

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

DEC 21 1987

DATE ENTERED

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Old Eminence Site

AND/OR COMMON

23SH104

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

N/A

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Round Spring

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

08

VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri

CODE

29

COUNTY

Shannon

CODE

203

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input 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

STREET & NUMBER

Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Van Buren, Missouri 63989

CITY, TOWN

Van Buren

VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse, Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Eminence

STATE

Missouri 65066

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Archeological Survey of Missouri

DATE

1980

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Archeological Survey of Missouri, University of Missouri

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

Missouri

# 7 DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>01/09/87</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

## Summary

Old Eminence site, 23SH104, is a multicomponent archeological site [REDACTED] County, Missouri, in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. The site contains an intact single historical component area. This site was the first county seat of Shannon County during the early 1840s and was burned during the Civil War (Dix 1977; D. Lewis 1979). 23SH104 also contains a Late Archaic/Woodland component consisting of a dense scatter of artifacts and debris across the entire area.

## Resource Count

**Contributing Resources:** There is one contributing site which is an archeological site with both a historic and a prehistoric component.

**Noncontributing Resources:** There is one non-contributing structure which is a [REDACTED] through the archeological site.

## Environmental Description

This part of the Eastern Ozarks is a land of rugged topography with streams flowing swiftly through deeply dissected valleys separated by steep and rocky divides. Springs are abundant in this part of [REDACTED] Round Spring, one of the largest springs in Missouri, is just above the Old Eminence site at [REDACTED] No springs are found in the immediate vicinity of the site. Soils on the site are cherty clay loams. Present day vegetation consists principally of small trees and saplings with a dense undergrowth. The site is not situated near any tract of favorable agricultural land.

The climate of the eastern Ozarks is continental with hot summers and mild winters. Average daily high temperatures are about 85 degrees in the summer and 40 degrees in the winter (Sauer 1920). Most storms come from the northwest, particularly in winter. The Ozarks area is frequently subject to cyclones and anticyclones moving southeast across the Central Plains from the Rocky Mountains (Sauer 1920). Annual precipitation is about 43-44 inches (NPS n.d.) and falls mainly as rain in spring and early summer. Fall is usually dry, with sleet being common during the winter months. The area enjoys 190-200 frost free days in an average year.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 Late Archaic-Woodland ca. (2000 B.C.-600 A.D.) (Price, et al., 1983)  
 Historic ca. 1830s to 1860s  
 BUILDER/ARCHITECT N/A

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Summary Statement

Old Eminence, 23SH104, is a significant multicomponent site which contains a relatively undisturbed historic component occupied for a limited period of time. It represents the first county seat in Shannon County and is unique as an isolated political center in the Eastern Ozarks. The prehistoric component includes Late Archaic/Woodland periods and is significant for settlement pattern studies because of the site's unusual location away from spring water and expanses of floodplain.

The cultural resources of 23SH104 can be evaluated for historic, prehistoric, and exploration/settlement significance. Old Eminence, 23SH104, was established shortly after the county seat was formed, ca. early 1840s and was destroyed by fire during the Civil War approximately 20 years after it was established as the first county seat of Shannon County. After the war, the county seat was moved to a new location on the Jack's Fork, but was still called Eminence (Adair 1914). The first town, the subject of this nomination, [REDACTED] (Adair 1914; Colton 1860; Dix 1977; Fiala and Haven 1861; Hutawa 1844). Reports suggest that the "town" contained only a log courthouse and a jail. The Current Wave Jan. 10, 1935; Missouri State Gazetteer 1860;754; Elliot 1902:34).

### Specific Dates

The prehistoric dates of occupation are based on the few diagnostic lithic artifacts recovered from the site. Approximate dates of ca. 2000 B.C. to 600 A.D. for Late Archaic/Woodland were taken from the cultural chronology in Price, et al. (1983:257). Historic dates ca. 1830s to 1860s were obtained from diagnostic archeological materials (cut nails, earthenware, and literary sources) (Price et al. 1984).

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A [REDACTED]  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [REDACTED]  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

[REDACTED]

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

STATE N/A CODE N/A COUNTY N/A CODE N/A

STATE N/A CODE N/A COUNTY N/A CODE N/A

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cathie Masters/Archeologist

ORGANIZATION Midwest Archeological Center

DATE

National Park Service

8/8/85

STREET & NUMBER Federal Building, Room 474

TELEPHONE

100 Centennial Mall North

(402) 471-5392

CITY OR TOWN Lincoln

STATE

Nebraska 68508-3873

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Ontayne E. Gross  
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 [Signature]

TITLE Chief Historian

DATE Sept. 15, 1987

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

John J. Kneel  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 7/1/88

ATTEST  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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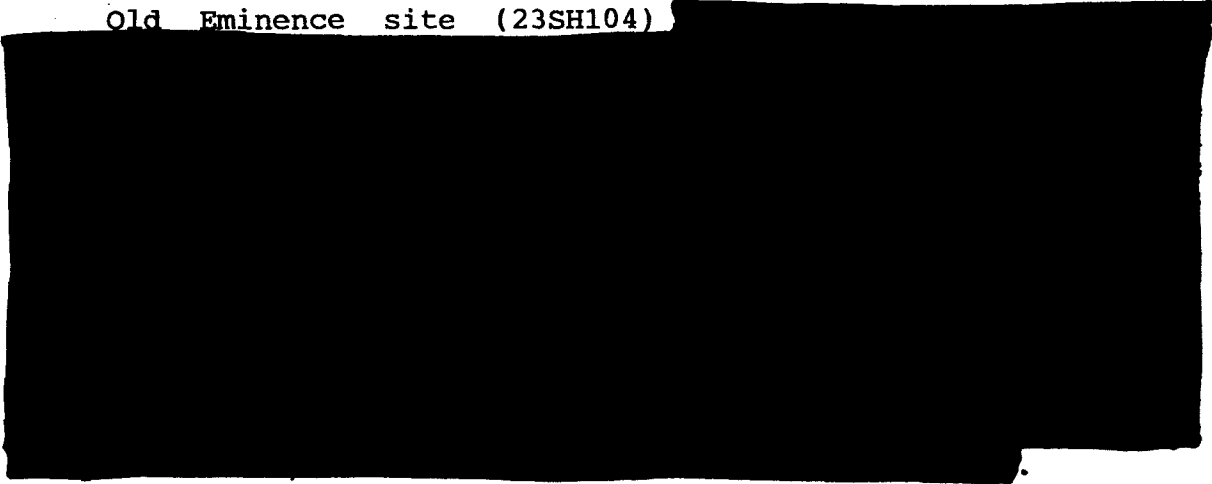
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Physical Description

Old Eminence site (23SH104)



Boundary Justification

The boundaries of this nomination include a one-acre parcel. Boundaries were determined by surface debris, magnetometer survey, and excavation units. Boundaries include all features located through survey and excavation and form a square 200 x 200 feet. This property is located within the Ozark National Scenic Riverway and is owned by the National Park Service.

Recordation

The site was first visited by archeologists and tested in 1980. Dr. James E. Price and Cynthia R. Price of Southwest Missouri State University mapped the site and excavated 12 test units to determine if the site was Old Eminence. This work was done for the National Park Service.

That same year the Park Service conducted a proton magnetometer survey at the site. After the site was established as Old Eminence in 1980, more extensive excavations were carried out in June 1983 by the University of Nebraska Field School under the direction of the National Park Service. A total of 59, 1 x 1 meter test units were excavated. Units were placed in and around the three features identified in 1980. They were also placed near magnetic anomalies and in a midden associated with Feature 1:

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Immediate objectives were: 1) to assess site function by ascertaining the functions of the two structures and locating other activity areas, features, and structures; 2) to obtain more precise dating information; and 3) to assess effectiveness of the magnetic survey. Cultural materials were found in every unit and were confined to the topsoil which was very shallow. Below the topsoil was a sterile clay with angular chert, stream gravel, and cobble inclusions. Historic materials were found mainly in and around Features 1 and 3, and were very sparse everywhere else.

Four features were identified at 23SH104. These are discussed below.

Feature 1

Feature 1 is situated [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and is identified as a courthouse. Wall lines and foundation remnants were visible on the surface along three sides indicating a rectangular structure. The structure measures approximately 34 feet east and west and 22 feet north and south. The archeological remains of the Feature 1 structure suggest it was quite similar to the 1839 courthouse, still standing, at Arrow Rock, Missouri. The excavations also revealed the presence of a midden near Feature 1.

Feature 2

Feature 2 appears as an oval distribution of scattered chert and limestone just [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. It is believed to be the ruins of a chimney from the structure designated as Feature 1.

Feature 3

Feature 3 is a large depression [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] No wall or foundation lines are clearly visible. A compact clay layer appears to be a floor. This structure has been identified as a jail.

Feature 4

[REDACTED]

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No other structural loci, cultural features, activity areas, or concentrated deposits of cultural materials dating from the historical period were found in excavations placed across the site between buildings. There was no evidence of any domestic, residential, or commercial activity. The archeological data is consistent with an interpretation of the site as an isolated political center with a date of ca. 1840s to 1860s and with destruction of the site by fire.

Historic cultural materials recovered from the excavations at 23SH104 include transparent green and slightly frosty blue green window glass, square machine cut nails, an iron hinge fragment, door knob fragments, and a lock plate. All of the refined ceramics appear to be whiteware. The very few decorated ceramics exhibited blue shell edge and handpainted polychrome decorations. Blue and green bottle glass and articles of clothing such as buttons are also represented among these remains.

Prehistoric Component

Prehistoric cultural materials from Old Eminence are found in all the test units. Excavation yielded 1785 specimens. These are mostly chert artifacts with only three diagnostic projectile point fragments, of which two are corner notched and one is side notched. These projectile points are assigned to the Archaic/Woodland periods.

Area Excavated

The area of 23SH104 is 4047 square meters. A total of 71 1 x 1-meter test units were excavated, amounting to approximately two percent of the site area.

Disturbances

Disturbance at the Old Eminence site has been minimal. Earlier logging activities and secondary regrowth of the forest have done little to disturb site integrity. The site has never been plowed and there was no occupation following the Civil War burning.

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The modern footpath is the only noticeable intrusion into the site. It is shallow and has done little to disturb archeological deposits.

Data Limitations

No written or photographic records were located to indicate the appearance of the structures at the site, despite an extensive research effort done by Cynthia Price. The only indication of what Old Eminence once looked like is a painting by Perry Bryan.

The prehistoric component contains few diagnostic artifacts and no features. Absolute dating through radiocarbon, thermoluminescence, or archeomagnetism is not possible because of a lack of pottery, charcoal, and hearths. Faunal remains are also not present, possibly due to poor preservation.



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Research Topics and Related Data Categories

1. Frontier settlement patterns. An investigation of particular frontier situations, such as the nineteenth century Old Eminence site in the southeast Ozark region, can provide the data base for generalizing about cultural processes in frontiers in general. The work of K. Lewis (1978, 1979) in developing and testing models of frontier culture change demonstrates the utility of such research.

2. Unique frontier response in Shannon County. The frontier response in Shannon County, one part of the Eastern Ozark frontier during the first half of the nineteenth century, is somewhat different from elsewhere in the region. Usually, the initial centralization of economic, social, and political activities is seen in a single settlement, the frontier town. All of the other Eastern Ozark county seats for which data has been collected include a courthouse and a jail, as well as inns, taverns, shops, and at least a few residences. In Shannon County, these various functions appear to have been served by a number of dispersed settlements satisfying different needs, but collectively centralizing the activities in a small neighborhood or community. Old Eminence was clearly nothing else but a political center. Downstream a few miles was Deatherage store (C. Price 1981). Later, a true frontier town developed at the new site of Eminence.

Old Eminence, 23SH104, is the only identified isolated political center in the Eastern Ozarks. The site is significant because any archeological data on the nature of activities carried on at this type of political center in the Eastern Ozarks would, of necessity, have to come from this site. Sparse documentary data underscores the need for archeological data. The archeological data can provide evidence of the functions of any one settlement locus served, while the documents often contain conflicting reports (C. Price 1981).

3. Site integrity. Research potential is enhanced by the relatively undisturbed condition of the site. The presence of only one historic component eliminates the possibility of mixing of historic components. The site has never been plowed, and damage from logging activities has been minimal.

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4. Determination of site function. Information on site content, site structure, and intrasite patterning should be readily obtainable in determining site function. Sufficient structural remains are present to provide data on construction techniques, building size, and structural layout. Construction features were evident at two structures: a charred wooden beam was found in situ in a footing trench in Feature 3 and charred wooden floor planking was found in place in Feature 1.

5. Prehistoric settlement patterns. The prehistoric component at Old Eminence is significant because of the uniqueness of its location. Most known Archaic/Woodland sites along the Current River are located on expanses of alluvial terraces or on the floodplain, and are close to springs. The prehistoric component at Old Eminence lacks all of these usual characteristics. This unusual site location at the foot of the valley slope provides good potential for settlement pattern and site function studies in the Eastern Ozark region.

Additional Significance

Finally, the site of this first county seat of Shannon County is also of importance to the local people. There is a strong tradition associated with the town and its location. The site has been visited by the local residents and during the centennial celebration of the new town of Eminence, a visit was made to the old site and a painting, reconstructing the "town" by local interpretation was made (Dix 1977 and C. Price 1981).

Any new data coming from this site will have to be gained through excavation. Extensive archival documentation on 23SH104 has been done by Cynthia Price. The site is the only remaining resource data base capable of providing additional needed information.

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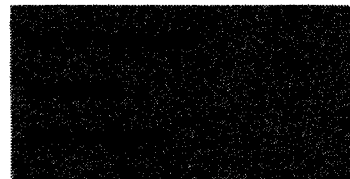
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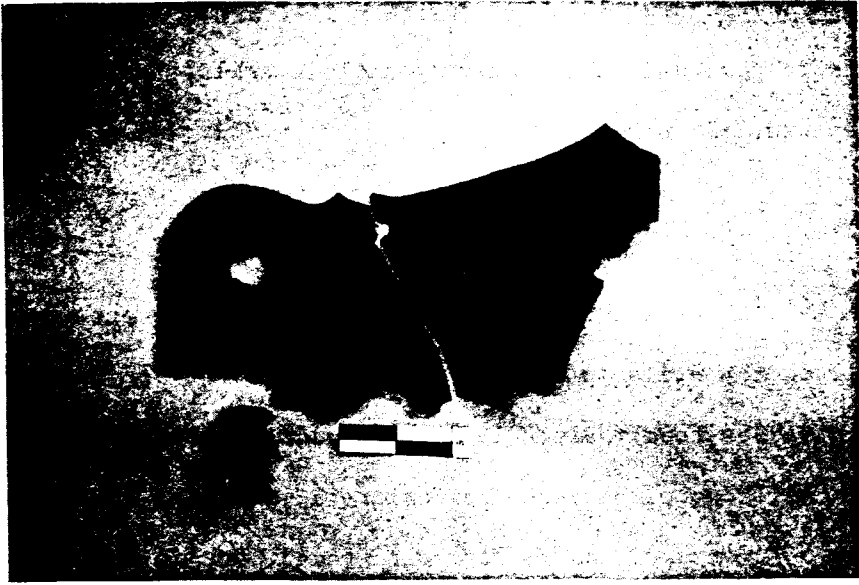
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Selected artifacts, 23SH-104.  
(From Price et al. 1984:109 Figures 1-17A&B)