

# The National Register of Historic Places and the Red River Gorge

The National Register of Historic Places is a federal program that recognizes America's most important cultural resources. These objects and artifacts, buildings, landscapes, and archaeological sites tell us about our history and our heritage. Our country makes special efforts to protect and preserve the cultural resources listed in the National Register.

To be listed in the National Register, a cultural resource must ....

- ✓ be at least 50 years old.
- ✓ be significant to American history, architecture, engineering, culture, or archaeology.
- ✓ have integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.
- ✓ meet at least one of four criteria: associated with significant events, associated with significant persons, embody a distinctive method of construction or architectural style, provide information important in history or prehistory.

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## Gladie Cabin

listed in 1989

significant in the settlement  
and industrial development  
(logging) of Red River Gorge  
during late 1800s-early 1900s

built by Ledford family in  
1870s and moved to present  
location between 1875-1900

Ledford farmstead included  
cabin, two barns, chicken  
house, smokehouse, corncrib



original cabin was modified by adding second floor and rear addition, covering with siding, and roofing in tin

cabin also used as Gladie  
community post office and  
boarding house for loggers

Ledford family lived in cabin  
until 1950s

cabin purchased by US Forest  
Service and restored in 1988



Gladie Cabin during and after restoration

## Gorge Archaeological District

listed in 2003

significant for understanding 12,000  
years of use by many peoples,  
especially native origins of agriculture

district includes 442 cultural resources  
in Menifee, Powell, and Wolfe counties

prehistoric sites are rockshelters,  
short- and long-term domestic sites,  
artifact scatters, chert quarries, rock  
art sites, and burial sites



(L-R) prehistoric rockshelter,  
historic house chimney base,  
historic pine tar kiln incised  
into large boulder

historic sites are farmsteads, logging  
sites, iron mining sites, niter mines,  
pine tar kilns, Civilian Conservation  
Corps sites, recreation/tourism sites,  
moonshine stills, and cemeteries

district will be expanded in future to  
add new sites like rock climbing routes

For more information on the National Register:  
Kentucky Heritage Council [www.heritage.ky.gov](http://www.heritage.ky.gov)  
NRHP National Office [www.cr.nps.gov/nr](http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr)

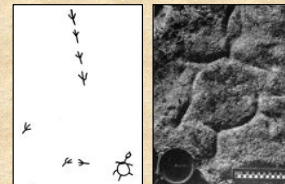
## Rock Art Sites

listed in 1989

significant for learning about  
prehistoric artistic expression,  
religious beliefs, knowledge,  
and other native lifeways

includes 22 sites in Red River  
Gorge and Daniel Boone  
National Forest

rock art takes form of  
petroglyphs, or designs carved  
or incised into rock surfaces



drawing and photograph of bird tracks and turtle petroglyphs  
at Big Sinking Creek Turtle Rock Site in Lee County

common motifs: bird and bear  
tracks, human hands and feet,  
and geometric shapes like  
circles and chevrons

created 250 to 3,000 years ago

threatened by vandalism



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