

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Gilmore Barn

other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number U.S. 160, 3½ miles east of Ash Grove [n/a] not for publication

city or town Ash Grove [X] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Greene code 077 zip code 65604

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] 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 [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [])

Signature of certifying official Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO

Date

37 March 1994

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date

[] entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet [].

[] determined eligible for the
National Register

See continuation sheet [].

[] determined not eligible for the
National Register.

[] removed from the
National Register

[] other, explain

See continuation sheet [].

5 Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	0	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district			
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	0	0	objects
		1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6 Function or Use

Historic Function

AGRICULTURE/animal facility

AGRICULTURE/storage

Current Functions

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7 Description

Architectural Classification

OTHER: octagonal barn

Materials

foundation limestone

walls limestone

roof asphalt

other wood

Narrative Description

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	454640	4130670			

C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing
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[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert Flanders/Director

organization Center for Ozarks Studies, Southwest Missouri State University date July 23, 1993

street & number 901 S. National telephone 417/836-5755

city or town Springfield state Missouri zip code 65804

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 FOP for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Mike McGilvrey

street & number Rt. 2, Box 124 telephone 417/672-2552

city or town Walnut Grove state Missouri zip code 65770

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance

circa 1899-1920

Significant Dates

n/a

Significant Person(s)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

#

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

#

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State Agency

☐ Federal Agency

☐ Local Government

☐ University

☐ Other:

Name of repository: _____

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Gilmore Barn
Greene County, MO

Summary: The Gilmore Barn is an octagonal limestone bank barn located on U.S. 160, three and one-half miles east of Ash Grove in northwest Greene County, Missouri. It is a three-story building seventy feet in diameter, with interior post and beam framing. The walls are white, inside and out. Wall facets are pierced with five windows and two principal doors arched in brick. A third door, the principal opening to the second level (Facet #4), is not arched. Mow doors open above the arched doorways. The roof is in cone sections covered with brick-red asphalt shingles. An octagonal cupola crowns the roof, each facet of which is filled with louvers.

The Site

The barn is situated upon sloping ground surfaced with flat limestone outcroppings, which provide its foundation and ground floor. The barn is cut back into the slope, so that the ground floor door opens to the natural grade at the lower side, and the second floor door opens to the natural grade at the upper side.

The setting is an east-facing slope which descends to Clear Creek about one-half mile distant. Barn elevation is approximately 1050 feet above sea level; creek elevation is approximately 1000 feet. Nearby is a modern dwelling, outbuildings, and the tower of an abandoned windmill. Also nearby is the site of a now disappeared stone dwelling occupied by the Gilmore family at the time the barn was built. None of the nearby structures and sites are included in the boundary.

The Plan

First (Ground) Floor

The first, or ground, floor is entered through the principal barn entrance, an archway 12' wide and 10' high (Facet #1, Photo #1). It has a swinging gate, but no door. The interior of the ground floor is articulated by a post and beam support system into three rings and a central crib, all octagonal. The rings are articulated by support posts. Corner posts rise to meet radial floor joists at their crossing of encircling beams.

The outer ring is 12' deep. Five of the eight bays are enclosed for animal pens (Facets #4-8), and three bays are left open. A 10' wide archway in the wall (off-center of Facet #6) admitted animals to the pens. It is closed with double-leaf, hinged, plank doors, painted white. The arch above the doors is enclosed with matching planks (Photo #3).

The second ring is 12' deep and is all open.

The third ring, 4' deep, is elevated some 30" off the floor, and was designed to be a walkway-feeding trough. It is surrounded and contained by a wooden lip.

The center crib, 12' in diameter, was intended to store ear corn. It opens to the trough-walkway through a door. The crib is open between first and second floors, and rises through the second level to terminate at the third floor.

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Gilmore Barn
Greene County, MO

The floor at the ground is natural limestone outcroppings, quite flat and smooth.

First floor headroom is only 6' 10" to the second floor joists. An exception to the low ceiling is a high ceiling inside the principal entrance necessitated by the 10' height of the arch. This ceiling provides a platform to receive hay thrown in through the mow door above the arch.

Available first level floor space: approximately 2800 square feet. Crib and trough-walkway floor space: approximately 1250 square feet.

Second Floor

The second floor is entered at grade through a 12' wide wall opening in Facet #4. It is closed with a double sliding plank door. This entrance was designed to admit loaded wagons.

The second floor, of 2" thick planks, is interrupted only by the central crib, which at second level widens to 20'. It was designed to be filled from wagons loaded with ear corn driven onto the floor for unloading. The crib is open between the second and first levels.

The second level is articulated into three rings by the supporting posts, the same as the first level. Horses and mules were once stabled in portions of the first ring. The second ring was intended as a circular drive for teams and wagons. The available second-level floor space: approximately 3400 square feet.

The mezzanines

Above the floor of the outer ring of the second level, in three bays and part of a fourth, are mezzanine floors located 8' above the second floor (Facets #2, 3, 5, and part of 1). These mezzanines may have been intended as intermediate drop-and-store places for hay forked down from the third floor, the perimeter of which is inside the mezzanine ring. The available mezzanine floor space: approximately 340 square feet.

The Third Floor

The third floor is 12 feet above the second floor, and is reached by a ladder just beyond the second floor entrance. Hay was dragged up an inclined plane hinged at the third floor edge of Facet #4, opposite the second floor entrance. The door-like structure could be raised out of the way or dropped down to contact the second floor just inside the door. (The inclined plane is not extant.) Alternatively, hay could be forked up to the third floor from wagons driven in upon the second floor.

The third floor is open to the roof and cupola above. No central support post exists. The third floor was for hay storage only. Available floor space: approximately 1520 square feet.

The Cupola

The 8' diameter, wood framed cupola visually reflects the octagonal crib far below it; but the two are structurally unrelated. Cupola louvers provide light and ventilation. A striking feature of the cupola is a large vertical king

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Gilmore Barn
Greene County, MO

post at the center axis. The king post receives all eight principal roof ridge rafters. However, it appears suspended in the air. It does not rise to the peak of the cupola, nor does it touch anything at its lower end. Tradition has it that the block and tackle used to pull hay up the inclined plane from the second to the third floor was anchored to the bottom of the king post. Indeed, at present the bottom of the post appears jagged and broken, as though it had rotted, or been torn, away.

The Central Crib

The crib was designed to store ear corn. It is floored at the first level upon a raised platform (which is also the floor of the feeding trough-walkway), and rises to the underside of the third floor. A single 6" x 6" support post centers the crib. At the second floor level the crib widens from 12' to 20'. It is entered at both levels by hinged doors. Corn was apparently off-loaded from wagons driven onto the second floor, shoveled into the crib through a high port onto a chute which carried it into the first-floor crib space. The volume of the crib is approximately 4630 cubic feet, with a capacity of some 3300 bushels.

The Structure

The Walls

The walls are limestone, 2' thick at the base, which rise to the eaves. They have no foundation other than the limestone bedrock upon which they rest. At the 6' 10" level the walls narrow to a thickness of 1' 4", creating a ledge to accommodate 5" x 6" sill beams around the circumference. The stone is rough-dressed and rough-coursed, and mortared with a mix of cement, sand, and orchard clay. The wall is white inside as well as out, making the barn interior unusually light.

The walls are pierced with openings in seven facets: doors in #1 and #6 of the first level and #4 of the second level; and windows in four of the other facets, all at the first level. An eighth facet, entirely below grade at first floor level, has no opening. A mow door is located above each of the two arched doorways. Door and window segmental arches are brick -- the only brick used in the structure.

The interior walls have mortised ports at regular intervals, none of which are in use. This circumstance suggests that they may have been used during construction to support temporary scaffolding.

The Post-and-Beam System

The supports of the interior structure are 6" x 6" oak posts. At the ground level the corner posts rise from the floor (in some cases from shim stones placed upon the floor) to "T" cross blocks under the points where the eight radial corner joists meet the sixteen circular beams bounding the inner rings. At the perimeter, the ledger sill in the wall supports an outside ring of posts and beams rising from the second floor level. Principal joinery is pegged mortise and tenon.

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Gilmore Barn
Greene County, MO

The Roof

2" x 6" roof rafters rise from the wall at an 8' in 12' angle to rest upon collar beams atop the rings of posts. The cupola, and the roof portion interior to the innermost collar beam circle, are cantilevered from those beams. No supporting center post exists for the roof and cupola. (The center post in the lower levels terminates at the third floor.)

Roof rafters are topped with horizontal open planking, which in turn is covered with solid vertical planking. The roof is shingled with asphalt.

Integrity

The Gilmore Barn is well preserved. Little evidence of fabric deterioration is apparent. An exception is the deteriorated cupola king post. (It is out of reach of close examination.) The present owner, much concerned with preserving the barn, has recently reframed the cupola roof and resingled both barn and cupola. Some floor boards have also been replaced. The eave fascia is to be replaced soon.

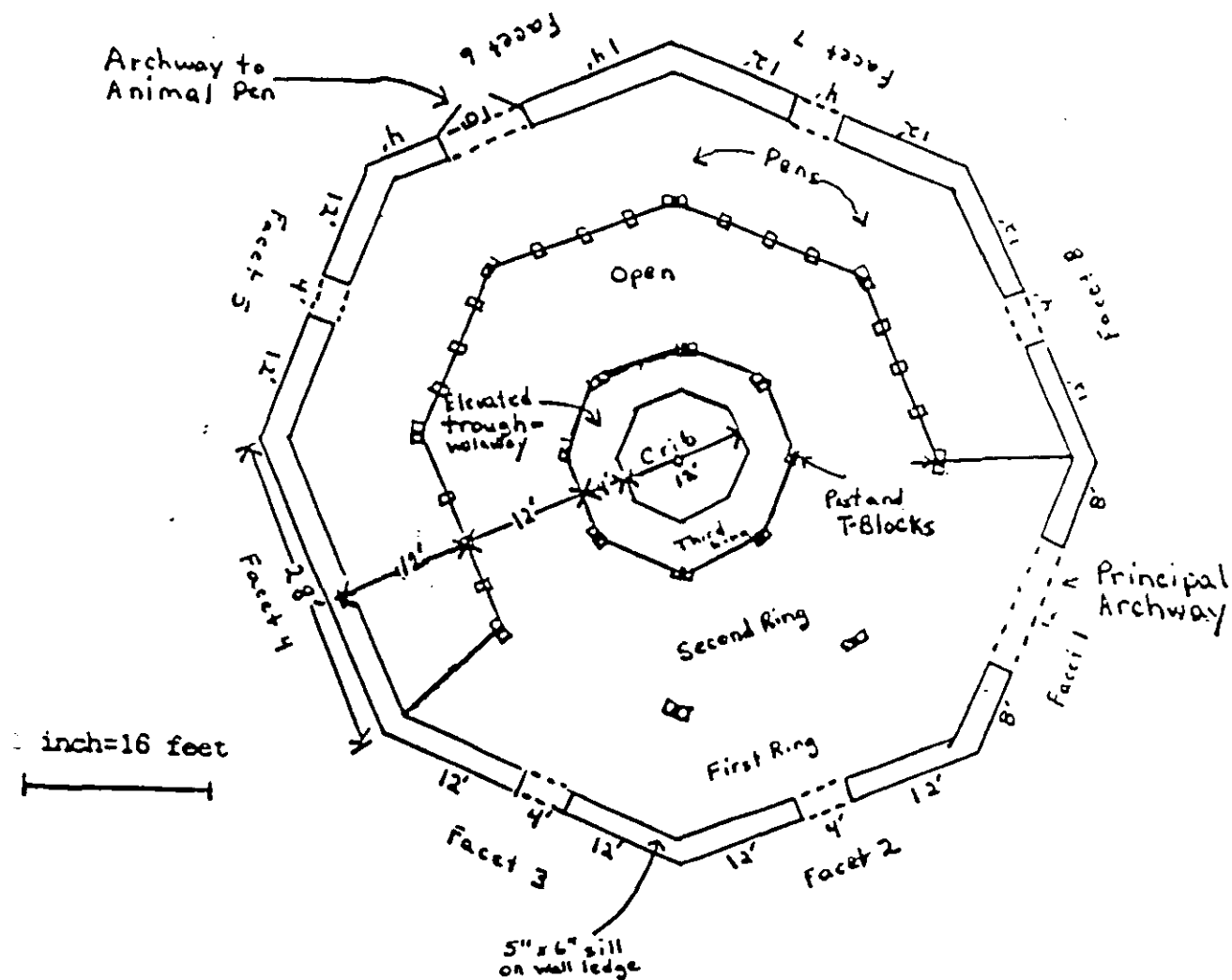
Minor interior changes are evident, typical of a modular barn designed for easy reconfiguration of interior spaces.

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Gilmore Barn
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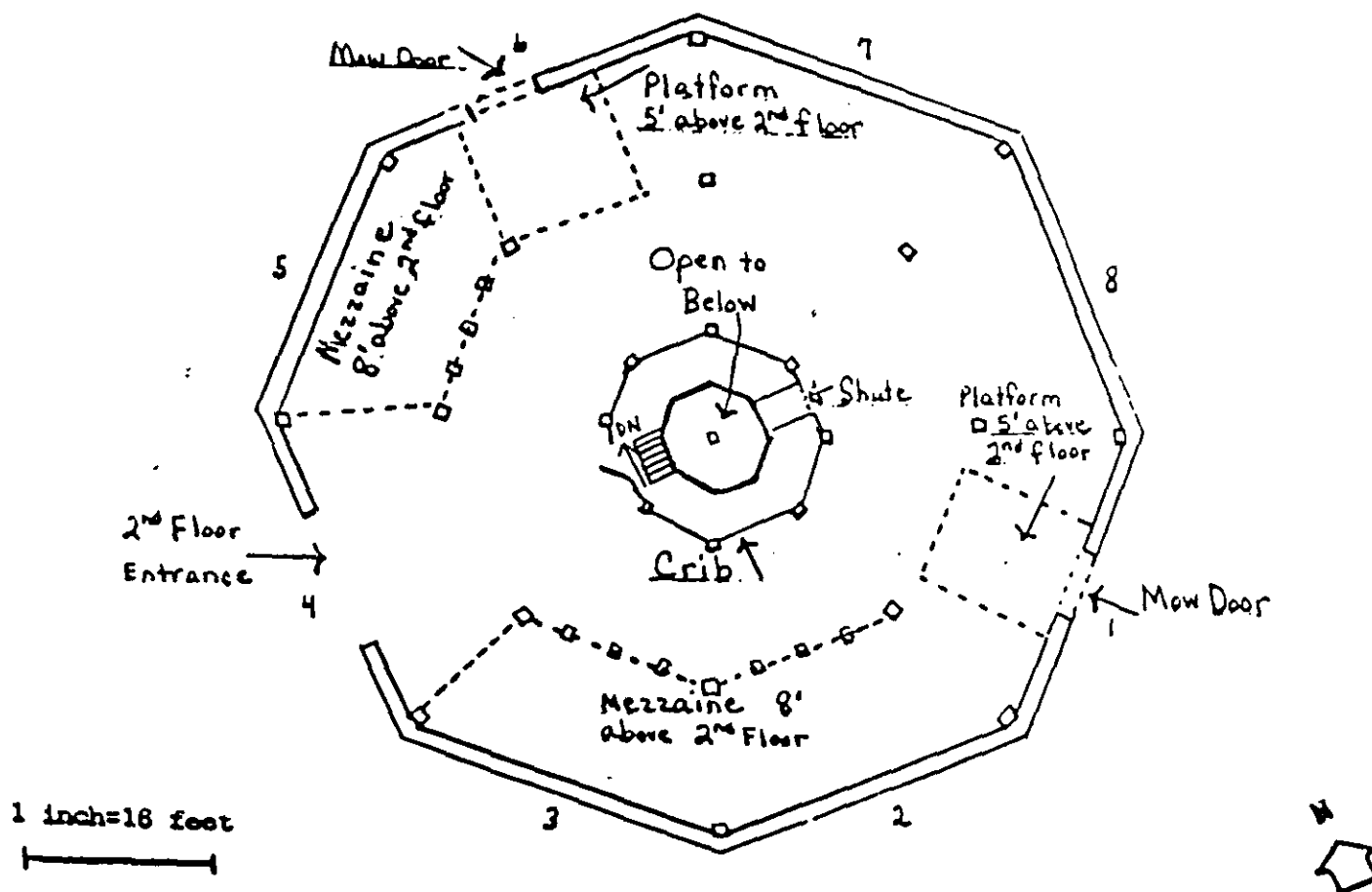
GROUND FLOOR PLAN
GILMORE BARN
GREENE COUNTY, MO

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Gilmore Barn
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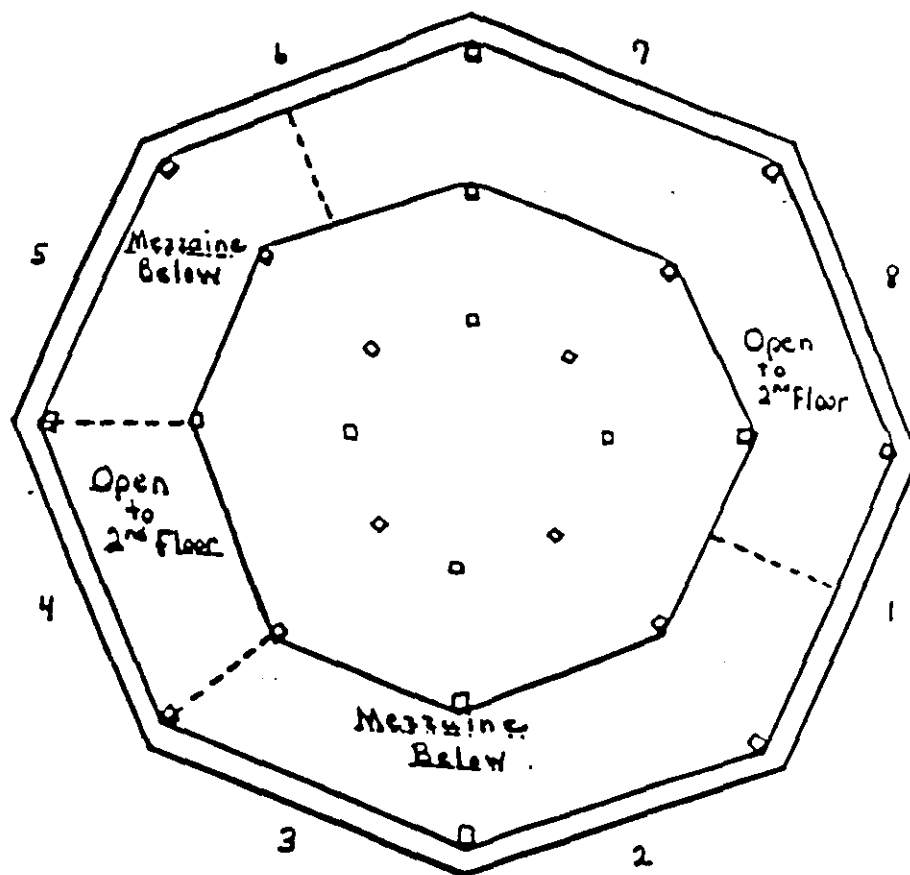
SECOND FLOOR PLAN
GILMORE BARN
GREENE COUNTY, MO

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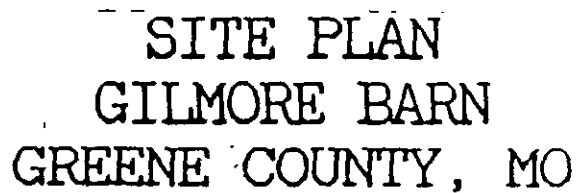
Gilmore Barn
Greene County, MO



1 inch=16 feet
|-----|

THIRD FLOOR PLAN
GILMORE BARN
GREENE COUNTY, MO

**Gilmore Barn
Greene County, MO**

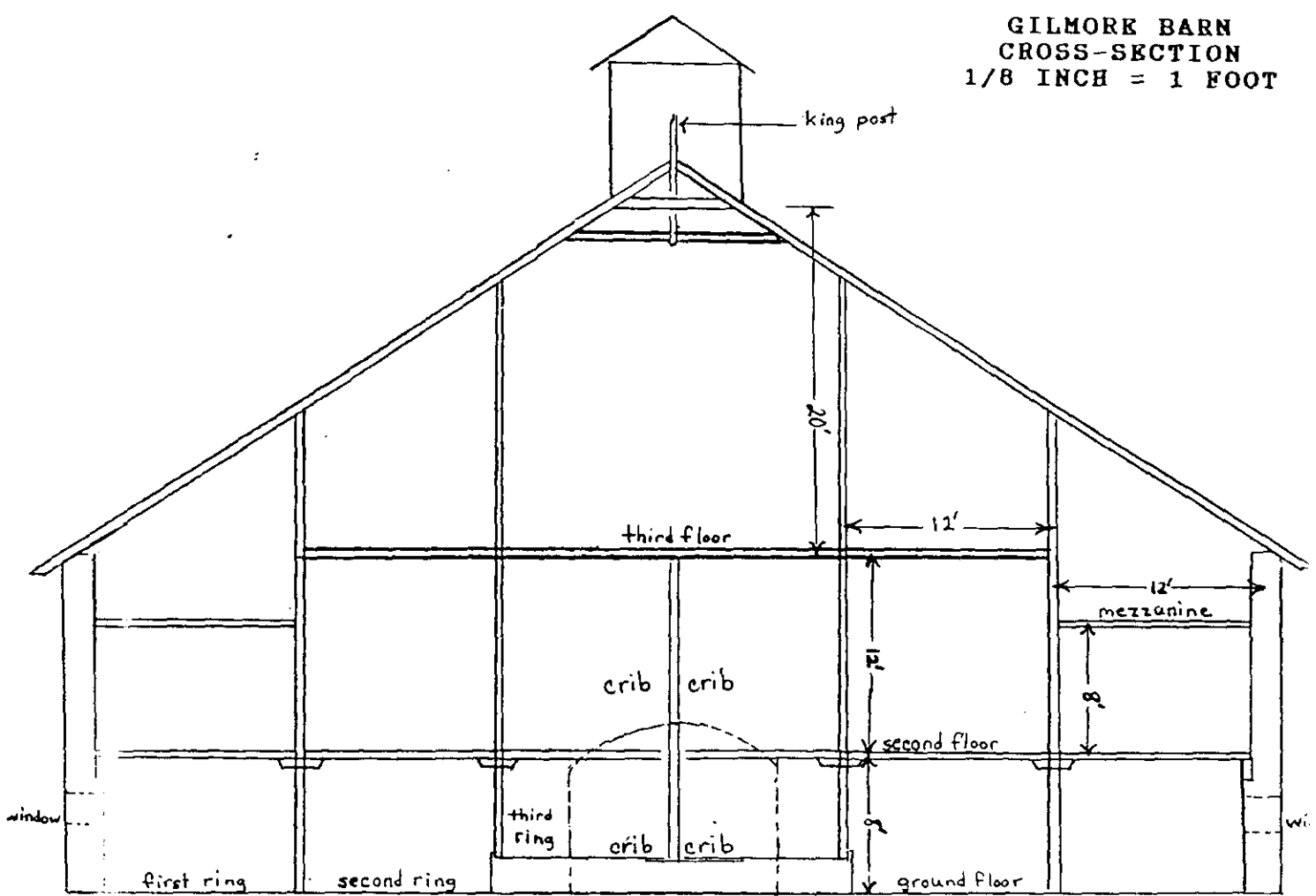


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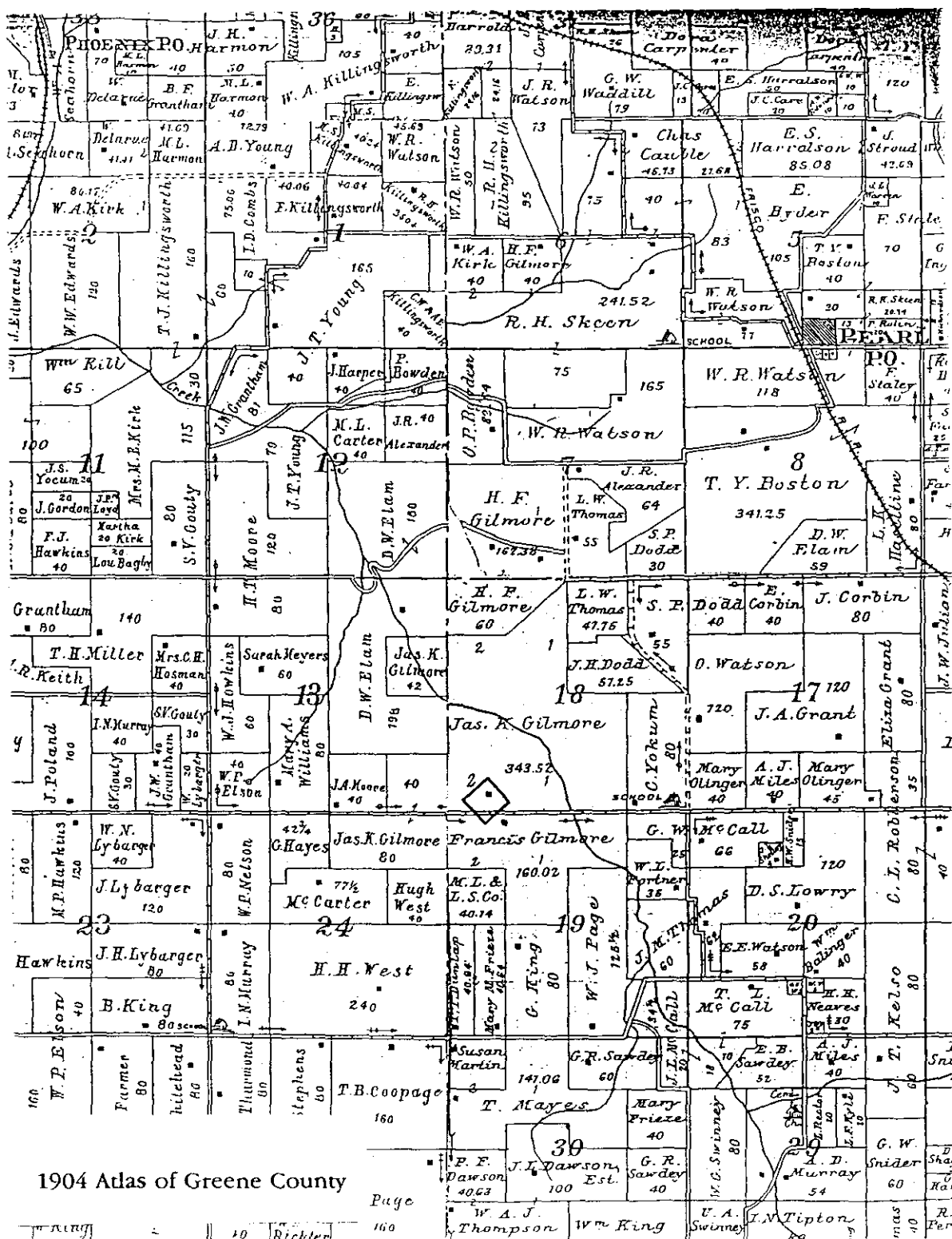
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Gilmore Barn
Greene County, MO



**Gilmore Barn
Greene County, MO**



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Gilmore Barn
Greene County, MO

Gilmore Barn itself, together with the nearby family dwelling. A son, James Kannon (various spellings) Gilmore bought the north forty from his parents in 1849 for \$10 per acre. In 1871 Kannon purchased 119 acres from the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad for \$720. This land included the property on which the barn would be built. In 1896 he sold 490 acres, including the barn site, to his son Francis Ulysses Colfax Gilmore. (A number of intra-family transactions occurred involving the same Gilmore land between 1896 and 1910: 1) 1896, James Kannon to Francis; 2) 1903, Francis to H.F. [Howard, Francis's brother, who owned other farm land in the vicinity]; 3) 1904, H.F. to James Kannon; 4) 1910, James Kannon to Francis.)³

Of Kannon Gilmore, an 1883 Greene County history said "he owned 700 acres of land and was one of the most substantial citizens of Greene County. He was a union man and a Republican."⁴ Kannon and wife Saphronia Edmonson had ten children and were destined to be married for seventy-two years.⁵ Francis was "a dreamer," according to family tradition -- restless, wanting to try new things, perhaps temperamentally burdened by the routines of farming. He borrowed repeatedly against his real estate equities -- not an uncommon practice among commercial farmers. Such risk-taking was not, however, common in the Ozarks. Kannon and Francis Gilmore farmed together in a de facto partnership (the 1904 map of property ownership shows J.K. Gilmore in possession of the Gilmore Barn farm, with Francis's house and farm across the road).⁶

The Kannon and Francis Gilmore farm operation was a diversified one. Hogs, sheep, beef cattle, dairy cows, and "horses of about every kind you could imagine," stocked the place, according to Francis's son Horace (1899-1983). They raised wheat, corn, oats, hay, soy beans, and cane for feed and sorghum. "A few years," wrote Horace, "we tried our hand at raising tomatoes for canning."⁷

Francis Gilmore sold the farm, together with the barn, in 1920, ending a seventy-five year family association with the place. He and his wife moved to Springfield, where they resided subsequently. Francis died in 1949. Because most information on the construction and use of the barn derives from those years when the Gilmores owned the farm, the period of significance has been restricted to those years.

³Abstracts of the deeds to Gilmore-owned property in Section 13, T30N R24W, and Section 18, T30N R23W, Greene County, Missouri.

⁴Atlas of Greene County, Missouri for 1904.

⁵History of Greene County, Missouri.... Western Historical Company, 1883, p. 717.

⁶Atlas of Greene County, Missouri for 1904.

⁷Horace Gilmore memoir, 1970. Manuscript in possession of the Gilmore family.

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Gilmore Barn
Greene County, MO

Summary: The Gilmore Barn, Highway 160, Ash Grove vicinity, Greene County, is significant under criteria A and C in the following areas: AGRICULTURE. It was constructed by a multi-generational, pioneer farm family in a prospering agricultural neighborhood of northwest Greene County, during a time of relative farm prosperity. It displays an apparent bid on the builders' part to participate in new currents of commercial agricultural thought and fashion in the traditionally conservative Ozarks -- a region little known for big barns or, indeed, any other costly agricultural appurtenances that might appear ostentatious. The farm and barn were sold in 1920, ending 75 years of Gilmore proprietorship. **ARCHITECTURE:** The Gilmore barn, erected c. 1899, is unique in the following ways: it is inferentially the earliest polygonal or round barn in Missouri; it is the largest known barn of the genre in the state; and it is the only one with full stone wall construction.¹ The Gilmore Octagonal Barn, erected c. 1899, is an outstanding example of the octagon barn late in the period of its popularity, just before the shift in fashion from post-and-beam polygonal construction to "True Round" balloon frame or tile wall construction, and is transitional between the two. It exhibits superb design and workmanship, and is exceptionally well preserved.

NARRATIVE:

Greene County, the Gilmores, and the Gilmore Farm

Greene County is in southwest Missouri. Its elevation, from about 1000 to 1400 feet above sea level, mark it as part of the Ozarks Highland Region. It is also a part of the Springfield Plain subregion of the Ozarks, an area possessing relatively good agricultural soils that arc southwestward to terminate south of Fayetteville, Arkansas. Pre-settlement Greene County was characterized by tall-grass prairies interspersed with oak-hickory woodlands, all well-watered by springs and streams. It was attractive to pioneer settler families from Tennessee, mostly of Scotch-Irish descent. One was the family of James Allen Gilmore and Barsheba Ferguson Gilmore, who in 1835 preempted land along Clear Creek about two miles from the barn site. (Two years later, Nathan Boone preempted land a few miles down Clear Creek for his farm.) Three generations of Gilmores lived and farmed in the vicinity.²

James A. preempted a key acreage of what was to be the Gilmore Barn farm -- the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 2, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 18, T30N, R33W, comprising 40.46 acres, which included Clear Creek bottom land. He paid the government price of \$1.25 per acre. The matching south forty of Lot 2 would later be the site of the

¹Inventory forms for round and polygonal barns and other agricultural buildings in Missouri Cultural Resources Inventory, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, various counties. In the absence of a comprehensive statewide survey of similar buildings, however, significance has been restricted to local.

²Much of the Gilmore family tradition has been collected and noted by Dr. Robert K. Gilmore, great-grandson of James Kannon Gilmore and grandson of Francis Gilmore. Notes at the Center for Ozarks Studies, Southwest Missouri State University.

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Gilmore Barn
Greene County, MO

The Barn

Though documentary evidence is lacking, tradition and inference point to 1899 as the year of the barn's construction, and to Kannon and Francis as its joint proprietors. Kannon was seventy-two years of age at the time; Francis was thirty-two. (Kannon lived to be ninety-six, though he was an invalid for many of his later years.)

The Gilmore Barn was designed for stock, for hay, and for ear corn. Typical of two and three story octagonal barns, it is a bank barn, built back into a slope. Animals were to enter, and be penned and fed, on the ground floor. Wagons loaded with corn and hay could be driven in from grade onto the second floor for unloading. The barn was sufficiently large to enable wagons to circle the middle ring of the second floor and exit, team first.

Hay could be forked onto the mezzanine floors, or directly onto the high third floor. Hay could also be forked onto a retractable inclined plane between the second and third floors, just inside the entrance, to be dragged by pulley-operated hooks or forks to the third floor.

Ear corn was brought by wagon onto the second level and shovelled into the crib through an opening located conveniently at wagon bed height, onto a chute which carried it down to the first level crib below. (The crib opened out from 12' to 20' diameter at the second level.) At the first level the grain was dispersed from the crib onto the wide trough-walkway for feeding. The circumference of the trough is approximately 65', providing space for many animals to feed at once.⁸

Clearly the Gilmore Barn could accommodate large-scale operations if called upon to do so. Total floor space of the three floors and mezzanines (excluding trough and crib): approximately 8000 square feet. The two story crib could accommodate some 3300 bushels of ear corn in its more than 4600 cubic feet.

⁸Details of intended operations are inferred from the barn's design. Information about actual operations over the work life of the barn was provided by the owner, Mike McGilvrey, and by the following interviews:

Paul Brookshire, July 1993
Herbert Gilmore, 1970
Byron "Barney" Kimes, July 1993
Erwin Thomas, July 1993

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Gilmore Barn
Greene County, MO

The Architecture⁹

The Ozarks is not great "barn country." Herder-farmers from the upland South who settled the Ozarks did not believe fancy, expensive barns to be necessary to shelter stock. Hay might be covered, but covered simply. Ozarks winters tend to be mild and open. With luck, the stock might even pasture most of the year. A barn like the Gilmore octagon was very unusual for the Ozarks.

However, by the close of the nineteenth century, the farmers of Greene County were no longer isolated from knowledge of progressive trends in agriculture, unless by choice. Major railroads crossed at Springfield. One of them passed not far from the Gilmores. Their town of Ash Grove was a thriving commercial entrepot on the Kansas City, Fort Scott, and Memphis Railroad (known locally as "the Memphis line"). In 1899, probably the year the Gilmore Barn was built, a single shipment of 4000 bushels of apples went out of Haseltine Station, just west of Springfield, bound for England. It was only one of many.¹⁰ Its producers, the Haseltine brothers, had built four huge stone barns for storing

⁹An extensive literature exists establishing the significance of the octagon as an architectural form for nineteenth century American buildings, including barns. See for example Eric Arthur and Dudley Witney, The Barn: A Vanishing Landmark in North America (Greenwick, 1972); and Lowell J. Soike, Without Right Angles: The Round Barns of Iowa (Des Moines: Iowa Historical Department, 1983), which lists and describes 160 polygonal and round barns in Iowa. Soike is a definitive work on the historical development of octagonal and True Round barn design in the late nineteenth century.

Many octagonal barns have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. For example, Jerry McMahon, "Round and Polygonal Barns of Indiana Multiple Property Listing" includes 184 barns.

The Cultural Resource Survey, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, contains Historic Inventory Survey Forms for nine Missouri polygonal and round barns. Firm dates are offered for three of them: 1913, 1918, and 1928. Others are uncertain or unknown. From the context of design they must be presumed to have been built about the same time as those that are dated. Three of the nine are octagons, two are hexagons, three are True Rounds, and one is twelve-sided. Other features such as center silos and self-supporting roofs mark them as post-turn-of-the-century, true circular design. One, a 1918 True Round, was a manufactured, pre-cut kit barn from Muscatine, Iowa.

Mary M. Stiritz, in "Griffith-McCune Farmstead" nomination to the NRHP, identifies a tenth Missouri polygonal barn, built in 1909. Though with octagonal walls, it contains a wooden center silo and a two-pitched gambrel roof, both features of True Round design. Cultural Resource Survey file, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City.

All ten of the above barns are in mid- and north Missouri.

¹⁰Springfield, Missouri, News Leader, December 2, 1899.

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Gilmore Barn
Greene County, MO

and packing apples. The Haseltine apple sheds, though not polygonal, were analogous in size and quality of workmanship to the Gilmore Barn.¹¹ The close of the nineteenth century was a time when some Greene County farmers could think and act expansively about themselves as businessmen-capitalists. (In the first thirty years of the twentieth century a dairy industry developed in Greene County, producing a crop of large barns and silos.)

Northwest Greene County exhibits a number of large barns, including some with masonry walls at the ground level. Indeed, a sixty-foot octagonal barn with a formed concrete and rubblestone first story stood near Bois d'Arc, some five miles south of the Gilmore Barn. The two were perhaps built about the same time. (The Bois d'Arc barn burned in 1988.)

Precisely why Kannon and Francis Gilmore built their barn we can only surmise. No documenting evidence about the building survives -- if any ever existed. However, if they knew the literature of progressive farming--as they must have, to some extent--they would have known about octagonal barns. The Live Stock Journal of Buffalo, New York printed the story, with engravings, of the 7,000 square foot octagon barn built in 1874 by its publisher, Elliott W. Stewart. The barn was soon publicized again in two leading farm journals, the Cultivator and Country Gentleman, and the American Agriculturalist. The Illustrated Annual Register of Rural Affairs published an expanded version in 1878, with the editorial comment that barns of the octagonal form "are now regarded with much favor by many intelligent agriculturalists." The National Livestock Journal of Chicago, successor to Stewart's magazine, republished the original article and noted that "So many applications were sent to us...that the large edition was soon exhausted," so they had decided to republish it. Stewart himself continued to publicize the idea; and numbers of octagon barns were built in New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Minnesota, and Iowa.¹²

Stewart's design was advanced as possessing the benefits of space, strength, and efficiency. It did not, however, exploit the possibilities of circularity in interior layout. That would come a generation later in the True Round barn.

The True Round barn design originated in the 1890s in Wisconsin, a combination of silo research, balloon frame wall construction for barns, and the desire to eliminate interior barn roof support posts. Such a plan was published in 1890 in the Annual Report of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station and in an 1895 edition of the popular Hoard's Dairyman. Books and other farm magazines publicized the idea as well.¹³

¹¹A survey of the Haseltine apple sheds, conducted by Jean Woody and Robert Flanders, Greene County Historic Sites Board, is underway at this writing.

¹²Soike, p. 10.

¹³The above discussion follows Soike, pp. 10-29.

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Gilmore Barn
Greene County, MO

The True Round interior exhibited concentric ring arrangements of stalls, troughs, walkways, clean-out gutters, etc., centered by a silo. The silo provided not only feed storage, but the possibility of central support for a roof cantilevered inward from the walls to the center (the arrangement exemplified in the Griffith-McCune Barn of Pike County, Missouri). Though the Gilmore Barn has no silo, it does have an octagonal corn crib suggestive of the silos built later in True Round barns of north Missouri and elsewhere in the upper Middle west.¹⁴

Whatever the sources, the Gilmores carried into their ca. 1899 barn both the construction ideas of Stewart's post-and-beam octagon construction and the True Round barn idea of circular interior arrangement of stalls, troughs, walks, wagonways, and a central corn crib analogous to the central silo idea. The Gilmore central crib supports only the second and third floors, and not the roof.

The Gilmore Barn architecture is transitional between that of the "True Octagon Era" before it and the "True Round" era which followed. Like the octagons it had post-and-beam construction and a crowning cupola. Like many of them it had a roof composed of eight equal conical sections resting on two rings of post-supported collar beams. It had no roof dormers, and depended for interior light mostly upon the cupola. Like the earlier octagons, it contained no silo. However, anticipating the later True Round design, it fully exploited the possibilities of an interior circular layout. In this it differed from Elliott Stewart's interior layout which had ignored the circular possibilities and retained traditional rectilinear arrangements.

The Gilmore Barn appears to be the largest in diameter of the polygonal and round barns of Missouri thus far surveyed and/or registered, all of which are in mid- or north Missouri. (Most Missouri inventories of polygonal and round barns contain no dimensions; but judgements about relative size can be made from the scale of fenestration and other details.) It is the only one with walls constructed entirely of stone. In the context of present knowledge it is unique on both counts.¹⁵

The walls contain some 6000 cubic feet of stone and mortar. The stone appears to have been obtained from the site excavation and the surrounding yard, where at present shelf rock lies on the surface of the ground. The timbers and planks are oak, a wood in abundance in the vicinity. The quality of

¹⁴Soike observes that polygonal barn builders did not immediately adopt interior layouts to utilize the round plans of their buildings. Three plans provided by Soike (pp. 11 and 18) illustrate interior layouts almost entirely linear in their conceptions, layouts drawn from traditions of rectilinear barns. Round barns were commonly constructed around silos, either wood or tile, which served as their principal central support. See Soike, passim.

¹⁵See the inventories of Missouri round and polygonal barns, Historic Preservation Program, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City.

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Gilmore Barn
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workmanship is very high; and little or no structural deterioration is evident after almost a century.

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Gilmore Barn
Greene County, MO

Articles

Gilmore, Robert K. "Preservation Corner: The Round Barn." OzarksWatch 6
(Spring 1993): 9-11.

McGilvry, Wilma. "The Ozarks Octagon Stone Barn." The Ozarks Mountaineer 34
(June 1986): 38,39.

_____. "Old Round Barn is Northwest Greene County Landmark."
Springfield News and Leader. Sunday, June 5, 1977.

"Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary" [of James Cannon and Saphronia Edmonson
Gilmore]. Ash Grove Commonwealth, Wednesday, May 26, 1909.

Books

Arthur, Eric, and Witney, Dudley. The Barn: A Vanishing Landmark in North
America. Greenwich: New York Graphic Society, 1972.

Atlas of Greene County, Missouri for 1904.

History of Greene County, Missouri.... St. Louis: Western Historical Company,
1883.

Ozarks Genealogical Society. Illustrated Historical Atlas of Greene County,
1876; reprint ed., with appendix, Springfield: Ozarks Genealogical
Society, 1988.

Soike, Lowell J. Without Right Angles: The Round Barns of Iowa. Des Moines:
Iowa State Historical Department, Office of Historic Preservation, 1983.

Interviews

Brookshire, Paul. Interviewed by Alice Avery, June 1993. Tape located at the
Center for Ozarks Studies, Southwest Missouri State University.

Gilmore, Herbert F. Interviewed by Thomas Gilmore, 1970.

Gilmore, Robert. Interviewed by Robert Flanders, June 1993.

Kimes, Byron "Barney." Telephone interview by Alice Avery, July 1993.

Thomas, Erwin E. Telephone interview by Alice Avery, June 1993.

Historic Preservation Documents

Jerry McMahon, "Cornish Griffin Barn," Angola, Indiana. NRHP nomination.

_____, "Round and Polygonal Barns of Indiana."

Mary M. Stiritz, "Griffin-McCune Farmstead Historic District," Eolia, Pike
County, Missouri. NRHP nomination.

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Gilmore Barn
Greene County, MO

Inventory of polygonal and round barns in Missouri:

- Davis Barn, Johnson County
- Doran Property, Knox County
- Haldiman Round Barn, Moniteau County
- Hatfield Property, Clark County
- Rockford Farm, Pike County
- Salladay, Roma Farm, Adair County
- Smith, B.R., Round Barn, Adair County,
- Warden Barn, Worth County

Above documents in the Missouri Cultural Resources Inventory, Missouri
Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City.

Official Records

Tax records of Greene County, 1898-1906.

Eleventh, Twelfth, and Thirteenth Censuses of the United States, 1890, 1900,
1910. Statistics of Agriculture.

Manuscripts

Horace Gilmore memoir, 1970. Possession of Gilmore family.

Abstracts of the Deeds to Gilmore-owned property in Section 13, T30N R24W; and
Section 18 T30N R23W, Greene County, Missouri.

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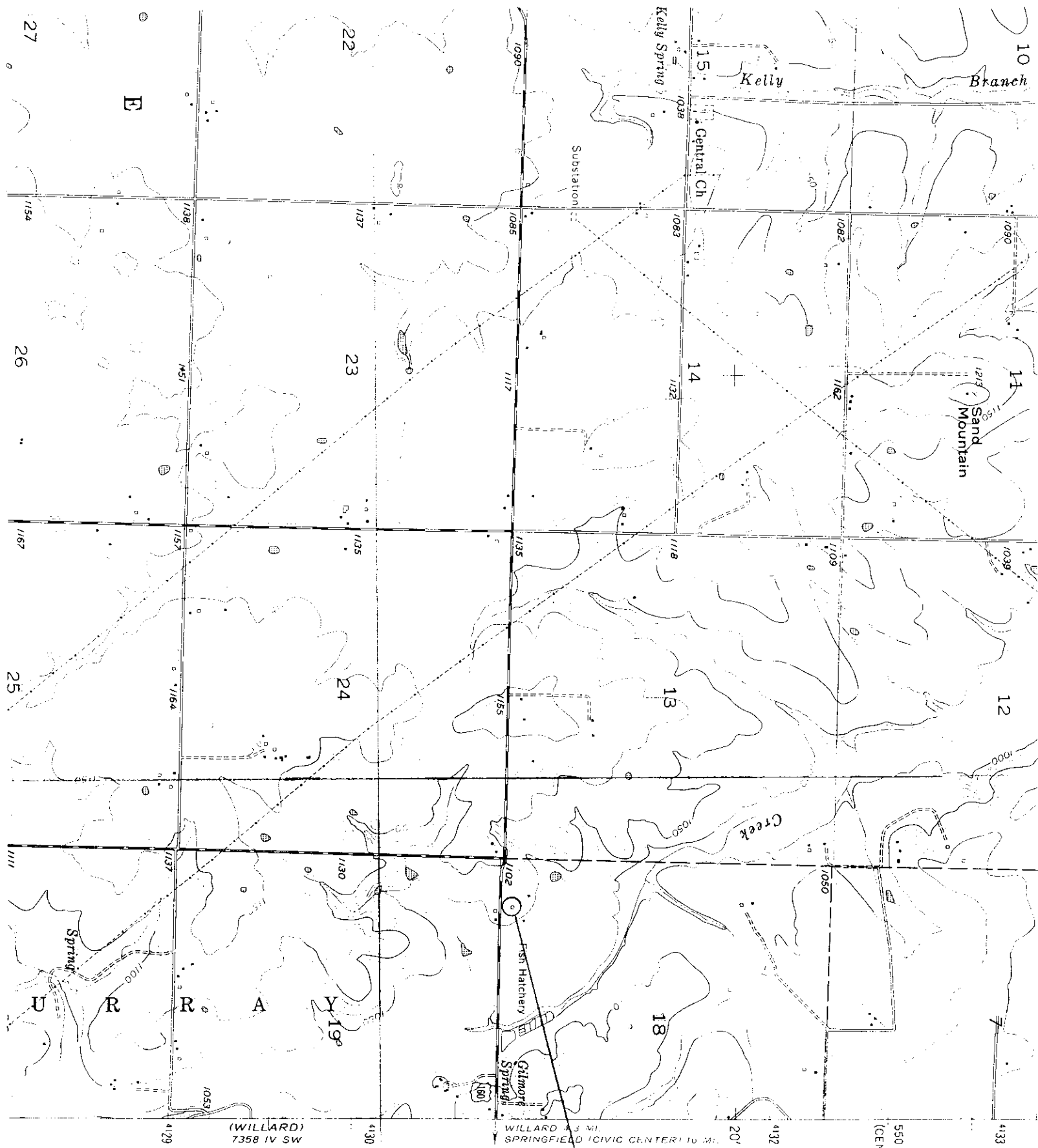
Gilmore Barn
Greene County, MO

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is a square, 125' on a side, paralleling sides of the barn. The midpoint of the east side of the square is 27.5' east of the midpoint of the barn's east-facing facet (#8). Proceed south from the midpoint of the east side of the square 62.5' to a corner, thence west 125' to a corner, thence north 125' to a corner, thence east 125' to a corner, thence south 62.5' to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

Bounding is rational and simple and includes the historically significant building and its site; it excludes the neighboring dwelling and other buildings, structures and sites which are unrelated to the period or area of significance (fences excepted).

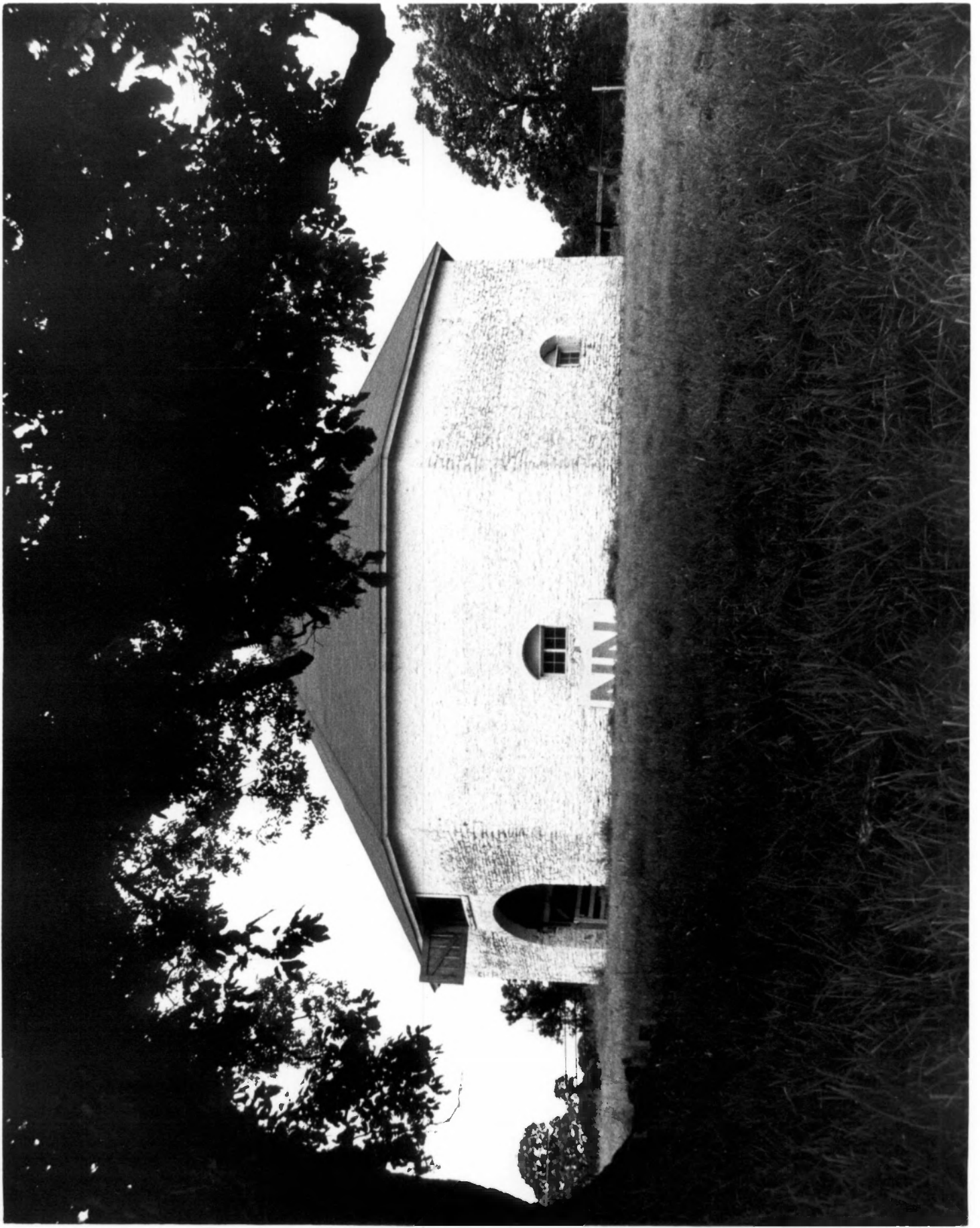


GILMORE BARN, GREENE COUNTY, MO
15/454640/4130670

1. Gilmore Barn
2. Greene County, Missouri
3. Robert K. Gilmore
4. June 1993
5. Center for Ozarks Studies - Smith
6. Principal entrance, view from Southeast
7. #1



1. Gilmore Barn
2. Greene County, Missouri
3. Robert K. Gilmore
4. June 1993
5. Center for Ozarks Studies - SMSU
6. View from east, toward facet #8
7. #2



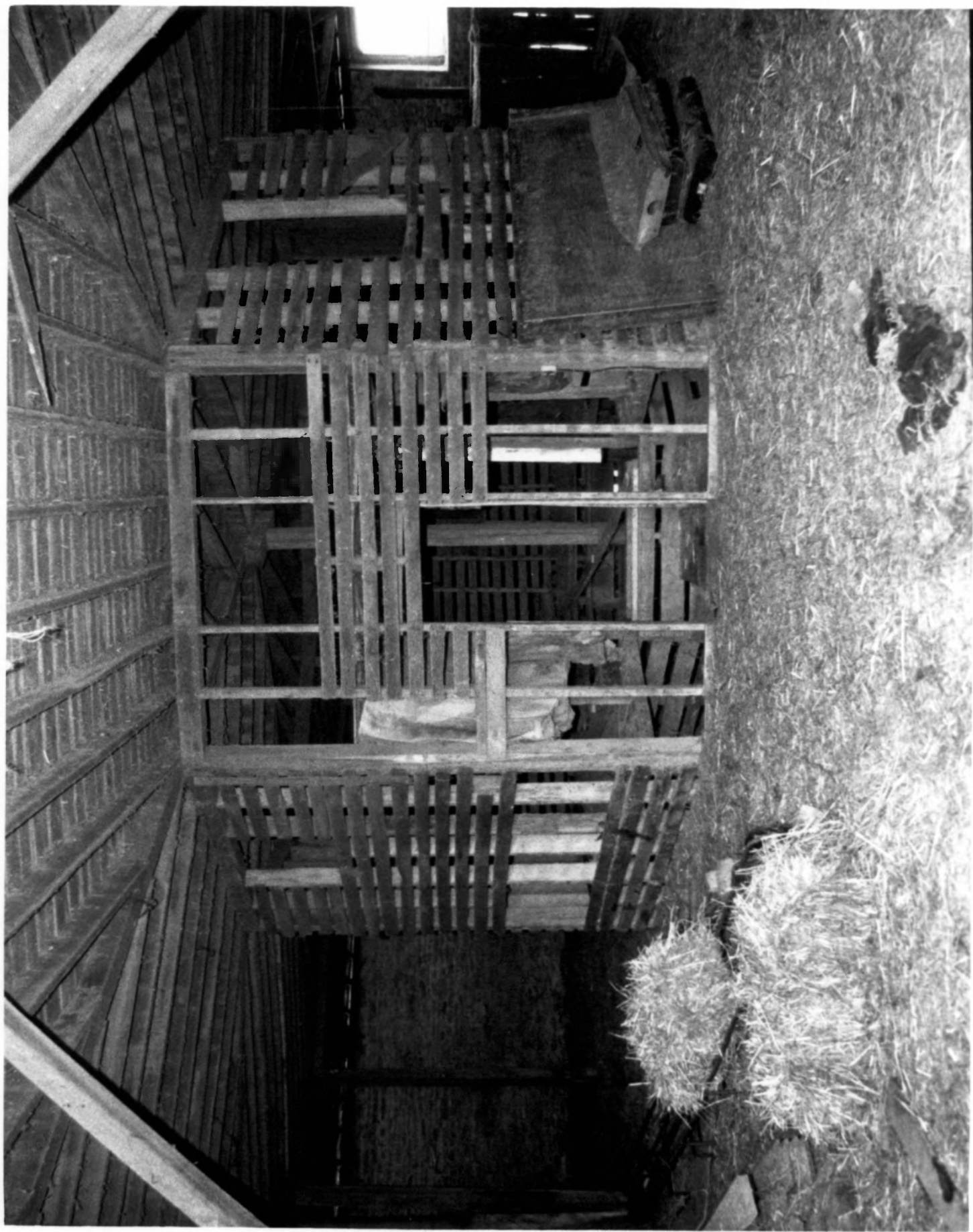
1. Gilmore Barn
2. Greene County, Missouri
3. Robert K. Gilmore
4. June 1993
5. Center for Ozarks Studies. SMSU
6. View from northwest, toward facet #5
7. #3



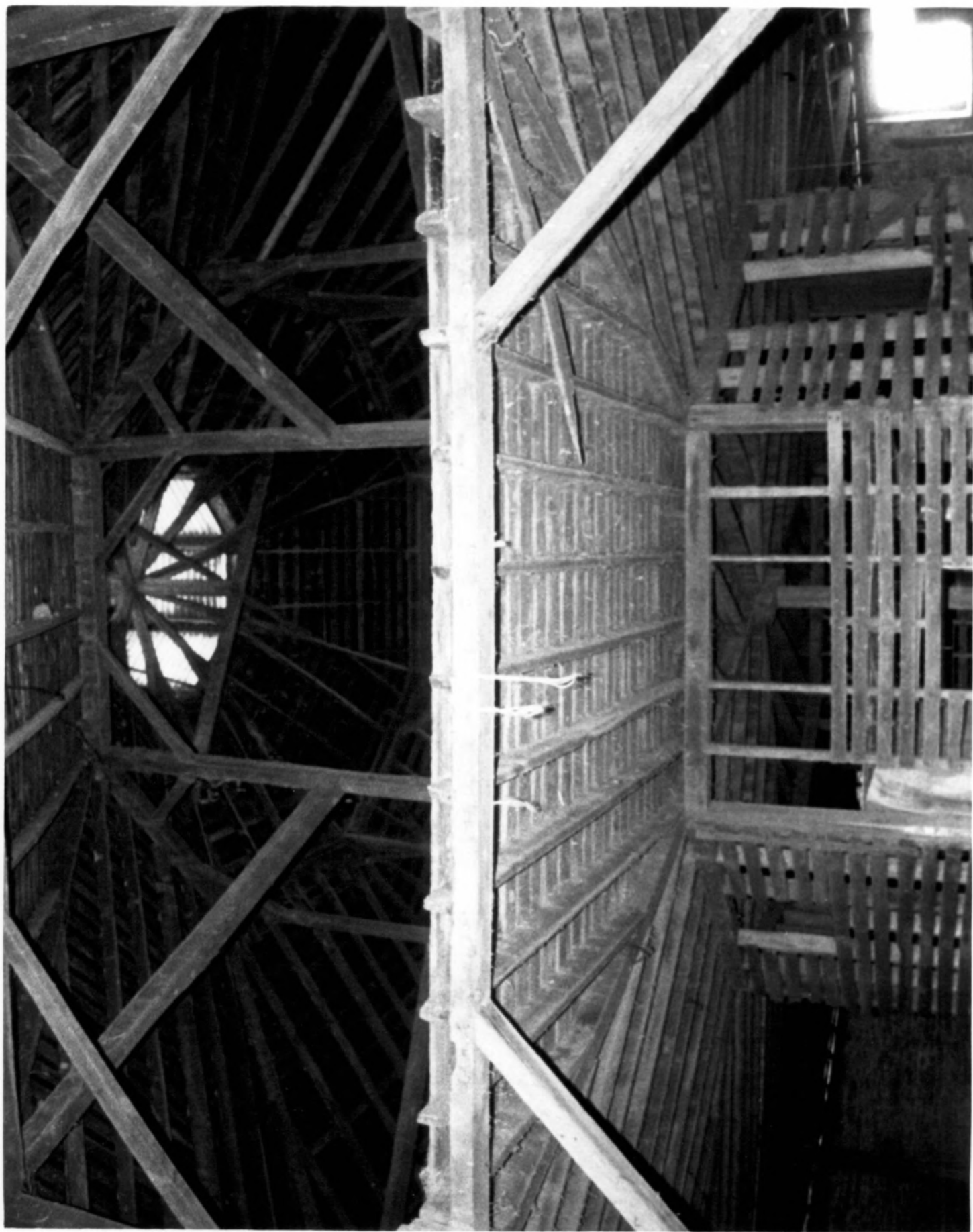
- 1 Gilmore Barn
- 2 Greene County, Missouri
- 3 Robert K. Gilmore
- 4 June 1993
- 5 Center for Ozarks Studies - SMSU
- 6 View of third ring (trough-walkway and crib) ground floor
- 7 #4



1. Gilmore Barn
2. Greene County, Missouri
3. Robert K. Gilmore
4. June 1993
5. Center for Ozarks Studies-SMSU
6. View of crib, second floor
7. #5



1. Gilmore Barn
2. Greene County, Missouri
3. Robert K. Gilmore
4. June 1993
5. Center for Ozarks Studies-SMSU
6. View of crib, third floor, and cupola from inside Second floor entry
7. #6



EXTRA
PHOTOS

