

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

### 1 Name of Property

historic name Benjamin Banneker School

other names/site number n/a

### 2 Location

street & number 31 West Eighth Street [n/a] not for publication

city or town Parkville [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Platte code 165 zip code 64152

### 3 State/Federal Agency Certification

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

  
Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO

16 August 1998  
Date

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:

- 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 [ ].

Signature of the Keeper

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	1
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	0	0
		0	0
		0	0
		1	1

Name of related multiple property listing.

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**  
EDUCATION/school

**Current Functions**  
VACANT/not in use

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
NO STYLE

**Materials**  
foundation limestone  
walls brick  
roof tin  
other wood

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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**

ETHNIC HERITAGE--BLACK  
EDUCATION

**Periods of Significance**

1885-circa 1902

**Significant Dates**

1885

**Significant Person(s)**

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation**

n/a

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**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**

Acreage of Property less than one acre

**UTM References**

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	354475	4339325			

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 \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

**Benjamin Banneker School  
Platte County, MO**

**Summary:** The Benjamin Banneker School, a one-story, red brick building with gable roof, is located at 31 West 8th Street, in Parkville, Platte County, Missouri. Built in 1885, the simple, rectangular one room school measures approximately 34 feet by 18 feet. It sits on a limestone coursed rubble foundation with a full basement. The school was converted to a residence after a new Banneker School was constructed in 1903-04. Although altered when converted to a house and suffering from deterioration, the school still retains sufficient integrity to reflect its 1885 construction date and use as a one-room school for African American children from 1885 to circa 1902. A stone garage of indeterminate age, located immediately to the southeast of the school, is counted as noncontributing.

**Narrative:** The Benjamin Banneker School was built facing south with its rear gable end facing West Eighth Street. The school is a plain, utilitarian structure with no ornament. Red brick masonry walls are laid in the American common bond pattern; the bricks were manufactured by Park College student labor.

The facade, or south elevation, of the school features a single door opening with a transom window opening above. No evidence of a porch has been uncovered to date. The facade is partially concealed by the ruins of a brick, shed-roofed kitchen addition, which was added when the school was converted to a residence. However, the facade is intact beneath the addition. The addition is deteriorated to the point that it is no longer safe to enter; the floor is open to the basement. Restoration plans call for the total removal of this addition, which is not related to the significance of the building.

Originally, both the east and west elevations featured three four-over-four lite double-hung windows with segmental arched headers and wood sills. The center window on the west elevation was closed with the construction of a brick fireplace at that location when the school was converted to a residence; a small window was added on each side of the fireplace. On the east elevation, the center window was converted to a door, which served as the new front entrance to the house; a porch was added. Nothing remains of this porch except a concrete at-grade slab porch floor. The north elevation has no fenestration; a brick stove pipe chimney flue is centered in the gable end. Restoration plans for the school provide for the closing of the non-historic windows on the west elevation, the removal of the fireplace, and the restoration of the center windows on both the east and west elevations.

The current roof is corrugated tin. To date no indication of the original roofing material has been found. The exterior masonry walls on the east, south and west elevations have been coated with a brick-colored cementitious material, probably to alleviate moisture problems.

The school's site slopes steeply from the south to the north. Due to the rapid change in grade, the north (rear elevation) of the school's basement is above grade. The basement has

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

**Benjamin Banneker School  
Platte County, MO**

---

a window and door on the west elevation and a door on the south elevation. It is not clear if all of these openings are original.

The interior of the school was originally one large room; the interior was later divided by a wall running east to west creating a room approximately 18 feet by 10 feet in size at the south end of the building. This wall is no longer in place, but evidence of its existence is clearly present in the plaster. In the south room the floorboards were replaced at an unknown date and brickwork at the interior cornice line has been changed indicating that the south end of the building underwent a major rehabilitation at some point in time.

The interior of the school has a plaster wall surface with evidence of a three foot high wainscoting on all four walls. Only a small section (northwest corner) of this wainscoting remains in place; the remainder of the wainscoting has been removed and reinstalled in the kitchen addition. Restoration plans call for the removal of the wainscoting from the kitchen and its return to its original location. Portions of painted-on black boards are present on both the east and west walls above the wainscoting. Floors are soft pine, portions of which were painted in later years. They do not appear to have been painted originally.

Banneker School sits on a site several feet above street level and the site itself has a very steep terrain. Access to the school is by a series of stone steps on the north and west elevations. An open cistern lies on the west side of the school. A partially underground stone garage of indeterminate date is located southeast of the school; since it is obvious that the garage could not be associated with the school and its area or period of significance, it is counted as noncontributing. Today terrain to the south of the school is very steep and rough due to extensive bulldozing in recent years. At one time this land may have had a more gentle slope providing the only suitable terrain for a playground, which may explain the school's odd orientation away from the street. The school sits in the center of an area of northwest Parkville that was developed specifically for the African American community around the turn-of-the century; the neighborhood still remains largely occupied by African Americans today.

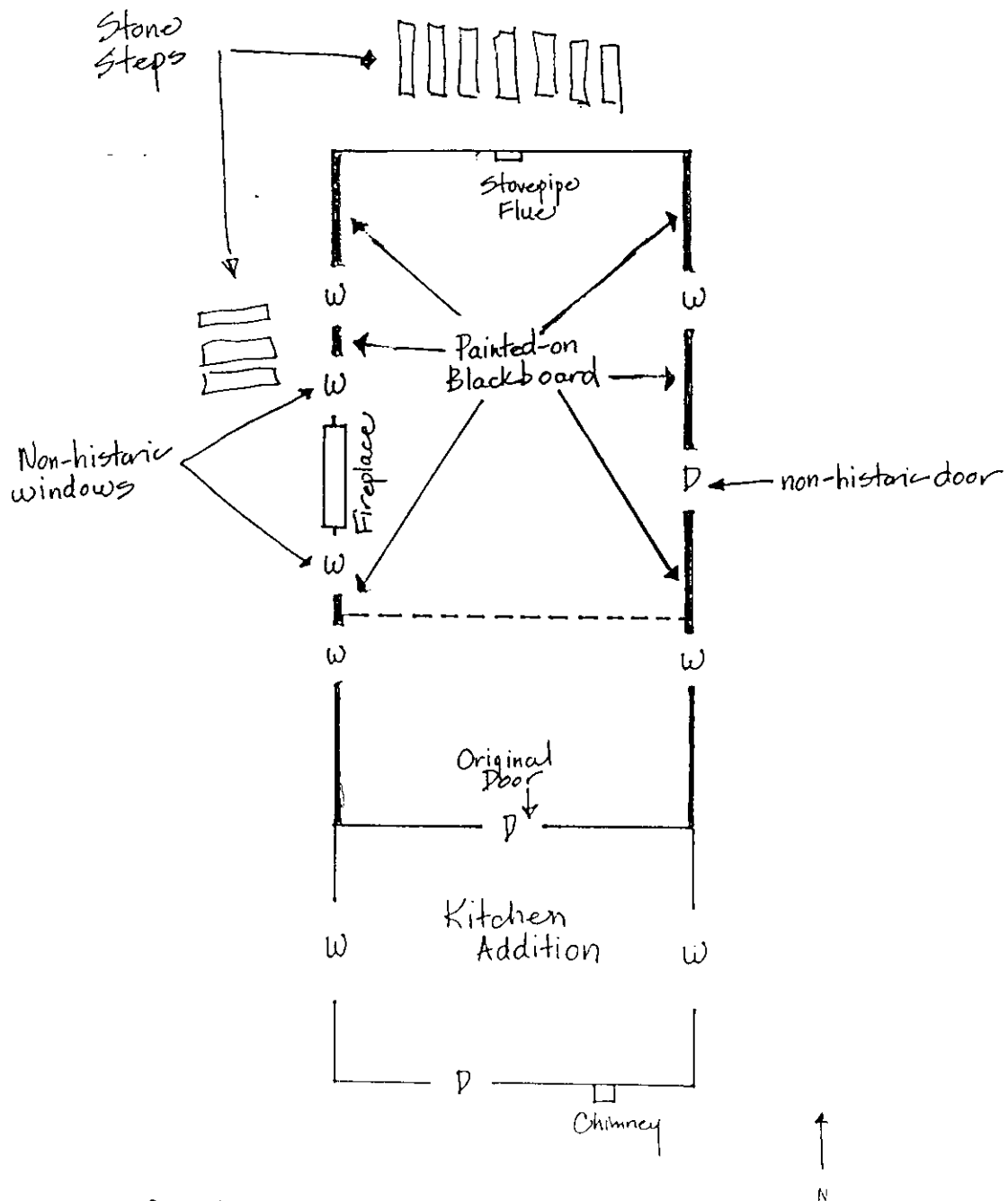
Banneker School is currently owned by the Benjamin Banneker Chapter of the Platte County Historical Society and plans are underway to restore the building as a schoolhouse museum. Alterations dating from the school's conversion to a house have damaged very little historic fabric and can easily be undone. Although deteriorated, the school still retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association from the time period 1885 to circa 1902.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Benjamin Banneker School  
Platte County, MO



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 4

**Benjamin Banneker School  
Platte County, MO**

**Summary:** The Benjamin Banneker School, 31 West Eighth Street, Parkville, Platte County, is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage--Black and Education. Apparently one of only two surviving brick, one-room segregated schools in the state, the Banneker School was the first building constructed exclusively for the use of African American students in the Platte County community. Although two additional segregated schools were subsequently constructed, the 1885 building is the only one extant. Banneker School also represents the effort of the African American community and of Park College, within the framework and restrictions of legal segregation, to assure educational facilities and opportunity to all the children of the community. The period of significance extends from 1885, with the construction of the school, to circa 1902, when the one-room building was replaced by a larger, similarly named, building.

**Narrative:** On January 11, 1865, the Missouri constitutional convention, elected in the Radical election sweep in November 1864, passed an ordinance which required the immediate emancipation of the state's remaining slaves. In the spring of 1865, the General Assembly rescinded an 1847 constitutional amendment which forbid the education of Missouri's blacks. The following year the Assembly enacted a series of measures which were intended to establish and fund black schools in each township or city. In April 1866, the first public school for blacks in the state was opened in Kansas City, with J. Milton Turner serving as the school's first teacher.<sup>1</sup>

In 1869, the State Superintendent reported that there were 34,000 African American children "of educable age" in Missouri.<sup>2</sup> However, a survey by county school superintendents disclosed only fifty-nine public schools with an enrollment of 2,000 pupils. The same year, the Freedman's Bureau reported a total of 114 African American schools, including public schools, subscription schools, and schools supported by benevolent societies, with an enrollment of 6,240 pupils. According to the 1870 census, the number of African American students in the state had increased to 9,080.<sup>3</sup> In 1884, a total of 150 "colored persons"--seventy males and eighty females--attended Platte County's three African American schools; there were seventy-

---

<sup>1</sup>A History of Missouri, Missouri Sesquicentennial Edition, 5 volumes, William E. Parrish, general editor (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1971-1986), Volume 3: 1860-1875, by William E. Parrish, pp. 160-162.

<sup>2</sup>Antonio F. Holland and Gary R. Kremer, eds., "Some Aspects of Black Education in Reconstruction Missouri: An Address by Richard B. Foster," Missouri Historical Review 70 (January 1976): 186.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., pp. 186-187.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5

Benjamin Banneker School  
Platte County, MO

four schools for the 5400 white students.<sup>4</sup> The locations of the three African American schools were not noted.

Parkville, in Platte County, began as English Landing in 1839 when David and Stephen English erected a log warehouse at a steamboat landing on the Missouri River. In 1840, Colonel George S. Park purchased the English brothers' interests and changed the name of the settlement to Parkville. Park was an ingenious promoter of his new enterprise, which he platted in 1844, setting aside land for a college at the same time. He also constructed a number of stone buildings in the town, including the thirty room Missouri Valley Hotel.<sup>5</sup>

In the 1850s, with the controversy over the admission of Kansas as a state, Platte County also served as a battleground between proslavery and antislavery forces. By April 1855, the Platte County Self-Defensive Association was holding frequent meetings, with Senator David Rice Atchison, Dr. G.W. Bayless, and B.F. Stringfellow popular speakers. According to William Paxton, "their Pro-slavery harangues provoked the people to frenzy and outrage,"<sup>6</sup> and Missourians were urged to flood into Kansas to insure the slave status of the new state. A second proslavery group, the Kansas League, held its meetings in secret and selected committees to insure compliance with its beliefs. When a number of Northern Methodist ministers carried their antislavery message to their pulpits, committees of the League warned the ministers to stop their sermons or risk being tarred and feathered, or, if that failed, hanged. When the sermons continued, Charles Morris, one of the ministers, was killed, followed by the murder of League member Dr. Joseph Walker in retaliation.<sup>7</sup>

In July 1853, Park had co-founded the Industrial Luminary, a free soil newspaper in Parkville. By December 1854, Park and W.J. Patterson were editors of the paper. After the widespread election frauds in March 1855, which resulted in the approval of the proslavery Lecompton Constitution in Kansas, the Luminary published a scathing editorial:

"There is virtually no law in Kansas and no security for life or property, save in the sense of honor and justice cherished by every true pioneer. This may save the country from bloodshed; but the Government is held up to ridicule and

---

<sup>4</sup>History of Clay and Platte Counties, Missouri (St. Louis: National Historical Company, 1885), pp. 770-771.

<sup>5</sup>Architectural and Art Historical Research, "An Architectural/Historic Survey of Parkville, Missouri" (Kansas City, MO, June 1994; copy in the Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory, Jefferson City, MO), pp. 3-4.

<sup>6</sup>W. M. Paxton, Annals of Platte County, Missouri (Kansas City, MO: Hudson-Kimberly Publishing Company, 1897), p. 198.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 6

Benjamin Banneker School  
Platte County, MO

contempt, and its authority disregarded. Judges of elections have been displaced and new ones appointed; the polls have in some instances been guarded with pistols and bowie-knives; and some of those elected are going to the governor, swearing that if he does not give them certificates of election immediately, they will 'cut his throat from ear to ear.' Is the flag of our country to be no longer protected; or are individuals and companies to declare we will, and it must be so, without regard to law? Is this what the authors of the Nebraska-Kansas bill meant by squatter sovereignty?"

At the next meeting of the Kansas League, a committee of the whole was appointed to meet at Parkville on April 14, 1855, to throw the press and type of the Luminary into the Missouri River and read sentence of banishment on Park and Patterson, with the penalty of death if they should ever return. The editors learned of the League's intentions and were able to hide a large amount of the newspaper's type, which was smuggled into Kansas and used to print another free soil publication. Park was absent when the committee arrived in Parkville, but Patterson was warned to leave the state in three days or be hanged. Park was allowed three weeks to settle his affairs and leave. A public meeting held afterwards endorsed the actions of the League, threatened the offending ministers with death if they persisted, and warned other Free Soilers of the dangers of their beliefs. Proslavery advocates in Liberty and elsewhere approved the actions of their brethren in Parkville.<sup>8</sup>

Patterson removed to Montreal, where he became a successful merchant, and apparently never returned to Parkville. Park invested in Illinois lands during his exile, but returned to Parkville following the Civil War. He also successfully sued the leaders of the Kansas League and won a settlement of \$2500. On March 30, 1875, Park's "life-long ambition--the establishment of a school of higher learning where worthy young men and women could achieve a college education at a minimum cost," was realized with the founding of Park College.<sup>9</sup> Dr. John A. McAfee, who founded the college with Park and Reverend Elisha B. Sherwood, served as the school's first president.

McAfee, who had been lured from a college at Highland, Kansas, to head Park College, also harbored an interest in African American education, probably stimulated by his friendship with Father Eben Batchley, who had established Freedman's University, an African American

---

<sup>8</sup>Ibid., 198-199.

<sup>9</sup>Platte County Gazette, December 16, 1938, quoted in Architectural and Art Historical Research, p. 8.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 7

**Benjamin Banneker School  
Platte County, MO**

college at Quindaro, Kansas, in 1857.<sup>10</sup> McAfee proposed "a Negro annex to [Park] college, located so near that members of the faculty and managerial force could function for both the racial groups"<sup>11</sup> and acquired several parcels of land for the purpose. Although the annex was never realized and McAfee died in 1890, the project was revived by his son, Howard Bailey McAfee, who helped plan a C.M.E. church in the area reserved for the annex and offered to relocate the houses of Parkville's African American citizens to the area. Charles Patrick Breen, Superintendent of Buildings at Park College, supervised construction of the church, which was built in part with the labor of students from the college.<sup>12</sup>

Classes for African American children in Parkville were apparently first held in the basement of the Missouri Valley Hotel, which had been donated by Park to the college for use as classrooms, and may have been instituted by McAfee. The second location for the African American school was in Park College's Bergen Hall, which was demolished between 1895 and 1903. On July 2, 1885, Lots 30 and 31 and the east half of Lot 32, Block 30, on West Eighth Street, within the proposed Park College "Negro annex," were sold by the estate of William McNeill Clough to School District No. 16. By September 1885, the Park College Record noted that "College young men are doing the brick work on a school house for the colored people.

---

<sup>10</sup>Robert G. Athearn, In Search of Canaan: Black Migration to Kansas, 1879-80 (Lawrence: Regents Press of Kansas, 1978), p. 38. Freedman's University declined during and after the Civil War; after Batchley's death, the African American residents of Quindaro reorganized the school, appointed a board of trustees, and continued management. In 1877, it became Western University under the A.M.E. Church, and, in 1899, the state assumed control and operated the college as an industrial school for African Americans. In 1879, the university buildings were used as temporary barracks to house some of the influx of Exodusters for whom there was no space in Wyandotte. Frank W. Blackmar, ed., Kansas: A Cyclopaedia of State History, 2 vols. (Chicago: Standard Publishing Company, 1912), 2:900-901; and William Frank Zornow, Kansas: A History of the Jayhawk State (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1957), p. 123. According to Blackmar, the founder of Freeman [sic] University was Edwin Blatchley; the date of founding was given as September 22, 1862. Blackmar, 2:900-901.

<sup>11</sup>Joseph Ernest McAfee, College Pioneering (Kansas City: Alumni Parkana Committee, 1938), p. 204, quoted in Architectural and Art Historical Research, p. 7.

<sup>12</sup>Deon K. Wolfenbarger, "Washington Chapel C.M.E. Church," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1992 (copy in Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory, Jefferson City, MO).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 8

**Benjamin Banneker School  
Platte County, MO**

The brick used are from the College kilns.<sup>13</sup> The school was named for Benjamin Banneker (1731-1806), an African American scientist who helped design Washington, D.C.<sup>14</sup>

In January 1898, Banneker School teacher E.A. Robinson<sup>15</sup> reported on the progress of the students at the graduation ceremony for students through grade six:

The attendance, studiousness and scholarship of Banneker at present will bear inspection. The school is growing more prosperous daily. 50 scholars are now enrolled. We cordially invite all friends of education and lovers of the general public good to visit our school. In a religious, moral and intellectual sense of education, our aim is to so mould [sic] the thought and clarify the vision of our boys and girls that they may grow to be able, progressive and worthy citizens of our fair republic. Come and see. We fear the unjust, not the just; incompetent [sic] judgement, not the competent. . . .<sup>16</sup>

Robinson's closing comment, and the appeal to local citizens to visit the school and see for themselves what was taught, may have implied some dissatisfaction among whites with the school and suspicion or fear of what type of education the African American children were receiving.

---

<sup>13</sup>Park College Record, September 19, 1885, p. 1; Wolfenbarger; and Architectural and Art Historical Research, pp. 7-8.

<sup>14</sup>There was at least one other Banneker School in Missouri. By 1890, St. Louis's Colored School No. 5 moved from Eighteenth and Conden streets, where it opened in 1866, to Montgomery Street and Leffingwell Avenue, where it was renamed the Banneker Elementary School. In 1932, the school moved into the former Stoddard School building, which had been constructed in 1873, at Lucas and Ewing avenues. This building was demolished in 1939 and a new Banneker School constructed. In the 1950s, the Banneker School became the administrative headquarters of the Banneker District, which was comprised of twenty-three primarily inner city elementary schools. When the district was reorganized in 1970 as the Central Vashon District, the school again housed students in classes from pre-school through the fifth grade. John A. Wright, Discovering African-American St. Louis: A Guide to Historic Sites (St. Louis: Missouri Historical Society Press), p. 43.

<sup>15</sup>According to an article from the Kansas City Journal, reprinted in the Platte County Gazette, Robinson was born in Kansas City. He attended that city's public schools and worked as a newsboy until one of his legs was amputated in a cable car accident. After completing school, he attended Northwestern University for three years, although he did not attain a degree. According to the Journal, by 1899, he had been teaching at the Banneker School "for several years past." Platte County Gazette, July 13, 1899.

<sup>16</sup>"Banneker School Promotions," Parkville Independent, January 20, 1898, p. 1. Apparently two levels were maintained for each grade. If a student was successful in the first half of a term, in mid-winter he would be promoted from the A class to the B class of that grade. At the close of the year, he then entered the A class of the next highest grade. "Banneker School Honor Roll--Highest Averages and Notes," Parkville Independent, February 16, 1899.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 9

**Benjamin Banneker School  
Platte County, MO**

Like many other segregated schools, the Banneker School often utilized equipment and supplies discarded from white schools. For example, Banneker students received desks to replace the benches they had previously used only when the old desks at the white school were replaced by new ones. By October 1898, fifty-eight African American students--thirty-one male and twenty-seven female--attended the school. Classes through grade ten were taught at Banneker School; an October 1898 newspaper article noted that ninth grade students were beginning their study of Latin. Attendance of African American children compared favorably with white attendance; only sixty-eight white students, including thirty-five males and thirty-three females, attended classes in Parkville. By February 1899, enrollment at the Banneker School had reached sixty-nine. The commencement in May 1899 was held at the C.M.E. Church; Dr. C.B. McAfee made the address to the graduates.<sup>17</sup>

Only two other brick, one-room, African American schools were identified in a 1980 survey of African American historic sites in Missouri: the Lincoln School in Canton, Lewis County (NRHP 1983), and Macco, or Maceo, School, Chamois, Osage County (destroyed circa 1994).<sup>18</sup> All three schools were constructed within a five year period, from 1880 to 1885. The construction dates attributed to both the Lincoln County and Osage County schools are slightly earlier than the date assigned the Banneker School. Lincoln School was constructed in 1880, while the school in Chamois was completed four years later, in 1884. Both buildings had double leaf entry doors in a gable end, which supports the supposition that the original entrance to the Banneker School was also in a gable end.

The Parkville school is also a relatively rare example of a first-generation African American school. In Parkville, as in many other Missouri communities, classes for African American students were initially held in other facilities, often a church or private home, until a school building could be constructed. This first building was usually replaced later by a larger building, such as the Depression era Works Progress Administration schools in Boonville, Monroe City (NRHP 1994), and Trenton, for example, and the earlier building demolished. Few of the first-generation Missouri African American schools consequently survive.

Parkville's Banneker School served as a school only until circa 1902. In that year, the Platte County Gazette announced that "the time for receiving bids for the building of a new school house for colored pupils at Parkville will be extended to Saturday evening, July 12th." In a

---

<sup>17</sup>"Report of the Secondary Grade of the Parkville Public School," Parkville Independent, October 13, 1898; "Banneker School Honor Roll--Highest Averages and Notes," Parkville Independent, February 16, 1899; "Programme of the Banneker School Commencement--Exercise and Notes," Parkville Independent, April 27, 1899.

<sup>18</sup>Gary R. Kremer and Donald H. Ewalt Jr., "Missouri's Black Historic Sites: A Preliminary Survey of the State," vol. 2 (Department of Social Science, Lincoln University, 1980), pp. 34-35 .

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 10

**Benjamin Banneker School  
Platte County, MO**

---

subsequent issue, the Gazette noted "the teachers and pupils of Banneker Public School gave a concert Thanksgiving evening for the purpose of raising money to purchase seats for the colored school."<sup>19</sup> After the new school was constructed, the 1885 Banneker School was converted to a residence. The circa 1902 school was also replaced circa 1925; neither of the two later schools are extant.

---

<sup>19</sup>Both articles cited in Architectural and Art Historical Research, p. 8.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 11

Benjamin Banneker School  
Platte County, MO

---

Architectural and Art Historical Research. "An Architectural/Historic Survey of Parkville, Missouri." June 1994. Copy in Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory, Jefferson City, MO.

Athearn, Robert G. In Search of Canaan: Black Migration to Kansas, 1879-80. Lawrence: Regents Press of Kansas, 1978.

Blackmar, Frank W., ed. Kansas: A Cyclopedia of State History. 2 volumes. Chicago: Standard Publishing Company, 1912.

Christensen, Lawrence O. "Schools for Blacks: J. Milton Turner in Reconstruction Missouri," Missouri Historical Review 76 (January 1982): 121-135.

A History of Missouri, Missouri Sesquicentennial Edition, 5 volumes, William E. Parrish, general editor (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1971-1986), Volume 3: 1860-1875, by William E. Parrish

Holland, Antonio F.; and Kremer, Gary R., eds. "Some Aspects of Black Education in Reconstruction Missouri: An Address by Richard B. Foster," Missouri Historical Review 70 (January 1976):

Park College Record, September 1885.

Parkville Independent, various issues.

Platte County Gazette, various issues.

Savage, W. Sherman. "The Legal Provisions for Negro Schools in Missouri from 1865 to 1890," Journal of Negro History 16 (July 1931): 309-321.

Williams, Henry Sullivan. "The Development of the Negro Public School System in Missouri," Journal of Negro History 5 (April 1920): 137-165.

Wolfenbarger, Deon K. "Washington Chapel C.M.E. Church," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1992. Copy in Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory, Jefferson City, MO.

Zornow, William Frank. Kansas: A History of the Jayhawk State. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1957.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10,11 Page 12

Benjamin Banneker School  
Platte County, MO

---

**10. Geographical Data**

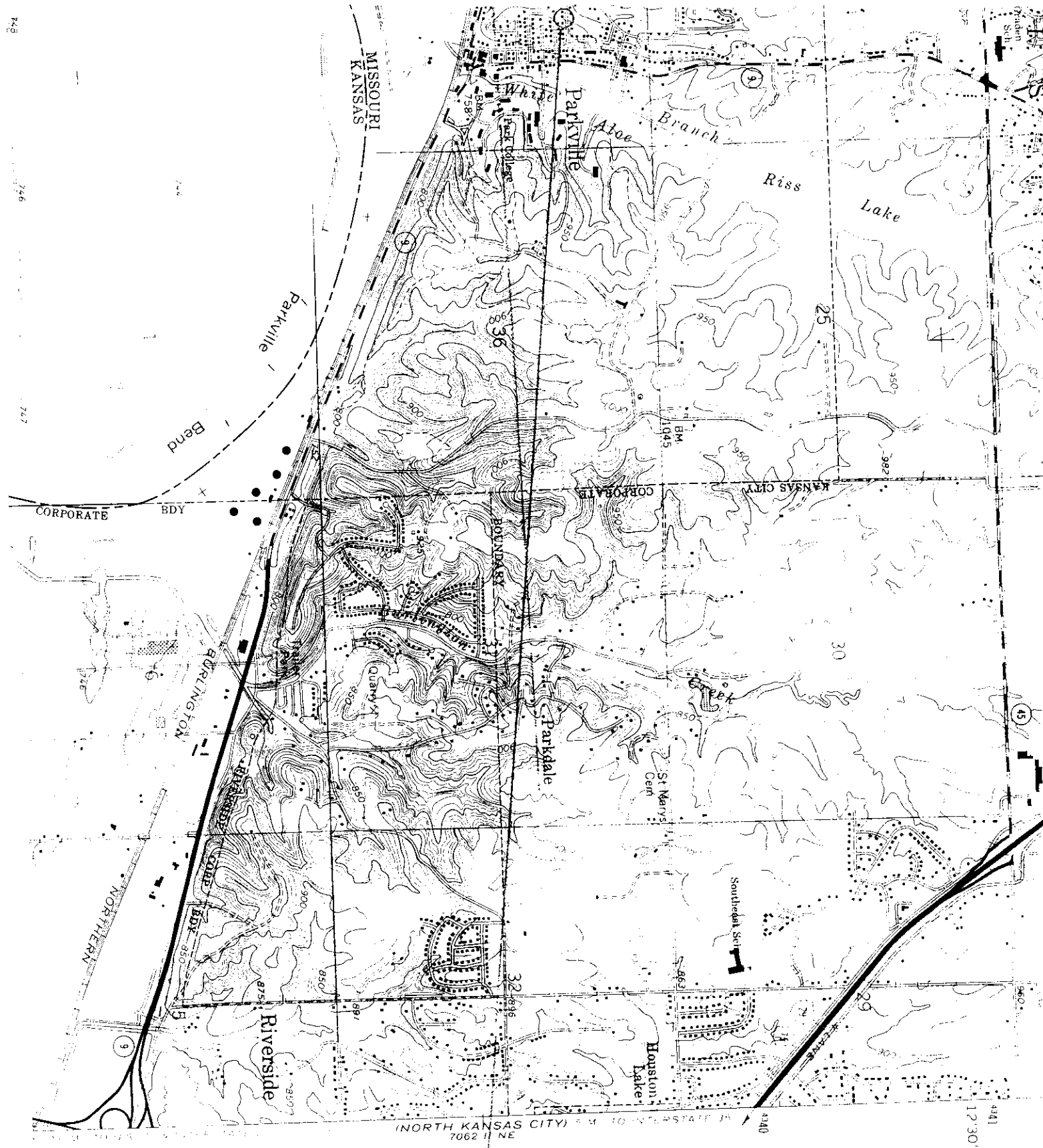
Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 31 and 32 of Block 30 of the City of Parkville, Platte County, Missouri.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property includes the two complete city lots historically associated with the Banneker School and which are retained by the current owners; the half lot which was part of the original property is no longer under the same ownership.

**11. Form Prepared By**

1. Jean Rau  
5114 West 62nd Street  
Shawnee Mission, KS 66205  
913/362-2439  
July 27, 1993  
Original draft nomination
  
2. Beverly A. Fleming  
Historic Preservation Coordinator  
Kansas City Regional Office  
Department of Natural Resources  
3800 South Elizabeth Avenue, Suite G  
Independence, MO 64057  
816/795-8655  
August 11, 1994  
Revision, items 1-7 and 9-11
  
3. Steven E. Mitchell  
National Register Coordinator  
Historic Preservation Program  
Division of State Parks  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
314/751-7800  
June 28, 1995  
Revision, item 8, and editor, items 1-11





BENJAMIN BANNEKER SCHOOL  
 FLATTE COUNTY, MO  
 IS 334475, 4339325



Benjamin Banerker School  
31 W. 8th St, Parkville, Platte County, MO

Gerald Lee Gililand

July 12, 1995

Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory

view from northeast

# 1 of 8



Benjamin Brainerd School  
31 W. 8th St, Parkville, Platte County, MO

Steve Mitchell

July 11, 1995

Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory  
view from northeast

# 2 of 8



Benjamin Barreker School  
31 W. 8th St. Parkville, Platte County, MO  
Steve Mitchell  
July 11, 1995  
Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory  
view from northwest  
# 3048



Benjamin Franklin School  
31 W. 8th St, Parkville, Platte County  
Gerald Lee Gilreath  
July 11, 1995  
Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory  
view from southwest  
# 4 of 8





Benjamin Banweller School

31 W. 8th St, Parkville, Platte County, MO

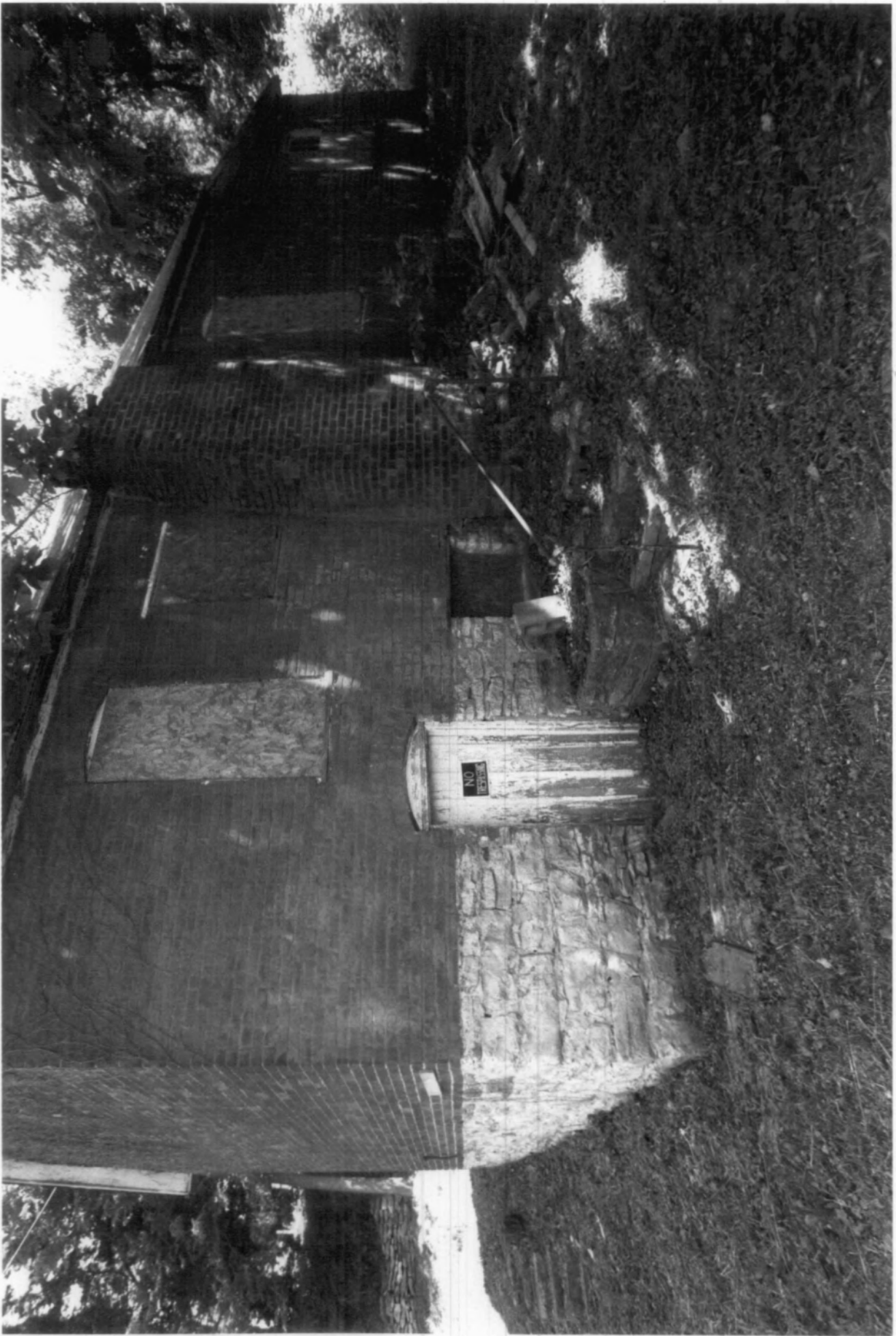
Gerald Lee Gilered

July 11, 1995

Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory

view from west / northwest

#5 of 8



Benjamin Bonneker School

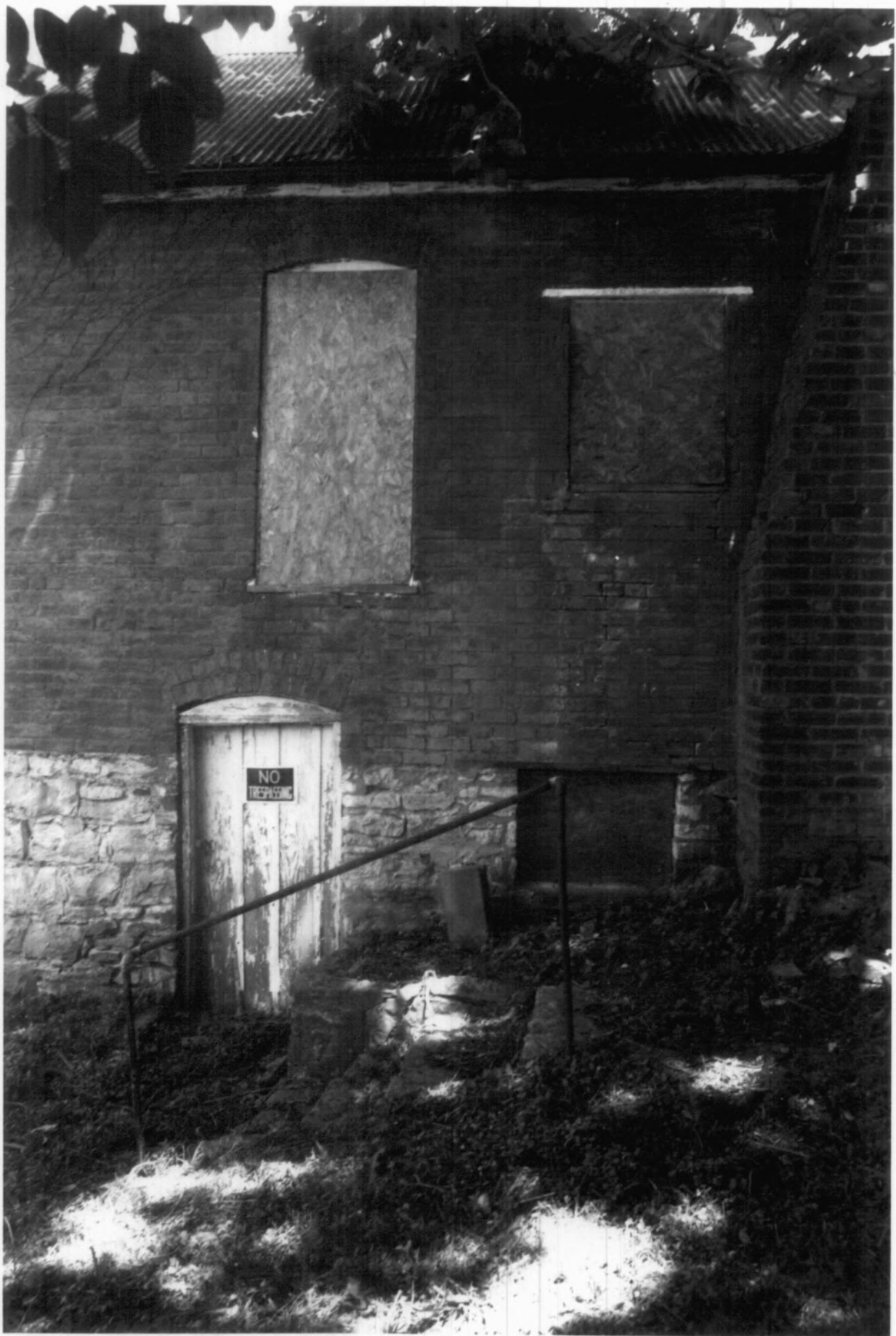
31 w. 8th St, Parkville, Platte County, mo

Steve Mitchell

July 11, 1995

Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory  
view from west

#6 of 8



Benjamin Banneker School  
31 W. 8th St, Parkville, Platte County, MO  
Gerald Lee Gilbeard

July 11, 1995

Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory  
Interior view from northeast

#7 of 8



Benjamin Bancker School  
31 W. 8th St., Parisville, Platte County, MO  
Steve Mitchell  
July 11, 1995  
Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory  
interior, view from north  
#8 of 8





EXTRA  
PHOTOS









