

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Louis Bruce Farmstead Historic District

other name/site number: Rock Enon Farm

2. Location

street & number: Missouri State Highway V

not for publication: n/a

city/town: Russellville

vicinity: X

state: MO county: Moniteau

code: 135

zip code: 65074

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
		sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
		objects
<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

 See continuation sheet.

G. Tracy Mehan, III 11/22/91
 Signature of certifying official G. Tracy Mehan, III, Director Date

Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
 See continuation sheet.

 Signature of commenting or other official Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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): _____

 Signature of Keeper Date
 of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>Secondary Structure</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	<u>Animal Facility</u>
Current : <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>Secondary Structure</u>
<u>VACANT/NOT IN USE</u>	

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER:Georgian Plan I-house
No Style

Other Description: n/a

Materials: foundation limestone roof tin
walls limestone other WOOD
brick

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : n/a

Areas of Significance: AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: C. 1870-1876

Significant Dates: 1870 1872 1873

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

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 -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 10.65 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>542200</u>	<u>4257300</u>	B	<u>15</u>	<u>542020</u>	<u>4257380</u>
C	<u>15</u>	<u>541980</u>	<u>4257160</u>	D	<u>15</u>	<u>541830</u>	<u>4257350</u>

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

The boundary of the Louis Bruce Farmstead Historic District is shown as the broken line on the accompanying map entitled "District Boundaries--Louis Bruce Farmstead Historic District."

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Debbie Sheals

Organization: _____ Date: 10/7/1991

Street & Number: 406 West Broadway Telephone: 314-875-1923

City or Town: Columbia State: MO ZIP: 65203

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Summary

The Louis Bruce Farmstead is located just North of Rock Enon Creek, on Route V in southern Moniteau County. The approximately 10 3/4 acre district represents the core of the Louis Bruce farm, which included over 400 acres when it was being farmed by the Bruce family, between 1859 and 1881. The farmstead contains all of the surviving buildings known to have been built by Bruce while he owned the land. Contributing buildings located within the district are as follows: the house (1872-76), a smokehouse/multipurpose building (c.1870-76), a privy (c. 1870-76), a springhouse (1873), a granary (c. 1870-76), and a substantial barn (1870). A stone retaining wall with a swinging iron gate and carriage steps is a contributing structure. Route V, which bisects the district, is a non-contributing structure.

All of these buildings are vernacular in form and as such, provide fine intact examples of 19th century farm buildings of Moniteau County. They are unusual in that they are, with the exception of the brick privy, all built of evenly coursed, rock faced limestone blocks. The farmstead is now the home of the Rich Green Family and is used solely as a residence. It exhibits a high level of integrity; the buildings, their relationship to each other, and their relationship to the surrounding countryside, remain virtually unchanged from the period of significance.

Resource Count

Contributing Resources: The house, privy, smokehouse building, springhouse, granary, and barn are all contributing buildings.

The stone wall in front of the house is a contributing structure.

Noncontributing Resources: A frame shed near the barn is a noncontributing building; Route "V" is counted as a noncontributing structure.

ELABORATION

The farm complex sits in the level valley of the Rock Enon Creek, surrounded by fields under cultivation and smaller wooded areas. The elevation of the creek valley is approximately 750 feet; surrounding hills gently rise to 850 to 900 feet. Route V, which runs through the farmstead, roughly follows the path of the older Jefferson City to Springfield stage line. To the south of the road is a small springfed pond. This same spring once ran through the Bruce family's springhouse; modernization of the road is thought to have disrupted the flow. The appearance of the area has changed little from the period of significance.

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The farmstead is locally known as "Rock Enon Farm". The name Rock Enon is associated not only with the farmstead, but also the creek it sits next to (referred to as Burkes Creek in early deeds) and a now vacant church which is just southeast of it, across the creek. The many springs in the area prompted an early resident to name the nearby town of Enon after a biblical reference to A Enon, a place with "much water"(John 3:23). When the first Baptist Church of the area began meeting at the site in 1847, the congregation took the name of Enon. They built the existing stone building in 1878, two years after Bruce had finished his new buildings. The name Rock Enon seems to have come into use around that time, especially after the congregation split and formed a new, in town, Enon Church.

The stone used to build the Baptist church is very much like that found in the farmstead buildings. Bruce is credited with donating the stone for the church, which came from a quarry west of the church site.¹ It would therefore seem likely that the stone for the buildings of the Bruce farmstead also came from that quarry.

The buildings of the district can be grouped according to the type of activities they were built to house. East of the road, the substantial barn and the granary building typify the more commercial side of farm life--the production of a cash crop. Across the road, clustered around the house, are the various outbuildings used for the production of goods intended for household consumption.

The largest and most impressive building in the district is the house, which sits parallel to the road, facing south-east.(see fig.1) It has a gable roof of corrugated tin, painted red. It is a traditional central hall I-house with a rear kitchen ell. The 2 1/2 story house has 5 bays facing the road and is built entirely of limestone blocks. A smooth date stone in the southwest gable reads "LOUIS BRUCE 1872". The front of the house has a one story open porch, three bays wide. It has Eastlake spindlework along the eave line, turned posts, and a concrete slab floor. To the rear is a shed roofed frame addition which appears to date from the late 19th or early 20th century.

The two lower floors have new, white Andersen windows. The originals were 6 over 6, the new, 6 over 9. These are good quality windows, very close to the originals in scale and general appearance. The smaller windows of the rooms beneath the roof are original. Three windows of the house retain their

¹ Moniteau County Historical Society, Moniteau County Missouri, (Taylor Publishing Company: 1980.), pp. 63-64.

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original, dark green shutters. The front door has been replaced with a new 6 panel door; the rear door is also a modern replacement. A third door leading outside from the kitchen has been closed in and shuttered from the outside.

The exterior stone walls of the house are load bearing, 20 inches thick at the ground floor. Many interior walls are also of stone, covered with a smooth layer of plaster. The current owners have installed stud walls over some interior surfaces in order to install insulation and new mechanical systems.(see floorplan) The new walls are finished and trimmed in a manner very close to the originals.

There is a chimney set into each gable end. Only the kitchen and the south west, ground floor room have fireplaces. Their mantels are not original. All other rooms are fitted with stove flues. Most interior doors are original, and many of the rooms retain their original sawn board flooring and simple, beaded interior woodwork. New trim is similar in size and placement.

The floor plan of the house features a Georgian inspired central hall with an impressive formal stairway. (The rail and balusters for this stair were removed in a 1940's remodeling. The current owners found the pieces piled under debris in the attic and have reinstalled them.) The entrance to the kitchen is off the Hall, the south west room of the ground floor. This was originally the only door to the rear ell, which contains its own small enclosed staircase.(A new doorway was cut at the second floor level in the 1940's.) The existence of this secondary stair and the absence of access to the room above the kitchen may indicate that the room was built as a servant's quarter.

There is a cellar below the kitchen, reached by a small enclosed stair which is located below the secondary stairs to the upper level. The walls of the basement are of the same stone construction as the rest of the house; a poured concrete floor has been added in this century. There is a shallow crawl space beneath the rest of the house. The floor joists for two of the downstairs rooms are roughly hewn oak logs, approximately 8 inches in diameter.

A new bath and small bedroom have been created from the original bedroom above the Hall, and a half bath has been added beneath the front stairs. The house is structurally sound, and with the exception of the changes mentioned, remains much as it was during the period of significance.

Directly behind the house is a 14'x 34' building divided into three sections; a smokehouse, and open storage space, and a room the same size as the smokehouse (roughly 12'x 14'). The latter may have served as buttry, a wash

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house, or another, similar, household related function. (The lack of any sign of a chimney or stove flue would discourage speculation that this was a summer kitchen.) This building also has a tin, gable roof (see photos 3 and 4).

Just southwest of the smokehouse building is the brick privy. It is the only contributing building in the district which is not built of limestone, but it appears to have been constructed within the period of significance. Sills and lintels are of the same stone as those of the house. This three-hole privy (one child, two adult) has walnut seats and paneling. It is ventilated with small louvered windows and open brickwork high in the gable ends. And, like all the buildings of the district, it has a corrugated tin roof (see photo 4).

There was at one time a sizeable frame chicken coop north of the house, and northeast of the smokehouse building. (see fig. 1) It is not known if it was built by Bruce or later residents. All that remained when the current owners bought the farm was a concrete foundation, which has since been removed.

Just over 100' to the south of the house, close to the creek and the road, is the springhouse. It measures roughly 12' x 14' and contains a date stone set in the northeast gable end. The stone reads "LOUIS BRUCE 1873". The metal roof was removed due to deterioration, a replacement is planned. There are small, barred windows in the gable ends and a door in the long side facing away from the road. A trough to accommodate the flow of the spring runs along the wall opposite this door (see photos 5 and 6).

Between these buildings and the road is a retaining wall, approximately 180' long, built of stone blocks similar to those of the house. Set into the wall directly in front of the house is a swinging iron gate, topped with diamond shaped finials and supported by four oversized stone blocks. In front of the gate are two large stone carriage steps. Oversize stone blocks flank the driveway located at the northeast end of the wall (see photo #1).

Across the road, facing the house, is a small building which contains a wagon shed and granary, also of limestone with a gable roof. The wagon shed entrance has been enclosed with a frame wall, but the floorplan remains unchanged. There is an elevated doorway at the southwest end of the granary, presumably for easy wagon access (see photos 6 and 8). Just behind this building, across a small creek, is a newer, (c. 1950) frame shed, the only non-contributing building in the district.

The barn sits nearly 50 yards back from the road, near Rock Enon creek. It is a rectangular building, 25' x 70', set partially into a hillside. The gable end facing the road bears a date stone which reads "L. B. 1870". On the south

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end is an addition which was built soon after the original barn. The stone for the addition appears to be from the same quarry, but the application of the mortar as well as the roof framing differs slightly from those of the older section. Diamond shaped openings vent the gable ends of the main building. The addition has a rectangular vent. A deteriorated open sided frame shed, probably not original, has been removed from the east side of the barn (see photos 8 and 9).

The main level of the barn consists of one large undivided space, and the smaller room of the addition. There is no interior door between these areas. There is also no sign that the loft area of either room was ever enclosed for hay storage. The doorway leading into the main barn is rather small, 5' wide and 6'4" tall, and is slightly elevated above ground level. The two doors of this doorway are separated by a removable center post. The lower level of the building appears to have housed livestock, and each section has small windows and single width doors. The barn is in very good condition and is used today only for a small amount of storage.

Every one of the buildings found in the district is in very good physical condition. They are being sensitively maintained by the current owners, and the farmstead possesses a high level of integrity.

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Summary

The Louis Bruce Farm Historic District in southern Moniteau County is significant under criteria A and C, with local significance. Under criterion A, in the area of AGRICULTURE, the farm complex represents a successful Moniteau county farm of the mid 19th century. During this time farming in Missouri, and across the country, was in the midst of a functional transition. Farms were evolving from nearly autonomous units into businesses which planned for and depended upon the broader markets which improved transportation facilities made possible.

The buildings in the district reflect a duality of function typical of farms which were successful during this period. The farm buildings are grouped together according to the function they served; those near the house reflect older practices, while the barn across the road served as the center for more commercial endeavors. The relationship of these buildings to each other remains essentially unchanged today, providing a fine example of a farm operation of the mid to late 19th century.

Under criterion C, in the area of ARCHITECTURE, the district is significant as an intact group of vernacular buildings, distinct in that they are constructed of native limestone blocks, a material unusual, if not unheard of, in the area. The high level of craftsmanship involved in their construction gives them an aesthetic value above many contemporary farm groups. They have long been highly regarded by the local community; county histories a century apart have admired the buildings found here. They are in excellent physical condition and exhibit a good deal of integrity--individually and as a group.

The period of significance, 1870-1876, has been determined by the dates of construction for the contributing buildings. The date stone of the barn reads "L. B. 1870", the earliest date of three such stones. The latest is that of the springhouse, 1873. A county history tells us the house was completed in 1876, providing a terminus for the period of significance.²

Elaboration

In the 1850's and 1860's, Missouri saw a great influx of settlers, many of whom came to the state to establish new farms. Between 1850 and 1860, the

² Moniteau County Historical Society, Moniteau County Missouri, (Taylor Publishing, 1980), pp 39-40.

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population of the state doubled to approximately 1,200,000, and the number of farms increased from 54,458 to 92,792. Improved land on Missouri farms encompassed 6,246,871 acres in 1860, up from 2,938,425 acres in 1850.³ One such settler was Louis Bruce, who moved to Missouri from Virginia in 1858 with his wife and eight children.⁴ Over the next twenty years he bought at least 19 parcels of land, including the 440 acre tract which became his family farm. The Louis Bruce Farm Historic District is the remaining core of that farm.

During the time Bruce owned the land, American farming was undergoing a functional transition. Improved transportation facilities and a growing population combined to create an expanded cash market for agricultural goods. A contemporary account of this change is found in an address given to the New York State Agricultural Society in 1852 by Horatio Seymour.⁵ Seymour divides the history of American farming into two eras--the pre-1850 "era of the axe" and the later "era of commercial farming".⁶ The era of the axe refers to early times in which self-sufficiency was an essential element of farming. Seymour tells us "As the farmer was limited in his means for buying or selling, he was compelled to cultivate a great variety of crops, and to produce, as far as practicable, every article of food, clothing, furniture or

³ U. S. Census, Agriculture of the United States 1860 (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1864), p. 222; and Fred Shannon, The Farmer's Last Frontier (New York and Toronto: Farrar and Rinehart, Inc., 1945), p.33.

⁴ Moniteau County Historical Society, Moniteau County Missouri (Taylor Publishing Company, 1980) p.39.

⁵ Horatio Seymour, Transactions of the New York State Agricultural Society, Vol. XII-1852. p.26.

⁶ Seymour was generally basing his discussion on New York Farming. While it has since been recognized that these changes occurred, at least in part, in farming operations all over the country, the time frame fluctuates a great deal. See Jeremy Atack and Fred Bateman, "Self-Sufficiency and the Marketable Surplus in the Rural North, 1860." Agricultural History, Vol. 58, July 1984. pp.296-313. and Clarence Danhof, Change in Agriculture: The Northern United States (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1969), for further discussions of when and where such changes occurred.

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farming implement upon his own premises".⁷ During this time, land ownership was considered the primary measure of wealth. The small amount of cash which was available to the typical farmer was used to purchase more land. Outside factors had little effect on the farm community and most business was transacted on a local level.

Clarence Danhof, writing in 1969, also discussed the "shift from subsistence to commercial farming."⁸ As areas became more settled and transportation facilities improved, farming became more of a commercial operation. Farmers were now able to focus their energies towards the production of a single large crop which could be sold at market for cash. This money could then be used to purchase many of the things which formerly had to be made on the premises. From Danhof-- "a desirable level of living came to include an increasing variety and volume of products that were obtainable more economically and sometimes exclusively by money purchase."⁹ Growing urban populations meant better markets for farm products as well as more readily available items for farm consumption, and improved transportation facilities made such interactions more possible. Farming had evolved from simple settlement and subsistence into a commercial endeavor which was an important part of the national economy.

The activities of Bruce as a Moniteau County farmer exhibit characteristics of both eras. The changes discussed above did not occur overnight, but came about as a result of gradual changes in attitudes and business practices. This was true in Missouri as well as across the country; discussions of this transition often utilize Missouri data.¹⁰ The Bruce Farmstead Historic District is significant as an example of a farm which was successful during this transitional time in Missouri farming. Additionally, it should be noted that these changes were taking place not only on a national level, but often at an accelerated pace within individual farming operations. The natural progression of a developing farm often followed the same pattern. A new farm would start on a small scale, concentrating on feeding the family and

⁷ Seymour, p. 27.

⁸ Danhof, p. 13.

⁹ Danhof, pp. 18-19.

¹⁰ Atack and Bateman made use of census information relating to twenty states, including Missouri (p. 299), and Danhof specifically names Missouri as one of the states he based his discussion upon (p. 11).

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establishing a solid economic base before venturing into large scale, market oriented production. The Bruce Farmstead can be seen as an example of a farm in transition in both cases. Specific examples show it to have had characteristics of both "eras".

Danhof, in his discussion of economic goals of "subsistence" farmers names two measures of success: the ownership of one or more farms, and the ability of a father to provide his grown children with farms of their own. Bruce bought a lot of land when he came to Missouri, an indication that he held traditional views towards land ownership as a measure of wealth. The attitude that a good father should set his children up with farms was also apparently held by him; six of the eight children who moved to Missouri with him were given parcels of land nearby. (only these six lived to adulthood.) Of the six, three received sizeable portions of land, taken in part from the original 440 acres. His son Robert was given 100 acres (described as "a farm" in the deed) in 1865, and another 120 acres, adjoining the first tract, in 1873. His daughter Helen received 100 acres nearby, and his son Curtis Henry was given the home place, which included the farmstead, in 1880.

Figures from the 1860 Census of Agriculture reveal a diversity of production typical of the "era of the axe". Bruce is listed as owning 4 horses, 5 milch cows, 9 sheep and 10 swine, and producing 20 bushels of potatoes, 50 bushels of wheat, and 18 pounds of wool.¹¹ The relatively small amounts listed for each category indicates that these were intended only for family use.

The outbuildings grouped around the house show that a variety of activities were centered around it and its occupants. One of the largest of such buildings is the smokehouse building just behind the house.(see fig. 1.) The smokehouse is fairly large and still shows signs of considerable use. The room at the southwest end of the same building could have been used for several different things. It may have been used as a wash house or as a place to store and process the wool produced on the farm. The Bruce family also churned 200 pounds of butter in 1860, that may have been done in or near this room. A fairly large opening in the gable end above it provides access to additional storage for those items which needed to be close to the house. The springhouse near the road is also of a substantial size, indicating considerable use. Milk and butter were probably stored here until needed.

¹¹ U. S. Census, 1860 Census of Agriculture, High Point Post Office, Microfilm copies on file with Missouri State Historical Society, Columbia, MO, p. 17.

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These buildings housed activities which played an important role in the everyday operation of the farm, and their proximity to the house indicates their functions as being household oriented. The fact that they are of the same high quality construction and durable material as the house indicates their importance to the overall farm operation.

Although there are some indications that Bruce operated his farm in the "era of the axe", there is also evidence of more modern agricultural practices. The most important of these again comes from Agricultural Census figures. In 1860 the farm produced 1500 bushels of 'indian corn', the area's most important crop.¹² (Moniteau County farmers produced 824,170 bushels of indian corn in 1860, the next most important crop being wheat at 30,719 bushels.)¹³ A comparison of the 25 farms nearest Bruce's reveal similar production figures. And, a steam-operated grist mill was in operation in the nearby town of Enon sometime after 1851. The Jefferson City to Bagnell Railroad also went through the town, though possibly not before 1881.¹⁴ In addition to Enon, the town of High Point is within 10 miles of the farmstead. Bruce owned two warehouses there, and though it is not known what they were used for, his ownership of them shows that he had business connections in the town and could have shipped from there. Together these things indicate that Bruce produced a cash crop and had means to process and ship it to market without undue hardship.

The layout of the farmstead also can be seen to indicate an advanced style of farming. The barn and granary are separated, by the road, from the house and its dependent buildings. The barnyard was the business center of the farm; the area in which the commercial enterprise of corn production was centered. This arraignment can be compared to 20th century farms studied by Glen Trewartha in the 1940's. The farmstead he shows as typical of the "Animal Specialty Region of the Corn Belt" is similar to the Bruce farmstead, especially in that the barnyard is separated from the houseyard by a public road.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ U. S. Census, Agriculture of the United States 1860, Washington D. C.:Government Printing Office, 1864, p.93.
Note: 1870 census records for this township are missing, 1880 records were consulted, but by then Bruce had divided most of his original farm among his children, making an accurate comparison difficult at best.

¹⁴Moniteau County, Missouri, p. 63.

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In addition to type of activities and farmstead layout, the buildings themselves can be seen as evidence of advanced economic conditions. Danhof's discussion of changes wrought by this functional transition include the statement that early log or plank homes were often replaced by more formal buildings as farmers became more successful and special craftsmen became available. The image projected by the farmhouse was becoming an important factor. This is reflected in the Bruce farmstead not only by the impressive farmhouse, but also by Bruce's decision to construct his outbuildings of the same durable, attractive stone. The buildings of the farmstead exhibit characteristics from both "eras"-- the impressive house of a commercial farmer, and the many outbuildings typical of traditional, more self-contained farms.

The agricultural and economic changes discussed here rarely occurred along a straight time line: rather, elements of both "eras" were often intermixed within a single farming operation. The Bruce Farmstead Historic District provides a fine, remarkably intact example of just such an operation.

The buildings of the farmstead are also significant under criterion C, in the area of ARCHITECTURE. A good deal of the natural beauty of these essentially vernacular buildings is due to the material from which they are constructed. The contributing buildings of the farmstead, with the single exception of the brick privy, are built of native limestone blocks. Stone construction, in addition to possessing a high artistic value, is very durable and because of this the buildings are in very good condition. Taken individually or as a group, they exhibit a good deal of integrity.

Stone buildings are often accorded more attention and respect by the community than frame structures of similar form. This is partly because they tend to last longer, and partly because much more time and effort, and therefore money, is usually required for their construction. The buildings of the Bruce farmstead are no exception. They have a long history of local prominence. In 1889 a County history put out by Goodspeed Publishing Company mentions Louis Bruce and tells us he "bought some partially improved land, on which he erected stone residences, which are still the finest buildings in the township"¹⁵ Nearly one hundred years later, in 1980, a new county history featured a lengthy article about the farm, which finishes with "The springs

¹⁵ Goodspeed Publishing Company, Histories of Moniteau, Morgan...Osage Counties, Missouri, (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1889) p.1016.

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still flow at the old place and it appears much like it did in the 1870's. .
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These buildings are attractive not only because of the natural beauty of the stone used, but also because of the high caliber of stonework involved in their construction. Although at first glance, the stones used appear to be the same throughout, a closer examination reveals varied finishing techniques. A subtle change which has a major impact on the appearance of the entire building is the way in which the corner blocks have been finished. Extra care has been taken to be sure the corner surfaces form a smooth, straight line, so that when they are in place on the building they produce a sharper overall silhouette. The stones around the windows have been given similar treatment. This may seem to be a minor point, but it means the difference between a knobby looking building and one with a more sophisticated profile. A more obvious variation of finish can be seen in the treatment of the large stone sills and lintels found on most of the buildings, including those on the brick privy. These pieces have been much more finely worked, and their smooth surfaces form a pleasant contrast with the more highly textured, rock-faced walls. They have also been decoratively dressed with toothed chisels. These variations of finish techniques result in a more sophisticated end product than one might expect to find in such a rural location, encouraging speculation as to the identity of the craftsmen involved.

There are two men listed in the 1860 Census who gave their occupations as stoneworkers. John Parcrust, a stone cutter, and L. B. Moore, a stone mason. Both lived near the Bruce farmstead and could well have been involved in the construction of the farm buildings. Another stoneworker with close ties to the area is George Goeble, the stonemason in charge of building the Rock Enon Baptist Church, which is located just across the creek from the farmstead.¹⁷ The construction of the Farmstead buildings spanned at least six years, and it is likely that many workers were involved in the project. Anyone, or all three, of these men could have been involved at one time or another, and the failure to link one person to the job in no way detracts from the quality of the finished product.

¹⁶ Moniteau County Missouri, p.40.

¹⁷ Ibid. p. 40, 64.

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Louis Bruce Farmstead Historic District

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The most important building of the farmstead today, the house, belongs to a category of vernacular forms known as "I" houses.¹⁸ I-houses are two (or 2½) stories tall, one room deep, and at least two rooms wide, with gables to the sides. Front doors are generally centered on the long side which faces public view. Nearly endless variations exist in such things as chimney, stair and window placement, porch types and construction materials (stone being one of the least common). One or two story ells, often containing kitchen or support spaces are commonly found off the rear of the main house. (see Fig. 2-A) In American, the I-house has been predominantly a rural type, often associated with successful farm operations. One of the first scholars to discuss the I-house, Fred Kniffen, writes "Of all old folk types, the "I" house is by far the most widely distributed, notably as a rural dwelling." and he tells us it has an "almost exclusive association with economic success in an agricultural society".¹⁹ Two story, one room deep houses were common in England during the American colonial period, and English immigrants are credited with bringing the form to the Mid-Atlantic region in America, where examples have been found from as early as the end of the 17th century.²⁰ I-house building traditions traveled west with early settlers and by the 1850s, I-houses were common in much of the eastern United States. (see fig. 4) Louis Bruce was living in Fauquier County, Virginia, in 1850, and was surely familiar with this housing form. He would inevitably have seen I-houses in Virginia and all along the way to his new home in Missouri. (The two houses shown in Figure 2 are located within fifty miles of Fauquier County). It is therefore not surprising that he would chose this form when he was ready to build a large new farm house of his own.

The floorplan of the Bruce home includes a central stair hall, a feature characteristic of Georgian architecture. (see figs. 2-B and 3). Another characteristic of Georgian design is an increased awareness of the role outbuildings can play in an overall design scheme. While the outbuildings of the Bruce farmstead are not formally arranged, as in high style Georgian designs, the careful attention given their construction can be seen to reflect

¹⁸ Fred Kniffen, "Folk Housing, Key to Diffusion", Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 155, 1965. p. 553.

¹⁹ Ibid. p. 555.

²⁰ See Henry Glassie, Patterns in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States, University of Pennsylvania Publications in Folklore and Folklife, 1968, p. 66. and Raymond Wood-Jones, Traditional Domestic Architecture of the Danbury Region, Manchester: The University Press, 1963.

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this general attitude. In a similar vein, the massive stone wall which runs in front of the house along the public road acts to visually define and separate the house yard.

This house is a classic example of a Georgian sub-type I-house, unique to the area in its masonry construction. It is in excellent physical condition and provides a fine example of a traditional vernacular house type. The farmstead as it appears today did not develop in a haphazard manner. Rather, it is the result of an organized building program which took place completely within the period of significance.

Unlike the house, the second largest building of the farmstead, the barn, defies categorization. No common vernacular forms have been found to compare to this building. There is a possibility that it was built to serve another purpose, but there is no indication that it was ever used as anything but a barn. There has been local speculation that it was supposed to be a winery, but this seems unlikely for two reasons. In the first place, the lower floor is not far enough below ground level to provide the constant temperature needed for the storage of wine. Secondly, Census of Agriculture records for Louis Bruce record no production of grapes or wine in 1860 or 1880. It seems more likely that Bruce modeled the first large new building of his farm upon a form he was familiar with, that of a mill. He was a miller in Virginia and the configuration of the barn is closer to that of a mill than it is to a barn.²¹ It is unlikely it was ever used as such; there is no sign of milling equipment, and no evidence has been found to indicate that Bruce ever milled in Missouri. Rather, it is possible he simply chose a familiar form as a model for its construction.

The barn does show functional similarities to Corn Belt barns studied by Trewartha in the 1940's. The two most striking similarities relate to size and hay storage capacity. Trewartha found that 65% of the corn belt barns he studied were small to modest in size, under 2000 square feet.²² The Bruce barn, though large for a stone building, is fairly small as barns go, 1750 square feet. The other shared characteristic is the absence of a large hay-storage

²¹See, for example, Hope Mill, Osage County Survey #108, Osage County Survey, Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory, Jefferson City, MO.

²²Glen Trewartha, "Some Regional Characteristics of American Farmsteads.", Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 38, 1948, p. 217.

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capacity.²³ The space beneath the roof of the Bruce barn shows no sign of ever having served as a hay loft. As in the house, the use of stone construction is the most unusual thing about this building, as well as the reason it is in such good shape today.

The architecture of the Louis Bruce Farmstead provides a fine example of the best of rural Missouri Construction of the mid-to late 19th century. Familiar vernacular forms combine with the aesthetically pleasing building material of natural limestone to create an unusually charming end product. The inherent durability of stone construction as well as the sensitive renovation work done by the current owners has resulted in a group of buildings which appears today much as it did during the period of significance.

²³ Ibid. p.220.

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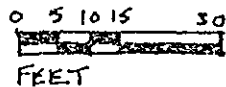
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Louis Bruce Farmstead Historic District

Page 11

Figure One.

SITE PLAN
DETAIL



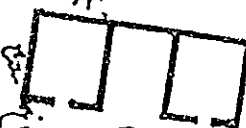
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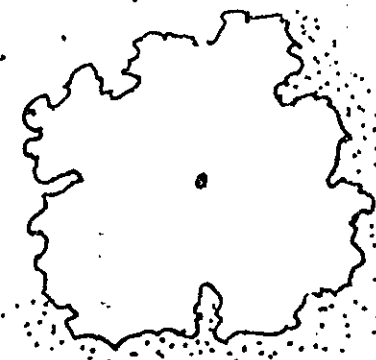
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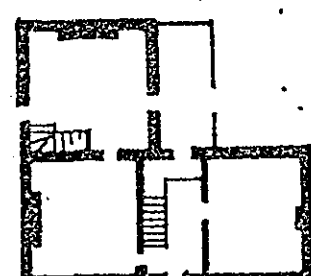
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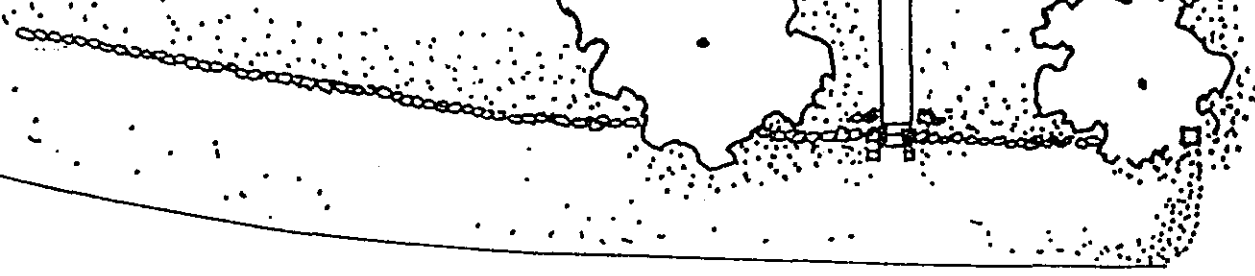
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A



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Section number 8

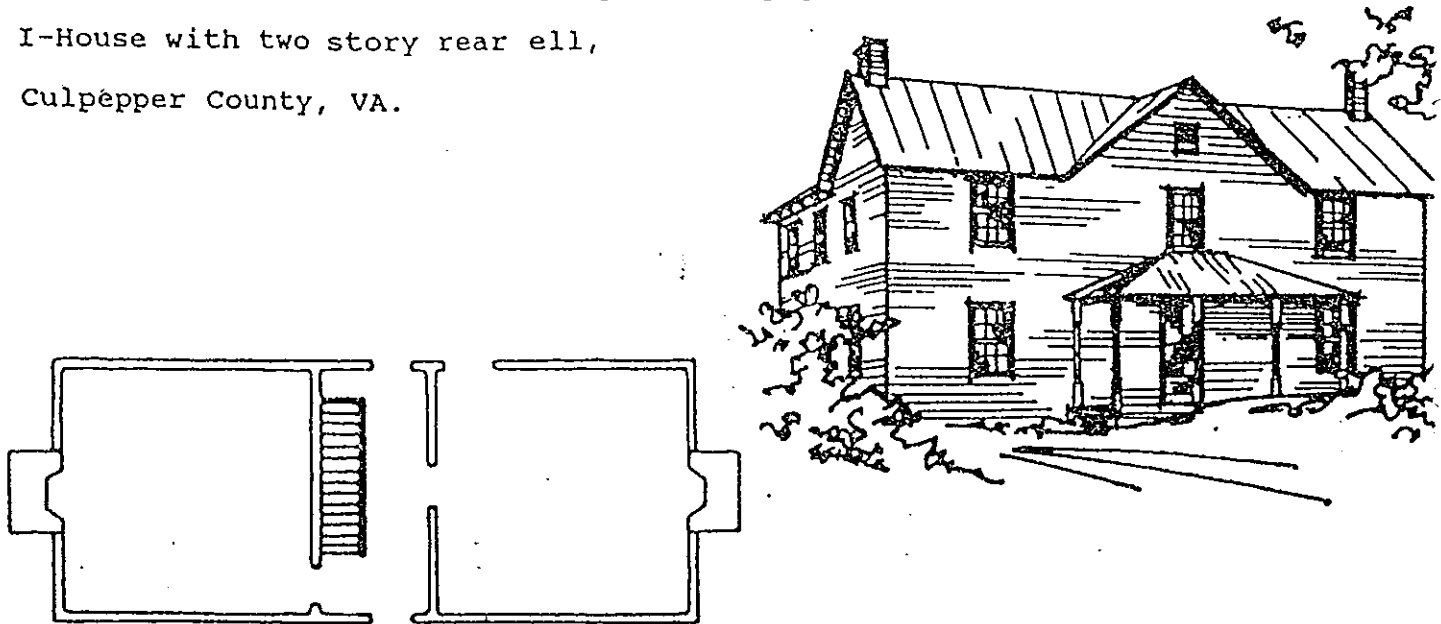
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Figure Two. From Henry Glassie

A. Drawing by Deb Sheals, from photo on page 66.

I-House with two story rear ell,
Culpeper County, VA.



B. page 68. Central Hall, Georgian sub-type I-house, from Madison
County, VA.

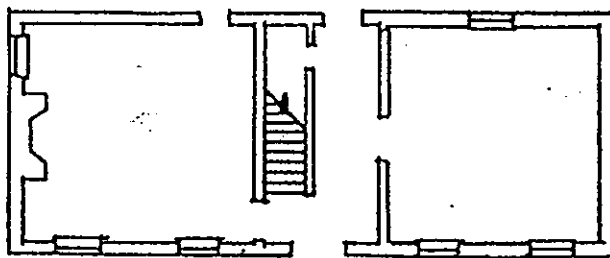


Figure Three. Louis Bruce House, drawn by Deb Sheals.

note: appendages have been deleted from figs. 2-B and 3 for the
sake of comparison of the basic I-house shapes.

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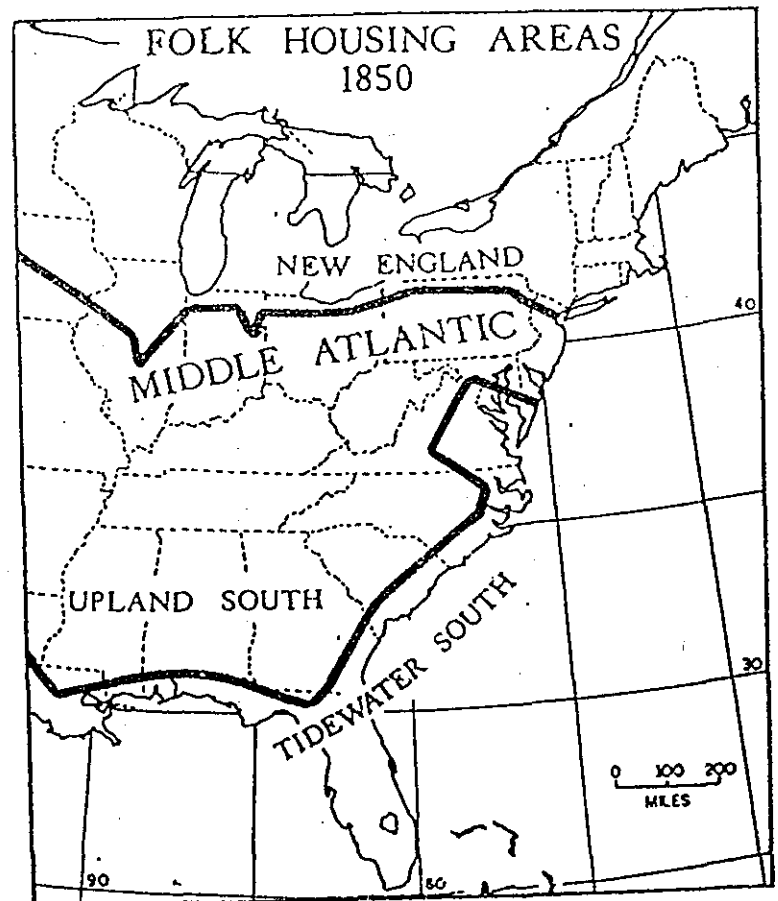
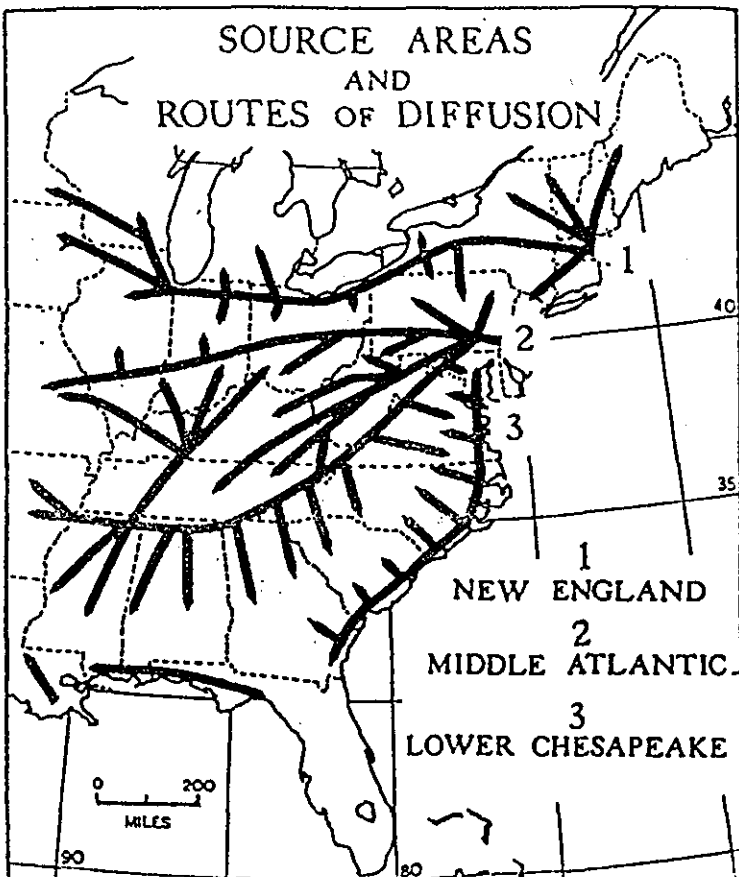
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Figure Four. From Fred Kniffen,
A. page 560.



B. page 571.

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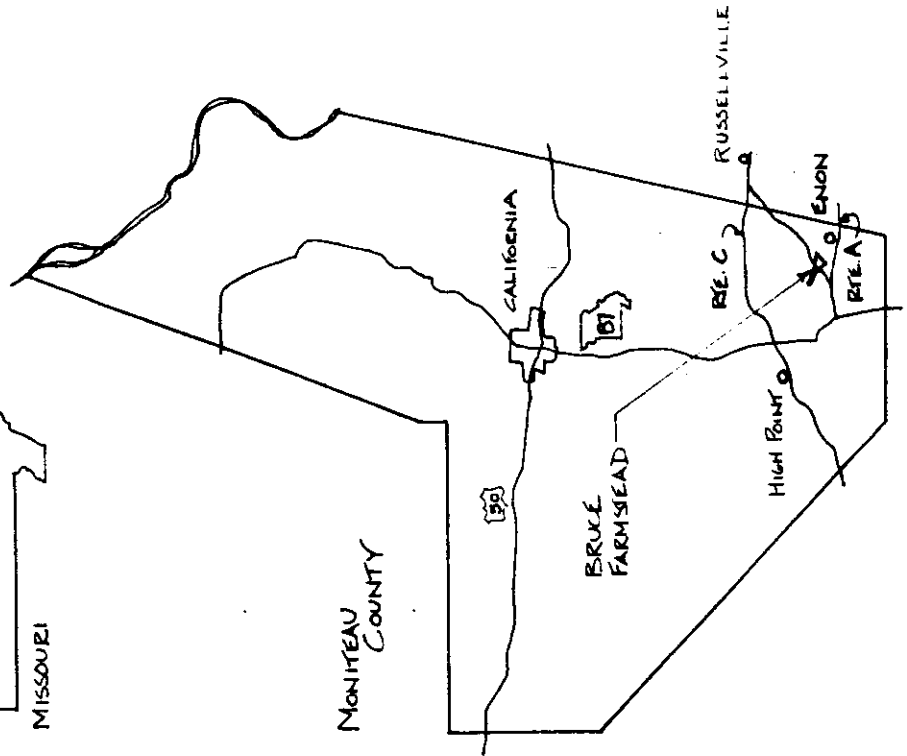
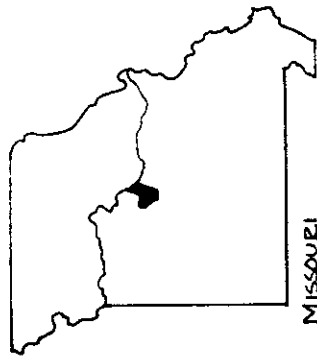
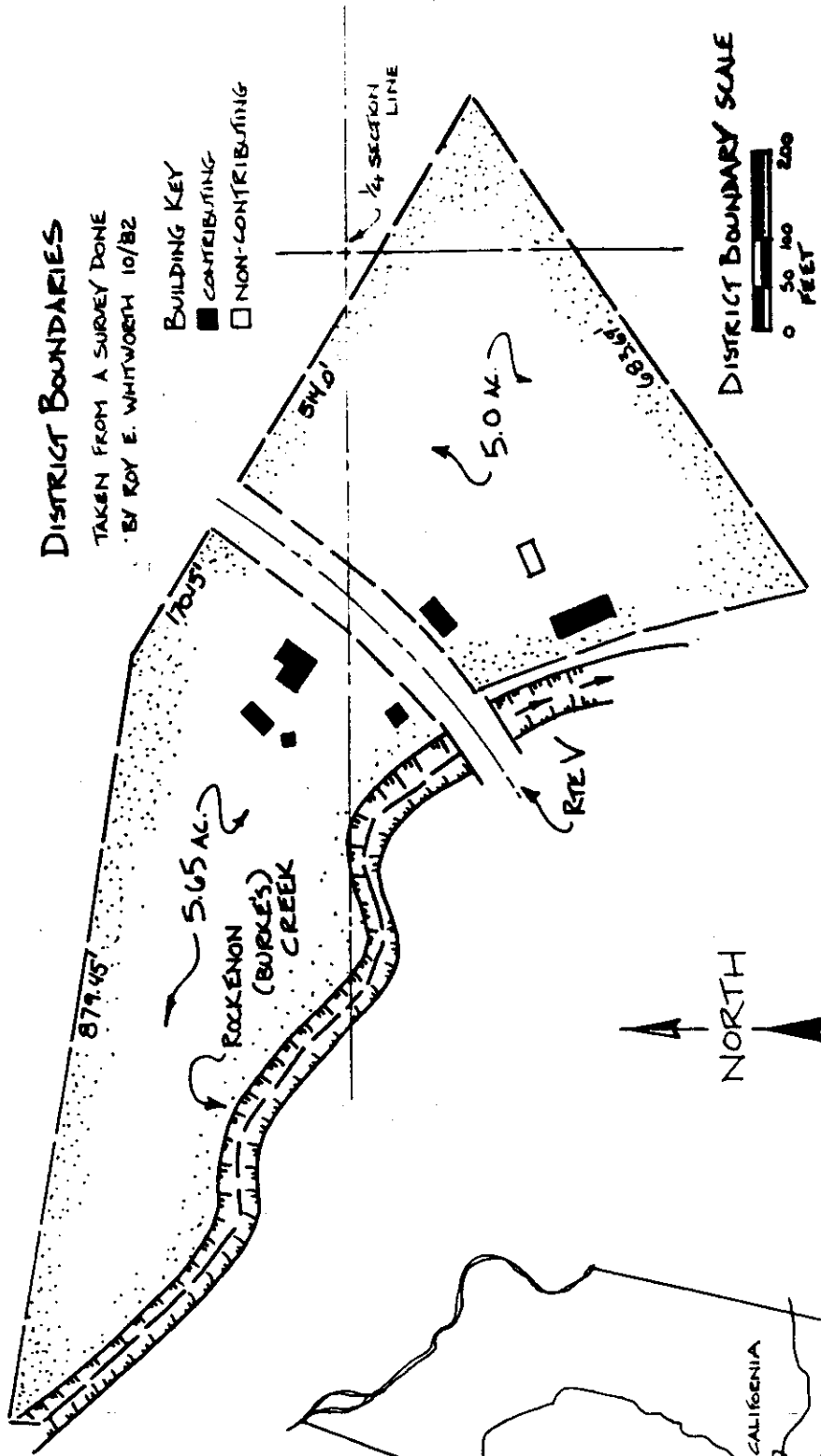
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Louis Bruce Farmstead Historic District

Page 1

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the farmhouse, smokehouse, privy, spring house, granary, barn, and retaining wall and that portion of the original farmstead purchased by Louis Bruce between 1858 and 1878 still associated with the buildings and which retains integrity. The remaining portion of the approximately 400 acres farmed by Louis Bruce and his family has been sold and has suffered varying degrees of development and reuse.



LOUIS BRUCE FARMSTEAD HISTORIC DISTRICT

- ROCK ENON FARM -
 LOCATION AND BOUNDARY MAPS
 SEE SITE PLAN FOR DETAILS (PHOTO KEY)
 DRAWN BY DEBBIE SHEALS 10.03.1991

LOUIS BRUCE FARNSTEAD
HISTORIC DISTRICT

ROCK ENON FARM.

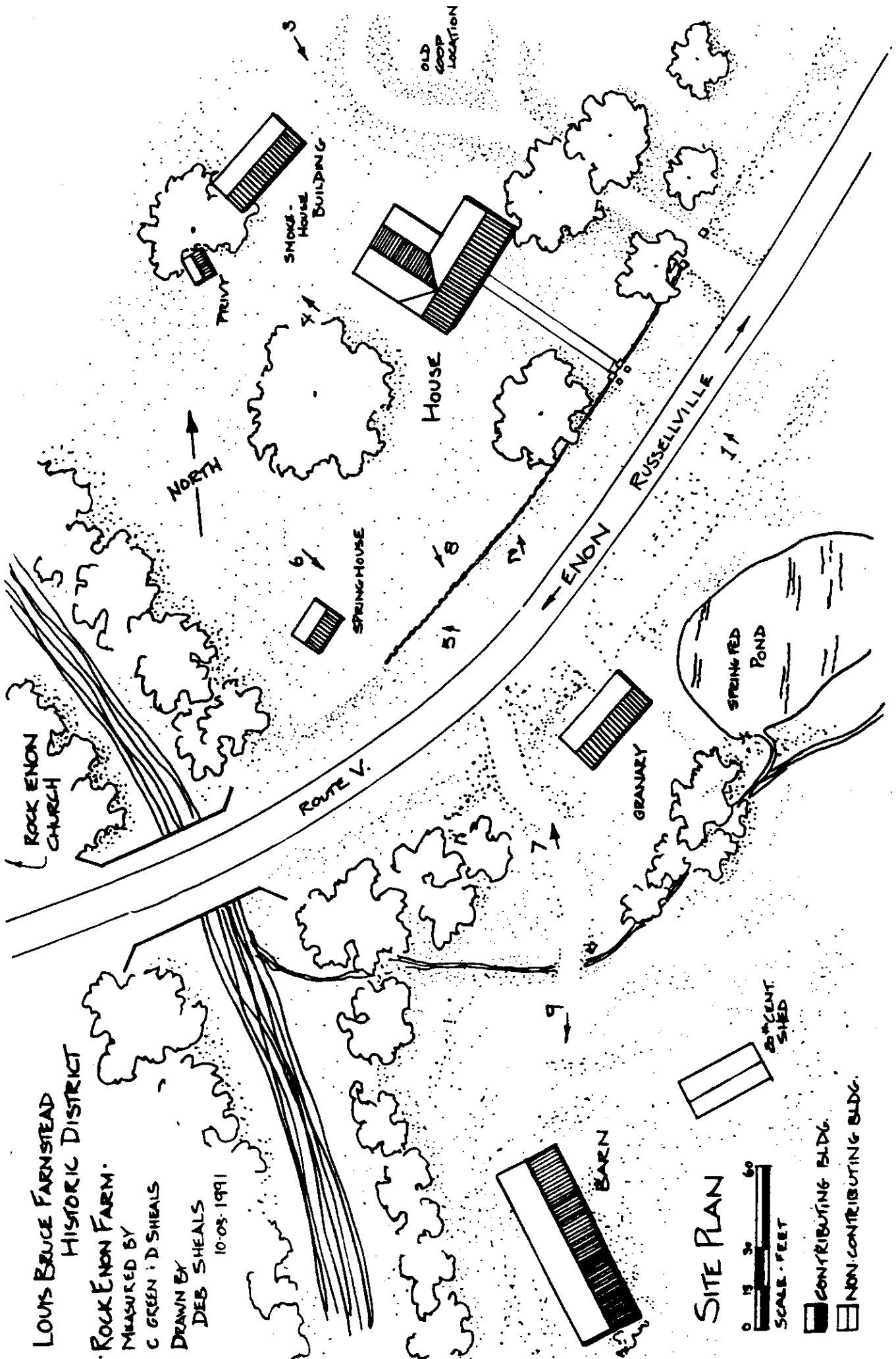
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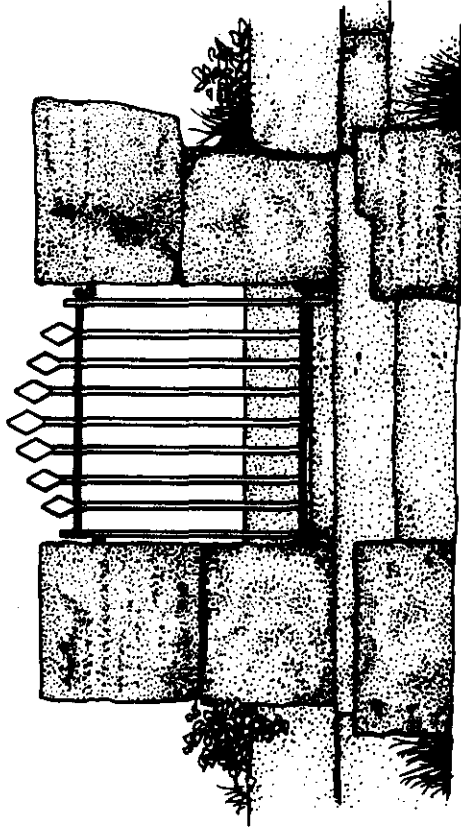
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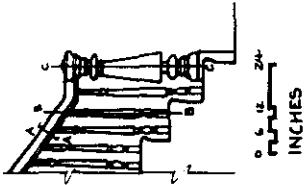
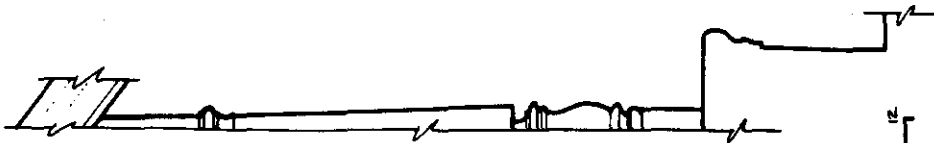
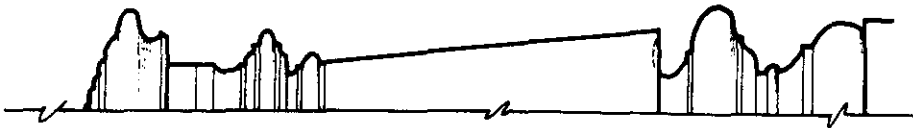
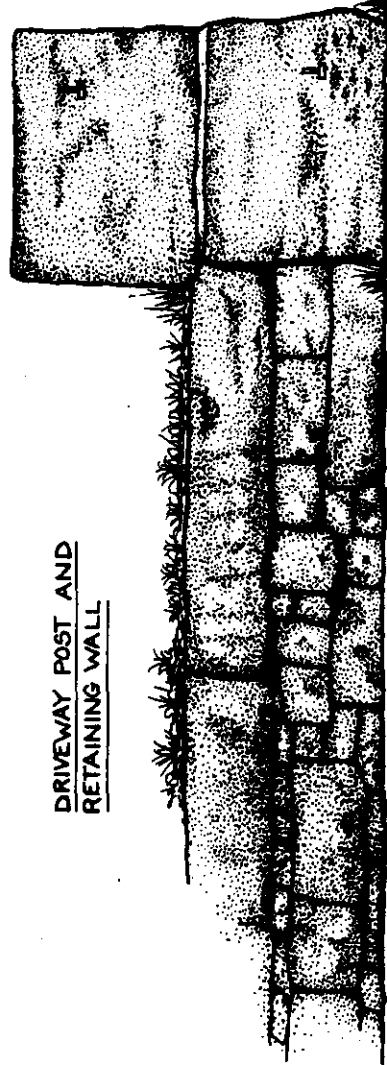
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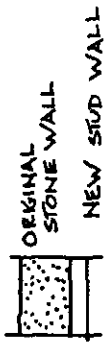
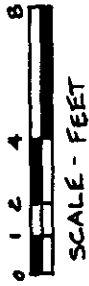
DECEMBER, 1991
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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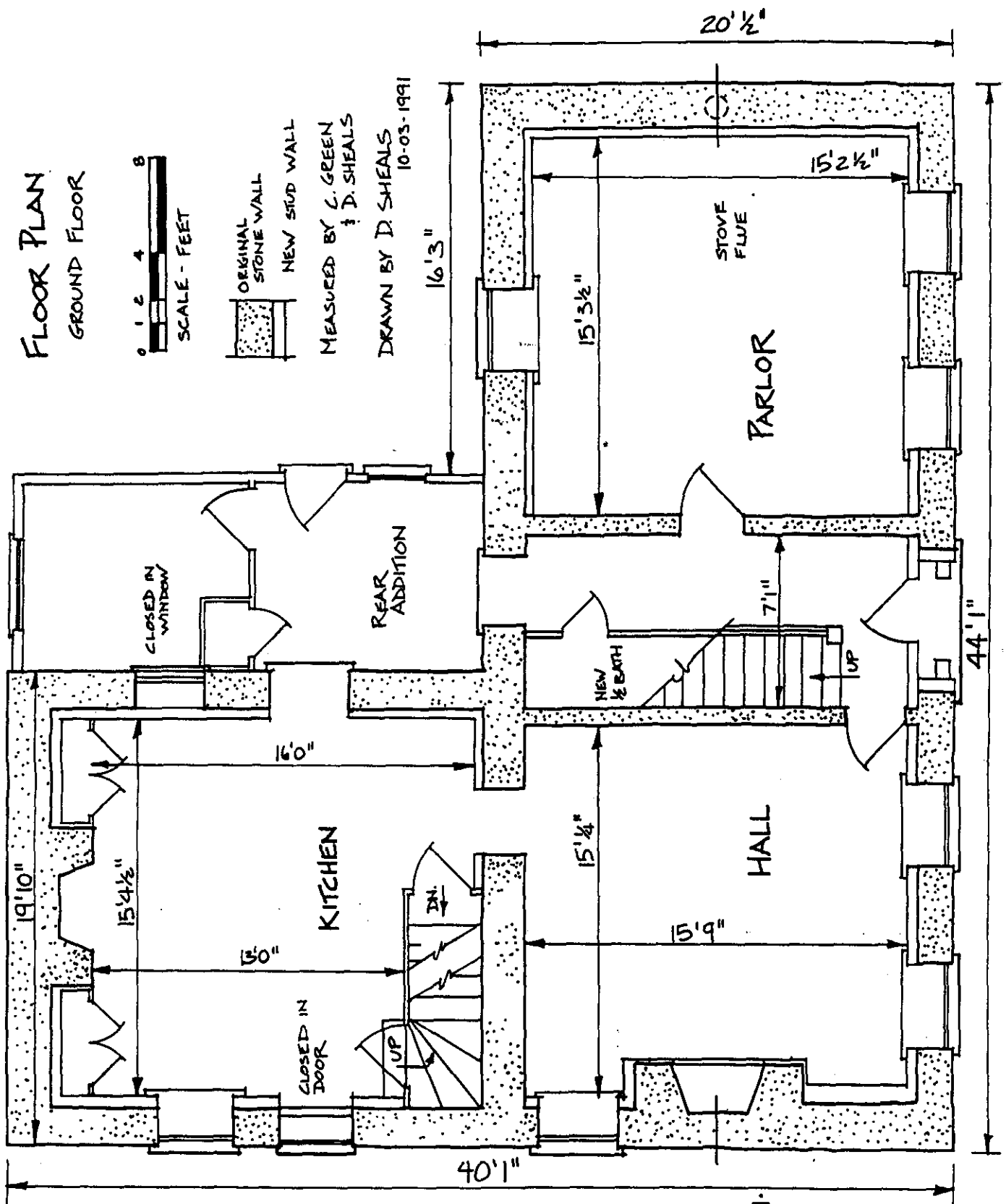
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FLOOR PLAN
GROUND FLOOR



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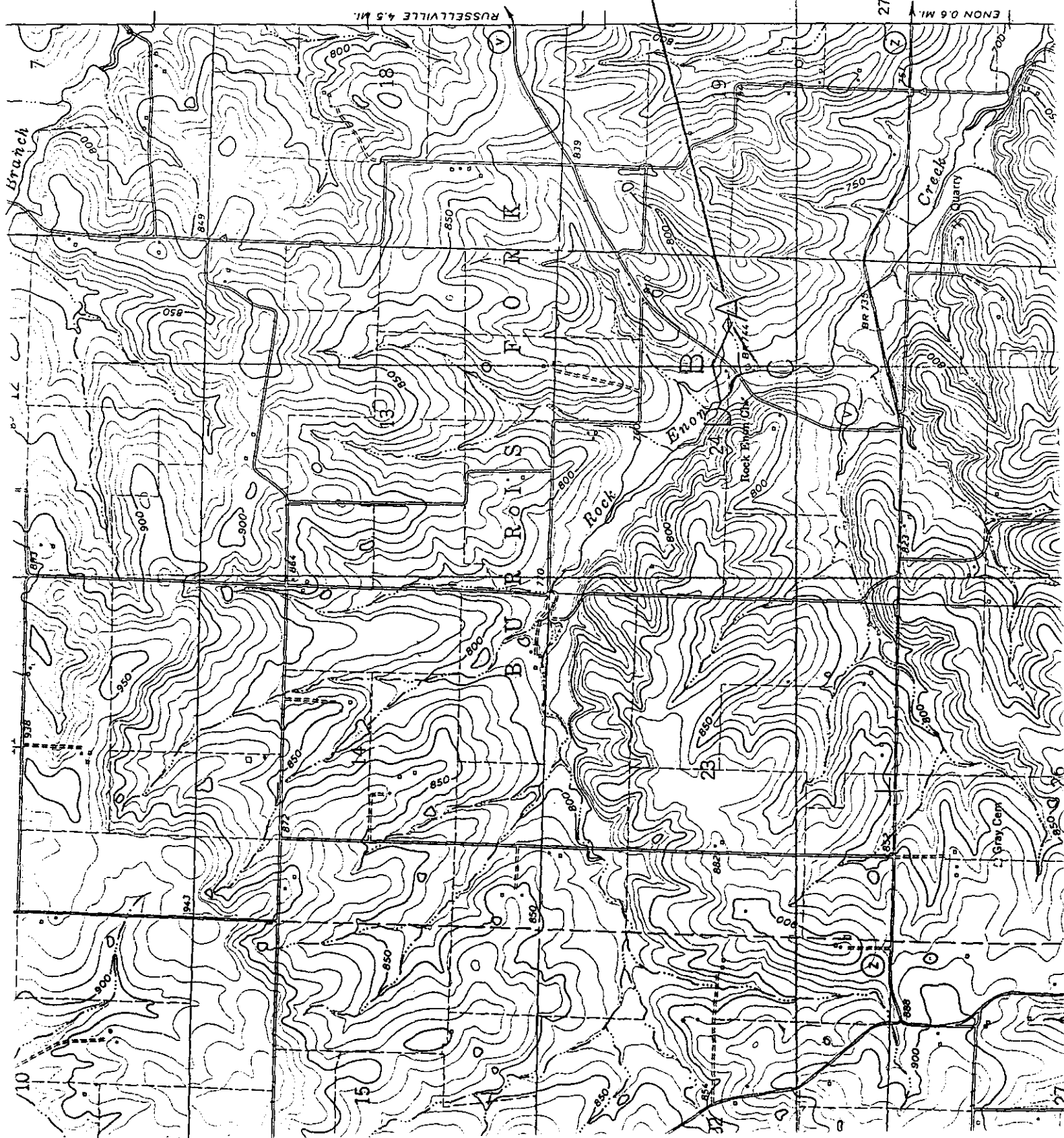
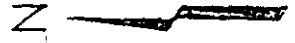
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LOUIS BRUCE
FARMSTEAD
HISTORIC
DISTRICT
• ROCK ENON FARM •

Louis Bruce Farmstead Historic District
Russellville vicinity, Moniteau County, MO

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- B. 15/542020/4257380
- C. 15/541980/4257160
- D. 15/541830/4257350



Bevee, Louis, Farmstead Historic District
Russellville vic., Newton County, MO

Debbie Shanks

May 30, 1991

Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory

Farmhouse, view from southeast

1 of 9



Bever, hours, Farmstead Historic District
Russellville vic., Moniteau County, Mo

Debbie Steals

May 30, 1991

Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory

Farmhouse, Smokehouse, and wall; view from south

2 of 9



Bruce, Louis, Farmstead Historic District
Russellville vic, Moniteau County, MO

Debbie Sheals

May 30, 1991

Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory
Smokehouse and farmhouse; view from northeast

3 of 9



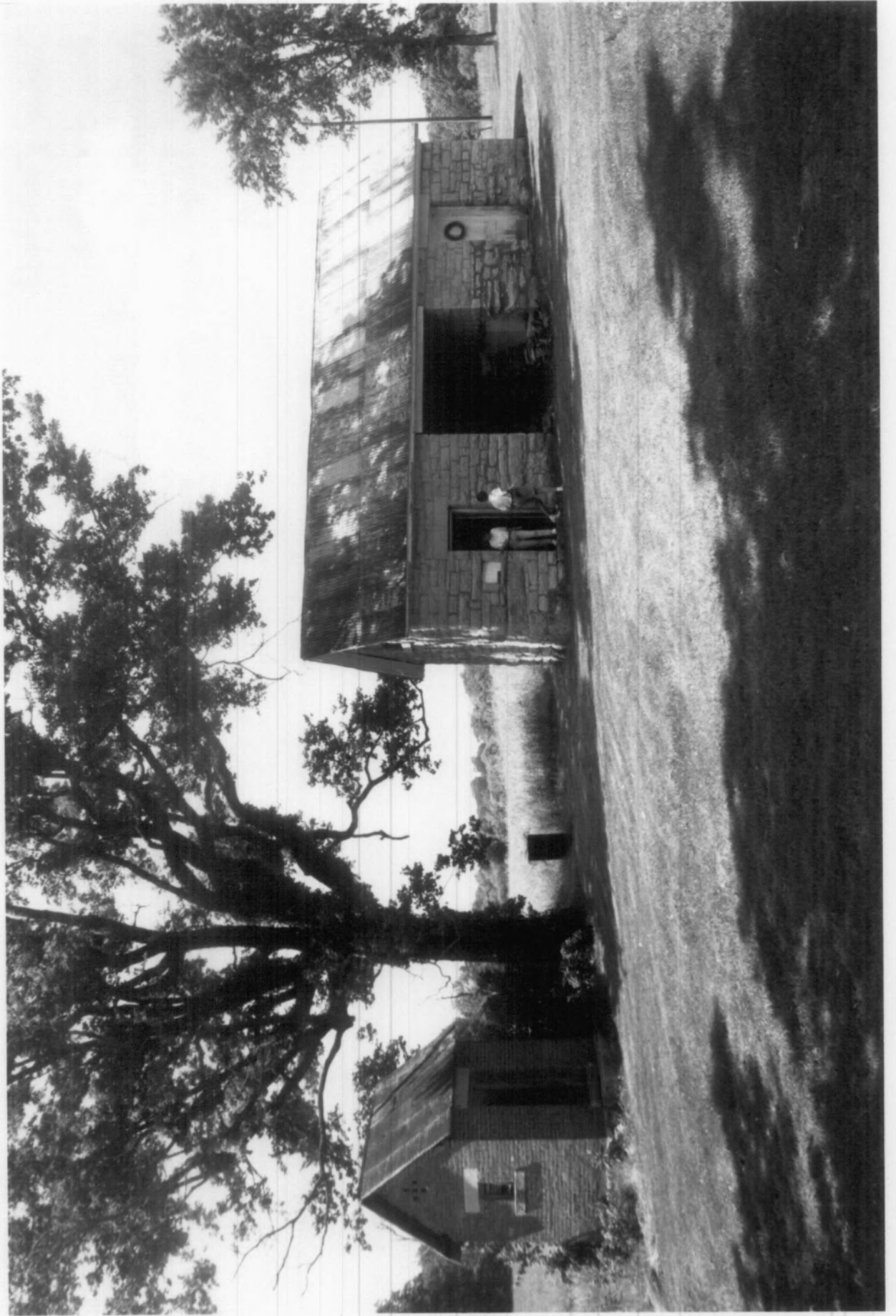
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Russellville vic., Moniteau County, MO
Steve Mitchell

May 30, 1991

Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory

Smokehouse and privy; view from southeast

4 of 9



Breve, Louis, Farmstead Historic District
Russellville vic., Marion County, Mo
Steve Mitchell

May 30, 1991

Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory

Spring house and wall; view from southeast

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Bruce, Lewis, Farmstead Historic District
Russellville vic. Moniteau County, MO

Steve Mitchell

May 30, 1991

Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory

Springhouse, granary, and shed; view from northwest

#6 of 9



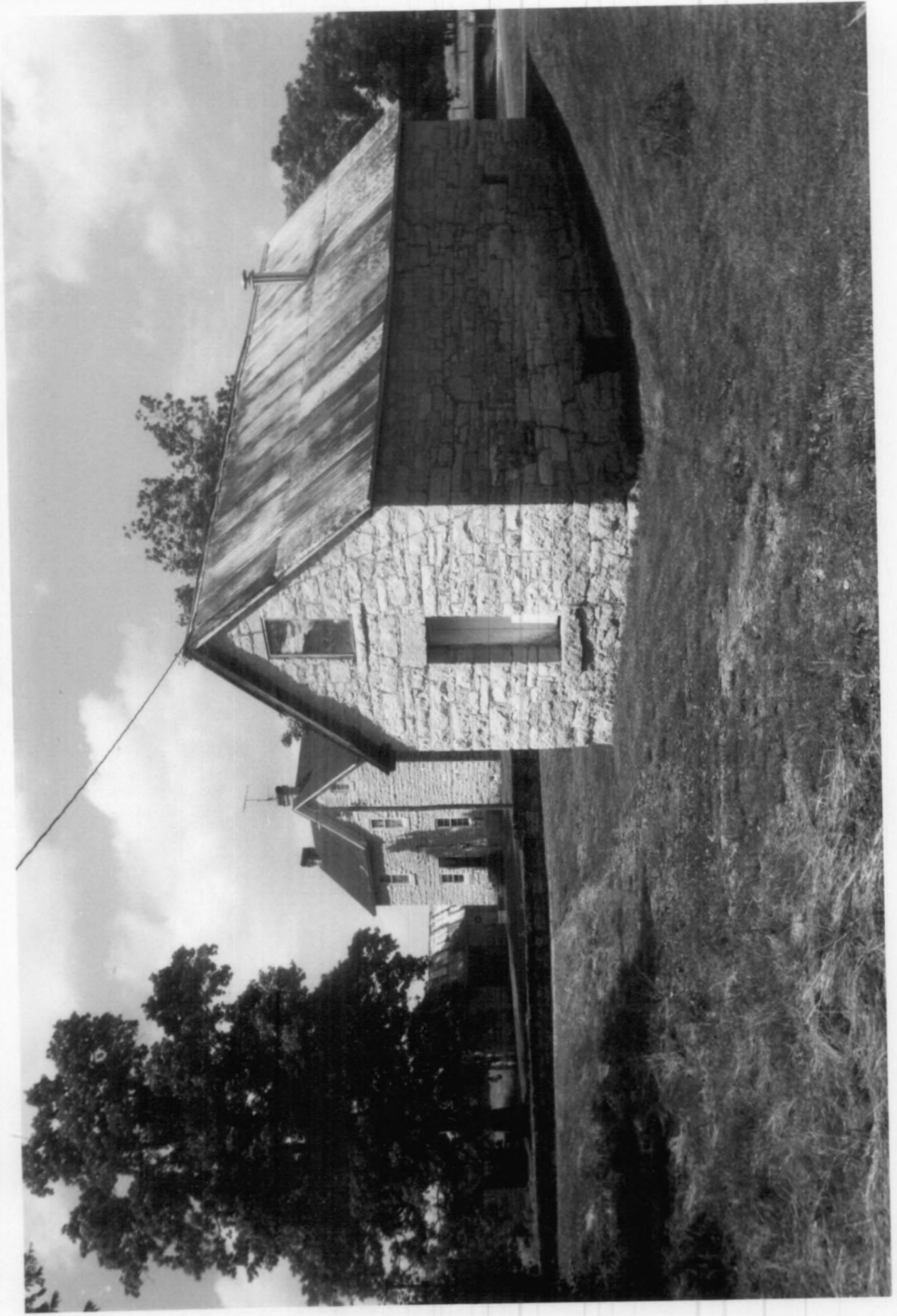
Bruce, Louis, Farmstead Historic District
Russellville vic., Moniteau County, Mo
Steve Mitchell

May 30, 1991

Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory

Granary, farmhouse, smokehouse, privy, and wall; view from southeast

7 of 9



Bruce, Louis, Franstead Historic District
Russellville vic., Mountain County, Mo
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Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory

Granary and barn, view from north

8 of 9



PHOTO

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