

NR RA005

Missing couple of pages

Page 1 with #1 to #6 on it

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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

Stonecroft is an east facing five bay central passage I house of rubble stone construction with a truncated hip roof. A simple one bay Greek Revival porch with jig sawn railings fronts the entrance and paired brackets occur beneath the cornice. A one story hipped roof rear ell with an enclosed porch is attached to the rear and a one room addition is attached to the ell.

Construction:

The house has walls of locally quarried limestone laid in rock faced random ashlar, roughly dressed, and mortared into courses. The limestone was quarried from the north hillside of the original property and contains some Missouri Marble.

Roofs:

The roof over the main building is truncated hip. It had a widow's walk with a trap door opening on the roof. A tornado tore out the trap door and was repaired by a solid metal roof.

The back section has a hip roof. Both roofs are shingled with a dark green composition shingle.

Windows and Doors:

The windows are double hung, 4/4 lights. In the two story section they are symmetrically placed--two down, two above on each side of the doorway and one above the door on the second story. There are no windows on the south wall and one window west of the chimneys on each floor on the north wall. There is one window in each room on the west wall and one window in the hall directly opposite the one in the East on the second floor. The back one story has two windows on the south and one window to the north in the dining room and one outside door to the north and one to the south. In the kitchen, there was originally one window to the north with an outside door to the west and a door to the south.

The kitchen now has double casement windows in the north, a bay with three matching windows and a door to the south. The downstairs hall has the entrance door and a door that opens to the west and one that opens to a stairway in the basement.

All windows have plain lug sills of stone and stone lintels above. The entrance door is trabeated with one light in the transom and three lights on each side of the doorway with an indentation of one foot inside the outside wall. A solid block of limestone forms the step to the porch and a large block of limestone forms the top lintel over the doorway.

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/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1870-1872

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Stonecroft Manor was built by James B. Brown, a successful druggist, as a summer home, at a period of great affluence in Hannibal's history when it was the custom to have a town house for winter and a country home for summer. It is significant under Criterion C as a good example of a late vernacular central passage I house with the mixture of Greek Revival (porch) and Italianate details (bracket course and low pitched hip roof with widow's walk). Stone was not a preferred wall material and is somewhat unusual, though not rare. It is also significant under Criterion B for its associations with James Brown a prominent local citizen of Hannibal, Missouri.

The house was under construction at the time the Hannibal Railroad Bridge was built across the Mississippi River. Under the patronage of the Railroad Company the Hannibal Bridge Company in 1870 and 1871 constructed at Hannibal the Hannibal Bridge for highway and railroad use. The site was immediately below a point always claimed as the narrowest part of the river below Galena, Ill. The location involved a tunnel through the bluff on the Missouri side. Hannibal was rejoiced to acquire the only wagon bridge across the Mississippi between Keokuk and St. Louis.

As this time Hannibal had: The largest Portland Cement Plant in the world, largest shoe factory on the West outside of St. Louis, 12 cigar factories, 3 large flour mills, 4 grain elevators, 2 large breweries, the largest brickworks in Northeast Missouri, a cold storage plant, a large ice plant, the finest building stone to be found in the Mississippi Valley. Best shipping facilities of any city on the Mississippi River except St. Louis, the largest railroad shops in the West, and 112 factories (a Mirror of Hannibal, 1905, History of Hannibal by Thomas Bacon).

Mr. James B. Brown's history was like a Horatio Alger story. Born of a farmer father who died at 45, he started work while still young. He and two brothers decided to go to California in the gold rush and each came home with almost one thousand dollars. He invested his income by buying out an established drug firm and successfully developed it so that he was able to build his own store building in 1848 (now Scott's Drug Store) on North Main Street. He also held the post of Mayor of Hannibal for four terms.

In 1870 he decided to build a summer home on the parcel of 80 acres of land inherited from his father. It was two years in the building, using a southern plan - the central passage I house plan. The south wall was solidly constructed to keep out the hot summer sun. The rooms were large with high ceilings and so constructed to give constant cross ventilation. Other stone houses in this area are hot in the summers but not this one.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Rosemary Bousman. A Mirror of Hannibal. Hannibal: C. P. Greene, 1905. p. 273.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 21.9 Acres

Quadrangle name Hannibal West MO.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	6	3	8	9	9	0	4	3	-	3	1	2	0
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 Begin at the Southwest corner of the Northwest, Section 5, township 56, Range 4 West, thence East on South line of said Quarter Section 729.4 feet; thence North 7 degrees East, 320 feet, thence East 413, more or less, to center of public road, thence North 2 degrees East, 531.5 feet, thence North 20 / 4 (cont)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1. Carolyn Williams, owner

organization _____ date _____

street & number 2400 Carrs Lane telephone 314/221-5873

city or town Hannibal state Missouri 63401

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 [Signature]

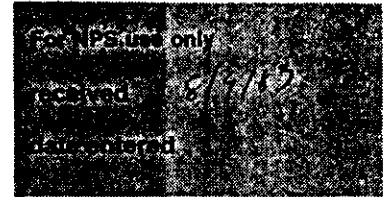
Director, Department of Natural Resources and title State Historic Preservation Officer date 7-28-83

For NPS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.
 Keeper of the National Register
 Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

BROWN, JAMES B. HOUSE



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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Porches:

The front porch is of wood with square columns joined by a wooden hand railing over cedar cutouts to form a railing of lacy design. The same railing tops the porch roof with matching square columns above the tall porch columns. Originally the same design formed the cresting on the roof around the widow's walk and can faintly be seen on the picture taken in 1907 and was removed in the '30's. Originally the porch steps were wooden but have been replaced with concrete steps with iron railings for safety.

Chimneys:

Large brick chimneys are centrally located on the south and the north end walls of the two story section. They are topped with corbelling. The chimney to the fireplace in the one story section is of plain brick.

Porches:

The back porch originally was an open porch but covered by the roof of that section with the ceiling plastered. It was supported by two 6 x 6 posts. This porch has been enclosed with matching limestone to the window level with 5 windows double-hung, 6/6 lights on the east side of the door and three matching windows on the west side of the door. On the west side are two windows slightly larger, double-hung 6/6 lights. These windows came from James B. Brown's town house which was torn down at the time the porch was being enclosed. Later a small entrance porch was added using two round posts with a shed roof.

The west wall was removed from the kitchen and an addition added to give light to a very dark room. It was built of the same limestone. The wall was constructed of two free standing walls with rubble filled in between, but the bay was constructed of one wall of stone but finished inside with the same thickness as the other windows. It has three windows, double-hung, 4/4 lights.

Interior:

The two story section of Stonecroft contains a central hall with staircase flanked on both first and second floors by south and north rooms. Each chimney breast contained a hole, now covered over, to which a stove flue pipe was once connected. A corner of the south downstairs room has been partitioned off for the present bathroom with a door opening on the hall.

The one story section contains two rooms and the enclosed porch. Original wide plank pine floors are still in place except in the kitchen and downstairs hall which have been overlayed with small oak tongue and groove flooring. The plank floors are painted and the three bedroom floors have been stenciled in an all over patterns taken from Colonial New England Stenciled floors.

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There is a full basement under the two story section. Walls are stone covered by cement. The floor is cemented and has a drain put in (circa 1930's). Access is by a stairway from the first floor hallway and by an outside entrance of concrete steps with a metal covering. A crawl space occurs under the one story section.

Attic:

Over the one story section is a small attic accessible through the opening in the ceiling of the former porch. It is not floored. A steep stairway from the hall in the second floor goes to an attic over the second story. The stairs go to a 6' platform where a smaller set of steps go to the roof level. Originally a trap door opened into the roof.

Alterations:

The only structural change has been the addition of a bay on the west side of the kitchen (1977), double casement windows on north wall of kitchen (1954), and the enclosure of the open porch (1965).

Mr. Couch, the fifth owner, added a fireplace about 1937. He also constructed a concrete porch floor on the north from the north door opening of the dining room (1933) and a concrete retaining wall south of the one story wing with a concrete walk at about the same time. He also concreted the floor of the basement and added a drain. Mr. Couch also took a corner out of the original parlour and installed a bathroom which has an opening from the central hall. He also installed a water pump in the cistern for running water in the house.

In the 60's a brick patio was added to the area enclosed by the retaining wall and the wall topped by two rows of decorative cement blocks painted white. Small flower beds around the edges add interest. A metal top replaced the old wooden cellar door sheltering the stairs of the outside entrance to the basement.

In 1970, plaster centerpieces were added to the ceilings of the dining room and parlour. A plaster design of grapes in a 6" wide strip was placed above the chair rail in the dining room.

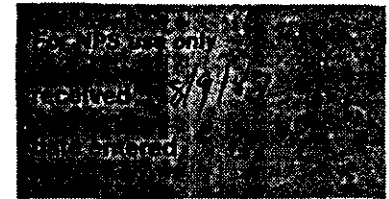
There were no decorative mouldings in the hall or the upstairs rooms, or upper hall.

Originally the driveway crossed Mills Creek, east of the house and came up to the front of the house and the driveway was lined with walnut trees. It swung south and stopped about 50 feet south of the house. When the county built the large bridge over Carrs Lane (named for the people who were renting the stone house at the time), the entrance to the home was changed to enter from Carrs Lane and connected with the road 50 ft. south of the house.

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Present Condition and Status:

The Stonecroft Residence is now owned by a Mother and Daughter team who have opened the home to tours and maintained it as a Museum. The building is in excellent condition but the outside walls need tuckpointing. The two bridges on Carrs Lane will not take busses and they need replacing.

Site:

Carrs Lane is just 1.7 miles from Market Street on Route 0. Rt. 0 is a State maintained black topped road in excellent condition. The house is located on a hill with a driveway entering from Carrs Lane, a county road, through gateposts topped by concrete lions and having a wrought iron gate. The house is surrounded by a lawn that has been landscaped with trees, shrubs and many evergreens. West of the residence is a garden enclosed with a stone wall and northwest of that is a patio with a picnic table.

To the southwest of the building is a building housing a gift shop with attached sheds in back to house the equipment for upkeep of the grounds. This building was originally built as a garage.

The grounds have been landscaped with circular drives and the lawns have been planted with shrubs and trees and evergreens.

At the left of the entrance drive is the site of teh Herb Gardens and greenhouses and workroom, with a picnic area for groups.

Room Dimensions:

- Kitchen.16'6" x 13'8"
- Bay.10'7" x 8'
- Dining Room.18' x 15'4"
- Living Room.18' x 15'4"
- Hall7'4"
- Bedrooms18' x 15'4"
- Bathroom6' x 8'
- Enclosed Porch6'8" x 34'6"

Walls are two free standing walls with rubble filled about 20" thick.

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It is built of Missouri limestone quarried on the property and brought to the site by oxen and oxcart. Mr. James Brown's daughter, Dean Brown Delany Frost, recalled that she would go with her father to check on the building when she was five years old. She was in her 90's then and between her statement and that of William Scheiner who said his Uncle was the head stonemason, it can be assumed that the construction began in 1870 and was completed in 1872.

Mr. Maynard Sinclair, a businessman in Hannibal always maintained that this house was one of the three best constructed homes in the Hannibal area. The walls and floors are as true as the day they were first built. The large floor joists have bored holes in places which show that they are of oak floated down the river to Bear Creek to the lumber mills.

James maintained the home as a summer home for ten years, when he sold the house and its 80 acres to his Sister-in-Law, Elizabeth McLeary Brown. In the deed, Elizabeth specifies three times that it is free of all indebtedness of her husband William (Billie) Brown. William was one of the brothers who sent to California. He had invested his money in a newspaper and subsequently lost it all. Mrs. Brown had come to this country from Ireland with her parents and a younger brother, Robert, and sister Sarah. Her parents had died and William promised to raise her brother and sister as his own. Mrs. Brown died two years later after buying the property in 1884 at the age of 50. In March, 1885, her brother, Robert McLeary and her sister, Sarah McLeary bought the home from Elizabeth's heirs--her five children, the youngest of which was 18.

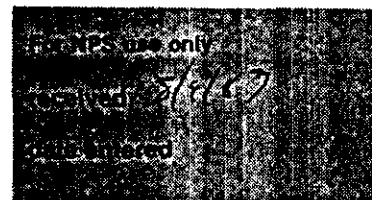
Ten years later, Robert McLeary died and left a will giving the property to the two daughters of Elizabeth, Nannie and Eleanor.

In 1897 in a court case brought by Sarah McLeary the court decided that the ownership belonged equally to Sarah McLeary, Nanny Brown Burkholder, and Eleanor Brown. A real estate committee gave Nanny and Eleanor the house and 25 acres while the remaining 55 acres were awarded to Sarah McLeary. Apparently from this time on the house was rented out.

In 1920 the house and 25 acres were sold to Mr. and Mrs. William Couch. Mr. Couch put in concrete walk to the pack porch, concreted the basement under the two-story wing and added a drain, and made a concrete porch to the north door of the dining room. He also made the mantle for the fireplace in the dining room and added a bathroom from a section of a downstairs room and added a pump to give running water to the house from the cistern--the only water supply to the house.

In 1944 Mr. Couch sold the house and approximately 21.9 acres to Mr. and Mrs. J. Wesley Hammock. Mr. Hammock took ill and the property went deteriorated.

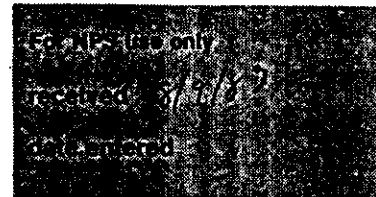
In 1954 the Hammock's sold the property to Clara and Carolyn Williams, mother and daughter, who still own the property. They have restored the house to its period of time. Mr. Brown had not completed the halls or the upstairs rooms with moldings and



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this had not been done under any of the intervening owners. They enclosed the open back porch, and added a room to the kitchen.

Extensive landscaping has been done with evergreens, trees and shrubs. A Japanese Garden and a patio were completed adjacent to the house. And an impressive Gate Entrance was built with Lions topping the stone posts, with a wrought iron gate.

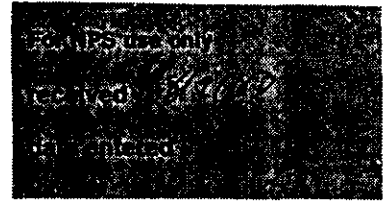
A garage was built southwest of the house and has been converted to a gift shop. An Art Studio was built on the area where the original barn stood. Greenhouses and a well were placed in the valley southeast of the house. Extensive bulldozing was done before the landscaping began.

In 1977 the house was opened as a Museum, for public tours. In 1980 an herb garden with a permanent herb garden patterned after the old English herb gardens was established. The house sitting at the crest of the hill is a very impressive sight of a by-gone era.

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degrees West, 115.- feet, thence West 1110.78 feet, more or less, to West line of quarter begining. THE PLOT DESCRIBED ABOVE IS ALL THAT REMAINS OF THE JAMES B. BROWN COUNTRY ESTATE AND CONTAINS HIS HOUSE AND CONTRIBUTING OUT BUILDINGS AS DESCRIBED IN ITEM #7.

Item number 11

Page 1

2. James M. Denny, State Contact Person
and Chief, Survey and Nominations
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks & Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City

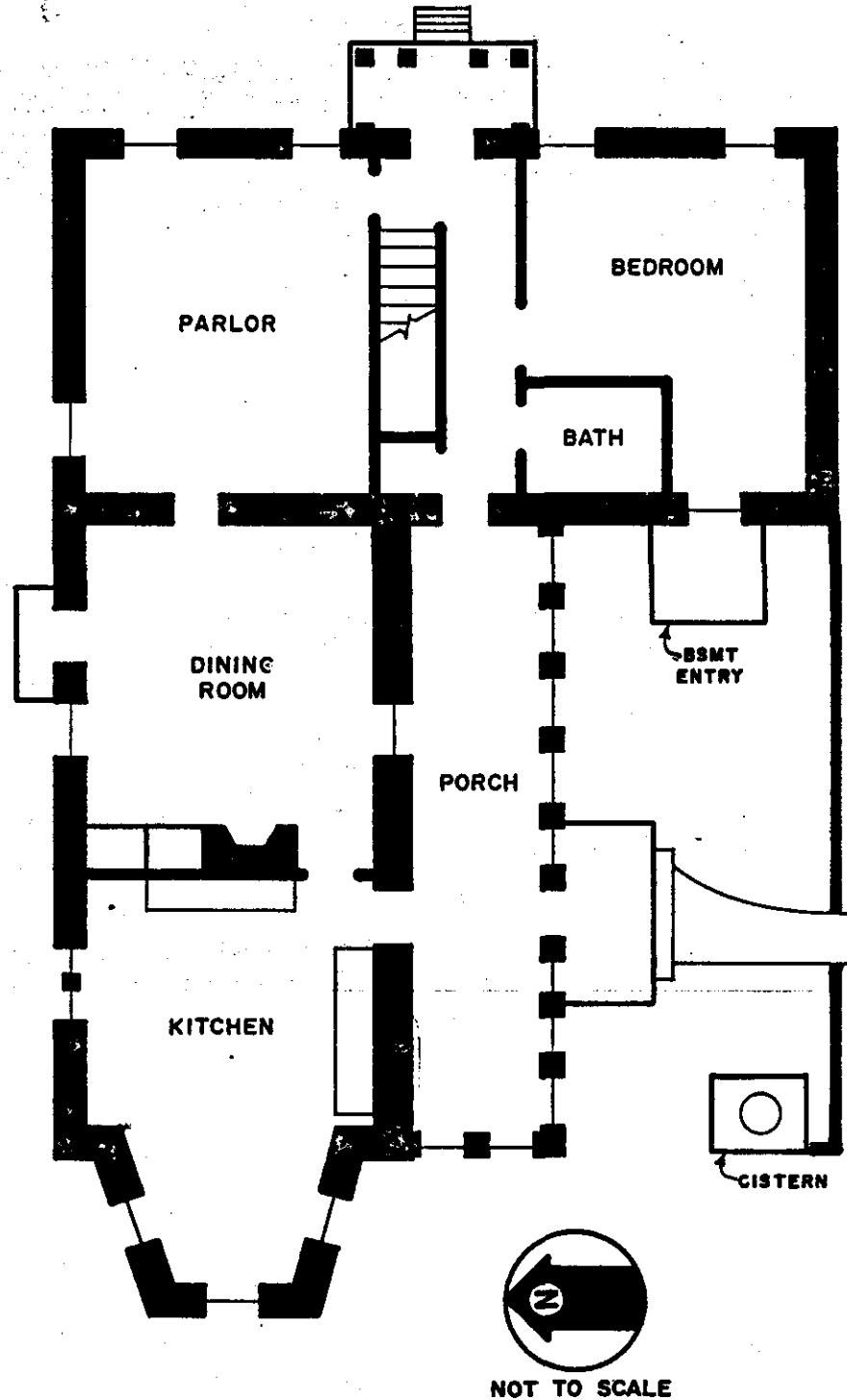
July 26, 1983

314/751-4096

Missouri 65102

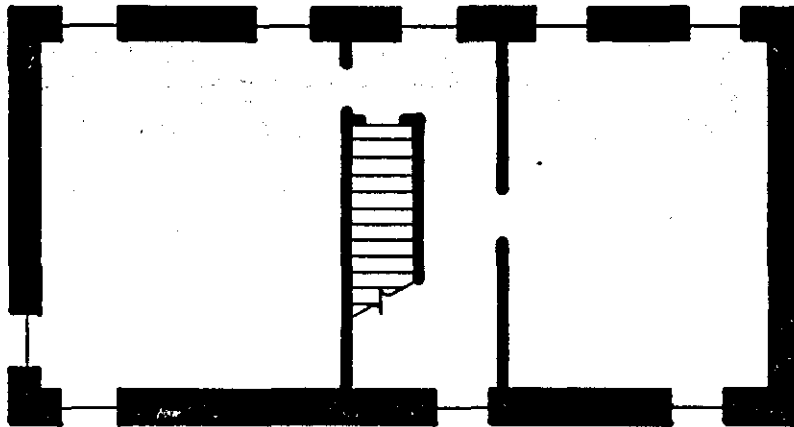
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

STONECROFT MANOR HOUSE
2400 CARRS LANE, RFD 3
HANNIBAL, MISSOURI



FLOOR PLANS

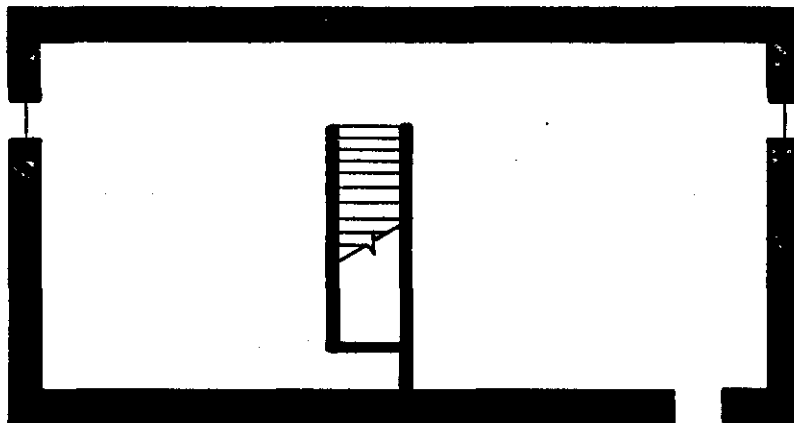
STONECROFT MANOR HOUSE
2400 CARRS LANE, RFD 3
HANNIBAL, MISSOURI



SECOND FLOOR



NOT TO SCALE



BASEMENT

OUTSIDE BSMT ENTRY

BROWN, JAMES B. HOUSE "Stonecroft"
Hannibal, Ralls County, Missouri

U.S.G.S. Quadrangle
7.5' Scale 1:24,000 Hannibal West MO

UTM Reference Points:

- a. 15/639360/4393370 b. 15/639360/4393140
c. 15/639250/4393140 c. 15/639250/4393060
e. 15/639020/4393060 f. 15/639020/4393380

Stonecroft Manor
Rt. 3, Hannibal Ralls County, Missouri
Photographer: Roger Malley
Date : May, 1980
Neg. Loc. : In possession of photographer
East View:

Front of the house and original front porch.
Concrete steps replaced wooden ones.



Stonecroft Manor
Rt. 3, Hannibal Ralls County, Missouri 2 of 5
Photographer: Roger Walley
Date : May, 1980
Neg. Loc. : In possession of photographer

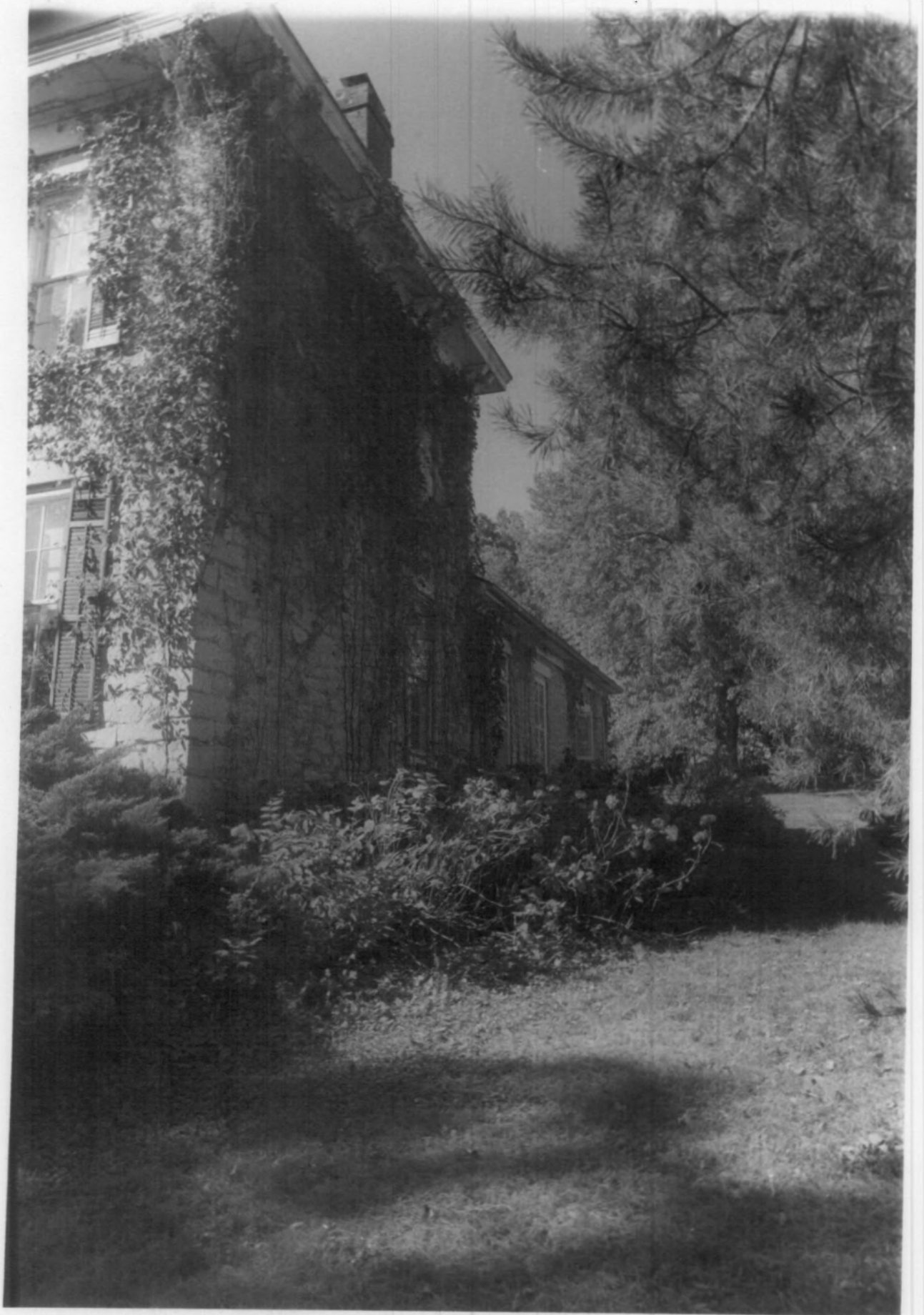
South View:

Showing enclosed porch with entrance porch
added. It is the entrance now used.



Stonecroft Manor
Rt. 3, Hannibal Ralls County, Missouri
Photographer: Roger Walley
Date : May, 1980
Neg. Loc. : In possession of photographer

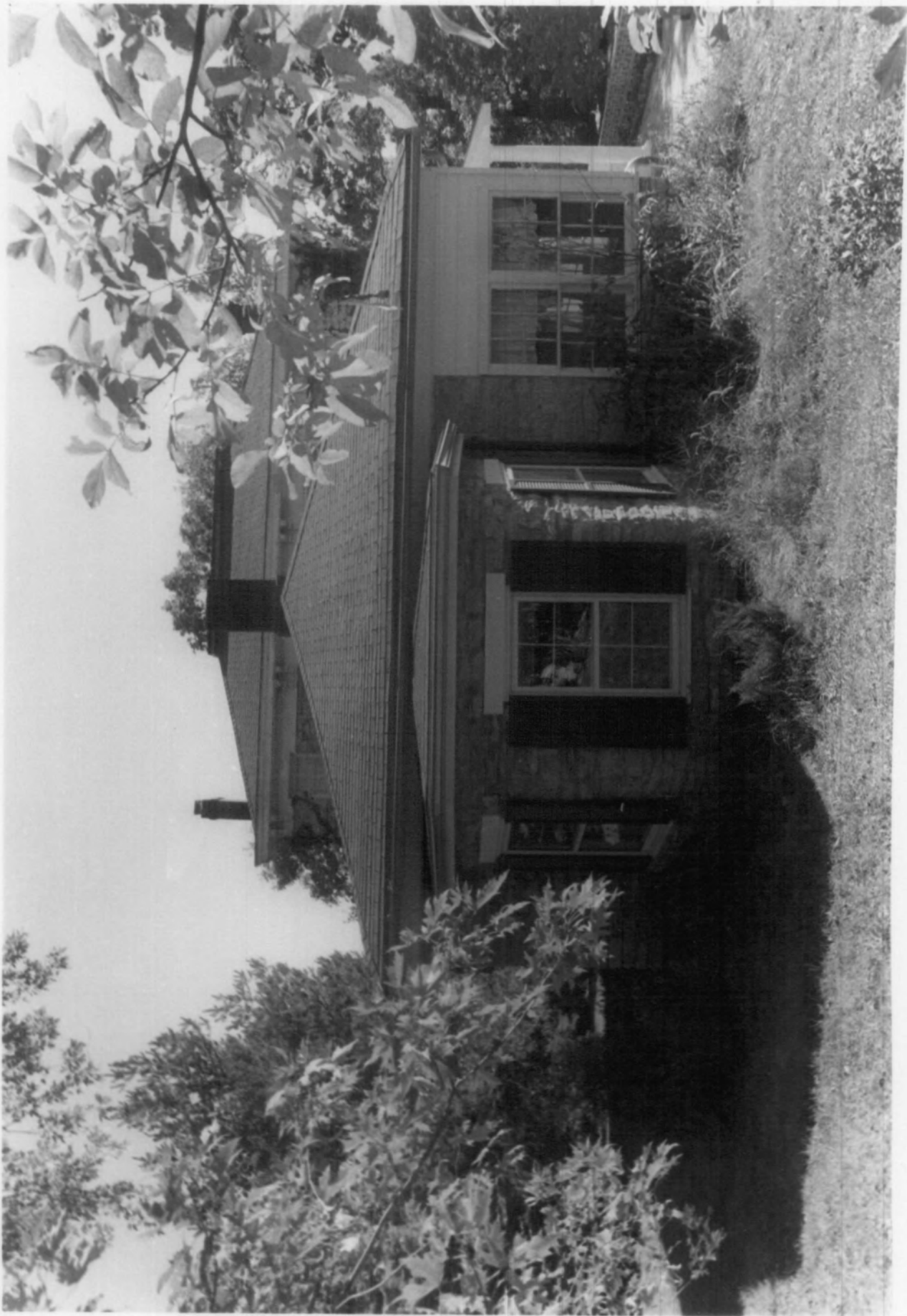
~~North View~~
~~Original Building~~



Stonecroft Manor
Rt. 3, Hannibal 4 of 5
 Ralls County, Missouri
Photographer: Roger Walley
Date : May, 1980
Neg. Loc. : In possession of photographer

West View:

Showing original two-story and one-story
sections with added bay and enclosed porch.



Stonecroft Manor 5 of 5
Rt. 3, Hannibal Ralls County, Missouri
Photographer: Unknown
Date : 1907
Neg. Loc. :

South View:

The people are the Binns family who rented the house while they built a home on Owens Avenue, directly west of the stone house. The balustrade on the roof can plainly be seen but the front porch is shadowed by large cedar trees.

The wheel on the pole seems to have been a children's game. They would catch a rope and walk faster and faster around the pole until they were almost flying through the air.

