

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Harlin, John Conkin and Clara Layton, House

other names/site number "Uncle Johnny's"; "Old Harlin House"

2. Location

street & number 403 Harlin Drive [N/A] not for publication

city or town Gainesville [N/A] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Ozark code 153 zip code 65655

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

09/05/03

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

| |
|-------|
| _____ |
| _____ |
| _____ |
| _____ |
| _____ |

5. Classification

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

Name of related multiple property listing.

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Current Functions

VACANT/Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

OTHER: American Four-Square

Materials

foundation Limestone
walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt
other _____

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Commerce

Politics/Government

Periods of Significance

1912-1944

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

Harlin, John Conkin

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

| | | | | | |
|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| A. Zone | Easting | Northing | B. Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 15 | 550980 | 4051060 | | | |
| C. Zone | Easting | Northing | D. Zone | Easting | Northing |
| | | | | | |

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title see continuation page

organization _____ date _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Uncle Johnny Inc.

street & number 39 Court Square telephone 417/679-3321

city or town Gainesville state MO zip code 65655

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Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Harlin, John Conkin and Clara Layton, House
Ozark County, Missouri

SUMMARY

The John Conkin Harlin and Clara Layton House is located at 403 Harlin Drive in Gainesville, Ozark County, Missouri. The 2½ story house, built in 1912, has a single-story wing on the north side. The foundation is limestone, the walls are frame, and the roofs are sheathed in asphalt shingles. Oversized hipped dormers project from the four faces of the pyramidal roof of the main block. The house's balloon frame is fashioned from native timber--yellow pine, black walnut, and oak--sawn in the county. The house has the appearance of an American Foursquare, although the floor plan with a central hall and the wing are unusual. Also distinctive is a prominent porch of Late Victorian feeling that wraps around most of the house. The porch, currently being restored, is more than 200 feet in total length. Although the room arrangement is oriented from south to north, where an entrance to the stair hall is located, the east elevation where the porch corners are curved in large and graceful arcs also was an important façade. Today the wide, symmetrically arranged south elevation which fronts on Harlin Drive is clearly the main façade. Not original is a semienclosed shedlike addition on the west side of the single story wing. It also joins the main block at the northwest corner. The addition was built after the period of significance, and is the only part of the house that is not wrapped with the great open porch roof. The house has been repurchased by Harlin descendants after standing vacant for many years, and is currently being restored for adaptive reuse. As part of the restoration, the Free Classic pillars that supported the denticulated porch roof, the balustrade, flooring and the stairs leading up to the porch have been removed for repairs or replacement. On the east side, the stone pillars which originally supported the porch are intact.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Harlin House is sited on a steep hillside, on sharply side-sloping ground. The house is below grade on the up (west) side, and well above grade on the down (east) side. The location is 0.25 mile northwest of the northwest corner of the Courthouse Square, the principal landmark in the small (population 632) county seat town of Gainesville. Originally situated on some six acres of land, the property has been reduced by the laying off of several additional building lots on either side.

The main block of the Harlin House is 36 feet wide on the south side by 30 feet deep. A one story wing, 24 feet wide by 28 feet deep, projects on the north. The roof of the main block is a hipped pyramid; that of the rear wing is gabled. The main block, in its conformation, is an American Foursquare, though it differs in significant ways from typical houses of the form. Probably, it was a design of John Harlin in consultation with his wife and his carpenter-builder. The south, or street, façade is the wide side of the house. It presents a symmetrical arrangement of three bays each on the first and second floors. Large windows flank a central door below, with three windows above. A large single dormer projects from the pyramidal roof. The west and east facades are similar, though not identical, at the first floor level. These facades contain two windows of different sizes and a door, asymmetrically arranged, with the doors in different places. At the second and third floors, the fenestration is identical: two symmetrically located windows on the second floor, and centered single dormers with paired windows on the third. Similar dormers are on all four pyramidal roof faces.

A noteworthy feature of the Harlin House was the porch, much of which has been removed for restoration. It wraps around all four sides of the house. The only place the porch roof does not extend is the northwest corner of the west side, at the semienclosed addition. The porch floor on the west side is at an excavated (below natural grade) level because of the west-to-east slope of the lot. On the east side the floor level is far above grade, and was originally reached by a broad flight of steps. A lesser flight of steps reached the porch on the south side. The porch was supported on the east and south by slender, rock-faced stone piers, intended to be decorative as well as utilitarian. Where the porch was above grade, the space below was originally masked by latticework between the stone piers. The porch roof on the east and south was supported on Free Classic wooden pillars resting on the porch floor. The pillars were connected by a balustrade. The stairs, floor, wooden pillars, balustrade, and latticework have all been removed pending restoration. The east side stone pillars remain in place. There are no early pictures of the west side of the house, where the porch floor is only a step above grade. A balustrade was probably omitted there.

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Harlin, John Conkin and Clara Layton, Hou.
Ozark County, Missoi

The roof of the porch is largely intact, though a portion of the south side porch fascia has been replaced. Most of the hundreds of original dentils, hand-cut from 1 x 1 stock, remain in place. Those from the deteriorated south fascia were saved and will be replaced.

A partial, stone-walled basement under the rear of the main block is entered from the outside, beneath the east porch.

The porch's southeastern and northeastern roof corners are curved in large and graceful arcs. That the curves are both on the east façade confirms the impression that, together with the regularity of the grade level there, the east facade was intended to be seen as the principal façade. An automobile driveway was originally on the east side below the house, and typical access to the house would have been onto the porch from the east. The broad flight of porch steps originally on the east reinforces that impression. Conversely, the interior plan, with its symmetrical south-to-north room arrangement and a central stair hall opening off the south porch, seems to suggest that the south side of the house was the "front."

When the house was built, Harlan Drive probably terminated as a driveway across the east façade. An earlier house was on the site but no trace has been found of it. How that house might have been reached, or when Harlin Drive was built and named, was not determined. The Harlan property extended to the top of a steep hill to the west; no other residents were there; and no need would have existed for a continuation of the street. The east driveway is now gone; Harlin Drive does cross the wide, symmetrically arranged south façade; and consequently that façade appears now to be the "front" of the house. The original auto driveway east of the house was moved to the west side, probably when a new building lot was laid out east of the property, forcing the abandonment of the original driveway. The new west side drive occupied a wide flat space created by a high stone retaining wall built on the west, or up, side of the property.

(The matter of principal facades and entry points may have been moot from the practical viewpoint of the family. At least six outside entry doors opened into the house from the great porch. Most of the family's indoor waking hours were probably spent in the kitchen-dining wing; and much of the time ingress and egress would have been through its doors.)

All windows are one-over-one, double-hung sash. Each of the four dormers contains two one-over-one sash, paired. Plywood panels cover original window fabric for protection, pending restoration where possible. Some windows retain their decorative leading. Some have lost glass but retain original framing. Windows that were entirely gone or hopelessly degraded have been replaced. Surviving exterior doors are single leaf, with decorative oval glass inserts and transoms above. Outside dormer walls were originally sheathed in wood shingles painted green. They have been removed, to be replaced with new shingles in the restoration.

A shedlike, semienclosed addition, 24 x 11 feet, is at the west side of the north wing, at the northwest corner of the main block. It is the only part of the house that is not original. Old photographs do not include this part of the house, but structural evidence indicates that the great porch originally extended around this area and thus was circumferential. The addition is well integrated into the original house. Its roof is a shed-style continuation of, and in the same plane as, the west leaf of the north wing's gable roof. However, the grade at that point is too high for the floor of the addition, making it low-ceilinged and awkward on the lower, west side. It may well be removed in the restoration process.

The interior arrangement of the main block is unusual for an American Foursquare. The first floor is divided by bearing walls into three rooms, running from south to north. Originally the spaces on either side were divided by east-to-west, non-bearing cross walls, making four rooms of equal size, each 13 x 14 feet. The cross walls were long ago removed and the side rooms are now 13 x 29 feet. However, doors from the four original rooms into the central hall remain. The central stair hall is unusually wide at nine feet. It is entered from the porch through a decorative, glazed door. An exterior door on the east porch opened into the southeast or parlor room; and an exterior door on the west porch opened into the northwest room, probably a bedroom. Glazed double French

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Harlin, John Conkin and Clara Layton, House
Ozark County, Missouri

doors, still in place, opened from the hall into both the southeast room and the southwest room, apparently a kind of second parlor across the hall. A bathroom was located across the rear of the northeast corner room on the first floor. A high, leaded glass window on the outside north wall indicates that the bath was original. The rear wing served originally as dining room and kitchen.

The second floor plan exactly replicates that of the first, save for the bath; i.e., four rooms of equal size flanking a hall. There is no bath on the second floor.

The third or attic floor is open and unarticulated. It reaches to knee walls in the corners, and extends unimpeded to the four dormer windows. The third floor is gained by an open stair rising directly above the stair between the first and second floors. Stairways are straight-run, with balustrades. The stairwell can be closed off at the third floor level with a large, hinged trap door which is suspended by a weighted-rope-and-pulley arrangement. The open third floor room was a play space for children in inclement weather, and was a dormitory for large sleepovers and guests.

Typical American Foursquare plans differ greatly from the Harlin House plan. For example, unlike the Harlin House, they have no central hall. A living room stretches across all or much of the front. The stairway rises from a corner of the living room or from a front corner entry foyer. Other first floor spaces typically include a dining room and kitchen, all within the "square." The principal bath in the typical Foursquare is on the second floor, as are all bedrooms. Wings, if any, are in the form of porches or solaria; if of two stories, they have unheated "sleeping" porches above.

The basic structure of the Harlin House is sound but the ravages of time and neglect are evident. The porch floor and porch steps were rotted and sagging, and had to be scrapped. Much of the interior fabric was degraded but little water damage is evident. Significant interior features are mostly lacking, save for some light fixtures. Some doors and windows could not be saved. The original plaster walls were stripped to the laths and in some cases to the studs, in preparation for the restoration.

Harlin Drive is now fully built up, with houses stair-stepped up the steep hill. In 1944 the Harlins built another house farther up the hill for themselves. It is a smaller, more modern house than the old place, and was surely more comfortable for them in their elder years. They lived out their lives there.¹

In restoring the Harlin House, it is the intention of the present owners, descendants of John Conkin and Clara Harlin, to be as faithful to the original as possible. Especially is this to be true for the exterior appearance. Old photographs showing details of the exterior (except the northwest corner) are numerous. Many years ago, Hugh Tan Harlin constructed a scale model of the house and it is available as a restoration guide. Most of the original siding remains, and has been stripped for repainting. Roofing already has been replaced. The porch will be restored, perhaps in its entirety. Other changes will be mostly interior ones, consistent with modernization as is required for adaptive reuse. Plumbing and wiring, for example, will be modernized.²

¹Interview with Chris Harlin, president of Uncle Johnny, Inc., and great-grandson of John C. and Clara Harlin, March 10, 2003.

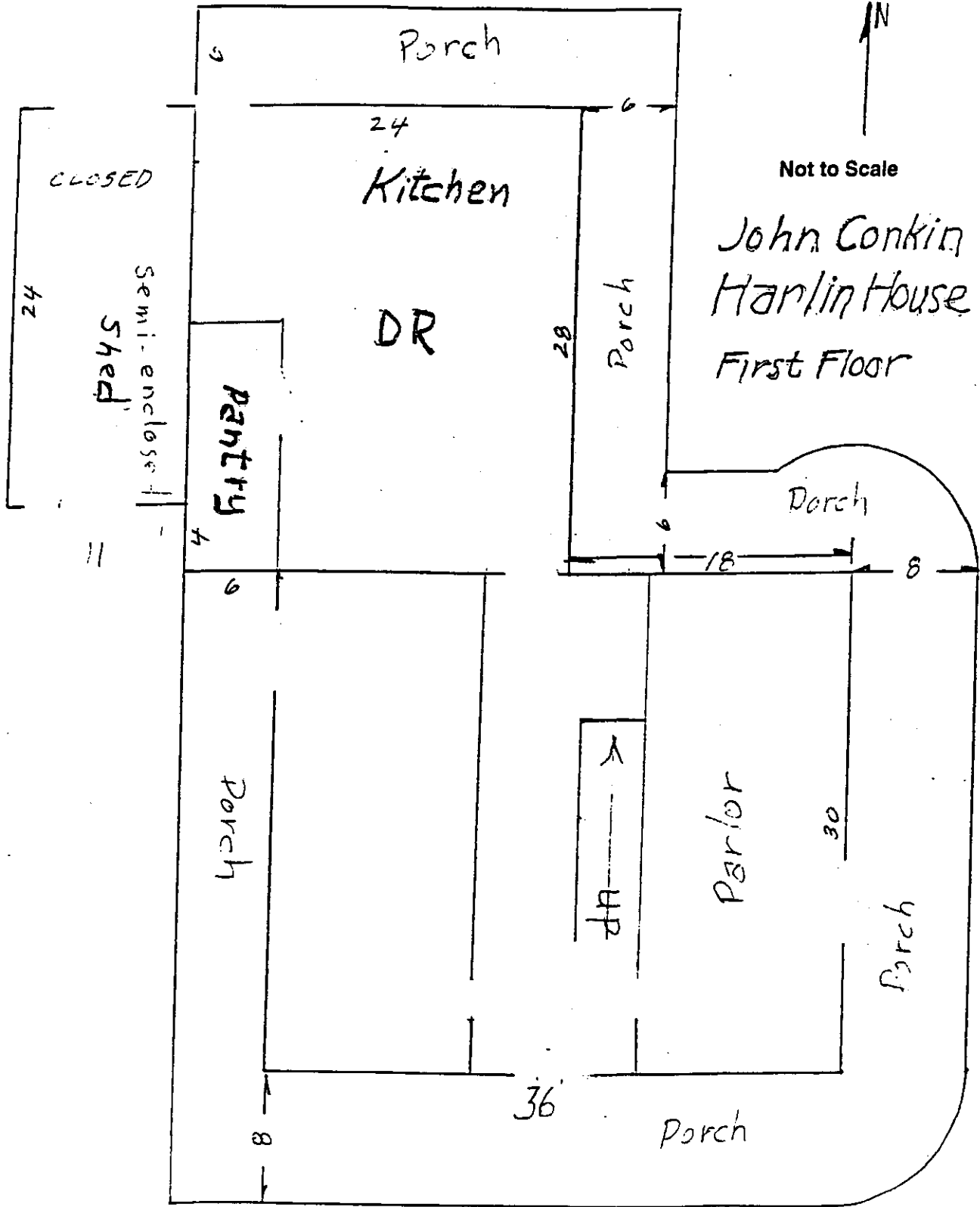
²Interview with Bill Oakley, general contractor for the Harlin House restoration, March 10, 2003. Oakley provided many details about the property.

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Ozark County, Misso



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Harlin, John Conkin and Clara Layton, House
Ozark County, Missouri



Harlin House, circa 1912

View of south and east elevations. Lack of stair railing suggests that at least a few finishing touches remain before house is complete. Another staircase to south porch is behind picket fence at left. Kitchen-dining room wing is at right. Figures on porch are probably John and Clara Harlin and their four children. Original porch with large curved corners, stone piers and Free Classic columns is being meticulously restored. Photographer unknown. Source of photo: Harlin House website: <http://oldharlinhouse.com/house.html>

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Harlin, John Conkin and Clara Layton, Ho
Ozark County, Miss

SUMMARY

The John Conkin and Clara Layton Harlin House in Gainesville, Missouri, is locally significant under Criterion B as the residence of John Conkin Harlin (1875-1955). Harlin, the builder, is significant in the areas of COMMERCE and POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, and the Harlin House is the building most closely associated with his life. John Conkin Harlin was president of the Bank of Gainesville for 47 years, from 1908 until his death in 1955. A lifelong Republican, he served in both houses of the Missouri General Assembly, and held several elective offices in Ozark County. During a six year term on the Missouri State Highway Commission in the 1930s, he was instrumental in bringing the first modern highway into Ozark County, an isolated area in southcentral Missouri which never had a railroad. In 1940 he was the prime mover in getting REA electric lines into Ozark County from Power Site Dam in neighboring Taney County, thus bringing electricity for the first time to rural residents. For many years the Harlin House possessed the only telephone in the county connected to the outside world. Harlin and his family delivered incoming messages to the townspeople and to the scattered rural populace, all at no cost to the recipients. A partial list of Harlin's volunteer activities sheds additional light on his importance to the community. These activities included leadership of the Ozark County Republican Party; chairman of War Bond drives and the Ozark County Red Cross in World Wars I and II; auctioneer; president of his church Sunday school; choir director; substitute preacher; conductor of innumerable funerals, and tireless promoter of Ozark County.⁴ The period of significance is from 1912 when Harlin moved into the house until 1944 when he and his wife removed from it.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

John Conkin Harlin was the seventh of eight sons of an extraordinary family of leaders, entrepreneurs, and modernizers in Ozark County, Missouri, an isolated rural county on the Arkansas border. He was the son of John William Harlin (1841-1879) and Abigail Conkin Harlin (1844-1929). In 1869 the Harlins were among numerous Southerners who came to the Missouri Ozarks from east of the Mississippi River after the Civil War. The Harlins were from near Gamaliel, Kentucky. Ozark County was a frontier place then and it remained a semiarrested frontier until well into the 20th century. In addition to remoteness and rugged terrain, arable land was scarce in Ozark County (confined mostly to valleys between steep hills), and the self-sufficient, independent culture of the inhabitants was another factor. Timber was a primary natural resource but no railroad company ever ventured into Ozark County to tap its economy. Timber was floated down south-flowing rivers into neighboring Arkansas.

The elder Harlin was a farmer and a Republican who died at age 38, just ten years after arriving in Missouri. The children were still young at the time; John Conkin was only four. Perhaps the father's early death is one reason the sons shouldered responsibilities as they did--though none followed the soil, as their father had done. All evidenced an entrepreneurial spirit extraordinary in their time and place.

No bank existed in the relatively primitive economy of 19th century Ozark County when, in 1894, the two eldest Harlin brothers, James and William Tandy ("Tan"), founded the Bank of Gainesville. Its beginning capitalization was \$5,000—a large sum at the time in Ozark County, where barter was still as common as a cash transaction. It was not only the first bank in the county, but for several years it was the only one. Their younger brother John Conkin began work at the bank in 1896, when he was 21.⁵

HOUSE HISTORY

The John Conkin and Clara Layton Harlin House was built in 1912 on the site of an earlier house, one previously owned by Mrs. Harlin's parents. The yellow pine, black walnut, and oak lumber used in the house came from the Rockbridge vicinity in northern Ozark County, and is said to have cost some \$1,700. The builder is unknown. It

⁴ Hugh Tan Harlin, The Harlins of Ozark County, pp.10-13; conversation with John Layton Harlin, grandson of John Conkin Harlin, April 22, 2002; Shirley Piland, ed., A History of Ozark County, "John Conkin Harlin and Clara Layton Harlin," p. 244 ff.

⁵ Harlin, Op. cit., chap. 2 passim

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Harlin, John Conkin and Clara Layton, Hou:
Ozark County, Misso:

was surely the largest house in town at the time, with three floors, nine rooms, big stairway halls, a bathroom, and a large open third floor room in nearly 4,000 square feet of interior space excluding the cellar. Some 1,600 square feet of additional covered space was on the wrap-around porch. Heat was from wood stoves in each room. The house was wired for electricity, supplied until 1940 by a town generator (turned off at 10 p.m.). The kitchen and a first-floor bathroom received water from a gravity-flow tank further up the hill. Water was pumped from a backyard well to the tank by a gasoline engine. Gasoline had to be hauled by wagon from the railroad, either at West Plains or Ava, each some thirty miles distant.

After the children had grown and left, Clara Harlin took in boarders. Rental housing, as well as housing for transient workers, was probably scarce in such a small town. Five or six bedrooms were potentially available at the Harlins for boarders, in addition to the spacious dormitory-like third floor. A big table could be set in the dining room-kitchen. A second bath was never added, however.

When Harlin was 69, in 1944, he and Clara moved out of the house into a smaller, more modern house up the hill, where they lived out their lives. He died in 1955, while serving a term in the Missouri House of Representatives. The old house had two subsequent owners before it was repurchased by Harlin descendants in the 1990s. The new owners plan to open a fine restaurant there.

SIGNIFICANCE: COMMERCE

John Conkin Harlin began work in the Bank of Gainesville in 1896, when he was 21 years old. With the title assistant cashier, he earned \$25 a month. In 1908, when he was 33, he became the bank's president. It was a position he held until his death at age 79. Subsequently the position passed to his son, his grandson and his great-grandson. (The bank building is extant on Gainesville's courthouse square but is no longer a financial institution.)

Under John Conkin's direction the bank grew in size and reach, despite a robbery and the vicissitudes of the Great Depression. By 1920 its resources topped \$250,000, and by 1945 were approximately \$1 million. Harlin resisted the federally decreed "bank holiday" of 1933 on the grounds that it would hurt depositors (in this as in other matters he was surely no friend of the New Deal). Only when threatened with a government takeover of the bank did he relent.

Harlin's Bank of Gainesville benefited from the 1938 failure of the Bank of Rockbridge, founded in 1904 in northern Ozark County. Harlin bought its notes for \$3,500, a transaction which ultimately proved profitable. The Bank of Gainesville again became the sole bank in the county. According to Harlin's son and successor Hugh Tan Harlin, "...the bank became a remarkable economic force in Southern Missouri, far exceeding what one would expect in so small a town.... [It drew] depositors from an ever larger area of South Missouri and North Arkansas."⁶

The greatest economic boom in the history of Ozark County occurred when the Army Corps of Engineers built two hydroelectric dams a few miles into Arkansas on the White and North Fork Rivers (authorized by Congress in 1941 and dedicated by President Truman in 1952). The lakes created by the Norfork and Bull Shoals dams spawned vacation, resort, and retirement industries throughout the area, producing the largest cash flow the county had known. The Bank of Gainesville helped finance those industries and profited greatly from them, somewhat ironically (considering Harlin's strongly Republican political persuasion) since both dams were spawned by President Roosevelt's New Deal.

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Harlin, John Conkin and Clara [Layton], Hou
Ozark County, Misso

SIGNIFICANCE: POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Though he spent 58 of his 79 years as an officer in the bank, John Conkin Harlin's greatest interest was not banking, but public service according to his grandson, John Layton Harlin. A principal leader of the county Republican Party, he was frequently called upon to run for office on the Republican ticket. He consequently held county elective offices for 44 years, some of them concurrently: 36 as collector, eight as clerk, and four as treasurer. He was elected collector in 1902, when he was only 27.⁷ Harlin served four years as a state senator, from 1929-33. In 1931 he coauthored the state's first school bus law. He was also instrumental in establishing the Missouri Highway Patrol in 1932. At the time of his death in 1955 he was serving a term in the Missouri House of Representatives. "My hobbies," said Harlin, "are schools and roads."⁸

Earlier, before the two Arkansas dams were built, Harlin had used his influence as a member of the Missouri State Highway Commission to get a hard-surfaced highway built south from Ava, seat of adjacent Douglas County, to Gainesville. In 1940 he was the prime mover in securing Rural Electrification Act electric lines into Ozark County from Power Site Dam in neighboring Taney County. In the 1950s, near the end of his life, he helped secure the "Million Dollar Bridge," as it quickly came to be known, over the new Bull Shoals Lake in the west end of the county connecting with neighboring Branson in Taney County. Harlin was honored to be a passenger in the first car driven across the new bridge. Those construction projects brought additional development, and more money.⁹

Harlin's volunteer public service activities supported his roles as businessman and politician. In such a place as Ozark County in the first half of the 20th century, citizens seldom distinguished between Harlin's leadership in economic matters, his elective duties, and his other "unofficial" activities. Those activities were certainly supportive. For 45 years he was president of the Christian Church Sunday School. He directed the church's choir, and substituted in the pulpit when the regular minister was absent. During World Wars I and II he chaired War Bond drives and the county Red Cross. He was a sought-after auctioneer, always an important function in a rural area. When for a period his house possessed the only telephone in the county with a line to the outside world, the Harlins fielded incoming messages for the local population. Father and sons delivered the messages on foot, on horseback, or by car--all at no cost.¹⁰ He was also an avid sportsman, and his hunting and fishing exploits--combined with his business and political associations--undoubtedly helped promote Ozark County as an outdoor sports paradise.

THE JOHN CONKIN HARLIN FUNERAL

When Harlin died in 1955 at age 79, his funeral was a major event and a massive tribute. Held in the railroad town of West Plains, in neighboring Howell County where he had family and business connections, it was front page news in the local newspaper for three successive days. "More than 1500 Attend Services for Prominent Ozark Legislator, Banker, Speaker, Sportsman, of Gainesville," said one headline. "John C. 'Uncle Johnny' Harlin... Legend in Ozarks," said another. Delegations from Jefferson City represented the Missouri Highway Commission, the Missouri House, and the State Patrol. Bankers from Springfield and Northern Arkansas

⁷ Piland, ed. Op. cit., pp. 133-134. Dates of most of Harlin's service in county offices cannot be determined from published sources. The weekly *Ozark County Times* in the newspaper office in Gainesville for the years before ca. 1960 are loose, un-indexed and essentially unusable for research. The Gainesville Library is not a source for information of this kind. The County Clerk's Office offered only the county history cited above.

⁸ Roy D. Blunt, Secretary of State, *Historical Listing of the Missouri Legislature*, 1988, p. 51; *West Plains Daily Quill*, West Plains, Missouri, December 19, 1955.

⁹ Piland, ed. Op. cit., p. 246; John Layton Harlin conversation, cited above.

¹⁰ Travel on horseback was necessary in Ozark County long after it became mere sport elsewhere. Marvin Tong, editor of the *Ozark County Times* after 1947, told the author in the 1970s that the sheriff of Ozark County did not have a car until 1937. "He couldn't get around in the county in a car," said Tong. "There were no bridges over the rivers."

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attended. School buses brought children from across Ozark and Howell Counties to honor the man who, in the words of the newspaper, "was an ardent booster and did much to better schools and roads in this part of the country." Hundreds of mourners spread out across the funeral home grounds and into neighboring streets. Loudspeakers enabled them to hear the service. One nonagenarian mourner had to be carried into the funeral home. One elderly woman, according to the newspaper, wept, patted his cheek, and said, "Thank you, Uncle Johnny, for everything." ¹¹



Harlin House, circa 1912

John Conkin Harlin and family in their 1912 Model T Ford, parked in original driveway east of house. In 1912, Harlin was president of the Bank of Gainesville and active in Ozark County politics. Later, he would serve in both houses of the Missouri General Assembly. Photographer unknown. Source of photo: Hugh Tan Harlin, The Harlins of Ozark County, p. 52.

¹¹ *West Plains Daily Quill*, December 19, 20, 21, 1955.

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

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Harlin, John Conkin and Clara Layton, Hous
Ozark County, Missou

Major Bibliographical References

Blunt, Roy D., Missouri Secretary of State. Historical Listing of the Missouri Legislature. Jefferson City: State Printing Office, 1988.

Harlin, Hugh Tan. The Harlins of Ozark County. No place: no publisher, 1996.

Ozark County Genealogical and Historical Society: Piland, Shirley, and Ruby Robbins, eds. A History of Ozark County. No place, no date.

The Daily Quill. West Plains, Missouri, December 19, 20, 21, 1955.

Interviews:

April 22, 2002. Interview of John Layton Harlin, grandson of John C. and Clara Harlin. Robert Flanders, interviewer.

March 10, 2003. Interview of Chris Harlin; president, Uncle Johnny, Inc., and great-grandson of John C. and Clara Harlin. Robert Flanders, interviewer.

March 10, 2003. Interview of Billye Harlin, daughter-in-law of John C. and Clara Harlin. Robert Flanders, interviewer.

March 10, 2003. Interview of Bill Oakley, general contractor of the Harlin House restoration. Robert Flanders, interviewer.

Verbal Boundary Description

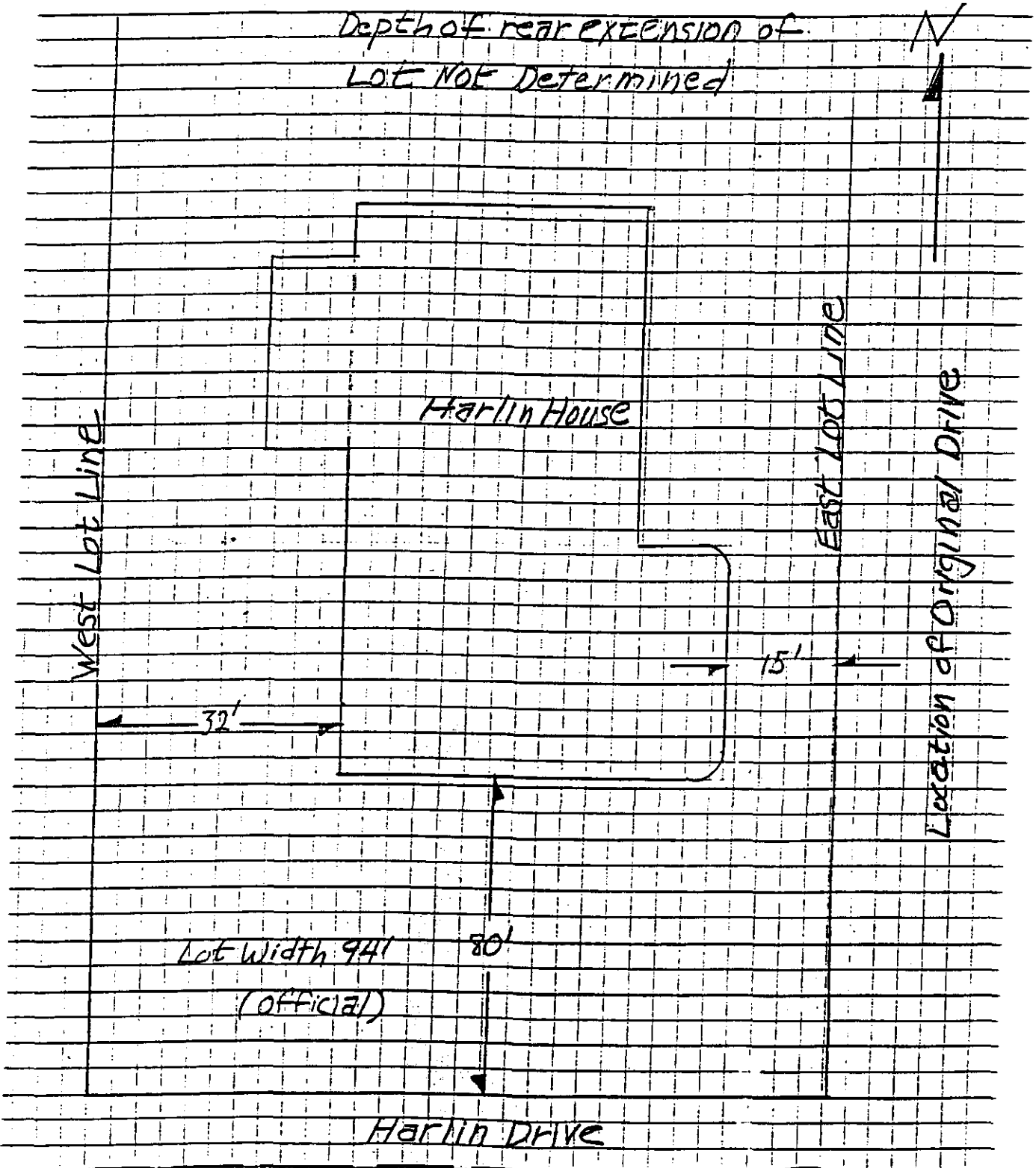
Beginning at the southwest corner of the property boundary, at the Harlin Drive right-of-way, proceed northward along the property line 200 feet; thence right (eastward) 90 degrees, 92 feet to the east property line; thence right (southward) 90 degrees, and proceed 200 feet along the east property line to the Harlin Drive right-of way; thence right (westward) 90 degrees, and proceed 92 feet to the starting point.

Boundary Justification

The above boundary scribes a rectangle that includes the John Conkin Harlin House in its entirety, and excludes nearby noncontributing outbuildings.

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Continuation Sheet



John Conkin Harlin House Site Plan
Source: Aerial Survey Photo

Robert Flanders
May 22, 2003

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Harlin, John Conkin and Clara Layton, House
Ozark County, Missouri

Section 11. Photographs Page 12

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Date: July 18, 2003
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Editor and revisions

Photographs

The following information is the same for all photographs, unless otherwise noted:

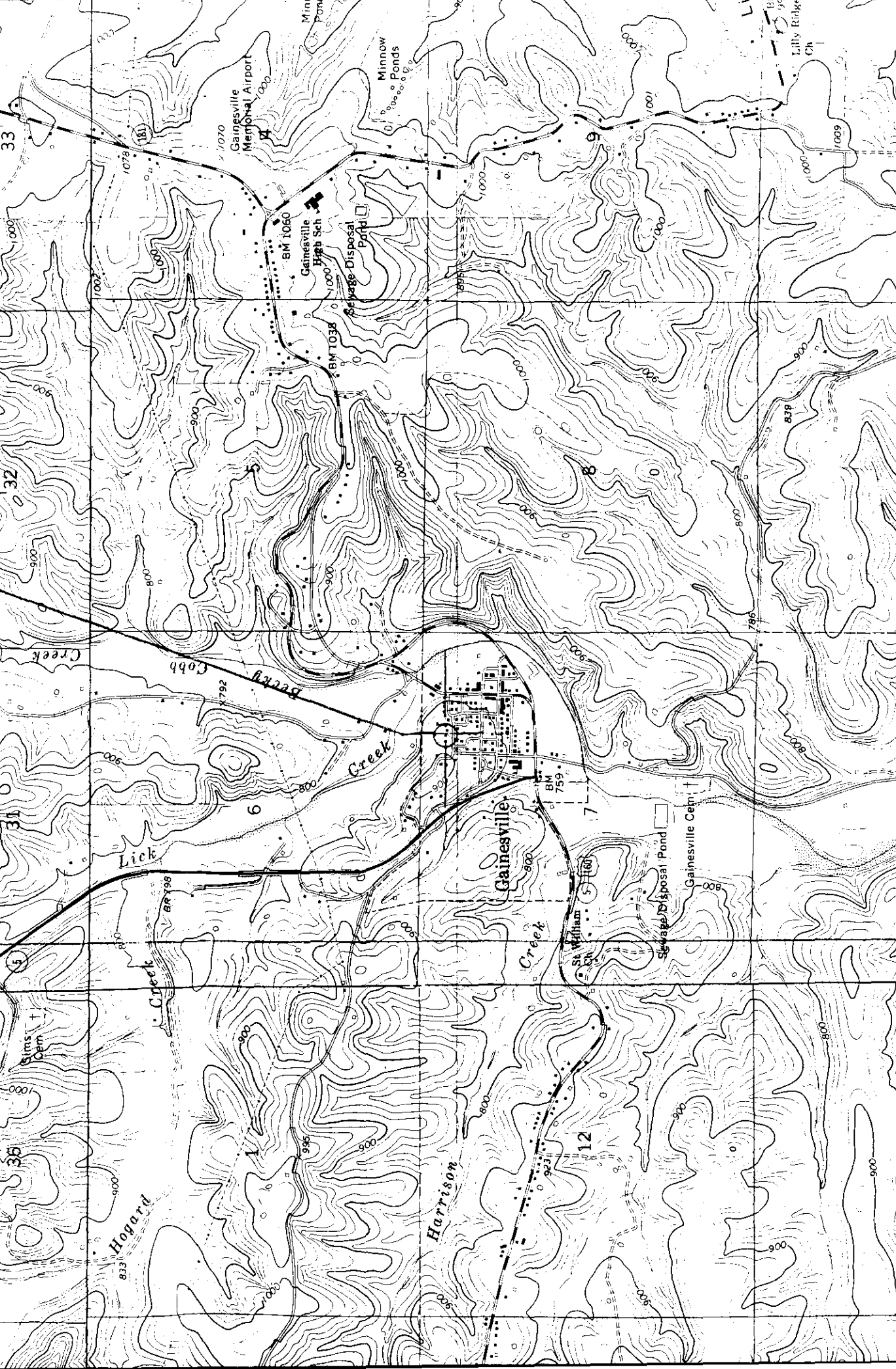
Harlin, John Conkin and Clara Layton, House
Gainesville, Ozark County, Missouri
Photographer: Robert Flanders
Negatives: State Historic Preservation Office, Jefferson City, MO

- 1 View looking NE. West and south elevations. Porch floor temporarily removed. Present drive, foreground; original drive, far right background beyond trees. November 2002.
- 2 View looking NNW. Porch floor removed. Note curve in right corner of porch roof. November 2002.
- 3 View looking SSW. Dining room-kitchen wing at right. Original porch wrapped around entire house. November 2002.
- 4 View looking SE. Post-1944 addition, right foreground. November 2002.
- 5 View looking NNW. SE front corner of house, showing original stone porch piers. Original drive slopes, on right. November 2002.
- 6 View looking WSW. East elevation as seen in ca. 1912 photos (see pages 7.5 and 8.__), except that 1912 viewpoint is now occupied by a house. March 2003.
- 7 View looking north. South façade fronting on Harlin Drive. Note remnants of stone porch piers at grade. Original windows and/or frames are behind panels. March 2003.
- 8 View looking north. Addition at NW corner of house. Original porch (right center) was enclosed with original siding when addition was built. March 2003.
- 9 View looking NE. NW corner addition, showing roof plane. Photo taken from present grade. March 2003.
- 10 View looking SE. Kitchen wing left; addition right. March 2003.
- 11 View looking SE. Corner of SE parlor showing original door to outside porch, and original windows. March 2003.
- 12 View looking SE. Detail of original window. Note leaded glass panel. March 2003.
- 13 View looking SW. Original window frame with sash weight in SW parlor. March 2003.
- 14 View looking ENE. Foot of stairs between 2nd and 3rd floors. March 2003.

HARRISON, N.W. V. CONTAIN, THE
GAINESVILLE, STARK CO., MISSOURI
UTM REFS: 15/550980E; 4051060N

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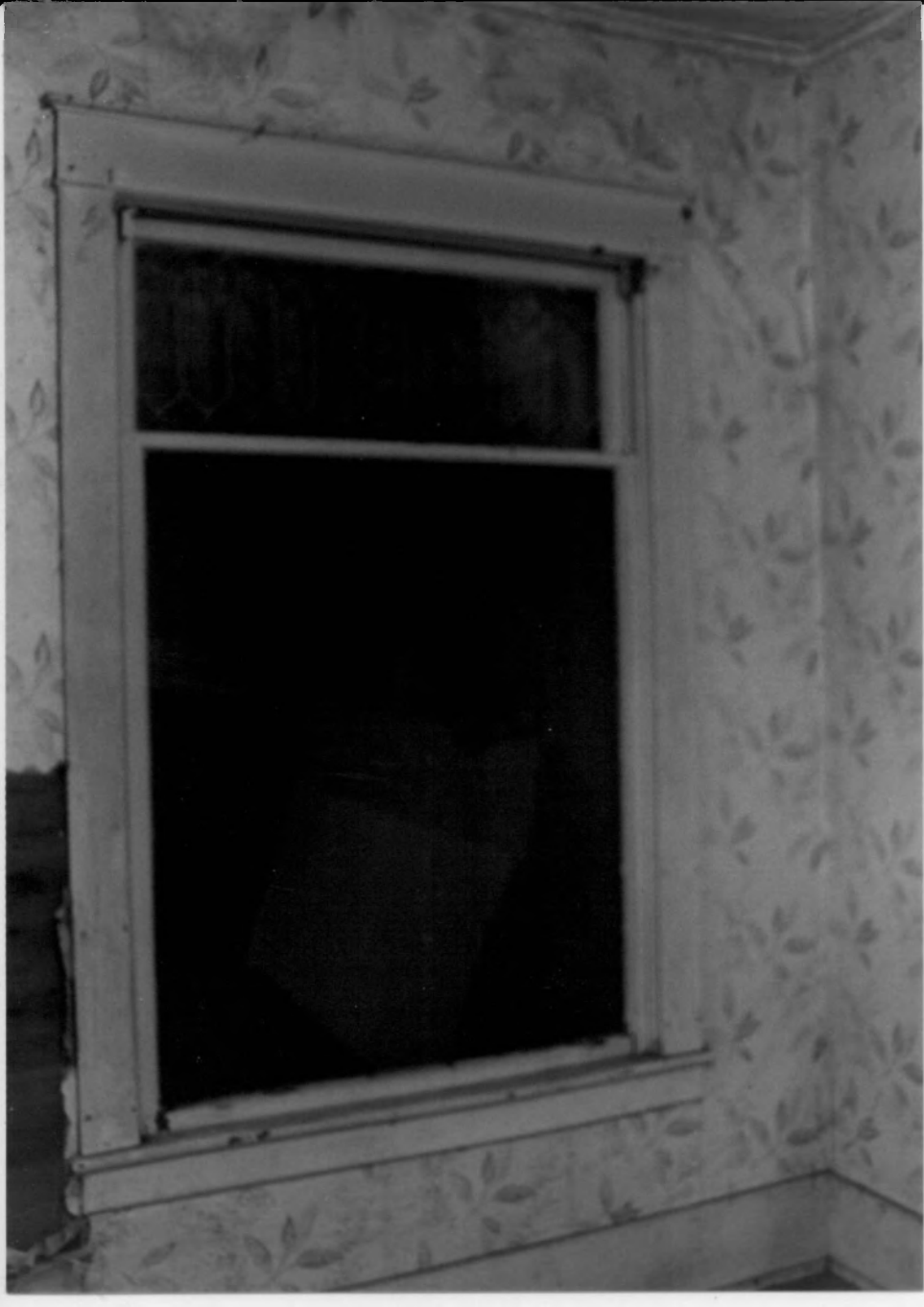


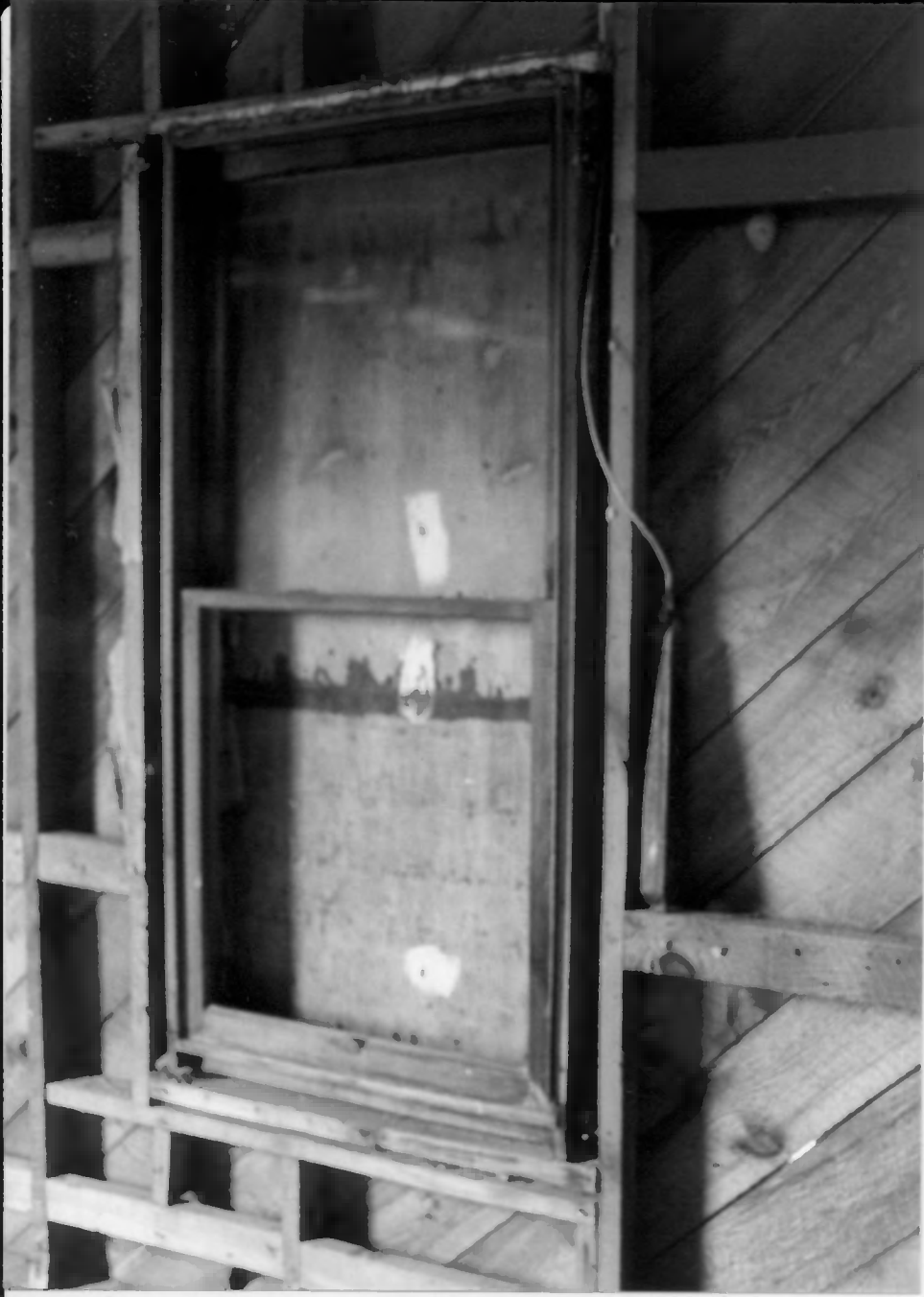














EXTRA
PHOTOS







