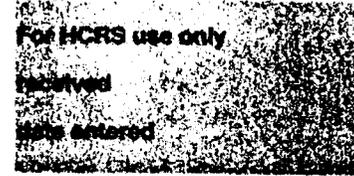


United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Claybrook House

and/or common Claybrook House

2. Location

street & number R.R. #2 _____ not for publication

city, town Kearney _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district #6 - Hon. Thomas Coleman

state Missouri code 29 county Clay code _____

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Clay County Department of Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites

street & number Paradise Road

city, town Smithville _____ vicinity of _____ state Missouri 64055

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clay County Recorder's Office

street & number Clay County Courthouse

city, town Liberty _____ state Missouri 64068

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Clay County Sequicentennial
title Souvenir

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1922 federal _____ state county _____ local _____

depository for survey records _____

city, town Liberty _____ state Missouri 64068

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Claybrook House is located in northeastern Clay County, Missouri, approximately 3 1/2 miles northeast of Kearney. It is a two-story, "L" shaped structure, built of native Missouri lumber, milled near the site. The front facade, facing north, is five bays (52'2") wide. The "L" extends 39', for a total depth of 58'2". The house has eight rooms, two stairways, two single stack and one double stack chimneys and a shingle roof.

EXTERIOR

The entrance is of Greek Revival design, surrounded by 14 window lights. However, the broad design of the house, in its lines, window design and placement, and general construction shows strong Federal influence, with the primary concessions to the Greek Revival movement being the entrance, design of mantels and interior doorways. At the rear of the house is a full-length porch inside the "L". Three doorways from the kitchen, dining room and stair hall open onto the porch. The porch roof is supported by square wooden columns, and extends 10' from the main house.

INTERIOR

The first floor of the house includes the parlor and sitting room divided by the entrance stair hall, dining room, and kitchen. Doors, door frames, mantels, trim, cupboards, and closets were finished in the technique of "graining". Original work can still be seen in most instances. Between the kitchen and dining room is a "pass-through" for serving food. The main stairs make two right turns leading to the second floor. The rear stair is enclosed between the walls of the sitting room and dining room, opening into the sitting room. One important feature of the second floor is the circulation pattern. Originally, there was no access between the front section and the rear "L", and the enclosed stairway offered the only access to the lower floor. There are no fireplaces on the second floor, although there are decorative false mantles in front of each chimney. According to John Huffman, AIA, consulting architect for the restoration of the house, the joinery exhibited in this structure has medieval influences, and is somewhat unusual for the period in which the house was constructed. Framing is pegged, although nails were used in the roof, siding and laths. Outbuildings on the site are of later construction, although some of the lumber used in the sheds appears to come from earlier buildings, substantiating verbal claims.

ALTERATIONS

The house is virtually as when built. A door has been cut between the kitchen and dining room beside the "pass-through", replacing a cupboard. Another door was cut between the northeast upper bedroom and the "L". The stone walkway of the rear porch has been covered with cement and the house was electrified some years ago. A wooden shingle roof was laid over the original at some time during its history. The house is now being restored by the Clay County Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites as an historic house museum.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
prehistoric	archaeology prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion		
1400-1499	archaeology historic	conservation	law	science		
1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	_____ economics	_____ literature	_____ sculpture		
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	_____ education	_____ military	_____ social/		
1700-1799	_____ art	_____ engineering	_____ music	_____ humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	_____ commerce	_____ exploration/settlement	_____ philosophy	_____ theater		
1900-	_____ communications	_____ industry	_____ politics/government	_____ transportation		
		_____ invention		_____ other (specify)		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Claybrook House, built c. 1858¹ is a prime surviving example of modified Federal style ante-bellum architecture with Greek Revival details in Western Missouri. It is significant for its size, frame construction, and its strong southern architectural influence and represents the furthest western expansion of the plantation economy. At a later date, the property was touched by another part of American history when it became the home of Mary James Barr and Henry Barr, Mary being the daughter of Jesse James, the folklore outlaw hero.² In fact, the house is located less than one-eighth mile from the birthplace of Jesse James.

George E. Claybrook was born in Virginia in 1812. His wife, Mary F., a Kentuckian, was born in 1819. They had three children, Martha S., born in Kentucky in 1842; Augustus, born in 1847 in Missouri; and James W. born in Missouri in 1849.³

These birthdates would seem to put the Claybrook's arrival in Missouri between 1842-47. Their youngest son does not appear in the 1860 census, so it is possible that he died at a young age.⁴

Claybrook purchased the site of the house on September 3, 1856, along with approximately 313 additional acres from Ashby Peters for \$5,000.⁵ In addition to farming, he operated a saw and flour mill on a creek east of the house. Willis M. Simmons held an interest in the Claybrook Mills from 1860-65, and served as miller during that time.⁶ Claybrook developed an establishment reflecting his Virginia heritage, transferring to the western-most border of the nation the character and economy of a southern plantation, complete with slave field hands.

Claybrook seems to have been a fairly prominent citizen in the community. In 1854, he was listed as a member of the Board of Directors of the Clay County Agricultural Society and members of his family received awards at the County Fairs of 1854, 1855 and 1866.⁷

He was a strong southern sympathizer, attending a pro-slavery convention at Lexington, Missouri in 1853 and participating in various State's Rights Meetings. He joined a local militia at Centerville (now Kearney), Missouri. Resolutions passed at the mass meeting which organized the company were decidedly pro-southern, although the men were reluctant to accept secession. Claybrook was a member of the committee which prepared these resolutions.⁸

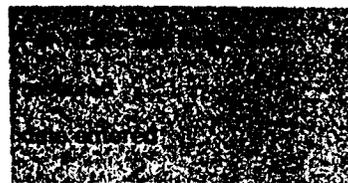
He appears to have incurred financial trouble during the later years of the Civil War. His name appears on the delinquent tax lists of 1865 and 1866 resulting in the loss of the farm in 1865 when the Farmer's Bank in Liberty, Missouri, foreclosed the property.⁹

The next owner of record was one McCarty, who purchased it in 1866, and sold it to Robert Chanslor that same year. Henry Barr purchased the property in 1901 from Chanslor. Several other owners held the house, the last being Mrs. Eileen Kelly, who donated it to

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CLAYBROOK HOUSE



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

the Clay County Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites in 1976.¹⁰ It is now being restored as an historic house museum.

The designer of the house was probably Claybrook himself, and considering the practices of the period, it is probable it was built by slave labor.

FOOTNOTES

1. Alexander Doniphan Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Clay County Centennial Souvenir 1822-1922 (Liberty, MO, Al's Printing Service, 1976), 116.
2. Records of the Clay County Recorder of Deeds, Liberty, MO (Book "0" p. 188).
3. U.S. Census of Clay County, 1850.
4. U.S. Census of Clay County, 1860.
5. Records of the Clay County Recorder of Deeds, Liberty, MO (Book "S" p. 442).
6. Clay County Centennial Souvenir, 116.
7. Liberty Tribune, June 9, 1854; Oct. 20, 1854; Nov. 9, 1855; Oct. 19, 1866.
8. Ibid., May 10, 1861.
9. Ibid., March 17, 1865.
10. Records of the Clay County Recorder of Deeds, Liberty, MO (Book 111 p. 358; Book 125 p. 24; Book 1215 p. 220).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Clay County Centennial Souvenir. 1822-1922 (Liberty, Missouri; A1's Printing Service, 1976)
United States Census, 1850, 1860. Liberty Tribune, Liberty, Missouri. Recorder of the Clay
County Records of Deeds.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 10 acres

Quadrangle name "Holt, Mo."

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	1 5	3 8 4 9 6 0	4 3 6 1 0 4 7 1 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

A tract of approximately 10 acres, in the southwest quarter of Section 24, Township 53,
Range 31 Clay County, Mo., fronting 550 feet on County Highway "BB".

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia J. Smelden, Curatorial Assistant

organization Clay County Department of Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites

date

street & number Paradise Road

telephone 816/676-2508

city or town Smithville

state Missouri 64055

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Director, Department of Natural Resources and
State Historic Preservation Officer

date

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

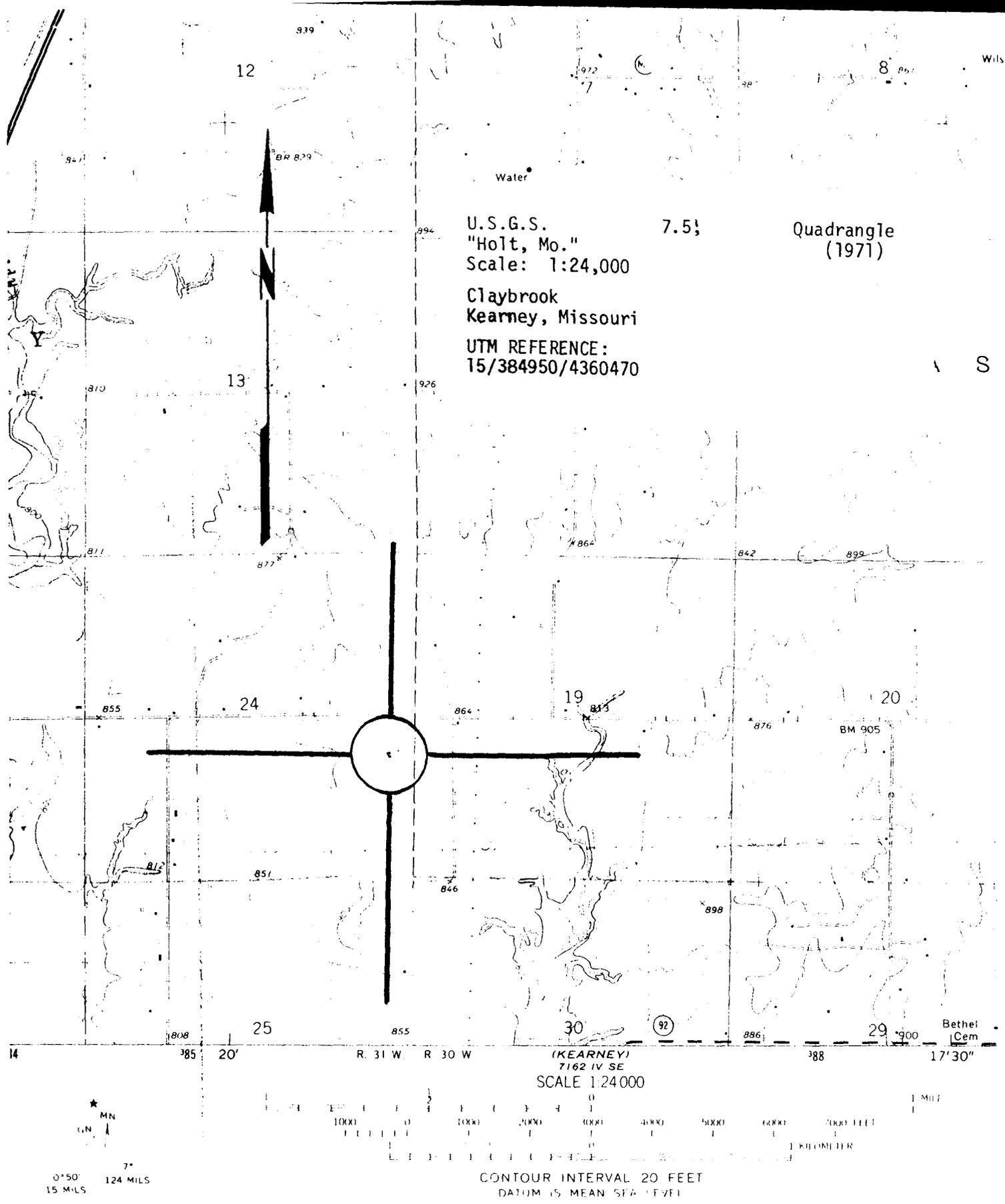
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



4. 1971 U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
 AND BY THE MISSOURI GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

CLAYBROOK HOUSE
Kearney, Missouri

#1 of 9

Photographer: James M. Denny
October 22, 1980

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

View of primary facade from the northwest.



CLAYBROOK HOUSE
Kearney, Missouri

#2 of 9

Photographer: Norman David Smith

July 12, 1979

Neg. Loc.: Clay County Department of Parks
Recreation and Historic Sites
Paradise Road
Smithville, Missouri 65055

General view of primary facade from the
northeast.



CLAYBROOK HOUSE
Kearney, Missouri

#3 of 9

Photographer: James M. Denny
October 22, 1980
Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

General view from the southwest.



CLAYBROOK HOUSE
Kearney, Missouri

#4 of 9

Photographer: James M. Denny
October 22, 1980
Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

General view from the east.



CLAYBROOK HOUSE
Kearney, Missouri

#5 of 9

Photographer: James M. Denny
October 22, 1980

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Interior view from hallway to west front
room. Note doorway with hand-grained
woodworking.



CLAYBROOK HOUSE
Kearney, Missouri

#6 of 9

Photographer: James M. Denny
October 22, 1980

Neg . Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Interior view of west front room from the
south, showing characteristic window surround.



CLAYBROOK HOUSE
Kearney, Missouri

#7 of 9

Photographer: James M. Denny
October 22, 1980

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Interior view of staircase in central hall
from the northwest.

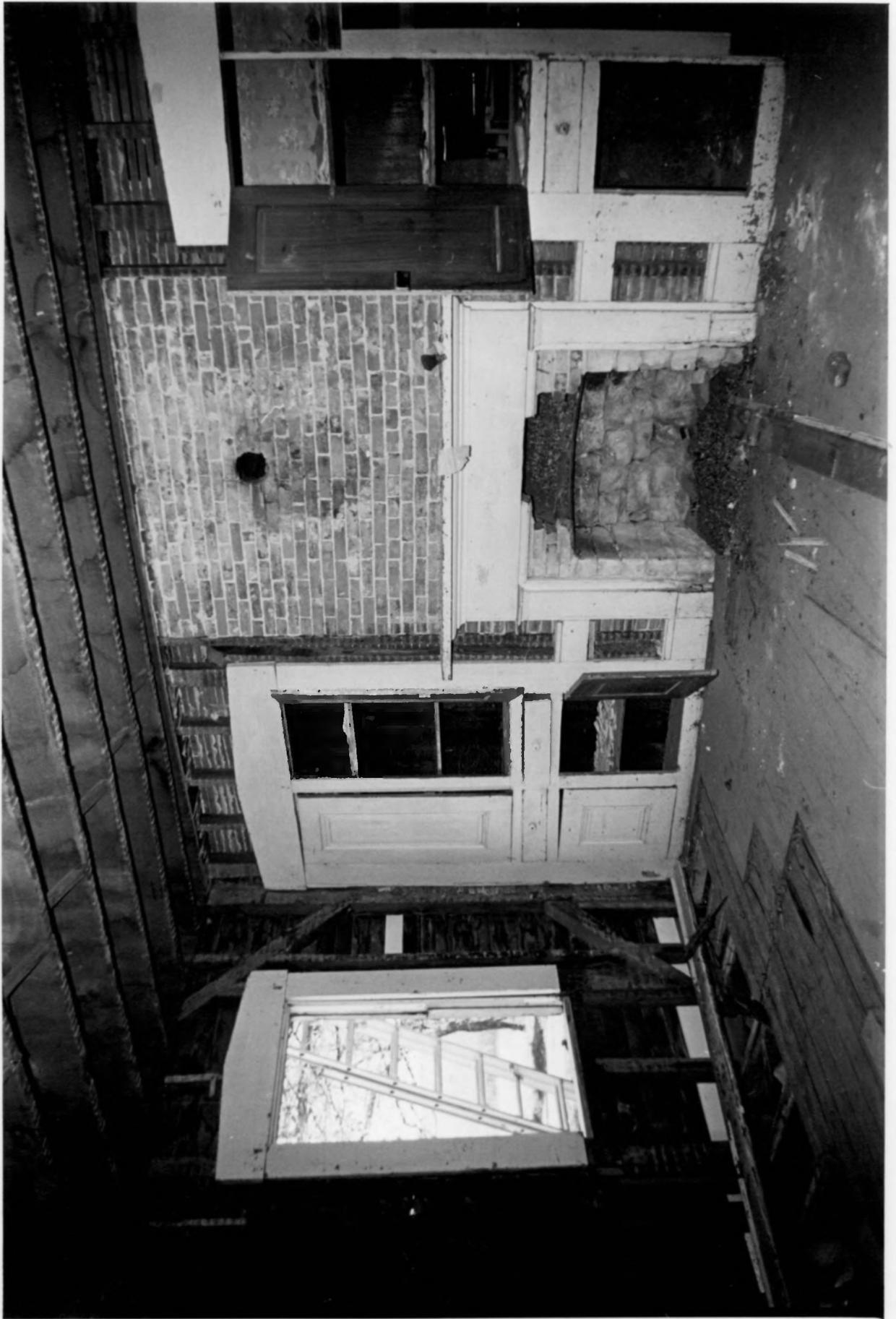


CLAYBROOK HOUSE
Kearney, Missouri

#8 of 9

Photographer: James M. Denny
October 22, 1980
Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Interior view of dining room to the rear of
main block, from the northwest.



CLAYBROOK HOUSE
Kearney, Missouri

#9 of 9

Photographer: James M. Denny
October 22, 1980
Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Interior view of dining room to the rear of
main block, from the southwest, showing
detail of framing.

