

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **AUG 11 1986**

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Rabbits Foot Lodge

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 3600 Silent Grove Road

___ not for publication

city, town Springdale

___ vicinity of

state Arkansas

code 05

county Washington

code 143

3. Classification

Category

___ district

☒ building(s)

___ structure

___ site

___ object

Ownership

___ public

☒ private

___ both

Public Acquisition

N/A in process

___ being considered

Status

☒ occupied

___ unoccupied

___ work in progress

Accessible

☒ yes: restricted

___ yes: unrestricted

___ no

Present Use

☒ agriculture

___ commercial

___ educational

___ entertainment

___ government

___ industrial

___ military

___ museum

___ park

☒ private residence

___ religious

___ scientific

___ transportation

___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. and Mrs. David A. Buckley

street & number 3600 Silent Grove Road

city, town Springdale

___ vicinity of

state Arkansas 72764

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse

street & number College Ave.

city, town Fayetteville

state AR 72701

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

none

has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

state

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

RABBITS FOOT LODGE

Summary

Built in 1908 of materials gathered from its one hundred acre site, Rabbits Foot Lodge nestles on the hillside which rises sharply above the spring and creek for which it was named. Although it is located just one mile northwest of the busy town of Springdale, the Lodge and its tranquil setting have always been considered a haven by its owners. The sheer size of this log structure commands respect and this, along with an attention to stylistic details reminiscent of the Adirondack Great Camps, have made Rabbits Foot Lodge a unique component of Arkansas' historic resources.

Elaboration

Visitors to Rabbits Foot Lodge approach from the west and are immediately impressed with the massiveness of this two story log house, which also has a full basement and dormered attic. In plan, the Lodge is similar to an American four-square, with a two story ell and garage extending from the east side. One of the most striking features of the house is its series of pyramidal roofs which flare at the eaves. This pagoda-like detail has prompted observers to label Rabbits Foot a "combination of a Chinese tea house and an Ozark mansion." The large central pyramid is pierced at the peak by a brick chimney and broken on the west, north, and south faces by dormer vents that also have flared eaves. Small pyramidal roofs characterize the corners of the deep wrap-around veranda, making the porch a major focal point of the house. Composition shingles have long since replaced the original wood shakes.

Exterior log walls rest on a continuous stone foundation and, according to a February 14, 1908 article in the weekly Springdale News, "all the material, even to the foundation stone, is being produced on the property. The logs have been planed and measure approximately 6" by 8". This type of "modern" log construction features broken joints - the corners are tied together with large spikes - and cracks chinked with mortar. Several load-bearing interior walls are log and these are expressed on the exterior by exposed tenons.

Multi-paned wood, double hung windows are found throughout the house, most frequently in 25 over 1 or 25 over 25 sash. All of the original window shutters remain intact. This small-paned sash configuration is repeated on both of the primary entrance doors located on the south elevation as well as the french doors opening west onto the porch. All of the doors are highlighted with multi-paned transoms.

A deep frame veranda wraps the main level of Rabbits Foot Lodge on the south and west elevation. Rustic log posts serve as supporting columns at intervals along the porch and are linked by a cross railing. Across the west facade the porch is repeated at the basement level, a result of the homesite's slope.

The interior of Rabbits Foot Lodge has changed little since 1908. The rustic theme is expressed in the living room and dining room by stained ceiling beams, regularly spaced vertical planks in the plaster walls, and an enormous fireplace and hearth. Kitchen and bath modifications have been made periodically, enabling the house to function efficiently today. An unusual pewter

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chandelier hangs over the staircase landing and is a remnant of the Fulbright occupancy. An addition on the north side of the Lodge functions as a laundry room and allows interior access to the basement.

Rabbits Foot Lodge was constructed above, and just fifty feet east of, Dancing Rabbit Creek for which it was named. The creek is fed by a spring that produces 2-3 million gallons of water a day. Stone terracing and steps were added by Senator J. William Fulbright and lead from the house down to the spring. He also constructed a dam a short distance from the spring to create a swimming hole which is presently stocked with trout.

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 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 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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1908 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY:

Rabbits Foot Lodge was built in 1908 for Dr. and Mrs. Charles F. Perkins. Little did Dr. Perkins know that in decades that would follow, this structure would gain notariety throughout the state of Arkansas for its unusual design and for the far-reaching impact one of its owners would have on both state and national policies. While log structures are commonplace in Arkansas' history, the size and sophistication of details found in Rabbits Foot Lodge elevated this type of construction to a new prestige. J. William Fulbright, President of the University of Arkansas and later United States Congressman and Senator, owned Rabbits Foot Lodge from 1934 to 1946, and remarked in a recent letter, "I spent some of the finest days of my life in that beautiful and interesting house."

ELABORATION:

Although the area was settled as early as the 1840's, the community of Springdale in northwest Arkansas did not flourish until after 1881 when the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad was built. From that time until well into the twentieth century the area prospered and the population grew in response to the thriving fruit industry. Springdale boasted canning factories, fruit evaporators, and juice factories which processed a portion of the vast apple harvests of Benton and Washington counties. The zenith of King Apple's reign was the season of 1919 when, from Springdale, more than 1000 railway carloads of apple products were shipped. The area's economy was also bolstered by prosperous cattle and livestock operations.

Dr. Charles F. Perkins was born in Kewanee, Illinois and graduated in 1886 from Rush Medical College of Chicago. He remained in Chicago until 1899 during which time he specialized in general surgery. Relocating to Springdale in 1904, Dr. Perkins and his wife purchased 100 acres of pastureland northwest of the town. Dr. Perkins operated a cattle farm while continuing to practice medicine "in town" until 1916 when he sold Rabbits Foot Lodge and moved to Rogers, Arkansas.

Before Dr. Perkins' arrival and the construction of the lodge, Dancing Rabbit Creek was a center of activity because of the clean, endless supply of water. Prior to white settlement, the spring below the lodge supported an Indian campground, a large mill in the 1800's, and later served as the water supply for the city of Springdale. After construction, the lodge was the largest building in the area and consequentially became the meeting place for businessmen and the city council.

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Architecturally, Rabbits Foot Lodge is one of few examples of the vernacular Adirondack Style in Arkansas. Opening the wilderness to tourism, the completion of the Adirondack Railroad in 1871 triggered a "Return to Nature" movement. Urban Easterners fashionably vacationed in densely wooded mountains and rested in large rustic lodges somewhat akin to a pioneer-style cabin with all the modern conveniences of the day. Many public lodges and fewer private ones were built complete with the characteristic elements: native log structures with enormous stone fireplaces, limbs and branches used in decorative porch railings and supports and exposed beams.

Although Rabbits Foot Lodge contains all these elements, other features mark it justifiably unique. Most noticeable is the pyramidal roofs with flared eaves which have been said to have the appearance of a "Chinese structure." Most importantly, almost all details are completely intact and the structure maintains an excellent degree of integrity.

Rabbits Foot Lodge's most famous proprietor bought the property in 1934. By this time, J. William Fulbright had already finished his studies as a Rhodes Scholar and attained his degree from George Washington University School of Law. He worked for the Department of Justice, then taught at George Washington University before returning to Fayetteville to join the University of Arkansas faculty as a professor of law.

Fulbright remained in Fayetteville serving as President of the University of Arkansas from 1939 to 1941 and farmed his livestock on the 100 acres surrounding Rabbits Foot Lodge. In 1942, Fulbright was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives; in 1944, he became a United States Senator. With great regret, Fulbright decided to sell the lodge in 1946 and relocate his family back to Washington.

In government, Fulbright's career has been an illustrious one. In 1959, Fulbright began serving a 15-year term as Chairman of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee. From inception through passage, Fulbright was responsible for the Fulbright Act of 1946 which provided for the exchange of students and teachers between the United States and foreign countries.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Springdale News," May 31, 1907 - December, 1909, particularly Feb. 14, 1908,
also Aug. 24, 1975.

"Washington County Historical Society Flashback," May, 1966.
The property abstract; Bob Besom, Director Shiloh Museum.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 24.4 acres

Quadrangle name Springdale, AR

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5
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3	9	5	7	0	0
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4	0	0	7	7	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

1	5
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3	9	6	1	2	5
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4	0	0	7	7	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

1	5
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3	9	6	1	2	0
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4	0	0	7	4	9	5
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D

1	5
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3	9	5	7	0	0
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4	0	0	7	5	1	0
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E

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Karen Buckley and AHPP staff.

organization

date October 10, 1985

street & number 3600 Silent Grove Road

telephone (501) 751 1806

city or town Springdale

state AR 72764

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Arkansas SHPO

date 8/6/86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 9-11-86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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VERBAL BOUNDARY

This property is located in all of this north 808 feet of this E $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, of section 27, T18N, R30W, lying and being on the east side of the middle of the Fayetteville and Bentonville Public Road, containing 24.40 acres, more or less. More specifically, from this northeast corner of section 27, T18N, R30W, this north boundary of this property runs due west for 1312 feet to the center of the Fayetteville-Bentonville Public Road, then south down the center of the road for 808 feet, then due east for 1312 feet, then due north for 808 feet, back to the NE corner of section 27.