

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name WPA Stock Barn and Pavilion

other names/site number Rock Barn

2. Location

street & number Oklahoma Street at Eastside Park [n/a] not for publication

city or town Trenton [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Grundy code 079 zip code 64683

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official/Title *Claire F. Blackwell* Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO 7 March 1994
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
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register See continuation sheet [].	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet [].	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, explain See continuation sheet [].	_____	_____

5. Classification

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

Name of related multiple property listing.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

n/a

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
 RECREATION AND CULTURE/fair

Current Functions
 RECREATION AND CULTURE/fair

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 No style

Materials
 foundation concrete
 walls limestone
 roof asphalt
 other brick

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.

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

#

Areas of Significance

SOCIAL HISTORY
ARCHITECTURE
AGRICULTURE

Periods of Significance

1939-1942

Significant Dates

n/a

Significant Person(s)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Knight, Ashley G./Works Progress
Administration

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 less than one acre

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	448860	4436380			
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 FOP for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name City of Trenton

street & number 113 East 10th Street telephone 816/359-4310

city or town Trenton state Missouri zip code 64683

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

WPA Stock Barn and Pavilion
Grundy County, MO

Summary: The WPA Stock Barn and Pavilion, Eastside Park, Trenton, Grundy County, is a two-story, octagonal barn with attached one-story stock pens extending in a rectangle on either side of the building enclosing a corral; the barn and pavilion is located on a level, open area in a city park. The building is constructed of native stone on a concrete foundation. The barn and all rock walls are in excellent condition. The poured concrete foundation allowed the floor of the building to be placed at ground level for easy access. As leveled, the foundation does not rise above the ground more than twelve inches anywhere. The rough-finished walls are of a wide variety of shapes of stones. They are fitted into the masonry just as they were quarried--irregular, triangular, and one heart-shaped stone, which has led to folklore concerning the homesickness of one of the WPA workers.

Narrative: The octagonal main building has walls sixteen feet high. Each of the eight sides measures thirty feet in length. Four windows, four feet by three feet, are placed in each side, two above and two below, creating the effect of two stories, except on the east and west sides, where the stock pens are connected to the building, permitting only the two upper windows. The windows and doors are all fashioned with perpendicular bricks in a straight line set in concrete as lintels and sills. The eight-paned windows are constructed with metal sash and set in concrete. They swing out from the bottom for ventilation. Four of the lower windows have triangular screen fitted over the windows, permitting the windows to open.

There is a six foot double wooden door on the south and the north sides of the building. The upper half of each door contains a glass window, two feet six inches by two feet three inches. A ten foot square porch extends from the doorway on the front (south) of the building. The floor is concrete. Two six and one-half inch square posts, eight feet tall, support a gabled wood porch.

The exterior stock pen walls are eight feet high and extend for eighty feet on either side of the pavilion. A twenty inch pilaster is located every seventeen feet and extends four inches from all the rock walls, imparting a decorative appearance to the plainness of the construction. On either side, seven and one-half feet from the entrance to the building, there is a three foot wooden door in the wall, permitting access to public rest rooms.

Behind the main building is another line of stalls, measuring 232 feet. The ends of the two lines of stalls are connected by still other stalls, measuring 126 feet. This forms a rectangular corral or courtyard. The stalls measuring eighteen feet from the wall and covered with an off-center peak roof, look into an open-air rectangular area, 180 feet long and eighty-eight feet wide. Crushed rock covered with tamped clay form the floor of the stalls.

There is an eleven foot six inch opening with a double metal gate centered in the east wall of the courtyard. The west wall contains a centered five foot four inch opening, covered by a double wooden door. South of the gate on the east, the stall area has been enclosed in later years to make a fine arts exhibition area. This section has a metal facade and door and the interior has a concrete floor. On the north side of the gate, the stall area has been enclosed with a wood front to form a storage area. A two-stall area on the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

WPA Stock Barn and Pavilion
Grundy County, MO

northeast has been enclosed (concrete floor) with wood to be an exhibition area. These enclosed areas are used during fairs and community activities.

The rock walls are twelve inches thick and are covered on the interior with smooth concrete. The interior of the barn is sixty-nine feet four inches in diameter. There is no center support, leaving about 4300 square feet of floor space open for shows and auctions. Seven feet from the walls, eight brace posts are evenly distributed to form the roof support.

The sixteen foot ceiling is covered with two feet by four feet smooth ceiling tile. At the top of four of the eight inch by eight inch supports are fenced banks of spotlights. Four space heaters are suspended from the ceiling. There are no other furnishings in the building. Tables and a display rack are used when the occasion requires. On the east and west walls, door provide access to six feet by twelve feet rest rooms with two stalls each. These rooms and fixtures are antiquated and in need of restoration.

The octagonal roof rises to a peak twenty-five feet high. A composition roof covers both the pavilion and the stalls. The shape of the building gives the appearance of a round barn.

Outside the southwest and northeast corners of the building, poles have been installed, providing outdoor lighting. On the southwest corner of the front facade is a ten foot concrete pad extending to a stanchion. Against the wall, eight water faucets were provided for animal grooming.

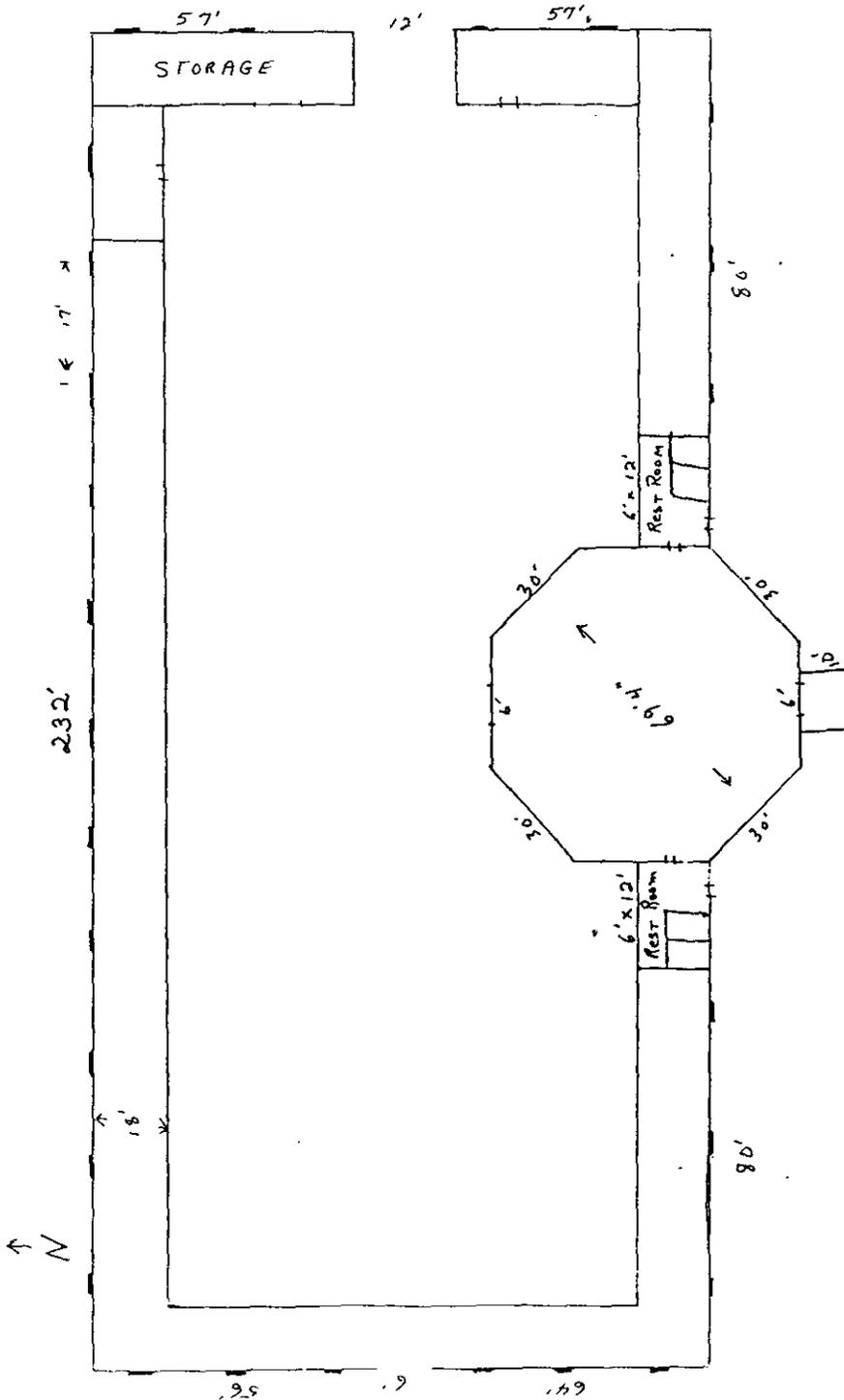
Since the erection of the building and as demand has grown and changed for exhibitions, supplemental buildings have been added to the area. A covered open livestock pavilion made of wood with metal roofing has been erected to the south of the barn. A sixteen feet by twenty-four feet office building is located west of the outdoor pavilion. This building is used during the North Central Missouri Fair. A covered show ring has been added to the south of this pavilion. The barn and this pavilion are used for exhibits and markets. The WPA Stock Barn no longer houses livestock, which is now shown in the area south of the barn.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

WPA Stock Barn and Pavilion
Grundy County, MO



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 4

**WPA Stock Barn and Pavilion
Grundy County, MO**

Summary: The WPA Stock Barn and Pavilion in Eastside Park, Trenton, Grundy County, is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Agriculture and Social History, and under Criterion C in the area of architecture. Constructed in 1938 under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the building served as a livestock housing and sales pavilion for the annual Farm Revue, the Grundy County agricultural fair. These fairs served as an educational, commercial, and social exposition for the primarily agricultural county. The barn and pavilion housed the exhibits sponsored by Four-H and Future Farmers of American clubs in the county and served to promote agriculture to the youth of the county. The barn and pavilion also represents the essential impact, social and economic, on rural Missouri of the Works Progress Administration and other relief programs during the Great Depression. The building is also a rare example, in Missouri, of a polygonal agricultural building, in this case constructed of native stone, a locally preferred medium. Its period of significance extends from 1938, its date of construction, to 1942, the beginning of World War II and the effective end of the New Deal programs.

Narrative: American agricultural fairs had their antecedents in the weekly or monthly town markets held as early as medieval times. Their specific origins in this country date to the early nineteenth century.¹ Aside from offering an opportunity for social interaction, the fairs originally provided an opportunity for education and for commercial exchange. According to Kniffen, the American fair emphasized the educational function over the market function, which was foremost in European fairs: "the primary purpose of the American fair is to improve agriculture and the domestic arts by offering attractive premiums for exhibits."² By the mid nineteenth century, the fairs also became a forum for the exhibition of farm machinery, domestic implements, and other commercial displays. By the 1890s, the provision of entertainment became standard, with the addition of carnivals, chautauqua entertainers, and balloonists, and, later, automobile races and airplane exhibitions. Horse racing was an early fixture. These local, county, or regional fairs were

¹According to Fred Kniffen, the agricultural fair dated to 1810. "The American Agricultural Fair: Time and Place," Annals of the Association of American Geographers 41 (March 1951): 42. However, according to Thomas J. Schlereth, the origins of the fair were multiple, with their roots in sheep-shearings held by George Washington Parke Custis in Virginia in 1803, festivals on the Hudson River estate of Chancellor Robert R. Livingston in 1810, and livestock exhibitions promoted by Elkanah Watson in Berkshire County, also in 1810. "Country Stores, County Fairs, and Mail-Order Catalogues: Consumption in Rural America," in Simon J. Bronner, ed., Consuming Visions: Accumulation and Display of Goods in America, 1880-1920 (New York: W.W. Norton & Company for the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, 1989), p. 357.

²Kniffen, "The American Agricultural Fair: The Pattern," Annals of the Association of American Geographers 39 (December 1949): 265.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5

WPA Stock Barn and Pavillion
Grundy County, MO

invariably located on the outskirts of a town, usually the county seat.³ According to Kniffen, the American agricultural fair "was designed to appeal to the small, prosperous, general farmer . . ." From its origins in the area of New England-New York, the agricultural fair quickly spread and became firmly established in the upland South and the Midwest by the late antebellum period.⁵

In October 1859, Grundy County farmers organized the Grundy County Agricultural and Mechanical Society, during "the 'golden age' of the American agricultural fair, 1850 to 1870."⁶ Following the Civil War, the society sponsored two fairs in Trenton before the group became inactive. On March 9, 1868, the North Missouri Central Agricultural and Mechanical Association was formed and purchased two and one-half acres near the OK Railroad near Trenton. Between September 1868 and 1873, six fairs were held by the association, which then attempted to interest neighboring counties in participating in what had been only a Grundy County fair. Because of dissension over the site of the cooperative fair, the organization disbanded.

In 1876, a new organization was formed under the same name and, for the next twenty-five years, successfully sponsored a fair in September or October each year and a racing meet in June. In 1901, the association was reorganized as the Grundy County Fair Association; the renamed group purchased the old fairgrounds and constructed a new Floral Hall for exhibits and widened the old track. By 1927, the association, which had an indebtedness of \$7500, was dissolved. An attempt by the county to take over the fairgrounds as a park failed; the grounds were sold as lots and the buildings were removed.⁷ However, the need for an agricultural exposition or forum for the county persisted, so the fairs sponsored by the association were succeeded by an annual county Farm Revue and a horse show. In addition, beginning in 1905, the city of Trenton hosted an annual corn show, with prizes awarded for the different breeds and grades of corn.⁸

³Schlereth, pp. 357-363.

⁴Kniffen, "The American Agricultural Fair: Time and Place," p. 57.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Kniffen, "The American Agricultural Fair: Time and Place," p. 42; and Idem, "The American Agricultural Fair: The Pattern," p. 270.

⁷William Ray Denslow, Centennial History of Grundy County, Missouri, 1839-1939 (Trenton, MO: William Ray Denslow, 1939), pp. 46-48; and History of Grundy County, Missouri (Kansas City, MO: Bidsell and Dean, 1881), pp. 267-269 and 274.

⁸James Everett Ford, A History of Grundy County (Trenton, MO: News Publishing Company, 1908), pp. 226-227.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 6

WPA Stock Barn and Pavillion
Grundy County, MO

At the turn of the century, approximately 200,000 of Grundy County's 294,400 acres were in cultivation or pastureage. There were 2,298 farms in the county, with the average size farm containing 118.6 acres. In 1908, James Everett Ford noted that Grundy County was

. . . pre-eminently an agricultural county. It excels not only in general agriculture, but especially in registered live stock. Seldom is there a live stock show of any consequence in this or any other state that Grundy County is not well represented among the winners. Perhaps more interest is taken in cattle than any other animals, Shorthorn, Herefords and Angus breeds predominating, with some fine Jerseys. There are many breeders of pure bred hogs in this county, and some very noted herds. Poland China is the favorite breed. Of late years a considerable interest, rapidly increasing, has been taken in the growing of fine poultry.⁹

In 1930, Grundy County remained a primarily agricultural county, as were most of the counties in the state, although the Depression had adversely affected agriculture as well as industry. The percentage of land in the county included in farms was 95.6 percent in 1930; in 1920, 98 percent had been devoted to farming. There were 1,800 farms in the county, a decline from 1,915 in 1920; the number increased to 2,040 in 1935. It was a county of moderate sized farms, with the average size of a farm 147.2 acres in 1930, a slight increase over the 141.8 acres of 1920. Corn was the primary crop, followed by hay and other grasses, while cattle, sheep, and swine were the primary animal crops.¹⁰

On October 28, 1930, voters in the city of Trenton approved a bond issue of \$35,000, of which \$25,000 was designated for the construction of a new city swimming pool and \$10,000 for the purchase of land for a new park in the eastern portion of the city.¹¹ In 1934, the city and the school board agreed to develop the park, which was near the high school and junior college, with an athletic field, which the school would rent for one hundred dollars per year. By 1939, the park included a track, football field, baseball diamond, and children's playground, as well as a stadium constructed by the WPA which seated one thousand people and also included dressing rooms and showers beneath the bleacher seating.¹²

In May 1937, the city council voted to purchase a three acre tract adjacent to the park, designated Eastside Park, for \$1200. The tract, which was 390 feet long where it joined the park and extended 350 feet north, also was adjacent to Highway 65, which would provide an additional access to the park. The

⁹Ibid., p. 167.

¹⁰Denslow, p. 41.

¹¹Denslow, p. 171.

¹²Ibid., pp. 172-173.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 7

**WPA Stock Barn and Pavilion
Grundy County, MO**

Trenton Commercial Club offered the city four hundred dollars for the first payment on the new tract, provided the city obtained a WPA project to construct a livestock barn and sales pavilion on the tract. Plans for the building, which was to be octagonal, constructed of native rock, seventy-two feet across, and with sixteen feet high walls, were drafted by City Engineer Ashley G. Knight. In addition, Knight's plans called for removable seats around a show, judging, and sales ring, and stalls extending from each side of the building, around "a rectangular open-air arena."¹³ Plans to construct the building of brick were abandoned when WPA officials advised city officials that locally quarried stone could be obtained cheaper and the major costs of construction, which would be for labor, would be funded by the WPA. Cost of construction was estimated at \$30,000.¹⁴

The Works Progress Administration, as well as the myriad of other New Deal agencies, had an essential impact on Missouri in the Great Depression. Although the state administration did not implement programs comparable to Roosevelt's New Deal, it did cooperate with the national administration, much as it had welcomed federal involvement and funding for the construction of highways in the previous decade. New Deal agencies provided relief and jobs for the state's unemployed and new or improved facilities for many communities. Through the New Deal programs, the federal government also became intimately involved in the regulation or oversight of many areas which had previously been reserved to state or local governments or which had been unregulated.¹⁵

In May 1938, prior to beginning construction on the Trenton barn and pavilion, the WPA reviewed the work it had completed in Grundy County. To that date, the WPA had constructed 191.44 miles of roads, primarily graveled, in the county, as well as 25.85 miles of streets and alleys and one twenty feet long masonry bridge. Two wooden bridges were repaired or rebuilt, 301 new culverts constructed, and forty-five culverts repaired. Two public buildings had been completed by WPA labor: a vocational education building and the Garfield school for African-Americans in Trenton; the old Garfield school was also demolished by WPA workers. Four buildings received WPA improvements: the Jewett Norris Library (NRHP 1984) and the high school in Trenton, and schools

¹³"3-Acre Tract Will Be Added to Park Here," Trenton Republican-Times, May 27, 1937, p. 1. According to the May 16, 1938, Trenton Republican-Times, plans called for an eight foot balcony around the interior; this balcony was not part of the original description of the building and was apparently never constructed. "Project for Stock Barn is Approved," Trenton Republican-Times, May 16, 1938, p. 1.

¹⁴"Work on New Stock Barn is Started Here," Trenton Republican-Times, June 2, 1938, p. 1. According to Denslow (p. 175), the approximate cost of the barn and pavilion was \$50,000.

¹⁵Parrish, William E., gen. ed., A History of Missouri, volume 5: 1919 to 1953, by Richard S. Kirkendall, Missouri Sesquicentennial Edition (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1986), pp. 162-166..

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 8

**WPA Stock Barn and Pavilion
Grundy County, MO**

in Central and Brainerd. Additional work included the construction of a stadium in Eastside Park (extant) and improvement of the park grounds, a water reservoir for Trenton, 4.37 miles of water mains and .17 mile of storm and sanitary sewers, and 122.56 miles of fencing along rural roads. Under the auspices of the WPA, 2,585 books were repaired, as well, and 25,646 garments for the needy were made in the courthouse sewing room.¹⁶

By March 1940, the WPA had expended \$1,017,531.44 on projects in Grundy County. About two-thirds of that amount was contributed by the federal government, with the remainder supplied by local sponsors. The number of persons employed by the WPA ranged from 368 in October 1938 to 270 in September 1939 and 298 in May 1940. Most of the communities and townships in the county acted as sponsors, as well as the county court and a number of school districts. Additional projects completed since 1938 included the construction of the Trenton municipal light plant, the Spickard water works, and a water tower in Trenton.¹⁷

The barn and pavilion was to be located on the north edge of the new addition to Eastside Park, to allow the expansion of the athletic field into the remainder of the tract and adjacent to Highway 65 (now Oklahoma Street). Commercial Club members and city officials envisioned the building as the site of the annual Farm Revue, which replaced the defunct county fair, and horse show, as well as the location of weekly stock sales, a poultry show, and the semi-annual sales of the North Missouri Hereford Breeders Association.¹⁸ The Grundy County Farm Revue had suffered from the effects of the Depression, as had other agricultural fairs, many of which had folded or been forced to operate on a more limited scale. Following the 1936 fair season, the size of the Farm Revue had been reduced and the horse show abandoned because of lack of adequate facilities to house animals.¹⁹ One year after proposals to construct the pavilion were announced, in May 1938, the plans drafted by Knight were approved by the WPA district office in Moberly.²⁰

On June 2, 1938, about twenty WPA workers began cutting weeds and clearing the three acre tract preliminary to the start of construction on the barn and

¹⁶"WPA Reviews Work Carried Out in County," Trenton Republican-Times, May 16, 1938, p. 4.

¹⁷"Million Put in WPA Work," Trenton Republican-Times, September 14, 1940, p. 1.

¹⁸"3-Acre Tract Will Be Added To Park Here," Trenton Republican-Times, May 27, 1937, p. 1.

¹⁹Kniffen, "The American Agricultural Fair: The Pattern," p. 278; and "Farm Revue, Horse Show Date Named," Trenton Republican-Times, July 6, 1939, p. 1.

²⁰"Project for Stock Barn is Approved," Trenton Republican-Times, May 16, 1938, p. 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 9

WPA Stock Barn and Pavilion
Grundy County, MO

pavilion. According to the account in the Republican-Times, that afternoon City Engineer Knight "planned to lay out lines for the foundation. Within a few days quarrying rock for construction of the building is to begin at the city's rock quarry."²¹ About forty men were employed by the WPA in erecting the building. One year later, on June 15, 1939, a Four-H and Future Farmers of America lamb show was held in the "yet uncompleted stock pavilion."²²

In July, the Republican-Times noted that construction on the barn and pavilion was being completed in preparation for the annual Farm Revue in September, "the first extensive activity to be held in the new barn."²³ On August 8, a registered ram sale, sponsored by the Grundy County Sheep Owners Association was held at the pavilion, although it was not noted if the building was completed.²⁴ By September 11, it was announced that the barn and pavilion was complete. The Farm Revue agricultural committee enthusiastically predicted

with the great advantage and impetus that will be given this show by the fine new physical equipment--the municipal stock pavilion at Eastside Park--with a greater interest in agriculture and a greater stress on agricultural prosperity, we feel that this event can be built from this beginning through the years to become increasingly larger and more worthwhile.²⁵

The Republican-Times was even more enthusiastic in its praise: "The new stock pavilion is one of the finest of its type anywhere in north Missouri. . . . Never before have the facilities for handling large numbers of livestock been so good in Trenton . . ."²⁶

The Farm Revue which was held on September 14 and 15, 1939, was the largest since 1936, and the horse show was the first held in Grundy County since that same year. The Republican-Times noted that, when the new stock pavilion was being built, some thought it much too large. But today's gathering of livestock showed that instead of being too large, it actually is smaller than the show's needs. Stock had filled every stall long before noon, and as more stock

²¹"Work on New Stock Barn is Started Here," Trenton Republican-Times, June 2, 1938, p. 1.

²²"FFA, 4-H Lamb Show Draws Forty Entries," Trenton Republican-Times, June 16, 1939, p. 1.

²³"Farm Revue, Horse Show Date Named," Trenton Republican-Times, July 6, 1939, p. 1.

²⁴"Ram Sale to Be Held Here," Trenton Republican-Times, August 4, 1939, p. 1.

²⁵"Farm Revue is Forseen [sic] as 'Best Yet'," Trenton Republican-Times, September 11, 1939, p. 1.

²⁶Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 10

WPA Stock Barn and Pavilion
Grundy County, MO

arrived the first comers were being crowded a little closer together to make additional room.²⁷

Crowding was so severe that, the following year, the horse show and Farm Revue were held on different days. Exhibitors and participants in the 1940 revue exceeded those of the previous year. Officials lost count of the animals to be exhibited after one hundred entries had been counted on the first day. Animals were held in the stalls, which extended from the barn, or were tethered in the courtyard area formed by the stalls. Judging of the stock was held in the pavilion. The Republican-Times recorded the proceedings:

As the judging . . . got under way, boys and girls exhibiting livestock put the polishing touches, literally, on their animals. In the pens, youths could be seen sprinkling water on their hogs and combing the bristles to a slick finish with brushes. Some were using hair oil on the pigs and at least one was sprinkling powder over his entry.

Four-H club girls showing dairy calves were busy combing tangles out of their calves' tails. The hair on Hereford beef calves was curled and the Black Angus were left smooth and sleek. Youths were busy with what appeared to be fine sandpaper polishing horns of their steers. Lambs' fleecy backs were evenly clipped.²⁸

The livestock barn show ring "was the focal point for most of the crowd." For the proceedings, bleachers were erected around the perimeter of the building.²⁹

The barn and pavilion is an excellent example of the stone work, often utilizing locally available material, which was characteristic of much of the construction of WPA and other New Deal agencies in the state. Buildings and structures constructed in stone conveyed the rustic appearance favored by many New Deal projects and, in the case of the Trenton building, was consistent with the rural, agricultural setting and usage of the building. The building is also representative of the permanent construction of exhibition space which increasingly characterized agricultural fairs after 1870. With the destruction of earlier buildings on preceding fairgrounds, the WPA Barn and Pavilion is the earliest example of a fair building remaining in the county. Finally, the octagonal form of the barn is rare in Missouri, in which less than a dozen polygonal agricultural buildings or structures have been documented.³⁰ The use of the polygonal form was especially appropriate,

²⁷"Livestock Fills New Pavilion At Eastside Park As Show Opens," Trenton Republican-Times, September 14, 1939, p. 1.

²⁸Trenton Republican-Times, September 3, 1940, p. 1.

²⁹Ibid.

³⁰See, for example, Steve Mitchell, "Historic Preservation Program Updates: National Register of Historic Places," Preservation Issues 2 (July/August 1992): 2-3.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 11

WPA Stock Barn and Pavilion
Grundy County, MO

since it was regarded as an ideal of progressive agriculture, which the agricultural fairs and expositions sought to promote.

Since its construction, the barn and pavilion has continued to house exhibits, first for the Grundy County Farm Revue and later the North Central Missouri Fair, the regional fair which boosters had sought as early as 1873. Animal exhibits, however, are now housed in other facilities.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 12

WPA Stock Barn and Pavilion
Grundy County, MO

Bronner, Simon J., ed. Consuming Visions: Accumulation and Display of Goods in America, 1880-1920. New York: W.W. Norton & Company for the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, 1989.

Denslow, William Ray. Centennial History of Grundy County, Missouri, 1839-1939. Trenton, MO: William Ray Denslow, 1939.

Ford, James Everett. A History of Grundy County. Trenton, MO: News Publishing Company, 1908.

History of Grundy County, Missouri. Kansas City, MO: Bridsell and Dean, 1881.

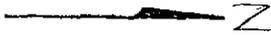
Kniffen, Fred. "The American Agricultural Fair: The Pattern," Annals of the Association of American Geographers 39 (December 1949): 264-282.

_____. "The American Agricultural Fair: Time and Place," Annals of the Association of American Geographers 41 (March 1951): 42-57.

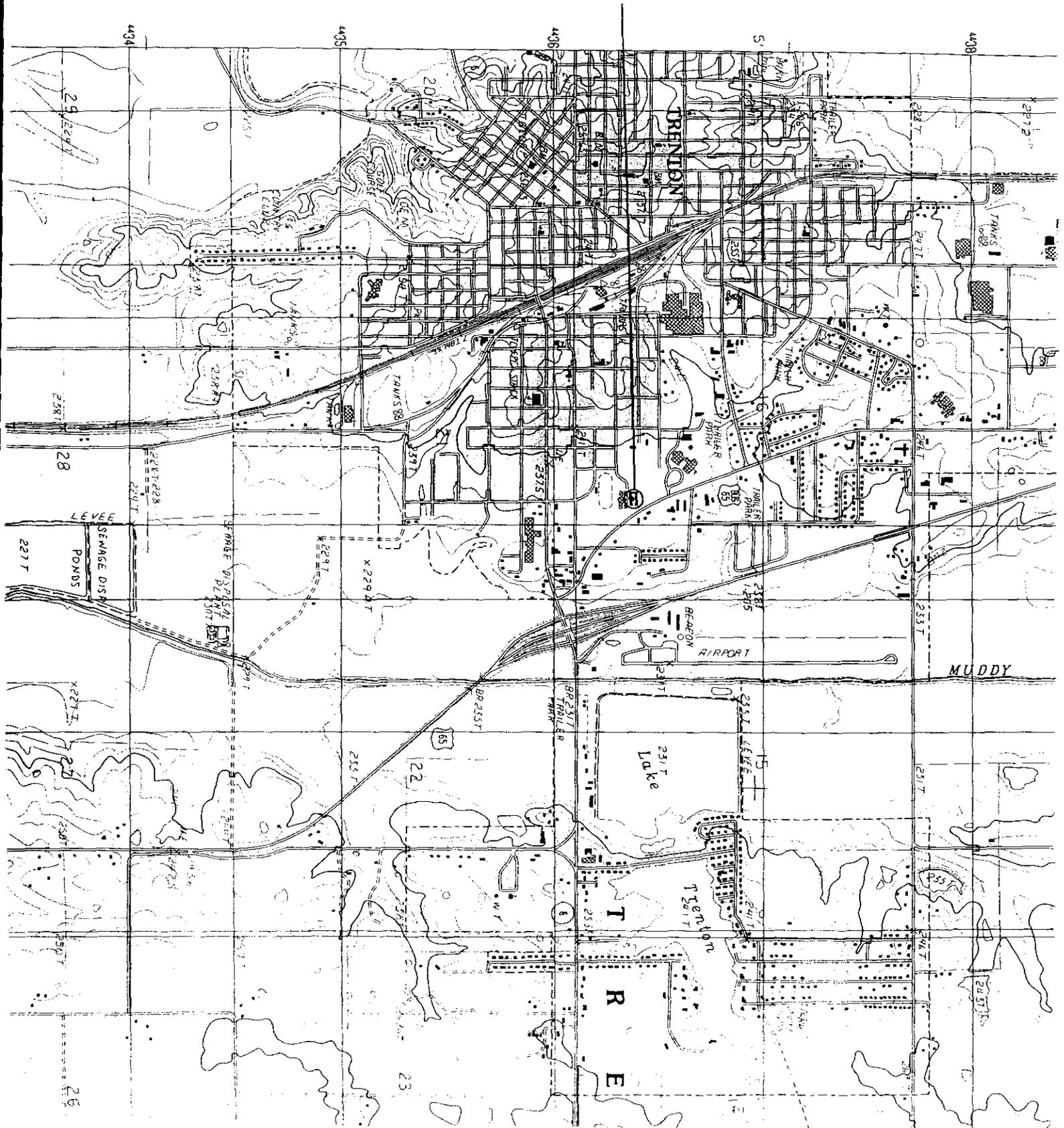
Parrish, William E., gen. ed. A History of Missouri. Volume 5: 1919 to 1953, by Richard S. Kirkendall. Missouri Sesquicentennial Edition. Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1986.

Trenton (MO) Republican-Times. May 27, 1937; May 16, 1938; June 2, 1938; June 14, 1939; June 16, 1939; July 6, 1939; August 3, 1939; August 4, 1939; August 9, 1939; September 11, 1939; September 14, 1939; May 6, 1940; September 3, 1940; and September 14, 1940.

WPA Stock BARRIS AND Pavilion
Oklahoma St. at Eastside Park
Trenton, Grundy County, MO



15/448860/4436380



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10,11 Page 13

WPA Stock Barn and Pavilion
Grundy County, MO

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: The WPA Stock Barn and Pavilion is located in the northeast portion of Eastside Park, an unplatted section of the City of Trenton, Grundy County. The boundary of the nominated property is a rectangular parcel measuring 179 X 258 feet. The boundary is described by beginning at the southwest corner of the barn and pavilion and proceeding west thirteen feet; then proceed north 151 feet; then proceed east 258 feet; then proceed south 179 feet; then proceed west 258 feet, along the right-of-way of an unnamed park roadway; then proceed north twenty-eight feet, to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: The boundary is drawn to include only the stock barn and pavilion and excludes more recent construction south and west of the property.

11. Form Prepared By

1. Carolyn G. Lenhart
313 Ridgeway Avenue
Trenton, Missouri 64683
816/359-3364
July 14, 1993
Original draft nomination, items 1-11

2. Steven E. Mitchell
National Register Coordinator
Department of Natural Resources
Division of State Parks
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
314/751-7800
January 28, 1994
Editor and revisions, items 1-11

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94000314

Date Listed: 4/25/94

WPA Stock Barn and Pavillion
Property Name

Grundy
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

5/10/94

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

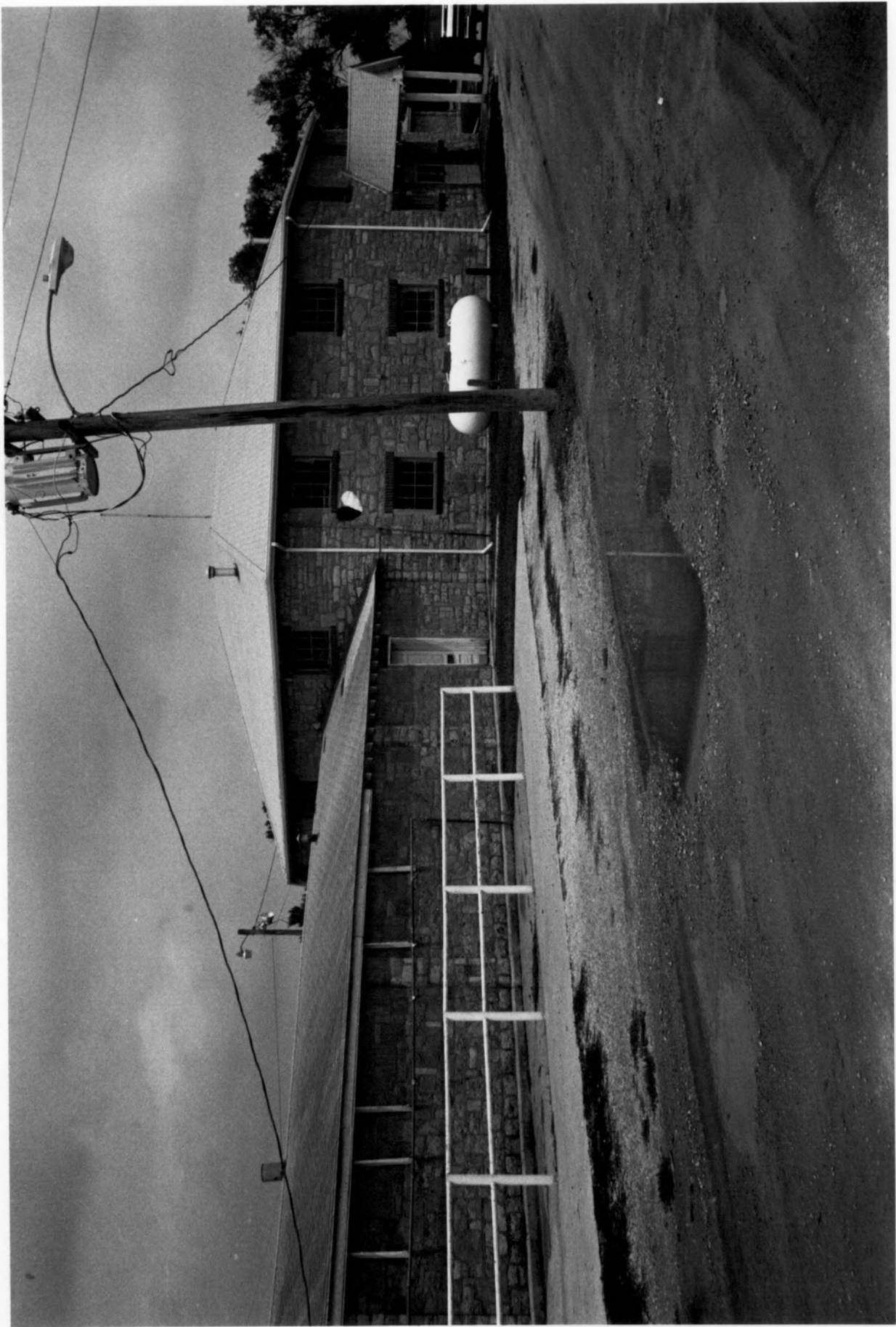
The correct period of significance in 1938--1942. The period is stated correctly in the statement of significance, but is one year off in the period of significance blank. This information was verified by Steve Mitchell of the MO SHPO staff.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

















EXTRA
PHOTOS



