

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Cabins Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Novinger

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6 Hon. E. Thomas Coleman

STATE
Missouri

CODE
29

COUNTY
Adair

CODE
001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

See enclosed list

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Adair County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Kirksville

STATE
Missouri 63501

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

1. Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue

DATE

1963

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Missouri

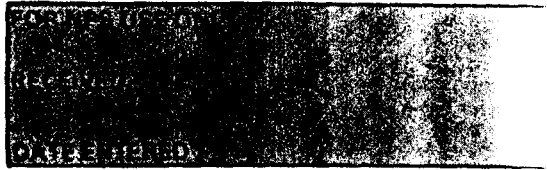
CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE
Missouri 65201

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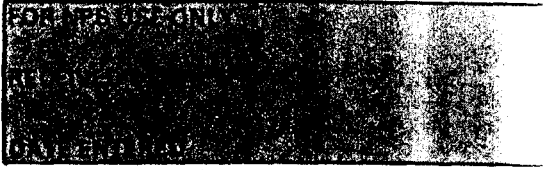
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-
- | | | | |
|----|--|----------|-------|
| 1. | H. Gordon Collett & Mary K. Collett
RR # 3
Kirksville, | Missouri | 63501 |
| 2. | David E. Bailey & Norma J. Bailey
RR # 4
Kirksville, | Missouri | 63501 |
| 3. | Cohen R. Walters & Dorothy Walters
Cohen Lee Walters & Twyla Walters
RR # 3
Kirksville, | Missouri | 63501 |
| 4. | R.M. Gifford
Green City, | Missouri | 63545 |

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2. Missouri State Historical Survey
1979
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

State

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

In a relatively isolated area overlooking the Chariton River valley with a unity of its own, though bisected by an unmarked rock road leading from State Highway 6 about a mile southeast of Novinger, Missouri, is the Cabins Historic District. The district includes five antebellum structures surrounded by forests and farm land--the John B. Cain House, the Asa King Collett House, the Ira R. Collett House and two of its appurtenances (poultry house and summer kitchen)-- the Conner Tannery site, the Collett Spring, the site of Fort Clark, the site of Camp Collett, the Collett Cemetery, and Indian burial mounds. Secondary structures include four buildings in the Ira R. Collett complex east of the rock road -- a granary and a smokehouse built in the 1890's, a garage and a machine shed constructed in the 20th century-- as well as the 20th century F.W. Cain House and barn on the west side of the rock road (Maps 1 and 4).

JOHN B. CAIN HOUSE

Facing south, about a quarter of a mile west of the road near the brow of a hill, stands the John B. Cain House, which is included in Dorothy Caldwell, Missouri Historic Sites Catalog (p. 2). This two-story unpainted wood frame structure (18' 4" by 44' 6") has a medium pitch gable roof with composition shingles interrupted by two brick chimneys near the center, and a sandstone foundation. Square nails were used originally throughout the construction.

Extending the length of the south facade are two porches, one at the first story level and the other, supported by eight wood posts, at the second story level. At the center at the first story level is a single wood door with sidelights and a transom of four small panes with a decorative label. On either side of the door are two four-over-four light double-hung sash windows with decorative labels. At the second story level a center door is similar to that at the first story level, except there is no transom, that is flanked by two windows as at the first story level.

The north facade (rear) is identical to the south facade except that there are no porches and a window instead of a door is at the center of the upper story level.

The east facade is marked by two four-over-four light double sash windows with decorative labels, one at the first story level and one at the second. Penetrating the sandstone foundation is a wood door, flanked on the right by a double-hung sash window, which leads to the basement. The west facade is identical except there is no basement entrance or large basement window. A small basement window is at the south end.

The interior consists of two large rooms and a hallway at each story. A balustraded wood staircase opposite the front door leads to the second story. The rooms have oak floors, plastered walls, and plasterboard ceilings. Opposite the rear door, a staircase leads to the basement which consists of two large rooms. The basement room on the east, once used as a kitchen, now has cement over stone walls and a concrete floor. Cabknets are built into the east wall between the window and the door.

The west basement room has stone walls and a floor of brick layed in a herringbone pattern.

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The house has suffered no major alterations since its construction, except that the railings on both porches, upper and lower, have been removed (refer to historic photograph), the original posts have been replaced, and concrete has been used in some places to reinforce the foundation. Five lightning rods have been spaced along the ridge of the roof, probably in the 1920's. Inside, a start was made, but never finished, to wire the house for electricity. At some time or another the basement and the walls and ceilings on the first and second story levels have been redone.

To the southeast of the John B. Cain house is a stone springhouse with an asphalt roof which now covers a spring that once provided water for the Cain family. A board fence extends along the south limit of the lawn.

F.W. CAIN HOUSE AND BARN

Approximately 100 yards east of the John B. Cain house stands the F.W. Cain House and barn. Although not of the pioneer vintage of the other structures being nominated, this house has a secondary significance as a good rural example of the bungalow style. The house (42' by 56'), approximately 90 feet west of the rock road, is a large frame one and a half story white bungalow with six rooms downstairs and four upstairs, a full basement, and a parged stone foundation. The house, which faces the road on the east, has very narrow clapboard siding with a hipped gable roof and gabled dormers on the north and south facades. A wide verandah, its roof supported by concrete pillars, marks the east facade.

South of the house and across a drive is a large rectangular wood barn (44'2" by 64'9") with a wood shingle roof and a stone foundation surrounded on three sides by a feed lot. Within are cattle stalls, feed bins, and a hayloft.

To the east of the house (between it and the F.W. Cain House) is a group of dilapidated structures -- a house where hired help once lived, four sheds, and a privy. Because of their poor condition, these buildings are "intrusions."

THE COLLETT COMPLEX

High on a hill east of the rock road affording a splendid view of the Chariton valley stands the Collett complex which consists of the following structures:

The Ira R. Collett House, a two-story white T-shaped wood frame antebellum structure (36' by 40') with a stone foundation and a partial basement, has three rooms and a bath downstairs and two bedrooms and a bath upstairs. The only significant external alteration have been the enlargement of a porch with a balcony supported by four square wood posts on the south facade, and on the northeast rear the addition of a porch with posts and railings matching those on the south. The interior has been modernized, and

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the exterior's wooden clapboards have recently been covered with vinyl siding.

Just off the northwest corner of the house is a brick smokehouse (12' by 14') on a stone foundation with a wood shingle gable roof. Until the 1940's it was called a milk house and used primarily for the storage of food. For so functional a building, this building is remarkable for its heavy boxed cornice with returns and denticulated frieze.

Immediately to the west of the smokehouse is a summer kitchen (12' by 14*) with vertical board and batten siding painted white, a wood shingle gable roof, and a foundation of sandstone. A narrow porch with its roof upheld by wooden posts on a concrete base spans the east facade.

On the opposite side of the main house to the southeast is a wood frame poultry house (14' by 20' (with a gable wood shingle roof, a stone foundation, and board and batten walls that were stuccoed in 1967.

Between the main house and the road is a wood frame double garage (21' by 33') with a concrete foundation and wood shingle saddle-back roof. To the northeast are a machine shed and a granary. An intrusion because of its recent construction, the machine shed (50' by 80') is of metal. The granary (12'8" by 25'4") has a gable roof with composition shingles. The sides of the granary, which consists of two compartments are double lined with oak tongue and groove boards on the inside, while the outside wood walls are now covered with metal.

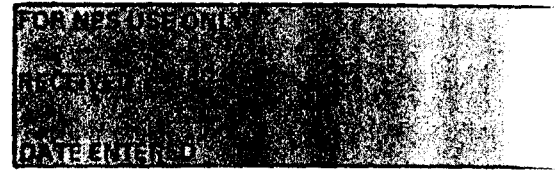
The seven foregoing structures in the complex are in good or excellent condition.

East and somewhat north of the machine shed surrounded by overgrowth was the site of the Conner Tannery. A three sided wood shed, with vertical board and batten walls of native lumber, in run-down condition marks the site where the horses used at the tannery were watered from three nearby springs.

Asa King Collett House

The Asa King Collett House was originally located immediately southeast of the present Ira Collett House but was moved in 1867 southwest to thirty feet west of the rock road, its present location. This one and a half story structure (18' by 33') of solid native walnut with vertical board and batten walls, now painted yellow, has wood shingles on the medium pitch gable roof on the north section of the house and an asphalt roof on the south shed addition. It has been modernized, although its original integrity has not been destroyed. Concrete has replaced the original stone foundation. There is, at present, a living room, a kitchen, and a bath downstairs, with stairs leading to two rooms, a walk-in closet, and a half bath on the upper floor.

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Other cultural features

To the northeast of the Ira Collett House and across the road at the bottom of a decline surrounded by trees and overgrowth is the Collett Spring with a sandstone basin and protected by a small springhouse with composition roof and a door on the south.

The field immediately to the south of the Ira Collett House was the place General John B. Clark chose to build Fort Clark, while across the road a level area near the Asa King Collett House was commonly known as Camp Collett. A large boulder to which a bronze plaque is attached, emplaced in 1925 by the Ann Haynes Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, twenty-one feet east of the rock road opposite the Asa King Collett House, memorializes both Fort Clark and the Cabins.

North of the Collett complex a drive leads from the rock road west toward the Collett Cemetery. A chain link fence encloses the one acre plot which contains gravestones of cut limestone in various types dating from the 19th century through the early 20th century, primitive headstones consisting of sandstone rocks with crude inscriptions which mark the graves of slaves, and the familiar polished granite tombstones that mark 20th century burials.

Near the rock road and south of the cemetery drive is a large oak tree which marks the site of an undisturbed Indian burial mound. A second undisturbed mound (or mounds) marked by a small grove lies 134 feet directly east of the rock road, northeast of the large oak.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1829-1865

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cabins, an area six miles west of the City of Kirksville in the beautiful green hills of northern Missouri, is of historic significance for a number of reasons. Indian burial mounds, which should be legally protected and scattered artifacts found from time to time indicate a long span of cultural occupation from the Early or Middle Archaic period through the Late Woodland or Mississippian period. The proximity of the river, the woodlands, the attractive topography, the plentiful game, and the natural springs which provided clear, cool water made it at other times an ideal encampment site for Indian hunting expeditions in the Chariton Valley. Later, it became the site of the first white settlement and manufactory in Adair County, and of Fort Clark. A beautiful, well-kept cemetery is probably the oldest white and black burial place in the county, where lie the pioneer ancestors of numerous persons now living. Three antebellum houses on the site are still in good or excellent condition -- the John B. Cain House, the Asa King Collett House, and the Ira B. Collett House. Moreover, Camp Collett, a level area near the King Collett House, was a popular picnicking spot well into the twentieth century.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

In 1829, eight years after Missouri became a state, James Myers, Isaac Gross, Steven Gross, Nathan Richardson, Reuben Myrtle, Jacob Gupp -- all with families, except Gupp, and all originally from North Carolina or Kentucky -- moved up the Chariton River from Howard County into the area where each staked out land which they hoped to obtain eventually from the United States Government at a very low price. They built cabins in the area which became known as "Cabins of the White Folk" or simply "The Cabins." None of the original cabins is extant, but according to Eugene M. Violette in his History of Adair County (1911), "tradition has it that they proceeded to build three cabins, one of which stood just in front of the present house of George W. Cain, another on the present farm of Charles Brawner a mile or two away [to the east] from the first, and another on the old Stinson place which was equally distant in another direction [southeast] . . . The nearest neighbor to this band of newcomers was Joseph Loe, thirty or more miles to the south in what is now Macon County."¹

This area had been ceded in 1823-1824 to the United States by the Iowa and the Sac and Fox Indians, but one Iowa Chief, Moanahonga (Big Neck), though a cosigner of the treaty, seemed not to have understood that the Indians had given up all hunting rights in the area. In June, 1829, he and about sixty Indian men, women, and children encamped near the pioneer settlement.

Soon trouble developed between the white settlers and the Indians. The former, becoming apprehensive, sent a messenger south to get reinforcements. On July 15, a company of

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twenty-six men in Howard County started up the Chariton, but when the company, captained by Fields Trammel of Howard County, arrived at The Cabins, the Indians were nowhere to be seen. The next day the company followed the Indians' trail up the Chariton. Near a stream, later called Battle Creek in what is now Schuyler County, the whites came upon Big Neck and his group. In the altercation which followed several Indians and white men were killed, and Captain Trammel died a few days later of his wounds. The white men rode back to the cabins, picked up the women and children there, and "skedadled" down the Chariton to the vicinity of the present Huntsville in Randolph County.

News of the "Big Neck War" spread rapidly and the tale grew with the telling. Nearly all the men in Howard and Randolph counties capable of bearing arms and a company from Boone County set out for The Cabins. Some 250 men commanded by Brigadier General Ignatius P. Owen scoured the vicinity of the upper Chariton for Indians but found none. By August 8 all of the soldiers had returned to their homes without having seen any sign of Indians. A few months later Big Neck and his party surrendered to United States officials, but he and four of his followers were exonerated of any wrongdoing by a jury at Huntsville.²

Among the living springs in the area, the Collett Spring is perhaps best known because of its many visitors in past years. Located northwest of the Ira R. Collett House and approximately thirty yards west of the rock road, it now has a sandstone basin and is covered by a stone and wood springhouse with a small door on the south. The sandstone bears the following, inscribed in 1895 by Charles Edward Ross, a member of the faculty of the First District Normal School from 1880-1900:

"Come, thirsty traveler, drink of me,
My draught will give you luck
From this pure fount, in joyful glee,
Drank the Chieftain Keokuk.

"From 'neath this old, historic hill
For ages I have run,
And ages yet will find me still
My duty scarcely done."

To which Ross added: "In kind remembrance of the first settlers of Adair County who drank of this spring in 1821 [sic]."

Interestingly enough, the nitrite content of the spring water increased substantially after the earthquake in Alaska in 1964.³

Ross was only one of many Adair Countians who have collected Indian artifacts in the area. However, neither an Indian burial mound marked by a large oak tree near the entrance to the Collect Cemetery nor another in a grove across the rock road to the northeast has been molested.

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In 1832, during the Black Hawk War, two frontier military posts were established in Adair County to guard against possible Indian raids on outlying settlements. One of these, called Fort Clark, was built at the site of The Cabins on high ground immediately to the south of the present Ira R. Collett House. Its purpose was to serve as a garrison for "a considerable military force" commanded by General John B. Clark, of Howard County, which reconnoitered the north Missouri area. After finding the Indian danger nonexistent, the troops abandoned the fort and returned south.

Fort Clark, as described by Violette was:

"a three-cornered affair, built out of split oak logs which were arranged so that the upper ends were sharpened like pickets and the lower ends were placed in the ground about three feet. Block houses were built at each corner of the fort with portholes through which the soldiers could shoot."⁴

The timbers of Fort Clark were visible for many years. The Ira R. Collett family used one of the block houses as a stable long after the post was abandoned, but no trace of the fort remains. However, the site on which the fort stood is marked today by a large boulder to which a bronze plaque is attached, emplaced by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1925. The boulder was obtained 100 yards west of the present site of the Asa Collett House and moved on a sled drawn by mules.⁵

Settlers who had fled The Cabins in 1829 returned the next year, and during the decade of the 1830's they were joined by other pioneers. By 1841, the year Adair County was created by the general assembly, probably as many as one thousand people were residents of the county, most of them living in the south central part where the land was more adaptable to farming than in the hilly western part. Among those who came to The Cabins area during the 1830's were: John B. Cain, originally from North Carolina, whose son George W. Cain was born in 1833, three years after John arrived; Washington "Was" Conner, who had married John Cain's daughter Celia in Kentucky, and his brother, Lewis Conner; and Asa King Collett, a native of Kentucky, and his father, William, who had been born in North Carolina.

John B. Cain, born in North Carolina in 1770, emigrated to Kentucky and from there moved to Howard County, Missouri. In 1828, he made a trip up the Chariton to the future site of The Cabins but did not stay. In 1830 he brought his family to The Cabins, where before his death in 1856 he lived in the extant two-story wood structure with a full basement. Since his son George lived in the house for sixty-six years after his death, it became known to many as the George W. Cain House.⁷

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Washington Conner and his brother Lewis, who came to The Cabins in the early 1830's, established in 1841 the first manufactory in Adair County -- a tannery to process animal hides, chiefly cattle, deer, and bear brought in by local farmers, hunters, and trappers. The fresh hides were first soaked in large vats of water to soften them so that the excess flesh and foreign material could be removed. After the fleshy side of the hides was cleaned and scraped, the hides were again soaked, this time in a lime water solution to remove the hair from the outer side. They were then soaked in vats for several days and each day they had to be milled or stirred so that the lime could adequately penetrate the hides and loosen the hair. After this soaking was completed, the loose hair was removed and the hides were then washed in clear water and allowed to dry. Next came the actual tanning process whereby the hides were preserved. The preservative used was called tannin, extracted from the bark of sumac and oak trees, which were plentiful in this area. The bark and leaves of these trees were boiled in water and then the hides were soaked in this solution for several days. After drying, the leather could be dyed or oiled and used for numerous purposes.⁸

The Conners operated the tannery until 1855, by which time the residents of the county could buy ready-made leather items. Three springs which flowed at the tannery site still run, but no remains of the tannery are extant, except a three-sided wood shed where the horses were watered. In addition to the tannery the Conner brothers operated a saw mill and a grist mill in the immediate area, no trace of which remain. They were also active in the organization of the United Baptist Church of Bear Creek in 1831, the first religious congregation in Adair County, and in 1850 of the Kirksville Lodge No. 128, A.F. & A.M., the first Masonic Lodge in the County.⁹

Asa King Collett, born in Kentucky in 1821, after migrating to Howard County at an early age, arrived at The Cabins in the winter of 1836-1837. In 1841 Collett began working at the Conner Tannery and continued there until 1846 when he enlisted to fight in the Mexican War. After serving for over a year with the forces of Sterling Price, Asa King, familiarly called "Bunker", returned to marry John Cain's eldest daughter, Bartheba ("Bash"), in 1848. The next year he joined the gold rush to California and did not return home until 1860.¹⁰

Meanwhile Bartheba lived in a one and half story house of native walnut with vertical board and batten walls which stands today, though it has been moved across the road, which her father had had built by neighbors. About the same time, they built a summer kitchen of similar construction which stands today on its original site off the northwest corner of the present Ira Collett House. It was used for many years by the Collett families as a smokehouse and kitchen.¹¹

Immediately upon Asa King Collett's return from the gold mines, he and his neighbors began to build what has become known as the Ira R. Collett (Asa's son, born in 1862)

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House-- a two-story white frame structure immediately north of the Fort Clark site facing the Chariton Valley, the front part of which was patterned after the John B. Cain House. Asa also erected a poultry house which stands off the southeast corner of the house.¹²

The large house was the residence of Ira R. during his entire life, as it was for his son Hubert and his grandson H. Gordon, the present owner and occupant. It was Ira who named a public school, erected one and a quarter miles north of The Cabins, Bunker Hill School in honor of his father. The school, which operated from 1899 to 1939, burned in 1946.¹³

North of the Ira Collett House and across the road on a scenic spot overlooking the Chariton Valley is the Collett Cemetery, first called the Cain-Robertson Graveyard, the the Cain-Collett Cemetery, and now the Collett Cemetery. The nine-tenths acre plot with a chain link fence that was built around it in 1936 belongs to the Collett Cemetery Association, which also has an easement totaling one-tenth of an acre for a drive from the rock road to the cemetery.¹⁴

The cemetery records have often proved valuable to persons seeking information about their ancestors. Among the pioneers interred there are members of the Cain and Collett families, along with people who had lived in more recent years. Slaves, too, are buried there in unsegregated graves marked by sandstone rocks with crude inscriptions, in contrast to the granite markers at most of the graves of the whites. A memorial at the grave of Thomas Lay, one of three Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Adair County bears this inscription: "In Memory of Thomas Lay, a Revolutionary Soldier, Died about 1845. Aged about 90 years. Erected by the Citizens of Adair Co., Mo., in 1890."

A number of buildings of secondary historical significance built in the twentieth century include the Fernando W. Cain house and barn. The latter was built in 1917-1918 and the house a few years later. Clair S. Small acquired the property in 1942, and after his death it was bought by the present owners Mr. and Mrs. Cohen R. Walters and their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Cohen Lee Walters.¹⁶

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Collett, the fifth generation of Colletts to live at The Cabins, conduct tours of the area, in season, in which school children, historical societies, and other groups participate. Here youngsters, and older people too, have been able to learn about the life and culture of their forebears in Adair County.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

A preliminary Archaeological Evaluation indicates that there may have been additional mounds to the two which presently remain:

"An additional mound appears to have been destroyed and the western portion of the Collett Cemetery lies on that mound. Possible mound remnants lie to the east and south of the easternmost of the two remaining mounds. The area has not been surveyed professionally. An examination of an artifact collection in the possession of H. Gordon and Mary Collett and said to have come from the field in the area of the mounds yields a long temporal sequence. A single Big Sandy point (Chapman 1975:242) is indicative of an Early or Middle Archaic occupation (Grantham 1977, Anderson 1974:166-167). A Late Archaic occupation is indicated by two Smith Complex points (Chapman 1975:256), two Motley points (Perino 1971b:62-63), an Etey-like point (Chapman 1975:246), and a variety of larger expanding-stemmed points. The Early Woodland is not represented, but it is typically absent from collections in the area. This is probably not any evidence for lack of occupation during this period, but is rather symptomatic of our inability to recognize such occupations in the area. The Middle Woodland is represented by four Norton points (White 1968:179), four Snyders or Snydersoid points (Perino 1971b:88-89), and five Gary points (Roper 1977:52-53). The Late Woodland is represented by two Klunk side-notched points (Perino 1971a), three Koster corner-notched points (Perino 1971a:100), one possible Schild spike point (Perino 1971a), and six various Late Woodland points. The Mississippian period may be represented by a single trianguloid (Madison ?) point (Scully 1951). Other material in the collection included one large hematite celt, one three-quarter-grooved axe, three large retouched flakes, one large perforator, one discoidal core, and ten to twelve unidentifiable or generally non-diagnostic points." 17

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." The Cabins Historic District, therefore, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of Aboriginal Americans, Exploration and Settlement.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CABINS HISTORIC DISTRICT

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FOOTNOTES

1. Eugene M. Violette, History of Adair County (Kirksville: Denslow History Company, 1911), 7, 9. The "present house of George W. Cain" mentioned in the quotation is the John B. Cain House.
2. The best account of the "Big Neck War" is Dorothy J. Caldwell, "The Big Neck Affair: Tragedy and Farce on the Missouri Frontier," Missouri Historical Review, LXIV (July, 1970), 391-412.
3. Observation of H. Gordon Collett, owner of the spring, September 18, 1978.
4. Violette, Adair County, 12.
5. H. Gordon Collett to David D. March, interview October 11, 1978, Collett residence; A Book of Adair County History (Kirksville: The Kirksville Adair County Bicentennial Committee, 1976), 33, 169.
6. Larry Evans, great-great grandson of Washington Conner, "Washington Conner," tape recording, 1976, NMSU; H. Gordon Collett, great-great grandson of the pioneer William Collett, "The Pioneer Collett Family," tape recording, 1976, NMSU.
7. H. Gordon Collett and Mary Collett to David D. March, interview, September 18, 1978, Collett residence; Violette, Adair County, 40. Tradition has it that John Cain brought one of the first slaves, Dick Hill, into Adair County. Violette, Adair County, 82. For the association of the name George W. Cain with the John B. Cain House, see Violette, Adair County 8, and Dorothy J. Caldwell, Missouri Historic Sites Catalog (Columbia: State Historical Society of Missouri, 1963), 2.
8. Evans, "Washington Conner."
9. Idem.
10. Collett, "The Pioneer Collett Family"; Collett to March, interview, October 11, 1978, Collett residence.
11. Idem.
12. Idem.

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CABINS HISTORIC DISTRICT

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13. Collett to March, interview, November 13, 1978, Collett residence; Will F. Sholly, "Kirksville Comment," Kirksville Daily Express, November 22, 1931.
14. Mary Collett to March, interview, September 18, 1978, Collett residence; Plat of plot as surveyed in Sections 3 and 4, Township 62N, Range 16W by J. Russell Waller, September, 1975, Recorder's Office, Adair County Courthouse, Kirksville, Missouri.
15. See Photo 35.
16. Collett to March, interview, November 13, 1978; Record of Deeds, Book 134 (1942), pp. 484-487, and Book 239 (1977), p. 405, Recorder's Office Adair County Courthouse, Kirksville, Missouri.
17. Personal Correspondence from Larry Grantham, Research Instructor, Northeast Missouri State University, with James M. Denny, Department of Natural Resources, February 23, 1979.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

BOOKS

A Book of Adair County History. Kirksville, Missouri: Kirksville-Adair County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Caldwell, Dorothy J., Missouri Historic Sites Catalog. Columbia: State Historical Society of Missouri, 1963.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 61 acres

See enclosed U.S.G.S. map for Latitude and Longitude

QUADRANGLE NAME Kirksville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62,500

UTM REFERENCES

A

15	5	2	6	4	7	4	4	4	5	1	2	1	0
ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING									

B

15	5	2	7	1	3	6	4	4	5	1	2	4	3
ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING									

C

15	5	2	7	1	1	6	4	4	5	0	3	1	8
ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING									

D

15	5	2	6	1	2	3	4	4	5	0	3	1	4
ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING									

E

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING									

F

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING									

G

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING									

H

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING									

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The Cultural Resources of the Cabins Historic District are contained within UTM Coordinates 15/526474/4451210 (Identified as Point A on the enclosed U.S.G.S. map) on the northwest, 15/527136/4451243 (Point B) on the northeast, 15/527116/4450318 (Point C) on the southeast and 15/526123/4450314

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

I. David D. March, Professor of History

ORGANIZATION

Northeast Missouri State University

STREET & NUMBER

Social Science Division

CITY OR TOWN

Kirksville

DATE

November 22, 1978

TELEPHONE

area code 816-665-5121 Ext. 3352

STATE

Missouri 63501

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

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

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

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CABINS HISTORIC DISTRICT

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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Violette, Eugene M., History of Adair County. Kirksville, Missouri: Denslow History Company 1911.

History of Adair, Sullivan, Putnam, and Schuyler Counties, Missouri. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1888.

PERIODICALS

Caldwell, Dorothy J., "The Big Neck Affair: Tragedy and Farce on the Missouri Frontier," Missouri Historical Review, LXIV (July, 1970), 391-412.

PERSONAL INTERVIEWS

Collett, H. Gordon and Mary, with David D. March, September 18, October 11, and November 13, 1978 at the Cabins.

TAPE RECORDINGS

Collett, H. Gordon, "The Collett Cemetery," NMSU, 1976.

Collett, "A Living Spring," NMSU, 1976.

Collett, "The Pioneer Collett Family," NMSU, 1976.

Evans, Larry, "The Conner Tannery," NMSU, 1976.

Evans, "Washington Conner," NMSU, 1976.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOURCES

Anderson, D.C.

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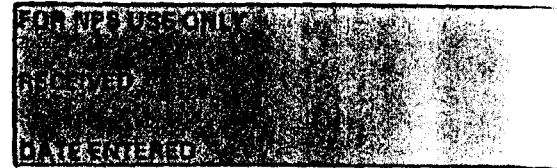
Chapman, C.H.

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Grantham, L.D.

1977 Long Branch Lake Archaeological Resources, Vol. I: Ecology, the Survey, Analysis, and Recommendations. Unpublished report, U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District. Kansas City, Missouri

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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PAGE 2

Perino, G.H.

1971a The Mississippian Component at the Schild Site (No. 4), Greene County, Illinois. In Mississippian Site Archaeology in Illinois I: Site Reports from the St. Louis and Chicago Area. Illinois Archaeological Survey, Inc. Bulletin, No. 8. University of Illinois. Urbana, Illinois.

1971b Guide to the Identification of Certain American Indian Projectile Points. Special Bulletin of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society, No. 4.

Roper, D.C.

1977 The Downstream Stockton Study: The Cultural Resources Survey, Final Report. Unpublished manuscript, U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District. Kansas City, Missouri.

Scully, E.G.

1951 Some Mississippi Valley Projectile Point Types. Mimeographed. Museum of Anthropology, University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, Michigan.

White, A-M.

1968 The Lithic Industries of the Illinois Valley in the Early and Middle Woodland Period. University of Michigan, Museum of Anthropology, Anthropological Papers, No. 19. Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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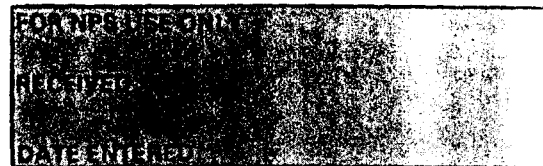
CABINS HISTORIC DISTRICT

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(Point D) on the southwest.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CABINS HISTORIC DISTRICT

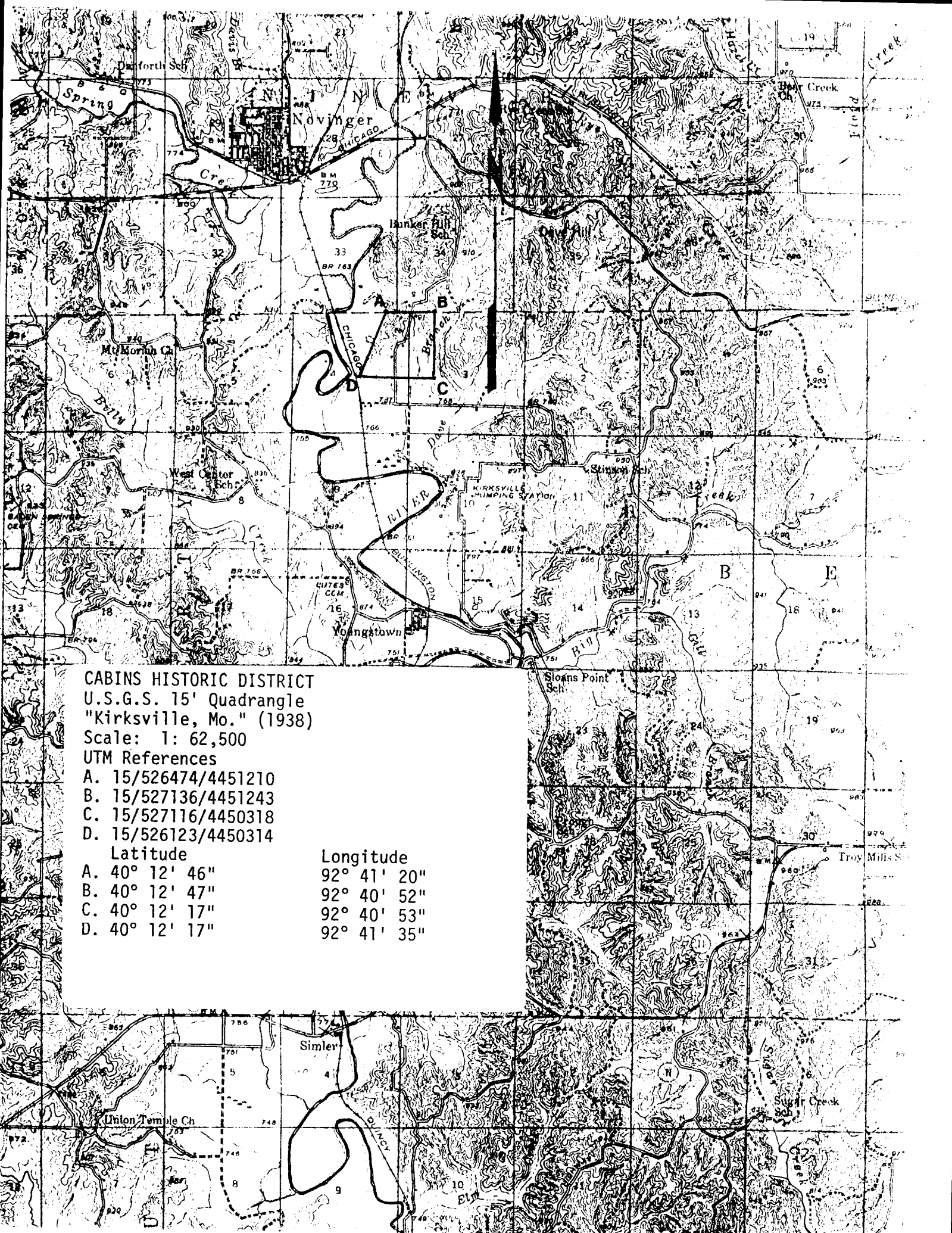
CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE 1

-
2. Larry Grantham, Research Instructor
Northeast Missouri State University
Kirksville, Missouri 63501
February 23, 1979

 3. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey
and State Contact person
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
314/751-4096



CABINS HISTORIC DISTRICT

U.S.G.S. 15' Quadrangle

"Kirksville, Mo." (1938)

Scale: 1: 62,500

UTM References

A. 15/526474/4451210

B. 15/527136/4451243

C. 15/527116/4450318

D. 15/526123/4450314

Latitude

A. 40° 12' 46"

B. 40° 12' 47"

C. 40° 12' 17"

D. 40° 12' 17"

Longitude

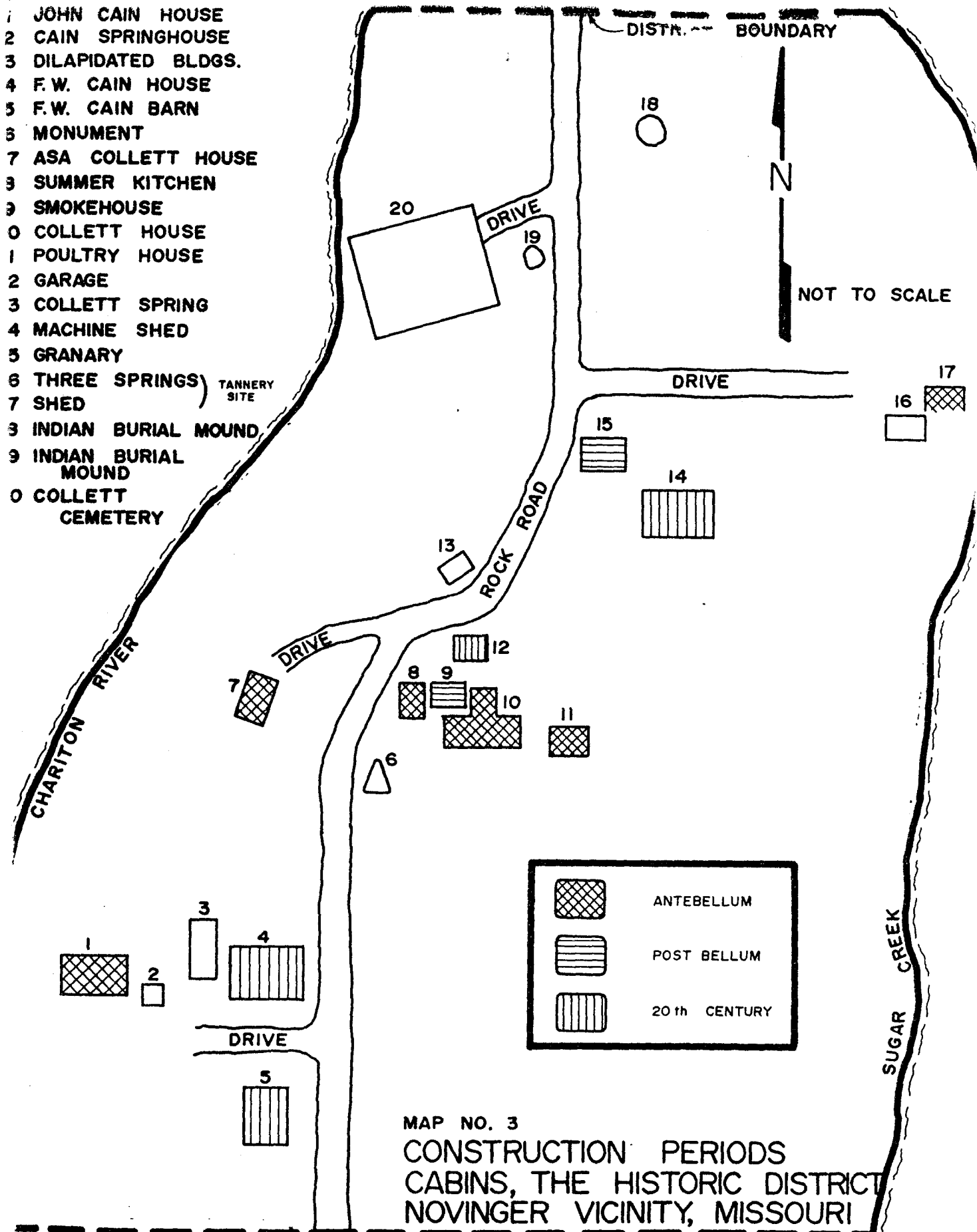
92° 41' 20"

92° 40' 52"

92° 40' 53"

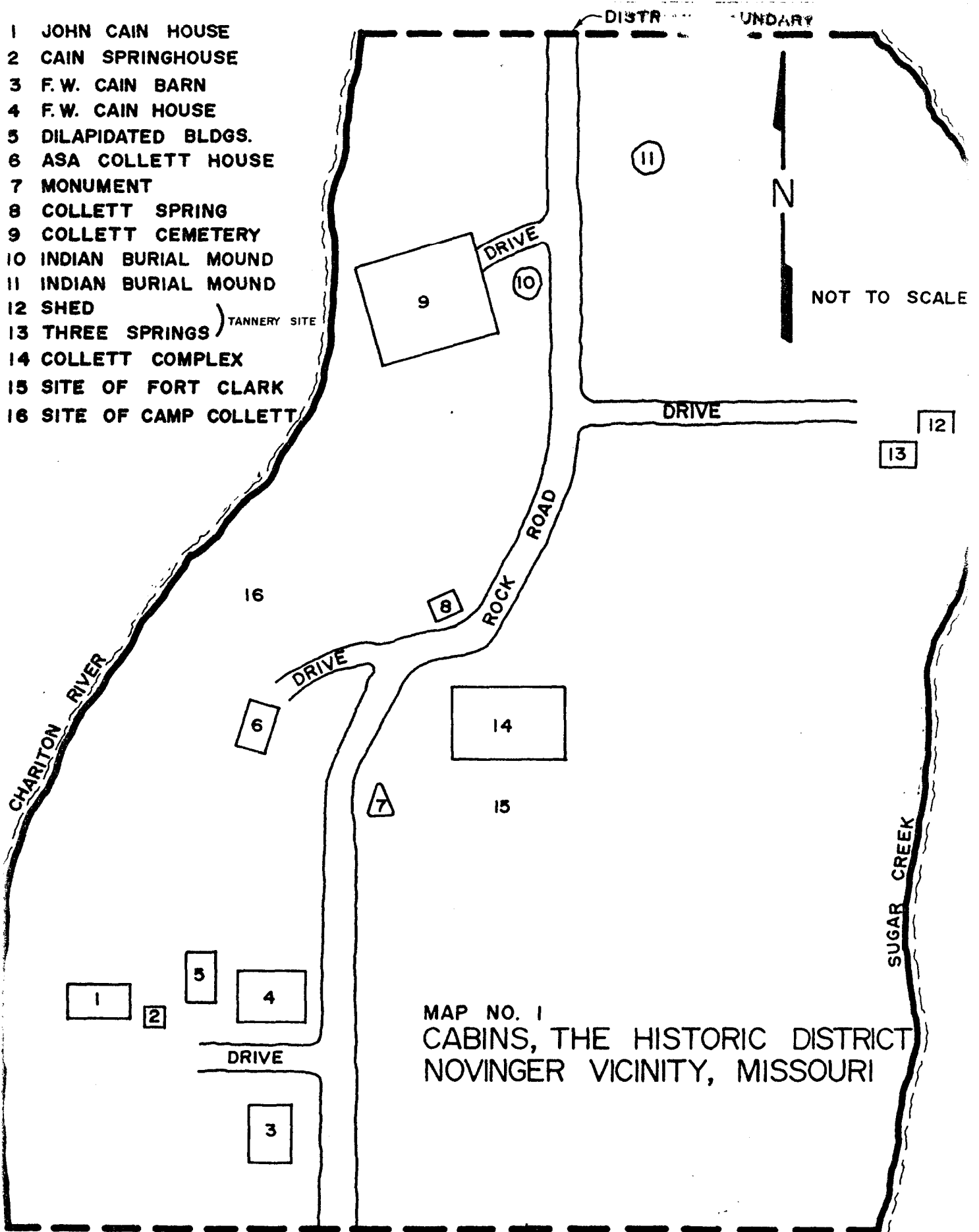
92° 41' 35"

- 1 JOHN CAIN HOUSE
- 2 CAIN SPRINGHOUSE
- 3 DILAPIDATED BLDGS.
- 4 F.W. CAIN HOUSE
- 5 F.W. CAIN BARN
- 6 MONUMENT
- 7 ASA COLLETT HOUSE
- 8 SUMMER KITCHEN
- 9 SMOKEHOUSE
- 0 COLLETT HOUSE
- 1 POULTRY HOUSE
- 2 GARAGE
- 3 COLLETT SPRING
- 4 MACHINE SHED
- 5 GRANARY
- 6 THREE SPRINGS) TANNERY SITE
- 7 SHED
- 8 INDIAN BURIAL MOUND
- 9 INDIAN BURIAL MOUND
- 0 COLLETT CEMETERY



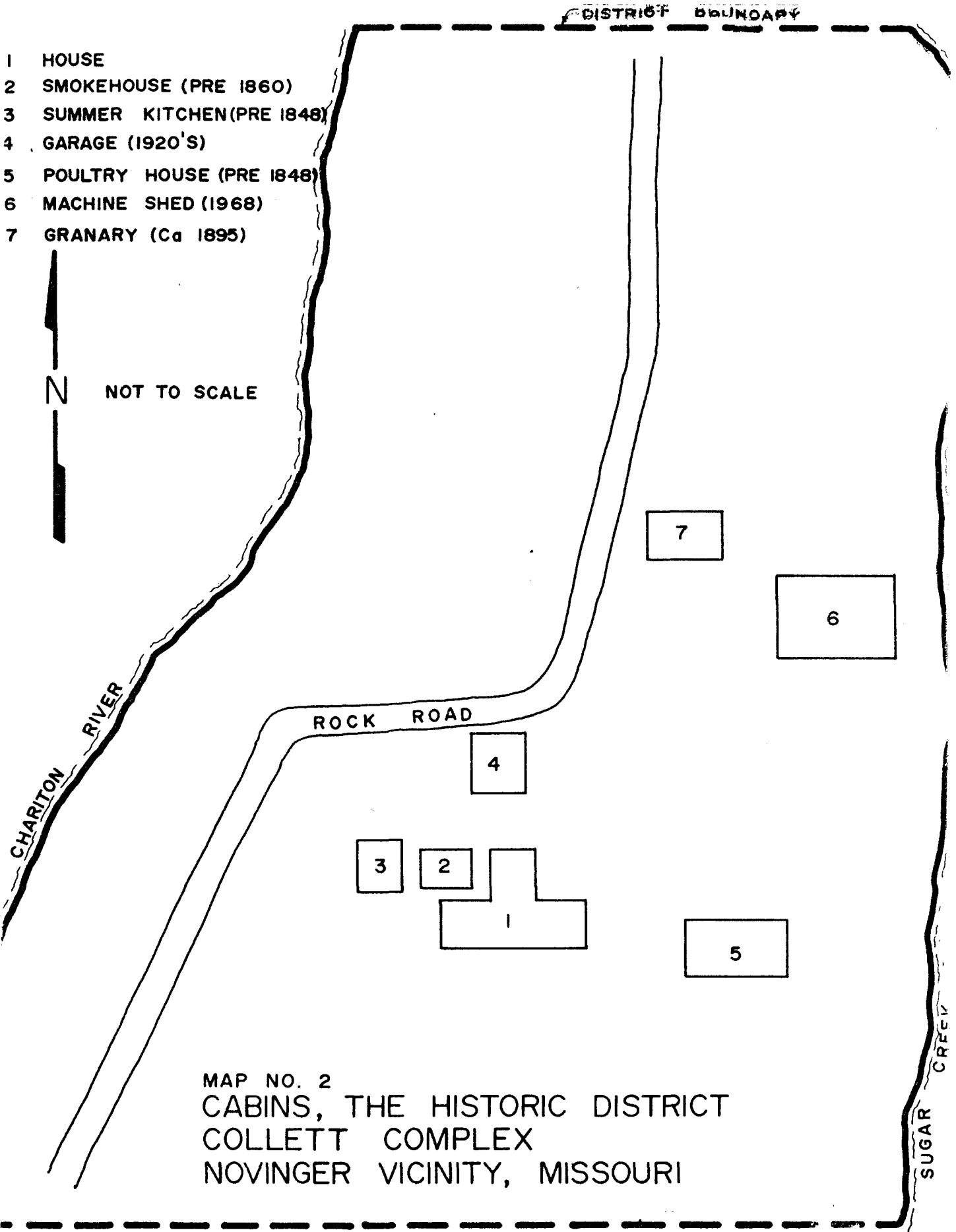
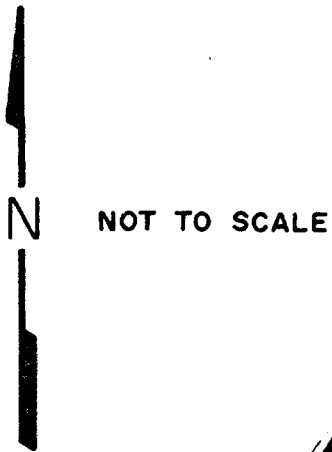
MAP NO. 3
 CONSTRUCTION PERIODS
 CABINS, THE HISTORIC DISTRICT
 NOVINGER VICINITY, MISSOURI

- 1 JOHN CAIN HOUSE
- 2 CAIN SPRINGHOUSE
- 3 F.W. CAIN BARN
- 4 F.W. CAIN HOUSE
- 5 DILAPIDATED BLDGS.
- 6 ASA COLLETT HOUSE
- 7 MONUMENT
- 8 COLLETT SPRING
- 9 COLLETT CEMETERY
- 10 INDIAN BURIAL MOUND
- 11 INDIAN BURIAL MOUND
- 12 SHED
- 13 THREE SPRINGS) TANNERY SITE
- 14 COLLETT COMPLEX
- 15 SITE OF FORT CLARK
- 16 SITE OF CAMP COLLETT



MAP NO. 1
 CABINS, THE HISTORIC DISTRICT
 NOVINGER VICINITY, MISSOURI

- 1 HOUSE
- 2 SMOKEHOUSE (PRE 1860)
- 3 SUMMER KITCHEN (PRE 1848)
- 4 GARAGE (1920'S)
- 5 POULTRY HOUSE (PRE 1848)
- 6 MACHINE SHED (1968)
- 7 GRANARY (Ca 1895)



MAP NO. 2
 CABINS, THE HISTORIC DISTRICT
 COLLETT COMPLEX
 NOVINGER VICINITY, MISSOURI



CABINGS HISTORIC DISTRICT

13

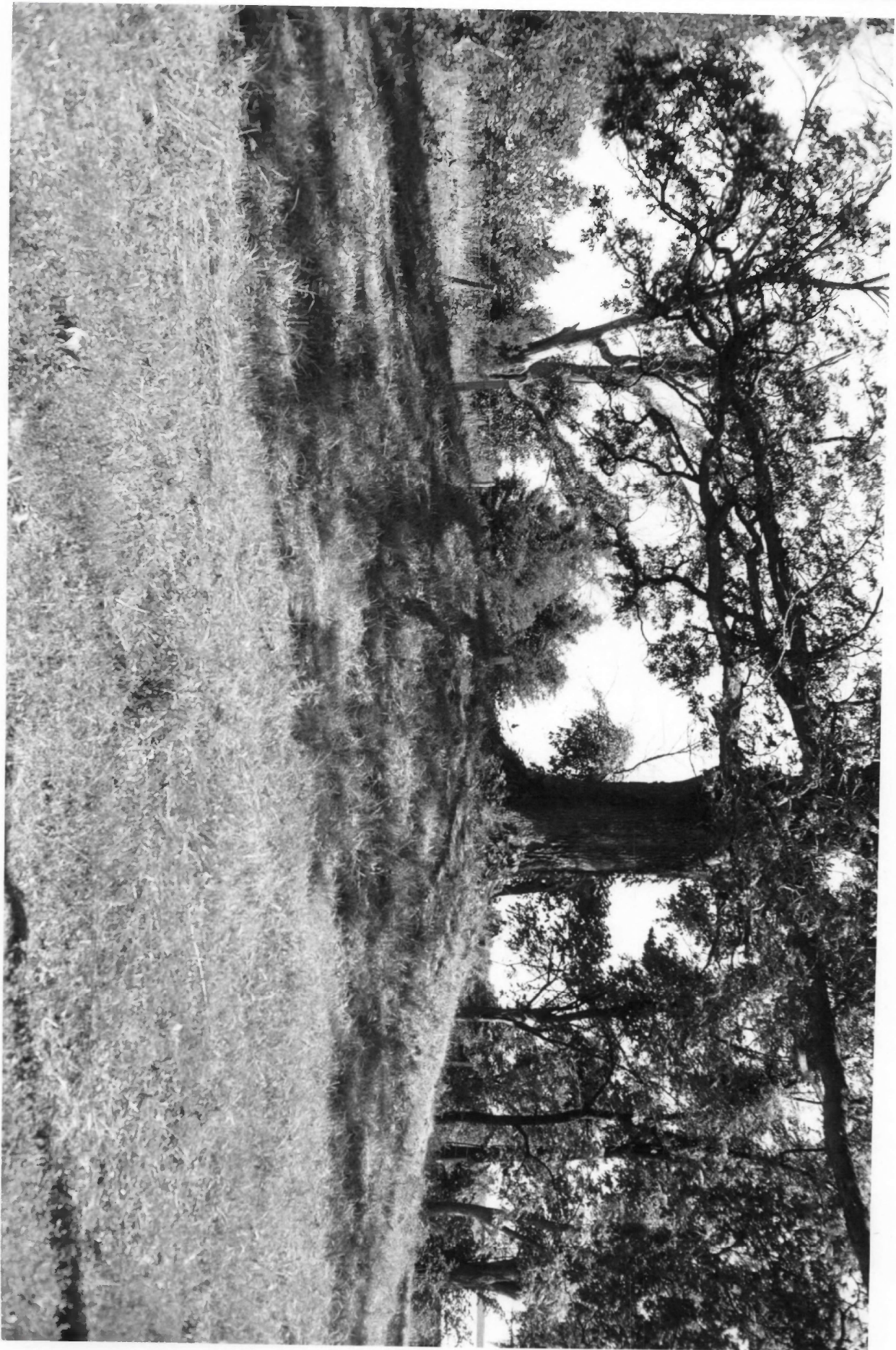
Novinger vicinity, Missouri

Photographer: Robert V. Schnucker

August 19, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Northeast Missouri State Univ.
Kirksville, Mo. 63501

Collett Cemetery: view looking west.



CABINS HISTORIC DISTRICT # 14

Novinger vicinity, Missouri

Photographer: Robert V. Schnucker

August 19, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Northeast Missouri State Univ.

Kirksville, Mo. 63501

Indian mound marked by Oak tree: view looking southeast.



CABINS HISTORIC DISTRICT

12

Novinger vicinity, Missouri

Photographer: Robert V. Schnucker
August 19, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Northeast Missouri State Univ.
Kirksville, Mo. 63501

Collett Springhouse: view looking northwest.



CABINS HISTORIC DISTRICT

10

Novinger vicinity, Missouri

Photographer: Robert V. Schnucker
November, 1976

Neg. Loc.: Northeast Missouri State Univ.
Kirksville, Mo. 63501

F.W. Cain House: View looking southwest.
Primary (east) facade (left) north facade
(right).



CABINS HISTORIC DISTRICT

9

Novinger vicinity, Missouri

Photographer: Robert V. Schnucker
August 19, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Northeast Missouri State Univ.
Kirksville, Mo. 63501

Asa King Collett house: Primary (north)
facade (left), east facade (right); view
looking southwest.



CABINS HISTORIC DISTRICT

#.8

Novinger vicinity, Missouri

Photographer: Robert V. Schnucker

August 19, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Northeast Missouri State Univ.

Kirksville, Mo. 63501

Ira R. Collett smokehouse, detail of west facade, view looking northeast.



CABINS HISTORIC DISTRICT

7

Novinger vicinity, Missouri

Photographer: Robert V. Schnucker

August 19, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Northeast Missouri State Univ.
Kirksville, Mo. 63501

Ira R. Collett House: View looking south
showing smokehouse (left) and summer kitchen
(right) with Collett house to east (right).



CABINS HISTORIC DISTRICT

6

Novinger vicinity, Missouri

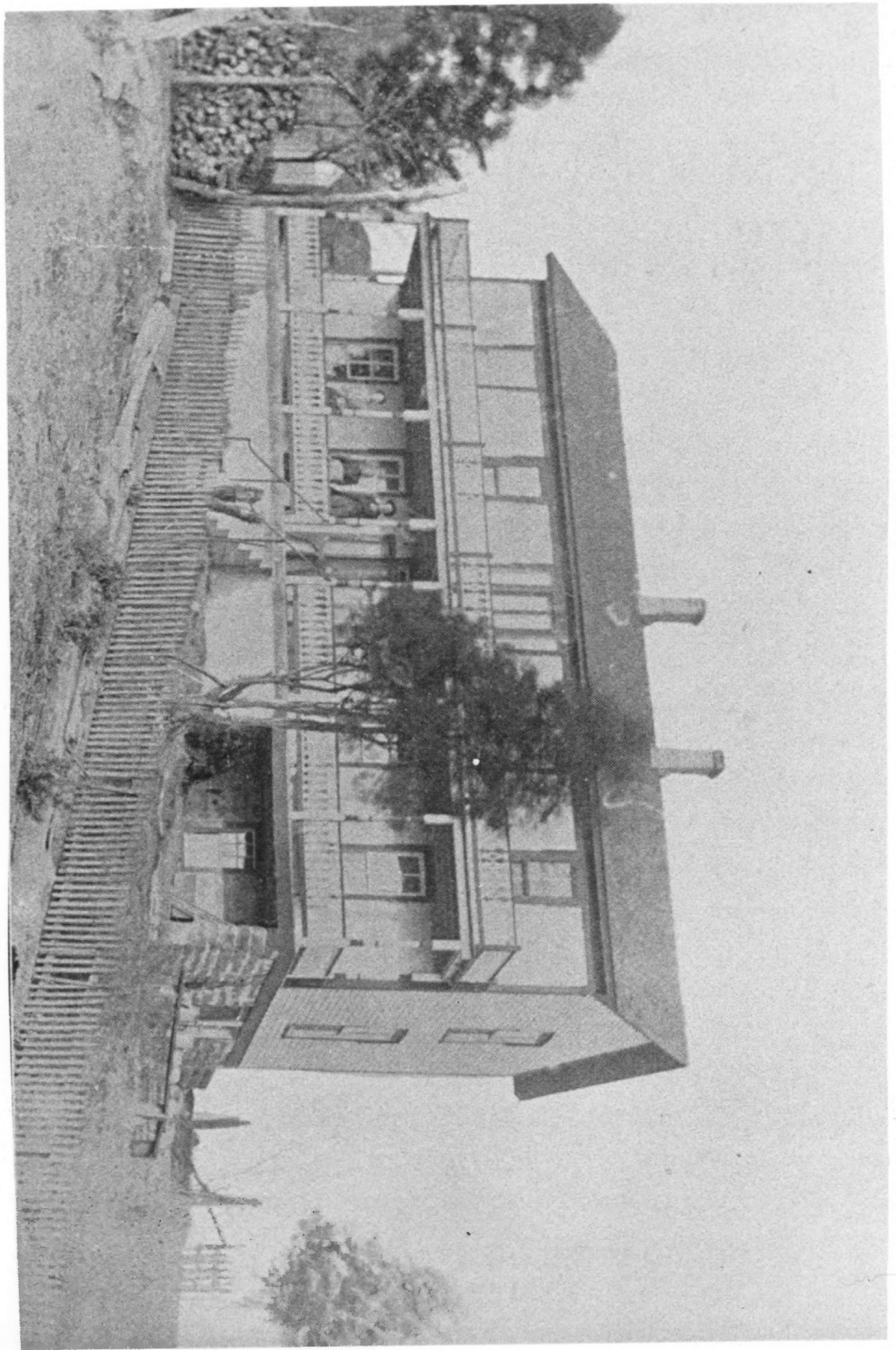
Photographer: Robert V. Schnucker

August 19, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Northeast Missouri State Univ.

Kirksville, Mo. 63501

Ira R. Collett House: Primary (south) facade,
view looking northwest.

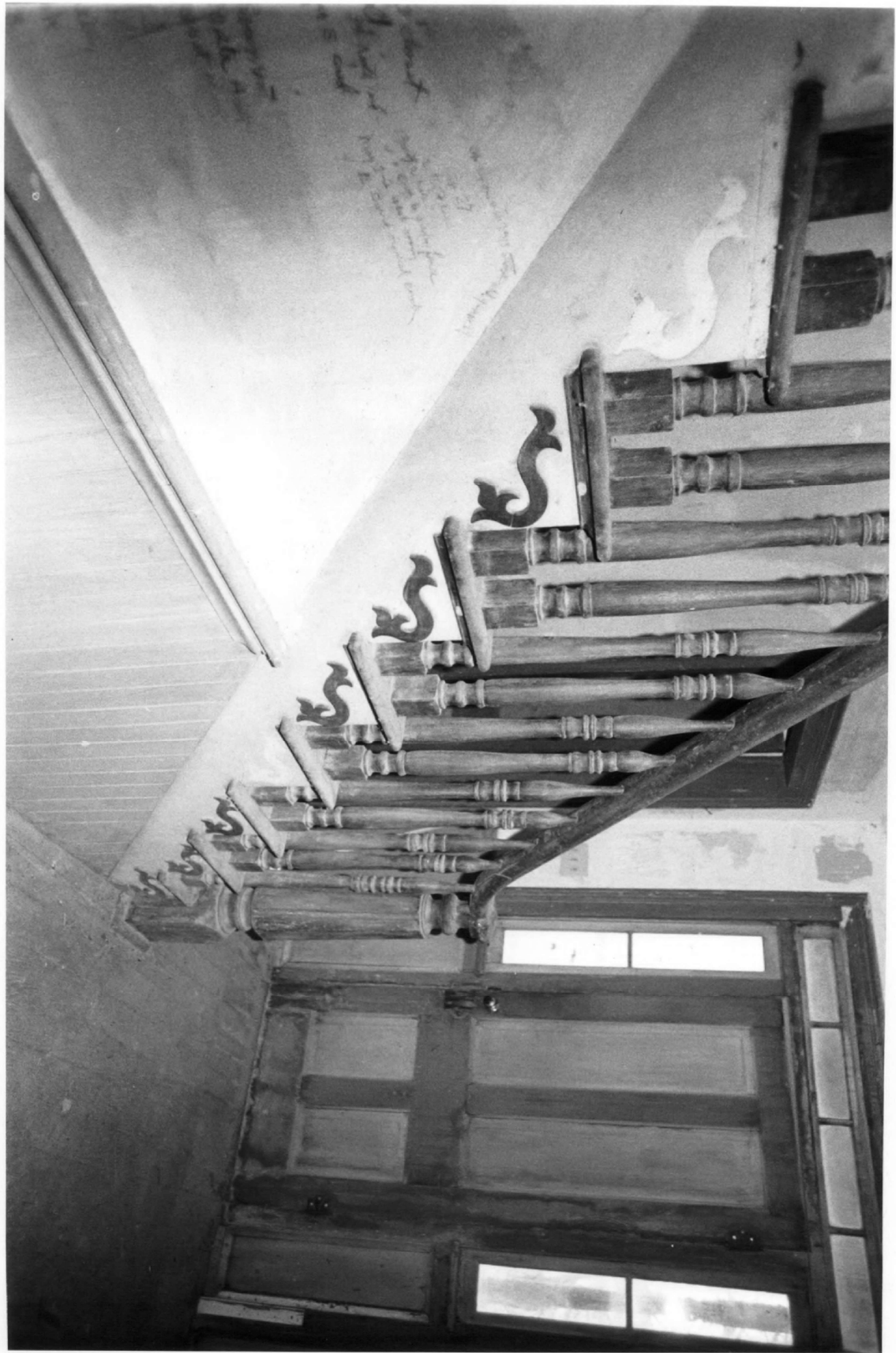


CABINS HISTORIC DISTRICT
Novinger vicinity, Missouri
Photographer: Unknown
1910.

5

Neg. Loc.: Northeast Missouri State Univ.
Kirksville, Mo. 63501

John B. Cain House: Historic view looking
north.



CABINS HISTORIC DISTRICT

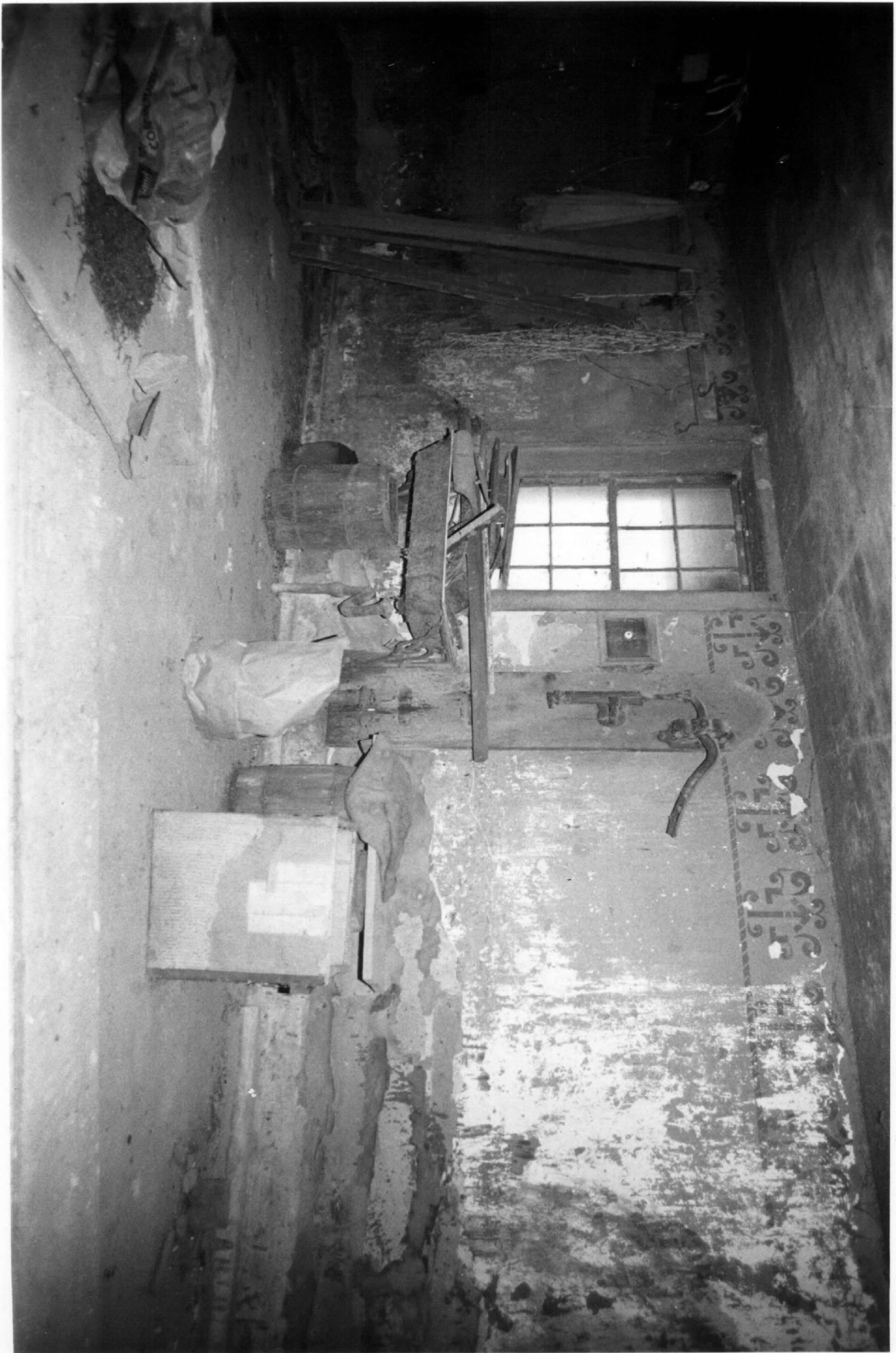
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Novinger vicinity, Missouri

Photographer: Robert V. Schnucker
November, 1976

Neg. Loc.: Northeast Missouri State Univ.
Kirksville, Mo. 63501

John B. Cain House: Interior view, first
floor hallway, looking south.



CABINS HISTORIC DISTRICT

3

Novinger vicinity, Missouri

Photographer: Rovert V. Schnucker
November, 1976

Neg. Loc.: Northeast Missouri State Univ.
Kirksville, Mo. 63501

John B. Cain House: Interior view of basement east room, south wall. Note stenciled frieze and hand pump for drawing water from spring.



CABINS HISTORIC DISTRICT

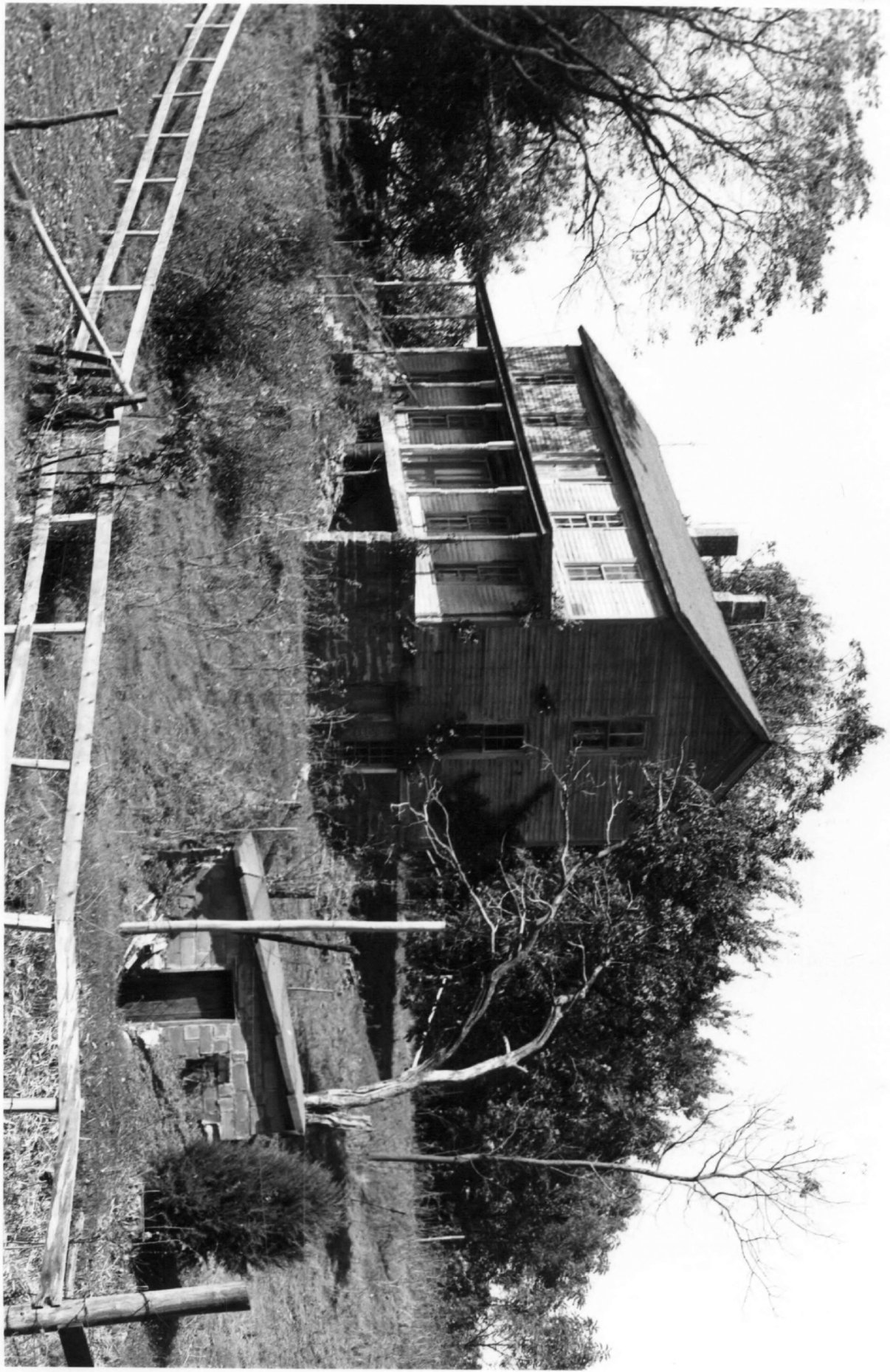
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Novinger vicinity, Missouri

Photographer: Robert V. Schnucker
November, 1976

Neg. Loc] Northeast Missouri State Univ.
Kirksville, Mo. 63501

John B. Cain House: View looking southwest.
Shown are north (right) and east (left)
facades.



CABINS HISTORIC DISTRICT

1

Novinger vicinity, Missouri

Photographer: Robert V. Schnucker

August 19, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Northeast Missouri State Univ.
Kirksville, Mo. 63501

John B. Cain House: view looking northwest.
Shown are south and east facades of house;
springhouse appears in right foreground.



CABINS HISTORIC DISTRICT

11

Novinger Vicinity, Missouri

Photographer: Robert V. Schnucker

November, 1976

Neg. Loc.: Northeast Missouri State Univ.
Kirksville, Mo. 63501

F.W. Cain Barn: View Looking southwest.