

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Farmers Mercantile Co. Building

other name/site number N/A

2. Location

street & town 872 Boone's Lick Road N/A not for publication

city or town High Hill N/A vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Montgomery code 139 zip code 63350

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Mark A. Miles 05/06/04  
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Farmers Mercantile Co. Building  
Name of Property

Montgomery County, MO  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
3		Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Two part commercial block  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

foundation Stone  
walls Asbestos  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof Synthetics  
other Wood  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Farmers Mercantile Co. Building  
Name of Property

Montgomery County, MO  
County and State

**8 Description**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

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

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**Areas of Significance**

(enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1904-1954

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Persons**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

**9 Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Farmers Mercantile Co. Building  
Name of Property

Montgomery County, MO  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

**UTM References**  
(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/5 6/4/0/1/5/0 4/3/0/4/2/9/0  
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**  
(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Property Tax No.

**Boundary Justification**  
(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title see continuation sheet

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Continuation Sheets**
- Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- Photographs:** Representative black and white photographs of the property.
- Additional Items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

name/title Jac Meacham

street & number 872 Boone's Lick Road telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town High Hill state MO zip code 63350

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

**Farmers Mercantile Co. Building  
Montgomery County, MO**

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### Summary:

Constructed in 1904, the Farmers Mercantile Co. Building faces north on Boone's Lick Road in High Hill, Montgomery County. The frame two-story, two-part commercial block rests on a stone foundation and has a low-pitched gable roof behind a stepped parapet. The first floor has always been used for commercial purposes while the second contains residential, storage and meeting space. Two historic frame outbuildings, a cream station, and a storage barn/shed, are on the lot and continue to support the building's commercial function. There is also a modern (non-contributing) highway billboard at the southwest corner of the property. Though covered in asbestos siding in the mid-1900s, the building retains its original storefronts as well as original 1/1 upper story windows. Interior finishes and much of the original cabinets and display cases are also intact. The building retains a high degree of integrity and continues to convey its significance as a social and commercial center for the community.

### Elaboration:

Four concrete steps, the width of the building, lead to the original storefronts. The two identical storefronts are traditionally designed with wood paneled kick plates, large display windows and transoms. Centered in each storefront are paired doors topped by two-light transoms. Decorative cast-iron columns separate the entrance doors from the two flanking display windows. A wide metal cornice effectively divides the function of the building's public commercial space on the first floor from the private residential function of the second floor. The second floor is simply designed with a stepped parapet and pressed metal cornice. The parapet hides a low pitched, front gable roof and two brick chimneys. Five original 1/1 wood framed windows are evenly spaced across the façade. A private entrance on the northeast corner opens to a wide stairwell leading to the upper story apartment and storage space.

The west elevation has little architectural detail. The second floor has three evenly spaced, 1/1 windows that light the residential and meeting space located on the second story. The first floor has a pair of 1/1 windows near the southwest corners.

The east elevation is relatively simple in design. The north half of the elevation steps out to accommodate the enclosed stairwell leading to the second floor. There is also a small one-story bathroom addition located just behind the stairwell enclosure. The south half has two 1/1 windows on the second floor.

The rear (south) elevation is one bay narrower than the primary façade. The top of the wall has a simple wood fascia board that follows the line of the low-pitched gable roof.

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**Farmers Mercantile Co. Building  
Montgomery County, MO**

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Four 1/1 wood windows are located across the second floor of the elevation. The first floor has two entrances/exits to correspond with the entrances on the façade of the building. The wood doors have simple wood trim and transom windows. These entrances are flanked by 1/1 wood framed windows.

The first floor of the building consists of two, large rooms with high ceilings. Simply designed custom made shelves and drawers were built floor to ceiling on both sides. A single wall separates the two rooms, though a large (8' X 8') opening in the center of the wall allows the first floor to be used as one large commercial space. The walls and ceilings are covered in maple tongue and groove lumber that has been stained and shellacked. The original floors are also maple tongue and groove boards. The building has many of the original panes of glass, electrical outlets, ceiling fans and wall coverings. Original wood burning stoves have been replaced and the chimneys now vent the heating and air conditional units. (See Figure 1)

The building floor plan is very practical and functional. The double entry doors allow oversized and heavy objects to be moved in and out of the retail spaces. High ceilings provide good circulation and accommodate the ceiling fans. The built-in shelving and drawers allow for excellent organization and product separation. Wood floors give the building and natural feel and a warm welcome to customers.

The building was constructed to be a flexible space to serve the needs of the property owner as well as the community. A small room above the stairwell on the second floor was used as a dentist's office two afternoons a week into the early 1940s and is now used as an emergency bedroom.<sup>1</sup> The space below the stair well is a small pantry storeroom and entry to the restroom. The large room on the west side of the second floor was used for meetings, movies, lectures and storage. The rest of the second floor housed an apartment for the storeowner or other resident. (See Figure 2)

The outbuildings for the Farmers Mercantile Co. consist of the Beatrice Cream Station, a small wood frame clapboard building constructed due east of the store. It was built in 1924 and was used as the official cream weighing and testing station for the area farmers. The "out back" building, c. 1919, was originally built as a storage barn, chicken coup and ice house.<sup>2</sup> Later a shed, lean-to, and outhouse were added to the building. Animals, poultry, grain, salt, hay, barrels and boxes were bought and sold from this area. All buildings are currently in use and in good condition.

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Frank Mortimer from New Florence, MO made twice weekly visits (Tuesday and Thursday) when he had appointments. "Public Notices," Warrenton Banner, 1912-1919.

<sup>2</sup> Les Greenwell, owner and operator of the store for 62 years, confirmed the configuration of the "out back" building during a personal interview in 1999.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Farmers Mercantile Co. Building  
Montgomery County, MO**

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The Farmers Mercantile Co. Building is in good condition and has had no major additions or alterations since the restroom was added c. 1940. The building retains a *high degree of integrity and conveys its significance as a locally significant commercial and community building.*

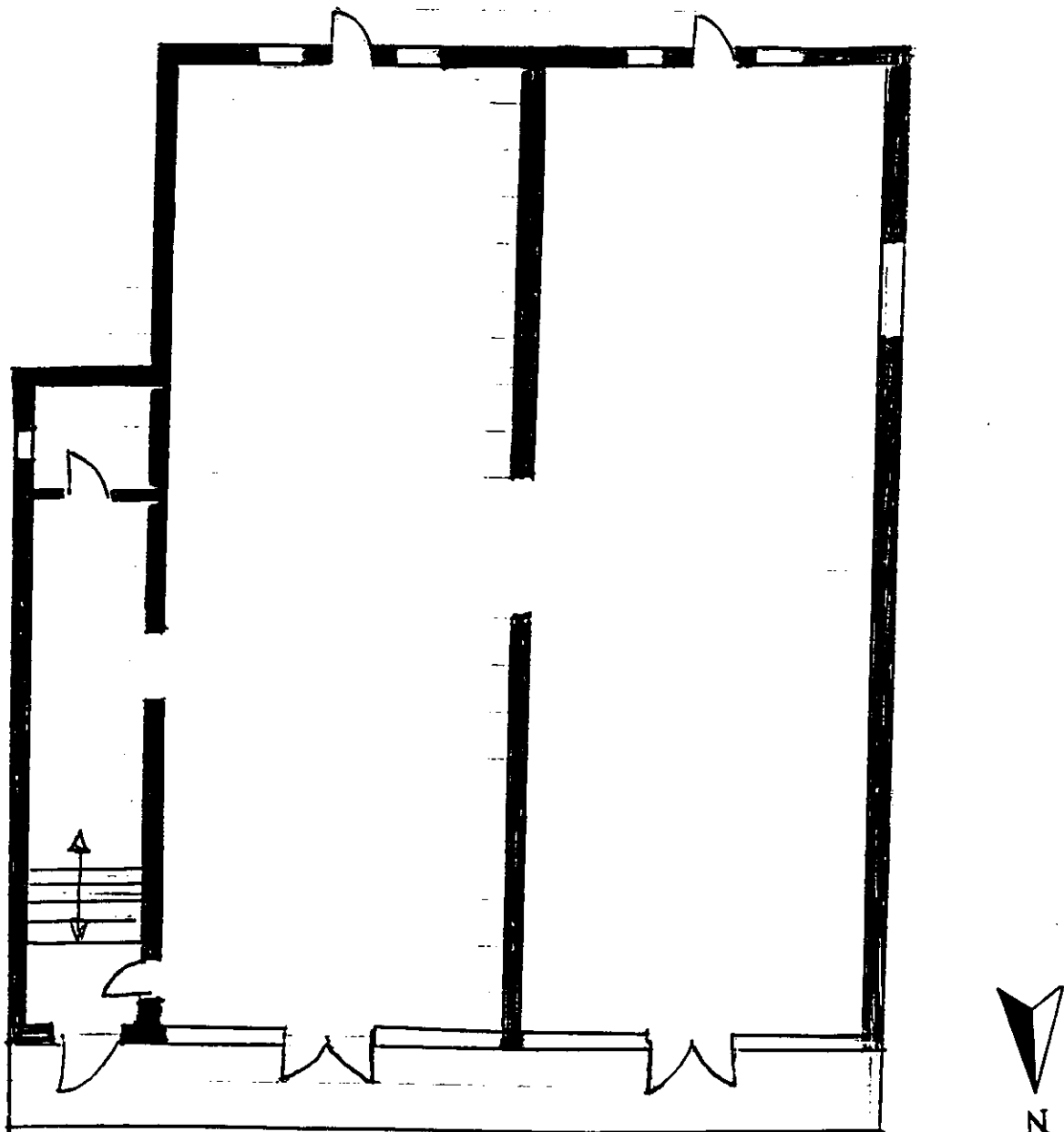
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Farmers Mercantile Co. Building  
Montgomery County, MO

Figure 1: Sketch First Floor Plan



Not to scale.



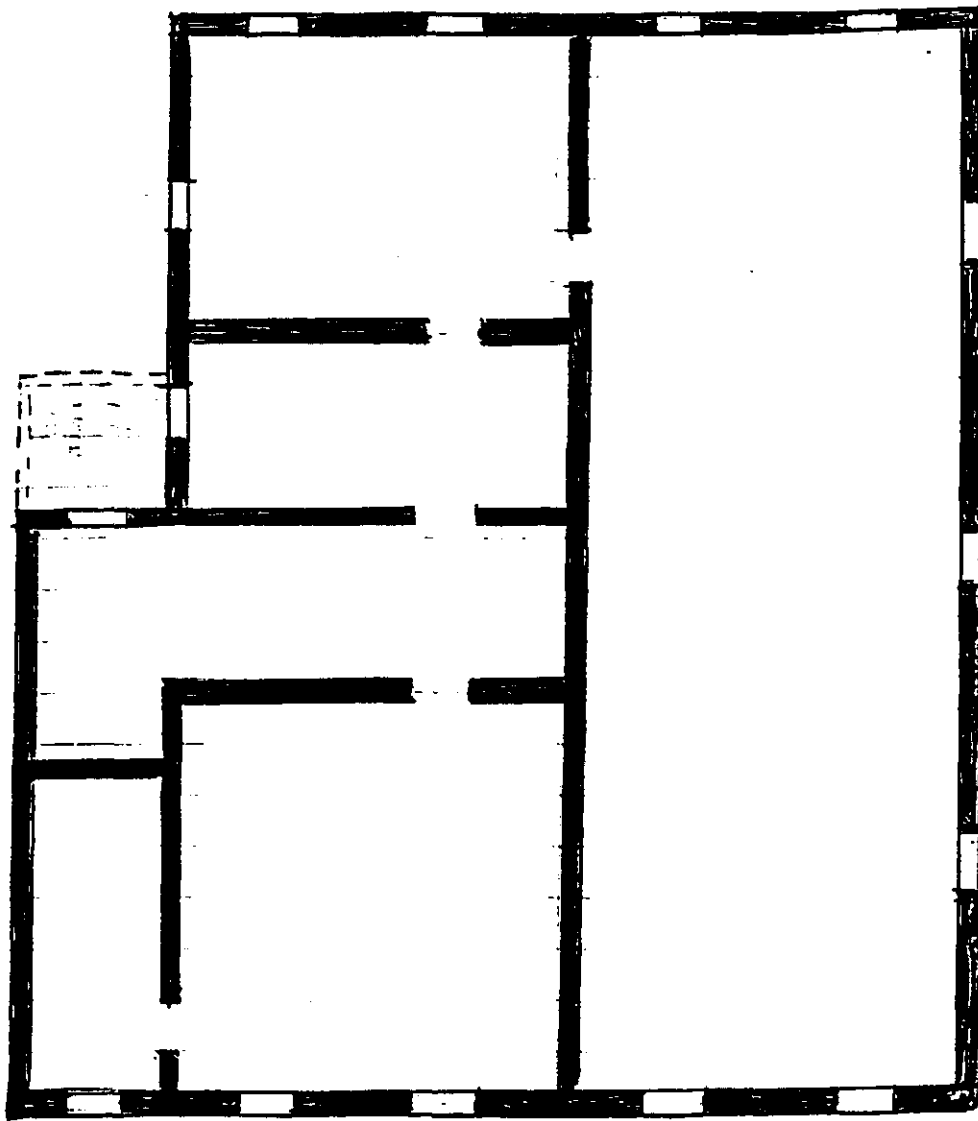
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Farmers Mercantile Co. Building  
Montgomery County, MO**

**Figure 2: Sketch Second Floor Plan**



**Not to scale.**

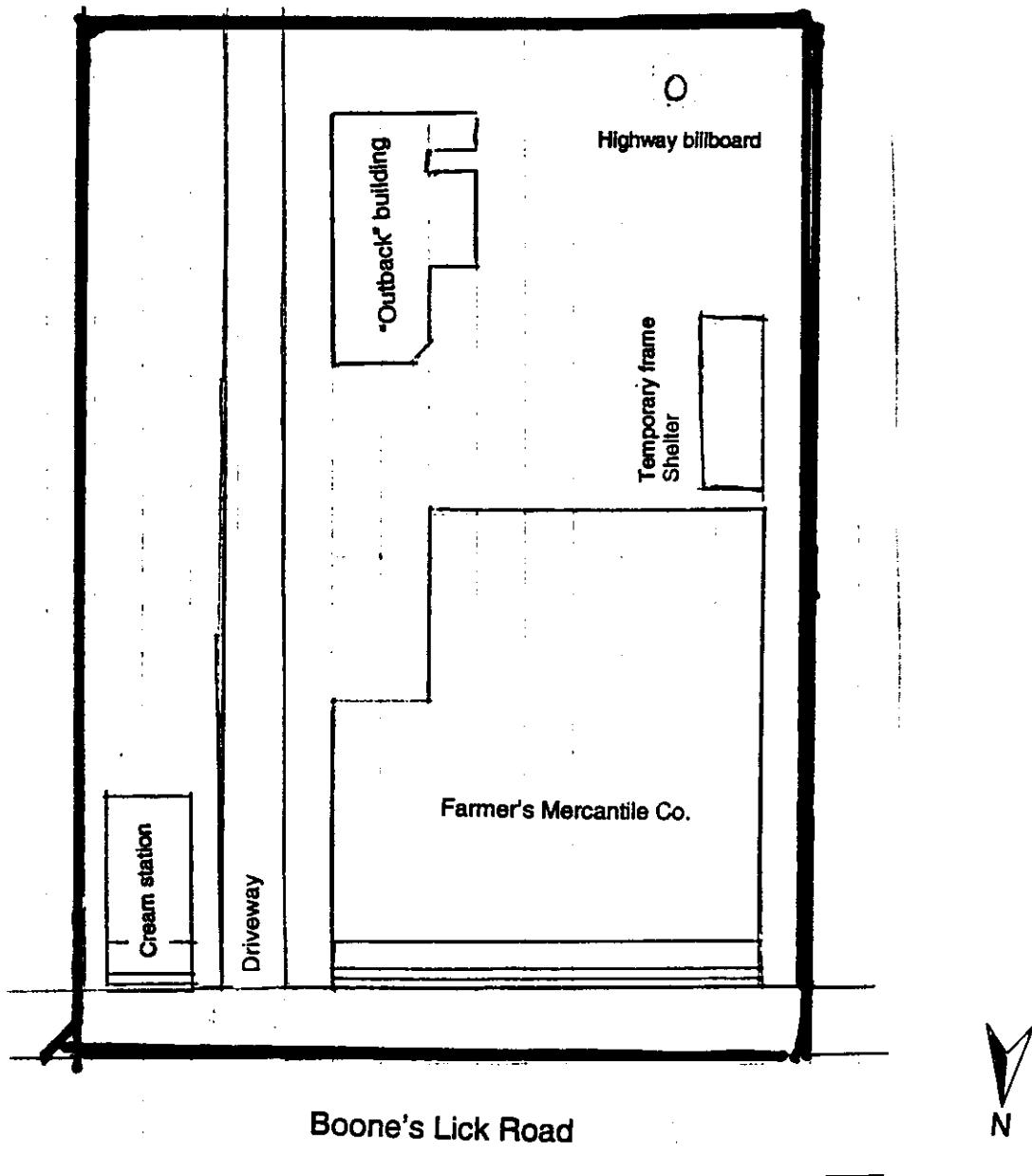
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Farmers Mercantile Co. Building  
Montgomery County, MO

Figure 3: Sketch Site Plan



Not to scale.

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**Farmers Mercantile Co. Building  
Montgomery County, MO**

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**Figure 4: Historic Photograph of Farmers Mercantile Co.**



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Farmers Mercantile Co. Building  
Montgomery County, MO

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### Summary:

The Farmers Mercantile Co. Building in High Hill, Montgomery County, is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Commerce and Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The building is historically significant for its long association with the development of the local community, regional trade, and the civic life of High Hill. The building was constructed in 1904 and during its history has served as the home of the High Hill Enterprise newspaper, a farmers' cooperative, and a general merchandiser. The retail business has provided support and merchandise for the community of High Hill as well as the North Missouri and Wabash railroads and their workers. The store spurred the commercial expansion in High Hill and supported the retail and social needs of the community. The two-story building and its two associated outbuildings are carefully maintained and continue to serve High Hill as the only surviving general store in the area. The building is also a representative example of the general store property type and is typical of rural commercial buildings throughout Missouri. The period of significance for the building is 1904-1954, the date of construction to the arbitrary 50 year cut off date.

### Elaboration:

#### Historical Background:

Montgomery County was reported to have approximately 1000 residence when organized on December 14, 1818.<sup>3</sup> The original county included present-day Warren County and part of Callaway County. Population grew as settlers, primarily from the Southeastern United States, moved into the area. The growth of population was aided by the Missouri River along the southern boarder of the county, and by the Boone's Lick Trail. The trail ran through the south half of the county, roughly along what is now Boone's Lick Road. High Hill is located along the old trail route.

Local histories note that George Bast was one of the earliest settlers near present day High Hill. Bast owned land north of High Hill as early as 1825,<sup>4</sup> but it wasn't until Hance Miller, William Hoss, and John Row constructed a steam grist and saw mill in 1852 that a community was born. The year after the mill opened, Benjamin Sharp and F. H. Dryden opened a store.<sup>5</sup> The North Missouri railroad, with its accompanying depot, hotels and other services followed in 1857.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> History of St. Charles, Montgomery and Warrant Counties, Missouri [1885], St. Louis, MO: Paul V. Cochrane, reprinted 1969, p. 557.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 711.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 714.

<sup>6</sup> W. J. Auchly, et al., A Pictorial History of Montgomery County, 175 Years, 1818-1993. Virginia Beach:

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Montgomery County, MO

High Hill took its name from the High Hill post office. The post office had been established in 1838 in the home of James Jones.<sup>7</sup> Jones lived a few miles east of present day High Hill and it is for him that the community of Jonesburg is named. After Jones death, other postmasters assumed the administration of the High Hill post office. When Dryden and Sharp opened their store, they became the High Hill postmasters and the community took on the name.<sup>8</sup> In retrospect, the name seems appropriate because railroad engineers claimed that High Hill was the highest point along the old Wabash railroad track between St. Louis and Kansas City.<sup>9</sup>

While local and county histories indicate that the population of the community peaked at approximately 300,<sup>10</sup> the railroad provided a customer base that allowed local businesses to flourish. By 1878, the community supported 3 general stores, 1 hardware, 1 drug store, 1 grocery, 1 hotel, 2 blacksmiths, a saddle and harness shop, a steam mil, a millinery and two doctors.<sup>11</sup> The community also contained several boarding houses serving railroad workers. In listing the communities early businesses, the author of the county history of 1885 stated that the business count was "nearly the same today."<sup>12</sup> The town continued to prosper well into the early 1900s.

### Farmer's Mercantile Company

In 1904, Edgar C. Coffman constructed what would become known as the Farmers Mercantile Company in the newly platted Coffman addition to High Hill.<sup>13</sup> The simple design and interior finish is very similar to other historic commercial buildings in the community, indicating that local carpenters built the store.<sup>14</sup> The wood likely came from the Nebel lumber yard, located across the street. Oral history suggests that Nebel may have used lumber salvaged from the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis to finish the store and construct several houses in the town, but documentation supporting the oral tradition has not surfaced.

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The Donning Co., 1993, 67. The railroad tracks were later taken over by the Wabash Railroad.

<sup>7</sup> History, 712.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., 714.

<sup>9</sup> Auchly, 67.

<sup>10</sup> Edward Brothers, An Illustrated Historical Atlas of Montgomery County, Missouri. Philidephia: Edward Brothers, 1878. Reprint, nd, 10.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> History, 717.

<sup>13</sup> The Abstract of Title for the Farmer's Mercantile notes that the addition was platted in October o 1904.

<sup>14</sup> The High Hill History Room maintained by the local historical society includes a photograph of the interior of a former meat market in High Hill. The photo shows an interior with shelving units that are identical to those still in the Farmers Mercantile building. The former meat market building is still extant and is located two doors down from the nominated property.

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Montgomery County, MO

The building originally housed a print shop that produced sale bills, birth and death notices, stationary and envelopes. Starting on February 8, 1906, N.B. Webster began publishing the High Hill Enterprise in the building.<sup>15</sup> Webster was both publisher and editor of the newspaper. J. B. Gallagher later took over the job of editor. Subscription cost for the weekly paper was \$1.00 per year and, according to the first issue, the publisher was working with the local post office to establish rural delivery.<sup>16</sup> The newspaper lasted for approximately 6 years. In 1912, the owner sold the printing equipment to someone in Hawk Point. Subscriptions were honored until the end of the year by the New Florence newspaper.

Though the High Hill Enterprise was locally published, the few copies housed in the High Hill History Room included little information on the community itself. There were a few advertisements for local businesses (namely the bank) and professional services (dental and veterinarian), but most of the information appeared to be syndicated columns on farming and world news. Local information focused accounts of visitors to the homes of High Hill residents, or trips made by locals to nearby cities such as St. Louis.

It isn't clear when the print shop began to convert to a general store. It is possible that the trade in grocery and other goods operated in conjunction with the print shop. By 1917, a local farmer's cooperative began to operate a general mercantile business out of the building.<sup>17</sup> The co-op members used the building as a store as well as a location to trade goods and possibly to prepare shipments of agricultural products via train. Around 1919, a small barn/storage shed was constructed behind the building to store bulky items. A chicken house and fenced yard (now demolished) for chickens and rabbits was also constructed behind the building.

The popularity of the Farmers Mercantile as a center of farm trade was such that a Beatrice Cream station was erected next door to the store in 1924. The small building, which is part of the nominated property, housed machinery to weigh and check the butterfat content of milk and cream. From the cream station, the dairy products would be shipped to the Beatrice creamery in Nebraska or Colorado.

During the Depression, the Farmer's Mercantile helped sustain farmers and

<sup>15</sup> High Hill Enterprise, Vol. 1, No. 1, Feb. 8, 1906.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> At least two sources note that the store was called McCollough's Mercantile store, although neither note the dates McCollough operated the business. Les Greenwell, owner for 62 years, noted that he purchased the store and contents from the co-op, so it is possible that McCollough ran the business before the co-op took over the store.

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Farmers Mercantile Co. Building  
Montgomery County, MO

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townspeople through hard times. The store still contains a vertical cabinet housing "tab" books used to note purchases, debt and balances on accounts. Some of the books are still active and others contain records of years-old debt that will never be paid.

The cooperative began to fail in the mid-1930s. Many of the investors were also debtors unable to pay their dues or accounts. As debt rose, it became necessary to dissolve the co-op and sell the store. In 1936 Les and Elizabeth Greenwell purchased the store. The couple would run the business for the next 62 years.<sup>18</sup>

Like many businesses of its type in small communities across the state, the Farmer's Mercantile was more than just a place to buy groceries. It was, and is, a center of the community. By necessity, the building is multifunctional. In addition to the store on the first floor, the upstairs has been used as a residence, meeting hall, and dentist office, often at the same time. A wide room on the west side of the second floor housed meetings of local organizations, and the occasional picture show. Dr. Frank Mortimer used the small room over the stairs as a dentist office when he visited the community on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the 1910s through the 1940s.<sup>19</sup> Despite lack of plumbing and other amenities, part of the upstairs was also used as a residence.<sup>20</sup> It isn't unusual for former residents and employees to return to the store to recount their experiences in the building.

The tradition of the store as a town center continues under the current ownership of Jac Meacham. Meacham purchased the building in 1999 and still runs the general store. As the only retail business in High Hill, the store is a place for residents to gather and purchase basic necessities. At lunchtime, customers can also get a hot meal or quick snack at the deli counter. The store sells everything including antiques, light bulbs and milk and bread. The store, as it has for nearly 100 years, still purchases eggs from local farms, candles them and packages them for resale. The owner notes that everything, except the employees, is for sale.

### General Stores

The Farmer's Mercantile Co. Building is the only commercial enterprise remaining in High Hill and is representative of old general stores that were once common across the state. As transportation changed and population shifted, the need for general mercantile businesses declined. Relatively few examples of the commercial type are still intact and functioning in the state.

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<sup>18</sup> Interview with Les Greenwell conducted by Jac Meacham, 1999.

<sup>19</sup> "Public Notices," Warrenton Banner, 1912-1919.

<sup>20</sup> Lloyd Wright. High Hill Memories. Free Press, 1996.

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Montgomery County, MO

Larry Freeman, who wrote a brief history of general stores in the 1950s, noted a general decline in the number the business type in the 1920s. By this time, the practice of selling from bulk packaging was changing as brand names and prepackaged items became popular.<sup>21</sup> Lawrence Johnson in his book Over the Counter and on the Shelf, Country Storekeeping in America, 1620-1920, echoes this thought. As packaging and transportation changed, general stores found it difficult to carry all the brands of merchandise demanded by its clients. While they might sell a little of everything needed by a community, they often didn't have the specific name brands consumers demanded. Also, as easy and economical forms of transportation grew, general stores no longer had a captive audience of customers.

A few general stores, like the Farmers Mercantile Co., have stood the test of time. Despite changes in merchandising and transportation, the store is still in business and continues to meet the social and commercial needs of the community. The relative isolation of High Hill which is about 8 miles from the nearest sizable town, customer loyalty and nearness to I-70 have extended its life beyond that of most country stores. It has felt an economic hit because of the deaths of several local residents and the larger stores in other communities, but it continues to seek ways to be a convenience to the local community and a destination for visitors and tourists.

### Architecture:

Farmer's Mercantile is a representative example of general stores that were once common across the country. Everything from its interior "cluttered with piles of merchandise"<sup>22</sup> to its exterior facade and display windows bespeak of its historic and continued use as a general mercantile.

Like many historic commercial buildings, the Farmer's Mercantile building exhibits the characteristics of a two-part commercial block. The building is two stories in height, and the division of function is clearly seen on the facade. The first floor contains large display windows that invite customers to examine the wares and enter to make purchases. This public space is separated from the less public upper floors by a simple cornice line. The second floor is less open to public view and is characterized by a wall with smaller windows punched in. The upper facade covers the area used for residential, office or meeting space.

A description of Farmer's Mercantile with its large display windows, stepped parapet and concrete porch is typical of those in any number of studies of general and country

<sup>21</sup> Larry Freeman. The Country Store. Watkins Glen, NY: Century House, 1955, 40.

<sup>22</sup> Lewis Atherton. Main Street on the Middle Boarder. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1954, 45.



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stores. Larry Freeman describes a general store of 1900 in his book The Country Store in the following way:

Another fashion in store design called for an iron front with various columns . . . Or the store might have its gable end squared off on the street side by a fake front of wood . . . An unroofed porch or platform usually ran along the side or extended at the front far into the street. It had steps for reaching the store door; . . . but its main function was for loading heavy merchandise directly into farm wagons driven to its side.<sup>23</sup>

The similarities to characteristic general stores carries through the interior of the store. All of the walls are lined with high wood shelves. There are hooks and brackets above the shelves to hang harnesses, bridles and other paraphernalia common to historic country stores. As Atherton notes, the emphasis for the store was "illustrating the range of stock"<sup>24</sup> more than any form of true organization. The center of each of the two store rooms have shelving islands holding all manor of merchandise. Carrying on the tradition of the general store property type, the store is "cluttered with piles of merchandise and space was [and is] at a premium."<sup>25</sup>

As with most general stores, the nature of the community demanded that store buildings be multifunctional to serve both the commercial and social needs of a community. Atherton notes that it was common for the upper stories to be used as lodge halls, opera houses, or offices.<sup>26</sup> National Register listed country store buildings in nearby counties in Missouri have also been historically used as post offices and polling places. The second floor of the Farmers Mercantile has also had a variety of uses. Parts of the second floor have been used as a dentist's office, residence, movie theater, and meeting place. The northeast corner of the store was also the bus stop for the Purple Swan Bus line.<sup>27</sup>

The Farmer's Mercantile is by no means the only historic general store building in the area. Several rural general stores in nearby counties have been listed on the National

<sup>23</sup> Freeman, 37.

<sup>24</sup> Atherton, 44.

<sup>25</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>26</sup> *ibid.*, 43.

<sup>27</sup> Interview with Lloyd Wright. This information is also included in his book, High Hill Memories.

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**Farmers Mercantile Co. Building  
Montgomery County, MO**

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Register of Historic Places in the last few years. Among these are the Pitcher Store in neighboring Callaway County (NR 3/12/01), and the Kreinenkamp Store (NR 5/5/00) and Hoppenberg-Fick General Store (Orrville Historic District, NR 10/18/03) in St. Louis County. While all of these represent the general store as an architectural type, each take on a different form and represent slightly different time periods. In addition, only the Farmer's Mercantile is still in operation as a general store. The Farmer's Mercantile, which still has its original shelves and counters stuffed with merchandise, gives visitors a glimpse into history and a chance to participate in traditional general store retailing.

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**Farmers Mercantile Co. Building  
Montgomery County, MO**

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### Interviews

Person Interview with Lloyd Wright, conducted by Jac Meacham.

Personal interview with Les Greenwell, conducted by Jac Meacham 1999 and 2000.

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Farmers Mercantile Co. Building  
Montgomery County, MO

### Boundary Description:

Lot 15 and East ½ of Lot 14 in E.C. Coffman's Addition to the town of High Hill, Missouri.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all the property historically related to the Farmers Mercantile Building and its associated historic outbuildings that retains integrity.

### Section 11:

Form Prepared By:

Jac Meacham, 872 Boone's Lick Road, High Hill, MO and

Tiffany Patterson, State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO

### Photo Log

The following is true for all photographs:

Photographer: Roger C. Maserang, Missouri State Historic Preservation Office  
Location of Negatives: Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 176,  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
Date: February 2004

1. North and west elevations, looking southeast.
2. North elevation, looking south.
3. Detail, storefront on north elevation, looking south.
4. East and south facades, looking northwest.
5. Interior, east storeroom, looking south.
6. Interior, east store room, looking south.
7. Interior, east store room, looking north.
8. Interior, east store room, looking north.
9. Interior, west store room, looking northwest.
10. Interior, stairwell leading to second floor, looking south.
11. Interior, second floor meeting room (west side), looking north.
12. "Out back" building, north and east elevations, looking southwest.
13. South elevation, "out back" building, looking north.
14. Beatrice cream station, north and east elevations, looking southwest.
15. Farmers Mercantile (left side) Photo Taken 1906/1907  
Old Hiway 40, now is Boone's Lick Rd in front of store

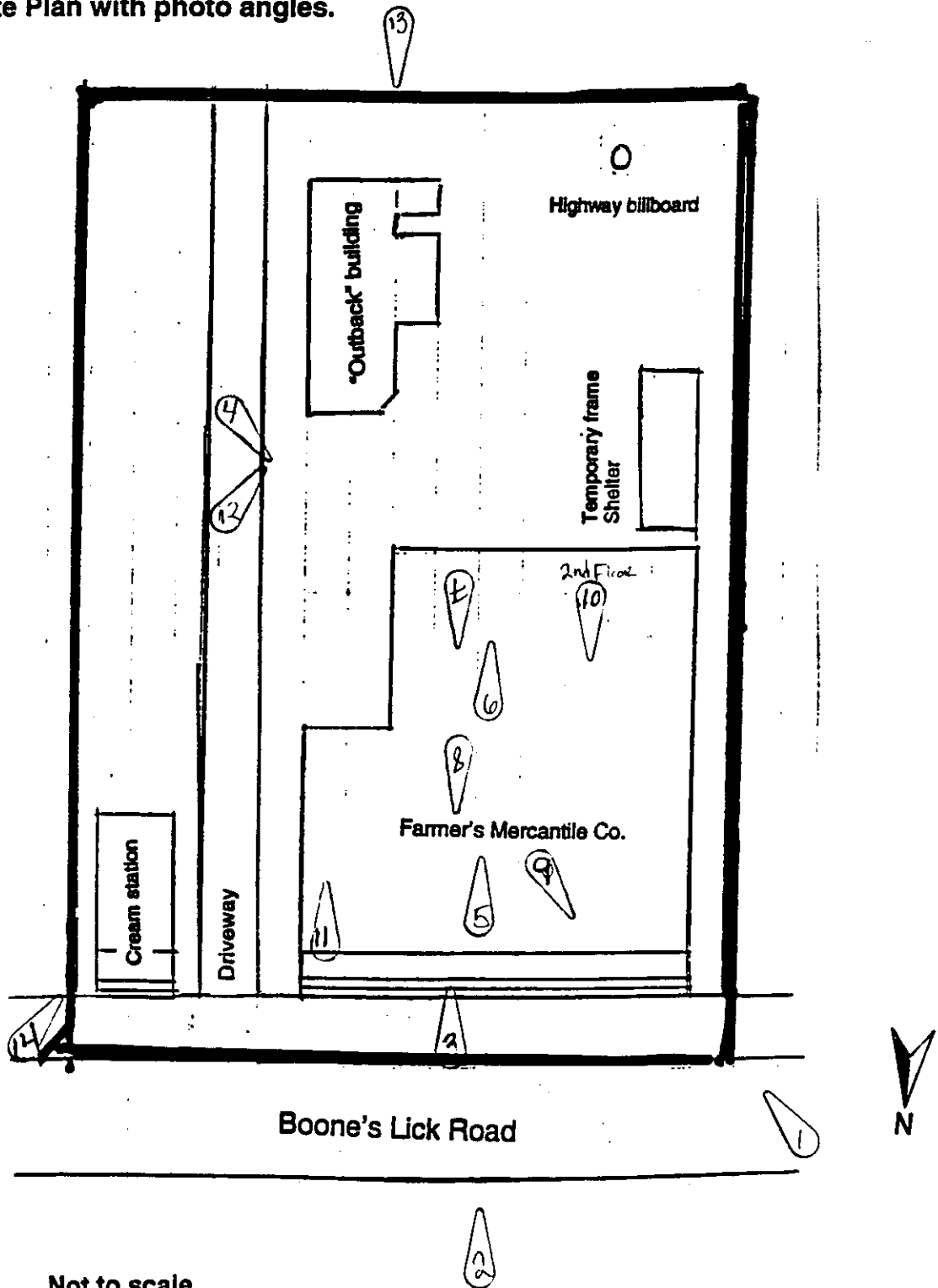
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

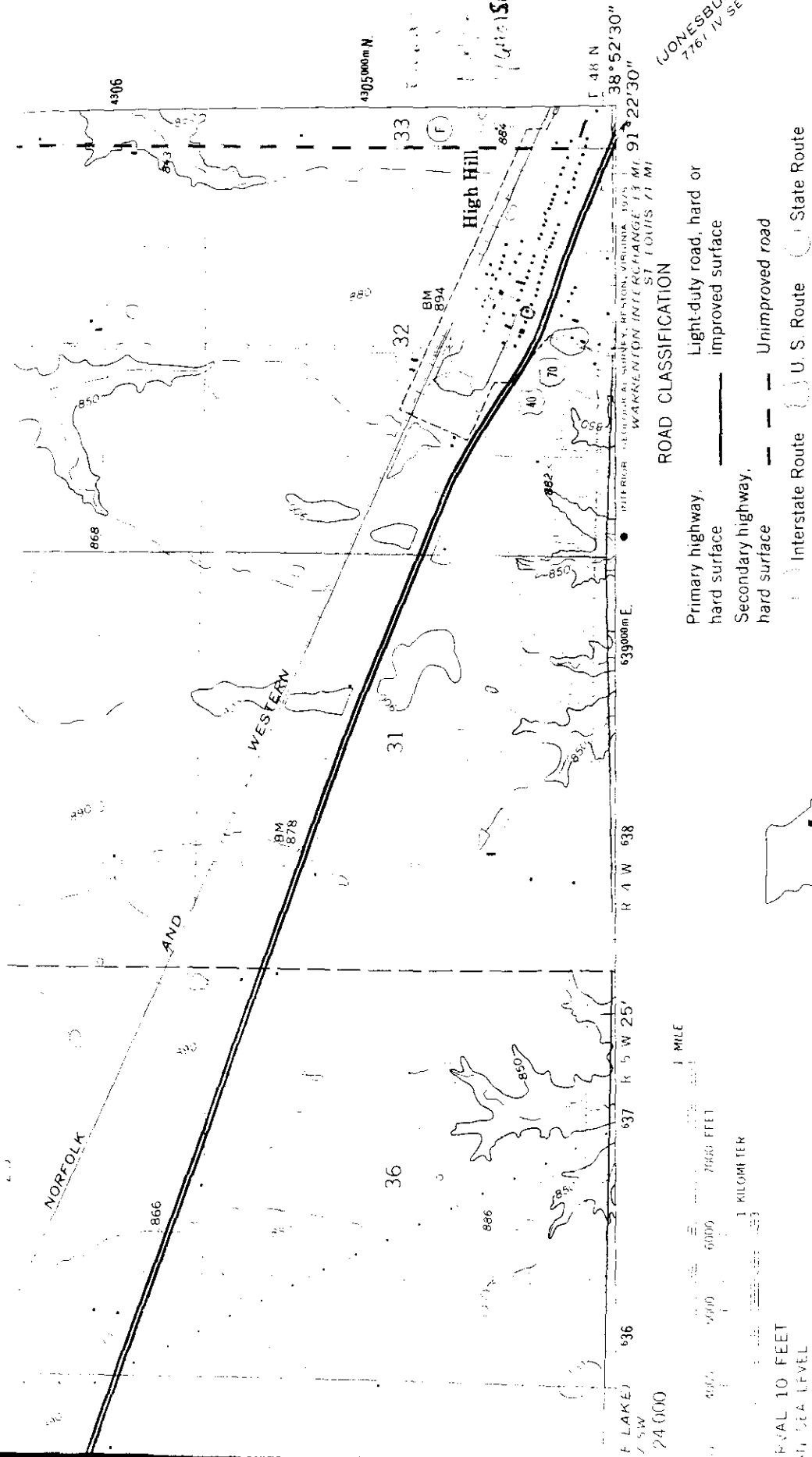
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Farmers Mercantile Co. Building  
Montgomery County, MO

Figure 5: Site Plan with photo angles.



Not to scale.



**NEW FLORENCE, MO.**  
 NW/4 NEW FLORENCE 15' QUADRANGLE  
 N3852.5—W9122.5/7.5

1973

AMS 7761 IV NW—SERIES V879

QUADRANGLE LOCATION



FOR MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 R. COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 SURVEY, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401  
 AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Interstate Route
- U.S. Route
- State Route
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road

(JONESBURG)  
 7761 IV SE

441250

4305000m N

T 48 N  
 38° 52' 30"

R 48 W  
 91° 22' 30"

WARRINGTON INTERCHANGE 13 MI. ST. LOUIS 71 MI

63900m E

R 4 W 638

R 5 W 25'

636

1 24 000

FEET  
 SEA LEVEL

1 MILE

7680 FEET

1 KILOMETER

WESTERN

NORFOLK

High Hill

36

31

32

33

BM 878

BM 894

AND

866

886

850

850

850

850

850

850

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