

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Townley, Alvah Washington, Farmstead Historic District

other names/site number Osage County Museum

2. Location

street & number 304 South Market Street [n/a] not for publication

city or town Chamois [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Osage code 151 zip code 65051

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
 nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my
opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered
significant nationally statewide locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [])

Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO

Date

29 June 1999

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date

entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet [].

determined eligible for the

National Register

See continuation sheet [].

determined not eligible for the

National Register.

removed from the

National Register

other, explain

See continuation sheet [].

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	5	
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		
		5	

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

Name of related multiple property listing.

n/a

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/barn

Current Functions

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Greek Revival
Other: I-House

Materials

foundation Limestone
walls Weatherboard
roof Steel
other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance

ca. 1856
ca. 1870-1875

Significant Dates

n/a

Significant Person(s)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other:

Name of repository: Osage County Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	607050	4281070			
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title see continuation sheet

organization _____ date _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Osage County Historical Society

street & number 402 East Main Street telephone 573-897-2932

city or town Linn state MO zip code 65051

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Continuation Sheet

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Townley, Alvah Washington, Farmstead Historic District
Osage County, MO

Summary: The Alvah Washington Townley Farmstead Historic District consists of five substantially original nineteenth century agricultural buildings including a circa 1856 central passage I-House with an ell. The properties, all frame and contributing, are located at the base of a low hill near the southeast corner of Third and Market streets in Chamois, Osage County. Collectively, the properties convey the appearance of a small family farm within an urban setting where a few crops were regularly grown to supplement what could be purchased locally, and for convenience. The I-House has modest Greek Revival styling. In addition to the I-House, the district consists of a circa 1875 smokehouse which is attached to the one-story ell by a breezeway, a circa 1872 multipurpose barn, a circa 1874 wood and machine shed, and a circa 1870 combination poultry house, outhouse, and storage shed. Greek Revival elements on the farmhouse include an elaborated entrance with transom and sidelights, an emphasized cornice wrapping into the side gables to suggest pediments, and what amounts to frieze band windows in the rear facade. The farmhouse exemplifies a simple rural version of the Entry Porch Less than Full Height, or Absent subtype, as described by McAlester and McAlester.¹ Designed for multiple functions, the gabled outbuildings are devoid of ornamentation. Linkages are based on function (complementary roles within a subsistence agricultural setting) and form (vernacular frame buildings, metal roofs, sheathing of vertical boards and battens on outbuildings). The circa 1856 and 1870-1875 periods of significance correspond to construction dates, beginning with the I-House. Integrity of design, setting, materials, craftsmanship, and association is retained.

Narrative: Chamois, population 449, is located on Missouri River bottom land in an area drained by several large creeks. The Townley Farmstead Historic District is on gently sloping bottomland at the base of one of the three hills on which the town is situated. The five buildings are within the south two-thirds of a compact rectangular tract consisting of two square lots. The tract measures 95 feet east-west by 190 feet north-south. A white picket fence separates the south half of the west boundary from Market Street. The north half of the west boundary and the north, south and east boundaries are defined by woven wire fencing. A parking area with a gravel surface, at the north end of the property along Third Street, is excluded. (See Figure 1: Townley Farmstead Historic District Site Plan.)

The five contributing buildings are described as follows:

(A) I-House. Central to life on the urban farmstead was the three-bay, central passage I-House. Constructed in circa 1856, the Townley residence faces north from its location near the west district boundary. Dimensions of the main block are approximately 32 feet across by 17 feet deep. Behind the east room, the ell is approximately 14 feet across by 46 feet long including the connected smokehouse. This building with its modest Greek Revival detailing probably exemplifies the "better" class of farm homes erected in the mid-nineteenth century in east-central Missouri. (See Figure 2: First Floor Plan.)

The clapboard-sided house is of braced timber frame construction. It rests on its original foundation of rock-faced limestone. A cellar under the main block has limestone walls and a concrete floor. The exterior is painted white with black trim. The painted trim includes cornice bands and other roofline elements, window surrounds and shutters, door rails, stiles and corner boards. A tapering exterior

¹Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985), pp. 178-187.

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Townley, Alvah Washington, Farmstead Historic District
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brick chimney projects through the overhanging roof at the east end. An internal chimney of shaped masonry pierces the roof ridge at the west end. A third chimney is centered in the ell. Roofing is metal with raised seams.

Greek Revival affinities in the primary facade include an emphasized cornice line with three band levels, an entrance surround with transom and sidelights, six-over-six sash and a simple entry porch with an upstairs walkout deck. Within an otherwise plain enframingent, the entrance is surrounded by a full transom consisting of four rectangular lights and sidelights consisting of three rectangular lights above panels. The upstairs entrance has sidelights but there was no room below the roofline for a transom. The nonoriginal porch, 11 feet by 16 feet, is a relatively unpretentious type for a Greek Revival house in rural Missouri. It replaced a porch with similar dimensions and scrollwork balustrades. The porch deck is supported by square wood posts. The main balustrade consists of plain flat boards between simple railings. Diagonal bracing is used in the deck balustrade. The entrances are flanked on both floors by double-hung windows with six-pane glazing, the most common Greek Revival form. In about 1939, an opening for an attic fan was cut in the facade wall adjacent to the upstairs entrance; a hinged panel folds down when the fan is used. Window openings throughout the main block are equipped with old wood shutters. The front door contains pairs of rectangular panels, two tall above two short.

Styling is most evident in the main facade but side and rear facades also show a Greek influence. In the gable ends, a pedimented effect is produced by relatively simple cornice returns. In the rear elevation, three small windows directly below the cornice are strongly suggestive of the frieze band windows which provided light and ventilation for Greek Revival attics.

Centered in the windowless east elevation of the main block, an exterior masonry chimney tapers from a wide base before ascending through the moderately projecting roof ridge. Although the chimney base consists largely of soft bricks, harder bricks above probably indicate a rebuild at some point, possibly around the turn of the century. The east wall of the gabled ell begins at the corner board of the main block. Like the main block, the one-story ell is sided with clapboard and its roof is metal with raised seams. Fenestration consists of a double-hung window adjacent to the main block, an entrance to the first ell room, an entrance to the second ell room, and a breezeway. South of the breezeway is the windowless east wall of the original smokehouse. A brick flue at the rear of the second room (the kitchen) pierces the ridge.

The west elevation of the main block contains a central double-hung window (2/2), constructed in circa 1900. An external chimney similar to the one in the east gable was removed and replaced with the present internal chimney, and a wood-burning furnace was installed in the basement at this time. A screened porch with a shed roof begins flush with the west wall of the main block. The porch roof angles into the west half of the ell roof. A projecting bathroom addition with a hipped roof is within the angle where the porch and ell are joined. A square window is in the west wall of the bathroom. A double-hung window is just south of the bathroom, in the second ell room. Next is the breezeway, followed by the windowless west facade of the smokehouse.

In the south (rear) elevation of the main block, three small windows are arranged in the space between the cornice and the upper edge of the porch roof. These frieze band-like windows have six lights and are equipped with shutters. The porch roof begins directly below the sills and slopes downward at an angle somewhat gentler than the main roof. Viewed from inside, the form of these

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Townley, Alvah Washington, Farmstead Historic District
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second floor windows is consistent with that of single sash. The back porch is supported by four square posts. Low railing panels with crosshatching are spaced between the posts. A screen door is at the east end of the porch, adjacent to the west wall of the bathroom addition. The south smokehouse wall has a small, wood-covered square opening which probably was an outlet for a flue.

As depicted in a circa 1905 photo, the west and south elevations are much like today except the bathroom has not been added and the porch and ell have shingle roofs, rather than metal.

The first floor plan is consistent with that of a central passage I-House with an ell. The rooms flanking the hallway are nearly identical-size rectangles. The east room, used as a living room by the Townleys, retains its walnut fireplace mantel with a wide shelf. This room is a few inches narrower than the west room, which was used as a bedroom. The west room contains a window in the gable end where a fireplace was removed. The east room has a doorway to the dining room in its south wall. The west room has a window in the south wall with a view of the back porch. North windows in both rooms overlook the front yard. Along the east wall, an enclosed winder staircase leads to the upstairs bedrooms. The family's safe was in the storage area below the staircase.

The ell is entered through a doorway in the south wall of the parlor. The first room behind the main block is a dining room. Kitchen and bathroom additions are south of the dining room. Beyond the kitchen's south wall, a breezeway connects the ell with a smokehouse. A doorway at the rear of the hall accesses the back porch. Stairs lead from the back porch to the basement.

The two upstairs bedrooms flank the hallway in standard fashion although in a mild departure from the form, the east bedroom is nearly two feet wider than the west bedroom. At some point a small bedroom was added at the head of the stairs in the south portion of the hallway. At the north end, a doorway opens onto the deck. The south wall of each upstairs room contains a single sash window with six lights, a size more or less dictated by the height of the back porch roof. Viewed from the outside, these are the sash that suggest the slotlike frieze band windows in Greek Revival attics.

Doors are paneled, but the interior is relatively plain overall. Flooring is original, consisting primarily of six-inch oak boards. Kitchen and bathroom floors have vinyl surfaces. The plaster walls are papered in the kitchen and bathroom. Most of the rooms contain family furniture and other objects which are original to the house. Under the main bed in the west bedroom, for example, is a trundle bed suitable for small children. A walnut loom used by Alvah Townley's mother-in-law, Sally Phelps, stands in an upstairs bedroom. The Osage County Historical Society plans to maintain the property along with its historic furnishings.

The other farmstead buildings are as follows:

(B) Smokehouse (connected to ell). Built in circa 1875, this rectangular, clapboard-sided frame building is aligned with the south end of the ell across a five-foot breezeway. The interior of the windowless building measures approximately 12 by 18 feet. The ell's metal-covered gable roof continues across the breezeway and connects seamlessly with the similar smokehouse roof. An entrance is in the north elevation. A square, sealed opening in the south gable originally provided ventilation for the hardwood which smoldered in a pit in the smokehouse floor, gradually curing meat hung from the rafters and trusses. (See Figure 2: First Floor Plan.)

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(C) Multipurpose barn. Situated along the east boundary of the property, the circa 1872 Townley barn measures approximately 22 feet long by 42 feet wide. Although its profile resembles the Midwest Three-Portal barn, the arrangement of aisles only partially conforms to this type as described by Noble.² Instead of three parallel aisles, the Townley barn has two side aisles connected by a narrow perpendicular aisle flanked by animal stalls and a corn crib. The ridge runs east-west along the short axis, terminating in a projecting square hay hood on the east. A loft for hay storage is above the middle portion of the barn. The roofline is broken where the south side aisle is attached to the main portion of the barn under a shed roof. Most of the barn is sided with vertical boards and battens over a sawn oak frame. The side aisle along the south elevation, however, is not enclosed. The boards are painted red and the battens white. The entire building rests on a poured concrete foundation.

The middle portion of the barn contains three horse stalls with feeding boxes, two of which are east of the perpendicular aisle. The other horse stall and a smaller corn crib are west of the perpendicular aisle, on the side where the horse lot was located. Cows and goats were housed in the barn at various times, in addition to horses. A ladder on the west wall next to the corn crib leads to the hay loft. Hay also was stored on the main floor in the space near the ladder. The north side aisle was used as a buggy shed and milking room. Among other things, the south side aisle was used for hay storage.

Beginning at the north end, west fenestration consists of a sliding door on the side aisle, a doorway into the horse stall, a small covered window, and another sliding door on the south side aisle. Centered in the gable, a single sash window (3/3) illuminates the loft. Along the south facade is an exposed row of round oak posts which support the lower edge of the roof. An entrance near the center opens onto the perpendicular aisle and another entrance at the east end provides access to a horse stall. On the north facade, an entrance to the side aisle is near the east end of the building. Two single sash windows (3/3) also are present. From south to north, fenestration on the east facade consists of large, hinged double doors on the south side aisle, two small windows, and a sliding door on the north side aisle. Below the projecting hay hood, a loft door is centered in the facade. (See Figure 3: Multipurpose Barn Floor Plan.)

(D) Poultry House/Outhouse. South of the barn near the southeast corner of the tract is a small rectangular building with a triple function: poultry house, outhouse and storage shed. Probably constructed in stages beginning in circa 1870, the oak-framed building measures approximately 22 feet by 10 feet and rests on a foundation of concrete and limestone. Walls are sided with vertical boards and battens. The poultry house is in the central portion under a gable roof, the outhouse is in the east end under a rearward-sloping shed roof, and the storage area is in the west end under a broken roof (with a gentler slope than over the poultry house). The privy was designed to accommodate two adults and a child simultaneously. It was used until indoor plumbing was installed around 1924. Whether some components were constructed at the same time is undetermined but the disjointed nature of the overall building makes this unlikely. Fenestration in the primary north facade consists of individual board-and-batten doors for the three segments. The sheathing is painted red. (See Figure 4: Poultry House/Outhouse Plan.)

²Allen G. Noble, *Wood, Brick, and Stone: The North American Settlement Landscape, Volume 2: Barns and Farm Structures* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1984), pp.13-14.

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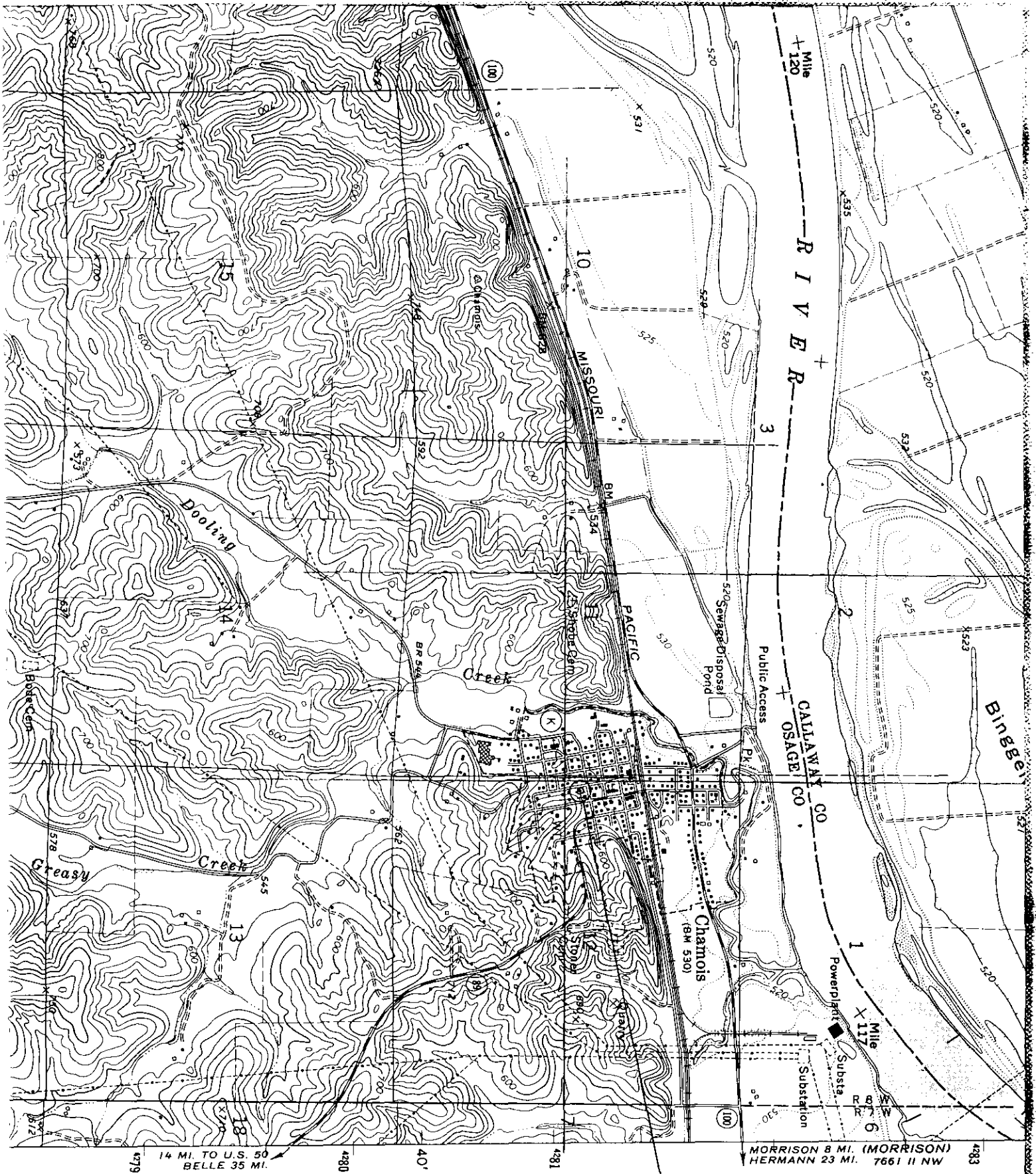
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Townley, Alvah Washington, Farmstead Historic District
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(E) Wood Shed/Machine Shop/Garage. In its original form, the circa 1874 wood shed and machine shop measured 22 feet by 12 feet. In the 1920s, this oak-framed building was lengthened by 12 feet on the west to provide storage space for an automobile. The addition has vertical cladding with battens like the original portion. An overhead door is on the Market Street facade. Other fenestration consists of a single sash window (3/3) in the east gable end, individual entrances to the wood shed, machine shop and garage on the north facade, and two small square windows in the garage on both the north and south facades. Although the building was lengthened after the period of significance, the effect is mild. Similar construction techniques were used and the gable form was not changed. (See Figure 5: Wood Shed/Machine Shop Plan.)

In addition to the buildings, the farmyard contains a well, a cistern and a pet cemetery. The well is west of the ell, near the kitchen. The cistern, near the southwest corner of the barn, has a cast iron pump with an attached pipe for filling a stone watering trough. The well also has a cast iron pump. A pet cemetery is east of the farmhouse between the barn and poultry house/outhouse, in an area formerly used as a chicken yard. The main cultivated area was north and east of the barn. Fruit trees as well as garden crops were planted there. Today's farmyard has a few trees and plants but is mostly open, level to gently sloping land.

The Townley Farmstead evolved during its early decades, beginning with the I-House in circa 1856 followed by the barn, poultry house/outhouse, wood shed/machine shop and smokehouse. Its appearance has been relatively stable, however, since around 1875. On the house, the main changes have involved the replacement of front porches, the removal of an exterior brick chimney in circa 1900, and the construction of a bathroom off the ell when plumbing became available in about 1924. The only significant change to an outbuilding was a garage addition to the wood shed/machine shop in 1921, increasing its length but not its form. The interior of the house also retains integrity. A modern furnace and an air conditioning unit were installed in the cellar in 1993. At this time the fireplace was reopened, windows were weatherized, and the foundation was reinforced. Because the properties have been maintained with so few alterations over the years, the farmstead's historic appearance is relatively intact.



14 MI. TO U.S. 50
BELLE 35 MI.

MORRISON 8 MI. (MORRISON)
HERMANN 23 MI. 7661 II NW



TOWNLEY, ALVAH WASHINGTON, FARMSTEAD
HISTORIC DISTRICT
OSAGE COUNTY, MO
15/607050/4281070

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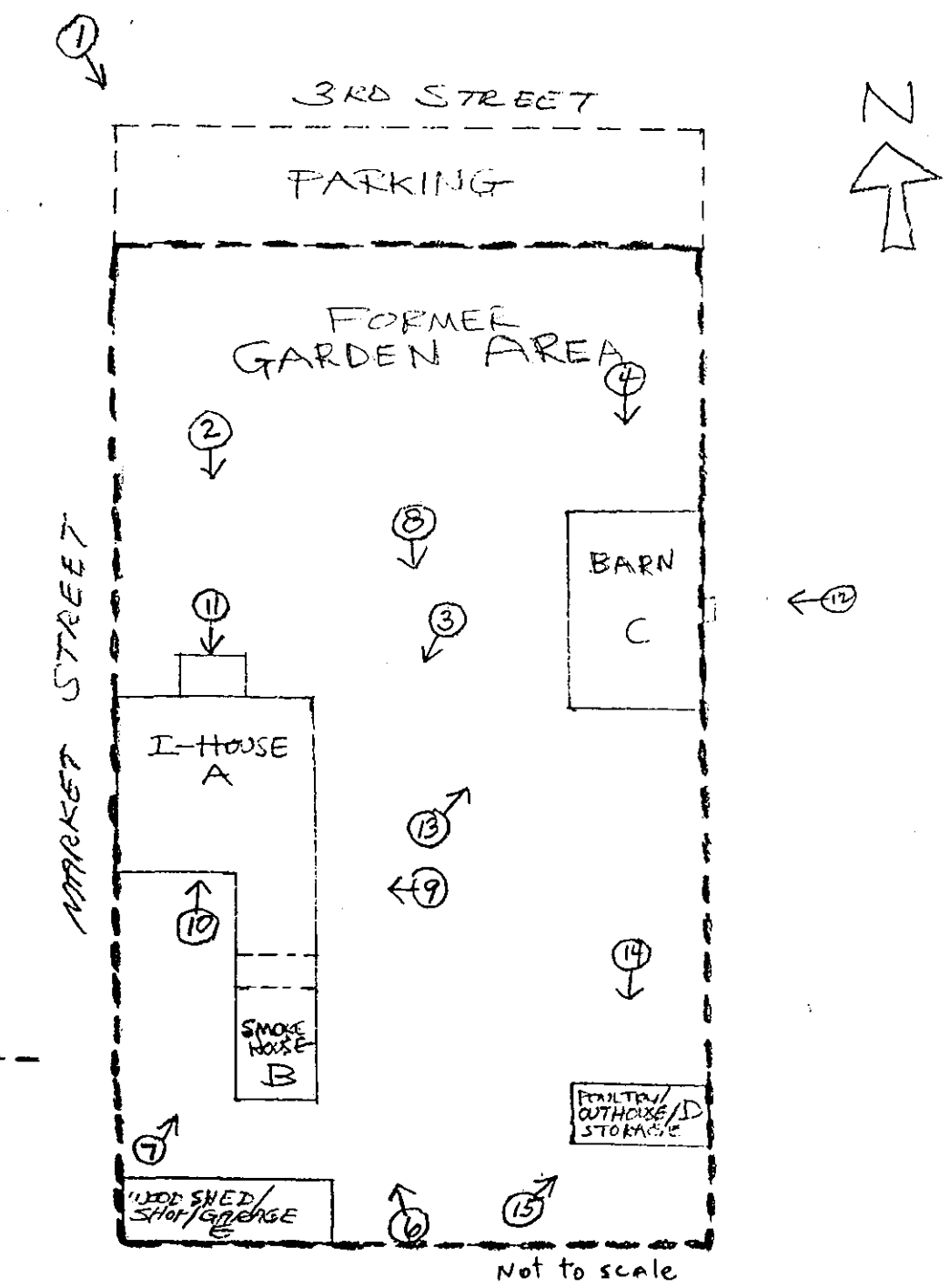
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Townley, Alvah Washington, Farmstead Historic District
Osage County, MO

Figure 1: Alvah Washington Townley Homestead Historic District, Osage County, MO
Site Plan

KEY:
DISTRICT BOUNDARY - - -
CAMERA ANGLE ♂



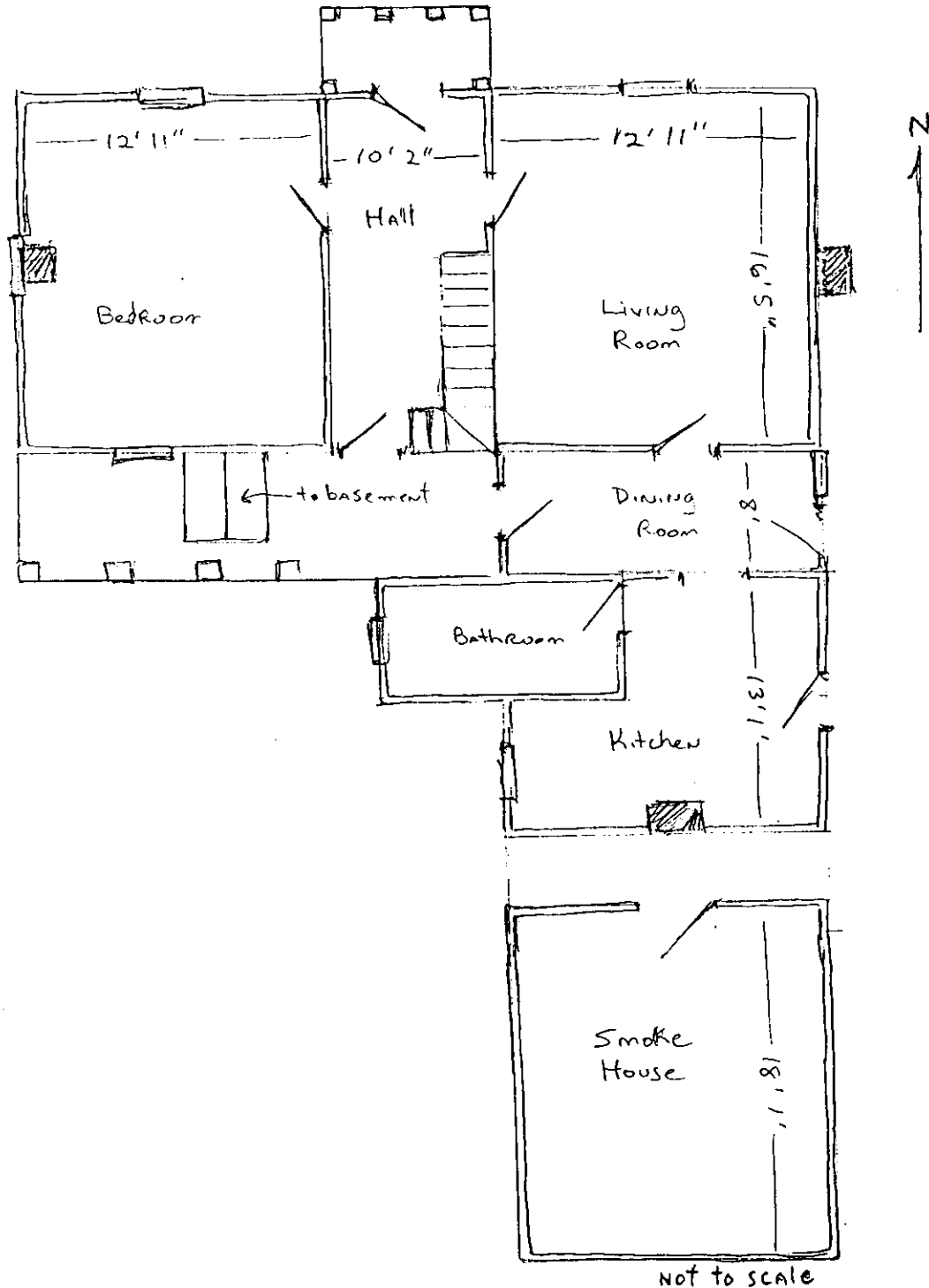
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Figure 2: Alvah Washington Townley Farmstead Historic District, Osage County, MO
Farmhouse and Smokehouse First Floor Plan



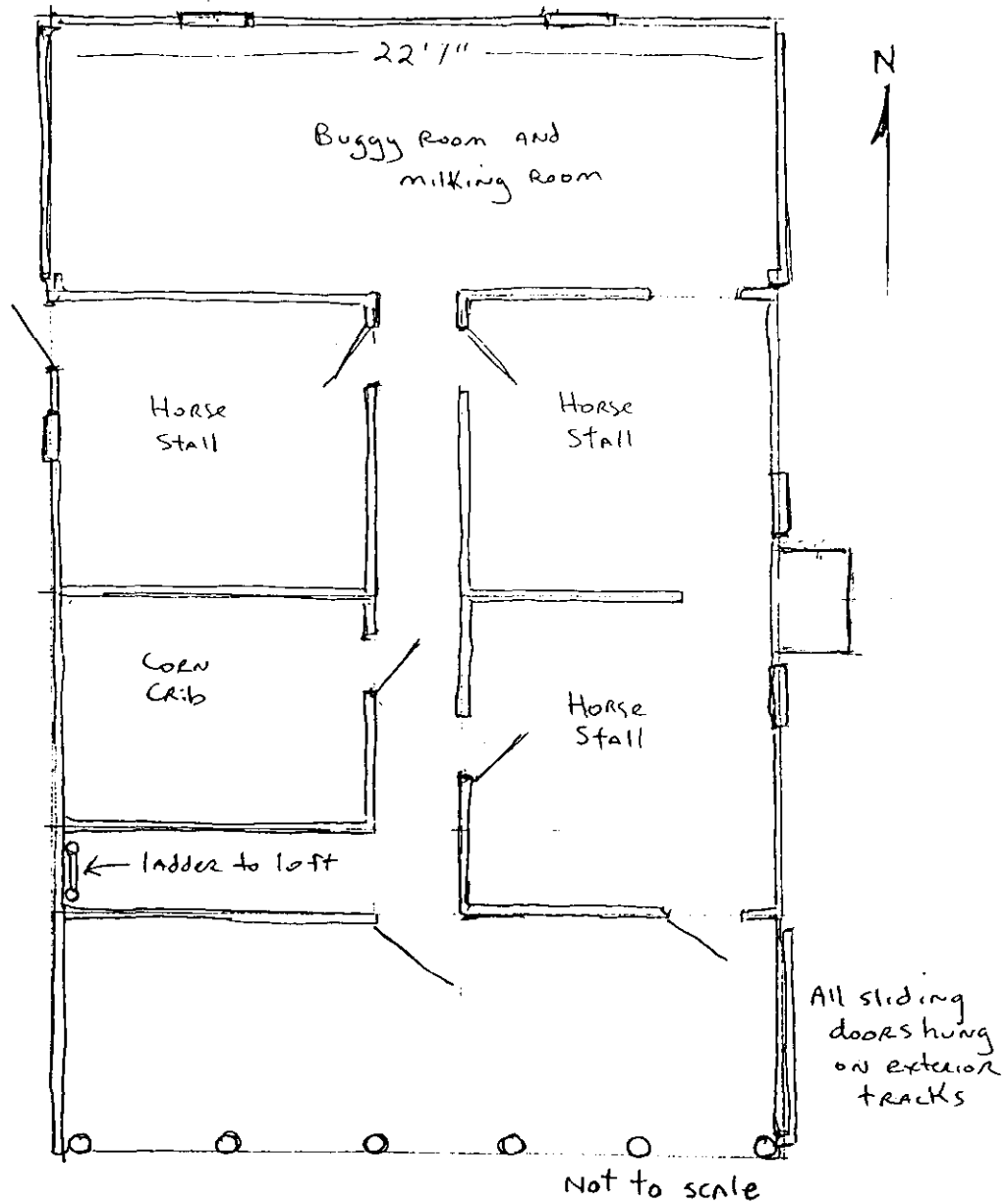
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Figure 3: Alvah Washington Townley Farmstead Historic District, Osage County, MO
Multipurpose Barn Floor Plan



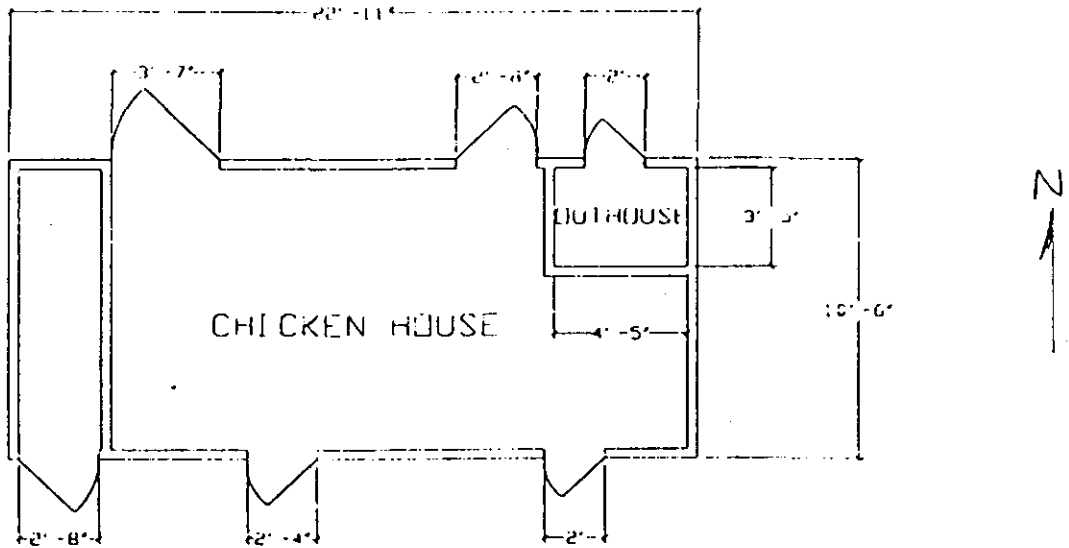
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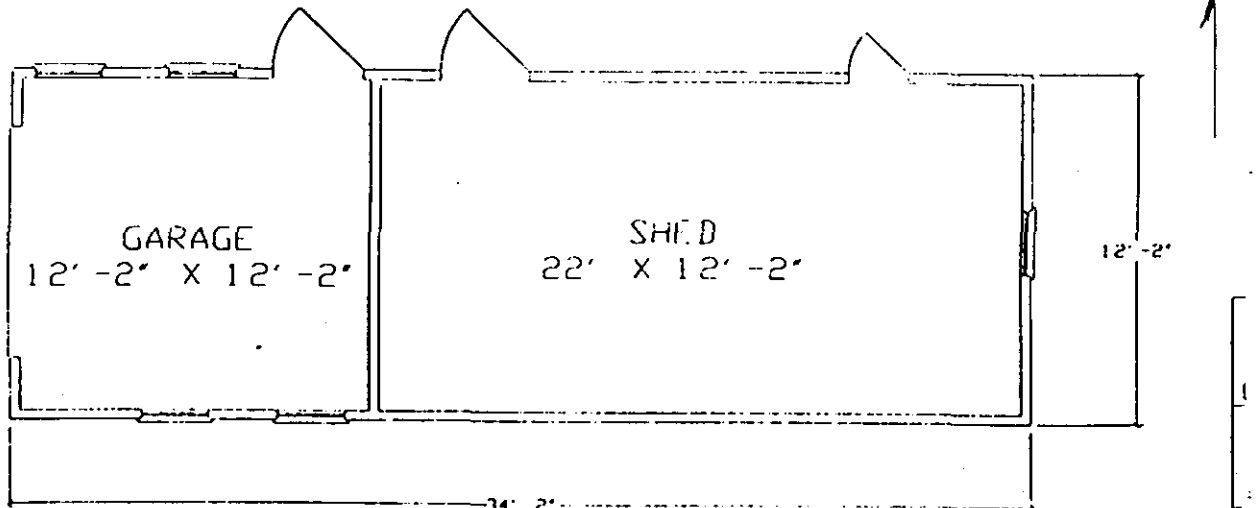
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Figure 4: Alvah Washington Townley Farmstead Historic District, Osage County, MO
Poultry House/Outhouse Floor Plan



Not to Scale

Figure 5: Alvah Washington Townley Farmstead Historic District, Osage County, MO
Wood Shed/Machine Shop Floor Plan



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Summary: The Alvah Washington Townley Farmstead Historic District at Chamois, Osage County, is significant under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. The district is significant as an intact grouping of five nineteenth century agricultural buildings in their original setting. The center of farm and family life was a circa 1856 Greek Revival I-House, a simple rural version of the Entry Porch Less than Full Height, or Absent subtype as described by McAlester and McAlester.³ Utilizing the extant properties, Alvah Washington Townley and his descendants practiced subsistence agriculture within a compact urban farmstead occupying only two town lots. The outbuildings illustrate the efficient use of space, with numerous functions distributed among relatively few buildings. Uniformly plain and utilitarian, the properties are also linked by their complementary roles within the farmstead. Additionally, the three outbuildings have in common board-and-batten siding and metal roofing. The period of significance is based on construction dates beginning with the circa 1856 farmhouse, followed by the outbuildings and attached smokehouse circa 1870-1875.

Narrative: In 1818, after a period of French settlement, Daniel Shobe of Hardy County, Virginia, entered a portion of the Missouri River bottomlands that became Chamois. In 1835, the area containing the rest of the land that became Chamois, including the Townley property, was entered by John M. Laughlin of South Carolina. With increasing foreign migration into the lower Missouri River valley, the organization of Osage County followed in 1841. Chamois, platted in 1856 by James M. Shobe, owes its existence to the Missouri Pacific Railroad which stimulated construction for several decades. Later, as Chamois became a freight center with a roundhouse, repair shops, stockyards and other railroad facilities in the 1870s, the population is believed to have reached approximately 1,000, before dwindling to less than half that number today. Morgan Harbor, who erected a two-story log hotel and saloon north of the tracks, is credited with naming the town Chamois. According to local tradition, the hilly landscape of the Missouri River bluffs reminded Harbor of the Alpine regions of Europe and, more specifically, the goatlike antelopes that live there.⁴

Culturally Chamois, like much of Osage County along the Missouri River, is part Little Dixie and part German-American. But the origins of this "peripheral zone of transition" were predominantly Southern.⁵ Along with various members of the Shobe family, several of the area's other early settlers were from Virginia. Alvah Washington Townley, who developed the farmstead, was a son of John Mann Townley of Powhatan County, Virginia. Upon arriving in the area east of what became Chamois in 1831, John Mann Townley built a log cabin which saw double duty as his home and medical office. Two years later he married Peninnah Alkire, a daughter of Michael Alkire and Elizabeth Shobe who came to the Missouri River bottomlands from Hardy County, Virginia, between 1812 and 1828.⁶ Alvah

³McAlester and McAlester, *op cit.*, pp. 178-187.

⁴Goodspeed, pp. 634-641, 672-673; Kismer (unpaged).

⁵In *Folk Architecture in Little Dixie*, Howard Wight Marshall defined an area of eight Missouri counties where a strong Southern tradition and Democratic politics prevailed at the time of the Civil War. A peripheral zone of transition around the eight main counties included the northern edge of Osage County.

⁶In addition to Alvah Washington Townley (born Feb. 17, 1838), the children of John Mann Townley and Peninnah Alkire Townley were Kelita William, born July 15, 1834; John Alkire, born March 15, 1836; Martha Elizabeth, born May 21, 1840; Sally Ann, born Oct. 17, 1842; Melecue James, born May 29, 1845; Moses Mann, born

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Townley, Alvah Washington, Farmstead Historic District
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Washington Townley's second wife, Myra Jane Phelps, was a daughter of Charles Phelps and Sarah Ferguson; Phelps came from Buckingham County, Virginia. Immigrants from Germany, Belgium and Switzerland followed the first wave of settlers from the Upland South, forming towns of their own and shaping the character of the region that persists today.

The Missouri River forms the northern boundary of Osage County but conditions were not suitable for the development of a quality river port which might have spurred population growth. The population grew moderately with the influx of German settlers but no large or even medium-size cities emerged. Because of its relative isolation, a frontier economy persisted in Osage County well into the twentieth century. As recently as 1977, Charles van Ravenswaay described the villages of Osage County as small but vital, retaining their economic base and still serving essential community needs. "In driving the excellent back roads of the county, one gains the impression that the rural economy is stable and somewhat old-fashioned, for there is no evidence that the traditional small, self-operated farms are being consolidated into mechanized complexes." In more prosperous counties, van Ravenswaay pointed out, many similar small towns have lost their economic base and become ghost towns.⁷

The county seat and largest city in Osage County is Linn, population 1,148. Chamois is next, with 449, followed by Freeburg, a town founded by German immigrants, with 446. Westphalia, population 287, is the largest of the early German-founded towns. Meta and Argyle are the only other incorporated towns wholly within the county. Most Osage County communities, with names like Loose Creek, Bonnots Mill, Rich Fountain, Frankenstein, Hope, Folk, Crook, Deer, Judge, Useful, Potts, Koeltztown, are unincorporated; some are barely names on a map. Even today, the presence of the Townley farm properties within an otherwise predominantly residential neighborhood in Chamois seems perfectly normal.

The Townley I-House is considered one of the oldest houses in Chamois, possibly with early use as a public building. But even if the house's framing could be examined, questions about its history prior to acquisition by the Townley family may remain unanswered. Warranty deeds indicate that two houses were built on the property during the original flurry of railroad-inspired construction between 1855 and 1859, if not earlier, possibly followed by a third house shortly after the Civil War. The property consists of two adjacent (north/south) square lots, each measuring 95 feet by 95 feet. Possible builders of at least part of the present house include Jacob Shobe, James M. Shobe and Alanson Cole. The Shobes were successive owners of the north half of the property, Lot 22, in the 1850s. Alanson Cole owned the south half, Lot 23, in 1858-59. James M. Shobe also owned the south half from 1863-67.

In January 1859 when James M. Shobe sold the north half to the Chamois Division of the Sons of Temperance No. 307, the presence of a building on the property (a two-story house) was mentioned for the first time in a warranty deed. The deed indicates that the house was originally used for public meetings, as a schoolhouse and for church services. The sale was made

Jan. 9, 1848; Eliza, born March 8, 1850; and Thomas Randolph, born Nov. 4, 1852.

⁷ Charles van Ravenswaay, The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri (Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 1977), p.59.

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with this exception and with this express understanding that the lower story of the house that now stands on said lot is to be and remain as a public meeting house and free for all denominations to preach in and hold public worship and also the privilege reserved to the inhabitation [sic] of Chamois and the surrounding neighborhood to use and occupy said lower story as a School House and remain as the property of the neighborhood and vicinity [and] managed and controlled by the trustees elected or appointed by the neighborhood for that purpose.

Will J. Knott signed the deed in behalf of the Sons of Temperance. The amount paid was \$500.

While there is a local perception that the Townley House and the two-story building purchased by the Sons of Temperance were one and the same, further research is indicated because the Sons' building apparently was on Lot 22; the present house occupies the northwest portion of Lot 23. Conversely, a house is mentioned in a warranty deed conveying Lot 23 from Alanson Cole to Martha A. Knott in August 1859, and again in 1863 when Knott sold the property back to James M. Shobe. The amount involved in both transactions was \$175. Cole, perhaps, improved the property in some way. This is supported by the fact that when he originally purchased Lot 23 from James M. Shobe in March 1858, no house was cited in the deed and the amount involved was only \$45. But Shobe himself may have built the house or at least expanded it during his second period of ownership, from 1863-67. This possibility is supported by another jump in the amount paid for the property, to \$600 when Shobe sold Lot 23 to Joseph P. Wagner in April 1867.

According to family tradition, only the present house existed on the two lots and there is no record of it having been moved. Barring a mixup in the dividing line between the lots or the wording of the deeds, one possibility is that the two-story house purchased by the Sons of Temperance in 1859 was at the north end of Lot 22, where it could have fronted on the public square bounded by Second, Third, Main and Market Streets. Such a building could have been torn down or otherwise removed at some point before the Townleys acquired the property. While the early history of the Townley House is unclear, a construction date between 1856 and 1866 is indicated regardless of which scenario applies.

Alvah Washington Townley acquired the two lots in separate transactions, starting with Lot 23 in December 1868. He paid Joseph P. Wagner \$650, only slightly more than Wagner had paid James M. Shobe. While no house is mentioned in the deed, the price strongly indicates that a building possibly constructed by Cole or Shobe was standing. In March 1870, Townley purchased Lot 22 from the Sons of Temperance for \$325. This amount also seems to indicate the presence of a building, although it is significantly less than the Sons of Temperance paid for the same property a decade earlier (\$500). According to family history, Townley soon added the ell and summer kitchen to the existing I-House on the northwest portion of Lot 23. Subsequently, he constructed the barn and other outbuildings in the early 1870s.⁸

Details of Alvah Townley's relatively short life are few, but he is thought to have owned a saloon and livery stable in Chamois during or after his marriage to Lucretia Reynolds, his first wife, who died in

⁸Construction dates were determined by Verda Leonard, the last descendant of the Townley family. The dates are based on various family papers including letters from Alvah Townley to his father-in-law Charles Phelps and bills for construction materials. Upon Townley's marriage to Myra Jane Phelps, her father is believed to have loaned Townley most of the money for purchasing and improving the property.

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1862. His occupation as reported in the 1860 population census, however, was farmer. He owned livestock then but no real estate, which probably means that he, his wife and small son were living with a relative, although the family is listed as a separate household in the census. The relative was probably R. Townley, who had a large farm and was enumerated immediately before Alvah Townley. Alvah Townley's livestock in 1860--a cow, a few horses, beef cattle, sheep and hogs--were valued at \$870, according to the agriculture census.

Alvah Townley had been married to his second wife, Myra Jane Phelps, for about four years when he purchased the first of the two farmstead lots in 1868. After purchasing the second lot two years later, Townley was listed in the 1870 population census as a retired merchant. Since he was only 30, it seems likely that his retirement was for reasons of health although apparently he also had come into some wealth. His real estate was valued at \$5,000 and his personal estate at \$3,850. While important for self-sufficiency, production on the urban farmstead was too low to be reported in the agricultural census for 1870. Supplemented by the frugal family's own garden, the necessities of life were readily available in Chamois. For agricultural products that could not be grown on the urban farmstead for reasons of practicality, such as grain and hay for the family's milk cow and other animals, there were neighbors and family members with whom to trade and share.

For example, three of Townley's brothers owned productive farms in the Benton Township area around Chamois. Kelita William Townley, a physician who later opened a drug store in Chamois, had a 400 acre farm (100 acres improved) in 1870. Somewhat smaller farms were operated by Melecue James Townley and John Alkire Townley, two other brothers. Townley's father-in-law, Charles Phelps, owned 320 acres (70 acres improved). Other Townleys also farmed in the area. In fact, except for a handful of merchants and an occasional tradesman or physician (Kelita was the only physician for several years), the population census indicates that nearly every other adult male in the Chamois area was engaged in some form of agriculture in 1870. The agricultural production was predominantly for local consumption rather than external markets, the agriculture census indicates.

Alvah Townley died in January 1876, at the age of 36. Although his estate included six other lots in Chamois (see Figure 6) as well as 240 acres of farmland five miles east of town (probably inherited), there is no indication that he farmed any land other than the small garden area north of the I-House. According to family history, he did not.

After Townley's death, other family members who resided on the property continued the pursuit of self-sufficiency by growing vegetables, berries and other crops in the garden area north of the house. Fruit trees were cultivated, chickens were raised and a milk cow, goats and a few horses were kept in the barn. Cultivation of the garden north of the house ceased in 1987. The property has been donated to the Osage County Historical Society by Verda K. Leonard, the last descendant, a great-granddaughter of Alvah Townley. The society intends to maintain the farmstead, utilizing the house as a historical museum.

ARCHITECTURE: As a group, the five contributing properties in the Townley Farmstead Historic District exemplify a small, nineteenth century urban farmstead in east-central Missouri. The Townley House is a modest Greek Revival version of what Howard Wight Marshall called "the most significant

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single group of houses in Missouri," the I-House.⁹ The agricultural outbuildings, plain but practical, illustrate the efficient use of space in a compact setting of two small lots with a total area of 95 feet by 190 feet. The properties remain evocative of their period of significance, retaining integrity of design, materials, craftsmanship and location.

The Townley I-House exemplifies the central passage variation of this popular British folk form, with an ell. Central passage I-Houses like the Townley House are two stories tall, two rooms wide and one room deep, with a hallway separating the two rooms on each floor. "Discovered" by cultural geographer Fred Kniffen in the 1930s, I-Houses became widely disseminated throughout rural America in the nineteenth century after flourishing in the Tidewater South. Along with their constant, essential qualities Kniffen identified frame, brick, stone and log I-Houses with various chimney placements and even various floor plans.¹⁰

Like other folk forms, I-Houses were often embellished by elements of the Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate and Queen Anne styles. On the Missouri frontier, migrating settlers from the Upland South demonstrated that the I-House was a particularly good carrier of Greek Revival styling. Many I-Houses had ells, which in some cases were constructed years prior to the main block. With its short one-story ell and attached smokehouse, the Townley House stands today as an excellent local example of this popular nineteenth century form of folk housing.

The Townley House also can be classified in terms of its Greek Revival architecture. McAlester and McAlester described six Greek Revival subtypes on the basis of their form and Greek Revival affinities. Following the McAlesters' typology, the Townley House is a modest example of the Entry Porch Less than Full Height, or Absent subtype.¹¹ This variation encompasses a broad range of possibilities, from simple rural versions like the Townley House to detailed textbook examples of Greek Revival architecture. Whether the property is an I-House is irrelevant to the McAlesters' typology. The Townley House displays such identifying features as an elaborated door surround with transom and sidelights, cornice trim which is a greatly simplified version of a classical entablature, gable returns suggesting pediments, frieze band-like windows and, of course, a small entry porch which is the defining feature of the subtype. While the present porch is a replacement, it is an appropriate type on such a modest example. Together, these features clearly associate the Townley House with the vernacular tradition of Greek Revival architecture in Missouri.

Sparked by public buildings designed by William Strickland, Robert Mills, Gideon Shryock and others, Greek Revival became immensely popular in the United States in the first half of the nineteenth century. In 1798, Benjamin Henry Latrobe's Bank of Pennsylvania was the first American building with a Greek order; in 1818, Strickland's Parthenon-like Second Bank of the United States was an early milestone. With ancient Athens renowned as the fountain of liberty, an association was made

⁹Howard W. Marshall, *Folk Architecture in Little Dixie: A Regional Culture in Missouri* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1981), p.68.

¹⁰Fred B. Kniffen, "Folk Housing--Key to Diffusion," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* Vol. 55, No. 4 (1965), p. 555.

¹¹McAlester and McAlester, *op cit*.

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between the style and democratic ideals that, for decades, was important to the emerging nation. Disseminated by pattern books and settlers from the Upland South, the style began appearing on rural Missouri farmhouses as early as the 1830s. Greek Revival flourished until the Civil War, then fell out of fashion in the postwar years.¹² In between, "Greek Revival forms and ornament reached far down into the vernacular level to touch farmhouses and workman's cottages."¹³ High-style details are abbreviated or missing on the Townley House, as they were on most frontier properties.

For self-sufficiency in mid-nineteenth century rural Missouri, it was common for town-dwelling families to devote a portion of their land to some sort of agricultural production, particularly in relatively isolated small towns like Chamois. With only a few garden crops, chickens, fruit trees and a milk cow, plus what could otherwise be acquired locally, the frugal family could achieve a reasonable measure of self-sufficiency. Surplus produce was sold, traded or given to neighbors. Most of these tiny urban farms have long since vanished, outbuilding by outbuilding. The Townley Farmstead Historic District, fortunately, retains its complete set of outbuildings within their original setting.

Almost by definition, properties within a subsistence farmstead were austere and functional. While the Townley farmhouse is only minimally ornamented, the Townley outbuildings are essentially devoid of embellishment. Typically, such buildings shared a plainness which belied their importance to the household. On subsistence farmsteads with greatly limited space, such as the Townley farmstead, agricultural buildings often served more functions than on larger farms. The Townley barn evolved over several decades to meet changing family needs and, probably, agricultural changes as well. In its present form, the barn contains horse stalls, a corn crib, a milking room/buggy shed, a hay loft, a separate hay storage area and a large miscellaneous space in the south aisle. The wood shed/workshop/garage is under one roof, as is the outhouse/poultry house/storage shed. The garage was a circa 1921 addition to the wood shed/workshop.

Architecturally, the Townley Farmstead Historic District stands as an excellent example of a nineteenth century urban farmstead in its original setting. Within this diminishing resource, the Townley House is a good local example of a central passage I-House with Greek Revival affinities. The outbuildings are appropriately functional, reflecting the times and circumstances of their original construction. The transfer of the property from the Townley family to the Osage County Historical Society should assure its continued preservation as an intact small family farm in Chamois. Overall the properties possess integrity of location, design, materials, craftsmanship and feeling.

ADDITIONAL FAMILY HISTORY: After her husband died, Myra Jane Townley remained at the home with their children, Martha (Charlie) and Jeff Calhoun, until her own death in January 1905. The Chamois schoolhouse which the children attended was on the hill above the farmstead. Myra's mother, Sally Ferguson Phelps, also lived at the farmstead for several years until 1885. Charlie

¹²Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1780 (Cambridge: The M.I.T. Press, 1969), p. 38; Carole Rifkind, A Field Guide to American Architecture (New York: The New American Library, 1980), p. 38; McAlester and McAlester, op cit., p. 184; James M. Denny, "A Transition of Style in Missouri's Antebellum Domestic Southern Architecture." Pioneer America Society Transactions, Vol. VII (1984), pp. 1-4.

¹³James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell. House Styles in America (N.p: Dovetale Publishers, 1996; paperback ed., Penguin Studio, 1999), p. 73.

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moved away after her marriage in 1887 but her brother, Jeff Calhoun Townley, lived on the farmstead until his death in 1940.

After various jobs (including one at a local livery stable during the days of horse and buggy travel, one cutting ice from the frozen Missouri River and storing it in small sawdust-lined huts for summer use, one as an agent for the old Lemp Brewery of St. Louis and one lighting kerosene switch lights in the local railroad yards), Jeff Calhoun became a rural mail carrier in 1904. He delivered the mail with a buggy and a team of horses until 1921, when he purchased a Model T Ford which lasted until his retirement in 1934. The horses occupied stalls in the Townley barn and the buggy was stored in a side aisle. The Model T was garaged in an extension of the wood shed/machine shop.

Jeff Calhoun Townley's first marriage was to Winnie Rogers in about 1891. After her death in 1897, he married Annie Emma Sting of St. Aubert, in about 1899. Their children were James Roark, Bessie, Jeff John and Roy William. Jeff Calhoun died in 1940, never having spent a night away from home. His wife Annie died in 1946.

James Roark Townley worked at the Chamois Mill for some years, then joined the International Shoe Company. Later he sold parts for shoe machinery. He resided in the Townley home with his wife Viola Schieder Townley until their deaths in 1987 and 1993, respectively. Bessie Townley married Charles Edward Kautz in 1923. The marriage dissolved and she worked most of her life in St. Louis as a beauty operator, but still considered Chamois her home community. Bessie died in 1980. Charles Kautz died in 1984. They had one child, Verda Mae Kautz. Jeff John Townley was a section hand for the Missouri Pacific Railroad at the start of World War Two, whereupon he enlisted and served three years in the Quartermaster Corps in England and France. His wife was Leota White Townley. Later he became a rural mail carrier on the same route his father had served for thirty years. Jeff John died in 1986, followed by his wife in 1993. Roy William worked several years on the Sgt. Floyd dredge on the Missouri River. He began driving a school bus in 1950. Later he became a substitute postal clerk at Chamois. He died in 1968.

Alvin Townley, a cousin and also a direct descendant of John Mann Townley, was appointed postmaster on his return from the war. He continued farming on the old homestead until his death in 1979. Following the deaths of James and Viola Townley, the Townley property passed to the last descendant, Verda K. Leonard, who in turn deeded it to the Osage County Historical Society.

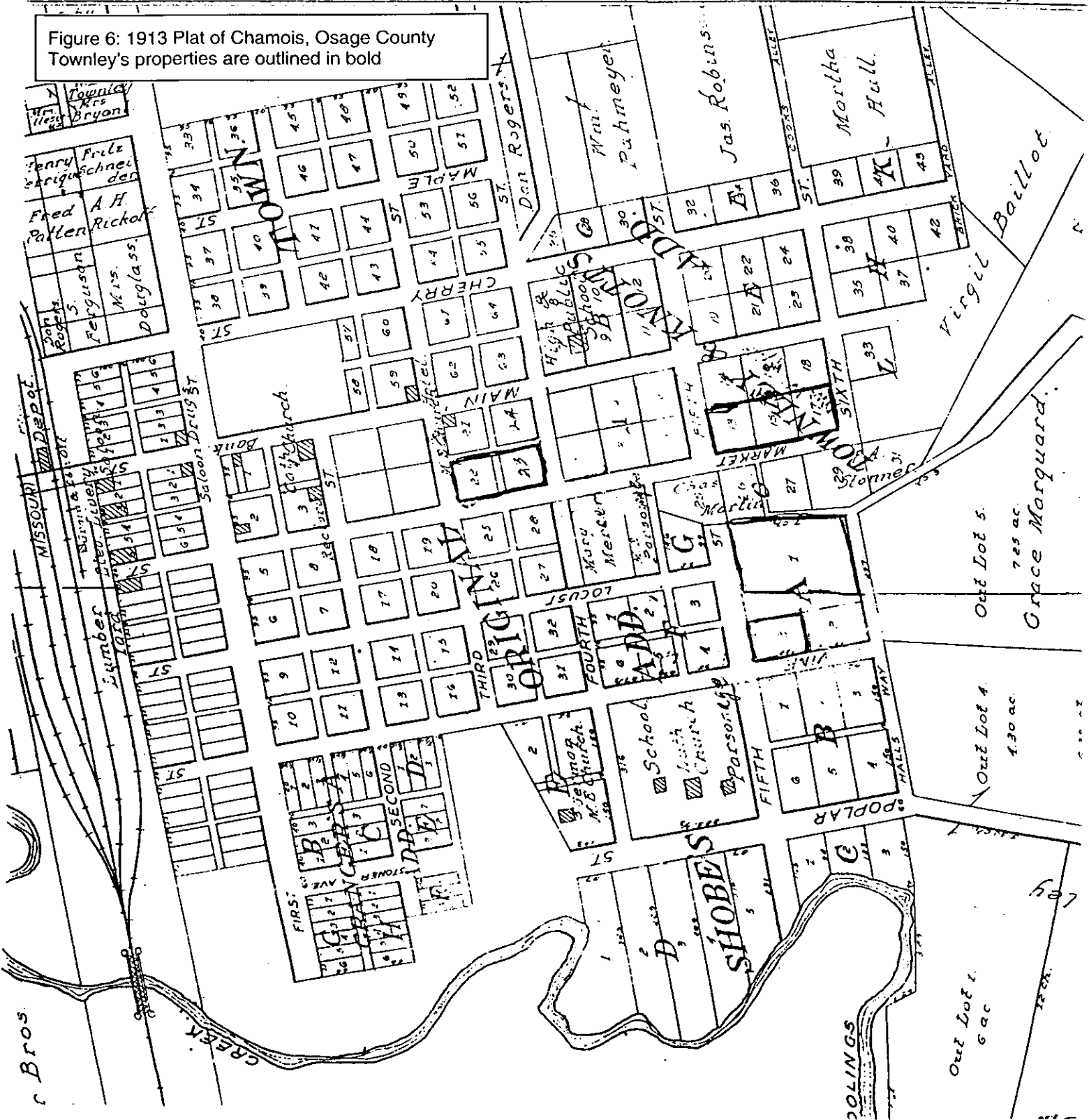
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Figure 6: 1913 Plat of Chamois, Osage County
Townley's properties are outlined in bold



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Various records from Osage County Courthouse, Linn, Missouri.

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 22 and 23 from the Original Plat of Chamois, Osage County, Missouri.

Boundary Justification: Enclosed with fencing, the boundary of the Townley Farmstead Historic District encompasses all of the surviving buildings and land associated with the period of significance with the exception of a gravel parking area at the north end of Lot 23.

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The following information is the same for all photographs:

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Chamois, Osage County, Missouri

Roger Maserang

March 1999

Missouri Cultural Resources Inventory, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City

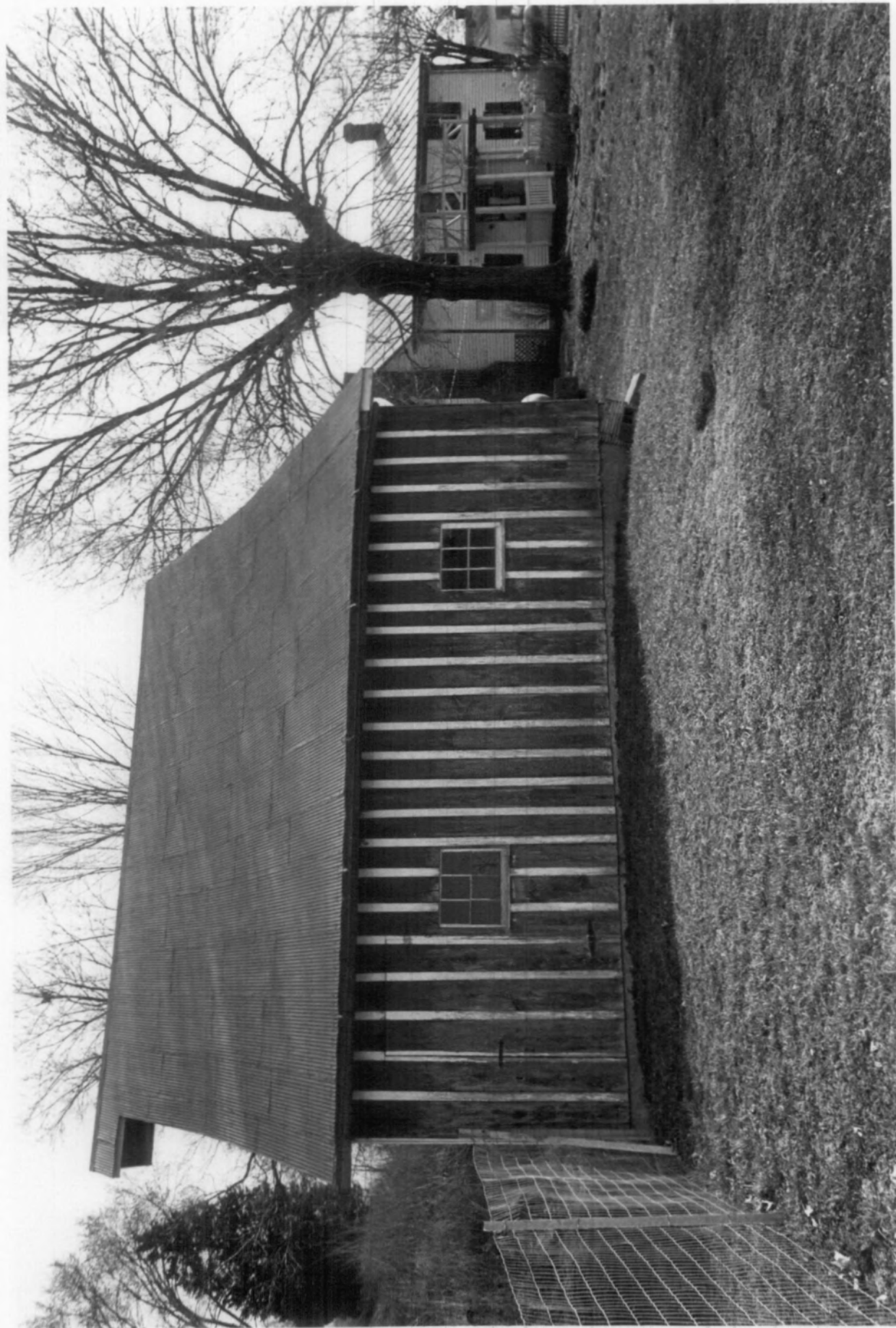
List of Photographs

1. View from corner of West Third and South Market, facing southeast
2. North facade of Townley House, facing south
3. View from yard northeast of house, facing southwest
4. North elevations of barn and house, facing south
5. View from Market Street, facing northeast
6. View from south boundary, facing northwest
7. Rear elevation of main block and west elevation of ell, facing northeast
8. Water trough between house and barn, facing south
9. East facade of ell, facing west
10. Frieze band windows in south elevation of main block, facing north
11. Main entrance of Townley House, facing south
12. East elevation of barn, facing west
13. West and south elevations of barn, facing northeast
14. North facade of outhouse/poultry house/storage building, facing south
15. West and south elevation of outhouse/poultry house/storage building, facing northeast

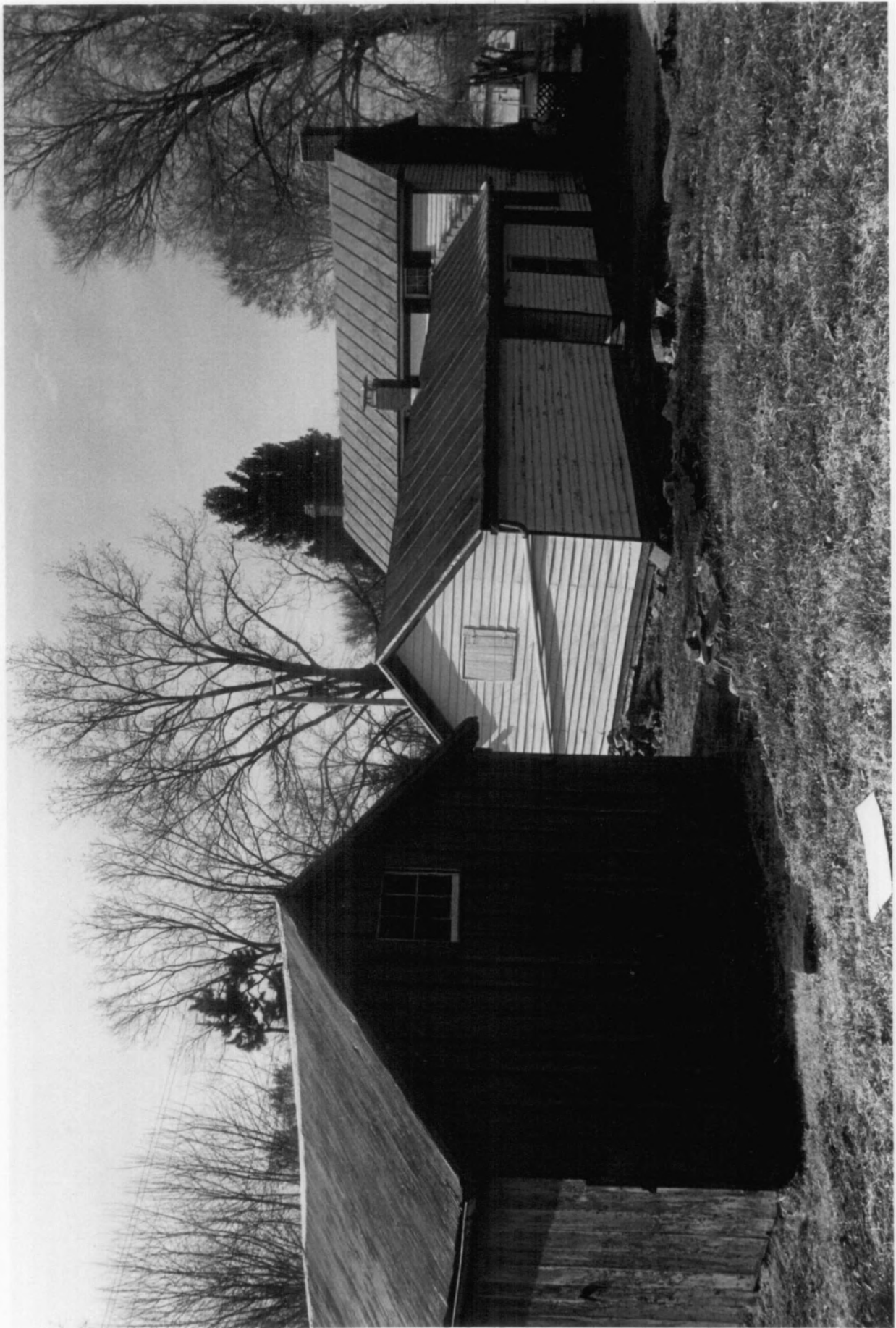






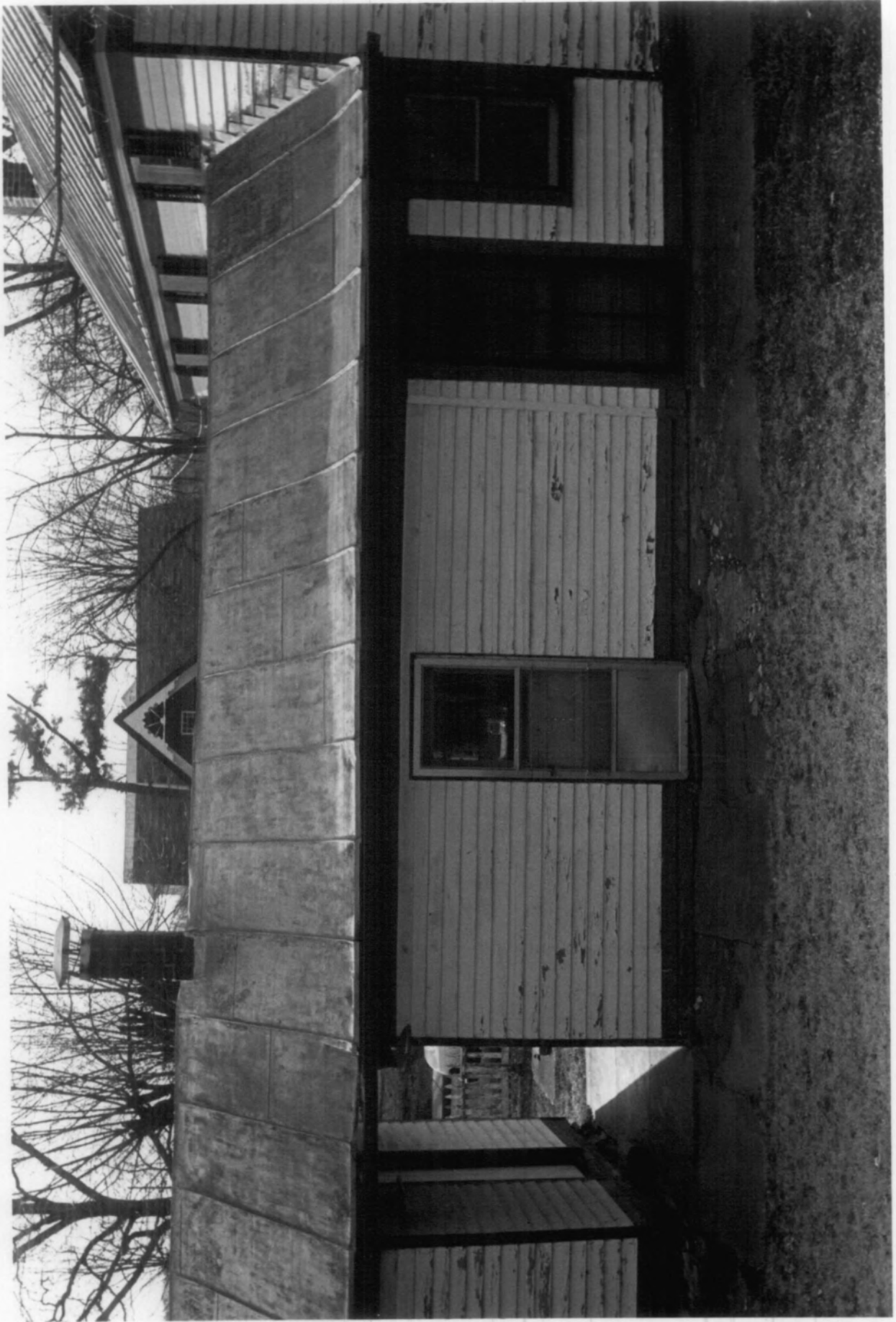






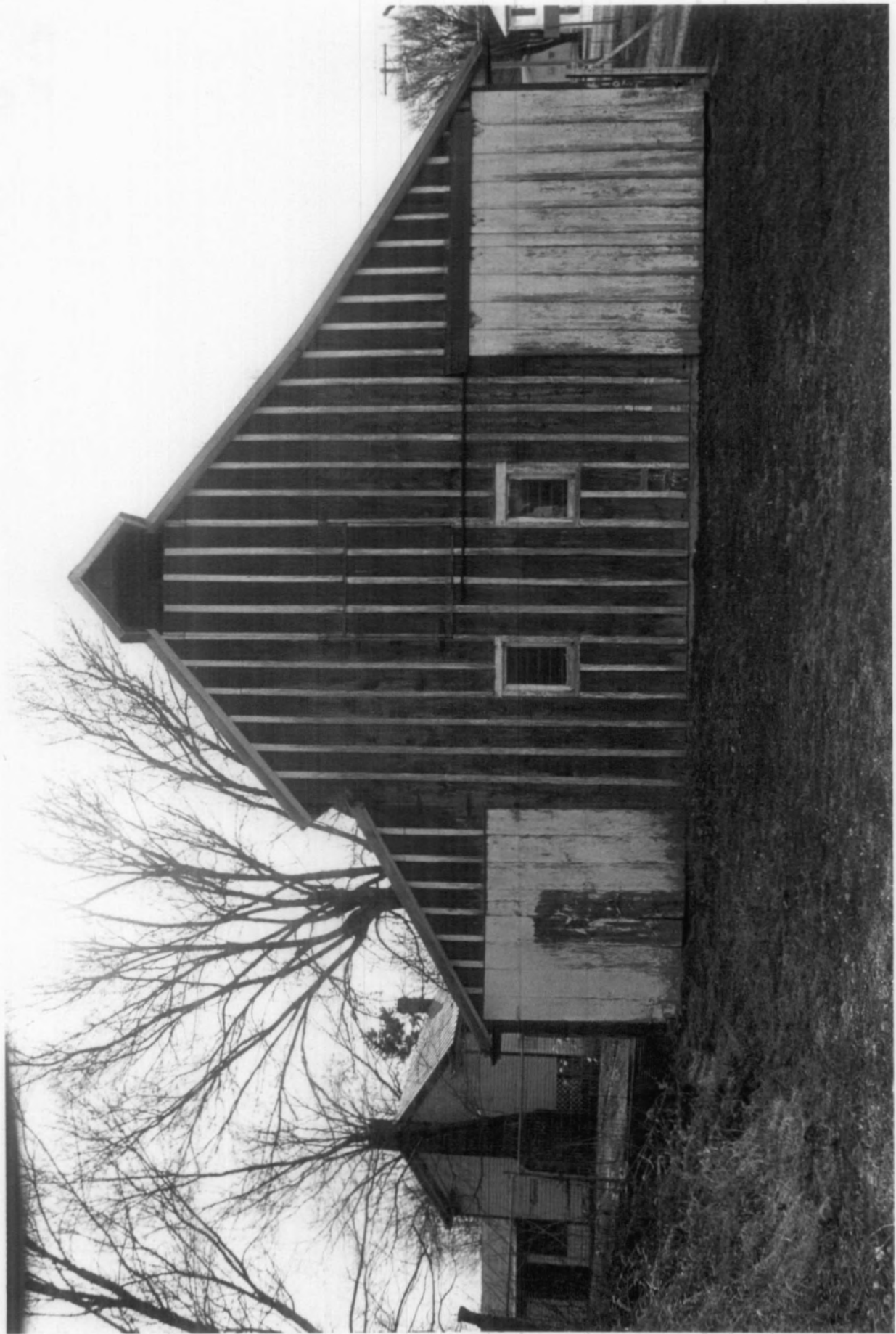




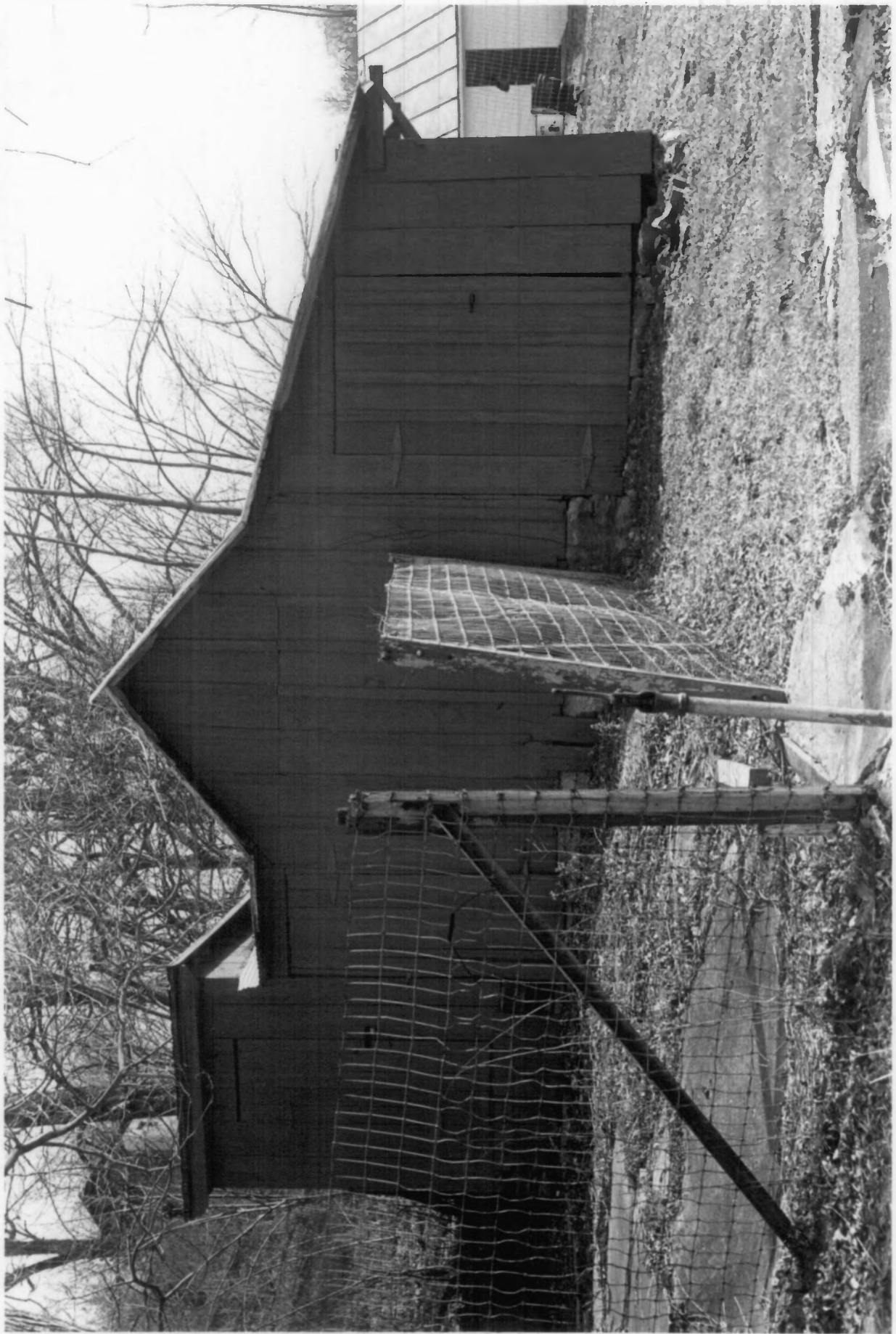


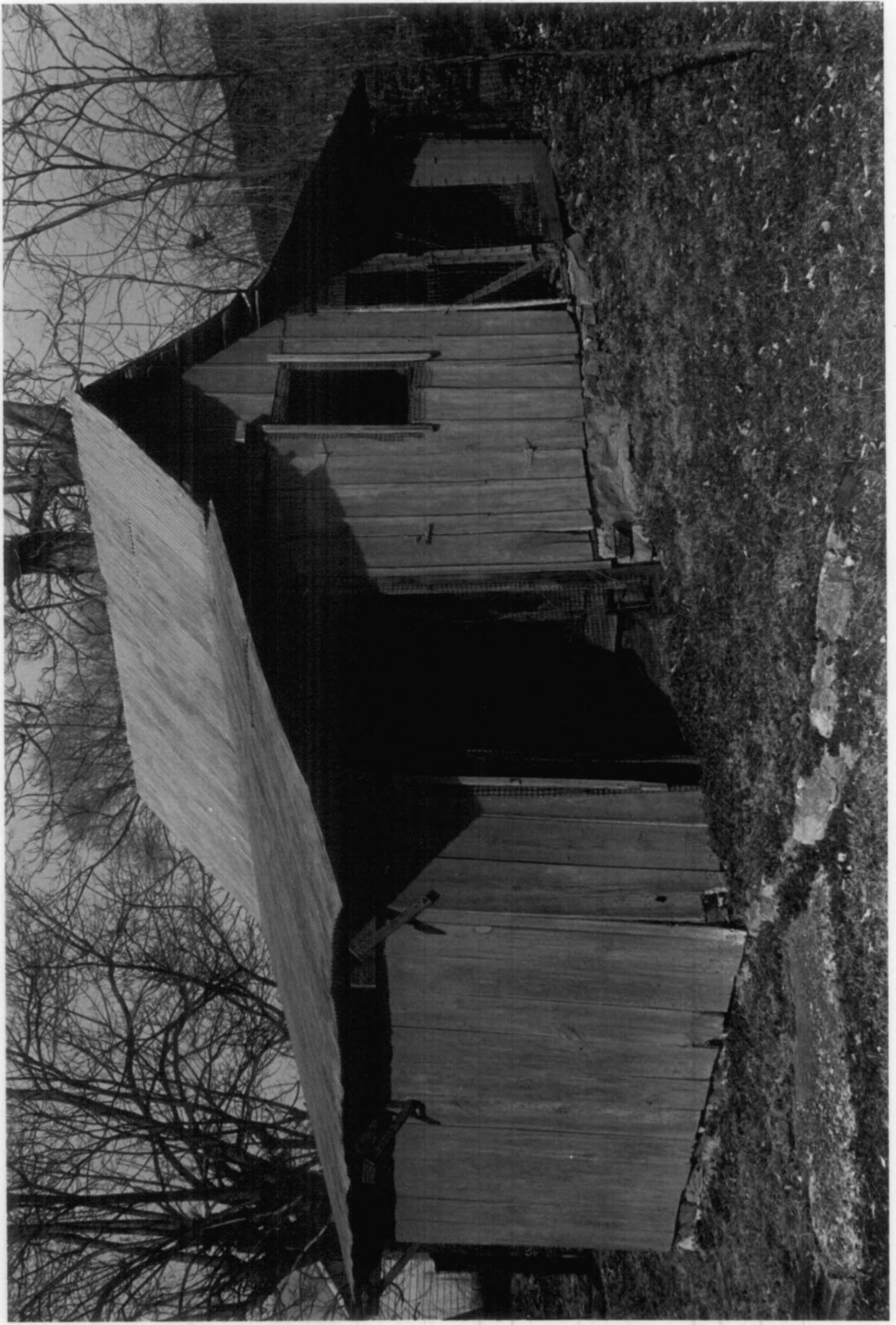












EXTRA
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