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NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

NR LISTED

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAR 28 1996

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

AHPP

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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: Fort, John Gabriel, House

Other Name/Site Number: LO.0091

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2. Location

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Street & Number: Reveille Valley Road

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Driggs

Vicinity: X

State: AR County: Logan Code: AR 083 Zip Code: 72943

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification

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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 of Keeper

Date
of Action

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

Current : Vacant/Not In Use Sub: _____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Other: Saddlebag

Materials: foundation Stone roof Metal
walls Weatherboard other Concrete
Wood, Asphalt

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

Constructed c. 1848, the Fort House is a log-constructed, double-pen house covered by a side gable roof with a central chimney location. This "saddlebag" form was altered around 1900 when a frame kitchen addition was constructed at the rear of the house forming an offset T-shaped plan. The Fort House is located on the western side of Reveille Valley and is sited on a gently sloping hillside with a magnificent view of Magazine Mountain. Since the kitchen addition, the house endured various alterations, most significantly the loss of the massive dual fireplace stone chimney.

Elaboration

Constructed c. 1848, the Fort House is a log-constructed, double-pen house covered by a side gable roof with a central chimney location. This "saddlebag" form was altered around 1900 when a frame kitchen addition was constructed at the rear of the house forming an offset T-shaped plan. The Fort House is located northwest of a ninety degree bend in Reveille Valley Road (also County Road 40) on the western side of Reveille Valley. Sited on a gently sloping hillside, the house faces southeast for a magnificent view of Magazine Mountain.

The structure is supported by a stone pier foundation that is currently concealed with corrugated metal sheets. Identical metal sheets have also replaced the original wood shingles on the roof. The two pens of the original saddlebag are constructed of square hewn logs, which are believed to be oak, with half-dovetail notching. The western pen is the larger of the two and measures approximately twenty feet by seventeen-and-a-half feet, while the eastern pen is only approximately fifteen-and-a-half feet in

length. A distance of about four feet separates the two pens. This space, which is accessed from the exterior by a historic four-panel wood door, was originally occupied by a staircase to the upper bedrooms and the massive stone chimney with dual fireplaces. Sadly, the chimney was removed in the 1970's, and a bathroom built in its place in a misguided attempt to modernize the house.

The front facade of the house is clad with approximately 1" X 12" board and batten siding. This siding may have been added at some point after construction; however, it is present on a historic (probably late 19th century) photograph of the Fort House. A shed roof porch extends across the front facade and is supported by six chamfered wood posts. Underneath this porch, the composition of the facade is door, window, door, window, door. The historic photograph also validates the authenticity of the current staircase door in the center of the facade and the flanking six-over-six, single-hung wood windows. The two single-leaf doors leading into each pen were rebuilt in the 1970's.

Both side elevations have been altered over the years. The northeastern elevation is covered with asphalt roll siding and has a modern two-over-two, horizontal-sash aluminum window in the center of the gable. The northern end of this side elevation is an enclosed shed-roof porch off of the kitchen addition that is likewise covered with asphalt roll siding and fenestrated with a small aluminum-frame window. The rear elevation contains a small aluminum window and a single-leaf entrance into the enclosed shed, and a pair of aluminum windows in the center of the kitchen gable end. The gable end is sided with simple drop wood siding that was added at an uncertain date.

The southwestern side elevation of the kitchen addition is also clad with the drop siding but contains the original single-leaf entrance flanked by two four-over-four, double-hung windows. A shed roof porch extends from this side of the kitchen and wraps around to the rear of the original saddlebag portion of the house. Another four-over-four window is placed on the rear of the saddlebag at its junction with the kitchen addition. The rear of the saddlebag is clad with board-and-batten siding like the front elevation, but has suffered the addition of an exterior concrete block chimney in the 1970's. The gable end of the saddlebag contains the simple drop wood siding and is lighted by a pair of aluminum-frame windows.

The original interior of the saddlebag has been completely obscured on the first story by the application of simulated wood panelling on the walls and a new tile ceiling over the original exposed joist ceiling. Both of the historic mantelpieces were lost when the chimney was razed. Likewise the historic wood floor has been covered with vinyl and/or carpeting. Originally, the smaller pen featured an underground "root cellar" with a trap door. Unfortunately, the cellar was filled with stone from the chimney when it was torn down. The upper two bedrooms do not appear to have been walled on the interior. They currently consist of plank flooring, exposed roof rafters, and a rectangular opening on each gable end for a window.

Although several buildings, including a log barn and a one-room log school building, were historically associated with the property, none survive today. A historic well with a modern concrete-block superstructure is located southwest of the house and is considered a contributing resource. Northwest of the house is a small, gable-roof garage that has been completely rebuilt and is considered noncontributing.

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9. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1848

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

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

Summary

The Fort House in Reveille Valley is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as the best known example in Logan County of an antebellum, log-constructed, saddlebag house.

Elaboration

The Fort House is located in Reveille Valley, one of the oldest settlements between Magazine and Paris, in Logan County. This valley and the creek flowing through it owes its name to Charles Brome Humphry, who migrated from England to the United States in 1815 at age seventeen. He ventured into this wilderness area of the Arkansas Territory sometime around 1830. Humphry built the first large homestead in the valley, and, in the tradition of English landowners, dubbed his new home "Reveille." In later years the name gradually became to be pronounced, and sometimes spelled, "Revilee."

Others soon settled in the valley near Reveille, drawn to its rich resources of forest, game, fruits, nuts, and plentiful water. The community really coalesced when Humphry, a staunch believer in education, constructed a log school house on his property, hired a teacher, and invited all of the nearby families' children to attend.

In 1846, the John Gabriel Fort family settled in Reveille valley. Fort was born in New Madrid County, Missouri in 1811 (then known as the New Madrid District of the Territory of Louisiana), a few months before the great earthquakes of that name. Having survived the earthquakes, the Fort family moved to southern Illinois in 1812. In 1816, the family moved back to Missouri and homesteaded in Cooper County, where John was raised to manhood. He married Dorinda Bell in 1828, and in the next year moved along with his mother to the Arkansas Territory, where his uncle, John Titsworth had settled at the foot of Short Mountain in 1814.

John and Dorinda instead chose to live at McLean's Bottom, near present-day Roseville; however, in 1830, they moved to present-day Franklin County where they lived for nearly sixteen years before moving to Reveille. John Fort is believed to have constructed the nominated property by 1848 since their fifth child, Isadora, was born in the home in 1849. Two more children were born in the house, the last being in 1859. When the Civil War ensued in 1861, three of Fort's sons enlisted in the Confederate Army. As the war progressed and the threat of bushwhackers and Federal occupation increase, John and Dorinda Fort moved to Texas and abandoned their home. Upon returning after the war, Fort discovered his house extant but his farm ravaged. In 1890, the Forts sold their property in Reveille Valley and moved permanently to Texas where John died in 1896 followed by Dorinda in 1900.

The property has changed hands several times since then. In 1919, Jim Thomas purchased the Fort property. Today, the fourth generation of the Thomas family, Joyce and Donald Friddle, own the house and farm.

The Fort House is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as one of the better representatives in Logan County of a log-constructed, antebellum residence and as the best known example in the county of the saddlebag form of log construction.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Information submitted by Elizabeth Titsworth, November, 1995.

Friddle, Joyce., and Elizabeth Titsworth. "Getting To Know The Old Pre-War Fort House." *Wagon Wheels*. Logan County Historical Society, Winter 1994, Vol. 14, No. 4.

Mauldin, Lynn C. "The John Gabriel Forts of Reveille Valley." *Wagon Wheels*. Logan County Historical Society, Winter 1994 Vol. 14, No. 4.

Sizemore, Jean. *Ozark Vernacular Houses*. Fayetteville: The University of Arkansas Press, 1994.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

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: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>433120</u>	<u>3896080</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of a line formed by the northeast elevation of the house and a line formed by the western edge of Reveille Valley Rd., proceed northerly along the edge of the road approximately twenty feet to its intersection with a fence running parallel to the northeast elevation of the house; thence proceed northwest along the fence for 130 feet; thence proceed southwest along an intersecting fence that is parallel with the rear, or northwest, elevation of house for approximately 115 feet to its intersection with the northern edge of Reveille Valley Rd.; thence proceed easterly along the edge of the road and around the broad curve to the north to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes the historic house, the contributing well, the noncontributing garage and much of the surrounding grounds which retain integrity.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Patrick Zollner, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: February 9, 1996

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

Fort, John Hays
Driggs vic,
Logan Co., Ark.
15/433120/
3896080



