

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NR LISTED 2/15/05

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mack Morton Barn

other names/site number WA0929

2. Location

street & number 11516 Appleby Road (CR254)

☐ not for publication

city or town Appleby

☐ vicinity

state AR code AR county Washington code 143 zip code 72730

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐  
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional  
comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

Name of Property

County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

Total

### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

### Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/Agricultural outbuilding

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER./vernacular

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Vertical Boards

roof Metal

other

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Mack Morton Barn

Name of Property

Washington Co., AR

County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C moved from its original location.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

State

### Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

### Period of Significance

C. 1900

### Significant Dates

C. 1900

### Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

### Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

### Architect/Builder

Mack Morton

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### 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

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

### SUMMARY

The Mack Morton Barn in the community of Appleby was built circa 1900 for the purpose of housing and feeding horses and cows. This vernacular agricultural outbuilding stands out in Appleby and the state as it was constructed with an eleven-sided plan on a continuous concrete foundation in the geometric shape of an undecagon. Once a rural farming area of orchards situated adjacent to the original owner's circa 1840s home – remodeled to a late twentieth century appearance – the barn is now on the outskirts of a late twentieth-century subdivision; however, enough wooded and cleared pastureland yet remains to the east and south of the barn to evoke its late-nineteenth to early-twentieth century environment.

### ELABORATION

The circa 1900 Mack Morton Barn is located at 11516 Appleby Road in the Washington County community of Appleby, southwest of Farmington. The barn exhibits board and batten sheathing and an eleven-hip metal roof. An eleven-sided, metal roofed, louvered cupola rests at the apex. The building is two-story with an open loft floored with wide sawn boards.

The elevations of the barn are sectioned into eleven distinct bays. Beginning with bay one, which fronts on the driveway to the Morton/Combs House situated north of the barn, this elaboration shall proceed clockwise to the east. Bay one on the first floor contains no exterior access. Bay two consists of a wide opening flanked by two short windows containing no sashes. A hinge remains on the doorway indicating there were double doors at one time. Bay three is completely open with no remaining sheathing. Bay four is fenestrated with a single-leaf opening and a small open window. Bays five, six and seven are open to the interior. Bay eight contains a single small window opening. Bay nine mirrors bay four with a single-leaf opening and small window.



## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The second story of the barn features double-leaf doors for loading hay into the loft on bays one and eleven. Bays ten and three have second-story openings that formerly held double-leaf doors, which are now missing. Bay seven featured a door as well, though only one leaf remains.

Eleven stalls encircle the open concrete center of the barn. Horizontal rails separate the stalls. Stalls three and five feature cribs and stall eight contains a wooden trough, which faces the central area of the barn. The loft is accessed from the first floor by a ladder, which then extends up to the roofline where it hugs the rafters and leads to the cupola. The plank floored loft provides an excellent view of the structural members that support the conical roof of the Mack Morton Barn.

Despite some missing doors and deterioration of the board and batten siding, the Mack Morton Barn continues to display sufficient integrity to qualify it for National Register listing with statewide significance. The Mack Morton Barn was one of three multi-sided barns in Washington and Baxter counties; however, the destruction of the other two have left the Morton Barn as the single representative of such a geometric agricultural outbuilding in the state. In addition, though it is being encroached upon by development, its surroundings still suggest its rural origins, lending to the barn's integrity.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

### SUMMARY

The Mack Morton Barn in Appleby was constructed circa 1900 and is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with statewide significance under Criterion C as the only example of an eleven-sided livestock barn in the state. The unusual form of the barn was chosen by Mack Morton as the most functional and efficient way to feed his livestock and it has remained structurally unchanged since the early twentieth century. There have been three documented multi-sided barns in Washington and Baxter counties but the Mack Morton Barn is the only one that survives.

### ELABORATION

Poland Macklin "Mack" Morton's grandfather William Morton, moved to Arkansas from Tennessee and established their Washington County farm in 1830. Mack Morton was born on the farm east of Prairie Grove in 1866 and lived there until his death, also in the farmhouse, in 1945. Morton and three local partners were instrumental in implementing the first fruit canning industry in Northwest Arkansas. In addition to establishing a major manufacturing concern in Washington County, Mack Morton held extensive fruit orchards of peaches, apples and blackberries and he was the first farmer to introduce strawberries in the area. Morton also raised cattle and horses on his farm while serving as Washington County sheriff for four years.

The community where Mack Morton centered his business and his life was situated between Farmington and Prairie Grove west of Kessler Mountain and southwest of Fayetteville. The area came to be known as Appleby but it was never incorporated as a town, rather it simply served as a railroad crossing for the line that went from Fayetteville to Muskogee, Oklahoma. Morton and his partners, son-in-law Clyde Carnes and Washington County brothers George and Charles Appleby, had constructed a railroad siding



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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there for their canning factory. It has not been documented whether the Appleby brothers were the source of the community name, but they were heavily involved in the canning business, serving as presidents of the Ozark Cannery Association and overseeing eight dried fruit plants, so it is very likely that the place name can be linked to the family or to the Appleby Canning Factory. In addition to being an industrial center, Mack Morton's property was also home to the Washington County Fairgrounds and a circa 1920s race track, which stood to the north of the barn.

The barn and Morton home was sold out of the family to Lloyd Box who then sold it to Mike Mashburn. Donna and Steve Combs, who own a local retail business and deal in real estate, bought the property in early 1990s. The early nineteenth-century farmhouse was completely renovated by the Combs family as the building had deteriorated; however the original floor plan was retained and the house exhibits twentieth-century architectural elements that approximate those that might have been present on buildings of the period. The only improvement to the barn was a new corrugated metal roof for the louvered cupola, which the Combs applied in the 1990s. The Mack Morton Barn is no longer used for agricultural purposes and is currently utilized as a storage building.

The unique shape of the Mack Morton Barn was utilized as an efficient method of feeding Morton's livestock. The floor plan enabled him freer movement within and he was able to feed the animals from one point since the eleven stalls were grouped in a circle around a central space. The exact construction date of the barn is unknown but several family members have placed it between 1875 and 1900; however construction techniques and degree of deterioration suggest that it dates closer to the turn of the century. Jonce Barnett, son-in-law to Mack Morton built his own "round" barn in Walnut Grove just west of Appleby in the 1920s or 1930s. (It is undocumented whether the barn was actually round or if it was multi-sided as well). The Barnett Barn burned in the early 1990s and the owner at the time did not

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reconstruct it, but the foundation remains on the property for future reference to its actual shape. A third round barn of log was constructed in Baxter County near Norfolk in 1913 by Frank Pierce. The outbuilding, topped with a massive conical roof and open cupola of wooden shingles was featured in Ripley's "Believe It Or Not" in 1938. Unfortunately, the Pierce Barn succumbed to a tornado in the 1930s leaving the Mack Morton Barn as the only documented representative in Arkansas of a unique undecagon barn.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mack Morton Barn in Appleby, Washington County is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with statewide significance under Criterion C as the best example of an eleven-sided barn in Arkansas. While there were two other documented examples of multi-sided barns, one in Washington County and the second in Baxter County, both have been destroyed. The Mack Morton Barn serves as a reminder of the agricultural occupations that most residents of the county engaged in during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The farmland surrounding the barn is giving way rapidly to development and golf courses, thus its importance as a unique architectural example and as a symbol of Appleby's agricultural past can not be minimized.



Mack Morton Barn  
Name of Property

Washington County, AR  
County and State

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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#### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Shiloh Museum. *History of Washington County Arkansas*. Springdale, AR: Shiloh Museum, 1989.

Carnes, Kenneth. Farmington, AR. Grandson of Mack Morton. Telephone interview with author, Little Rock, AR, 07 September 2004.

Carnes, Morton. Farmington, AR. Grandson of Mack Morton. Telephone interview with author, Little Rock, AR, 22 July 2004.

Combs, Donna. Farmington, AR. Current owner of Morton Barn. Telephone interview with author, Little Rock, AR, 21 September 2004.

Shburn, Mike. Fayetteville, AR. Former owner of Mack Morton Barn. Telephone interview with author, Little Rock, AR, 08 March 2004.

Mack Morton Barn  
Name of Property

Washington County, AR  
County and State

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From a point approximately ten feet north of bay one of the Mack Morton Barn on the north elevation proceed east approximately thirty feet to a point north east of bay three. Proceed south approximately thirty feet to a point southeast of bay five. Proceed west approximately thirty feet to a point southwest of bay eight. Proceed approximately thirty feet to a point northwest of bay ten then proceed approximately thirty feet to point of beginning.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the land immediately adjacent to the barn as the historic parcel has been subdivided and the original home on the property has been altered in the twentieth century.

Mack Morton Barn

Name of Property

Washington Co., AR

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property Less than one acre**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>387823</u>	<u>3986786</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

☐ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	<u>Holly Hope/ Special Projects Historian</u>		
organization	<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	date	<u>10/14/04</u>
street & number	<u>1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street</u>	telephone	<u>501 324-9880</u>
city or town	<u>Little Rock</u>	state	<u>AR</u> zip code <u>72201</u>

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name	<u>Donna Combs</u>		
street & number	<u>11516 Appleby Road</u>	telephone	<u>479 267-3930</u>
city or town	<u>Appleby</u>	state	<u>AR</u> zip code <u>72730</u>

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.