

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ficklin - Imboden House

other names/site number Powhatan Log House

2. Location

street & number N.E. corner of Third and Main Streets

not for publication N/A

city, town Powhatan

vicinity N/A

state Arkansas

code AR

county Lawrence

code AR 075

zip code 72458

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic Resources of Powhatan, AR

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

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

Catherine A. Bradford
Signature of certifying official

8.29.89
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Midland tradition folk house

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Limestone

walls Wood: Log

Wood: Weatherboard

roof Wppd" Shingle

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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MULTIPLE PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION - Powhatan, Lawrence County

FICKLIN/IMBODEN HOUSE

Description

SUMMARY. The Ficklin/Imboden house is a simple log house constructed in the Midland building tradition. It stands on the property owned originally by one of Powhatan's earliest citizens, Andrew H. Imboden, and his spouse, Lusinda E. Ficklin. It is composed of two single-pen buildings in an L-shape, typical of the buildings of the earliest settlers in Lawrence County. The Ficklin/Imboden House stands on the east half of Lots 5 and 6 of Block 4 in the town of Powhatan.

ELABORATION. The Ficklin/Imboden House in Powhatan is a single-pen log house with a one- and one-half-story (sleeping loft) plan. A later addition to the house, a one-story, single-pen L-room, was constructed at the rear of the main house and is thought to have been used as a detached kitchen. The house and the kitchen are constructed of cypress logs hewn square and joined by half-dovetailed notches at the corners. Broad-axe markings are obvious on all log surfaces of the building, interior and exterior, and logs are chinked with limestone and mortar. The foundations of both rooms are fieldstone, with massive cypress foundation logs spanning the piers. The gable roof of the main house was originally wood shingle and is deteriorating, although the roof has been replaced within the past 50 years.

The front facade of the house was embellished with a dropped shed-roof porch possibly as early as the 1920s (from photographic evidence), but this addition has not significantly altered the building's original character. In fact, the dropped shed porch is quite in character with Tidewater South houses, which contributed stylistically to the Midland tradition. Windows on the front (south) facade were also later additions, having a four-over-four pane arrangement, double-hung symmetrically on either side of the front door.

The east elevation of the main room has no apertures. One photograph from the 1960s suggests a small window once existed in the sleeping loft; however, 1973 photographic evidence does not reveal this aperture and, in fact, clearly shows a vertical roof member which extends from the ridge of the gable to the first horizontal wall member.

The north elevation has one doorway, leading to the detached kitchen and is devoid of other apertures.

The house was sheathed with cypress siding on the west elevation, around the exterior-end chimney, which in combination with certain interior features could mean a later construction date, unless the siding was simply an improvement to the original stacked-log wall. The exterior-end chimney has deteriorated but many of the fieldstones still hold the original form of the fireplace. It is feared that the stone chimney, weakened by neglect, will fall into the building, potentially demolishing the structure.

The interior of the house reveals a primitive wooden fireplace mantle. It has miter-joint corners and is fashioned from wood, stained black. The enclosed stair in the northwest corner of the main room, which leads to the sleeping loft, is very narrow and unstable. Some of the stairs, which rise as steeply as eight inches and are only six inches wide, have fallen in. Undoubtedly a crude wooden ladder once led to the sleeping loft, since a corner stair of this description is typically an indication of improvement.

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MULTIPLE PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION - *Powhatan, Lawrence County*

The sleeping loft reveals the roof, which was replaced sometime during the past 50 years. The floor and walls of the loft reveal the massive (some 18") stacked cypress timbers, but most of the chinking has fallen out.

Though the original plan of the log house was single-pen, it was later improved, as many early log houses were, to include a roof over the original open space between the main house and the kitchen, creating a house type often mistaken as a "dogtrot."

This gabled connecting roof was extant until the 1960s, and screening was used to enclose the space between the house and the kitchen (from photographic evidence). However, a later photograph proves that this area was not covered or enclosed in 1973.

The floor between the main house and the ell-room has completely deteriorated. The cypress logs that spanned the piers have rotted and the kitchen's physical integrity is in jeopardy. The detached kitchen has one window on the east elevation and a door on the south elevation.

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FICKLIN/IMBODEN HOUSE Significance

SUMMARY. The Ficklin/Imboden House is nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion A for its association with the earliest settlers of the town of Powhatan and Lawrence County, the second county formed in Arkansas Territory. It is also nominated under Criterion C for its local significance as a quintessential extant architectural resource of a particular building style.

ELABORATION. The earliest surviving building in Powhatan is a log house that dates to c. 1850. No abstracts and deeds have been discovered to date the cabin exactly.

The Powhatan Midland house is significant because it is the only extant example of residential architecture in Powhatan itself. It is one of the last remnants of what was once the busiest part of town in one of the most important trading ports and county seats in northeast Arkansas. Its hewn-log construction with half-dovetailed notches joining the logs at the corners is a rare resource that is fast disappearing in this region. The detached kitchen L-room behind the main single-pen living area is also a rare form.

This house is also significant for the craftsmanship obvious in its construction. It is a rare example of northern and central European building techniques as described earlier.

Further elaboration of the significance of the Ficklin/Imboden House is contained in Part E, Historic Contexts 1 and 3.

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MULTIPLE PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION - Powhatan, Lawrence County

FICKLIN/IMBODEN HOUSE

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The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeastern Arkansas, p. 762-831. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1889.

Harris, R. Cole. "The Simplification of Europe Overseas," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 67 (1977):467-83 (as quoted in Jordan's *American Log Buildings*--see individual entry).

Herndon, Dallas Tabor. *Annals of Arkansas*. Hopkinsville, Ky., and Little Rock, Ark.: Arkansas Department of Archives and History, Historical Record Association, 1947: Vol. 1.

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Jordan, Terry G. *American Log Buildings*, The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill and London: 1985.

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McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

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Price, Cynthia R. and Price, James E. "Investigation of Settlement and Subsistence Systems in the Ozark Border Region of Southeast Missouri During the First Half of the Nineteenth Century: The Widow Harris Cabin Project." Unpublished paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology, January 3-8, 1978, San Antonio, Texas. University of Missouri, Department of Anthropology, American Archaeology Division, Southeast Missouri Archaeological Research Facility.

Tax Records, Lawrence County Assessor's Office, Lawrence County Courthouse, Walnut Ridge, Arkansas.

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Wright, Martin. "The Log Cabin in the South." M.A. thesis, Louisiana State University, 1950. (Quoted in Jordan's *American Log Buildings*--see individual entry).

Zelinsky, Wilbur. *The Cultural Geography of the United States*, Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1973, as quoted by Terry G. Jordan in *American Log Buildings*, The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill and London, 1985.

6. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Exploration/Settlement

Significant Person

N/A

Period of Significance

c. 1850-1890

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Significant Dates

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

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Powhatan Courthouse Museum
Lawrence Co. Court - Walnut Ridge

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2 acres

UTM References

A

1	5
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6	6	9	5	8	0
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3	9	9	4	4	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Parcel #800-00012-000
Block 4, W $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 5, All of Block 6
Section 30, Township 17, Range 1W

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the exact description of the site historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Ann Anderson/Kenneth Story
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date August 28, 1989
street & number 225 East Markham, Suite 200 telephone (501) 371-2763
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201





