

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

**SITE**

STATE: Missouri	
Buchanan	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Robidoux Row

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
219-225 East Poulin Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
St. Joseph

STATE: Missouri CODE: 29 COUNTY: Buchanan CODE: 021

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Apartments</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
1. Garth Landis

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1013 Ashland Court

CITY OR TOWN: St. Joseph STATE: Missouri CODE: 29

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Office of Recorder of Deeds, Buchanan County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: St. Joseph STATE: Missouri CODE: 29

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue

DATE OF SURVEY: 1963  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
State Historical Society of Missouri

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Corner, Hitt and Lowry Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: Missouri CODE: 29

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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\*Congressional District #6: Representative W.R. Hull Jr.

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Robidoux Row, facing south on the corner of East Poulin and Third Streets in St. Joseph, Missouri, consists of a one-and-a-half story brick structure with a single story brick building attached to its west end. The primary structure was erected during the late 1840s. The secondary one was added soon after. The original building is rectangular in shape with a full basement and a simple tar-paper covered gable roof with slightly projecting eaves. It is constructed of red brick laid according to the common bond method on a deep foundation of coursed rubble. The addition is of similar shape and material, the only difference being a salt box roof with a parapet gable.

## EXTERIOR

The south facade of the earlier structure is seven bays wide, each bay characterized by an opening. The first, third, fourth, sixth and seventh bays from the east, each contain a single six light, double hung sash window with plain wood moulding. The remaining two bays are characterized by wood doors with transoms, a single door in the second bay from the east and a double door in the fifth. The doors, raised above ground level by the foundation, are reached by two sets of wood, straight side stairs, one set for each door. Five openings, now sealed, pierce the foundation level.

The east end of this early section of Robidoux Row consists of three six over six light, double hung sash windows. Two of these are asymmetrically placed along the main story of the house, while the third is centrally located in the gable section of the wall. Three sealed windows also penetrate the basement level.

The north, rear facade of the original building presents a mirror image of its south, front side. Like the south face of the structure, the rear wall is also seven bays wide, each bay being characterized by an opening. Where there is a window on the south facade, a corresponding window exists on the north one. Where there is a door on the south, it is repeated on the north. The windows are the same six over six light, double hung sash type as are found on the front, but the door openings are different. The opening located at the second bay from the east is partially boarded up and now serves as a window. The opening located at the fifth bay from the east only accommodates a single door as opposed to the double portal opposite it on the south side of the building. This single opening is reached by a wood, straight stair.

As on the front, five, now sealed windows open into the basement area. Also, the north pitch of the roof is marked by two gable dormers, presently completely covered with tar paper.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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8. #2

ROBIDOUX ROW

thought would be a worthwhile resident, he invited him to make an apartment in Robidoux Row until he became financially able to secure a home for himself. Many of the St. Joseph families who later became prominent in St. Joseph had their start in Robidoux Row... (St. Joseph Gazette, August 25, 1929).

Eventually Joseph Robidoux donated land to the City of St. Joseph for a Market Square, a public school, a Catholic Church, and other public institutions. His gift of land for a courthouse eventually enticed the County government to move from Sparta to St. Joseph. Partially blind at age 56, Joseph Robidoux's influence in his community declined in later years, but his many children remained active in local businesses and government and successfully encouraged Joseph Robidoux's settlement to become the second-largest city in Missouri by 1860.

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ROBIDOUX ROW

dependent trader. Here he lived with his voyageurs and Indian trappers. His family remained in St. Louis while his Indian family moved back and fourth between St. Joseph and White Cloud, Kansas. From this post, Robidoux came to dominate the fur trade of the Platte Purchase region.

In 1836, Robidoux assisted the government in obtaining the Platte Purchase by finalizing treaties with Indians, and in 1839, Buchanan County was organized. From that date, Joseph Robidoux IV began to plot a town and lay claim to the land around St. Joseph. In 1843, the dedication of St. Joseph was recorded in St. Louis newspapers and Joseph Robidoux began to encourage settlers to migrate to the town, named for the founder's patron saint.

Robidoux Row, located on lots 11 and 12, block 43, is constructed on a parcel of land claimed by Joseph Robidoux IV and appended to the original town of St. Joseph on October 8, 1850). Abstract of Title to lots 11 and 12, City Block 43, in Robidoux's Addition to the City of St. Joseph, Missouri. Filed at Missouri State Historical Survey and Planning Office, Missouri State Park Board, Jefferson City, Missouri). Although it is not certain precisely when Robidoux constructed his brick row dwelling, it is known the structure was erected about 1850 when Robidoux's addition was platted.(St. Joseph Gazette, July 25, 1943). Furthermore, it is probable that the Row was not built prior to Robidoux's land grant from President Polk in 1846, but it is known Robidoux died in the dwelling in 1868, indicating he was residing in the house at least at that date. Although it is not documented, it may be surmised that Robidoux Row was used as temporary quarters for prospective settlers, since although Robidoux sold many smaller parcels surrounding his dwelling in the 1850's, he continued ownership of the portions of lots 11 and 12 upon which the house was constructed.(Abstract of Title to lots 11 and 12, City Block 43...). Furthermore, the design of the dwelling suggests short-term occupancy, probably by newly-arrived St. Joseph residents.

"St. Joseph's founder early began to show talent as a promoter. He built Robidoux Row with a purpose. The seven houses under one roof provided transient housing for prospects thought worthy of becoming St. Joseph citizens rent free. When Robidoux encountered a newcommer, he

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ROBIDOUX ROW

The south facade of the later addition is six bays wide, each bay being characterized by a single window or door. The first bay from the west end holds a six over six light, double hung sash window, while the second, fourth and sixth bays from the west each contain a two over one light, double hung sash window. The third and fifth bays each support a single door opening. These doors are reached by a pair of cement straight steps. There are no openings in the foundation as it is very shallow at this point.

The west gable end of the structure is void of all openings, but the fenestration of the north facade of the addition basically repeats that of the south facade as was done in the original building.

A shed covered with asbestos tile and an open back porch are attached to the north side. All the doors open onto the ground level, the land here being separated from the lower level of ground behind the original structure by a stone retaining wall.

INTERIOR

The interior of the original house is divided into two apartments of unequal size, a four room apartment with two rooms in the front and two in the back, occupying the eastern two-thirds of the building and a two room apartment with one room in the front and the other behind, occupying the western one-third. The apartments are divided by a wide hallway running the entire depth of the structure. Each back room has a stairway descending to the basement while the hallway contains a stair leading to the attic.

The attic is divided into two semi-finished rooms separated by the stair hall. Each room has a dormer window facing north.

The interior of the later addition is equally divided into two four room apartments. There are no stairs either ascending or descending. The entire interior is in extremely poor condition.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Berry, Don. A Majority of Scoundrels. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1961.
2. Boder, Bartlett, "Robidoux and the Fur Trade", Museum Graphic, Vol. XIV, No. 2, 1962.
3. Chittenden, H.M., The History of the American Fur Trade. 3 Vols. New York: Harper, 1902.
4. Coy, Roy E., "The Voyagers", Museum Graphic, Vol XVII, No.1, 1965.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39°	46'	29"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		94°	51'	27"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 10

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Stephen J. Raiche, Chief Research Historian

ORGANIZATION Missouri State Park Board DATE April 11, 1972  
State Historical Survey and Planning Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building

CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson City STATE Missouri 65101 CODE 29

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Mr, Joseph J. Jaeger Jr.

Title Director, Missouri State Park Board and Missouri State Liaison Officer

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Keeper of The National Register*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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4. ROBIDOUX ROW
  
2. Mr. Howard S. Quaife  
219-221 East Poulin Street  
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501

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6.

ROBIDOUX ROW

Missouri State Historical Survey (state)

1968

Missouri State Park Board

P. O. Box 176

1204 Jefferson Building

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Code: 29

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ROBIDOUX ROW

5. Larkin, Lew. Vanguard of Empire: Missouri's Century of Expansion.  
St. Louis: State Publishing Company, 1961.
6. Phillips, Paul C. The Fur Trade. 2 vols. Norman: University of  
Oklahoma, 1961.
7. Robidoux, Orral Messmore. Memorial to the Robidoux Brothers. Kansas  
City: Smith-Grievess Co., 1924.
8. Rutt, Chris L. History of Buchanan County and the City of St. Joseph.  
Chicago: Bibliographical Publishing Co., 1904.
9. Sunder, John E. The Fur Trade on the Upper Missouri, 1840-1865.  
Norman: University of Oklahoma, 1965.
10. Wallace, William S. Antoine Robidoux, 1794-1860. Biograph of a  
Western Venturer. Los Angeles: Glen Dawson, 1953.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1840's to 1868

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal          | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric         | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic            | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        |   |  | _____  |

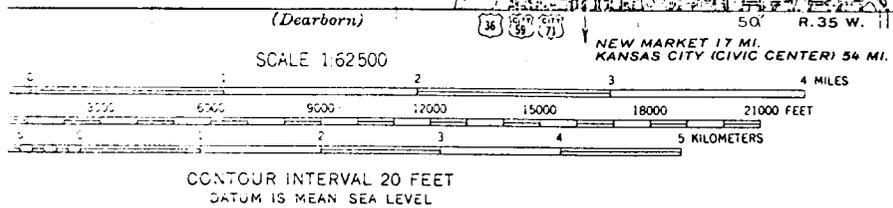
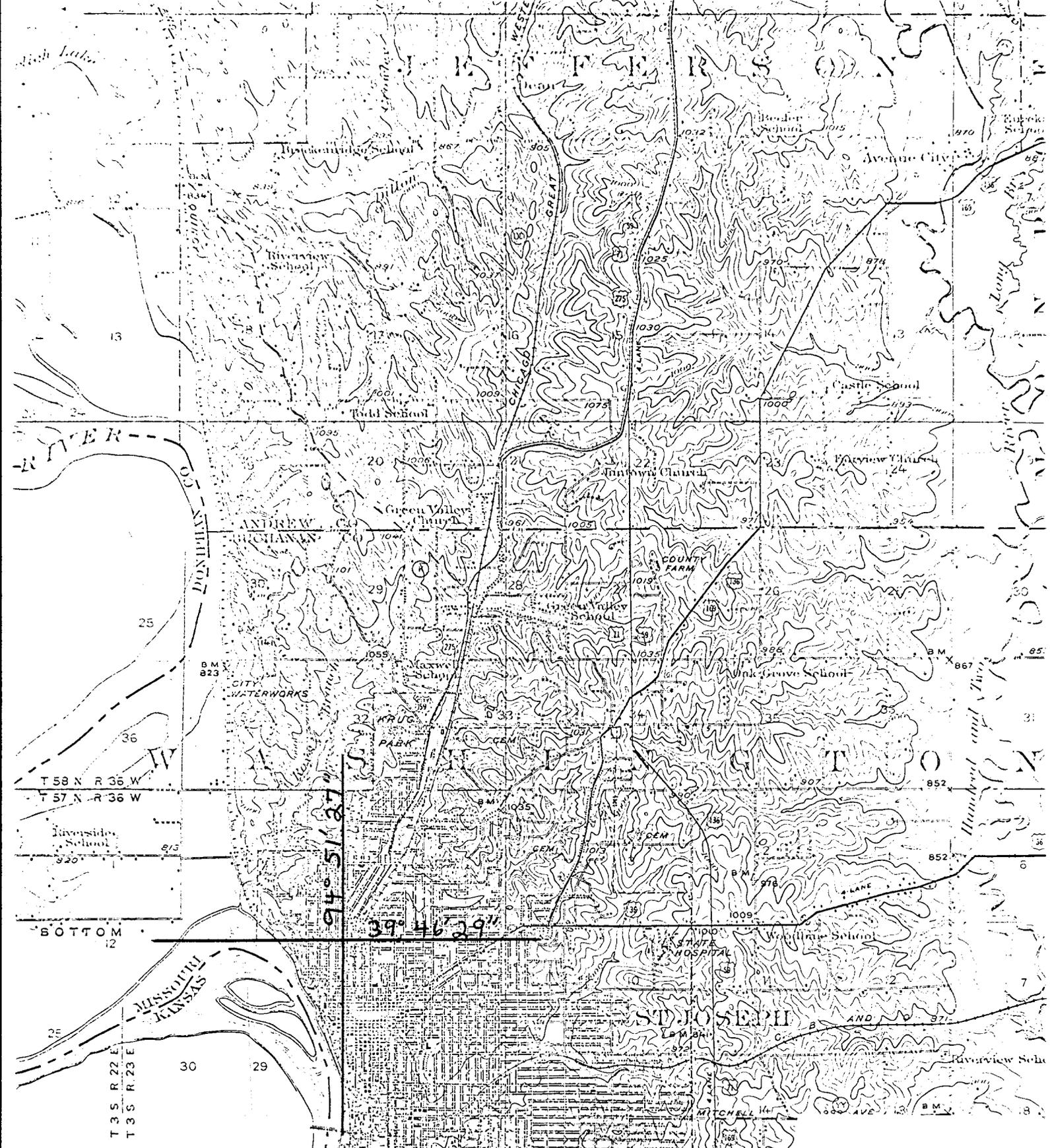
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Robidoux Row, constructed in the late 1840's in St. Joseph, Missouri, is historically significant as the home of Joseph E. Robidoux IV, the founder of St. Joseph, and served to quarter settlers pending completion of their homes in Robidoux's new town. (St. Joseph News-Press, July 25, 1943. St. Joseph Gazette, August 25, 1929).

The Robidoux family immigrated from Canada to St. Louis in 1770, where Joseph III established a bakery, warehouses, and outfitted numerous voyageurs, including Lewis and Clark. The famous Robidoux family was considered equal to the Chouteaus in social and financial prominence. Joseph IV, born 1784, was the eldest son of Joseph Robidoux III. Joseph III died in 1809 leaving the rearing of his younger children and the responsibility of the businesses to Joseph IV. Joseph assumed the role of patriarch and maintained his father's enterprises while also in the employ of the American Fur Company. By the year of his father's death, Joseph IV had accumulated sufficient capital and stock to become an independent trader for the next 13 years, operating a post at Council Bluffs. His success at the Bluffs can be measured by the attempts of his competitors to insure his failure. The American Fur Company succeeded in making an agreement with Robidoux whereby he would discontinue his post for three years in return for a stipend of approximately \$1,000 to \$1,500 per year. During this interim from 1822 to 1825, Robidoux maintained a residence in St. Louis where he speculated in land and managed the family bakery with his brother, Francois. (John Albury Bryan, "A Study of the Robidoux Sites in Block Numbers 5 and 6", unpublished consultant's report for the National Park Service, State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri).

Having over-extended credit, the bakery failed, and Robidoux again entered the fur trading business for the American Fur Company. In 1825 he was sent to Roy's Branch, located a few miles south of the present site of St. Joseph. One year later, he moved the post to St. Joseph where he again became an in-

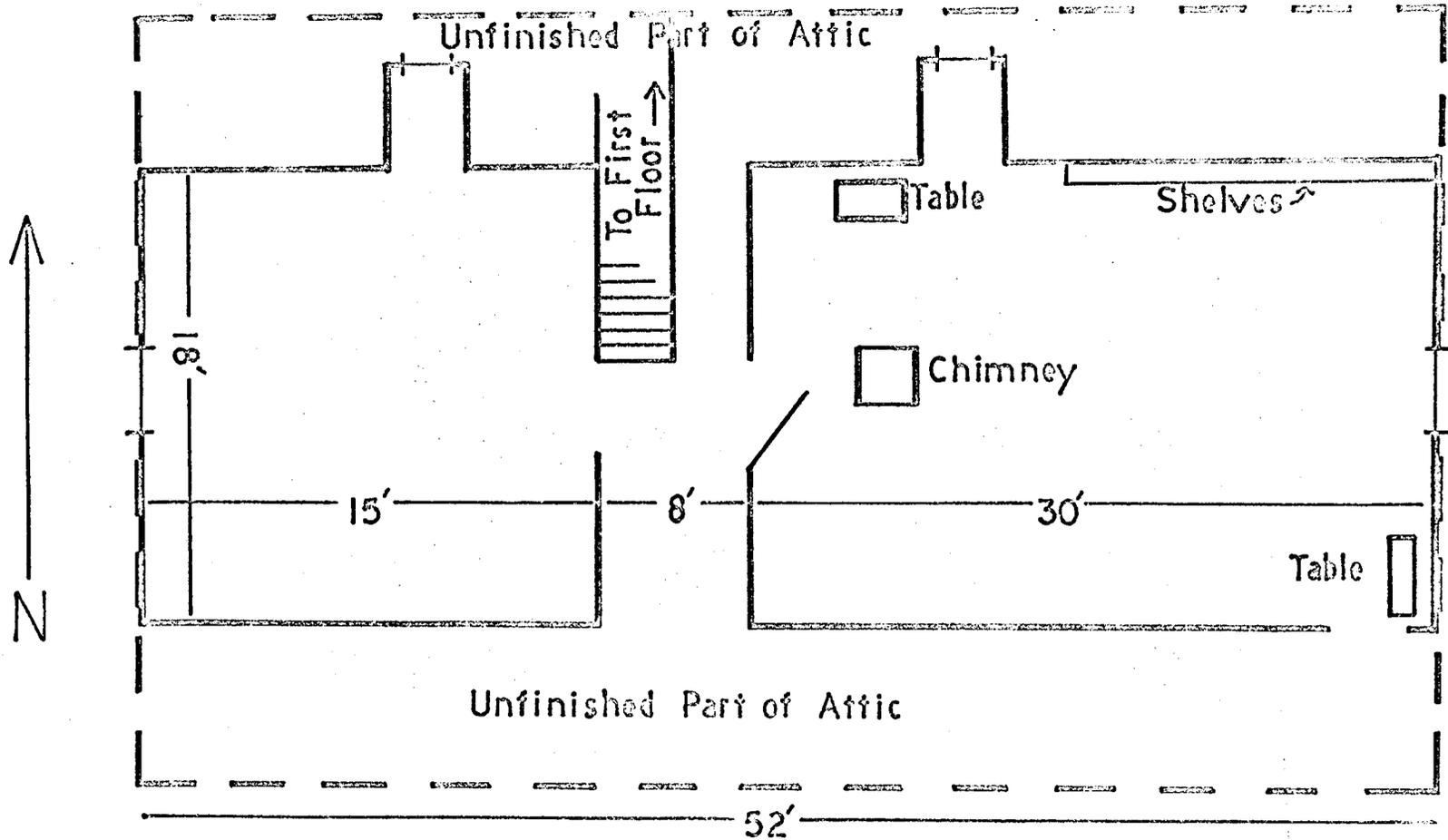
SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 15' Quadrangle  
Scale 1:62,500  
St. Joseph, Missouri  
(1924)  
Robidoux Row  
Latitude: 39°46'29"  
Longitude: 94°51'27"

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 25, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
AND BY THE MISSOURI GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ROLLA, MISSOURI  
FOR DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROBIDOUX ROW - ORIGINAL BUILDING  
ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI



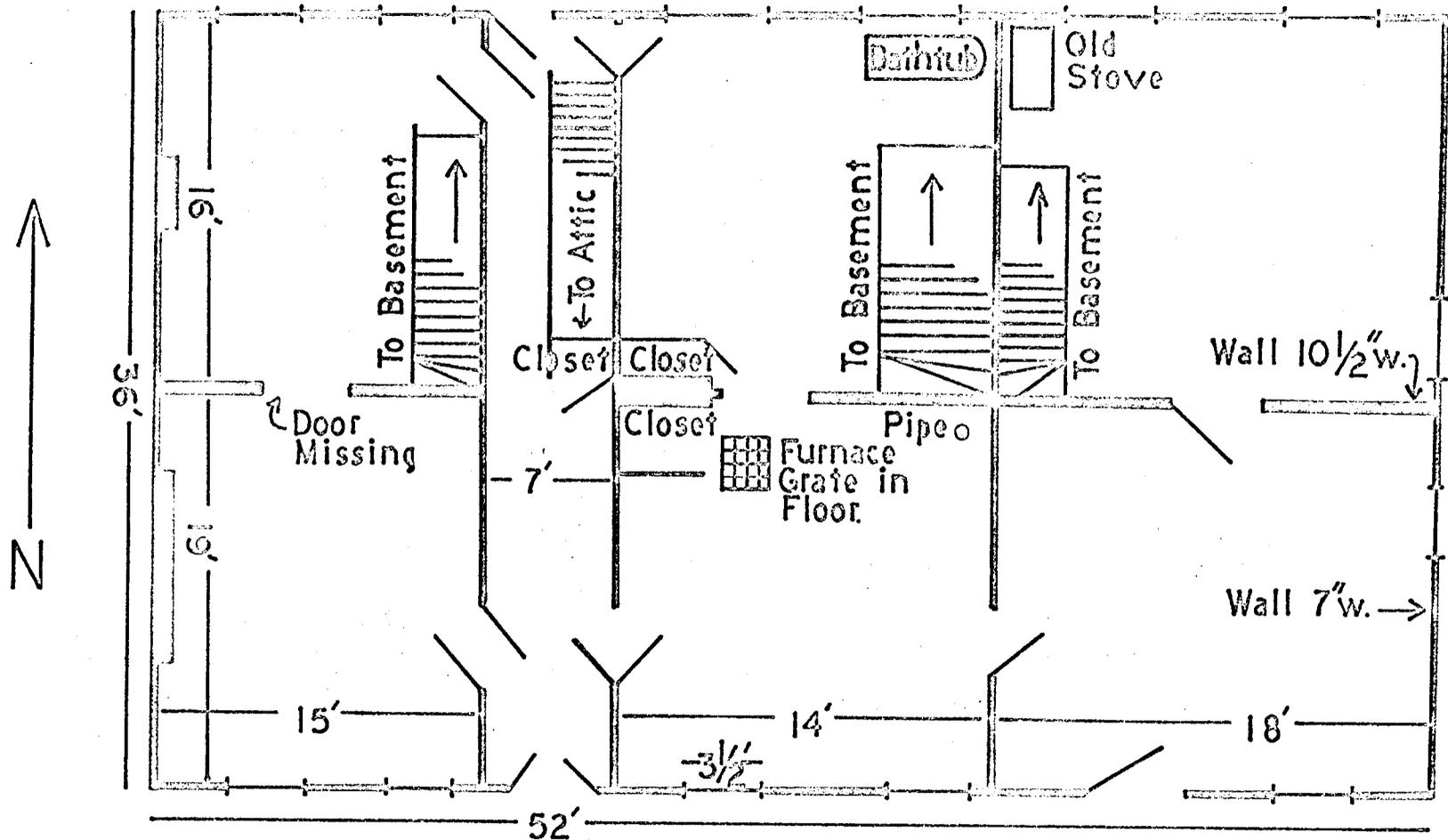
FLOOR PLAN - SECOND FLOOR

--- PERIMETER OF FIRST FLOOR  
ALL MEASUREMENTS APPROXIMATE

M.S.H.S.  
AUGUST 31, 1969.  
S. TECZAR

# ROBIDOUX ROW - ORIGINAL BUILDING

## ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI

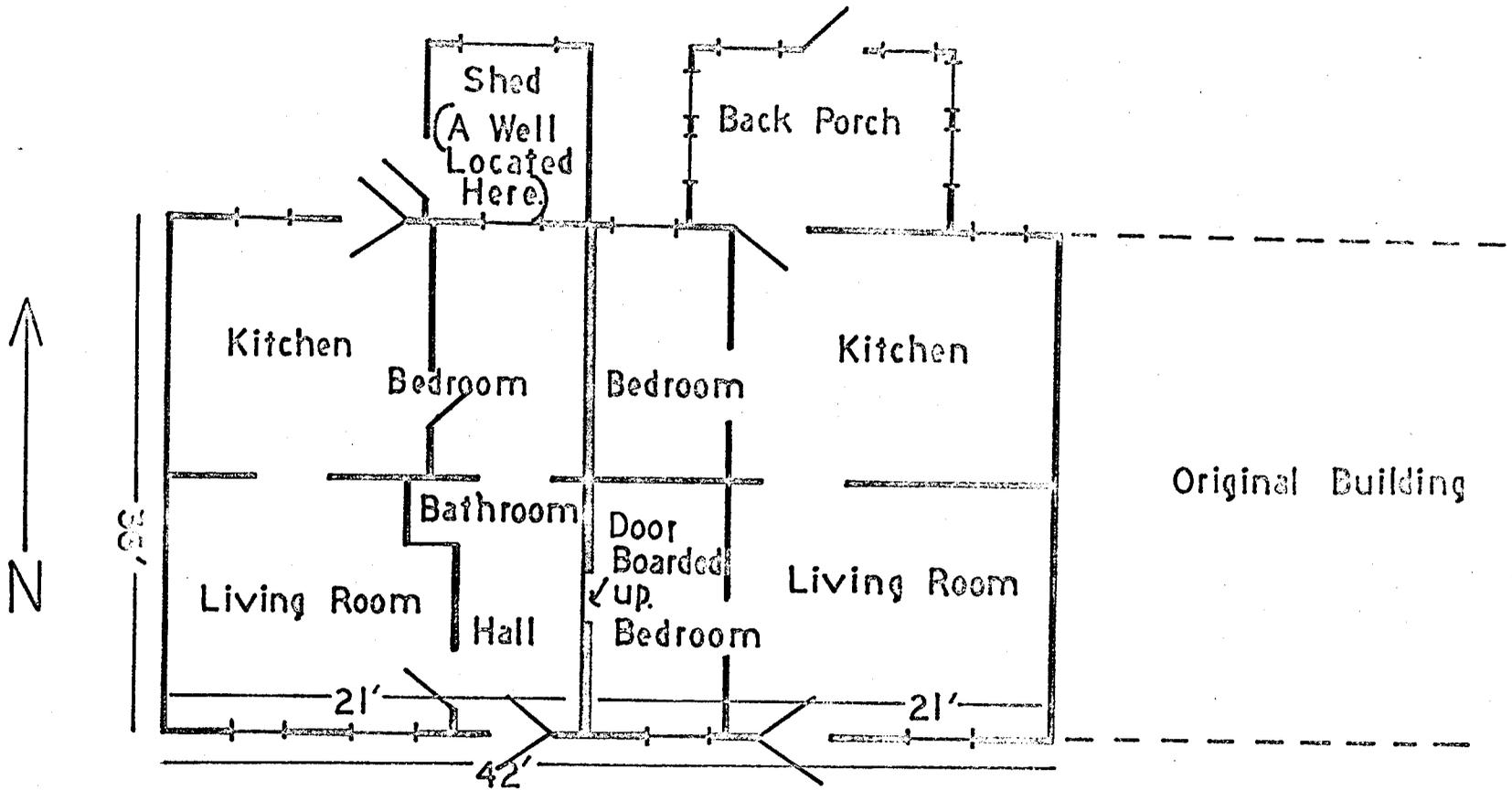


FLOOR PLAN - FIRST FLOOR

ALL MEASUREMENTS APPROXIMATE

M.S.H.S.  
AUGUST 30, 1969.  
S. TECZAR

LATER ADDITION TO ROBIDOUX ROW  
219 POULIN ST., 221 POULIN ST.  
ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI



FLOOR PLAN — FIRST FLOOR

ALL MEASUREMENTS APPROXIMATE

M.S.H.S.  
AUGUST 31, 1969.  
S. TECZAR

**Photo Log:**

Name of Property: **Robidoux Row** \_\_\_\_\_

City or Vicinity: **St. Joseph** \_\_\_\_\_

County: **Buchanan County** \_\_\_\_\_ State: **MO** \_\_\_\_\_

Photographer: **M. Patricia Holmes** \_\_\_\_\_

Date

Photographed: **Apr. 1985** \_\_\_\_\_

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

- 1 of 4. N on right, stain and discoloration, also entryways.
- 2 of 4. N, water damage.
- 3 of 4. Flooring, note the widths.
- 4 of 4. Fireplace mantel, note the mortar.







