Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC
Fort Osage

AND/OR COMMON
Fort Osage

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Fort Osage Park — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Sibley — x VICINITY OF — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE
Missouri 64088 — CODE 29 — COUNTY Jackson — CODE 095

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __DISTRICT | x PUBLIC | x OCCUPIED | __AGRICULTURE | __MUSEUM |
| __BUILDING(S) | __PRIVATE | __UNOCCUPIED | __COMMERCIAL | x PARK |
| x STRUCTURE | __BOTH | __WORK IN PROGRESS | __EDUCATIONAL | __PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| __SITE | **PUBLIC ACQUISITION** | **ACCESSIBLE** | __ENTERTAINMENT | __RELIGIOUS |
| __OBJECT | __IN PROCESS | __YES: RESTRICTED | __GOVERNMENT | __SCIENTIFIC |
| | __BEING CONSIDERED | x YES: UNRESTRICTED | __INDUSTRIAL | __TRANSPORTATION |
| | | __NO | __MILITARY | __OTHER: |

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Jackson County Parks Department - William Landahl, Director of Parks and Recreation, Jackson County.

STREET & NUMBER
Route 2, Box 408

CITY, TOWN
Blue Springs — __ VICINITY OF — STATE Missouri 64015

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER
Jackson County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN
Independence — STATE Missouri 64000

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Missouri Archaeological Survey

DATE
1935 to present — __FEDERAL x STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Missouri Archaeological Society

CITY, TOWN
Columbia — STATE Missouri 65201

# 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---|---|---|
| __EXCELLENT | __DETERIORATED | __UNALTERED | X ORIGINAL SITE |
| __GOOD | __RUINS | __ALTERED | __MOVED DATE_____ |
| __FAIR | X UNEXPOSED | xreconstruction | |
| | | xunexcavated | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Nothing remains of the original buildings at the site; the original timbers and building materials were used by early pioneers of Jackson County. Fourteen acres at the site were purchased by Jackson County while reconstruction was conducted by the Jackson County Park Department, with the advice of the Native Sons of Kansas City, Missouri, Inc. Reconstruction of the fort was based on archaeological evidence found at the site, and from a drawing of the fort by William Clark. The features of a surviving example of a fortified trading fort in Eastern Tennessee were adopted as best representing details common to fortified trading posts.

The fort buildings were constructed with material originally used--hewn timbers, driven stakes, and white oak lumber. The factory was constructed during 1951-1954. It rests upon an original foundation and is one-and-one-half stories high with two cellars below. One of the lower cellars opens to the river bluff for river access. The factory has a piazza on three sides. Reconstruction of the factory details was based on original reports to the Federal Indian Department which supplied the dimensions and use of the rooms, as well as the contents. The first floor of the factory is reconstructed as the factor's residence and a trading post museum.

Besides the factory, the site presently includes a main blockhouse, built in 1948; four blockhouses at the corners of the post stockade; officer quarters, soldiers' barracks, and remaining service buildings, all constructed in 1954-1961. In 1965 soldiers huts and a stockade fence were added, completing reconstruction of the fort area within the red line on the accompanying map B, labelled "Fort Osage" and undated.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __PREHISTORIC | x ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | __COMMUNITY PLANNING | __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | __RELIGION |
| __1400-1499 | x ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | __CONSERVATION | __LAW | __SCIENCE |
| __1500-1599 | __AGRICULTURE | __ECONOMICS | __LITERATURE | __SCULPTURE |
| __1600-1699 | __ARCHITECTURE | __EDUCATION | __MILITARY | __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| __1700-1799 | __ART | __ENGINEERING | __MUSIC | __THEATER |
| x 1800-1899 | x COMMERCE | __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | __PHILOSOPHY | __TRANSPORTATION |
| __1900- | __COMMUNICATIONS | __INDUSTRY | __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | __OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | __INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1808-1822 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Osage was the first outpost of the United States in the Louisiana purchased territory. It was established in 1808 by William Clark for the protection and promotion of trade with the Osage Indians. Until 1819, when the garrison was moved to Council Bluffs, Fort Osage was the westernmost fortified outpost of the U.S. Government's Factory system. This system established 28 government supervised trading posts with the intent of preventing exploitation of the Indian trade by individual traders. Fort Osage was one of the most successful trading houses in the factory system.

The fort was built by the men of the 1st Regiment, U.S. Infantry, who travelled in six keelboats up the Missouri River under the command of Captain Eli Clemon, while the St. Charles Dragoons, under General William Clark, marched overland to the site. Four of the keelboats carried $20,000.00 worth of merchandise belonging to George C. Sibley, who was the chief factor, or trader, at the post.

A vital part of the success of the factory was the trader's access to the river where incoming and outgoing goods were received and dispatched. Sibley built his factory so as to have access to the river through his second basement. Remnants of the Ferry Road are included in the Fort Osage District. It is believed that two of the most significant treaties in the history of Missouri were signed at the Fort between the Osage and the U.S. Government. On September 14, 1808, the Osage ceded all of their lands east of a line running south of the Fort to the Arkansas River. A later treaty, signed on November 14 of the same year, further granted to the U.S. all of the Osage land claims north of the Missouri, while the annunity for the cessions was established at $1,000.00 for the Great Osage Tribe, and half that amount for the Little Osage.

The fort was closed during the War of 1812 and was regarrisoned in 1815. In 1822, the trading house was closed due to the abandonment of the factory trading system by the Government.

Fort Osage was the point from which distances on the Santa Fe Trail were measured by the Federal Survey on 1825. Westward migrants stopped at Fort Osage as it was the last servicing point they would have on their journey. Remants of the Santa Fe Trail are still to be seen in the District today.

Carson, James. "Fort Osage," Missouri Historical Society Bulletin. vol. 4, No. 3, 1948.

Chittenden, H.M. The History of the American Fur Trade. 3 vols. New York: Harper, 1902.

Gregg, Kate L. "The History of Fort Osage," Missouri Historical Review Vol. 34, No. 4, 1940.

Peake, Ora. A History of the United States Indian Factory System in the United States: 1795-1822. Denver, 1954.

Thwaites, Ruben G., ed., Journal of a Voyage up the Missouri, Performed in 1811 by H.M. Brackenridge. Cleveland, 1904.

Traub, Susan B., "Fort Osage Archaeological District," Misouri State Historical Survey Report, 1971.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


Hagen, Olaf T., "Supplemental Report on Investigation of Site of Fort Osage, Missouri," National Park Service, 1946.

Hummel, Edward A., "Historical Boundary Inspection Report of Fort Osage, Missouri," National Park Service, 1940.

Mattison, Ray H., "Fort Osage," Historic Sites Survey report, 1959.


## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA circa

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 220

UTM REFERENCES

| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | 15 | 397210 | 4338600 | B | 15 | 397350 | 4337640 |
| C | 15 | 396840 | 4337670 | D | 15 | 396830 | 4338380 |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries for Fort Osage include both the fort site and the archeological resources of the Fort Osage period in its vicinity. Both the Little Osage and the Great Osage Village were set up soon after the completion of Fort Osage in order to carry on the fur trade with the Federal soldiers. These villages were a vital part of the economic unit which had Fort Osage at its center. The sites of these villages are as yet unexcavated and may well contain valuable archeological evidence pertaining to the(cont'd)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmarks Survey Project

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE: 11/22/75

STREET & NUMBER: 1100 L Street NW

TELEPHONE:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D.C. 20240

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

Landmark Designated: Nov. 5, 1961

date Sept 12, 1977

Boundary Certified George F. Emery

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 9/12/77

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Fort Osage period.

As indicated on the accompanying Map C, the two possible Great Osage Village sites are included with the Little Osage Village site and Fort Osage in one contiguous area. The Hopewell village site (4) predates the Fort Osage period and does not contribute to the national significance of this landmark. Neither does the remainder of the land included in the boundaries, consisting mainly of Fort Osage County Park land and a 150 year old cemetery. These areas do provide an unobtrusive setting for the historic resources.

As described by the blue line on the accompanying map C, labelled "Fort Osage Archaeological District" and dated July 1, 1957, from a point at the intersection of the north Sibley town line with the range line dividing section 32 from section 34:

Proceed in a southwesterly direction about 360 meters to the north boundary line of Sibley Cemetery Proceed northwest about 20 meters along the line to a road, 51st street, connecting Sibley School and Cemetery with the Atherton-Sibley Road. Proceed northwest along the road about 60 meters to the easternmost structure facing north onto the road. Proceed about 80 meters southwest to the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad line and southeast along the line about 20 meters to a point due west of the southeast corner of Sibley Cemetery. Proceed due east about 440 meters to the west bank of the Missouri River. Proceed north along the river bank about 750 meters to a point due east of the road junction of the Fort Osage service road with the Atherton-Sibley Road. Proceed due west about 400 meters to the junction and then south about 180 meters along the north-south road to the northern Sibley town line. Proceed east about 160 meters along the line to the point of beginning.