain side elements of the cultural landscape; 2) enclose a natural as well as culturally defined area; and 3) correspond with designated park boundaries, thereby making management of the district easier. (see continuation sheet)

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael H. Bureman-Cultural Resource Management Specialist/Craig Frazier-Hist. Arch.

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service-Denver Service Center

DATE

March 1985

STREET & NUMBER

755 Parfet Street

TELEPHONE

(303) 236-8863 or 8860

CITY OR TOWN

Denver

STATE

CO

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is  National  State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Chief Historian, National Park Service

DATE

Jan. 7, 1987

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carol D. Skell

DATE

7-29-87

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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school (Boxley Community Building). The tall, two-story building, with its belfrey, speaks of town culture, institutions, and community pride. This is significant because it characterizes the scale of the cultural environment in relation to the enclosing mountains. The Walnut Grove church and school building is a "town" building. The residents of the valley intended it as such when they built it and wished to make such a statement to all who viewed it.

Just as the Walnut Grove church and school is the dominant public building, the Old Marian Edgemon house (now Bill Fowler's) is the dominant private place. This house, with its double verandah and central passageway is the finest in the valley and speaks of modern ideas about success, taste, pretension, and knowledge of style. The accumulation of implements surrounding the house is indicative of the many occupations in the Ozarks.

Any discussion of land use, settlement patterns, and architecture would be remiss in concentrating on the structures themselves. Equally important is the structures' siting and relationship to the landscape, to distant views, to agricultural fields, and to each other. These patterns persist even when a structure has been relocated. Boxley Valley's houses, yards, gardens, and outbuildings represents regional adaptation. A careful analysis of their setting, scale, layout, vegetation, style, and type of structure, along with the decoration within the various ensembles, reveals patterned similarity that is distinctive to the Ozarks region.

However, Boxley Valley is more than just buildings, fields, and appurtenances. The valley and its residents possess many characteristics or traits that constitute an important part of defining this valley's significance. Among these intangible values are the persistence of original pioneer families and the persistence of much of their old lifeways and values over generations as evidenced in their domestic and general socio-economic arrangements.

The valley's early settlers were of the old-line Ozarker mold, who came early and established themselves permanently. This tradition continues as evidenced by the many current residents who are descendents of the original settlers. Historically, these people were fundamentalist in thinking and viewed as determinedly unprogressive by the outside world. As a result of their conservative nature, the valley's residents traditionally do without many things considered important elsewhere. They prefer to live in a place they love and with their families around them. All the necessities of life--food, clothing, and shelter--were readily available in the raw and could be obtained with some effort. Thus each home became a factory transforming raw material into useable products. In later years, especially during periods of the economic depression, the residents established small industries such as sawmills, canneries, small stores, and motels. These industries provided part-time employment and income to supplement their basic agricultural lifestyle.

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Feelings of independence and strong family ties still prevail today. The residents continue to take great pride in being self-sufficient. There exists a strong desire by some former residents, (relocated by the National Park Service during the mid-1970s) and their children of present to return and raise their families in the valley.

Fundamentalist religion, always important in the life of the valley's residents, remains so today. Earlier, when families were more isolated, religious gatherings provided opportunities for fellowship with friends and neighbors. Today, the church in Boxley is still the focal point for community activity and a thriving congregation.

Until the early 20th century, formal education was not highly regarded. The family-farm tradition was a strong institution in Boxley Valley, as well as the Ozarks region. These people believed that very little was taught in the schoolroom of importance in making a living. Children rarely completed more than eight grades. Education beyond this level required children to leave home and parents discouraged them from taking that step.

The beginning of the 20th century, however, brought with it a challenge to the residents's value system towards the merits of a good education. They met the challenge with great fervor, which is still very much in evidence today. Although, the valley no longer has its own school, four of its current residents are actively pursuing public-school-teaching careers. This represents a continuation of a tradition established around the turn of the century. The father of one of the valley's oldest residents authored, and subsequently saw adopted, legislation that remains the corner stone of public education law in Arkansas.

The late 19th and early 20th centuries brought to the valley and its residents many changes. A gradual introduction of cash/commercial elements added to the heretofore subsistence-style economics occurred. New immigrant groups came to the valley. New technologies changed lifestyles in the valley.

The commercial timber industry and mining activities of the late 19th and early 20th centuries tremendously influenced the valley, and its residents over several generations. The valley served as a local labor and trade center. The wages drawn by the residents, who participated in these industries, contributed to a growing affluence as they moved more and more from a subsistence type economy to a cash/commercial one. The affluence is easily recognizable as larger, more modern houses and barns began to appear on the landscape, especially during the first third of the 20th century.

Little change occurred in the valley as a result of the Great Depression or other periods of economic hardship. Rather, the residents continued to take care of one another as they always had done. In the words of one current resident, people "kept-a-going" during those years of economic hardship. During the depression, residences established small industries such as sawmills and canneries to provide part-time employment and income.

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During and following the depression of the 1930s, the Ozarks, including Boxley Valley, became more cosmopolitan. Cosmopolitanism is commonplace in the modern world, but its thrust became entangled in the heretofore conservative Ozark life, created a distinctive regional impact. This is evidenced by an increased involvement of public institutions, especially state and federal governments, in regional life. Among the more noteworthy: creation and development of the Ozarks National Forest; state spending on schools, roads, and bridges; New Deal programs and agencies aid programs; the great controversy over damming the Buffalo and other regional rivers; and, the establishment of the Buffalo National River.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the valley saw an out-migration of many of its residents, especially the younger ones, as they looked to better themselves and their families. The valley's school, post office, and stores closed their doors as the local population declined and rural schools and post offices were consolidated. Despite the establishment of the Buffalo National River, the 1970s and early 1980s, witnessed a reversal of the out-migration as former residents, children of residents, and others demonstrated strong interest in returning to the valley.

The traditional family farm, long a strong institution in Boxley Valley, centers on a strong love of the land by the valley's residences. Even today, a strong belief exists that "natives" are the only ones who can effectively make a living from it. Yet, the land remains a place of refuge and place to come home to for residences.

In the early summer of 1983, the National Park Service contracted with the center for Ozark Studies, Southwest Missouri State University, to conduct a series of oral history interviews with present and former residents of Boxley Valley. From those interviews, two points about the valley are evident: 1) the valley's residents always made a living based on an agricultural economy, supplemented in part by mining and logging endeavors; and 2) the residents always depended upon each other in good and bad times.

When asked what her vision for the future of the valley is, one current resident responded, "the valley should always remain as it has always been, farming and no commercial development." This simple statement describes an appropriate direction for future management of the Boxley Valley. The valley cannot be frozen in a specific and arbitrary time frame. It never has been stagnant, but always dynamic, within the perimeters of its subsistence/commercial agricultural base and lifestyle. The valley and its residents must continue to advance into the 21st century, while still maintaining the worthwhileness of the past. Representative samples of its long and diverse architectural heritage; the siting, scale, layout, style, and decoration within the respective ensembles; the path-work of the field systems that make up its landscape pattern; the pride, determination, persistence, and independence of its people must be maintained.

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This does not mean that growth, new development, and change in Boxley Valley should be blocked. Rather, these future activities should be guided and managed in such a way that they respect and complement the unique historical, cultural, and natural setting that is Boxley Valley. As such, preservation of the valley must go beyond just preserving farmlands and waters, historic structures, and rural scenery. It must include preservation of those intangible values which provide a sense of ourselves--as a nation, a community, and as individuals. This philosophy, as set forth in the recently adopted Boxley Valley Land Use Plan, will guide National Park Service management of the valley for years to come.

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Historically, the life styles and cultures of the Ozark residents within the isolated valleys varied significantly from that of their ridge top neighbors. The mountain sides were an important source of building materials, fuel for cooking, and heating, and provided natural habitat for wild game which was a basic component of diet for valley residents. Isolated, natural or manmade clearings provided additional forage for livestock, the valley's principal cash crop. The southern boundary of the district corresponds to the Buffalo National River Wilderness Boundary, but because it is found at a point where the valley begins to close, it too is justified from a natural and cultural perspective as well.

Similarly, the northern boundary occurs at a point where Highways 74 and 43 end their descent into the valley, merge, and begin running south along the valley floor for approximately seven miles before once again ascending up to, and over the ridge line. It is at this northern point, areas where the new Ponca Bridge crosses the Buffalo River, that long-time valley residents say Big Buffalo Valley begins.

UTM REFERANCES

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
E 15	4 6 8 7 1 0	3 9 8 6 8 2 0	F 15	4 6 8 7 0 0	3 9 8 4 2 2 0
G 15	4 6 7 7 9 0	3 9 8 3 1 9 0	H 15	4 6 5 7 3 0	3 9 7 9 2 0 0
I 15	4 6 4 8 1 0	3 9 7 6 5 3 0	J 15	4 6 1 9 1 0	3 9 7 6 5 4 0
K 15	4 6 1 9 0 0	3 9 7 7 7 4 0	L 15	4 6 2 0 5 0	3 9 7 9 6 8 0
M 15	4 6 2 7 7 0	3 9 8 3 6 8 0	N 15	4 6 3 8 5 0	3 9 8 4 0 5 0

## APPENDIX I

### National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form

#### Boxley Valley Historic District

Buffalo National River  
Newton County, Arkansas

NOTES: The significance categories are defined in the text. Designations are based on limited information and a brief visual inspection. The extent of an individual structure's contribution is in general not effected by its condition. Although, the physical condition of some structures is rated "poor" based on its need for repairs, such designations do not alter the structure's contextual and contributory significance as long as it conveys the qualifying cultural values. The significance classification designated here is a tentative designation of the degree to which a given structure contributes to the integrity of the district. Integrity meaning the extent to which the district is capable of representing and conveying its overall significance. Thus, a structure's contribution to this integrity, i.e., its individual significance, is a function of its own integrity which depends on its retention of various physical characteristics representing various locally consistent cultural values and falling within seven qualifying categories: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. These seven qualities as defined below, when present, function to support the criteria for which the historic district has qualified for the National Register of Historic Places; therefore, when absent, the structure does not support the integrity of the district and may be classified an intrusion.

The following qualifying categories of integrity indicative of the cultural values of Boxley Valley have been determined particularly applicable where noted on the structure inventory chart under the "significance" column. A structure may possess other qualities and these should be added to the chart after additional examination and/or research.

1. Location - When the structure is in the location where its associative events occurred and is in a relationship to other structures or within the district in a position important to understanding how the developed area or district itself evolved or why something happened, the structure is said to possess integrity of location. A structure may make a significant contribution to the integrity of the district although it has been moved because the moving of structures is traditional to the local culture; however, this category of integrity is not applied to those structures that have been relocated as a matter of categorical differentiation.

2. Design - When the structure possesses the composition of elements in its form, plan, or facade characteristic of at least one of the stylistic periods of the district as discussed in the text, the structure is said to possess integrity of design. In some cases a structure embodies alterations and modifications which carry it through several stylistic periods. In these cases, additional qualifying categories often apply, as well; such as 'setting' and or 'association.'
3. Setting - When the structure physically aids in the establishment of the environment which manifests the causal relationships and concepts associated with the dynamic of nature-cultural inter-action, aesthetic preference and/or traditional methods of the group's activities, the structure is said to possess integrity of setting. Setting, too, is often present as an expression of inter-structural or building-to-building spatial relatedness as in the clustering of structures so that the integrity of the setting is an interdependent phenomena based on the existance of both natural features and contiguous structures.
4. Materials - When the structure is composed of the physical elements that are combined in a particular pattern indicative of one or more significant period of the district's construction history, the structure is said to possess integrity of materials. As a point of demarcation, mass produced and imported materials which came into wide usage in the Valley after WW II are designated 'post-traditional' and structures built of these materials do not, as a rule, possess this qualifying category of integrity.
5. Workmanship - When the structure is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular cultural period distinctive to the district's significance the structure is said to possess integrity of workmanship.
6. Feeling - When the structure manifests the quality which evokes the aesthetic or historic sense of a significant period associated with the district then it is said to possess integrity of feeling. Structures in a physically poor or even ruineous condition may possess "feeling" and thus make a significant contribution to the historic scene although their individual functional integrity needs attention.
7. Association - When the structure is a direct link between the district's set of events or persons and is sufficiently intact to convey the relationships for which Boxley Valley is significant, the structure is said to possess integrity of association.

The notes on the chart under "description" refer to the stylistic periods discussed in the text. In summary, these periods are:

## APPENDIX II

HISTORICAL PERIODS OF BOXLEY VALLEY AS DEFINED BY  
Dr. Robert Flanders, Director, Center for Ozark Studies  
Southwest Missions, State University  
Springfield, Missouri

Upper Big Buffalo has been the site of characteristic multiple histories of the Ozarks region, to wit the Old-Ozarks-Frontier, c. 1830-1930; the New-South-Ozarks, c. 1870-1930; the Cosmopolitan-Ozarks, c. 1900-present; and the Neo-Provincial or New Ozarks-Frontier, c. 1945-present. Surviving evidences of all these event sets are present in the cultural landscape.

The Old-Ozarks-Frontier was the history of settlements generally thought of as "pioneer." It was a cultural-environmental interaction over time resulting in a distinctive history, in the Ozarks attenuated in a peculiar and noteworthy way to create a "semi-perpetuated" frontier, which gave and continues to give the Ozarks much of its regional distinction. Tangible evidences are the persistence of early families in the locale, the persistence of much of their old lifeways and values over generations as evidenced in their domestic and general socio-economic arrangements, and the survival of some early buildings, rare in themselves and especially so in recognizable assemblages. The Villines and Edgemans, among others, are examples of such families. The Villines family exemplifies a heretofore unrecognized phenomenon in the Ozarks, namely the westward migration of 18th century French Huegenot immigrants to North Carolina. (The Barteas and the Bilyeus are Missouri examples of the same.)

The New-South-Ozarks, a modernizing history, began with the Civil War, the first modern event, so to speak, to have region-wide influence. Despite its horrors, it paved the way for those events of New South history which made the Ozarks, as other southern regions, feel the influence of and participate in the broad currents of modernity which characterized national life in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Gradual introduction of cash/commercial elements added to subsistence economics; new kinds of people, such as William Boxley, the Springfield merchant; new social organizations such as school, lodge, and religious denominations, together with the idea of modern institutions; evidences of new technology such as the tub-turbine drive to replace the traditional wooden mill wheel; all these are readily apparent evidences of the New-South-Ozarks history. The commercial timber industry was doubtless the largest-scale commercial-industrial enterprise to impact the valley as a part of that history. Participation in that industry over successive generations by numerous valley residents is another of many similarities that they share with Ozarks people in many parts of the region. The valley was apparently a local center for labor and an entrepot for export. The availability of sawed dimension lumber, along with the relative cheapness and availability of manufactures nails revolutionized the building process, and gradually changed the form and style of buildings as well.

9/24/90

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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Big Buffalo Valley Historic District      Newton County, ARKANSAS

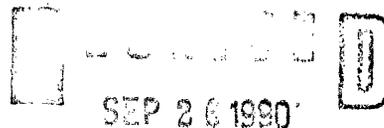
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL

Keeper

*John J. Knowlton 10/7/90*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property Amendment to  
historic name Big Buffalo Valley Historic District, entered July 27, 1987  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location  
street & number Buffalo National River (BUFF)  not for publication  
city, town Ponca  vicinity  
state Arkansas code AR county Newton code 101 zip code 72760

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>47</u>	_____ sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		_____	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 202

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

[Signature] \_\_\_\_\_ Date 9/13/90  
Signature of certifying official  
Chief, National Park Service  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

[Signature] \_\_\_\_\_ Date 8-6-90  
Signature of commenting or other official  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:)

[Signature] \_\_\_\_\_ 11/7/90  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

---

Industry - processing site  

---

Domestic - single dwelling  

---

Agriculture - processing  

---

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

---

Domestic - single dwelling  

---

Agriculture - field  

---

Landscape - park  

---

---

**7. Description**

---

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

---

N/A  

---

---

---

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

---

foundation N/A  

---

walls N/A  

---

---

roof N/A  

---

other N/A  

---

---

---

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

---

See continuation sheets

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1

## Description (Section 7)

Summary

This amendment identifies the extent of the archeological resources discussed in the text for the original nomination for the Big Buffalo Valley Historic District [Boxley Valley] and adds the archeological component to the district. Prehistoric peoples from the middle Archaic (although excavations indicate the possibility of Paleo man) to the Mississippian periods utilized Boxley Valley. The Osage and Cherokee may have used the valley in historic periods; Anglo settlement began in the late 1820s. The valley has been used for Anglo rural agriculture to the present period. Archeological sites in the valley represent periods from at least 6,000 B.C. to the early twentieth century. Although an overall systematic survey has not been conducted for the valley, the surveys and excavations to date have provided significant prehistoric data and indicate the potential for historic archeological data areas. A number of sites have been multi-component, including both prehistoric and historic elements.

Prehistoric archeological sites have been found on stream terraces, open fields, talus slopes, and bluff shelters. Forty-two prehistoric sites, fifteen datable to the Archaic, Woodland, and/or Mississippian periods, have been recorded in the valley to date [1989]. The valley's historic settlement patterns appear to parallel prehistoric settlement patterns. The 45 farm or community units present in the valley today undoubtedly offer potential for historic archeological sites; sites with nineteenth to twentieth century components were identified during archeological surveys. Present land use in Boxley Valley includes a combination of federally-owned and private land, and an on-going sell-back or lease of federal land to the private sector subject to easements and restrictions to protect the cultural and natural resources.

Boundaries

The valley's physical isolation and settlement history justify similar boundaries for prehistoric and historic elements, for the reasons given in the original nomination. Excavations to date indicate that additional sites could exist almost anywhere within the valley area. Therefore, it is proposed that the archeological district include the same area encompassed by the Big Buffalo Valley Historic District, as entered July 29, 1987.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2District Description

Boxley Valley is part of the Ozark Plateau, consisting of elevated and dissected beds of limestone, sandstone, and dolomite. Chert is abundant within the limestone and would have been a readily accessible resource for prehistoric peoples. Erosion and the solution affect of water on the bedrock limestone and sandstone created bluff overhangs and caves which provided natural shelter along the Buffalo and its tributaries.

The State Plan for the Conservation for Archeological Resources in Arkansas (1982) covers the Boxley Valley part of the state in the "Arkansas Ozarks" study unit and is further described by the unit's physiographic regions as "upland forests." Plant and animal life in the valley is abundant. Oak, hickory, and red cedar glades predominate on the uplands. Beech and sycamore are found along the valley tributaries. Grasses predominate in the cleared fields. Cleared areas have been enlarged in this century to accommodate increased haying and pasture grazing. The environment of prehistoric times is a question still being actively researched, the answers for which lie in data recovery from sites such as those at Boxley.

Today, the valley contains a 1,500-foot wide river corridor of floodplain and deposition terraces which serve as the agricultural base and developed community area of the valley. On the valley's forested slopes is evidence of timber harvesting and prospecting/mining for lead and zinc. Midway up the eastern slope, where the soil on the "benches" sustained limited agriculture, settlers established subsistence farms. Land patterns in the valley are little changed since the initial historic settlement period. The valley topography limits habitation sites yet today, as it probably did in prehistoric times, and may indeed have contributed to cultural adaptation, even within the valley itself.

Impacts

Modern intrusions in the valley have been few. Past flooding by the river has deposited layers of alluvium, providing the potential for intact buried deposits below the current average 12" plowzone. Erosion by the river and its tributaries has impacted some cultural sites, but has also had the effect of presenting an opportunity for study of adaptation in the face of a dynamic fluvial environment. Historic structures in the valley were built using above-grade rock foundations, so that manmade excavations have been limited to farm ponds, the occasional prospect or quarry, and the recent installation of such modern contrivances as satellite dish antennae. The plowzone has been traditionally collected for the "arrowheads" turned up in seasonal plowing. Bluff shelters have been scraped by amateurs and pot hunters, but undisturbed shelters still exist in more isolated terrain of the valley. Shelters

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disturbed on the surface have potential for deeper deposits of untouched cultural materials. With the abandonment of some farms, many cleared areas have grown into a tangle of briars, poison ivy, and woody shrubs, hindering archeological surveys of the area.

Land ownership in the valley is a combination of private (with restrictive easements) and public (with special conditions of use and occupancy, agricultural use permits, or leasing). The Boxley Land Use Plan, approved April, 1985, provides for the return of federally-held land to private use. However, all deeds, and all options for leasing, are handled on a case by case basis to ensure protective covenants that will provide optimum protection for both the cultural and natural resources of each property. All conveyances will be made subject to the following restrictions: "The United States does not sell, transfer or convey any prehistoric, native American or archeological object, data or specimen situated above or below the ground. The United States retains the right to conduct research on any archeological site, and to study, survey, test, excavate or remove any prehistoric, native American or archeological object, data or specimen. Approval of the Superintendent will be obtained in writing prior to any ground disturbing activities such as landscaping, utility trenching, or any tilling outside traditional garden sites. Approval for these activities will include National Park Service archeological clearances and may require as much as six (6) months."

The park monitors land use in the valley and will continue to mitigate potential impacts. There has been an increased public awareness of the uniqueness of the Boxley Valley resources and an increased interest by valley inhabitants to work together to protect the resources.

Previous Research

The first professional survey of the Buffalo River area was made in 1920-22 by W.R. Harrington of the Museum of American Indian in New York. Harrington's research did not carry him as far as the Boxley Valley. He did, however, develop the theory of the Ozark bluff dweller culture, a term which crept into popular usage but has since been replaced by an expanded professional concept of early man's utilization of the Ozarks environment. Until the 1970s, individual sites were recorded in Boxley Valley by interested amateurs. The only professional survey during that period was made in 1931 by W.S. Dellinger of the University of Arkansas. Dellinger's crew excavated Cob Cave [3NW6], a remarkably deep bluff shelter in a tributary hollow to Boxley Valley. No published report was made of Dellinger's work, although a rich collection of artifacts from that excavation are curated with the University of Arkansas, and his field reports have been used in later studies of bluff shelters in the Ozarks. Tiny corn cobs, like those collected by the hundreds from the floor of

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Cob Cave in 1931, were found in the river bank firepit excavated in Boxley Valley site 3NW539 in 1985.

On March 1, 1972, Buffalo National River was established. In 1974 Daniel Wolfman of the Arkansas Archeological Survey was contracted to do a parkwide survey of prehistoric sites within the boundaries of Buffalo National River. Wolfman found that two types of sites predominated: (1) open sites on the terraces, and (2) shelters in bluffs along the Buffalo River and its tributaries. (Wolfman, 1979) As park lands were acquired and plans made for upgrading visitor facilities inherited from the state park system, additional surveys were conducted by Bruce Panowski and Jim Bradford of the Southwest Cultural Resources Center, National Park Service. As the National Park Service began to consider management strategies for Boxley Valley, a land use plan was developed for the valley (1985) which included inventorying all known standing structures. Site-specific archeological surveys were begun on lands proposed for sellback to private use. In 1984, the National Park Service contracted for the first archeological site survey in Boxley Valley. Ensuing projects included those by Limp (1985); Lafferty and Spears (1985); Coleman (1986); Earth Search, Inc. (1988); Klinger (1988); and SPEARS Inc. (1988). The overwhelming conclusion from the sites surveyed or excavated during this period was that a high percentage were eligible for the National Register on an individual basis and collectively as a pattern of early man's settlement in the valley of "Big Buffalo River."

Prehistoric Sites

To date, forty-two prehistoric sites have been identified within the boundaries of Big Buffalo (Boxley Valley) Historic District and added to the state inventory of archeological sites. These have included floodplain or open terrace sites; tool workshops on benches and slopes; bluff shelters or caves; and hunting/campsites by springs. Several sites have the potential for deeply buried intact deposits. Four bluff shelters appear to be untouched and six have the potential for preserved floral or faunal remains. Almost three-quarters of the recorded sites have been professionally surveyed or excavated for either first or second level testing for a determination of eligibility for the National Register. Each survey has added additional sites to the state inventory, indicating that the potential for continuing to add sites is extremely high.

Diagnostic artifacts and features recorded to date indicate that prehistoric inhabitants were present in the valley from the Middle Archaic to Mississippian periods, with the possibility that Paleo-Indian deposits are present at one known site [3NW663]. No artifact evidence has been found of historic period Indian groups known to have used the Ozarks area, although some present valley inhabitants can trace ancestry from Indian groups such as the Cherokee. A

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number of the sites have been identified as being multicomponent, some encompassing a range from Archaic to early twentieth century. Of tested sites, the majority have been from the Archaic, the period for which the greatest number of sites are known in the Ozarks. However, six sites have Woodland components (Woodland sites are relatively scarce), and other sites have been identified as Mississippian (a period for which there are currently competing theories of cultural influence and migration patterns), including two excavated sites which have received state certification of individual eligibility to the National Register. Data recovery to date has included lithic reduction flakes, scrapers, projectile points, axeheads, drills, spokeshaves, bifaces, prefaces, metates, manos, corn cobs, carbonized nut and plant remains, animal bone, potsherds, and human skeletal remains. Intact undisturbed features such as pits and earth ovens have also been excavated.

Standing Structures/Historic Archeological Sites

There are no standing structures in the valley earlier than the historic period. Standing structures were inventoried in the original nomination. Those identified farm and community activity areas [45 areas for a total of 240 standing structures] offer the potential for historic archeological sites.

The limited building space in the valley suggests that the building sites of today reflect sites historically. Modern structures have been built on or near older building sites. The standing circa 1870 Boxley grist mill has documented evidence of activity to the 1840s. A number of sites are multicomponent, representing both prehistoric and historic periods. These sites vary from residential and agricultural areas, to bluff shelters. For example, site 3NW431, a bluff shelter and cave, besides its prehistoric components contains evidence of a significant Confederate Civil War saltpeter operation.

Just as there has been no systematic plan for prehistoric sites within the Buffalo River watershed, neither has a plan been developed for historic sites. Five Boxley farm activity areas have been professionally surveyed to date and given Arkansas archeological site inventory numbers. Six recorded prehistoric sites were identified as having a historic component. Until recently, Boxley Valley archeology--as most area archeology--centered on the prehistoric components of a site. The potential for combined prehistoric/historic sites is high.

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## RECORDED SITE INVENTORY

The following inventory summarizes the recorded sites by type and artifacts. All sites are collectively contributing to the district.

Note: Site numbers preceded by an asterisk \* indicate sites which have been professionally surveyed, and tested or excavated. Building numbers in the site description refer to the original nomination inventory.

<u>Site #</u>	<u>Site Description</u>
* 3NW6	Cob Cave. Bluff Shelter. Artifacts: shell tempered potsherds, corn cobs, rope/string, drill, split cane and bark, cradle, faunal material. Artifacts recovered have been significant for research comparisons for the area. Mississippian.
3NW27	Bluff shelter (low). Artifacts: arrowpoints, scraper. Prehistoric.
* 3NW116	Open - second terrace site overlooking Beech Creek. Artifacts: axehead, worked flint, 3 metates with large basins. Late prehistoric, possibly multicomponent.
* 3NW118	Open tributary site with five locales. Artifacts: corner notched points, tear drop shaped point, 1 Bulverde base, 1 Sequoyah arrow point, broken triangular blade, probable Gary Point, possible Williams point, pitted mano, metates. 7% of artifacts are tools. Flakes suggest complete lithic reduction sequence. Ironstone, amethyst paneled flask bottle neck. Multicomponent: Late Archaic/Early Woodland/Mississippian/Historic
3NW182	Open - field. Artifacts: projectile points, lithic debris, grinding basin and stone, preform, retouched biface, scraper. Prehistoric.
3NW309	Open - second terrace. Artifacts: drill, dart point. Prehistoric.

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- 3NW310 Open. Artifacts: flakes. Prehistoric.
- 3NW311 Open - hay field. Artifacts: flakes. Prehistoric.
- \* 3NW312 Open - second terrace. Artifacts: 1,593 artifacts; high percentage of diagnostic projective points, 8 dart points, biface heat treated, spokeshaves, nutting stone, hematite nodule. Late Archaic (possibly multicomponent).
- 3NW313 Open - second terrace. Artifacts: flakes. Prehistoric.
- 3NW314 Open site - terrace. Artifacts: arrowpoint, flakes. Prehistoric.
- 3NW352 Open - low second terrace site. Artifacts: lithic scatter. Prehistoric.
- 3NW431 Cave Mt. Cave/Bat Cave/Civil War Cave. Bluff shelter, cave. Artifacts: flakes, pottery, iron rims, bars. Prehistoric/Historic.
- 3NW460 Open - garden site. Artifacts: 75 arrowpoints, broken projectile points, scraper and hand tools (30). Prehistoric.
- 3NW500 Open. Light lithic scatter. Prehistoric.
- \* 3NW534 Open. Artifacts: interior and utilized flakes, Etley and Bulverde projectile points, cores, bifaces, hammerstones, scraper. Middle/Late Archaic.
- \* 3NW539 Open site - terrace. Undisturbed occupation from A. D. 900-1400. Artifacts: carbonized corn cobs, fabric, wood; turtle, deer, bird, small mammal remains; shell-tempered ceramics; 2 Sequoyah-like arrow points; sandstone metates; nonlocal chert; hematite. Three features (2 sealed subsurface): Feature 1 is fire-reddened profile in cutbank earth oven. Mississippian.

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- \* 3NW611 Open site - terrace. Artifacts: flakes, core, dart point, lithic scatter, biface fragments, clear and amber glass, square nail, wire nails. Abandoned log outbuilding (07d). Middle-late Archaic/late 19th-early 20th Anglo-American.
- \* 3NW612 Bluff shelter; 2 chambers. Artifacts: core, flakes, shell-tempered ceramic sherds, knife, scraper, mano, mammal bones, turkey bone and human skeletal materials (2 cranium fragments and possible infant tibia.) Features: Midden. Mississippian.
- \* 3NW613 Undisturbed bluff shelter; 2 chambers. Artifacts: flakes, blade, Marshall point base, grog-tempered sherd with grit and bone inclusions, shell-tempered sherd, charcoal, bone. Mississippian/possibly Woodland.
- \* 3NW614 Open - colluvial bench. Artifacts: 3 utilized flakes, debitage, including primary flakes. Prehistoric.
- \* 3NW638 Open - pasture. 142 lithic artifacts - finished bifaces, debitage, spokeshave (no primary flakes). Prehistoric.
- \* 3NW639 Open - terrace. Artifacts: lithics, finished biface, (no primary flakes). Prehistoric.
- \* 3NW640 Open - terrace/colluvial slope. Artifacts: none collected. Occupied standing structures [#04]; burial plot. Late 19th to early 20th Anglo-American.
- \* 3NW641 Open - terrace. Artifacts: 1,625 chipped lithic artifacts including triangular biface; corner-notched dart point; diagnostic projectile points; possible hoe fragment. Prehistoric, possibly Woodland.
- \* 3NW642 Open - terrace. Artifacts: probable Gary preform; debitage, including bifacial tools; bone, charcoal; clear glass sherd. Probable Late Archaic, Early Woodland.
- \* 3NW643 Open - colluvial slope. Artifacts: square nails, whiteware, ironstone, clear glass. Unoccupied standing structures [#13]. Late 19th-early 20th, possibly mid-19th Anglo-American.

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- \* 3NW644 Open - colluvial slope. Lithic scatter, including scraper, 2 utilized flakes, blank flakes, secondary flakes. Prehistoric.
- \* 3NW645 Open - second terrace. Artifacts: debitage, including 7 cores and 3 primary flakes, lithic scatter, nutting stone reflecting processing of plant food material, biface types suggest full lithic reduction sequence, contracting stem dart point. Late Archaic/Early Woodland.
- \* 3NW646 Open - colluvial slope. 1,169 artifacts recovered. 95% was debitage, including 4 cores (no primary flakes) 1 metate, bifaces. Late Archaic/Early Woodland.
- \* 3NW647 Open - stream gravel bar deposition. Artifacts: Langtry point; possible Gary point; stemmed dart point; 1 corner notched dart point (fragmented); blank and utilized flakes, biface, 60 chipped lithic artifacts suggest lithic reduction took place. Late Archaic/Early Woodland.
- \* 3NW648 Open - talus slope; and bluff overhang. Artifacts: 7 blanks, 1 secondary flake, 1 blocky debris, 1 possible Searcy projectile point fragment, square nail. Prehistoric (possibly Archaic)/Historic.
- \* 3NW649 Bluff shelter. Artifacts: molluscan shells, humerus of small, unidentified mammal. Blanks, primary and secondary flakes, utilized flakes, scraper, utilized core. Prehistoric.
- \* 3NW650 Open - colluvial bench. Artifacts: 1 utilized flake, 46 lithic artifacts. Co-occurrence of biface specimen with secondary and blank flakes suggest that some manufacture of bifacial tool may have occurred. Prehistoric.
- \* 3NW651 Open - colluvial bench/terrace. Artifacts: light lithic scatter, 221 artifacts, probable lithic reduction occurring, spherical possibly utilized piece of sandstone, 2 dart points, 2 projectile points with impact fractures, whiteware sherd, clear glass sherd, aqual glass sherd. Middle/Late Archaic to Woodland.

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- \* 3NW652 Open - colluvial slope. Artifacts: clear glass, wire nails, brownware. Unoccupied standing structures [#40]. Late 19th-early 20th Anglo-American.
- \* 3NW653 Open - terrace. Artifacts: lithic scatter, 9 blank flakes. Prehistoric.
- \* 3NW654 Open - bench. Artifacts: ironstone, bottles, tableware. 3 unoccupied standing structures [no #]. Late 19th to early 20th Anglo-American.
- \* 3NW655 Bluff shelter. Artifacts: metate, fire blackened rock, unworked pieces of St. Joe chert, deer molar. Dry-laid stone retaining wall. Prehistoric; historic.
- \* 3NW656 Bluff shelter. Artifact: 1 utilized chert flake. Prehistoric.
- \* 3NW657 Bluff shelter (shelter fence for animal enclosure). Artifacts: 4 blank flakes, 1 secondary flake. Prehistoric; late 19th-early 20th Anglo-American.
- \* 3NW658 Open. Artifacts: iron spike, mortar fragment, canning jars. Abandoned mortared rock springhouse [no #]. Mid-late 19th to early 20th Anglo-American.
- \* 3NW659 Cave shelter. Artifacts: unfinished stemmed biface (nothing further collected to minimize disturbance to potential deposits). Prehistoric, possibly late Archaic.
- \* 3NW660 Open - talus slope. Artifacts: 10 recovered (utilized flakes, secondary flakes, scraper, blanks, rocky debris.) Prehistoric.
- \* 3NW661 Open - terrace field. Artifacts: arrowpoint preform. Features: Midden. Mississippian.
- \* 3NW662 Open - first terrace. Artifacts: arrowpoints (including Reed, Rockwall, and Sequoyah), projectile points (including Gary), animal bone, carbonized nutshell and wood, shell tempered and grog tempered ceramics. (Oral history attributes a rich historic yield of artifacts, including pottery sherds and human skeletal remains, from this site.) Features: Midden, pits, postmolds. Mississippian and Woodland.

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\* 3NW663

Open - washout of Moore Creek. Artifacts: lithics, flakes, projectile points (including a Packard and a possible Breckenridge type), carbonized hickory and black walnut shells, 2 large grinding stones. Features: Midden, pits. Middle Archaic, with potential for Paleo-Indian.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Archeology - Prehistoric  
Archeology - Historic-Non-Aboriginal

Period of Significance

Mississippian 1000-300 B.P.  
Late Archaic/Early Woodland 5000-1800 B.P.  
Middle Archaic 7000-5000 B.P.  
Historic A.D. 1830-1940

Cultural Affiliation

Mississippian  
Archaic  
Woodland  
Anglo-American

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheets



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## Significance (Section 8)

Summary

This amendment further defines the significance of the archeological resources of Boxley Valley as noted in the original nomination and links the archeological and historic components of the district. The valley has shown evidence of continuous occupation by man from prehistoric to historic times and a connecting similarity of a subsistence lifestyle undertaken by self-contained family groups. Prehistoric sites date from the Middle Archaic (and possibly to transitional Dalton and Paleo-Indian) to the Mississippian periods, include oral evidence of the proto-historic, and continue to the present with Anglo settlement utilizing the same prehistoric sites. Boxley Valley represents a period of continuous prehistoric occupation and is significant under criterion "d" for its potential to yield significant data contributing to important research questions in Ozark prehistory, including contributing to the development of a regional context for a prehistoric cultural chronology. Of the forty-two known sites, professional surveys have already identified twenty-one as individually eligible or potentially eligible for the National Register. Unrecorded sites are certain to exist. The isolation of the valley as well as the accretion of valley floor deposition accompanying frequent river flooding have contributed to the integrity of the sites. A number of sites are multicomponent, including sites that contain both prehistoric and historic elements. Except for one contract survey [Earth Search, 1988] in which historic sites and historic components were recorded, historic archeological sites have not been surveyed beyond the historic context and significance categories identified for the standing structures in the 1987 nomination for the Big Buffalo Valley Historic District, but all of those farm and community areas have the potential to yield information about settlement patterns and land use during the historic period and provide research data about site types, given the quality of the overall Boxley cultural landscape as it was defined and identified in the original nomination. Two of the five recorded historic sites were identified as individually eligible for the National Register.

Cultural Context

Prehistoric research in the Arkansas Ozarks has been limited, both by the number of reported sites and the lack of systematic surveys. Cultural context is just beginning to be established, as well as agreement on the dating of periods. The context discussed below is a compilation of generally accepted periods by the researchers who have worked in Boxley Valley and the southern Ozarks, particularly compilations found in Earth Search (1988) and Spears et al. (1988), as well as sequences postulated by Wolfman (1979) and Sabo et al. (1988). The team preparing the Arkansas Ozarks study section for the 1982 State Plan grouped the Arkansas Ozarks prehistoric research units into four

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broad categories of cultural affiliation: Paleo-Indian, Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian. Sabo et. al. (1988) groups these periods into prehistoric adaptation types: pleistocene-holocene transition [12,000-9,500 B.P.]; early to middle holocene [9,500-5,000 B.P.]; late holocene semi-sedentary [5,000-about 1,100 B.P.]; and late holocene sedentary (dispersed) [about 1,100 B.P. on into the historic contact period]. Although this typing may be adapted into the next updating of the State Plan, the research done in Boxley to date adapted to the context established by the 1982 State Plan. The addition of new research questions show that the sites of the contained Boxley area have even greater potential for providing research data for the identification of site types with landforms. None of the prehistoric periods have been extensively researched in the Ozarks, although some periods have yielded more sites and data than others, particularly the Archaic and Mississippian. The early research concentrating on Ozark bluff shelters and the idea of the Ozarks being on the marginal end of developments in the prehistoric world has been expanded during recent research to indicate a wider range of habitation sites and greater cultural diversity.

The prehistoric inhabitants of Boxley Valley may reach back to the Paleo-Indian period (10,000-8,000 B.P.), but dates with positive associations are rare and no sites associated with positive Paleo-Indian dates have been excavated in Arkansas. Little is known about the Paleo-Indian period in the Arkansas Ozarks; no sites from this period have been conclusively dated in Arkansas, and accordingly are limited to isolated finds. Sabo (1988:38) reported "one unfinished fluted point, rather small in size and possibly resembling a local variant of Folsom type, was found in the earliest cultural level at Galf Creek Cave in Searcy County." Of the thirteen diagnostic fluted projectile points found in the Arkansas Ozarks, five were from the Buffalo River area, including two found in second terraces. Site 3NW663 in Boxley was excavated to a terrace dating to this period; site researchers feel that there is potential for artifacts from the period (Spears et al 1988:34).

The Dalton (Transitional or Proto-Archaic) period (10,500-9,500 B.P.) also has few known sites in the Arkansas Ozarks. According to Sabo et al., "The Dalton Period falls at the terminal Pleistocene/early Holocene transition, and represents a continuation of generalized hunting and gathering adaptations to changing Ozark environments." (1988:41). This period has been thought to be similar to the Paleo-Indian, with an increase in tool types. The terrace site at 3NW663 yielded a lanceolate point conforming to the transitional Dalton, but the researcher thought it might represent Early Archaic occupation. (Spears et al. 1988:36).

The Archaic period traditionally has been divided into Early (9,500-7,000 B.C.), Middle (7,000-5,000 B.P.) and Late (5,000-3,000 B.P.) periods, but both the period breakdown and dating do not have consensus. Some researchers have consolidated the Early and Middle Archaic into one cultural division (Sabo et.al. 1988), and the Late Archaic and Early Woodland into a second cultural

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division (Sabo 1988 and Lafferty 1988). Dates as late as 150 A.D. (Lafferty 1988) have been suggested for the end of the Archaic. A question still remains as to the rate of cultural adaptation during the Archaic. The Early Archaic may represent a population increase in the Ozarks due to environmental change in the central Mississippi Valley. The Early Archaic period is associated with the beginning of the Holocene period and a shift to modern climate conditions, (Sabo et.al. 1988). Of the few early Archaic sites known in the Arkansas Ozarks, one is located on a tributary of the Buffalo River. Middle Archaic sites are more numerous. It has been suggested that blufftop shelters predominately date from the Middle Archaic (House 1965). The dry shelters in Boxley have the potential to yield preserved floral and faunal remains. Boxley site 3NW663 represents the only open air site from the Middle Archaic in the Arkansas Ozarks. The middle Archaic was a period of cultural diversity, and perhaps a change to a more sedentary population, along with the greater utilization of wild plants and accompanying tools. In Boxley Valley surveys, Archaic sites have frequently been grouped as middle to late Archaic, or late Archaic to early Woodland. It has been noted that the mesoamerican cultigens of squash and gourd have been identified at Archaic sites in the Western Ozarks during the late Archaic period (Kay 1983). Boxley therefore may yield more information regarding cultigens during this period. "Increase in the breadth and complexity of human ecosystems resulting from the addition of horticulture may have led also to elaborations in the social and religious institutions integrating these systems." (Sabo et al. 1988)

The Woodland period (3,000 B.P. - 1000 B.P.) is one of the least known periods in the Ozarks and so far has proven difficult to separate into substages. Regional characteristics of mineral-tempered ceramics and burial mounds are not found in the Arkansas Ozarks. The lack of all but grog-tempered ceramics has contributed to the discussion of dating of the Late Archaic to Early Woodland periods. Ozark chert has been found in contemporary central Mississippi Valley sites, indicating an interaction between the groups. The influence of other groups on the Ozark population is a major question for this period. Boxley site 3NW662 yielded a Gary projectile point and grog-tempered sherds in intact middens. Thus the Woodland component of this site, along with the other Boxley Woodland sites, has the potential to contribute to unanswered questions about the Woodland occupation in the Ozarks.

The Mississippian period (1000 B.P. - 300 B.P.) is better known in terms of identified sites and variety of artifacts, but a cultural sequence for the period is still undeveloped and is the source of conflicting theories of outside influence and migration and interaction during this period. Although shell-tempered pottery and the bow and arrow are the traditional artifactual characteristics of the period, Spears et al. suggested that other characteristics such as social organization and agriculture are as important (1988:39). Boxley Valley sites have yielded information pertaining to agricultural patterns during this period. The intact features of site 3NW539

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represent a datable habitation site with data recovery of preserved floral and faunal remains. Boxley's Cob Cave (3NW6) yielded not only floral remains but unique basketry and burials.

Protohistoric to historic period (A.D. 1650-1940). Too little is known about the protohistoric period in the Arkansas Ozarks. The Buffalo River area was used by the Osage for hunting, but no Osage hunting camp site has been located in the Arkansas Ozarks. The effect, if any, of the Osage on Mississippian culture is one of the State Plan research directives for the area. The Cherokee entered the Arkansas River valley in the late 1700s and likely occupied some portions of the Buffalo River area, which was included as part of the Cherokee treaty lands from 1817 to 1828. Possibly, early Anglo Buffalo River settlers were influenced by this settlement. Many present day Buffalo River residents, including Boxley Valley residents, trace ancestry to Cherokee settlers.

Anglo settlement in the Arkansas Ozarks traditionally begins with the removal of the Cherokee in 1828. Although the information of the recent past may be more abundant, characterizing it into context is still in development. The original Boxley Valley nomination used the historic Ozarks periods developed by Robert Flanders as its context: Old Ozarks-Frontier (A. D. 1830-1930); New South Ozarks (A. D. 1870-1930); Cosmopolitan Ozarks (A. D. 1900-present); and New Ozarks Frontier A. D. 1945-present). Sabo et al. (1988) classifies the historic era archeologically as American Pioneer (A. D. 1803-1860); Civil War (A. D. 1860-1875); and Developed Settlement (A. D. 1875-1930). The Boxley Valley historic sites are significant in all three areas and provide comparative data for a study of Anglo settlement patterns through time in a naturally-restricted environment.

Extensive Anglo settlement along the Buffalo began about 1830. The development of this settlement in Boxley Valley is described in the original nomination. Boxley Valley offers potential for archeological sites exhibiting characteristics of the settlement adaptation types identified by Sabo et al. (1988) for the historic era. The historical evidence indicates that Boxley Valley was one of the most heavily settled and land-developed valleys of the Buffalo River drainage throughout all settlement periods. The valley contains contrasting settlement areas: bench farms, and valley floor and tributary farms, sites which reach both early and late settlement periods. The continuing occupation of the valley farms contrast with the abandoned ruins of the later bench farms. Two of the few documented Civil War actions in the Arkansas Ozarks took place in Boxley Valley: destruction of the saltpeter works at Cave Mountain Cave (3NW431); and the battle of Whiteleys Mill. Data from Boxley sites would significantly contribute to the critical research needs identified by Sabo et al. (1988): (1) identification of a wider range of site types; (2) further development of appropriate techniques for investigating the

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types of historic sites; and (3) the distribution of historic sites in relation to pertinent environmental and cultural parameters.

### Research Questions

The Arkansas State Plan (1982:NW17) identifies the "most pressing needs" for studies within the Arkansas Ozarks as (1) establishment of more accurate and precise regional chronologies, and (2) the reconstruction of prehistoric subsistence-settlement systems for each major cultural phase. Within its cultural groups for the Arkansas Ozarks, the State Plan's "Operating Plans for Northwest Arkansas" (State Plan, 1982) as well as more current research (Sabo et.al. 1988) consider data pertaining to the following questions significant:

Paleo-Indian: environmental reconstruction, including man's adaptation to that environment; social organization; raw materials sources for tools; even isolated data is critical at this point.

Dalton: reconstructions of landscape and habitat during the Pleistocene-Holocene transition; emphasis on site structure, content, integrity, geomorphological context and function during this transition.

Archaic: cultural adaptation to a mountain environment; tool function; undisturbed floral and faunal deposits; hunting and gathering adaptation; shelter and open air site for comparison.

Woodland: environmental information for dating; population density and climatic changes; horticulture adaptations (any information on adaptation to a mountain environment is important).

Mississippian: nature of adaptation; relationship of the Ozark population to surrounding sedentary groups; deeply stratified sites and sites with features are especially significant.

Protohistoric to historic: identification of site types; site distribution in relation to environmental and cultural parameters; further identification of the specific properties contributing to the significance of such sites.

Research questions of more recent interest have been identified in Sabo et al. (1988) and are as follows:

1. How have environmental changes affected human occupation of the area?
2. What are the relationships between settlement location, environmental parameters and subsistence activities?
3. How is site function reflected in the tool assemblages?
4. Does site function change through time?

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5. What potential exists for the recovery of human skeletal remains?
6. What ways have post-depositional processes and usage affected cultural resources?

Many of the sites located in Boxley have the potential to address questions such as these and to contribute to redefining those questions. Of the several site types for which information is most lacking, most are found at Boxley, including open sites along river and stream bottomlands and terraces, hillslope bench sites, and undisturbed dry rock shelters.

Significance of the Boxley District

Of the forty-two known prehistoric sites in the Boxley Valley district, twenty-one sites have been evaluated by professional survey to be individually eligible or potentially eligible to the National Register. These sites have been identified as valuable contributors to many of the research questions still outstanding about the Arkansas Ozarks prehistory.

Because of the isolation of the valley, the flooding and deposition of the river, and the widespread site density noted to date, conditions exist for additional sites to be identified. Wolfman (1979:34) wrote that "there is probably not a second terrace field along the river . . . where some chipping debris could not be collected after plowing." Earth Search, Inc., who researched 31 sites, noted that their testing methods did not extend below 50 centimeters and that the overall survey indicated good potential for intact buried deposits in the river deposition terraces. Earth Search, Inc., located previously unrecorded bluff shelter sites with apparent lack of disturbance, indicating that such sites are still probable.

Although it is not known what information may be forthcoming from the recorded sites which have not been surveyed to date, all sites play interrelated parts in establishing a prehistoric cultural chronology based on overall site patterns in the valley and the span of cultural affiliation. For example, Spears et al. (1988:59) noted that although site 3NW661 was not eligible individually, it, "as a member of prehistoric sites in Boxley Valley . . . , can and does contribute to our understanding of settlement patterns." Earth Search, Inc., in discussing a related complex of Boxley sites of varying physiography, suggested that such sites "may provide information concerning the relationship between activity patterning and physiographic setting." (Earth Search 1988:220).

The existence of intact deposits, datable features, and undisturbed bluff shelters whose demonstrated dryness suggests potential for preserved floral and

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faunal remains demonstrates the high degree of integrity throughout the district and site potential to yield valuable data in good context.

Because Ozark prehistory, and particularly the Arkansas Ozarks prehistory, has been little studied until very recent times, and there has not been enough data recovered from sites to present a conclusive regional cultural chronology, the extent and variety of sites uncovered in a geographically-bounded area like Boxley yields tremendous potential for developing local context which would have applications for a wider cultural context. Foremost in this question of chronology would be those sites which would provide data on periods for which little is now known in the Arkansas Ozarks, such as the Paleo-Indian and the Woodland, and provide data contributing to understanding conflicting theories of cultural influence during the Mississippian. A number of the Boxley sites have yielded data on these periods. Boxley has individually significant Mississippian sites (such as the habitation sites at 3NW539 and 3NW662) which can be compared with other Mississippian sites yielding data on the long-term occupation of the upper Buffalo. The related nature of several groups of Boxley sites would provide information on physiographic setting and activity patterning.

Other types of information which pertain to understanding the development of prehistoric cultural life have been identified at specific sites in Boxley. These research areas include site function, specialized activities, site function in conjunction with activity functioning, site function as affected by physiographic setting, prehistoric tool complexes, horticulture, information on game and plant foods, and spatial planning and activity.

The original nomination noted that Boxley Valley's "collection of tangible and intangible cultural features exemplify the traditional regional settlement patterns." Of the five recorded historic sites in the district, two have been assessed by professional archeologists as individually eligible for the National Register. Collectively, the recorded, and the unrecorded historic sites (particularly, those farm and community areas identified in the original nomination) offer similar research potential to questions of significance to the historic period. Boxley historic sites offer the potential to define the specific properties contributing to the significance of such sites, as well as answer questions about historic activity patterning and site differentiation. The Boxley sites are found in a locale which offers considerable integrity of setting and location. The potential of this tiered district--the overlapping prehistoric and historic sites against a recognized cultural landscape--is outstanding for an understanding of human settlement patterns through thousands of years.

In 1985, when only fourteen sites had been recorded in Boxley, researcher Frederick Limp observed that "given the lack of systematic study in the valley, fourteen sites is a substantial number" and suggested that it was reasonable to

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presume that a substantial number remained to be discovered (1985:28). The studies in Boxley since that time have proved him correct.

Although all recorded sites contribute to the district, a number of recorded sites for which further professional testing was contracted were considered by the professional archeologists to be individually eligible for the National Register for their potential to contribute data to the significant research questions. These individual sites are summarized below:

Note: The sites marked with an \* were submitted to the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office for a Determination of Eligibility for the National Register and were given certification.

## SURVEYED SITES WITH POTENTIAL FOR SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH DATA

SITE #	SIGNIFICANCE/RESEARCH QUESTIONS
3NW116	Potential for buried, stratified deposits Activity site: tool manufacture; horticulture Recycling of lithic material Multicomponent site to develop local chronology and cultural sequence.
3NW118	Multicomponent site to develop local chronology and cultural sequence Activity site: specialized biface manufacture; processing of grains; processing of hides Open air Mississippian sites are infrequent Potential for intact features Finished Mississippian arrowpoint Part of complex of sites (118, 612, 613, 614, 649)
3NW312	Potential for intact deposits below plowzone Activity site: processing of plant materials; pigment processing; late stage lithic reduction Data on function of floodplain site
3NW539	Semi-permanent or permanent habitation site (possibly a small "farm" family) Baseline data on valley environment Influence of regional Mississippian culture Undisturbed features; potential for structural remains Late Woodland ceramics

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3NW612

Semi-permanent or permanent habitation site  
Activity site: bifacial tool processing; food preparation  
Potential for preserved floral and faunal materials, including burials  
Mississippian ceramics present  
Potential for data on origin and nature of Mississippian occupation  
Part of complex of sites (118, 612, 613, 614, 649)

3NW613

Semi-permanent or permanent habitation site  
Undisturbed deposits  
Woodland component may yield diagnostics  
Activity site: bifacial tool production; food preparation  
Potential for undisturbed deposits yielding floral and faunal remains  
Mississippian ceramics present  
Part of complex of sites (118, 612, 613, 614, 649)

3NW614

Activity site: lithic reduction  
Potential for undisturbed deposits  
Part of complex of sites (118, 612, 613, 614, 649)

\*3NW641

Possible Woodland component  
Potential for intact deposits below plowzone  
Data on function of stream terrace site  
Activity site: late stage lithic reduction; maintenance and recycling;  
horticulture

\*3NW642

Possible Woodland component  
Bone and charcoal indicates potential for datable features  
Potential for preserved faunal material  
Potential for intact deposits below plowzone

\*3NW643

Potential for mid-19th Anglo deposits  
Rural lifeways: site of first water grist mill according to records

\*3NW646

Potential for examination of stratified deposits in a depositional site  
Open air site possibly related to Cob Cave (3NW6)

3NW648

Ledge overhang may yield intact buried deposits

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3NW649

Potential for culture-bearing slope deposits  
Shell and bone indicates information on game and plant foods  
Part of complex of sites for activity patterning and physiographic setting (118, 612, 613, 614, 649)

3NW651

Potential for stratified deposits  
Cultural period comparisons based on artifact styles  
Activity site: lithic reduction; hunting

3NW652

Potential for early 19th c. Anglo homesite  
Potential for diachronic study of farmstead activity patterning  
Data on changing patterns of refuse disposal

3NW654

Comparison data of tributary site with valley floor sites  
Associated with 655, 657, 658

3NW655

Potential for undisturbed stratified deposits  
May have supported large population group  
Potential for preserved floral and faunal remains  
Stone wall may have prehistoric function

3NW656

Potential for undisturbed deposits

3NW657

Potential for preserved floral and faunal remains  
Potential for data on material culture/local culture chronology

3NW659

Potential for undisturbed deposits  
Potential for preserved floral and faunal remains  
Associated with second [unrecorded] shelter

3NW660

Possible stone quarry site for lithic reduction

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\*3NW662

High artifact density

Intact antropoc strata dating to Archaic

Recognizable features

"Unlimited" research topics: subsistence/diet; climate; house structure;  
site patterning; lithic and ceramic technologies; regional chronology

\*3NW663

Only open air Middle Archaic site in Arkansas Ozarks

Deeply buried intact deposits

Potential for Dalton and Paleo-Indian deposits

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1. Beachwood Church  
(structure #22a)
2. Boxley Valley, Buffalo National River,  
Newton County, Arkansas
3. Craig Frazier, NPS/DSC
4. July, 1983
5. NPS/DSC
6. view from southeast
7. BV#13



1. Old Boxley Water Mill, 1870, NR-1974  
(structure #11a)
2. Boxley Valley, Buffalo National River,  
Newton County, Arkansas
3. Craig Frazier, NPS/DSC
4. October, 1983
5. NPS/DSC
6. view from west
7. BV#15



1. Bell hay barn  
(structure #26b)
2. Boxley Valley, Buffalo National River,  
Newton County, Arkansas
3. Craig Frazier, NPS/DSC
4. June, 1983
5. NPS/DSC
6. view from southwest
7. BV#16



1. Former John Edgmon, now Luallen, House  
(structure #02a)
2. Boxley Valley, Buffalo National River,  
Newton County, Arkansas
3. Craig Frazier, NPS/DSC
4. October, 1983
5. NPS/DSC
6. view from northeast
7. BV#17



1. Bell Second House  
(structure #26i)
2. Boxley Valley, Buffalo National River,  
Newton County, Arkansas
3. Craig Frazier, NPS/DSC
4. July, 1983
5. NPS/DSC
6. view from southwest
7. BV#18



1. Bell Swing Bridge  
(structure #26j)
2. Boxley Valley, Buffalo National River,  
Newton County, Arkansas
3. Craig Frazier, NPS/DSC
4. June, 1983
5. NPS/DSC
6. view from west
7. BV#19



1. Casey Store/cafe/residence  
(structure #08b)
2. Boxley Valley, Buffalo National River,  
Newton County, Arkansas
3. Craig Frazier, NPS/DSC
4. October, 1983
5. NPS/DSC
6. view from southwest
7. BV#20



1. Casey Saw Mill  
(structure #08e)
2. Boxley Valley, Buffalo National River,  
Newton County, Arkansas
3. Craig Frazier, NPS/DSC
4. July, 1983
5. NPS/DSC
6. View from west
7. BV#21



1. Former Marion Edgmon, now Bill Fowler  
House, 1895  
(structure #04a)
2. Boxley Valley, Buffalo National River,  
Newton County, Arkansas
3. Craig Frazier, NPS/DSC
4. October, 1983
5. NPS/DSC
6. View from northwest
7. BV#22



1. Orphea Duty House, 1873  
(structure #10a)
2. Boxley Valley, Buffalo National River,  
Newton County, Arkansas
3. Craig Frazier, NPS/DSC
4. October, 1983
5. NPS/DSC
6. view from northeast
7. BV#23



1. Edgmon-Fowler Farm  
(farmsite #3)
2. Boxley Valley, Buffalo National River,  
Newton County, Arkansas
3. Craig Frazier, NPS/DSC
4. October, 1983
5. NPS/DSC
6. View from Northeast
7. BV#24



1. Villines Old Store  
(structure #18b)
2. Boxley Valley, Buffalo National River,  
Newton County, Arkansas
3. Craig Frazier, NPS/DSC
4. June, 1983
5. NPS/DSC
6. View from west
7. BV#25



1. Wooden Hardware on Edgmon Barn Door  
(Structure #01c)
2. Boxley Valley, Buffalo National River,  
Newton County, Arkansas
3. Craig Frazier, NPS/DSC
4. June, 1983
5. NPS/DSC
6. Exterior Detail
7. BV#27



1. Villines Hay Barn  
(structure 20g)
2. Boxley Valley, Buffalo National  
River, Newton County, Arkansas
3. Criag Frazier, NPS/DSC
4. October, 1983
5. NPS/DSC
6. View from S.W. of post-traditional  
(category 4) **steel clad barn.**
7. **BV** #33



1. Boxley Valley Landscape
- 2/ Boxley Valley, Buffalo National River, Newton  
County, Arkansas
3. Ric Alsech
4. Summer, 1984
5. NPS/DSC
6. view to west
7. BV #34



1. Boxley Valley, State Highway 43
2. Boxley Valley, Buffalo National River, Newton County, Arkansas
3. Ric Alesch
4. Summer, 1984
5. NPS/DSC
6. view to south
7. BV #36



1. Boxley Valley landscape
2. Boxley Valley, Buffalo National River, Newton  
County, Arkansas
3. Ric Alesch
4. Summer, 1984
5. NPS/DSC
6. view to east
7. BV #37



1. Boxley Valley Landscape
2. Boxley Valley, Buffalo National River, Newton  
County, Arkansas
3. Ric Alesch
4. Summer, 1984
5. NPS/DSC
6. view to east
7. BV #38



1. Boxley Valley landscape
2. Boxley Valley, Buffalo National River, Newton  
County, Arkansas
3. Ric Alesch
4. Summer, 1984
5. NPS/DSC
6. view to west
7. BV #40



1. Boxley Valley landscape
2. Boxley Valley, Buffalo National River,  
Newton County, Arkansas
3. Ric Alesch
4. Summer, 1984
5. NPS/DSC
6. View to west
7. BV #41



1. Boxley Valley landscape
2. Boxley Valley, Buffalo National River, Newton  
County, Arkansas
3. Ric Alesch
4. Summer, 1984
5. NPS/DSC
6. view to west
7. BV #42



1. Buffalo River
2. Boxley Valley, Buffalo National River, Newton  
County, Arkansas
3. Ric Alesch
4. summer, 1984
5. NPS/DSC
6. view to north
7. BV #43



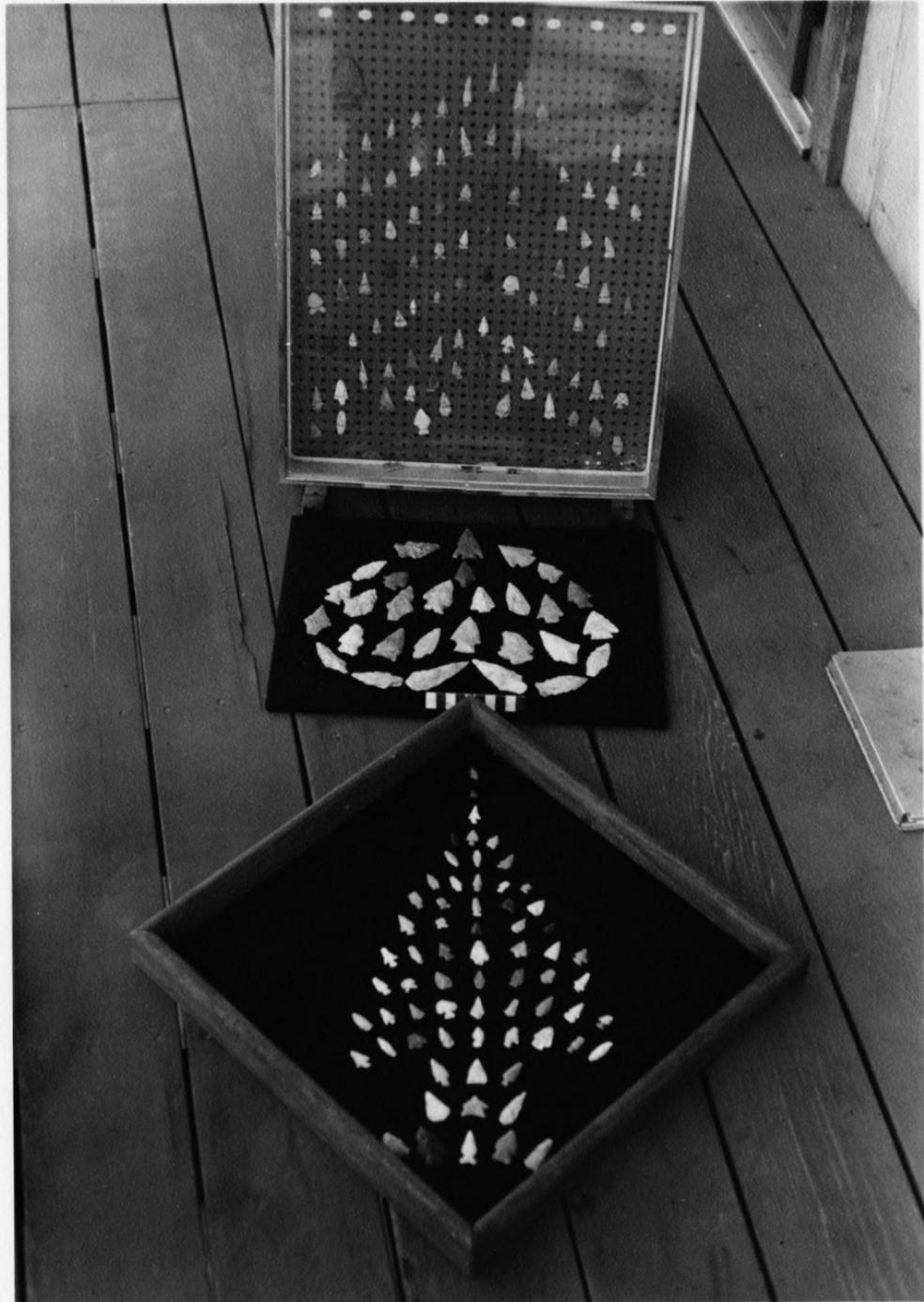
Buffalo National River, Boxley District  
Arkansas

Dola Berg

Negative at Buffalo NR, Harrison, Arkansas

Bluff shelter

Cob Cave, 3NW 6



Buffalo National River, Boyley District  
Arkansas

Tim Klinger, 1988

Negatives at Buffalo NR, Harrison, Ar  
Artifact collection of Bill Clark  
3NW 611, Casey-Clark Site



Buffalo National River, Bouley District  
Arkansas

Dola Berg

negative at Buffalo NR, Harrison, Ar  
open field site

3NW 460, Doy Scroggins



Buffalo National River, Boxley District  
Arkansas

Roger Coleman, 1986

negative at Buffalo NR, Harrison, Ar

artifact collection of  
3NW611, Casey Clark

Walter Williams  
Site and general Boxley area



Buffalo National River, Boxley District  
Arkansas

Myra Dec

negative at Buffalo NB, Harrison, Ar  
Cave

3NW 431, Cave Mt Cave



Buffalo National River, Boxley District

Arkansas

Dola Berg

negative at Buffalo NR, Harrison, Arkansas

*ferrace old site*

3NW 182, Ponca Ford Bottom



Buffalo National River, Bouley District  
Arkansas

Roger Coleman, 1986

negative at Buffalo NR, Harrison, Ar  
open terrace

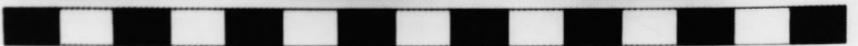
3NW 611, Casey Clark



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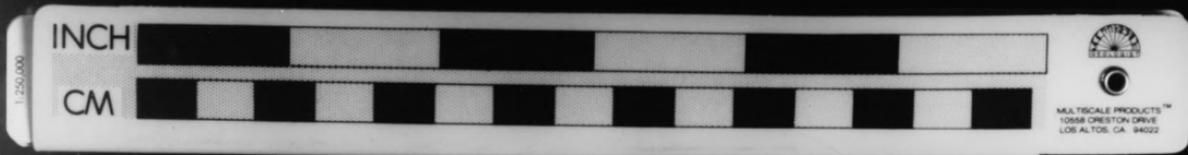


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Buffalo National River, Boxley District  
Arkansas

Carol Spears, 1988

Negative at SPEARS, West Fork, Arkansas  
Gary Projectile Points (Late Archaic)  
3NW 662, Luallen Site



Buffalo National River, Boxley District  
Arkansas

Carol Spears, 1988

negative at SPEARS, West Fork, Arkansas  
projectile points

a-b lancelet

c stone square stemmed

d+e big sandy

f. side notched

3NW 663, Sattler Site



Buffalo National River, Boxley District  
Arkansas

Carol Spears, 1988

negative at SPEARS, West Fork, Arkansas

upper terrace facing east

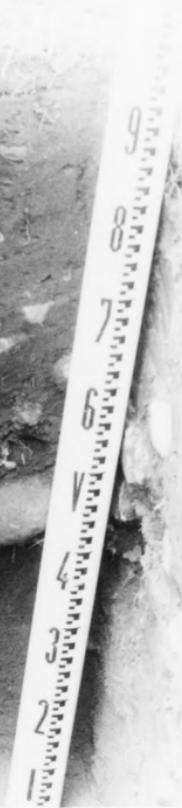
3NW 663, Sattler Site

3 NW 662

TU-L-6

SOUTH WALL

6-16-88



Buffalo National River, Boxley District  
Arkansas

Carol Spears, 1988

negative at SPEARS, West Fork, Arkansas

Cultural midden in South wall of Tu 6

3NW 462, Luallen Site



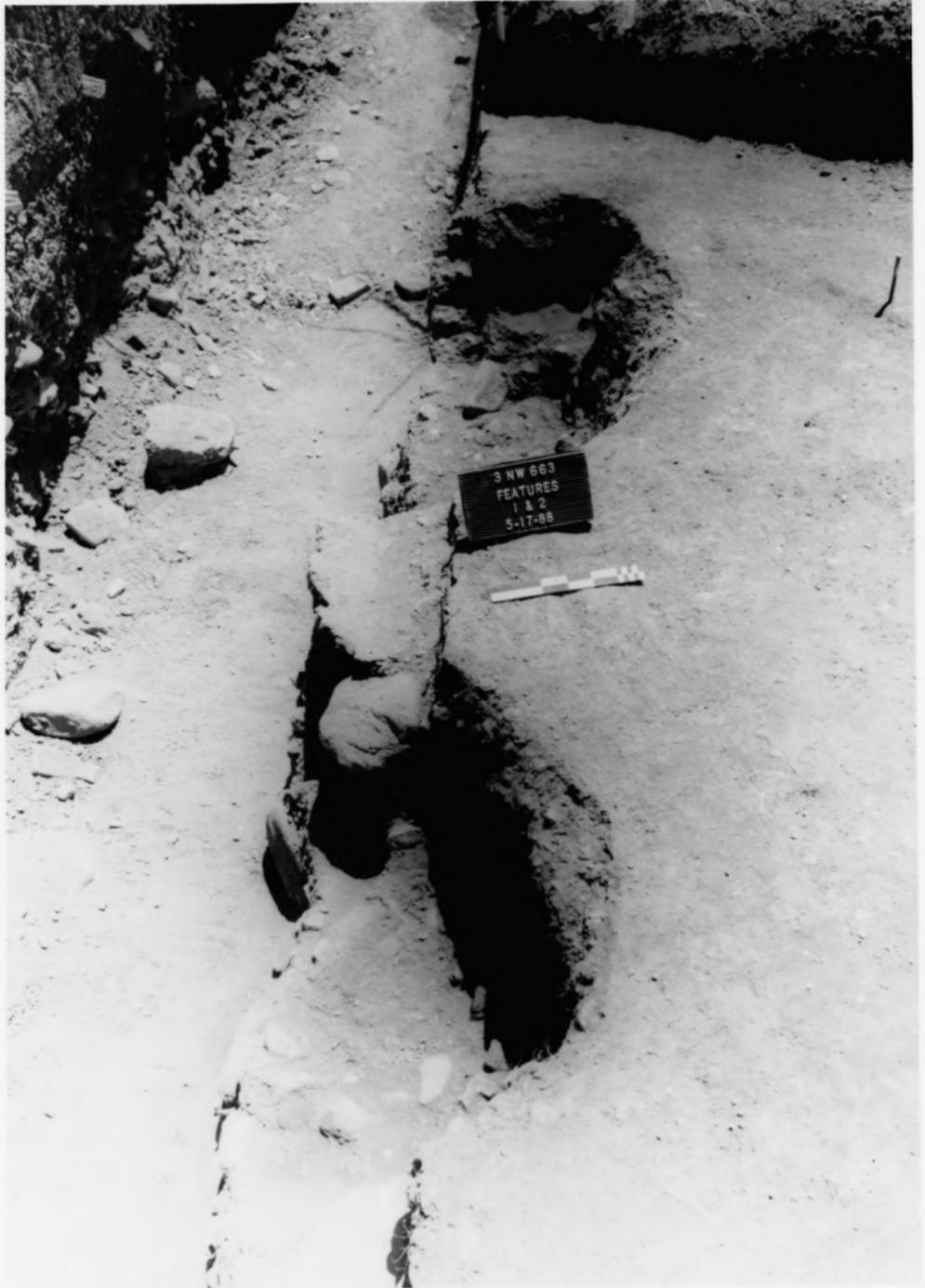
Buffalo National River, Boxley District  
Arkansas

Carol Spears, 1988  
negative at SPEARS

Upper terrace facing west  
West Fork, Arkansas

3NW 663, Sattler Site

3 NW 663  
FEATURES  
1 & 2  
5-17-86



Buffalo National River, Boxley Dist.  
Arkansas

Carol Spears, 1988

negative at SPEARS, West Fork, Ar  
facing east, Features 1+2

Prehistoric pits - Middle Archaic

Feature 1 4420-4925 BC  
(corrected C<sub>14</sub>)

Feature 2 4740-5240 BC  
(corrected C<sub>14</sub>)

3NW 663, Sattler Site