INTRODUCTION

The Multiple Resource Area of Arrow Rock and its environs in Saline County, Missouri is significant in a number of ways. Arrow Rock's early history is a microcosm of the American frontier experience. It illustrates the sequence of events which happened with such frequency on the moving frontier that inevitability rather than chance or contingency appears to be the dominant factor in history. Aboriginal occupancy of the hills overlooking the Missouri River and the Indians' use of trails which followed the natural terrain brought them into contact with white explorers anxious to form alliances and trade agreements and to discover strategic locations, flora, fauna, and minerals which could be used to strengthen the United States of America.

At the Arrow Rock the familiar sequence of Indian occupancy and contact with explorers was followed by trade and the construction and garrisoning of a blockhouse. Trade disagreements, intertribal hostility and jealousy, and the fear of advancing white settlement led to conflict and retreat for those in the vanguard of Western Expansion. The tide quickly turned against the Indians. Weakened by disease, disheartened, and unable to form alliances, the Indians were dispossessed of their lands. The Indians were no match for the land hungry white settlers from east of the Mississippi River.

Recognizing the economic opportunities offered by living in or close to a town located at the junction of overland and inland water routes, settlers met to choose the site for a town. Here, the drama of Indian occupancy, white exploration, Indian-white trade and conflict, white settlement, and town
founding was telescoped into a period of 25 years—from the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1804 to the founding of Arrow Rock in 1829. In addition, certain developments in the Arrow Rock area illustrate the importance of commerce with Santa Fe to the economy of Missouri; the contributions of M. M. Marmaduke, Claiborne P. Jackson, Joseph Huston, and Will H. Wood to politics, commerce, and banking in this state; and the artistic and scientific legacy which George Caleb Bingham and Dr. John Sappington left to the nation as a whole. Aspects of the rise, decline, and revival cycle of the Arrow Rock experience show the consequences of changing technology, especially as it is reflected in the field of transportation where the composition and size of the population changed as different kinds of economic opportunity were created and lost as the town evolved from a commercial center and port associated with the Missouri River, lost the advantages of its river association when the river channel was moved by the Corps of Engineers, and experienced revival as a restored village in the 20th century.

Moreover, the architecture of the area as expressed in individual structures and as a townscape is significant because it is representative of a 19th century river town in evolution and because it includes outstanding examples of style and construction in a context which does not exist anywhere else in the state of Missouri.
Statement of Significance for the Multiple Resource Nomination of Arrow Rock
by R. Forry - June 30, 1979

Arrow Rock Township lies in the area of Northcentral Missouri where in the early nineteenth century bottom lands of meadows and trees reached the forested hills cut by the Missouri River. These forests stretched Westward from the bluffs about a mile where prairie land with its characteristic grasses became the dominant natural feature.¹

Evidence of aboriginal habitation of the area west of the bluffs overlooking the river valley include the remains of an Indian mound and a prehistoric quarry operation.²

More than two decades before the town of Arrow Rock was founded, William Clark, then Superintendent of Indian Affairs, observed that the bluffs on the Missouri River at a place which 18th century French explorers called "pierre a' fleche" was an excellent location for a fort.³

In 1813, when Indian attacks forced the evacuation of Fort Osage, George C. Sibley, the Indian factor, was ordered by Clark to build a trading post and blockhouse in the vicinity of the Arrow Rock. Here, Sibley held a council with the Osage Indians and attempted to mollify them. When Indian raids intensified, Sibley was forced to withdraw from the area in 1814.⁴

A ferry was established on the Howard County side of the river opposite the Arrow Rock in 1817, and the Arrow Rock to Grand Pass section of the post road from Franklin to Fort Osage authorized by the U. S. Congress was laid out in 1821. On September 1, 1821, William Becknell and his companions departed
from the Big Spring located just to the south of what was to become the town of Arrow Rock. Becknell and the other Old Franklin traders with him were the first Americans welcomed in Santa Fe by the newly independent Mexican government. As the rendezvous for the Becknell expedition and some of the other early expeditions, Arrow Rock is associated with the early history of the Santa Fe Trail. In 1964, a section of Arrow Rock State Park was designated a National Historic Landmark because the Missouri River crossing at Arrow Rock served as a "starting point for the Santa Fe Trail . . . and symbolizes the early trade and vast movement west which it spawned, better than any remaining site. For this reason, and because the beginnings of the trade are nowhere else properly commemorated, Arrow Rock rates as a site of exceptional value in the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings." 5

After the worst features of the depression of 1819 had passed, immigration into the Boonslick region increased and the land cultivated by the settlers produced crops which were shipped to mark's from the landing at Arrow Rock. In 1829 residents of the area met to elect commissioners who were to select a town site and lay out a town. The commissioners accepted the donation of land owned by Burton Lawless and John Bingham near the Arrow Rock ferry for the town site on June 24, 1829. 6

Burton and Nancy Lawless conveyed to the commissioners "a strip of land lying due east of said town between the east line of the town and the river . . . sixty feet in width . . . so that it shall forever remain a common or street for the benefit of the said town." The town was granted "free use and benefit
Statement of Significance for the Multiple Resource Nomination of Arrow Rock by R. Forry - June 30, 1979

of all the springs and water" on the lands of Burton and Nancy Lawless.⁷

The commissioners employed M. M. Marmaduke—then county surveyor and later governor of Missouri—to survey the town. The standard grid pattern was used in plotting the town and the original street pattern is in use today.⁸

When, during the decade of the 1820's, the steamboat proved to be a reliable form of transportation on the Missouri River, the growth of Arrow Rock as a river port was assured. Although early growth was slow, some settlers using overland and river transportation routes to reach the area claimed and cultivated the land while others engaged in commercial activities which contributed to the emergence of the town as a river port and marketing center for the area. M. M. Marmaduke, Samuel Miller, John Beauchamp Jones, Clairborne Fox Jackson, the Pearson and Sappington families, Will Wood, Joseph Huston, and others established mercantile operations with relatively small amounts of capital because they were able to purchase a large variety of goods on a line of credit which extended through St. Louis and New Orleans to Philadelphia and New York.⁹

Even before town lots were sold in 1829 buildings were constructed along the landing outside the boundary of Arrow Rock. Naturally, lots on Main Street closest to the wharf were developed first. In 1831 Claiborne Fox Jackson and Samuel Miller formed a partnership to sell general merchandise in Arrow Rock.¹⁰ Their business was located on Lots 25 and 30, Block 7.¹¹

Jackson, a few years later, was appointed the first postmaster of Arrow Rock and was elected governor of the State in 1860.
From 1830 to 1860 the lots fronting on Main Street between First Street and Fifth Street were purchased by businessmen and craftsmen who constructed buildings in the vernacular commercial style. Most of these buildings featured facades which promoted the business conducted at each establishment. Fires in 1873 and 1901 damaged or destroyed many of these buildings, and evidence of the fires is visible on a number of the structures at the present time.

E. D. Sappington and W. B. Sappington, the sons of Dr. John Sappington, who advocated the use of quinine for treating malaria, owned a brick store house on Main Street as did Will Wood, J. A. J. Adderton, H. S. Mills, and T. C. Rainey. Many of these merchants and area plantation owners were active in politics and aligned with the Thomas Hart Benton wing of the Democratic Party. M. M. Marmaduke and C. F. Jackson used the Cooper-Howard-Saline County political base to achieve the governorship of the state of Missouri. Dr. George Penn, Dr. Matthew Hall, and the Sappingtons won election to the state legislature despite the split in the Democratic Party caused by the slavery issue.

Also located on Main Street is the Federal-style building constructed by Joseph Huston in 1834. Huston enlarged this building over the years and in it operated a tavern and general store. Huston was a judge of the Saline County Court and Town Commissioner. The building has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since ______.

To the east of the Tavern is a building originally constructed of logs which was
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owned by Dr. George Penn and which served as the "Academy Boarding House". Penn was associated with Dr. John Sappington in the practice of medicine, was a trustee of the Arrow Rock Academy, served as chief surgeon for Alexander Doniphan's regiment in the Mexican War, and played an important role in the formation of the Missouri Medical Association.\textsuperscript{15}

Other buildings possessing elements of the Federal style include the simple brick house once owned by George Caleb Bingham, the Missouri artist. Bingham began his career as a portrait painter in and around Arrow Rock and recorded in his genre works the political realities and details of daily life in the Missouri River Valley. Bingham was active in the political sphere and served as a member of the Missouri legislature and as Treasurer of the state of Missouri from 1862 to 1865. Bingham purchased the lot for his house on High Street from Claiborne Fox Jackson in 1837.\textsuperscript{16} His house and two other surviving small frame houses at the corners of First and High Streets form a rare and valuable example of the proportions and details of the buildings and of the spatial relationships of people and buildings of that era. Those characteristics of buildings and town-living in Arrow Rock were transplanted by the men and women who migrated from Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Three physicians came to Arrow Rock in the period from 1830 to 1850 and built homes or enlarged existing buildings which they purchased after they settled here. All three were civic leaders and supported local educational institutions. The homes constructed by Dr. William Price and Dr. Matthew Hall were done in the Federal style while that of Dr. Charles Bradford reflects the classical revival
trend which reached this area in the 1840s.¹⁷

! ? THESE AND OTHERS ARE TO BE INTEGRATED INTO THE NARRATIVE AS YOU THINK APPROPRIATE—Federal, Classical Revival, Eclectic, Vernacular, etc. ! ?

**Federal**

Hall House - Lots 50, 47, Block 13 - Now owned by State.

Price House - Lot 129, 130, Block 36 - Now owned by McDaniel.

Price House - West of Town - Now owned by Mary Hogge.

**Classical Revival**

Court House - Lots 75, 76, Block 23 - Now owned by State

Aderton House - Lot 80, Block 23 - Now owned by C. Barger

Bradford House - Lot 98, Block 26 - Now owned by Millers

Mills House - Lot 90, Block 28 - Now owned by Toughs.

From 1830 to 1860 the increase in the town population stimulated the commercial, manufacturing, and agricultural development of the area. In addition, local merchants and craftsmen were able to sell their products and services to the thousands of people who passed through the town on their way to California, the Southwest, and Oregon.

Local crafts and manufacturing increased as the population of the area grew.

The John Sites residence and gunsmith shop represent that period of urban life when the residence of a merchant or craftsman was in close proximity to his place of manufacture. ! ? APPROPRIATE PLACE FOR INFO ON SITES GUNSHOP AND RESIDENCE ! ?
In 1843 the Arrow Rock Academy was incorporated by the Twelfth General Assembly and a classroom building which is no longer standing was constructed between the "Academy Boarding House" and the Tavern operated by Joseph Huston.

The religious life of the community was strengthened by the organization of the Methodist congregation in 1831, the Cumberland Presbyterian congregation in 1853, the Baptist congregation in 1853, and the Christian congregation in 1872.

As rugged frontier existence changed to a more settled way of life, interest in and support of a variety of social and intellectual activities and cultural institutions increased. In the fields of art and science the work of George Caleb Bingham, John Sappington, General T. A. Smith, and J. L. Hardeman proved to be important if not widely understood or appreciated in their own day. General T. A. Smith and J. L. Hardeman were experimental farmers in an era when most farmers relied on traditional methods of raising crops. Smith proved that "treeless prairie soil" could produce a variety of crops profitably, and Hardeman experimented with various crops and invented a number of agricultural aids, including a hemp-cutting machine.

Dr. John Sappington, an advocate of the use of quinine for treating malaria, manufactured and sold anti-fever pills. To convince his fellow physicians that traditional methods and medicines were ineffective for the treatment of most fevers, including malaria, Sappington published in 1844 *The Theory and Treatment of Fevers*.

Developments reflecting the social evolution of Arrow Rock included publication
of the town's first newspaper, the "Saline County Herald", in 1859; formation of a literary and debating club, and the organization of the Masonic Lodge in 1842 and the Odd Fellows Lodge in 1849.  

Throughout the 19th century local government was dominated by successful business and professional men. Much of the time of the town trustees was devoted to meeting the needs of the community in the areas of education, street repairs, law and order including the construction of a new jail, and regulating activities on the waterfront.

Many of the settlers in the area of Arrow Rock migrated from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia. In the process of transplantation they brought with them land use practices, farming methods, and a labor system based on slavery. In some cases diversified crop and livestock farming succeeded while others engaged in specialized farming. The large land owners with a slave labor force cultivated hemp and tobacco as cash crops. "Hemp was raised in Saline County as early as 1825 . . . . Its production grew as cotton production in the South increased, necessitating the rope and bagging made from hemp. 1860 was the largest hemp year recorded, with the production of Missouri being 19,267 tons. Saline County was the largest producer, shipping 3,547 tons through its two main ports, Arrow Rock and Miami, to St. Louis." In the eyes of contemporaries the labor intensive nature of plantation agriculture and of the
19th century crafts and manufacturing processes in Arrow Rock required the use of the apprentice system, as well as free and slave labor. Therefore, the institution of slavery formed an important element in the life of the community. Indeed, the work of skilled and unskilled Blacks in the construction of the buildings of Arrow Rock and in the production of crops and other articles which were sold for a profit permitted the slave holding population of the area to enjoy a level of social and economic well being otherwise unattainable. Arrow Rock's population in 1860 was 1,000 and slaves made up approximately one-half the population of the area. The number of slaves owned by area residents varied: Doctor William Price owned nine slaves; Doctor Charles Bradford owned 12 slaves; Mrs. Henry V. Bingham owned 21 slaves; Dr. John Sappington owned 24 slaves; William B. Sappington owned 31 slaves, and Claiborne Fox Jackson owned 48 slaves. However, many other slave holders owned only one slave and most possessed fewer than five. By the 1850s the issue of slavery had become more closely linked with territorial expansion than it had been when being situated on the main trails to the West contributed to the growth of Arrow Rock. For Americans the importance of the place of slavery in the Union had become an issue which had to be resolved. The energies and talent that had been invested in the Westward movement were now directed toward the fighting of the Civil War. Area residents with pro-Southern sentiment were in the majority, and many of them responded to Governor Claiborne F. Jackson's call for volunteers to aid
the Confederate cause. The population of Arrow Rock was divided; and bitterness, suspicion, and hostility became a way of life as citizens of varying sentiments were vulnerable to the excesses of martial law and guerrilla raids. No major battle was fought in Arrow Rock, but buildings were burned and the violence and bitterness associated with the war persisted for many years. 23

The Civil War disrupted the plantation agriculture and caused widespread economic losses. The freeing of the slaves required adjustments by Blacks and Whites as traditional ways of social control and or organizing the labor force underwent change.

After the Civil War, the State law of 1847 forbidding the teaching of reading and writing to slaves and the State law forbidding Black assemblies (including meetings for church services) were no longer constitutional. Two Black churches were organized in the latter part of the nineteenth century, and a Black school was constructed in 1892. Later a Black lodge was organized in Arrow Rock, and the lodge hall for the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows of America #3201 and The Household of Ruth #834 was built on lot 49, block 13. 24

APPROPRIATE FOR INFORMATION ON BLACK BUILDINGS!!

By the 1870s the population of Arrow Rock had diminished to 600, and business activity slowed in the aftermath of the Civil War. In December, 1873, a fire started in a saloon on Fourth Street and spread to frame structures in the direction of Main Street. This loss of property hastened the decline of Arrow Rock.

After the Civil War the construction of a continental railroad network was accelerated, and Arrow Rock with its high, steep bluffs and declining business activity did not appear to be a suitable location for the profitable operation of a railroad line. With railroads displacing river transportation the economic
decline of Arrow Rock was accelerated and with the loss of economic vigor came a further decline in the population.

Although the population and business activity of Arrow Rock had been declining since 1860, the fire of 1901 proved to be a major blow to the community. The 1901 fire destroyed the two and three-story business buildings on the north side of Main Street. The owners of the buildings were able to reconstruct and renovate the interiors and repair the exteriors as one-story structures which is the condition in which they survive today.

While the U.S. Corps of Engineers engaged in various activities to control flooding and to aid navigation of the Missouri River throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, it was not until the decade of the 1930s that the Corps of Engineers diverted the waters from the base of the bluff at the eastern edge of the town of Arrow Rock. With the navigation channel established approximately one-half mile east of the bluff, the town of Arrow Rock was no longer the scene of activity characteristic of a river town. Unable to engage in the economic opportunities traditionally associated with life on a major river, the residents of Arrow Rock sought employment elsewhere and moved to the site of their work.

The styles of the buildings in Arrow Rock reflect the preferences and tastes of the early settlers as well as the materials which were available to them. Log structures of one story (similar to the two-room Court House which was later covered with clapboarding and given an imposing entrance) predominated and survived--frequently covered with siding--as simplified forms of Federal style architecture. The brick Tavern built by Joseph Huston and the brick homes of George Caleb Bingham and Matthew Hall reveal features generally associated
with the Federal style, as well as their Virginia and Kentucky origins. Throughout the town the architecture of the other private dwellings, as well as buildings used for commercial and fraternal activities, ranges from Classical Revival to Victorian Eclectic. Many buildings show the persistence of the vernacular tradition as it evolved in the Missouri River valley in response to individual needs and by utilization of materials made available by a variety of manufacturers. The fires of 1873 and 1901 destroyed the second and third stories of many of the commercial buildings on Main Street. This accounts for the rough and unfinished appearance of the exterior of those buildings.

The fires which destroyed buildings in the commercial section of the town of Arrow Rock and the construction of bridges and main highways for modern forms of transportation—railroads, cars, and trucks—at other locations contributed to the decline of Arrow Rock. The economic and employment opportunities associated with a small river town in a rural setting decreased. Thus, the population dropped during the period from 1900 to 1950 as transportation routes changed and, in part, as a consequence of establishing the Missouri River channel approximately one-half mile west of the town. By 1970 the population of Arrow Rock was 80.

Early efforts by local residents to save the Arrow Rock Tavern were supported by the Missouri Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, who, in 1912, placed period furniture and historical objects in a room of the Tavern "as a means of teaching Missouri history to passersby."

In 1923 the State of Missouri purchased the Arrow Rock Tavern and in cooperation
with local residents and the Missouri Society, Daughters of the American
Revolution contributed to its preservation and restoration. Subsequent
acquisition of buildings and land by the State of Missouri contributed to the
development of the state-owned area as a State Park. Some traditional
recreational activities were made available and during the 1930s the Bingham
House exterior was "restored". Following World War II, the Missouri State
Park Board (Division of Parks and Recreation) acquired and restored additional
buildings and area residents through the Friends of Arrow Rock organized the
Arrow Rock Lyceum Summer Theater and restored several buildings in the village.
The restored public and private buildings were opened to the public as museum
houses and the Tavern continued to provide food service but no longer offered
lodging accommodations. As the number of visitors to the Tavern, Lyceum
Theater, and other restored structures increased, the village attracted a number
of crafts persons and shops which blended with the historic village environment.

Awareness and recognition of the unique and important cultural resources
associated with Arrow Rock have existed for a long time at the state and local
level. The Tavern was the first preservation/restoration project by the state of
Missouri. The Bingham House, The Tavern, and portions of the State Historic
Site associated with the Big Spring are now on the National Register of Historic
Places. A private preservation organization, The Friends of Arrow Rock, has
restored and maintains six buildings in the town. Currently, there exists only
limited protection for the buildings and sites included in the Multiple Resource Area which lie outside the State Historic Site boundary.

The Arrow Rock Multiple Resource Area possesses geographic and visual unity which are derived from the scale and placement of its buildings, streets, and open spaces. The Tavern was and is a landmark. In association with the commercial strip—which includes the post office and general store—the churches and the Tavern serve as the social centers of the community. Area residents feel a sense of place and time which is linked to their association of buildings with people and events. Proud of a heritage which includes the rise, decline, and revival of a Missouri river town, area residents are well adapted to life in a community whose past is truly the basis for its future.

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." The extant historical evidence and the prehistoric and historic archaeological findings which have been interpreted suggest that the Arrow Rock area was a microcosm of the American frontier experience in the 19th century. Therefore, the "Historic Resources of Arrow Rock and its Environs" is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes "Aboriginal Americans," "Archaeology-Prehistoric," "Archaeology-Historic," "Agriculture," "Architecture," "Art," "Commerce," "Education," "Exploration/Settlement," "Military," "Religion," "Science," "Society," and "Transportation."
One discipline not included in this survey—systematic archaeological treatment of the surviving beneath the surface evidence. Application of the results of archaeology to what has been learned from this survey will reveal information and help explain the changing functions of structures and institutions; the rhythms and material conditions of life; the economic, political, and social activity; and the intellectual climate of a river valley culture beginning to show the imprint of accelerating mechanization of manufacturing and farming processes.


7. Ibid., p. 169.

8. Jean Tyree Hamilton, *Arrow Rock: Where Wheels Started West* (Marshall, 1972), p. 3. The town was named Philadelphia by its founders, but some of the local citizens did not approve of that name for the town. "The House Journal of the General Assembly of Missouri for 1832-1833, shows that a number of citizens of Saline County petitioned the State legislature for a change of name and . . . a law was passed in response to the petition. This law, approved February 8, 1833, provided that 'The town heretofore called and known by the name of Philadelphia in the county of Saline, on the Missouri River, shall hereafter be called Arrow Rock, and by that name shall be known and called in all the courts of this State.'" *Missouri Historical Review* XXXII (October, 1937), pp. 80-81.


10. Ibid., p. 134.


18. Ibid., p. 215.

19. Ibid., p. 216.


SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The 1979 Arrow Rock Local Survey, funded by a 50-50 matching grant between Federal funds and the Friends of Arrow Rock, Inc., includes 3 types of inventory data sheets:

1. Properties within the district, #1 - #80.
2. Individual properties of significance outside the district.
3. Properties within the Multiple Resource area surveyed but not included in the National Register of Historic Places nomination.

Inventory Data Sheets have been prepared for each property within the boundaries of the 1916 city limits. Only properties immediately adjacent to the city limits and the major historical and architectural properties outside the city limits were surveyed and a data sheet completed. Floor plans have been included where possible. Outbuildings, such as sheds and garages, were generally included under item 44 of the data sheet in relationship to the major buildings that they were associated with.

A contact print accompanies each data sheet, with copies of old photos included when available. Negatives for the contact print and the original old photos have been included with the data sheets to be kept by the Friends of Arrow Rock, Inc. Additional views of the properties are also attached to the data sheets kept by the Friends, whereas only 1 contact print is permanently placed with the state file. A film file, or catalogue, has been attached to the negatives for easy access.

Property owners in the area were very cooperative and any additional information gathered from them such as abstracts, magazine articles, etc., were placed with the appropriate property in the Friends file.

The survey was conducted, for the most part, jointly by Richard Forry, who gathered the historical information, and Linda Harper, who completed the architectural descriptions, drew floor plans, did the photography, and prepared the data sheets. archaeological information was gathered from 2 sources: the files of the Missouri Archaeological Society and from Robert Bray. This area of the survey was not funded and therefore, remains incomplete.

Following the survey, each site within the 1916 city limits was evaluated as to its architectural and historical merits, and to establish district potential within the area. From the evaluation, it was decided to create 1 large district within the confines of the 1916 city limits, which now includes part of the state park area. Due to a number of significant buildings and sites which lie outside the district boundary, the multiple resource type of nomination was the most appropriate for Arrow Rock and its environs.

Linda Harper completed the HISTORIC RESOURCES OF ARROW ROCK, MISSOURI (Partial Inventory), Multiple Resource Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, with the exception of Item 8 - History and Significance - which was prepared in rough draft form by Mr. Forry. This nomination was submitted to the Office of Historic
Preservation in August and should go before the Missouri Advisory Council at its October meeting.

There is only 1 major recommendation: to complete the nomination through reconnaissance and intensive archaeological survey. From the known prehistoric sites and the many apparent historical sites, this type of survey would complete the scope of the historical resources associated with the Arrow Rock area.

Linda D. Harper
Architectural Historian