NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Pitcher Store

other names/site number Craghead Store

2. Location

street & number 8513 Pitcher Road [N/A] not for publication

city or town Fulton [X] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Callaway code 027 zip code 65251

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/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO Date 5 February 2001

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

[X] private
[ ] public-local
[ ] public-State
[ ] public-Federal

Category of Property

[X] building(s)
[ ] district
[ ] site
[ ] structure
[ ] object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE/department store
GOVERNMENT/post office

Current Functions

VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Other: general store
Other: vernacular log dwelling

Materials

foundation stone
walls wood
roof metal
other brick
concrete

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

[X] **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.

[X] **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
ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE

Periods of Significance
1897-1944

Significant Dates
1897
1905

Significant Person(s)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown/Herring, Bob

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:

[X] State Historic Preservation Office

[ ] Other State Agency

[ ] Federal Agency

[ ] Local Government

[ ] University

[ ] Other:

Name of repository:_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	589850	4289330			

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 Mr. & Mrs. David Hollabaugh

street & number 8525 Pitcher Road telephone 573-676-5946

city or town Fulton state MO zip code 65251

Summary:

The Pitcher Store is located at 8513 Pitcher Road near the intersection of State Road NN, approximately five miles southeast of Fulton in Callaway County. Constructed in three stages in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the irregular shaped, frame and log combination building served as a general store, post office and residence. The original store and post office portion was constructed in 1897 and is one story with a side room while an attached log and frame residence is a story and a half. The weatherboard-sided primary façade, consisting of six bays, faces southeast and displays the building's two gable roofs and a false front. The largest section, which housed the store and post office, has a one-step false front with the upper third of a gable roof projecting above the parapet. A shed porch with metal pole supports runs the width of the storefront and a weathered but nonhistoric wood sign with the name PITCHER STORE is centered under the gable. The gabled main facade of the house portion, which is a 1905 addition to a circa 1888 single pen log house, is recessed several feet. The house addition was constructed when the store and log buildings were joined, at which time the store also was moved several feet to the northwest where the log building stood. Roofing is metal except for the shed porch which is covered with wood shingles. Since 1905, only minor modifications have been made to this vernacular building. At some point the original wood porch was replaced with a concrete slab and in the spring of 2000, kitchen and porch additions were removed from the rear intersection of the buildings (see Figure 1 - Floor Plans). Mainly, interior changes have involved construction of a stone fireplace, cutting a doorway between the store and the house addition, replastering and the installation of electric wiring. Consequently, the Pitcher Store retains sufficient integrity to be evocative of its period of significance.

Elaboration:

Currently vacant and unused, the combination building known as the Pitcher Store stands just northwest of Pitcher Road, a graveled county road. A parking area with a gravel surface is in the front. Various mature trees grow on the lawn around the building. Cattle graze in the rear and side yards but are prevented from straying into the front yard and onto Pitcher Road by wood and barbed wire fences that abut the side elevations.

Southeast (primary) facade: A thick concrete slab, five feet deep, extends across the storefront. Embedded in the concrete are five round pipe posts which support an exposed rafter shed roof covered with sawed cedar shingles. The storefront width is 26 feet 3 inches. A false front or parapet wall obscures the lower half of the gable end but the gable peak extends above it by about four feet. The false front extends the width of the two rooms of the store portion of the building, with a three foot step-down from the front of the main room to the front of the southwest side room. Below the porch roof in the main store room is a centered four-panel door (with a wooden screen door) flanked on each side by a solid-shuttered 2/2 double-hung window. Window and door openings are cased by plain flat boards with a small cornice across the top. Nearly centered in the façade with the lower false front is a solid wooden door. Framed wood signs, old-looking but only circa 1973, are in the parapet above the two front sections. The false front is framed with edge and front trim boards and a slightly wider frieze board at the top. The top of the exposed portion of the gable has a frieze board, soffit and crown mold.

The other two bays of the front facade are in the one and a half story portion of the attached 1905 house. The front of the gable-end house is parallel to the storefront but is set back 11 feet, creating in effect a double gable roof. The width of the façade is 15 feet 10 inches. An interior brick chimney projects through the gable ridge a few feet from the front of the building. Weatherboard clads the exterior. The front door is near the junction of the store and addition. About two feet from the north corner is a 1/1 double-hung window, with a two-light single sash directly above it in the half story. All openings in this elevation of the addition have plain flat casings with a narrow

cornice at the top. The front door has two horizontal wood panels in the bottom section and one at the top with glass between.

Northeast elevation: Eleven feet of the northeast side of the store are visible. This is where the store is attached to the 1905 frame dwelling addition. There are no openings.

The northeast elevation of this addition measures 15 feet 2 inches to the point where it joins the log dwelling. Two windows (one on each floor) are nearly centered in this wall, one above the other. The first floor window is 1/1 double-hung and the half story window is a single sash with two vertical lights. The windows have flat casings, with a small cornice above the first floor window.

The rest of this elevation, measuring 18 feet 2 inches, consists of the weatherboarded northeast wall of the circa 1888 log house constructed by Thomas W. Kemp.[1] There are two more window openings, one per floor and one above the other, with 2/2 double-hung sash. The windows are located approximately five feet from a narrow corner board which delineates the log house from its frame addition to the southeast. The windows have plain flat casing boards. The log house measures 16 feet 2 inches by 18 feet 2 inches.

Northwest elevation: The V-notched log construction of the rear wall of the one and a half story side-gabled log house is exposed in this elevation. There are two window openings, both near the west corner. The first floor opening contains a 4/4 double-hung sash. Above it in the half story is a fixed 6-light window. This upstairs window is immediately below the weatherboard-clad frame gable end. Plain flat window casings surround both windows. At the west corner of this wall is an exterior brick chimney remaining from the demolished circa 1915 kitchen addition. The north corner has a narrow corner board. The heating stove chimney projects through the roof peak

The rear of the store and sideroom sits back 24 feet 6 inches from the rear wall of the log house. It retains most of its original weatherboard. A five panel door is nearly centered in the façade. The first floor wall area north of the door is covered with tar paper and roll roofing which is attached to the exposed frame and/or interior covering where a kitchen-porch addition to the log/frame dwelling was removed in the spring of 2000. A 2/2 double-hung window is near the west corner in the side room. The gabled roof of the main store room and the slightly flatter pitched roof of the side room are visible from this perspective. Also visible is an interior brick chimney which extends through the gable ridge in the main store room.

Southwest elevation: From left to right, the northwest 18 feet of this side consists of the original front of the log house, followed by a 6 feet 6 inch portion of the house's frame addition, followed by the southwest wall of the store's side room which measures 20 feet 4 inches. An entrance with a four-panel door is about four feet from the west corner. Approximately four feet to the right of this entrance is another entrance with a newer door containing glass in the upper half above two horizontal panels. Probably, a 4/4 double-hung window was replaced by this entrance when the kitchen/porch addition was built in circa 1915. Both doorways have plain flat casings. There are no openings in the half story.

The log house rests upon a field stone foundation. Log floor joist ends can be seen sitting on the lowest log. All top sides are hewn flat and a few are trimmed to fit side by side. Some have flattened lower sides flattened as well, resulting in the logs having the same thickness where they rest on the exterior wall log. The logs are all

1 The construction year was determined from an analysis of warranty deeds and deeds of trust on the property along with the Standard Atlases of Callaway County, Missouri 1876 and 1897 (Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society reprint - Mt. Vernon, IN: Windmill Publications, Inc., 1994), p. 24 of 1876 atlas and p. 28 of 1897atlas.

exposed on this side of the house. The concrete foundation of the removed kitchen/porch addition abuts the house and continues with a concrete patio dating from 1973. The original well (recently removed and filled in) was adjacent to the patio.

The wall of the frame house addition (where the kitchen/porch addition was recently removed) is covered with tar paper and roll roofing. A single-sash window with two horizontal lights is in the half story. There were no windows in the first story. The wall of the store's side room is supported by four visible stone piers which have been filled between with vertical boards. This weatherboarded wall is windowless.

The primary roof covering for the entire building is old but nonoriginal standing seam metal. The original roofing was wood shingles. Some of the old metal roofing has been replaced with corrugated metal roofing taken from a razed historic barn on the property. According to the immediate past owners, the present metal roof was already aged when they purchased the property in 1973. Alterations at that time included wood siding repairs, the removal of asphalt siding from the northwest wall of the log house, the addition of a stone fireplace and an interior doorway between the main store room and the adjacent house, modification of the well surround (since removed), modification of an enclosed back porch (since removed), replastering of the ceilings and stairway corner with a heavily textured material, wiring improvements and construction of a concrete patio behind the store. Except for some of the plastering and the added doorway and stone fireplace, the work was primarily restorative and proper materials were used. A preponderance of historic material remains throughout.

Interior: In the main store room, the interior wall surfaces consist of horizontal tongue and groove boards. The floor, walls and ceiling are unpainted. Beginning at the front, original wooden shelves are intact along much of the northeast wall. A low counter is parallel to this wall and nearly the same length as the shelves. The counter is made of framed sections of diagonal beaded boards on the side facing the center of the room. The top is wood. Open shelves are accessible along the back side. There is evidence that shelves also were attached to the southwest wall from the front to near a doorway into the side room. On the back wall is the brick stove flue with a decorative wooden support, constructed of four panels of beaded boards similar to those in the counter. The beaded boards are set at different angles in each panel.

The store's side room, also unfinished inside, was for storage, specifically the hanging of traded furs.[2] The framing of the main store room's southwest wall is exposed, as are the exterior studs and roof rafters. The weatherboard is applied directly to the studs. The floor is tongue and groove and is sloped to the southwest like a porch. There is a simple braced wooden shelf about four and a half feet above the floor on the southwest wall. A solid door of smooth boards with horizontal braces is in the front wall and a 2/2 double-hung window is in the northwest wall.

In the log house, most of the lath and plaster has been removed from the first floor interior. Flooring consists of three inch tongue and groove boards which appear to be original. Baseboards and casings are plain flat boards. An enclosed "L" shaped stairway with a four panel door is in the south corner. A small storage area is under the angled area of the upper flight. A single stair projects into the room. On the northwest wall is the stone fireplace and wood box (added in circa 1973) which connects to the original brick flue for a heating stove. Ceiling height is seven feet five inches. Centered in the southeast wall, a doorway with a small step up leads into the frame addition. This doorway is believed to have been a window originally.

2 Interview with Margaret and Richard Elliott by Vicki McDaniel, August 30, 2000.

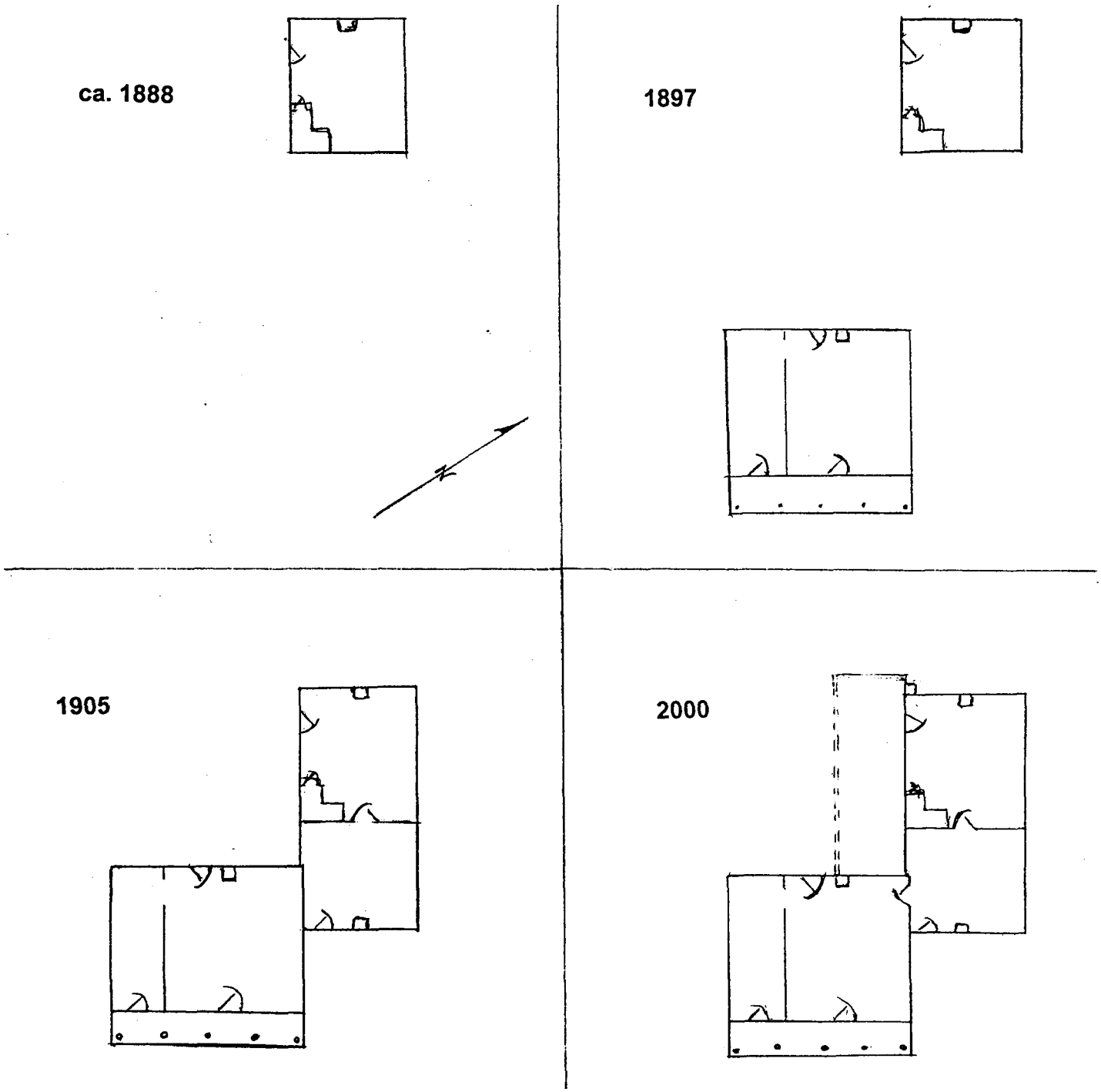
The half-story log room retains its lath and plaster which is covered with newer wall paper. The floor is tongue and groove and the casings and baseboard are flat boards. Centered in the southeast wall, a doorway with a step up leads into the half-story room of the frame addition; the top end of the enclosed stairway is near this opening. A small closet is within the inside corner of the stairway "L." The window on the northeast wall is at floor level, a handy placement that enabled floor sweepings to be disposed of out the window.[3] The northwest window is just above the baseboard. The low ceiling, which like ceilings throughout the house portion of the Pitcher Store was coated with high relief plaster in circa 1973, is six feet four inches high in the center with four foot knee walls on either side of the gable.

The interior of the frame addition is plastered on both floors. Flooring is tongue and groove. The interior brick flue, with a stove pipe hole on each floor, rests on an angle-braced shelf on the center of the southeast wall between the front door and window. A shelf wraps around all three sides of the flue at the point where the support and brick meet. On the southwest wall, a doorway created in circa 1973 leads into the main store room. Wood trim in the first floor room is flat except for the top of the baseboard which has a milled contour. In the half story room, the milled baseboard also has inside and outside corner pieces. The half story windows are on or just above the baseboard top and do not extend above the height of the knee wall. The first floor ceiling, at seven feet eight inches, is only slightly higher than in the log room. The second floor ceiling height is seven feet four inches, a full foot higher than in the connected log room.

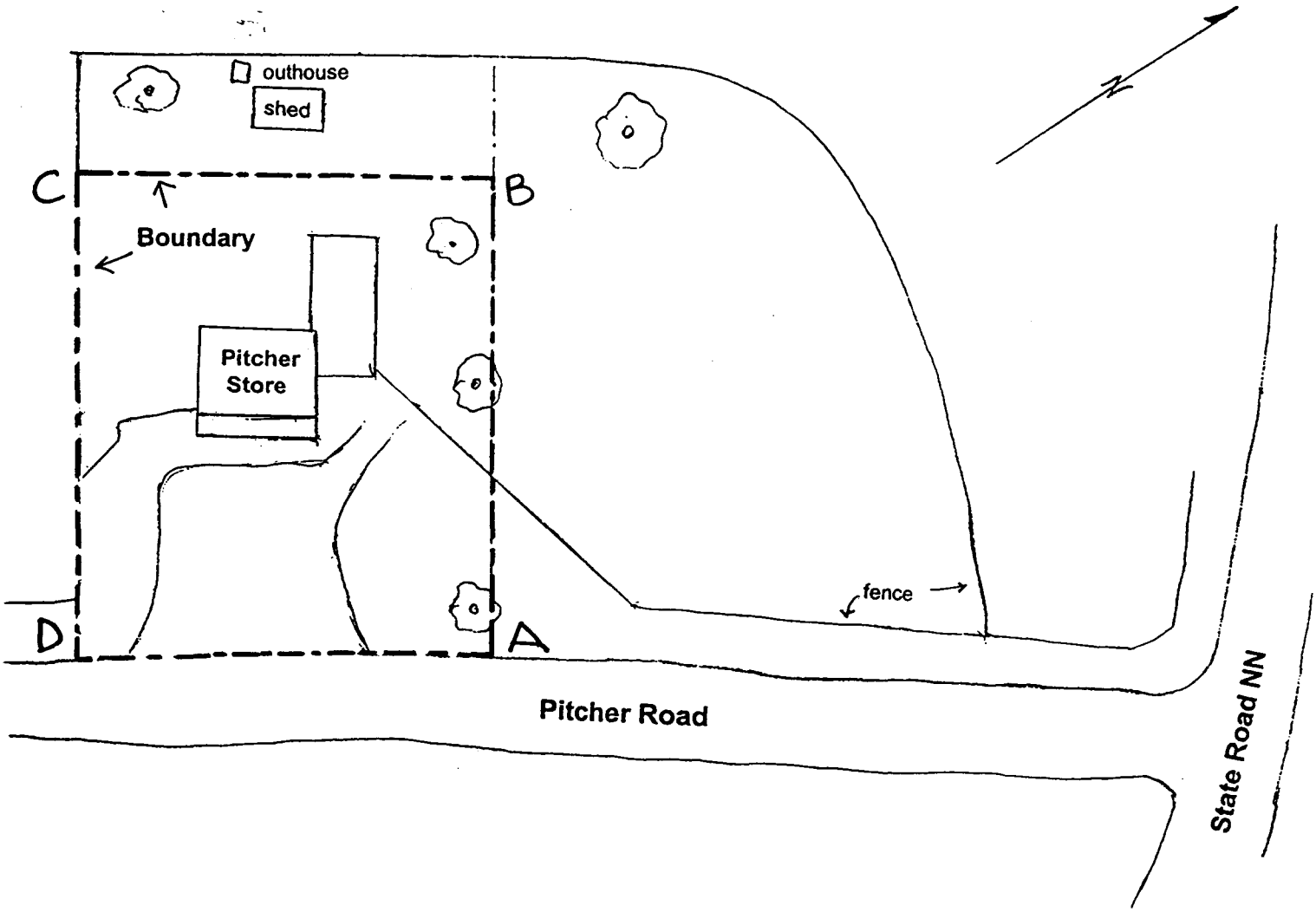
The Pitcher Store has not been used for the past several years and is in need of repair. Since acquiring the property in the spring of 2000, the present owner has been looking for someone to remove the building to a different location. He has stated that if this does not happen, he will raze it. He recognizes its historic value but does not wish to maintain it or have it remain on his land. Consequently, the final option for preservation almost certainly will require relocation.

3 Elliott interview.

Figure 1. Simplified Floor Plans - ca. 1888, 1897, 1905, 2000



Pitcher Store - Site Map



Summary:

The Pitcher Store, located at 8513 Pitcher Road in the vicinity of Fulton, Callaway County, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C with local significance in the areas of Commerce and Architecture. Constructed in 1897, the store portion of this building filled an important commerce role in its rural community for nearly half a century. While providing local farmers with a convenient outlet for their produce, the Pitcher Store facilitated the trading of goods and commodities in central Callaway County continuously from the time of its construction until it was closed in 1944. In addition, the Pitcher Store served its rural community as a post office from 1897 to 1904. Architecturally, the Pitcher Store illustrates a local variation on what was once a widespread pattern of vernacular construction in rural areas. The store evolved physically over time to meet the needs of its owners, including the incorporation of a log house in 1905 when the building achieved its present form. Relatively unaltered since 1905, the Pitcher Store is also reasonably well-preserved. The period of significance, 1897-1944, represents its years of operation as a general store.

Elaboration (Commerce): Initial plans for the Pitcher Store included its use as a post office. Dated February 22, 1897, the application for a post office at this location predates construction of the store by several weeks. The post office was to be a special office receiving its mail through the Musick Post Office five miles away. Applicant Benjamin Rufus Fitzgerald, a farmer at the time of the 1884 county history, was born March 13, 1846.[4] Fitzgerald's initial list of around 20 names for the Pitcher Post Office (Pitcher was not among them) was rejected. Presumably, all of the originally proposed names were either in use or were too similar to one that was.[5] Ginger Kuhl, who lived in the Pitcher community as a child, believes that the name ultimately chosen had something to do with travelers stopping at a nearby artesian well for "a pitcher of cold water." Area residents also frequented the well, which had been known since the early 1800s.[6] In any case, Fitzgerald was confirmed as the first postmaster of Pitcher on July 27, 1897. The store had been completed that spring by local carpenter Bob Herring.[7]

Fitzgerald presumably understood the importance of having a post office and store under the same roof. Sending and receiving mail and purchasing or bartering for goods at the store went hand-in-hand. People from the community could also discuss current news and exchange gossip while reinforcing friendships. The post office in particular was likely to be the local farmer's and trapper's main contact with the outside world.[8] Fitzgerald's tenure was relatively brief, however. On December 3, 1897, Robert L. Barrier, who owned the property, assumed the position as postmaster. Why Fitzgerald gave it up and what became of him is unknown but possibly he resumed his occupation as farmer, or perhaps he had never quite relinquished it. Samuel W. Wood, who became Pitcher postmaster on April 23, 1901, was the community's third and last postmaster.

Apparently a victim of rural free delivery, the Pitcher Post Office was permanently closed just three years later. Commenting on the situation, the Fulton Weekly Gazette ran a front page article on the loss of trade in the country hamlets brought about by the growth of rural free delivery; the Pitcher postmaster is mentioned.

RESULTS OF THE RURAL ROUTES: The theory of the merchant who claims that the rural

4 History of Callaway County, Missouri (St. Louis, MO: National Historical Company, 1884), pp. 589-590.
5 Unpublished manuscript on Callaway County Post Offices - Pitcher Store pages, by William L. Hamilton, Fulton, MO, 1993.
6 Interview with Ginger Kuhl, Des Moines, IA, by Vicki McDaniel, August 28, 2000.
7 Hamilton manuscript.
8 James M. Mayo, The American Grocery Store: The Business Evolution of an Architectural Space (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1993), pp. 54, 59.

> free delivery routes rob the county seat of considerable business by giving the farmer less occasion to come to town is almost exploded when it is learned that the postmaster at the minor mailing stations are beginning to feel as though their occupation is gone, and are petitioning Uncle Sam to release them from their profitless duties, such is really the case.
>
> The postmaster at Pitcher, through which route six transverses, has asked to be released from duty and is anxious to find a man to take his place.....[two additional locations are also discussed].
>
> The feature of getting the mail at the country villages has all along been the life of them, and as a natural consequence the adoption of methods of mail delivery that change the programme in this particular cannot help but cause the number of little towns to grow less and to bring more trade to the more important points.[9]

The Fulton Sun reported that the Pitcher Post Office had closed on March 31, 1904, by order of the authorities in Washington, and that anyone who needed to inquire about his mail or service should contact the Fulton Post Office. The article noted that the Pitcher postmaster had already resigned.[10]

Although the post office was closed, the Pitcher Store remained of central importance to the area it served and mercantile operations continued there for another 40 years. Wood, the third postmaster, remained as the storekeeper for a short time before selling the property to James Lewis Craghead in the spring of 1905.[11] Before selling it, however, according to the Fulton Sun, Wood moved the store building about 20 feet northwest of its original site and joined it to his log house with a frame addition. The frame addition nearly doubled the size of the log house.[12] By March 1905, he had sold the property to Craghead.[13] Craghead ran the store longer than anyone, until it closed in 1944.[14]

In the early years of the Pitcher Store when transportation factors were paramount, its trade radius was about three miles. As discussed by James Mayo, the typical general store was an outlet for local farmers who could trade there for items they were unable to make or grow. The storekeeper could either sell the products through the store or sell them out of the community. Limited currency necessitated a barter system. To succeed, the storekeeper had to keep informed as to the end value in dollars for the goods he received. He had, of course, to be mindful of his costs and what products his customers wanted. The storekeeper was "a small entrepreneur in an emerging capitalist economy."[15]

Ginger Kuhl, a childhood resident, recalled her grandmother selling or trading her handmade bonnets, garden produce, eggs, milk and butter to Craghead at the Pitcher Store in the early 1940s. Her grandmother traded for such things as flour, sugar and grain for the family horses.[16] Craghead also bought or took in trade such things as live chickens, furs, ginseng and yellow root, or nearly anything that he considered sellable.[17] Other items that

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9 Fulton (Missouri) Weekly Gazette January 29, 1904, p. 1.
10 Fulton (Missouri) Sun April 5, 1904, p. 7.
11 Fulton (Missouri) Weekly Gazette March 10, 1905.
12 Fulton (Missouri) Sun, December 9, 1904, p. 13.
13 Fulton (Missouri) Weekly Gazette, March 10, 1905.
14 Hamilton manuscript.
15 Mayo, p. 43.
16 Kuhl interview.
17 Interview with H. A. "Mutt" Craighead by Vicki McDaniel on September 30, 2000.

the Pitcher Store stocked for purchase or barter included tea, spices, tobacco, and two brands of coffee. Roasted coffee beans were received in bulk and ground at the store. "Eli," the less expensive coffee, is said to have been named after an extremely conservative customer.

According to area resident H. A. "Mutt" Craighead (a nephew of the longtime storekeeper), by 1918 most goods were sold pre-packaged rather than in bulk.[18] Manufactured goods available at the store included small hardware, shovels, rakes, pots, pans, dishes, Butler brand work shoes, boots, overalls and jackets.[19] Craghead also stocked sewing supplies, fabrics, thimbles, needles and thread. On the counters were curved front glass cases. Among other goods, candy, chewing gum and tobacco were displayed in one case. Across the room in the other counter case were items such as sewing notions. A few medicinal items were stocked as well including cough syrup, perhaps quinine, and "Nature's Remedy" which was very popular. Live chickens were kept in coops on the front porch. Animal feed, eggs, furs, etc., were kept in the side storeroom.[20] A Mrs. Gathright remembered that items that required refrigeration such as milk, butter or soda were hung in the well.[21] Books, drugs, dishes and dry goods were displayed on shelves around the sides of the room.

Typically in country stores, the wide variety of products filled every available foot of space, resulting in a highly complex display.[22] Much like the typical country store described by James Mayo, the arrangement of merchandise in the Pitcher Store was not particularly systematic or organized. Items were placed wherever they would fit, stacked or piled into a corner. Shelves and counters helped the most with the orderly arrangement of merchandise, and original shelves and a counter are intact along the northeast interior wall. Cleaning of the cluttered collection was quite an ordeal and generally would be performed only once or twice a year during the slower seasons.[23]

Bill Craighead, James Lewis Craghead's grandson, recalled (in the later years of the store's operation) his grandfather going to the railroad depot in Fulton, about five miles away, to get store supplies.[24] In earlier years, Craghead had purchased goods in Fulton from stores that acted as wholesalers as well as retailers. These items were picked up in the horse-drawn spring wagon for transporting to the Pitcher Store. Sometimes, Craighead recalled, so much mud would stick to the wagon wheels that returning to the store was difficult.[25] Earlier still, products were sold directly to storekeepers like Craghead by traveling manufacturers' representatives or wholesale dealers called drummers.[26]

In addition to being the business center of the community, the typical general store was also a sort of communication center and community meeting place. A pot-bellied stove was often the setting for neighborhood discussions of politics, medicine and a variety of other subjects.[27] Particularly in winter, the farmers' off-season, "grizzled old men" would congregate around the stove; the game of checkers was a popular pastime. Among the men who frequented the Pitcher Store, a game called Rook was highly popular.[28]

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18 Members of the same Craghead family spell their name with or without an "i".
19 Notes by Ginger Kuhl about 1942-3 in the Pitcher neighborhood, September 29, 2000.
20 Mutt Craighead interview.
21 Fulton (Missouri) Daily Sun Gazette, September 22, 1976, p. 2.
22 Lewis E. Atherton, The Pioneer Merchant in Mid-America (New York: Da Capo Press, 1969), pp. 40-41.
23 Mayo, p. 53.
24 Interview with Bill Craighead by Vicki McDaniel on September 11, 2000.
25 Mutt Craighead interview.
26 Fulton (Missouri) Sun Gazette, August 20, 1985.
27 Mayo, pp. 59-60.
28 Kuhl notes.

Craghead's nephew Mutt described his "Uncle Jim" as "very conservative" (especially when it came to burning firewood), but generous of his time. In wintertime, Craghead would heat a few bricks to put at his place at the card table to keep his feet warm. But customers needed to wear their coats inside the store in the winter because he kept only a small fire going in the stove. When not tending to a customer, he sat by the stove--located at the back wall--and put his feet up on its rack. But Craghead would open the store at almost any time if a customer needed something.

Rural electrification had not yet arrived when the Pitcher Store ceased operations in 1944.[29] Lighting in the store was very poor despite the use of kerosene or oil fixtures, but natural light must have helped immensely when the window shutters were opened in the mornings. Without electricity, the relative coolness of the well was the main "refrigeration" available. Milk, eggs, butter and soda were hung in the well. The cistern-style pump with tin cups on the chain apparently was very unusual.[30]

In addition to stocking and running the general store, Craghead farmed the balance of his 80 acre tract.[31]

Elaboration (Architecture): The 1897 Pitcher Store is a well-preserved example of a rural general store combined with a vernacular dwelling, its present form dating from 1905. With its false front, weatherboard sheathing, modest display windows and shelves lining the interior walls, the Pitcher Store exemplifies the small country store as described by Carole Rifkind, James Mayo and others. According to Rifkind, the typical vernacular Victorian commercial building in rural America was a one or two-story, freestanding, gable front retail store with weatherboard siding and a front porch.[32] While the Pitcher Store was freestanding only until 1905 (when the owner moved it several feet closer to an older log house on the property and connected the two buildings), the original form of the store is readily apparent today.

General stores much like the Pitcher Store were scattered across the American frontier. Typically, the main end faced the street and the gable was either exposed or covered by a false or "boomtown" front. Ornamentation was minimal.[33] The Pitcher Store is appropriately plain, with ornamentation generally limited to the paneled front door, narrow window cornices and some interior decoration in the counters, chimney support and a door that reportedly was hung between the main room and side store room. In elements such as the built-in counters, of which one remains, beaded board was used at an angle to create decorative rectangular panels. These counters and the coordinating chimney support, built of framed panels of beaded wood, are the only decorative features of the interior. The entire interior of the store is finished with wood, including floor, walls, and ceiling. A wood or metal ceiling was the most common.[34] . The unpainted wood provided a durable surface which would hide dust, bumps and scratches.

The extant concrete slab porch with pipe posts dates from the 1930s. The original wood porch had decorative turned supports and was more attractive. Mutt Craighead's horse, in unceremoniously removing a turned post to which it had been tied, may have helped his uncle decide to replace the first porch.[35] A hitching rail was probably

29 Bill Craighead interview.
30 Mutt Craighead interview.
31 Mutt Craighead interview.
32 Carole Rifkind, A Field Guide to American Architecture (New York: Penguin Books, USA Inc., 1980), p. 195.
33 Rifkind, p. 195.
34 Mayo, p. 69.
35 Mutt Craighead interview.

in front of the store originally.[36]

According to Mayo, the form of the country store was based on a combination of storage needs and local building traditions. Made of wood (sawed lumber in settled areas), the stores generally used a rectangular floor plan and measured about 20 feet by 30 feet. Often, their weatherboard siding was unpainted. Perhaps due mainly to expense, doors tended to be narrow and window panes tended to be small. Also, the store operators very likely either had no need for or no knowledge of display windows.[37] Lewis Atherton suggested that the small windows were preferred by storekeepers along with locks and bars to protect their merchandise (at a time when settlers/farmers generally had no need for security measures).[38] This could explain the existence of the solid shutters and front doors on the Pitcher Store. Based on their hardware, the shutters have been on the store from the beginning. The building may or may not have always been painted but by the 1920s or 1930s, it had a two-color scheme with a light color body and brighter trim.[39]

Probably the most distinctive feature of the Pitcher Store is its false front. While conveying the message that the building is in fact a store, the false front in this case is distinctive in its own right since it only partially obscures the gable while extending horizontally to the corners of the building. Gottfried and Jennings describe the false front as not extending much above the gable peak on one-story buildings. But on the Pitcher Store, the gable boldly projects about four feet above the false front to create a triangular pediment. This detail apparently served no particular purpose but is an interesting variation on the form. The false front also makes the building appear larger than its true interior dimensions. The broad horizontal area of the false front provided space for ornamentation and signs, announcing the store's name or perhaps advertising brands in the store.[40]

The circa 1888 log house which predates the store building to which it was attached is of architectural interest in its own right. McAlester points out that as settlement of the United States expanded westward, a "distinctive tradition of wooden folk building evolved from a blending of the linear plans of the Tidewater South with techniques of construction using horizontal log walls brought to the middle colonies by immigrants from the heavily timbered areas of central and northern Europe."[41] The peak building period for log houses in the Little Dixie region of Missouri was from about 1825 to 1860.[42] Later, sawed lumber from local sawmills and manufactured wire nails made frame construction more easily accomplished.[43] However, the tradition of horizontal log wall construction continued in many areas long after cut lumber was readily available.[44]

Based upon the English 16 foot by 16 foot "hall," the single-pen folk dwelling reached Little Dixie in the early 19th century through immigrants from the southeastern United States. Here the dwelling shape was combined with German woodworking skills to produce the log house which generally had a square or slightly rectangular footprint. This house was either one or one and a half stories high and measured 16 by 16, 16 by 18, or 16 by 22

36 Mayo, p. 53.
37 Mayo, p. 52
38 Atherton, p. 40.
39 Mutt Craighead interview.
40 Gottfried and Jennings, p. 244.
41 Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1992), p. 75.
42 Missouri's Little Dixie region as described by Howard Wight Marshall in Folk Architecture in Little Dixie (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1981), p. 2, includes the counties of Boone, Howard, Randolph, Monroe, Audrain, Callaway, Pike and Ralls.
43 Marshall, pp. 95-96.
44 McAlester, p. 84.

feet.[45] The original log dwelling portion of the Pitcher Store fits this pattern perfectly, being one and a half stories high and with a footprint of 16 by 18 feet. Rather than being copies of log houses in Virginia or Kentucky, the log houses of Little Dixie evolved due to the regional conditions of materials, skills, land and climate. The houses were built of immediately available materials provided by nature, which in Callaway County was most often white oak.[46]

The Pitcher Store log house has V-notched corner construction, the most common form in this region for single-pen houses. Most of the V-notched houses were clad with weatherboard.[47] One quarter of the Pitcher log house was later covered with weatherboard but it apparently was unsided originally. In the 1970s, the Elliott family which then owned the property removed asphalt siding with a brick pattern from the gable end, revealing the unsided logs beneath. This indicates that the house probably consisted of exposed logs until the frame addition was constructed in 1904-5, at which time the northeast wall which was visible to the public was covered with weatherboard. This created a continuous frame appearance on this side and also gave the building a more modern look. The upper portion of the gable ends are frame and covered with weatherboard as they were when it was constructed, the logs stopping at the roof line.

Horizontal logs in Little Dixie log houses were hewn flat on two sides in a two-step procedure. First, the log was scored with a felling ax and then it was hewn flat to this line with a broadax. Chinking in the Pitcher Store log house consists of stones and chunks of wood inserted between the logs and cemented with a mortar mixture. Originally, mud or clay was used. Typically the logs and chinking were smoothly covered on the inside with a lime-based plaster formulated by the builder.[48] In the Pitcher Store log house, the walls were covered with newspaper pages printed in 1898, presumably for insulation, before lath and plaster were applied. The newspaper dates indicate that the interior was unfinished until a decade or so after the house was erected.[49] Later log houses had such interior features as brick stove chimneys (generally 18 inches square and located in the center of the gable), plank flooring or, in the fancier houses, narrower tongue and groove boards nailed to hewn joists which were flat on one or both sides. Typically a narrow, steep corner stairway in a corner of the first floor room (as in the Pitcher Store log house) provided access to a half-story room.[50]

When the frame addition was added in 1905, it accomplished more than simply compounding the floor space. By siding the northeast side of the log house with weatherboard, the appearance of a newer and larger gable-front house was achieved. Marshall discussed this in terms of "progress" in folk architecture: "Progress to a Little Dixie farmer...was putting sash-sawed lapped horizontal weatherboarding over the walls of his hewn log house. In addition to the protection offered by the bearing walls and chinking, the weatherboard represented the farmer's statement toward the fashion for frame construction.....The siding gave the appearance of a frame building, and the farmer was satisfied. The family kept the interior of the house the way they wanted it, to fit the temper of their private culture, and at the same time their material participation in the public domain was obvious from the road."

Marshall found log houses to be durable and with the capacity to be readily added onto as families grew larger

45 Marshall, pp. 27, 39.
46 Marshall, pp. 22, 32, 93.
47 Marshall, p. 40.
48 Marshall, p. 93.
49 Period of construction based upon an analysis of property deeds and Callaway County, Missouri, atlases for 1876 and 1897.
50 Marshall, pp. 93-94.

and more affluent.[51] Additions of rooms and porches frequently involved the use of cut lumber from local sawmills.[52] The most common method was to add a room or rooms to a gable-end, creating a double-pen house.[53] The frame addition to the Pitcher log house resembles a double-pen house except for the entry, which by necessity is in the gable end rather than in the longer side elevation. It does have an interior chimney at each end, centered in the gable. The shape and dimensions continue the lines and form of the log house.

Additional House and Family History:

Security, appearance and convenience were likely factors in former owner Samuel Wood's decision to connect the buildings, thereby adding living quarters to the store building itself (even though they did not communicate). Or perhaps Wood believed that this would make the property more valuable. Perhaps the buildings were combined in order to make the store appear large, an impression that the false front definitely helped accomplish. In any case, the new front room became the parlor and in this parlor, Alta Mae Craghead and Virgil Gathright were married in 1923. The shivaree for this event resulted in shotgun damage to the northeast eave, now covered by a tin patch.[54] Mrs. Gathright recalled having potatoes and various other goods for the store as "roommates" in her bedroom (which also served as a storeroom) in the addition's half-story room.[55]

The Pitcher Store was a beacon of civilization on a twisting country road. It was a cozy, friendly place for keeping in touch with neighbors as well as for purchasing or bartering for the items needed to exist in this rural community. After the store closed in 1944, it was acquired by the storekeeper's daughter and son-in-law, Alta Mae and Virgil Gathright. The Gathrights probably occupied the house before selling it in 1946 to Sherman S. and Lulu O. Wilkinson. The Wilkinsons lived there with three children until Mrs. Wilkinson's death in 1967; her husband died in 1965. The building was vacant for six years until its purchase by Richard and Margaret Elliott in 1973. The Elliotts made numerous repairs, added the present outhouse and used the property as a "weekend getaway" until 1993. It has been vacant since then.

The Pitcher Store remains an exceptionally intact representative of a rural general store which, early in its history, evolved to include a folk dwelling.

51 Marshall, p. 44.
52 McAlester, p. 84.
53 Marshall, p. 41.
54 Bill Craighead interview.
55 Elliott interview.

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Craighead, H. A. "Mutt", nephew of J. L. Craghead, September 30, 2000.

Elliott, Margaret and Richard, Fulton, MO, owners of property from 1973 to spring 2000, August 30, 2000.

Kuhl, Ginger, Des Moines, IA, childhood resident of Pitcher, telephone interview August 28, 2000. Also, written notes on 1942-3 in Pitcher, Missouri, dated September 29, 2000.

Deeds:

Callaway County Deed Record Book 10, page 508: Holmes to Penderghast, May 1, 1875.

Callaway County Deed Record Book 27, page 112: Penderghast to Davis, September 8, 1887.

Callaway County Deed Record Book 27, page 114: Davis to Brown, October 17, 1887.

Callaway County Deed Record Book 27, page 344: Brown to Kemp, April 2, 1888.

Callaway County Deed Record Book 40, page 466: Kemp to Barrier, December 24, 1896.

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Pitcher Road forms the southeast boundary of the Pitcher Store, a rectangular tract in Township 46, Range 9, Section 19 of Callaway County, Missouri. Beginning at the southwest corner of the intersection of State Road NN and Pitcher Road, proceed 170 feet southwest along the west right-of-way of Pitcher Road to Point A; then proceed northwest perpendicular to Pitcher Road 125 feet to Point B; then proceed southwest parallel to Pitcher Road 100 feet to Point C; then proceed southeast 125 feet to Point D which is the property line along Pitcher Road; then proceed northeast along the right-of-way for 100 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes most of the yard and a small parking area off Pitcher Road that have been historically associated with the Pitcher Store. The boundary excludes two small buildings (a nonhistoric outhouse and what appears to be a historic shed) which are behind the store. While the owner will allow the store to be moved, the outhouse and shed will not be available for moving.

11. Form Prepared By:

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   Original preparer

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   Jefferson City, MO 65102
   Date: February 1, 2001
   Telephone: 573-522-4641
   Editor and revisions

Photographs:

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Pitcher Store
Fulton vicinity, Callaway County, Missouri
Photographer: Vicki McDaniel
Date: September 2 and 3, 2000
Location of negatives: Vicki McDaniel, 5 Bartley Lane, Fulton, MO 65251

#1 Primary (southeast) façade, facing northwest.

#2 Northeast side elevation, facing southwest.

#3 Northwest elevation, facing southeast.

#4 Southwest side elevation, facing northwest.

#5 Interior, south corner of log house, first floor, facing south.

#6 Interior, southeast corner of parlor, first floor, facing east-southeast.

#7 Interior, west corner of second floor frame room and log room inner wall, facing west.

#8 Interior, east corner of main store room, facing east.

PITCHER STORE
CALLAWAY COUNTY, MISSOURI
UTM REFS:
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15/4289330mN

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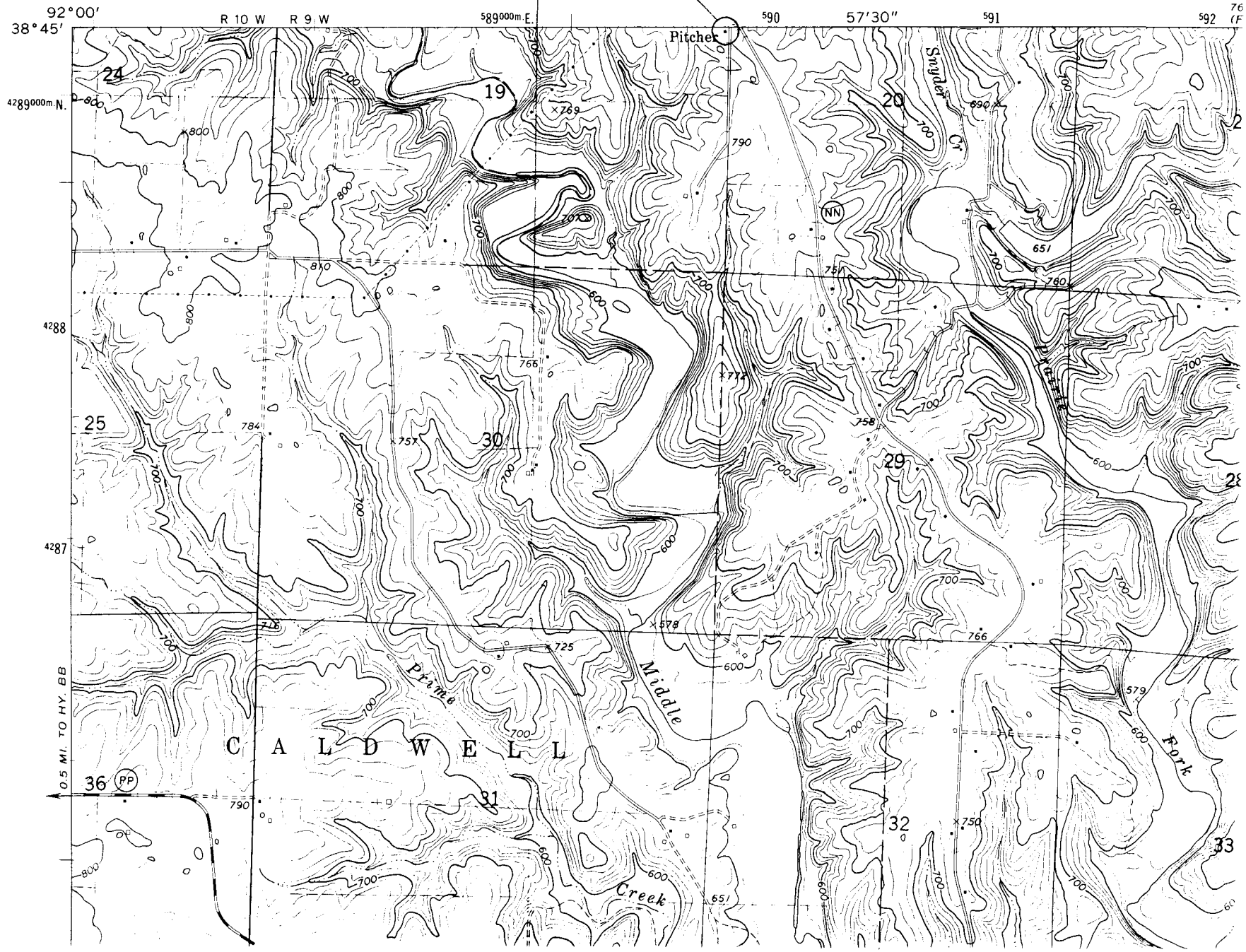
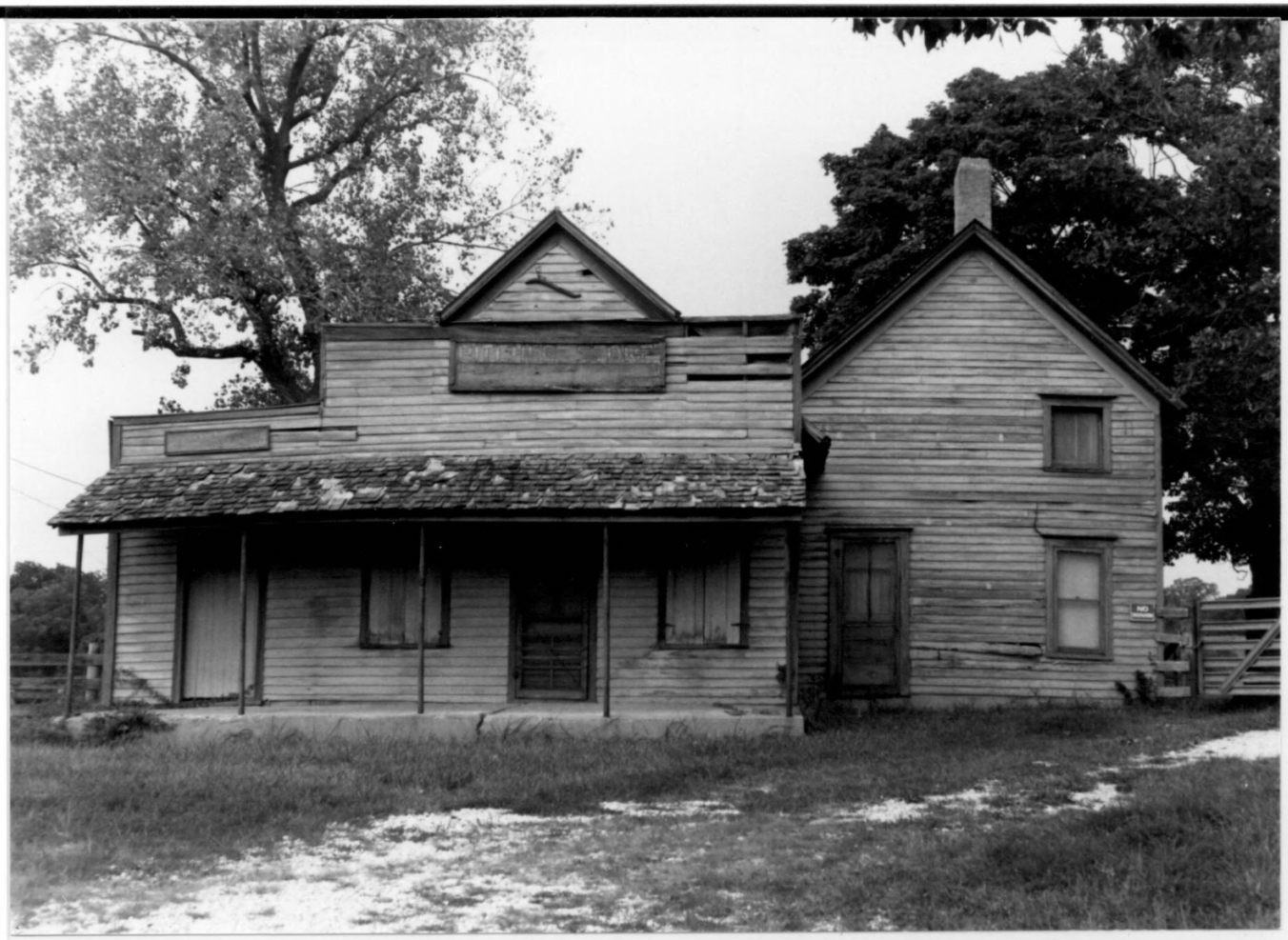
(GUTHRIE)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

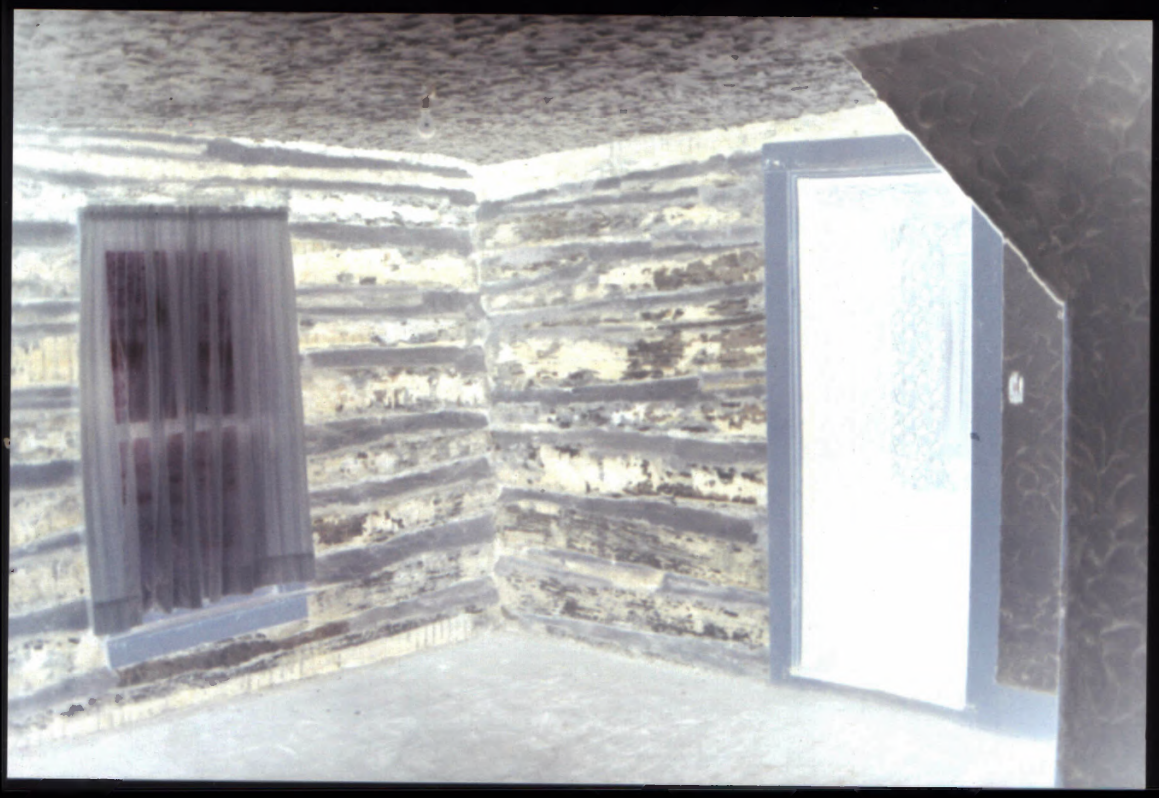
STATE C
DEPARTMENT OF
WALLACE B. HOW

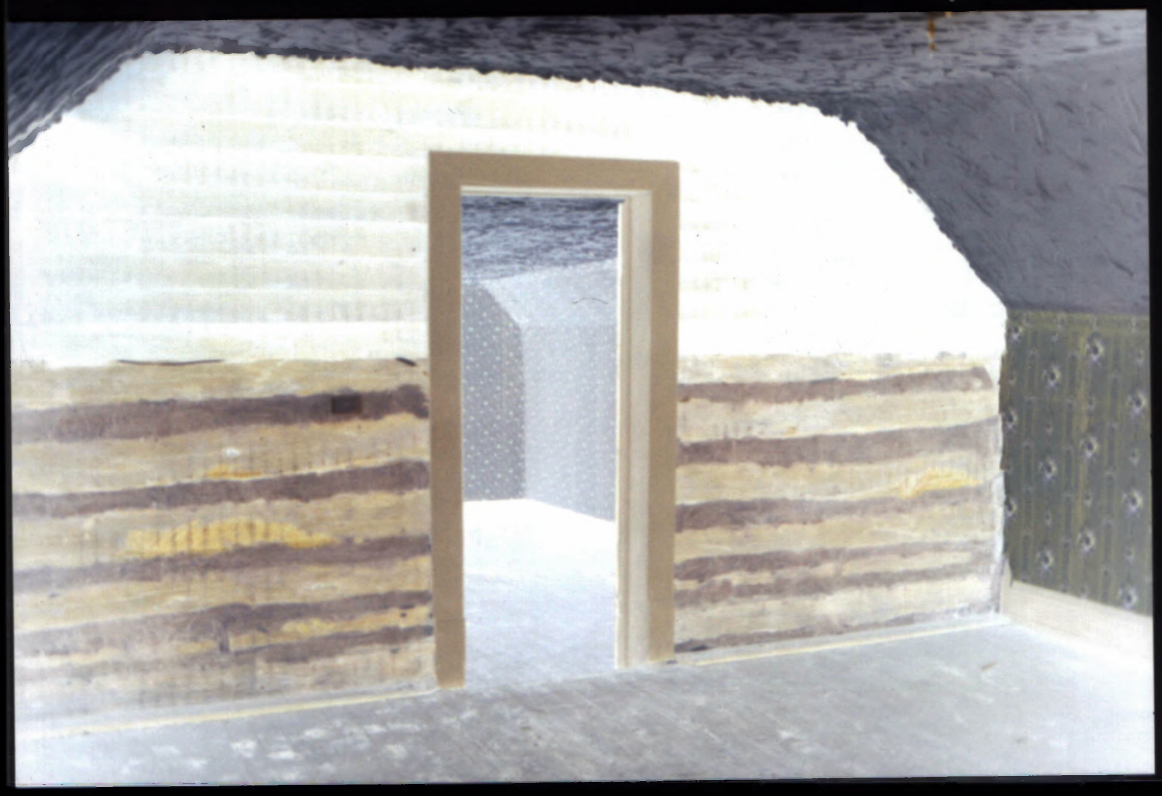




EXTRA

PHOTOS





Pitcher Store

8513 Pitcher Road

Fulton

Callaway County

National Register of Historic Places
Files

2001 / CY002 / NR

Relocation Site Photographs

Date: 2002

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