

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

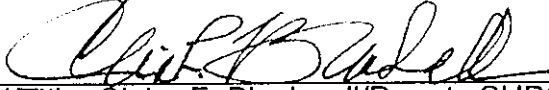
historic name Queen, Harrison, House  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number South side of Highway C 1.3 mile west of Highway 21 [ n/a ] not for publication  
city or town Caledonia [ X ] vicinity  
state Missouri code MO county Washington code 221 zip code 63631

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [ x ] 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 [ x ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [ x ] locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ]. )

  
Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO Date 6 May 02

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ]. )

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date
[ ] 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 see continuation sheet [ ].	_____	_____

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

contributing	noncontributing
1	0
0	0
0	0
0	0
1	0

Name of related multiple property listing.

N/A

Number of contributing resources  
previously listed in the National Register.

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions**

WORK IN PROGRESS

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

Other: single-pen log house

see continuation sheet [ ].

**Materials**

foundation Stone  
walls Log  
roof Metal  
other

see continuation sheet [ ].

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

See continuation sheet [x]

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

**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**

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.

**Areas of Significance**

Architecture

**Periods of Significance**

ca. 1875

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person(s)**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Queen, Harrison/Builder

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographic 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

**UTM References**

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	693860	4183480			
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[ ] See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title see continuation sheet  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. and Mrs. Jim Drake  
street & number Rt. 1, Box 148 telephone (573)749-3717  
city or town Irondale state MO zip code 63648

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Queen, Harrison, House  
Washington County, Missouri

**Summary:** The Harrison Queen House is located on the south side of Route C 1.3 mile west of Highway 21, northwest of Caledonia, in Bellevue Township, Washington County, Missouri. The single-pen log house, built circa 1875, a rectangle measuring 16 feet by 18 feet, is constructed of square-hewn logs with half-dovetail joints. It sits on a foundation of stone piers. The house has an exterior chimney of limestone in the west gable end. A loft is accessed by a steep stairway in the southwest corner. The house is near a small creek that meanders through the lot and is shaded by evergreen and deciduous trees. Local lore suggests that the house was occupied into the mid-1950s. Little was done to alter the interior or exterior while the building was occupied or later, and integrity is retained.

**Elaboration:** The Harrison Queen House is located approximately 90 feet from Route C, from which it is readily visible (Site Plan, Figure 1). The immediate terrain is fairly level with a slight rise to the southwest. A small creek runs diagonally east-west across the property. Large cedar and deciduous trees shade the house; daffodils north of the building suggest the remains of a flower garden. The land was originally part of a 49.9 acre farmstead but only a one-acre tract containing the house is being nominated because none of the outbuildings traditionally associated with a farmstead such as a barn, smokehouse, sheds, privy or other types are extant. A smokehouse was the last outbuilding to remain. It collapsed sometime after 1983.

The single-pen Harrison Queen House is made of square hewn logs which are fitted together with half dove-tail joints (photo 1). The building measures 16 feet north-south and 18 feet east-west with entrances in the north and south facades. The spaces between the logs are chinked with wood shingles covered with mortar with a high sand content. Chinking is missing in some spots (primarily the loft interior) and it has been replaced in some areas with concrete, but a preponderance of original or early chinking remains.

The house walls are approximately 12 feet high, allowing an interior ceiling height of approximately seven feet and a loft wall height of slightly over four feet. The joists supporting the loft have been notched into the walls and are visible from the exterior of the building. The two gable ends are sawn six-inch boards nailed to studs. The 10 rafters are peeled logs tapering from six inches in diameter at the roof line to four inches in diameter at the peak, joined at the peak without a ridge pole (photo 2). Collar beams are used on eight of the rafters to strengthen the roof. The roof, originally of cedar shakes, has been covered with corrugated steel. The roof pitch of 40 degrees above a 50 inch high wall allows for standing room at the center of the attic.

The sill logs sit on stone piers approximately 18 inches tall (photo 3). The sill logs are slightly larger than the wall logs, and provide support for the building and a sort of step into the doorways.

The east gable end of the house is the simplest, having only a six-light window 28 inches by 23 inches in the loft (photo 4).

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Queen, Harrison, house  
Washington County, Missouri

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The west gable end has a limestone chimney centered on its exterior wall. The chimney tapers slightly. From 62 inches bottom width, it narrows to 59 inches at about the point where it separates from the house above the interior firebox. Its width at the gable line is 51 inches, with shoulders approximately four inches on each side. The chimney rises about 18 inches above the roofline and is capped with flat stones. The chimney projects 38 inches beyond the house at its base, tapers to 28 and then to 24 inches, and finally narrows to 18 inches as it separates from the house above the interior firebox. South of the chimney is a 6/6 double-hung window 45 inches tall by 27 inches wide. It is framed by 3½ inch molding (photo 5).

The north façade of the house has a door and window set side-by-side and sharing the same lintel. The door of vertical boards is 31 inches wide with three beveled crossbars. The doorway is trimmed with 5-1/2 inch wide boards. The nails fastening the vertical boards to the cross pieces are arranged in a decorative pattern. A hasp latch on the door is apparently a replacement for an original doorknob. The window in this door-window combination is east of the door. The window is a 6/6 double-hung unit measuring 45 by 27 inches. The window is also bordered on the exterior by 5-1/2 inch wide boards. A window for the loft area is located two logs' height above the door. This six-light window, measuring 28 by 23 inches, is set horizontally and bordered with 5-1/2 inch wide mitered boards (photo 6).

The south façade faces a small creek. The door-window combination is similar to that on the north façade, as is the position of the loft window. This elevation has vertical weatherboarding on either side of the door and covering the window. A gable-shaped strip of sheet metal hangs across the façade above the door. It is unlikely that the metal represents the roof of an addition to the house because of its location and shape. This side of the house is too close to the creek to make the addition of a room feasible, and nothing else about the building suggests a room addition. While the metal may suggest the addition of a porch, as does the presence of a wider sill board and a pile of stones where a porch pier might have been, porches of log houses usually had shed roofs. It is possibly that the metal was used primarily to deflect water from the doorway as a type of primitive gutter (photo 7).

The interior of the Harrison Queen House is very simple (figure 2). The fireplace and hearth dominate the east wall. The 24 by 64 inch hearth is made of large flat stones. The large firebox, 41 inches wide by 47 inches tall, has at some point been filled in with brick and parged. A hole was left to accommodate a six inch flue from a wood or coal burning stove (photo 8). The fireplace has an overmantle and mantle shelf. The overmantle is 63.5 inches wide and consists of three 1 by 9-1/2 inch boards, stacked flat one above the other. The mantle shelf is made of stacked boards of graduated length and width laid on top of one another to resemble molding. It projects 8-1/2 inches (photo 9).

On the east wall north of the fireplace is a steep, ladder-like stairway to the loft. Although open, the stairway is more substantial than a ladder as it is covered on the back by beaded boards. The stair's proximity to the exterior wall makes it easily accessible only to the small, the young, or the flexible. At the top of the stair is a trapdoor for closing off the loft from the main level. South of

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Queen, Harrison, house  
Washington County, Missouri

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the fireplace is a 48 inch by 23 inch double-hung 6/6 window surrounded by 4-1/2 inch and 3-1/2 inch trim with mitered corners.

On the south wall, the window covered on the exterior with vertical weatherboarding has been converted into a cabinet with shelves and a vertical-plank door (photos 11,12).

The floor is made of 8 inch and 10 inch boards. The original ceiling has been covered with tongue-and-groove flooring, an alteration which lowers its height by approximately one inch.

Some elements of the interior show a degree of craftsmanship and care which contrasts with the otherwise rustic appearance of the log building. For example, the window muntins are thin and beaded; the stairway edge and back are of beaded boards; and a baseboard of beaded board encircles the wall. Door hinges have acorn finials, the door latch is decorative and the doorknob is a porcelain type typical of those used during the 19th century. Whether these decorative touches are original or later changes is unknown. The walls have been covered with cardboard and then wallpapered with a floral print paper with a matching border that encircles the ceiling and runs along the side of the mantle.

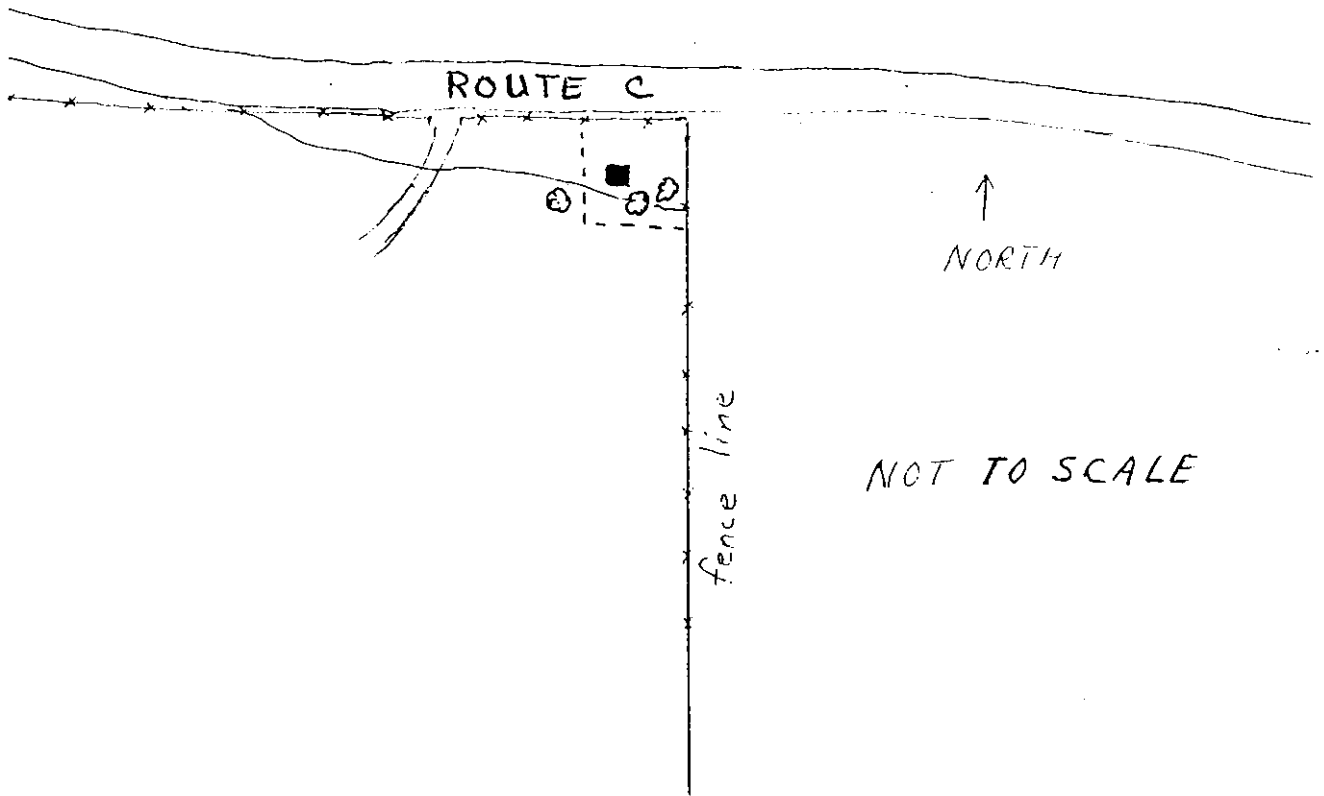
The loft is unfinished. Rafters are exposed, showing the collar beams and what are probably the original shakes. The logs in the loft walls are approximately eight inches square, revealing the practice of using progressively smaller logs as the structure grew higher. The joints between the logs are between two inches and four inches in width. Ax marks from when the logs were hewn are very visible in the loft. The loft floor consists of wide planks. The loft's three windows, one each on the north, south, and west sides, are trimmed in 3-1/2 inch wide boards with mitered corners. The windows are hinged on the left side and have latches on the right side to secure them when closed.

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Figure 1—Site Plan

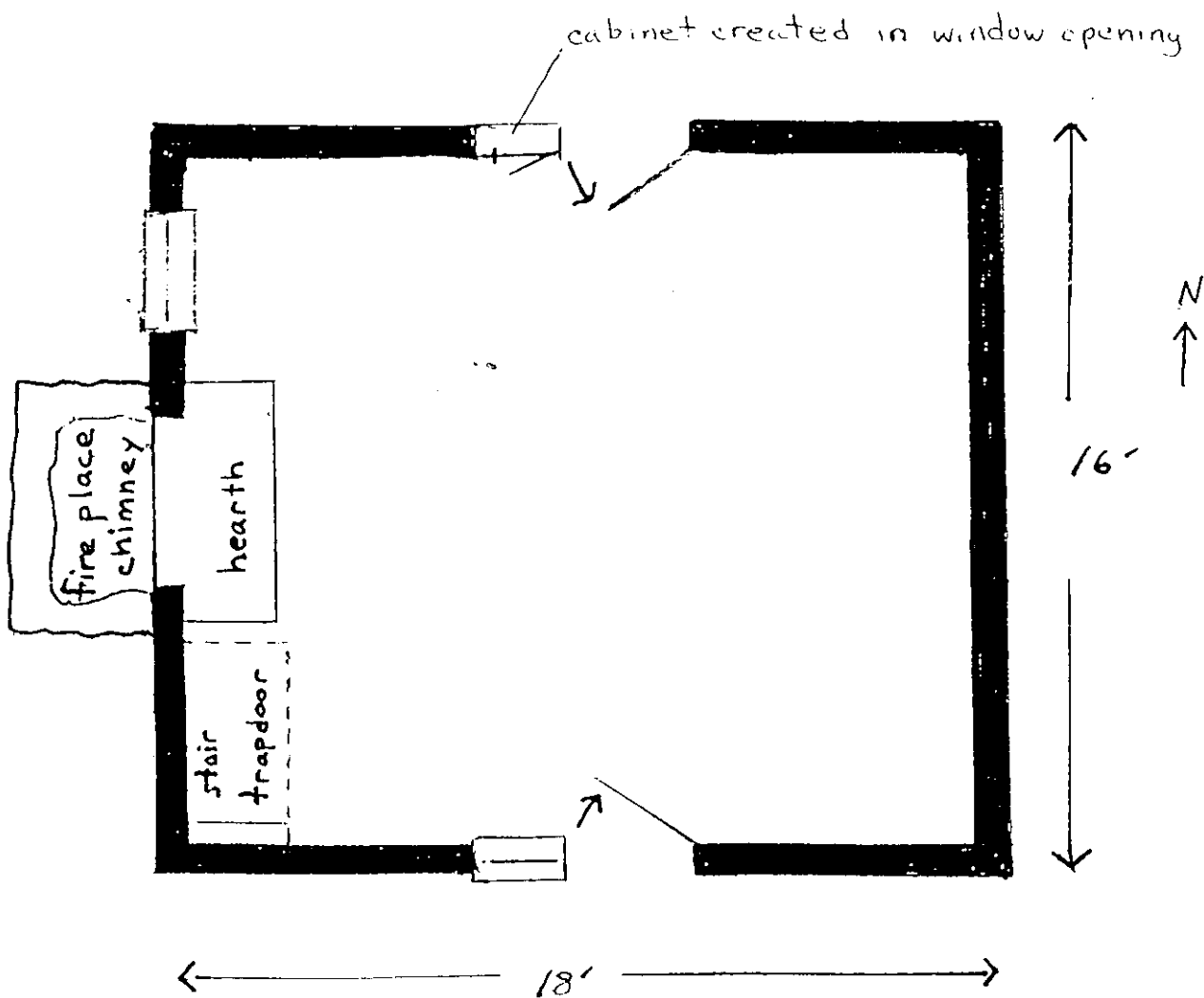


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Figure 2—floor plan



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Queen, Harrison, house  
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Summary: The Harrison Queen House is significant at a local level under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. Located in the Bellevue Valley area of Washington County, the Queen House is significant as an intact, relatively unaltered single-pen log house which reveals log construction techniques common in the Middle West and Ozarks. It reflects the spread of an architectural tradition that parallels immigration patterns and the diffusion of language patterns and culture. The house was built in circa 1875 by Harrison Queen, whose parents had migrated to Washington County from Ohio in the 1850s. Local lore suggests that the Queen House was occupied as late as the 1950s, a situation which perhaps reflects both the poverty of the area and the Ozark tradition of "making do." It remained in the large, locally prominent Queen family until 1958. The fact that the house has endured despite years of neglect attests to the practicality of the log construction techniques employed. Many of Missouri's single-pen log houses certainly are yet to be discovered, but the Harrison Queen House is clearly a good and relatively unaltered example of its type. The period of significance is the year of construction, circa 1875.

Elaboration: The Harrison Queen House is located within Missouri's lead mining area at the northeast edge of the Ozark Mountains. This area is noted on Missouri's state highway map as the "Largest Lead District in the World." Bellevue Valley had been explored by both the French and Spanish in the 16th and 17th centuries, but it was first settled by Europeans during the early 18th century. The French had established lead mines and settlements in the area as early as 1719. When Spain took over France's territories west of the Mississippi River in 1762, the population remained largely French in population, according to cultural geographer Russel Gerlach. In 1797, the Spanish opened the area to American settlers and offered grants of agricultural land to encourage American settlement.<sup>1</sup> One of these grants, a plot of 680 acres later identified by survey as Township 35, Range 2 East, belonged to Moses Bates.<sup>2</sup>

In 1798, Bellevue Valley became the site of the earliest interior agricultural settlement of Americans in Spanish Upper Louisiana.<sup>3</sup> Early 19th century writer Henry Schoolcraft notes that the area was "not deficient in farming land," in sharp contrast to the "sterile soil" in other mining districts."<sup>4</sup> Gerlach identifies Caledonia, the valley's principal town and the closest to the Queen House, as being "in the rare pockets of good soil found in the eastern Ozarks."<sup>5</sup> Ozark historian Robert Flanders praises the Bellevue Valley as being prosperous, settled by a "cultivated class of clan-

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<sup>1</sup> Russel Gerlach, *Immigration in the Ozarks* (Columbia: University of Missouri, 1976), 9-17.

<sup>2</sup> *History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford and Gasconade Counties, Missouri* (Chicago: Goodspeed, 1888), 464.

<sup>3</sup> Robert Flanders, "Caledonia: An Ozark Village, History, Geography, Architecture," cited in Russell Gerlach, *Settlement Patterns in Missouri* (Columbia: University of Missouri press, 1986), 16. The spelling of Bellevue varies in the earlier sources; sometimes it is spelled Bellevue, other times Belleview, and still other times Belle View. The contemporary spelling Bellevue will be used here.

<sup>4</sup> Cited in Gerald Schultz, *The Early History of the Northern Ozarks* (Jefferson City, MO: Midland, 1937), 101; cited in Ruby Matson Robins, "The Missouri Reader: American in the Valley," *Missouri Historical Review*, 46:269.

<sup>5</sup> Gerlach, *Settlement*, 30.

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Queen, Harrison, house  
Washington County, Missouri

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related persons...early inclined to progressive values, property ownership and accumulation, organized religion, education, village life, and other incipient middle class goals.”<sup>6</sup>

After the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory in 1803, the Spanish land grants were challenged in the courts. According to *An Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri*, many of the Spanish grants were upheld, including the Moses Bates grant.<sup>7</sup> Acreage not part of the Spanish land grants was public land “subject to disposition by Congress through sale or grant.”<sup>8</sup> Gerlach notes that the price of land in southeastern Missouri was \$1.25, the minimum price set by Congress for public lands throughout the nation, but that much of the land was not considered to be worth even that low of a price.<sup>9</sup>

The availability of public land in a part of Missouri with both mineral resources and areas of good soil, whether for purchase or homesteading, slowly drew settlers to Washington County. According to Gerlach, settlers from Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ohio predominated prior to 1860.<sup>10</sup> Land was still available for homesteading in Missouri after the Civil War, with 1,835,892 acres unclaimed in 1867.<sup>11</sup> Gerlach notes that settlement in Missouri intensified after the Civil War although most settlers avoided the Ozarks, “which continued to function to some extent as an arrested frontier,” somewhat poor and isolated. However, settlers from Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio continued to homestead in Washington County.<sup>12</sup> The state still maintained a land office in Ironton in 1903, suggesting that a great deal of land in the area remained unclaimed until the beginning of the 20th century, and further suggesting that the land was deemed to be of poor quality.

Sometime between 1850 and 1860, Cornelius Queen, Harrison Queen’s father, migrated with some of his 10 children from Meigs County, Ohio, to Washington County. He settled there, but did not purchase land until 1870 when he bought 204.20 acres of Moses Bates’ original land, survey #2040, from Bates’ heirs for \$2,042. Cornelius Queen willed this land to his two youngest sons on August 6, 1870, and died two weeks later. By the time of his death, Cornelius Queen had amassed what was considered a sizeable estate consisting of \$21 in cash, notes due him in Ohio for \$1,395.29, and his land.<sup>13</sup>

A good source for Queen family history is *Bellevue—Beautiful View*, published by the Bellevue Valley Historical Society. According to this source, as a schoolboy in Meigs County, Ohio, Harrison Queen was a boyhood friend of William McKinley, later to become the 25th President of the United States. Queen’s Civil War activities are also cited in *Bellevue—Beautiful View*. Although Missouri regiments were very active in the Bellevue Valley during the Civil War, Queen served with his native state as a corporal in the 194<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. After the war, he married Marv

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<sup>6</sup> Cited in Gerlach, *Settlement*, 16.

<sup>7</sup> Howard Conrad, ed., “Public Lands,” *Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri* (New York: Southern History Co., 1901).

<sup>8</sup> Conrad.

<sup>9</sup> Gerlach, *Settlement*, 22.

<sup>10</sup> Gerlach, *Settlement*, 30.

<sup>11</sup> William Earl Parrish, *Missouri Under Radical Rule* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1965), 171.

<sup>12</sup> Gerlach, *Settlement*, 30.

<sup>13</sup> *Bellevue—Beautiful View: The History of the Bellevue Valley and Surrounding Area* (n.p.: Bellevue Valley Historical Society, 1983), 756; Washington County Probate Records.

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Queen, Harrison, house  
Washington County, Missouri

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Martha Bean, a member of a West Virginia family that had moved first to Ohio and then to Missouri.

Harrison Queen received a grant of land from the United States government: Homestead Certificate #5677, Application 1189, signed by Ulysses S. Grant. The 49.9 acre plot was located very near to the land willed by Cornelius Queen to his sons Hezekiah Queen and Stephen Queen. *Bellevue—Beautiful View* acknowledged Harrison Queen's homestead as the site of the log house which he built for himself, Martha and their children.<sup>14</sup>

The property remained in the Queen family for over a hundred years.<sup>15</sup> After Harrison Queen died in 1904, his family continued to live in the house. In 1918, Martha and the children sold the land and house for \$800 to Drusilla Rickman and her son George Rickman. Drusilla Rickman was Harrison Queen's niece, the daughter of his sister Julia Ann. Rickman was a widow, her husband having died in 1896. The Rickmans used the property to secure a \$160 loan for a period of one year; in 1935 it was recorded as paid. Apparently there was some question about ownership of the land in 1921. In that year Eugene Forrester, great grandson of Harrison Queen, signed a quit claim deed relinquishing any claim to the land. Two years later, Leland Forrester issued a similar quit claim deed. These transactions are confusing in that Paul Forrester, Eugene and Leland Forrester's father, had signed the deed authorizing the sale of the land to the Rickmans. In 1933, Drusilla Rickman signed over her ownership of the property to her son George, with the stipulation that she be able to live there until her death. Drusilla Rickman died in 1947. George Rickman died in 1958. When Earl and Phyllis Dennis purchased the property in that same year, ownership finally passed from the Queen family.<sup>16</sup>

The Queen House reveals a pattern in log construction that parallels the movement of immigrants into the upper Ozark regions of Missouri. In his study of folk housing and settlement patterns, architectural historian and geographer Fred Kniffen identifies the "Middle Atlantic source area," originally centering on southeastern Pennsylvania, as the basis for the folk housing in eastern Missouri. Kniffen's maps compare the spread of folk housing, American communities, and routes of American migration, while settlement patterns outlined by Russel Gerlach along the Ohio River and from the states of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois generally follow those mapped by Kniffen (Figure 3).<sup>17</sup> Anthropologist Conrad Arensberg concurs, citing the Middle Colonies, as Arensberg calls the southeastern Pennsylvania area, as giving rise to the divergent streams of Appalachian Ozark and of the Corn Belt or Midwest.<sup>18</sup> The Queen House follows Kniffen's pattern of folk housing diffusion and migration of the Middle Atlantic or Middle Colonies source area, which traces house types and migration through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and into the Ozarks region of Missouri. Harrison Queen's family came from Ohio; his wife's family from West Virginia. Architectural historian Amos Rapoport would suggest they carried an image of *house* with them, postulating that the log house reflects a

<sup>14</sup> *Bellevue—Beautiful View*, 757; Abstract of Title.

<sup>15</sup> *Bellevue—Beautiful View*, passim.

<sup>16</sup> Abstract of Title, *Bellevue—Beautiful View*, 760.

<sup>17</sup> Fred Kniffen, "Folk Housing: The Key to Diffusion," *Cultural Diffusion and Landscapes: Geoscience and Man*, 27 (1990), 49.

<sup>18</sup> Conrad Arensburg, "American Communities" (1955), cited in Kniffen, 63.

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Queen, Harrison, house  
Washington County, Missouri

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tradition, a sense he describes by saying "the outline is in the mind's eye at the start...[with a sense of] a given common heritage and hierarchy of values reflected in the building types."<sup>19</sup>

Folk architecture uses the term *type* rather than *style* to distinguish architectural design. The term *single pen* refers to a single construction unit with a height of less than two stories. According to Henry Glassie's definition, the Queen House is a cabin, a one-room building "composed of a single construction unit fewer than two stories high."<sup>20</sup> However, Warren Roberts, in describing the tools used to build log houses, disagrees with Glassie's definition of *cabin*. He suggests that cabins were made of round logs and used for temporary shelter while log houses were made of hewn logs and intended as permanent dwellings.<sup>21</sup> Most architectural historians would agree with Roberts: The Queen House, with its hewn logs, half-dovetail corners, and loft joists notched into the exterior walls suggests a permanence not associated with a cabin, and should more correctly be called a *house*. Howard Wight Marshall, a historian of Missouri's vernacular architecture, agrees with Roberts, noting that the "humble 'log cabins' of the first settlers were stout and durable and designed to be maintained and added to as time, resources, and a growing family permitted."<sup>22</sup>

The Harrison Queen House is an excellent example of folk or vernacular architecture, defined by Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach as "architecture that groups of people make or have made for their daily use."<sup>23</sup> With its log walls and fireplace of local stone, the house illustrates Marshall's essential point about folk architecture, that it is "closely tied to the landscape...made with the raw materials provided by nature and available close at hand."<sup>24</sup> Queen built a sturdy, well-crafted house to which he apparently made no additions, a situation that raises unanswered questions about the family's economic condition and attitudes toward housing.

Design and construction details of the Queen House exemplify typical building techniques carried into Missouri and the Ozarks by migrating settlers. A primary contribution of the Middle Atlantic source area was German log construction. Elements of German log construction include not only the use of hewn logs but also notches cut so that log ends were flush with the building and to allow moisture to drain away from the house. The "widely spreading and aggressive" migration of the Scotch Irish, who had adopted German log construction techniques because of the ready availability of timber in America, spread those patterns into the Middle West."<sup>25</sup>

The Queen House's shape and size (16 feet by 18 feet) also were probably determined by tradition and by the ability of the builder. According to Jean Sizemore, who studied vernacular architecture in the Arkansas Ozarks, rectangular cabins stem from a Scotch-Irish or German tradition and square

<sup>19</sup> Amos Rapoport, *House Form and Culture* (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1969), cited in Jean Sizemore, *Ozark Vernacular Houses: A Study of Rural Homeplaces in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1830-1930* (Fayetteville, University of Arkansas Press, 1994), 49.

<sup>20</sup> Henry Glassie, "The Types of the Southern Mountain Cabin," cited in Sizemore, 50.

<sup>21</sup> Warren Roberts, "The Tools Used in Building Log Houses in Indiana" in Upton and Vlach, 183.

<sup>22</sup> Howard Wight Marshall, *Folk Architecture in Little Dixie* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1981), 44.

<sup>23</sup> Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach, *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1986), xvi.

<sup>24</sup> Marshall, 22.

<sup>25</sup> Gerlach, *Settlement*, 15.

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Queen, Harrison, house  
Washington County, Missouri

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cabins from an English tradition.<sup>26</sup> While technically a rectangle, the Queen House functions as a square. A strictly practical explanation for the size and shape of vernacular dwellings comes from Martin Wright, who notes that "the size of the house was determined by the length of the logs which the men could handle...Consequently, the erection of a single pen resulted in a crib of logs between twelve and eighteen feet square."<sup>27</sup>

Marshall describes the hewing process as a "two fold sequence of scoring with a felling ax and followed by 'hewing to the line' with a broadax."<sup>28</sup> Roberts identifies the felling ax and the broadax as tools necessary for hewing square logs, and suggests a high level of skill necessary to hew logs. He describes the process of removing bark to allow a chalk line to be marked on the log, of cutting notches almost to the line with a felling ax, then of splitting away the wood between the notches and paring away of any excess wood with the broadax.<sup>29</sup> Sizemore notes that in the Arkansas Ozarks, logs were often hewn on only two sides and that the use of logs hewn on all four sides was unusual. Marshall also comments on this uncommon practice in his study of traditional architecture in Missouri counties near the Missouri River.<sup>30</sup> Hewing the logs on four sides, though unusual, provided a smoother, less rustic interior surface and suggests that the Queen family planned to live in their house for many years.

The form of the Queen House also says something about the continued use of older, more traditional housing. Historian Gerald Schultz, in *The Early History of the Northern Ozarks*, acknowledges that many settlers lived in log cabins of only one room.<sup>31</sup> Robert Sidney Douglass comments on the adherence in southeastern Missouri to traditional forms; the houses of the settlers were built of logs. Even after 1850, when sawmills enabled the "more enterprising of the inhabitants" to construct frame houses, frame construction did not completely replace logs. In a similar way, fireplaces continued to be used despite the introduction of the Franklin stove.<sup>32</sup> Marshall concludes that "folk architecture tends to resist change."<sup>33</sup>

The Queen House illustrates several characteristics documented by Sizemore and Marshall as typical of log houses in Missouri and the Ozarks. The exterior walls are approximately 12 feet high, allowing an interior ceiling height of approximately seven feet and a loft wall of slightly over four feet.<sup>34</sup> The floor joists supporting the loft have been notched into the walls and are visible from the exterior of the house. The two gable ends are sawn boards six inches wide nailed to studs, a pattern described by Marshall as typical. The building's 10 rafters are peeled logs joined at the peak without a ridge pole. Collar beams are used on eight of the rafters to, as Marshall notes, "increase the

<sup>26</sup> Sizemore, 49.

<sup>27</sup> Martin Wright, "Log Culture in Hill Louisiana," cited in Sizemore, 46.

<sup>28</sup> Marshall, 93.

<sup>29</sup> Roberts, 192.

<sup>30</sup> Sizemore, 151; Marshall, 93.

<sup>31</sup> Schultz, 167.

<sup>32</sup> Robert Sidney Douglass, *History of Southeast Missouri* (New York: Lewis, 1912), 440.

<sup>33</sup> Marshall, 22.

<sup>34</sup> Neither Sizemore nor Marshall identifies the height of the houses they describe, but the photographs suggest a height of approximately 10 to 12 feet. Sizemore, 50-68 passim; Marshall, passim.

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rigidity of the common rafter system.”<sup>35</sup> The original roof of split wood shingles has been covered with corrugated sheet metal, a common way of roofing or re-roofing houses.<sup>36</sup>

The sill logs sit on stone piers approximately 18 inches tall, a common foundation treatment for hewn log houses in the Ozarks and other areas of Missouri; Roberts comments that it is “inconceivable that a hewn-log house be built upon a dirt floor.”<sup>37</sup> The sill logs are slightly larger than the wall logs, and provide support for the building and a sort of step into the doorways.

The west gable end has a slightly tapering limestone chimney centered on its exterior wall. A gable end location is typical of Ozark dwellings, as is the use of stone and a slight taper. Sizemore comments on the craftsmanship associated with chimneys “constructed of stone...laid in courses...with mortar....Older chimneys were often larger overall with consistently larger shafts and fireboxes.”<sup>38</sup>

Interior details of the Queen House are also typical of those documented by Sizemore and Marshall. The ladder-like stairway to the loft, for example, was a result of space limitations. Sizemore points out that stairways in small Ozark cabins are generally “steep” and “narrow.” The Queen stairway is open, unlike most of those documented by Marshall and Sizemore, but is more substantial than a ladder as it is covered on the back by beaded boards.<sup>39</sup> The stair is very close to the exterior wall which makes it easily accessible only by the small or the flexible. Sizemore notes that “interior narrow stairs sometimes led to crudely finished lofts used for storage or sleeping.”<sup>40</sup> The shape and location of the stairway suggests that in this case the loft was most likely used as a sleeping area for the Queen children, since it would have been difficult to maneuver sizeable objects up it. The top of the stair has a trapdoor.

Sizemore describes “Living in the Ozark House” but also points out a dearth of information about how interior spaces were arranged and used in vernacular houses.”<sup>41</sup> Generally, interior features reveal both practical necessity and the desire for decorative details that would make the house more attractive. Doors on the Queen House are similar to those described by Sizemore as “vertical board and batten doors with beveled crossbars attached with rows of nails used for the practical purpose of “counteract[ing] the inevitable sagging.” However, the nails are arranged in a decorative pattern.<sup>42</sup> The doors are directly opposite one another, providing along with the windows for both ventilation and light. Light was always a consideration in the “especially dark” log house.<sup>43</sup> The Queen House floor consists of eight and ten inch wide boards; Sizemore notes that floors were generally of pine boards, regularly scrubbed with sand and hot water, which would have smoothed and bleached the wood.”<sup>44</sup>

<sup>35</sup> Marshall, 94.

<sup>36</sup> Sizemore, 151; observation.

<sup>37</sup> Marshall, 39; Roberts, 183.

<sup>38</sup> Sizemore, 163.

<sup>39</sup> Sizemore, 178; Marshall, 95.

<sup>40</sup> Sizemore, 178.

<sup>41</sup> Sizemore, 173.

<sup>42</sup> Sizemore, 176.

<sup>43</sup> Sizemore, 175.

<sup>44</sup> Sizemore, 182.

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Practicality and decoration are also combined in the walls and mantle. The walls have been covered with cardboard and blue wallpaper with a yellow floral print accented by a narrow coordinating border. The style and pattern are typical of the 1940s. Sizemore comments that wallpaper was used for warmth and covering the cracks in the log walls. She describes patterned wallpaper as a "step up" from newspaper.<sup>45</sup> The use of a decorative paper in place of newspapers indicated that at some point a resident desired a more attractive interior. Further evidence of this can be seen in the mantle, which mimics molding by placing boards of graduated sizes on top of one another. Sizemore suggests this is also typical of the Ozark house.<sup>46</sup>

Because interior space was limited in the single pen house, there was little allowance for privacy and little room for storage. Sizemore suggests that persons living in log houses had only a few possessions which they stored in trunks or boxes; clothing was typically hung on nails in the wall.<sup>47</sup> In the Queen House, the cabinet created in the window space when the south wall was covered with weatherboard would have been particularly useful for storing small items. The nails in the loft walls may have been used for hanging items.

The Harrison Queen House is also significant because its appearance today is apparently much like its appearance when it was built in circa 1875. The single-pen log house was a common "first dwelling" type but most of the time these houses were enlarged with additions as the family grew and prospered. Single-pen dwellings became, for example, dogtrot dwellings which later often were transformed into central passage houses, while shed-roofed additions also created more living space. Generally the exteriors were then covered with weatherboard or clapboard and the interior walls were plastered, although Marshall notes that sometimes smaller log houses were not covered. The Queen House had no additions and although the south wall is partially weatherboarded, there is no evidence that the rest of the house was ever covered.

Families often built balloon framed houses as their prosperity continued or as their families grew in size. The original houses were then often used for grain storage. In Harrison Queen's case, the expected enlargement did not occur, nor did the rebuilding. Queen's wife and children were still occupying the house in 1918, some 14 years after Harrison Queen's death in 1904. Schultz's comment that "self sufficiency and isolation, caused chiefly by a lack of adequate means of transportation and communication, were the outstanding economic and social characteristics of the [Ozark] farm" supports the idea that the Queen family Rickman might have remained in the house they knew as home even though it was very small.<sup>48</sup> Though George Rickman purchased other property, Drusilla Rickman resided in the house until 1947. It is possible that the sense of tradition prevailed and that Drusilla Rickman preferred to remain in a place where she felt

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<sup>45</sup> Sizemore, 181.

<sup>46</sup> Sizemore, 184.

<sup>47</sup> Sizemore, 187.

<sup>48</sup> Schultz, 165.

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comfortable. The Ozark tradition of "making do" might also have led Rickman to stay in the house until her death. In 1958, the property was sold to Earl and Phyllis Dennis. The property now belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Drake. The house has changed little over the years. It is something of a local landmark; area high school seniors often choose to have their senior pictures taken at the house. The Drakes intend to restore the house.

In 1970, Gerlach notes there were 21 log houses still occupied in the Old Mines region of Washington County, just north of Bellevue Valley.\* Most of these houses have now been destroyed or dismantled for use in other construction. Other log houses in Missouri have been so altered by additions or by modernization in the form of clapboarding, siding, and interior plastering that their true origin as log houses has been obscured. The Harrison Queen house, revealing as it does the traditional craftsmanship of the log dwelling, merits a place on the National Register of Historic Places.

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\* Gerlach, *Immigration*, 153.

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Beginning at the northeast corner of the west one-half of Lot 2, northwest quarter of Section 2, Township 35 North, range 2 East, a point on the south right-of-way of Missouri Highway C, proceed west 150 feet along the south right-of-way of Highway C to the point of beginning; then proceed west 200 feet along the south right-of-way of Highway C; then proceed south 200 feet, perpendicular to Highway C; then proceed east 200 feet, parallel to Highway C; then proceed north 200 feet, perpendicular to Highway C, to the point of beginning.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary has been drawn to include only the Harrison Queen House and its immediate surroundings. The house is the only architecturally significant resource remaining. The boundary is based in part on a 1988 survey by Sid Nickelson & Associates, Missouri Registered Surveyors, of the disputed boundary of the west one-half of Lot 2. The house occupies the site where it has stood since its construction in circa 1875.

**11. Form Prepared By**

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Editor and revisions

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Photographs:

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Queen, Harrison, House  
Caledonia vicinity, Washington County, Missouri  
Rhonda Chalfant  
May 2001  
Negatives with photographer: Rhonda Chalfant, 619 W. 32<sup>nd</sup> St., Sedalia, MO 65301

- No. 1—southeast corner, showing detail of half-dovetail notching
- No. 2—Interior of attic, showing beams and roof material
- No. 3—East façade, showing stone piers and sill log
- No. 4—East façade, camera facing west
- No. 5—West façade, showing chimney, camera facing east
- No. 6—South façade, camera facing north
- No. 7—North façade, showing weatherboarding and sheet metal gutter, camera facing south
- No. 8—Interior, showing fireplace, mantle, and underside of stair
- No. 9—Detail of mantle
- No. 10—Stairway to loft
- No. 11—Cabinet created from window on north wall
- No. 12—Cabinet created from window on north wall, north exterior door



HARRISON  
 QUEENHOUSE  
 WASHINGTON  
 CO., MISSOURI

UTM REFERENCES:  
 15/693860 E  
 15/4183480 N











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