

Robert Eakin Farm
County Route U
Goss Vicinity
Monroe County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1206

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MO
69-GOSS.V,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

ROBERT EAKIN FARM

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- Location: 0.8 mile south of County Route U, about 1.5 miles north of the confluence of the Middle and Elk Forks of the Salt River, 3.4 miles south of U.S. Route 24, about 3 miles southeast of Goss, Monroe County, Missouri.
- USGS Paris East 7-1/2' Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15.594870.4371260.
- Present Owner: United States of America, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District (August, 1978).
- Present Use: Vacant. Located in the Clarence Cannon Dam and Reservoir Project Area.
- Significance: The house originally constructed by Robert Eakin about 1840 was a one-room log cabin, constructed with half-dovetail joinery. The addition of a frame kitchen behind the house, and of a bedroom at one end is typical of the way in which the early dwellings of the region have been enlarged. The placement of structures in the farm layout also conforms to a common regional pattern. Structures associated with the house are located within the house yard or just outside it, while the farm buildings are located behind the house, beyond this enclosure.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Circa 1840.
2. Architect/builder: Unknown. It is assumed that Robert Eakin built the house. Eakin was the fourth owner of the property, the first three having held the land less than four years combined.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The Robert Eakin Farm is located in the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of

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Section 3, Township 54 North, Range 9 West. The following references are from the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Monroe County Courthouse, Paris, Missouri:

- 1837 Original Plat Book, April 22, 1837. To James C. Miller. 40 acres.
- 1839 Warranty Deed, January 14, 1839. Recorded in Book E, page 26. James C. and Eliza Miller to John Stuart [sic]. 197+ acres for \$1050, including the 40 acres in the southeast quarter.
- 1840 Warranty Deed, September 4, 1840. Recorded in Book E, page 395. John and Ann Stewart to Chesley K. Moore. 197+ acres for \$2000.
- 1840 Warranty Deed, December 8, 1840. Recorded in Book F, page 9. Chesley K. and Margaret L. Moore to Robert Eakin. 197+ acres for \$1200.
- 1864 Warranty Deed, February 2, 1864. Recorded in Book T, page 510. William Davis, administrator (Robert Eakin, deceased) to Robert Davis. 40+ acres for \$990.
- 1886 Warranty Deed, October 12, 1886. Recorded in Book 25, page 179. Robert E. Davis and Katurah Davis to Jerre B.P. Smith. 40 acres for \$215.
- 1888 Warranty Deed, December 10, 1888. Recorded in Book 29, page 7. U.B.P. Smith and Mary Bell Smith to Thomas Tackett. 40 acres for \$255.
- 1896 Warranty Deed, February 17, 1896. Recorded in Book 40, page 253. Thomas and Mary Tackett to William E. Dye. 40 acres for \$750.
- 1896 Warranty Deed, November 17, 1896. Recorded in Book 40, page 625. William E. and Molly E. Dye to James C. Pierceall. 40 acres for \$800.
- 1904 Warranty Deed, October 12, 1904. Recorded in Book 58, page 456. James C. and Celess Pierceall to J.F. Capp. 40 acres for \$1000.
- 1908 Warranty Deed, December 28, 1908. Recorded in Book 67, page 39. Jesse F. and Julia A. Capp to William H. Dooley. 80 acres for \$2400.

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- 1916 Warranty Deed, March 2, 1916. Recorded in Book 75, page 191. William H. and Ettie J. Dooley to Pius O. Hayden. 80 acres for \$3000.
- 1950 Warranty Deed, February 4, 1950. Recorded in Book 116, page 105A. Lena Hayden et al. to Samuel A. and Ora Daphna White. 40 acres for \$1500.
- 1955 Warranty Deed, April 30, 1955. Recorded in Book 123, page 155. Samuel A. and Ora Daphna White to J.B. and Arietta Chapman. 40(?) acres for \$1.
- 1959 Warranty Deed, December 5, 1959. Recorded in Book 128, page 388. Arietta Chapman to William F. Jacobs, Wilbur Dooley and W. Eugene Dooley. 40(?) acres for \$1.
- 1973 Warranty Deed, July 31, 1973. Recorded in Book 164, page 496. William F. Jacobs et al. to the United States of America. 2 acres for \$500.
4. Original construction: The original 21' by 17', one-room log cabin constructed about 1840 had a door centered in the north (front) wall, with a window to the right, and possibly to the left as well. There was a door on the south (rear) wall and a window just to the left of a centered end chimney on both the east and west walls. The exterior surface was probably covered with weatherboards soon after construction. Wood shingles covered the roof. The windows in the east and west gable ends above the first floor indicate a loft space under the roof, probably used for sleeping.
5. Alterations and additions: The first addition was a frame kitchen, attached to the south side of the house.

The second addition was an extra room for sleeping, attached to the east side of the house. A door was cut in the east wall of the cabin to provide access to this room.

To the south of the bedroom and to the east of the kitchen a porch was added, and later enclosed for a washroom/utility room.

The only other major alteration was the construction of a transverse stud wall in the original room, creating a 6-1/2' storage space between the bedroom and the living room.

Other alterations include the replacement of floorboards, the finishing of the inside walls with plasterboard, the replacement of window frames and sash and the laying of corrugated tin over the wood roof shingles.

B. Historic Persons and Events Associated with the House:

Robert Eakin, who came to Missouri from Kentucky, was listed in the 1850 Federal Census of Monroe County as being thirty-nine years old. He was listed under the entry of William Davis, perhaps his landlord or a friend from Kentucky. The farm was relatively small, and little is known about the subsequent families who lived there. Fading memories of one owner "who did everything the hard way," of another who "died while driving a wagon" and of a third who "shot himself in front of the house" represent the only trace of incidents associated with the Eakin Farm.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: None located.

2. Bibliography:

a. Primary sources:

Blair, Mrs. Oneva, Paris, Missouri. Personal interview, August 23, 1978. Mrs. Blair is a relative of one of the owners of the farm.

Evans, Jim, Paris, Missouri. Personal interview, August 23, 1978.

Gibbs, Carmen. RFD. Telephone conversation, August 22, 1978.

Hunt, Karen (Platz) and Michael J. O'Brien. "National Register Nomination Form: James C. Miller House and Farmstead," February 10, 1978. Nomination prepared in conjunction with Historic Resources Survey, University of Nebraska, Cannon Reservoir Human Ecology Project, 1977.

"U.S. Census Records, Missouri, 1850." Dulaney Memorial Library, Paris, Missouri.

White, Mrs. Sam, Paris, Missouri. Personal interview, August 23, 1978.

- b. Secondary sources: None consulted.

Prepared by Travis C. McDonald
Architectural Historian
Historic American Buildings
Survey
August 1978.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The house on the Robert Eakin Farm is a one-and-a-half-story structure which grew from a one-room log cabin into a five-room house.
2. Condition of fabric: Poor. The building has suffered from a lack of maintenance and extensive vandalism.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 34'11" (four-bay front) by 26'8".
2. Foundations: Limestone slabs set in low perimeter walls.
3. Walls: Horizontal weatherboards (4-1/2" exposure), laid over log walls (apparently soon after construction of the cabin), or later frame walls. The weatherboards are laid over earlier board-and-batten siding on some sections of the frame additions. There are plain boards at the corners of the walls.

4. Structural system:

Original cabin: Bearing walls of hewn hardwood logs, 9" in diameter, joined at the corners with half-dovetail corner notches. The building sills and plates are single logs. Ceiling joists are mortised into the log walls.

Additions: Stud construction.

5. Porches: There is an enclosed porch at the southeast corner of the house.

6. Chimneys: Interior brick stove chimneys are located on the ridge lines at the gable ends of the house. There is also a brick stove chimney, centered on the south (rear) wall.
 7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The fenestration on the front facade--window-door-door-window--is an arrangement which predominates in the region. Both front doors have plain-board casements. The east door has three horizontal panels beneath a square window light and one panel above. The west door has been removed.
 - b. Windows: All windows have plain frames with slip sills. All sash has been removed.
 8. Roof:
 - a. The house has a gable roof with a slightly lower-pitched shed extension over the added rooms at the rear. The roof is covered with wood shingles which have in turn been covered with corrugated metal sheets, some of which have been removed.
 - b. Cornices: There are plain-board fascia boards on both horizontal and raking roof edges.
- C. Description of Interior:
1. Floor plans: The rooms at the front of the building are, from west to east, the living room and a storage space (the two rooms made from the original one-room cabin) and a bedroom. Behind the living room is the kitchen/dining room, and behind the bedroom is the enclosed porch/laundry room. The original cabin apparently had a loft space over the first floor, perhaps reached by a ladder.
 2. Stairways: None.
 3. Flooring: The flooring consists of tongue-and-groove floorboards, 8" wide in the cabin section (except 5-1/2" wide where they have been replaced), 3-1/2" wide in the bedroom and 7-1/4" wide in the kitchen/dining room.
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: The original finish of the log cabin was whitewash painted over the interior surfaces of the log walls. These walls, as well as most of the other walls

in the house, were later covered with plasterboard (laid over original lath-and-plaster in the bedroom.

5. Doorways and doors: The interior doorways have plainboard casings. All interior doors have been removed.
6. Decorative features and trim: None.
7. Mechanical systems: Heating was by stoves.

D. Description of Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The Robert Eakin Farm is situated at the edge of a broken terrace. The Middle and Elk Forks of the Salt River converge in a broad floodplain a mile and a half to the south. To the north lies uneven and slightly sloping terrain. The house faces north. The crop fields were to the south, in the bottomland. To the west were a garden patch and a small orchard of pear trees.
2. Outbuildings: The layout of the Eakin Farm is typical of farmsteads in the region. The house sits within a yard enclosed by a fence and is close to the structures which serve it. The outbuildings close to the house include the stone cellar with a frame smokehouse built above it, the privy and a small shed. The farm-related structures are situated outside this enclosure in scattered clusters, behind the line of sight from the front of the house. The farm outbuildings include the barn (which contained a corncrib) to the east, and the hoghouse and henhouse to the west.

Prepared by Clayton B. Fraser
Project Supervisor
Historic American Buildings
Survey
August 1978

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the St. Louis District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in compliance with Executive Order 11593, as a part of mitigation efforts connected with the construction of the Clarence Cannon Dam and Reservoir. HABS was engaged to document structures of cultural,

historical, or architectural significance located within the Cannon Reservoir Project Area, in portions of Monroe and Ralls County, Missouri. The project was completed under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect. Recording was carried out during the summer of 1978 by Clayton B. Fraser, Project Supervisor; William T. Morgan (University of South Florida) and Travis C. McDonald (University of Virginia), Architectural Historians; Barbara A. Hendricks (University of Texas), Project Foreman; and Student Architects Dwight H. Burns (Texas Tech University), W. Michael Coppa (University of Virginia), Stephen H. Lauf (Temple University), and Michael K. Murdock (University of Texas). The data was edited in July 1979 by J.A. Chewing, Architectural Historian in the HABS Washington office. Photographs were taken by David J. Kaminsky in August 1978 and by William C. Haines between February and May 1979.