

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Hebron

AND/OR COMMON Hebron

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Boundaries as shown on the Site Plan Map enclosed

CITY, TOWN 4/5 mile northwest of Bethel, Mo.  VICINITY OF #9 - Hon. Harold L. Volkmer

STATE Missouri CODE 29 COUNTY Shelby CODE 205

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: vacant

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME 1. Karen A. Platz

STREET & NUMBER Cannon Reservoir Archaeological Project, R.F.D. 1

CITY, TOWN Stoutsville STATE Missouri 65283

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of Recorder of Deeds, Shelby County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Route 15

CITY, TOWN Shelbyville STATE Missouri 63469

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Missouri State Historical Survey

DATE 1976  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Department of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN Jefferson City STATE Missouri 65101

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

### HEBRON SITE

The Hebron Site is a 65-acre tract of land in north-central Shelby County approximately 4/5 of a mile northwest of Bethel, Missouri. It contains the remaining building and the sites of former structures associated with Hebron, one of four support communities for the Bethel German Communal Colony which lasted from 1844 to 1879. The cemetery for the colony is also located here.

### HEBRON HOUSE

Hebron House is the only building with a probable colony connection remaining at the site. It faces south from the highest point of a 2.21 acre tract of land belonging to Ms. Karen A. Platz. Similar to other dwellings built by Bethel colonists, Hebron House is two stories and constructed of soft brick laid between hand-hewn studs which are pinned by wooden pegs. The house is covered with narrow clapboard on the outside, plastered on the inside and capped by a medium-pitched gable roof.

#### Exterior

The house is L shaped with a 18' x 45' main block running east-west and a rear wing that is 18' x 27' connected to the east half of the north facade.

The south facade has four bays consisting of two central doorways flanked by window openings on either side. Both doors and windows are boarded up at present. Directly above each doorway is a half-size two-light window.

The west facade has one second-story, six-over-six light, double hung sash south of the center axis.

The north facade has two exposed windows centrally located on the west half of the north wall. The first floor window has a two-over-two light, double-hung sash, and directly above it is a half-size window that contains two lights.

The rear wing is one story with a north-south running gable roof the peak of which intersects the east-west running gable of the main house at the roofline. This wing has one two-over-two light window on the west facade, while on the north facade there are three windows: two, two-over-two light windows at the east and west ends and above them a small two-light attic window. A chimney contained within the fabric is located at the north end of the wing and the attic window is just to the east of this chimney near the peak of the gable.

On the east facade of the rear wing, a centrally positioned doorway is flanked by a window opening on the north and a screened-in porch opening on the south. The window and screened-in porch openings are presently boarded up and the temporary door is made of corrugated metal.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hebron is significant as one of four support areas for the Bethel German Communal Colony--Missouri's most enduring and successful communal experiment. The Bible provided the example for establishing the commune,<sup>1</sup> and four small inter-dependent areas were created whose members shared property and material possessions in common. These areas were Bethel, Mamri, Elim and Hebron. Bethel and the founder's home at Elim are on the National Register of Historic Places.

Similar to other German-American sectarian societies (Amana, Zoar, Harmony),<sup>2</sup> the society of Bethel was founded in 1845 by the Prussian mystic William Keil and persisted until early in 1879 when it was dissolved following the leader's death the preceding year.

Hebron was established on land originally belonging to William S. Chinn, and purchased on September 24, 1844 by Adam Schuele who was one of three scouts sent west from Pennsylvania by Keil to find a suitable location for the commune.<sup>3</sup> The earliest contemporary reference is to be found in a letter dated May 12th, 1852, written by Wilhelm Weitling in which Hebron is mentioned as being a mile from Bethel and having eight houses.<sup>4</sup> Charles Nordoff, the newspaperman, visited the colony in 1874 and described it, but makes no reference to Hebron; it is, however, mentioned in passing by William Alfred Hines in his survey of American communities published in 1878.<sup>5</sup>

All other written accounts in which Hebron figures are secondary and date from this century. In these accounts, Hebron is simply noted,<sup>6</sup> or mentioned in reference to its cemetery or its agricultural role in the colony. John E. Simon mentions a large cow barn being there,<sup>7</sup> and a recent Shelby County history notes that large barns for cattle, sheep, and swine were located there and that Hebron shepherds and swineherds took care of thousands of sheep, swine, milk cows and working cattle and horses.<sup>8</sup> In all instances, no documentation for these statements is given. The situation is made more difficult by the lack of business records, for none were kept by the colonists.<sup>9</sup>

Because of the communal nature of land ownership, property abstracts usually show the name of the person or persons holding the land in trust for the entire Bethel community and do not provide a clue to who the early residents of Hebron were. An examination of the Karen Platz property abstract does, however, reveal significant names in Bethel's history:

1. Adam Schuele who initially acquired the land for the colony has already

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Platz, Karen A. "Hebron House, Bethel, Missouri." Unpublished paper, Indiana University, 1975.
2. Barrick, Clyde. Personal interview. September 15, 1976.
3. Calvert, Leona. Personal interview. September 16, 1976.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 65 acres (26 hectares)

### UTM REFERENCES

A	15	582760	4415480	B	15	582760	4416060
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	15	583200	4416050	D	15	583210	4415480

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The area occupies a tract of land lying in the west 1/2 of the northwest 1/4 of the northwest 1/4 and the north 1/2 of the northwest 1/4 of the southwest 1/4 of the northwest 1/4 of section 28, and the east 1/2 of the northeast 1/4 of the northeast 1/4 and the north 1/2 of the northeast 1/4 of the southeast 1/4 of the northeast 1/4 of section 29, township 59 north, range 10 west, Shelby County, Missouri.

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

1. James M. Denny, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 176

TELEPHONE

314/751-4096

CITY OR TOWN

Jefferson City

STATE

Missouri 65101

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Director, Department of Natural Resources  
and State Historic Preservation Officer

TITLE

DATE

### FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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2. Miss Opal Bower  
Bethel, Missouri 63434
3. Mrs. Marian Culler  
Bethel, Missouri 63434
4. Mr. Clyde Barrick  
RFD  
Shelbina, Missouri 63468

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The east facade of the main block has two, two-over-two light, second story windows symmetrically arranged to the right and left of the central axis. Directly below them is a lean-to addition with a shed roof that is connected to the screened-in porch. The north half of the area under the shed roof is enclosed, and the remaining area to the south is open, forming a small 8' x 8' porch. This porch is supported by a plain 4" x 4" beam at the southeast corner and another identical beam midway between the corner and the enclosed part of the lean-to. At present, this porch has no floor.

A door on the east end of the south facade of the enclosed lean-to provides interior access from the porch. Directly to the west of the door is a window which has been left open, while a centrally positioned window on the east facade has been boarded up.

The house presently has a corrugated metal roof.

Interior

The main block of the house rests on a full sized (18' x 36') cellar which is constructed of hand dressed limestone blocks laid in a random ashlar pattern. In the centers of the east and west walls, five foot wide chimney foundations, also made of dressed limestone blocks, extend two feet into the cellar floor area.

Spaced two feet apart, the north-south running floor joists are mortised into an 8" x 8" sill that rests directly on the stone foundation walls. The center joist is a 9" x 9" beam which is supported by steel posts.

Directly to the west of the center beam, a cellar stairway opens to the outside of the south elevation.

Both the north and south foundation walls are penetrated by two ventilation window openings just above ground level. One of these openings is directly west of the cellar stairway, the other is directly under the east doorway of the south facade. The two ventilation openings on the north facade are exactly opposite those on the south facade.

Unmortared bricks have been placed over the dirt floor of the cellar.

The first floor is covered with three-inch width pine flooring and both walls and ceiling are plaster over lath. The ceiling lathes are hand-riven; the wall lathes appear to be machine sawn.

The main block of the house is divided into two rooms of equal size--each having

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289 square feet of floor space. The rooms are connected by a door in the partition wall slightly to the south of the center axis. An enclosed stairway at the southeast corner of the east room provides access to the second floor. A doorway on the north end of the east wall grants access to an 8' x 10' room that is connected to the east facade of the main block.

The rear wing consists of four rooms--two main rooms of 175 square feet (west room) and 140 square feet (center room), and a small pantry and screened-in porch which together comprise the wing's east end. Doorways grant access from the west room to the central room, from the central room to both the pantry and screened-in porch, and from the pantry to the screened-in porch. The east room of the main house is reached from the wing's west room by double doors and from the central room of the wing by a doorway. A doorway also provides access from the screened-in porch to the lean-to addition on the east end of the main house.

The interior floor moldings and door and window trim are mainly of pine.

On the second floor, plastered walls rise four feet from the random width oak floor boards to the exposed 8" x 8" wall plate beams. The roof rafters rest on the wall plates and rise upward to the peak of the gable ten feet above the floor where they are connected by butt joints. Collar-beams further strengthen the rafters. The rafters themselves taper from 3" x 4 1/2" at the wall plate to 3" x 3 1/2" at the roof peak.

The second floor is divided into two rooms that are the same size as those on the first floor of the main block. The partition wall dividing the two upstairs rooms is plaster over lath with the plaster chamfered inward where it meets the roof rafters. This chamfered effect is repeated in the plastering of the east and west walls. As on the first floor, a door connecting the upstairs rooms is positioned in the partition wall slightly south of the center axis.

A half-size window, formerly exposed to the outside, located just to the west of center of the north wall of the east room, provides access to the attic of the north wing.

Alterations

Alterations to Hebron House include:

1. prior to 1910:
  - a. a porch that ran the entire length of the south facade was replaced by a smaller porch covering only the two center bays<sup>1</sup>

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- b. the doors and windows on the first floor of the south facade were reversed<sup>2</sup>
  - c. the south facade of the house was originally faced with stucco which was later removed in favor of clapboard siding<sup>3</sup>
  - d. east addition to east facade of main house constructed<sup>4</sup>
2. 1930's:
- a. addition on northeast end of house was added by removing a lean-to attached to the Colony house to the north, rotating it 90 degrees and sliding it over and against the Hebron House
  - b. another room was then added to which a lean-to pantry and screened-in porch were attached<sup>5</sup>
  - c. double doors which possibly replaced a window were installed to provide access from the east room of the main house to the west room of the north addition
3. unknown date:
- a. chimneys centrally located, and constructed within the fabric, on the east and west gable ends which were five feet wide at the base and tapered inward toward the peak were removed and replaced by smaller chimneys that served as flues for wood or coal burning stoves<sup>6</sup>
  - b. a stairway leading from the northeast corner of the cellar to the first floor was closed off
  - c. the first story pine floor was installed
  - d. a stairway from the first floor of the west room to the second floor was removed<sup>7</sup>
  - e. a small window on the west wall of the second story and near the gable peak south of where the chimney was located was closed off and replaced by a larger window just below and to the south of it
  - f. the two upstairs windows on the south wall were lowered approximately six inches<sup>8</sup>
  - g. original hand-riven shake shingles were replaced by a metal roof
  - h. porch on the south facade was removed
4. 1974-75:
- a. chimneys referred to in paragraph 3a were removed
  - b. vertical walnut beams in the cellar that supported the central floor joist beam at north and south ends were replaced by metal posts
  - c. window on west wall of first floor was bricked up
  - d. clapboards on the south and west walls were removed
  - e. upstairs ceiling that was attached to the lower half of the rafters and the collar-beams was removed



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### Condition

The house is presently in poor condition. The joists that support the first floor are badly decayed as are several roof rafters, and some of the windows lack their sash.

### SITE

The area being nominated is basically upland prairie converted to agricultural use and is intersected by an intermittent draw crossing the area from the north-east corner to a point slightly north of the center of the west boundary. This draw is forested in predominantly oak-hickory timber while the 2.21 acre Platz tract is presently covered by a grove of young locust trees (approximately 6" - 10" in diameter). The remainder of the area is devoted to agricultural cropland.

A gravel road, entering from the east, crosses the lower third of the nomination area following a quarter-section line to a point just west of a north-south section line, where it turns abruptly north for approximately 1000 feet, then jogs west ending at the cemetery.

At the bend of the road on the south side, is a large burr oak tree (approximately 4' in diameter). Directly to the east of this tree is the site of the Haffner blacksmith shop. A 12' x 16' garage presently occupies the approximate area of this site.

Southwest of the burr oak tree is a silver maple which originally stood in front (north) of the Haffner house. There are no visible remains of this house nor of the smoke house and cistern that stood just to the west.<sup>9</sup> Today, this site is occupied by four agricultural outbuildings of contemporary origin.

The north-south section line which bisects the nomination area also bisects the Hebron House and the site of the Colony house directly to the north. All that remains of this structure is the cellar-foundation that is constructed of hand dressed limestone blocks similar to those of the Hebron House foundation. The dimensions of the colony house foundation are 18' x 36'--identical to those of Hebron House. The colony house site is presently partially filled in with earth, and locust trees (approximately 8" in diameter) have taken root in the foundation area.

There are two cisterns situated near the southeast corners of Hebron House and the colony house site respectively, and a cistern site just north and west of the colony house site. The cistern near Hebron House is covered with a wellhead, but the cistern near the colony house is open and is approximately 12 feet deep,

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lined with field stone, and has a brick floor. A bake oven site, reported by an informant, has not been precisely located.<sup>10</sup>

In the northeast corner of the Karen Platz ownership area is a 36 1/2' x 42 1/2' barn constructed primarily of milled oak beams with mortise and tenon joints, covered with board siding, and capped by a corrugated metal roof. It is doubtful that this barn dates to colony times, but it rests on a stone block foundation which extends to the north beyond the present barn area upon which a much larger barn may have once rested.<sup>11</sup> West of the barn, near the north boundary of the Karen Platz ownership area are the sites of two log granaries.<sup>12</sup>

On the west side of the road, opposite the colony house site, is an approximately 40' x 80' barn belonging to Clyde Barrick. Immediately to the south of this barn is a smaller structure with walls constructed of hand hewn logs with dovetail joints. A cistern is located between this structure and the barn. To the north of the Barrick barn is an approximately 18' x 30' barn. The materials from which this barn is constructed are a combination of milled lumber and hand hewn beams.

Hebron Cemetery

Hebron Cemetery is located in the northwest portion of the nomination area. The cemetery grounds are roughly rectangular in shape, and are enclosed by a woven-wire fence. Its dimensions are approximately 250 feet along the east-west ends, and 200 feet along the north-south ends. The gravel road leading to the cemetery stops at an ordinary farm gate located along the east side about 100 feet from the northeast corner. Past the gate, a lane divides the cemetery in such a way that one-third lies to the north, the remaining two-thirds to the south. The area to the north of the lane is a modern cemetery with polished granite tombstones.

The colony portion occupies the middle part of the cemetery south of the lane-- the east and west ends of the remaining area being devoted to post-colony burials. Distributed through the colony part of the cemetery are several large cedar trees approximately 1 1/2-2 feet in diameter. As the colonists died, they were buried in north-south rows, one after another, without regard to family plots. There are five rows of colony tombstones.

During the first five years of the colony's life, simple walnut grave markers were employed. None of these are extant today. After 1850, the tombstones were carved from limestone by Bethel craftsmen. Between 1850 and 1879, when the colony disbanded, approximately 94 colonists were interred at Hebron. Included are many

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old Bethel names, and the colony leader, Dr. William Keil, has several family members buried here including three grandchildren.<sup>13</sup>

For several years, the cemetery had been allowed to lapse and become overgrown. Many grave markers had fallen over or were to be found leaning against trees. In 1975, this situation was remedied when the Bethel Cemetery Association righted the tombstones and mowed the area. One negative consequence to this, however, was that the original order of the grave markers was not strictly observed.<sup>14</sup>

PRESENT STATUS

Future plans for the 2.21 acres owned by Karen Platz include restoring Hebron House and furnishing it with furniture and accessories of the colony period. Plans also call for reconstructing and furnishing the log-stone Colony house and other original colony structures which were a part of the site, and replanting of the orchards and grounds. Eventually, the owner hopes to turn the property into a living museum open to the public. To help do this correctly and with foresight, she began a master's degree in historic restoration and preservation.

The Hebron cemetery is maintained by the Bethel Cemetery Association.

The remainder of the nomination area is in agricultural production and will probably continue to be for the foreseeable future.

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FOOTNOTES

1. Karen A. Platz, "Hebron House, Bethel, Mo." (unpublished paper, Indiana University, 1975), p. 9.
2. Platz, p. 6.
3. Platz, p. 9.
4. Platz, p. 8.
5. Platz, pp. 8, 20.
6. Platz, p. 7.
7. Platz, p. 14.
8. Ibid.
9. Statement by Clyde Barrick, personal interview, September 15, 1976; and statement by Leona Calvert, personal interview, September 16, 1976.
10. Platz, p. 5.
11. Platz, p. 20.
12. Platz, p. 5.
13. Statement by Lucille Bower, personal interview, September 15, 1976; Clarence Bower, "Bethel," History of Shelby County, Missouri (Marceline, Missouri: Shelby County Historical Society, 1972), p. 73.
14. L. Bower, personal interview, September 15, 1976.

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been referred to. From him, the property passed to Michael Krouse, then to Samuel Bauer and from him to Andrew Geisey. Geisey was the third leader of the colony after Keil removed to Aurora, Oregon in 1854.<sup>10</sup> In 1876, Andrew Geisey himself removed to Oregon and the property passed to Jacob Miller who was the last leader the colony had.<sup>11</sup> After the death of Keil in 1876, the colony decided to disband and the property was placed in the hands of trustees to be distributed according to share.

2. As a result of the division of colony assets, in 1881 the land on which Hebron House sits was acquired by Jacob Schreiver. It is probable that William Haffner came into possession of the property on which the Haffner Blacksmith Shop and House and the Hebron cemetery were located about the same time.

Jacob Schreiver was an original member of the colony, making the migration to Missouri with the Keil party in 1845.<sup>12</sup> His name does not appear on the agreement for division of property drawn up in January, 1879 when the colony was disbanded, but that document does bear the name of his son Henry Schreiver, and his brother Samuel Schreiver.<sup>13</sup> William Haffner, the Hebron blacksmith, came to Bethel sometime during the early 1860's in order to avoid participation in the Civil War.<sup>14</sup>

3. Following the death of Jacob Schreiver around 1910, the property on which the Hebron House is located passed to his son Martin. He owned the property until 1935 when it was sold in a mortgage sale and ended up in the possession of the Federal Land Bank.

During the period when the Federal Land Bank had the property, the Colony house was torn down and the north additions were built on to the Hebron House.<sup>15</sup>

4. In 1938, George and Nellie Beech acquired the property and in 1940 sold it to Lawrence and Lola Bower. The land passed from them to their son Pearl Bower and his wife Helen who in turn passed it to Opal Bower in 1952. Karen Platz purchased the 2.21 acre tract on which the Hebron House is located from Opal Bower in 1973.

The abstract for the Haffner property was not examined, but it is known that they lived there until 1924.<sup>16</sup> In the 1940's Clyde Barrick acquired the property and has continued to own it down to the present day. When he moved onto the land, the blacksmith shop was gone, but he and his family lived in the Haffner House until it burned in 1957.<sup>17</sup>

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It is not known with certainty when any of the houses at Hebron were constructed. The Weitling letter stated that there were eight houses there in 1852. The next documentary evidence does not appear until the publication of the first Shelby County atlas in 1878. This atlas shows three houses at Hebron: the Haffner House, Hebron House and the Colony House. These same three houses are also shown in the 1902 Shelby County atlas.<sup>18</sup>

As has already been noted, there are no documents which describe Hebron as it was during colony times; it is possible, however, to gain an idea of what Hebron was like in the years following the disbanding of the colony down to World War I. There are descendants of Hebron residents still living who grew up there during this period and who still have clear memories. This is significant because at this time much of the spirit and customs as well as the "dutch" version of the German language, spoken by the colonists, still persisted.<sup>19</sup>

From descriptions provided by informants, the following brief picture of Hebron during the years 1884-1918 can be drawn:

1. The Haffner House was rectangular in shape with the long sides facing east-west. It had a cross gable roof and a porch that ran the full length of the west end while a smaller porch was recessed into the southern end of the east facade. The house had two stories with three identically arranged rooms above and below--two smaller rooms (approximately 12' or 14' x 20') to the north and a larger room (20' x 20') on the south end. There was a two room, one-story addition on the north end of the house. Brick fireplaces were located in each room of the main house. The framework was constructed of oak beams with mortise and tenon joints with the sills resting on a foundation of hand dressed limestone blocks. There was a cellar under the area of the south room. The exterior was sheathed with clapboard and the interior walls were of plaster and lath.

This house was apparently not of colony vintage, because Minnie Gibson, now 98, remembers her father, William Haffner, building part of the house on the foundation of an earlier house that had become too dilapidated to be repaired. This must have been in the 1890's because the father of Mrs. S. P. Jones (who is 84) was hired to assist in the construction and his family lived in Hebron House during that time--1892-1898.

William Haffner also built a large barn at this time that had three bays with a hayloft above and a roof capped by a cupola. This barn burned in 1944 and Clyde Barrick's smaller barn rests on its foundation.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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To the west of the Haffner House was a cistern and a smokehouse. Two log granaries were located south of the barn and southwest of the barn was a large apple orchard. A grape arbor was situated between the house and the barn.<sup>20</sup>

While there are no remains of the blacksmith shop, an anvil, a ring anvil, the hand-hewn workbench, and several hand forged blacksmith tools from the shop were removed to Bethel where they are in the possession of a Haffner descendant named George Dodd.

2. The Colony House was identical in dimension and floor plan to the Hebron House just to the south with the principal difference being that in the Colony House the area between the beams was filled with stone instead of brick. Inside, were stone fireplaces at the east and west ends, and there were two stairways leading to the second floor. The south exterior wall was stuccoed and clapboard covered the remaining three sides. A porch ran the full length of the south facade and a trap door provided access from the porch to the cellar. A lean-to on the rear of the Colony House became part of the north addition of Hebron House.

Northeast of the Colony House was a bake-oven with three walls that were four feet high to which cranes were attached to hold the kettles used for cooking down fat when butchering hogs.

Associated with the Hebron House-Colony House site were three cisterns, two log granaries, a sheep barn and a chicken house. There was also a small apple and cherry orchard, two grape arbors, a small garden and some ornamental plantings.<sup>21</sup>

- > Karen A. Platz and others interested in the history of the Bethel German Communal Colony continue to collect data relevant to Hebron which will enable Ms. Platz to reconstruct the portion of the Hebron site under her ownership as accurately as possible.

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." The Hebron Site is, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Agriculture," and "Society."

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FOOTNOTES

1. See Genesis 13:1-3, 13:18, 14:9.
2. H. Roger Grant, "The Society of Bethel: A Visitor's Account," Missouri Historical Review, LXVIII (January, 1974), p. 223; William Godfrey Bek, "A German Communistic Society in Missouri," Missouri Historical Review, III (October 1908 - January 1909), p. 52.
3. Deed Record, Shelby County, Missouri Vol. D, p. 240; History of Monroe and Shelby Counties, Missouri (St. Louis: National Historical Company, 1884), p. 861.
4. For full text of Weitling letter see Grant, pp. 225-230.
5. Charles Nordoff, The Communistic Societies of the United States (New York: Hillary House Publishers, 1961 [first published in 1875]; William Alfred Hines, American Communities (New York: Corinth Books, 1961 [first published in 1878]), p. 288.
6. Bek, pp. 53, 97; Russel L. Gerlach, "Population Origins in Rural Missouri," Missouri Historical Review, LXXI (October, 1976), p. 17.
7. John E. Simon, "William Keil and the Communistic Colonies," Oregon Historical Quarterly, 36 (June, 1935), p. 127.
8. Clarence Bower, "Bethel," History of Shelby County, Missouri (Marceline, Missouri: Shelby County Historical Society, 1972) pp. 71, 73.
9. Bek, pp. 103-104; Grant, p. 230.
10. History of Monroe and Shelby Counties, Missouri, p. 1867; Bek, p. 108.
11. Ibid.
12. Statement by Lottie Schreiver Boren, personal interview, September 28, 1976.
13. Boren, personal interview, September 28, 1976; Bek, p. 113.
14. Statement by Leona Calvert, personal interview, September 16, 1976.
15. Karen A. Platz, "Hebron House, Bethel, Mo." (unpublished paper, Indiana University, 1975), pp. 8, 20.



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16. Calvert, personal interview, September 16, 1976.
17. Statement by Clyde Barrick, personal interview, September 15, 1976.
18. An Illustrated Atlas of Shelby County, Missouri (Philadelphia: Edwards Brothers, 1878), p. 21; Standard Atlas of Shelby County, Missouri (Chicago: George A. Ogle and Company, 1902), p. 11.
19. Bek, pp. 102, 125.
20. Minnie Gibson (mother) to Leona Calvert (daughter), personal interview, September 28, 1976.
21. Platz, p. 5.

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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

4. Bower, Lucille. Personal interview. September 15, 1976.
5. Bower, Clarence. "Bethel," History of Shelby County, Missouri. Marceline, Missouri: Shelby County Historical Society, 1972.
6. History of Monroe and Shelby Counties, Missouri. St. Louis, Missouri: National Historical Company, 1884.
7. Grant, H. Roger. "The Society of Bethel: A Visitor's Account," Missouri Historical Review, LXVIII (January, 1974), pp. 223-231.
8. Bek, William Godfrey. "A German Communistic Society in Missouri," Missouri Historical Review, III (October, 1908-January 1909), pp. 52-74, 99-125.
9. Gerlach, Russel L. "Population Origins in Rural Missouri," Missouri Historical Review, LXXI (October, 1976), pp. 1-21.
10. Deed Record, Shelby County, Missouri, Vol. D.
11. Nordoff, Charles. The Communistic Societies of the United States. New York: Hillary House Publishers, 1961 [first published in 1875].
12. Hines, William Alfred. American Communities. New York: Corinth Books, 1961 [first published in 1878].
13. Simon, John E. "William Keil and the Communistic Colonies," Oregon Historical Quarterly, 36 (June, 1935), p. 127.
14. Boren, Lottie Schreiver. Personal interview. September 28, 1976.
15. An Illustrated Atlas of Shelby County, Missouri. Philadelphia: Edwards Brothers, 1878.
16. Standard Atlas of Shelby County, Missouri. Chicago: George A. Ogle and Company, 1902.
17. Gibson, Minnie (mother) to Calvert, Leona (daughter). Personal interview. September 28, 1976.

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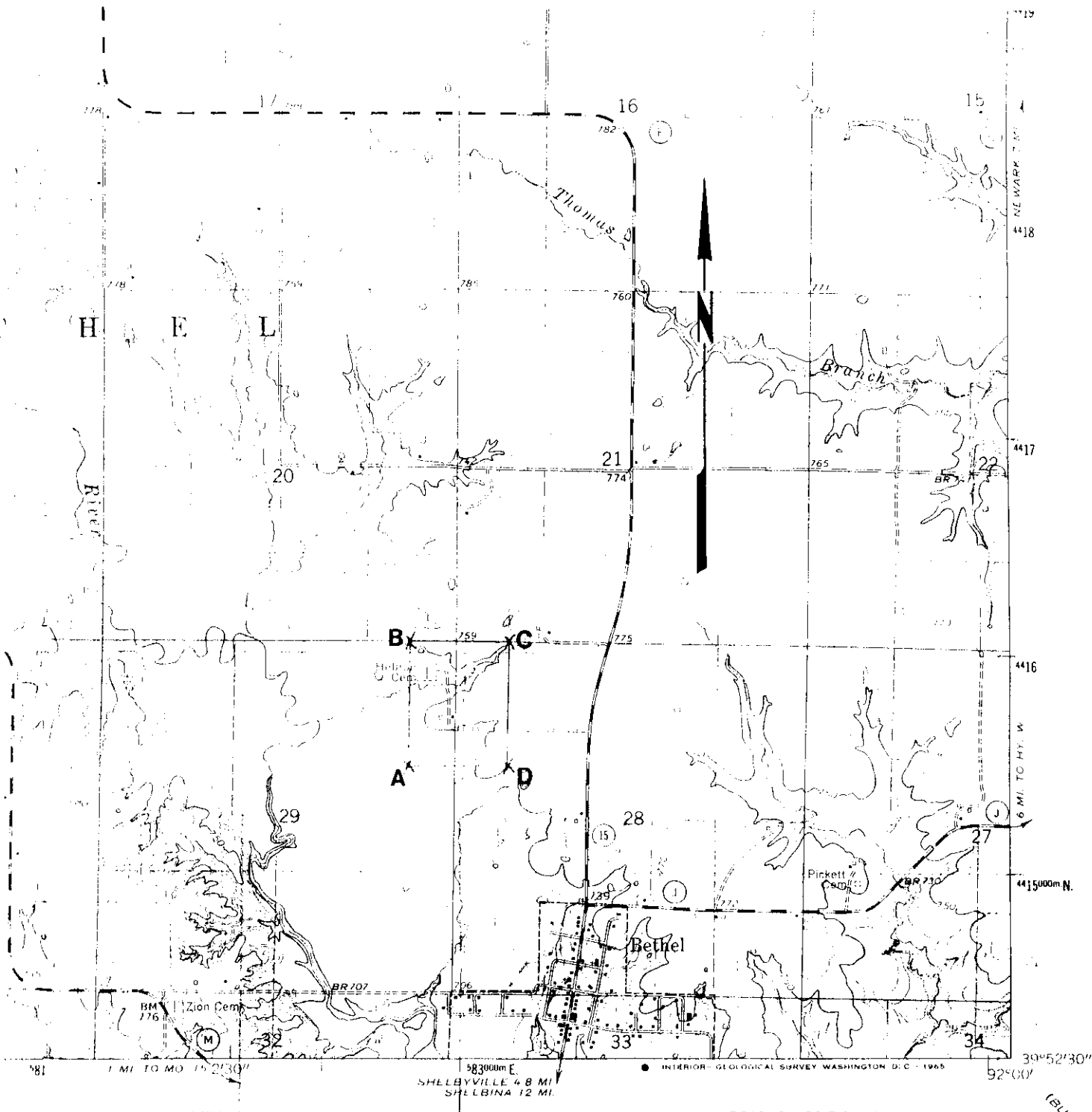
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U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle  
 "Bethel" (1964)  
 Scale: 1:24,000  
 Hebron

UTM References:  
 A 15/582760/4415480  
 B 15/582760/4416060  
 C 15/583200/4416050  
 D 15/583210/4415480

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Medium-duty Light-duty   
 Unimproved dirt   
 State Route

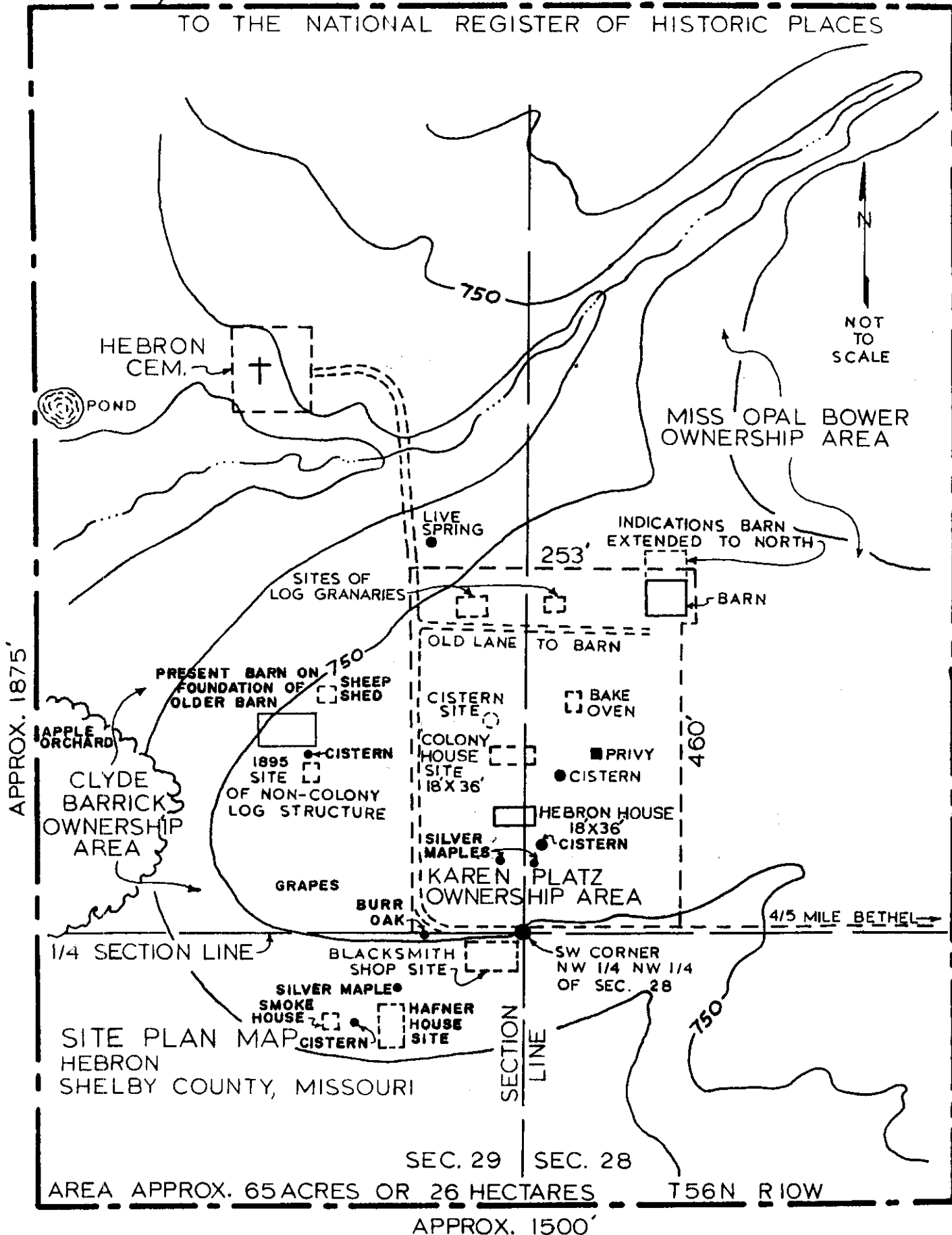
BETHEL, MO.  
 N3952.5—W9200/7.5

1964

AMS 7563 I NE—SERIES V879

BETHEL, MO.  
 1964

BOUNDARY OF AREA BEING NOMINATED  
TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES



NOT TO SCALE

MISS OPAL BOWER OWNERSHIP AREA

INDICATIONS BARN EXTENDED TO NORTH

460'

4 1/5 MILE BETHEL

APPROX. 1875'

1/4 SECTION LINE

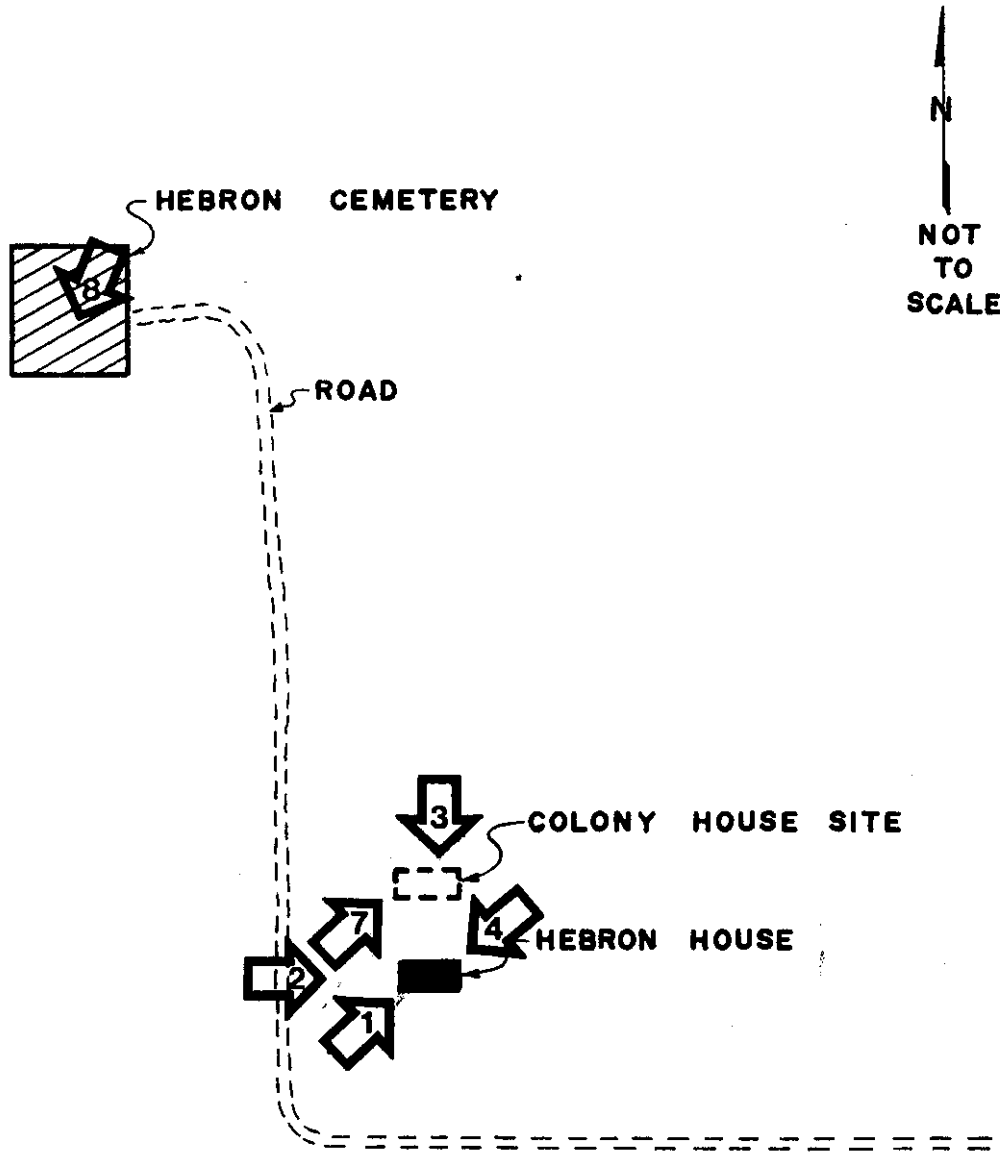
SECTION LINE

SEC. 29 | SEC. 28

AREA APPROX. 65 ACRES OR 26 HECTARES T56N R10W

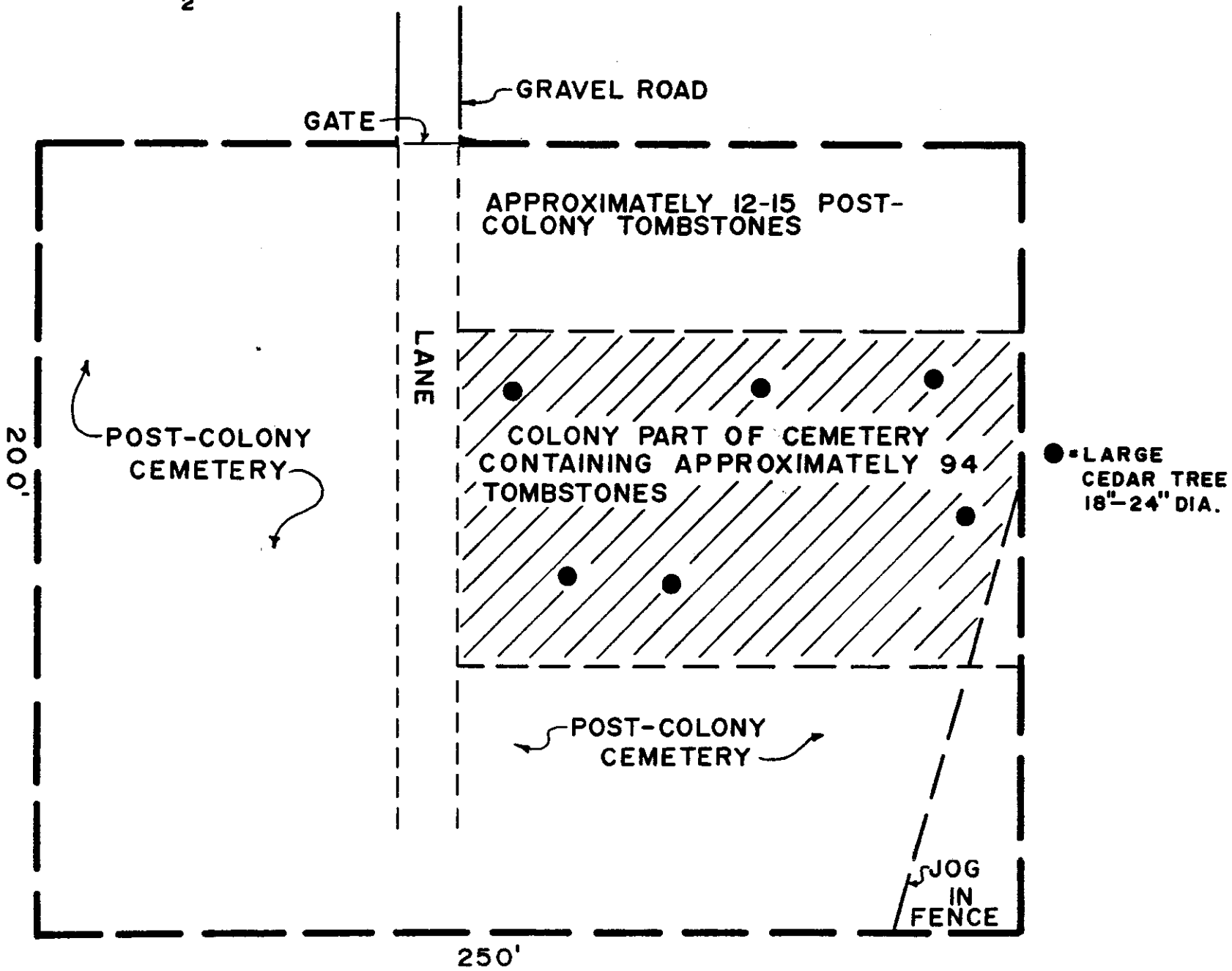
APPROX. 1500'

# HEBRON SITE MAP



# HEBRON CEMETERY

SCALE  $1\frac{1}{2}'' = 50'$



# HEBRON HOUSE

1 CM = 1 FT



ADDITION MOVED FROM COLONY HOUSE IN 1930'S



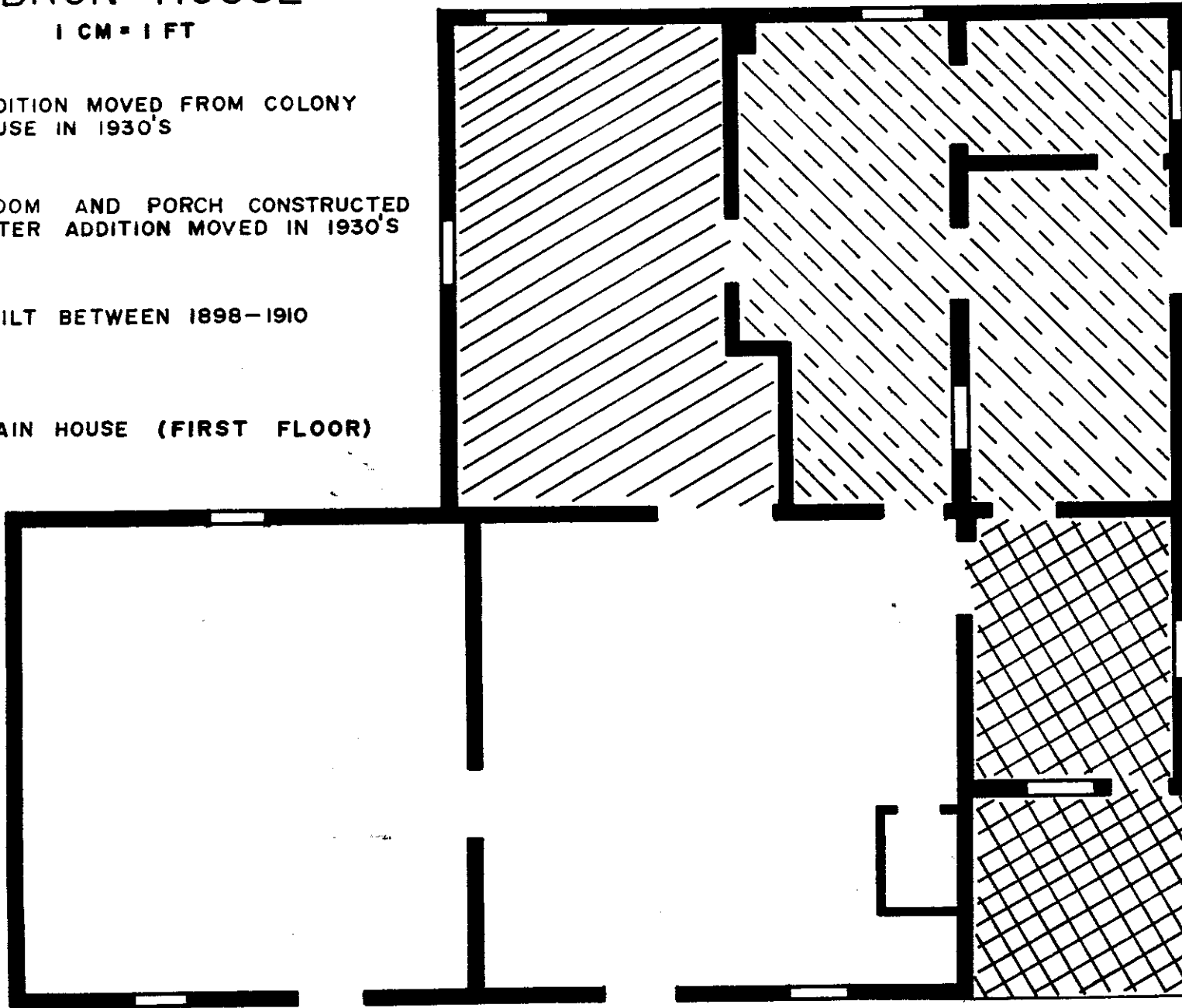
ROOM AND PORCH CONSTRUCTED AFTER ADDITION MOVED IN 1930'S



BUILT BETWEEN 1898-1910



MAIN HOUSE (FIRST FLOOR)



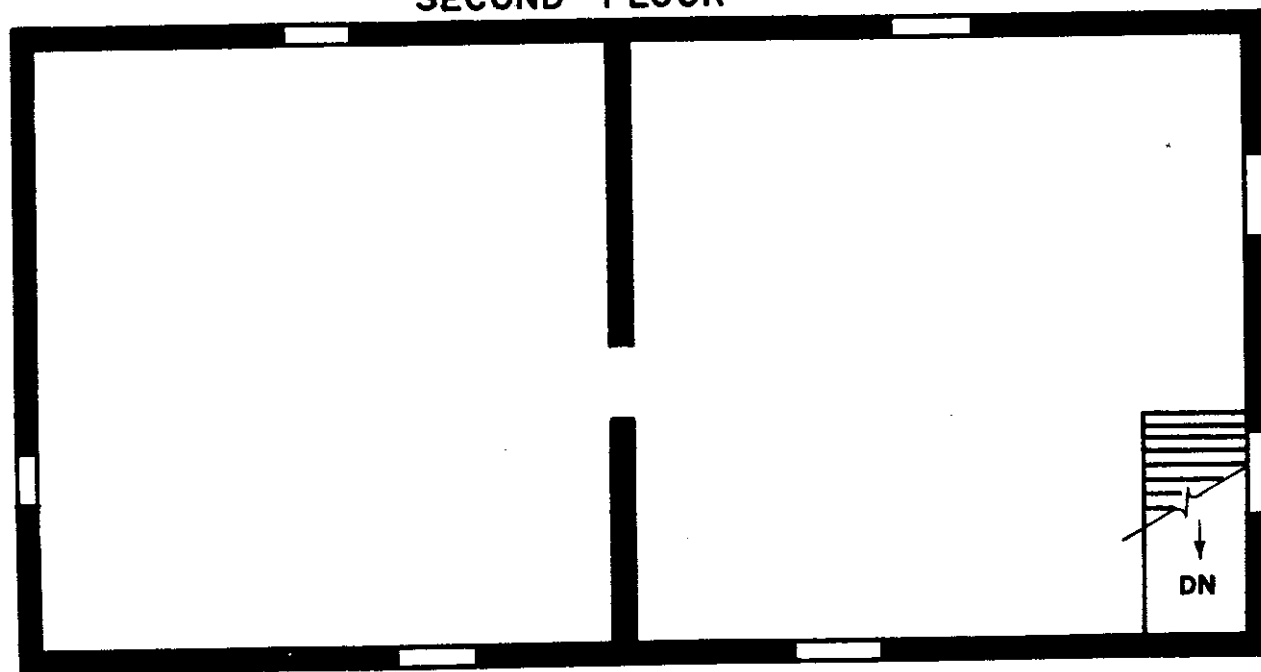


# HEBRON HOUSE

1 CM = 1 FT



## SECOND FLOOR



# HEBRON SITE MAP

