NAME
HISTORIC
Missouri Lumber and Mining Company Historic Resources
(Partial Inventory)

LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
A10 E 1
CITY, TOWN
Grandin
VICINITY OF
#10 - Hon. Bill Burlison
STATE
Missouri
COUNTY
Carter

CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
DISTRICT
BUILDING(S)
STRUCTURE
SITE
OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC
PRIVATE
BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
IN PROCESS
BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
X.OCCUPIED
X.UNOCCUPIED
WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
X.YES: RESTRICTED
X.YES: UNRESTRICTED
X.NO

PRESENT USE
X.AGRICULTURE
X.COMMERCIAL
X.EDUCATIONAL
X.ENTERTAINMENT
X.GOVERNMENT
X.INDUSTRIAL
X.TRANSPORTATION
X.Scientific
X.RELIGIOUS
X.UNRESTRICTED

OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
Multiple Ownership
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Carter County Recorder of Deeds, Carter County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
Van Buren
STATE
Missouri 63965

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
Missouri State Historical Survey
DATE
1975-1978
FEDERAL
X.STATE
COUNTY
LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Office of Historic Preservation
CITY, TOWN
Jefferson City
STATE
Missouri 65102
### CONTINUATION SHEET

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29. Earl Boyer  
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31. Letch Tipton, Jr.  
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32.  
   Grandin, Mo. 63943

33. James Smith  
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34.  
   Grandin, Mo. 63943

35. Phyllis Elaine Tucker  
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36. Mrs. Charles Greensfelder  
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37. Henry E. Brown  
   444 Regan Ave.  
   Virginia Beach, Va. 23454
DESCRIPTION

The Historic Resources of the Missouri Lumber and Mining Company are comprised of a natural pond and 36 buildings dating from that company's period of activity in Grandin, Missouri, from 1888 to 1909. All 36 buildings are located within Grandin's city limits, and six are sufficiently close in proximity and unity of design to form a historic district. The pond is located on a ten acre area noncontiguous with and to the east of Grandin.

Grandin, situated in a small valley in Carter County, straddles the Middle Fork near its confluence with the Little Black River. The town is divided roughly in half by the Middle Fork, which flows from west to east, and by Highway 21, which runs from north to south. Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Streets parallel the stream in the southwest section, while the rest of the town lies northeast of the stream and highway.

Grandin was originally plotted out with respect to two natural features; the Middle Fork (an intermittent stream), and a spring-fed pond down the valley to the east. The lumberyards and mills were erected in the eastern half of town between the pond and the Middle Fork (photographs 1 & 2), and railroad tracks followed the latter out of town to the west. The residential areas were situated on the gentle slopes north of the mills and to the west, on both sides of the Middle Fork. On the main street (now Fifth Street) were located the company's office building and hotel (both of which are still extant), as well as the store and infirmary, and farther to the south were company houses (photograph 3).

The company office building (photographs 4 & 7), located at the corner of Fifth and Elm Streets, was constructed in 1889 of virgin pine from the surrounding area. It is a two story wood-framed rectangular-plan building with a single story rear wing. The gable roof is ornamented with stickwork. It faces northeast and there are twelve rooms plus an attic, basement, and halls. The interior first floor rooms are elegantly finished, both walls and ceiling, with unknotted narrow planked pine paneling. The second floor walls are treated less formally, with wood paneled wainscoating and plaster. Since its construction the building has been only slightly modified, and the original vault and ticket booth are still intact. Several doors and windows have been boarded up, and the interior staircase has been moved, without damage, to allow more space in the second floor Lodge meeting room. Recent additions include bathroom and kitchen, constructed in existing rooms.

The Bedell House, facing south at Third and Maple, was known as Whitehall, the boarding house for women. It is a two story frame building with a one story wing, and contains 12 rooms. There is a large half-enclosed porch surrounding the front and west sides, and the exterior of the house retains its original appearance.

The company hotel, known now as the Owens House, is located at the corner of Fifth and Pine Streets, two blocks west of the office building. It is a two story "L"-plan frame structure with gable roof and front and rear porches. Although the building has been modified and is now a private residence, it retains its hotel-like appearance and still has 22 interior rooms.
When the Missouri Lumber and Mining Company moved into the valley it provided housing for its employees, and by its peak of activity there were some 475 residences in and around Grandin. The houses were of two basic categories, both of wood frame construction.

The better category of house was characterized by a two story elevation, painted weatherboard siding, and gable roof. These houses were basically rectangular in plan, two rooms wide and one room deep, but lean-tos were often added in back, and porches in front (photographs 8 & 9).

In the second category were the workers' cabins, distinguished by their one story elevation and unpainted board and batten siding. They were rectangular in plan and had either three or five rooms. In the beginning, the company brought two prefabricated types of this cabin into Grandin on railroad flatcars. One type was square, with a pyramidal, hipped roof, while the other was gable roofed.

When Grandin began producing its own lumber more gable roofed cabins were built close to the mills and on the hillsides above the Middle Fork. None of the hip roofed cabins remain in Grandin, as most were taken to West Eminence, Missouri when the company relocated there in 1910. Examples of the gable roofed cabins survive, however, with various modifications.

From the very beginning modifications were made in both types of house by adding porches, extra lean-to rooms, and gabled wings, some of which were as large as the original houses themselves. In some cases, enlargements were made by taking an existing cabin and adding it to another cabin or to a two story house. Through the years other modifications have taken place, such as the addition of decorative window shutters, shingle siding; or wrought-iron porch supports. The two story houses generally retain their weatherboard siding, while the cabins usually have been treated with composite board or shingle siding.

Six of the houses were chosen for inclusion in an historic district because their relative proximity tends to give some indication of the town's original residential environment. The district is comprised of the northern lots of two contiguous blocks in Grandin, and is bounded by Sixth Street on the north, Ash Street on the east, and by Oak Street on the west (see site plan map). All six houses face north on Sixth Street, which is an unpaved road (photographs 8 & 9).

The Historical Resources of the Missouri Lumber and Mining Company are listed as follows, beginning with the six houses which make up the historic district (Numbers refer to locations on site plan map):
9 John Rongey House, 6th & Oak St., 1888-1909, Vernacular. Two story house with weatherboard siding, gable roof, and lean-to in back. A porch encloses the north and west sides.

30 Joe Deaton House, 6th St., 1888-1909, Vernacular. One story house enlarged by the addition of a gabled wing (possibly another one story cabin). The house is sided with weatherboard, and has a front porch.

31 Clarence Graham House, 6th & Elm St., 1888-1909, Vernacular. Two story house with weatherboard siding, front porch, and one story wing in back. Roofs are gabled and of corrugated metal.

14 Everett Nance House, 6th & Elm St., 1888-1909, Vernacular. Two story house with gable roof and weatherboard siding. There is a one story front porch and a two story addition on the southwest corner.

15 Cynthia McKinney House, 6th St., 1888-1909, Vernacular. Two story house with gable roof, weatherboard siding, and two story gabled wing in back.

16 Bill McDowell House, 6th & Ash St., 1888-1909, Vernacular. Two stories, with weatherboard siding, gable roof, front porch, and lean-to in back.

The following buildings, which are the remaining resources of the Missouri Lumber and Mining Company, are scattered throughout Grandin (refer to site plan map), and the old mill pond is located immediately to the east of the town's eastern boundary.

1 Nola Kitterman House, 6th St., 1888-1909, Vernacular. One story, with front porch, lean-to in rear, and shingle siding.

2 J.W. Gibson House, 6th & Pine St., 1888-1909, Vernacular. One story, with extra gabled wing in back and lean-to porch in front. Walls are treated with shingle siding.

3 Thornton McNew House, 6th & Spruce St., 1888-1909, Vernacular. One story, with lean-to in back and shingle siding.

4 Buford Lawhorn House, 6th St., 1888-1909, Vernacular. One story, with screened-in front porch and garage added on the west. Walls are treated with shingle siding.
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**6 Iva Lewis House, 6th St., 1888-1909, Vernacular.** One story, with front porch and shingle siding. There is an extension on the west, covered with white composition siding.

**7 Della Nance House, 6th St., 1888-1909, Vernacular.** One story house with enclosed porch and extra wing on the west. The walls are treated with composition board.

**8 Hazel Owens House (Company Hotel), 5th St., 1888-1909, Vernacular.** A two story building with gable roof and weatherboard siding. There is a screened-in porch in front.

**10 Nettie Jacobson House, 6th & Oak St., 1888-1909, Vernacular.** One story, with front porch, lean-to in back, and weatherboard siding.

**11 Wallace Knapp House, 6th & Elm St., 1888-1909, Vernacular.** One story, with front porch, lean-to in back, and shingle siding.

**12 Hazel Shoat House, 5th & Oak St., 1888-1909, Vernacular.** One and one half stories, with enclosed, gable roofed front porch and large wing in back. The roof is gabled, and the walls are sided with weatherboard.

**13 Masonic Lodge (Company Office Building), 5th & Elm St., 1888-1909, Vernacular.** A two story rectangular, frame building with a small, one story addition in the rear. The exterior is treated with white painted weatherboard, and the gables are decorated with stickwork. Interior walls are treated with pine paneling. The building's foundation is of local stone and concrete blocks.

**17 William F. Smith House, 6th St., 1888-1909, Vernacular.** One story, with front porch and weatherboard siding.

**18 Terry Mays House, 6th & Plum St., 1888-1909, Vernacular.** One story, with shingle siding and small, gable roofed front porch.

**19 Loretta Herrington House, 5th & Cherry St., 1888-1909, Vernacular.** Two stories, with front porch and shingle siding.

**20 Ernie Phillips House, 3rd & N. Cherry St., 1888-1909, Vernacular.** One story, with gable roof and weatherboard siding. The west side has been extended by about ten feet.
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<td>21</td>
<td>Mrs. Louis Bedell House (&quot;Whitehall,&quot; boarding house for women), 3rd &amp; N. Maple St., 1888-1909, Vernacular. Two stories, with gabled roof and weatherboard siding. A porch with an enclosed railing surrounds the south and west sides of the building.</td>
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<td>Lawrence Smith House, 3rd St., 1888-1909, Vernacular. Two stories, with one story wing, gable roof, and shingle siding.</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Alvis Powers House, 2nd &amp; Walnut St., 1888-1909, Vernacular. Two stories, with front porch, lean-to in back, gable roof and weatherboard and composition board siding.</td>
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<td>James Hinton House, 1st &amp; Walnut St., 1888-1909, Vernacular. Two stories, with front porch and lean-to in back. The roof is gabled and the walls are treated with shingle siding.</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>James Smith House, 6th &amp; Cherry St., 1888-1909, Vernacular. One story, weatherboard siding, with lean-to room and porch.</td>
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HISTORIC RESOURCES OF THE MISSOURI LUMBER AND MINING COMPANY (PARTIAL INVENTORY)

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37 Mill Pond (Toliver Pond), approximately 180 meters east of Grandin city limits at 3rd St. The pond covers about 3 1/2 acres, is spring fed, and is about 60 feet deep.
The town of Grandin, during its peak of activity, was the largest lumber mill town in the Missouri Ozark region and the largest town owned and operated by the Missouri Lumber and Mining Company. By 1900 the Grandin operation was the largest in Missouri, and one of the largest in the United States. The company's location in the area had a profound effect on the local economy, not only during its period of activity from 1888-1909, but in the following decades as well.

Grandin began as an unincorporated lumber town, built and totally owned by the Missouri Lumber and Mining Company. John Barber White, the company's General Manager, selected the site and named it after E.B. Grandin, a major stockholder. An important factor in White's choice was the existence of a deep, spring-fed pond suitable for log storage. An added advantage was the site's location in a system of connecting valleys through which tramways, necessary for the transportation of timber, could be constructed.

Although the site was chosen in 1884, the town wasn't begun until 1888-1889 because of delays in railway construction. The mill buildings were built first in the eastern section of the valley around the pond, and construction of the residential sections followed to the west.

The Missouri Lumber and Mining Company specialized in cutting the yellow pine, Pinus echinata, which dominated the ridges of the area. The company trademark was a beaver, and "Beaver Dam Soft Pine," named for the Beaver Creek vicinity where a major lumber camp was later built, was known throughout the United States lumber market. The company's marketing area ranged from Kansas, Nebraska, and Indian Territory in the West to Ohio in the East, and a regional sales office was maintained in Indianapolis. Most of the company's output was sold west of the Mississippi River, though, and in 1901 dealers from the Kansas City area bought nearly half of all the lumber sold in Grandin.

In terms of production, the company's Grandin mill was one of the largest in the country. From the mid 90's until 1909 annual production was greater than 60 million board feet, and in 1895 two employees claimed that "during the year 1894 it cut more lumber than any other mill in the United States." The Twelfth Census of the United States (1900) indicates that the mill was one of only 31 mills (out of a total of 32,136) to produce over 50 million board feet annually.
By 1905 some 1500 people were employed by the company, and while it was not required, most of them lived in company-owned housing. Single men and women lived in one of three boarding houses, known as "Green Tree," "Rock Island," and "Whitehall," where they were charged $18.00 per month for room and board. Overflow from the rooming houses stayed at the company hotel, which rarely had more than a few customers from out of town. Married employees lived with their families in two story houses or one story cabins, depending on their position within the company, and rents were based on the type of residence and number of rooms. The cabins rented for $2 to $2.50 per month to the common workers, while the two story houses rented for $5 to $10 per month to company officials and supervisors. The practice of providing housing for its employees was economically sound, and by 1900 the company was receiving over $18,000 yearly in rents, adding to the total profits of the Grandin venture.7 After the mill closed, houses and lots were sold to individuals for $50 and $100 per lot.10

The office building was the company's administrative center, as well as the center for all major financial transactions in Grandin. Employees were paid there on the 10th of every month, or they could receive advances before payday in the form of coupons. These could be used at company-owned businesses only, and served to limit competition from outside merchants.11 The building was given to the Masons in 1910 when the company left, and from 1920 to 1959 it housed the Bank of Grandin. It now serves as the local Masonic Lodge.

Late in 1907 production began to slacken, and the mill was run only four days a week. Most of the accessible pine had been removed, and the company began to make plans for moving the plant to a more favorable location. In late September of 1909 the last logs were cut, and during the next year the mills were moved to West Eminence, Missouri, about 40 miles to the northwest. In September of 1910 the company stockholders held their last meeting in the Grandin office building, and Grandin ceased to be a lumber town.

The last quarter of the Nineteenth Century was a critical period for the pine-forested hills of southeastern Missouri. They had been bypassed earlier in the century, and while cities had begun to develop on the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, the Ozark Highlands remained relatively untouched until after the Civil War. Timber was the principal natural resource of an area that included Carter County. Between 1895 and 1910 that area, along with other southern pine forests, produced approximately 30% of all timber used in the United States.12
The economic impact of the Grandin venture was immense. While the mill was in operation the area was the object of a massive influx of people and wealth, but after its removal there was a dramatic loss of population and prosperity.

The Missouri Lumber and Mining Company had moved into a relatively unpopulated Ozark region which at first couldn't supply even unskilled labor in adequate numbers. Consequently, all department heads and a part of the common labor force were imported from Pennsylvania. When the railroad was brought to Grandin, workers came from the entire Ozark plateau, as well as from other parts of the country. Some, for example, left the northern pine mills of Wisconsin and Michigan, attracted by the possibility of year-round work in the relatively mild Ozarks.

While the company was operating at Grandin employment conditions were steady, and a large population could be maintained. The panics of 1893 and 1907 had a minor impact, and layoffs were uncommon. In the long run, however, the lumber operations were disastrous for the economy and ecology of the region.

The lumber industry of the turn of the century was of an extractive nature, which consisted of removing the resources of an area, then moving on. Although there were contemporary efforts by a few to promote forestry, the practices of selective cutting and replanting were unpopular and generally considered only marginally profitable. Furthermore, tax laws in Missouri contributed to the situation, as taxes on cut lands were as high as on uncut lands. The company couldn't afford to retain partially cut land or wait for seedlings to grow, and was forced to sell its holdings after they had been thoroughly harvested.

It had been hoped that cut-over land could be turned profitably to agricultural use, and much of the company's holdings were sold off for that purpose. But the thin, rocky soil was generally infertile in the long run, and the local inhabitants were left with a constricted means of support.

Efforts were made to find other replacements for the timber industry, and the region was searched for promising mineral deposits. But these explorations were fruitless, and in the end the company was forced to move on because it had exhausted the region's only marketable natural resource.

The last year of production in Grandin also saw the climax of lumber production in Missouri. From a high point of over 600 million board feet in 1909, output dove to around 500 million in 1910, and to about 220 million by 1916. This trend continued at least as far as the 30's, when Missouri's 16 million acres of timberland contributed only a small fraction of the nation's total lumber production.
The history of Grandin, then, echoes the development of the Missouri timber industry in general. While both prospered for a limited period, in the long run they suffered from their early phenomenal productivity. During its period of significance, however, the Missouri Lumber and Mining Company had contributed significantly to Missouri's timber production, and thus to the needs of an expanding national economy. The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." The Historic Resources of the Missouri Lumber and Mining Company are, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as examples of the theme of "Technology."

FOOTNOTES

1. According to an article in the American Lumberman (May 9, 1903, p. 66), White had estimated that the pond could hold 500,000 feet of logs, or enough to supply the mill for five days. Its capacity was actually much greater, and nearly 2 million feet of pine was recovered during salvage operations in 1909. See Leslie G. Hill, "History of the Missouri Lumber and Mining Company, 1880-1909" (Unpublished Doctoral dissertation, University of Missouri, Columbia, 1949), pp. 33-34, 252-53.


3. Ibid., p. 40.

4. Ibid., pp. 81-82.

5. Ibid., p. 78.


8. Ibid., p. 154. See also Lillian S. Loveland, Two Years in Grandin, 1896-1897. The Place and the People (St. Louis Lumberman Print, St. Louis, undated), pp. 10, 13.
10. Ibid., pp. 253-254.
11. Ibid., p. 177.
14. Hill, pp. 149-150.
15. Ibid., p. 273.
16. Ibid., pp. 256-63.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. American Lumberman, May 9, 1903.
2. Current Local (Van Buren, Missouri), February 7, 1895.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 324 acres

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Refer to continuation sheet.

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FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Mrs. Randy Cottier, Research Associate

ORGANIZATION
Dept. of Natural Resources, Office of Historic Preservation

DATE
2-10-76

STREET & NUMBER
P.O. Box 176

TELEPHONE
314/751-4096

CITY OR TOWN
Jefferson City

STATE
Missouri

65102

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE X LOCAL ___

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE
Director, Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE
May 19, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION
4. Loveland, Lillian S., Two Years in Grandin, 1896-1897. The Place and the People, St. Louis Lumberman Print, St. Louis, undated.


All of the Historic Resources of the Missouri Lumber and Mining Company, except the Mill Pond (37), are within the city limits of Grandin, Missouri.

The area of the historic district is less than 10 acres, and it is centered on the following UTM coordinates: 15/693820/4077960

The Mill Pond (37) lies in the center of a 10 acre square with the following coordinates:

A) 15/695160/4078300
B) 15/695160/4078100
C) 15/694960/4078100
D) 15/694960/4078300
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<th>CONTINUATION SHEET</th>
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<td>2. James Broaddus, Research Assistant</td>
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<td>Jefferson City, Missouri 65102</td>
<td>February 2, 1978</td>
<td>314/751-4096</td>
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<td>3. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey(Editor)</td>
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<td>Jefferson City, Missouri 65102</td>
<td>April 18, 1978</td>
<td>314/751-4096</td>
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SITE DISTRIBUTION MAP
Missouri Lumber And Mining Company District—Grandin