

UTM NOT AVAILABLE
MECHANICSBURG, IL QUAD
SCALE 1:62500
89°16'W 39°59'N

M.R.A. _____
H/D (IF APP) _____
NHL NRI NRDS NRDO DOE _____
HABS/HAER NRA/TI IS IL _____
OTHER _____

PROPERTY NAME Robert Buckles (Round) Barn
LOCATION 1 mile Southeast of CITY/TOWN/VICINITY Mt. Pulaski,
COUNTY Logan STATE Illinois ZIP 62548

OWNER'S NAME Richard Cannon
LOCATION 5598 Girasol CITY/TOWN/VICINITY Tuscon,
STATE Arizona ZIP 85715

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION Logan County Recorder of Deeds
Logan County Court House
Lincoln, Illinois 62656

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION A 100'x100' parcel starting at a point 1530' ± S of NE
cor. SEC. 26 TWP 18N R2W 3rd PM (Logan Co.), thence S 100', thence W 100', thence N
100' to the point of beginning.

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE 0.2 acres

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1917 ARCHITECT AND/OR BUILDER Unknown

DESCRIPTION The Buckles Barn is similar to the round barns included in the Thematic
Round Barn nomination now pending before the National Register staff. The barn has
a single-hip roof covered with asphalt shingles. It rests on a concrete foundation.
The barn is enclosed with vitrified tile, similar to the Tillery Barn in the Thematic
nomination. The tile is slightly lighter in color, ranging from light brown to tan.

The barn is a medium scale round barn with a 60 foot diameter and a 55 foot height
between the grade and cupola top. In size, it is similar to all but the Tillery Barn.
It does not have a central silo as do most of the barns in the Thematic nomination.
Grain was raised for storage by a rope/horse and pulley system. The barn's design is
relatively simple with the beautiful, curved tile being the most prominent exterior feature.

The Buckles Barn was one of the 55 round barns considered in the preparation of the
Thematic Round Barn Nomination.

DATE AND NATURE OF ALTERATIONS The barn roof was set slightly ajar by a destruct-
ive tornado in 1927. The roof remained in this
condition until the summer of 1982, when it was
repaired and reroofed. Interior rehabilitation
has also been accomplished this past summer. To
date, approximately \$30,000 have been spent on
rehabilitation work.

OUTBUILDINGS AND/OR OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES ON PROPERTY (ATTACH SKETCH
PLAN IF APPLICABLE)

SIGNIFICANCE The significance of the Buckles Round Barn, like those in the Thematic nomination, is that it is an Illinois example of the application of scientific principles to American agriculture, as well as a building type that was promoted by the Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Illinois (Urbana). It is also an illustration of the last type of carpenter built barns in this country. William J. Fraser, chief of dairy husbandry published at least seven bulletins between 1905 and 1918, including two on round barns: "No. 143: Economy of the Round Barn", February, 1910, and "No 230: The Round Barn", September, 1918.

FORM PREPARED BY Charles Kirchner
3 The Country Place
Springfield, Illinois 62703 TEL (217)529-5815

785-4331

ATTACH 5" by 7" PHOTO HERE--USE MASKING
TAPE AT CORNERS

INFORMATION BELOW SHOULD ALSO APPEAR ON
BACK OF PHOTO

USE CONTINUATION SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL
PHOTOS, IF ANY

PROPERTY NAME Buckles Round Barn
LOCATION 1 mile southeast of CITY/TOWN/VICINITY Mt. Pulaski, IL
CAMERA FACING Northwest DATE August 21, 1982
PHOTOGRAPHER Randy R. Richter
LOCATION OF NEGATIVE In possession of photographer

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DESCRIPTION:

The Buckles Barn appears today much the same way as it did when it was constructed in 1917. The barn is a round, vitrified tile, two story structure, 60 feet in diameter, with a height of 55 feet from the grade to the top of the cupola. Other prominent features include a conical shaped, shingled roof, two levels of evenly spaced, casement windows with six lights each, and a large front entry with a wood shingled canopy. There are also two smaller entry ways midway around each side. The main entry door and the one of the east are curved and operate on a track. The passage door is curved and hinged.

On the interior, there are a series of pie shaped stalls, which are divided by reinforced concrete partitions 4 inches thick, 10 feet long and 5 feet high. The second floor (loft) is supported by a circular, laminated beam approximately 35 feet in diameter.

The barn roof was set slightly ajar by a destructive tornado in 1927. The roof remained in this condition until the summer of 1982 when it was repaired. The building has not been used in recent years and some interior structural damage occurred due to leaks in the roof. However, a complete rehabilitation of the structure is now underway. The roof has been repaired and reshingled, and the interior structural damage is being repaired with all of the work carried out to match the original as much as possible. Parts of other old barns are being used in many cases.

The barn will be used for storage and will serve as an example of the techniques used in building round barns in the early part of this century.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Buckles Barn is one of the few remaining round barns in central Illinois, and the only known round barn in this area constructed with vitrified tile. The tile are unusual in that they are curyed based on the barn's 30 feet radius. The barn was built in 1917 at a cost of \$11,000. The farmhouse, which was built at the same time cost \$17,000. The barn is a fine example of a round farm structure that was inspired by a promotional effort of the University of Illinois. A bulletin, developed by William J. Fraser at the Agricultural Experiment Station was published in 1910 on the topic of "The Economy of Round Barn". This effort by the university gave the round barn movement momentum and credibility. The interior of the Buckles Barn has some unique architectural features as well, including a circular, laminated beam 35 feet in diameter, and pie-shaped stalls divided by reinforced concrete partitions 4 inches thick, 10 feet long and 5 feet high. This was a rather innovatiye use of concrete for the time, and the builder experimented with corrugated metal reinforcement to make the slim wall section possible. The curved entry doors were made of wood which was soaked in water and pressed into shape.

According to H. Wayne Price, chairman of the State Historical Society's "Save Our Barns" Committee, most round barns were built of frame construction and he knows of only one other round barn, which is west of White Hall, that is built of vitrified tile. He said that there may be another one or two in the Rockford area also. He stated that round barns will eventually be as scarce as log cabins are now.

With respect to the barn's historical aspects, the Buckles family (along with the Turleys) were very early settlers of Logan County. There were only six other families in the county when Robert Buckles settled there in 1822 and built a simple log house with his ax. Frank Turley, 90, who lived on the farm with the round barn from 1927-1940 is the great-great grandson of James Turley, the first settler on Lake Fork and also one of the first men to settle in Logan County. The Indians designated him "Big Chief" and "Big Bostony". He arrived in Logan County in 1818 and made a claim on a piece of land that was later a part of the Buckles farm. On this land he built a double log home, the first ever built in Lake Fork Valley. His son, George W. Turley, was one of the three founders of Mt. Pulaski.

In 1827, Robert Buckles enlisted in the Winnebago War. Abraham Lincoln was a fellow soldier. They roughed it side by side and developed a close and lasting friendship.

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Robert Buckles' grandson, also named Robert, acquired the farm on which the round barn is located in 1919 from a relative (Derius Buckles), who had to sell it due to financial reverses. The price of grain, which was at \$2.30/bushel, suddenly dropped to 20¢-30¢/bushel. Those holding grain in hopes of prices higher than \$2.30/bushel were suddenly wiped out financially. At this point, the round barn was two years old.

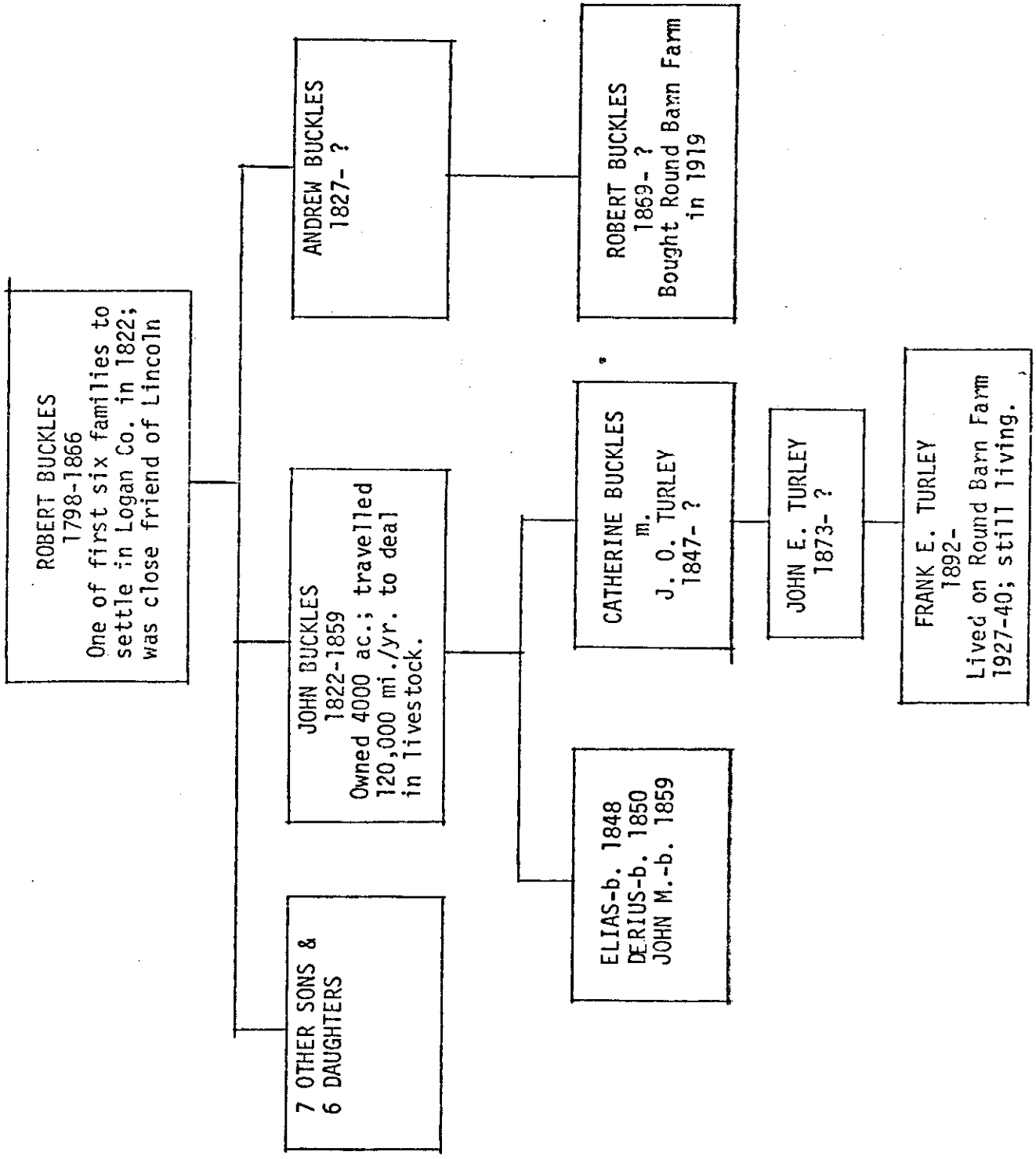
In 1927, Frank E. Turley, also a descendant of Robert Buckles (1798-1866) began farming the land on which the round barn is located. He remained there until 1940 when he moved into town. Still living and active today at 90, he recalls the 1927 tornado which lifted the roof of the barn and moved it a bit sideways.

In 1958, a nearby rail car explosion blew out all of the glass from the windows in the round barn and broke some of the vitrified tile at the top of the wall. The glass was replaced. However, the tile and roof damage from the 1927 tornado had never been repaired.

The descendants of Robert Buckles own 3,600 acres of land in Logan county.

A partial family tree of the Buckles-Turley families is attached as Appendix A.

APPENDIX A.
 PARTIAL FAMILY TREE OF BUCKLES-TURLEY FAMILIES



WASHINGTON

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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received
date entered

Continuation sheet Buckles Round Barn Item number 12 Page 2

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is statewide.

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.

Dair Kenney

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Director

Title

12/23/82

Date