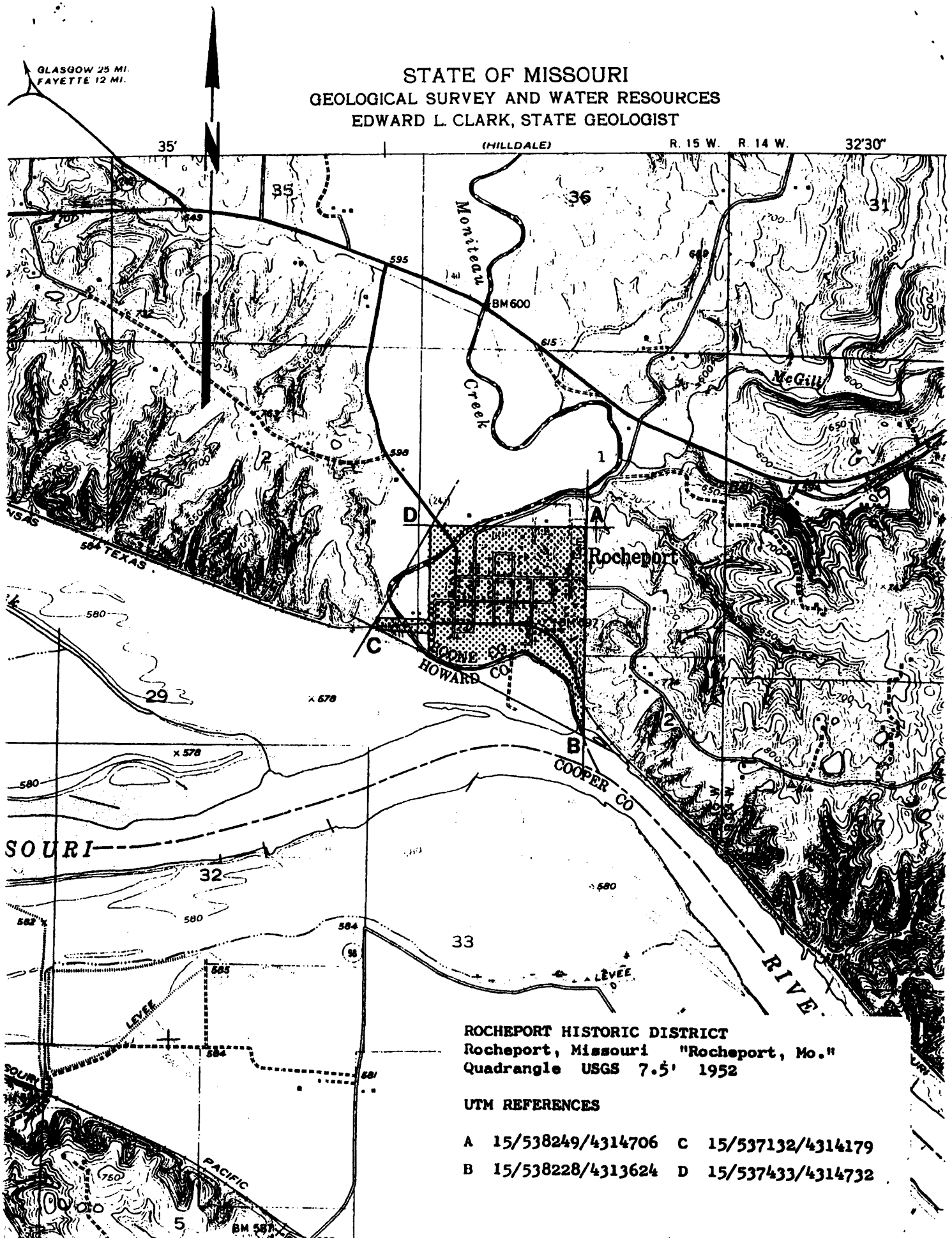


STATE OF MISSOURI  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND WATER RESOURCES  
EDWARD L. CLARK, STATE GEOLOGIST



ROCHEPORT HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Rocheport, Missouri "Rocheport, Mo."  
Quadrangle USGS 7.5' 1952

UTM REFERENCES

A 15/538249/4314706 C 15/537132/4314179  
B 15/538228/4313624 D 15/537433/4314732

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY  
OF ROCHEPORT, MISSOURI

by  
Maryellen McVicker  
and  
Curtis R. Thomas

American Architecture  
Dr. osmund Overby  
December 17, 1973

## BRIEF HISTORY OF ROCHEPORT

The first mention of the site that was to become Rocheport is found in the journals of the expedition of Lewis and Clark who in June 1804 landed at the mouth of the Moniteau to look at the painted rocks along the bluff and were prevented from examining them due to a den of rattlesnakes. The journal states that the rocks were very unusual, being covered with strange and uncouth representations.

The name of the settlement was to have Rockport, but it was changed to Rocheport. Legend says this was due to the influence of a French missionary traveling in the area.

The land that became Rocheport was patented by the United States to David Gray on November 13, 1822. He, in turn, sold the tract to William Kincheloe who sold it to John Gray. On March 2, 1825, John and Sally Gray sold the land to Abraham Barnes, John Ward, and Lemon Parker. These men, plus William Gaw, composed the first town company and were the projectors of the town which was laid out on December 15, 1832. William Shields was the surveyor for this project. Later additions were surveyed by James H. Bennett. In all transactions, Rocheport is technically described as being in Section 1 of Township 48N of Range 15W.

The area around Rocheport had been settled in the region called Thrall's Prairie about 1816 and consisted of about nine families, including Absalom Hicks, who was to be one of the commissioners who decided to place the county courthouse in Columbia, instead of Rocheport.

The first building in what is today Rocheport was erected about 1820 and probably was made of logs. None of the early buildings survive and even the site is now abandoned. Constant flooding of the district by the Missouri kept pushing the

settlement to higher ground and in time the lower area was abandoned. The museum in Rocheport has excellent pictures of the earlier town.. The first merchant in town was a Mr. Barlow who in 1830 ran a log store-house on Moniteau Street. At this time Rocheport became a shipping point and experienced growth. The first hotel was erected in 1819 by John Gray and was also used as a store. The post office was established in 1832 with postmaster being Cary Peebles. In 1819, the steamboat, R. M. Johnson, landed at the site, but regular landings were not established. Between 1820 and 1825, regular trips between Old Franklin and St. Louis were started.

Rocheport was noted for being a wild town before the Civil War. People came in from the country to shop and also to drink. On March 6, 1858, Rocheport suffered what was then termed a "drunken riot" and the town organized to buy the liquor in town and turn Rocheport into a clean place. No one was seriously injured in the quarrel that followed this decision.

In 1835, Rocheport contained eight stores, two tailor shops, two carding machines, a steam saw mill, five brickyards, two tanyards, two rope walks, two blacksmith shops, a tavern, and a tobacco manufacturing plant. In 1836 thirty more buildings were added to the list.

Always a town of political interests, Rocheport hosted the State Whig Convention in 1840 with people attending from all parts of the state. The meeting was on a hill east of town and continued for three days and nights. Famous speakers included George Caleb Bingham, James S. Rollins, and Fletcher Webster, son of Daniel Webster.

By the time of the Civil War, Rocheport was a serious rival to Columbia, a town twelve miles east. It boasted an academy for both men and women and numerous stores and fine houses, plus patronage from the rich farmers outside of town.. Being a river port, many goods were shipped down to St. Louis and

other settlements. Boone County History by Switzler from 1882, lists all the goods sent from the town in 1851. The list includes tobacco, hemp, oats, corn, hides, lard, butter, and other farm products.

At the beginning of the Civil War, most people sympathized with the South and many men enlisted in the Confederacy. Federal troops first appeared in Rocheport on June 16, 1861, under the command of General Lyons and were headed for Boonville where there was a battle the next day. From time to time, Federal troops used the town as a garrison and in 1863-64, the infamous bushwhackers made frequent visits. Wild Bill Anderson is reported to have called Rocheport, "Our Capital." The bushwhackers burned the school and did other damage to property and people, but the Federal troops also destroyed many businesses by fire so that after the war, Rocheport was badly scarred. On August 30, 1864, the steamer, Buffington, docked at the town and the captain was killed by Anderson and his gang. For harboring these outlaws, the citizens of Rocheport were taxed \$10,000. After the war, Rocheport never recovered.

As time passed, several fires destroyed the main business section and most merchants never rebuilt. Then, the Army Corp of Engineers altered the Missouri River and much of the land that was formerly the business district floods every year. The main road, Interstate 70, runs several miles away from the town. Last year, Rocheport closed its elementary school. The high school had been closed for some time. Many industrious women had taught without pay the last year in a futile attempt to keep the high school open.

Thus, Rocheport is today a town that has been by-passed. Most of the buildings reflect the former days of glory. But, in spite of its present smallness, Rocheport has a charm not found in most bustling towns today.

The report consisted of inventory data forms on individual properties in Rocheport. These forms comprise the basic research for formation of the historic district in Rocheport. The forms were reviewed and augmented with additional historical information during the winter of 1975-Feb 3, 1976 by Mrs. Dorothy J. Caldwell of Rocheport. and are included in the back-up research file for the Rocheport Historic District, National Register Inventory Nomination Form.

MPHolmes

3 Feb 1976

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SITE FILE COPY

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

HISTORIC

Rocheport

AND/OR COMMON

Rocheport Historic District

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rocheport

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#8 - Hon. Richard H. Ichord

STATE

Missouri 65279

CODE 29

COUNTY Boone

CODE 019

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☒ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☒ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☒ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☒ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple Ownership

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of Recorder of Deeds, Boone County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Eighth and Walnut streets

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

Missouri 65201

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

1. Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue

DATE

1963 (published)

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Missouri, Corner, Hitt and Lowry street

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

Missouri 65201



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2. A Boone County Album  
1971 (published)

Local survey

Committee on Historic Sites and Tours of the Columbia-Boone County  
Sesquicentennial Commission, James Darrough, Chairman

Columbia, Missouri 65201

3. Missouri State Historical Survey

1973-1975

State survey

Office of Historic Preservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P. O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. Mrs. M. Patricia Holmes, editor  
Research Associate  
Office of Historic Preservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Date: February 11, 1976

314/751-4096

3. Maryellen McVicker and Curtis R. Thomas, Students  
Department of Art History and Archeology  
University of Missouri-Columbia  
Columbia, Missouri 65201

Date: 1973-1974

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Rocheport Historic District encompasses the entire town of Rocheport, Missouri, which is located at the western edge of Boone County on the north bank of the Missouri River at the confluence of Moniteau Creek. There is a central zone containing a concentration of historic structures within an area defined and restricted by the local planning and zoning ordinance adopted by the City of Rocheport January 22, 1974, and there is a peripheral zone including fewer, though none-the-less significant examples of historic structures.

The Rocheport Historic District contains some 80 architecturally or historically significant buildings. Dating from the first quarter of the nineteenth through the first quarter of the twentieth centuries, these structures reflect the history of Rocheport during its prominence.

Central Street is the main artery and the commercial focus of Rocheport. Central Street commences near Moniteau Creek, slightly above its confluence with the Missouri River and extends in a straight line southward toward the river. Other streets are oriented at right angles or parallel to Central Street. Central Street is bordered by limestone guttering, constructed by William Slade in the 1840s and described in the early history as a "model of professional construction."

The historic houses and commercial buildings are situated near the street line with the long axis parallel to the street. The structures are wood-frame, log, or brick, with wood-frame predominant in the "cottage" homes. The majority of the buildings are roofed with tin. Intrusions are one-story buildings, simple in design and about the same height as the historic structures. Six mobile homes are located in the central zone. These units were already in place at the time the zoning regulation was passed, and no others will be located there in the future. The few commercial buildings clustered along Central Street, although of later vintage, are constructed of materials and with the style which harmonize with the older structures.

The early Rocheport residents, emigrants from Virginia and Kentucky, reproduced in unpretentious form the simple, classically-derived residential architecture with which they were familiar. The earliest surviving buildings date from the 1830s and were constructed soon after the incorporation of Rocheport in 1836. In this small, fourth-class city, only a few of the buildings have street numbers. The numbers used in this report are structure inventory numbers. The 1970 United States census lists Rocheport as a city of 307 inhabitants.

The peripheral zone includes the 1892 Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad Tunnel (at the west edge of town, a cluster of structures--a church and several residences--associated with Rocheport's black population, at the southeast corner of town, and early structures which are in deteriorated but virtually unaltered condition at the east edge of town.

The commercial center of the Historic District borders Central Street between Second and Third streets. On the west side of the street is a block of four brick row buildings. The F. E. Bysfield Store Building (8), the northernmost row build-

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ing, erected in the 1890s, was formerly a jewelry and hardware store and has been used more recently as an antique shop. The three buildings to the south were erected in 1924 after a disastrous fire destroyed former structures at the site. The three later buildings exhibit the same quality and color of brick and the same style as the older building in the row. Immediately to the south of the older building is the 1924 Bysfield Memorial Building (9), erected by Bysfield's wife as a memorial to him. It was formerly used as a general store, but at present is vacant. The former B. F. Dimmitt Drugstore (10) is the next building to the south. Original walnut cupboards and showcases and a stained glass decorative window remain in the building, now used as a ceramics shop.

The fourth row building, which stands at the corner of Central and Second streets, housed the Bank of Rocheport (11) until 1944. The lower walls of the old lobby were originally lined with marble. The building is restored and in use as a post office.

Across the street from the Dimmitt building is the Miriam Green Craft Shop (21), owned and operated by the Friends of Rocheport since 1968. Constructed in 1904 from handmade brick from older buildings, it was formerly used as a farm produce shop. To the south stands the former Peoples Bank of Rocheport (20), erected in 1910, and now in use as the Christian Church annex. With its splayed lintels and ornamental cornice, it is the most outstanding example of brickwork in Rocheport.

South of the Annex, across Second Street and facing west, stands the Keiser-Dimmitt House (19) (ca. 1837), the former residence of Captain John W. Keiser was enlarged by the B. F. Dimmitt family. The house was restored and a third addition was built in 1968, but it still retains its three-bay, two-story, classically-derived design. The interior features handmade brick fireplaces in three of the original rooms, the original, steep staircase in the west hall, wide board floors and chair rails.

Facing west on Central Street, south of the Keiser-Dimmitt House stands the one-story, three-bay brick William Gaw House (18). Chimneys at each end of the rectangular structure and a side porch with carved wooden pillars remain. The house was built by William Gaw, one of the original residents of Rocheport and dates from the 1830s. It was restored in 1970.

Proceeding west from the corner of the Keiser-Dimmitt House along Second Street, the pink granite Boonslick Road Marker (59), erected in 1913 by the Daughters of the American Revolution and the State of Missouri, stands along the sidewalk. East of the marker and facing north is the Dr. E. C. Chinn-Polly Gentry House (60), a two-story, frame residence with fireplaces in three rooms. An

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original handmade brick outbuilding with a four-sided hip roof and a cupola remain. The property has recently been completely renovated and the outbuilding restored.

On the opposite side of Second Street, facing south, is the 1845 Christian Church (69) constructed of handmade brick laid in Flemish bond. In 1880 the original spire was replaced, and the building restored. Recessed double doors and the original etched glass windows are outstanding features.

East of the church, facing south on Second Street, is the J. H. Chambers House (66) built in 1878. The original porch has been replaced on this central pedimented, two-story, frame residence with a one-story ell in the rear.

At the corner of Columbia and Second streets, facing south, is the two-story, brick Wilcox-Barth House (67), with recessed front door, leaded sidelights, stone sills and keystone lintels. Fireplaces remain in each of the four original rooms. Two of the original rooms on the east have been removed. Built on the central hall plan, a "U"-shaped staircase with carved balusters and a slender newel post, lead to the upper story. Wide board floors remain in the original rooms. Walnut wood work and cross and Bible doors are outstanding features. Built by Rueben Elliott for Dr. George Wilcox, it was one of the first brick houses erected in Rocheport. Several north additions have given the house its present "L" plan. This house is presently in good repair.

At the corner of Lewis and Second streets, facing south, is the Grossman-Barth House (65), a one-story, frame cottage built in the 1850s by Leopold Grossman and owned in the 1860s by Moses Barth. A five-bay design, it features shuttered windows, and an entrance with sidelights and transom. It was originally a four-room house with a central hall. Before the turn of the century, one room was removed on the northwest and two rooms were added to the northeast, making the structure "L"-shaped. The house was restored in 1969.

The William Crump House (79), a two and one-half story, "L"-plan, frame structure with central pediment and ornamental scroll-saw work on the gabled roof, is located at Lewis and Third streets. Built in 1867, the structure retains its original features and is well preserved.

East of the Crump House stands the 1861 United Baptist Church of Christ (78). The cupola was replaced in the 1929 restoration by Dr. Charles Q. Chandler, Jr., Kans. banker and native of Rocheport. The building is now used as the Community Hall.

At the corner of Third and Clark streets, facing north, is the W.E.T. Waddell House (77) (ca. 1840), a one-story frame cottage with recessed doorway, side lights and

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closed fireplaces in two rooms. It was restored in 1970.

On the opposite side of the street, facing south, is the brick, two-story Rocheport school building (72) (1914), now in use as a trading post.

North of Third Street on Lewis Street, facing west, stands a frame ice house (44), owned by the Friends of Rocheport, a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Grover C. Young. It is lined with brick and is in excellent condition.

North of the ice house, facing west, is the Nagel-Ridgeway House (45). Built in the 1860s by the Reverend Smith, a Baptist minister, for Conrad Nagel, it was purchased in 1877 by William Ridgeway. This one and one-half story, frame house has not been altered on the interior but the original porch was replaced.

The brick Friends of Rocheport Museum (2), facing west on Moniteau Street, was the home of George Gregory, a Rocheport merchant in the 1830s and 1840s. It was purchased by the Friends of Rocheport in 1970 and restored in 1972 as the first local history museum in the county.

The United Methodist Church (30) (1901), with its fanlighted front entrance, beamed ceilings and stained glass windows, one a memorial to Moses U. Payne, is located on Columbia Street. The one and one-half story brick church contains a number of the original pews from the first Rocheport Methodist Church built in 1844.

**PRESENT STATUS**

Rocheport was a "dying community" until interest in its history was awakened in the 1960s when several homes there were restored. Now Rocheport's historic residences and commercial structures are being purchased and repaired by others who are also attracted to the quiet charm of this small town which is located a convenient (10 mile) distance from Columbia, a medium-sized Missouri city with the state university and a large complex of medical facilities. The unfortunate, recent loss of several examples of early Rocheport architecture should also be mentioned as indicative of the need for official recognition of what remains.

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INVENTORY OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES LOCATED WITHIN THE ROCHEPORT HISTORIC DISTRICT  
(The numbers are structure inventory numbers plotted on the site plan.)

1. Minor-Langdon House (Moniteau Street), Antebellum, 2 original brick rooms, fireplace between rooms removed, rooms now surrounded with modern frame building.
2. George Gregory House--Friends of Rocheport Museum (Moniteau Street), 1830s, 1-story brick, with reconstructed frame addition in rear, original fireplace, brick fired on site.
3. Brady House (First Street), 1840s, small frame building with double front doors, probably used as a store along the river front.
4. Rocheport Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad Tunnel (west of Moniteau Street), ca. 1893, 243 feet long, only tunnel on M-K-T Railroad.
5. Mullens-Mitchell-Smith House (Moniteau Street), 1890s, salt-box style frame in poor state of repair.
6. Sexton-Haines-Koch House (Central Street), early 1900s, original home now modernized, built on site of historic Rocheport pottery, 2-story frame.
7. Grossman-Pipes-Hollon House (Central Street), 1890s, 1-story frame with later frame addition.
8. F. E. Bysfield Building (Central Street), 1880s or 1890, handmade brick, 1-story, similar in style to adjoining business buildings. Formerly a general store.
9. F. E. Bysfield Memorial Building (Central Street), early 20th century, 1-story, name "Bysfield" on front, formerly a general store.
10. B. F. Dimmitt Drugstore (Central Street), early 20th century, one-story brick, now houses a ceramic shop, interior walnut woodwork and stained-glass window.
11. Rocheport Bank--Post Office Building (Central Street), early 20th century brick, 1-story with basement, marble formerly lined walls of lobby, ornate carving over front entrance. In use as post office.

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12. Schnell-Welbern Store (Central Street), 1930, similar in style to brick row buildings, 1-story.
13. Burroughs Barber Shop-City Hall (Central Street), 1930, small square brick building attached to Welbern Store.
14. Doody-Graves-Walker House (Central Street), 1900s, 1-story frame with Victorian sunbursts on gables, dry-laid stone retaining wall.
15. Central Street Gutter, 1830s, limestone gutter constructed by William Slade, pioneer citizen.
16. Nicholson-McQuitty-Miller House, (Central Street), 1850s, 5-bay, covered with asphalt siding, 2-story, fireplace on north end.
17. Burroughs Tin Shop (First Street), early 1900s, located in former business district, originally a larger building, torn down and rebuilt with old materials, brick, 1-story.
18. Knox-Gaw-Slade-Byler House (Central Street), 1835, 1-story brick, 5-bay, carved porch pillars replaced in original pattern, restored, 1970.
19. Topleff-Keiser-Dimmitt-Green House (Central Street), 1830s, 3-bay, 2-story brick with later additions, 9 over 6 paned windows in original portion, 3 fireplaces, wide board floors, slender steep staircase leads from central hall, chair rails in two rooms.
20. People's Bank of Rocheport-Christian Church Annex (Central Street), 1910, ornamental brickwork, corbelled, round arch lintels in most upper story windows, belted between upper and lower stories, windows on first floor have flat brick lintels with keystones. Recessed stone front doorway with transom.
21. Miriam Green Craft Shop (Central Street), 1904, 1-story brick, central doorway with side lights and transom. Restored, 1968 by Friends of Rocheport. Built with brick from earlier buildings on the site which burned.
22. Thomas D. Pipes House (Central Street), early 1900s, three original rooms remain in this 1-story frame residence (formerly 2-story), recently "modernized."

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23. Haller-Grossman-Cook House (Central Street), 1890s, 2-story rectangular frame covered with asphalt siding, L-shaped.
24. Canole-Harper-Hines House (Central Street), 1890s, 1-story frame, with 2 porches, back porch with scroll saw work, front porch with pillars.
25. Payton-Rapp-Boyd House (Columbia Street), late 1800s, 1-story frame.
26. Byers-Peeler House (Columbia Street), 1910, 2-story frame with central gable. Scroll saw work on porch.
27. Inman-Morris House (Columbia Street), 1840s, 1-story, 5-bay, symmetrical facade, frame, restored.
28. Slade-Deputy House (Columbia Street), 1840s, 1-story frame, central doorway with transom and side lights, dentiled cornice design, bay window added.
29. Rocheport United Methodist Parsonage (Columbia Street), 1896, 2-story frame, scroll saw work decorated porch, carved interior woodwork with rosette design.
30. Rocheport United Methodist Church (Columbia Street), 1901, 1 1/2-story brick, with ornamental brickwork, exposed interior walnut ceiling beams, ornate pews, memorial stained glass windows.
31. Swanstone-Murray House (Columbia Street), 1830s, log house with brick addition. In poor condition.
32. Head-Smith House (Columbia Street), 1830s, 1-story brick and frame. In poor condition.
33. Challis-Champion-Chinn-Richardson-Jackson House (Columbia Street), 1880s, original home now modernized.
34. Huntington-Wiswall-Wyatt House (Columbia Street), 1830s, 2-story, combined log and frame, covered with asphalt siding, "eyebrow windows" in 2nd story (extremely rare type in Missouri), central hall with two separate sections, south room log. According to legend a private school held there.
35. Hourigan-Jacobs House (Columbia Street), 1917, 1-story frame, now modernized.
36. Harris-Garrett House (Columbia Street), 1840s, 1-story frame with two front entrances, formerly a 2-story house, a portion of the staircase remains in the house. In poor condition.



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37. Rapp-Tipton House (Columbia Street), early 1900s, 1-story frame, with scroll saw ornament on porch. Retains original appearance.
38. Scobee-Gardner House (Lewis Street), 1901, retains original tin roof with fleur de lis finials, unusual construction material--concrete scored to resemble brick.
39. Matheny-Welbern House (Lewis Street), 1920s, 1 1/2 story frame with central pediment, "modernized."
40. McAllister-Champion-Rapp-Fredmeyer House (Lewis Street), 1850s, 1-story, 5-bay frame, central door with transom and side lights.
41. Hern-Shippert House (Lewis Street) 1840s, 3-bay frame covered with asphalt siding, salt box type, garage added.
42. Bysfield-Butcher House (Lewis Street), mid-19th century, some original windows "modernized."
43. Boone-Salzmman House (Lewis Street), 1880s, preserves original appearance, 2-story frame.
44. Ridgeway-Young-Friends of Rocheport Ice House (Lewis Street south of alley), 1870s, brick lined. Rare survival of a once-common dependency structure type.
45. Nagel-Ridgeway-Young House (Lewis Street), 1866, built by Baptist minister, Smith. Family home for 100 years, 1 1/2 story frame, flush siding between pilasters on first story, porch has been replaced, central gable.
46. Jones-Dodson-Corbin House (Lewis Street), late 19th century, 1-story frame with attic.
47. Champion-White-Gardner-Caldwell House (Clark Street), early 20th century, porch has been replaced.
48. Sexton-Pipes-Schnell House (Clark Street), early 20th century, 2-story, wood-frame Victorian, restored.
49. Smith-Moreau House (Clark Street), Mid-19th century, 2-story, 3-bay home, covered with asphalt siding, side lights and transom at front door, porch has been replaced.

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50. Potts-James House (Fourth Street), late 19th century, wood-frame, rectangular plan house. Peaked lintels. Front door has been moved to gable end.
51. O'Howell-Burroughs House (Pike Street), 1850s, Greek-Revival gable molding, scroll saw, Victorian porch added, little altered example. In poor condition.
52. Jackman-Connor House (Pike Street), 1840s or 50s, 1-story frame, now in ruins.
53. Hensley-Henderson House (First Street), antebellum and much altered.
54. Jackman-McDaniel House (First Street), late 19th century rebuilt in 1930s.
55. Mount Nebo Baptist Church (Ward Street), frame, ca. 1860s, associated with local black history.
56. Mount Nebo Baptist Church Parsonage (Ward Street), post Civil War, frame, in poor condition.
57. Wilhite House (First Street), antebellum, only house in Rocheport with brick lower story and wood-frame upper story.
58. Murray-Brown House (Second Street), late 19th century, 1-story frame covered with steel siding, formerly housed telephone exchange.
59. Boonslick Road Marker (Second Street), 1913, erected by Daughters of the American Revolution to mark historic trail through Rocheport.
60. Chinn-Gentry-Hourigan House (Second Street), 1840s, fine woodwork, original fireplaces (3), staircase, original brick outhouse with hip roof and cupola. House renovated with an addition, 1975. Retains original 3-bay facade, side hall and U-shaped stairs.
61. Bysfield-Rodebaugh House (Second Street), 1912. Porch on back pilastered with paneled area under windows. Home restored 1975 with carport added.
62. Drake-Cochran-Rude Rouse House (Second Street), 1900s, frame with shingles in gables.
63. Tomy-Angell-Williams House (Second Street), antebellum, 5-bay, 2-story design, shutters removed, new siding covers cornice moldings, porch partially filled in to make a room. Side lights at front door.

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64. Bentley-Campbell-Kotiw House (Second Street), 1840s, 1-story, 5-bay Greek Revival design retaining more than usual original integrity.
65. Grossman-Barth-Caldwell House (Second Street), 1850s, 1-story frame, 5-bay, symmetrical design. Front porch not original. Restored, 1960s.
66. Williams-Peeler-DeHaven House (Second Street), 1850s, 1-story, frame, details of Greek Revival design survive, addition on rear.
67. Wilcox-Barth-Dew House (Second Street), 1837, first brick home in Rocheport. 2-story, 5-bay design. 2 rooms on east removed, restored 1970s with addition on north, fireplace in each of original five rooms, carved staircase, carved woodwork, wide board floors.
68. Chambers-Rapp House, (Second Street), 1878. 2-story, 5-bay frame with central gable, porch replaced.
69. Rocheport Christian Church (Second Street), 1845, one of the oldest Christian Church buildings erected by a Disciples of Christ congregation and used continuously by a Disciples of Christ congregation in the United States. Cupola changed in 1880. Brick, Flemish bond, frosted glass windows. Brick in common bond on back and sides. Double entrance.
70. Chapman-Hollon House (Third Street), 1830s, 1-story, 3-bay log with additions
71. Campbell-Byers House (Third Street), early 1900s, 1-story frame with 1/2 story upper, front dormer.
72. Rocheport School-Friends of Rocheport Building (Third Street), 1914, 2-story brick with basement. Now used for commercial purposes.
73. Norris-Norris-Sampson-Clemens House (Third Street), 1830s, completely "modernized," formerly 2-story frame, now 1-story.
74. Brown-Liggett House (Third Street), mid-19th century, porch replaced, Gothic Revival window in front gable. 3-bay, wood-frame, clapboard siding.
75. Harold Garrett House (Third Street), antebellum, now in ruins.
76. Hill-Roby-Wood House (Third Street), 19th century, frame home covered with modern vertical boards.

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77. Waddell-Rucker-Burroughs-Rapp House (Third Street), 1840s, rectangular 1-story frame with fireplaces on east and west, wide board floors, restored, 1970s.
78. Community Hall (Third Street), 1861, built as Baptist Church, restored in 1929 by C. Q. Chandler as memorial to father and mother. Flemish bond brick, two entrances.
79. Crump-Prince-Haines House (Third Street), antebellum, 2-story L-shaped frame with fireplace chimneys on east and west. Gothic revival windows in attic gable ends, ornate bargeboards and eaves, well preserved.
80. Cox-Welbern-Perkins House (Moniteau Street), 1900s, 1-story frame.
81. Isidor Broaddus House (Third Street), third quarter 19th century, wood-frame covered with metal siding. Family home for about 100 years.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES      1804, 1822, 1836

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rocheport, in Boone County, Missouri, is significant as an early nineteenth century central Missouri river town which has retained a concentration of representative examples of its early residences and commercial buildings. Situated on the Boonslick Trail, an old westward route, Rocheport figured in river, railroad and road trade. The town early produced milled lumber, bricks, leather, tobacco and ceramic. Rocheport hosted the 1840 state Whig convention and suffered at the hands of Civil War guerrillas.

The first recorded history of the site was on June 7, 1804, in the journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. A limestone rock covered with "uncouth paintings of animals" was noted near the mouth of the Moniteau Creek.<sup>1</sup> The site was included in a New Madrid grant patented to David Gray on November 13, 1822, by the United States government.<sup>2</sup> Lots were advertised for sale in 1825 and additional lots were sold in 1828 and 1832.<sup>3</sup> Rocheport, reputedly named by a French missionary,<sup>4</sup> was incorporated in 1836.

With a fine natural harbor, Rocheport grew rapidly as a boat landing and ferry crossing site in the Boonslick Country, an area which derived its name from the salt lick in Howard County, where Nathan Boone and Daniel Morgan Boone, sons of Daniel Boone, manufactured salt.<sup>5</sup> Westbound travelers coming off the historic Boonslick Trail at Rocheport crossed the Missouri River there on the Rocheport ferry. In 19 Rocheport became a ferry crossing point on the National Old Trails Road.<sup>6</sup>

In 1835 Rocheport had eight stores, two carding machines, a steam sawmill, five brickyards, two tanyards, two ropewalks and a tobacco factory. During the year the town was considered by the state senate as the site for the location of the state university.<sup>7</sup> In 1844 a pottery was established there.

The growth of Rocheport paralleled the development of Missouri River steamboat transportation. In 1849 fifty-seven steamboats made 500 landings at Rocheport.<sup>8</sup> Nine years previously, the Whigs held their state convention at Rocheport. On June 18, 1840, several thousand delegates came by steamboat, carriage, wagon, and horseback. The St. Louis delegates, arriving on the Rienzi and the Platte, two of the largest steamboats on the river, brought bands, two live eagles and the replica of a log cabin. Among the banners carried by county delegations in the mile-long parade was one painted by George Caleb Bingham, famous Missouri artist. Bingham and Fletcher Webster, son of Daniel Webster, were among the speakers at the convention.<sup>9</sup>

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By 1860 Rocheport had a population of 753, which included 130 slaves.<sup>10</sup> Predominantly Southern in sympathy, both Union soldiers and "Wild Bill" Anderson's Confederate guerrillas raided Rocheport during the Civil War.<sup>11</sup> One of Rocheport's principal business blocks and the school building were burned.

Rocheport revived after the war. Before the turn of the century business establishments thrived, banks were organized, newspapers were published and a railroad was built. In 1870 Colonel R. A. Caskie engaged in the tobacco trade and for several years shipped 1,000 hogsheads of tobacco to England and Scotland annually.<sup>12</sup> One of the first rural telephone lines in Missouri was built from Rocheport to Columbia Missouri, in 1878.<sup>13</sup> In 1875 the Mattie Belle, a 350-ton boat, was constructed at Rocheport.<sup>14</sup> The ferry, in later years a double-decked, steam-powered boat, carried passengers until 1922.<sup>15</sup> The Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad was built through the town in 1892 and freight traffic has continued on the line to the present day. The picturesque railroad tunnel, the only tunnel on the Missouri, Kansas and Texas, is located at the southwest edge of the city.<sup>16</sup>

Rocheport suffered disastrous fires in the business district in 1892 and 1922.<sup>17</sup> Frequent flooding of the Missouri River caused the removal of business houses from the riverfront to the higher location on Central Street. Antebellum residences and two church buildings, left intact from the ravages of the Civil War and built away from the river, still stand.

The decline of steamboat transportation and the construction of modern highways which bypassed Rocheport resulted in the town's decline. From a population of 823 in 1870, the number of inhabitants decreased to 593 in 1900.<sup>18</sup> Rocheport remained a neglected town for many years with its century-old buildings untouched. In 1967 a group of interested citizens organized the Friends of Rocheport for the purpose of preservation and restoration of historic structures and since that time the work has progressed steadily. The annual Friends Fest, sponsored in June by the Friends of Rocheport, brings hundreds of visitors to Rocheport. The Rocheport Museum and the Rocheport Craft Shop, both owned and restored by the Friends of Rocheport, are visited by more than 2,000 persons each year. Five antique shops, located there, are all added attractions.

Two Missourians, noted in the history of the state, were Rocheport residents. Moses U. Payne, known as "Missouri's Millionaire Minister," established a store in Rocheport in 1841. A lay minister, he frequently preached at the Rocheport Methodist Church.<sup>19</sup> Because of his generous gifts, the former Howard-Payne College at Fayette, in Howard County, Missouri, was named for him. The present William Woods College at Fulton, Missouri, was named for William S. Woods, a Rocheport banker in the 1870s. Woods organized the Rocheport Savings Bank in 1869 and later organized

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a Kansas City bank which became the Kansas City Trust Company.<sup>20</sup> The Rocheport Christian Church stands today as the oldest Christian Church building in continuous use west of the Mississippi River.<sup>21</sup>

Dr. George Wilcox, original owner-builder of the Wilcox-Barth House, was reputed to be the first physician in Boone County. For many years the house was occupied by Moses Barth, a Rocheport merchant who founded a commercial empire in Central Missouri. A Barth store is still operating in Columbia, Missouri.

Captain John W. Keiser was the owner and master of several steamboats and the founder of the first paper mill west of the Mississippi River.

The B. F. Dimmitt Drugstore was a favorite stopping place for travelers on the National Old Trails Road as fame spread of the soda fountain where he served free "nectar," a homemade carbonated drink.

FOOTNOTES

1. Paul Allen, ed., History of the Expedition Under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark to the Sources of the Missouri . . . . (Philadelphia, 1814), I, 12.  
St. Louis Tri-Weekly Missouri Republican, October 28, 1863.
2. History of Boone County, Missouri, (St. Louis, Mo.: Western Historical Company, 1882), 998.
3. Franklin Missouri Intelligencer, September 2, 1825.
4. David W. Eaton, How Missouri Counties, Towns and Streams Were Named (Columbia, Missouri: The State Historical Society of Missouri, 1916), 212-213.
5. Floyd C. Shoemaker, Missouri and Missourians (Chicago, 1943), I, 587.
6. University Missourian (Columbia), October 2, 1911.
7. History of Boone County, Missouri, op. cit., 1000-1001.  
Columbia Missouri Intelligencer, March 7, 1835.
8. History of Boone County, Missouri, op. cit., 1000.
9. Ibid., 1000.

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10. Joseph C. Kennedy, Population of the United States in 1860; Compiled from the Original Returns of the Eighth Census . . . . (Washington, D. C., 1864), 288.
11. Columbia Missouri Statesman, July 15, 1864; July 22, 1864; Liberty Tribune, July 29, 1864.
12. History of Boone County, Missouri, op. cit., 1003.
13. Columbia Herald, August 28, 1878.
14. Missouri Historical Review, XXI, (April, 1927), 475.
15. Columbia Missourian, October 11, 1921; June 8, 1922.
16. Columbia Missouri Statesman, March 2, 1892; Boonville Weekly Advertiser, March 3, 1893; Letter from M. Ritchey Cring, vice president Public Relations, Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad Company, February 6, 1971.
17. Columbia Missouri Statesman, June 18, 1892; Columbia Missourian, January 11, 1922.
18. The Statistics of the Population of the United States . . . Compiled from the Original Returns of the Ninth Census (Washington, D. C.), 187; Census Reports Twelfth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1900 (Washington, D. C., 1901), 461.
19. John C. Crighton, "Moses U. Payne was Extremely Successful Pioneer Merchant," Columbia Daily Tribune, January 13, 1974; January 27, 1974.
20. Griffith A. Hamlin, In Faith and History: The Story of William Woods College (St. Louis, 1965), 81. Columbia Herald, December 2, 1904.
21. The Christian Standard, Vol. 50 (August 21, 1915), 1526. The Christian, Vol. 16 (March 28, 1878), 2. Disciplianas, Vol. 10 (October, 1950). The Christian Evangelist, Vol. 66 (August 1, 1929), 1011. These references were included in a letter from Helen P. Bracey, assistant librarian of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society to Mrs. George C. Harper, Rocheport, Missouri, February 28, 1974.



## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Allen, Paul, ed. History of the Expedition Under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark to the Sources of the Missouri . . . . 2 vols. Philadelphia, 1814.
2. Boonville Weekly Advertiser, March 3, 1893.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 147 acres.

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the Rocheport Historic District correspond to the city limits of the City of Rocheport, Missouri, with the exception that there is additional area included to the west to encompass the MKT railroad tunnel. The western boundary proceeds southward from the northwest corner of the town of Rocheport, approximately 1625 feet, thence westward approximately 875 feet, thence southward approximately 187 feet, thence eastward approximately 875 feet to the western boundary of the Rocheport city limits.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Dorothy J. Caldwell, Former Associate Editor, Missouri  
1. Historical Review, State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia,

ORGANIZATION

Friends of Rocheport

DATE

March 27, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

Moniteau Street

TELEPHONE

314-698-2444

CITY OR TOWN

Rocheport

STATE

Missouri 65279

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ☐

STATE ☐

LOCAL ☐

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Director, Department of Natural Resources DATE  
and State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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3. Bracey, Helen P., assistant librarian of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, letter to Mrs. George C. Harper, Rocheport, Missouri, February 28, 1974.
4. Caldwell, Dorothy J. "Rocheport, River Town," A Boone County Album. Columbia, Missouri: Kelly Press, 1971.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ and Mrs. George Russell, (eds.). Rocheport, River Town of the Boonslick Country. Columbia, Missouri: Kelly Press, 1968.
6. Census Reports: Twelfth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1900. Washington, D. C., 1901.
7. The Christian, Vol. 16, March 28, 1878.
8. The Christian Evangelist, Vol. 66, August 1, 1929.
9. The Christian Standard, Vol. 50, August 21, 1915.
10. Columbia Herald, August 28, 1878.
11. \_\_\_\_\_, December 2, 1904.
12. Columbia Missouri Intelligencer, March 7, 1835.
13. Columbia Missouri Statesman, January 28, 1870.
14. \_\_\_\_\_, March 2, 1892.
15. \_\_\_\_\_, June 18, 1892.
16. \_\_\_\_\_, July 15, 1864.
17. \_\_\_\_\_, July 22, 1864.
18. Columbia Missourian, October 11, 1921.
19. \_\_\_\_\_, January 11, 1922.
20. \_\_\_\_\_, June 8, 1922.

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21. Crichton, John C. "Moses U. Payne was Extremely Successful Pioneer Merchant," Columbia Daily Tribune, January 13, 1974; January 27, 1974.
22. Cring, M. Ritchey, vice president, public relations, Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad Company, letter to Mrs. Dorothy J. Caldwell, February 6, 1971.
23. Disciplianas, Vol. 10, October, 1950.
24. Eaton, David W. How Missouri Counties, Towns and Streams Were Named. Columbia, Missouri: The State Historical Society of Missouri, 1916.
25. Franklin Missouri Intelligencer, September 2, 1825.
26. Hamlin, Griffith A. In Faith and History: The Story of William Woods College. St. Louis, Missouri: Printed as a private edition, 1965.
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28. Kennedy, Joseph C. Population of the United States in 1860; Compiled from the Original Returns of the Eighth Census . . . . Washington, D. C., 1864.
29. Liberty Tribune, July 29, 1864.
30. Missouri Historical Review, xxi, April, 1927, 475.
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33. The Statistics of the Population of the United States . . . . Compiled from the Original Returns of the Ninth Census. Washington, D. C., [1870].
34. University Missourian (Columbia), October 2, 1911.

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Thence southeasterly along the midline of the Moniteau Creek to the point of intersection with the eastern city limit line of Rocheport at the confluence of Moniteau Creek and the Missouri River.

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Rochepoint

AND/OR COMMON

Rochepoint Historic District

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Rochepoint

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Boone

STATE

Missouri

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE

Missouri State Highway Department

SCALE

Not to Scale

DATE 1959

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

Map No. 4--demonstrating photographic views.

INT: 2986-75