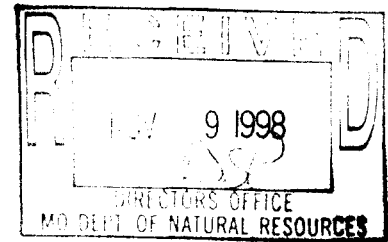


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

RECEIVED



Section number _____ Page _____ NOV 12 1998

HISTORIC PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 98000597

Date Listed: 6/11/98

New Lebanon Historic District
Property Name

Cooper
County

MO
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland
Signature of the Keeper

7/9/98
Date of Action

===== Amended Items in Nomination:

The nomination checklist for Section 8 cites only the criterion and area of significance for the buildings added (to the previously-listed property) to make a district, instead of including all criteria and areas applying to the district as a whole. The correct criteria and areas of significance for the whole district are: Criteria A and C; Architecture, Commerce, Education, and Religion.

This information was discussed with Alan Tapman of the MO SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name New Lebanon Historic District

other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number Missouri Highway A [n/a] not for publication

city or town New Lebanon [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Cooper code 053 zip code 65237

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 [])

 21 April 1998
Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/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

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 type="checkbox"/> building(s)			
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	5	0	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site			
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0	sites
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	0	0	structures
		0	0	objects
		5	0	Total

Number of contributing resources
previously listed in the National
Register.

Name of related multiple property listing.

n/a

2

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store
DOMESTIC: single dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE: warehouse

Current Functions

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store
RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum
COMMERCE/TRADE: warehouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification

LATE VICTORIAN- Queen Anne
no style

Materials

foundation concrete
walls metal
weatherboard
roof metal
other wood

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

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

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

Criteria Considerations

Property is:

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

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

☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

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

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

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

Areas of Significance

COMMERCE

Periods of Significance

Circa 1860-1947

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:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.59

UTM References

A. Zone 15 Easting 505280 Northing 4291540

B. Zone Easting Northing

C. Zone Easting Northing

D. Zone Easting Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title see continuation sheet

organization date

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

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

Property Owner

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

name Jeanette Heaton

street & number Rt. 1, Box 1032

telephone 660-366-4482

city or town Bunceton

state MO

zip code 65237

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

New Lebanon Historic District
Cooper County, MO

Summary: The New Lebanon Historic District, New Lebanon, Cooper County, consists of five contributing buildings and two properties listed in the National Register. The five contributing buildings are: the Abram "Abe" Rothgeb Store Building, constructed in 1926, and three ancillary buildings associated with the store, a feed and oil shed, a tool and storage shed, and a two story barn; and the Dr. Alfred E. Monroe House and Office, a cottage with Queen Anne affinities constructed in 1896. The two properties previously listed in the National Register are: the New Lebanon Cumberland Presbyterian Church, an 1860 brick building, and the New Lebanon School House, a one room school constructed 1889. All are related to a nineteenth century and early twentieth century rural community. Even now, long after the end of its productive life, this proposed district holds a strong attraction for tourists and group tours are currently being conducted each year from May through October.

PRESENT AND PAST HISTORIC PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Abe Rothgeb Store: The building is a simple, wood frame building of unpretentious design. This commercial building is emblematic of a type of construction common among small towns in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. The building sits upon its original location and retains its setting as a single detached building. Original workmanship and materials were retained during the rehabilitation in 1984-86 by Abe Rothgeb's great niece, Jeanette (Rothgeb) Heaton. The building retains the ability to reflect its historic associations and represents a distinctive type.

The Abe Rothgeb Store sits on the west side of Highway A, facing east, in the middle of the community, located in an area of rolling hills and natural springs. Across the highway, a few yards to the south, stands the New Lebanon Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the one-room School House. On the north is the site of the earlier businesses in New Lebanon and the Dr. Morgan House and Office.

The store is a rectangular plan, one-story commercial building, it was constructed in 1926 by Abe Rothgeb. It sits upon a concrete foundation and a concrete stoop extends across the front of the building. The building measures 26 feet across the front and back and 80 feet in length. The wood-clad building is covered with a painted brick design, metal siding. On the front façade are a front door and transom, two large flanking windows, with solid wood shutters that will close to cover the door and windows. A large metal and wood awning caps the front of the building. The south side of the building has four small windows located at the top of the building with a single door and transom with another wood door that closes over the entrance door, and a metal and wood awning caps the door. The north side of the building has a single door and transom with another wood door that closes over the entrance door and a metal and wood awning caps the door. The back of the building has one large window with closing wood shutters and two small windows at the top of the building. A flat roof is covered by metal sheathing.

The interior features a concrete floor, original tongue-in-groove yellow pine walls and the ceiling height is 12 feet that is covered with pressed metal. A brick stove flue is on the interior north side of the building. There are original pine shelving from the floor to ceiling on the south, north and west walls.

The building remains substantially unchanged from when Abe Rothgeb constructed it. The rehabilitation in 1984-86 encompassed building a wood floor and railings over the front concrete stoop and painting the exterior metal siding. A small room was partitioned off in the rear of the interior building for a restroom and

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Section 7 Page 2

New Lebanon Historic District
Cooper County, MO

a partial partition wall was built in the rear of the building for a storage area. These changes had no significant effect on the building's historic character.

After Abe Rothgeb's death on January 1, 1959, the store building was occupied by his nephew, Wilbur Rothgeb, and he used it for storage and a workshop. However, the entire original shelving and fixtures were left in the building. The building interior was not changed and remained the same plan. In 1984, Abe Rothgeb's great niece, Jeanette (Rothgeb) Heaton, began the rehabilitation of the store building and surrounding property. The store opened once again in April 1986 under the name of "Abe's Country Store", as a general store museum and antique shop. The store has the original counters, showcases, shelving, scales, cash register and remaining merchandise. The original old gas pump, that once dispensed fuel, still stands in front of the store building.

Rothgeb constructed three ancillary buildings which supported the operations and functions of his store. The feed and oil shed is located north of the store building. It is a small wood frame building, covered with metal sheeting, has a concrete floor, a wood door on the south side, a large window with shutters on the north side and a flat metal covered roof. The tool and storage shed is located a few feet south of the store building. It is a small wood frame shed with a concrete floor, with a wood door on the east side with a small window above the door and a gabled metal covered roof. A two-story barn is located a few yards west of the store building. The exterior is constructed of pine tongue-in-groove boards, sitting on a stone foundation with a metal covered gabled roof. The interior is constructed with large square timbers, put together with wood pins or pegs.

Dr. Alfred E. Monroe House and Office: This house was built in 1896 for Dr. Alfred E. Monroe. The builder is unknown, but some of the hamlets older residents attribute its construction to the Rothgeb Brothers. It sits at the north edge of the proposed district, on a high ridge, facing east on Highway A.

Dr. Monroe came to New Lebanon in 1894, he purchased the lot from Elizabeth Belle Rothgeb, and the house was built for his home and office. The house sits in the original location and has had many owners over the years. Dr. Monroe sold it to Abram Rothgeb in 1901, although he continued to practice medicine in New Lebanon until 1903. Then, the known owners were: J.L. Spillers (1902), Edward L. Rodgers (1903), E.L. Hite (1904), Lester Thomas (1906), W.J. Thomas (1913-1918) and Abram Rothgeb (1922). There were other owners over the years, many of them owning businesses in New Lebanon. It is known that Sarah Belle (Rothgeb) Spence lived in the house from 1939 to 1961. The present owner is Jeanette (Rothgeb) Heaton, the house is occupied by the Cooper County Historical Society Center and used for a museum and genealogy center.

The original T-shaped building has additions at its northwest and southwest corners and an Eastlake porch. The house sits on a cut stone foundation and a concrete foundation under the additions. It is frame construction with wood clapboards. There are pilastered corner board, trabeated 1 over 1 windows and gable ends filled with fishscale jigsaw shingles accented by central diamond pattern. The front gable also has a scalloped vergeboard with a floral peak decoration. The floral motif is repeated in the brackets of the chamfered front bay, the central window of which has colored border glass. The porch with a truncated hip roof caps two entrances. The roof is cross gable with asphalt shingles.

The interior has wood floors, plastered walls and 8-foot ceilings. The rooms consist of the front room on the east with a bay window. A large center room with two windows on the west wall, two bedrooms on the

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New Lebanon Historic District
Cooper County, MO

south with one window in each, a kitchen on the north with a door on the north and a window on the east. The original back porch on the northwest corner was removed and a bathroom was built there.

Exact dates of the additions are not known but the approximate date for the additions of the two bedrooms is in the mid 1930s and the bathroom was built on it the 1970s.

On the west side of Highway A, from north of Abe Rothgeb's store and continuing to the north side of the Dr. Monroe's house and office, at least three buildings which were operated as general stores are no longer extant. In the late 1890s, the general stores of Arthur Cook, John W. Mann, and Robert N. Robertson occupied the buildings. In the early 1900s the stores were operated by W.F. Allen, W.H. Coffman & Co. and Charles Lester Thomas. Mr. Thomas' store burned in 1905. During World War I, one store was operated by Edward F. Hall, who later sold it to Ernest Hite. The Thomas G. Lewis store sold drugs, paints and oils. The last general store on this site was the Harry W. Needy store, it was moved away in the early 1940s. A blacksmith shop was on this site owned by William J. Thomas. The Dr. Alfred E. Monroe House and Office is the only remaining residence/business on this site. The tree-shaded site is now the Rothgeb Memorial Park and the Queen Anne house is the Cooper County Historical Society Center. The site is used for picnics and special events. Some of the store's stone foundations are still in place and the large stones from the blacksmith shop have been used in the park landscaping.

Two properties which were previously listed in the National Register and are now being included within the nomination of the New Lebanon Historic District are the New Lebanon Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the New Lebanon School, both listed in 1979. Both the church and school sit to the east of Highway A, with their primary facades facing west. The church, built in 1860, sits approximately 100' south of the intersection of Highway A and the New Lebanon Loop Road, while the school sits approximately another 100' south of the church. Designed in a restrained style of the Greek Revival, the New Lebanon Cumberland Presbyterian Church is a one story red brick structure with neither attic or basement. Paired entrance doors, framed by wood casings reflective of the columnar motif of the Greek Revival style and surmounted by transom windows, face toward the highway. A frieze band runs the length of the building on both the south and north elevations, but is broken on the east and west ends. Fenestration is simple; four double hung, 12 over 12, windows are equally spaced on both the south and north walls. Atop the gable, near the west terminus of the roof crest, a small crossed gable belfry is perched, which is topped by a restrained white spire. The interior of the church is a single room, with plastered walls and white painted woodwork. An interior bell tower stands along the western wall between the paired doors. Twelve rows of pews sit upon the unfinished wood plank floor. The school echoes the form and orientation of the church, however, where as the church is considered restrained, the school is even more so. Paired doors face toward the west. There are three double-hung, 2 over 2, windows on both the north and south walls, but otherwise, there is no embellishment of this very plain and utilitarian building. Constructed in 1889 of simple wooden frame construction with clapboard siding, the school is painted white, and the interior is decorated and restored to interpret a single room school of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Both the church and the school possess excellent integrity of setting, feel, and construction.

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New Lebanon Historic District
Cooper County, MO

Summary: The New Lebanon Historic District, along Highway A in New Lebanon, Cooper County, is significant under Criterion A in the area of commerce and under Criterion C in the area of architecture. The district is significant as the remaining elements of a once prosperous hamlet, an unincorporated community which functioned as the service center for the surrounding agricultural population. Significant buildings include the one remaining store building, the Abe Rothgab Store, as well as three associated outbuildings; the house-office of a physician, the Dr. Monroe House and Office; and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and a one-room school, previously listed in the National Register. The church, school, and store represent the core elements of the rural settlement, the center and focus of hamlet's activities, and are typical of the institutions and enterprises which characterized the rural settlements across the state. Dr. Monroe's House and Office was also typical of many hamlet buildings, serving as both a residence and business. The New Lebanon Cumberland Presbyterian Church, constructed in 1860, and the New Lebanon one-room school house, built in 1889, both previously listed in the National Register, are the earliest buildings in the district. Dr. Monroe's House and Office was constructed in 1896, while Rothgab's store was built in 1926, although the proprietor had operated a business in the hamlet as early as 1895. The period of significance extends from 1860, the date of construction of the church, to 1947, the arbitrary fifty-year limit.

Narrative: New Lebanon, located in Lebanon Township, in the southwest portion of Cooper County, sits well up on the ridge which separates the drainage area of the Lamine River to the west from that of the Petite Saline Creek to the east and Honey Creek to the south. It is the site of one of the earliest settlements in central Missouri and the site of the second post office in Cooper County. The community was settled in 1819 by pioneers primarily from Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. The first settlers were followed by families from other southern states, many of whom were Cumberland Presbyterians; in 1820, they organized a seminary and church, the New Lebanon Society, named after the Lebanon Church in Tennessee.

Rev. Finis Ewing was one of the founders of New Lebanon and the first minister of the new church; in 1821, he was also appointed the first postmaster of New Lebanon. He entered a large claim of land, less than ¼ mile from the church, where he first built a log house, later replaced by a large brick house. Early postmasters at New Lebanon included: Alexander C. Sloan (1836), Urban E. Ruby (1837-42), George L. Bell (1851), Horace W. Ferguson (1855), George L. Bell (1857) and James B. Johnston (1859-60). In 1893, the New Lebanon postmaster was John W. Mann, who as customary, kept the post office in his store. He continued to serve as postmaster through 1899.

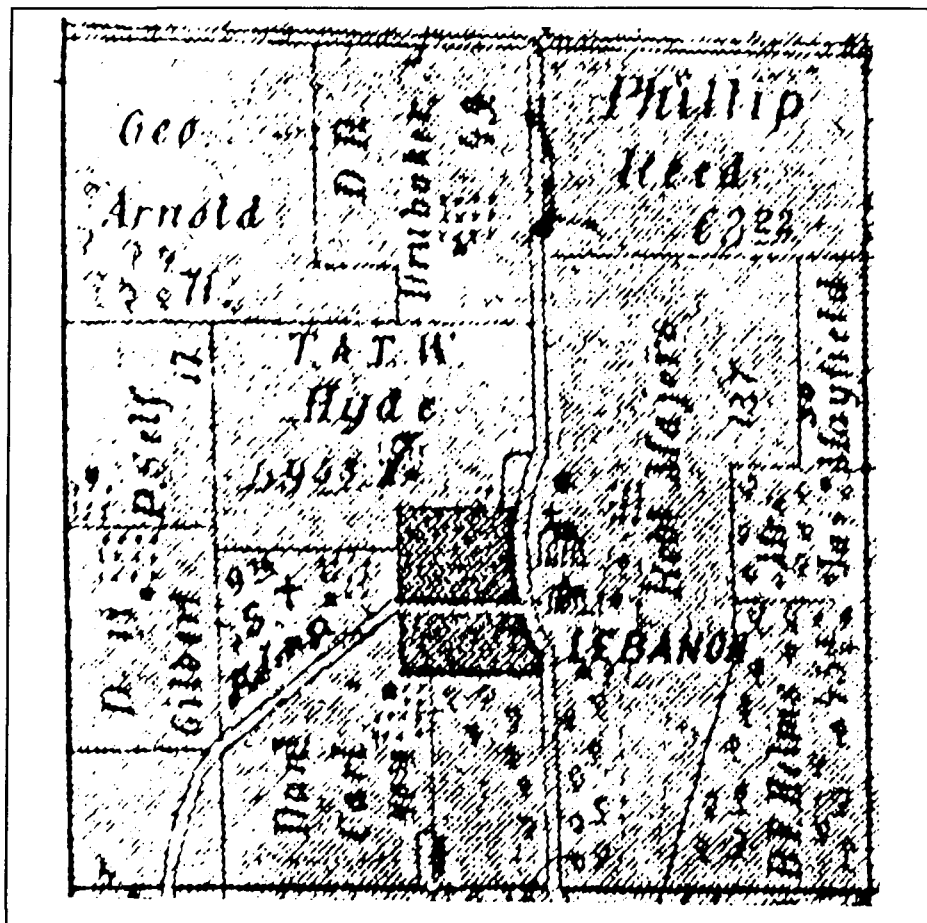
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New Lebanon Historic District
Cooper County, MO

From early in its history, New Lebanon offered the opportunity for various businesses to operate. In 1860, the Missouri State Gazetteer and Business Directory, described New Lebanon as having one blacksmith shop, one wagon maker, one coal dealer, one brick maker, one general store, one grocery store, one hotel, one painter, and two physicians. The two physicians were Dr. William Burk and Dr. William Hooper. Samuel Drinkwater was the brick maker; his brother owned the hotel and his sons operated the blacksmith shop. James B. Johnston was the postmaster and a partner in a general store operated as Johnston, Ewing & Co. Tom Thomas



Source: Historical Atlas of Cooper County, 1877.

dealt in coal, Leander Rickman built wagons, and Mary J. Weeden had the millinery shop. Later there were more general stores, blacksmith shops, a grist mill, saw mill and drug store. In 1870, Morgan F. Kemp owned a general store, in 1893 Milton Cash and W.H. Coffman had a blacksmith shop and William L. Favorite and Robert N. Robertson owned the "Favorite & Robertson" general store. Another general store was operated by John W. Mann, Arthur Cook had a store, William H. Steele operated the grist mill and James C. Fisher had another blacksmith shop.

On May 1, 1895, a general store was opened under the name of "Abe Rothgeb & Co." and Robert N. Robertson built a new store. In 1900 the New Lebanon Milling Co. was managed by Thomas R. Kemp. Thomas G. Lewis had a drug store and W.F. Allen was a dealer of wagons and buggies. Mrs. James T. Woods had a millinery shop and the Brumback Bros. owned a blacksmith shop. For many years, William J. Thomas had a blacksmith shop and Charles Lester Thomas ran a general store for a few years until it burned in 1905. Mrs. Eugene Tomlinson ran a millinery shop until 1910 and Eugene Tomlinson operated

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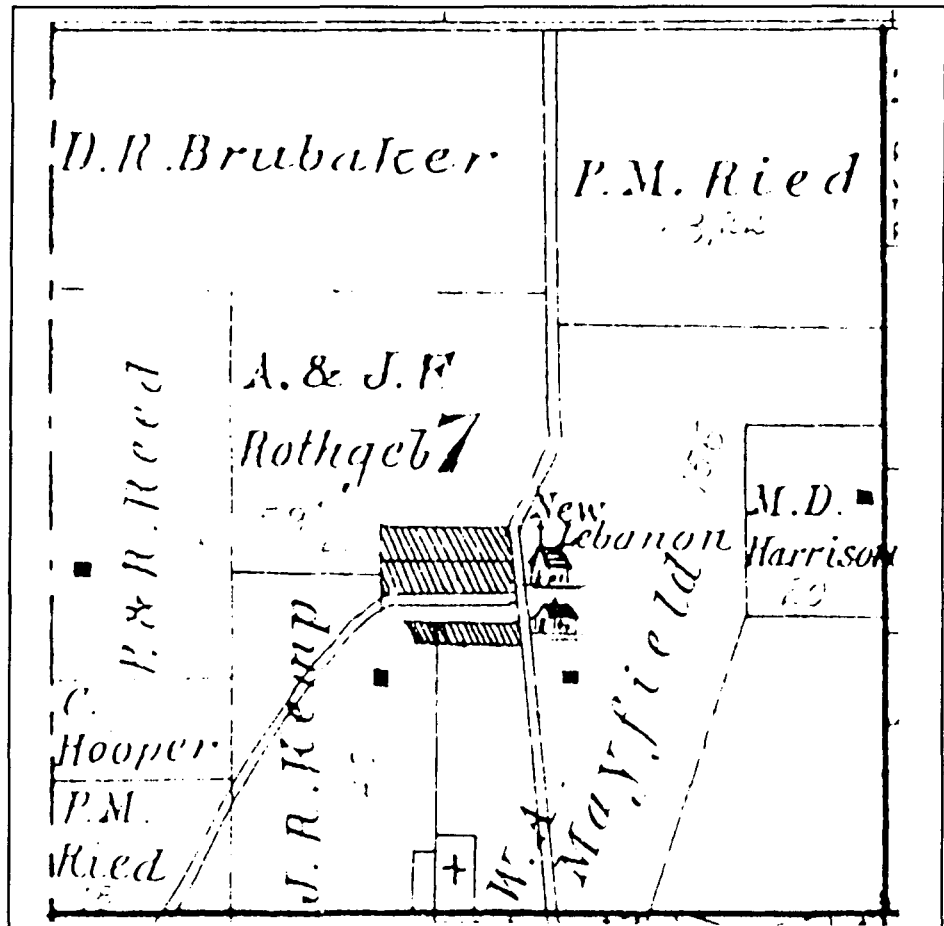
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New Lebanon Historic District
Cooper County, MO

a general store until 1915. Edward F. Hall had a general store during World War I. In the 1920s Harry W. Needy built a general store building, next to the one that he had operated in the late 1890s. The Abe Rothgeb Store was the last business to operate in New Lebanon; it remained in business until Rothgeb's death on January 1, 1959.

Historically, New Lebanon meets the definition of the unincorporated hamlet and exhibits most of its defining characteristics. The hamlet was one component of the Central Place Theory of economic geography developed by Walter Cristaller in his study of the rural landscape of Germany. According to Cristaller, the hamlet was "the smallest settlement unit that provides a few primary services to a small local hinterland."¹ In the United States, geographer Glenn Trewartha conducted a survey of hamlets in the 1940s and provided a similar definition: "Hamlets are agglomerations of people together with their residences and work units."² (37) The hamlet represented a distinct feature in the landscape and pattern of rural settlement. With the exception



²Source: Historical Atlas of Cooper County, 1897.

¹Jeffrey Winstel, "The Unincorporated Hamlet: A Vanishing Aspect of the Rural Landscape," *CRM* 17 (1994): 25.

²Glenn T. Trewartha, "The Unincorporated Hamlet: One Element of the American Settlement Fabric," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 33 (March 1943): 37.

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New Lebanon Historic District
Cooper County, MO

of the farmstead, the unincorporated hamlet was "by far the most ubiquitous settlement type in the United States."³ The majority of hamlets studied by Trewartha were commercial service units for the surrounding agricultural area, or "farmers' towns." Hamlets typically developed around a business or service unit. Businesses were the most common accretion units, present in 97 percent of the hamlets in Trewartha's survey, with mills and general stores most often represented. The post office, which combined elements of both the business and service unit, was a frequent center for a hamlet; in New Lebanon, as well as elsewhere, the post office was rarely a separate building, but was usually housed in a home or business. The post office, church, and school may have been the major defining institutions in New Lebanon's early history, but mills and general stores were also well represented.⁴ An additional centralizing feature of the hamlet of New Lebanon was its establishment as the voting place for New Lebanon Township.

In Trewartha's study, the upper limit of the population of a hamlet was set at 150. New Lebanon was never incorporated, and figures on its population are, therefore, generally not available. When the state completed Highway A through New Lebanon after World War II, overlaying an earlier road, a sign proclaimed "Population 75." Since then, the population of New Lebanon has declined to twelve. In addition, Trewartha recognized a number of quantitative qualifications for hamlets: (1) a minimum of four active residential units, two of which must be non-farm houses, (2) at least six active functional units--residential, business, social, or other, and (3) a total of at least five buildings actively used by people.⁵ In hamlets, buildings also often housed more than one functional unit. The hamlet lacked a distinct business core, a feature which characterized the larger unit of the village.⁶ Buildings in hamlets, particularly those which serve as residences, often were distinguished by the number of ancillary buildings, such as barns, sheds, and other agricultural support buildings.

Aside from businesses, churches and schools were the most common institutions located in hamlets. The earliest institutions established in New Lebanon appeared to be the church and school. Hamlets tended to develop along roads or highways, and Trewartha concluded that "the most fundamental element of ground plan in hamlets is the public highway. Hamlets belong to the highways . . ."⁷ The majority of the examples of hamlets studied by Trewartha were located along lesser traveled roads, and they almost never occurred in areas served by rail lines, which implied that there was a greater demand for the limited services of small settlements in areas of relative isolation.⁸ Given their frequent location along roads, the linear form for hamlets predominated in Trewartha's study; 30 percent of those studied were along

³Glenn T. Trewartha, "The Unincorporated Hamlet: One Element of the American Settlement Fabric," Annals of the Association of American Geographers 33 (March 1943): 74-75.

⁴Ibid., pp. 39-40.

⁵Ibid., p. 37.

⁶Ibid., pp. 38-39.

⁷Ibid., p. 66.

⁸Ibid., p. 55. The incompatibility of hamlet development with the presence of a rail line is consistent with the findings of Stuart Voss, who concluded that, in central Missouri, particularly in the post Civil War period, the railroad was the primary determinant of town growth. Voss, "Town Growth in Central Missouri, 1815-1880: An Urban Chapparral, Part 3," Missouri Historical Review 64 (April 1970): 341.

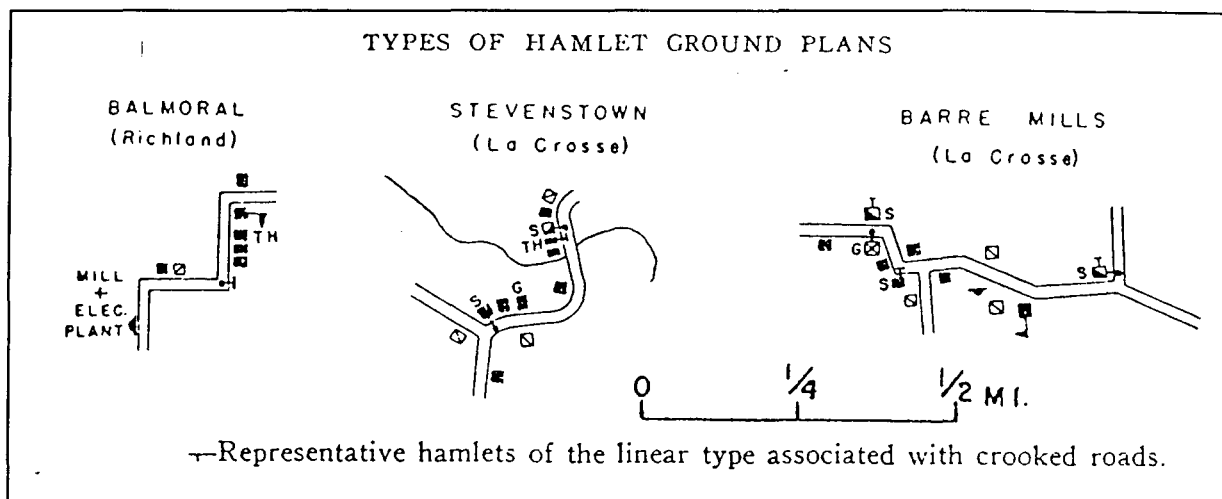
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New Lebanon Historic District
Cooper County, MO

highways or clustered at the intersection of two roads, often with no other street pattern⁹ (see Figure 3); one subtype of the linear form was along a crooked road, or a road with bends, a form also displayed by New Lebanon (see Figure 4).



³Source: Trewartha, p. 69.

Abram "Abe" Rothgeb was born January 21, 1865, in Cooper County, the son of Samuel Benjamin Rothgeb and Elizabeth Belle (Carr) Rothgeb. Samuel B. Rothgeb came to Cooper County in 1855 from Page County, Virginia. He first settled in Palestine Township, which is a few miles SE of New Lebanon. In 1877, the family moved to New Lebanon where they purchased the house and land formerly owned by the Reverend Finis Ewing. Abram was one of seven children, they attended school and church in New Lebanon. Abram Rothgeb and his brother, Charles, were also builders who constructed the grist mill at New Lebanon, many of the barns, and some of the houses in the area. Abram married Narcissa F. Fisher in 1893, there were no children born to this union and Narcissa died in 1935.

⁹Ibid., pp. 39-67.

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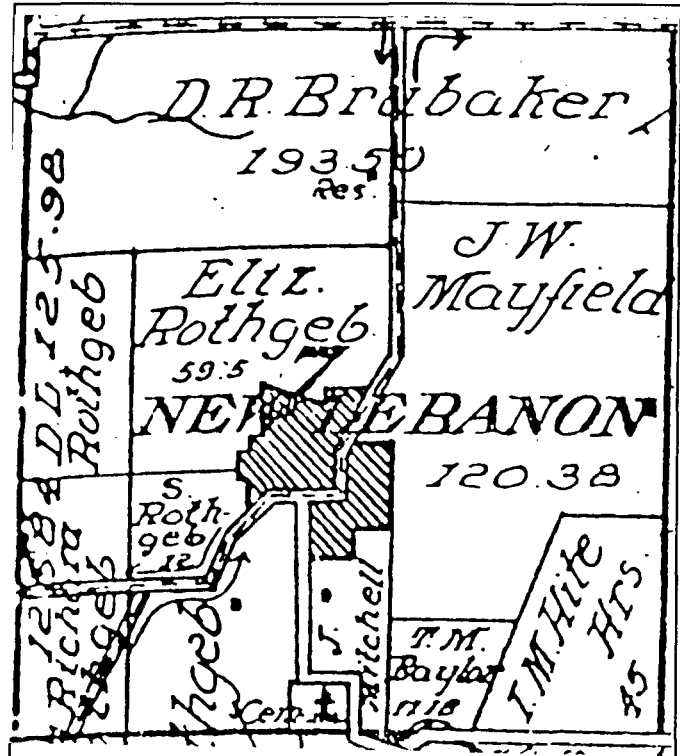
New Lebanon Historic District
Cooper County, MO

On May 1, 1895, Rothgeb opened a general store business in New Lebanon under the name of "Abe Rothgeb & Co." He had a thriving business in the early years, as evidenced by ledger books and record books. Abe Rothgeb left New Lebanon for a few years to operate general stores in Ionia, MO, and Odessa, MO; however, the dates of his absence have not been established. Records indicate that the New Lebanon store was operated by his brothers during the years Abram was away. The exact year that he returned to New Lebanon is not known, but he built a new general store building in New Lebanon in 1926. The success of his business was measurable by its longevity. He operated the general store until the day he died, on January 1, 1959, at the age of 94. On his death, the last remaining business in New Lebanon closed its doors.

Abe Rothgeb's store sold groceries, clothing, shoes, fabric, medicine, tobacco, hardware, feed, gas, oil and candy, and served the agricultural area around the hamlet. He had a long association with the commercial life of New Lebanon and the surrounding rural area. Many of the business records,

remittance books, and sales tickets show many people depended on his store to buy merchandise and to trade eggs and poultry. The store purchased its merchandise from wholesalers in St. Louis, Kansas City, Chicago, Sedalia and Boonville. Abe Rothgeb's store didn't have electricity until 1945 and never had indoor plumbing. He served on the New Lebanon school board, some years he supplied the stove wood for the school house, and there are sales tickets showing where the school purchased other supplies. The general store was a family enterprise. In the early years of Abe Rothgeb's business, his wife, Narcissa, assisted in the store as well as a brother, nephews and nieces. In later years his eyesight and hearing was failing him, so his housekeeper and a younger brother assisted him.

In 1934, a newspaper article in the *Boonville Advertiser* described New Lebanon as "A Progressive Community". Agriculture was the main occupation, and, numbered among the community leaders in the area, were J.W. Mayfield, farmer and stockman; Richard Rothgeb, breeder of Duroc Jersey hogs; W.B. Downing, county superintendent of schools; J.L. and Ashby Brubaker, farmers; W.H. Coffman, blacksmith; Abe Rothgeb, general merchant; and Bennie Spence, farmer and caretaker of the cemetery. According to the article, "New Lebanon has a beautiful and well-kept cemetery and cemetery board." Thomas Rogers was supervisor of the special road district. Miss Johnnie Kirkpatrick had served as school teacher for six years, while J.W. Mayfield and George Watring were listed as Sunday school superintendents. However, by the time the article appeared extolling New Lebanon's virtues and accomplishments, its population of New Lebanon was declining due to better roads and better



4Source: Historical Atlas of Cooper County, 1915.

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New Lebanon Historic District
Cooper County, MO

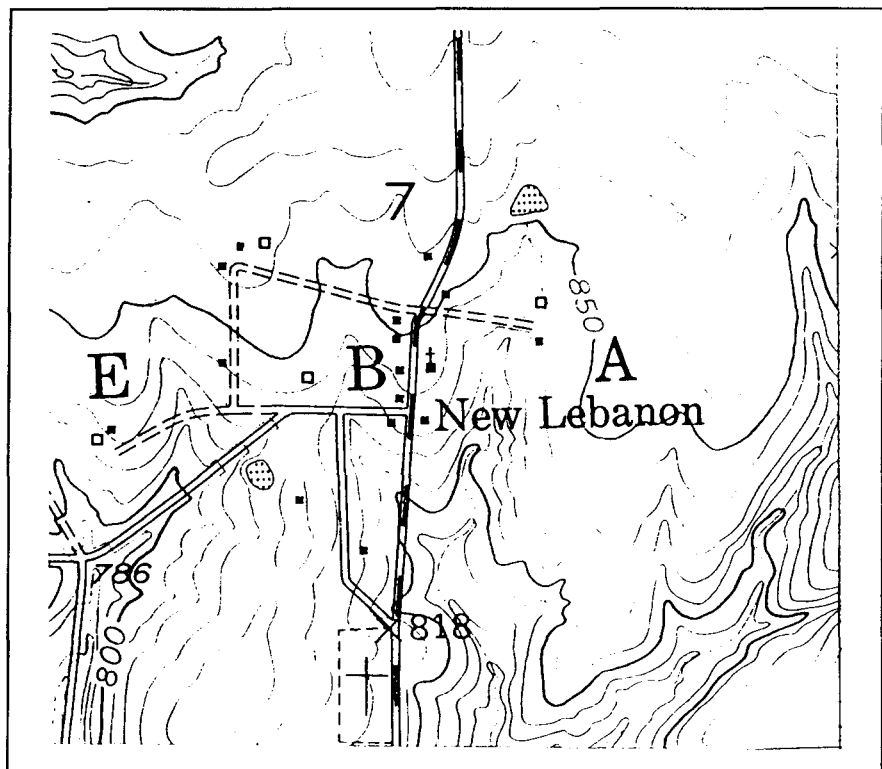
transportation, and the community no longer had a thriving business section; only Abe Rothgeb's general store remained.

The earliest physician of record in New Lebanon was Collin C. Stoneman who joined the New Lebanon Church in 1847. He was a practitioner of the Thompsonian School of medicine, which insisted on the use of vegetable remedies only. In 1860, Drs. William Burk and William Hooper were located in New Lebanon. After the Civil War, Dr. William Hooper continued as the area's doctor and continued his practice in New Lebanon for over twenty years; he is buried in the New Lebanon Cemetery. In 1894, Dr. Alfred E. Monroe settled in New Lebanon. He was born April 10, 1870 in Moniteau County, Missouri, the son of Calvin Monroe and Mary Shadwick. He graduated from William Jewel College at Liberty, Missouri and obtained his medical degree from Marion Simms College of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri on March 23, 1893.

Dr. Monroe's house-office was built in 1896. Dr. Monroe was active with the school as chairman of the school board in 1894, 1896 and 1899. Charles A. McNeil was the New Lebanon school teacher from 1898 to 1900 and he spent much of his free time with Dr. Monroe; his friendship with Monroe influenced McNeil to go on to medical school in St. Louis, from which he graduated in 1905. He practiced medicine in Sedalia, Missouri until his death in 1944, and Dr. Monroe was his doctor during the last minutes of his life. For the last year of Dr. Monroe's practice in New Lebanon, a newly graduated Dr. Henry Ashby Hite lived there. In 1903, Dr.

Monroe moved to Otterville, Missouri and in 1910 he moved to Sedalia, Missouri, where he died on June 30, 1954. Also during the first decade of this century, Dr. Robert Lee Fogle practiced in New Lebanon before moving to Otterville, Missouri. The house is currently being used as a museum-genealogy center for the Cooper County Historical Society.

As early as 1938, Paul H. Landis noted the decline of the hamlet, which he attributed to the increase in number and improvement in quality of rural highways and the decline of the small, fourth-class post office. As Jeffrey Winstel explained:



5Source: "Otterville East" U.S.G.S. topographic quadrangle.

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Section 8 Page 11

New Lebanon Historic District
Cooper County, MO

Rural free delivery service [instituted experimentally in 1896 and made permanent shortly thereafter] drastically reduced the number of small community post offices and, subsequently, the businesses in which post offices were housed. These commercial establishments were dependent on the traffic that the postal service generated for them.¹⁰

The decline was not immediate, as Trewartha observed, but gradual, as the hamlet became a less complete center for services.

The death of Abe Rothgeb and the closing of his general store, the last active business in New Lebanon, ended the hamlet's tenure as a rural service center. However, the durability of the pioneer community continues, due to the preservation efforts and restoration that has been on going in New Lebanon since 1976. The New Lebanon Cumberland Presbyterian Church has been restored and a annual Homecoming celebration is held there each year. Abe Rothgeb's great niece, Jeanette Rothgeb Heaton returned to New Lebanon in 1984 and began the rehabilitation of the store building and surrounding grounds, including the one-room school house and Dr. Monroe's House and Office. The store is now a general store museum/antique shop, the one-room school house has been restored with the original furnishings and the Queen Anne house is being used by the Cooper County Historical Society as a museum-genealogy center. The area between the store and the Queen Anne house has been made into the Rothgeb Memorial Park. New Lebanon celebrated its 175th anniversary on September 17, 1994 with an "Old Time Fall Festival" and approximately 400 people attended the event.

On September 10, 1990, the Cooper County Historical Society was organized at a meeting in the New Lebanon Church with 50 members. In 1997, the society included 153 members and is active in the preservation of Cooper County landmarks. The society's annual fund raising event has been a fall festival held in New Lebanon, which have been very successful and attended by large crowds. The tourists are finding New Lebanon now with group tours visiting during the summer and fall months. They stroll through the community and Jeanette Rothgeb Heaton conducts a guided historic narrated tour of the community. Also area school teachers are bringing classes of school children on field trips to New Lebanon where they enjoy seeing the one-room school house, the general store museum and learning about pioneer days.

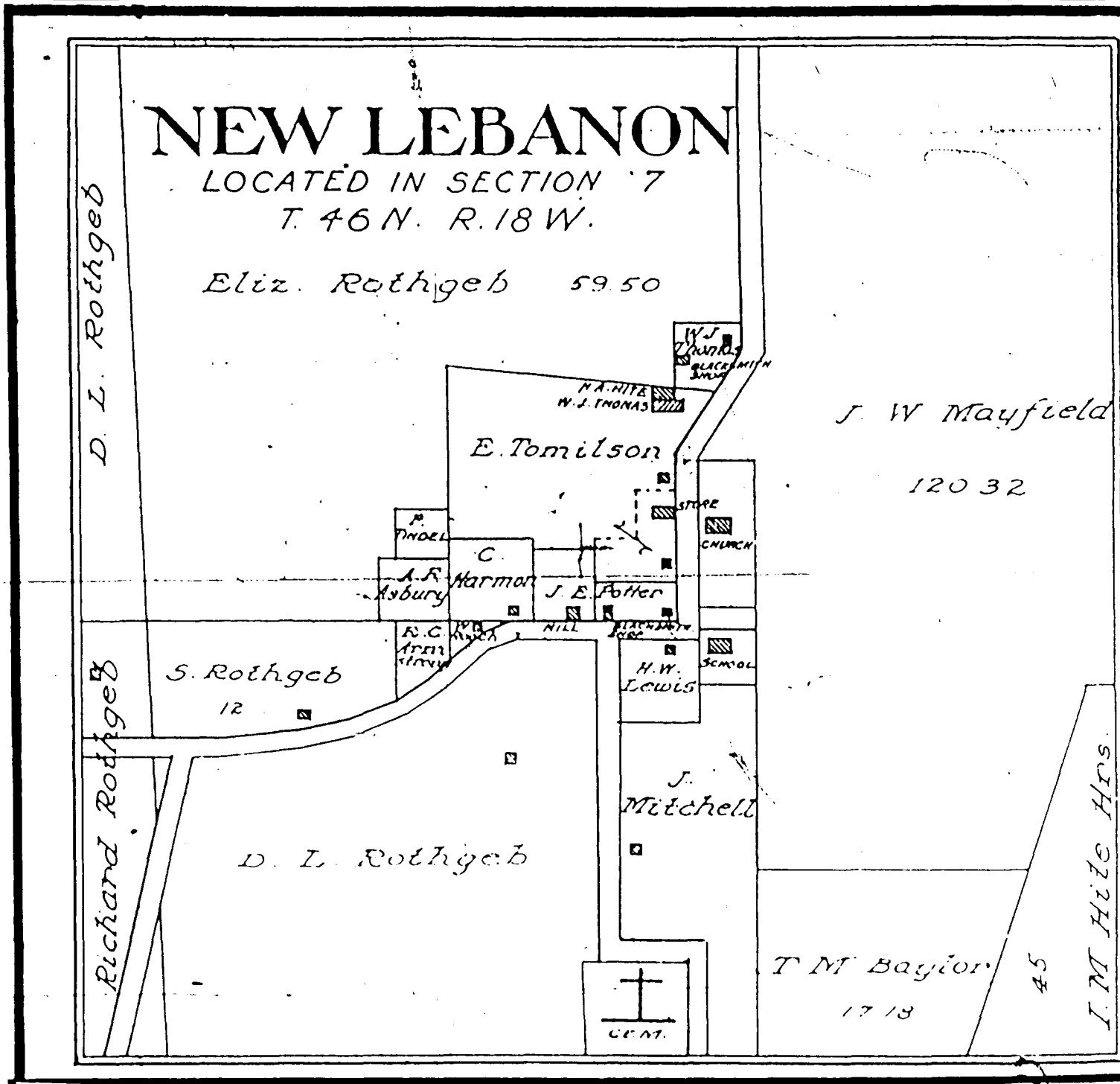
¹⁰Winstel, p. 26.

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New Lebanon Historic District
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Plan of New Lebanon, ca. 1915

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Continuation Sheet

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New Lebanon Historic District
Cooper County, MO

W. F. Allen,

Dealer in General Merchandise, Wag-
ons, Buggies, Wire and Salt in car
load lots.

HIGHEST MARKET PRICE
PAID FOR COUNTRY PRODUCE NEW LEBANON, MO.

T. G. LEWIS, DRUGGIST,
NEW LEBANON, MO.



DEALER IN DRUGS
PAINTS AND OILS.

PRESCRIPTIONS
A SPECIALTY.

W. H. COFFMAN & CO.,

DEALERS IN

DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, HARD-
WARE AND NOTIONS.

We carry a new line of good goods. Call and see us. Prices right.

NEW LEBANON, MO.

NEW LEBANON ADVERTISEMENTS

The above panel of advertisements were printed in the "Premium List for
Bunceton (Mo.) Fair" in 1903.

**New Lebanon Historic District
Cooper County, MO**

Receipts from Abe Rothgeb's General Store

Debtor.		
27	ayds Cal	1 20
44	Percale	45
	Southern	10
	Seaming	10
1 sp	Thread	05
	Ribbon	30
2	spools Thd	10
	Flannel	50
	Soap's tub's	10
	Cottonade	55
	Embroidery	1 25
	Corncries	30
	Chambray	25
	Cal	20
	Southern	80
	Maggie	10
	Linthen	20
	Thd	10
	Minegar ²⁰ Emb ¹⁵	35
13	ayds Silk	7 80
	W mdae the day	
	you went a chpton	1 90
	Emb ¹⁵	2 00
		19 20

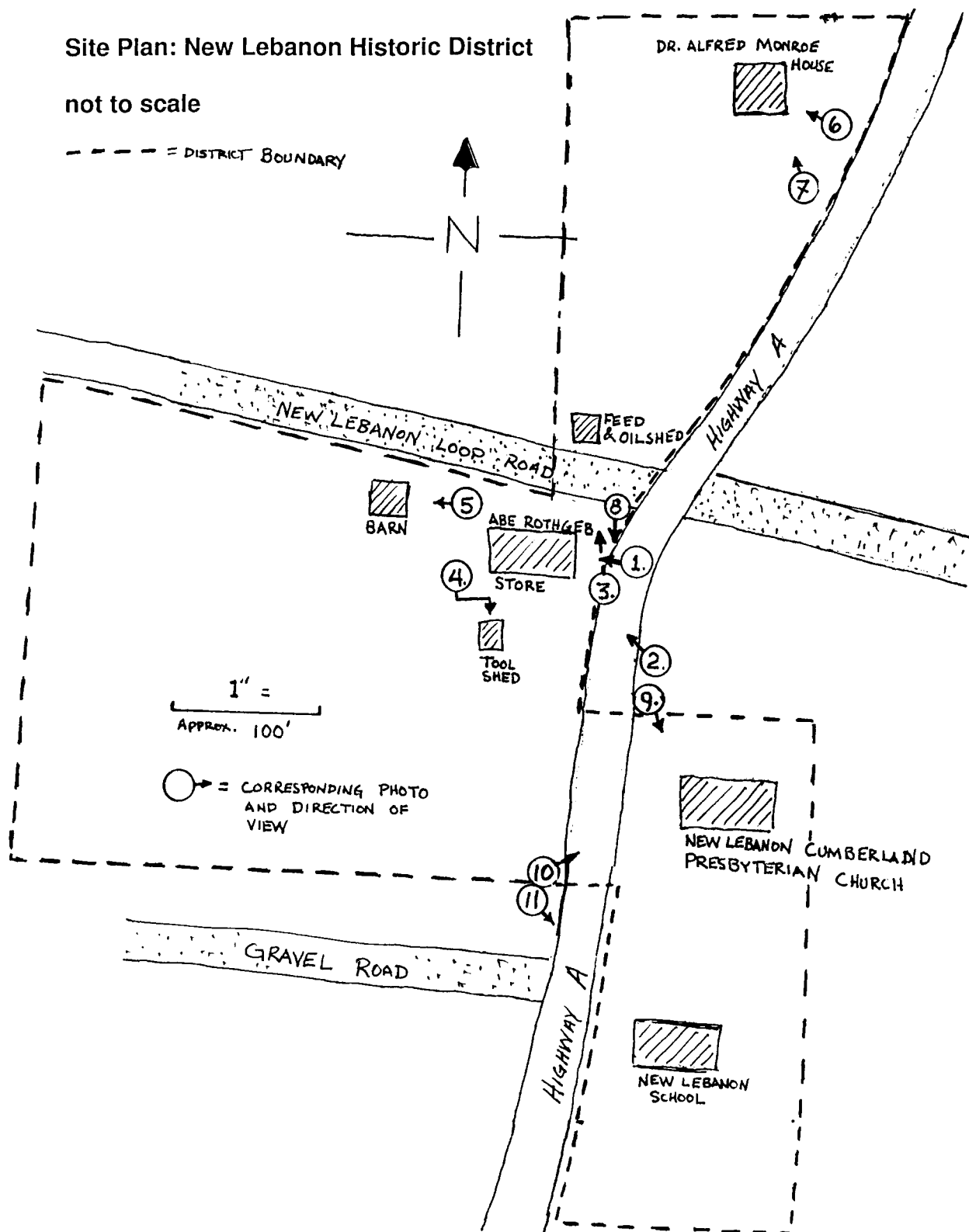
Creditor.		
26 #	Spring at 8c	2 08
52 1/2 #	Hens, at 4 1/2	2 37
2	Roosters	25
	By cash	2 34
35 #	Spring at 8c	2 80
27 #	Hens	1 20
	By Shells Return	60
	By cash Jim Ashm	50
		<u>14 34</u>
To Amel		
		14 20
	By Cash & Produce	14 34
	Bal Due.	<u>4 86</u>

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New Lebanon Historic District
Cooper County, MO



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New Lebanon Historic District
Cooper County, MO

Cameron, Janice R., et al. "New Lebanon Cumberland Presbyterian Church and School." National Register of Historic Places Inventory--Nomination Form. 1979.

Coleman, Mrs. J.H. "New Lebanon May be Small, But It's Mapped in People's Hearts." Boonville Daily News, 21 July 1971.

Corday, Eugene A. History of New Lebanon, Cooper County, Missouri. Fort Worth, Texas: VKM Publishing Co. 1976

Hirst, Mrs. Fred "New Lebanon Preachers Had Courage to Fight Bears". The Boonville Advertiser, 1934.

Historical Atlases of Cooper County [various titles]. 1877, 1897, and 1915.

Trewartha, Glenn T. "Unincorporated Hamlets: One Element of the American Settlement Fabric," Annals of the Association of American Geographers 33 (March 1933): 32-81.

Voss, Stuart. "Town Growth in Central Missouri, 1815-1880: An Urban Chapparral, Part 3," Missouri Historical Review 64 (April 1970)

Winstel, Jeffrey. "The Unincorporated Hamlet: A Vanishing Aspect of the Rural Landscape." CRM 17 (1994): 25-27.

Abe Rothgeb & Co. Business Records. Jeanette (Rothgeb) Heaton, New Lebanon, Missouri.

Interviews conducted by Jeanette (Rothgeb) Heaton:

Long, (Rothgeb) Mabel, Quincy, IL, 1996

Rothgeb, Ruth, Otterville, MO, 1997

Schlottzauer, Clara Belle, Pilot Grove, MO, 1997

Thomas, Marvin, Boonville, MO, 1997

Thomas, Mary Elizabeth, Bunceton, MO, 1996

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning of the southernmost point where the New Lebanon Loop Road intersects Missouri State Highway A, proceed south along the west right-of-way of Highway A 100 feet; then proceed east, crossing Highway A and proceed 116 feet; then proceed south 541 feet; then proceed west 137 feet to the east right-of-way of Highway A; then proceed north along the east right-of-way of Highway A 236 feet; then proceed west across Highway A and continuing 380 feet; then proceed directly north 345 feet to the south right-of-way of New Lebanon Loop Road; from that point proceed southeast along the south right-of-way of New Lebanon Loop Road 381 feet; then proceed directly north from that point, crossing New Lebanon Loop Road and continuing 336 feet; then proceed directly west 242 feet to the west right-of-way of Missouri State Highway A; then proceed south along the west right-of-way of Highway A to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: The boundary of the New Lebanon Historic District has been drawn to include the remaining social and commercial buildings of the hamlet of New Lebanon from its period of significance, including: the Abram Rothget Store and three outbuildings historically associated with that

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New Lebanon Historic Distr
Cooper County, M

store; the Dr. Alfred E. Monroe House and Office; and the previously listed New Lebanon Cumberland Presbyterian Church and New Lebanon School House.

11. Form Prepared By

1. Jeanette Heaton
Rt. 1, Box 1032
Bunceton, MO 65237
draft items 1-10
2. Steven E. Mitchell/Assistant Director
Historic Preservation Program
Division of State Parks
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65101
573/751-4692
January 29, 1998
Revisions, item 8, and editor, items 1-10
3. Allen Tatman, National Register Coordinator
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102
573/751-7800
Revisions, items 1-7, 9-10, and editor, items 1-10

NEW LEBANON HISTORIC DISTRICT COOPER COUNTY, MISSOURI 15/505280/4291540

OTTERVILLE WEST
7361 II NE

38°45'
93°00'

360 000 FEET

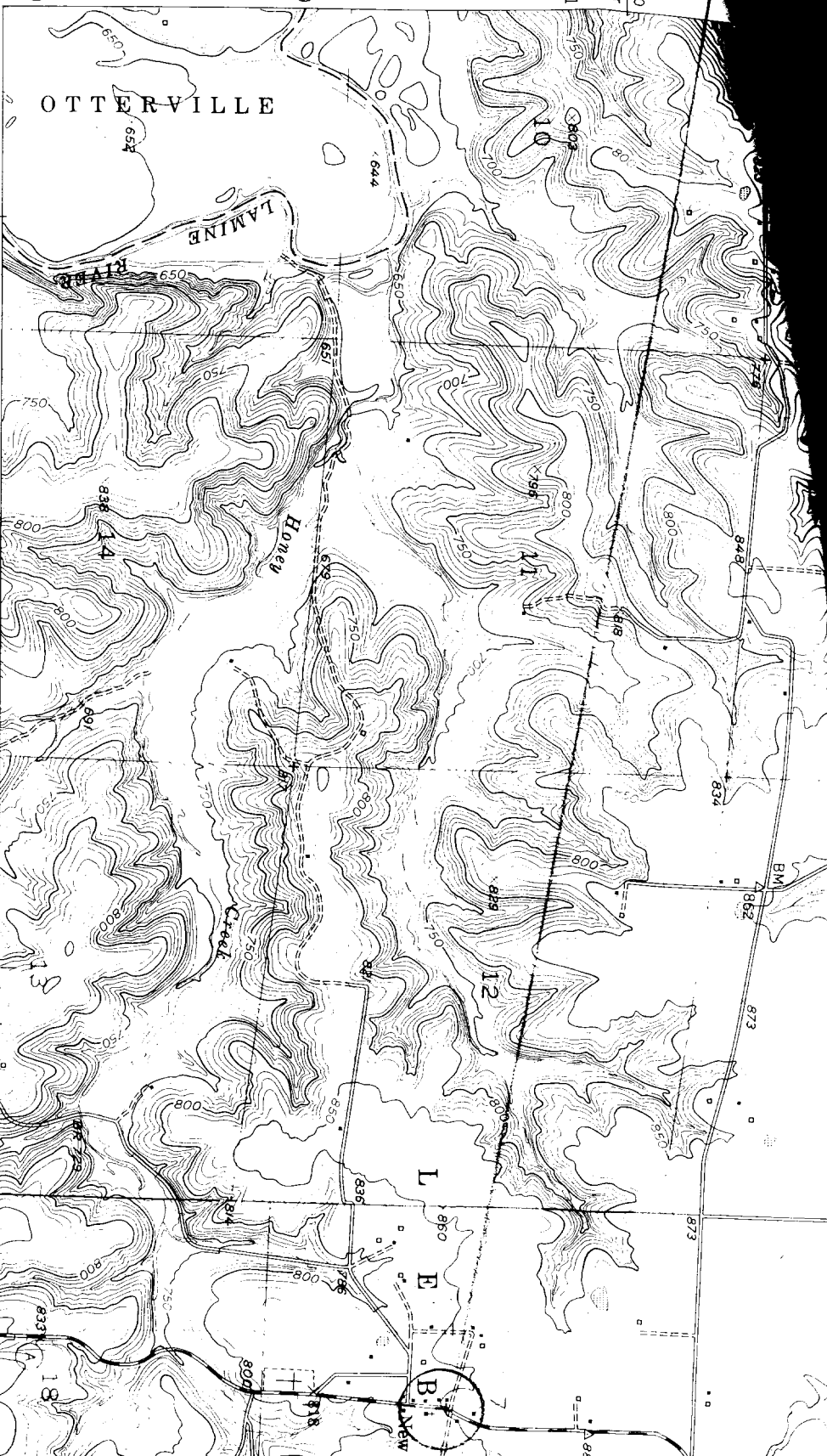
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57'30"

304

OTTERVILLE 6 MI

OTTERVILLE
7461 III

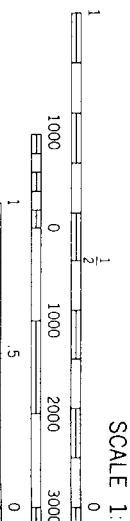
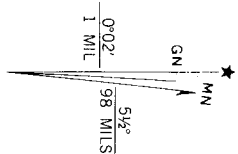


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USCG&S

Topography from aerial photographs by Kelsh plotter
Aerial photographs taken 1947. Field check 1953
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Missouri coordinate system,
central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken
1977. Map dated 1979. This information not field checked

UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



SCALE 1

CONTOUR INTERVAL
NATIONAL GEODETIC VER

THIS MAP COMPLETES WITH NATION
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, CO
AND THE DIVISION OF RESEARCH
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS A

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **New Lebanon Historic District**

City or Vicinity: **Lebanon**

County: **Cooper County** State: **MO**

Photographer: **J. Heaton**

Date

Photographed: **June 1997**

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 11. Abe Rothget Store, looking W
- 2 of 11. Abe Rothget Store, looking NW
- 3 of 11. Abe Rothget Store, Feed & Oil Shed & Gas Pump, looking NW
- 4 of 11. Abe Rothget Store, Tool & Storage Shed, looking S
- 5 of 11. Abe Rothget Store Barn, looking W
- 6 of 11. Dr. Alfred Monroe House & Office, looking NW
- 7 of 11. Dr. Alfred Monroe House & Office, looking N
- 8 of 11. Looking S in front of Abe rothget Store, Church & School along Hwy A
- 9 of 11. Looking S, view of Cumberland Presbyterian Church & New Lebanon School
- 10 of 11. New Lebanon School, looking SE
- 11 of 11. New Lebanon Cumberland Presbyterian Church, looking NE

ABE'S COUNTRY STORE

General Store • Museum • Antiques

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MUSEUM

ANTIQUES

U.S.
MAIL

APPROVED BY THE
POSTMASTER GENERAL



ABE'S COUNTRY STORE
General Store • Museum • Antiques

5236











Cooper County
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
Center

WED-SAT-SUN 15







NEW LEBANON
COMMUNITY CENTER

NO PARKING
BEHIND



NEW LEBANON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ORGANIZED 1820