

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 McCormick, Isaac, House

other name/site number McCormick Farm

2. Location

street & town 705 Highway F N/A not for publication

city or town Defiance X vicinity

state Missouri code MO county St. Charles code 183 zip code 63341

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 07/28/04
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title 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:) _____

McCormick, Isaac, House
Name of Property

St. Charles County, MO
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: hewn-log house

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone

walls Wood: log

roof Metal: steel

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

McCormick, Isaac, House
Name of Property

St. Charles County, MO
County and State

8. Description

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.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1867

Significant Dates

1867

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

McCormick, Isaac

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository: _____

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

McCormick, Isaac, House
Name of Property

St. Charles County, MO
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

UTM References

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

1 1/5 6/9/1/0/4/0 4/2/7/9/0/4/0
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Please see continuation sheet.

Property Tax No. A883002016

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joan L. Gould, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization Preservation Matters date 3/19/04

street & number 3300 Leo Ammons Road telephone 479-442-0953

city or town Fayetteville state AR zip code 72701

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 Timothy A. Kilby

street & number 705 Highway F telephone 636-987-2679

city or town Defiance state MO zip code 63341

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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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**McCormick, Isaac, House
St. Charles County, Missouri**

7. Description:

The Isaac McCormick House is located on Highway F 1.8 miles west of the intersection with Highway 94 in St. Charles County. Highway F winds through the valley of Femme Osage Creek. The roadway was established in the early 1800s during the first Euro-American settlement of the area and was called the Marthasville Road. Isaac McCormick, ca. 1867, constructed a two-story log dwelling house fronting on Marthasville Road and Femme Osage Creek. The house is composed of a side-gabled, single-pen hewn log main section that originally featured a dropped-roof porch on the east façade. A stone exterior chimney was centered on the north gable. Unequally located log partitions on each level of the main section create hall-and-parlor interior floor plans with a first-level side entry. A two-story, single-pen hewn log rear-facing L extension is part of the original construction. An exterior stone chimney was centered on the west gable of the extension. The extension features a one-room floor plan on each level. The exterior walls were covered by lapped, horizontal weatherboards. The house has always served as a single-family dwelling house. The structure is presently covered with a metal roof added in 1995. The exterior walls were covered by lapped, pine weatherboards but are presently exposed during the preliminary phases of a restoration that will return the structure to its 1867 appearance.

Following Isaac McCormick's death in 1904, his son Isaac Montgomery McCormick resided in the house and conducted extensive renovations including a two-story frame addition to the south façade, creating a central-hall I-house floor plan. This frame addition was removed by a previous owner in 1981. A subsequent owner added steel siding and vinyl windows in 1995 after the house stood vacant for over a decade. The present owner has removed exterior and interior alterations to analyze original construction details and structural stability. This owner is planning a restoration that will return the structure to its 1860s footprint and appearance. Dendrochronology studies of all sections of the hewn log framing reveal that the logs were cut in the winter of 1866-67. This study confirms that the rear-facing L extension was integral to the original construction.

The roof system of the entire structure was completely replaced by previous owners and the house is presently covered with a metal roof. Hand-split wood shake shingles covered the structure originally. Future plans include applying wood shingles and recreating a roof overhang of 6 inches which is appropriate for mid-nineteenth century construction.

The hewn log main section of the house measures 18 feet by 27 feet. It is a side-gabled, single-pen plan of two stories. The white oak logs rest on a continuous limestone foundation. The logs are joined at the corners with V-notches. The interstices (chinks) of the exterior wall logs were filled with stones and daubed with a lime mortar.

The 27-foot 3-bay east façade faces the old Marthasville Road (present-day Highway F) with a view beyond the roadway to Femme Osage Creek. This façade has always served as the public entrance

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**McCormick, Isaac, House
St. Charles County, Missouri**

Description (continued)

for the house. An analysis of the exposed log framing on the east façade reveals that a dropped-roof porch originally extended the full length of the façade. The original width of the porch is undetermined but future plans include reinstalling a 7-foot dropped-roof porch with flooring perpendicular to the house. The porch will be supported by deeply chamfered 5-inch x 5-inch posts that were typical of mid-1860s styling.

The three bays of the east façade include a south side-entry doorway surrounded by a rectangular transom and side lights. This Neoclassical feature is original to the house as evidenced by the protruding beaded jamb framing. This uncommon nineteenth century framing technique was used for the framing of the structure's window openings as well. The jambs protrude 2 inches from the log walls, indicating the intention of the original builder to cover the exterior surface of the logs with lapped, horizontal weather boards. No additional trim was applied to these jambs. They top a rough framing jamb. Future restoration plans include weatherboarding the entire exterior of the structure.

Doorway side lights measuring 12 inches x 48 inches, feature a solid raised-panel base. Presumably the original door, nonextant, featured a matching panel configuration. Four original unglazed four-panel doors exist to use as templates to reproduce the entry door, with panels matching the sidelight panels. The existing early twentieth century door is thought to date to 1906 renovations.

The interior log partition walls create two units for the two levels of the single-pen of the main section of the house. But the partitions are unequally spaced which creates units of unequal dimensions on the upper and lower levels. These partitions dictated, in part, the placement of window openings on this façade. Existing original framing jambs reveal the window configuration included the two lower level window openings to the north of the side entry. The upper level configuration featured only two north and south window openings. The center upper level window was added in 1906 to add symmetry for the newly created I-house plan. The new window opening abutted the upper log partition. At that time the lower level window of the center bay was moved to the north one foot in order to align it with the center bay upper window. Fortunately for future restoration plans, one of the original 6-over-6 double-hung fixed upper sash windows from the east façade was relocated to the north façade of the rear extension. This original window is to be restored and used as a template to create windows for this facade.

The north façade of the main section featured an exterior limestone chimney centered on the gable end with firebox openings on the upper and lower levels. During the 1906 renovations this chimney was dismantled and the stones used for the foundations of the frame additions. The remaining subsurface footing for the chimney stack indicates that the exterior footprint of the chimney was 2 feet by 6 feet. Future plans are to rebuild a stone chimney of those dimensions.

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**McCormick, Isaac, House
St. Charles County, Missouri**

Description (continued)

Two symmetrically placed upper and lower window openings are off-centered to the west of this north gable end. Both the openings and their windows are part of the original construction as evidenced by the protruding jamb framing. The 6-over-6 double-hung windows with fixed upper sashes original to these openings have been removed for restoration and will be returned to the original openings.

In addition to the gable end of the main section of the house, the north façade reveals the two-story hewn log rear-facing L extension. The single-pen rests on a continuous stone foundation measuring 20 feet in length. The top plate height of the extension was originally 14 feet compared to the 16 ½ foot height of the main section. The 1906 renovation raised the level of the top plate 2 ½ feet to match the top plate height of the main section. Future plans include returning the top plate height for the rear L extension to the original 14 feet. The extension is offset 6 inches (one log width) from the gable end of the main section and joined to that section by V-notching. Dendrochronology studies document that this extension is integral to the original construction.

The two window openings on the lower level of the north façade included a 6-over-6 double-hung fixed upper sash window off-centered to the east and a doorway off-centered to the west. The doorway opened onto a dropped-roof porch the length of the L extension. At one time one of the original east façade windows was relocated to fill the west window opening. The upper level window was originally a single fixed 6-over-6 sash. When the L extension height was raised, a double-hung window was added. Future plans include returning a single window sash matching the original and a dropped-roof porch.

The south gable end of the main section originally featured no openings on the lower level. In 1906 a two-story frame addition was added to this façade and a doorway off-centered to the east was cut into the log framing to provide access to the addition. The opening was covered with steel siding after the frame addition was removed in 1981. Future plans are to enclose the opening on the exterior and, thereby, return this façade to its original presentation. The window opening and window sashes off-centered to the east on the upper level were added as an upper level door to access the upper level of the 1906 addition. Future plans are to restore and return the 6-over-6 double hung window with a fixed upper sash to this opening.

The south façade also reveals the two-story south side-gable of the rear-facing L extension which is in-set from the main section's gable end 11 feet, 6 inches. A four-window bay dating from the 1906 renovations was installed on the lower west end of the side gable. An original doorway, as evidenced by the framing, was located 2 feet east of the bay window. A fixed single-sash window was aligned above the door on the upper level. When the rear L extension height was raised in 1906, a double-hung window was installed. Evidence that a dropped-roof porch existed on this façade originally is supported by the exterior doorways of the extension and the main section hall. Further evidence comes from log deterioration where the porch roof would have been attached at the juncture of the L extension and the

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**McCormick, Isaac, House
St. Charles County, Missouri**

Description (continued)

main section. Future plans include returning the upper level window to a fixed single sash and adding a dropped roof porch. The porch will be enclosed to extend functional interior space.

The west façade features the 15 foot wide west gable end of the rear L extension in-set to the north of the main section's west side gable. The L extension's gable end originally featured a centered exterior stone chimney with upper and lower fireboxes. This chimney was dismantled during the 1906 renovations. Remaining subsurface footings indicate that the chimney's exterior dimensions were 5 feet long by 3 ½ feet deep. Future plans include returning a stone chimney of these dimensions to the original location.

The L extension's gable end also featured a stone stairwell descending into the stone-lined cellar with the same footprint as the L extension. The stairwell adjoined the nonextant exterior chimney to the south. At an unknown date a one-story 12-foot flat-roofed frame addition was attached to the gable end of the log rear L extension enclosing the stone cellar stairwell. A one-story 3-foot lean-to was added to the south of the cellar enclosure. These additions have been removed in preparation for the structure's restoration.

The two-unit lower-level of the main section is divided to create a hall-and-parlor floor plan. A hewn-log partition, installed with V-notching, creates a 9 foot wide x 9 foot high entry hall that features a 42 inch wide staircase ascending to the upper level. The exterior side-entry doorway on the east façade opens into this hallway which was originally lighted by the transom and side lights surrounding the doorway. This doorway reveals no alterations from the original construction except for an entry door replaced in 1906. The doorway is trimmed with undecorated 1 x 4 inch pine trim. This same trim was used for all interior window and door openings and was painted at an early date. Future plans include replicating this trim throughout the house.

The dominant feature of this room is the open, winding staircase that, by structural analysis, reveals it was installed by the original builder, Isaac McCormick. The staircase is constructed of cherry wood and features a curved return at the 7 foot landing. The curved balustrade is supported by 1 x 1 inch undecorated spindles. The turned walnut newel post is original to the staircase. Flat paneling encloses the understair and a paneled door opens to an understair closet. The staircase was prefabricated off-site and was part of the interior upgrading conducted by Isaac. Originally a more simple staircase served the house. This staircase and the doorway of the hall were grain-painted during 1906 renovations and this treatment has since been removed. Future plans include cleaning the staircase to preserve the aged patina of the cherry wood.

Whitewashed walls were uncovered in the entry hall when pre-1904 vertically applied flush sheathing was removed for structural analysis. The original wood chinking and mortar daubing remain

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**McCormick, Isaac, House
St. Charles County, Missouri**

Description (continued)

intact in the interior partition wall. Future plans include resheathing the walls and ceiling of this room to encapsulate the doorway cut in the south exterior log wall in the 1906 renovations. The wall sheathing had been applied prior to cutting this doorway as evidenced by an inscription found on the sheathing bearing a 1903 date and stating, "Sunday morning. Beautiful day."

The west wall of the room features an exterior doorway bearing its original unglazed, pegged door with four raised-panels. This door will serve as a template to create an exterior door for the entryway. The door hangs on its original butt hinges and features the original lockbox and porcelain doorknob although those have been relocated on the door.

Flooring for the entry hall is the original 3 to 6 inch random-width tongue-and-groove pine. Original wall baseboards are 1 x 8 inch pine and, as with the trim for openings, were used throughout the interior of the house. Future plans include saving original baseboards and replicating them as needed.

The larger 17 x 17 foot parlor on the lower level of the main section revealed whitewashed walls under 1 x 10 inch vertical sheathing. The original ceiling joists were initially exposed as evidenced by whitewashing found under later wood sheathing. Plans are to leave the log walls and ceiling joists exposed.

The original random width pine tongue-and-groove flooring will remain untreated with original baseboards intact. The doorway on the south wall features its original door hanging on original hinges with original hardware. The west wall features two doorways off-set to the north. One doorway leads to the rear L extension. The northern-most doorway opened to a closet. Modern kitchen plans will eliminate this closet but a non-functional door will be installed to interpret the original doorway.

The room is lighted by three windows, two on the east wall and one to the west of the firebox opening on the north wall. The original opening for the firebox on this north wall is presently enclosed by the original mantle with original paint that had at one time been removed but stored in an outbuilding on the farm.. The present owner plans to retain the original paint. The 6-foot wide mantel features applied pilasters with hand-beveled trim that support a protruding mantel shelf. It will serve a reconstructed shallow, Rumford-style stone firebox as suggested by the dimensions of the original subsurface footings.

The second story of the main section also features a hall-and-parlor floor plan created by a log partition located 30 inches north of the log partition of the lower level. The notched partition is chinked with wood slabs as is the lower level partition. The 11 ½ foot wide south stair hall with 7-foot ceilings is lighted by two original window openings on the east and west walls. The original 6-over-6 double-hung fixed upper sash window on the west wall was left intact when other window replacements occurred. It

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**McCormick, Isaac, House
St. Charles County, Missouri**

Description (continued)

has been removed for restoration and will be replaced. The ceiling and walls were sheathed with the same sheathing as the lower hall prior to 1904, and future plans include retaining this treatment.

The larger 17 x 14 1/2 foot upper level room served as a bedroom with a firebox opening on the north wall. Another original mantel stored in an outbuilding fits the original firebox opening and will be reused for the planned reconstructed firebox. Logs will be left exposed and whitewashed according to original treatment in this room. Ceiling treatment was obliterated with past alterations, but the same sheathing for the stair hall will be repeated here. The original pine floors on this upper level will remain untreated.

The room was lighted by a window on the north wall and, originally, one window on the east wall. The south window on the east wall dates to the 1906 renovations and will be retained. A doorway centered on the partition wall provides access from the stair hall. A doorway on the west wall provides access to the upper level room of the rear L extension.

The 14 x 19 foot lower level room of the L extension originally featured a ceiling height of 7 feet because of the lower height of this two-story single-pen. The room served as the kitchen evidenced by the large exterior chimney that would have accommodated an oversized firebox opening for cooking. In 1906 the ceiling height was raised by removing original ceiling joists and framing a new ceiling with circular-sawn full dimensional lumber. That alteration has been removed and future plans include returning exposed ceiling joists and ceiling / flooring boards at the original height as evidenced by the original joist pockets in the wall logs.

The room was lighted by one window opening on the north wall and a 4-window bay was added in 1906 to the extreme west corner. A doorway was located two feet from the bay opening. Presently, the removal of the bay windows and doorway has resulted in a 12-foot opening in the south log wall. Future plans include framing this opening as it exists and incorporating the enclosed porch planned for the south façade as part of a dining area adjoining the kitchen.

A doorway on the west log wall originally existed to the rear of the house but later provided access to the single-story addition. The addition has been removed and in future plans this doorway will again open into a planned addition. A reconstructed exterior stone chimney featuring a firebox opening into the kitchen is part of future restoration plans. The opening will be enclosed with a mantel original to the house and, again, found in storage in an outbuilding.

The only plumbing added to the house since its original construction was in this kitchen room. A bathroom was installed in this room as well. Old plumbing has been removed but the room will continue

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 7

**McCormick, Isaac, House
St. Charles County, Missouri**

Description (continued)

to serve as a kitchen, and future plans include new plumbing and the addition of contemporary kitchen equipment. No original flooring remains and new flooring will be installed replicating original flooring.

The upper level room of the L extension was originally two feet lower than the main section of the house. The lower height of this L created a 14 x 19 foot room with a 7 foot ceiling. By returning the lower level ceiling joists to their original height, the original dimensions of this room will be reestablished. Plans include leaving interior log walls exposed. Single, fixed, 6-over-6 sashes will be returned to the window openings on the north and south walls. A ca. 1860s fireplace mantel from the local region will enclose a reconstructed firebox opening on the west wall. Ceiling treatment will be sheathing matching the rest of the house since original ceiling treatment was obliterated with ceiling height changes of the past.

Future plans include a 1 ½ story addition measuring 18 x 20 feet to the rear (west) façade. This frame addition, inset from the north wall of the rear L 1 foot, will incorporate the original cellar staircase and the reconstructed stone exterior chimney on the west façade. It will house bathrooms, laundry facilities.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

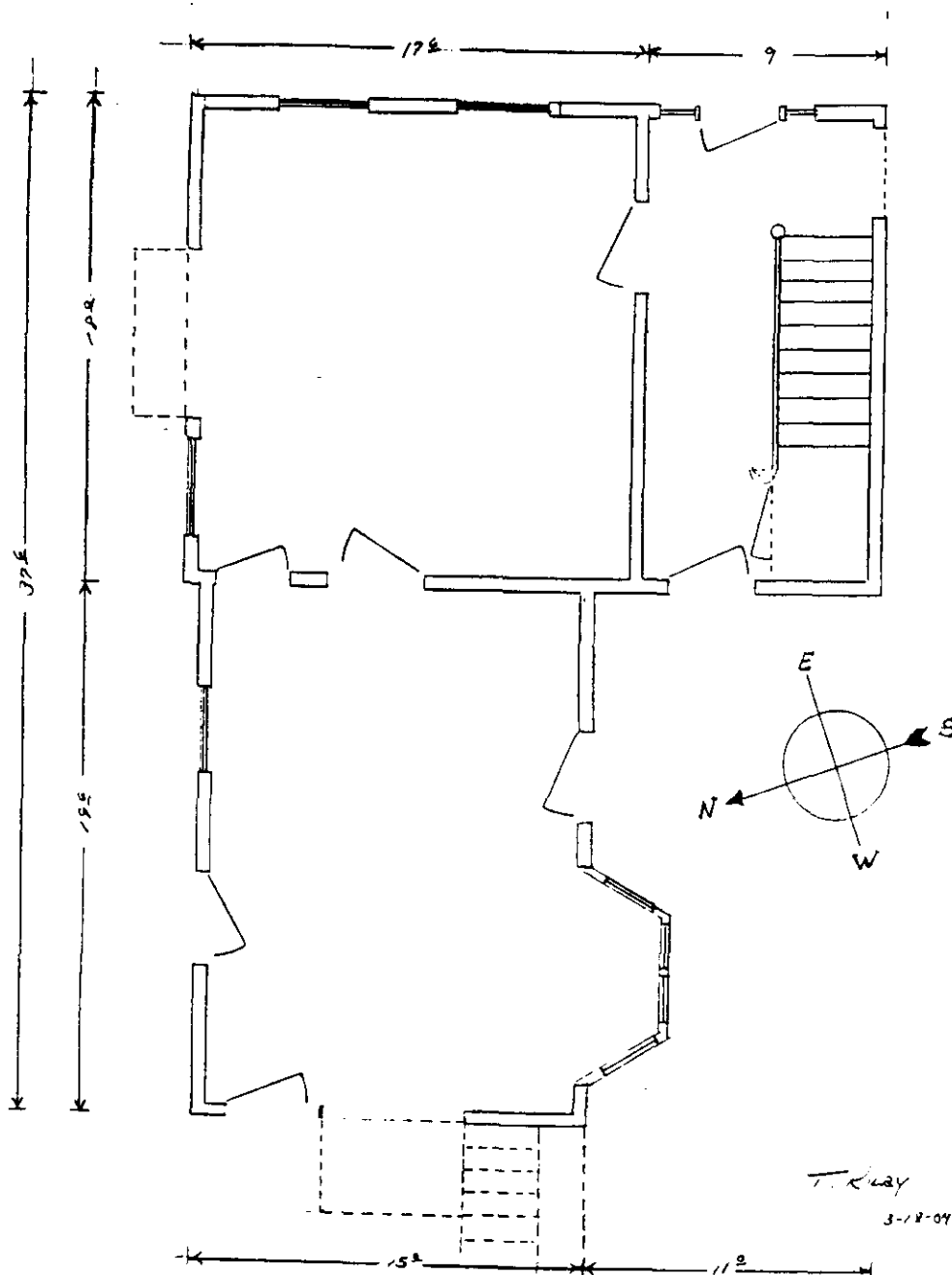
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**McCormick, Isaac, House
St. Charles County, Missouri**

Description (continued)

**Isaac McCormick House
Floorplan - 1st Floor**



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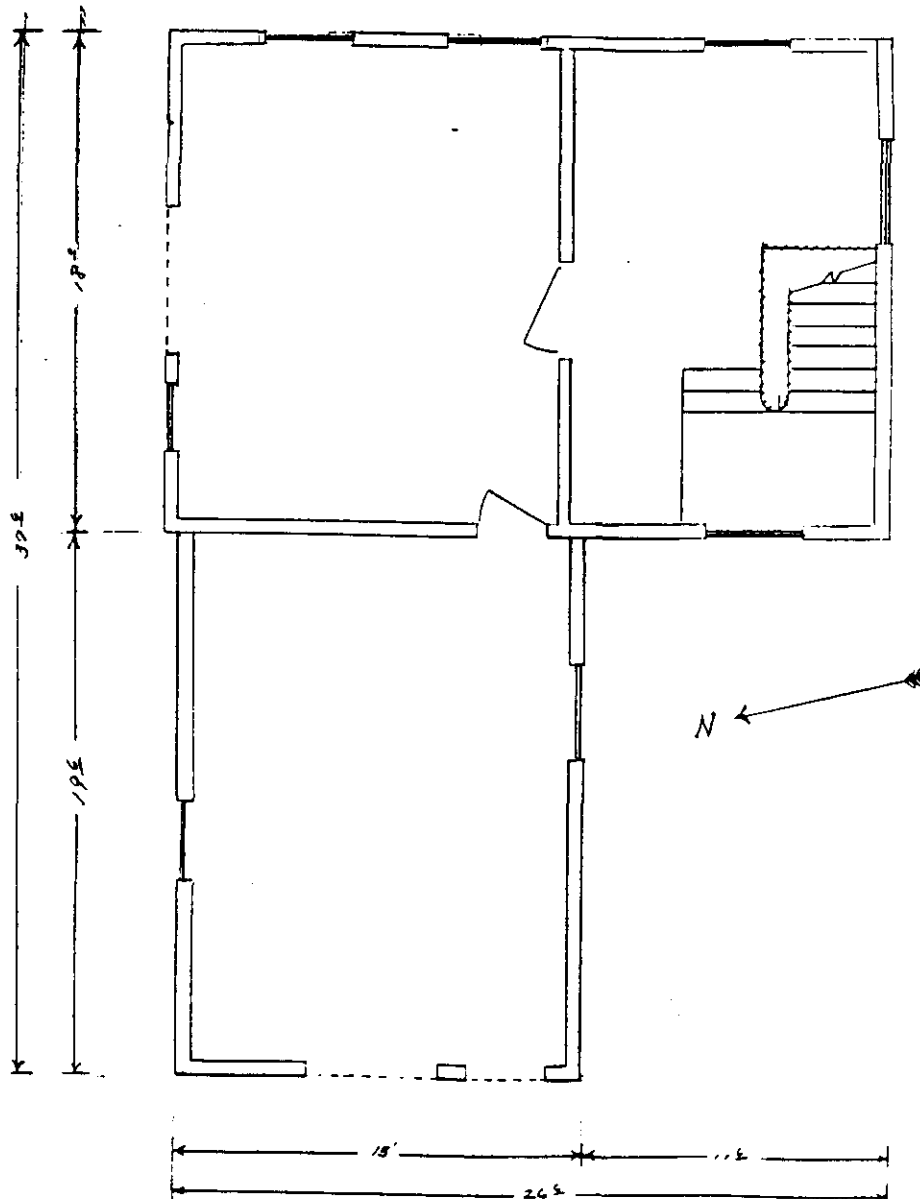
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**McCormick, Isaac, House
St. Charles County, Missouri**

Description (continued)

**Isaac McCormick House
Floorplan - 2nd Floor**



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Continuation Sheet**

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**McCormick, Isaac, House
St. Charles County, Missouri**

8. Statement of Significance

The Isaac McCormick House was constructed as a farmhouse ca. 1867 along Femme Osage Creek in St. Charles County. Its present-day setting on Highway F 1.8 miles west of the intersection with Highway 94 remains rural preserving the ambiance of the initial settlement. The house provides a rare example of an uncommon form of the nineteenth century log building culture in Missouri. Located on its original site, its distinguishing characteristics are reflected in the two-story V-notched log side-gabled single-pen main section with a two-story single-pen log rear L extension incorporated into the original construction. Unequally located log partitions on each level of the main section create hall-and-parlor interior floor plans with a first-level side entry and exterior gable end stone chimney. Isaac McCormick is thought to have been the craftsman who constructed this exceptional structure. It serves as a valuable resource for understanding the influences and traditions brought to the state by migrating European-American settlers. This assumption is supported by the fact that Isaac chose to build a log structure that was familiar, though not common, in the area of Virginia / West Virginia where he and his ancestors resided prior to Isaac's move to Missouri. In spite of later structural alterations, the house retains a significant degree of its original design elements and construction material preserving the integrity of its original form. The period of significance for this rare example of Missouri's log building culture is defined by the date of construction, ca. 1867. This is the period to which the house is presently being restored. The Isaac McCormick House meets the National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture on the statewide level of significance as a rare example of two-story hall-and-parlor log construction in Missouri. The incorporation of the service L as part of the original construction creates an even more unique example. Its architectural integrity will provide a significant resource in analyzing the influences of a highly skilled log craftsman on Missouri's nineteenth century log building culture. Additionally, its history and unique form can provide information regarding cultural migration.

Historical background and significance:

A number of side-entry, single-pen, hewn-log houses with hall-and-parlor floor plans exist in Virginia and West Virginia in the Shenandoah River Valley. (Telephone interviews March, 2004 with Virginia and West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officers.) Eli McCormick, Isaac's father, came from the Shenandoah River Valley. Isaac must have drawn from his log building training of his youth, since he chose to build a house form familiar to the region where he spent his teenage years – the years in which he would have been trained in subsistence skills. He migrated with his family to the Femme Osage Valley in Missouri in 1838. The valley had been settled by European-Americans as early as the 1790s (*Portraits*, 421-422).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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**McCormick, Isaac, House
St. Charles County, Missouri**

Statement of Significance (continued)

Isaac McCormick is considered a folk builder and the dwelling house he chose to build ca. 1867 is considered a rare example of folk architecture. Virginia and Lee McAlester, authors of *A Field Guide to American Houses*, state that folk houses were "constructed of materials found near the building site – rock, clay, logs, and timbers – and prepared by the builders themselves, rather than in distant mills, kilns, or factories." They clarify that folk building traditions were handed down from generation to generation and show little change with time (McAlester, 63). The house is categorized as Pre-Railroad, before ca. 1850-1890, when most construction materials were found on, or very near, the construction site (McAlester, 75).

The Shenandoah River Valley is a part of the area considered to be the core of log building traditions in America. These traditions of log construction, classified as the Midland tradition, originated with early colonization along the Atlantic seaboard and spread westward and southward as settlers pushed further away from the coastal regions. These settlers developed a system of hewn timbers interlocked at the corners with various notching systems creating what is called pens (McAlester, 82). German, Scotch-Irish and English pioneers adapted log pens to the linear plan (one room deep) of frame construction found in the Tidewater South. In doing so, they produced log dwellings that have become the most familiar aspect of American folk architecture (McAlester, 75).

Virginia and Lee McAlester note that Tidewater hall-and-parlor and I-house forms were the prototypes for Pre-Railroad shapes executed with log walls. These forms became widely distributed as a part of the Midland folk tradition (McAlester, 82). Two story, or stacked, hall-and-parlor forms were part of the adaptations to the original plan in order to gain more living space within the restrictions of building with log pens. Another adaptation was joining two-unit and three-unit plans together in various ways. Two-unit combinations of log pens are "very common" according to McAlester and McAlester. Two-story, three-unit plans are exceptional. They also clarify that the tradition of building with horizontal log walls persisted in many areas long after cut lumber was locally available and even when the walls were constructed to be originally covered with either shingles or weatherboard (McAlester, 84).

Isaac McCormick exemplifies the log craftsman who was trained in folk building traditions in the area where the Midland traditions were established and then disseminated westward into the central part of America. He had to have felt strongly about the benefits of using hewn log planks for the framing of his house. He chose to use this construction method even though sawmills which could have provided sawn lumber had been established in St. Charles County.

Isaac also made some functional adaptations to the lower level of the hall-and-parlor floorplan of his house by using an interior log partition to create a smaller public side-entry passageway with a larger

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**McCormick, Isaac, House
St. Charles County, Missouri**

Statement of Significance (continued)

adjoining room for domestic functions. This resulted in a reversal of the traditional two-unit hall-and-parlor plan where the entry opened into the larger room which was considered the hall with the smaller room functioning as a more formal parlor. Again by using a log partition, McCormick held to the more traditional hall-and-parlor plan on the upper level of his dwelling, creating two units of more functional living space.

A review of architectural surveys of log dwellings by the State Historic Preservation Offices in Virginia and West Virginia, where Isaac McCormick undoubtedly received his training, revealed only a limited number of side-entry, two-story log buildings (Telephone interviews March, 2004 with Virginia and West Virginia State Historic Preservation Offices). Those documented more commonly held to the traditional hall-and-parlor floorplan with the entry opening into the larger common living space of the dwelling house (Telephone interview March, 2004 with Moral Kalbian, architectural historian who has conducted architectural surveys of the Shenandoah River Valley and is author of *Frederick County History Through Architecture*). The transition of the hall-and-parlor floor plan seen in the Isaac McCormick House may have been influenced by the popularity of the I-house floorplan in post-Civil War Missouri, which featured a central passageway with a stair access to the second level.

In 1981 Howard Wight Marshall conducted an architectural survey of folk buildings in eight counties of north-central Missouri in what is considered the Little Dixie region of Missouri. He published his findings in *Folk Architecture of Little Dixie: A Regional Culture in Missouri*. In this region Marshall found that the early types of architecture brought by the immigrants from Virginia, Kentucky and North Carolina "mirror" the traditions of their earlier homelands. Marshall, a folklorist, felt the southern character revealed in the dwellings and agricultural buildings of Little Dixie "will extend our knowledge of informal history and architecture and will help complete the record of the sources and development of modern America" (Marshall, xiii-ix).

Although the Isaac McCormick House lies outside of Marshall's survey area, its history and that of its builder fit the same settlement and construction patterns. Of the one hundred houses Marshall surveyed, fifty were log with v-notching the most widespread. The log houses generally had exterior end chimneys centered in the gable. The interior walls were most often "whitewashed logs or covered with vertical boards" (Marshall, 93). The most usual wood used in log construction was white oak.

Marshall references one two-story, side-entry house of a similar plan to the Isaac McCormick House as being a two-thirds I-house. He notes that the two-thirds I-house is "the rarest subtype in the countryside" and is more often found in towns than in rural settings. He states that from the front "it resembles urban Georgian side-hall houses that are two rooms deep" and is simply an incompleated

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**McCormick, Isaac, House
St. Charles County, Missouri**

Statement of Significance (continued)

central-hall I-house; but it is "an established and recurrent form and a definite subtype." Marshall also notes that this house, called the "old Moss place" located near the Woodland Community in Marion County (not listed on the National Register) is a V-notched log house built by Virginia immigrants ca. 1845. There is no documentation to clarify if the rear L is log or frame construction (Marshall, 65-66).

In the 1990s an architectural survey of rural St. Charles County was conducted by Robert Christie. Several hall-and-parlor stack houses in the survey area dating from ca. 1840-1910 were mentioned but examples were not provided (Missouri State Historic Preservation Office).

The most exceptional feature of the Isaac McCormick House that distinguishes it from documented examples in Virginia, West Virginia and Missouri is the integral two-story log rear-facing L extension (Telephone interviews with State Historic Preservation Offices in these states, March, 2004). Frame rear Ls are commonly found. Dendrochronology studies of both the main section and rear L prove conclusively that the rear L is part of the original construction.

The hewn log planking (logs hewn on two sides only, creating a flat surface for the inner and outer walls; Jordan, 36) provides a stable surface on which to apply the weatherboards intended as part of the original construction. Isaac McCormick's preference for V-notching to lock the corners of the main section single-pen and the rear L single-pen is also a reflection of his Shenandoah Valley training, where this notch was commonly used. Terry Jordan in *Texas Log Buildings* states that the V-notch can be traced back to Pennsylvania and was popular in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri as well as Virginia. The V-notch forms a solid lock and provides for drainage of water out of the joints (Jordan, 65). The two interior log partitions are secured to the exterior logs with half-dovetail notching which form a more rigid lock than the V-notching (McAlester, 34).

The Isaac McCormick House provides a rare resource for evaluating folk architecture in Missouri as well as evaluating transitions in construction methods and floorplans affected by other folk influences. The most notable transition seems to be in adapting the traditional hall-and-parlor floorplan to incorporate the lower-level passageway seen in folk I-House plans.

Isaac McCormick migrated to St. Charles County, Missouri with his widowed mother and three siblings in 1838. Isaac was born in 1821 in Cabell County, West Virginia. His parents, Eli and Jane (Craig) McCormick, both of Irish ancestry, were born and raised in Clarke County, Virginia. Eli died after the family had moved to West Virginia (*Portraits*, 421-422).

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**McCormick, Isaac, House
St. Charles County, Missouri**

Statement of Significance (continued)

The Femme Osage Valley where the McCormicks settled had been populated by European-Americans as early as 1799. Daniel Boone, his sons and their families established their homesites in the valley that year, only three miles from where Isaac McCormick would later settle. The Boones and their extended families and associates were able to secure extensive land grants from the Spanish who held jurisdiction over what was then called Upper Louisiana (Foley, *Genesis*, 77).

Native American Indians were the first occupants of the land along the Femme Osage Creek. Then French explorers under René-Robert Cavelier, sieur de La Salle claimed the Mississippi Valley in 1682 (Foley, *History*, 3). Spain gained control of the area in 1763 and the District of St. Charles encompassed all the territory north of the Missouri River. Near the mouth of the Missouri River where it empties into the Mississippi River, hunters and traders established a settlement called St. Charles in 1769. Across the Missouri River to the south was the small settlement called St. Louis (Foley, *History*, 48).

In 1800 Spain gave up control of Louisiana to France and in 1803 France sold Louisiana Territory to the United States. By that time numerous land grants had been issued to settlers pouring into the Femme Osage Creek area. Settlers were pursuing an agrarian lifestyle instead of the hunting and trading practices of the past (Foley, *History*, 68-72). Some of these settlers built stone dwelling houses from the plentiful limestone in the area. Some built log dwellings from the equally plentiful virgin forests. Extant examples of one, one-and-one-half and two-story single-pen, double-pen and dogtrot forms of log residences from the first part of the nineteenth century exist in the Femme Osage Valley (Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, St. Charles County Survey; Kilby).

By the time Missouri gained statehood in 1821 numerous counties had already been carved out of what was originally the district of St. Charles. St. Charles County was established in 1812. The well-to-do land owners in the pared-down St. Charles County were constructing more substantial and sophisticated dwellings (Foley, *Genesis*, 301). One of the wealthy early settlers who had received a Spanish land grant was David Darst. The Darsts had migrated from Shenandoah County, Virginia to Kentucky. Bearing letters of introduction to Spanish authorities from leading men in Kentucky, David Darst had arrived in Missouri in 1799 with, or shortly after, Daniel Boone. He and his son, David H. Darst, owned thousands of acres of land in the Femme Osage Valley. Even to the present date a large tract of land along the north bank of the Missouri River, within a few miles of the Isaac McCormick House, bears the name of Darst Bottoms (Horlrah, 253-54).

In 1845 Isaac McCormick married Elizabeth J. Darst, daughter of David H. Darst. That same year Isaac filed on 100 acres of land (Section 21, Township 45N and Range 2E) bordering on the Marthasville Road (present-day Highway F) that wound along Femme Osage Creek. He paid \$3.75 per acre. It is not

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**McCormick, Isaac, House
St. Charles County, Missouri**

Statement of Significance (continued)

known if or where their first dwelling house was located on this land but Isaac retained ownership of it until his death in 1904. The Goodspeed biography of Isaac makes reference to his successful farming and stock-raising practices and his farm "was wonderfully changed since he became its owner" (*Portraits*, 421-422).

Isaac purchased additional acres of land adjoining his initial acres. One of Isaac's major improvements was the construction of his hewn log dwelling house in the latter part of the 1860s. Dendrochronology studies of the white oak logs reveal that they were cut in the winter months of 1866-67 when the sap flow was low. Proper cutting at this time of the year decreases warping, checking and insect deterioration (Records of homeowner Timothy A. Kilby). Isaac would have been influenced, at least in part, by the affluent background of his wife and would have sought to provide a residence equal to her family's status.

The local post office and community center in the latter part of the nineteenth century was Schluersburg located on Schluersburg Creek approximately two miles west from the McCormick farmstead. The Nathan Boone homesite is less than one mile west of Schluersburg Creek. The town of Defiance, located one mile from the Isaac McCormick House, was settled in 1897 when the railroad was established in the area (Horlrah, n.p.). The area presently retains the rural nature of the initial settlement period but growth of St. Charles and St. Louis, the once small settlements, is a constant threat to the rural setting.

Isaac and Elizabeth were parents of ten children, seven of whom survived their father. Isaac died February 29, 1904. He and his wife and several of their children are buried in a family graveyard located on a neighboring farm on land Isaac previously owned. Isaac Montgomery, one of Isaac and Elizabeth's sons, purchased his siblings' shares in the house his father built. In 1906 he started a series of alterations to the original structure that have since been removed. Isaac Montgomery was an educator who taught in the local school district (Kilby, family records).

The present owner, Timothy A. Kilby, documented the expansion and remodeling activity of Isaac Montgomery McCormick through general store ledgers maintained by the Boone-Duden Historical Society in New Melle, Missouri. These records consisted of receipts for lumber and other supplies needed for alterations and expansion of the structure. Isaac M. added a two-story frame addition to the south façade of the main section of the house, and a two-story addition to the west façade of the L extension. He raised the height of the L extension and replaced the roof system. He also removed the two stone chimneys that served the house and used the stone for the foundations of the additions.

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Continuation Sheet**

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**McCormick, Isaac, House
St. Charles County, Missouri**

Statement of Significance (continued)

Isaac Montgomery's alterations created a central-hall I-house plan with Greek Revival influences on the east façade. Such alterations were popular at the time in the Femme Osage Valley and elsewhere in the state (Missouri State Historic Preservation Office; Kilby, family records).

After ownership passed from Isaac Montgomery McCormick a chain of subsequent owners made additional alterations to the structure. The 1906 frame addition to the main section was removed in 1981.

In order to pursue a historically accurate restoration of the original ca. 1867 structure built by the elder Isaac McCormick, the present owner removed all additional alterations to the structure as well as all sheathing fabric. This allowed documentation of the original log framing construction. Dendrochronology studies removed conjecture regarding the construction of the log sections. All salvageable original construction fabric was saved, labeled and properly stored. The future restoration of the structure will return the house to its original ca. 1867 footprint and interior floor plan including returning the two stone exterior chimneys to their original locations.

Timothy A. Kilby, the present owner, is well qualified to conduct the restoration of the Isaac McCormick House. He maintains a woodwright shop and has conducted numerous historic restorations in the Femme Osage Valley and throughout the region under his company name of The Country Gentleman. His restorations have been featured in regional and national publications.

Mr. Kilby owns 23 acres of Isaac McCormick's original farmstead, part of which is a Spanish land grant. He maintains the rural setting of the property with three well-maintained outbuildings that house his office, woodwright shop and storage facilities.

Each year thousands of tourists are drawn to the Femme Osage Valley to visit the Nathan Boone Homestead, once home to Nathan's famous pioneering father, Daniel Boone. The conscientious restoration undertaken by Mr. Kilby will enhance the heritage tourism of this area and save a rare example of Missouri's nineteenth century log building culture.

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Continuation Sheet**

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**McCormick, Isaac, House
St. Charles County, Missouri**

9. Major Bibliographic References

- 1) Foley, William E. *The Genesis of Missouri: From Wilderness Outpost to Statehood*. Columbia and London: University of Missouri Press, 1989.
- 2) Foley, William E. *A History of Missouri, Volume I, 1673-1820*. Columbia and London: University of Missouri Press, 2000.
- 3) Horllrah, Paul R. *History of St. Charles County, Missouri, 1765-1885*. Patricia Publications, 1997.
- 4) Jordan, Terry G. *Texas Log Buildings: A Folk Architecture*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1994.
- 5) Kilby, Timothy A. *History of McCormick / Darst Families and Construction / Restoration Documentation (records, documents, oral interviews)*. 2004.
- 6) Marshall, Howard. *Folk Architecture of Little Dixie: A Regional Culture in Missouri*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1981.
- 7) McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.
- 8) Missouri State Historic Preservation Office: St. Charles County Survey, Statewide Surveys.
- 9) *Portraits and Biographical Record of St. Charles, Lincoln and Warren Counties, Missouri*. Chicago: Chapman Publishing Co., 1895.
- 10) Virginia State Historic Preservation Office: Statewide Surveys.
- 11) West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office: Statewide Surveys.

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**McCormick, Isaac, House
St. Charles County, Missouri**

Verbal Boundary Description

Part of Fractional Section 21 and Survey 303, Township 45 North, Range 2. East of the 5th p.m., St. Charles County, Missouri. The specific boundaries are also shown in bold lines on the attached tax map supplied by the St. Charles County Assessor's Office.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the land historically associated with the house, excluding non-historic outbuildings. The boundary includes part of tract 8.1 as shown on the attached tax assessment map.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Section number Photos Page 19

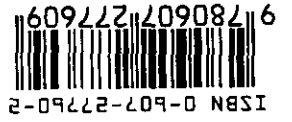
McCormick, Isaac, House

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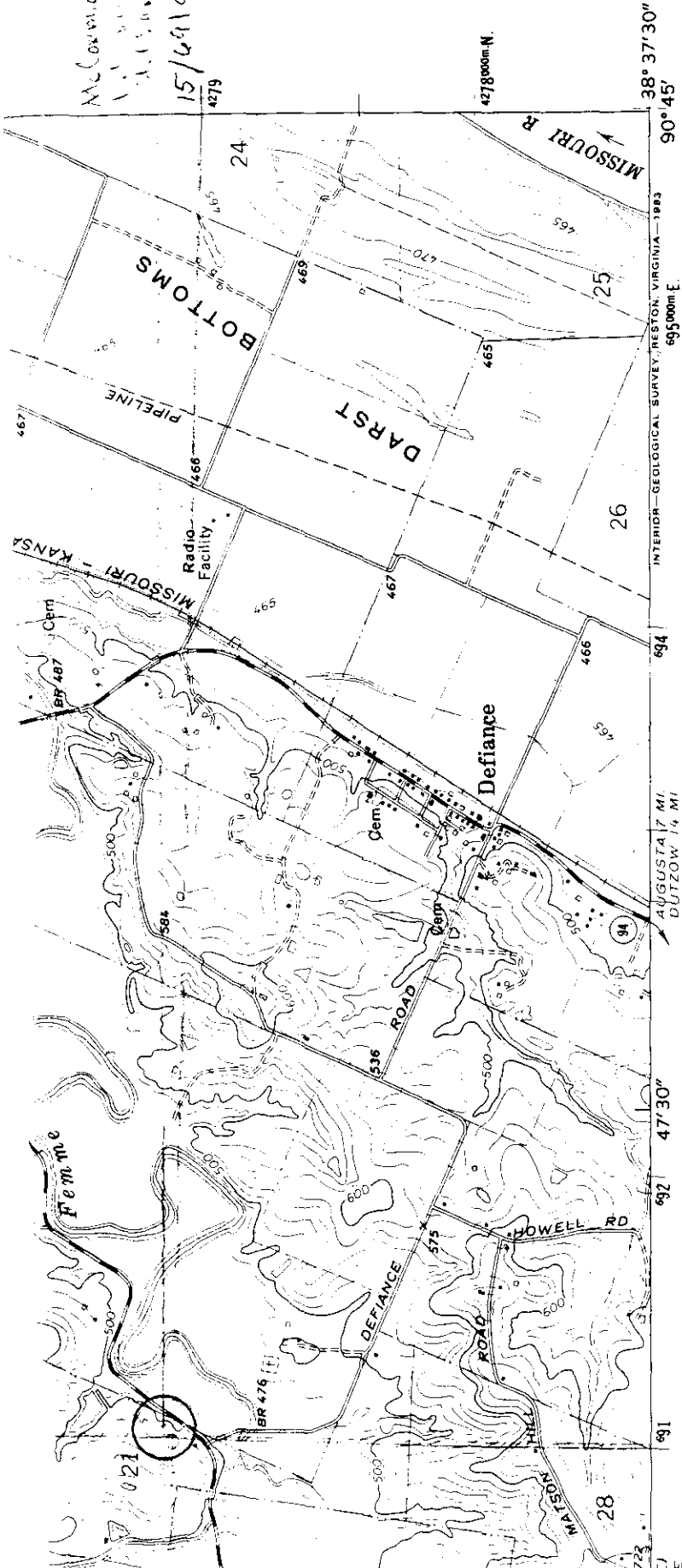
The following is true for all Photographs:

McCormick, Isaac, House
Defiance vic.
St. Charles County, Missouri
Photographer: Timothy A Kilby
Negatives, maintained by photographer
Date: March 2004

1. Side elevation and rural setting, looking south.
2. Side elevation, looking south from adjacent property.
3. East façade looking southwest.
4. East and south elevations, looking northwest.
5. Entrance on east elevation, looking west.
6. Entry detail, looking west.
7. Detail of east façade entry door framing, looking west.
8. South elevation, looking northeast.
9. Juncture of west façade with ell, looking northeast.
10. North and west elevations, looking southeast.
11. Interior of entry hall, looking east.
12. Detail of interior entry hall stairs, looking west.
13. Interior of first floor parlor, looking southeast.
14. Interior of first floor parlor, looking northeast.
15. Interior of first floor parlor, looking north.
16. Detail of log framing in first floor parlor, looking northwest.
17. Interior of first floor parlor, looking southwest.
18. Interior of first floor parlor showing juncture of wall with original ell, looking west.
19. Detail of second floor stair landing, looking south.
20. Southeast corner of upper level stair hall, looking southeast.
21. Southwest corner of second floor bedroom, looking southwest.
22. View into bedroom from second floor stairwell, looking north.
23. North wall of second story bedroom, looking north.
24. Interior of the first story of the ell, looking east.
25. Interior of the first story of the ell, looking northwest.
26. Interior of upper level of the ell, looking northwest.
27. Interior of first story of the ell, looking southwest.
28. Interior of second story of the ell, looking west.
29. Interior of ell showing basement, first and second levels, looking northwest.
30. Original siding, stacked, numbered and labeled to be reinstalled during restoration.
31. Original transoms and sidelines for east entry. Repaired and to be reinstalled during restoration.
32. Photograph of Isaac and Elizabeth McCormick.



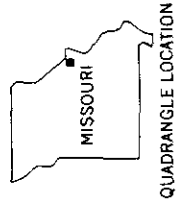
McConnell, Jesse House
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(EUREKA)
7861 II SW

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Unimproved road
- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route

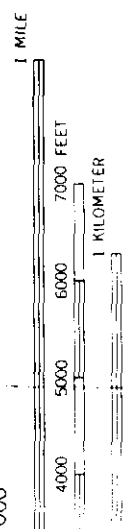


DEFIANCE, MO.
NE/4 AUGUSTA 15' QUADRANGLE
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QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1972
PHOTOINSPECTED 1979
AMS 7861 III NE--SERIES V879

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
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GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
RESOURCES, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401
ADDITIONAL SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

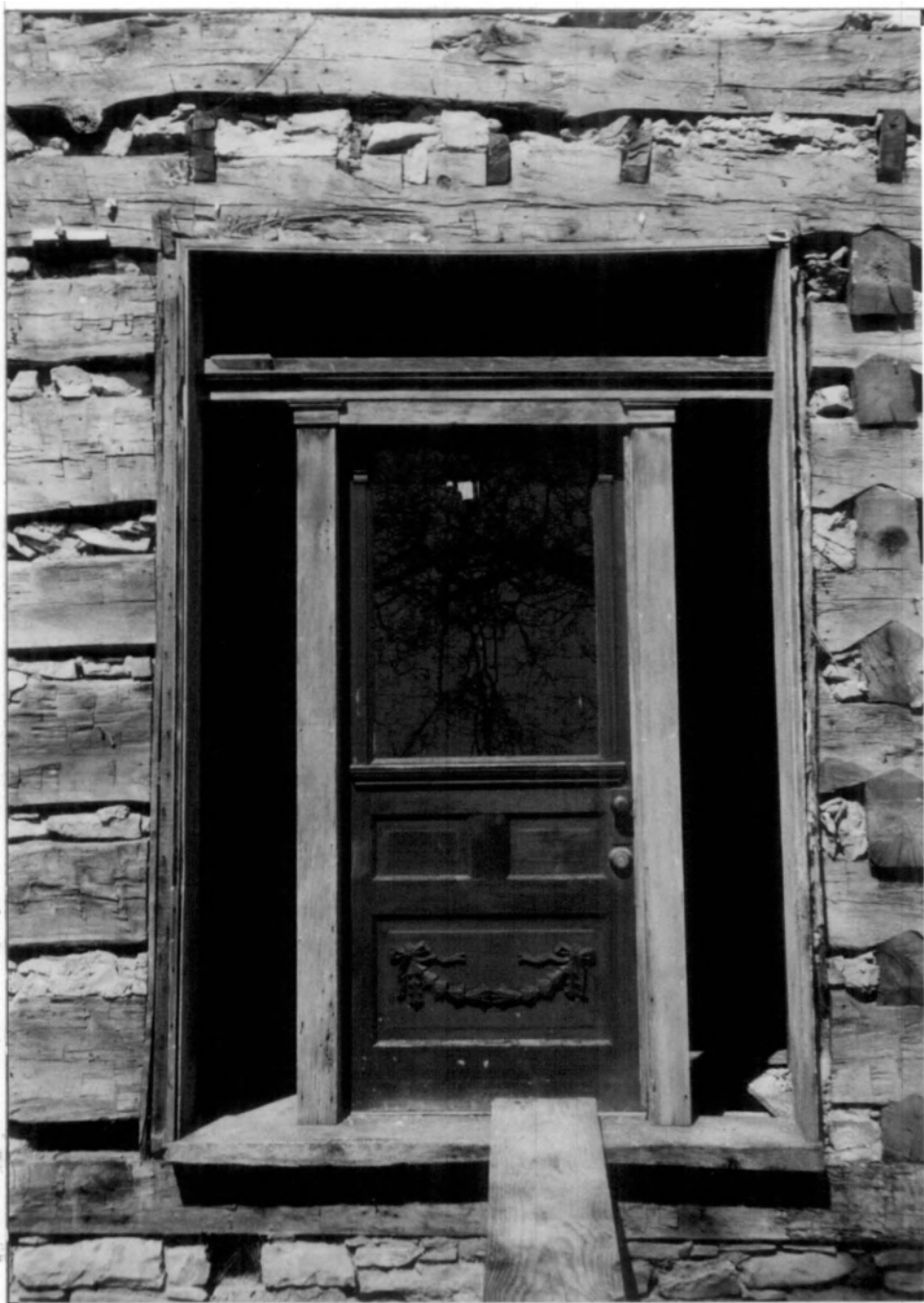




McCormick, Isaac, House
St. Charles County, MO
Map supplied by:
St. Charles County Assessor's Office



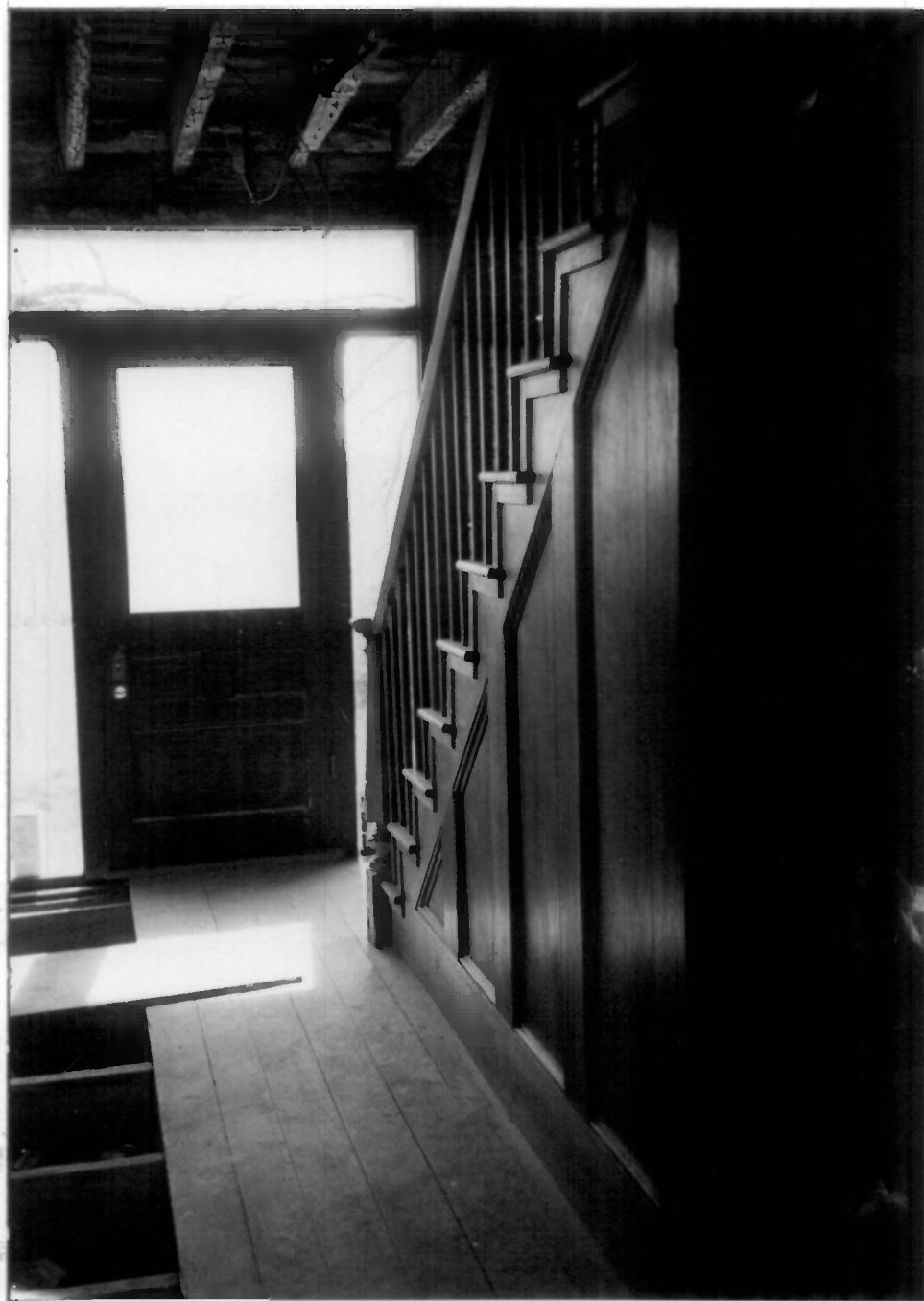






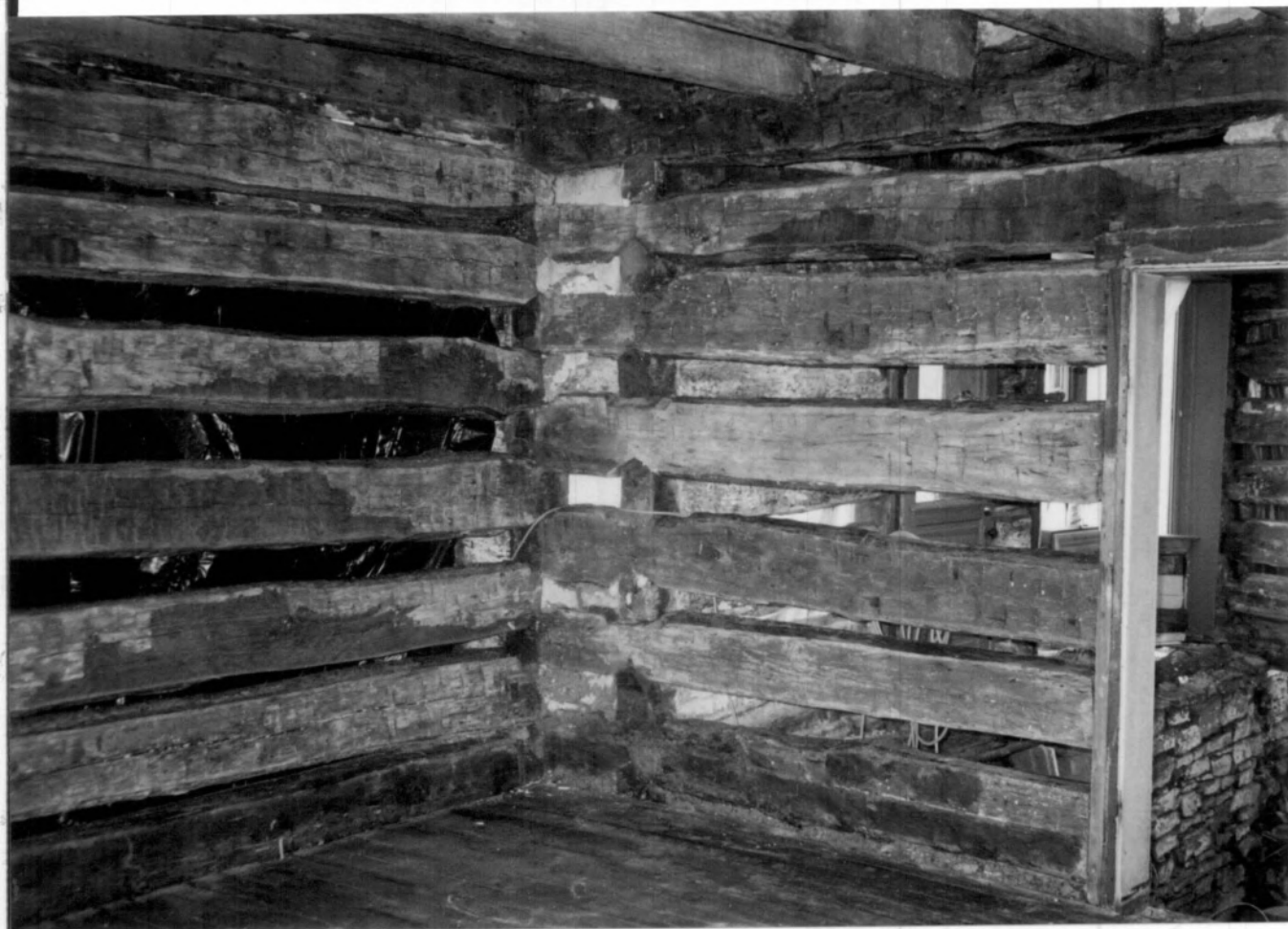


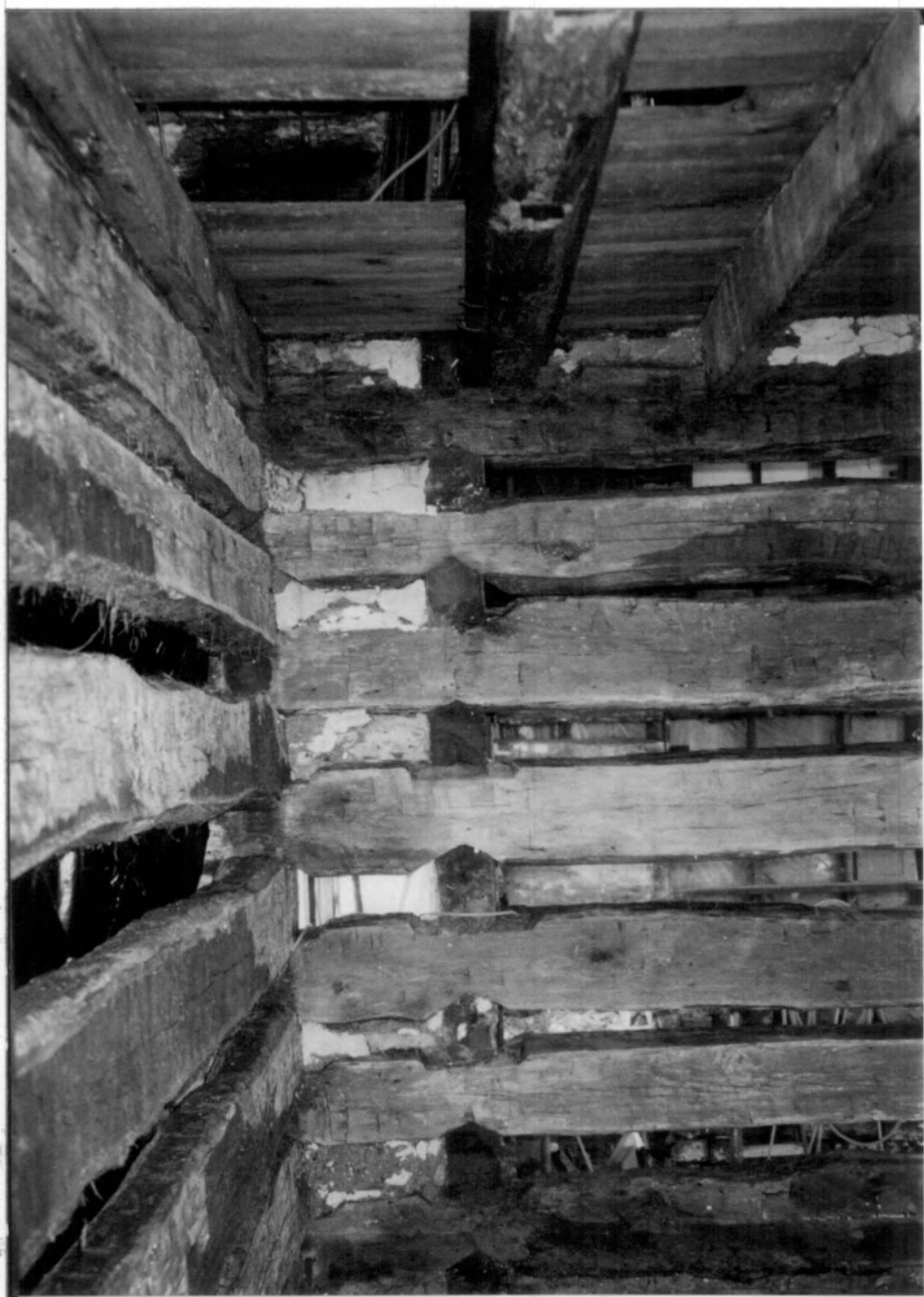




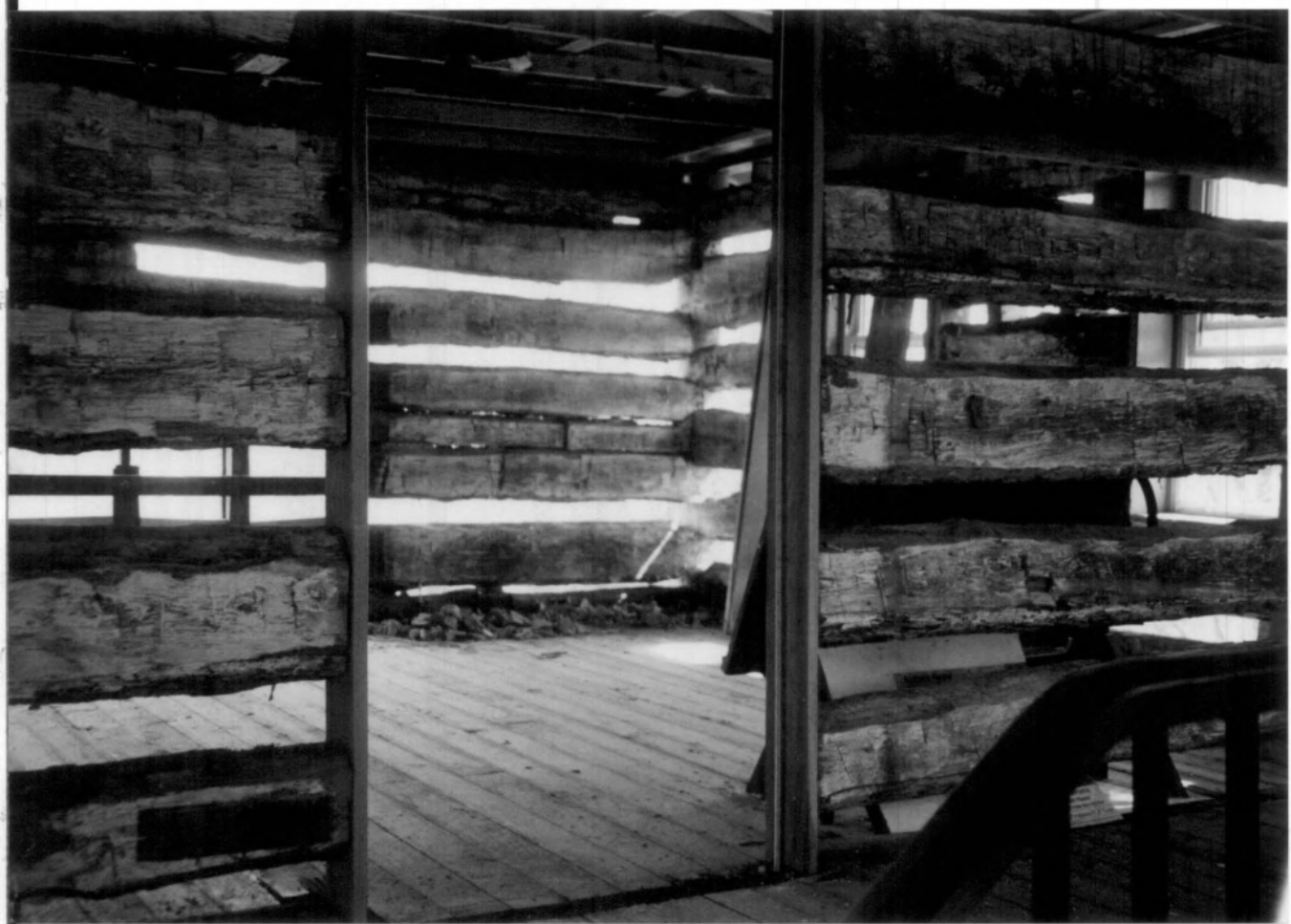




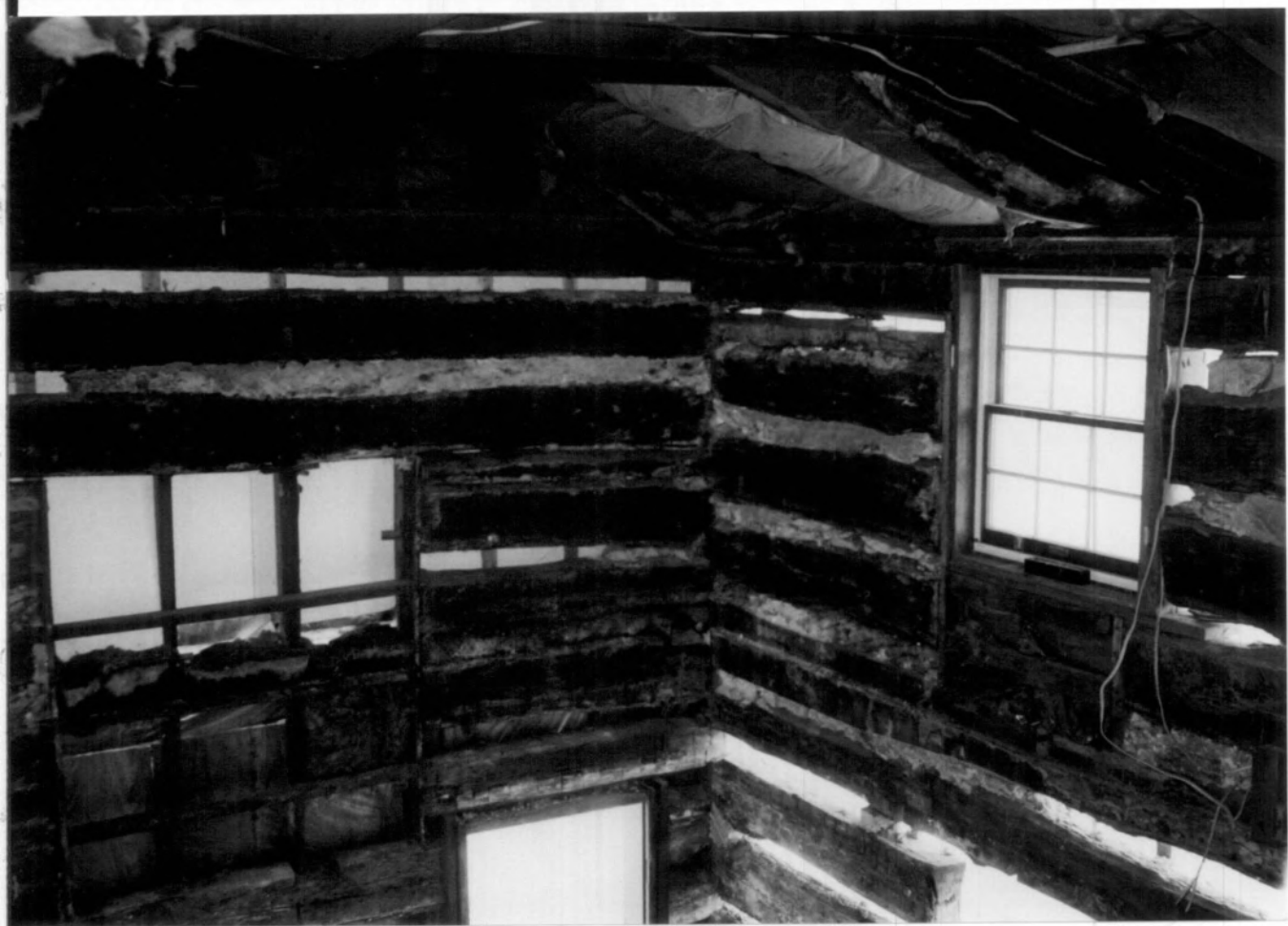






















R. Goebel

ST. CHARLES, MO.