SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 06000537  Date of Listing: July 3, 2006

Property Name: Bailey Family Farm Historic District

County: Jackson  State: Missouri

Historic Resources of Lee’s Summit, Missouri
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper  July 3, 2006
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 1. Name of Property
The historic name of the property is hereby changed to the Bailey Family Farm Historic District.

Section 2. Location
The street and number is hereby changed to SW corner of Bailey and Ranson Roads.

Section 8. Statement of Significance
Criterion D is hereby removed.

[These changes were made in consultation with and approved by the National Register staff of the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office.]

The Missouri State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)
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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>historic name</th>
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<tr>
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2. Location

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<th>street &amp; town</th>
<th>Bailey and Ranson Roads</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>state</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>code</td>
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<tr>
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<td>64063</td>
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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature of certifying official/Title</th>
<th>Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State or Federal agency and bureau</td>
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In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Signature of certifying official/Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State or Federal agency and bureau</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. (See continuation sheet.)
- determined eligible for the National Register (See continuation sheet.)
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature of the Keeper</th>
<th>Date of Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bailey Family Farm Historic District
Name of Property

Jackson County, MO
County and State

5. Classification
Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
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<td>objects</td>
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<tr>
<td>objects</td>
<td>Total</td>
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6. Function or Use
Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURE: Storage
AGRICULTURE: Animal Facility
AGRICULTURE: Outbuilding
AGRICULTURE: Agricultural Field

Current Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
VACANT/NOT IN USE
AGRICULTURE: Storage
VACANT/NOT IN USE
AGRICULTURE: Agricultural Field

7. Description
Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:
Prairie School
OTHER: Late 19th C. English Barn
OTHER: Mid-20th C. Dairy Barn
OTHER: 20th C. Platform Frame Bldg

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone
walls WOOD: Weatherboard
WOOD
roof OTHER: Composition
other CONCRETE

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

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7
8. Description

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

☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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

Property is:

☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or grave.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other Name of repository:

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9
## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 15 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

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<thead>
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<th>Easting</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Property Tax No. N/A

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

**name/title**  Sally Fullerton Schwenk, Partner

**organization**  Historic Preservation Services, LLC  **date** January 25, 2006

**street & number** 323 West 8th Street, Suite 112  **telephone** 816-221-5133

**city or town**  Kansas City  **state** MO  **zip code** 64105

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Maps**  A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
  - A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- **Photographs**: Representative black-and-white photographs of the property.
- **Additional items**: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

**name/title**  Shirley Bailey

**street & number** 1304 Titania Lane  **telephone** 703-356-7995

**city or town**  McLean  **state** VA  **zip code** 22102

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

**Estimated Burden Statement**: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION (CONTINUED)

OTHER: 20th C. Frame Structure
OTHER: 20th C. Metal Water Tank
OTHER: Late 20th C. Residence

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION STATEMENT

The Bailey Family Farm Historic District is located in Lee’s Summit, Missouri, in southeastern Jackson County (Figure 1). The District is a fifteen-acre tract generally located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Bailey Road and Ranson Road in Section 16, Township 47 North, Range 31 West. The District’s northern boundary is 660 feet long, running west parallel to Bailey Road from the intersection of Bailey Road and Ranson Road. Its eastern boundary is 990 feet long, running south of the intersection parallel to Ranson Road. Its southern boundary corresponds with the southern edge of three fields bounded by a road and drainage system. The western boundary begins at the southwest corner of the intersection of several drainage areas and curves north following the contour line, ending at Bailey Road to the north. The District includes five contributing buildings, two contributing structures, and one non-contributing building.
Within the District, the historic open spaces are counted neither as contributing or noncontributing resources. The historic buildings and structures within the District date from the 1880s through the 1940s. These buildings and structures include one residence, three barns, a workshop, an oil and gasoline pump house, and a water tank. Also located in the District is a 1991 guesthouse. The organization of the open spaces, which includes the character-defining elements of the historic farmstead — residential buildings, barns, outbuildings, ancillary structures, farmyard, gardens, and croplands — illustrates traditional patterns of land use and agricultural practices over an extended period of time. With the exception of the water tank, the buildings and structures are all of wood construction and their design and structural systems reflect the time of their construction. All have a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, and craftsmanship. Each contributing property successfully conveys its period of construction and its associations with the continuum of farmstead buildings and structures commonly found in the rural landscape of the region in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Below ground, there are a variety of resources that have the potential to reveal information about the evolution of agricultural practices that occurred on the farm, including the foundations of pre-existing farm buildings/structures, wells, cisterns, a maze of water pipes leading from the historic wells and pumps, underground storage tanks for gas and oil, and a capped gas well that once furnished natural gas to the farmhouse. In addition to the information these
archaeological resources may provide, there are historic vegetation and landscape features. These elements and pollen and soil studies have the potential to provide knowledge of previous agricultural practices and past uses and activities.
ELABORATION

LOCATION AND SETTING (Photograph Numbers 1 through 7)

The City of Lee’s Summit is located in Prairie Township in southeast Jackson County, Missouri, an area distinguished by prairie and wooded uplands associated with the primary tributaries of the Little Blue River and Sni-a-bar Creek. Highway 291 on the north, Blue Parkway on the west, and the Jackson-Cass County line on the south serve as the general boundaries of the city. Currently, Lee’s Summit’s population is approximately seventy-one thousand and the city is the fifth largest in Missouri in geographic area. It is one of the fastest growing communities in the state. The Bailey Family Farm Historic District is located to the southeast of the original town of Lee’s Summit, mid-way between Lee’s Summit and Greenwood, Missouri, in an area with residential subdivisions to the north, the 2,603-acre James A Reed Memorial Wildlife Area to the east, and rural farmland to the south and west.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLES AND PROPERTY TYPES

Dating from the late nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century, all but one of the buildings and structures found in the Bailey Family Farm Historic District are examples of the functional and architectural property types categorized as “Rural Farmstead Property Types” that were identified and documented in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) “Historic Resources of Lee’s Summit, Missouri” in the historical context “Architectural Styles and Vernacular Property Types: 1865-1960” in Section E, and under “Farmstead and Associated Resources Property Type: circa 1865-1960” in Section F.

Residence — Contributing Building
(Photograph Numbers 8 through 18)

The Prairie School style residence erected in 1914-1915 at the southwest corner of the intersection of Bailey and Ranson Roads is a two-story balloon frame building with a steeply pitched hipped roof system with wide overhanging eaves (Photograph Number 1). Pairs of flat brackets attached to the soffit decorate the corners of the eaves. Tile cresting outlines the roof ridges. A central brick chimney rises out of the roof over the main block. The recessed rear block has its own hipped roof system. Another interior brick chimney rises from the recessed block behind the main block. A one-story rear addition is the width of the main block and has a shed roof of the same pitch with wide overhanging eaves.

The wall cladding is horizontal wood lap siding, which is of narrower dimensions on the upper story. Except for the leaded glass windows in the primary façade and the rear additions, the windows throughout
the house are double-hung sashes with three-over-one lights. The muntins in the upper sashes are vertical, reflecting Arts and Crafts Movement influences.

**East (Primary) Façade (Photograph Numbers 8 through 11)**

The primary façade faces east toward Ransom Road and has a one-story porch that spans three quarters of the primary façade and wraps around to the north. The porch has a shallow pitched hipped roof supported by Tuscan columns. The balustrade has square two-by-two-inch balusters alternatingly connected at the top and the bottom by horizontal two-by-two-inch wood strips matching the balusters. Brick piers rising to the height of the wooden porch floor support the columns. The fenestration is asymmetrical, varying in location on the first and second stories. Occupying one half of the primary façade at the first story is an entrance with a wide single-leaf door flanked by narrow sidelights and, to the right of the door, a rectangular window with leaded glass in a diamond pattern. A wide window with four vertical muntins in the upper pane occupies the other half of the wall space under the porch roof. The muntins divide into a “V” shape at the top of the sash. The second-story openings have a symmetrical arrangement and form three bays consisting of a very small double-hung sash window with one-over-one lights flanked by two large double-hung sash windows. The muntins in the upper sash of the small central window form a star design. Centered in the roof above the central window is a wide dormer with a hipped roof that contains a pair of multi-pane fixed-sash windows.

**North (Side) Elevation (Photograph Numbers 10 through 12)**

The first and second stories also have an asymmetrical arrangement of fenestration. The eastern bay on both stories consists of single windows. The adjacent bay to the west is a rectangular projecting stairway bay with a hipped roof and a pair of windows at the landing level mid-way between the first and second floors. Underneath the projecting stairway bay there is an entrance to the basement/first-floor stair landing. West of the stairway, at the second story, two single windows form two bays; below are a pair of narrower windows that form a single bay. The north elevation of the second story’s recessed block contains a pair of windows. Below these windows, the first-story addition contains a single square window. Centered in the roof of the north elevation, a wide dormer with a hipped roof matches the dormer on the east (primary) façade.
West (Rear) Elevation (Photograph Number 13)
The west (rear) elevation of the house incorporates the recessed block and the one-story addition. At the second story, a band of six rectangular windows create a horizontal band that delineates the sleeping porch. Below these windows is the one-story addition, which has a wide single window centered in the northern half and an entrance and three rectangular windows in the southern half. The windows are non-historic and were installed after a fire in 1980, as were parts of the one-story addition. The windows occupy the original screened opening of the porch.

South (Side) Elevation (Photograph Numbers 8 and 14)
The south (side) elevation features a curved three-sided bay projecting from the plane of the wall at the east end of the elevation. Three wide rectangular windows on each story define the curve. Paired windows and a single window to the west define two additional bays on the second story of the main block. Below, on the first story, a shallow rectangular projecting bay with a hipped roof contains a central double-hung sash window flanked by sidelights. To the west, on the second story, two windows in the recessed block are part of the sleeping porch. Below, the one-story addition contains a single window and a pair of modern windows that were installed after the fire in 1980. Centered in the middle of the main block’s roof is a hipped roof dormer that is identical to those found on the primary (east) and north (side) elevations.
With the exception of the rear porch area, the interior of the house retains all of its original architectural features and spaces. Of note is the oak woodwork throughout the residence (Photograph Numbers 15, 16, 17, and 18).

The major ancillary buildings and structures on the farmstead are the late nineteenth century corn barn and granary buildings, the 1940s dairy barn, and the 1991 guesthouse. These buildings are grouped in an area that is accessed from Ranson Road, which is located south and southwest of the residence (Photograph Number 19). Located directly west of the residence are the workshop, the oil and gasoline pump house, and the water tank (Photograph Numbers 49 and 51).

Corn Barn — Contributing Building
(Photograph Numbers 20 through 24, and 34 through 35)
The late nineteenth century corn barn is an adaptation of the English barn. Distinguishing features include the location of the drive-through entrances at the narrow gable ends. The plan is a central passageway flanked by cribs or pens on each side, which were used for storage of grain, in this case corn. The post-and-beam construction has an open rafter system and a cupola for ventilation. Horizontal lap siding clads the framing. The roof is covered with composition shingles over felting that was applied over the original boards that are nailed to the rafters. A pair of sliding wood doors covers the entrances in the north and south end gables. At the north gable, flanking the door just above the lintel there are two small square openings to the traditional hayloft area. These openings are now closed and contain wood infill. Located midway on the east and west elevations are vents that are now covered by wood infill.

Dairy Barn — Contributing Building
(Photograph Numbers 25 through 33)
The 1940s dairy barn is typical of such facilities erected in the 1940s. The long, story-and-a-half building has gable ends. The north gable end has a ribbon of casement windows that allow light and ventilation into the dairy processing room. The windows in this area remain and are square, four-light casement units. The room has a finished ceiling and walls. The south gable end has large double-leaf vehicular doors. The composition shingle roof has exposed rafter tails. The wall cladding is painted Masonite shingle panels. On the long sides, square window openings (now covered by boards) previously provided light and fresh air. The foundation is poured-in-place concrete. The structure is a braced balloon frame with an open rafter system incorporating a truss roof. The interior plan incorporates a central passageway with wood milking stalls lining the side walls.
Bailey Family Farm Historic District
Jackson County, Missouri

Granary Barn — Contributing Building
(Photograph Numbers 36 through 44)
Based on its construction, the granary barn appears to be the oldest of the barns on the property. The late nineteenth century barn is a vernacular adaptation of the English barn. Distinguishing features are the location of the drive-through entrances at the narrow gable ends. A pair of double-leaf doors occupies the center of the gable ends. At the south gable, a small, square, four-pane casement window occupies the peak of the gable area. At the north end, a tall rectangular door occupies the same position. There are no openings on the long side elevations. The plan is a central passageway flanked by cribs or pens used for storage of grain. The upper level is completely floored and was utilized for grain storage. Vertical wood siding clads the framing. It appears that the building has been lifted off its original foundation and that the original sill beams now rest on a concrete foundation. The roof is covered with composition shingles applied over the original board decking nailed to the rafters.

Workshop Building — Contributing Building
(Photograph Numbers 7, 49, and 50)
The early twentieth century workshop building is a balloon frame building covered by vertical wood boards. Asbestos shingles cover this building’s shed roof, which has exposed rafter tails. Along the south elevation, there are eight rectangular window openings, some of which are now covered by boards. The north elevation features two door openings. Small square windows occupy the narrow ends of the building. This building is in poor physical condition. The wood exterior is unpainted and shows long-term exposure to the elements. The roof system has failed. Nevertheless, it communicates its original function as a facility to house the farm’s machine and equipment repair shop.

Oil and Gasoline Pump House Structure — Contributing Structure
(Photograph Numbers 7, 49, and 52)
Erected to cover an oil tank and a gasoline tank, this structure has a balloon frame and a shed roof with exposed rafter tails. Vertical board-and-batten siding covers the framing. There are no openings in the south, west, and east sides of this structure. Openings in the north side of this structure provide access to the pumps.

Water Tank Structure — Contributing Structure
(Photograph Number 51)
This round metal structure has an interior lining and served as a water storage tank. It was one of a number of tanks, wells, and cisterns that supplied water to the livestock.
Guesthouse — Noncontributing Building  
(Photograph Numbers 45 through 48)

Erected in the early 1990s by Lee’s Summit homebuilder Richard Link, this small story-and-a-half residence is located at the extreme southwestern part of the District. The design features a steeply pitched roof with the primary entrance on the horizontal side. The primary façade has four bays defined by one full-size window and two half-size windows flanking the entrance. The wall cladding is vertical panels of wood.

LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Historic spaces and vegetation patterns fall into distinct functional areas — the residence with its front, side, and rear yard; the truck garden area directly to the south of the residence; the barn area; the mechanical shop/refueling stations to the west; and the croplands to the south and west.

The area surrounding the residence currently retains many of its historic plantings. Spirea bushes remain as foundation plantings. The side yard to the north of the house retains the cedar trees imported from France by John Mark Bailey in the early twentieth century. Another native tree species of considerable age is a walnut tree near the cedar trees. An interior drive off of Ransom Road visually and functionally separates the barns and croplands from the truck garden and yards near the residence.

ARCHEOLOGICAL FEATURES

Throughout the District, there is a maze of underground pipes fed by underground springs that connect to wells, hydrants, and water storage tanks (above and below ground). In the side yard to the north of the house, there is a cistern, which used to hold rainwater and was used for household functions other than drinking water. Another cistern is located to the east of the granary barn. The farm’s owner remembers closing off four additional cisterns. All the cisterns are lined with brick or stone. There is also a capped gas well, which once
provided natural gas to the residence. In addition to these historic archaeological resources that have the potential to yield information about the agricultural practices during the District’s period of significance, there are a number of historic foundations of preexisting buildings and structures in the District. Two of the most recent losses include a hog barn and a pole barn.

INTEGRITY

The architectural and functional property types in the District meet the integrity thresholds established in Section F of the “Historic Resources of Lee’s Summit, Missouri” MPDF. The buildings and structures in the District reflect changes and alterations that occurred during the District’s period of significance and are historic alterations that have achieved significance in their own right. Because of the layering of subsequent land uses over an extended period of time, this farmstead’s integrity, like many rural landscapes, reflects an evolution of land uses and agricultural practices during the period of significance. The District retains the important spatial patterns and organization of agricultural functions, paths and road systems, and other land use boundary demarcations include adjacent cropland and natural water courses, forming a cohesive agricultural landscape and reflecting the conscious design over time of a historic farmstead that evolved in relation to natural features and agricultural practices. Within this natural and man-made cultural landscape, there is a collection of extant buildings and structures that retain their character-defining physical components. As with all farmsteads, it is important to note that these are evolving and changing cultural landscapes. None appear as they did fifty or one hundred years ago. Vegetation grows and dies out and expands and contracts during periods of drought and high rainfall; land use and management practices change; and new structures replace deteriorated or obsolete structures. Nevertheless, the Bailey Family Farm Historic District retains the general character and feeling of its historic period of significance and its historic associations with agriculture during this time.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bailey Family Farm Historic District, located in Lee’s Summit, Missouri, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for the area of AGRICULTURE, under Criterion C for the area of ARCHITECTURE, and under Criterion D for its information potential as documented in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) “Historic Resources of Lee’s Summit, Missouri.” The District has direct associations with the historic contexts “Agricultural Production and Processing: 1865-1945” and “Architectural Styles and Vernacular Property Types: 1865-1960” developed as part of the MPDF and meets the MPDF registration requirements. The architectural and functional property types in the District meet the integrity thresholds established in Section F of the MPDF. The District is locally significant in the area of Agriculture for its associations with the evolution of agriculture during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as an important component of the local economy and Lee’s Summit’s identity as an agricultural market center. Moreover, as a Centennial Farm1 owned by successive generations of one family for over one hundred years, it is significant for the cumulative contribution of one family to the development of agriculture in the area over an extended period of time. The District is locally significant in the area of Architecture for its retention of buildings and structures associated with the evolution of rural farmsteads in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Because of the number and variety of underground structures, the District is also locally significant for its potential, through research and testing, to yield important information on agricultural practices and technology during the period of significance. In their various forms and locations and by virtue of their methods of construction, these buildings and structures are repositories of the trades and expertise associated with local building materials and techniques and reflect the ideas, skills, and knowledge related to a variety of agricultural practices in the region during the District’s period of significance. The District includes five contributing buildings, two contributing structures, and one non-contributing building. The period of significance for this District begins in circa 1880 with the acquisition of the land on which the historic farmstead is located and ends in 1955, the arbitrary fifty-year cut-off date for National Register eligibility established by the National Register program as providing a sufficient passage of time to allow objective evaluation of the historic resources. The period of significance acknowledges historic alterations in response to specific functional needs and technological changes, and accepts the buildings and structures that experienced such alterations within the period of significance as contributing elements to the District.

1 Listed as a centennial farm in 1999 by the University of Missouri School of Agriculture as part of the Missouri Century Farm Program established during the American Revolution Bicentennial Year of 1976. The Bailey family farm is one of 5,830 farms listed as a Century Farm since 1976. Properties designated as Century Farms must have been continuously owned by one family of direct descendants for one hundred years or more, consist of no less than 40 acres of the original land, and continue to make a financial contribution to the overall farm income.
ELABORATION

HISTORY OF THE BAILEY FAMILY FARM

Late Nineteenth Century Farming Operation

Among the settlers coming into the region after the end of the Civil War were Jesse Wilson Bailey and his wife, Mary Jane Talbot Bailey who arrived in Jackson County in 1866. Both Jesse and Mary were thirty-nine at the time and had previously farmed in Ohio. J. W. Bailey purchased 160 acres in the Southeast Quarter of Section 16, Township 47, North, Range 31 West in Prairie Township in Southeastern Jackson County, which was midway between the communities of Lee’s Summit and Greenwood. Bailey engaged in general farming and also established a large apple orchard of about five thousand trees. The 1870 census shows J. W. Bailey, age 42, as a farmer; Mary, age 41; Jesse, age 16 months; Mary, age 13; Alice, age 11; and John, age 9, as all having been born in Ohio and residing at the farm in Lee’s Summit at the time of the census.  

Lee’s Summit and Greenwood were the only towns in Prairie Township at this time. Lee’s Summit was the larger of the two and Greenwood was a village located within three quarters of a mile of the Jackson-Cass County line. Lee’s Summit and Greenwood both functioned as supply points to the farmers of the township and surrounding country and were on the main line of the Missouri Pacific Railroad. At this time, Lee’s Summit was the second

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2 J. W. and Mary’s daughter Mary Bailey died in 1951.
3 J. W. and Mary’s daughter Alice Bailey died in 1877.
4 Various land and census records list this son as John, Mark John, John Mark, or J. M. Bailey. The various census data list the same birth date for this individual.
largest grain shipping point in Jackson County after Kansas City and also served as an important shipping point for cattle and hogs. Generally, the small general farm served as the basis for a stable farming economy in the region, and the principal products of Prairie Township were corn, hogs, and cattle.

The 1880 census shows J. W. and Mary's sons — Jesse, Jr. and Mark John — as part of the family living at the Bailey farm. By this time, according to the their descendent and current owner, Shirley Bailey, in addition to a prosperous orchard operation, the Bailey farm was noted for its hog production. The farm was one of 390 farms (most of which were 160 acres) under cultivation in Prairie Township at this time.

In the early 1880s, J. W. Bailey expanded his holdings. Plat maps from 1877 and 1883 document that he acquired 80 acres from T. C. Taggard in the Northeast Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 16, directly north of his earlier holdings. The property included a farmhouse located at the northeast corner of the sections lines and a large orchard directly to the south.

During this period, the Bailey farm reflected the diversified nature of farming in Jackson County during the late nineteenth century. In addition to orchards that occupied approximately 20 acres, the raising of hogs was common. At this time, most farmers raised hogs for their own use and as a source of ancillary income both for slaughter and as breeder stock.

The family practice of diversified farming continued through the 1880s. The orchards prospered. An article in the Lee's Summit Journal dated August 25, 1894 reported that Jesse W. Bailey had the second largest apple orchard in the area with 10,500 trees "measuring 70 miles of row trees."
Twentieth Century Farming Operations

Economic activity in Lee’s Summit, like other rural railroad market centers in the region, did not change much in the early twentieth century. Kansas City consumed more in agricultural products than could be produced in the county, providing a steady market for the produce of the region. By the 1920s, Jackson County had over 300,000 acres of farmland and a population of 367,815, of which more than 350,000 lived in Kansas City and the towns in the county. There were 3,345 farms in the county and 500 of these specialized in dairy farming, breeding, or truck farming. The remainder, such as the Bailey family farm, operated diversified enterprises. Major crops in Jackson County and in Prairie Township were corn, wheat, oats, rye, barley, soybeans, kafir, clover, timothy, alfalfa, prairie hays, and fruit trees. Livestock operations included beef cattle, breeding stock exported nationally and internationally, hogs, and dairies.

The 1900 census lists Jesse and Mary as heads of households with their son, Mark John, as a farm laborer, and his sons, Chester (born in 1887) and Earl (born in 1890), as “in school.” A 1904 plat map of Jackson County shows J. M. Bailey as the owner of the original 160-acre farmstead in the southeast quarter of Section 16, as well as the 80 acres in the west half of the northeast quarter of the section. Jesse W. Bailey is shown as the owner of the 80 acres in the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 16, which was previously owned by non-family members. This reflected a change in land ownership patterns with the Bailey family now owning, for the first time, the entire east half of Section 16 for a total acreage of 380 acres. After the family patriarch, Jesse Wilson Bailey, Sr., died in 1905 at the age of seventy-eight, his wife, Mary, continued to reside on the farm.

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15 As noted previously, Jesse and Mary’s oldest son was also known as John, Mark John, John Mark, or J. M. Bailey.
Chester I. Bailey left the farm to study animal husbandry at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri and graduated with a degree from the University’s agricultural college in 1910. He returned to the farm and joined his father, Mark John, in the farming, livestock, and orchard operations. Shortly after the death of his grandmother, Mary Jane Talbot Bailey, in 1914, and in preparation for his marriage, Chester I. Bailey began constructing a residence on the site of the previous farmhouse. The original farmhouse was moved to the lower farm in the southern part of the section and used as housing for farm workers. The new house was completed in 1915 and the next year, Chester married Hazel Anna Caldwell (nee) Underwood, a resident of Greenwood, Missouri.\(^\text{17}\)

The 1920 census lists “John Mark” Bailey as the head of household engaged in general farming. Living on the property at this time were his son and daughter-in-law, Chester and Hazel, as well as two farm laborers and their families. A 1920 plat map shows Chester I. Bailey as the owner of record of the east half of Section 16. In the 1920s, the Bailey orchards continued to be one of the major orchards in Prairie Township, producing around five thousand barrels of apples annually.\(^\text{18}\) At this time, there were about three thousand acres in the county that contained orchards that produced more than one million bushels of apples annually.\(^\text{19}\)

\(^{17}\) Upon her parents’ death, Hazel’s aunt and uncle, the Underwoods, adopted her.

\(^{18}\) Donald R. Hale, *The History of Lee’s Summit Missouri — Volume 1: 1830-1945* (Lee’s Summit, MO: Lee’s Summit Historical Society, 1999), 68.

\(^{19}\) M. E. Ballou, *Jackson County, Missouri: Its Opportunities and Resources* (Rural Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, 1926), 196-197, Jackson County Historical Society Research Library and Archives, Independence, Missouri.
In 1929, John Mark Bailey died. The 1930 census lists Chester I. Bailey as the head of the household engaged in general farming as well as his wife, Hazel, and year-old daughter, Silvia. Another daughter, Shirley, was born in 1931. A 1931 plat map shows Chester owning the northern half of the Bailey farm and his brother E. A. (Earl Alexander) owning the lower half.

In the 1930s and 1940s, Chester augmented the family’s income from farming by acting as the dealer/agent for John Deere. In the 1940s, Earl, who suffered from tuberculosis, sold his interest in the farm to Chester and moved to Colorado with his family. Beginning in the 1940s, Chester shifted from diversified farming operations into a dairy business. By the 1950s, he operated two dairy farms with a herd of four hundred Holstein milk cows and breeding stock. During this period, he acquired considerable acreage to the east from Maria Ranson, leased three other farms of cropland, farming over 1,000 acres of cropland. It was during this period that he introduced land conservation practices into his operations, conserving natural waterways and terracing fields.

The dairy operation occurred on the 320 acres he owned in Section 16. He divided the herds with one herd occupying the upper 160 acres and the other occupying the lower 160 acres. The upper and lower farms each had their own dairy barn and milk processing facilities. By the 1940s, Chester successfully shifted completely to Holstein cattle. During the 1940s and 1950s, seven families lived on the upper and lower farms and assisted in running the dairy operation. Other workers, including a full-time mechanic, commuted to the farms.

Chester Bailey’s shift to dairy farming was not unusual, nor did it involve a high degree of risk. His degree in animal husbandry and decades of farming experience formed a solid base for entering into the dairy business. Moreover, dairy distribution systems were already in place to transport milk to the
consumers on a daily basis. The rich farmland around Lee’s Summit spawned many dairies, both small and large. What began as small farm dairies at the turn of the twentieth century grew to include enterprises with large herds, huge tile barns, special milking barns, and cooling systems. As a result, numerous systems existed to prepare and deliver fresh milk to regional markets. Some dairymen, like Bailey, sold milk in cans to distributors who maintained a fleet of trucks to deliver fresh milk to bottling companies and wholesale buyers. Other dairies certified and bottled their milk under their own name and distributed it through their own trucks or independent companies located in Kansas City.

In 1963, Chester Bailey sold the dairy stock and the acreage he owned on the east side of Ranson Road. He continued to manage the farm and to farm it as cropland. Hazel Bailey died in 1976. Upon Chester’s death in 1980, Shirley Bailey took an agronomy course at the University of Missouri and, with the assistance of John Evans who had worked on the farm for many years, undertook the management of the farm. John Evans died in 1988. In 1991, Shirley built a small “guest house” on the farm and she continues to spend about five months each year supervising the planting and harvesting at the farm. Her older sister, Silvia Bailey, inherited part of the property upon the death of their father. It remained in farm usage at the time of her death in 2000. Shirley Bailey continues to supervise farm operations encompassing the old upper farm.

**SIGNIFICANT PROPERTY TYPES**

The Bailey Family Farm Historic District is an excellent example of the farmsteads that formed much of the architectural pattern of the rural landscape in the late nineteenth through the mid-twentieth century. The farmhouse, outbuildings, gardens, and cropland composed the farmstead.

The Prairie School style Bailey family farmhouse erected in 1914-1915 reflects a popular early twentieth style for farmhouses in Jackson County. The book *Jackson County Missouri: Its Opportunities and Resources*, published in 1926, shows that a very high percentage of the residences of affluent farmers erected during this period feature the stylistic influences of the Prairie style and the Arts and Crafts Movement. The high number of these residences erected during the first decades of the twentieth century can be attributed to the age of the county’s first generation of farmhouses, which were erected in the mid-nineteenth century during the initial settlement period of the county, and the advent by the turn of the century of technological improvements in gas lighting, electricity, and plumbing that made modernization a priority. Because of its unusually high level of historic architectural integrity, the 1914-
1915 residence embodies distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction and has important associations with specific patterns and features found in farmhouses erected in Jackson County in the early twentieth century.

While function was the most important determinant of the plan and design of farm outbuildings, they also reflect architectural influences and building types. The earliest farm outbuildings erected in the Lee’s Summit area reflect the building traditions of the settlers. The majority of the area’s early farmers, like the Bailey’s, came from the Ohio Valley and the temperate middle southern states — a culture that abandoned worn-out land and moved westward, giving only rudimentary attention to the design, location, and construction of their farm buildings. Like other farmers in Jackson County, the Bailey’s located their residence, not their barns, on the best building site and initially built their barns of post-and-beam construction, using hewn oak for the main vertical posts, sills, and plates; and locally milled lumber to frame the lighter members and for the siding.

Two of the barns found in the Bailey Family Farm Historic District are adaptations of the English barn plan brought to western Missouri by settlers from Illinois, Ohio, and points farther east. First built of hewn square main timbers with a light framing of sawn lumber, these small barns feature a central drive-through passage flanked by two sets of pens. They reflect the principal English barn plan, the threshing barn, which was designed for grain threshing and hay storage. Threshing barns were three bays wide, one bay deep, and featured a central drive. The form continued in use into the twentieth century and appeared in all sizes and uses. The Bailey family referred to their English barns by their function, calling them the “corn barn” and the “granary.” Both date to the late nineteenth century and are of post-and-beam construction.

The dairy barn erected by Chester Bailey in the 1940s is a significant departure from the traditional nineteenth century multiple-use barn form that often housed dairy cattle and the early twentieth century dairy barn form. After 1910, a shift from the general barn occurred as the result of government health regulations for the production and handling of milk required new barn designs that departed from the traditional multi-purpose barn with stalls for milk cattle. Agricultural college experiment stations initially promoted the tall gambrel roof barn, which was widely adopted throughout the country. Here, cows were milked on concrete floors while held in steel pipe stanchions. Prefabricated trusses supported the gambrel roof and allowed ample space for hay storage. Ducts from steel ventilators atop the roof provided fresh air, and long rows of small windows on the ground floor provided fresh air as well as natural light. The later one-and-a-half-story variation, which became popular by the 1940s and was adopted by Chester Bailey, featured gable ends that were relatively narrow in width, easily disinfected concrete floors, one or two rows of cattle stanchions, and low ceilings that were eight to nine feet tall to conserve heat. The
design also included long rows of small windows on the ground floor for fresh air and light. Many included enclosed facilities for pasteurization and/or the cooling of milk.

Among the extant historic outbuildings on the farm is the early twentieth century workshop, which functioned as a repair shop for farm equipment. At one time during the farm’s use as a dairy farm, Chester Bailey employed a full-time mechanic. The farm equipment was repaired and maintained at this workshop. Nearby is a small shed structure that shelters buried oil and gasoline tanks. Both of these vernacular property types date from the early twentieth century and reflect the types of small structures and buildings that appeared and disappeared over time at the historic farmstead.

Known underground resources include cisterns as well as wells and pumps that supplied spring water to an underground pipe system throughout the farm.

These buildings and structures are evidence of the technological evolution of the farmstead. The two English barns erected in the late nineteenth century reflect traditional building materials and forms the Baileys brought with them from Ohio in the 1860s. The early twentieth century buildings reflect the advent of the balloon framing system. The 1940s dairy barn, which is the most modern of the historic buildings on the farm and utilizes a combination open rafter and truss roof system, reflects the common use of mass-produced building materials and mail-order prefabrication. Today the farmstead reflects the changes in farm construction and materials that evolved as succeeding generations of the Bailey family erected and/or utilized them over extended periods of time, adapting older traditions to new technology and changing agricultural uses. Each reflected the type and scale of the agricultural operation they served.

**SUMMARY**

The Bailey Family Farm Historic District is today a cohesive agricultural landscape that reflects the conscious adaptive design of a historic farmstead over time. The retention of historically significant components with their unique design and building fabric reflects the evolving technology of the period of significance. Smaller scale elements such as individual plants and trees, paths, roads, springs, and mechanical equipment also cumulatively contribute to the historic setting. The retention of historic materials reflects not only the craftsmanship associated with the construction of the buildings and structures, but also how the farmer plowed his fields and harvested his crops. Thus, the cumulative effect of the retention of the historic setting, design, materials, and workmanship communicates feelings of a past period of time and associations with the significance of the Bailey family farm in the agricultural economy of Lee’s Summit.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


*Plat Book of Jackson County, Missouri.* Rockford, IL: W. W. Hixson and Company, c. 1926.


“Schedule 1 – Inhabitants in Prairie Township in the County of Jackson, State of Missouri enumerated by me on the 4 day of June 1880.” Enumerator District 35, page 5. Genealogy and Local History Collection, Independence North Branch, Mid-Continent Public Library, Independence, Missouri. Microfilm.

The black line on the attached boundary map indicates the boundary of the Bailey Family Farm Historic District.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary of the Bailey Family Farm Historic District encompasses the concentration of historic resources that retain integrity and are significantly associated with the functional and architectural resources found in historic farmsteads as described in the Multiple Property Documentation Form “Historic Resources of Lee’s Summit, Missouri.” The District’s boundary corresponds with legal boundaries of the property on the north and east sides and to topographical and man-made features on the south and west sides. The contributing resources incorporated within the boundaries define the historic setting and historic sense of place.
PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Photographer: Brad Finch
F-Stop Photography
Kansas City, Missouri 64116

Date of Photographs: November 2005

Location of Negatives: Historic Preservation Services, LLC
323 West 8th Street, Suite 112
Kansas City, Missouri 64105

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BAILEY FAMILY FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT
BOUNDARY MAP

1 inch equals 170 feet