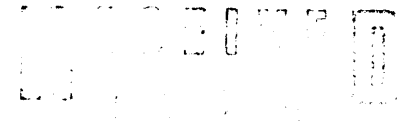


407

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Freels Cabin

other name/site number: 40AN28

2. Location

street & number: Freels Bend Road

city/town: Oak Ridge

not for publication: N/A

vicinity: N/A

state: TN

county: Anderson

code: 001

zip code: 37830

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-Federal

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:

N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Oak Ridge

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. X See continuation sheet.

Luis M. Thompson  
Signature of certifying official  
Federal Preservation Officer  
U.S. Department of Energy  
State or Federal agency and bureau

3/18/92  
Date

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

Herbert L. Hoyer  
Signature of commenting or other official

7/18/91  
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
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):

Coral Shell 5-6-92

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: DOMESTIC

Sub: Single dwelling

Current: RECREATION AND CULTURE

Sub: Outdoor recreation

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

OTHER: Saddlebag Log House

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Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation stone roof wood  
walls wood/log other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.  See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : G

Areas of Significance: SETTLEMENT  
ARCHITECTURE  
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION  

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Period(s) of Significance: ca. 1810-1959

Significant Dates : 1810, 1942

Significant Person(s): N/A  

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Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown  

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

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

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

State historic preservation office

Other state agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other--Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Approximately 1 acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 16 750380 3983250 B \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description:  See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification:  See continuation sheet.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Kimberley A. Murphy, Philip Thomason

Organization: Thomason & Associates Date: 4/5/91

Street & Number: P.O. Box 121225 Telephone: (615)383-0227

City or Town: Nashville State: TN ZIP: 37212

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

Freels Cabin Page #1

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Freels Cabin is a one-story, log dwelling built in two separate stages in the 19th century. The west pen appears to have been built ca. 1810 while the east pen was constructed in 1844. A large limestone chimney was also erected in 1844 between the two pens resulting in a saddlebag plan.

The house has a stone pier foundation, gable roof of wood shingles, and large connecting stone chimney. On all four sides of the house is a shed roof porch with a wood shingled roof, square columns and exposed eave rafters. The porch was added to the house in the late 1940s and the wood shingle roof was also added at that time. The west pen is composed of one large room and has hewn logs with V notching. The east pen is slightly larger and has half-dovetail notching. Between the logs is concrete chinking added during the late 1940s remodeling. The doors are vertical board design and the windows are one-over-one rectangular wood sash. The doors and windows appear to have been added to the house ca. 1900. The central chimney is of hewn limestone construction with mud chinking. Adjacent to the chimney is a small ladder which leads to the loft area of the west pen. Vertical boards have been added in the west gable field.

The interior of the west pen has exposed log walls, a wood floor added ca. 1900, and original exposed floor joists. The fireplace opening in this pen has an arched limestone lintel with a keystone. The east pen is similar in arrangement and details but has a larger fireplace opening. There is no indication that either fireplace opening had wood mantles.

The Freels Cabin is sited on a slight rise overlooking Melton Hill Lake (Clinch River). Adjacent to the house is a ca. 1840, one-story log crib with half-dovetail notching, and a gable roof of metal standing seam. This building has been remodeled in recent years as a rest room facility. Despite these alterations the building retains much of its original exterior form and detailing and is included as a contributing structure to the site. To the north of the house is a frame barn and concrete storage building constructed in the early 20th century. Both buildings are located approximately 100 yards from the house and are not included in the property's boundary.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   8  

Freels Cabin Page #1

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Freels Cabin is architecturally significant under criterion C. Because it is representative of the early settlement of this section of Anderson County, it is also significant under criterion A. The house continued to be used during and after WWII, and is therefore eligible under criteria consideration G. Although the structure is historically known as a cabin, it is correctly distinguished as a log house, because the logs are hewn square and joined carefully by hewn corner notching.

Freels Cabin is an excellent example of a saddlebag log dwelling from the early 19th century and its stone chimney displays particularly fine craftsmanship. Despite the addition of a porch in the 1940s the historic plan and design of the house remains evident. The saddlebag plan is a variation of the single pen dwelling, the most widespread type of log dwelling. Scotch-Irish pioneers adapted the log house form from German and northern European immigrants in the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century. Log dwellings were often the earliest permanent and semi-permanent structures built on the frontier. East Tennessee was one of the first areas settled after the American Revolution, becoming the first western frontier. Settlers entered the region from North Carolina and from Virginia, Kentucky, and the middle states through the Cumberland Gap. The remote valley was sparsely settled in the early years of the nineteenth century and the family names changed little until the coming of World War Two. The first dwellings constructed by these new settlers were of simple log construction. The abundance of hardwoods and the absence of sawmills made log construction the most practical. Freels Cabin was probably built around 1810 and is one of the oldest residences known to exist in Anderson County and the only 19th century residence remaining in Oak Ridge. Saddlebag forms are rare in Tennessee and Freels Cabin is a fine example of this type of vernacular log dwelling. The connecting limestone chimney is of particular note due to its size and fine construction techniques.

The Freels family, like many of the families that settled in the Clinch River Basin, came to East Tennessee from North Carolina in the late 1790s. Many members of the family settled in Roane and Anderson counties and concentrated in the communities of Wheat, Scarborough, and Robertsville. Edward Freels was one of the earliest settlers in Anderson County. He and Spencer Keith are recorded as owners of the land now known as Freels Bend on road work maps dating from 1801 and 1807. It is believed that Edward Freels built the west pen of the house ca. 1810. The Freels family owned several hundred acres in what was known as the "Bent" of the Clinch River. The family raised corn and cattle on the low lying lands adjacent to the river. The Freels family continued to own the land well into the 20th century. The bulk of the Freels land and the house were sold to Howard Van Gilder, Sr., and he owned the property when it was acquired by the federal government for the Manhattan Project. The government purchase in 1942 included the house and 813 acres.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Freels Cabin Page #2

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The impact of the Manhattan Project on the valley is tremendous. In less than three years, the War Department replaced four sparsely populated rural communities with one of the largest industrial complexes the world had ever known. The acquisition of the lands needed for the Manhattan Project called for the removal of about three thousand people from the valleys in which the reservation was built. Most of the structures were razed, although many of the farmsteads were used to house project workers. Freels Cabin was preserved as a picnic area for project employees and continues to serve as a recreation area, although access continues to be limited by the Department of Energy. A wraparound porch was added to the house by AEC (the Atomic Energy Commission, owners of the Oak Ridge reservation) in the 1940s to make the structure more usable.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Freels Cabin Page #1

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10

Freels Cabin Page #1

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Verbal Boundary Description: The Freels Cabin boundary is a rectangle which is bounded as follows: on the west by an intersecting line which is located thirty feet from the west facade of the building; on the south by an intersecting line which is located forty feet from the south facade of the building; on the east by a wire fence located approximately fifty feet from the building and parallel to it; and on the north by an intersecting line which is located forty feet from the north facade of the building. The boundary includes the cabin and the adjacent contributing building.

Boundary Justification: The boundary for Freels Cabin is drawn to include both the cabin and the adjacent outbuilding. Omitted from the boundary are two non-contributing farm buildings constructed in the 20th century.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Photographs

Freels Cabin Page #1

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Freels Cabin  
Freels Bend Road  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Photographed by Philip Thomason  
October 1990

Negatives located at: Tennessee Historical Commission  
701 Broadway  
Nashville, TN 37203

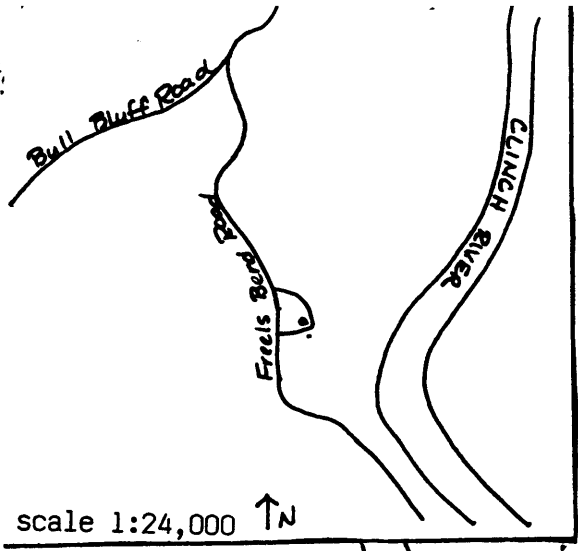
Photo #1 of 5: View of main (south) facade of dwelling.

Photo #2 of 5: View of rear (north) facade of dwelling.

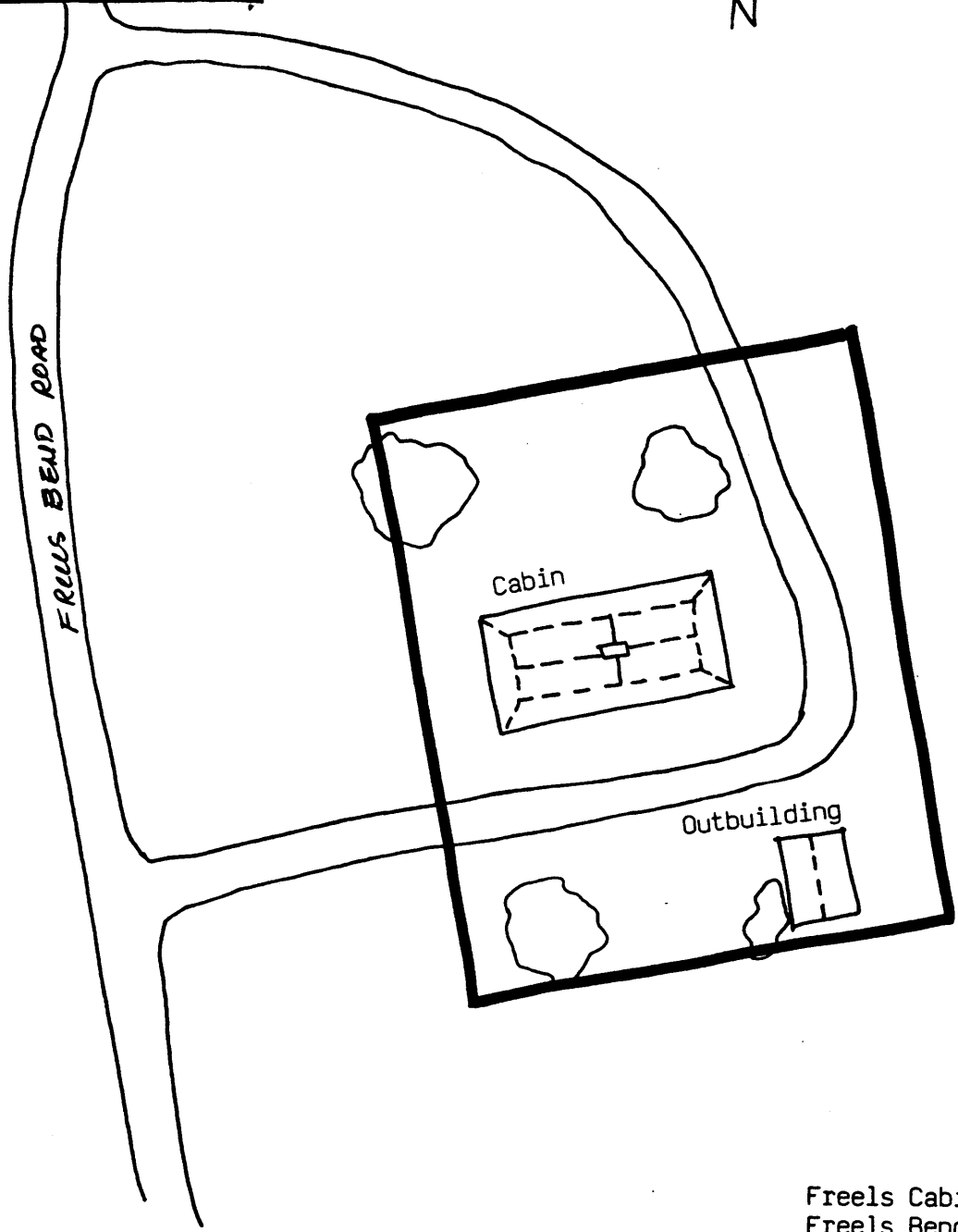
Photo #3 of 5: Connecting central chimney.

Photo #4 of 5: Interior fireplace in west pen of dwelling.

Photo #5 of 5: Outbuilding.



scale 1:24,000 ↑N



Freels Cabin  
Freels Bend Road  
Oak Ridge, TN  
not to scale



Freels Cabin

Freels Bend Road

Oak Ridge, Anderson County, TN

view looking north

photo by Phil Thomason

location of negs: Tenn Historical Comm

701 Broadway

Nashville, TN 37203

photo # 1 of 5



Freeels Cabin

Freeels Bend Rd

Oak Ridge, Anderson County, TN

view looking south

photo by Phil Thomason

Location of negs: Tenn Historical Comm.

701 Broadway

Nashville, TN 37211

photo #2 of 5





Freels Cabin

Freels Bend Rd

Oak Ridge, Anderson County, TN

view looking west

photo by Phil Thomason .

location of negs: Tenn Historical Comm

701 Broadway

Nashville, TN 37203

photo #3 of 5



Freels Cabin

Freels BEND RD

Oak Ridge, Anderson County, TN  
interior view, west pen

photo by Phil Thomason

location of negs: Tenn Historical Comm  
701 Broadway  
Nashville, TN 37203

photo # 4 of 5



Freels Cabin, outbuilding

Freels Bend Rd

Car Ridge, Anderson County, TN

view looking east

photo by Phil Thomason

location of negs: Tenn Historical Comm

701 Broadway

Nashville, TN 37203

photo # 5 of 5