

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hunter-Dawson House

other name/site number Hunter-Dawson State Historic Site

2. Location

street & town 312 Dawson Road (N/A) not for publication

city or town New Madrid (N/A) vicinity

state Missouri code MO county New Madrid code 143 zip code 63869

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

July 6, 2012
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

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- ☐ 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:) _____

Hunter-Dawson House
Name of Property

New Madrid County, MO
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☐ public-local
☒ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	2	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling- Mansion

Domestic: Secondary Structure- Privy

Agriculture: Storage- Granary

Current Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture: Museum- Mansion

Vacant/ Not In Use- Privy

Vacant/ Not In Use- Granary

Vacant/ Not In Use- Garage

Agriculture: Storage- Tractor barn

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

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

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Hunter-Dawson House
Name of Property

New Madrid County, MO
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **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

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1859-1860

c. 1890

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Newhouse, William/Carpenter

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical 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
- X Other Name of repository:

Hunter-Dawson State Historic Site

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Hunter-Dawson House
Name of Property

New Madrid County, MO
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 19

UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 $\frac{1}{6}$ $\frac{2}{7}$ $\frac{4}{0}$ $\frac{5}{3}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{9}{9}$
Zone Easting Northing

2 $\frac{1}{6}$ $\frac{2}{7}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{6}{8}$ $\frac{4}{0}$ $\frac{5}{3}$ $\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{7}{7}$
Zone Easting Northing

3 $\frac{1}{6}$ $\frac{2}{7}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{6}{7}$ $\frac{4}{0}$ $\frac{5}{3}$ $\frac{0}{0}$ $\frac{1}{1}$
Zone Easting Northing

4 $\frac{1}{6}$ $\frac{2}{7}$ $\frac{4}{0}$ $\frac{5}{2}$ $\frac{4}{0}$ $\frac{5}{3}$ $\frac{0}{1}$ $\frac{7}{7}$
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See Attached

Property Tax No.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See Attached

☐ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

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

name/title State of Missouri - Department of Natural Resources, Michael Comer, site administrator

street & number 312 Dawson Road telephone 573-748-5340

city or town New Madrid state MO zip code 63869

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Hunter-Dawson House
New Madrid County, MO**

SUMMARY

The Hunter-Dawson House at 312 Dawson Road in New Madrid, Missouri, is an ornate, two-story frame antebellum mansion. Consisting of a double-pile main block with a two-story ell, the 15-room house abounds with Italianate and Greek Revival affinities. The whitewashed, yellow cypress structure rests on its original brick foundation. It faces south. It has a hipped roof with a central gable and wide eaves with curvilinear brackets. A one-story porch with paired columns and a balustrade deck spans the central three bays of the five-bay primary elevation. The central entrance sports four-pane sidelights and a transom within a pedimented surround. Constructed in 1859-60, the main block is built on a Georgian floor plan—two rooms on each side of a central hall, on both floors. The two-story galleried ell apparently began with a small, one-story structure which originally may have been connected to the main block by a simple porch. The ell's present appearance is thought to date from c. 1890. The house retains most of its original attributes, including six-over-six wood sash and green-painted wood shutters, nine fireplaces, moldings, pocket doors, wood floors with wide boards and wall coverings. In addition, many pieces of furniture that are original to the house, upstairs carpets and light fixtures are intact. The building sits at the west end of a nineteen acre tract, with the four acres surrounding the house enclosed by a reconstructed wood fence with street-facing brick piers (Figure 1). The east fifteen acres consists of open land and mature oak trees. The property also includes two contributing frame outbuildings: a granary and a five-hole privy, both thought to have been constructed in the 1860s. Few changes have occurred to the contributing structures, and they have been restored to their 1860-1890 designs (although they consist of a preponderance of historic material). Two noncontributing, 20th century outbuildings (a garage and barn) are in poor condition near the rear of the property. So far, archeologists have failed to find the location of any slave quarters, a carriage house or other outbuildings thought to have been part of the complex early in its history, but a comprehensive investigation has not been undertaken. The Hunter-Dawson House sits at the northeast end of New Madrid, and despite the presence of recently constructed subdivisions to the north, the property retains integrity of location, setting, materials, design, craftsmanship, association, and feeling from its 1859-60 and c.1890 periods of significance. From its relatively flat and moderately elevated position, the land slopes toward the east and south, so that the Hunter-Dawson home overlooks the town of New Madrid with a distant view of the Mississippi from its upper story windows. The slight elevation has protected the building from frequent inundation, though at least three large floods have left their mark on the building's walls. The Hunter-Dawson House became a Missouri State Historic Site in 1967.

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**Hunter-Dawson House
New Madrid County, MO**

ELABORATION

Mansion (Main Block):

South Façade

The five-bay primary (south) elevation of the Hunter-Dawson House is symmetrical. The central bay containing the entrance is flanked by two windows on each floor. The low-pitched, hipped roof asphalt shingled roof is hipped with wide eaves and a central gable. Scrollwork brackets adorn the wide cornice throughout exposed portions of the main block. A wooden belt course encircles the building between the first and second floors. Iron and glass ornaments (they appear to be lightning rods) adorn the roof. A three-bay, one-story wood porch features a sawn, diamond-patterned balustrade between four sets of paired columns, and jigsaw brackets that mimic the design of those found at the cornice, although they are much smaller. The upper porch deck balustrade features turned balusters and square piers with panels. The original, six-panel wood door is surrounded by four-pane sidelights with wood kickplates, and a geometric transom light. The entrance surround is gently pedimented. The two windows covered by the porch also have pedimented heads. Centered above the entrance is a segmental arched Palladian window consisting of a nine-over-nine central sash with narrow, two-over-two sidelights. Six-over-six wood sash with entablature heads and working wood shutters complete the fenestration. Similar windows are found on the remaining elevations (Photo # 5). Low bushes are clustered around the porch. The original brick foundation is broken by fixed-pane wood windows on all elevations, which grant access and light to the crawl space below this portion of the house. This elevation appears to retain all of its original elements (Photo # 1).

East Elevation

The east elevation features a one-story, two-bay side porch with columns, cornice, and brackets identical to those found on the main porch. Two six-over-nine wood windows with full-length shutters and pediment moldings are located on the porch. Whether these windows were original to the design or at some point replaced an entrance, perhaps with French doors, is undetermined. At the second floor level, two six-over-six windows with shutters are centered approximately above the windows on the porch. Two rectangular brick chimneys rise from the hipped roof in line with the ends of the porch (Photo #2).

North Elevation

The north (rear) elevation displays two symmetrically arranged six-over-six windows on

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**Hunter-Dawson House
New Madrid County, MO**

both levels. One shutter is missing on the east first floor window. The belt course continues as far as the ell. A pedimented entrance accesses the back of the central passage. The western portion of the north elevation is attached to the ell, and thus is obscured (Photo #3).

West Elevation

The west elevation features two centered six-over-six windows on both levels, with an additional single windows near the northeast corner. The symmetry of this elevation was compromised to admit additional light in the dining room and rear bedroom, as the north-facing walls of these rooms are obscured by the back ell. Two chimneys rise from the hipped roof, in line with those on the west elevation (Photo #4).

Rear Ell:

The ell of the Hunter-Dawson House is a two-story frame structure with a brick foundation and a gabled roof. This portion shares many of the main house's design elements (brick foundation, generally similar columns and windows). Examination of the floor plan, foundation, and other structural elements suggests that at least part of the ell was constructed before the larger section, probably c. 1840, as the brickwork of the foundation and the form of the original single room were common during that period (See Figure 6). Eventually, this small building was added to the original structure, and it appears that additional brick piers were constructed under the building to raise it up to meet the larger building. The present appearance of the ell probably dates from c. 1890. Windows are six-over-six sash with operable shutters and entablature heads. Six-panel wood doors are transomed.

East Elevation

The east elevation of the ell is highlighted by a two-story galleried porch which (on the upstairs level) extends for three-quarters of its length, with the end portion enclosed to make a storage room. Porch supports consist of square columns with simple bases and capitals. Balustrades consist of simple wood railings with slatted balusters. Wood steps access the porch where it joins the main block. The southernmost bay consists of a single window. Wooden doors access a servants' staircase in the second bay and a private dining room in the third bay. The threshold to this dining room is noticeably lower than those of other doors on this level, suggesting it may have been installed at a different time (perhaps it was an original doorway to the c.1840 room). Windows fill the fourth and fifth bays beside a wood kitchen door at the north end. Each door on this level includes a three-pane transom window. On the second level, the servants' stairwell opens in the southernmost bay. Paired, narrow wood doors fill the second and

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**Hunter-Dawson House
New Madrid County, MO**

third bays. The fourth bay contains a wood window located beside a wood door near the north end of the porch. Doors on this level have two-pane transoms. Wood siding and a six-over-six wood window enclose the northern section of the porch. The original column remains at the northwest corner. This enclosed room is accessed on its southern side by a four-panel wooden door. Short brick piers support raised portions of the porch (Photo # 2).

North Elevation

The north elevation is primarily a blank wall, with an opening to the porch on the western third of the first level. The original porch columns on the second floor remain despite enclosure of this section of the porch. The brick foundation displays small windows on either side of wood cellar doors (Photo # 3). The cellar, a small brick room, has a large rectangular opening in its south wall that accesses the crawl space.

West Elevation

The west elevation of the ell contains three evenly-spaced window openings on each floor. Five of the windows are six-over-six wood sash with shutters. The northernmost window on the first level apparently had been a door. At some point it was fitted as a window, using what appear to have been transom windows creating a five-light, vertically stacked window with a central wood divider. A rectangular chimney protrudes from the north segment of the roof. Wood picket fencing obscures the building's mechanical units below the third bay (Photo #4).

Interior:

The interior of the Hunter-Dawson House retains most of its original moldings, trim, operable pocket doors, light fixtures, plaster ceilings and wall coverings. Where necessary, the historic wallpaper has been restored. The second level floors are fully intact, but due to flooding the first level floors have been rebuilt to their original specifications. Water-spoiled carpets have been replicated.

First Level (See Figures 2 & 3)

Entry Foyer

The foyer consists of a long hallway or central passage with two sets of doorways on the east and west sides and exterior doors at the north and south ends. The primary south entrance is wide, with simple trim. The door at the north end of the passage is a simple four-panel unit with wood trim. Doorways on the east and west have simple trim

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**Hunter-Dawson House
New Madrid County, MO**

with oversize entablatures. The foyer floor is hardwood under a painted canvas floor cloth with a blue and cream diamond pattern. A stairwell is along the east foyer wall. At its base, a tapering octagonal newel post has turned elements. Steps are plain wood with molded edges. The balustrade consists of turned spindles and a rounded banister culminating at a landing at the rear end of the foyer. A small closet with a wood door and simple trim is located behind the stairwell in the entry hall. A historic chandelier hangs from the ceiling (Photo #6).

East and West Wings

The east and west wings each contain two rooms measuring 18'9" x 18'9" that are separated by operable pocket doors. Original fireplace mantels are in the outer walls of all four rooms. Trim includes a simple crown molding. Window and door enframements are slightly pedimented. Each room has a historic chandelier. Some rooms have carpets with a red and blue floral pattern and some have area rugs over the flooring boards (Photos #7 and #8).

On the north wall of the northwest room are a closet and a door that accesses a hallway to the rear addition. A modern restroom for the historic site staff is off the hallway. At the rear of the hallway, a four-panel door opens to an 18'2" x 19'9" room with a wood floor and wood paneling below a chair rail. A fireplace is centered in the north wall and a four-panel wood door is adjacent to it on the east (Photo #13), which leads to a rear 18'2" x 11'11.5" room. This room has a door that accesses the back porch, wood paneling below the chair rail, wood floors and a large cast iron stove. Trim around doors and windows in this room is much simpler than that found in the remainder of the house. Unlike the other first floor rooms, its plaster walls are painted rather than papered.

Second Level (See Figures 4 & 5)

After sixteen steps, the two-flight staircase reaches a landing between the first and second levels. From the landing, a central four-panel wood door accesses the balcony of the ell. This door was likely a large window originally, as its placement is not even with the floor and a large step is required to access it. The balcony has a wood floor and a plaster ceiling. Recessed security lighting has been added. Each room on the second floor has a door which opens onto the upstairs porch or balcony (Photo #2). The first door accesses an enclosed stairway to the first floor of the porch. The second door opens to an 18' x 9'8" room with plaster walls and a wood floor. The next room to the north measures 18' x 16'9" and has plaster walls, a wood floor, and wood trim. A stove projects from the center of the north wall. The northernmost room has a wood floor and plaster walls. At the end of the balcony is a room measuring 8'6" x 8' with a

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wood floor and horizontal wood paneling on the walls. Even the ceiling of this room is constructed of wood boards (Photo #9).

From the landing at the north end of the main block, a short flight of stairs leads to the central hallway and five second floor rooms, of which at least four were intended to be used as bedrooms (Photo # 10). All of these rooms have wood floors, papered walls, and trim as found on the first level. At the south end of the hall is a 10' x 12'3" room with a large Palladian window. Two bedrooms flank the hall on both the east and west sides. Each bedroom has a fireplace in its exterior wall. Between the north and south room of each wing is a central door connecting the two bedrooms. Closets are built into the walls between the rooms (Photos #11 & #12).

Granary:

A side-gabled, c. 1860 granary measuring 16' x 18' is located north of the house, within the fenced yard. Vertical wood siding encloses the rectangular, white-painted structure. The roof is wood shingled. The south elevation has a wide door in the western bay, most likely used for moving machinery in and out. A door is also located in the eastern bay. The doors are more than a foot above the ground, with wood siding below them; perhaps there were access ramps when the granary was used. A small square door is located just above the door frames and between the doors of the east and west bays (Photo #14). Walls of the east, north, and west elevations are blank. The design of the wood siding is not cohesive, and likely resulted from the enclosure of openings or the replacement of rotted wood on the east and north elevations. Construction materials of the walls and foundation and its location indicate that the granary was constructed at approximately the same time as the mansion.

Privy:

Designed to seat up to five occupants, a frame, 6' x 11' privy with a dividing wall to separate the sexes is located west of the mansion, just outside the fence line (Photo # 15). A wood cornice wraps around the white-painted structure, creating Greek Revival pediments in the gable ends. The south elevation contains two wood doors with ventilation louvers above paneled bottoms. A single but similar door is in the east half of the north end. The east and west walls are blank. The privy was moved to its present location from a point between the granary and a garage where it had been situated for an undetermined period. In 1986 and 1987, an archeological study was unable to determine the privy's original or historic location on the property, perhaps because it was frequently moved.¹ The privy is believed to date from approximately the

¹ Timothy C. Klinger and Richard P. Kandare (Historic Preservation Associates, Fayetteville, Arkansas), "Archeological Investigations at the Hunter-Dawson State Historic Site," March 1988.

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**Hunter-Dawson House
New Madrid County, MO**

same period as the house, c. 1860 to c. 1890.

Noncontributing Structures:

c. 1920s Garage:

Northeast of the Hunter-Dawson House is a 24' x 30' side-gabled garage building with horizontal wood siding and a wood shingled roof (Photo #16). The symmetrical south elevation has a set of wood double doors on either end, with boarded over windows and a wood door centered in between. The west elevation includes a boarded over window and a modern wood door and window in a "lean-to" portion on the north. The north elevation has two boarded-over square windows. The east elevation includes a double door entrance in the "lean-to" portion and a boarded window in the south half. The east third of the roof has fallen in, and the building is scheduled to be demolished. Although built after the period of significance, the structure does not detract from the overall feeling of the property. Because its location is behind the mansion, it is unseen from the street. It once served as an office for the historic site.

Barn:

Farther northeast of the house and outside of the fence is a wood sided barn or machine shed (Photo #17). This 18' x 60' frame building is side gabled with vertical siding and a metal roof. Four open bays face south. Enclosed "lean-tos" are on the east and west ends. It currently houses machinery used to maintain the site. Though constructed after the period of significance and counted as noncontributing, this structure is not visible from the street and in any case does not significantly detract from the integrity of the nominated property. Its location outside of the fence line tends to disconnects it from the mansion.

Integrity:

The Hunter-Dawson House was in nearly continuous residential use from its construction in 1859-60 until it passed into state ownership in the 1960s. Despite the natural tendency to alter a home, the various owners maintained the mansion with little modification except as noted. The building has not been moved nor has any significant structural alteration occurred since the period of significance. Despite efforts to maintain the Hunter-Dawson House, however, much of the structure had been closed off or used only for storage for a significant period of time before it was acquired by the state, and there was some water damage. Some refurbishing, restoration and replication of various architectural elements was necessary. Replicated elements included several door and window frames, most of the kitchen walls on the north side of the first level,

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**Hunter-Dawson House
New Madrid County, MO**

and some of the clapboard siding. However, most of the windows, doors, brackets, siding, and other architectural details had been preserved sufficiently for restoration rather than replication. Replacement of some flood-damaged flooring, carpets, and wallpaper on the first floor was also required. Most of the original trim, fireplaces, mantels and balustrades have survived and are in excellent condition. The building continues to reflect its association with 19th century wealth, and the surrounding acreage isolates it from new developments to the north and west. Little development has occurred east of the site, and especially with inclusion of the outbuildings, the property continues to reflect its agricultural roots. Most of the agricultural acreage historically associated with the residence is not part of the historic site (and the family cemetery is now located on private property). The house continues to face south toward the Mississippi River, beyond 19th and early 20th century homes. The property substantially represents its appearance during the period of significance and retains integrity of original location, setting, materials, design, craftsmanship, association, and feeling.

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**Hunter-Dawson House
New Madrid County, MO**

SUMMARY

The Hunter-Dawson House, located at 312 Dawson Road in New Madrid, Missouri, is locally significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture. A stately antebellum home built on the eve of the Civil War for one of New Madrid's wealthiest and most influential families, the 15-room Hunter-Dawson House attractively combines Italianate and Greek Revival styling. Constructed between 1859 and 1860, the two-story frame house is representative of the status associated with William Washington Hunter, a Virginian who came to New Madrid in about 1830 by way of Potosi, Missouri, and became a wealthy merchant, farmer, and real estate investor. The house's Georgian plan (double-pile) main block is backed with a two-story ell with a double galleried porch which, in its present form, probably dates from c. 1890. Hunter contracted yellow fever and died shortly before construction started and his wife, Amanda, completed the project and raised their seven children on the large estate. Local craftsmen and at least some of the Hunter family's slaves constructed the house, apparently under the supervision of William Newhouse, a carpenter from Quincy, Illinois. Many of the house's architectural components came by steamboat from St. Louis, but the yellow cypress lumber used in the basic framework and exterior sheathing most likely was harvested locally, sawed and planed to size in the family sawmill. A Missouri State Historic Site since 1967, the property includes a rare five-hole privy and a granary, both believed to date from the same period as the house itself. The Hunter-Dawson House and its contributing outbuildings continue to reflect their appearance at the time of construction, 1859-1860 and c.1890, which is also their period of significance.

ELABORATION, PART I

The Hunter-Dawson House is named for two of the three families that were perhaps most deeply involved in the reemergence of New Madrid after a series of violent earthquakes in 1811 and 1812 virtually wiped out the town. Many people moved away but Robert Goah Watson, a native of Scotland who had been a successful fur trader in New Madrid at the time of the quakes, resolved to stick it out. Watson may not have been directly involved in the house's construction but it was his daughter, Amanda Jane, born in 1818, who married William Washington Hunter at the tender age of eighteen and continued the project when her husband died shortly before construction got under way.² After moving to New Madrid in about 1830, Hunter had become associated with Watson and prospered, especially in a mercantile operation known as the Crystal Palace. Hunter also maintained a saw and grist mill on his farm northeast of town along St. John's Bayou, and had significant land holdings in Missouri, Arkansas

² Kenton Craig Hunter and John Charles Aycock, *The Hunters of New Madrid: A Great American Family* (West Des Moines, IA: W. W. Hunter Publishing, 2010), 99.

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and Texas.³ In addition, Watson and Hunter took advantage of laws associated with “damaged” areas from the 1812 earthquake, buying property, improving it, and selling it at a higher rate.⁴ Amanda, of course, assisted in these and other family enterprises (including the operation of a dry goods-carrying steamboat) in between giving birth to seven children.⁵ She died in 1876, two years after the marriage of her youngest daughter, Ella, to William W. Dawson. Ella and William moved into the house and it remained in the Dawson family until it was given to the city of New Madrid that subsequently donated it to the Division of State Parks in 1966. Dawson, who was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives where he served from 1885-1887, also held office locally and at the state level. The property was passed to the Dawson’s children: William Jr., a banker and farmer, and Lillian, who served for several years as county clerk in New Madrid County.

The 1850 census shows Amanda and William sharing a home with a German immigrant named Cecil Hart.⁶ Some sources suggest it was at this time that they began planning their new home on property that William purchased just north of New Madrid’s boundary. Family papers indicate that construction of the Hunter-Dawson House did not begin, however, until 1859, with the first construction materials ordered from St. Louis arriving in July of that year.⁷ The status of construction when William Hunter died of yellow fever on April 1, 1859, is unclear, but in any case Amanda decided to proceed with it on her own. Construction apparently continued at least through the summer of 1860, as building materials were still being purchased from St. Louis as late as August of that year.⁸ The 1860 census (enumerated in June) indicates that Amanda, her seven children, and at least some of the family’s thirty-six slaves (Phillis or Phyllis, a female, claimed to be 108 years old) were living somewhere on the property.⁹ The value of the Hunter’s slaves at that time was approximately \$24,000.¹⁰ Later with armies of the Civil War approaching, Amanda is said to have emancipated them. Many of the freed slaves, however, apparently remained with the family.

³ 1850 United States Federal Census. Retrieved from Ancestry.com.

⁴ United States Recorder of Land Titles for Missouri, *Confirmations by the Old Board and Recorder Bates, 1802-1852*.

⁵ Born 1838 through 1859, the Hunter children were named Amelia, William Colson, Richard Waters, John Clay, Robert Hal, Ella and Louis Weston.

⁶ 1850 United States Federal Census.

⁷ *Index to Construction Receipts for Amanda Hunter and Estate of William W. Hunter*. On file with the Hunter Dawson State Historic Site, 312 Dawson Road, New Madrid, MO. Collection of the John Willard Brister Library, Memphis, Tennessee.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ 1860 United States Federal Census and 1860 United States Federal Slave Schedule. Retrieved from Ancestry.com.

¹⁰ New Madrid County Circuit Clerk, *Application for the Sale of Real Estate in the Case of William W. Hunter, Deceased*, (1891).

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Whether there was a Civil War connection is undetermined. Although local tradition touts the mansion as headquarters for Brigadier General John Pope of the Union Army in March 1862, its involvement in the Battle of New Madrid is undocumented, at least officially. Union forces traveled south from Commerce, Missouri on February 28, 1862, and Brigadier General Schuyler Hamilton reported that they “reached Hunter’s Farm at midnight, the roads being almost impassable.”¹¹ While the reference to “Hunter’s Farm” seems to suggest that the general was referring to Amanda’s property, the Hunter name was not uncommon in New Madrid’s agricultural community at the time. Pope did not arrive in New Madrid until March 3, but his army did camp north of town on what may have been Amanda’s land. Memoirs of William Dawson Jr. reference Pope’s occupation of his grandmother’s property, which resulted in “no serious damage to the house.” Another entry states that “General Pope seized the home for his headquarters, keeping their ammunition on adjoining Hunter farm. The General ordered Mrs. Hunter and children to take ‘batching equipment’ and live at Hunter field.”¹² Because these references are vague as to geography and are third-hand at best, there is considerable room for speculation about the actual events that took place at the Hunter-Dawson House. Perhaps as historian Mary Sue Anton suggests, more than one New Madrid house was used in one way or another by the Union Army.¹³ At least one member of the family is known to have been associated with the Confederacy: Amanda’s oldest son, William Colson Hunter, joined the First Missouri Confederate Brigade, serving in the 1st Infantry Regiment, Company I, of New Madrid.¹⁴ New Madrid’s sympathies, of course, strongly favored the Confederacy.

During the war and reconstruction, Amanda lived off the wealth left by her husband and father, renting out small plots and selling some of the acreage in order to maintain a reasonably comfortable lifestyle. In a land dispute hearing in the 1890s, a witness named T. J. O. Morrison who claimed knowledge of the family shared information about Amanda’s life during this period. He explained that, “After Hunter’s death the family lived together, remained together for there was some several small children...they all lived comfortably and had plenty...some of the children were educated.”¹⁵ Another witness at this hearing, Judge James H. Howard, noted that the family “had a nice home...(a)nd entertained there handsomely.”¹⁶

¹¹ *Report of Brg. Gen. Schuyler Hamilton, U.S. Army, Commanding Second Division. Feb 28-Apr 8, 1862. Operations at New Madrid, MO., and Island No. 10, and Descent Upon Union City, TN.* (As quoted in Hunter and Aycock’s *The Hunters of New Madrid*, 104.)

¹² Hunter, 106.

¹³ Mary Sue Anton, *New Madrid: A Mississippi River Town in History and Legend* (Cape Girardeau, MO: Southeast Missouri State University Press, 2009, pp.197-198.

¹⁴ Hunter, 105.

¹⁵ New Madrid County Circuit Clerk, 7.

¹⁶ New Madrid County Circuit Clerk, 10.

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The extent to which the land surrounding the Hunter-Dawson House was cultivated during the 1860s is undetermined and may never be known. In 1860, Amanda Hunter listed the value of her real estate at \$50,000 and the value of her personal estate at \$65,000, but the manuscript agricultural census for that year does not include her, her deceased husband or any of their several children in the detailed reports. Despite the dearth of information as to how their land was actually used, there surely would have been corn, wheat, oats, livestock, etc. And since the family owned thirty-six slaves in 1860, at least some of them almost certainly worked in the nearby fields (the majority were males aged 18 to 45). Some of the slaves would have been family servants and some may have been hired out to others.¹⁷

In 1870, Amanda's real estate was valued at \$15,000 and her personal estate at \$1,500—a huge drop, but not unusual for the time. Three of her sons (William, John and Richard) were farmers. William Hunter's personal estate was valued at \$800 and he operated a 60-acre farm worth \$3,000. John Hunter (whose name appears immediately after William's in the census, probably indicating an adjacent or close geographic location) also farmed 60 acres valued at \$3,000; his personal estate was worth \$1,000. Richard Hunter owned real estate valued at \$3,000 and had a personal estate worth \$1,000. He operated a 200-acre spread worth \$4,000.¹⁸ Though John Hunter still resided within his mother's household in 1870 (he was 21 years old), Amanda apparently had distributed portions of her agricultural land among her adult sons sometime after 1860. Because of John's residence at the mansion, it is plausible that the property he farmed was around the house itself, and that William's property was also in close proximity. Amanda presumably retained ownership of the nominated acreage.

Like most farmers in New Madrid County before and after the Civil War, Amanda's sons grew corn. Richard harvested 3,000 bushels of Indian corn in 1870 and William and John reported 2,000 bushels each. Her sons kept a few horses, mules and cows but apparently were not into cattle farming. Richard Hunter reported 75 swine, a much higher number than average for the area. Both William and John reported raising 15 swine on their farms, most of which were likely slaughtered for family consumption. The typical farmer in New Madrid County apparently kept between 10 and 20 of the animals in 1870.¹⁹

If John Hunter's farmland was near the family mansion, his cattle and pigs were likely kept in barns somewhere in the vicinity of the Hunter-Dawson House, although the

¹⁷ 1860 United States Federal Slave Schedule.

¹⁸ 1870 United States Federal Census and 1870 United States Federal Agricultural Census. Retrieved from Ancestry.com.

¹⁹ United States Federal Agricultural Census, 1870.

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specific location of any such buildings remains to be determined.

Sometime between 1870 and 1876, Amanda apparently divided more of her property among the children. The 1880 agricultural census lists William as operating a 165-acre farm, Richard (1,020 acres), Robert (80 acres), and Louis Hunter (30 acres); John Hunter is not listed. William's farm consisted mostly of wooded acreage at this time, with only 15 acres tilled. He reported 10 milk cows and 27 other cattle, as well as 50 chickens. He did not report any wheat or corn production that year. Richard's larger farm still focused on swine (150 raised that year) but also included 40 acres of Indian corn and 45 acres of wheat. Robert cultivated 65 acres of Indian corn, again suggesting a family operation rather than a commercial enterprise. Louis also appears to have worked a small family farm, with 30 acres of his land in Indian corn but few cattle or other animals kept on the property.²⁰

In the 1890s, an attempt to determine the value of the family's holdings was made in court.²¹ During a hearing, Amanda's property was described by her son-in-law, William Dawson, as existing in at least four separate places: 55 acres of town property in New Madrid, including a storehouse and lots near the river (which she sold before her death); 150 to 175 acres that was in cultivation until the 1880s, when flooding damaged the area (a portion of which is most likely the nominated property); 65 acres along the Mississippi River called "the Bayou Place" (where 30 acres were cleared around a house), and unspecified acreage in Pemiscot County. (Pemiscot is immediately south of New Madrid County).²²

When Amanda died on December 15, 1876, her husband's creditors came after the estate (which was now included in the New Madrid city limits) in hope of receiving payment for claims filed upon William's death in 1859, and the property went into probate. The mansion and surrounding acreage were held by New Madrid for the next thirteen years, during which time the city rented the land to "one of the children of Louis Hunter (Amanda's youngest son)," who acted as caretaker but allowed the mansion to deteriorate somewhat.²³

ELABORATION PART II

According to local lore, Ella Hunter and William Dawson were married in the mansion on December 24, 1874. Born in 1848, Dawson was easily one of New Madrid's most

²⁰ *United States Federal Agricultural Census, 1880*. For some reason, John Clay Hunter was not enumerated on the population or agricultural censuses for that year.

²¹ New Madrid County Circuit Clerk.

²² New Madrid County Circuit Clerk, 13.

²³ New Madrid County Circuit Clerk, 12.

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prominent citizens. Dawson was graduated from Christian Brothers College in St. Louis in 1869, remained to teach for a year and then returned to New Madrid where he was elected county collector, and served as sheriff until 1874. In 1878, Dawson was elected to the 14th Congressional District of Missouri, where he served as chairman of the ways and means committee and was a member of the swamp lands and state university committees. Twice re-elected,²⁴ during his final term Dawson was placed in charge of distributing commissary stores and rations to flooded counties in lower Missouri.²⁵ Dawson's occupation in 1880 was newspaper editor.²⁶ Dawson subsequently was elected to the 49th Congress of the United States, convening in Washington, D.C. from March 1885 to March 1887. Dawson served on House committees for mileage and claims and on a joint committee on military affairs. He voted on important legislation including the Dawes Act, a well-intentioned mistake which subdivided Native American lands into individual allotments; the Hatch Act of 1887 which allowed federal funds to aid state colleges in "agricultural experiment stations"; the Edmonds Tucker Act which disincorporated the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, confiscated all church property valued at more than \$50,000, and created civil marriage licenses; and the Interstate Commerce Act of 1887, which was the first law to regulate private industry (at that time an attempt to limit railroad monopolies).²⁷

In about 1885, Ella Dawson began buying tracts of land belonging to siblings William, John, and Richard. A year later, Ella's oldest Amelia (Hunter) Bishop died. Amelia had no children, and the small farm that she and her husband owned (which may have been from the original plantation) was passed to her siblings.²⁸ In 1889, after many court battles, William and Ella Dawson bought the mansion portion of the property and began making repairs.²⁹ Apparently they also bought some or most of the farmland that was originally associated with the Hunter-Dawson House, and at least a portion of it was maintained with the house until the 1950s.

After his congressional service, Dawson returned to New Madrid and focused on agricultural ventures, including his wife's childhood farm.³⁰ His knowledge of farming and advocacy for agricultural science in higher education earned him a seat on the

²⁴ State of Missouri, *Official Manual of the State of Missouri, 1885*, (Accessed 26 February 2012) <http://cdm.sos.mo.gov/cgi-bin/getimage.ex?CISOROOT=statepub&CISOPTR=100134>), 153.

²⁵ Anton, 149-150.

²⁶ *1880 United States Federal Census*. Retrieved from Ancestry.com.

²⁷ David T. Canon, Garrison Nelson, and Charles Stewart, III, *Committees in the U. S. Congress 1789-1946*, (Washington, D. C.: Division of Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 2002) 276.

²⁸ New Madrid Circuit Clerk, 11. Robert Hunter died in 1885, but his property probably passed to his children. Amelia's property was most likely part of the original estate, and her husband, A. S. Bishop, reported a 30-acre farm in the 1880 agricultural census.

²⁹ New Madrid County Circuit Clerk.

³⁰ The agricultural schedules for 1890 are unavailable for reference; they were destroyed in a 1911 fire.

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World's Fair Commission of Missouri for the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, and he eventually served as commission secretary.³¹ Apparently Dawson had retired by 1910, turning his agricultural concerns over to his oldest son, William, Jr.³² In 1915, Dawson was elected circuit clerk for New Madrid County, and he remained in that position until 1926.³³

William and Ella Dawson had six children, one of whom was born while the family lived in the nominated property. While William Jr. worked the farm, he also had a position as an accountant at Hunter's Bank in 1917.³⁴ He served in World War I, and returned to his position at the bank by 1920.³⁵ William Jr. married Laura Peck, and they maintained the Hunter-Dawson farm until he retired.³⁶ William Sr.'s youngest daughter, Lillian, worked beside her father as deputy circuit clerk,³⁷ taking over his position as circuit clerk of New Madrid County from 1926 to 1930.³⁸ Lillian lived with her brother, William, and sister-in-law until William's death in 1956, at which time Laura moved from the home. Lillian maintained the house until 1966 when she and other family members sold it to the City of New Madrid, which donated the property in 1967 to the Missouri State Park Board for use as a public park, recreation facility or historic site.³⁹

As the Hunter-Dawson State Historic Site, the nominated property has been sensitively restored. Deteriorated or missing elements were repaired or replicated. Much original Mitchell & Rammelsburg furniture (a prestigious 19th century manufacturer in Cincinnati) remained with the house, and is still present. Open to the public, the site is used for interpretive programs, events, and tours.

ARCHITECTURE

Although a Criterion B argument was beyond the scope of the present research, no other property is known that better represents the Hunter, Dawson (and Watson) family names and their contributions to the New Madrid community. An older Hunter home, in the heart of the city, has been significantly altered and does not reflect the period of the

³¹ James Cox, World's Fair Commission of Missouri, *Missouri at the World's Fair* (St. Louis, MO: Woodward and Tiernan Printing Co., 1893), 1-5.

³² 1910 United States Federal Census. Retrieved from Ancestry.com.

³³ 1930 United States Federal Census. Retrieved from Ancestry.com.

³⁴ World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. Retrieved from Ancestry.com.

³⁵ 1920 United States Federal Census. Retrieved from Ancestry.com.

³⁶ Division of Health of Missouri, *Standard Certificate of Death: William Dawson Jr.* (New Madrid, MO, 1956).

³⁷ 1920 United States Federal Census. Retrieved from Ancestry.com.

³⁸ *Obituary for Lillian Dawson.* (1975).

³⁹ Joe Scott, "Hunter-Dawson House State Historic Site," Missouri Resource Review, Vol. 8, No. 2 (Summer 1991), p.30.

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family's occupation. The early Dawson home is unknown, but most of the houses and other types of buildings constructed in New Madrid prior to 1890 have been significantly altered or demolished.

The Hunter-Dawson House, a fusion of high style Italianate and Greek Revival elements, is the tangible result of Amanda's and William's desire to apply their "big city" sensibilities in a frontier setting. Receipts for building materials indicate that construction of the main block was under way in the summer of 1859 and that it continued at least through the summer of 1860.

Much of the work is thought to have been completed by local craftsmen and laborers including slaves but the Hunters apparently hired William Newhouse, a Quincy, Illinois contractor with St. Louis connections to supervise construction of their house. Newhouse, a carpenter, lived in Quincy in 1860. Newhouse's only known bill (for "work" at \$2,076.10) was submitted to the family in May of 1860, when the house was nearly completed.⁴⁰ Many St. Louis companies were associated with contractors in Quincy, approximately a hundred miles to the north of St. Louis, and often the St. Louis firms' advertisements for construction equipment and materials mentioned Quincy as a place to view their products.⁴¹ Many of the applied materials and detailing were purchased from St. Louis firms, and shipped down the Mississippi by steamship. A primary supplier was Charless, Blow & Company, located on Main Street in St. Louis. Listed in the St. Louis City Directory as "a warehouse and druggists," Taylor Charless and William T. Blow sold the glass, putty, leads, varnish, lamp black, turpentine, sandpaper, gold leaf, some of the lime, and a number of other elements used in construction of the Hunter-Dawson House. Other St. Louis providers included: Philibert and Branconier, a planing mill on Market Street that supplied doors and moldings; Nathan Coleman, a wood turner on St. Charles Street, who supplied balustrades, a newel post, a molded banister in the entryway, door stops and moldings; Hunt and Wiseman on Third Street supplied locks, screws sandpaper, mortise, nails, butts, and sash weights; Garnett and Withington on 7th Street supplied sash; and Charles Han sold the cement, some of the lime, turpentine, glue, cut spikes, fire brick, lead, white pine, and a few other materials.⁴² Despite the use of many St. Louis materials, the basic house largely consists of yellow cypress lumber which, according to local lore, was obtained from the Hunter's own land and planed in the family's sawmill.

Other craftsmen known to have worked on the Hunter-Dawson House include: Mat

⁴⁰ 1860 United States Federal Census Retrieved from Ancestry.com.

⁴¹ Robert V. Kennedy, *Kennedy's St. Louis City Directory*, (St. Louis, MO: St. Louis Directory Office, 1857)17.

⁴² Index to construction receipts for Amanda Hunter and Estate of William W. Hunter. On file at Hunter-Dawson State Historic Site.

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Imboden, a relative of Amanda, who erected the house's brick foundation; W. J. Cole who constructed the main block's four brick chimneys; and Jesse Stout who was responsible for plastering. The original wood shingles were supplied by Allen Sandin, a local resident.

The plan and style of the larger portion of the home was dramatic, but perhaps typical of Missouri's small town wealthy in the late 1850s and early 1860s, although few such homes have survived. Precisely like the Levi Barkley home near Hannibal (NR-listed 03/02/84), the Hunter-Dawson House exemplifies the double-pile, Georgian-derived houses that "appeared in the most prosperous Southern settlement regions along the Mississippi and Missouri River valleys during the 1850s adorned in the trappings of the Greek Revival or Italianate style or often a combination of the two."⁴³ Like the Barkley House, the Hunter-Dawson property uses the high style flare of Italianate design with Greek Revival affinities to express the wealth and accomplishments of the family behind its construction, even as it was constructed in this case after the demise of William Hunter. The Georgian-derived floor plan is reminiscent of the large homes constructed in the Tidewater South, represented in a diminished form by the middle-class as Southerners moved west from Virginia, North Carolina, and other plantation states. The form was used in these Southern states from the first half of the 18th century through the Civil War, and commuted easily between a variety of stylistic applications, from the original Georgian to Federal, Greek Revival, etc. Fashionable stylistic applications were more quickly embraced in the larger cities, while the small towns and countryside residences of the upwardly mobile transitioned more slowly, combining elements of popular styles.⁴⁴ The blending of Greek Revival and Italianate designs was common during the late antebellum period, and like many houses in Missouri's outlying towns, Hunter-Dawson is a prominent representation of the transition between the two styles. Greek Revival was the earlier style, but they soon overlapped in much of the nation.

Hunter-Dawson's Italianate elements include wide eaves and curvilinear bracketing along the cornice lines. Both of the ornate porches as well as the main roof are bracketed. With its paired columns and upper balustrade, the main porch is of a type often seen on large Italianate homes. The Palladian window centered in the front gable is seen on Italianate, Georgian (and other) architectural styles. While the building's more elaborate detailing generally references Italianate architecture, many other details are associated with Greek Revival styling. Though hipped roofs were popular in Italianate architecture, the central cross gable on Hunter-Dawson is perhaps more of a Greek Revival element. The squat, wide stance of the building's form may be more commonly associated with Greek Revival architecture in the Deep South. The entry

⁴³ James M. Denny, "Levi Barkley House" nomination to National Register of Historic Places, 1983.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

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consisting of a pedimented enframement with a broken transom, four sidelights, and original door with six recessed panels is Greek Revival. Exterior windows flanking the entrance, along with several interior window and door enframements, have pedimented Greek Revival heads.

Regardless of style, many of Missouri's Civil War-era homes incorporated a rear wing of one or two stories. The ell often included an indoor kitchen, wash room, or servant's quarters, perhaps added after the original home was constructed in an effort to modernize and/or separate the help from the family. Greenwood (the Estill-Parrish House) near Fayette in Howard County (NR-listed 3/29/83) is just one Missouri example of a Civil War-era house with a two-story ell with a porch much like the one on the Hunter-Dawson House. At Hunter-Dawson, it is likely that an original small building already existed when the large main block was constructed, and that the two were later connected. An enclosed rear staircase, a common feature in single- and double-pen houses of the late 18th century, is present on both of these examples.⁴⁵

The Hunter-Dawson House is enhanced by its setting and by the presence of outbuildings, although housing for the Hunter's many slaves (reportedly freed at the outset of the Civil War, although several of the freedmen apparently remained with the family) is no longer extant. Currently standing on the property along with the house are a frame granary and a rare five-hole frame privy, both of which are believed to be of antebellum or early postbellum origin. The design of the privy made it suitable for simultaneous use by persons of both sexes, whether just members of the large household and their guests, fieldworkers or former slaves. An archeological investigation by Historic Preservation Associates of Fayetteville, Arkansas, was unable to pinpoint the privy's historic location on the property, which was perhaps not unexpected since such structures were frequently moved (See Figure 9).⁴⁶ Also reflecting the agricultural side of the family's life are a couple of 20th century buildings—a c. 1920 frame garage and a modern barn, both counted as noncontributing. Aerial photos from 1968 depict these properties and a few other buildings including a small cottage which are not present today (Figures 7 & 8). East of the enclosed yard, large walnut trees extend to the property line; family photos from around 1900 indicate this area as an orchard.⁴⁷

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Klinger and Kandare, Rather than being comprehensive, the archeological survey focused only on some specific areas. A well was found and the locations of some fence lines were tentatively identified. Evidence was found of some early 20th century structures, but not of slave quarters or an original carriage house, etc., at least not in the areas studied.

⁴⁷ Photos on file at Hunter-Dawson-State Historic Site.

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From its position on a hill, the Hunter-Dawson House still stands majestically above the city of New Madrid. Occupying a large piece of land on the north side of Dawson Road, the farm's placement virtually mandated that expansion of the community occur westward rather than naturally fanning out from the riverbank. The town itself is an architectural hodgepodge. In addition to an uncommon 1940s Lustron house (with walls of porcelain enameled steel), New Madrid's built landscape ranges from a few older high style homes and larger public buildings in the downtown (mostly constructed in the early 20th century), aging bungalows and other vernacular houses from the twenties and thirties, pockets of mid-century modern cottages and an abundance of late 20th century creations. The streets have little or no architectural rhythm, but instead are dotted with homes from various periods and designs such as a Queen Anne next to a 1970s ranch house. Setbacks, lot widths and building heights vary. The few planned subdivisions that exist are on the north and west peripheries. While a few homes from the 1860s are surely extant on the older streets near the river, they no longer resemble their original designs. As the Mississippi changed course with dramatic flooding, city blocks including most of the original homes were swept away. Those not taken by the river have required frequent updating in order to survive, and as a result original or historic material has often been replaced with or concealed under more durable modern material. Not unexpectedly, a windshield survey within a ten mile radius of New Madrid revealed no other properties remotely like the Hunter-Dawson House.

With its strong Italianate and Greek Revival features, the Hunter-Dawson House is one of the best surviving examples of double-pile Georgian-derived architecture in the Missouri Bootheel. It exemplifies the transition as high-style plantation mansions of the South were mimicked in restrained forms in the Mississippi and Missouri river valleys and elsewhere in the Trans-Mississippi West.

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**Hunter-Dawson House
New Madrid County, MO**

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**Hunter-Dawson House
New Madrid County, MO**

Boundary Description

The Hunter-Dawson House is located within a 19 acre tract on the north side of the City of New Madrid as follows: Starting from a point approximately 88 feet west of 1st Street on the north side of Dawson Road, proceed north for approximately 445 feet; then proceed east for approximately 1,331 feet; then proceed southeast for approximately 461 feet to the north side of the intersection of State Highway U and Brush Prairie Road; then proceed west for approximately 1,308 feet along State Highway U/ Dawson Road to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification

The selected boundary includes the house, out buildings, orchard, and lots associated with the property since its transfer to public ownership. The property previously associated with the Hunter-Dawson House to the north and west has been sold to private ownership, and recent subdivision development on this land no longer reflects the agricultural nature of the area when it belonged to the Hunter and Dawson families. Historically, the south property line was and remains Dawson Road. East of the eastern boundary, the land is privately owned.

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**Hunter-Dawson House
New Madrid County, MO**

Photo Log:

The following is true for all photos:

Hunter- Dawson House
New Madrid County, Missouri
Photographer: Julie Ann LaMouria
Date of Photography: November 2011

Digital copies on file with the Department of Natural Resources
Hunter-Dawson State Historic Site, 312 Dawson Road, New Madrid, MO

Photo #	Description
1	South façade facing north
2	East elevation facing west
3	North elevation facing south
4	West elevation facing northeast
5	Detail, typical window
6	Interior: Foyer facing north from front entrance
7	Interior: East wing facing north from south corner
8	Interior: Dining room facing west from hallway
9	Interior: Second floor north additional room, facing north from porch
10	Interior: Second floor landing facing south
11	Interior: Second floor west wing, facing west from hallway
12	Interior: Second floor west wing, facing north from southwest corner
13	Interior: Kitchen
14	Grain bin, south and east elevations facing northwest
15	Privy, west and south elevations facing northeast
16	Garage, west and south elevations facing northeast
17	Barn, west and south elevations facing northeast
18	Field, facing east from Hunter-Dawson House

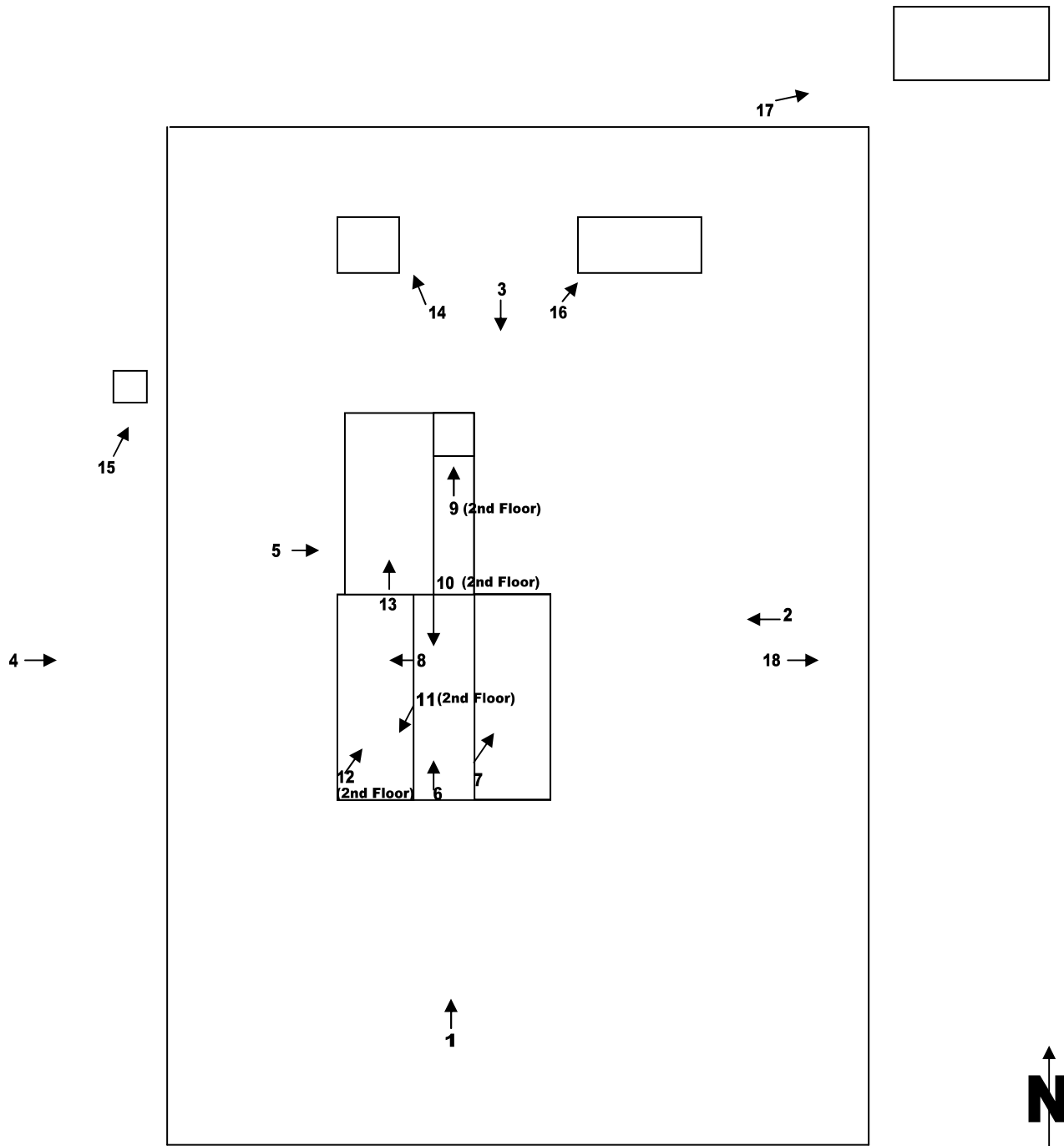
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Hunter-Dawson House
New Madrid County, MO

Photo Key (not to scale):



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Hunter-Dawson House
New Madrid County, MO

List of Figures:

- Figure 1 Site Plan
- Figure 2 First Floor Main House Plan
- Figure 3 First Floor "Back Ell" Plan
- Figure 4 Second Floor Main House Plan
- Figure 5 Second Floor "Back Ell" Plan
- Figure 6 Hunter- Dawson Home Construction Diagram
- Figure 7 Aerial View of Property
- Figure 8 Aerial View of House
- Figure 9 Archeological Site Plan
- Figure 10 Timeline of Family Occupation of Hunter-Dawson Residence

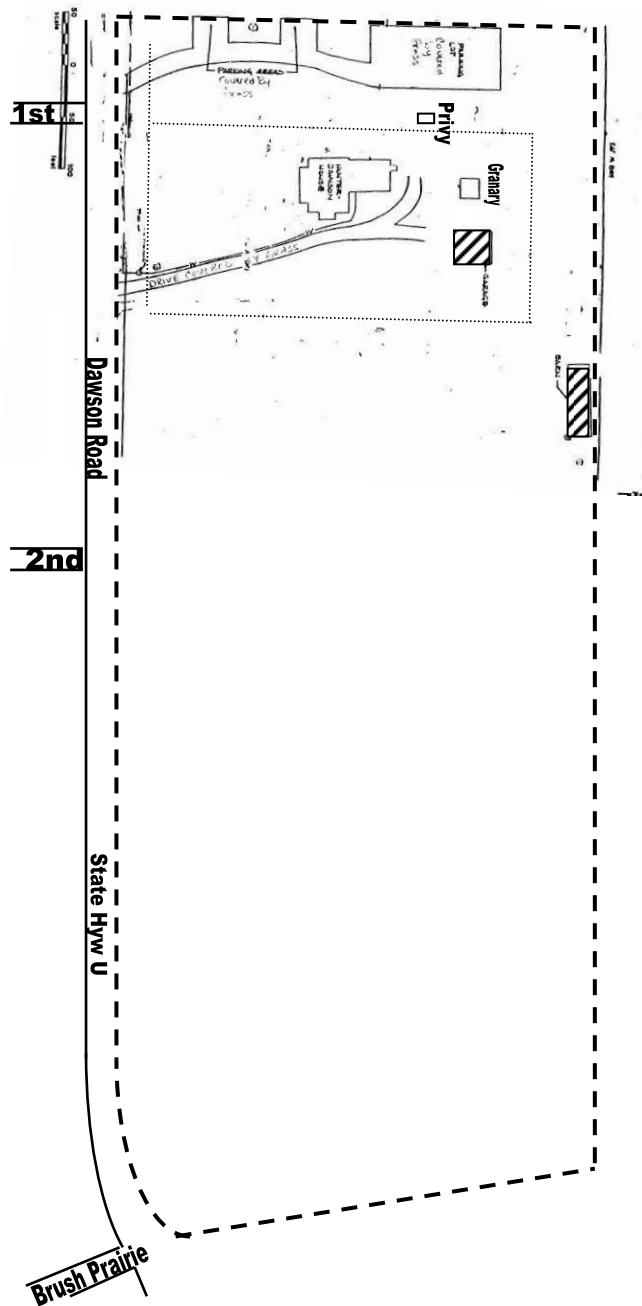
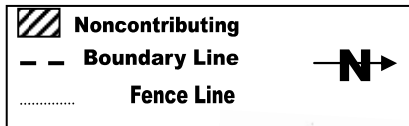
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Hunter-Dawson House
New Madrid County, MO

Figure 1- Site Plan



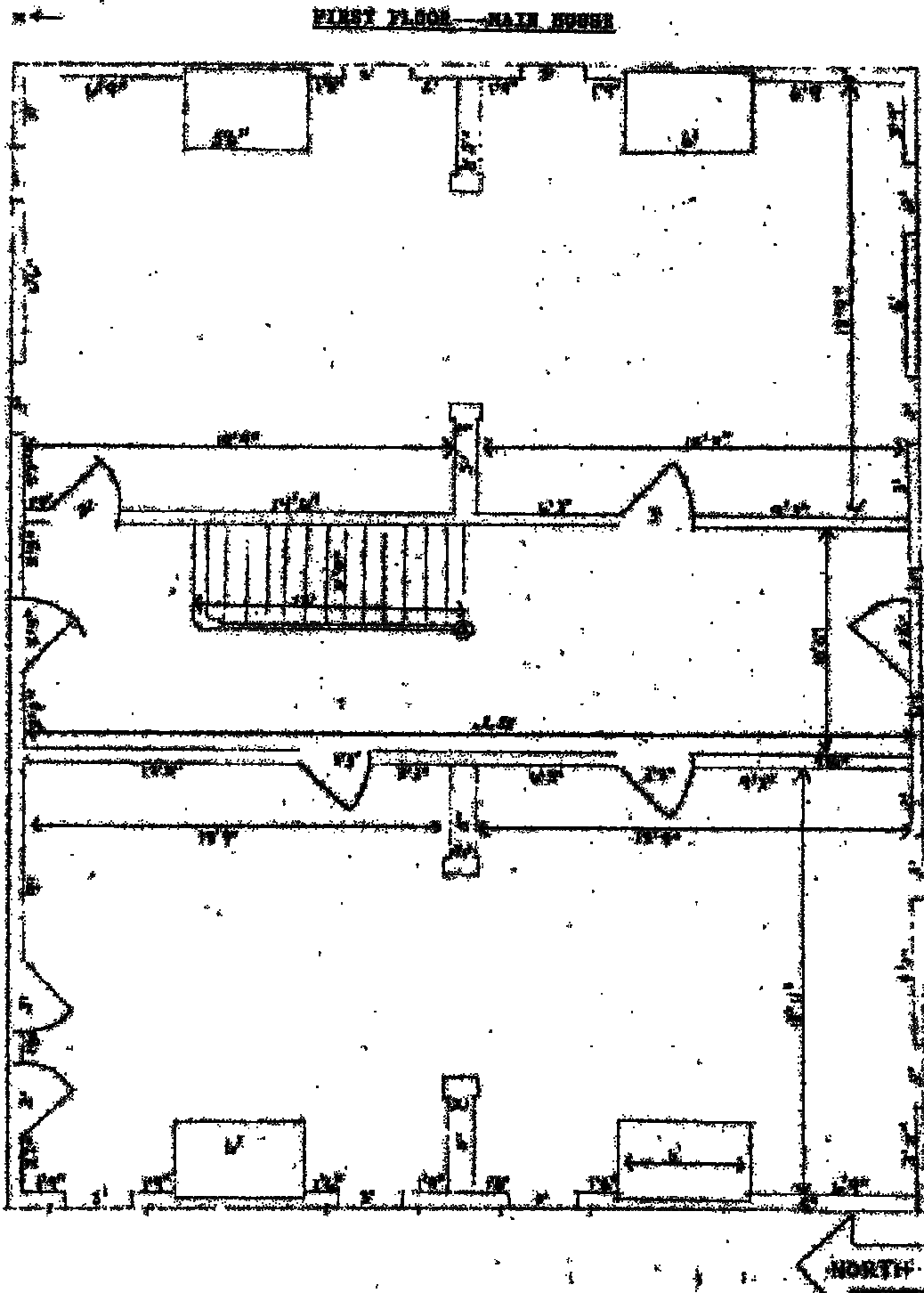
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Hunter-Dawson House
New Madrid County, MO

Figure 2- First Floor Main House Plan



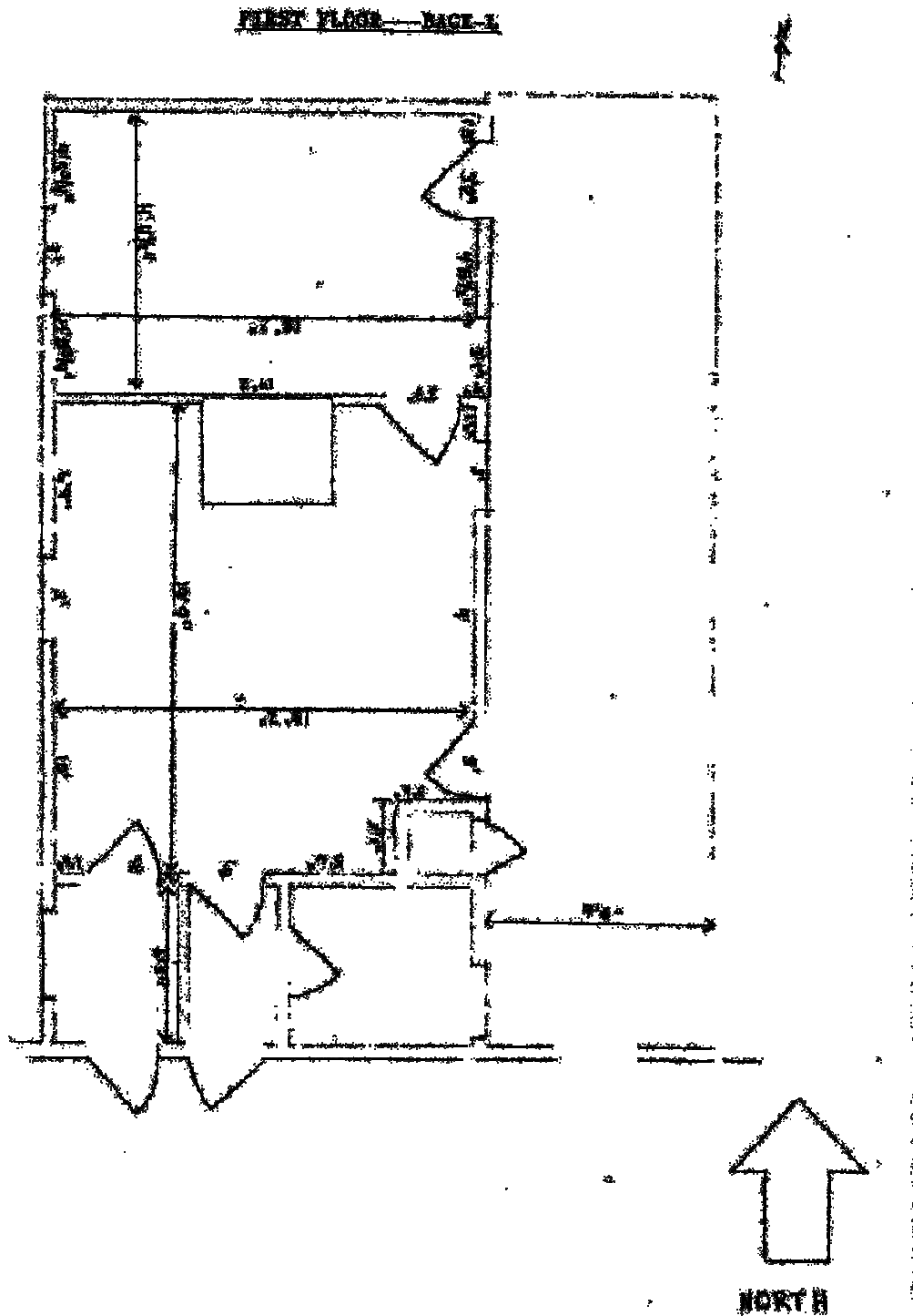
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New Madrid County, MO

Figure 3- First Floor "Back Ell" Plan



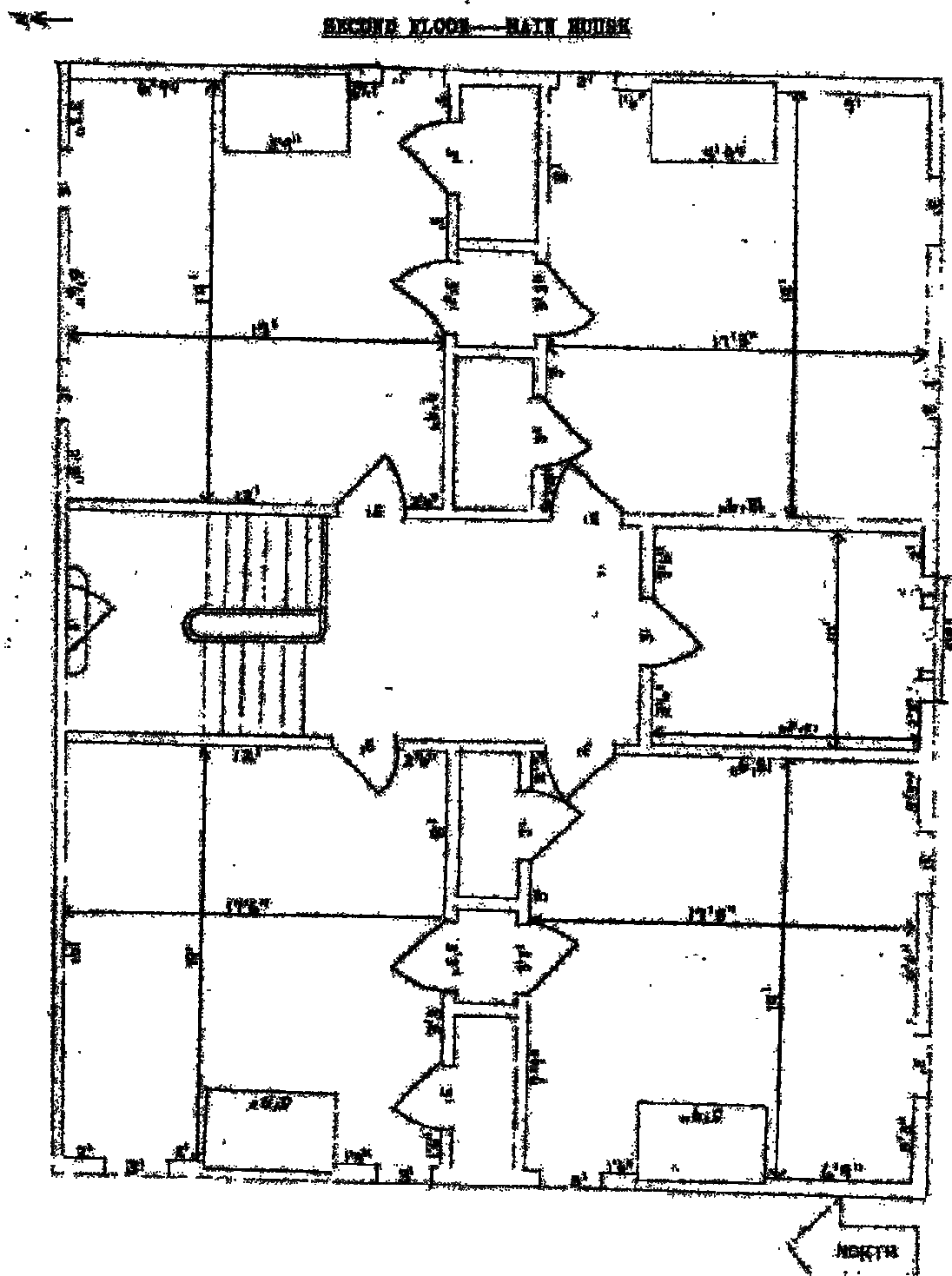
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Hunter-Dawson House
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Figure 4- Second Floor Main House



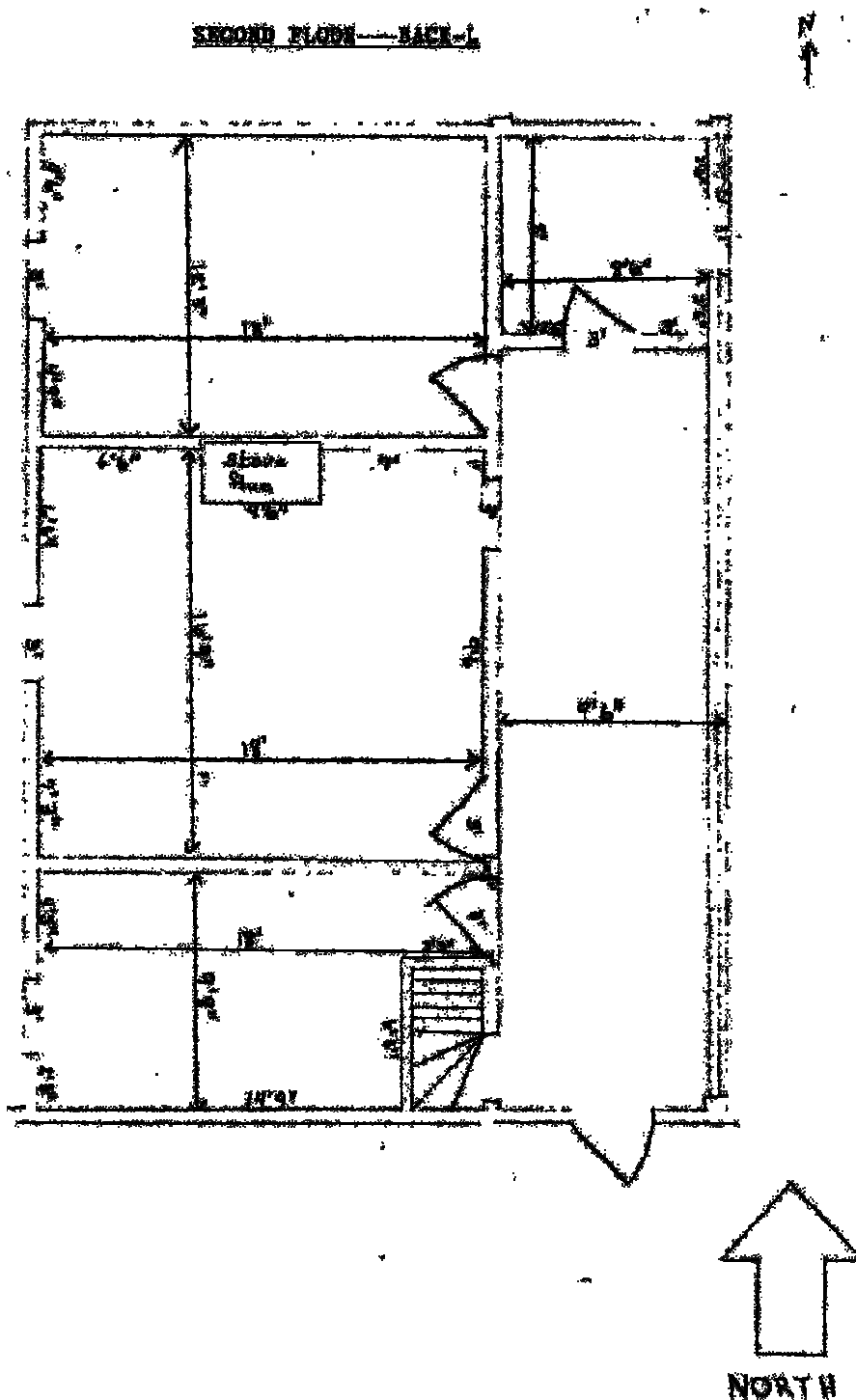
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New Madrid County, MO

Figure 5- Second Floor "Back Ell"



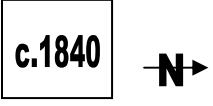
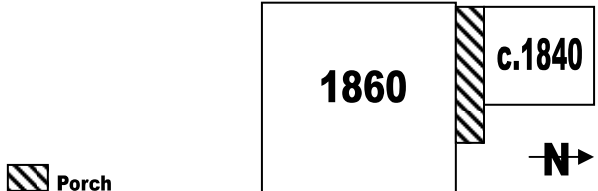
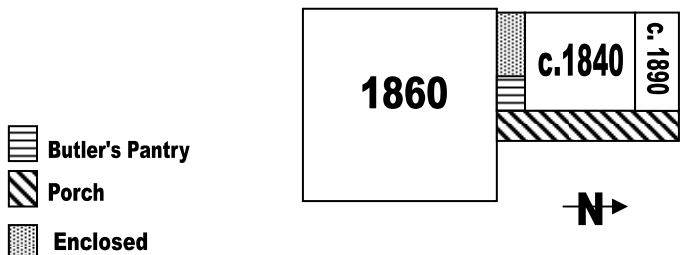
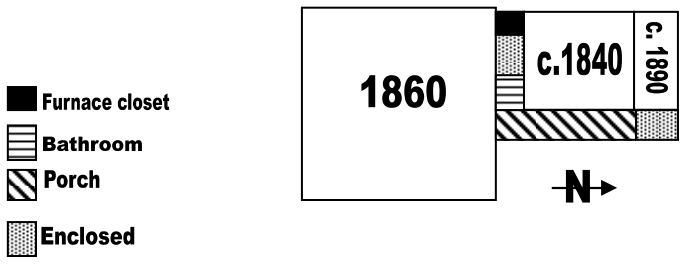
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Hunter-Dawson House
New Madrid County, MO

Figure 6 - Hunter-Dawson Home Construction Diagram

<p>c. 1840 Original, small structure exists on property</p>	
<p>1859-1860 Large home is constructed in front of original building, porch connects the two buildings.</p>	
<p>c. 1890 Porch between buildings is enclosed, and butler's pantry added. Addition is constructed on c. 1840s building, including root cellar and second floor. Porch is added to east side of c. 1840s structure.</p>	
<p>After 1930 Butler's pantry is converted to bathroom. Furnace closet installed, and exterior door converted to window. Portion of porch enclosed on second floor</p>	

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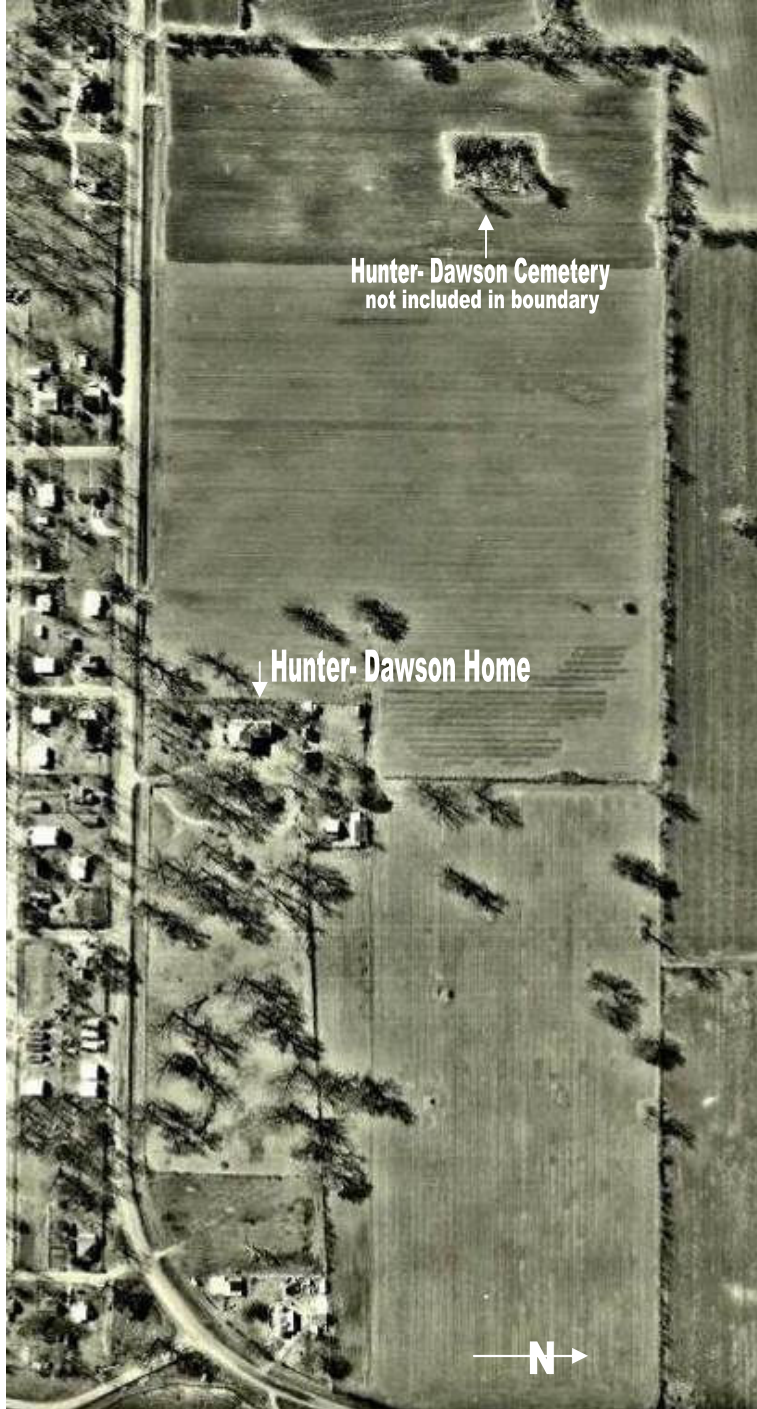
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**Hunter-Dawson House
New Madrid County, MO**

Figure 7- Aerial View of Property

c. 1968- Photo on file at Hunter-Dawson State Historic Site, 312 Dawson Road, New Madrid, MO



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**Hunter-Dawson House
New Madrid County, MO**

Figure 8- Aerial View of Property

c. 1950- Photo on file at Hunter Dawson State Historic Site, 312 Dawson Road, New Madrid, MO



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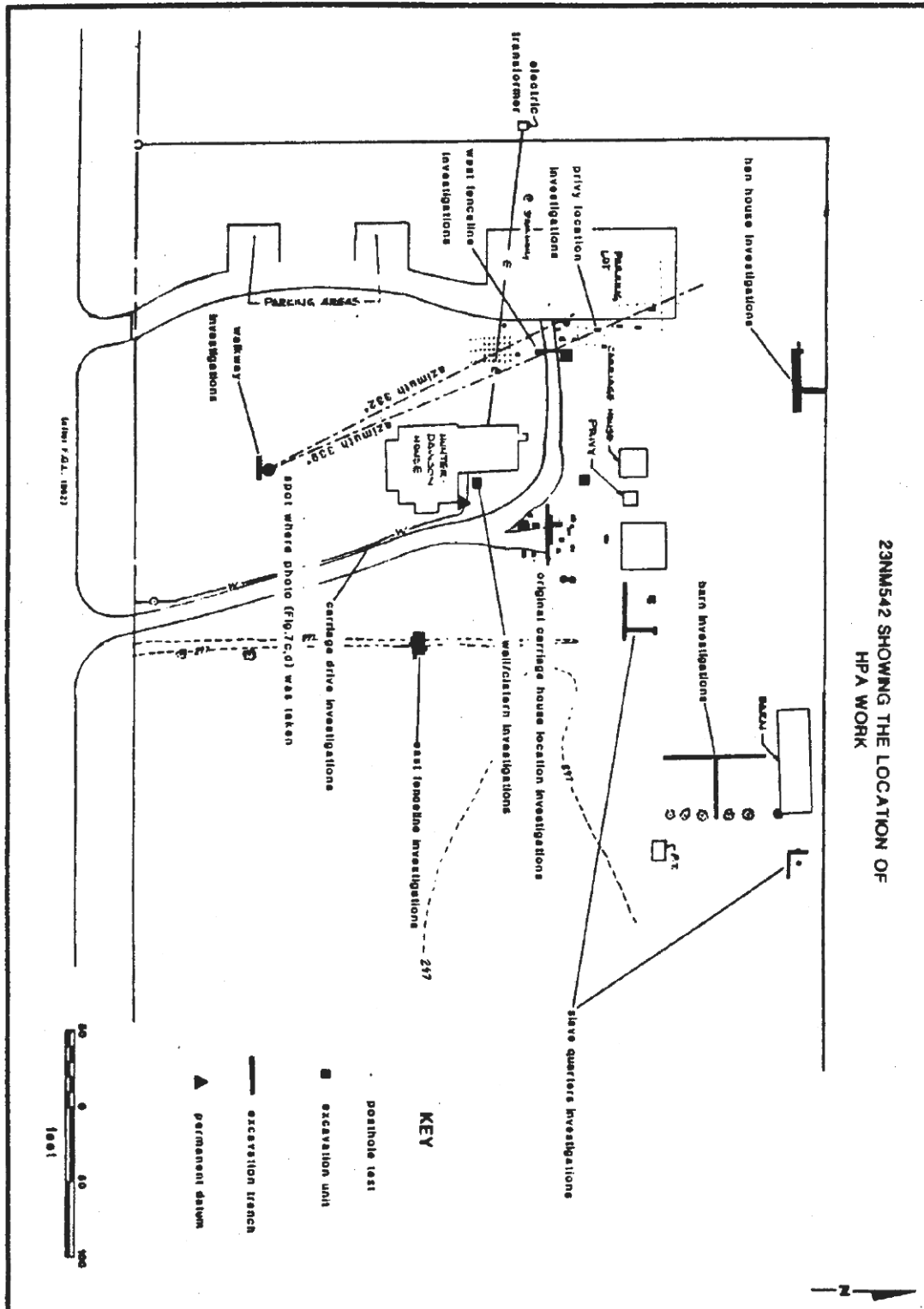
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Hunter-Dawson House
New Madrid County, MO

Figure 9 - Archeological Site Map (1988)

On file with Hunter-Dawson State Historic Site, 312 Dawson Road, New Madrid, MO



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**Hunter-Dawson House
New Madrid County, MO**

Figure 10 - Timeline of Hunter-Dawson Residence

1859-1860: House constructed for Amanda Hunter, thirty-six slaves, and children: Amelia Hunter (b. 1838); William Colson Hunter (b. 1841); Richard Waters Hunter (b. 1843); John Clay Hunter (b. 1848); Robert Hal Hunter (b. 1851); Ella Hunter (b. 1854); and Louis Weston Hunter (b. 1859).

1860-1870: Amanda Hunter divides some property between her sons William, Richard, and John.

1870: Amanda Hunter and five children live in house: Amelia, John, Robert, Ella, and Louis.

1870-1876: Amanda Hunter divides property between remaining children: Amelia (married to J. H. Bishop), Robert, Ella (Married to William Dawson), and Louis (whose property most likely remained in a trust until he was of age).

1876: Amanda Hunter dies. The house and surrounding land in custody of City of New Madrid.

1876-1888: House and surrounding land are rented and cared for by Louis Hunter's children.

1885: Robert Hunter dies. Ella and William Dawson buy portions of the original estate from William, Richard, and John Hunter.

1886: Amelia (Hunter) Bishop dies, leaving her property to her siblings.

1889: Ella and William Dawson purchase the house and surrounding lot from City of New Madrid.

1890-1927: Ella and William Dawson begin repairs and construction of rear addition. They live in house with five children: Birdie May Dawson; Nellie Dawson; William W. Dawson, Jr.; Lillian Dawson; and Robert D. Dawson.

1928: William Dawson, Sr. dies. Ella and Lillian remain in the house.

1933: Ella Dawson dies. William Dawson, Jr. and his wife move into the house with Lillian.

1956: William Dawson, Jr. dies. Lillian remains in the house.

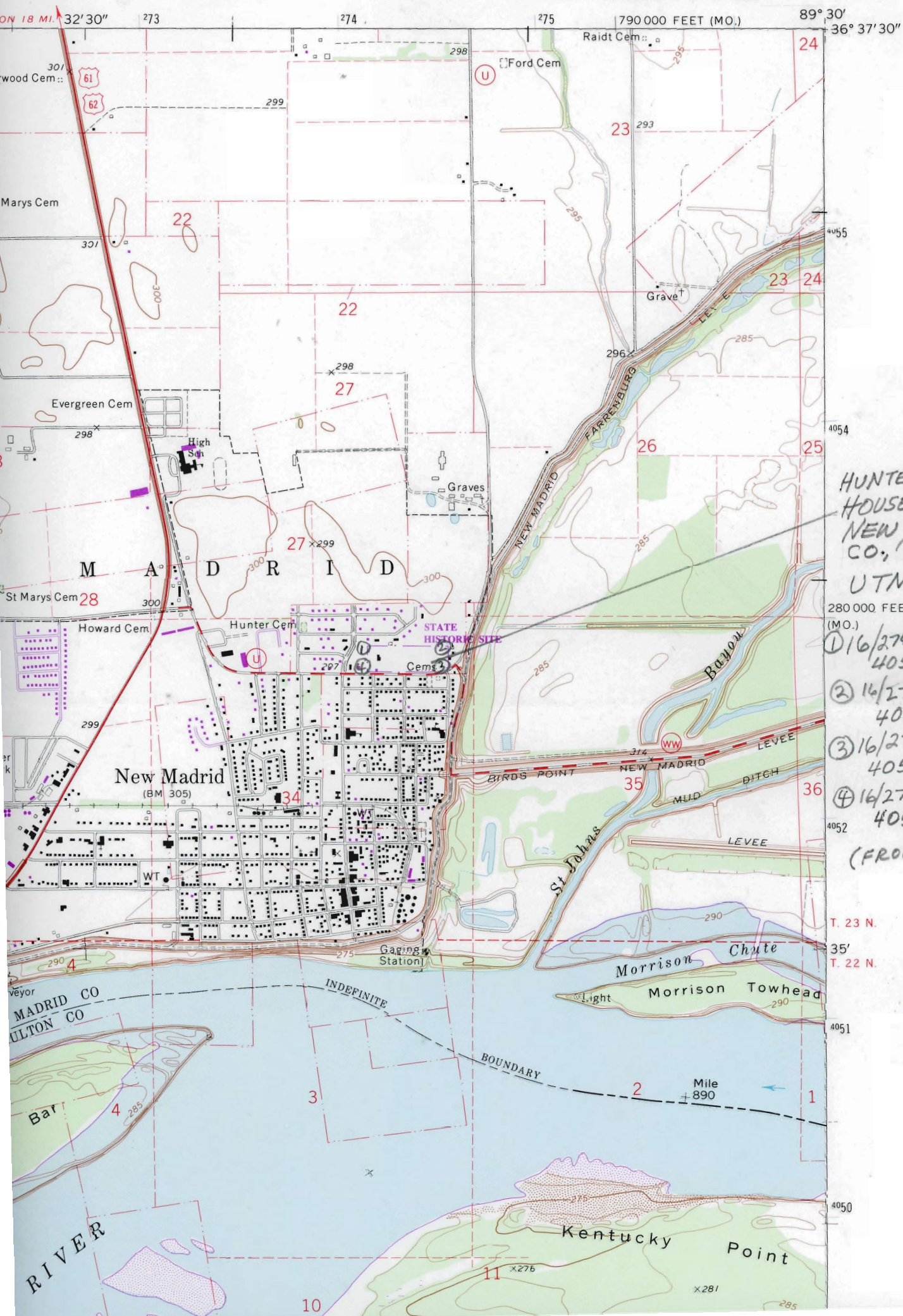
1956-1976: Lillian sells farmland around the Hunter-Dawson residence.

1966: Lillian signs nominated property over to State of Missouri, and it is restored for use as Hunter-Dawson State Historic Site.

NEW MADRID QUADRANGLE
MISSOURI-KENTUCKY
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SE/4 NEW MADRID 15' QUADRANGLE

8157 III NW
HENDERSON MOUND



HUNTER-DAWSON
HOUSE
NEW MADRID
CO., MISSOURI

UTM REFS:

- ① 16/274059 E
4053149 N
 - ② 16/274468 E
4053137 N
 - ③ 16/274467 E
4053001 N
 - ④ 16/274052 E
4053017 N
- (FROM ARCGIS)



































