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See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

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The James North House is located in the rolling hills just west of Labadie, a village in the northeast corner of Franklin County, Missouri. It is six miles by Highway T from the western boundary of St. Louis County, and a mile south of the Missouri River, at the bluff line.

"The House", as it has been known locally for many years, is situated on about four acres. The area is mainly rural, consisting of farms and small acreages. Several acres of fields and trees lie between the house and the village, screening any buildings from view.

The house is scarcely visible from the highway; it is approached by way of a gravel drive up a slight incline past an open field on the right and trees on the left. Beyond the field, a white plank fence on the right encloses large trees and bushes, through which one glimpses the white of the house. The branches of a huge maple mask the upper facade.

From the gate an old herringbone-pattern brick walk leads to the large one-story porch. The white, two-story frame house has the balanced facade of the central-passage I house, with five bays across, the central bay of both floors opening onto the porch or porch roof. Measuring eight feet by twelve, the porch is supported on stone pillars and has four squared wooden posts across the front, with lattice railing along the sides. The roof has a lattice-work railing.

Five-pane sidelights bracket the front door. The windows, of six-over-six panes, have shutters painted gray (previously green); these have moveable louvers on the lower half and fixed louvers above. The gable roof contains two dormers with simple pediments; the windows are three-over-three panes. Most of the glass is old, throughout the house.

The house, excluding the summer kitchen, is covered by old weatherboard in sound condition. Roofing is diamond-pattern shingles of gray-green, called imitation slate. The main block of the house has a rubblestone foundation.

Detached chimneys on either side of the house are of soft brick, with the sloping set-offs characteristic of Virginia; these are set forward of the apex of the roof. The east chimney is of a unique design; the base, six feet in width, has two raised pediments also executed in brick, the second of which incorporates a tympanum from which the shaft rises. Two windows up and two down are set in this east wall; all windows are mortised and pegged. Under the gable, an attic window has tiny louvered shutters.

A long covered porch extends across the back of the main section; wooden posts support the one-story shed roof. The posts are connected by a simple gallery railing. The two doors opening onto the porch from the block and the ell of the house have old wooden-frame screen doors.

Abutting the porch is the one-story forty-feet-long extension; these are set on

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soft-brick foundations. On the east side are two doors and two windows of sixover-six panes, smaller than those of the block of the house. A small flue chimney is midway of the length of the ell roof.

The end of the ell has a single window. Joined to the ell but set back slightly is the passage and summer kitchen addition on concrete foundations. This has bat and board siding, however the section enclosing the passageway is of flat boards above, tongue-in-groove below. The passage door is centered. Evidently the passage, with its shed roof, was added later to join the ell and summer kitchen, both of which have gable roofs. The back summer kitchen wall contains two six-over-six windows.

The west side of the summer kitchen has only one opening, a door near the front corner. A flue chimney is located at this end. The front, or south side, of this kitchen parallels the front of the house. There are two bays, identical to the back ones. The passage contains the door and a very small window next the ell west wall. This abuts the window frame of one of the two ell windows. A porch roof extends across the front of the kitchen and passage, supported by wooden posts set on a concrete floor. A cistern pump sets before the porch. The summer kitchen currently houses an antique shop, The Meeting House, operated by Venita Zehnle.

The west side of the two-story main house, in front of the ell, has two windows up and three down--the two small windows probably replacing the original single one. The chimney, set toward the front corner, is two feet, ten inches at the base, and probably was rebuilt at an unknown date.

Ten feet from the west end of the summer kitchen is a building of square-hewn logs, with half-dove-tail joints approximately sixteen feet square, with no chinking remaining. A frame lean-to surrounds three sides, sagging inward at one corner; the whole is covered with a rusty sheet-metal roof. The cabin is unfloored, has one very low doorway facing the summer kitchen, and no window openings. If there was a loft, it has disappeared. The cabin is in fairly good condition and under sound roof: it is certainly restorable. Currently it is used for storage.

Further west is a small later farm structure, part of it a garage. To the west of this is another one-room log building, nineteen feet square, without chinking but with a plank floor intact. This too has lean-to's on either side, roofed with rusty but sound metal. Both log buildings have gable roofs.

The buildings are situated on 4.31 acres of the formerly large farm; the trees and the little distance from the highway afford them considerable privacy.

The outside of the house has been preserved and is in sound condition. The interior has been treated as sympathetically as the exterior. All rooms on the first floor except the kitchen, the back room in the ell, have been restored, not to the original colors but with colors deemed appropriate for the house.

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The front section, apparently the oldest part of the house, has a braced frame with brick nogging. The cellar, of stone and brick, is under this section. Although the house presents a confusing picture as to the sequence of its development, evidently it was enlarged by a second tier of rooms probably by mid-nineteenth century. A trap door in the upstairs front hall floor parallels the present stairway, and wall demarcations indicate a doorway now covered by the stairs; the stairwall has raised trim vertical panels graduated in height, a form of decoration indicative of the 1850's.

Both front rooms have fireplaces with wood Greek Revival mantels, and the most detailed woodwork in the house, with eight-inch-wide door and window surrounds in the Italianate style. The east room has a wide flat chair rail, also.

The front rooms are approximately fifteen feet square; ceilings are only eight feet high, creating a cosy, snug impression. The windows are about six feet high, the framing extending a foot below the low sill to the floor. The plaster walls are painted white; the woodwork and floor are painted. The original stone hearth had sunk, necessitating a shoring-up from below; a brick hearth was laid over the stone one, raising the hearth slightly above floor level.

Doors to the hall (in both front rooms) have four raised-trim panels and painted pine graining. The front door, of similar design, is unpainted. Original hardware remains throughout the house.

The central hall is illuminated mainly by the sidelights of the door. The open string stairway rises on the left from the front door, with walnut banister, balusters, and newell posts in the Italianate style. The tapered octogonal newel posts with turnings occur at either terminus of the first run; the stairway is in excellent condition. Other woodwork in the hall is simple, with some mill-work, and no chair-rail. The most remarkable feature is the wall-covering in this front section, which is random-width wide planed and beaded horizontal boards. The ceiling is of the same boards and also painted; the floor is of wide unpainted boards.

The hall widens past the stairs to room-size. The plaster ceiling was covered with board by the present owners. Walls have wide vertical boards, apparently original. Directly down the hall is a door to the back porch. On the left from the hall is a bath which has been refurbished but retains the footed tub and old storage cabinet. One of the small windows of the west wall is in this room; the second is in a storage room next to this which is entered from the dining room. Possibly these were partitioned from a single room and the original window replaced by the two smaller ones. The partition is old, however; the storage room has no interior wall covering.

On the right of the hall is a small room, probably earlier a bedroom, with plaster walls and plain wood surrounds, with chair-rail on about half the room. Windows are to the east and to the back porch. The ceilings in this

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room and the hall are sloped slightly toward the back, suggesting that these rooms were converted from an earlier porch. Also, there is an exterior-size batten door between the east front room and this rear room, designated as an office on the floor plan.

Back of the hall room is the dining room and kitchen ell. A door at the left rear of the hall opens to the dining room, which is light and spacious. It measures over seventeen feet long, is thirteen feet wide, and the ceiling height is almost nine feet—the highest in the house. Plaster walls and ceiling are white; the woodwork of the hall doorway and the four window surrounds is of a "dog-ear" design, painted a cranberry red. There is no chair-rail. Flooring is natural pine, of four-inch width boards. Doors open to the back porch, the passage of the summer kitchen, and to the kitchen back of the dining room.

The kitchen has not been restored; the plaster shows old patching and non-descript paint in poor condition. The woodwork is of plain wood surrounds. It shares a flue with the dining room. Supposedly there was an arched pass-through in the wall between the kitchen and dining room, since plastered over. Doors open on either side of the room, the eastern one directly to the outside; the west door opens to the passage connecting the ell and the summer kitchen.

The kitchen passage and summer kitchen have wood walls and ceilings, painted white; there are narrow horizontal boards in the kitchen. The foundation and floors are concrete. The summer kitchen, about thirteen and one-half feet square, is very light due to the four large windows. A shed roof porch fronts the passage and kitchen.

The cellar is under the front section of the house, the front rooms and hall. The front cellar wall is of stone laid in sand; the interior of the back and side walls are bricked. The floor is dirt. Entry was previously only by the exterior cellar door on the east side of the house, but the present owners built a stair from the hall room in what was the stair closet.

The upstairs of the house has a large central hall corresponding to the main floor; the open bannister encloses the stairwell. A trap door six and one-half feet in length parallels the present stairway in the hall floor. The front section is finished with wide planed and beaded boards, horizontal on the walls, identical to the lower hall. The back hall room has wide vertical boards and plaster ceiling.

The front bedrooms, about fifteen feet square, have ceilings seven feet eight inches high, and windows six feet high including the frames. The left, or west, room has a closed fireplace; the large mantle is simple, and the woodwork upstairs consists of plain wood surrounds. The hall doors in these front rooms are wide, of beaded vertical boards, and painted.

The back two bedrooms are smaller, with shorter (four and one-half feet high)

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windows. The ceilings of the back hall and east bedroom slant to the back, making the ceiling at the back wall only six and one-half feet in height. There is a single small closet in the corner of the rear east room, and a flue next to it on the south wall. The west rear room has one wood wall common with the hall; the other walls are plaster. The floor is in good condition.

An old wooden ladder in the hall room leads to the attic, by way of a trap door. The rafters in the attic show Virginia structural characteristics: there is no ridge-pole; the rafters were left rough, with collar or wind beams to tie every other pair of rafters together at approximately two-thirds the height of the roof. Sections of the old wooden roof shingles can be seen between the sheathing boards. The attic contains an electric furnace which heats the second floor via ceiling vents. The flooring is loose boards, some very long.

The first floor is heated by another furnace, located in the cellar. The summer kitchen and passage are not heated.

The fact that the house was in the same family's possession for most of its existence and that, for many years, it was rented to another family no doubt accounts for the house being so little changed or modernized through the years. The central heating and other modifications for convenience and comfort added recently have been unobtrusive, so that the building's integrity is preserved.

The restoration work of the past five years is very conservative and well thought-out. "The House" is fortunate in its present owners, people of sense and taste, interested in its history and its future.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799X 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historicX agricultureX architecture art commerce communications		Iandscape architecture Iaw Iiterature Immulicary Itemphilosophy It	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	ca. 1819-1860	Builder/Architect	unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The James North House is significant according to the criteria of eligibility under definitions B and C, to wit: it is associated with the lives of the North family, who were pioneers in an early settlement of Franklin County, Missouri, and were prominent in the effort to settle and civilize the area. The James North House is the oldest known house in its vicinity, built in a form characteristic of early Missouri. The areas of significance are as follows:

Agriculture: The James North family pioneered and improved a sizable farm; Flavius North, of the second generation, expanded on this base to become one of the county's wealthiest farmers, and one of the major tobacco producers in the antebellum years.

Architecture: Although the exact construction date is unknown, the older section is thought to be the "house of James North" extant in 1819. It appears to have been originally built as a braced-frame I house. Detached chimneys with sloping set-offs, one incorporating an unusual recessed tympanum, are at gable ends, but set forward of the apex of the roof. Although the sequence of the growth of the house is unclear, it appears that the house was expanded to a double-pile Georgian plan, probably by mid-century. Further, a one-story ell was added and, later, joined to a summer kitchen by a shed roof passage: the house probably assumed its present form by 1860. The front, or earlier section has low ceilings -- less than eight feet in height downstairs, under seven feet upstairs. The main and upper hallways have wide, planed and beaded boards horizontal on the walls, and batten doors. Stylistic pretentions were introduced in the late antebellum years: in the Greek Revival mantels, in the Italianate molded window and door surrounds of the main floor, and in the straight run stairway. Identical tapered octagonal posts with turnings occur at either terminus of the first run; dual posts appear to be a local characteris-The later pretentions imposed upon the older structure resulted in a combination of features probably unique to this house.

Exploration/Settlement: In addition to farming, James North established a tannery, built the first water mill in the county, and practiced medicine. Following their arrival in Franklin County about 1817, the North family earned a promenent position in the county gentry, who supplied most of the early leaders and established a social and political influence which persisted for many years. James and Flavius North held state and county offices of public trust throughout their lives. Over generations, the family contributed to the progress of the county as physicians, lawyers, farmers, and teachers.

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The North house has been a focal point in its community for many years, illustrating in its own growth the family's and the area's historical development from the days of early settlement to an era of earned prosperity and stability, to the present day.

The area that became Labadie was on the path of early exploration and settlement on the Missouri River, and about forty-five miles by land from St. Louis. Labadie Creek was named for the French hunter L'Abbadie, "lost in the cave in the vicinity". \(^1\)

The Spanish regime encouraged migration from the United States; at "Pointe Labaddie" there were early attempts at settlement as early as 1798, but the few inhabitants were driven off by Indians in 1801 or 1802. Some settlers returned, however, among them Ambrose Bowles in 1803. Increasing immigration to Missouri from the East slowed after 1810, and did not commence in large numbers until four or five years later. From 1816 to 1819, a wave of immigrants flowed into Missouri, principally from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia. By the end of 1818, there were sparse settlements from St. Charles to Chariton; Franklin was among the eight counties organized mainly along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers.

James North arrived at Point Labadie by 1817 or 1818, "among the first settlers in the vicinity...The first house was a log one, 12 x 16 feet. James North is believed to have built the first frame house", according to Clark Brown, a county historian. 4

The life of that day is well described in a letter by C.S. Jeffries, which reads, in part, as follows:

...In 1819, about the first of December of that year, our party crossed the Mississippi River at St. Louis, then a small French village...On the 6th of December, of that year, we pitched our tents east of Labaddie Creek, near the house of James North, who had preceded us one or two years. The party then set about hunting winter quarters...Williamson procured shelter in log cabins, near the point of the bluff where Labaddie Creek enters the Missouri bottom. My father wintered in a log cabin on the Crowe farm near by. With the cabin arrangements...we passed the winter admirably.

It should be noted that Clark Brown describes the kind of log dwelling customarily erected by the pioneer and then the North house possibly as an early exception. Further, while Jeffries specifically mentions several log cabins in his letter, he makes a distinction between these and "the house" of James North. These references would be in regard to the front section of the house, as it now exists.

The 1878 County Atlas provides a brief biography: Hon. James North... was a native of Charlotte County, Virginia and was born in 1785. He served his country during the last war with Great Britian. Losing his

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parents when young, he was bound out to learn a trade, and grew up to habits of integrity and usefulness. He was twice married in Virginia. His first lady was a Miss Martha Elam, and his second wife...was Miss Catherine Clark. He early learned, by a hard experience, the value of money, and had accumulated considerable property before he left Virginia, and brought to this county six slaves and the value of his other property in money. He was public-spirited and fond of learning, and took, in his general reading a fancy to the works on medicine. He soon gained a sufficient knowledge of the healing art to enable him to practice, and spent a large part of his time in gratuitously administering to his sick neighbors. He soon gained popularity with the masses, and they soon sought his counsel on every occasion of distress, or in the arising of measures involving general interests.

The first land purchase found recorded in Franklin County was from Ambrose and Susannah Bowles on April 10, 1820, consisting of 184 acres lying in Township 44N, R1 and 2E, partly in Sections 25 and 30; the North House is located in Section 25.7 James North was not listed in the Territorial Tax List of 1819, but "Ambrose Bowls" is listed as holding 360 acres of unconfirmed land at Point Labaddie, on which he paid taxes of \$2.16. James North appears on the 1820 Tax List owing \$3.37 1/2, making him one of the highest taxpayers in St. John's Township, which then included Labadie, and probably indicated the state of improvements on the property. The 1824 Tax List indicates that North had 184 acres, and for this and other possessions he paid taxes of \$11.21 1/2, the highest sum on a page of 42 entries. By comparison, the next highest entries were Achilles Jeffries who, with 345 acres, paid \$7.34 1/2, and the Williamson family with 408 acres paid \$9.32.

In 1827 North increased his land holdings. During these years it is probable that the North family, like their neighbors, increasingly grew tobacco, a cash crop, which was produced in quantity in the county. The first county population census extant, the 1830, lists the number of slaves owned by North as 28, which would be needed for any sizable production of this labor intensive crop. In that year, the North family consisted of seven members. In addition to farming and practicing medicine, James North was trained as a tanner, a trade much in demand in those times. Also, by 1828 he built the first water mill in the county, located on Labadie Creek.

On March 4, 1830, he wrote to Samuel Massey of Meramec Iron Works, established in the late 1820's, to inform him that "Iron is scarce in this neighborhood, and of course would sell readily if there was a deposit of that article anywhere in the bounds of this settlement. I would mearly inquire of you whether or not you would furnish the settlement with a wagon load. As your wagons are frequently going to St. Louis through this neighborhood, I think that this settlement would use something like two ton or more in the year." He advised that the blacksmith, Mr. Quick's, "would be the most suitable place of deposit...he is a man of verasity and honour". On April 1 of that year North

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wrote again, inquiring if Massey would barter a half-ton of iron for leather, delivered to the Works. This reflects the economy of the State at this time, when little money, specie or paper, was in circulation, and does not necessarily indicate North's economic status. In a letter of May 27, 1831, he ordered iron for "a plain single geared Tub Mill", and requested that it be left at William North's store. An entry in Massey's ledger book records another transaction July 1, 1831. 12

Very early in the county's history, North was placed in positions of public trust and responsibility. He was one of the members of the first constitutional conventions during the travail of obtaining Statehood, and was one of the first representatives in the legislature after the adoption of the constitution. He was one of two representives from Franklin County in the Second General Assembly held in St. Charles in 1822; he again represented the county in the Third Assembly in 1824. He was a postmaster of the county's second post office, established at "Point Labaddie" in 1824, from 1826 to 1835.

Goodspeed's history states that James North was drowned in the creek near his mill. This was in September of 1836; his son Jabez died in the same year, and Catherine Clark North in 1839. 16 Burials were in the family cemetery, then on their farm but now located in the village of Labadie.

James and Catherine Clark North had five children, named in his will written in 1821: Flavius, James, Frances, Jabez, and Martha North Adams. He directed equal division of property among the heirs; the will was recorded December 19, 1836. 17

James North was an excellent example of the aspiring, energetic, more prosperous class of pioneer. An acknowledged leader in the early development of Franklin County, he had also established a prominent position for his family among the county gentry. This gentry was comprised largely of Virginians who had settled on large tracts in the northeast section of the county, an area centered in the present Boles Township. These families, including the Jeffries, Brown, Jones, Wood, Ming, May, Coleman, and North families among others, supplied most of the early leaders in the county and established a social and political influence which continued for many years.

James and Catherine North's son, Flavius Josephus North, continued to strengthen the family's prominent position: in politics, he twice represented his county in the state legislature and served in a county office; in commerce, he continued his father's trade as tanner and later, established a mercantile business and invested in real estate; in agriculture, he worked with his family in improving their farm, then expanded his farming operation to become one of the county's wealthiest citizens.

"The House", as it has long been known, came into Flavius North's possession

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following the death of his parents. This house, built in the county's early years, is the first known example of the "big houses" which were constructed in the Boles Township area in the antebellum era, many of which survive to the present time.

The North House was originally an I house, probably of the central-passage type favored by pioneers moving to Missouri from the upper South. Unlike the majority of I houses built in this era, it is not brick but frame. If oldest, or front, section of the house has characteristics reminiscent of Virginia construction: the braced frame walls have brick nogging: the detached brick chimneys at the gable ends have sloping set-offs; the hewn rafters were left rough, with collar beams to tie every other pair of rafters together at two-thirds their height. Sections of the old wooden roof shingles can be seen between the sheathing boards. Some of the collar beams show small circular saw marks, which may indicate repairs or renovations. Distinguishing characteristics of this front section of the house include the placement of the chimneys, which are set forward of the peak of the roof, and the low ceilings -under eight feet in height on the main floor and only seven feet, nine inches on the second floor. Both upper and lower front hallways are sheathed with horizontal planed and beaded boards, with board ceiling. The second floor retains its batten doors with plain surrounds; one batten door, which appears to have been an exterior one, remains in the east front room of the main. floor. A trap door in the upstairs hall floor parallels the present staircase, which will be described later.

While the house presents a confusing picture as to the exact sequence of its growth, wall and floor markings and the location of the chimneys indicate that the original house was enlarged at approximately mid-century by a second tier of rooms, i.e., a hall room and a room to either side, resulting in a Georgian floor plan. Indications are, from the exterior-type door in the east front room rear wall and from the slightly sloping ceilings of the second tier, that this was created from a previous back porch, perhaps two-storied. Further, a long one-story ell was added which contains the dining room and, behind it, the kitchen. The ceiling in the dining room is almost nine feet in height. This is the only room with grecian "dog-ear" style woodwork, which occurs on all the windows and several of the doors; in contrast, the woodwork in the kitchen consists of plain wood surrounds. The summer kitchen was joined to the ell by a still later shed-roofed passage, of frame construction. The attic dormers are said to have been the last alteration in the appearance of the house, and the whole to have been completed in the antebellum era, a conclusion which is supported by inspection of the size and the economic conditions of the Flavius North family in those years.

Although the house was enlarged and made more fashionable in some respects, i.e., the sidelights of the front door and the later woodwork and stairway in the front section, installed during the Flavius North family's residency, features such as the low ceilings, batten doors, and planed, beaded board walls are reminders of its less pretentous beginning. It retains the feeling of a

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prosperous farmer's family-oriented home, to which pretentions were grafted as circumstances allowed.

Later builders in Boles Township were able to plan and construct in what was considered the "grand style". On the Thomas Wood House, circa 1840, and the Wilkinson House, probably somewhat later, are frame I houses resembling the North House in their five bay facades and detached brick chimneys, but differ from it in the larger size of the rooms and higher ceilings. These central-passage houses incorporate some motifs of the stylish Greek Revival, apparent particularly in the mantels. While the North House has brick nogging in the older section, Wood House does not. The Wood House has a central hall thirteen feet wide, rooms approximately twenty feet square, and ten feet high ceilings, dimensions comparable to Wilkinson's. They are similar to the North House in the rather extensive use of wood on the interior—the Wood House has ship—lapped random—width beaded boards horizontal on the walls above the chair rail in the hall and several rooms, and several board ceilings. The Wilkinson House has board ceilings throughout, as well as chair rail, in common with Wood House and sections of the North House.

All three have porches over the central bay of the facade, and all probably postdate the original construction of the houses: the North porch has a flat roof, trimmed with a lattice railing, accessible by a door on the upstairs hall; the Wood House has a one-story porch with gable roof; the Wilkinson House has a two-story porch with gable roof, while the supports on all three are squared wooden posts. The North House four front posts had fanciful trellis work trim at the roof line, present in photographs made in 1950 and 1964, but absent now.

While enlargement of the house was doubtless a necessity during the Flavius North family's residency, its updating in style may well have been influenced by the later, "grander" houses constructed in the vicinity. Some elements of this updating will be discussed later.

Flavius North came into possession of the North House in the late 1830's. He and Frances Goode had married in 1834; by 1840 the family consisted of five, and owned thirteen slaves. 21

The antebellum years were prosperous ones for the family. In 1850, Flavius continued his tanning business which employed one man; the annual production of leather was 700 sides valued at \$1,200. The family owned two tracts of land at this time: 450 acres of which 100 acres were improved (on which the house was located), valued at \$3,500; and 320 acres, with 7 acres improved, valued at \$960. By 1860, the family held 250 acres of which 200 acres were improved, valued at \$22,500, a marked increase over the 1850 values.

For 1850 and 1860, the figures for livestock holdings were as follows: horses 7(1850), 7(1860); mules 0.3; milk cows 7.7; oxen 4.3; other cattle 15.20; sheep 23.15; and swine 60.80. The total valuation of \$500 in 1850 increased to

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\$1,700 by 1860. Due probably to the additional 100 acres of improved land, farm production increased markedly: wheat doubled to 400 bushels; oats tripled, from 300 bushels (1850) to 1000 (1860); corn 900, 1500; potatoes 40, 100 bushels; wool 46, 75 pounds; butter 150, 300 pounds; and hay 8, 20 tons. Tobacco production decreased from 14,000 pounds in 1850 to 12,000 in 1860. The work force remained about the same, with 19 slaves in 1850 (of whom 11 were over ten years of age), to 23 in 1860 (still with 11 of ten years or older). The 1860 census lists four slave houses.²²

These were considered large farming operations in Franklin County, but were relatively modest compared to farms in the Boonslick region. Franklin County as a whole in 1850 was less developed than, for example, Boone County which was settled in numbers at a somewhat earlier date. In Franklin County, the acres of improved land totaled 42,674, with a cash value of \$1,018,198; in Boone, improved acres totaled 104,163 with a cash value of \$4,743,425.23

During the decade of the 1850's, the Flavius North family became one of the county's very wealthiest; the total tax valuation for 1860 was \$74,400. To compare this figure with some other Boles Township farmers, C.S. Jeffries' valuation was \$49,000; Spencer Coleman's, \$35,000; and James Ming's, \$58,000.²⁴ Flavius had evidently ceased the tanning business in the preceeding decade, possibly to concentrate on farming or other endeavors. From 1852 to 1854, he was a county representative to the state legislature.²⁵ Also during the 1850's, the North land values were doubtless enhanced by the arrival of the Pacific railroad line. A letter from Frances North to her daughter Margaret, dated December 31, 1854, mentions that the cars should be running by the following February.

Apparently Margaret was at school at that time. The North family demonstrated their interest in education and in furthering their children's prospects during this and the following decade. Family letters indicate that the older girls were intermittantly away at boarding school after the mid-fifties. Virginia attended the Danville Female Academy, then in its second academic year. The 1859 Catalogue shows that she had attained a Second in Latin, and in addition to the regular curriculum, had studied piano and oil painting which were available at additional charge. It appears that other of the girls attended schools in Jefferson City and Boonville. Jabez, "a promising young lawyer", died in St. Louis in 1870. At about that time, Eugene Benton began practicing medicine locally, and later served as assistant chief surgeon of the Wabash Railroad until his death at age thirty-five. His son, Eugene P. North, became a prominent physician in St. Louis. 28

Nine children were raised to maturity; the family was complete in 1860 with the children aged four to twenty years. It would seem that expansion of the North house would have been needed before 1850 when there were seven children, and the financial status of the family indicates that enlargement of the house would have been feasible.

Probably the second tier of rooms was added to the house during the earlier

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part of the Flavius North family's residency, in the 1840's, if not earlier, although the Georgian floor plan did not become fashionable in Missouri until It appears that the ell with its nine-feet high ceiling was a different, later addition, perhaps influenced by the large houses constructed in the vicinity. Further concessions to style occurred, probably in the 1850's. Greek Revival mantels were installed in the older, front section of the house: five-pane sidelights were incorporated in the front doorway, perhaps at this time. The Italianate style was introduced into this front section probably about 1860, when heavy, molded woodwork was applied to the main floor window and door surrounds, and a six-inch wide chair rail was added in the front east room. A straight-run stairway was placed forward in the hallway; this has walnut bannister, balusters and newell posts. These tapered octagonal posts with turnings appear to be a local characteristic. The stairwall has raised trim panels graduated in height, indicative of the 1850's. These features and the "dog-ear" woodwork of the dining room contrast with the plain board surrounds through the rest of the house. In the front section, a quaint juxtaposition occurs between the styles imposed in the woodwork, mantels, and stairs, and the older features which remained -- low ceilings, the batten doors, and the planed and beaded wide boards of the upper and lower hallways -- a combination of features perhaps unique to this house.

Unfortunately, virtually nothing is known about how the family fared during the War. However, the 1870 Agricultural Census shows definite changes from the patterns of the pre-war era. The larger planters had of course, incurred losses of property invested in slaves, and in this vicinity, had entirely ceased production of the cash crop, tobacco, possibly because the laborers required were not available or because it had become economically unfeasible. Apparently large farmers, while continuing to diversify, concentrated on production of grains and tried various other, supplemental crops, including cotton.

The North farm size remained essentially the same as in 1860: 400 acres, of which half were improved. The tax valuation, however, had dropped from \$22,500 in 1860 to \$12,600 in 1870. Probably reflecting the need to compensate for numbers of laborers, farm machinery increased from the 1860 valuation of \$200 to \$1,150 in 1870. The number of mules doubled, to six. The number of cattle was the same, at twenty, but sheep had declined from 15 to none and swine from 80 to 40. Livestock values overall showed some increase, from \$1,700 (1860) to \$2,000 (1870). The products which showed an increase were: wheat 400 bushels (1860), to 500 (1870); potatoes 120 bushels to 225; orchard products, from \$500 in value to \$1,600; butter, 300 pounds to 420; and hay, from 18 to 20 tons. Corn production was the same, 1500 bushels; oats dropped from 1000 to 500 bushels. A new category appears in the census: the wages paid in the preceding year, which amounted to \$2,000. The total value of farm products was \$4,385, which compares favorably with North's neighbors. 29

As of 1870, Flavius North had established a general store in the Labadie vicinity, perhaps in an effort to recoup the investment lost in slave property

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or the income previously generated by tobacco crops. He may have taken advantage of the opportunities provided by the rapid population growth of the county in the decade, or wished to provide a business base for his sons. He operated the store, valued at \$50,000 until 1875 at least. James Goode and Frank M. North, his sons, continued in this business from 1878 to 1898 or later.

The family maintained its prominence in the county, which was confirmed by Flavius' election to the state legislature for the term 1873 to 1875. The Also, the Atlas Map of Franklin County, Missouri published in 1878 alloted him and his family considerable attention.

By 1880, the family's land had increased from 420 acres to 1,060 acres, of which 100 were improved. The valuation had risen only slightly, from \$12,600 to \$15,000, probably reflecting the reduced amount of improved land. Over all, farm production was considerably lower; the exceptions were wheat, 500 bushels (1870) to 1400 (1880); 34 sheep produced 65 pounds of wool; and swine increased from 40 to 70. Machinery value was only \$200. Other categories as compared to 1870 were: horses 6 (1870), 5 (1880); mules 6, 1; milk cows 20, 10; and cattle The total value of livestock decreased from \$2000 (1870) to \$625 These farm products decreased: corn 1500 bushels (1870), 480 (1880); oats, 500 bushels to 100; hay, 20 tons to 10. Butter decreased from 420 to 300 pounds, and 12 acres of apples brought \$150 as compared to orchard products totaling \$1,600 in 1870. Wages were well down at \$300, and the total farm production was valued at \$1,550, almost a third lower than in 1870.32Flavius was 69 years old and perhaps less inclined to farm as actively. Also, his interests had diversified in business and in acquiring land, as revealed in the 1880 census and in subsequent probate records.

It is recorded that "when leaving a picnic on August 4, 1883, Flavius J. North was thrown from his buggy by a wrong move of his horse. He received a severe head injury and died August 8, 1883."

The inventory of the estate in November, 1883, lists a total of 2,293 acres held in Franklin County, as well as two lots in Washington, Missouri, and several lots in south St. Louis. This would seem to indicate that he had been engaged in real estate investments or speculations for some time. A further indication of diminished interest in agriculture is evident in the remarkably spare farm inventory: "about 175 bushels wheat, 1 carriage, 1 buggy, 1 grain mill, 1 haymaker, 1 cider mill, 3 horses, 5 cows, (40 head of hogs-marked out), 1 lot of old plows, 1 sulky cultivator, 1 wheat fan". The nine heirs to the estate were the widow, Frances North, and the children. 34

Frances Goode North died April 8, 1887. The couple were interred in the family cemetery.

Daughters of Flavius and Frances, Mary Agnes North (born January 8, 1844) and

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a

Wilma Josephus North (born May 25, 1849), came into possession of the home property. The sisters established an "Addition" to the village of Labadie. I 1889 they donated a lot for the purpose of building a new Methodist church: another lot was donated for the Labadie Academy, a boys' school. 35

Wilma died in 1918 and Mary in 1921; Mary bequeathed the property to their sister, Maria Louisa "Ludie" North Wood (born March 12, 1847, died 1935) was the widow of Leslie E. Wood (born 1846, died 1893). He was the son and grandson of Virginia pioneers in Franklin County and a Confederate veteran. They had two sons, Eugene North Wood and James Leslie Wood. 36

In 1935, E. North Wood inherited the property; he was an engineer and had established a firm in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He did not take residence and the house was rented until it was sold out of the family. The James Scott familly occupied the house for many years.³⁷

E. North Wood left the property to his son in the early 1970's. Eugene North Wood, Jr., sold the house and most of the farm, ending over 150 years of family ownership.

The house and land were purchased about 1976 by the Tim Corneli family, who did not take residence, and soon sold the house with approximately four acres of the land. Since acquiring it in early 1977, Larry and Vanita Zehnle have effected the preservation and restoration of most of the house. When this is completed, they intend to restore the log outbuildings. 38

Kiel's <u>Directory</u> lists North family members as teachers, physicians, lawyers, farmers, and merchants over many years. In 1981, it was noted that "There were many descendants of the...North families in the county but today the surname can not be found in the telephone and farm directories". 39

FOOTNOTES

¹History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford, and Gasconade Counties, Missouri (1888; rpt. Cape Girardeau: Ramfre Press, 1958) p. 339.

²Louis Houck, <u>History of Missouri</u> (Chicago: R.R. Donnelley & Sons, 1908), III, pp. 72-73.

³Hattie Anderson, "Peopling a Frontier State, Missouri 1804-1828", Missouri Historical Review, XXXI (January 1937), pp. 166-169.

⁴Clark Brown, "Brief History of Franklin County", <u>Franklin County Tribune</u>, May 7, 1915, p. 1.

⁵History of Franklin...Gasconade Counties, pp. 219-220.

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6Atlas Map of Franklin County, Missouri (St. Louis: St. Louis Atlas

Publishing Co., 1878), p. 57.

⁷Franklin County Deed Book A, p. 52.

⁸Tax Lists, 1819, 1820, 1824, Franklin County, Missouri, <u>Joint Collection</u> University of Missouri Western Historical Manuscripts Collection-Columbia, and State Historical Society of Missouri Manuscripts.

⁹Herman Gottlieb Kiel, <u>The Centennial Biographical Directory of Franklin County</u>, <u>Missouri</u> (Washington, D.C.: H.G. Kiel, 1925)

¹⁰Kiel, p. 16-18.

11Kiel, pp. 82, 315. Also, History of Franklin...Gasconade Counties, p. 225.

12 Mann Collection, No. 3556, folders 13, 14, 116. Joint Collection.

13_{Atlas}.

¹⁴Journal of the House of Representatives of the Second General Assembly of State of Missouri, 1824 (Nathaniel Paschall, printer, 1823), pp. 3, 33.

Journal of the House of Representatives of the Third General Assembly of State of Missouri, 1824 (Duff Green, printer, 1825), pp. 25, 42.

Journal of the Senate of the State of Missouri at a Special Session of the Third General Assembly, January 19, 1826 (Calvin Gunn, printer), p. 3.

¹⁵Kiel, p. 219.

 16 Genealogical and Cemetery Records on the North Family, courtesy of Vanita Zehnle. Also, Louis Wood, descendant.

17 Franklin County Will Book A, pp. 134-135.

¹⁸Ralph Gregory, "History of Washington, Missouri, to the Civil War" (Washington, Missouri: Fan Printing, n.d.) n.p. Missouri Department of Natural Resources files. Also, Sue Reed, <u>In Retrospect</u> (Washington, Missouri: The Missourian Publishing Co., 1976), p. 4.

¹⁹James M. Denny, "Form and Style in Missouri's Antebellum Domestic Architecture", unpublished paper, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, April 11, 1981.

²⁰Reed, p. 31.

²¹Kiel, p. 25.

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²²Missouri Seventh Census, 1850, Population Schedule, Slave Schedule, Products of Agriculture, Products of Industry.

Missouri Eighth Census, 1860, Population Schedule, Slave Schedule, Products of Agriculture, Products of Industry.

For comparison purposes, North's figures for tobacco production can be related to Spencer Coleman's, also located in Boles Township. In 1850, on 200 improved acres, Coleman produced a mixed crop and 15,000 pounds of tobacco; his work force was 28 slaves. During the following decade he became known as the "Tobacco King", producing in 1860 a total of 20,000 pounds on 400 acres, with forty slaves, of whom half were over ten years of age. While Coleman established a new level of production in this county, North was among the higher rank of tobacco producers. Also, see Reed, p. 29.

²³Seventh Census of the United States, 1850 (Washington, D.C.: Robert Armstrong, 1853) Statistics of Missouri, Table XI Agriculture, p. 675. James M. Denny, "Greenwood", National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

²⁴Kiel. p. 33.

²⁵Kiel, p. 239.

 26 North Family Letters, courtesy of Vanita Zehnle.

27 Atlas.

²⁸Walter Stevens, <u>History of St. Louis</u>, The Fourth City (St. Louis: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1909).

²⁹Missouri Ninth Census, 1870, Products of Agriculture.

 30 Kiel. pp. 232. 82. The county population was 18,085 in 1860, and 30,098 in 1870.

31_{Kiel. p. 239.}

32Missouri Tenth Census, 1880, Products of Agriculture.

33_{Atlas}.

34 Franklin County Probate Records, Bonds and Affidavits, 1881 to 1888.

35 Standard Atlas of Franklin County, Missouri (Chicago: George Ogle and Co., 1898; rpt. 1919). Also, Louis Wood, descendant.

 36 Genealogical and Cemetery Records. Also, Mildred Wood, relative.

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³⁷Genealogical and Cemetery Records. Also, Ralph Gregory, "Flavius J. North House at Labadie Reflects Southern Pioneer Style", <u>Washington Citizen</u>, March 2, 1964, p. 3.

³⁸Genealogical and Cemetery Records. Also, Mildred Wood, Vanita Zehnle.

³⁹Ralph Gregory, ed., "Flavius North", <u>Washington Missourian</u>, September 23, 1981, p. 5G.

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Wood, Louis. Route 1, Villa Ridge, Missouri, descendant.

Wood, Mildred. 320 N. First St., Pacific, Missouri, relative.

Zehnle, Vanita. Route 1, Box 135, Labadie, Missouri.

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A tract of land being part of U.S. Survey 733, Township 44 North, Range 1 East in Franklin County, Missouri, being more fully described as follows: Commencing at an angle iron at the Southeast corner of U.S. Survey 1914, thence south 69 degrees 06 minutes West 3,214.7 feet to a railroad tie, thence south 20 degrees 10 minutes East 1,851.2 feet to an iron pipe, thence North 38 degrees 23 minutes East 947.5 feet to a pipe and the point of beginning, thence South 89 degrees 44 minutes East 598.6 feet to a point on the West right-of-way of Missouri Route "T", thence North 33 degrees 32 minutes East with said right-of-way 100 feet, thence leaving said right-of-way North 56 degrees 28 minutes West 397.9 feet, thence North 89 degrees 44 minutes West 385.9 feet, thence South 35 degrees 16 minutes West 170 feet, thence South 44 degrees 44 minutes East 230 feet to the point of beginning, containing 4.31 acres more or less.

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James M. Denny, Chief, Survey & Registration and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City,

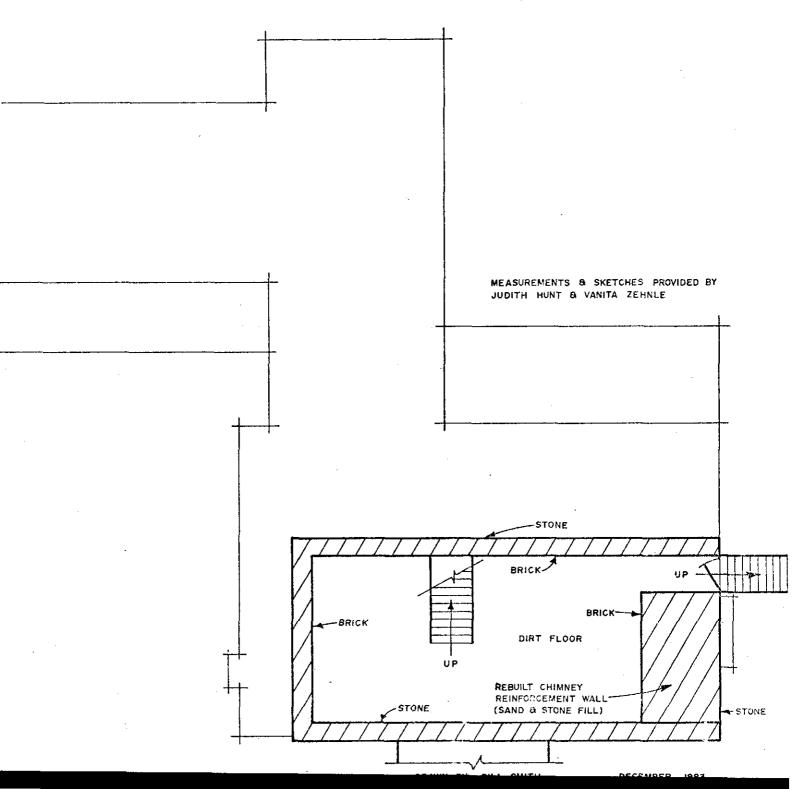
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Missouri 65102

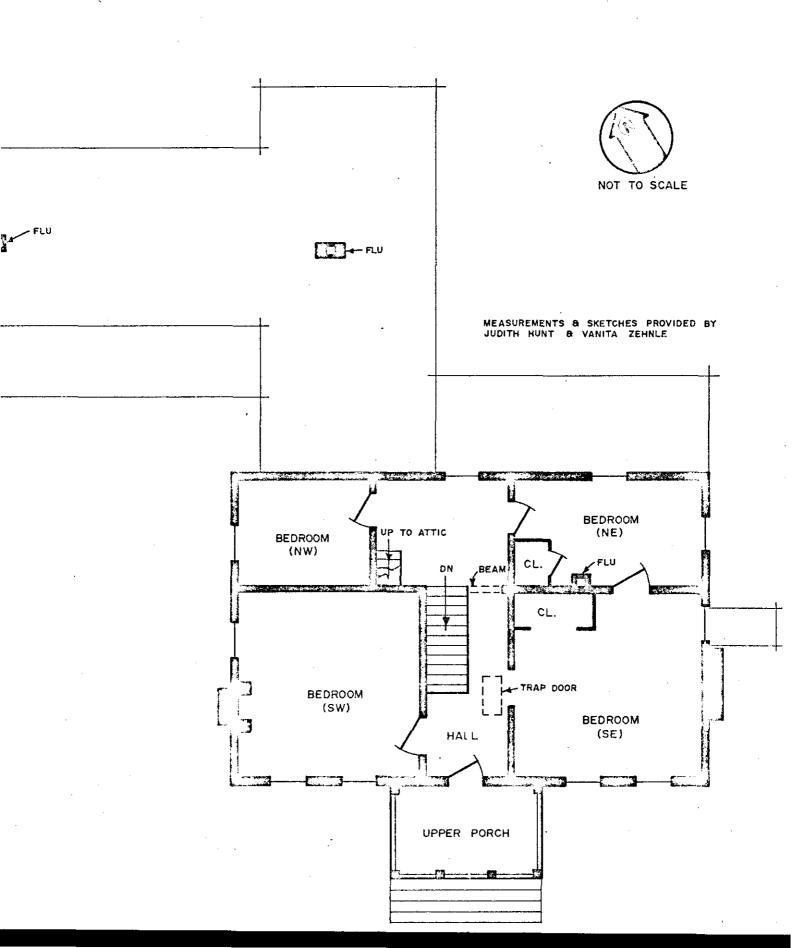
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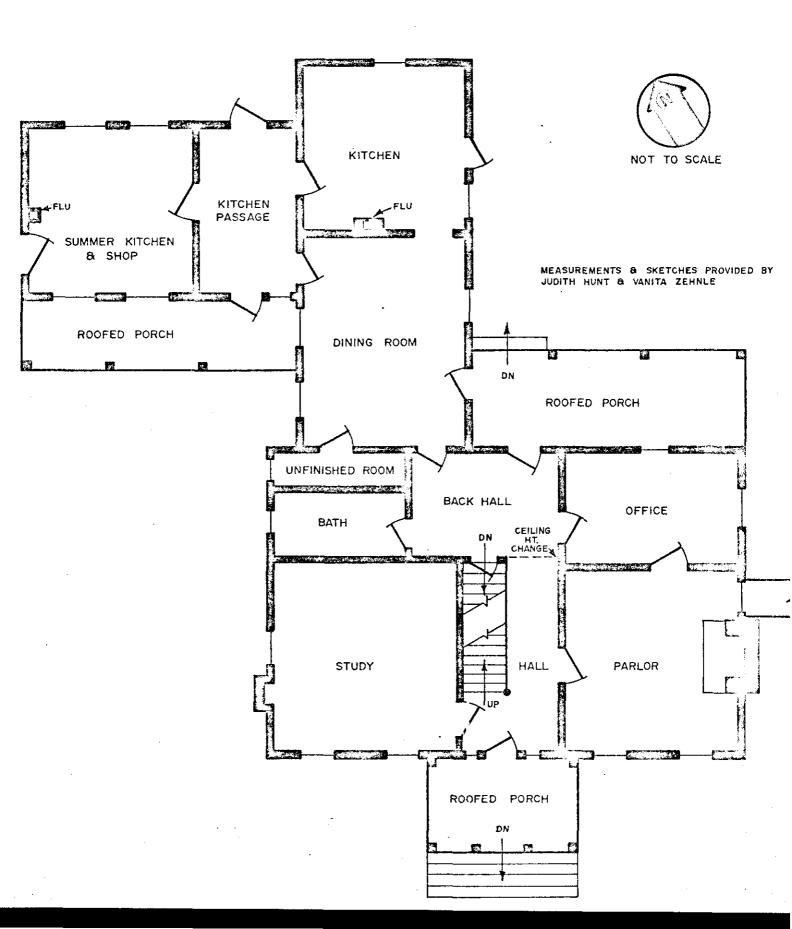
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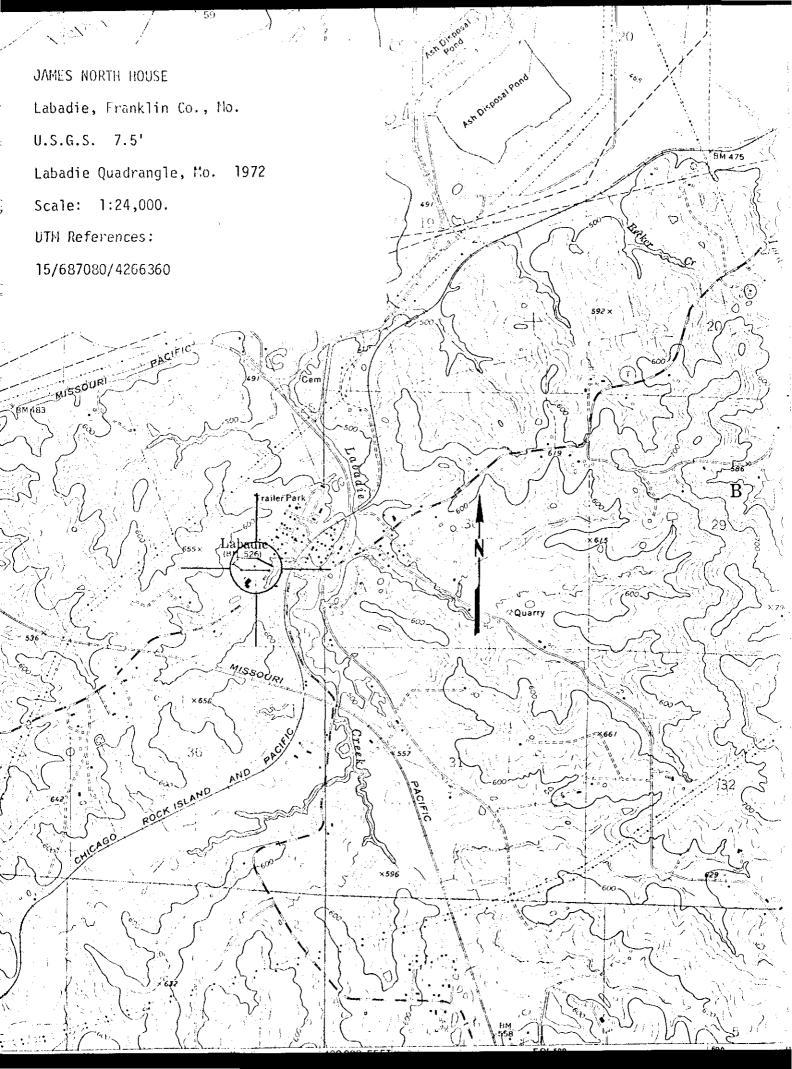


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THE JAMES NORTH HOUSE LABADIE, MISSOURI





JAMES NORTH HOUSE Labadie, Franklin County, Missouri

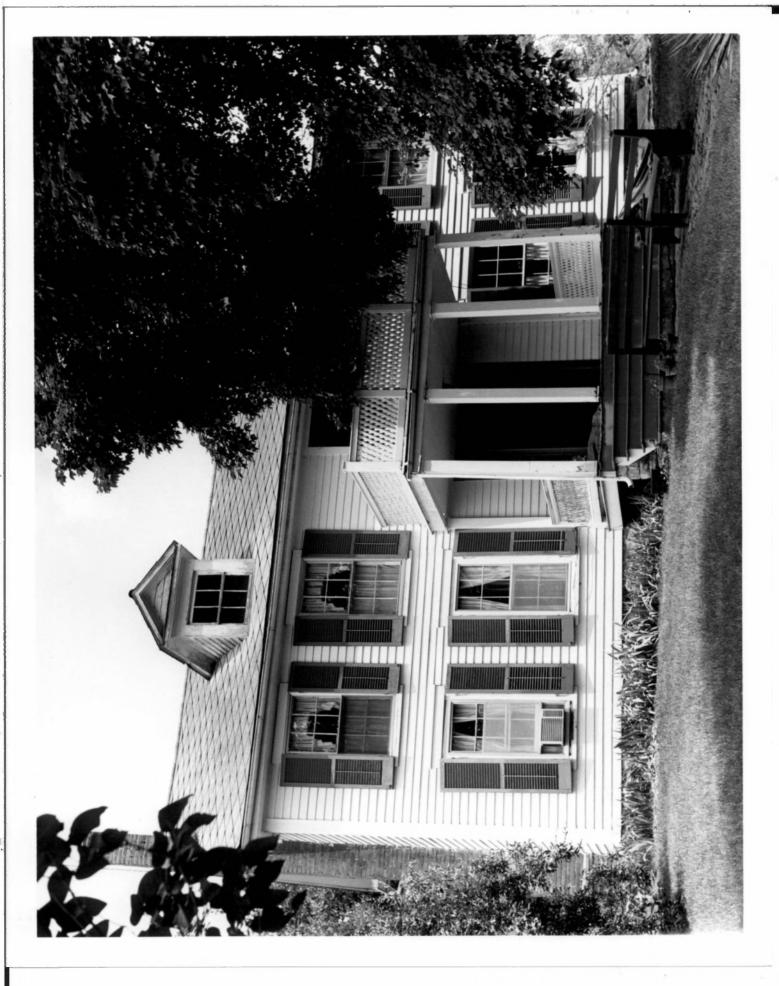
Photographer: Judith Hunt Gilley

July 27, 1983

Neg. Loc: Date:

Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Program P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Primary facade of house, looking northwest.



JAMES NORTH HOUSE 2 of 21 Labadie, Franklin County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny Date: July 27, 1983

Date: July 27, 1983
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Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Primary facade, looking northwest.



JAMES NORTH HOUSE Labadie, Franklin County, Missouri

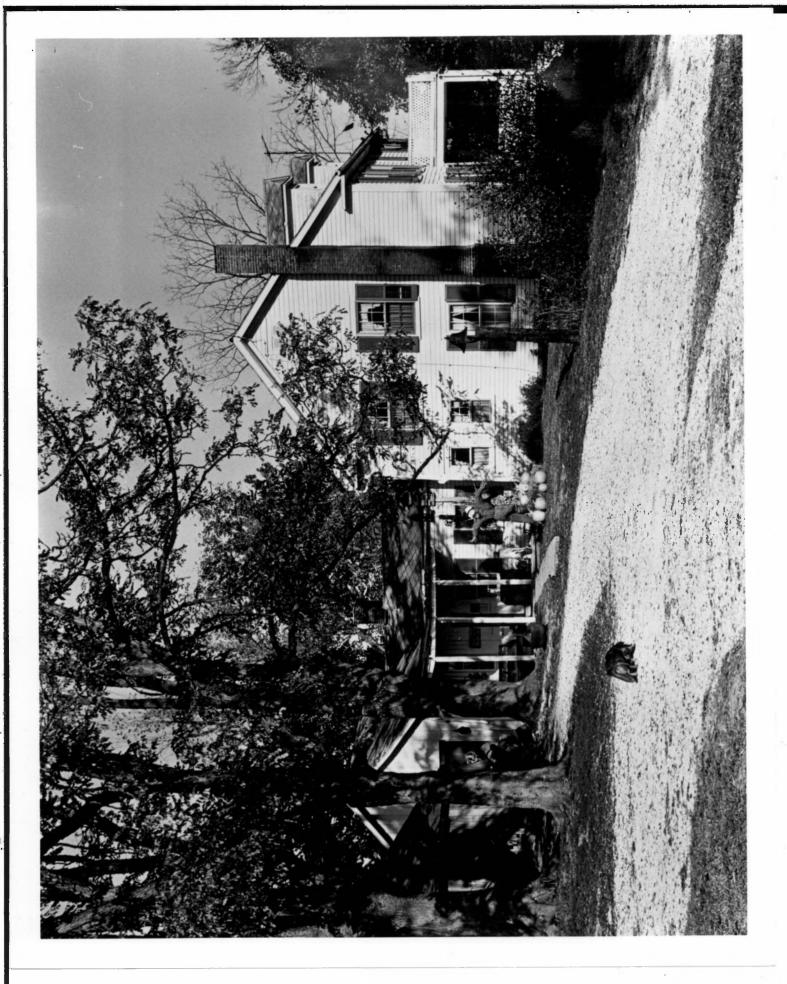
Photographer: Judith Hunt Gilley
Date:
October 9, 1981
Neg. Loc: J.H. Gilley
65E Route 1
Villa Ridge, Missouri 63089

Side of house, looking west-southwest.



4 of 21 JAMES NORTH HOUSE the Labadie, Franklin County, Missouri Photographer: Judith Hunt Gilley
Date: October 9, 1981
Neg. Loc: J.H. Gilley
65E Route 1
Villa Ridge, Missouri 63089

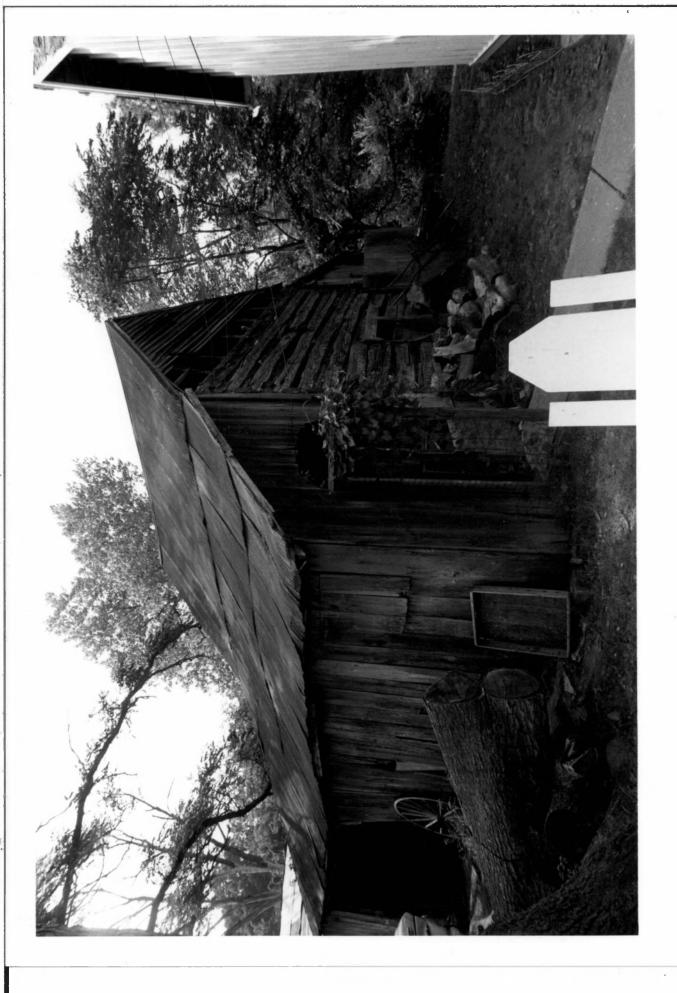
Side of house, looking northeast.



Labadie, Franklin County, Missouri

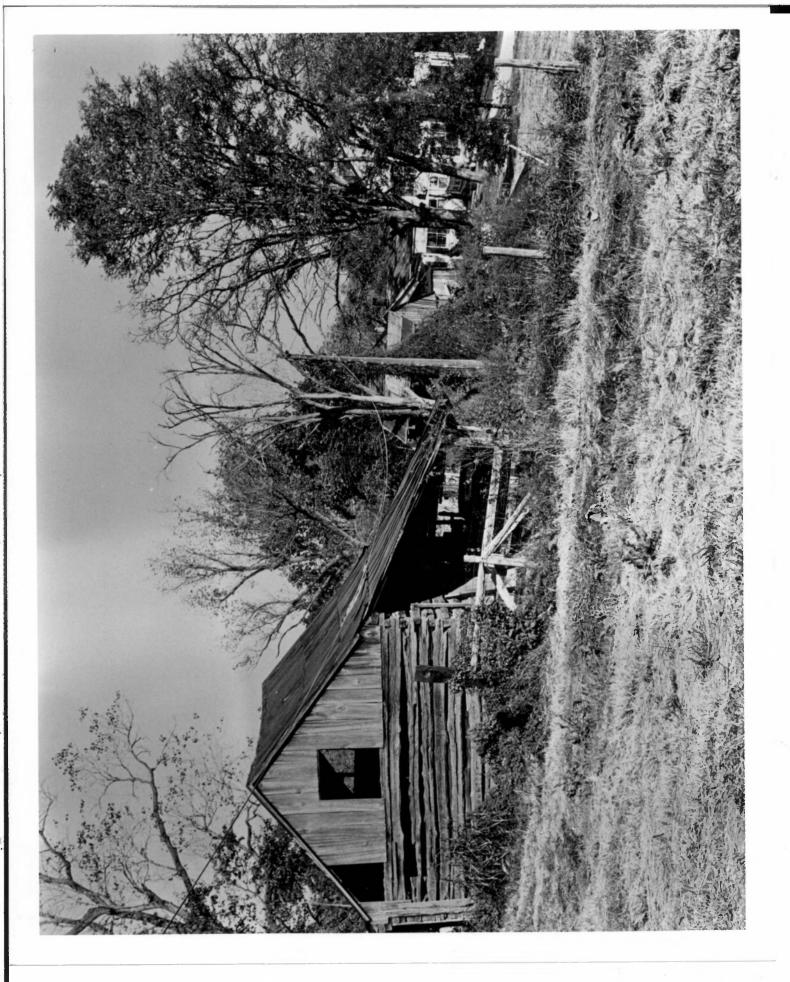
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Log building #1, nearest house, looking north.



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Date: October 9, 1981
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65E Route 1
Villa Ridge, Missouri 63089

Log building #2, looking east.



JAMES NORTH HOUSE 7 of 21 Labadie, Franklin County, Missouri

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Front door viewed from hall, looking southeast.



JAMES NORTH HOUSE 8 of 21 Labadie, Franklin County, Missouri

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Stairway viewed from front doorway, looking northwest.



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Back hall room, main floor, looking southeast.



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East front room, looking east.



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Front east room, looking west.



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Front west room, looking southwest.



13 of 21 JAMES NORTH HOUSE Labadie, Franklin County, Missouri

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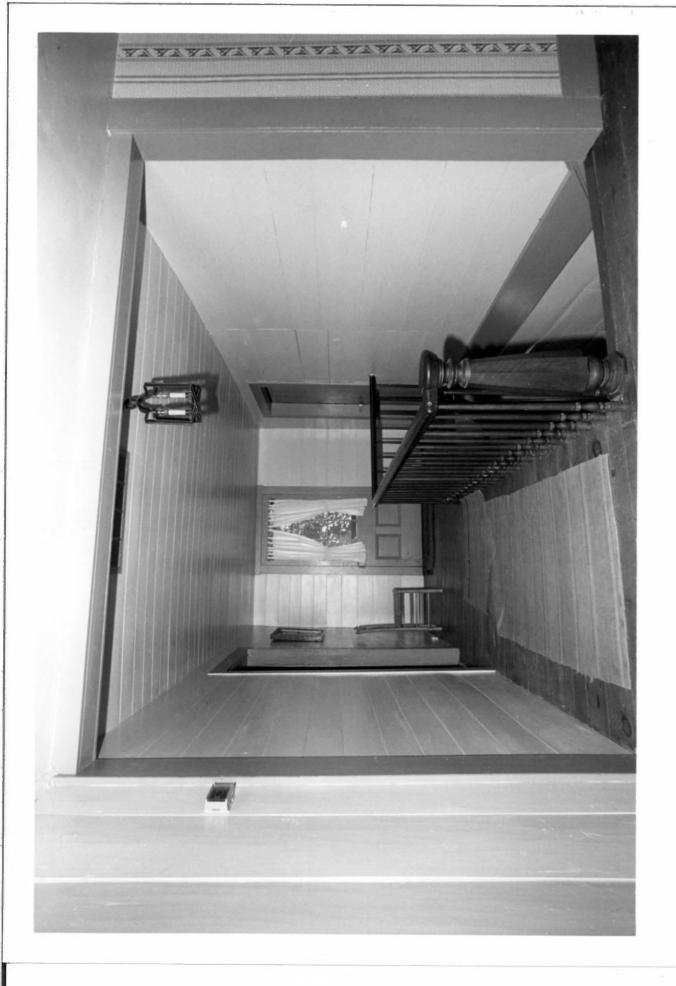
Front west room, looking south.



14 of 21 Labadie, Franklin County, Missouri JAMES NORTH HOUSE

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Upstairs hall, viewed from back hall room, looking southeast.



JAMES NORTH HOUSE 15 of 21 Labadie, Franklin County, Missouri

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View from second floor back hall room, looking east.



16 of 21 Labadie, Franklin County, Missouri JAMES NORTH HOUSE

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Second floor west front room, looking east.



JAMES NORTH HOUSE 17 of 21 Labadie, Franklin County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny Date: July 27, 1983

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Second floor rear east room, viewed from back hall, looking east.



JAMES NORTH HOUSE Labadie, Franklin County, Missouri

Photographer: Judith Hunt

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July 27, 1983 Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Program P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Second floor rear east room, looking east southeast.



19 of 21 JAMES NORTH HOUSE Labadie, Franklin County, Missouri

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Interior wall from interior basement stairway, looking northwest.



Photographer: James M. Denny
Date:
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View of attic, looking east.



Majories most I was

21 of 21 Labadie, Franklin County, Missouri JAMES NORTH HOUSE

Photographer: Historic Photo: unknown

unknown Date:

Neg. Loc:

Historic Site File State Historical Society of MO Columbia, Missouri 65201

James North House, in unpublished student paper, "Story of the Old House", 1950, Martha Thiebes Historic Photograph of primary facade of the

Martha Thicke

