

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

1. Name of Property

historic name Culbertson-Head Farmstead

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 7178 County Road 402 [NIA] not for publication

city or town Palmyra [NIA] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Marion code 127 zip code 63461

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 [].)

Mark A Miles

July 21, 2008

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO

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
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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

AGRICULTURE _____

ARCHITECTURE _____

Periods of Significance

1854 - 1955 _____

Significant Dates

1854 _____

Significant Person(s)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Calvert, Ziba, Builder _____

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 33.3 acres

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	627700	4406130	15	627700	4405750
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	627340	4405750	15	627340	4406130

[] 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 Ruth Keenoy and Karen Bode Baxter
 organization Karen Bode Baxter, Preservation Specialist date July 15, 2008
 street & number 5811 Delor Street telephone (314) 353-0593
 city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63109

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 Warren and Katherine Head
 street & number 7178 County Road 402 telephone (573) 769-3334
 city or town Palmyra state MO zip code 63461

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Narrative Description

Summary

Just one mile due east of Palmyra, the Culbertson-Head Farmstead has been a prominent landmark on the north side of the Hannibal Rock Road (County Road 402 which is sometimes called the Cannonball Route), a narrow two-lane paved road that originally was the major road linking Palmyra to Hannibal in Marion County, Missouri. Surrounded by cultivated fields and pastures in an area that is fairly flat and therefore good for cultivation, this 33-acre farmstead consists of six contributing buildings, all painted white with red roofs: the imposing, Greek Revival, brick house built ca. 1854 with a two-story portico facing south connected to the road by a curved gravel drive; a small, brick, pyramidal roof smokehouse/ice house (pre-1915) located immediately northeast of the house; the hipped roof, lap-sided shop (ca. 1927) located north of the house; the large 1927 Jamesway, gambrel roof barn located northwest of the shop; the gabled roofed, wood granary (corn crib) (ca. 1927) located east of the Jamesway barn and northeast of the shop; and the 1880s transverse crib barn that was moved north (away from the house) to its current location in the 1920s. The curved gravel driveway was created in the late 1920s when the young Warren Head drove the family's electric car in an arc across the front yard to establish the route for the new driveway, probably about the time the garage addition was added to the house in 1927. Much of the shrubbery and many of the trees in the yard around the house were installed as part of the landscaping completed by Stark Brothers Nursery (still the oldest nursery in the United States) in the 1930s, retaining at that time the two white pine trees in the front yard that dated back before the 1884 illustration of the house, but these were lost in storms in 1981 and 2003. A clay tennis court with a concrete surround was built during the 1920s directly west of the house for the family's use. While it is still visible, grass has grown over the clay court.

Greek Revival House Exterior Features

The two-story house has solid brick walls and an L-shaped plan with the 44-foot wide base of the L forming the south façade. The 55-foot wide shaft of the L-shaped plan is tiered, with a separate, shorter roof over the rear (north end) that formed the kitchen and servant wing, but it is still two stories tall and obviously constructed at the same time as the rest of the house. A single story, hipped roof garage was added on the north end of this shaft. The brick on the house was made locally and originally painted gray. By the 1920s, it was yellow, but for many years it has been white. The shallow pitched, hipped roof has metal lined built-in gutters (originally draining to the cistern) that creates deep eaves with modillions underneath and standing seam roofing (painted red) that dates back at least to the early twentieth century (since it has never been replaced in Warren Head's memory). Below the modillions is a tiered frieze which does not

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continue around the north end of the shaft of the L-shaped plan. The windows on the main house are all six-over-one wood sashed windows, with physical evidence on the lower sashes revealing that they were originally six-over-six sashes. The muntins were removed years ago from the lower sashes, probably prior to or with the 1908-1909 renovations since Warren Head does not remember them from his childhood in the house. The windows all have wood slat storm windows and stone sills and lintels. The decorative stone window hoods create the effect of a broken pediment at the base of the cornice directly above each window, which is capped by curved broken pediments featuring a shell with scrollwork in the tympanum. There are three brick chimneys – two gable-end chimneys at either side of the main façade that have corbelled caps and one massive chimney that served both the kitchen fireplace and the basement boiler. The foundation of the house, visible only inside the basement, is cut limestone blocks.

The façade is divided symmetrically with two bays of shuttered windows on either side of the two-story portico. Shutters appear to have been originally installed on all windows, but by the mid-1920s they were only left on the façade. The portico has a shallow pitched, pedimented roof that continues the built-in gutters and the modillion pattern under the eaves that is used on the main house. Supporting this pedimented roof and resting on a shallow wood porch floor, the massive Ionic columns at each corner of the portico have fluted shafts with volutes. Connected to the columns is a second floor balcony surrounded by decorative iron railings. Simple flat pilasters with simple capitals and bases are positioned against the house façade at the rear corners of the portico, extending to match the two-story height of the columns. Smaller versions of these pilasters flank the entry door (next to the sidelights) with matching half-pilasters on the outer edges of the slightly recessed entry opening. Horizontally lighted sidelights with recessed base panels flank the front entry door. The door has a large rectangular recessed panel below a small square light and is protected by a twelve-light wooden storm door. Clear glass transoms extend above the sidelights and door with the door transom having four lights. On the side of entry opening is a small, black metal carriage style porch light. The doorway on the balcony above is also a wood paneled door with a wooden storm door (without lights), which is flanked by narrow wood sashed windows that serve as sidelights (the upper sash has a horizontal muntin with the lower sash having a single light, positioned like the rest of the house windows).

The east elevation originally had two second floor window openings. In 1908-1909, the Heads added the semi-circular porch that spans the east end of the base of the L. Four tapered columns with flat pilasters positioned against the house wall support the balustraded porch roof and rest on the shallow wood porch floor. The capitals of these columns are shaped slightly to approximate the squared forms of the volutes of the front columns. The railing on both the first and second floor of the porch has turned wood balusters. The second floor railing has boxed newel posts that emulate the components of a column with a plinth-like base and a flat-topped capital.

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The porch opens into the east side yard via a single broad step that follows the curve of the porch. The house (living room) was modified when the porch was added, punching in two openings for paired French doors on the first floor of the east elevation.

Behind the living room, which forms the east wall of the base of the L, the interior corner of the L-shaped plan is more complex. The north wall of the base of the L has two bays of windows with another sashed window positioned at the landing near the interior corner (and over the porch roof). It originally had an open shed-roofed porch aligned along the east wall, but that was enclosed in the 1920s to accommodate the family dog. The north end of this porch was apparently already enclosed and sided with wood clapboards with a six-over-one window into the pantry/laundry room. Simple one-over-one windows above a clapboard half-wall and a transomed eight-light storm door span the remaining space along its east wall. Above the porch, the taller section of the shaft of the L extends north enough to contain a single sashed window on its east elevation before dropping down to the slightly lower roofline, which has a tiny two-over-one sashed window near the junction and another sashed window aligned with the window of the pantry/laundry room.

The west elevation of the house originally had shorter, paired casement windows on either side of the chimney on the first floor and no windows in the bedroom above. On the rear half of this taller section of the west elevation, it originally had two more sashed windows on each elevation, but in 1908-1909 a small one-story extension was added across these two window bay openings to create the bay in the dining room as well as a butler's pantry off of the kitchen (that the Heads have always called the china cabinet room). This extension is sided with wood clapboard and has a flat roof with a broad frieze under the boxed cornice, but it is suspended as a boxed bay window, without a foundation. There is a single, sashed window on its south face, a triple unit, sashed window in the dining room alcove and paired sashed windows in the butler's pantry, all with multipaned lights to match the other sashed windows on the house.

At the north end of the house is the large two-car garage added in 1927 that has a poured concrete floor and a shallow pitched, standing seam metal roof that creates an overhang on the east elevation in front of the paired, three-section, folding doors. Each section of the door has a nine-light sash in the upper half with vertical board in a recessed panel on the lower half. The walls of the garage are brick, with the north wall extending east to support the roof overhang, forming a wing wall. In the north elevation there is a single window opening with paired six-over-six sashed windows. The west wall of the garage has another opening with paired six-over-six sashed windows north of a single panel, wood door. The interior of the garage wing has a concrete floor, bead board ceiling and has a pass-through ice door to the kitchen. The north elevation of the house has no openings and is highlighted by the gable-end kitchen chimney.

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To the west side of the rear section (lower two story section) of the house is a flat roofed cistern porch nestled in the corner between the house and garage and probably added during the 1908-1909 renovations, but not enclosed until the 1920s. It has a poured concrete foundation/floor and is sided with wood clapboards with a broad frieze under the boxed cornice. Continuous lintels and window sills (at the porch's railing height) span all elevations. Its north elevation has a screened, wood paneled door with square light positioned next to the garage and single light, fixed windows form a continuous band around the remaining elevation walls, infilling what was originally an open porch.

Interior House Features

The interior of the house is divided into three levels. The basement is only a partial basement, primarily under the dining room (which included the utility room and fruit closet), the kitchen (which was the furnace/boiler room that still serves the radiators throughout the house) and rear east porch (which was the coal room) and the remaining house has simple crawl spaces under the first floor. The main floor has a central hall with the grand staircase that leads to the second floor and it separates the living room on the east side from the library and the dining room on the west side. The back stairs separate the dining room from the kitchen, which is accessed through the china cabinet room in the bump-out bay on the west wall. Behind the central hall is access to the enclosed porch and the doorway to the bathroom, which was added within the porch footprint. At the north end of the porch and accessed through the east door in the kitchen, is the pantry/laundry room. The 1927 garage addition on the north end of the house is accessed through the north door of the kitchen. The second floor is accessed both by the open, dog-legged stairs from the central hall as well as the enclosed, straight flight back stairs that connect to a narrow hallway along the east wall of the shaft of the L-shaped floorplan. The main stairs opens into a central landing on the second floor with an office at the south end that opens onto the portico balcony. To the east of the landing is the master bedroom and on the west are two additional bedrooms. The room behind the rear stairs was used in recent years as a work/storage room but was more likely was the servants' quarters for earlier generations. East of the main stairwell is the bathroom.

The interior has several distinctive features. On the first floor, the focus of the central hall is the open staircase to the interior which has a fancy turned newel post, a railing that extends up to the second floor with half-cylinder crooks for the platform and turned balusters with squared bases attached to the treads of the open stringer stairs with curved brackets. One of the older glass, pendant electric light globes still hangs by the heavy chain in the front hall from a plaster ceiling medallion. On either side of the front entry, large cased openings lead into the front rooms, with one to the library/hall (west side), and another (east side with pocket doors) that separates the library and dining room. Doors on the first floor are heavily paneled four vertical panel doors.

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The window and door trim throughout the first floor has molded back band casing and chamfered lintels that extend slightly (surrounded by the back band casing) beyond on either side casing, a common treatment in early Greek Revival designs. The floors on the first floor had 1 3/8-inch oak flooring installed in 1908-1909 and it has tall baseboards. Most of the first floor has ten-foot ceilings. While the living room has a broad cove molding and an elaborate ceiling medallion, the library has a smaller cove molding and a multiple pendant electric chain shower fixture with leaded glass domes. In contrast, the dining room has a wood beamed ceiling with an electric brass chandelier that has a large frosted glass bowl surrounded by glass shades on each arm of the light fixture. It also has some wall bracket lights as well as a frosted glass bowl pendant light in the alcove bay.

There were originally three fireplaces on the first floor. The fireplace centered on the east wall of the living room has a brick mantel with a simple wood shelf and glazed tile hearth. Another spans the entire west wall of the library where its brick hearth and tile floor are surrounded by a wood bookcase mantel. A third fireplace and chimney breast is on the north wall of the kitchen, but it has been covered. The other distinctive feature are the china cabinets added to the alcove on the west elevation, a small pass-through room between the dining room and kitchen that the Heads refer to as a china closet – mentioned earlier as the butler's pantry.

The second floor has an old globe pendant light suspended on a chain over the open stairway with the railing of the stairs wrapping around at the top of the landing. On the opposite side of the landing, etched glass sidelights and the paneled door to the office spans most of that wall. The trim around the doors and windows on the second floor is mitered cornered with elaborately shaped casing. The doors have two vertical panels with glass knobs. The floors are a wider fir board with tall three member baseboards.

Summary of Alterations to the House

When Wallace and Estelle Head were preparing to move into the house in 1908-1909, they updated the house by making some modest structural changes:

- enclosing the back stairway to separate it from the dining room,
- adding the one story bay on the west side of the house to create the china closet (the family's term for what others might call a butler's pantry) and a window alcove in the dining room,
- adding the semi-circular, colonnaded porch on the east side of the house,
- converting three simple doorways on the first floor into large cased openings (and a pocket door to the library),

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- building the wall to create a back hall from the main hall to the back stairs (which made the large west bedroom smaller),
- removing a wall to combine two bedrooms to make the master bedroom on the east side with a closet at the north end, and
- creating the bathroom upstairs (the first indoor bathroom).

In addition, in 1908-1909, Wallace and Estelle Head updated the services for the mechanical systems for the house. They added electrical service to the house by bringing the electricity from Palmyra on poles paid for by Wallace and Estelle (which of course meant that lighting in the house was converted to electric fixtures). They installed indoor plumbing by installing electric pumps for the cisterns. Previously there had been a windmill near the southeast corner of the house (according to the 1880s illustration of the house) but it was later located near the cistern porch on the northwest corner of the house to pump water from the cistern tank in the basement (under the cistern porch). There was another cistern outside between the smokehouse and house. Around 1920, the Heads installed piped water service from Palmyra, and the cistern storage systems and pumps became obsolete. Previously the house had been heated by the fireplaces but as part of the 1908-1909 updates, the Heads installed a boiler fueled by coal and radiator heat. In the 1930s, the coal fired boiler was replaced with a gas furnace, probably shortly after gas service was extended to the farm in 1932.

In 1908-1909 they also made some changes to the decorative detailing:

- installing narrow oak flooring (first floor),
- redesigning the first floor mantels with brick and glazed tiles in the hearth, including the built in bookcases in the library,
- adding wood beams to the dining room ceiling,
- applying a plaster medallion ceiling ornament in the living room,
- positioning electric chandeliers in the dining and living room along with wall sconces as well as other electric lights throughout the house,
- adding new wallpaper to the library, living room, and dining room, and
- converting the fireplaces in the master bedroom and southwest bedroom to decorative mantels and closing over the hearths of the kitchen and servant's room.

In the 1920s, the cistern porch was enclosed and either in the late 1920s or early 1930s, the rear east porch was enclosed as well, to accommodate the beloved dog of Idress Head Alvord (Wallace's sister) who was a frequent visitor.

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When the next generation of Heads, Katherine and Warren, moved into the house with their two sons (Wallace and John) in 1956, they spent several months renovating the house with Warren personally responsible for much of the work finished between 1955 and 1957. This included:

- refinishing the floors,
- installing a new lavatory, toilet and tub in the upstairs bathroom (and removing a window to accommodate the shower in the tub),
- hanging new wallpaper in the front hallway and master bedroom as well as painting the library wallpaper (other wallpaper had probably been replaced in the 1930s shortly before Estelle Head died),
- upgrading electrical wiring, and
- renovating the kitchen (new floor, cabinets, appliances).

Since the mid-1950s, ongoing maintenance and some minor renovations have been undertaken to the house, but no major alterations, including:

- repapering walls and ceilings in the west bedrooms, back hall and stairs in the mid-to late 1960s,
- installing a new gas fired furnace in the 1960s and adding air conditioning for the first floor in 1989,
- adding a small bathroom in the late 1990s on the first floor behind the central hall in an area of the enclosed rear porch,
- completing some modest structural work in 1989 by installing support jacks under joists in the basement, and
- upgrading the wiring and installing a circuit breaker panel in the 1980s.

Smokehouse/Ice House

The smokehouse/ice house was constructed prior to 1900 (possibly during the nineteenth-century since its detailing matches the house). This one-story, pyramidal roofed, painted brick building has a limestone foundation that is barely visible above ground. The roofing has been replaced with red asphalt shingles, but it retains its wide eave overhang with the modillions matching the main house. The walls are unadorned, except for a small vent slot on the rear (east elevation) to vent smoke and the wood plank entry door on the west elevation. Below the ground

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floor smokehouse is a full basement with fourteen foot high ceilings which served as an ice house originally. A small trap door in the wood floor of the smokehouse connects to a ladder into the ice house. The pulley in the rafters of the smokehouse was used to lower blocks of ice cut from the South River into the stone walled ice storage room. Warren Head recalls the transporting of the ice but not the use of the ice house, indicating that it was no longer used for ice storage after the early 1900s. There are also meat hooks on the exposed rafters in the smokehouse and in the basement ice house, but the damage to the stone foundation, mortar and wood stand as testaments to its original use and the cold ambient temperature even without ice attests to its effectiveness. The main floor level is currently used for storage, but still shows evidence of the smoke and salt damage on the brick walls and exposed rafters.

Shop

Built around 1927, the one-story, 20-by-40 foot frame shop building has a hipped roof with boxed cornice eaves. It is clad with lap siding with cornerboards. The roof is now red asphalt shingles. The south façade has a three-section folding garage door, with each section having a four light panel above two vertical recessed wood panels. The land slopes slightly toward the north so the concrete foundation is progressively more visible on the sides and rear (north elevation). On the west side is a double-hung, six-over-six wood sashed window with a simple wood plank door near the north end. On the rear (north elevation) there is another six-over-six wood sashed window centered on that wall and on the east elevation are two more matching sashed windows. On the interior, it has a poured concrete floor and the frame structure is exposed.

New (Jamesway) Barn

The 36-by-60 foot gambrel roofed barn rises 36 feet from its foundation to the roof ridge. It was designed specifically for the Head Farm in 1924 and 1925, according to the original set of blueprints still in the possession of the Head Family, but it was not completed until 1927. It is a wood post and beam structure with stud framed walls covered with lap siding resting on a raised, poured concrete foundation that has been scored to look like it is has mortar joints. It is surrounded by poured concrete slab aprons to provide easy access for farm machinery. The roofing was replaced several times, most recently after the 2007 storm with red asphalt shingles, and the roof has wide eaves with exposed rafters. There are two shed roofed, dormers with paired, four light, hopper windows on each side. The hay hood extends over the south hay loft door where a pulley attachment is situated to raise hay into the loft. There are two massive, metal, patented Jamesway ventilators, each with a patented Jamesway cow weathervane, as well as three lightning rods at the ridge of the barn. The paired, sliding hayloft doors on the south elevation each have a small four light opening in the upper portion of the wood cross-braced door panels. Below these paired doors, which are positioned near the roof ridge, there is another,

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single, two-panel, sliding hayloft door. On the ground floor, the driveway through the barn is accessed through paired, cross-braced doors. On either side of the doors there are small four light wooden hopper windows that have a progressive latch that allows the window to vent at intervals up to twenty inches. Like other windows on the barn, these windows have been built with insulated glass in the sash frame and they have simple projecting lintels, face framing, and sills. The west side has a series of similar hopper windows and three additional, cross-braced doors. There are also four small louvered vents above the window and door openings. The east elevation is similar, with hopper windows, louvered vents and another three hinged cross-braced doors. There are also two large louvered vents in the concrete foundation. The north end has paired, cross-braced drive doors and flanking hopper windows on the ground level as well as a sliding two panel hayloft door at the floor level of the loft. Unlike the south elevation, there is not a hayloft door at the roof ridge, instead there are paired multipaned windows.

It is described as a “sealed barn” because the patented James Company details were designed to make the building weathertight, including zinc weatherstripping on the insulated glass windows, interior walls and ceiling on the ground level clad with bead board, mouseproof bins, and ventilation shafts with adjustable flaps from the animal pens that extend via rounded, fiber insulated air ducts through the hay loft to the exterior. It was even piped with automatic waterers for the horses and mules. The interior has a concrete floor but some of the animal stalls have brick or wood floors for the animals comfort. A central drive through the building has paired doors separating the front half from the rear. On the east side of the south section are stalls for the mules and horses used on the farm while the southwest corner room served as the harness/tack room. Behind the harness room was the two-bay milking stand used for milking the cows for the family’s use (not commercial milk production). In this room is the open flight stairs against the west wall that lead to a large swinging trap door that is hinged with a counterweight system. The rear half of the barn has a series of additional animal stalls, with cows kept on the west half and horses and mules on the east half. The massive hay loft level rises 24 feet to the ridge with its exposed two-by-six-inch stud framing and a wood floor designed to handle 65 pounds per square foot live load. The dormer windows are hopper-style windows that open about twenty inches to ventilate the loft. There are large square chutes designed with removable horizontal boards that slide to provide openings (depending on the height of the hay stored in the loft) to drop the hay bales directly down to the animal stalls, with a counterweighted trap door to keep the temperature regulated air from the ground level from escaping up these chutes. According to Warren Head, when the Palmyra High School gymnasium was out of commission in the past, this massive hay loft was used for the basketball team’s practices and it still has a portable basketball net ready for use.

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Granary (Corn Crib)

Built in 1927, the one-story, end gabled granary (corn crib) originally had wider spaced horizontal siding, but its conversion later to use for smaller grains rather than corn led to the addition of intermediate horizontal boards on both side elevations that still allowed air to circulate but kept the smaller grains from falling through the air gaps. The gable roof has wider eaves with exposed rafters hidden by the bargeboards. It has a newer red asphalt roof, replacing an original asphalt roof. There are tall, paired, wood plank doors on each end (north and south) with the walls on either side of the north elevation covered with narrow vertical board siding while both gable ends have lap siding. Shallow ramps lead up to these doors. The foundation and floor is poured concrete. There is a small multipaned window in the north gable end with a similar opening on the south façade. On the interior the structural framing is exposed.

Old Barn

The old barn was originally positioned due south, but it was moved by the Heads in the mid-1920s, about the time that the driveway was created on the east side of the house and the new barn was built. Probably built in the 1880s, it is a transverse crib barn with a main level and hayloft. The end gabled roof extends down to the first floor wall height on the east side and it has a hay hood (south side) to support the pulley to the hay loft door. On the west side, there is a shed roofed, two story extension, giving the barn an asymmetrical roofline. The barn has a wider, vertical board siding and an old corrugated tin roof (painted red). The eaves overhang slightly with exposed rafters behind the bargeboards. There are two sliding, vertical wood plank entry doors on the south end. There is a small side door on the west side near the north end. The foundation is concrete block at the west elevation (north end) and raised four feet above the ground. The foundation extends approximately 30 feet along the north elevation and approximately 20 feet along the south elevation. Interior standing support beams rest on large limestone rocks. The interior has a dirt floor with a wide plank floor supported by joists for the loft level which are exposed as the ceiling of the main level. Along the east driveway (inside the barn) are nailed-on steps leading to a ceiling opening to the hayloft floor. There are about 50 stanchions. There are cribs on both sides of the dirt drive. The lower shed roofed section on the east side as well as the two-story shed roofed extension on the west side were added at some point, which is apparent from the 1880s drawing of the farm in Holcombe's *History of Marion County Missouri 1884*, which shows the central two-story, end gabled section. While some of the wood both internally and on the exterior has probably been replaced due to wear and tear of this utilitarian building, it appears that the siding is the original and that much of the structural frame and the floor are also original given the rough saw marks and hand hewn boards. In 2004 attempts were made to stabilize the barn structurally and then in 2007 the barn roof had to be repaired after being damaged by a tornado that missed the house.

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Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO

Alterations and Integrity Issues

The farmstead has been in continuous use since 1854 when the Culbertsons established the farm and built the house. Buildings have been added to the property, most notably in the 1920s, and alterations made to update the house primarily in 1908-1909 when the Heads purchased the property. These changes are all part of the historical development of the farmstead. Even the relocation of the old barn that occurred during the 1920s is part of the farm's history, as it was completed to accommodate changes to the farmstead, including the addition of a modern driveway (designed for emerging automobile technology). Since the 1920s, only minor alterations and renovations have been undertaken, mostly periodic efforts to redecorate the house and maintain the buildings. None of these changes affected the visual integrity of the house or the outbuildings. The Head Farm acreage has expanded well beyond the original 33-acre Culbertson tract to include approximately 226 acres at present, in the immediate area completely surrounding the original 33 acres. The west end of this acreage adjoins the city limits of Palmyra. The original 33-acre Culbertson tract retains the historic outbuildings associated with the farmstead, while other acreage continues to serve as pasture and cultivated land without any identifying historic features. Today, the Culbertson-Head Farmstead retains the layout of its buildings as established between 1854 and the 1920s. These buildings are in remarkably good condition given their age and active use, providing a rare opportunity to experience a working farm from the earliest decades of the twentieth-century. The associated dwelling is one of Marion County's oldest and stateliest farmhouses.

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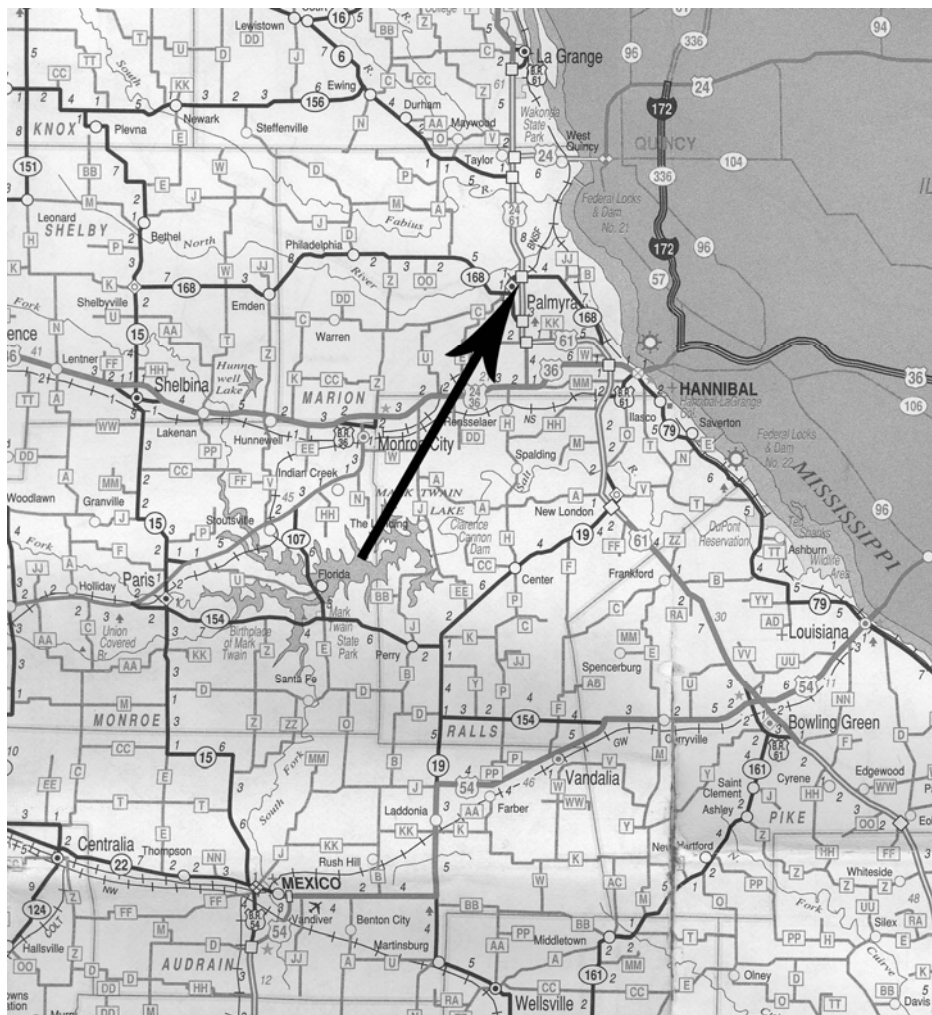
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Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO

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Missouri Map Location Palmyra

Missouri Official Highway Map, 1997-98



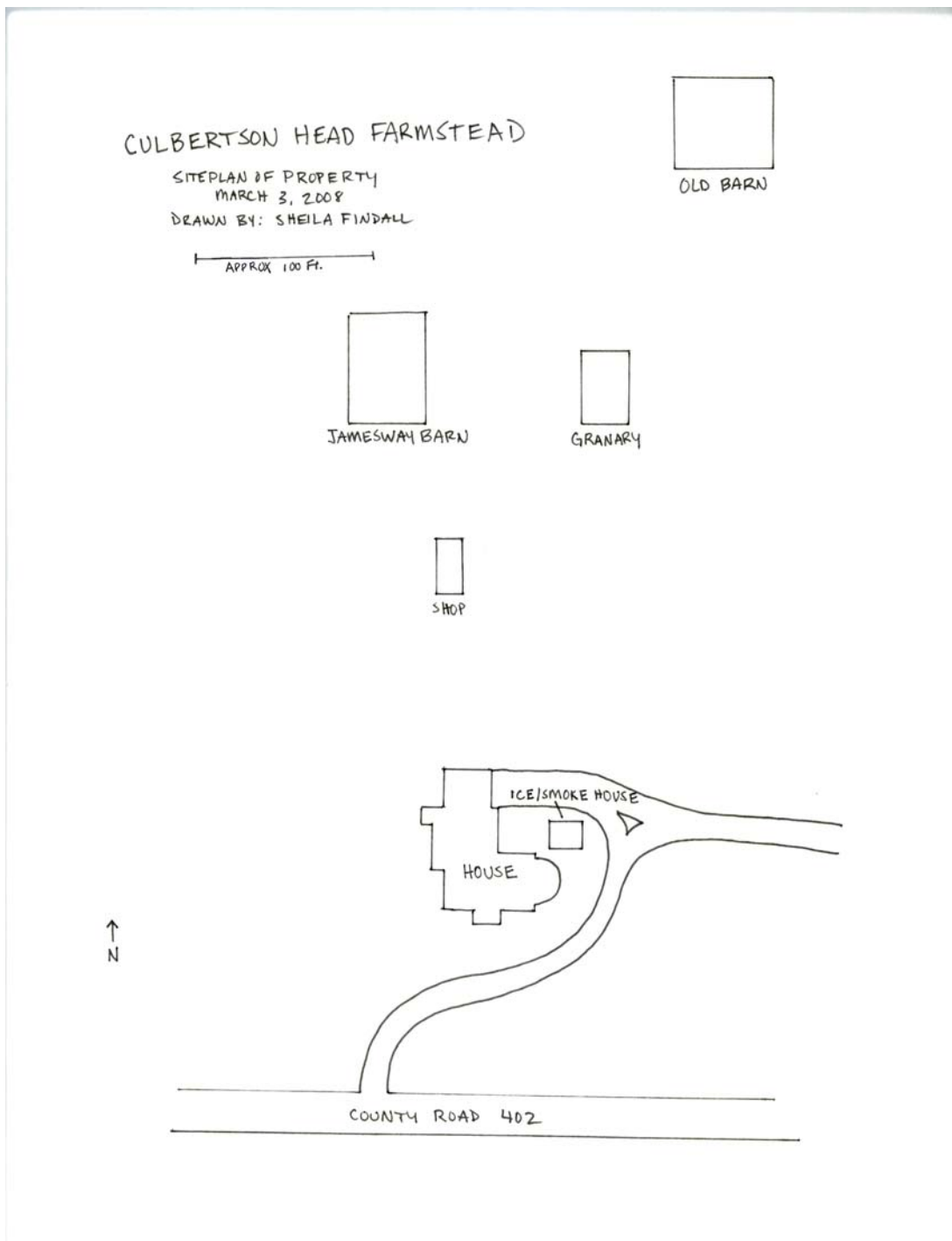
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Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO

Site Plan of Property



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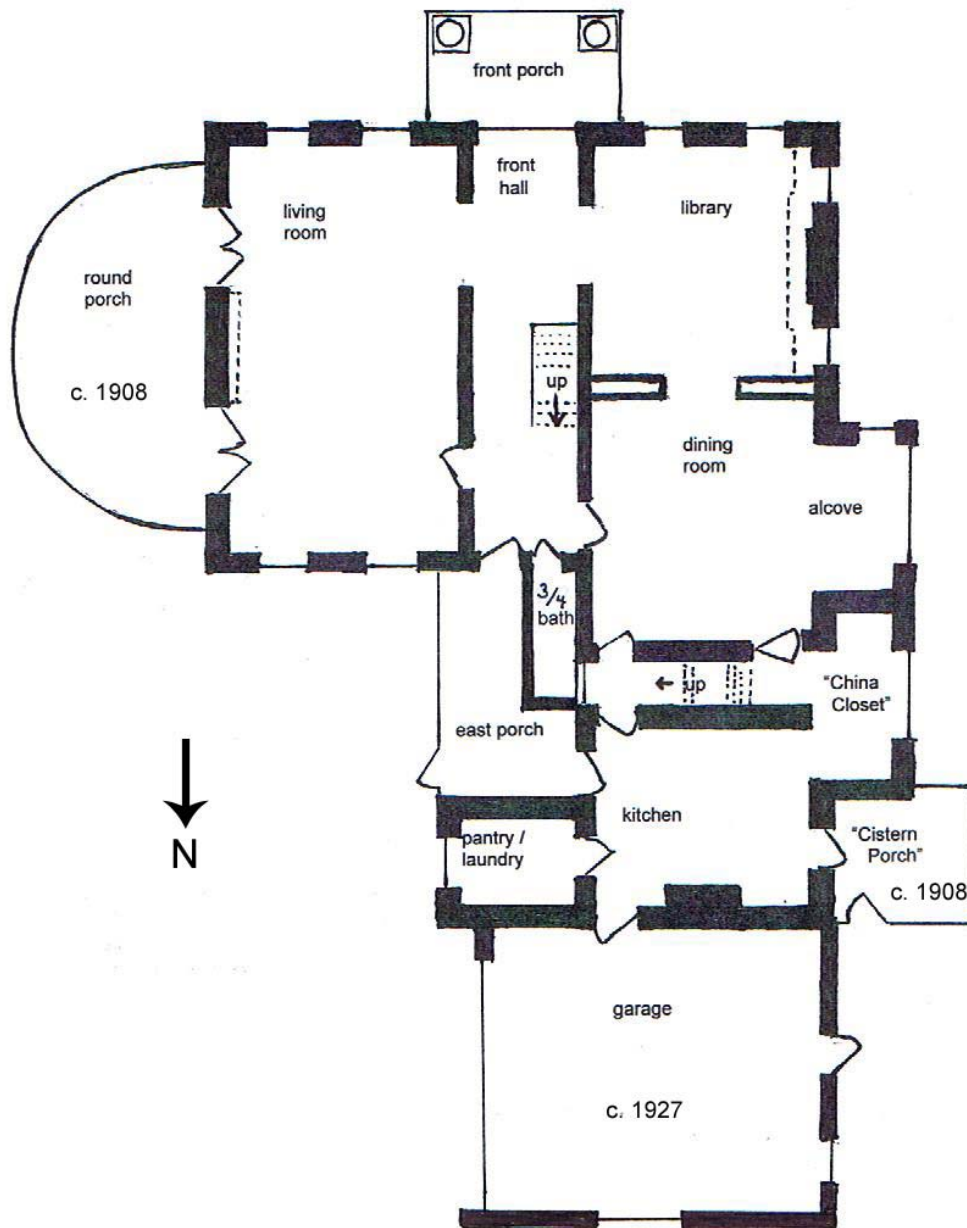
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Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO

Drawn by John Head 2007

First Floor Plan



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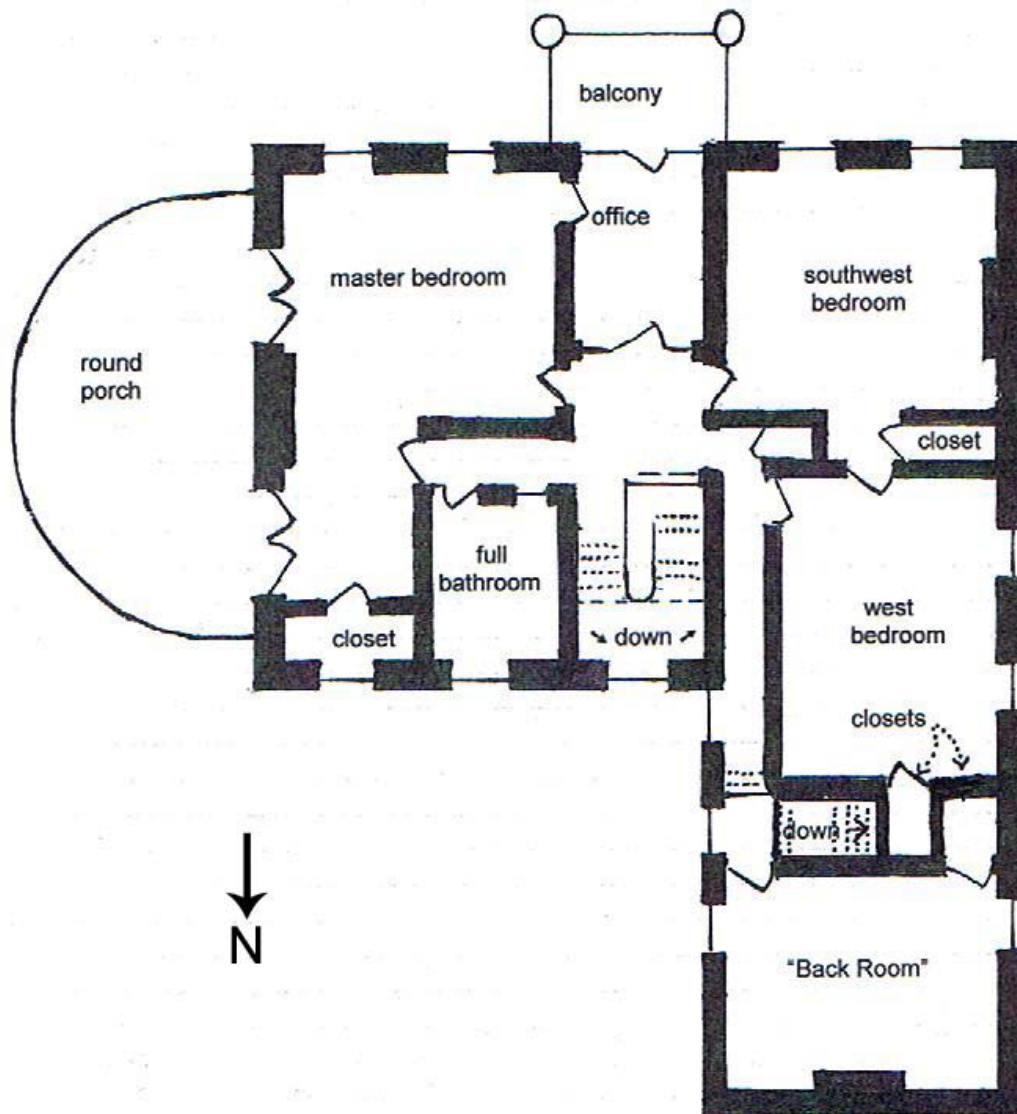
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Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO

Drawn by John Head 2007

Second Floor Plan



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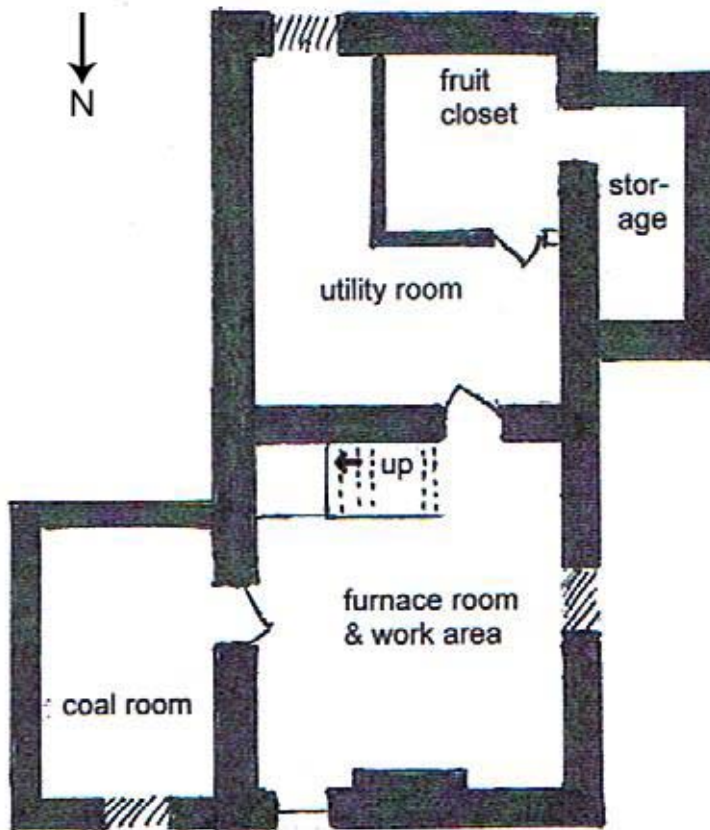
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Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO

Drawn by John Head 2007

Basement Plan



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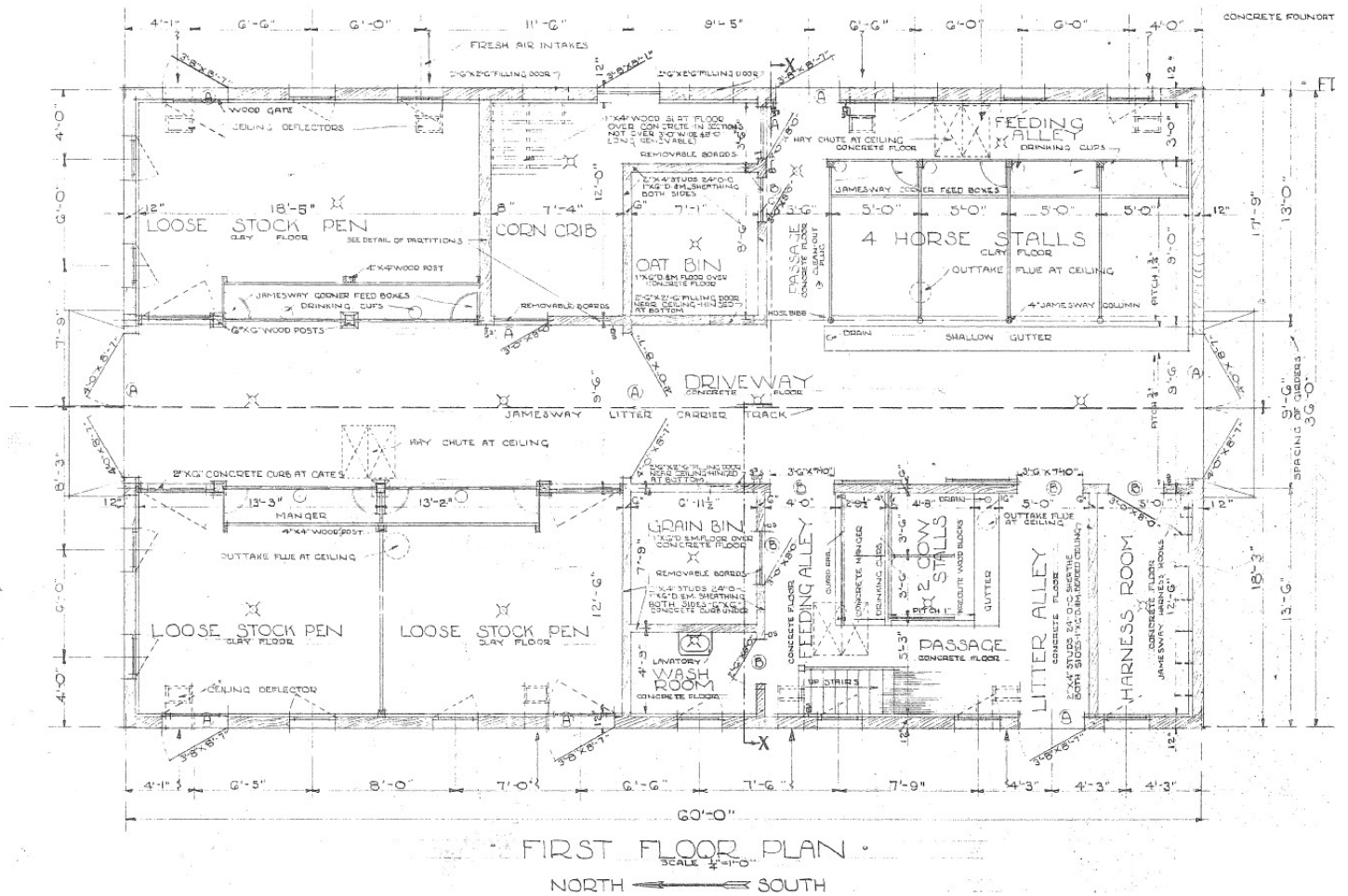
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Marion County, MO

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Drawn by Jamesway Farm Engineering Service 1924-25
From the Warren and Katherine Head Private Collection

First Floor Plan of the Jamesway Barn



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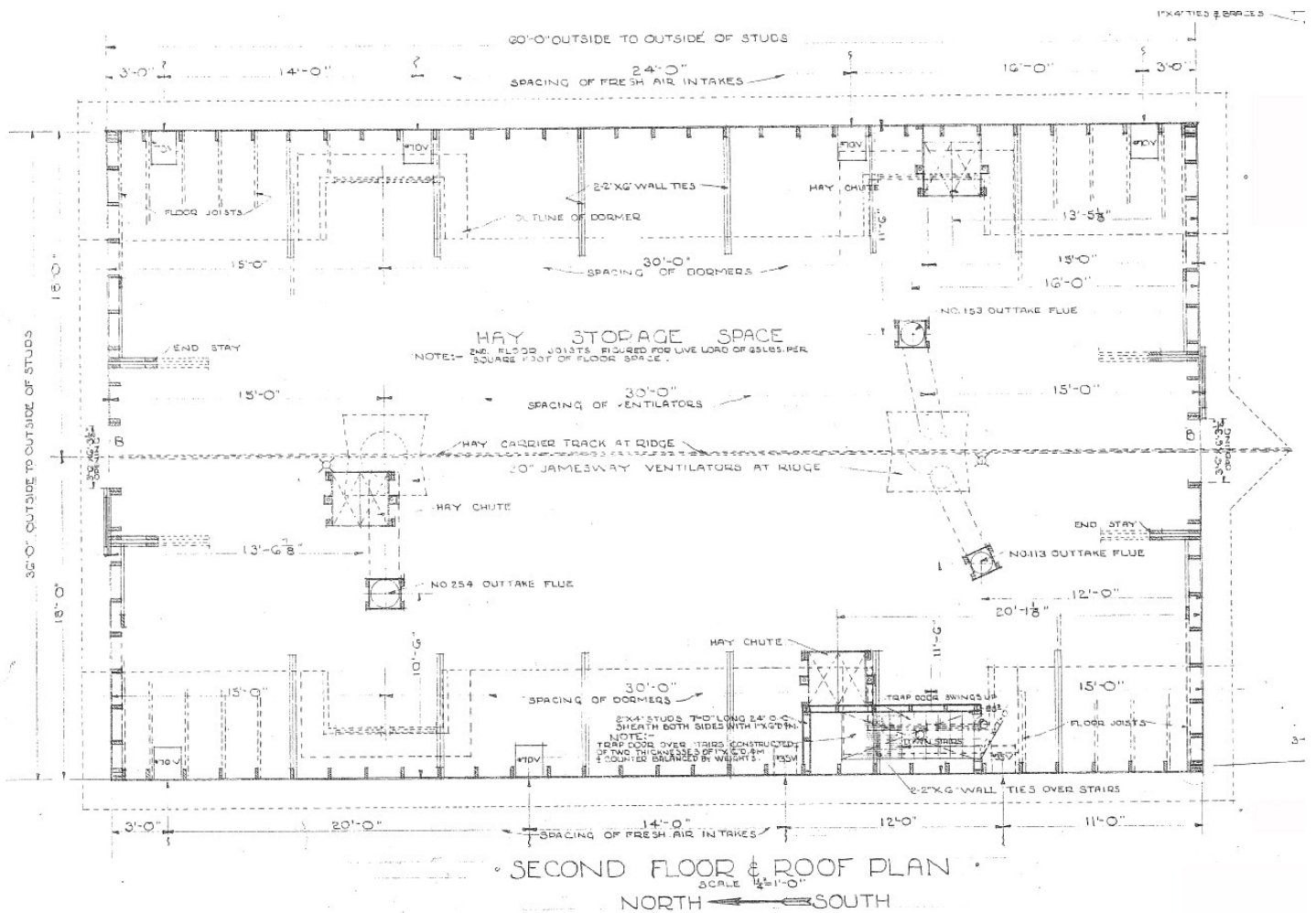
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Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO

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Drawn by Jamesway Farm Engineering Service 1924-25
From the Warren and Katherine Head Private Collection

Second Floor Plan of the Jamesway Barn



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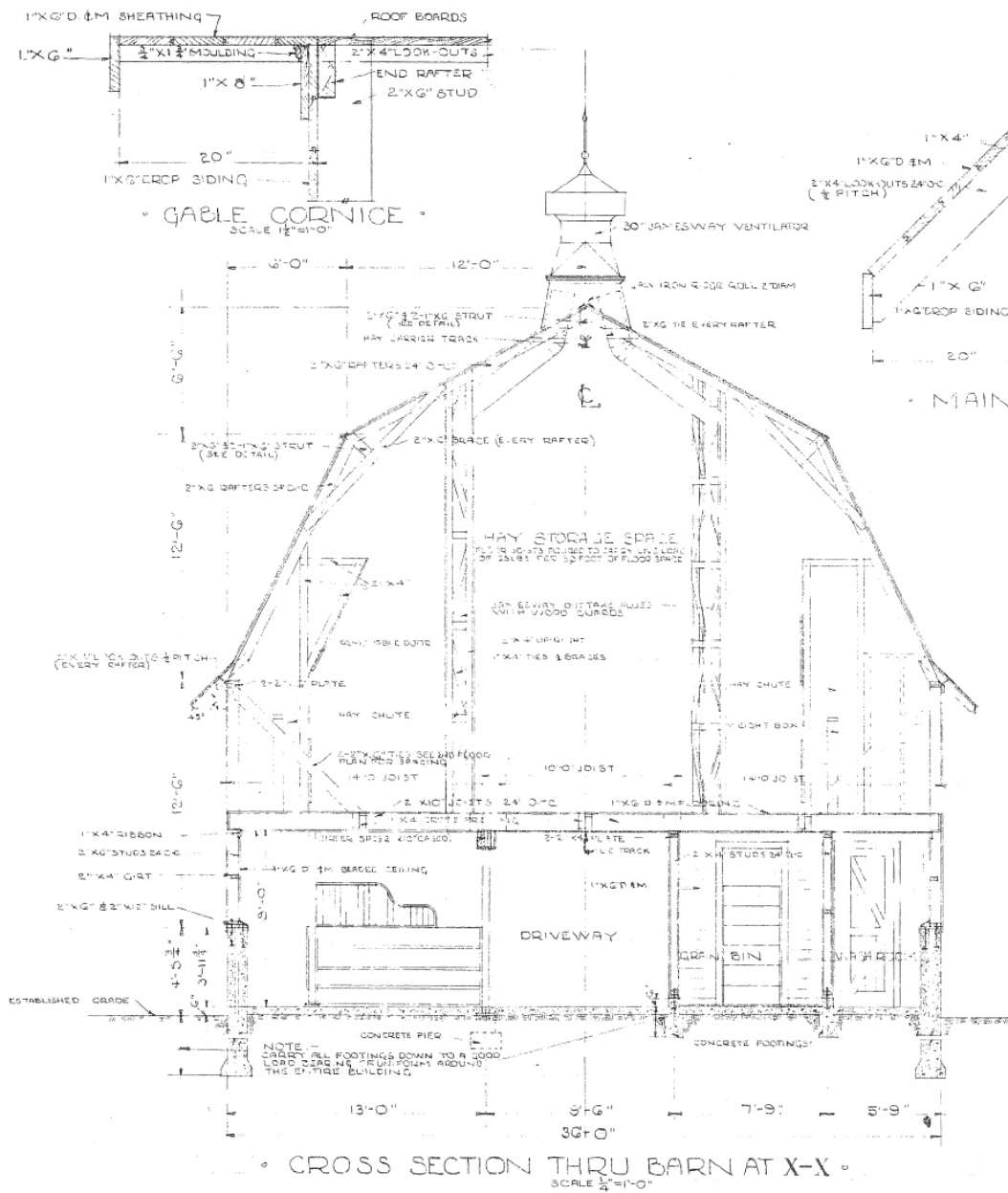
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Marion County, MO

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Drawn by Jamesway Farm Engineering Service 1924-25
From the Warren and Katherine Head Private Collection

North and South Sections of the Jamesway Barn



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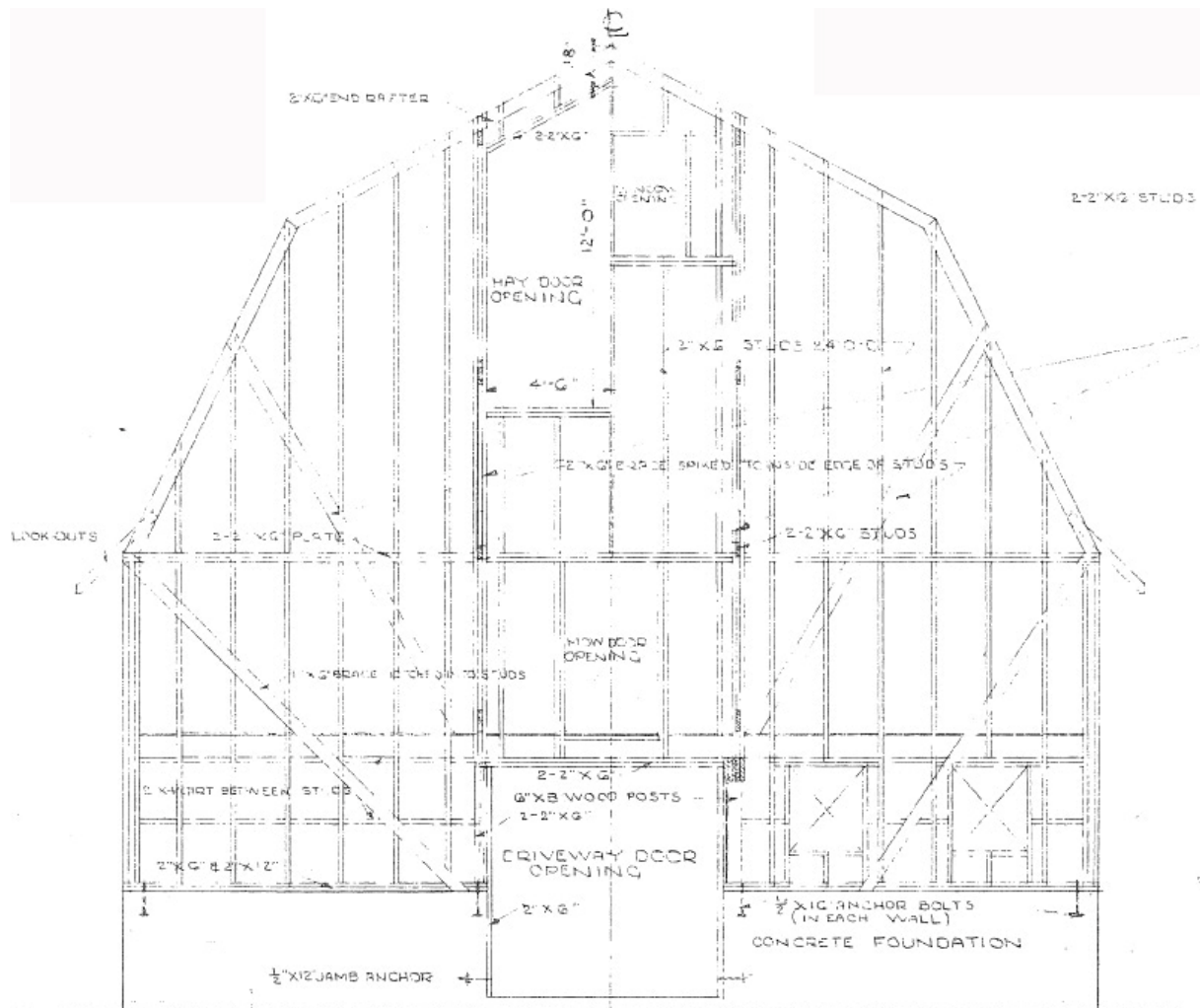
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Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO

Drawn by Jamesway Farm Engineering Service 1924-25
From the Warren and Katherine Head Private Collection

North and South Elevations End Framing
of the Jamesway Barn



• 1/2 SOUTH END • • 1/2 NORTH END •
• END FRAMING •
SCALE 1/2"=1'-0"

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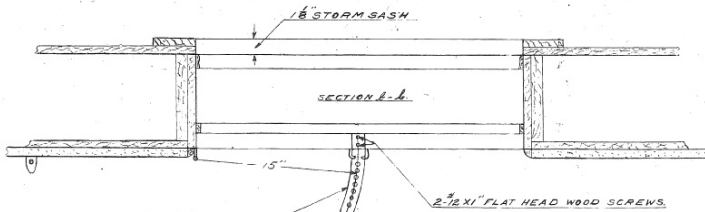
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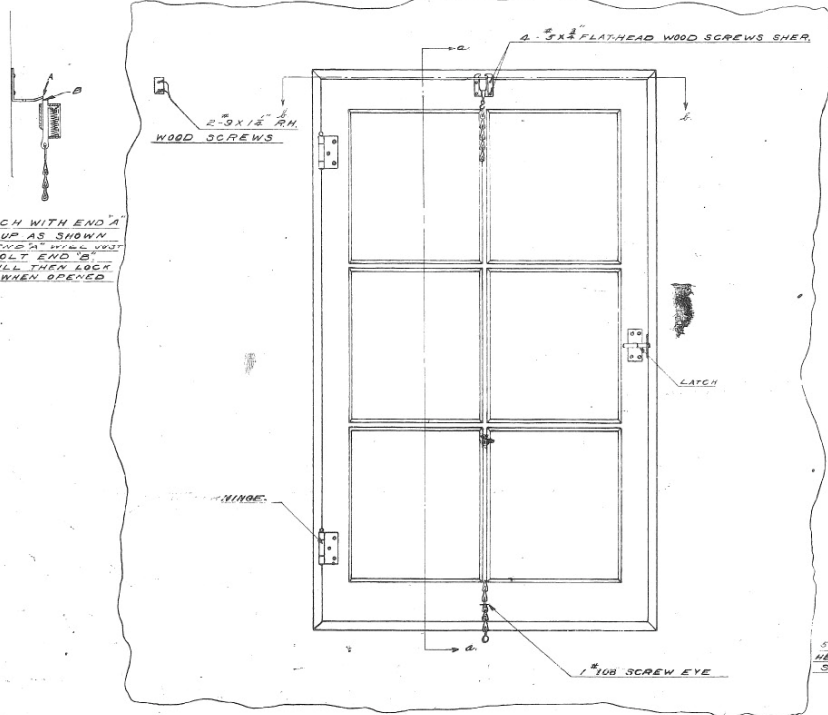
Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO

Drawn by Jamesway Farm Engineering Service 1924-25
From the Warren and Katherine Head Private Collection

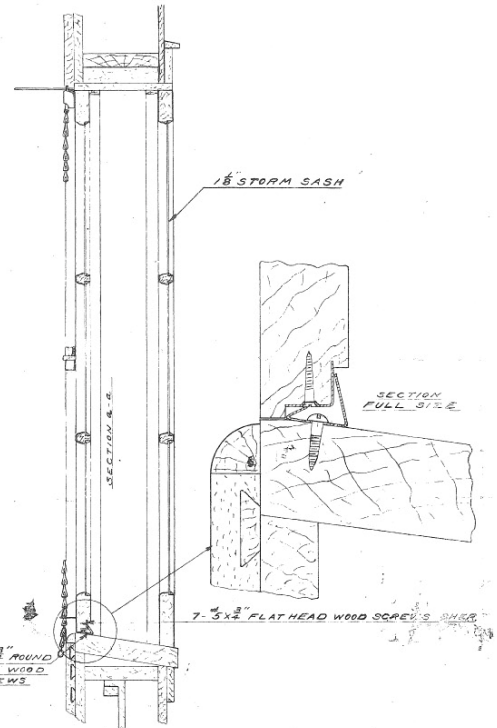
Window detail for the Jamesway Barn



TO SET SEGMENT IN
CORRECT POSITION PUT ONE SCREW JUST
1/2" FROM CENTER OF HINGE PIN THEN ADJUST
SEGMENT UNTIL THE ARMS ON CHAIN BOLT
PASS OVER IT PROPERLY AS THE WINDOW IS
OPENED AND CLOSED.



SET CATCH WITH END A
TURNED UP AS SHOWN
END B DOWN AT HINGE UNTIL
CLEAR BOLT END B
WINDOW WILL THEN LOCK
ITSELF WHEN OPENED.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR
INSTALLING JAMESWAY DATA
BARN & POULTRY HOUSE
WINDOW SASH
8/1/22 1213

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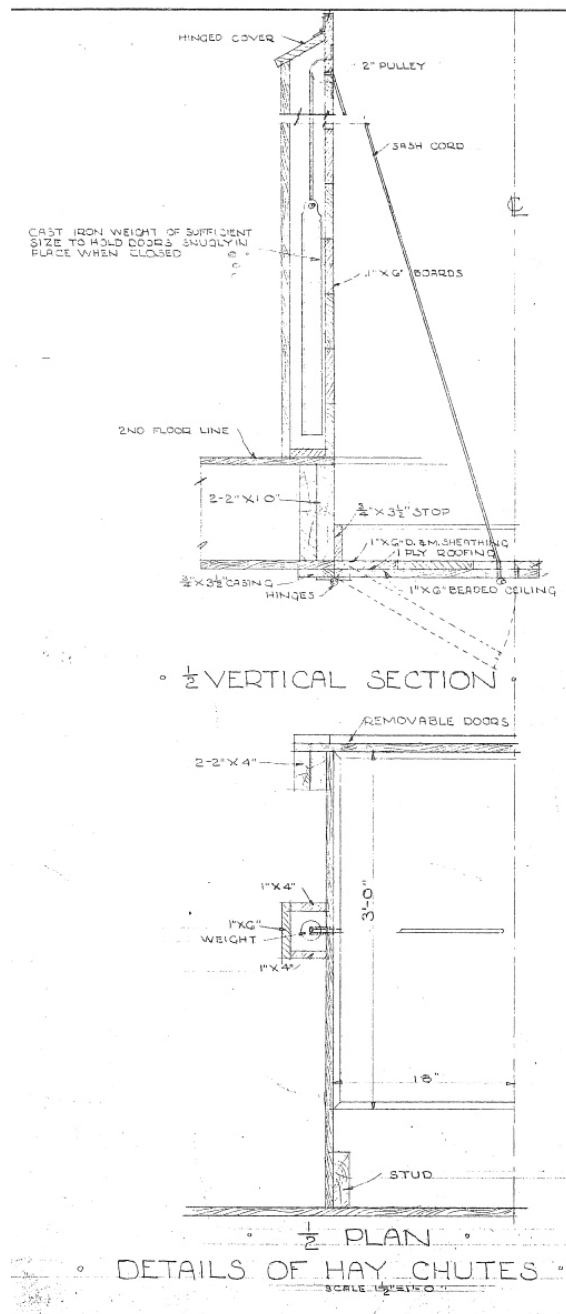
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Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO

Drawn by Jamesway Farm Engineering Service 1924-25
From the Warren and Katherine Head Private Collection

Detail of Hay Chutes in the Jamesway Barn



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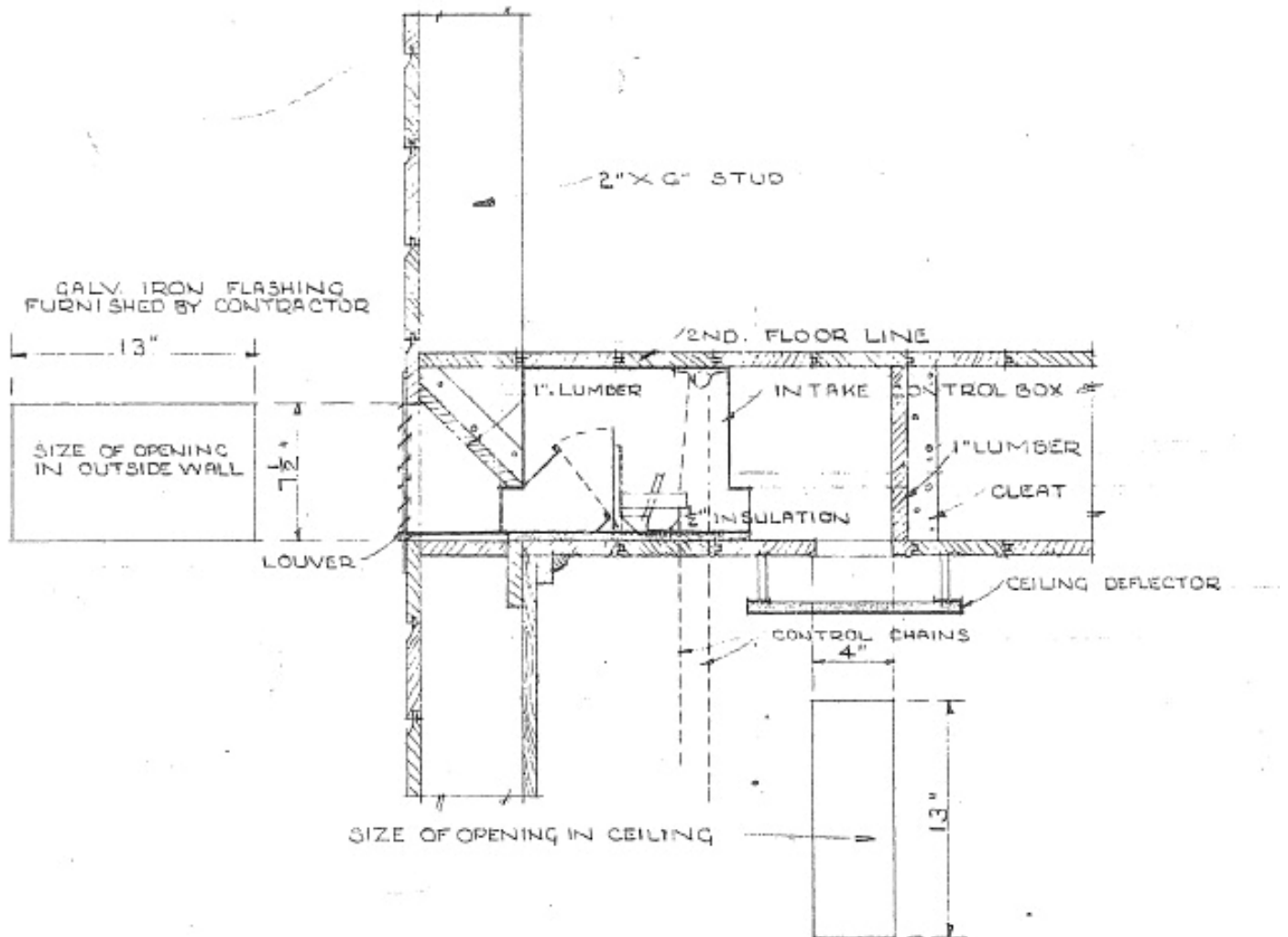
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Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO

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Drawn by Jamesway Farm Engineering Service 1924-25
From the Warren and Katherine Head Private Collection

Detail of Air Intakes in the Jamesway Barn



DETAIL OF FRESH AIR INTAKES # 35-V
(TWO REQUIRED)

SCALE 1 1/2" = 1'-0"

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Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The Culbertson-Head Farmstead is located east of Palmyra, Missouri, in the Liberty Township of Marion County. The farm is situated along the north side of County Road 402 (Hannibal Rock Road) and encompasses a 33-acre parcel, which holds a vernacular Greek Revival house constructed ca. 1854 and five outbuildings constructed ca. 1880 – 1927. The Culbertson-Head Farmstead is associated with James Culbertson, who purchased the property in about 1854 and had the house constructed at that time. In 1907, the farm was acquired by the Mackey-Head Family and remains in the Head Family today. The Culbertson-Head Farmstead is an excellent example of a working farmstead. The property's evolution from a manually labored mid-nineteenth century farm to that of a progressive twentieth-century farmstead is clearly illustrated by the surrounding landscape and field patterns, mid-nineteenth-century house, and intact collection of farm-related outbuildings. The Culbertson-Head Farmstead is eligible under Criterion A: Agriculture – as an excellent example of a nineteenth/twentieth-century working farm. The property is also significant under Criterion C: Architecture – in relation to its Greek Revival-style house constructed ca. 1854 and its unique collection of agricultural buildings. The period of significance extends from the date of the home's estimated year of construction, 1854, through 1955, the year that Wallace Head died. The Culbertson-Head Farmstead is one of the best examples of an intact nineteenth/early twentieth-century farmstead in Marion County. The property served an integral role in local agriculture and vernacular building traditions.

Nineteenth-Century Ownership of the Culbertson-Head Farmstead, 1854 – 1900

The Culbertson-Head Farmstead in Marion County, Missouri, is situated approximately one mile east of Palmyra in the Liberty Township, which is bordered by the Mississippi River to the east, the North River (at the north) and the Miller and South River townships at the south. Liberty Township was one of the earliest areas settled in Marion County and has long been associated with agricultural activities. The relationship of the rich farmland to the Mississippi River provided an early impetus for commercial production, as goods could easily shipped to markets in St. Louis and New Orleans. A federal land office established at Palmyra in 1825 further attracted settlers to the region, including James Culbertson, who moved to neighboring Ralls County, Missouri (from Kentucky) during the 1820s.¹

James Culbertson was born in 1799 in Franklin, Pennsylvania to Robert Culbertson (1755-1801) and Anne Duncan (1755-1827). The family immigrated to the United States from Scotland

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(Culbertson) and Ireland (Duncan) prior to 1790.² In 1822, James Culbertson married Mary Frances Vardeman. Mary was born in 1806, the daughter of a minister, Jeremiah B. Vardeman and Mary James of Lincoln County, Kentucky.³ The Culbertsons were married in Fayette County, Kentucky in 1822, and moved immediately afterward to Ralls County, Missouri, where they constructed “a home 4 miles west of New London.”⁴ Culbertson was well known during his years in Ralls County. He served in the Black Hawk War of 1832 (promoted from private to colonel) and in 1840 was noted as one of the county’s wealthiest residents, owning “a large number of slaves” and raising “the largest fields of hemp.”⁵

According to an early history of Marion County, James Culbertson moved to Missouri in 1825.⁶ A land patent, however, was issued to Culbertson a few years earlier in 1820, when he purchased 80 acres in Ralls County, southwest of New London.⁷ It is possible that Culbertson settled in Missouri (Ralls County) prior to his marriage to Mary Vardeman. Culbertson’s in-laws also settled in Ralls County, and it may have been their influence that led Culbertson to engage in hemp farming.* During the 1830s, Jeremiah Vardeman (Mary’s brother) obtained several land patents in the county; as did William Vardeman (another brother) in the 1840s.⁸ James Culbertson and William Vardeman owned the two largest hemp farms in Ralls County.⁹

James and Mary Culbertson had five children, all of whom were born in Ralls County. Robert Duncan, born in 1826, died at the age of eight. Additional children included James, born in 1827 (who later became a farmer and physician), Ann Eliza, born in 1831, Jeremiah Vardeman, born in 1833, and William Vardeman, born in 1835. Following Mary’s death in 1837, Culbertson married Rebecca Kidder in 1838.[†] James and Rebecca had one child, John Stephen, born in 1840 in Ralls County.¹⁰

In 1853, James and Rebecca Culbertson acquired a 33.3-acre parcel east of Palmyra from Verner and Matilda Suiter.¹¹ It is believed that the death of Culbertson’s youngest son, John Stephen (at the age of 11 or 12 – sources vary), provided the impetus for James and Rebecca’s move to Marion County. The house is believed to have been constructed around 1854 by a local brick

* Kentucky was one of the largest states for hemp production prior to 1860. As noted by R. Douglas Hurt, “emigrants [from Kentucky] brought the hemp culture with them to Missouri.” (Hurt: 1023).

† Of note, in FamilySearch records compiled by the Mormon Church, James Culbertson is noted as marrying “Relescoe Kizer” in 1838. Kizer’s date of birth is given as ca. 1817 (Missouri) whereas Rebecca’s date of birth is provided as ca. 1803 (Kentucky). It is assumed that the correct information is that provided for Rebecca, who shows up in census records. However, no family by the last name of “Kidder” was found in census records for Kentucky during the period of time that Rebecca would have been a child. Several “Kizer” (also spelled as Kaiser, Kyzer, etc.) references are made in Marion County historical records; but no mention of a Rebecca or Relescoe Kizer.

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Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO

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mason, Ziba Calvert, who resided in Warren Township.¹² James Culbertson died in 1873, after which time, the original 33-acre parcel changed ownership several times. In 1868, Rebecca Culbertson sold ten acres to Hezekiah Ellis. This transaction did not include the house. The bulk of the parcel, including the house, was sold (23.23 acres) in 1876 to Albin J. Dearing and remained in the Dearing Family until 1900.¹³ A description of the property in about 1884 follows.

In 1877[‡] Mr. Dearing purchased the place where he now lives, one-half mile east of Palmyra, and engaged in extensively [sic] in farming and stock raising. His farm lies along the Palmyra and Hannibal road, and comprises 420 acres of fine productive land, adjoining the city limits, and is in an excellent state of cultivation. He has a handsome residence . . . surrounded by grand old shade and ornamental trees, making a charming home. On the place there is a beautiful forest of about twenty acres in all varieties of native and ornamental trees of the climate. The farm is rolling elm land, admirably arranged in fields affording superior advantages for pasture. There is a fine commodious barn on the place and tenement houses. Withal it is one of the most desirable places in Marion county.¹⁴

Twentieth-Century Ownership of the Culbertson-Head Farmstead, 1900 - present

In 1900, the Dearing Family sold 33.45 acres to Winchester and Mattie Cook. The Cooks held the property for approximately six years and sold the farm to the Settles Family in 1906.[§] The Settles Family accordingly sold the farmstead to Joseph Mackey in 1907 – a 33.45-acre parcel that included Culbertson’s original home and farm. The 1907 transfer included a notation that the property was intended for “use of Estelle Mackey,” Joseph’s daughter. Apparently Mackey gained the property as a loan settlement. In 1909, Estelle Mackey (Head) acquired full ownership of the former Culbertson Farmstead, as well as adjacent farmland that the family acquired during the early 1900s.^{**15}

[‡] Deeds date the land transfer to Dearing as 1876; Holcombe’s history identifies the purchase date as 1877.

[§] In March, 1906, Bertram C. and Sallie F. Settles purchased half interest in 33.45 acres from the Cooks; the remaining half-interest was obtained by James H. and Belle A. Settles.

^{**} By 1909, the Mackey Family had acquired approximately 80 additional acres surrounding the Culbertson-Head Farmstead. Included in this acquisition was the former Marion County fairgrounds, site of the infamous Palmyra Massacre of 1862 in which ten Confederate sympathizers were executed (Head: 10, 30-31).

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Estelle Mackey was born in 1879 to Joseph Warren Mackey and Frances Ann White of Palmyra. The White Family emigrated from Delaware to Marion County during the 1820s or 1830s – Frances Ann White’s father, Dr. John B. White, was one of Marion County’s earliest settlers. The Mackeys emigrated from North Carolina to Pike County, Missouri prior to Joseph’s birth in 1839.¹⁶ In the 1870s, the Mackeys moved from their home near Clarksville to Palmyra.¹⁷ Estelle Mackey and John “Wallace” Head met in about 1900, following Estelle’s return to Palmyra from St. Louis where she attended junior college at Bishop Robertson Hall. Wallace Head was born in 1871 in Randolph County, Missouri. His family moved (from Virginia) in 1831 to Randolph County and relocated in 1891 to Fayette (Howard County). Wallace attended college in Fayette at Central (Methodist) College. Afterward, he accepted a job in St. Louis at T.J. Moss Tie Company (a railroad tie business). Estelle and Wallace met in St. Louis, while Wallace was working for T.J. Moss and Estelle was visiting friends. The couple married in 1908. They briefly resided in St. Louis before returning to the Culbertson-Head Farmstead in 1910.¹⁸

Wallace Head was actively involved in local farming activities. In 1915, he served as president of the Marion County Corn Growers Association. This was followed in 1921 by an appointment to the Commission for the Missouri State Centennial. Afterward, Wallace served on the State Board of Agriculture until ca. 1932. During the 1930s, he was president of the Missouri State Fair Board, state chairman of the Missouri Farm Debt Adjustment Committee, a board member of the American Jersey Cattle Club, Executive Director of the Missouri Farm Debt Adjustment Commission, and president of the Marion County Farm Bureau. He served as a delegate to the national Democratic convention in 1920, completed two sessions in the Missouri House of Representatives in 1918-1922, and ran for United States Congress in 1924 and 1932. Wallace also worked for the Missouri Public Service Commission and was president of the First National Bank of Palmyra. Estelle Head was very active as well, serving in 1924 as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention.¹⁹

Estelle and Wallace Head had two children – Warren (born in 1910) and Dorothy (born in 1913). Warren, and his wife, Katherine King, moved into the family home in 1956, following Wallace’s death in 1955. Katherine Lillian King was born in 1920 in Shelbina, Missouri. Her father, Lloyd Wentworth King, born in 1893, was a descendent of one of Palmyra’s earliest settlers, Benjamin Vanlandingham. Like his father, Warren Head incorporated progressive farming activities on the family farmstead that shaped its associated landscape. Following completion of a business administration degree from the University of Missouri (Columbia) in 1935, Warren worked for the regional Rural Rehabilitation Administration. He moved to Indianapolis for a short time afterward and worked for the Fairbanks Morse Company. Warren returned to Marion County in 1939 and began operating the family’s dairy, Estelbrook Farms (named for Estelle Mackey Head) situated south of the Culbertson-Head Farmstead.²⁰ Although Warren and Katherine did

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Culbertson-Head Farmstead
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not physically reside on the Culbertson-Head Farmstead until the mid-1950s, they were integral in assisting with the farm's day-to- agricultural activities prior to that time.

Criterion A: Agriculture: Farming Practices, 1850 – 1940

Farming practices in Missouri changed significantly between the time that James Culbertson moved to Missouri (1820s) and the Mackey-Head Family gained the Culbertson-Head Farmstead in 1907. Today the farmstead clearly demonstrates its twentieth-century use, yet it also served an important role in Marion County's nineteenth-century agricultural economy. The Culbertson-Head Farmstead is an excellent representation of the transition of Missouri's farming methods from labor-intensive production to mechanization, which occurred after the Civil War. Additionally, the property illustrates progressive farming shaped by state and federal programs initiated after 1900. The Culbertson-Head Farmstead has always operated as a subsistence-level farm. Additionally, was used for commercial production and agricultural experimentation. These latter associations occurred during the time that the farm was operated by Wallace and Estelle Head, 1909 - 1955.

When James Culbertson moved to Ralls County in the 1820s, he operated a large farmstead that produced hemp.²¹ Throughout the early-to-mid 1800s, Missouri's "Little Dixie" region (which included Ralls and southern Marion Counties) produced most of the state's hemp. Hemp was used to manufacture rope and bags that subsequently were used to ship cotton.²² Hemp production began to decline in Missouri by 1850, impacted by the increasing production of "superior fibers" and the Panic of 1857.²³ Hemp farming was a dirty and labor-intensive process that relied heavily upon slavery.²⁴ Although Culbertson no longer produced hemp by time he moved to Marion County, it remained a primary cash crop for the county until the outbreak of the Civil War. In 1850, Marion County produced 408 tons of hemp; as compared to Ralls County, which produced 66 tons of hemp.^{††25}

Kentucky was one of the largest hemp states by the early 1800s – it is not surprising that Culbertson and his in-laws brought this farming tradition with them to Missouri. As noted, slavery was associated with hemp farming and Culbertson owned numerous slaves. Federal slave indexes indicate that in 1850, Culbertson had 15 slaves: two adult males ages 36 and 33, two 18-year old males and five male children, ages 15, 12, 5, 4, and 1. Culbertson also had five female slaves, ages 24, 21, 7, and 2 (two girls were two years old). Only two of Culbertson's slaves are listed by name in 1850, Nancy or Aancy Ledford, a 15-year old male and John D. Bigg, an

†† The U.S. federal census did not document specific agricultural output data until 1850; therefore comparisons could not be completed for earlier agricultural census statistics.

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18-year old male. After Culbertson moved to Marion County in ca. 1854, he no longer raised hemp but did own ten slaves – five males (ages 36, 30, 29, 21 and 9) and five females (ages 38, 28, 16, 2, and 1).²⁶

Culbertson's house in Marion County contributed a great deal to the farm's value. In 1860, the farmstead had 33 acres of "improved" farmland and was valued at \$10,000. This amount is much more than adjacent farmsteads of similar or greater size. In 1860, Culbertson owned five horses, two mules, two milch (dairy) cows, and eight swine. Total value of livestock was \$1,100. Crop and grain production appear sufficient to sustain the family and farmstead, including 75 bushels of Irish potatoes, 100 lbs. of butter, and four tons of hay.²⁷

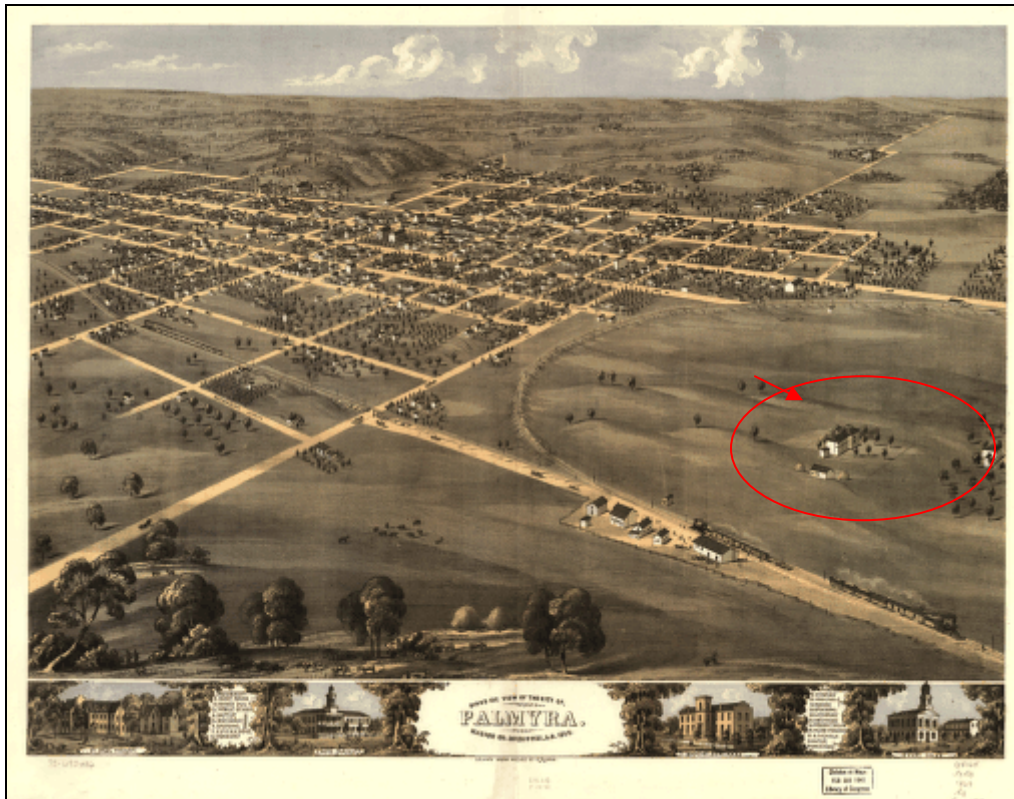


Figure 1. Eye Map of Palmyra (1869). Note the Culbertson Farmstead, situated near the right (east) side of the map (Library of Congress website – Maps).

Culbertson's farm appears to have changed little after it was acquired by Albin J. Dearing in 1877. Dearing was "engaged in . . . farming and stock raising" – which equates to the functions of the farm in the 1850s-60s.²⁸ An account during the mid-1880s indicates that the property had a

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Culbertson-Head Farmstead
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barn and tenement houses.²⁹ When Dearing owned the farm, Marion County largely produced dairy products and “other” cattle. The county also produced a large number of sheep.³⁰ Farm sizes in Missouri diminished after the Civil War. In 1850, the average farm was little more than 200 acres – this fell to an average size of 136.5 acres by 1890. “In 1900, Missouri ranked second among the States in the number of farms, and fourth in the total of improved acreage.”³¹ Although farming methodology changed after the Civil War due to mechanization, subsistence level farming dominated the character of American agriculture until World War I.³²

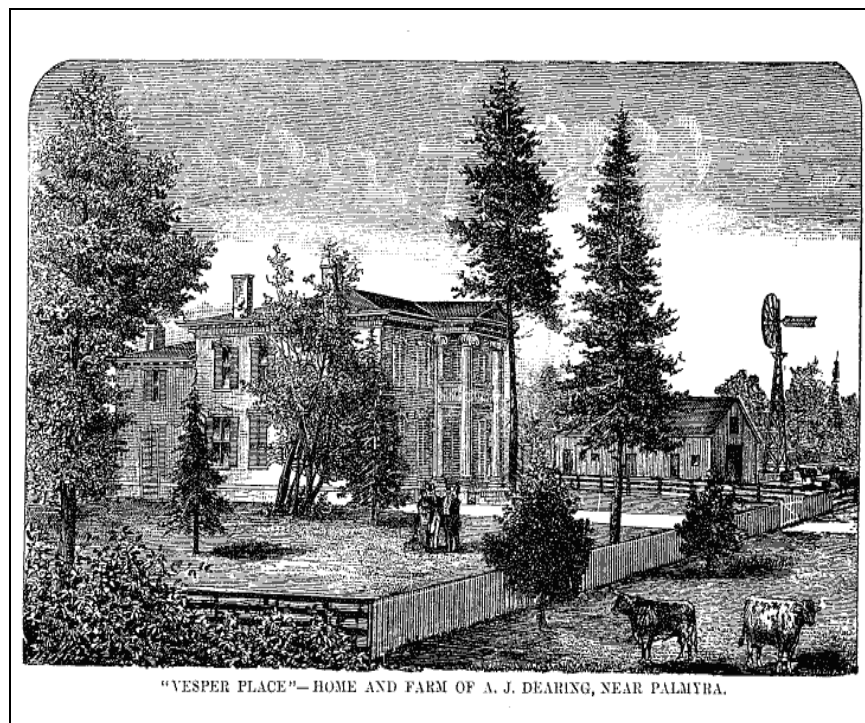


Figure 2. Sketch, ca. 1880. Dearing (Culbertson) Farmstead, Liberty Township, Marion County, Missouri (Holcombe: 802a).

Of the individuals who resided on the Culbertson-Head Farmstead, none left a more indelible mark than the Head Family. Of credit in large part is the fact that agricultural techniques and methods of production were rapidly changing by 1900 – particularly during the 1910s. Missouri’s era of progressive farming was shaped largely through the University of Missouri’s College of Agriculture, established under the Morrill Act of 1862. In 1887, the Hatch Act furthered the university’s agricultural role, creating Agricultural Experiment Stations which conducted agricultural research and assisted farmers.³³ The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 was another important piece of legislation that coordinated activities between land-grant universities

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(such as the University of Missouri) and the United States Department of Agriculture.³⁴ In Missouri, the Smith-Lever Act provided funding for the state's Agricultural Extension Service administrated through the University of Missouri.³⁵

Many activities completed on the Culbertson-Head Farmstead correlate to the programs initiated by the federal government during the Progressive Era (1900 - 1917) which promoted modern farming techniques and scientific technology – particularly in relation to development of new crops. Although the United States Department of Agriculture was created in 1862, the federal government did not play a proactive role in assisting farmers until after 1900 when farm sizes began to rapidly diminish and food shortages ensued.³⁶ Programs such as those that Wallace Head participated in – the Missouri Farm Debt Adjustment Committee, Missouri Farm Debt Adjustment Commission, and Marion County Farm Bureau – all served to bring relief to farmers.

The Marion County Farm Bureau was created in 1919; it replaced an earlier office established in 1913 – the county farm advisor. The function of the advisor – and later the farm bureau – was to demonstrate “improved crop practices and . . . more profitable systems of farming developed by the investigations of the College of Agriculture and agricultural experiment stations.”³⁷ American farmers experienced a brief surge in prosperity during World War I, brought about when European farmers went to war and the world's demand for food fell mainly upon America.³⁸ This success, however, was short-lived. After the war ended, farmers experienced an economic depression created through overproduction, decreasing food demands, and increasing debt.

In the 1930s, New Deal programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Resettlement Administration (RA), and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) assisted many – including American farmers. These programs enhanced those created in the 1910s, such as the farm bureau. New Deal assistance introduced modern farming methods and practices aimed at eradicating problems that plagued farmers, such as soil erosion and pests. The CCC in particular completed numerous projects on Missouri's farmsteads, including terracing, planting crops and trees for erosion control, and building fences and roads. On the Culbertson-Head Farmstead, the CCC built terraces that remain visible today.³⁹ New Deal relief (such as the CCC) also stimulated state and local assistance, as evidenced by the Missouri Agricultural Advisory Council established in 1933.

Since 1932, the Federal Government has been increasingly interested in farm relief. It has made provision for seed loans, payments for crop reduction, erosion control, and rehabilitation programs. In 1933, the Missouri Agricultural Advisory Council was appointed to cooperate with the Federal Farm Credit Administration to help local farmers refinance mortgages . . . [and in 1940] a plan was developed for the establishment of

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subsistence homesteads and the allotment of WPA work to supplement the earnings of day laborers in the cotton fields. The Federal Farm Security Administration has also taken steps toward rehabilitating these people, and housing, home-labor, and farm projects have been planned.⁴⁰

Activities completed on the Culbertson-Head Farmstead, such as CCC terracing and the use of new crops introduced through local farm initiatives greatly enhanced the farm's viability. The Head family raised corn, wheat, and soybeans. Corn, in particular, was a major crop for Marion County's farmers, beginning in the 1830s. Nearly a century later, in 1940, corn was "grown by every farmer in the county; the yield in the eastern part [of Marion County] being as much as 75 bushels an acre."⁴¹ Livestock was also important to Marion County's agricultural economy – particularly Angus, Hereford, and Shorthorn cattle.⁴² The Head family raised registered Angus cattle. Three acres were set aside to produce cattle for commercial profit, as well as to produce experimental pasture grasses – a program administrated through the University of Missouri's Agricultural Experiment Station (AES).⁴³ Throughout the 1920s-30s, the Missouri AES conducted a number of studies on soybeans, lespedeza, and clover to find ways to reduce erosion, increase farm productivity and income, and integrate nitrogen-rich plants. New crops such as lespedeza – a legume – brought about "profound" changes in Missouri's farming methods.⁴⁴ The Head Family led the way in introducing new farming methods to Marion County. As a result, the farmstead was well known for its innovation. Physical reminders of these activities are the farm's outbuildings, constructed ca. 1880 - 1927.

Criterion A (Agriculture) and Criterion C (Architecture): Farm-Related Outbuildings, ca. 1880 - 1927

The Culbertson-Head Farmstead retains one late nineteenth-century barn, probably constructed when Albin Dearing owned the property. This transverse-crib barn illustrates building traditions common to rural Missouri that were introduced by early settlers from "Kentucky, Tennessee, and other upland states."⁴⁵ The transverse-crib barn is an American designed barn that evolved from the traditional single-crib English style barn, introduced to Missouri by settlers from Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, and Kentucky.⁴⁶ The primary difference between these two barn styles relates to the placement of the barn's main doors. In the English style barn, doors are situated on the side elevation. The transverse-crib barn has primary doors on the gable end elevation. The transverse-crib barn became very popular because it provided ample space for everything – livestock, equipment, hay, and grain storage.⁴⁷ During the years that subsistence farming dominated Missouri's agricultural economy (prior to 1914), the transverse crib and English barn styles were most common. "In some regions of the state, the transverse-crib barn replaced other barn types almost completely, as in the Ozarks and Little Dixie."⁴⁸

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Figure 3. Nineteenth-century transverse-crib barn, view is northwest (November, 2007).

In addition to its transverse-crib barn, the Culbertson-Head Farmstead holds four additional outbuildings – a combination ice house/smokehouse (constructed prior to 1915) and three outbuildings built in 1927 by the Head Family: a granary, a shop, and a catalog barn designed specifically for the farm by the James Manufacturing Company of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. This latter building is particularly significant as it demonstrates a growing trend in the field of agriculture to equip farms with “well built, properly lit and well ventilated” buildings that provided “a healthier environment for the farmer and his animals.”⁴⁹

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Figure 4. Outbuildings, Culbertson-Head Farmstead (November 2007). Jamesway barn is located on the left, nineteenth-century barn in the background. Adjacent to the Jamesway barn is the shop. View is northwest.

Established in 1883, James Manufacturing Company specialized in farm equipment and catalog (farm-related) outbuildings during the early twentieth century. Today the company remains in business as a farm equipment manufacturer.⁵⁰ Although barns were not the only type of farm buildings offered by companies as prefabricated kits, they were by far the most popular. Instructions and plans for building agricultural buildings were introduced to farmers through agricultural journals and books, beginning in the nineteenth century. By the early twentieth-century, companies such as James Manufacturing (Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin) and Gordon Van-Tine Company (Davenport, Iowa) began to sell kits for constructing numerous types of agricultural buildings.⁵¹ Larger companies, such as Sears, Aladdin, and Montgomery Ward, added outbuildings to their prefabricated home sales that became popular during the 1910s. Catalog (prefabricated) buildings provided a relatively inexpensive way to construct a permanent building in a short amount of time. For farmers, catalog outbuildings easily replaced temporary structures, demonstrating “wealth and [the farmer’s] dedication to the land.”⁵²

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Figure 5. Jamesway Poultry House Book [1926], p. 25.

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The Jamesway barn situated on the Culbertson-Head Farmstead was constructed in 1927. The family kept mules and horses in the eastern half of barn. Milk cows were kept in the western half of the barn. As noted by Wallace Head's grandson, John Head . . .

The barn features two mouseproof bins, various other storage areas, an internal toilet, two internal pens for horses or mules (with automatic waterers for them and with wooden-brick floors for their comfort), a two-bay milking station . . . poured-concrete floors and foundation . . . an elaborate internal ventilation system, and typical upper-rail-and-hook systems for moving and placing stacks of hay inside the loft.⁵³

Additional farm-buildings constructed on the Culbertson-Head Farmstead include a 1920s granary. This gable-front plan frame building has a central hall and a concrete floor, as well as doors and "slatted openings" and walls. Individual cribs stored different types of grains. A frame shop, completed in the late 1920s or early 1930s, was used for a variety of farm-related purposes, including equipment storage. Situated east of the main house is an earlier outbuilding, constructed ca. 1900. Although the current owner, Warren Head, does not recall the family using the building as an ice house, a large opening below the main floor demonstrates it was used to store ice; the upper part of the building, constructed of brick, was used as a smokehouse.⁵⁴

Criterion C: Architecture: Culbertson-Head House, 1854

The Culbertson-Head House is a two-story vernacular Greek Revival style dwelling with a central hall plan. The home is strongly demonstrative of the southern building traditions that Missouri's early Anglo-American settlers brought with them to the Little Dixie region. As noted previously, these individuals were primarily from Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina. They were attracted this region of Missouri because the landscape was much like that of Kentucky's Bluegrass area and the Virginia Piedmont. The land was fertile and conducive to similar types of agricultural production practiced in the southern United States. Missouri's regional characteristics allowed these settlers to continue the traditional building and farming methods that their ancestors from England and Scotland brought with them to America. Little Dixie's "first effective settlement – from about 1815 to the 1850s" resulted in the establishment of numerous farms and homes that even today, appear very "southern" in their appearances.⁵⁵

The Greek Revival style was one of the nation's most popular, particularly from 1830 through 1860. It became so popular, in fact, that it was frequently referred to as "the National Style" by the mid-nineteenth century.⁵⁶

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The style moved with the settlers from the older states as they crossed into Kentucky, Tennessee, and the Old Northwest Territory (today's Midwest). It followed the southern planters as they moved westward from the Old South into Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. It even arrived on the west coast . . . not surprisingly, the largest surviving concentrations of Greek Revival houses are found today in those states with the largest population growth during the period from 1820 to 1860.⁵⁷

Greek Revival architecture in America was introduced through Philadelphia's public buildings constructed during the 1810s. It was quickly adapted in residential architecture and popular in cities such as New York, Philadelphia, and Richmond. Frequently, the Greek Revival style is typified as purely "southern" but this is misleading, as numerous examples remain today in the northeastern United States where the style originated.⁵⁸ Carpentry and architectural pattern books published building plans and specifications of the style beginning in the 1820s, including Asher Benjamin's *The Practical House Carpenter* (1830) and Minard Lafever's *The Young Builder's General Instructor* (1824).⁵⁹ Greek Revival was the most popular style for American houses until after the Civil War, when Greek classicism began to lose favor and Gothic, Italianate, and Queen Anne styles gained popularity.⁶⁰

The Culbertson-Head House features a two-story pedimented central porch with fluted round porch columns, which most visibly illustrates the home's Greek Revival influence. The porch's round columns are unique for vernacular Greek Revival buildings as typically, builders incorporated square or octagonal columns. Round columns were much more difficult to construct, as noted out in Lafever's, *The Modern Builder*, published in 1833.⁶¹ It is likely that the associated builder of Culbertson's home, Ziba Calvert, constructed the round columns as this feature is also noted in the Peter Sowers House of Palmyra, also attributed to Calvert.

Ziba Calvert was a resident of Warren Township. Calvert is credited as "building the first brick house in Palmyra and in Hannibal."⁶² Although his main profession is identified as a farmer in census records, Calvert was also a "brick-maker and brick-layer."⁶³ Ziba Calvert was a descendent of Sir George Calvert, Lord Baltimore.⁶⁴ Ziba Calvert's parents, Cecilius Calvert (1767 – 1852) and Anne Nancy Beck (1773 – 1835), moved to Culpepper, Virginia, from Baltimore County, Maryland sometime prior to Ziba's birth in 1804. Ziba moved to Marion County in 1819 and married Mary Ferguson (also of Virginia) in 1834.⁶⁵ The Calverts had eight children – James Madison (born 1836), Emily (born 1837), America Virginia (born 1840), Samuel Ralls (born 1841), John Quincy (born 1845), Mary Anne (born 1848), Sarah Elizabeth (born 1851), and Ziba Milton (born 1857). In Holcombe's history of Marion County published

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in 1884, Calvert is noted as “the oldest settler and oldest man in that (Warren) township.” Ziba Calvert died in 1886 at the age of 82.⁶⁶ As noted previously, in addition to constructing Culbertson’s home, Calvert is believed to have also constructed the Peter Sowers House in Palmyra (NR listed, 1984). These homes are extremely similar in appearance, as illustrated in the photographs that follow.



Figure 6. Peter Sowers House, Palmyra, MO. Constructed ca. 1950 (HABS photo, 1930s).

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Figure 7. Culbertson-Head House, view is northwest (November, 2007).

The Culbertson-Head House is perhaps the best intact example of Ziba Calvert's work, illustrating strong Greek Revival influences and suggestions of the Italianate style, seen in the roofline dentils and corbelled chimneys at either end of the hipped roof. The home is an excellent representation of vernacular Greek Revival architecture in Marion County.

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Circa 1910
From the Warren and Katherine Head Private Collection

Estelle and Wallace Head



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Culbertson-Head Farmstead
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Circa 1937
From the Warren and Katherine Private Collection

Estelle and Wallace Head
Living Room



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Verbal Boundary Description

That part of the northeast quarter of Section twenty-five (25) in Township Fifty-eight of Range 6 west described as follows, to-wit: Commencing at a stone on the Range line at the Southeast corner of the old Culbertson and H. Ellis tract of lands; thence run west eighteen (18) chains and twenty-four (24) links; thence run north eighteen (18) chains and thirty-six (36) links, thence run east eighteen (18) chains and twenty-four (24) links and thence run south eighteen (18) chains and thirty-two (32) links to the point of beginning, and containing thirty-three and forty-five hundredths (33-45/100) acres more or less.

Boundary Justification

This parcel constitutes the original Culbertson farm tract that was purchased by the Heads, and incorporates all of the extant historic resources.

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Photo Log

Photographer: Sheila Findall
November 2007

Negatives with Karen Bode Baxter, 5811 Delor Street, St. Louis, MO 63109

- Photo #1: Exterior, south elevations of the house, Jamesway barn and shop, looking northeast
- Photo #2: Exterior, south and west elevations of the house, looking northeast
- Photo #3: Exterior, south and east elevations of the house and ice/smoke house, looking northwest
- Photo #4: Exterior, south elevation of the house, looking northeast
- Photo #5: Exterior, north and east elevations of the house and ice/smoke house, looking southwest
- Photo #6: Exterior, north and west elevations of the house, looking southeast
- Photo #7: Interior, 1st floor, south hall/stairs, looking north from south end
- Photo #8: Interior, house, 1st floor, east room, looking northeast from southwest corner
- Photo #9: Interior, house, 1st floor, southwest room, from southeast corner looking northwest
- Photo #10: Interior, house, 1st floor, mid-west room, from northwest corner looking southeast
- Photo #11: Interior, house, 2nd floor, south hall/stairs, looking southwest from northeast corner
- Photo #12: Interior, house, 2nd floor, southwest room, looking southwest from northeast corner
- Photo #13: Interior, house, 2nd floor, southwest room, looking northwest from southwest corner
- Photo #14: Exterior, south and west elevations of the Jamesway barn, shop and granary, looking northeast
- Photo #15: Exterior, south and west elevation of the Jamesway barn, old barn, granary and shop, looking northeast
- Photo #16: Exterior, west elevations of the old barn, Jamesway barn, shop and house, looking east
- Photo #17: Exterior, north and east elevations of the granary and Jamesway barn, looking southwest
- Photo #18: Exterior, south and west elevations of the Jamesway barn and granary, looking northeast
- Photo #19: Exterior, north and east elevation of the Jamesway barn, looking southwest
- Photo #20: Interior, Jamesway barn, 1st floor, southeast room, looking northeast from southwest corner

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Photo Log Continued

Photo #21: Interior, Jamesway barn, 1st floor, north room, looking northwest from mid south wall

Photo #22: Interior, Jamesway barn, 1st floor, southwest room, looking southeast at detail

Photo #23: Interior, Jamesway barn, 2nd floor, looking southwest from northeast corner

Photo #24: Exterior, north and west elevations of the granary, looking southeast

Photo #25: Exterior, south and west elevations of the old barn, looking northeast

Photo #26: Exterior, south and east elevations of the old barn, looking northwest

Photo #27: Interior, old barn, east room, looking northeast from southwest corner



Culbertson Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo No. 1



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo No. 2



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, Mo
Photo No. 3



Culbertson - Head Farmstead
Marion County, Mo
Photo No. 4



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo No. 5



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo No. 6



Calbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo No. 7



Culbertson - Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo No. 8



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo No. 9



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo No. 10



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo No. 11



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo No. 12



Culbertson Head Farmstead
Marion County, Mo
Photo No. 13



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, Mo
Photo No. 14



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo No. 15



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo No. 12



Culbertson Head Farmstead
Marion County, Mo
Photo No. 13



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, Mo
Photo No. 14



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo No. 15



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo No. 16



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo. No 17



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo No. 18



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo No. 19



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo No. 20



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, Mo
Photo No. 21



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo No. 22



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo No. 23



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo No. 24



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo No. 25



Culbertson-Heal Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo No. 26



Culbertson-Head Farmstead
Marion County, MO
Photo No. 27