

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: \_\_\_\_\_

other name/site number: Panhorst Feed Store

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: 465 St. Clair

not for publication: N/A

city/town: St. Clair

vicinity: N/A

state: MO    county: Franklin    code: 071    zip code: 63077

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

| Contributing | Noncontributing |
|--------------|-----------------|
|--------------|-----------------|

|          |                  |
|----------|------------------|
| <u>1</u> | _____ buildings  |
| _____    | _____ sites      |
| _____    | _____ structures |
| _____    | _____ objects    |
| <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> Total   |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

G. Tracy Mehan III  
Signature of certifying official

5/26/96  
Date

G. Tracy Mehan III, Director

Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

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5. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_\_\_ 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): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
of Action

=====

6. Function or Use

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Historic: COMMERCE/TRADE  
COMMERCE/TRADE

Sub: specialty store  
business

Current : COMMERCE/TRADE

Sub: business

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Other:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: One-part commercial block

Materials: foundation concrete roof shingle  
walls wood other metal

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance. x See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1917-18

Significant Dates : N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person(s): N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Dierking, John

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
x See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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☒ See continuation sheet.

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 -- Specify Repository: St. Clair County Hist. Soc., St. Clair, MO

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: < 1 acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

|   |           |               |                |   |     |     |     |
|---|-----------|---------------|----------------|---|-----|-----|-----|
| A | <u>15</u> | <u>676320</u> | <u>4246020</u> | B | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| C | ___       | ___           | ___            | D | ___ | ___ | ___ |

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

The property is located on Lot 54, Block 6, Kerr's Subdivision within the city of St. Clair, Franklin County, Missouri.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

The boundaries conform to the lot borders; this is the parcel of land historically associated with the property.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Hugh R. Davidson

Organization: Dept. of Natural Resources

Date: Jan. 24, 1990

Street & Number: P.O. Box 176

Telephone: 314/751-5365

City or Town: Jefferson City

State: MO ZIP: 65102

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National Park Service

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The Old Panhorst Feed Store is a simple, wood frame building of unpretentious design. This commercial vernacular building is emblematic of a type of construction common among small towns in the 19th and early 20th century. The building sits upon its original location and retains its setting as a single detached building. Original workmanship and materials were retained during a recent rehabilitation under the auspices of the federal historic investment tax credit program. The building retains the ability to reflect its historic associations and represents a distinctive type and method of construction not commonly found in such a pristine condition.

The Panhorst Feed Store is a rectangular plan, one-story commercial building. It sits upon a concrete foundation and possesses a plain wood water table. The simple beaded, horizontal wood-clad building measures approximately 20' (facade elevation) by 40' feet. Referencing the topology for commercial architecture recently published by Richard Longstreth, this building is a one-part commercial block; it is basically a rectangular box building featuring paired 2/2 sash and a single door on the facade. A metal-clad shed porch with metal pole supports covers the main entrance and runs the full width of the primary elevation. A louvered ventilation opening lies at the center of the false front gable field. The distinctive false front is topped with a simple cornice. Both side elevations and the rear feature two 2/2 windows. The east side possesses a paired set of freight doors. A gable roof, lying to the rear of the false front, is covered by rolled asphalt composition sheathing. A brick chimney is found at the south end of the roof's west facing gable.

The interior features original tongue-in-groove yellow pine walls and a pressed metal ceiling; the ceiling height is 12'. A brick stove flue rises from the interior southwest corner. A stove has been placed adjacent to this flue. The rooms are partitioned into a main room, two offices, dark room and bathroom (see plan). The current floor plan is not substantially different from the building's original interior configuration; the primary alterations to the addition of a partition between the two office spaces.

The building remains substantially unchanged from when John Dierking constructed it in late 1917 or early 1918. The rehabilitation encompassed the addition of insulation, interior storm windows and an electric furnace/air conditioner. These changes and the interior reconfiguration, have had no significant effect on the building's historic character.

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Once a common feature of late 19th and early 20th century small towns, the wood frame, false-front, one-part commercial block building figured prominently in the development of local commercial centers. Few properties of this type survive that retain an uncompromised state of integrity from their period of construction; the Panhorst Feed Store retains this critical quality of integrity. It is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C and ARCHITECTURE. The building illustrates a once widespread pattern of building construction. These wood frame commercial buildings formed an integral component in Missouri's built environment. Dispensing commercial goods and functioning as small office buildings, these properties were the focal point in the interchange between service agents or merchants and private citizens. The building is identifiable as a type of vernacular construction common to commercial architecture of the era between the Civil War and World War I which is seldom found in such a pristine and well-maintained condition. Sensitive rehabilitation of the original exterior and interior features has guaranteed the long term preservation of this representative specimen of a successful vernacular tradition which was drawing to a close at the time of its construction.

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HISTORIC BACKGROUND

The Old Panhorst Feed Store lies within the city limits of St. Clair, Franklin County, Missouri. St. Clair was founded as Galena in 1840. This small mining hamlet was established in proximity to the growing lead and iron mining area to the south and west of the community. In 1843 traffic grew along what would later become the St. Louis to Springfield Road. Charles Jeffries established a hostelry to accommodate the growing traveling population and renamed the town Traveler's Repose. The town retained this name until 1859 when the community decided to change the name to St. Clair in order to honor one of the Pacific Railroad engineers. The Southwestern Branch of this railway reached St. Clair in the same year. This railway eventually became part of the Frisco (St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad) line treading through southwest Missouri.

St. Clair's economy was intricately tied to local mineral production. Its fortunate location along a well traveled thoroughfare helped, but for most of the 19th century the area mining activity formed the basis for its growth. No discernible shifts in the community's order were precipitated by the Civil War; the typical pattern of enlistments according to sentiment existed, and Gen. Sterling Price's 1864 campaign did occupy the town between September 30-October 4, 1864. Price restricted his activities to disrupting the railroad, though local tradition maintains troops burned a Methodist church.

After the Civil War St. Clair's economy was based on mining, lumber and agriculture. Area mines, originally developed in the 1830's, continued production through the 19th and first third of the 20th century. The village of St. Clair incorporated in 1883 when its population was slightly above 200 people. No growth from this period is evidenced in census returns until 1910; the population rose to 397 in this year. It was in this latter phase of growth that the Panhorst Feed Store was built.

St. Clair's history follows the pattern of many small towns of the era in one important aspect. The town was dramatically altered by recurrent fires that decimated the commercial core. The most dramatic of these fires occurred on May 27, 1917 when two whole blocks of the city were destroyed. The only remnant of the town's 19th century commercial heart to survive this fire was the Hibbard Hardware (c. 1865) which burned in June, 1989. The Panhorst Feed Store remains the only example on the local level of the vernacular commercial tradition of the late-19th and early-20th century.

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ARCHITECTURE

Typically associated with the settlement of the frontier, the false front commercial building can, in fact, be found in many regions of the United States. Among the commonest forms of architecture in many townscapes of the midwestern and western states, the one part commercial block became a fixture on the American landscape with the advent of standardization and prefabrication in the building industry.<sup>1</sup> From the end of the Civil War to the first quarter of the 20th century main streets across the country featured the simple single story one-part block as the principal element in the town commercial district.

Recently published descriptive and interpretive guides<sup>2</sup> provide a context for this feature of the built environment the attributes of which are found on the Panhorst Feed Store. The one part commercial block is characteristically a simple rectangular box with a short facade and decoration (if any) placed on the primary elevation, generally the street facing short side of the rectangle. Typically wood-clad versions feature a sizeable wall area between the display windows and the upper cornice line. Behind this plane surface lies a flat, or, in this case, gable roof paralleling the long axis of the rectangle. The large surface provided ample space for fenestration, doorways and advertising. The rest of the surface accented the size of the building, and presented a building front possessing "thoroughly urban overtones".<sup>3</sup> In an age that, in some spheres of building, accented simple, unpretentious design the small commercial block was a serviceable, functional and urban reference point in the small town setting. It was ideally suited to rapid community growth, speculative realty activity, and increasing demand for services, all for a relatively small investment; but it still permitted easy demolition or relocation should increasing property values support the placement of a more substantial, and profitable, building on the site. The one-part commercial block eventually found service along the emerging automobile environment beginning in earnest during the 1920's. Typically clad in masonry rather than wood this later manifestation departed from its simple wood-frame vernacular predecessors and began to take on the ornamentation of the Moderne and streamline movement. In essence, however, its functional attributes remain constant.

A review of a sample of county survey records held in the Missouri State Cultural Resource Inventory (MSCRI) reveal small concentrations of similar types of resources in Clark, Knox and Cooper counties. Undoubtedly, other examples of this type of commercial property exist in the state. However, none of the examples of this property type--currently identified and evaluated in reference to the National Register criteria--match the Panhorst Feed Store in retaining critical



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elements of historic integrity. The Panhorst Feed Store is a good representative example of a type and method of construction that is found in its original location and setting as a detached building adjacent to the commercial area of the town. Its workmanship and materials remain as they were when first constructed. Its current function--a local newspaper office--has a precedent in the building's early history when it served as the local Chronicle office (1925-9). Its sensitive rehabilitation by the current owner will insure its ability to convey its representational qualities. While this form of construction is generally, and legitimately, associated with the 19th-century frontier epoch rather than 20th-century building, its late construction date interestingly reflects the persistence of a functional built form in a small community context.

The lack of a systematic cultural resources survey and evaluation of properties within the town of St. Clair limits the assessment of this property as significant in COMMERCE. It is important to note that the building has housed a variety of businesses which reflect the commercial history of the community. Its first occupant was Sam Houck (c. 1918-20) who ran a clothing store out of the building. Reed's Furniture was the next occupant (1921-25); this was followed by the four year occupancy (1925-29) of the St. Clair Chronicle, a now defunct newspaper. No occupant is recorded for the first four years of the '30s; but beginning in 1935 the property was occupied by the Panhorst Feed Store for the next 12 years; the property has continued to be commonly identified by that name. Although the property's period of historic significance is limited to c.1917-18, during the occupancy of the Houck Clothing Store, this registration effort identifies the property as the Old Panhorst Feed Store due to the strong association in the minds of the community-at-large with the historical use of the property as a feedstore. The name reflects the store's continued function as a feed store until 1951, although under different ownership.

The Panhorst Feed Store merits listing on the National Register of Historic Places for its unique and uncompromised architectural and functional character. It is difficult to categorically state that it is the best example of this particular type of commercial building or that it possesses an overwhelming amount of historic significance in a narrow sense; it does have the ability, however, to reflect an important antecedent to our common vernacular heritage which continues to function into the modern era.

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Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> A discussion of this process is outlined in Gottfried, H. & J. Jennings, "Historic Background", American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940, Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1985, pp. VII-X.

<sup>2</sup> See Gottfried & Jennings', "Design", pp. 148-9; 244-245; R. Longstreth, "Main Street", in Maddes, Diane (ed.), Built in America, (Washington D.C.: Preservation Press, 1985), pp. 16-17; R. Longstreth, "Compositional Types in American Commercial Architecture", in Wells, Camille (ed.), Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, II, (Columbia, MO: U Missouri P, 1986), pp. 12-23; R. Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street, (Washington, D.C.: Preservation Press, 1987); pp. 54-67; Rifkind, Carole, A Field Guide to American Architecture, (New York: New American Library, 1980), pp. 195, 211.

<sup>3</sup> Longstreth, "Main Street", 54.

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----- "Compositional Types in American Commercial Architecture" in Camille Wells (ed.), Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, II. Columbia, MO: U Missouri P, 1986.

----- The Buildings of Main Street. Washington, D.C.: Preservation Press, 1987.

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Rifkind, Carole. A Field Guide to American Architecture. New York: New American Library, 1980.

St. Clair Chronicle, Nov. 12, 1953; Nov. 19, 1953; Oct. 8, 1975.

St. Clair Missourian, Jan, 23-4, 30-31; July 9-10, 13, 1988

Personal interviews

Barber, Harrell, Dec. 15, 1988

Dirker, Sonnie Leon, Jan. 6, 1989

Panhorst, Albertha, July 15, Aug. 20, Oct. 3, 1988; Jan. 6, 1989

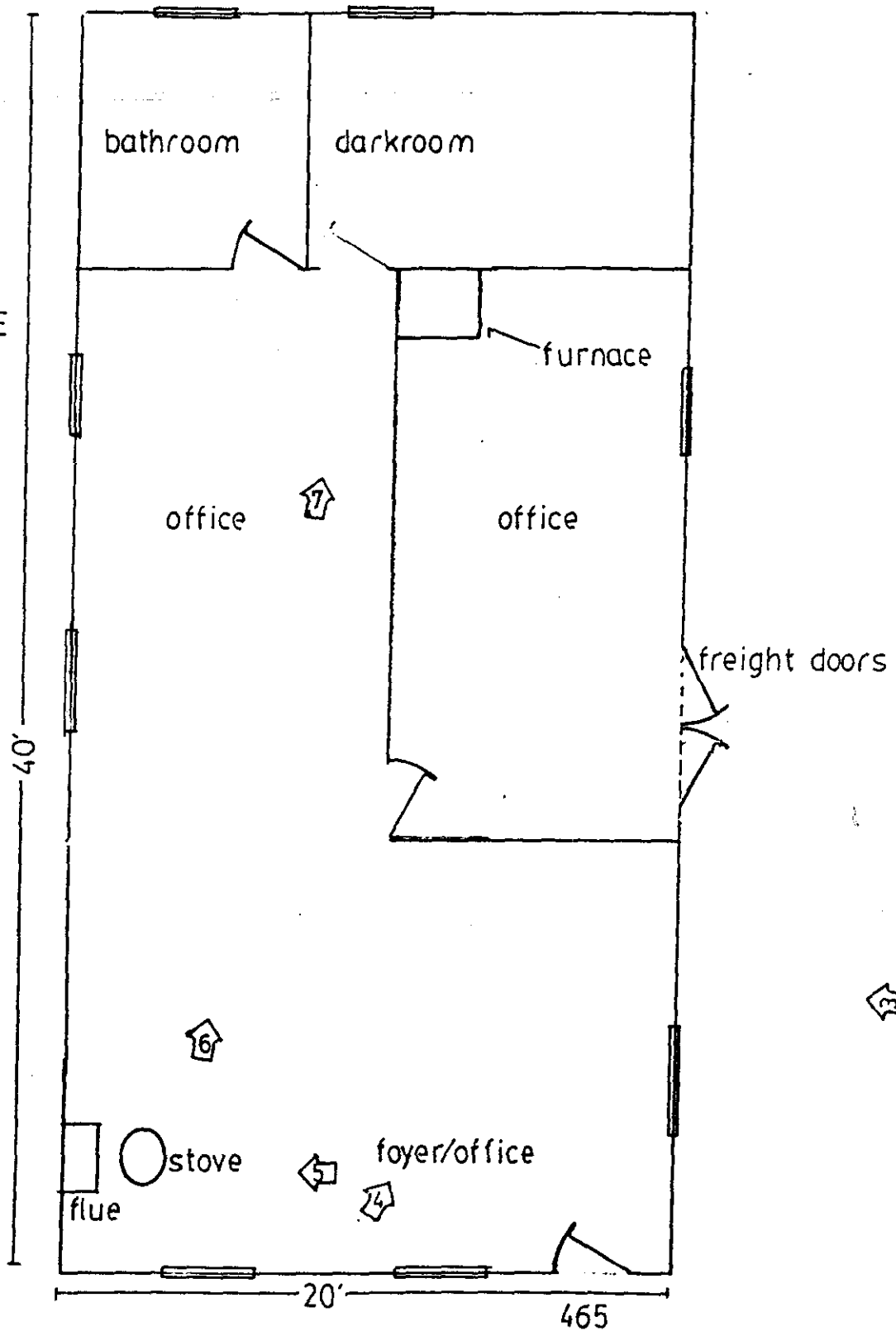
Viedland, Frieda (nee Dierking), Jan. 6, 1989



PANHORST  
FEED STORE

ST CLAIR,  
FRANKLIN  
COUNTY, MO

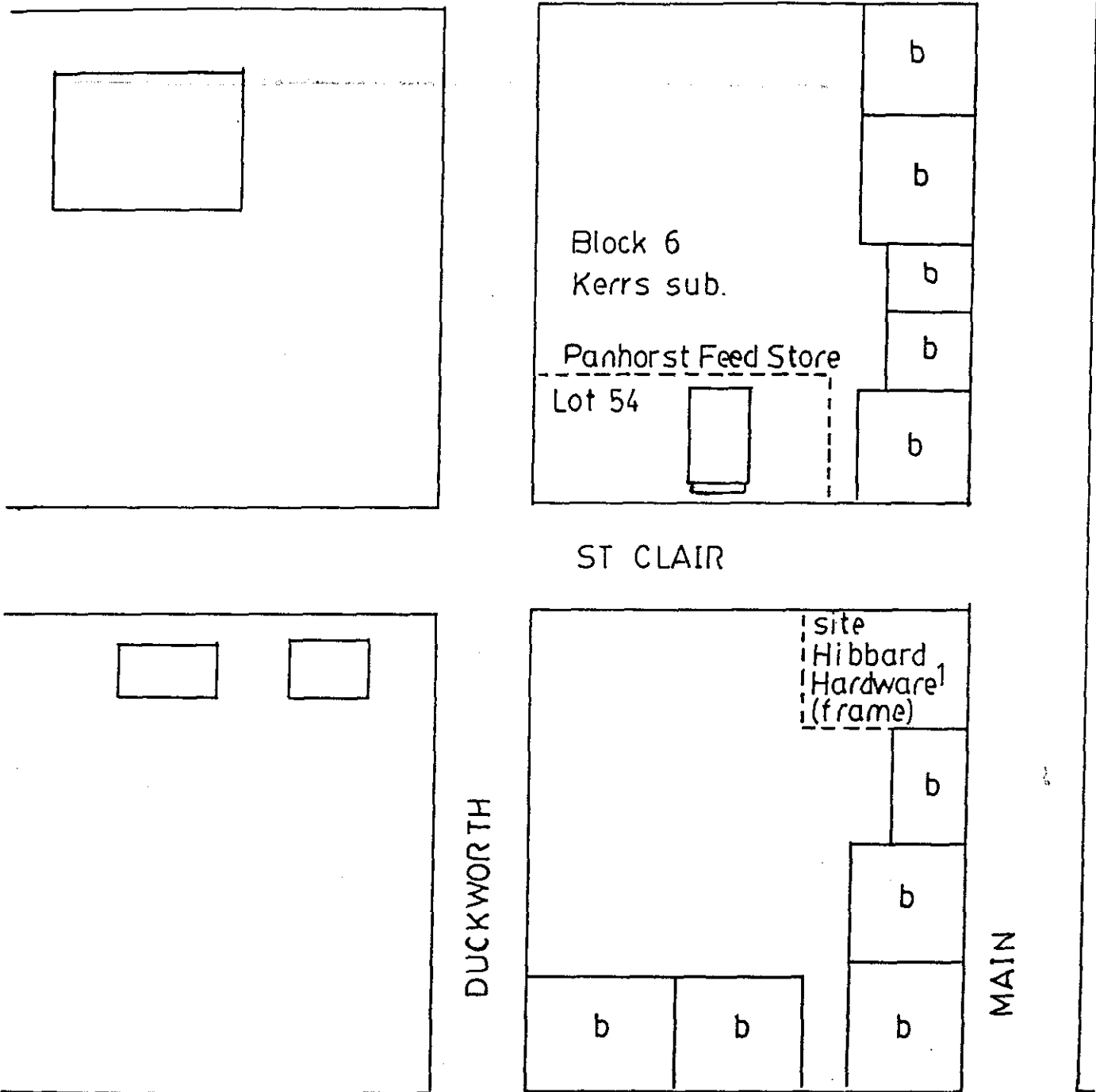
scale 1":5"  
appx



ST CLAIR STREET



NORTH



OLD PANHORST FEED STORE  
ST CLAIR, FRANKLIN COUNTY  
MISSOURI

<sup>1</sup> burned 1989

b = brick construction



scale 1" : 50'  
appx.

7801 NE  
(UNION)

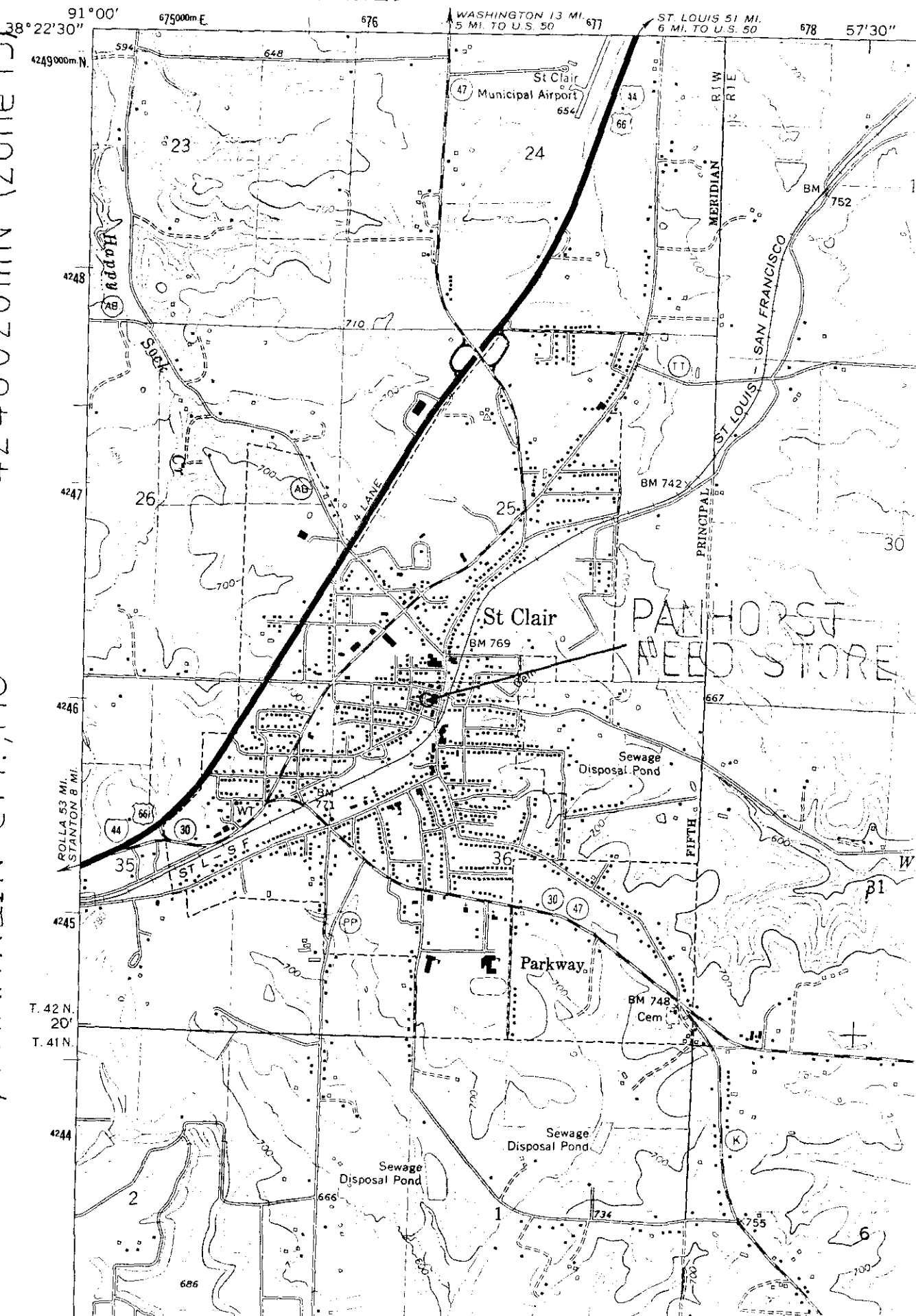
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

676320mE

4246020mN (zone 15)

PANHORST FEED STORE

ST CLAIR, FRANKLIN CTY., MO



OLD PANHORST FEED STORE  
465 ST CLAIR ST  
ST. CLAIR MO 63077

Photographer JAMES EVANS

Date JANUARY 9, 1989

NEGATIVE - JOHN O ROBERTS  
2186 FAIR OAK  
ST CLAIR MO 63077

WEST AND SOUTH (FRONT) SIDES OF BUILDING

CAMERA FACING NE.

Photograph #1





Photograph #2

OLD PANHORST FEED STORE  
465 ST CLAIR ST  
ST CLAIR MO 63077

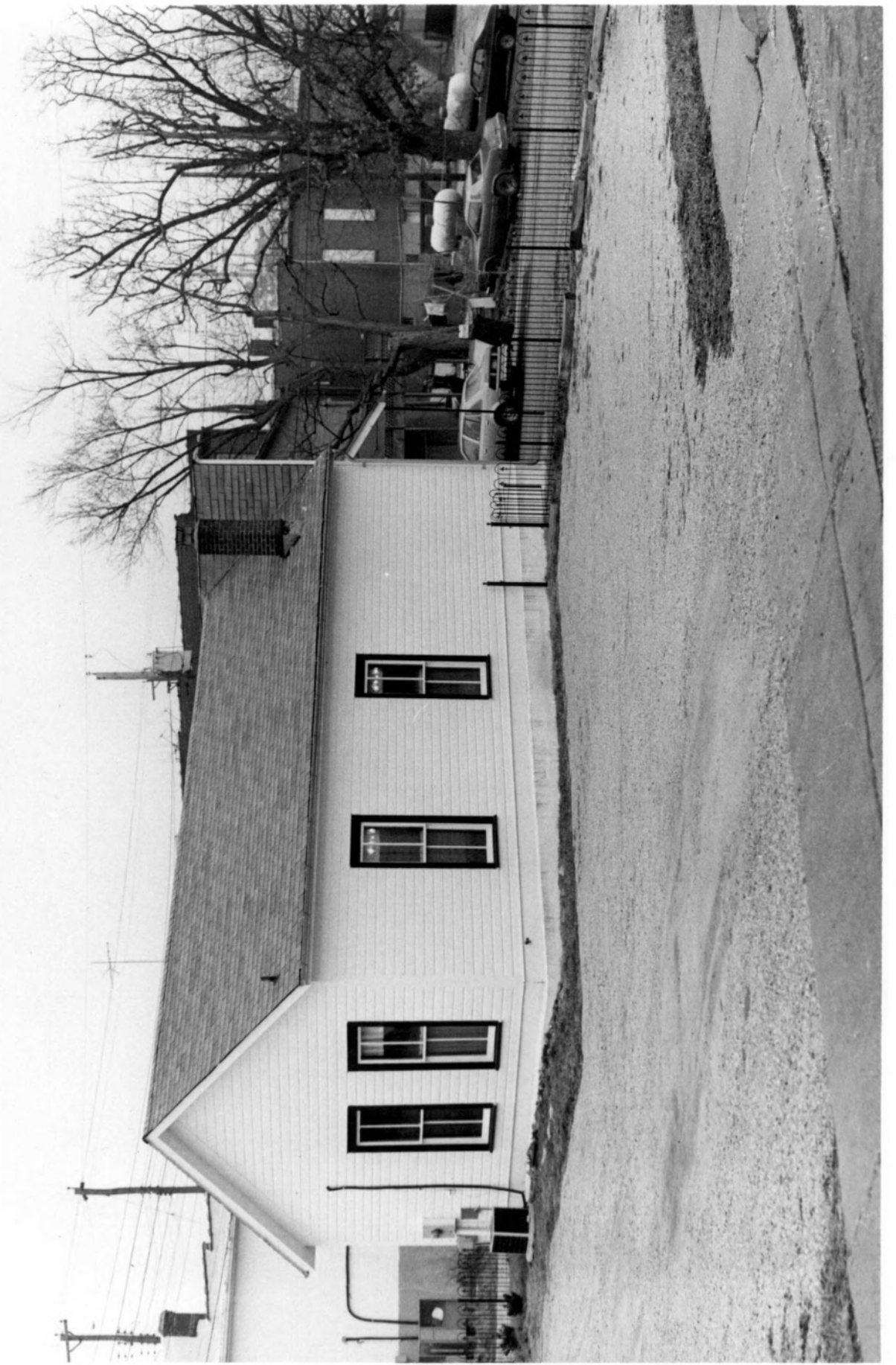
Photographer JAMES EVANS

JANUARY 9, 1989

NEGATIVE JOHN O ROBERTS  
2186 FAIR OAK

ST CLAIR MO 63077

WEST AND NORTH (BACK) WALLS OF BUILDING, CAMERA FACING SOUTH EAST



OLD PANHORST FEED STORE  
465 ST CLAIR ST  
ST CLAIR MO 63077

Photographer JAMES EVANS

JANUARY 9, 1989

NEGATIVES

JOHN O ROBERTS

2186 FAIR OAK

ST CLAIR MO 63077

SOUTH (FRONT) AND EAST WALLS of Building.

CAMERA FACING NW.

Photograph #3



1) OLD MAIN HALL (ST. FEED) 1931

235 ST. CLAIR ST

2) ST. CLAIR, NO. 63577

3) H. ANDERSON

4) JONAS 1931

5) MR. HENRY HILL 1931

6) 10000 NO. 1700 NE

#4





1) OLD PANHORST FEED STORE

2) 465 ST CLAIR ST

ST CLAIR, MO 63077

3) H. DAVIDSON

4) JAN. 17, 1990

5) MOSHPD

6) OFFICE SPACE, VIEW N.

#5





EXTRA  
PHOTOS







