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National Park Service  
Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
1999



Collier Homestead  
Buffalo National River

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## Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

### Inventory Summary

#### The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

##### CLI General Information:

##### Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

##### Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

### **Inventory Unit Description:**

The Collier Homestead cultural landscape is an 11.9 acre homestead property south of the Buffalo River. It is located in the Middle River section of the park approximately 1.5 miles south of the Tyler Bend Visitor Center.

The landscape through which the Buffalo River runs is rural with a persistently low community population. The extremes of topography made access to the region and travel within it difficult during the initial periods of settlement. A regional character developed out of this isolation and limited outsider influence. These conditions lent themselves to a culture of self-sufficiency and subsistence family farming. "The Buffalo bottom land could support a small family with basic foodstuffs...By the turn of the century, the mountain farmer along the Buffalo raised wheat for bread and corn for feed. When his wheat crop failed, he resorted to corn bread for sustenance and raised some cotton to gain a little extra cash to purchase the few essentials he could not produce on his land. Those indispensable items included salt, coffee, sugar, soda, horseshoes, and cotton and woolen cloth" (Pitcaithley, 1976, 126).

Fertile acreage along creeks and rivers were settled first while the less desirable land lay unclaimed on slopes and atop ridges. The Collier family was among the last of the 20th century settlers to stake a claim on these hilltop remnants in the early 1930s.

Solomon "Sod" Collier secured a forty-acre tract of land at Tyler Bend and began making the improvements required to obtain a homestead patent. The period of significance for the Collier Homestead cultural landscape begins when the family selected the tract and began the clearing and building of structures for the farm in 1931 and ends with the sale of the homestead in 1964.

The first unit of a self-sufficient community is that of the family farm. In the case of the Collier Homestead, the farm consisted of a house, a barn, a smokehouse, a means to access to water, a plot for gardening, and domestic animals. The Colliers laid out their homestead in a clearing on a wooded ridge top 300 ft above the Buffalo River which lies to the north and Calf Creek below them to the west. A storage shed served as the family's first shelter while the house took shape inside the clearing. Land was cultivated and fenced, and outbuildings, including a barn and a smokehouse, were constructed. Food was stored in outbuildings. A paling fence enclosed the large yard, surrounding the house, cistern, and smokehouse. The fence was constructed to keep livestock out of the yard and family garden. This followed the tradition of farming habits in more moderate climates in which livestock were free to roam and feed in the forest. The primary purpose of fencing was to keep the livestock out of the fields. Portions of the original paling fence were rebuilt by the NPS ca. 1980 in the manner of original construction using hand-hewn materials.

A trail accesses the site from the parking lot located to the south and east of the homestead. The trail follows the contour of the ridge line and goes approximately 300 feet to a small log barn. The barn is situated towards the slope of the ridge and is outside the domestic fenced area. Trails around the back of the property cross into the woods and follow the ridge line providing overlook views to the river and to Calf Creek below. There is only one extant field dating to the period of use. It is maintained by the Park Service as a mowed area surrounded by woods. The field is evident from the parking lot and

along the ¼ mile trail on the approach to the homestead site. Other fields that had been part of the original forty acres were located near the barn. These are not as evident as they have been left to successional growth.

By 1937, the Collier family had improved the land enough to receive the patent for the acreage and thus became among the last settlers along the Buffalo River to acquire land under the 1862 Homestead Act.

### Site Plan



*Site plan of the Collier Homestead. Not to scale (NPS, 2009).*

### Property Level and CLI Numbers

|                                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Inventory Unit Name:</b>       | Collier Homestead |
| <b>Property Level:</b>            | Landscape         |
| <b>CLI Identification Number:</b> | 500918            |
| <b>Parent Landscape:</b>          | 500918            |

### Park Information

|                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Park Name and Alpha Code:</b> | Buffalo National River -BUFF |
| <b>Park Organization Code:</b>   | 7150                         |
| <b>Park Administrative Unit:</b> | Buffalo National River       |

### **CLI Hierarchy Description**

The Collier Homestead, located within the boundaries of the Buffalo River National River, is a component landscape of the Tyler Bend resources of the Buffalo River parent landscape. The Collier Homestead is owned and operated by the National Park Service.

## Concurrence Status

**Inventory Status:** Complete

### Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Initial research was conducted by seasonals Kathleen Fitzgerald and Richard Radford during FY99 to determine the number of landscapes for the park. Cultural Landscapes Program Leader Sherda Williams and Historical Landscape Architect Marla McEnaney reviewed the landscape hierarchy presented in CLI. Site work was completed by Landscape Architect Gail Gladstone and Landscape Historian Alesha Hauser. Research and data entry was completed by Ms. Gladstone. Data entry will continue for the inventory unit as scheduled by the CLI Program.

### Concurrence Status:

|                                                 |                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Park Superintendent Concurrence:</b>         | Yes                                      |
| <b>Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:</b> | 05/26/2009                               |
| <b>National Register Concurrence:</b>           | Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination |
| <b>Date of Concurrence Determination:</b>       | 06/20/1990                               |

### National Register Concurrence Narrative:

"The double-pen home and log outbuilding are representative of the 1930s construction in the Ozarks. Also the Sod Collier Homestead is apparently only one of a few left in the area".

### Concurrence Graphic Information:



IN REPLY REFER TO:

**United States Department of the Interior  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

Buffalo National River  
402 N. Walnut, Suite 136  
Harrison, AR 72601

H3023 (BUFF-ARCH)

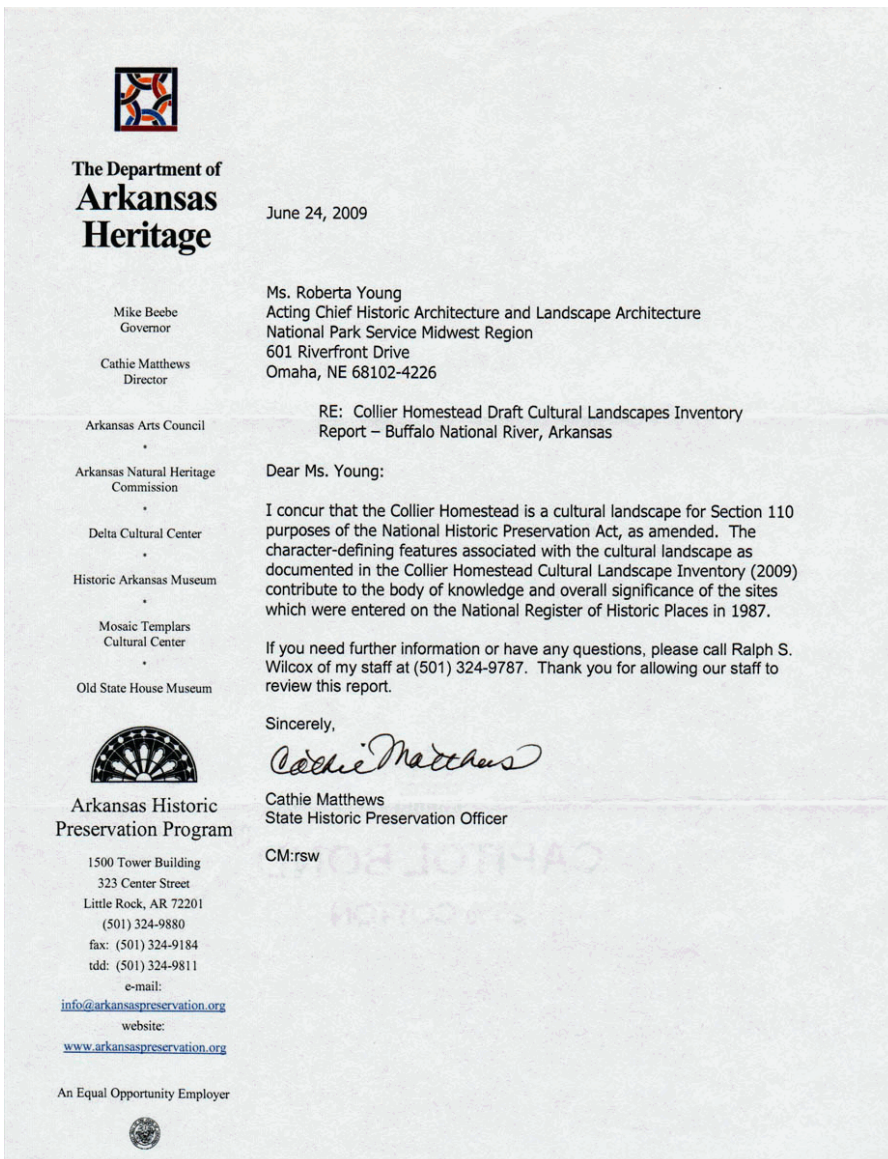
May 26, 2009

Memorandum

To: Acting Regional Director, Midwest Region  
From: Superintendent, Buffalo National River *Kevin A. Cheri*  
Subject: Cultural Landscapes Inventory for the Collier Homestead Landscape at Buffalo National River

The subject Cultural Landscapes Inventory has been reviewed and comments forwarded to Gail Gladstone of your office. We concur that the landscape's condition is "Good" and that the management category "Should be Preserved and Maintained" is appropriate for this property. If your staff have any questions, please have them contact Acting Chief of Interpretation and Cultural Resources, Dr. Caven Clark at 870/365-2792 or via email at [caven\\_clark@nps.gov](mailto:caven_clark@nps.gov).

*Park concurrence for the cultural landscape at Collier Homestead 5/26/2009.*



*SHPO concurrence on the cultural landscape at Collier Homestead dated 6/24/2009.*

11/06/2002 WED 17:22 FAX



ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

TEL: 217/61  
Buffalo  
National River

JUN 20 1990

June 6, 1990

Mr. Neil C. Mangum  
Chief, Division of History  
Southwest Region  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 728  
Santa Fe, NM 87504-0728

[illegible]

RE: Newton County - Tyler Bend Vicinity  
Environmental Review - NPS  
Determination of Eligibility of Sod Collier  
Homestead for Listing on the National Register  
of Historic Places

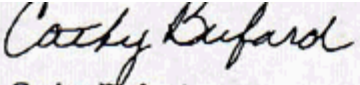
Dear Neil:

The staff has completed its review of the above referenced project and has determined the Sod Collier Homestead to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The double-pen home and log outbuilding are representative of 1930's construction in the Ozarks. Also, the Sod Collier Homestead is apparently only one of a few left in the area.

Our office will require further information on this particular project as work progress

If you have questions, please contact Randy Jeffery of my staff at (501) 371-2763.

Sincerely,

|                                                                                                                                                      |               |                                                         |               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <br>Cathy Buford<br>State Historic Preservation Officer<br>CB:RJ:dg |               | Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671   # of pages > |               |
| To                                                                                                                                                   | Roberta Young | From                                                    | Charlotte Hun |
| Co.                                                                                                                                                  | NPS           | Co.                                                     | NPS           |
| Dept.                                                                                                                                                |               | Phone #                                                 | 870-741-51    |
| Fax #                                                                                                                                                | 402-827-9107  | Fax #                                                   |               |

Suite 200 - Heritage Center • 225 East Markham • Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 • Phone (501) 371-2763  
A Division of the Department of Arkansas Heritage



*Determination of Eligibility by Arkansas SHPO in 1990. LCS structures were determined significant for contributing to a potential district in 1993-95.*

**Revisions Impacting Change in Concurrence:** Other

**Revision Date:** 04/02/2009

**Revision Narrative:**

Updated for the CLI database.

## Geographic Information & Location Map

### Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

Written Boundary Description from the DOE: "800 ft west of barn is western boundary. The western boundary is 400 ft wide. The trail divides the boundary in half. The southern boundary is 15 degrees S of E for 1200 ft. The eastern boundary is 5 degrees W of N and runs for 550 ft. The northern boundary runs E to W for 1000 ft.

The boundaries were mainly picked because of level topography".

On the tract map, the Homestead is located in Section 2, Township 15N, Range 17W.

### State and County:

**State:** AR

**County:** Searcy County

**Size (Acres):** 11.87

**Boundary UTMS:**

**Source:** USGS Map 1:24,000  
**Type of Point:** Point  
**Datum:** NAD 83  
**UTM Zone:** 15  
**UTM Easting:** 520,899  
**UTM Northing:** 3,981,251  
**Boundary Datum Other:** Point A

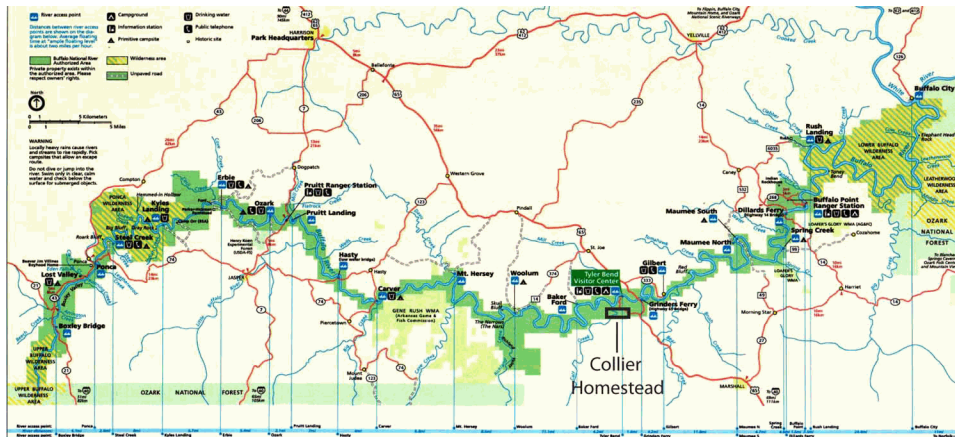
**Source:** USGS Map 1:24,000  
**Type of Point:** Point  
**Datum:** NAD 83  
**UTM Zone:** 15  
**UTM Easting:** 520,899  
**UTM Northing:** 3,981,251  
**Boundary Datum Other:** Point B

**Source:** USGS Map 1:24,000  
**Type of Point:** Point  
**Datum:** NAD 83  
**UTM Zone:** 15  
**UTM Easting:** 521,183  
**UTM Northing:** 3,981,373  
**Boundary Datum Other:** Point C

**Source:** USGS Map 1:24,000  
**Type of Point:** Point  
**Datum:** NAD 83

|                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>UTM Zone:</b>             | 15        |
| <b>UTM Easting:</b>          | 521,291   |
| <b>UTM Northing:</b>         | 3,981,246 |
| <b>Boundary Datum Other:</b> | Point D   |

**Location Map:**



*Location of the Collier Homestead within the park (NPS, 2009).*



*Regional context map (NPS, 2009).*

**Regional Context:**

**Type of Context:** Cultural

**Description:**

The majority of settlers who came to the Buffalo River valley were from neighboring states, particularly Missouri and Tennessee. Approximately fifty percent of those who arrived in Searcy, Marion, and Newton Counties prior to 1850 originated from Tennessee. Through the mid-nineteenth century, Missouri became the most prominent state of origin of settlers.' Additional states represented throughout the settlement period included Kentucky, Illinois, Virginia, and North Carolina.

Those who traveled to the Boston Mountain area were largely of a hardy Scotch-Irish heritage familiar with the struggles and harshness of frontier life. Agriculture served as the primary occupation of early settlers in the Buffalo River valley. Most operated small farms and lived a self-sufficient lifestyle making or growing most of what they needed and consumed. Farms averaged around thirty productive acres and produce a variety of crops including corn, wheat, oats, and potatoes. Some farmers also raised small amounts of tobacco and most families had a vegetable garden. Domestic livestock included cattle, sheep, and swine, which were raised in an open range system and allowed to forage through the surrounding forest for food. Wild game was plentiful and supplemented the family diet (Thomason 2005, 13).

**Type of Context:** Physiographic

**Description:**

The Buffalo River extends roughly 200 miles from north to south and 150 miles from east to west. It flows eastward through northwestern Arkansas and joins the White River near Buffalo City. The Buffalo is one of the only major waterways left undammed in the Arkansas Ozarks (FES Master Plan 1975, 35).

The Buffalo River is located in northwestern Arkansas in the Ozarks region of the United States. The landscape of the Ozarks is characterized by steep slopes and narrow valleys, thick forests, and meandering streams and rivers. The river flows through the Boston Mountains which contain some of the Ozarks' steepest slopes. The mountainous area ascends sharply on its northern boundary and gradually tapers off on its southern border. Newton and Searcy Counties, through which the Buffalo River travels, contain the highest elevations in the Boston Mountain region with the highest point located in western Newton County reaching 2,578 feet.

The Buffalo River flows through the region and is primarily a low water river supporting only shallow watercraft. A number of streams and creeks enter and leave the narrow valleys nestled between the high ridge tops. These waterways produce natural springs that flow out of the rocky hills. The ridge tops are primarily made up of cedar, pine, and oak. The climate throughout the region is variable. Winters are generally mild with average temperatures around 37 degrees Fahrenheit and average summer temperatures around 75 degrees. Heavy spring rains can quickly cause the Buffalo and area streams to rise and create flash floods. During

the dry warm summer months, the upper reaches of the river can become quite shallow (Thomason 2005, 5).

**Type of Context:** Political

**Description:**

The four counties associated with the Buffalo River are rural and sparsely settled. These are Newton, Searcy, Baxter, and Marion counties.

Arkansas became a state in 1836 and two years later the southern portion of Marion County was revised to form Searcy County, named after a prominent attorney in the region. Searcy County government was initiated in the town of Lebanon, then to the town of Burrowsville in 1846 which later changed its name to Marshall, the current county seat. In 1842, Newton County was established and named after early settler Thomas Willoughby Newton, who later served as a United States congressman. The town of Jasper was platted south of the Buffalo River as the Newton County seat.

The population of the Buffalo River valley continued to rise during the 1840s and 1850s as the number of settlers increased. Between 1850 and 1860 the population of Marion County increased over 168 percent, Searcy County population rose 166 percent, and the number of residents in Newton County increased 93 percent. Percentages aside, the area remained sparsely settled. In 1860, Newton County contained 3,393 residents, Searcy County had 5,271 residents, and Marion had 6,192. The population density for the region averaged between six and seven persons per square mile (Thomason 2005, 14).

Population increases continued throughout the late nineteenth century. Marion County had the largest percentage of growth and had the largest number of residents between 1870 and 1900. But by 1900, Newton and Searcy Counties had both surpassed Marion County in their number of residents. Between 1870 and 1900, the number of residents in Marion County increased from 3,979 to 11,377. During this same period, Searcy County went from 5,614 residents to 11,988, and Newton County's population rose from 4,374 to 12,538 (Thomason 2005, 17).

**Tract Numbers:** 05-101

**Management Information**

### **General Management Information**

**Management Category:** Should be Preserved and Maintained

**Management Category Date:** 04/02/2009

**Management Category Explanatory Narrative:**

Should be Preserved and Maintained (Category B): An inventory unit meeting all of the following criteria: the inventory unit meets /national Register criteria; the inventory unit is compatible with the park's legislated significance; the inventory unit has continuing or potential purpose that is appropriate to its traditional use or function.

### **Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access**

**Management Agreement:**

**Type of Agreement:**

**NPS Legal Interest:**

**Type of Interest:** Fee Simple

**Public Access:**

**Type of Access:** Unrestricted

## National Register Information

### Existing National Register Status

#### National Register Landscape Documentation:

SHPO Inadequately Documented

#### National Register Explanatory Narrative:

The Collier Homestead has been determined eligible by the SHPO in 1990. The cultural landscape associated with the homestead has not been adequately documented.

### National Register Eligibility

**National Register Concurrence:** Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

**Contributing/Individual:** Individual

**National Register Classification:** District

**Significance Level:** Local

**Significance Criteria:** A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

**Significance Criteria:** C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

#### Period of Significance:

**Time Period:** AD 1931 - 1964

**Historic Context Theme:** Peopling Places

**Subtheme:** Other Peopling Places

**Facet:** Other Peopling Places

**Other Facet:** Late settlement associated with the Homestead Act of 1862

**Time Period:** AD 1931 - 1964

**Historic Context Theme:** Developing the American Economy

**Subtheme:** Agriculture

**Facet:** Subsistence Agriculture

**Area of Significance:**

**Area of Significance Category:** Architecture

**Area of Significance Subcategory:** None

**Area of Significance Category:** Agriculture

**Statement of Significance:**

The Buffalo National River was placed under federal ownership on 1 March 1972 (Public Law 92-237) and became the first river to receive national recognition. The river flows from the Boston Mountains in northwest Arkansas through the southern boundary of the Ozark Mountains and travels unimpeded for 148 winding miles to where it joins the White River in central eastern Arkansas. On its journey east, the river flows past small farms, large limestone bluffs, and steep, densely wooded valleys. The river was acknowledged by a U.S. House of Representatives Committee Report (1972) that explained the basis for the establishment of the Buffalo National River. It stated, "Because it is a pure, free-flowing stream which has not been significantly altered by industry or man, it is considered to be one of the country's last significant natural rivers. It is not one single quality, but the combination of its size, its completeness, its wild qualities, and its associated natural, scenic, and historic resources that makes the Buffalo worthy of national recognition" (Currents 2007, 18).

The Collier Homestead is located in the Middle River section of the park near the Tyler Bend Visitor Center and Campground. It is representative of the continuing settlement of the Buffalo River valley into the early twentieth century. The Homestead was selected and developed under the provisions of the Homestead Act of 1862 and it demonstrates a rural subsistence lifestyle that was common to the region. The dwelling and outbuildings remain in good condition and are largely unaltered from their early twentieth century construction. It was determined eligible for the National Register in June 1990.

The Collier Homestead as a cultural landscape is significant for its association with American history and culture meeting National Register Criteria A and C. The landscape is significant within the context of the broad patterns of our history associated with later settlement that occurred under the provisions of the Homestead Act of 1862.

The features present within the context of the landscape lend integrity through location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The period of significance for this landscape spans from 1931, when the Colliers selected their tract, began clearing the land, and building the structures of the farm, until they left the property, in 1964.

The Colliers were one of the last homestead patents in the region dating from the early 1930s (Thomason and Associates 2007, 223). Under Criteria C, the landscape is associated with the vernacular architecture and subsistence land management style that was unique to the isolation and rugged topography of the southern Ozarks.

Settlement occurred in three phases across the region beginning with the signing of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. Small settlements spread throughout in pursuit of the mining resources of iron and lead. By 1850, most of the Cherokee had been moved west and settlement activity was renewed with the end of the Civil War. In addition, expansion of the railroad and a productive lumber industry brought more opportunity to the area during the second period of settlement. The third phase began after World War I and continued until World War II at which point, population in the Ozarks began to decline (Rafferty 1980, 39).

The Colliers came to the area from Kentucky in 1928 and, within three years, filed an application for the land under the Homestead Act of 1862. They selected a forty-acre tract of land in the Tyler Bend area. They built the log dwelling in 1932 and cleared the land and cultivated fields under stipulations of the act. After five years they were eligible and received the patent, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, granting ownership of the property (Thomason and Associates 2007, 15). The timing of their move coincided with a failing national economy. Many people sought refuge in the Ozarks to pursue an independent life relying only on the land for a subsistent living.

“The Colliers raised corn, oats, cane, apples, peaches, and other produce. They supplemented their crops with hunting and fishing, and Sod occasionally worked as a guide for fishing trips down the Buffalo. The Colliers lived on the property into the 1960s and never installed electricity or modern plumbing” (Thomason and Associates 2005, 15).

## Chronology & Physical History

### Cultural Landscape Type and Use

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Vernacular

**Current and Historic Use/Function:**

**Primary Historic Function:** Farm (Plantation)

**Primary Current Use:** Interpretive Landscape

**Other Use/Function**

Recreation/Culture-Other

**Other Type of Use or Function**

Current

**Current and Historic Names:**

**Name**

Collier Homestead

"Sod" Collier Homestead

**Type of Name**

Both Current And Historic

Both Current And Historic

**Ethnographic Study Conducted:**

No Survey Conducted

**Chronology:**

| <b>Year</b>    | <b>Event</b>  | <b>Annotation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AD 1928        | Settled       | The Collier family moved west from Kentucky to Arkansas.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| AD 1931        | Domesticated  | Solomon "Sod" Collier secured a 40-acre tract of land at Tyler Bend and began to make the improvements required to obtain a homestead patent.                                                                                                              |
| AD 1937        | Homesteaded   | The Collier family made improvements enough to become its rightful owners and thus granted the patent to the land under the 1862 Homestead Act.                                                                                                            |
| AD 1964        | Land Transfer | The Collier family led a simple life on their farm, with no electricity or plumbing until 1964 when it was sold jointly to Leo and Chloe Williams and Homer and Joyce Neal for the sum of one dollar and "other good and valuable considerations in hand". |
| AD 1977        | Land Transfer | Deed to tract 05-101 is transferred to the National Park Service by Leo and Cloe Williams.                                                                                                                                                                 |
| AD 1991        | Stabilized    | Stabilization of log house, reconstruction of porch, and preservation of cistern by NPS maintenance staff.                                                                                                                                                 |
| AD 1993 - 1998 | Reconstructed | Reconstruction of paling fence around the yard.                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

## Physical History:

### Buffalo River Settlement in the 19th Century

Settlement of the Buffalo River area began in the 1830s. Families and individuals came to the largely isolated area via rivers and wagon trails. Most originated from adjacent states particularly Tennessee and Missouri. Settlers established small farms and lived a subsistence lifestyle well into the late nineteenth century. The more fertile areas were settled first and those properties typically developed into the region's more sizeable farms over the years. A large percentage of settlers were squatters and often the land was not officially purchased or homesteaded until the second generation.

Settlement increased in the post Civil War era in large part due to the passage of the Homestead Act, which allowed settlers to acquire land by living on it and improving it over a period of time. As the number of residents increased a number of small hamlets and villages emerged and several post offices were established. These communities typically consisted of a small cluster of dwellings, a general store, school, church, and various industries such as a grist mill, sawmill or cotton gin (Thomason 2005, 9).

Continued settlement in the post-Civil War period was encouraged by the passage of the Homestead Act of 1862. The act provided free land to homesteaders who lived on and worked a piece of property for a period of five years. The requirements were minimal; as long as a person was the head of a household and at least twenty-one years of age, he or she could claim a 160-acre parcel. The homesteader had to live on the land, build a home, make improvements and farm for five years before the land was transferred. A total filing fee of eighteen dollars was the only financial commitment required. Many newcomers to the Buffalo River valley took advantage of this opportunity to "prove up" and worked hard to develop and own their homestead. Those who already had an established farm also took advantage of the Homestead Act to expand their holdings (Thomason and Associates 2005, 25).

### The Homestead Act of 1862

It is the purpose of our government "to elevate the condition of men, to lift artificial burdens from all shoulders and to give everyone an unfettered start and a fair chance in the race of life."

-President Abraham Lincoln, July 4, 1861.

The following is excerpted from the NPS website for Homestead National Monument (<http://www.nps.gov/home/index.htm>):

The Homestead Act was signed into law in 1862 by Abraham Lincoln after the secession of southern states. The Act opened to private citizens the possibility for settlement across the vast land tracts located within public domain. 270 million acres or 10% of the area of the United States was claimed and settled under this act. The Homestead Act and its promise of land ownership inspired many to seek opportunities there. Today, more than one million homestead case files are kept at the National Archives.

People interested in Homesteading first had to file their intentions at the nearest Land Office. A brief check for previous ownership claims was made for the plot of land in question, usually described by its survey coordinates. The prospective homesteader paid a filing fee of \$10 to claim the land temporarily, as well as a \$2 commission to the land agent.

With application and receipt in hand, the homesteader then returned to the land to begin the process of building a home and farming the land, both requirements for "proving" up at the end of five years. When all requirements had been completed and the homesteader was ready to take legal possession, the homesteader found two neighbors or friends willing to vouch for the truth of his or her statements about the land's improvements and sign the "proof" document.

After successful completion of this final form and payment of a \$6 fee, the homesteader received the patent for the land, signed with the name of the current President of the United States. This paper was often proudly displayed on a cabin wall and represented the culmination of hard work and determination. The Homestead Act remained in effect until it was repealed in 1976, with provisions for homesteading in Alaska until 1986.”

The largest number of entries under the Homestead Act occurred during the 1870s and 1880s, but people continued to establish farms and homes in the area under this act into the 1930s. One of the last homesteaders in the area was Solomon "Sod" Collier, his wife Ida Mae, and their children who immigrated to the Buffalo River valley from Kentucky in February 1928. The journey took a full week and the Colliers had only fifteen cents when they arrived. Within three years the Colliers secured a forty-acre tract of land in the Tyler Bend area under the Homestead Act.

Little Rock 022920

4-1040

**The United States of America,**

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS, a Certificate of the Assistant Commissioner is on file in the General Land Office, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress of May 20, 1862, "To Secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Sod Collier has been established and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section three in Township fifteen north of Range seventeen west of the Fifth Principal Meridian, Arkansas, containing forty acres and ten hundredths of an acre, according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land, on file in the General Land Office;

NOW KNOW YE, That there is therefore, granted by the UNITED STATES unto the said claimant the tract of Land above described; TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said claimant and to the heirs and assigns of the said claimant forever.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made

Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the City of Washington, the ELEVENTH

day of DECEMBER In the year of our Lord one thousand

nine hundred and THIRTY-SEVEN, and of the Independence of the

United States the one hundred and SIXTY-SECOND.

By the President: *Franklin D. Roosevelt*

By *Joseph H. Brown* Secretary,

*Charles D. Adams* Register of the General Land Office.

RECORDED: Patent Number 1094221

*A copy of the Collier Patent sign by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1937. (BUFF, NPS archives)*

### Subsistence farming and the Ozarks during the Great Depression

Progressive development came slowly to the Ozarks in the twentieth century. Many settlements did not receive electricity until the mid-1900s. The railroad came to Harrison in 1901 bringing exposure to a greater variety of markets and goods. During the Great Depression, the population in the region around the Buffalo grew slightly and data showed an increase in agricultural activity in the area. During these times of economic hardship, people may have returned to the mountains to pursue a life of self-sufficiency and economic independence (Pitcaithley 1976, 178-79). Crop diversification was encouraged by county agents stressing the importance of gardening as a means of providing food for the family. It was in this manner that farm families in the Buffalo River region were able to weather the economic hardships suffered across the country. To ensure success, it was suggested that the farmer have "...two milk cows, a good brood sow, thirty laying hens, and a year round garden, that life in the country would be without privation" (Pitcaithley 1976, 181). Nearly every farm

Collier Homestead  
Buffalo National River

grew corn, wheat, flax, hemp and tobacco for domestic use. Game animals were easily harvested from the woods and native grasses along with oats and barley were accessible for the livestock to forage. Gardens were universally cultivated as a source of vegetables. For the Collier family, subsistence farming was the primary occupation on the homestead. They raised hogs and cattle for meat. Corn, oats, apples, peaches and other garden produce were grown and canned to store for the harshest winter.

Federal aid programs instituted at this time also provided assistance to struggling farm families. In 1932, when the Collier family was building its home, a drought gripped the region. A State Relief Commission established canning centers in central locations throughout the state with the intention of preserving surplus crops from later consumption. "By 1935, nearly every county in Arkansas had at least one such "canning kitchen", and Searcy County had three" (Pitcaithley 1976, 180).

...land for grazing. (b) if less than the whole, the reason therefor should be given.

ANSWER. (a) 1932, 6 acres, corn, cane and garden products

1933, 8 acres, corn and cane, beans and garden

1934, 10 " , corn, cane, beans, peas, oats and garden.

1935, 13 " , corn, oats, cane, beans, kaffir corn, peas, garden.

1936, 13 " , cane, kaffir corn, corn, garden.

(b)

QUESTION 12. Describe fully and in detail the amount and kind of improvements on each subdivision, stating when same were made and giving the cost of each item.

ANSWER.

| Year Completed | Location of Improvements | Character of Improvement  | Cost of Materials | Cost of Labor | Total Cost |
|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------|
| 1931 & 1932    |                          | 2 room dwelling           | 75.00             | 25.00         | 100.00     |
| 1933           |                          | 2 pen barn 30 x 30        | 100.00            | 30.00         | 130.00     |
| 1933           |                          | rebuilt dwelling, 4 rooms | 150.00            | 100.00        | 250.00     |
| 1934           |                          | built another barn        | 50.00             | 20.00         | 70.00      |
| 1932           |                          | fenced 6 acres            | 30.00             | 15.00         | 45.00      |
| 1933           | re-                      | fenced about 8 acres      | 50.00             | 20.00         | 70.00      |
| 1934           | re-                      | " about 10                | 60.00             | 25.00         | 85.00      |
| 1935           | re-                      | " " 13                    | 75.00             | 25.00         | 100.00     |
| 1935           |                          | cistern & smokehouse      | 100.00            | 50.00         | 150.00     |

Total No. acres cultivated, 13 Total value of improvements, \$1000.00

QUESTION 13. Is your present claim within the limits of an incorporated town or selected site of a city or town, or used in any way for trade or business? ANSWER. No

QUESTION 14. Are there any indications of coal, salines, or minerals of any kind on the land? If so, describe what they are.

ANSWER. No

QUESTION 15. Have you sold, conveyed, or agreed to sell or convey, any portion of the land? If so, to whom and for what purpose?

ANSWER. No

QUESTION 16. Have you optioned, mortgaged, or agreed to option or mortgage, or convey this land, or any part thereof? If so, when, to whom, and for what purpose and in what amount?

ANSWER. No

QUESTION 17. Have you any personal property of any kind elsewhere than on this claim? If so, describe the same, and state where the same is kept.

ANSWER. No

QUESTION 18. Have you ever made any other homestead entry? If so, describe the same.

ANSWER. No

QUESTION 19. Describe by legal subdivisions, or by number, kind of entry, and office where made, any entry for filing (not mineral) other than homestead made by you since August 30, 1890.

(Applications for the sale of land made after August 30, 1890.)

ANSWER. Nil

QUESTION 20. Have either of the other witnesses been present while you were giving your above testimony? ANSWER. No

QUESTION 21. Have you any actual knowledge of any statement made by either of the other witnesses in their testimony in connection with this proof?

ANSWER. No

*Ed Collier*  
(Sign with full Christian name)

NOTE.—Every person swearing falsely to the above affidavits will be punished as provided by law for such offense.

A page from Collier's final patent application listing cultivation and improvements.  
(BUFF, NPS archives)

Changes in the Region Following World War II

The population in the Buffalo River valley began a steady decline during the World War II era. This trend in decreasing population continued into the late twentieth century.

As the nation's economy began to turn around, many left the region to seek opportunity elsewhere. Many who left the region to either fight in the war or work in a war-related industry did not return after experiencing life in more progressive areas. During the 1940s, Newton County lost over twenty percent of its population, and Searcy and Marion Counties lost twelve and nine percent respectively. The economic boom of the 1950s resulted in even greater population losses with Newton, Searcy, and Marion Counties losing an additional thirty-one, twenty-two, and thirty percent of their residents. In 1960 the combined population of the three counties was 20,128, a substantial decrease from the count in 1920 of 35,943.

By the 1950s, recreation and tourism emerged as a regional industry based on hunting, fishing, and appreciation for the natural environment. However, agriculture remained the prominent source of livelihood. The tradition of resourcefulness established in the region by early settlers continued into the modern era (Thomason and Associates 2005, 18-19). The population decline that occurred in the Ozarks following the 1930s and 1940s has never really recovered. The numerous homesteads that once dotted the valleys of the Buffalo at the turn of the century have become subsumed by the surrounding woods (Rogers, 1987).

The Williams and the Neals acquired the property from Collier in 1964. They had used the land primarily to “raise cattle and grow hay” (NPS brochure, date unknown). The NPS purchased the land from Williams in 1977 and began restoration of the property which had become neglected and overgrown with vegetation. The fence that surrounds the house was rebuilt from materials hewn by hand; native grasses were sown in areas surrounding the trailhead to replace varieties grown for cattle feed; and, plants were transplanted around the house, descendants of Mrs. Collier’s original gardens (NPS brochure, date unknown).

## Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

### Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The landscape of the Collier Homestead retain the characteristics of location, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, setting, and association of an early twentieth-century homestead common to the Buffalo River. The relationship and proximity of the homestead to the Buffalo river and to Calf creek provides context and enhances the setting, feeling, and association of the site. The physical appearance of the homestead has been restored, is well maintained, and in good condition. The rural historic landscape in the vicinity of the immediate homestead remains much as it did during its period of significance of 1931 to 1964. Although the most of the fields used by the Colliers during their period of occupation are no longer extant and views might be obscured by vegetation, the natural systems and features, land use, vegetation, small scale features, circulation, and buildings and structures all contribute to the integrity of the cultural landscape of the Collier Homestead.

### Integrity of the Property as a Whole

The homestead landscape retains all of the seven aspects of integrity in setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Though there have been changes since the period of significance, as the site was used for cattle grazing in the period of time following ownership by the Colliers but before the National Park Service took over, the analysis indicates that the Collier Homestead landscape continues to retain its historic integrity.

### Landscape Characteristics

The natural systems and features, particularly the fluvial geomorphology and the geology helped to shape the appearance of the bluffs and river valleys of the Buffalo River region. The availability and accessibility of water as well as the relatively level topography of the ridge top helped to determine the location of the Collier Homestead.

The remaining buildings and structures convey the original organization and feeling of the homestead and conditions of life on a self-sustaining farm. The house itself, built in 1932, maintains the appearance of a wood frame structure built by hand with local materials to satisfy the requirements of the Homestead Act of 1862. The other buildings and structures exhibit similar responses to aesthetics and function. Roads and paths, while not necessarily originally used during the period of significance, provide the primary circulation through the landscape for pedestrian circulation.

The continued presence of the homestead within the clearing and the domestic planting still evident at the site contribute to a sustained agricultural land use. Additionally, small scale features common to rural landscapes are demonstrated by the reconstructed paling fence that surrounds the house and the remnants of split rail fencing around the site. Other small scale features on the site are confined to features used for the management or interpretation of the site by the National Park Service. These features include trail signs and maps and are considered non-contributing at this time.

## **Landscape Characteristic:**

### **Natural Systems and Features**

Natural systems and features that influenced the historic land use are dominated by the fluvial geomorphology, hydrology, and ecology fostered by this dynamic river ecosystem. The combination of natural systems and features contributes to the setting and feeling of the cultural landscape.

The following was excerpted from the Final Environmental Statement for the Proposed Master Plan 1975, pages 38-55:

Fluvial geomorphology - The Buffalo River flows from northwest Arkansas southward to where it joins the White River to the east. It remains the longest unobstructed river in Arkansas. The river is located at the southern boundary of the Ozark Mountains in the Boston Mountains range on the edge of the Arkansas River valley. Elevations range from 600 ft above sea level at the river level to 2500 ft at the highest elevation found in the more western portion of the park. The river meanders between steep bluffs created from the predominant geology of limestone and sandstone. The action of groundwater on limestone and sandstone created a unique karst topography which allows for caves to form and groundwater to come to the surface in the form of seeps and springs. These springs are manifest as an ephemeral water source. The topography and steep slopes limit direct access to the river in many places.

Hydrology – The Buffalo River and the tributary streams that feed into it are the most recognizable hydrologic features of the region. Historically, the river provided water for the plants, animals, and humans settling along the river corridor and to those seeking economic land uses such as timber, farming, and mining. In more recent history, the river provides a means of recreation supporting fishing, boating, and swimming as it is one of the longest, unobstructed rivers in Arkansas. “The Buffalo River is an exceptional example of a free-flowing Ozark mountain river. Un-dammed and undiminished by the hands of man, it is the only river protected for its entire length within the Ozark Plateau” (NPS Newsletter #1 spring 2009, 6).

Ecology – Plants of the area are characterized by their prevalence in upland conditions such as six species of oak and three species of hickory, as well as red maple and winged elm versus river bottom conditions hosting most commonly sweetgum, sycamore, willow, and birch. Microclimates generated by topography and orientation foster plant communities unique to the region. Animals are abundant in this ecosystem in both variety and number and include fox, beaver, rabbits, white tail deer, bobcat, coyote, and skunk. Elk have been reintroduced to the region and are thriving perhaps due to the absence of predators such as mountain lion, red wolf, and timber wolf which have been lost to the region. Also extinct to the area are the bison for which the river is named. Beaver, otter, mink, and muskrat are found along the river bottom. Migratory birds are seen in the fall and spring. Game fish found in the river are small and include largemouth bass, walleye, catfish, bluegills, and perch.

Climate – Temperature varies throughout the year with extremes of hot and cold in summer

and winter. It is a humid climate with an average relative humidity in the 70th percentile. But it is mostly a moderate, sub-humid climate with an annual average of 48 inches of rainfall that allowed for nearly year-round crop production. Topography and slope orientation impact temperature and prevalence of vegetation. Dense understory is found on slopes predominantly forested with white oak, hickory, and pine.

The historic presence of these varied conditions has attracted the diversity of life found in the area and has also contributed to the isolation and self-sufficient conditions that allowed rural populations to thrive.

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*The Buffalo River viewed from a bluff (NPS, 2009).*

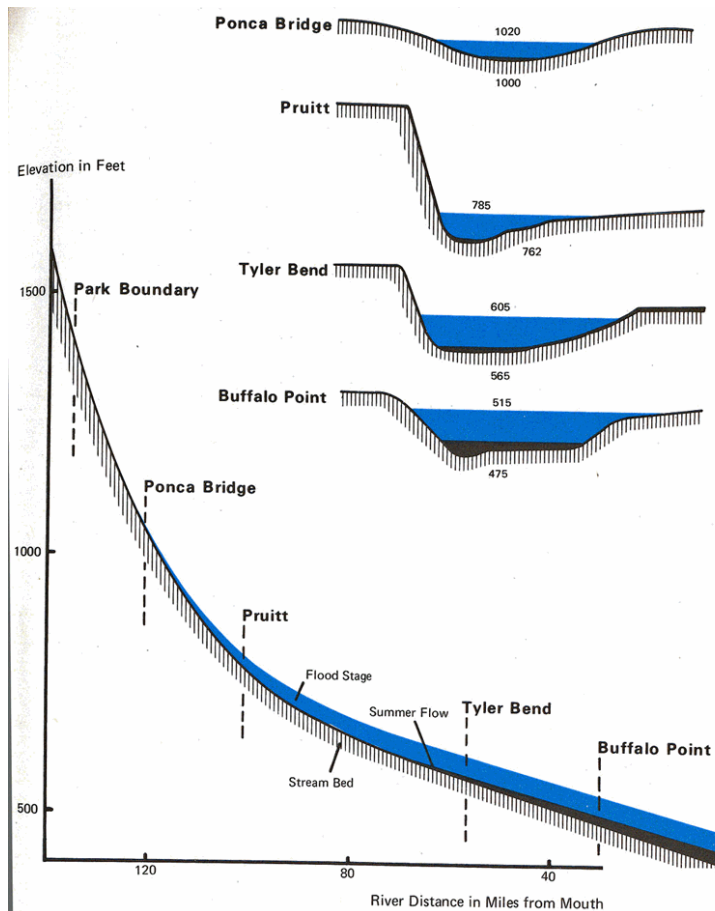


**Figure 10**  
**River Profile**

*River profile shown at various points along the Buffalo National River (From the Proposed Master Plan, NPS, 1975).*

### Cluster Arrangement

Structures and landscape features on the homestead are formally arranged inside the perimeter of the paling fence with the barn located outside the fence approximately 80 feet to the west. The location of the homestead was selected and placed after clearing a flat area along the ridge top. The clearing was then functionally maintained by the Collier family to support the needs of the family and the functions of the farm. The historic homestead cluster of buildings and structures is located to the west of U.S. 65, on a ridge above the south bank of the Buffalo River and the east bank of Calf Creek. Within the perimeter of the fence, the structures of daily living were arranged and gardens for sustenance were planted and maintained. The cistern for accessing water was placed near the porch of the main living structure. Beyond the perimeter of the fence, is the barn as well as the forage areas for domestic animals. The Collier Homestead landscape retains the characteristics of setting, feeling, association, location, material, and workmanship of the original, functional cluster arrangement.

### Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*The Collier Homestead arranged in the clearing (NPS, 2009)*

### **Land Use**

The primary use of the land at the Collier Homestead was for subsistence farming. The land under later ownership was used for livestock grazing which changed the characteristics of the surrounding fields. The structures were also neglected during this period of second ownership. Under NPS ownership, the structures were rehabilitated and the clearing of the original homestead site was restored. There is remnant evidence of the grazing land used in the surrounding fields. The Collier Homestead retains all the characteristics and features of a subsistence farming operation only within the immediate vicinity of the clearing and the structures on the property. The fields used by Collier for farming and grazing of livestock are not maintained as such and no longer contribute to the integrity of the landscape though they are mentioned in interpretation by park service staff in referencing the Collier Homestead. Fields that were located by the barn are not maintained and, as a result, have become subsumed by successional growth. The only extant field is located by the parking lot at the entrance to the site. This field is maintained by park service personnel and it conveys the sense of a field with a defined edge in contrast to the surrounding woods. There is also the remnant of a stock pond as further evidence of the functional use of the field. However, this pond is now obscured by encroaching vegetation along the trail as the homestead is approach.

### **Topography**

The topography of the landscape is rugged and varied with steep ravines and sheer limestone cliffs. More gentle slopes are found closer to the river bottom. It was these gentle slopes that were most often cleared and cultivated for use as fields. For the Collier family, due to their later arrival in the 1930's, the land available to them for homesteading was located high on a ridge top overlooking the Buffalo River to the north and east and Calf Creek to the south and west. This was not the prime farmland once found and homesteaded along the river bottom of the Buffalo. The elevation at the Collier homestead is benchmarked on the USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle map at 888 feet. The river is located 288 feet below. There are steep limestone

bluffs to the north and west of the site. Much of this dramatic topography is not evident from the homestead site due the density of the surrounding vegetation. Surrounding the site are trails that connect the site to the greater trail network of the Buffalo River Trail. The trail towards Calf Creek has an immediately downward slope that can be appreciated from the property. Via this trail and from an overlook along the trail, one is better able to fully appreciate the drama of the topographic conditions under which the Collier's toiled in order to be successful subsistence farmers. The conditions created by this topography contribute to the setting, feeling, and association of the cultural landscape.

### **Vegetation**

The woods surrounding the property are dense while the property itself is maintained as a clearing with a few large trees and no understory. Of significance is a large oak tree that grows near the smokehouse and may have been planted or maintained by the Colliers.

The thinning of these trees and the control of the understory spatially defines the homestead from the dense woods and steep slopes that surround the property. Irises reportedly planted by Mrs. Collier around the homestead have naturalized outside the fence line and along the forest edge. This vegetation is considered to be contributing as are other ornamental and perennial herb plantings found around the site that indicate habitation of the landscape.

The following is excerpted from documents and site plans drawn by Suzie Rogers, Park Historian for the Buffalo National River:

Ida Mae Collier loved plants and there are many remnants of what she propagated around the property- irises, hollyhocks, herbs, medicinal plants, and fruit trees.

Plans were drawn and plants located based on oral history with Barbara Treat: "We talked about plantings again. She said her mother had sage and she would give us some of that. She mentioned two seedling apple trees which used to sit in a corner of the yard. She said a vine shaded the end of the porch where her dad kept a summer bed. It had thick and glossy leaves and an orange potato-like bloom. The perfume weed, which her niece has identified as Sweet Anne, grew as tall as a person and really grew well where her dad chopped wood. She said that there were gooseberries along the road (Barbara Treat from a phone conversation with Suzie Rogers, 1991).

Conversations with Mrs. Treat identified and located a list of historical plants, both functional and decorative, planted and used by the Colliers during the period of significance: "hollyhock in corner by cistern, Rose of Sharon near cistern corner, "Moonflower" in front of house window, lilacs near cistern corner, old walnut tree by road, used to be a large tree on back side of house, catnip, "perfume weed", peach trees, "seedling" apple trees, corn around barn and on down ridge, oats, cornfield beans, pumpkins, turnip patch, sweet potato patch, Kentucky Wonder pole beans".

Multiple site maps were drawn by Suzie Rogers to document the ornamental and perennial plantings from 1992 to 1995. The following is a site plan key from the 1992 map. This list

describes locations and uses:

- a. hollyhock – one of the original plants.
- b. hollyhock
- c. 4 o'clocks- 'American beauty'
- d. Artemisia?
- e. catnip – used as tea and sedative for babies, for colic, hives, etc.
- f. unknown
- g. sweet Anne – Mrs. Collier called this 'perfume weed' – crush the leaf to smell why...
- h. mullein – mullein was used as an all purpose tonic [other plants are scattered on the site.]
- i. horehound
- j. Jerusalem oak – Mrs. Collier called this 'wormy fudge' and used the seeds in candy to prevent worms.
- k. daffodils – early bloomers Mrs. Collier called 'Easter lilies'.
- l. roses – a climbing variety Mrs. Treat knows as 'seven sisters'.
- m. irises – Mrs. Collier had irises inside the yard area, but these were scattered by bulldozer.
- n. gooseberry – are scattered beyond the area Mrs. Collier had them in.
- o. garlic – used as an herb tea additive and in cooking; greatly spread out now.
- p. peach – probably a "seedling" variety.
- q. Jerusalem artichoke – Mrs. Collier grew these down by the barn.
- r. lemon balm – as a relaxing tea.
- s. elderberry – the bushes have been cut down and are restarting on their own.
- t. pokeweed – gathered for greens.
- u. bee balm? – Mrs. Treat believes this is bee balm beginning to come up.
- v. ladyfinger? – Mrs. Treat wasn't certain but a similar plant used to grow here.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: ornamental and perennial domestic plants

Feature Identification Number: 134950

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: woods surrounding clearing

Feature Identification Number: 134954

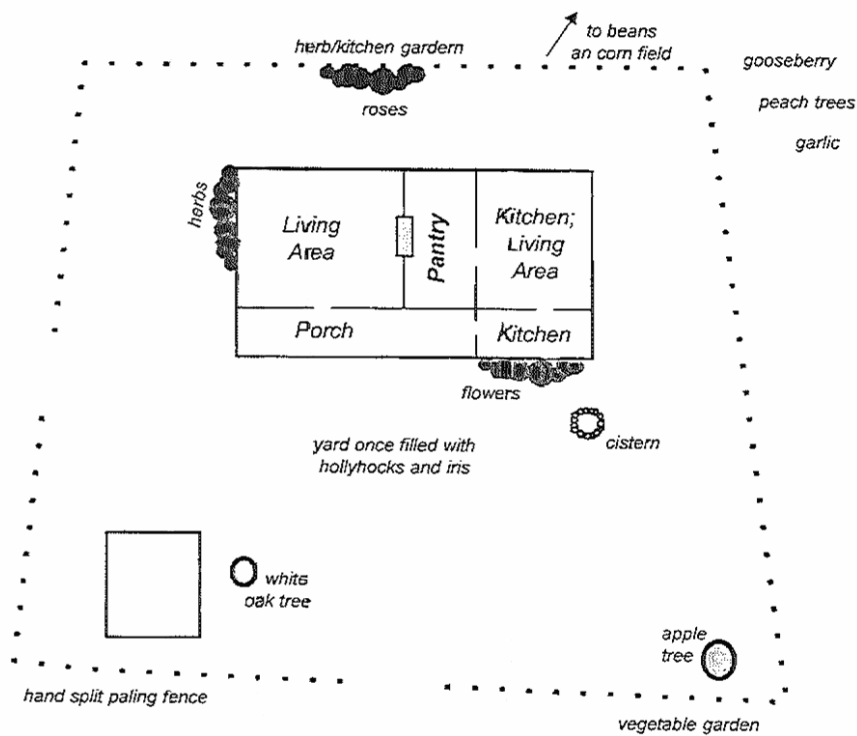
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**

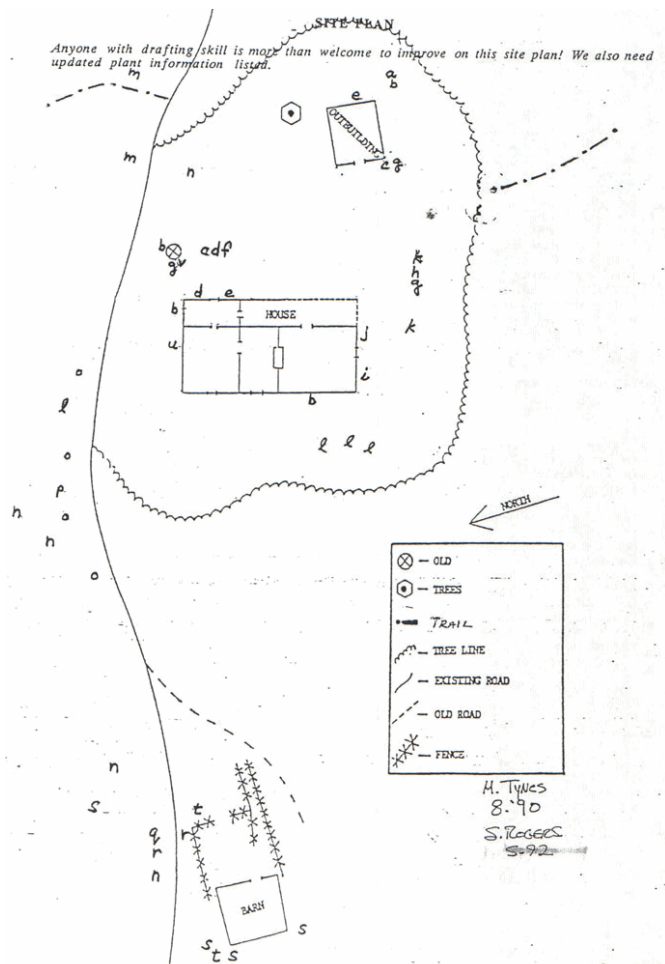


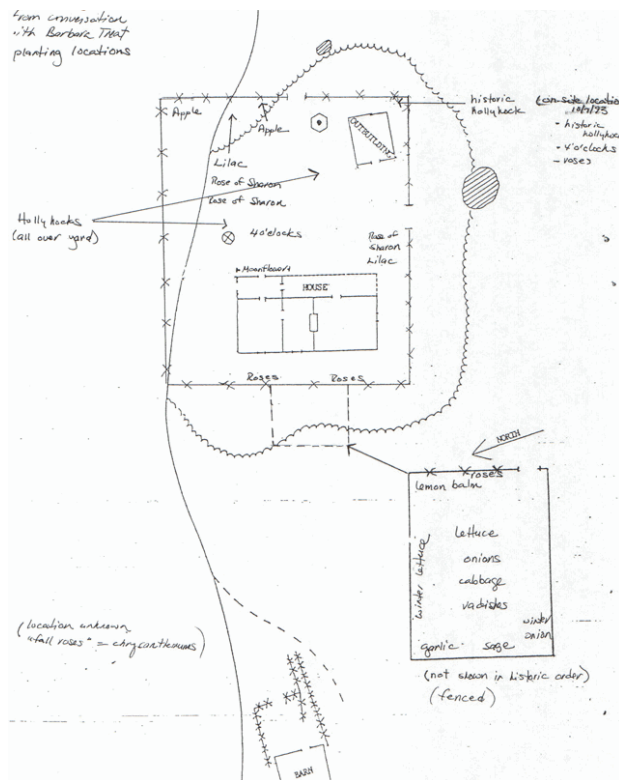
*Dense woods surrounding the clearing for the Collier Homestead (NPS, 2009).*

### Layout of Collier Homestead Grounds

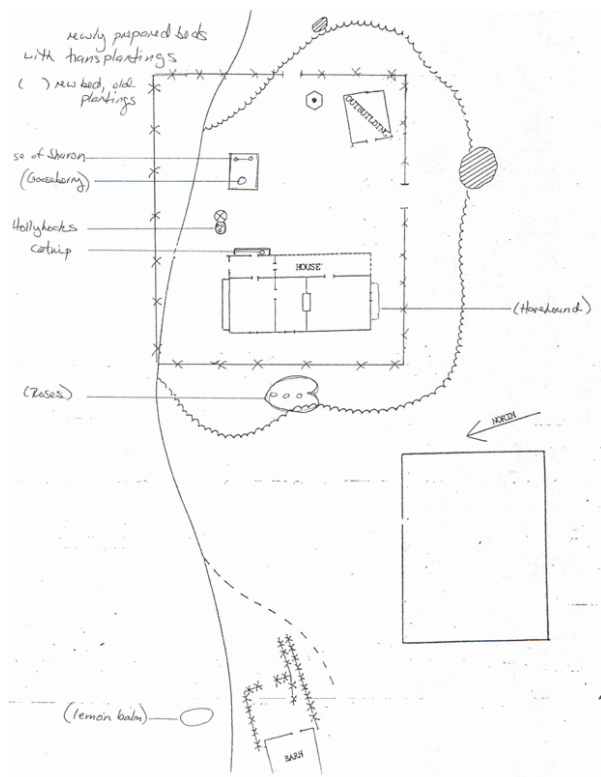


*Layout of Collier Homestead gardens (from NPS brochure, date unknown).*



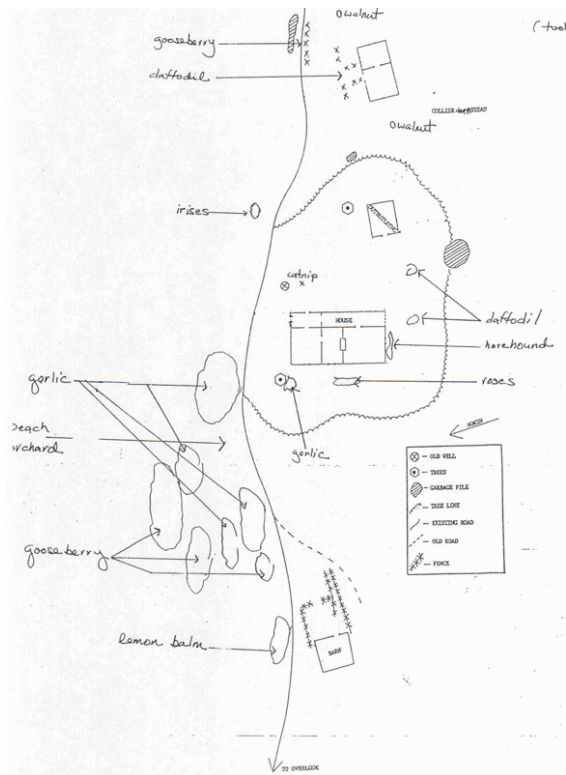


Site plan drawing dated 1993 (NPS archives).

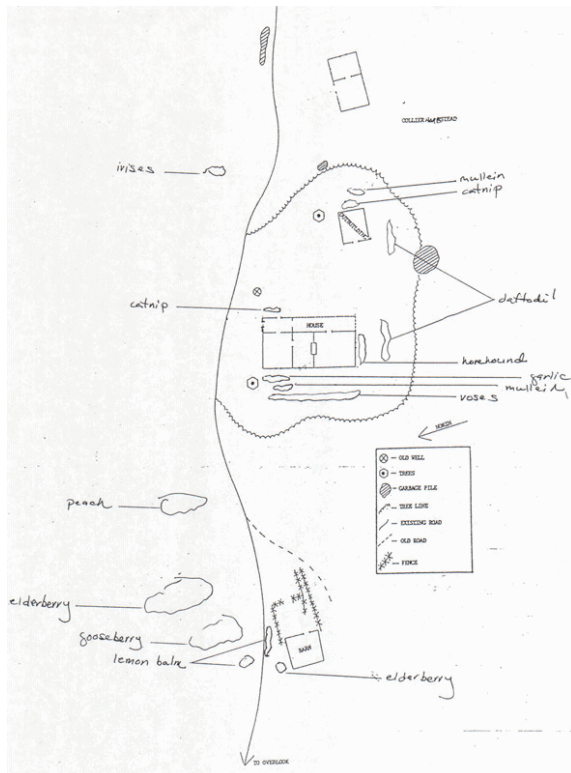


*Site plan drawing also dated 1993 (NPS archives).*





Site plan drawing no date noted (NPS archives).



*Site plan drawing also no date noted (NPS archives).*



*Naturalized irises outside the fenced perimeter of the Collier Homestead (NPS, 2009).*

## Circulation

There is little extant of the historical circulation on the site. Most circulation is related to park visitor function and access to the site is via park trails and roads. Primary circulation to the site consists of a turn-off from U.S. 65 on to a two-lane paved Park Service road named Tyler

Bend Road which ultimately leads to the Tyler Bend Visitor Center. The homestead site is located between U.S. 65 and the visitor center, at a turn off on to a dirt road which, in a short distance, leads to a gravel parking lot. Access to the site is then down a ¼ mile wide, maintained gravel and dirt trail bordered by a field on one side and woods on the other. The wide trail emerges from the woods into the clearing to reveal the fenced yard and structures of the property. The trail follows the fence line along the south side of the property to the back and the barn. Earlier maps of the site show the trail emerging from the front of the house to the back towards the barn along the northern edge of the property. This may have been the original road alignment as used by the Collier family.

Access to the structures requires stepping off the trail to enter the yard and the house. There is no defined or demarcated circulation within the perimeter of the fence. A spur trail connects to the Buffalo River Trail and is located along the south side of the house. The trail that continues past the barn, is called the River View Trail, and leads to an overlook over the Buffalo River. This trail also continues to the visitor center located 1 ½ miles from the Collier Homestead. Roads and trails constructed as part of the park service development are not historic and are non-contributing though they do not have an adverse affect on the integrity of the landscape.

The parking lot and gravel path do not contribute directly to the integrity of the site but make the site easily accessible to a great number of people who may be entering the park at the Tyler Bend location. As maintained by the Park Service, the current roads and trails do not contribute but do not adversely affect the integrity of the cultural landscape.

**Character-defining Features:**

|                                |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Feature:                       | NPS trails and signage |
| Feature Identification Number: | 134956                 |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Non Contributing       |

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Primary trail used to access the site is not historical but does not adversely affect the integrity of the site. This view is taken from the homestead looking back towards the parking lot (NPS, 2009).*



*Trail as it passes between the homestead and the edge of the ridge (NPS, 2009).*



*Trail going west towards the barn (NPS, 2009).*



*NPS signage and secondary trail access (NPS, 2009).*

### **Views and Vistas**

Views and vistas are a key component to understanding the relationship of the cluster arrangements to the land use and contribute to the feeling and setting of the landscape's historic integrity. The views and vistas at the Collier Homestead may be similar to the historic conditions as the clearing is surrounded by dense woods. The views as they existed during the historic period may have been more open as there were more fields around the house that would have been maintained. Views to and from these fields as the Collier family may have experienced them in their daily engagement of the landscape are lost.

The current views, however, reinforce the characteristics of location, setting, feeling, and association of the isolated homestead and they contribute to the integrity of the landscape. The

homestead itself is viewed after a short walk from the parking lot, along a wide gravel and dirt trail that has dense woods on both sides. The homestead is revealed after a short distance as the woods open up onto the clearing of the site.

The view is limited due to the density of the surrounding woods and the topography. Neither the river nor the creek is visible from the site. The levelness of the cleared area gives way quickly to the downward slope towards Calf Creek. This immediate slope is evident from within the bounds of the property. The effect of the compressed space as it opens onto the clearing conveys the sense of an intimate connection with the surrounding woods.

### **Buildings and Structures**

The CLI references the List of Classified Structures and records buildings and structures as features of the landscape. As features, buildings and structures contribute to the spatial organization, circulation, and overall integrity of the landscape.

The following is excerpted from Thomason and Associates pages 2005, 223-225:

Collier journeyed west from Kentucky to Arkansas with his wife, Ida Mae, and four of the seven Collier children. The journey took a week. They secured a forty acre tract in the Tyler Bend area. The family began making improvements to satisfy the terms of the Homestead Patent. Their first shelter was a storage shed until the main house had been built. The land was cultivated and fenced and outbuildings were constructed including a barn and a smokehouse.

The Collier Homestead consists of a dwelling, well, smokehouse, and barn. The Collier House is a ca. 1932 log dwelling originally built in a dogtrot plan. The dogtrot was later enclosed with sawn horizontal boards. The house has a gable roof of corrugated metal panels, a stone foundation, a central interior stone chimney, and an exterior of hewn logs with square notching. Weatherboard siding is in the gable fields. On the main (east) façade is a full-width shed roof porch with square wood posts and wood floor. A small portion of the porch at the northern end has been enclosed and served as a kitchen area. The enclosure has an exterior of weatherboard on the east elevation, horizontal boards on the south elevation, and vertical boards on the north elevation. The dwelling's south pen has a four- panel wood door. No other doors or windows in the dwelling remain extant. The interior of the Collier House has original wood floors and ceilings and horizontal board battens over the log walls. The south pen has a large stone fireplace/hearth. The back of the large stone chimney is in the enclosed dogtrot breezeway. This area was used as a pantry and contains wooden shelving adjacent to the chimney. "Two children grew up in the house. It was not an easy life. Daughter Lucy said she just as soon forget the good old days" (Rogers, 1987).

At the northeast corner of the dwelling is a stone well or cistern with concrete mortar. The well is circular and stands about three feet above grade. It is topped with a square stone slab with a central circular opening. This opening has been capped with a metal device. Two unhewn wood posts frame the well. Southeast of the dwelling is a ca. 1932 log smokehouse with a gable front roof of corrugated metal panels, a stone pier foundation, and an exterior of

hewn square notched logs. There is no chinking material between the logs. The building has a central entrance on the west elevation. A portion of a vertical board door remains at the entrance. The interior of the building has a wood plank floor, and there are horizontal wood battens on the log walls.

The barn is of log construction and dates to the 1930s. Logs are unhewn and have saddlebag notching and are spaced widely apart to allow for ventilation. A small portion of a vertical board door remains. The barn has a stone pier foundation and has no interior flooring. The structure has been stabilized in recent years with added frame supports on the walls and a central interior wood post. Remnants of wood fencing are in front (east) of the building.

The dwelling and outbuildings remain in good condition and are largely unaltered from their early twentieth century construction and are considered contributing to the cultural landscape of the Collier Homestead.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Collier Homestead House

Feature Identification Number: 134958

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 60630

LCS Structure Name: Collier Homestead House

LCS Structure Number: B3-09H

Feature: Collier Homestead Barn

Feature Identification Number: 134962

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 60631

LCS Structure Name: Collier Homestead Barn

LCS Structure Number: B3-11H

Feature: Collier Homestead Smokehouse

Feature Identification Number: 134960

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 60632

LCS Structure Name: Collier Homestead Smokehouse

LCS Structure Number: B3-10H

Feature: Collier Homestead Cistern

Collier Homestead  
Buffalo National River

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|                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Feature Identification Number: | 134964                    |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing              |
| IDLCS Number:                  | 60633                     |
| LCS Structure Name:            | Collier Homestead Cistern |
| LCS Structure Number:          | B3-12H                    |

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Collier Homestead house and smokehouse (NPS, 2009).*



*Collier Homestead barn (NPS, 2009).*



*Collier Homestead cistern (NPS, 2009).*

### **Small Scale Features**

Small-scale features on the site are elements which provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. Fencing was an important functional feature for farms and homesteads in the area. Initially, fences were made out of wood with the abundant trees providing a source of readily available material. Fences were used to contain livestock or, common in southern settlements, to keep livestock out of an area, such as around the house or the family garden. Wood fence types common to the Buffalo River area were the split rail fence, used to contain the fields, and the paling or picket fence, used as a yard or garden fence. At the Collier Homestead, the paling fence that surrounds the house has been reconstructed from hand-hewn lumber. The difficulty of wood fencing is that they are labor and material intensive requiring frequent maintenance and periodic replacement. By the 1920s, fences were being replaced by wire fencing which was easier to maintain requiring fewer materials and was also more durable. The Collier's maintained some wood fencing until the 1960s though most of the fences had been replaced with wire by the end of the 1930s.

Other small scale features on the site are confined to features used for the management or interpretation of the site by the National Park Service. These features include trail signs and maps and do not contribute to the integrity of the cultural landscape.

The remnants of split rail fencing and the paling fence as reconstructed and currently maintained contribute in all aspects of integrity to the cultural landscape.

### **Character-defining Features:**

|                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Feature:                       | Paling and split rail fencing |
| Feature Identification Number: | 134966                        |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing                  |

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Hand hewn paling fence at the Collier Homestead (NPS, 2009).*



*Remnant of split rail fencing by the barn (NPS, 2009).*

## Condition

### Condition Assessment and Impacts

**Condition Assessment:** Good

**Assessment Date:** 04/02/2009

#### Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The landscape condition is assessed as 'Good' indicating that the landscape's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

### Impacts

**Type of Impact:** Vegetation/Invasive Plants

**External or Internal:** External

**Impact Description:** Regular maintenance should be carried out to keep the continued relationship of the domestic clearing to the forest edge apparent.

**Type of Impact:** Structural Deterioration

**External or Internal:** Both Internal and External

**Impact Description:** The structures of the homestead are no longer occupied and therefore prone to deterioration due to this vacancy and the regular exposure to the elements.

**Type of Impact:** Release To Succession

**External or Internal:** Both Internal and External

**Impact Description:** The majority of the fields once farmed by the Collier's have been released to succession. These fields would contribute to the interpretation of the cultural landscape were they still extant.

One field, by the parking lot, is maintained as such by brushing the area.

## Treatment

### **Treatment**

|                                      |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Approved Treatment:</b>           | Undetermined |
| <b>Approved Treatment Completed:</b> | No           |

### **Bibliography and Supplemental Information**

## Bibliography

**Citation Author:** National Park Service  
**Citation Title:** Final Environmental Statement  
**Year of Publication:** 1975  
**Citation Publisher:** Department of Interior  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Number:** F417 B85 P71  
**Citation Type:** Both Graphic and Narrative  
**Citation Location:** MWRO Library

**Citation Author:** Pitcaithley, Dwight Townsend  
**Citation Title:** Buffalo River: an Ozark Region from Settlement to National River  
**Year of Publication:** 1976  
**Citation Publisher:** Texas Tech University  
**Source Name:** Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal  
**Citation Number:** F417 B8 P5  
**Citation Type:** Narrative  
**Citation Location:** MWRO Library

**Citation Author:** Rafferty, Milton D  
**Citation Title:** The Ozarks: Land and Life  
**Year of Publication:** 1980  
**Citation Publisher:** University Of Oklahoma Press  
**Source Name:** Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal  
**Citation Number:** F417 O9 R17  
**Citation Type:** Both Graphic and Narrative  
**Citation Location:** MWRO Library

**Citation Author:** Thomason Associates Preservation Planners. Nashville TN, and  
Hawkins Partners Landscape Architects, Nashville, TN

**Citation Title:** Thomason and Associates Context Studies and Property  
Evaluations, Buffalo National River

**Year of Publication:** 2005

**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service

**Citation Type:** Both Graphic and Narrative

**Citation Location:** MWRO Library

### Supplemental Information

- Title:** Collier Homestead Buffalo National River National Park Service Brochure. Date unknown
- Title:** Currents: Visitor's Guide Buffalo National River Arkansas 19th edition.
- Description:** Web link :  
<http://www.nps.gov/buff/planyourvisit/upload/FinalCurrents2007ReducedSize.pdf>  
National Park Service. 2007
- Title:** Determination of Significance Buffalo National River. Sod Collier Homestead. June ,1990.
- Title:** Parker-Hickman Farmstead Buffalo National River Arkansas. Historic Structure Report. Historic Data. National Park Service. 1987.
- Title:** Warranty Deed between Collier and Williams/Neal
- Description:** Deed obtained from the Searcy County Lands Office 04/02/2009

## Warranty Deed

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:  
THAT Sod Collier and Ida Collier

GRANTOR<sup>S</sup>, for and in consideration of the sum of \$1.00  
One DOLLARS  
and other good & valuable considerations, in full paid by  
Leo Williams & Chloa Williams, his wife and  
Homer Neal & Joyce Neal, his wife

GRANTEE<sup>S</sup>, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby grant,  
bargain, sell and convey unto the said GRANTEE<sup>S</sup>, and unto their  
heirs and assigns forever, the following lands lying in Searcy  
County, Arkansas, to-wit:

SE $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  3-15-17 40.10 acres.  
The West 15 acres off of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  2-15-17.  
Also beginning at the 1/4 Section Corner between Secs. 2 and 3, Twp. 15  
North, Range 17 West; thence East 7.24 chains to wed of hollow; thence  
North 49 deg. West 2.35 chains up hollow; thence North 17 deg. 45 min.  
West 2.50 chains up hollow; thence North 16 deg. 30 min. East 2.51 chains  
up hollow; thence North 40 deg. 15 min. West 9.50 chains to West line of  
said forty; thence South 12.85 chains to point of beginning, containing  
5 acres, more or less.

To have and to hold the same unto the said GRANTEE<sup>S</sup>, and unto their heirs and assigns forever, with  
all appurtenances thereunto belonging.

And we hereby covenant with said GRANTEE<sup>S</sup>, that we will forever warrant and defend the  
title to the said lands against all claims whatever.

And I, Ida Collier wife of the said Sod Collier  
for and in consideration of the said sum of money, do hereby release and relinquish unto the said GRANTEE<sup>S</sup>, all my right of  
dower and homestead in and to the said lands.

Witness OUR hand & seal on this 22nd day of December, 1964.

Sod Collier (S)  
Ida Collier (S)

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

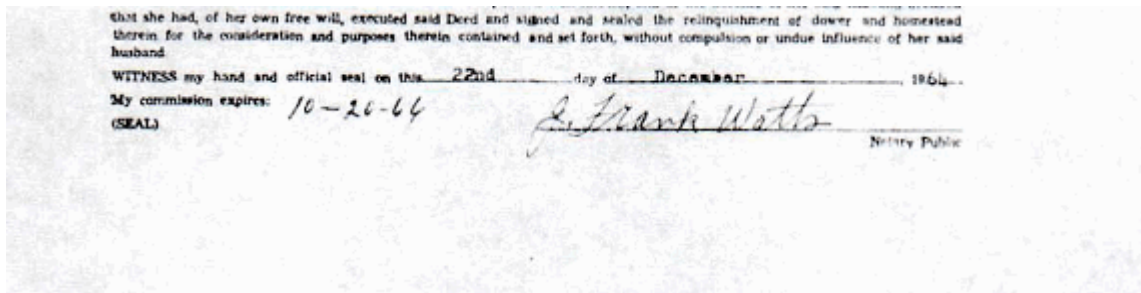
STATE OF Arkansas

COUNTY OF Searcy

On this day personally appeared before the undersigned, a Notary Public, within and for the County and State aforesaid,  
duly qualified, commissioned and acting, Sod Collier, a n d  
Ida Collier, to me well known as the GRANTOR<sup>S</sup> in the foregoing  
Deed, and stated that LUSY had executed the same for the consideration and purposes therein mentioned and set forth.

And on the same day also voluntarily appeared before me Ida Collier wife of the  
Sod Collier to me well known and in the absence of her said husband declared

|                                                      |       |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| FILED FOR RECORD                                     |       |
| This <u>22</u> day of <u>December</u> , 19 <u>64</u> |       |
| at <u>Searcy</u> County, <u>Ark</u>                  |       |
| <u>Ida Collier</u>                                   | Clerk |
| RECORDED AND CERTIFIED                               |       |
| In Book <u>77</u>                                    |       |
| Page <u>228</u> this <u>31st</u> day of              |       |
| <u>December</u> , 19 <u>64</u>                       |       |
| <u>Ida Collier</u>                                   | Clerk |



*Copy of the warranty deed of sale.*