

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Possum Walk Hotel

and/or common

2. Location

street & number R.F.D.

\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Burlington Junction \_\_\_ vicinity of MO 6th Honorable Thomas Coleman

state Missouri code 29 county Nodaway code 147

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

4. Owner of Property

name Nell Cowden

street & number

city, town Clearmont \_\_\_ vicinity of state Missouri 64431

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Nodaway County Courthouse

street & number 3rd and Main

city, town Maryville state Missouri 64468

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Nodaway County Historic Survey has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date Fall 1977 \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state  county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Office of Historic Preservation

city, town Jefferson City state Missouri 65101

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

"The Possum Walk Hotel" is situated in a rural area in what was once the center of the village of Lamar Station. Located in an agricultural area, the property is surrounded by farm land.

"Possum Walk Hotel" was built in 1873-1875 by Theodore Scott. Built in an ell shape the house has a long shed roof porch on the east facade of the ell extension and a small porch with balcony at the main entrance on the east facade of the house. Both porch roofs are supported by square columns with small brackets at the eave line. The porch at the main entrance has lathe turned spindles in the valance and balustrade. The over all dimensions measure approximately twenty-seven (27) feet six (6) inches on the north exterior wall; thirty-five (35) feet on the west exterior wall; fourteen (14) feet six (6) inches on the south exterior kitchen wall; thirteen (13) feet on the south exterior living room wall and seventeen (17) feet six (6) inches on the east exterior wall of the living room. The main facade looks east onto a county rock road which was Main Street in the original plat of Lamar Station.

Brick forms the foundation. The principal material of the exterior walls is brick laid in the common bond in fifth, sixth and seventh course headers. The brick were made in a kiln near the property.

All windows except one in the west wall are 4 over 4 single pane double sash. One window in the west is obviously a replacement with a single 1 over 1 pane. The window sills are walnut. The lintels are vertical brick arch radiating voussoirs.

The interior is divided into three rooms and a pantry on the first floor level and two rooms on the second floor level. The plaster on the ceiling measures two (2) inches thick in the kitchen area. The wood work around the windows and doors is very plain with lack of ornamentation detail. The balustrades around the staircase to the second floor is one (1) by one (1) spindles which were probably an addition at some time. The first floor exterior door at the main entrance is a four panel single leaf with a rim lock. The door to the exterior east facade in the kitchen is a four panel single leaf door. The upper panels are curved at the top and the door has a mortise lock. A similar door is found between the two rooms on the second floor. The single leaf door to the exterior of the west facade in the kitchen has double panels and an upper window of four single panes.

The cornice is narrow with the fascia board barely wide enough to cover the top of the bricks. The gable roof is covered with wood shingles. There are two single stack plain chimneys. One is located at the south exterior wall of the kitchen and one projects through the center of the roof in the north rectangular section of the house.

The house is unoccupied at the present time but is used for storage of antique furniture by the Cowden family. The condition and maintenance of the structure is good with proper restoration taking place when items need replacement and repair.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1873-1875 **Builder/Architect** Theodore Scott

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Possum Walk Hotel is proposed for listing under Criterion of Evaluation C as a folk version of the Italianate Style which still embodies the distinctive characteristics of that type in its regional setting.

On December 1, 1848, in compliance with the Military Bounty Land Warrant Act of 1847, 160 acres of land was patented to Franklin Hutson, located in the Northwest corner of the Southwest one-half (1/2) of the Southwest one-fourth (1/4) of Section twenty-seven (27) township sixty-six (66) range thirty-seven (37)<sup>1</sup> which would later become part of Lamar Station. In 1857, Hutson sold six and one-half acres to James W. and John W. Lamar for \$160.<sup>2</sup> John M. and his wife Polly deeded their property to be platted for the town of Lamar Station on February 21, 1871.<sup>3</sup>

Lamar Station or Possum Walk, became a thriving town within the decade. The state and mail route between Savannah, Missouri and Blanchard, Iowa had a stop at the Possum Walk Hotel,<sup>4</sup> the building being nominated. There was a general store, two drug stores, a doctor, a blacksmith shop, a Methodist Church and a school. When the railroad was built in 1879, it by-passed Lamar Station some two miles to the west and south. During the next two years Lamar Station was dismantled and moved to the new railroad communities of Elmo and Dawsonville. Being built of brick the Possum Walk Hotel remained in its location.

According to tradition, the nickname of "Possum Walk" originated from the experience of one of the early settlers who imbibed too frequently of the corn juice at Hallsa's Ferry (about 1 and 1/2 mile farther south), making his walk resemble that of an opossum. There arose an old saying that often has been repeated by folks of the community and involves some rural schools in that area. "Monkey Run up Toad Holler to see Possum Walk at Sunrise."<sup>5</sup>

The Possum Walk Hotel was probably constructed between 1873 and 1875. The lots surrounding the hotel were sold to Theodore Scott for \$1,600 in 1873 and then mortgaged in 1875 for \$3,022.<sup>6</sup> Mr. Scott also operated a drug store in Lamar Station during this time period. By 1884, after the arrival of the railroad in Elmo, the hotel property was listed in the delinquent tax list and fell into the hands of Louisa Martin.<sup>7</sup> After the decline of Lamar Station the hotel became a private home, probably with the acquisition of the property by Mrs. Martin. However, Mrs. Ernest Moore recalls moving into the Hotel in 1900 and the hotel sign was still standing, giving rise to speculation that it might have been used as a hotel or sleeping rooms throughout the latter part of the 19th Century.<sup>8</sup>

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Abstract of Property in possession of Mrs. Bernard Cowden, Clearmont, Missouri.

Affidavit from Mrs. Ernest Moore in possession of Mrs. Bernard Cowden, Clearmont, Missouri

Atlas of Nodaway County, Missouri. Des Moines, Iowa: Anderson Publishing Co., 1925

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name "Skidmore, Mo."

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

### UTM References

A 

1	5	3	2	3	2	1	5	4	4	8	4	7	0	3
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots three (3), four (4), five (5), six (6) in Block four (4); lots three (3) and four (4) in one-fourth block five (5) and Lots one (1), two (2), three (3) and four (4) in One-fourth block six (6) in Lamar Station, being a part of Southwest Quarter of the Southwest

### 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 1) Thomas W. Carneal, Associate Professor

organization Northwest Missouri State University date September 1980

street & number Golden Hall, 307 telephone 816/582-7141 ext. 1289

city or town Maryville state Missouri

## 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.

### State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Director, Department of Natural Resources and  
title State Historic Preservation Officer date

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

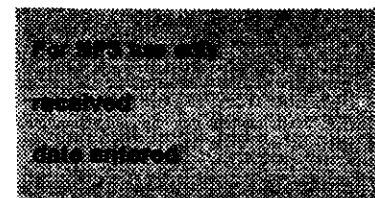
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet      POSSUM WALK HOTEL

Item number      8

Page      1

After passing through a variety of owners, Robert Lamar acquired the property in 1905 and it then passed through the Lamar family, until purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Cowden in 1957 the parents of the present owner Miss Nell Cowden. The Cowden's have been attempting to restore the structure and make it into a museum.

The survey of Missouri's Historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri's history as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." Possum Walk Hotel, therefore is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture" and "Exploration/Settlement."

Footnotes.

<sup>1</sup>Record of U.S. General Land Office. Washington D.C. Volume 8, p. 53.

<sup>2</sup>Abstract.

<sup>3</sup>Abstract.

<sup>4</sup>Interview with Warren Jones, Maryville, Missouri, April, 1970.

<sup>5</sup>Opal Eckert, et. al. Tales of Nodaway County. Shawnee Mission, Kansas: Intercollegiate Press, 1977. p. 44.

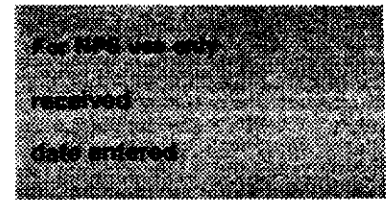
<sup>6</sup>Abstract.

<sup>7</sup>Abstract.

<sup>8</sup>Affidavit given by Mrs. Ernest Moore in possession of Mrs. Bernard Cowden, Clearmont, Missouri.

United States Department of the Interior  
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POSSUM WALK HOTEL

Continuation sheet

Item number

9

Page 1

Eckert, Opal. et. al. Tales of Nodaway County. Shawnee Mission, Kansas:  
Intercollegiate Press, 1977.

Elmo Centennial Committee. Elmo Centennial: 1879-1979. Shawnee Mission,  
Kansas: Intercollegiate Press, 1979.

History of Nodaway County. St. Joseph, Missouri: National Historical  
Co., 1882.

Interview with Warren Jones, April 1970 in possession of the Nodaway County  
Historical Society, Maryville, Missouri.

Past and Present of Nodaway County, Missouri. Vols. I and II.  
Indianapolis, Indiana: B.F. Bowen and Co., 1910.

Plat Book of Nodaway County, Missouri. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:  
Northwest Publishing Co. 1893.

Standard Historical Atlas of Nodaway County, Missouri. Chicago, Illinois:  
The Anderson Publishing Co., 1911.

Continuation Sheet

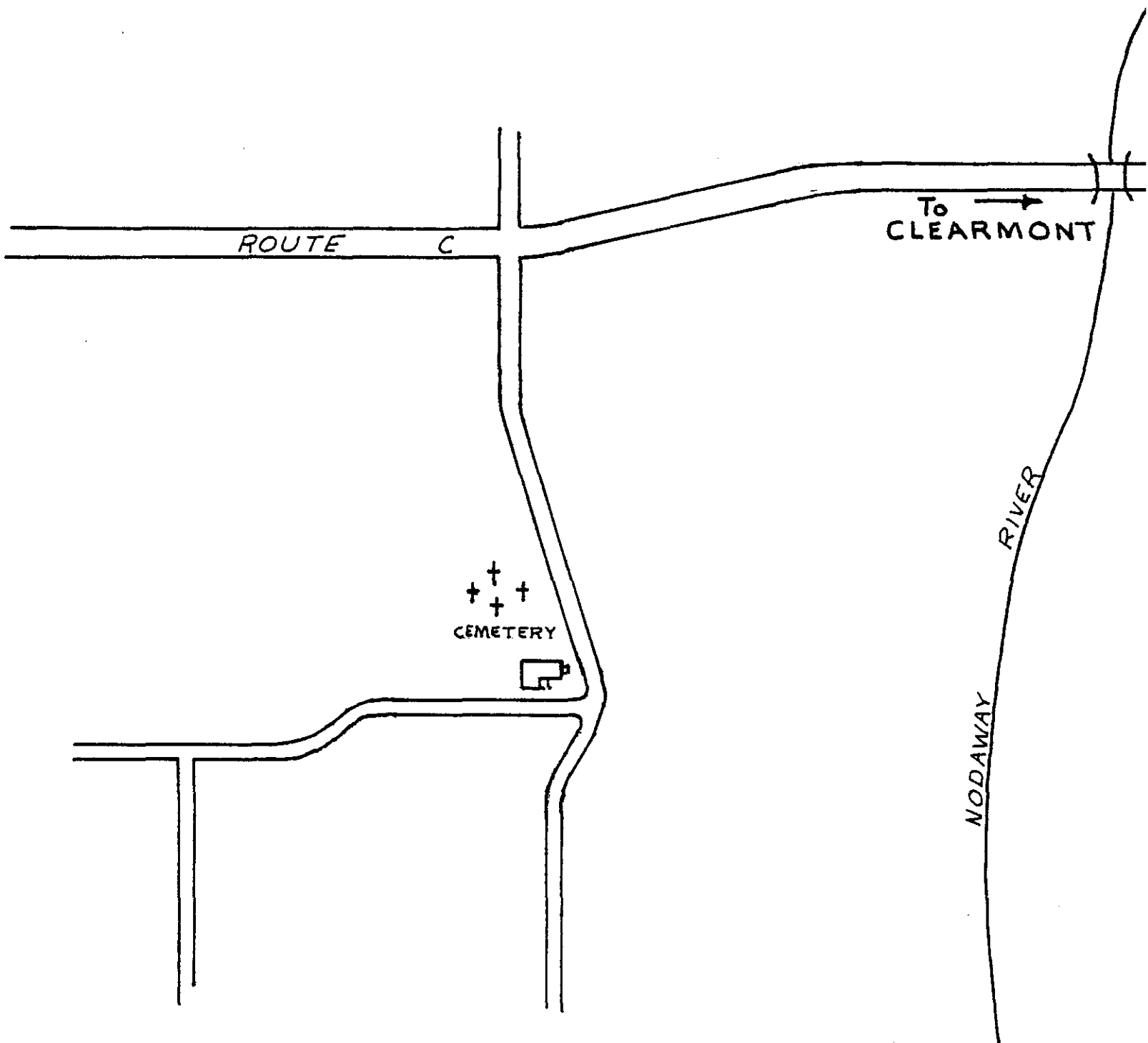
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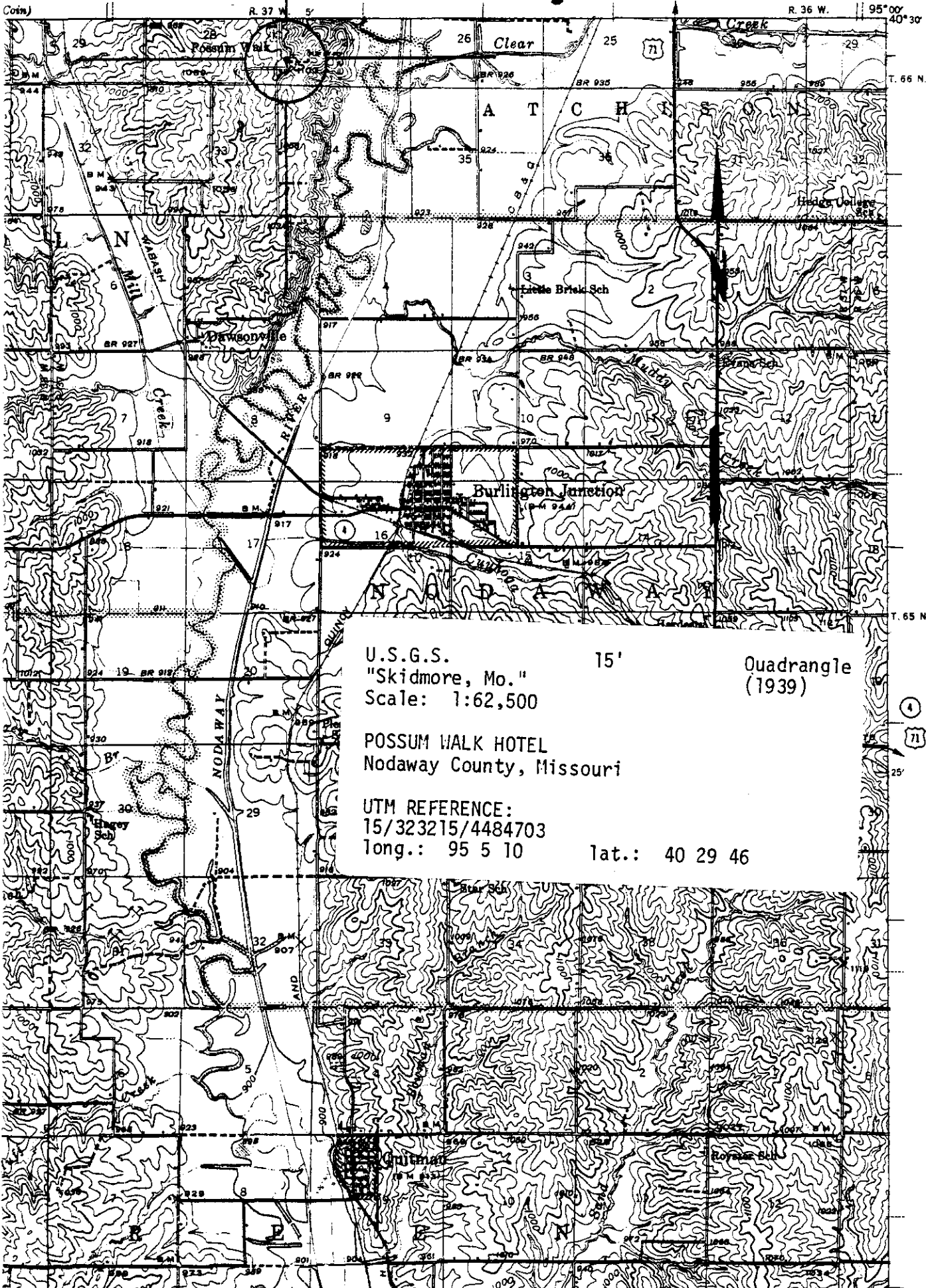
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Page 1

Quarter of Section twenty-seven (27) in Township sixty-six (66) of Range thirty-  
seven (37) in Nodaway County, Missouri.

POSSUM WALK HOTEL





U.S.G.S. 15' Quadrangle  
"Skidmore, Mo." (1939)  
Scale: 1:62,500

POSSUM WALK HOTEL  
Nodaway County, Missouri

UTM REFERENCE:  
15/323215/4484703  
long.: 95 5 10 lat.: 40 29 46

WILCOX 3 MI.  
MARYVILLE 12 MI.

S. ROUTE NO. 71) 7 MI.



Possum Walk Hotel  
Rural  
Lincoln TWP, Nodaway, Missouri  
Tom Carneal November 5, 1980  
Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall  
Northwest Missouri State University  
Maryville, MO 64468  
East  
1 of 11



Possom Walk Hotel  
Rural  
Lincoln TWP, Nodaway, Missouri  
Tom Carneal November 5, 1980  
Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall  
Northwest Missouri State University  
Maryville, MO 64468  
Southeast  
2 of 11



Possum Walk Hotel  
Rural  
Lincoln TWP, Nodaway, Missouri  
Tom Carneal November 5, 1980  
Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall  
Northwest Missouri State University  
Maryville, MO 64468  
West  
3 of 11



Possum Walk Hotel  
Rural  
Lincoln TWP, Nodaway, Missouri  
Tom Carneal November 5, 1980  
Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall  
Northwest Missouri State University  
Maryville, MO 64468  
Northwest  
4 of 11





Possum Walk Hotel  
Rural  
Lincoln TWP, Nodaway, Missouri  
Tom Carneal November 5, 1980  
Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall  
Northwest Missouri State University  
Maryville, MO 64468  
West  
5 of 11



Possom Walk Hotel  
Rural  
Lincoln TWP, Nodaway, Missouri  
Tom Carneal November 5, 1980  
Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall  
Northwest Missouri State University  
Maryville, MO 64468  
East  
6 of 11



Possum Walk Hotel  
Rural  
Lincoln TWP, Nodaway, Missouri  
Tom Carneal      November 5, 1980  
Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall  
Northwest Missouri State University  
Maryville, MO 64468  
Interior/Entrance Door  
7 of 11

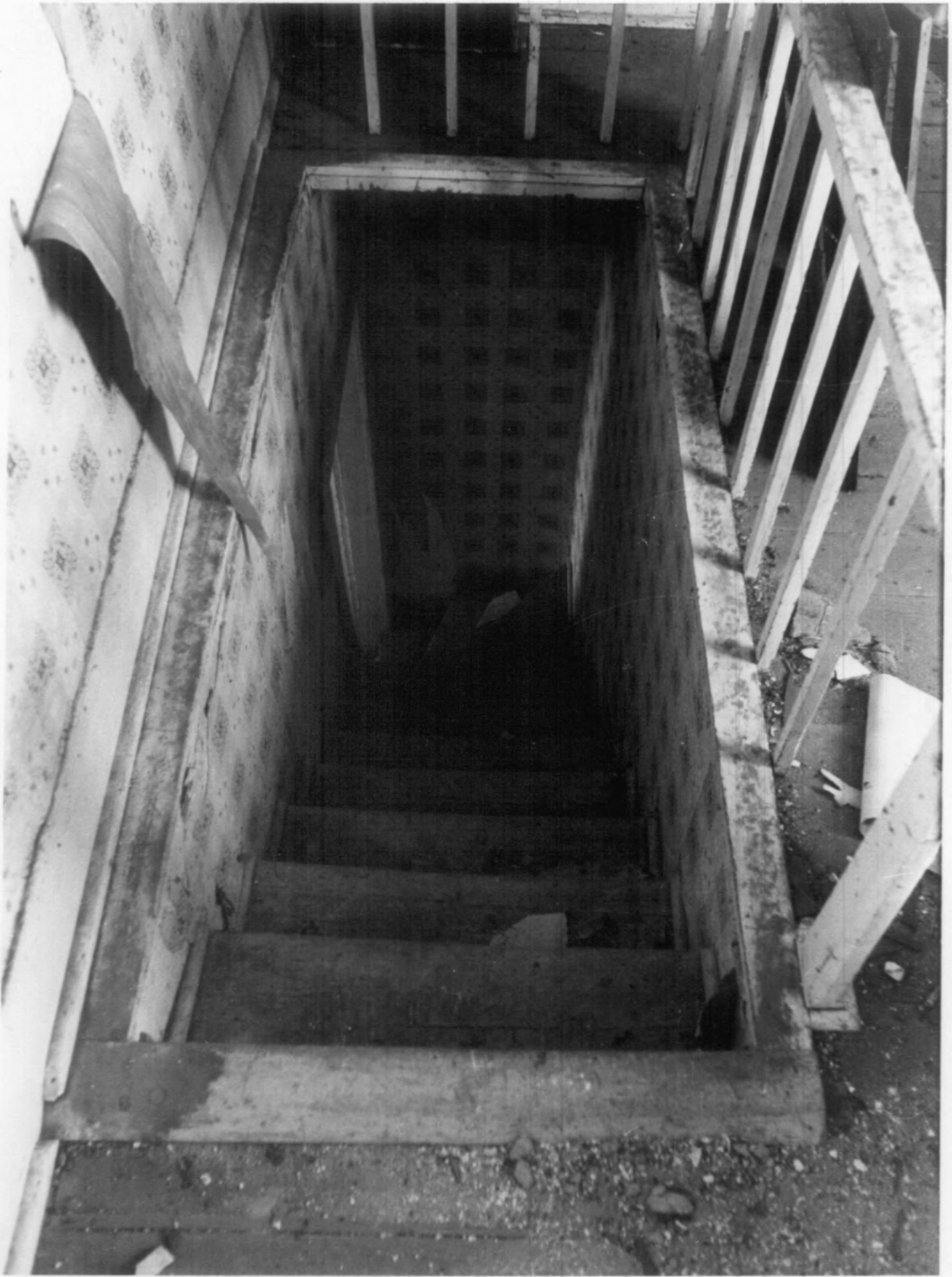


Possum Walk Hotel  
Rural  
Lincoln TWP, Nodaway, Missouri  
Tom Carneal            November 5, 1980  
Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall  
Northwest Missouri State University  
Maryville, MO 64468  
Interior/Window  
8 of 11

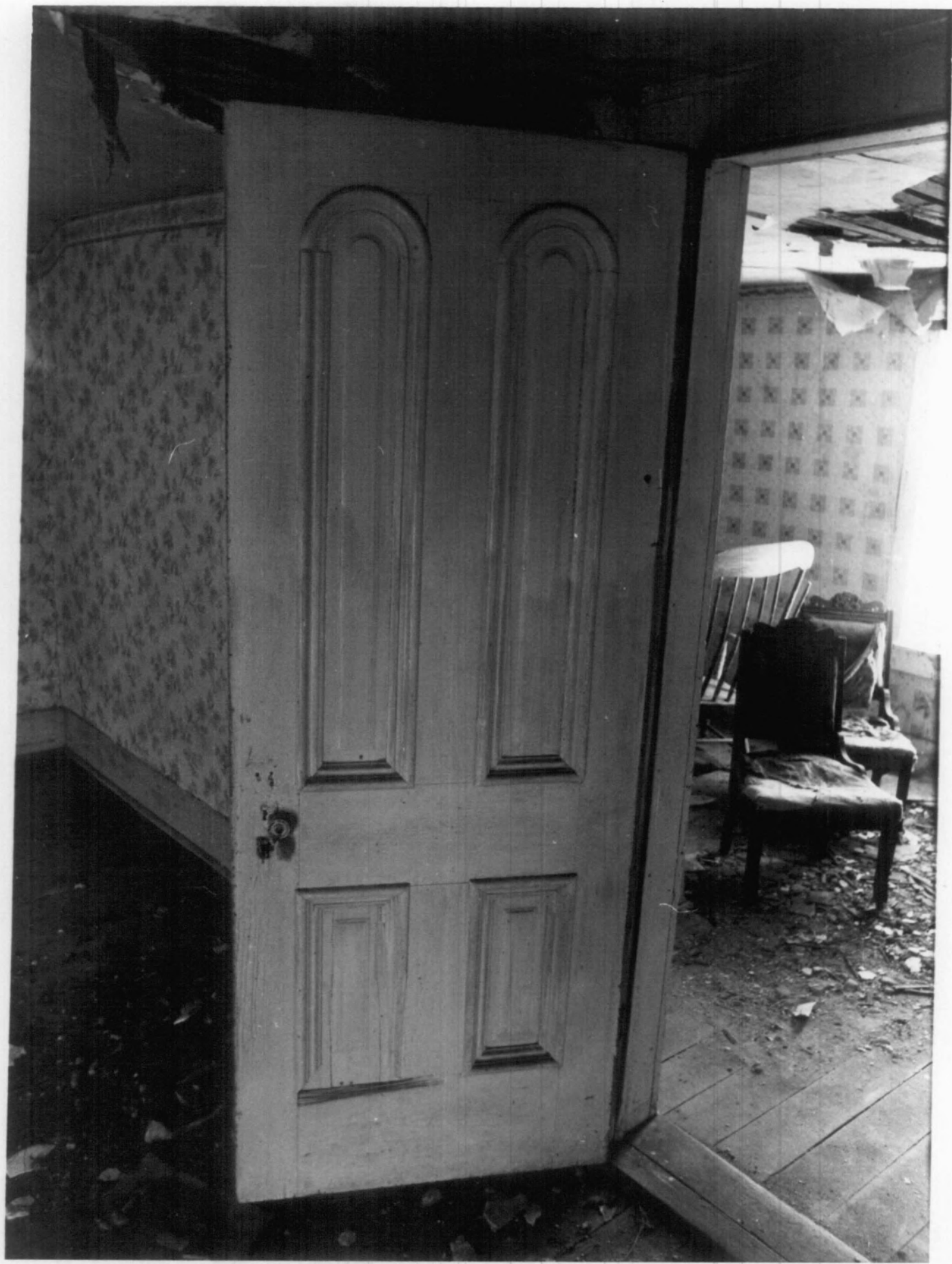




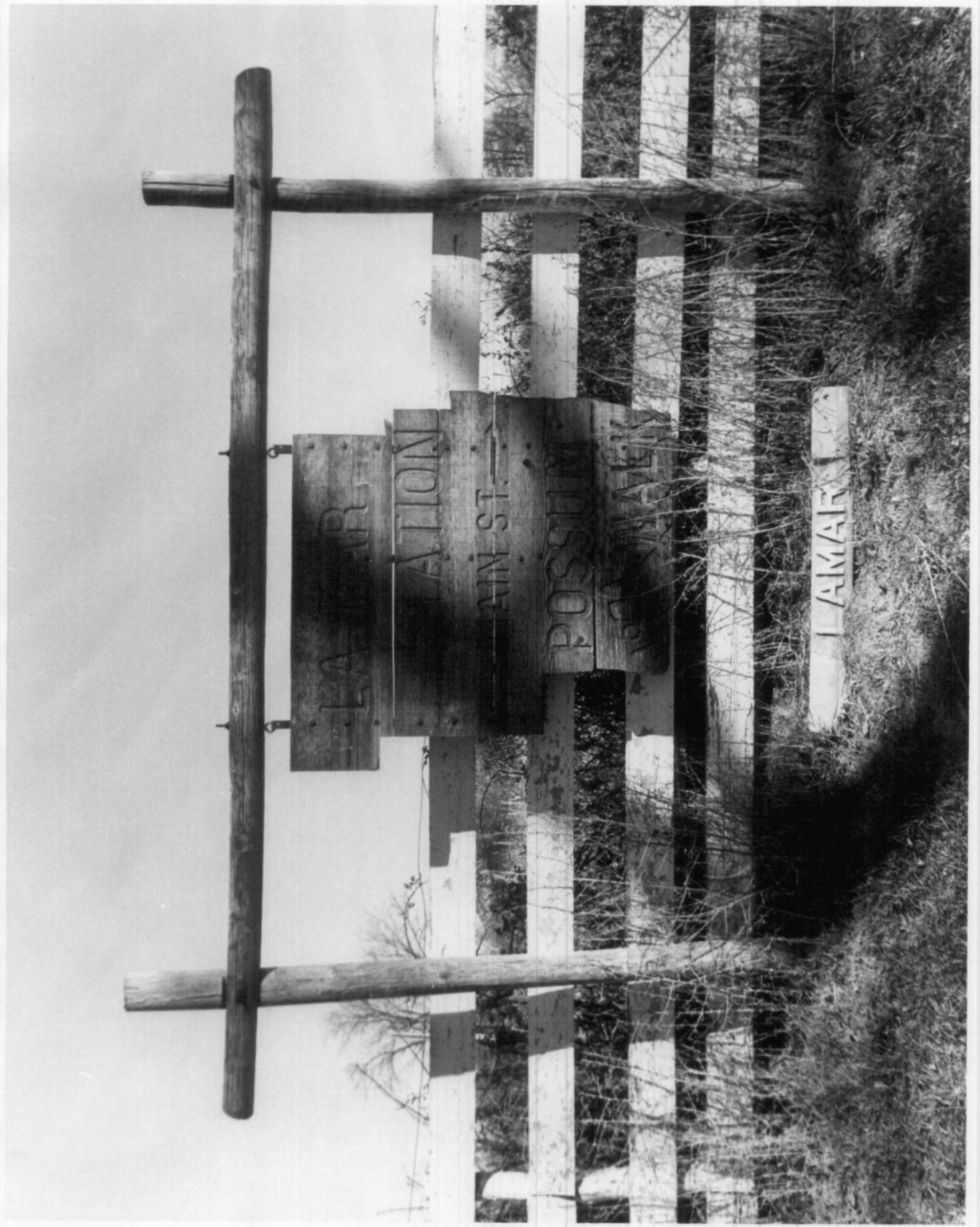
Poosum Walk Hotel  
Rural  
Lincoln TWP, Nodaway, Missouri  
Tom Carneal      November 5, 1980  
Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall  
Northwest Missouri State University  
Maryville, MO 64468  
Interior/Staircase  
9 of 11



Possum Walk Hotel  
Rural  
Lincoln TWP, Nodaway, Missouri  
Tom Carneal            November 5, 1980  
Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall  
Northwest Missouri State University  
Maryville, MO 64468  
Interior/Upstairs Door  
10 of 11



Possum Walk Hotel  
Rural  
Lincoln TWP, Nodaway, Missouri  
Tom Carneal November 5, 1980  
Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall  
Northwest Missouri State University  
Maryville, MO 64468  
Possum Walk Sign  
11 of 11



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POSSUM

W. WALK

LAMAR