

FINAL REPORT

AGRICULTURE SURVEY

(COLUMBUS TOWNSHIP, JOHNSON CO.)

PROJECT NO. 29-92-70127-224

Submitted by:

Show-Me Regional Planning Commission
P.O. Box 348
Warrensburg, Missouri

June 1993

RESEARCH DESIGN: COLUMBUS TOWNSHIP AGRICULTURAL SURVEY

INTRODUCTION

This historical/architectural survey is expected to provide descriptive and numerical data about barns and other agricultural-related properties within a single Missouri township, i.e., Columbus Township in Johnson County. Essentially a trial survey, the project will attempt to develop and test a survey methodology for future work with agricultural-related resources. A product will be a typology of agriculture-related property types and subtypes identified within Columbus Township.

GEOGRAPHY OF SURVEY AREA

Columbus Township lies within the Osage Plains physiographic region of Missouri, as defined by Rafferty. The rolling terrain is interlaced by tributaries of the Blackwater River. Within Johnson County, Columbus Township occupies a northcentral position with Lafayette County to the north. Columbus Township is strictly rural, with no incorporated towns. Its shape is square except for a rectangular leg or "bootheel" of six sections below the southwest corner. Its area is 26,816 acres (41.9 square miles).

Approximately 78 miles of public roadway, primarily gravel-surfaced, is within and along the edges of Columbus Township. U.S. 50 crosses a two-mile section of Columbus Township at its southwest leg, and there is a two-mile strip of old highway serving a development nearby. Other paved roads in the township consist of portions of Missouri Routes M, 00, and U (approximately 18 miles). The remainder of the township's roads are county-maintained and gravel-surfaced.

Columbus Township was selected for the survey because of its strictly rural character and because of its proximity to the researcher. The first Johnson County settlement was in what became Columbus Township, but this is more a matter of interest than a significant selection factor. (Pioneers settled in Columbus Township as early as 1827 or 1828, but the original village faded after Warrensburg became the county seat in 1836. The 1881 county history reported that "within a few years this settlement (Columbus) was known all over the state, and soon a large number of emigrants sought here a home. Here the first county courts were held, and, in fact, this settlement was the hub around which the interests of the old settlers centered. To this settlement men came from far and near, until the people of old Columbus settlement had a name to be envied. To this settlement men came for advice, law, wives, produce, seeds, stock, and had the wants of a pioneer supplied. Here were the first schools and churches planted...") While theoretically promising, early settlement is probably irrelevant for the survey because no

architecture from this period is known to survive. Columbus today is an unincorporated area with a few residential properties and related buildings near the center of the township.

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

In a 1985 historical/architectural survey of Western Johnson County for the Missouri Historic Preservation Program, Show-Me Regional Planning

Commission found 246 residential properties of all types within Columbus Township. Fifty of these residential properties appeared to have been built prior to World War Two. However, the number of barns and other agricultural-related properties within the township in 1985 is unknown because this was not a focus of the project. Probably, there are fewer than 100 older barns and fewer than 200 barns of all ages. Barns and other agricultural buildings were associated with some of the properties for which inventory survey forms were prepared, but only one barn per se was inventoried in Columbus Township (Form No. 23, Wonderly Barn). The Wonderly Barn was selected by the survey team because of its unique form with three gables, two of which are truncated and contain Victorian trim. Good examples of several common barn types within the region also were observed but not inventoried by the survey team.

A systematic survey of barns and other agriculture-related properties in Missouri has yet to be undertaken, but this may change as their importance grows in the public mind. Noble's important study cites various barn types found in Missouri, which he considers a vital study area, but most of his data are from states farther east. Probably the most extensively studied Missouri barn type (by Van Ravenswaay) is the German bank barn. Van Ravenswaay's study of German arts and architecture in Missouri includes a fine chapter on German barns. Noble was sufficiently impressed with Van Ravenswaay's effort to predict that Missouri "will prove as rewarding as Pennsylvania and Wisconsin for ethnic barn studies." Both of these works, and others, will be used to develop a system of classifying Columbus Township barns. Although not as "user-friendly" as this researcher would prefer, Noble's book contains an indispensable classification system.

PRODUCTS

The Columbus Township survey of barns and other agricultural-related properties will produce the following:

1. Research design.
2. A written typology of barns and other agricultural-related properties identified within the subject township. (Approximately 25 survey forms will be completed for representative property types and subtypes.)
3. Black and white photographs depicting the various property types and subtypes.

4. Numerical data by type and subtype.
5. Survey methodology.
6. Survey map or maps.

METHODOLOGY

The Columbus Township survey will be inductive in that all public roadways will be driven in an effort to identify all of the subject resources within the survey area. Although a ground survey from public roadways probably cannot produce 100% data in a landscape such as Columbus Township, the vast majority of properties nonetheless will be observed. Viewing conditions will be enhanced by conducting the survey during the fall and/or winter months when foliage is minimal.

An early step will be development of a working typology of anticipated building types. (During the survey, the working typology will be refined as necessary to accommodate the various agricultural related properties actually found). The working typology will be compiled from several sources. Much has been written about barns and other outbuildings but an exhaustive "handbook of barn types" apparently does not exist unless it is Allen G. Noble's excellent Wood, Brick and Stone Volume 2: Barns and Farm Structures. Noble describes, with illustrations, a variety of barn types but he considers his work a beginning rather than a definitive study. In addition to Noble, published works by Fred Kniffen, Charles Van Ravenswaay, Erie Arthur and Dudley Witney, Stanley Schuler and Howard Wight Marshall will be consulted. A research paper on development of an agricultural historic context in Central Oklahoma, prepared by George O. Carney of Oklahoma State University, also will be used. While more limited in scope than Noble's work, the Van Ravenswaay and Marshall books focus on barns in specific regions of Missouri.

Preliminary examination of the above sources suggests that the working typology of barns for the Columbus Township survey will begin with crib barns of various subtypes including the Appalachian crib barn; the English barn; the German bank barn; transverse frame barns and the Midwest three-portal barn; pole barns; a type to accommodate the gambrel-roofed variety such as the Erie Shore barn or the Wisconsin dairy barn; and perhaps the Dutch barn. A working typology probably will not be prepared for other agricultural-related properties. Instead, a typology for such resources as poultry houses, hog houses, root cellars, silos, granaries, cribs, storage buildings, etc., will be developed as the survey progresses.

A coding system will be developed for recording the locations of various property types on the survey map (discussed more fully below).

Decisions must still be made, but it is anticipated that the focus will be on historic properties (roughly, those built prior to World War Two). However, newer barns undoubtedly have been built according to old barn plans and some may exist within the survey area. These old-style barns will be included only if they are constructed of traditional materials. A decision

must be made regarding the pole barn, which is essentially a postwar type. Should it be described and its incidence recorded? Also, how much time, if any, should be devoted to recording the incidence of clearly modern farm buildings such as prefabricated metal buildings?

It is anticipated that although the survey area is relatively small, several days of fieldwork will be required. The tentative plan is to spend two or three days driving all of the roads on the east side of Route M, which

divides most of the township north to south, and an equal amount of time on the west side of Route M and in the "bootheel." Each trip to Columbus Township will begin at the Show-Me Regional Planning Commission office in Warrensburg, which is located approximately nine road miles from the southeast corner of the survey area. Whether the fieldwork will be done in a series of visits over a brief period or spread over a longer period has not been determined.

An enlarged section of a 1988 or later update of a Johnson County highway map will serve as the field map and primary survey map. During the survey, this map will be compared with topographical and older highway maps to check against major omissions of developed terrain.

During the field survey, locations of historic barns and other agricultural related properties deemed significant will be marked on the survey map according to a coding system to be developed. Also, representative and unique examples will be photographed and additional information will be obtained for the completion of inventory data forms and/or the survey report. For various reasons, such as the need to obtain permission to enter gated and posted land, some sites will require revisits. During the survey, interviews with farmers and other owners may lead to the discovery of additional, hard-to-find resources. This is the same basic surveying technique used by Show-Me Regional Planning Commission for countywide surveys of Johnson, Lafayette and Pettis Counties when residential buildings were the focus. A Missouri Historic Preservation Program survey form may be adapted for the Columbus Township survey.

Upon the completion of fieldwork, the data will be evaluated and tabulated, the final selection of property types will be made, photographs will be printed, and the survey report prepared. The survey report will include a summary of the findings and such things as an evaluation of the surveying techniques with suggestions for future surveys, and at least a preliminary discussion of significance and registration requirements.

The proposed timetable for the Columbus Township project is as follows:

July 17, 1992--Submit research design. (Milestone #1)

July 31, 1992--Complete working typology.

October 15, 1992--Preliminary fieldwork begins (foliage conditions permitting).

November 6, 1992--State staff checks draft typology and visits survey area. (Milestone #3)

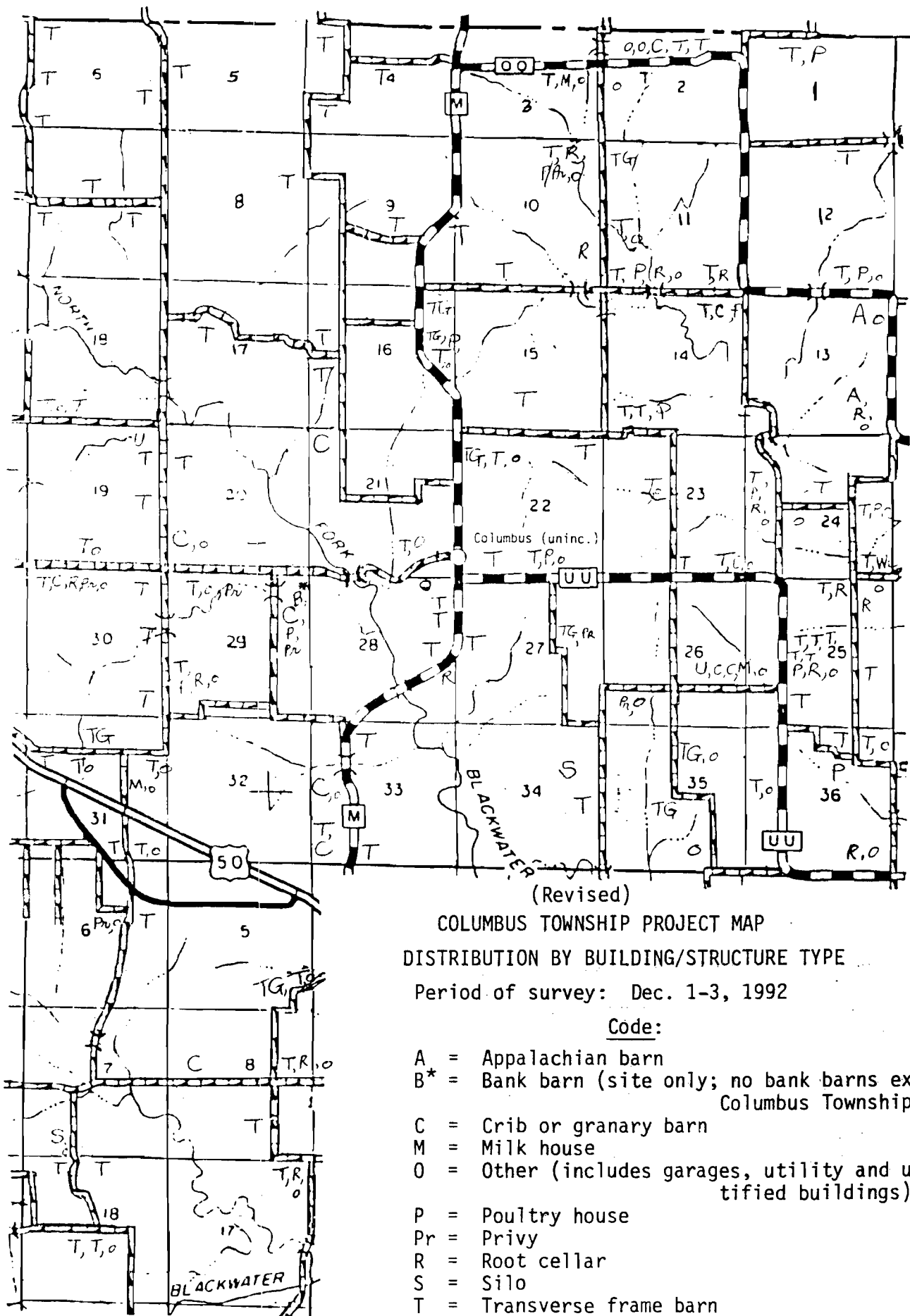
January 31, 1993--Fieldwork completed.

March 8, 1992--Submit draft survey methodology, with photography. (Milestone #5)

May 14, 1993--Submit final survey methodology and final survey report. (Milestone #7)

PERSONNEL

Roger Maserang, historic preservation coordinator for Show-Me Regional Planning Commission, will conduct the survey.



Note: Each symbol represents one individual building or structure except 0, which may indicate any number of buildings or structures.

T TYPOLOGY: COLUMBUS TOWNSHIP AGRICULTURAL SURVEY

BARNS

Appalachian Barns

Map Code: A

Number: 2

Gable front multi-purpose building, usually longer than wide, with a prominent hay hood above loft door.

Main aisle is perpendicular to the roof ridge line, and usually runs from side to side just behind the front wall. In a major variation, the front wall is left open. However, the only extant Columbus Township example has a main aisle (originally used as a buggy drive) in the rear half of the building.

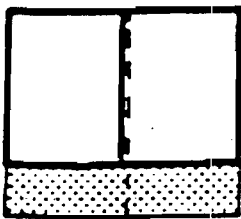
Variations include one or more transverse aisles.

Vertical siding is most common but some examples have horizontal siding.

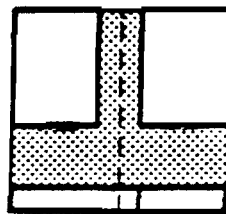
The arrangement of stalls and cribs will vary. A granary is most often found at the rear.

The hayloft may be filled from outside, inside or both.

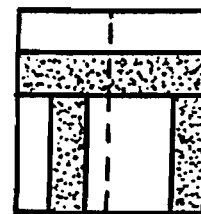
According to Noble, the Appalachian barn is "the most typical barn in parts of Missouri."



Example with
open front aisle



Example with
crib area at front



Example with
cross aisle at rear

Crib or Granary Barns

Map Code: C

Number: 11

America's oldest barn type, the crib barn has many variations ranging from small, single unit barns to multiple cribs under a common gable roof.

Animal accommodations are missing from the crib or granary barn, which exists solely for the storage of produce and, often, machinery.

Crib or granary barns are usually windowless, relatively small, narrow buildings which often have aisles or drives attached to one or both sides.

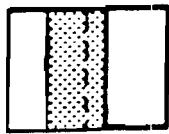
Aisles or drives are often constructed without doors.

Construction of the lower portion may be partially open for ventilation.

To reduce moisture and discourage rodents, the frame may rest on piers of wood, stone or concrete.

When present, lofts are relatively small.

Siding may be vertical or horizontal.



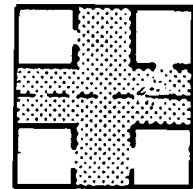
Drive-in crib
barn (with shed)



Crib barn
with flanking
sheds



Side-drive
crib barn



Four-crib barn
with intersecting
drives

Bank Barns

Map Code: B

Number: 0

Note: No bank barns were found in Columbus Township, although at least one existed until a few years ago. Its site is indicated on the project map.

Using a hillside, the lower floor of this multi-purpose, gable roof barn is partly excavated and the facade is open for entry by animals. The open end usually faces south.

Walls of the lower floor are constructed of stone or concrete.

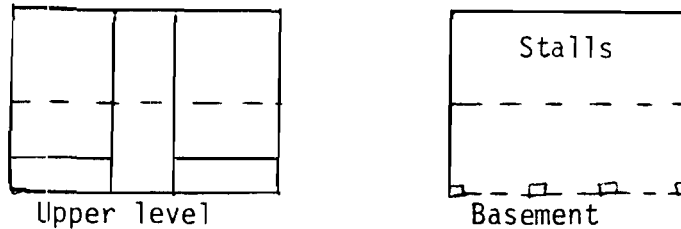
In Noble's German bank barn, there is a prominent overhang or forebay of the second story on the downslope side. However, the lack of a forebay should not be interpreted as meaning that a bank barn is non-German.

Double wagon doors may be centered on the upslope side.

Threshing doors may be present above the open, excavated facade to improve first floor ventilation as well as for additional access.

The presence of a hay hood on some local bank barns shows the influence of other more prevalent forms.

2½ stories, with a hayloft.



Example of bank barn

Pole Barns Map Code: None Number: N/A

Modern pole barns were not counted in Columbus Township because all were built after World War Two. Historic pole barns exist in Columbus Township if age and a framework of poles set directly into the ground are the only criteria. However, a pole framework must be determined by inspection which was beyond the scope of the survey, and in any case other, more visible design elements were given precedence.

Most modern barns are low-profile, one-story, prefabricated buildings without haylofts.

Gable roofs are nearly universal and are typically very wide.

Metal walls are most common.

Frames of the pole barn consist of upright poles set directly into the ground, with footings buried below the frost line.

No sills or foundations. Floors may be poured concrete.

Gable ends and sides may have door openings or may be open. A three-sided form is used for storage of hay and machinery.

Transverse Frame Barns Map Code: T or TG (see note below)
Number: 102 (91 T, 11 TG)

Basic multipurpose barn, usually longer than wide, with a gable roof.

Door openings in gable ends with stalls or cribs along either side of central aisle.

Hay hood or "bill" is common above hayloft door.

Vertical siding is most common but may be horizontal.

1 1/2 or 2 stories.

Loft may be filled from outside or inside from vehicle in aisle.

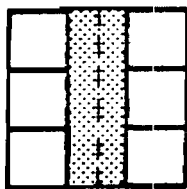
Depending on the age of the barn, framing may range from hewn logs with pinned connections to modern balloon framing with nailed members.

Subtype 1: Same as above but building has been expanded with one or two flanking aisles along the main axis, often used to house machinery. (Noble's Midwest three-portal barn, the most prevalent transverse type in the Show-Me Region, has flanking aisles on both sides and is often wider than long.)

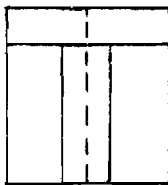
Subtype 2: Same as the basic transverse frame barn, but with a gambrel (dual-pitched) roof. The gambrel variety resembles both the Erie Shore barn and a greatly foreshortened version of the Wisconsin dairy barn as described by Noble.

Subtype 2a: Same as above, but with one or two flanking aisles along the main axis.

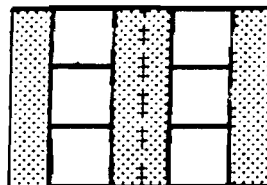
Note: Subtypes 2 and 2a, transverse frame barns with gambrel roofs, are indicated on the project map as "TG" instead of "T". Eleven "TG" barns were counted.



Basic transverse
frame barn



Example with
granary at rear



Subtype 1, with two
flanking aisles

Unique Barns

Map Code: V

Number: 2

This category is reserved for barns considered too unique to be identified as specific types. For example the Wonderly Barn, essentially a transverse frame barn of the Midwest three-portal variety, was placed in this category because of an unusual side wing and truncated or "clipped" gables. According to Schuler, this roof treatment is found on a type of barn in northern Maine. The other Columbus Township barn identified as unique may or may not be significant.

BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES OTHER THAN BARNs

Poultry Houses

Map Code: P

Number: 12

Form varies, but most poultry houses are one-story rectangular frame buildings. Gable-roofed buildings with several windows seem most popular but rough, minimally-designed sheds with no windows were also constructed.

On the better-designed poultry buildings, low window openings in one or more walls (usually the front) provide improved summer ventilation. The gable area, with access through a small upper door, may be filled with hay or other material for insulation in winter.

Siding is irrelevant, but for the record vertical siding predominates in Columbus Township.

Root Cellars

Map Code: R

Number: 15

A small entrance building or structure atop a large earthen mound indicates the presence of this underground or semiunderground storage facility. (Also called storm cellars, cave cellars, vegetable cellars, cold cellars, etc.)

The form and material of the cellar and upper building varies, but many topside facilities are frame, gable-roof buildings with an entrance and no windows. (Windows reduce the amount of shelf space.) Cellars are typically of poured concrete, stone, brick, or concrete blocks.

A ventilating pipe to circulate air and minimize moisture is often present.

In some examples, there is simply a "cellar door" at the top of a flight of stairs leading into darkness. Or the ground level building may have an additional use such as wash house.

Milk Houses

Map Code: M

Number: 3

Milk houses are typically small, one-story rectangular buildings with gable roofs. They usually are located in close proximity to a dairy barn, and may be connected to it.

Modern milk houses almost always are made of tile or concrete blocks because of the damp conditions. Early milk houses were constructed of wood. Fenestration will often include a cattle door as well as a regular entrance, and windows.

For many years, government requirements have significantly influenced the appearance of milk houses.

One Columbus Township milk house contains a loft.

Privies

Map Code: Pr

Number: 7

The "standard" privy is a tall, small, square or rectangular wooden building with a single entrance.

The roof is typically gabled or moderately sloping as on a shed.

Embellishments are not uncommon: the plain door may contain a cutout design such as a crescent, etc.

Silos (Upright)

Map Code: S

Number: 2

The upright silo evolved from the pit silo. Early versions were constructed of wood, and were commonly square or rectangular. Hexagonal and octagonal silos also were constructed, much less commonly. Later silos were circular and were built of concrete, brick, tile blocks, steel, and fiberglass-coated steel. Some later silos also were constructed of wood.

Most silos are adjacent to or near a livestock barn.

Gable roofs are common on early silos. Later silos usually have dome-shaped roofs.

An exterior ladder enabled farmers to climb to the top of the silo for access to the silage. In a refinement, a chute was added around the ladder for protection. The chute could be used for "aiming" the silage into a container.

Of the older silos, only two circular examples remain in Columbus Township--one made of steel and one made of tile blocks.

Within the Show-Me Region, although not in Columbus Township, silos made of other materials including wood, concrete, brick, and fiberglass-coated steel (Harvestore) are found in various sizes. The Hoehn Silo, which exists within the Dover Road landscape of Lafayette County (#91, Lafayette Co. survey) is probably the most unique. The Hoehn Silo is made of wood and is octagonal. There is also a square or rectangular wooden silo in Lafayette County, which unfortunately has not been inventoried.

Windmills

Map Code: W

Number: 1

The basic farm windmill consists of a blade mechanism with a rudder atop a tapering, three or four-legged steel framework. Its purpose is to lift drinking water, primarily for livestock, from a well.

The framework includes a narrow steel ladder to allow maintenance and lubrication of the blade mechanism and rudder. (The rudder guides the blade mechanism into position to take advantage of wind from any direction.)

The only standing windmill in Columbus Township is a three-legged, medium-sized model by the Aermotor Company of Chicago.

Other

Map Code: O

Number: 45

This category is for all types of unidentified buildings, as well as identified garages or machinery sheds. Size varies greatly.

Closer inspection may reveal that some are barns, as well as poultry houses, utility buildings, wash houses, smokehouses, hog houses, etc.

The old Columbus Public School Building, built in the 1880s but last used as a schoolhouse in the 1940s, is depicted on the survey map as an "O". Its subsequent uses include hog house and agricultural storage.

Note that on the survey map, "O" may indicate one or several unidentified buildings. (For all other categories, the property code indicates an individual building or structure at the location where it appears on the survey map.)

ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TYPES NOT FOUND IN COLUMBUS TOWNSHIP BUT EXISTING IN THE SHOW-ME REGION

Miscellaneous Barns

Since the four county surveys did not specifically look for barns, the range of barns within the Show-Me Region is unknown. However, bank barns of various types exist outside of Columbus Township, in all four counties, and some have been inventoried. Variations on the Wisconsin Dairy Barn exist within the Osage Farms Resettlement Area in Pettis County. A unique, 12-sided barn exists in Post Oak Township (Johnson County). It is probably safe to say that there are no cantilevered double-crib barns or house barns in the Show-Me Region, but some other types defined by Noble may exist such as the Dutch Barn and the English Barn.

Ice Houses

The number of ice houses within the Show-Me Region is unknown. These buildings, although usually small, frame, and rectangular, vary considerably. Thick walls were needed for insulation.

A possible ice house with concrete walls was located in Columbus Township (#30 and #30A), and was coded as Other (O).

Within the Show-Me Region, ice houses probably are more common in Lafayette and Saline Counties, possibly associated with plantations. A typical ice house may be seen among outbuildings of the Andrew Jackson Slusher House (#63, Lafayette Co. survey, Northern Lafayette Co. antebellum survey photo #75).

A unique two-story octagonal ice house with Gothic and Greek Revival styling is associated with the Spratt-Aull House (#579, Lexington) in Lexington.

Slave Houses

Only a few brick slave houses are extant in the Show-Me Region, primarily in the Lexington MRA; probably the "best" example is at the James Hicklin Home ("Hicklin Hearthstone"), just east of Lexington.

Smokehouses

Smokehouses are extant in the Show-Me Region, and probably in Columbus Township although none was identified there.

These are small, square or rectangular windowless buildings of one story, constructed of wood, brick or stone. Gable roofs are most common, with a door in a gable end. One or several small chimneys are found in the gables or under the eaves.

Frame examples require the fire source to be centered, away from the walls; in brick or stone examples, chimneys could be along walls as well.

For a good frame example of a smokehouse, see George A. Murrell House (#5, Saline Co. survey; photo #707, Phase II Show-Me Region antebellum survey). For a good brick example, see Van Winter House (#88, Arrow Rock survey; photo #741, Phase II Show-Me Region antebellum survey).

Summer Kitchens

Summer kitchens undoubtedly are extant in Columbus Township, but a windshield survey is not adequate to identify them. Presumably any present will be found at map locations coded "O" (Other).

Size varied somewhat but most summer kitchens were relatively small, rectangular frame or brick buildings of one story. Some summer kitchens were more elaborate, with a loft to provide sleeping space for the kitchen help. A chimney was typically found in one gable end.

Summer kitchens usually were only a few feet from the rear of the main dwelling, to which some were ultimately attached. In some cases, original dwellings were converted to summer kitchens when a new main house was constructed.

The point of a summer kitchen was to isolate the main house from the heat, noise, smells, pests and confusion of a busy kitchen (especially during the harvest season).

For an interior view of a summer kitchen, see Andrew Jackson Slusher House (#63, Lafayette Co.; Northern Lafayette County antebellum survey, photo #77).

Tenant Houses

Tenant houses may be extant in Columbus Township, although none was identified. Several have been identified in the Show-Me Region but indications are that attrition is rapidly reducing their ranks. (Three examples considered for the Phase II antebellum survey of the Show-Me Region, after having been identified in the earlier county surveys, had been razed.)

Invariably these were small, secondary houses, constructed for use by tenant farmers and their families. Although the form varied greatly, designs generally were functional and the facade was unlikely to feature more than minimal styling. A tenant house with a loft is associated with the Henry Jones House (#81, Pettis Co.; Phase II antebellum survey, photo #474.)

Over time, some of these houses have been moved and perhaps combined. (For an example of two joined tenant houses, see Phase II antebellum survey photo #641; this building is associated with the Monsees-Thomson House (#122, Pettis Co.).

STATISTICAL DATA: COLUMBUS TOWNSHIP AGRICULTURAL SURVEY

Columbus Township, with an area of 41.98468 square miles, is the third smallest of 15 townships in Johnson County, Missouri. Its population at the time of the 1990 census was 711, fourth smallest of the 15 townships. Thus there are approximately 17.0 persons per square mile in Columbus Township.

Population History of Columbus Township

1830*	15±	1910	962
1840*	150±	1920	869
1850*	900±	1930	686
1860*	1,500±	1940	585
1870	1,394	1950	511
1880	1,307	1960	522
1890	1,195	1970	427
1900	1,093	1980	707
		1990	711

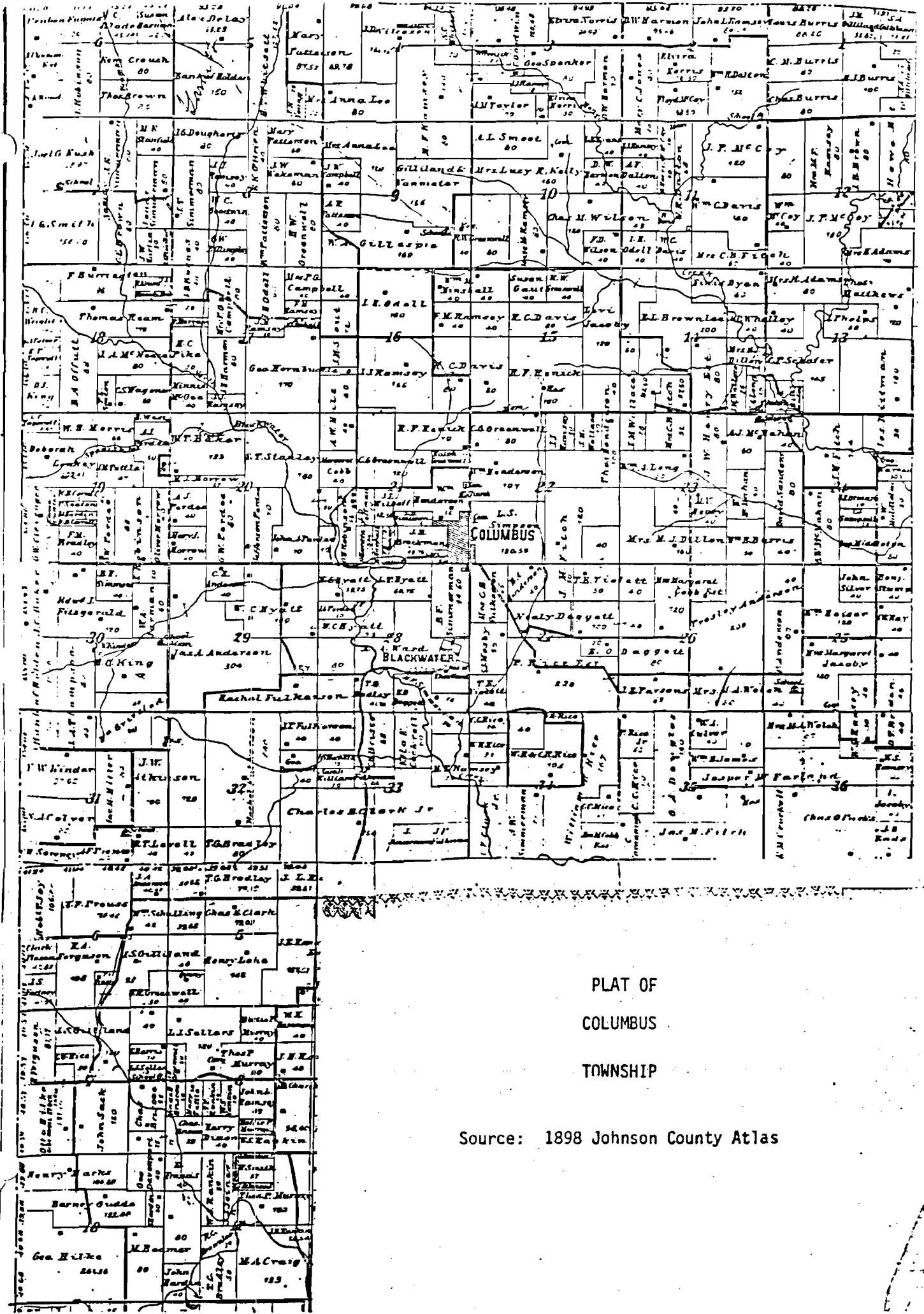
*Columbus Township was part of Jackson Township until May 12, 1870. Population estimated until 1870.

Columbus Township contains 282 housing units of all types, of which 196 are "one unit, detached" living units. Mobile homes are included only if a permanent room has been attached. Twenty-six of the living units are vacant. (Source: 1990 census).

In a 1985 architectural survey by Show-Me Regional Planning Commission, 253 housing units of all types were counted by a research team. No attempt was made to count barns and other agricultural outbuildings and structures. One Columbus Township barn, a unique building tentatively identified as the Wonderly Barn, was inventoried (Survey Form No. 23).

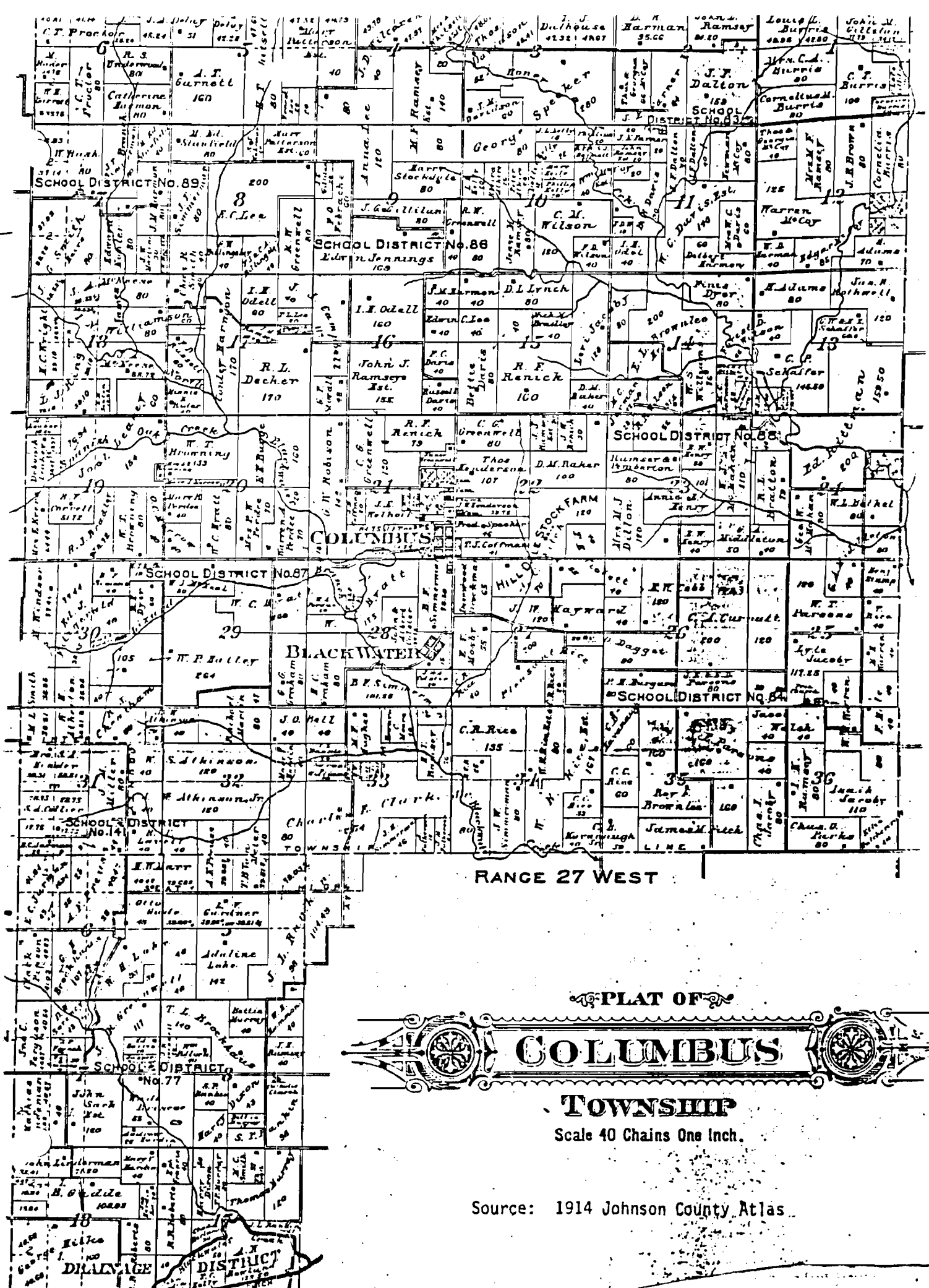
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PLAT OF
COLUMBUS
TOWNSHIP

Source: 1898 Johnson County Atlas



POPULATION, ACCORDING TO CENSUS OF 1877.

ABSTRACT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, ETC., BY MUNICIPAL TOWNSHIPS, ACCORDING TO ASSESSMENT IN 1877.

TOWNSHIPS.	No. of Voters.	POPULATION.		TOTALS.	No. of Horses.	No. of Mules.	No. of Cattle.	No. of Sheep.	No. of Hogs.	Bushels Wheat.	Bushels Corn.	Bushels Oats.	Bush Barley.	Bushels Rye.	Pounds Tobacco.	Pounds Wool.	Tons Hay.	Gallons Wine.	Gallons Molasses.
		White.	Colored.																
Jefferson	258	1114	68	1182	775	356	1977	1129	2521	419	283905	6310	300	150	17480	2943	1175	7	3108
Washington	582	2586	186	2772	1073	431	2179	1803	3962	13058	341000	17500	...	510	47525	3209	624	1000	1215 1215
Grover	219	1033	43	1076	669	250	1365	1050	3433	50548	223680	9235	...	530	6064	2621	801	100	2775
Simpson	203	840	116	956	459	154	1822	630	1761	21057	100810	3476	...	.....	18142	1328	276	...	1810
Post Oak	289	1553	27	1580	882	348	2314	1124	3412	2837	411200	10575	...	47	24365	2507	2124	5	4355
Hazel Hill	267	1133	32	1165	632	271	1170	561	3424	50202	240101	10297	...	739	28160	1019	503	...	2927
Chilhowee	320	1536	63	1599	953	209	2613	1289	4043	17917	370620	6131	...	689	21595	3072	863	3	3134
Centerview	311	1397	99	1493	772	206	1878	1039	3366	32200	252780	24121	354	1746	233	2451	1085	...	829
Columbus	252	912	124	1036	626	240	1226	646	2976	12515	243080	6705	80	832	17250	2662	397	22	3224
Rose Hill	293	1432	23	1455	858	355	2233	1596	3709	49789	271450	9838	...	292	3051	2403	1352	44	1966
Madison	478	2015	155	2170	663	163	1386	362	2993	35394	196500	7646	...	1298	1790	810	480	...	677
Kingsville	179	894	9	903	407	202	958	820	2076	20053	184240	2016	87	1011	9916	1697	881	6	1971
Jackson	364	1817	38	1855	973	391	2101	1362	4795	28839	37033	7869	82	1829	14553	3275	980	...	7917
Warrensburg City .....	.....	Included	below	3039	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Warrensburg	902	3742	658	4400	768	236	1718	494	2903	8532	252100	9925	...	350	25590	1275	1319	1370	4995
Totals	4917	22004	1638	23642	10310	3002	25240	13905	45314	349390	3408490	131934	903	10023	235714	31802	13160	2557	40033

The survey of Columbus Township agricultural resources was conducted on December 1-3, 1992. The number of barns and other outbuildings identified in the survey which appeared to have been constructed before 1945 was as follows:

Appalachian barns	2	Milk houses	3
Crib/granary barns	11	Privies	7
Bank barns	0	Silos	2
Transverse frame barns	102	Windmills	1
Unique barns	2	Other	46
Poultry houses	11		
Root cellars	15		

The oldest Columbus Township statistics found, which follow, are from the Missouri State Census for 1877. In 1877, the total population of Johnson County was 23,642. In Columbus Township, the population was 1,036 (912 white and 124 "colored." Apparently this was a relatively high number of blacks: only Washington Township, with 186, Madison Township, with 155, and Warrensburg Township, with 658, surpassed it.

Other 1877 statistics for Columbus Township:

Number of horses	626	Bushels of wheat	12,515
Number of mules	240	Bushels of corn	243,080
Number of cattle	1,225	Bushels of oats	6,705
Number of sheep	646	Bushels of barley ²	80
Number of hogs	2,976	Bushels of rye	832
Tons of hay	397	Pounds of tobacco	17,250
Gallons of wine	22	Pounds of wool	2,992
Gallons of molasses	3,224 ¹		

¹Only Post Oak, Jackson, and Warrensburg Townships produced more molasses.

²Columbus Township was one of only five Johnson County townships--there were 15 townships--with reported barley.

The Twelfth, Thirteenth, and Fourteenth Censuses of the United States were consulted for agricultural statistics for 1900, 1910, and 1920. The following is a partial listing of these data; additional data may also be used in the analysis. Note that the data are for Johnson County as a whole, rather than for Columbus Township. It will probably be necessary to estimate the data for Columbus Township, using the 1877 township statistics and adjusting for population changes:

Number farms	Average size	Individual owners	Tenants
1877			
1880			
1890			
1900 3,869	126.2 acres	1,735	1,409
1910 3,685		2,395	1,250
1920 3,590	138.3 acres	2,484	1,071

Acres in Farms		Value of Land & Improvements (Except Buildings)
1877		
1880		
1890		
1900	488,131	\$10,431,130
1910		
1920	496,643	

	Value of Buildings	Value of Implements	Value of Live Stock
1877			
1880			
1890			
1900	\$2,158,150	\$415,610	\$2,367,798
1910	\$4,101,345		\$4,963,316
1920	\$7,369,905		\$6,908,282

Value of products not fed to live stock

1877	
1880	
1890	
1900	\$2,294,902
1910	
1920	

Value of Specified Domestic Animals on Farms and Ranges (Total Value)

1877	
1880	
1890	
1900	\$2,270,518.*
1910	
1920	

No. Cattle	No. Horses	No. Mules	No. Asses/Burros	No. Sheep
1877				
1880				
1890				
1900	41,459*	15,341*	4,648*	206*
1910				11,079*
1920	46,749	15,598	6,730	386
				17,925

No. Swine	No. Goats
1877	
1880	
1890	
1900	65,956*
1910	172*
1920	73,182
	905

*3,804 of 3,869 farms reporting.

Amount received from sale of live animals (in previous year)

1877

1880

1890

1900 \$854,573

1910

1920

Value of animals slaughtered on farms (in previous year)

1877

1880

1890

1900 \$135,373

1910

1920

No. farms reporting dairy products

Value of dairy products

1877

1880

1890

1900 3,254

1910

1920

\$171,990

Value of dairy products consumed on farms

1877

1880

1890

1900 \$117,522

1910

1920

Milk produced

Milk sold

Cream sold

1877

1880

1890

1900 3,364,752 gallons

1910

1920 3,168,229 gallons

289,696 gallons

1,969 gallons

Butter made

Butter sold

Cheese made

Cheese sold

1877

1880

1890

1900 590,668 pounds

1910

1920

205,938 pounds

239 pounds

82 pounds

Chickens

Turkeys

Geese

Ducks

Eggs produced

1877

1880

1890

1900 223,617

1910

1920 440,206

9,690

4,533

2,232

1,263,320 dozen*

1,911,748 dozen

* Produced in previous year.

Barley acreage	Barley produced	Buckwheat acreage	Buckwheat produced	
1877				
1880				
1890				
1900	3	60 bu.	67	260 bu.
1910				
1920	82	1,328 bu.		

Corn acreage	Corn produced	Oats acreage	Oats produced	
1877				
1880				
1890				
1900	139,429	3,707,030 bu.	10,443	239,520 bu.
1910				
1920	87,974	2,116,341 bu.	27,636	711,415 bu.

Rye acreage	Rye produced	Wheat acreage	Wheat produced	
1877				
1880				
1890				
1900	15	100 bu.	28,101	224,220 bu.
1910				
1920	364	2,329 bu.	94,932	1,263,630 bu.

Hay & Forage acreage	Hay & Forage produced	
1877		
1880		
1890		
1900	56,176	71,379 tons
1910		
1920	52,788	76,204 tons

Potatoes, sweet potatoes, acreage	Potatoes, sweet potatoes, produced	
1877		
1880		
1890		
1900	1,084	90,322 bushels
1910		
1920	828	56,321 bushels

Misc. Vegetables acreage	Misc. vegetables produced	
1877		
1880		
1890		
1900	1,240	57,341 bushels
1910		
1920		

Tobacco acreage	Tobacco produced	
1877		
1880		
1890		
1900	25	14,250 pounds
1910		
1920	4	3,988 pounds

PHOTO IDs: COLUMBUS TOWNSHIP AGRICULTURAL SURVEY

All photos of Columbus Township agricultural properties were taken during December 1993 by R. Maserang. Negatives are at Show-Me Regional Planning Commission, 122 Hout St., P.O. Box 348, Warrensburg, MO 64093.

Photos are arranged according to building types. Numbers show their approximate locations on an accompanying map (Map A).

The sequence of types is: transverse frame (gable roof) barns, transverse frame (gambrel roof) barns, Appalachian barns, crib or granary barns, bank barns, unique barns, milkhouses, poultry houses, root cellars, windmills, silos, other (includes garages, machinery sheds, ice houses, hog sheds, summer kitchens, wash houses, and unidentified agricultural buildings). Note that the bank barn (#99) is not a Columbus Township building; it was included only as an example of the type. Also depicted are three farmscapes with potential further study as agricultural districts.

Historical information contained in the IDs was provided by Kenneth and John Simmons, who were interviewed on December 11, 1993. Additional information about previous ownership is primarily from the 1898 and 1914 Johnson County atlases.

TRANSVERSE FRAME (GABLE ROOF) BARNs

1-John Rush was the original owner of this World War One era barn. The cupola for loft ventilation is found on relatively few Show-Me Region barns.

2-Conley Harmon was a former owner of this older barn. Examination may show that it belongs in the granary or crib barn group, rather than with the transverse frame barns.

3-The Lee family owned this barn during the early decades of this century. Rear view.

7-This is essentially a "two-portal" transverse frame barn. If the roof were extended on the left side, it could be considered a "Midwest three-portal barn."

8-Possibly used for sheep or poultry, this barn dates from the 1920s or 1930s. The loft could have held oats (sheep food) or hay (insulation for poultry).

13-This barn was built by Basil Davis in ca. 1910.

14-The McDow barn shown here was apparently built in the 1920s.

18-Facing north.

19-This frame barn has been covered with corrugated metal. Closer examination may show that it is not sufficiently old for inclusion in the survey.

23-R. R. Wilson was an early owner of this metal-sheathed, ca. 1900 barn. A milkhouse (right side of photo) was added in ca. 1970.

24-This barn (and the farmhouse) was built for Ed Farner by a carpenter named Wilson in ca. 1933-34.

32-W. T. Browning was the original owner of this barn, in ca. 1920 or earlier. Due to a miscalculation, the south end is two feet wider than the north end.

33-Warren Perdee built this open-sided cattle barn in ca. 1920. Hay was dropped from the loft into the feeding area. Once, a flooding Blackwater Creek washed the cattle out of the barn. The hillside behind the barn is said to have been a gathering point for Quantrill and his followers prior to their raid on Lawrence, Kansas.

35-One of Columbus Township's older extant barns, this one is on its last legs. It was built in the 1880s or 1890s as a horse barn while the property was owned by Clarence Greenwell, a Kentuckian. Stables were along both sides and each end contained a granary. A larger (ca. 1930s) barn is nearby (#36, transverse frame--gambrel roof type).

37-Metal siding has been applied to this barn in Columbus. This is the south elevation.

40-This is the old Fitch cattle barn, built at around the turn of the century. Between the two drive-through aisles was a manger and a circular area for milking; grain bins for corn and oats were at the rear. Horse, sheep and hog barns are gone but a poultry house, garage and the ca. 1870 farmhouse survive.

41-Barn with shed-roof addition across rear.

42-Another "two-portal" version. Whether a farmer built a basic transverse frame barn or built or enlarged one to consist of two or three "portals" may simply have been based on the amount of money available.

46-West and south elevations of "two-portal" barn in eastern Columbus township.

47-West and south elevations of "three-portal" example. Eastern edge of township.

49-The rail for sliding doors extends completely across the front of this board-and-batten-sided barn in western Columbus Township.

51-Although grouped with the transverse frame barns, this relatively small example may belong with the crib or granary barns.

52-Horse barns typically have Dutch doors, as does this example.

53-On the old Will Halley place, this barn has been sheathed with corrugated steel.

59-This sheep barn was apparently built by the Simmerman family at about the time of World War One. On the west side of the central aisle was a corn crib. On the east side were stalls for sheep.

60-Another sheep barn on the old Simmerman farm, south of Columbus.

61-Also on the Simmerman farm was this sheep or cattle barn south of the above two barns. East elevation.

62-Another Simmerman barn south of Columbus.

68-This transverse frame barn (with root cellar in foreground) is on the old Will Hawley farm in Section 25.

71-One of several barns on the Jacoby property, this ca. 1900 three-portal example is probably the oldest. The others, also included in the survey, were built through the 1920s. The farmstead includes a 1906 house and some smaller outbuildings. The area with the farmhouse and several of the outbuildings is dotted with dozens of older cedar trees. All are in Section 25. 72-The

Jacoby family raised sheep as well as cattle, and some barns were used by both types of animals. Hay racks were along both sides of this building.

73-Because the Jacoby barns were always well-maintained, they are probably older than they look today. Cattle still graze here but the farm is no longer operated by the Jacobys.

74-The opposite side of this two-portal barn is largely open.

75-This Jacoby barn is east of the farmhouse.

79-The southernmost of the old Jacoby barns.

80-Located on the western edge of Columbus Township, this was probably a general purpose barn with horse stalls for at least a team; probably it contained a granary and corn crib. The garage doors (with windows) are nonoriginal.

81-Horse barn with flanking sheds, age unknown but probably not very old.

83-A. F. Preuss was the builder of this World War One-era cattle barn.

86-This cattle barn, with a granary, was built in the 1920s or earlier. The drive is on the west.

88-In the early 1900s, this barn was on the M. F. Hughes farm. It was probably built in the early 1920s. Tractors and wagons were housed in a drive left of a central hall. Cattle were on the right. A granary was in the rear center.

91-This example is in southcentral Columbus Township, on land probably owned by the Charles E. Clark family at the time of its construction.

92-The Rice family, probably C. C. Rice, was the original owner of this classic three-portal barn in Section 34. On the left is the drive for vehicle storage. The opposite side consisted of stalls for horses or another type of animal, with a central aisle for access. A granary was probably at the rear. Such barns have relatively large haylofts.

93-W. H. Warren owned this farm in the teens. The barn, now metal-sheathed, may have been built around 1920.

95-This transverse frame barn is unusual because of its horizontal siding, a more expensive treatment which made the building tighter than the usual vertical boards. It was built for cattle and grain, probably in ca. 1920, by "Sheb" Rankin.

This is the east elevation.

95A-Rear (west) elevation of above.

98-These two white-painted transverse frame barns are in the extreme southwest corner of Columbus Township.

TRANSVERSE FRAME (GAMBREL ROOF) BARNs

12-This three-portal example in Section 11 was built in ca. 1910. Framing and siding were produced at a nearby saw set.

20-The Erie Shore barn or a greatly abbreviated Wisconsin dairy barn is suggested by this tall cattle or horse barn. It was probably built in the 1940s.

21-In addition to the main roof, the roof over the flanking aisles also has two slopes in this example. Poultry house at left.

36-Original owner John Simmons, who had a sawmill, sawed the framing lumber and commissioned carpenter Ed Farrow to build this barn in ca. 1935. This is the east elevation. An older, gable roof barn is nearby (#35).

36A-West and south elevations of above. Openings in the south elevation were for cattle to enter the barn for feeding. Cupola is for loft ventilation.

82-R. J. Cheatham built this two-portal example, probably in the early 1920s or earlier. This relatively small barn has been overhauled.

96-This gambrel-roofed barn was probably built after World War One. The outbuilding on the right was not identified. A transverse frame barn with a gable roof (#95) is nearby.

APPALACHIAN BARNS

27-While there are no "textbook" Appalachian barns in Columbus Township, this example has an important aisle running perpendicular to the roof ridge line--only it is well back into the barn, rather than at or near the front wall. This is a two-portal version. Thomas Matthews may have owned this barn at the time of its construction in the early 1900s. Attention to detail shows in the framed window and door openings.

27A-Two different elevations of above.

28-Built in ca. 1920 or earlier, by the Rittman family, this horse barn has a perpendicular aisle, probably a buggy drive, toward the rear.

BANK BARNS

99-This bank barn, included to represent this important local type which is no longer extant in Columbus Township, is about three miles north of the township line, in Lafayette County. Built into a hillside, the partially excavated lower floor is open for entry by animals and usually faces south, as it does in this example.

CRIB OR GRANARY BARNS

5-This crib barn or granary, with two side drives, is on the old D. W. Harmon farm in northeast Columbus Township (Section 2). 25-Ed Farner owned this granary barn when it was constructed in the mid-1930s. One or more side drives are typical.

32b-Built in 1946, this building is technically not quite old enough to be included but good information was obtained. The builders were John Simmons and his son, Doug. It began as a slat corn crib with a wood floor (to keep varmints out) and enclosed ends for protection from the weather. Soon, sheds for hogs--one end open, one end closed--were added. The drive on the far left was added much later.

34-This building was either a granary with a side drive or simply a farm shed.

43-This small granary with a side drive under the main gable roof is in Section 23.

50-Although this building resembles a granary barn, closer examination may show that it has been incorrectly identified. The location is in Section 30.

57-W. C. Wyatt was the original owner of this crib barn with side drives. One of the few bank barns ever constructed in Columbus Township was also on the Wyatt farm, located in Section 29. The crib barn is thought to have been constructed between 1910-20.

66-This apparent grain barn is on a farm (now owned by the Wonderly family) which has existed since the late 19th century.

67-This possible granary barn also is on the Wonderly farm.

89-In this photo, the building on the left is thought to be a crib or granary barn.

90-At least one of these barns in Section 33 was probably a granary, but closer examination is needed.

UNIQUE BARNS

31-Perhaps just an odd form of granary barn, this building in Section 19 seemed sufficiently unusual to be placed in a separate group.

64-With its unusual side wing, truncated gables and Victorian trim in the gables, the Wonderly barn is an extraordinary transverse frame example. East and north elevations.

64A-Rear (south) elevation of above.

MILKHOUSES

65-This milkhouse/dairy barn is on the Wonderly farm in Section 26. Concrete block walls promoted cleanliness because they could easily be washed; their insulating qualities was another plus.

65A-Another view of above, showing the narrower rear portion with a gambrel roof. The front section housed the cooler equipment and probably served as an office.

85-Milkhouse in Section 31.

POULTRY HOUSES

11-This crude, Depression-era building was constructed as a chicken house (left portion), with a privy tenuously connected on the right. Section 10.

15-On the McDow farm, this poultry house was built in the 1920s and shows relatively good craftsmanship.

26-This apparent poultry house was probably built in the 1930s or 1940s. Section 14.

39-This poultry house is part of the old Fitch farm in Section 22, just east of Columbus.

45-Multi-sided poultry house (apparently) is along the eastern edge of the township, in Section 24.

56-This turkey brooder house was constructed in the late 1940s or early 1950s, and technically is not quite old enough for inclusion in the group. Reportedly built by the Tickemyer family.

78-This probable poultry house is part of the Jacoby farmstead, an early 20th century complex in Section 25. Several Jacoby barns and other outbuildings are included in the survey.

94-The right half of this turkey building on the old Kenneth Milton farm dates from the 1930s or earlier, and is the oldest half.

ROOT CELLARS

10-Most root cellars are entered through small frame buildings such as this one in Section 10.

16-This root cellar building on the McDow farm perhaps dates from the 1920s.

29-The old Rittman farm includes a frame root cellar building (on the right) and other outbuildings.

55-The vaultlike concrete entrance to this root cellar on the old Will Hawley farm was probably poured in around 1912. Impressions from the wood forms are visible in the sides.

63-This frame washhouse also contains the entrance to a root cellar on the old Simmerman farm south of Columbus.

69-This root cellar is in Section 25. It was probably built in ca. 1910, when the land was owned by G. L. Middleton.

77-Among the variety of outbuildings on the Jacoby farm is this frame root house building. Section 25.

WINDMILLS

48-The only standing windmill in Columbus Township is this Aermotor in Section 24. In Columbus Township, they were particularly popular in the teens and 1920s, for lifting water from wells for livestock. Since then they have been torn down, converted into TV towers, etc.

SILOS

97-This upright steel silo is typical of a type that became popular after World War One. This example, probably dating from the 1920s, is in Section 7, in the bootheel. Silos are rare in Columbus Township today.

OTHER

4-Garages and machinery storage buildings are included in this category. This machinery building is on the old D. W. Harmon farm near the Lafayette County line, in Section 2.

6-This building in Section 3 may be a remodeled outbuilding.

9-Originally, this ca. 1920s building may have been used as an automobile garage.

17-This older shed is on the James McDow farm in Section 11. 22- Unidentified outbuilding in Section 16.

30-This unidentified concrete building with a gable roof is on the old Rittman farm. Possibly it was used as an ice house.

30A-Another view of the above building.

32A-This quonset style building was constructed in ca. 1946, when military use made the relatively low-cost design popular. Rare in Columbus Township.

38-Unidentified building at the old Fitch farmstead may have been used as a garage with an upstairs storage area. Section 22 east of Columbus.

44-Hog barn is in Section 23.

54-Possibly a utility shed, this outbuilding is near the old Halley farmhouse in Section 29.

58-This was the old Columbus School (P.S. District No. 85), built in the 1880s or so and used as a schoolhouse into the 1940s. It reportedly has been used as a hog building as well as for the storage of hay and lumber. Photo taken in 1985; however, building looks essentially the same today.

66-Unidentified small outbuilding on the Wonderly farm in Section 26.

70-Unidentified small barn in Section Section 25. Corrugated metal siding obscures the original surface.

76-Unidentified small outbuilding on the Jacoby farm in Section 25.

84-This gable-roofed building in Section 31 is probably for machinery storage.

87-The building on the right has been used as a garage. The small building on the left was not identified.

UNCOUNTED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

A-Also common on the landscape, but not counted were small feed bins like the one shown at right. Few of these structures would be old enough for inclusion in the survey.

B-Poultry houses of this design are generally post-World War Two buildings. This example does not appear to be used as a poultry house, in any case.

C-Very small brooder houses and other very small structures were not included but are common on the landscape. But the unidentified building on the right was counted as "other."

FARMSTEADS

D-The old Jacoby farmstead in Section 25 probably contains more well-preserved and original barns and other outbuildings than any other farmstead in the township, and includes the farmhouse which was constructed in 1906. Many of the buildings are among a cluster of cedar trees, at left in photo.

E-Much less promising is the old Fitch farmstead; the house (left in photo) dates from the 1870s but it is in poor condition and most of the outbuildings are gone. In addition to the garage (?) and poultry house above, the property includes an old barn.

F-The focus of the Wonderly Farm would be this unique barn with truncated gables. The farm also has one or more granaries, a milkhouse and other outbuildings. Unfortunately for the purposes of study or nomination, the present farmhouse is relatively new.

FINAL REPORT: COLUMBUS TOWNSHIP AGRICULTURAL SURVEY

INTRODUCTION

The Columbus Township agriculture survey was a very small-scale project, designed to provide basic quantitative information about barns and other outbuildings in one small township in the Show-Me Region.

Historical research was minimal, although some agricultural census data were collected. Also, older farmers are a valuable source of oral history and two Columbus Township natives were interviewed, with good results.

Most of the fieldwork, which included mapping and photography, was accomplished in three days in December 1992. All public roads were driven. The surveyor also routinely trespassed for a better look and to obtain better photographs. Interviews were conducted in half a day. Processing of the field data, which included darkroom work and matching of prints with field notes, took much longer; 103 prints were ultimately submitted. Preparation of the written reports also consumed much time.

Columbus Township was selected for various reasons. Its proximity to the Show-Me Regional Planning Commission office was a factor. Its relatively small size meant that it could be surveyed quickly. It was the site of the oldest settlement (1827) in what today is Johnson County. The absence of incorporated areas was another plus. Finally, Columbus Township was thought to contain a collection of barns and outbuildings that would be fairly typical of the Show-Me Region.

CONCLUSIONS

The Columbus Township agriculture survey showed that even a small township is likely to retain numerous examples of older, but not extremely old, barns and other outbuildings upon the landscape. The range of identified barn types was narrower than expected, but the expectations were undoubtedly too high. In order to develop a typology encompassing all types of agricultural buildings in the Show-Me Region, the survey area would have to be extended beyond Columbus Township.

As across much of Missouri, early agriculture in Columbus Township was diversified and consisted of many small farms as appropriate for the climate, soil and terrain. Much corn and hay were raised specifically for feed for the farm animals: horses, mules, cattle, sheep and hogs. For many decades, into the 20th century, most of the hay was stacked in fields because barns were few and inadequate. Corn and wheat were staples, but oats, barley, rye, tobacco, hemp and apples were among the crops. In 1900, the average size of a farm (in Johnson County) was 126.2 acres, exactly 20 acres less than the statewide average (146.2 acres).

Pleasant Rice is said to have been Columbus Township's first settler, in 1828. Rice was a native of Tennessee, but prior to about 1840, most of the settlers were Kentuckians. Nicholas Houx came a few months after Rice, and his retinue included several slaves. Slavery was fairly common among the more prominent residents such as Dr. James M. Fulkerson who, in 1860, owned "a large number" of slaves and about 3,000 acres of land. Prior to the Civil War, the local hemp culture "was largely engaged in and brought considerable wealth to the farmers," according to the 1881 county history. The same random violence that flared throughout the region during the Civil War was shared by Columbus Township. Columbus, the original seat of Johnson County, and several farmhouses were burned by marauding Kansans on two days in January 1862. After the war, black workers remained on the farms of Columbus Township and blacks comprised 12 per cent of the population as late as 1877.

Small crib barns and other outbuildings that may have been associated with early settlement of Columbus Township have perished, apparently. Barns built by later waves of settlers and by descendants of the original settlers also have largely perished. The oldest extant barns in Columbus Township are probably from the 1880s and 1890s, and they are few. Some Appalachian barns and some bank barns as well as crib barns in various sizes would be expected in this group. The older barns include the Greenwell Horse Barn (Photo #35), the old Fitch Cattle Barn (Photo #40), one or more of the Jacoby Barns (Photo #71), the Matthews Earn (Photo #27), and the Wyatt Crib Barn (Photo #57). Many extant older barns and outbuildings in Columbus Township were built between 1915-35, representing periods of prosperity as well as depression.

Other agricultural building types surveyed included poultry houses, privies, root cellars, milk houses, silos and windmills. Unidentified buildings (probably including wash houses, summer kitchens, storage sheds, etc.) were depicted on the survey map as "Other." (See also Methodology and Typology sections.)

Overtly ethnic barn types are largely missing from Columbus Township. There are no German bank barns, no English barns, no Dutch barns, and only a couple of barns (not good examples) that could be described as Appalachian barns. There were, however, many, many transverse frame barns (102 counted in the windshield survey). Apparently, the design of the transverse frame barn was sufficiently flexible that it could be adapted to many uses by relatively simple changes in the floor plan.

While it may seem surprising that no bank barns and so few Appalachian barns were found, explanations can be offered. Most of the German settlers in rural Johnson County (there weren't all that many) apparently bypassed Columbus Township. Apparently, they were more likely to settle in other areas of Johnson County or in Lafayette County to the north. John Simmons, a former resident of Columbus Township, theorized that topography was a key factor. Although bank barns normally were constructed on relatively hilly terrain, much of the Columbus Township acreage that was available during the time of German settlement was a bit too hilly for their taste, and they went elsewhere. Or even simpler, Columbus Township is a relatively small township and attrition may have been less kind to the few bank barns constructed there than in other parts of the Show-Me Region. The number of extant bank barns throughout the Show-Me Region is not large today, and probably never was.

Despite early settlement by Upland Southerners, the dearth of Appalachian barns may also be largely a matter of attrition. This was an

older barn type, and most of the older barns and other outbuildings have simply vanished. It is also possible that Appalachian barns were never constructed in large numbers in Columbus Township. For a textbook example of an Appalachian barn, see the old Slusher Barn on Dover Road in Lafayette Co. (#68, Lafayette Co. survey). In any case, the many transverse frame barns standing today were probably built by descendants of Upland Southerners. Most of these barns, which in the full-blown, three-portal form combined efficiency of use with maximum storage and shelter space, date from the first decades of the 20th century.

Several of the township's transverse frame barns are, in effect, two-portal barns. As might be expected, this type looks unfinished, sort of like a Midwest three-portal barn in process. Many of these probably evolved from basic transverse frame barns when an alley or portal was added to one side of the original building. But other two-portal examples seem to have been built that way as a single unit. The two-portal barn has no special significance, except that it represents the highly individual nature of all barns. For the most part, farmers built what they needed within the limits of what they could afford: two portals provided more space than one, and cost less than three. Some were expanded when it made sense to do so.

Columbus Township has a reasonable variety of agriculture-related buildings but for good examples of some types of silo, it is necessary to look elsewhere in the Show-Me Region. Lafayette County, for example, has two older wooden silos, one square or rectangular and the other octagonal. Only two older silos were identified in Columbus Township, one made of steel and one of tile blocks. There were none of the costly blue Harvestore silos (the mark of a fairly successful farmer) in Columbus Township, although they exist locally. Many Columbus Township farmers had concrete silos constructed in the 1920s or so, but the larger ones became hazardous when the mortar weakened. Companies came through the area offering to dynamite them.

Tenant houses seem relatively scarce in Columbus Township, although they are not uncommon within the Show-Me Region. Smokehouses were not identified in Columbus Township, but some of the buildings depicted on the survey map as "Other" may well be smokehouses. Springhouses probably do not exist in Columbus Township but a fine stone example is extant in Saline County, on the old farmstead of General T. A. Smith.

In addition to promising individual barns, several farmsteads with interesting collections of resources are extant on Columbus Township. These include the old Jacoby farmstead in Section 25, with buildings possibly dating from the 1890s or earlier and a farmhouse constructed in 1906. (See Photos #71-79, and D)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Because old barns are as likely to be found in the vicinity of new houses as of old, not to mention where no houses exist, all past surveys which failed to include barns are of only limited value in tracking them down. Even though barns were inventoried in county surveys conducted by Show-Me Regional Planning Commission, barns were not the focus and the sites of many good barns were not documented. Nor would it be expedient to consult survey maps for the locations of older buildings, where older barns might be lurking; there is

just too little correlation between where the barns actually stand and the kind of housing nearby, if any.

The three county surveys conducted by Show-Me Regional Planning Commission (of Johnson, Lafayette and Pettis Counties) identified several significant barns and indicated when barns were associated with other inventoried properties. But the best-documented barns (those inventoried and photographed) tended to be only those which were distinctive enough to attract the attention of the survey teams. Thus barns like the 12-sided Schmidt Barn (#161, Post Oak Township, Eastern Johnson Co.), the massive Osage Farms dairy barns (#51 and #75, Pettis Co.) and the Wonderly Barn with its Victorian, truncated gables (#23, Columbus Township, Western Johnson Co.) were readily picked up while the vast majority of significant, traditional barns were not. Presumably, inventoried barns such as these can be individually nominated; they are locally significant for their architecture because they are unique within the Show-Me Region.

Other significant local barns which were inventoried individually include the McCurdy Barn, a bank barn with a cupola (#9, Jackson Township, Western Johnson Co.), the Adams Barn, a very old bank barn (#108, Montserrat Township, Eastern Johnson Co.), the Jones Barn, with its truncated gable and cupola (#10, Jackson Township, Western Johnson Co.), the Slusher Barn, a good Appalachian example (#68, Lexington Township, Lafayette Co.), the Hoehn Barn with its octagonal wood silo (#91, Dover Township, Lafayette Co.), the Wilson Mule Barn (#126, Dover Township, Lafayette Co.), and the Old Fulkerson Barn (#94, Centerview Township, Western Johnson Co.). If they still existed, the old Ozias Barn/Silo (#100, Centerview Township, Johnson Co.) and the unique double-crib barn of Harold Burgard (#117, Centerview Township, Johnson Co.) would also be high on the list of significant area barns.

With some effort, additional barns with nomination potential could be pulled from Section 44 of various inventory survey forms for dwellings identified in the county surveys, but this would not be an effective method of "surveying." In general, the notations about outbuildings are of only limited value, since they rarely contained sufficient description for a determination of significance. Usually, they simply noted that a barn, barns or other outbuildings were associated with the primary resource being inventoried, usually a dwelling. Older outbuildings were often photographed in conjunction with the Show-Me surveys, however, and these negatives should prove helpful.

While it is always feasible to be deductive and say that because "Area X" was associated with whatever, the probability of finding barns associated with whatever in "Area X" is high, they may or may not actually be extant and it will still take at least localized resurveying to find them. Although we know that proportionately more German immigrants settled in the Concordia-Alma-Higginsville area of Lafayette County, resurveying will still be necessary to locate any extant bank barns. Appalachian barns should be found in the Dover Road area of Lafayette County, and generally across the northern tier of townships where settlers and their descendants from such states as Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and the Carolinas constructed some of the oldest buildings in the region, but it will take additional fieldwork to find them. Areas in Saline County should be equally productive for barns and outbuildings associated with builders from the Upland South.

In the Show-Me Region, in the future, small, intensive agricultural surveys in promising areas would seem more logical than full resurveying.

Since quite a few Missouri counties are still unsurveyed, perhaps barns, etc., could be added to the list of property types for which documentation is desired, when survey occurs. Guidelines present something of a problem, since so little is known about barns and their distribution in Missouri. Lack of a good typology is a major problem. Another problem in barn identification is the fact that they are so individualistic, unlike many house forms. The floor plan of an I-House is usually obvious from outside, but the specific layout and use of many barns--important for identification and for assessing significance--can only be determined by inspection. Windshield surveys are less effective for barns than for dwellings.

There is definitely some urgency in proceeding with nominations. The barns are coming down, at least as fast as other endangered building forms. Apparently, much of this has to do with rising insurance rates. Faced with exorbitant insurance costs, many farmers simply let their older, unused buildings go uninsured and unrepaired.

"BOB"

At least occasionally, one of the pleasures of surveying is meeting people. The Simmonses laced their barn recollections with anecdotes, one of which was a "true story" about a Columbus Township farmer named Jim and of a very old horse that he had, named Bob. This has nothing to do with barns or other aspects of the built environment, but the gentle humor is worth sharing. Unfortunately the story wasn't transcribed, but this is the gist of it:

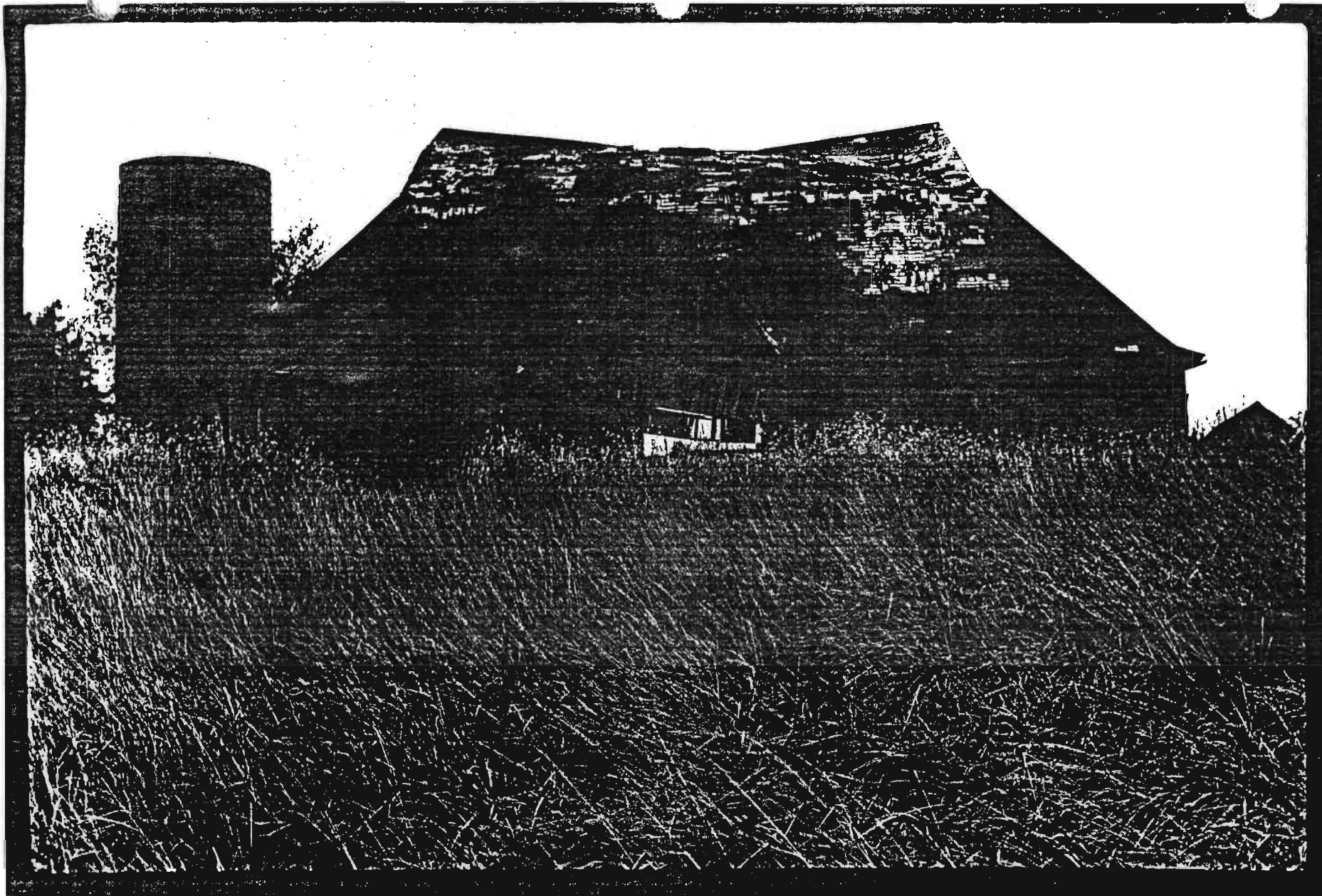
"A day came when Bob, this very old horse, was no longer able to get up. So Jim consulted with his veterinarian, knowing full well that Bob was probably on his last legs, or off of them, actually. Reluctantly, after seeing the horse, the vet's advice was to just put the poor animal out of its misery: there was no medication that would help.

Soon Jim got his gun and started to shoot Bob, but he couldn't quite bring himself to do it. He ended up talking to some of his friends, but they didn't want to do it either. They knew it had to be done, but Bob had been such a good and friendly horse that nobody wanted to be too hasty.

Someone suggested that they at least give Bob a drink of whiskey before shooting him, so they got a bottle with the idea of doing that. But obviously there was more whiskey than Bob would need, so they decided to have a round first. Then they had another round or two, and by the time anyone thought about Bob again, the bottle was pretty much empty.

They felt really bad about this, and someone thought it would be a good idea to at least let Bob inhale the fumes before putting him down. Jim took the bottle over to where Bob was sprawled on his side and waved it under his nose. Bob's eyes got big. Pretty soon he snorted, got up and walked on down the road. You know, that old horse lived a long time after that."

"True story," swears John Simmons.



HAROLD BURGARD'S BARN, possibly an uncommon four-crib barn, was inventoried in 1985 in the Johnson County West survey. The building was sagging precariously then, and has since been razed. The barn was in Centerview Township. Although barns did not have high priority in the Johnson County West survey, the Burgard barn was sufficiently unique to attract the attention of the survey team of Tom Christopher and Roger Maserang. (See Survey Form No. 117, 11/1/85, Johnson County West Survey.)