

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Harris-Chilton-Ruble House, hereafter called the Chilton House, is a modest sized two story gable roofed Federal Style house of brick construction located on a large lot in the town of New Franklin, Missouri on the northwest edge of the business district. Its primary facade is three bays in width, door-window-window, and reflects a two-thirds type floor plan. A one-story ell attaches which contains two original rooms. About one-hundred years ago, the space between the ell and the main block was filled by a dining room addition with a three sided bay projecting to the south. To this a kitchen and bath were added around 1947.

Notable exterior features of the Chilton House include the following: the projecting cornice with its carved modillion course and spiraled perforated bed molding beneath; flat arched lintels of radiating brick stretchers, now painted white, set vertically over windows no longer containing their original small paned sash; brickwork not laid up in the preferred flemish bond of the time, but common instead; chimneys at either gable end which are contained within the fabric; a victorian era front porch, added about a century ago, one bay in width, one story in height, with battered columns, chinoiserie stick work in the frieze and prominent brackets -- its shallow pitched hip roof covered, like the main roof, with asphalt shingles; and finally the doorway which is obscured beneath the porch.

This doorway is one of the most striking original features of this important Federal Style house. Reminiscent of East Coast Georgian doorways, this one of the Chilton House is unusual if not unique in Missouri for its formality and elegance. Its elaborate enframing is composed of fluted pilasters supporting entablature blocks with sunbursts carved in them and bold projecting cornices seemingly meant to carry a prominent pediment instead of the thin flat one that disappears into the ceiling of the front porch. Delicate bands of molding provide horizontal definition. The three panel wide front door is a rare type among Missouri Federal houses, and set above it is a fanlight accented by a finely carved keystone. The deep reveals for both door and fanlight are paneled.

Immediately inside the Chilton House is the hallway containing an original stair of slender and simple proportions with a rounded bannister that breaks sharply outward at the base of the stairs to terminate in a slim square newel post capped with a ball finial.

A wide entryway flanked by carved composite columns grants entry into the parlor opposite the stairs. The north wall of this parlor is paneled in native black walnut stained with a dark varnish that adds a Victorian mood to this otherwise frontier interpretation of the Adam style. This wall divides into a three unit, A-B-A, compositional scheme in which identical built-in cabinets with paired raised panel doors (pushed back in the central sections to expose bookshelves) enframed by fluted pilasters and an entablature culminating in a shallow projecting cornice occur on either side of a carved fireplace mantel and overmantel. The mantel with its projecting and receding sections rests on single fluted tuscan columns and is embellished by a unique raised urn, swags, paterae and bands of delicate moldings and carved design motifs. The overmantel is either partially or wholly the expression of a Victorian era redecoration and consists of a non-original large mirror enframed by slender turned half-columns supporting a modillioned cornice.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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HARRIS-CHILTON-RUBLE HOUSE

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On the west wall of this parlor is an original paneled door enframed by an architrave having bas-relief rosettes set in blocks at each upper corner. Two other original doors occur upstairs as well as another carved fireplace mantel, much simpler than the one in the parlor directly below.

The upstairs originally consisted of two rooms, but a partition of the north bedroom was accomplished by the present owner to create an efficiency apartment with a kitchenette. A second floor bathroom was also installed.

The Chilton House is in good condition and is constantly maintained by its present owners who are very aware and proud of the architectural and historical significance of their home. It once sat on a much larger lot than at present, but was divided in half around the turn of the century. The present lot which is narrow but deep contains two small frame outbuildings which do not appear old and are of no historical significance.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates ca. 1832 **Builder/Architect** Owen Rawlings (attributed)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Harris-Chilton-Ruble House is significant as one of Missouri's finest surviving Federal Style houses; as one of an important group of houses built in the Boonslick region of central Missouri that comprise the westernmost extension of the Federal Style; as the home of Peter B. Harris, an early merchant and manufacturer in the extinct frontier boom town of Franklin, "capital" of the Boonslick; and as the home of locally prominent citizens of the town of New Franklin, Missouri.

The Boonslick region comprises all or parts of the present counties of Howard, Cooper, Saline, Boone counties and was named after a Howard County salt lick worked at an early date by the sons of Daniel Boone - Nathan and Daniel Morgan. The small settlement which had formed near there by the beginning of the War of 1812 represented the westernmost extent of American settlement. Franklin, which was built on the river bank of the Missouri immediately after the cessation of hostilities in 1816, became the frontier capital of that exuberant spot on the fringe of western civilization and it would serve as the staging area for that next great westward push towards Santa Fe and its riches, towards rendezvous in Rocky Mountain fur country, and ultimately towards lush Oregon and fabulous California.¹

Within a year of that town's quick birth, a young man named Peter B. Harris from the odd place, in that land of transplanted Kentuckyians, of New London, Connecticut, appeared in the streets of Franklin to take up the trade of hatter. Soon, he married Ann Hook, sister to two Santa Fe traders; within two years he advertised in the Missouri Intelligencer: "fashionable hats of the best quality...a good assortment of gentlemen's beaver and castor hats, ladies beaver and children's hats, all of which are manufactured under his own inspection of durable materials and finished in the neatest, most fashionable style"; in 1822 he advertised for apprentices; in 1825 he informed the Intelligencer's readers of the death of his infant son Peter: "Next to life in virtue spent /In death of one so innocent/Scarce the dawn of life began/Ere he measured out his span;" also in 1825 he attended the town's grand Fourth of July celebration to see the luminaries, hear the oration, and, in the midst of toasts to the great occasion, to the Revolution and its heroes, to Kentucky, to Henry Clay, made one of his own: "To John Quincy Adams - the Confidant of Washington, of Madison and Monroe: his reputation stands upon a dignified eminence - while the billows of slander break harmless at its feet;" and within fifteen years he rose to the prominence that enabled him to erect the house which is the subject of this nomination. It was built in the town of New Franklin which was founded after the dreams of "Old Franklin" became permanently dampened by the uncertain currents of the Missouri River which ate away at the very bank upon which the town sat, claiming its buildings one by one.²

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HARRIS-CHILTON-RUBLE HOUSE

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New Franklin, being perched safely in the River hills, was well away from the rampaging Missouri River, - unfortunately, too far away to gain for the town much of a share of the lucrative river commerce that shaped the fortunes of other towns. The refugees from Old Franklin and the ever increasing list of new arrivals who made up New Franklin and the surrounding settlements had permanently turned their backs on those shifting, unsettled but incomparably exuberant frontier times, and had passed, by the sheer momentum of their swelling populations and their insatiable desires to possess and subdue the rolling landscape, into the next stage of a development which would see the establishment of a stable, prospering and cultivated regional culture. This was the culture that produced Bingham. It was a culture based on professions filled with well-educated, ambitious men, several of whom would become governors, who created a lively political life that became popularly known as the "Boonslick Democracy;" based also on slave cultivated hemp and tobacco plantations, on agriculture, on manufacturing and milling, and, importantly, on a vigorous commerce and export trade.

This culture would be characterized in an important way by the impressive and substantial dwellings these men built, houses that would grow ever larger and more pretentious with each succeeding decade down through the Civil War; houses built at the beginning in the Federal Sytle evolving into the Classic Revival during the 1840's with the Picturesque Styles beginning to appear during the 1850's.

Sentiment for the Revolution remained strong in the western settlements well into the 1830's, and the Federal style introduced in the wake of that event was practiced here long after it had passed out of vogue on the East Coast where the robust and Nationalistic Greek Revival movement held sway. Indeed, the westernmost penetration of the Federal Style in the United States was probably to the Boonslick, so it is extremely important that outstanding examples from this region such as the Chilton House be given careful scrutiny. In an important article on the subject of Boonslick architecture, Charles van Ravenswaay wrote that Federal period buildings were the most interesting and satisfying of any ever built here, and he included the Chilton house among notable surviving examples. He felt the Chilton House was reminiscent in many details of designs found in the books of Minard Lafever and Asher Benjamin, and that the house had an unusual eighteenth century type doorway and particularly fine parlor woodwork.³

This is not to say that the Federal detailing found in the Chilton and other houses of the region were mere rote imitation. While the pattern book doubtless had its influence, this architecture is also a folk architecture, an architecture of diffusion transmitted by training and tradition to craftsmen immigrating through the upland south, from Virginia or North Carolina to Kentucky and Tennessee and

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HARRIS-CHILTON-RUBLE HOUSE

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finally to Missouri. This influence, for example, can be traced in decorative motifs seen in Boonslick houses, including the Chilton House, which were used some two decades earlier in Kentucky houses.⁴

One of the oddest things about the Boonslick's Federal houses is that it remains a complete mystery who designed and carved their fine woodwork. Some rumors attribute the work to slaves, more reasonable speculation would suggest the involvement of skilled cabinet makers. In either case, design similarities and the close physical proximity of Howard County Federal houses, including the Chilton house, strongly suggests that all of the woodwork was created by perhaps less than half a dozen individuals possessing considerable skill and taste. Their products reflect individual touches and variety that to some degree transcend mere pattern book reproduction. At the same time their work only palely reflects the informed and sophisticated grasp of philosophical principles embodied in the Adam Brothers' revolt against Palladianism, of their new approach to Ancient Roman Architecture based on studies at Herculaneum, Pompeii and Spalato. It is doubtful these craftsmen understood in an intellectual sense the assault of the delicate attenuated expressions of the Federal Style on Georgian formalism. In this, they were definitely country cousins to Samuel McIntire and other Eastern Seaboard masters. Rather their work was a distillation of first their training and the traditions they were exposed to, second of whatever printed works they had access to, and third of their own skills and individual sensibilities. Transmitted in their compositions were basic design motifs: ovate forms, especially the elliptical sunburst patera, attenuated columns, paired in many instances, reeding, bullseye architrave blocks, elliptical and semi-circular fanlights, and other forms; not transmitted is the feeling that they could command these motifs beyond a few basic applications, that they could manipulate the principles of this architecture in the informed and sophisticated way of Eastern craftsmen well versed in European developments. Somewhere between the fine parlors of Salem and Charleston and those of Howard County the Adam Style becomes Federal, becomes almost a folk architecture, a distant memory of European civilization, yet totally American and totally Missourian. And for all the sublime elegance of East Coast examples, there is something in the honest and simple straight forwardness of this post-frontier architecture, in its modesty and lack of pretension, in its sturdy qualities of construction and fineness of materials, and in its sure sense of craftsmanship that is ingratiating and of enduring interest, and certainly deserving of a wider appreciative audience.

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It was in 1831 that Peter B. Harris, then in his late thirties, acquired his lot in New Franklin and probably soon after erected his house. The builder, if Howard County oral tradition is reliable, was Owen Rawlings and his two prodigious slaves, Harry and Booker who, Howard County tradition again, seemed to have laid the brick for practically every house in the southern end of the county between 1830 and 1855. Lilburn A. Kingsbury observes that if this is true they must have laid brick faster than has ever been done since. In any event Harris only owned the house a dozen years, then it changed hands a few times before falling into the possession of J.W. Chilton, whose forty-six years of ownership have indelibly associated his name with the house. Chilton was appointed postmaster at New Franklin in 1855, and the next year took possession of the Chilton House. He was for more than forty years a merchant in the area. Around the turn of the century the Charles C. Alsop family moved in for a residency of twenty-five years. Alsop was part of a merchant dynasty keeping store in New Franklin for over a century. The longest continuous occupancy in the Chilton House is that of the Skinner-Brookman-Ruble family, having lived there since 1925. The present owner, Mrs. Lilian Ruble, has lived in the house since 1947, and now shares its comfortable quarters with her daughter Norma Holstun.⁵

FOOTNOTES

1. James M. Denny, "The Boon's Lick: Missouri's Lost Eden", Boone County Fare (Singing Wind Publications, 1975), pp. 13-16.
2. History of Saline County (St. Louis: Missouri Historical Company, 1881) p. 747; Missouri Intelligencer and Boon's Lick Advertiser, April 23, 1819; May 28, 1822; May 7, 1825; July 9, 1825.
3. Lilburn A. Kingsbury, "Federal Style of Architecture," Boonville Daily News, n.d.; Charles van Ravenswaay, "Architecture in the Boon's Lick Country," Missouri Historical Society Bulletin, VI (July, 1950), pp. 491-497; Charles van Ravenswaay, "The Boon's Lick Country: A Guide for the William Clark Society," (Mimeograph, June, 1940), p. 16.
4. The double sawtooth design and the design of the sunbursts of the Chilton House parlor mantel can be compared with Kentucky examples. See Rexford Newcomb, Old Kentucky Architecture (New York: William-Helburn, Inc.: 1940) plates 35, 36, 43, 64.
5. Lilburn A. Kingsbury, Boonville Daily News, September 2, 1975.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Denny, James M. "The Boon's Lick: Missouri's Lost Eden," Boone County Fare. Singing Wind Publications, 1975.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name "New Franklin, Mo."

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

Latitude 39° 1' 12"

Longitude 92° 44' 28"

A

115	15	212	411	12	413	118	812	10
Zone	Easting		Northing					

B

Zone	Easting		Northing					

C

Zone	Easting		Northing					

D

Zone	Easting		Northing					

E

Zone	Easting		Northing					

F

Zone	Easting		Northing					

G

Zone	Easting		Northing					

H

Zone	Easting		Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

South 70 feet of lot 127, original town of New Franklin.

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey

organization Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program

date March 11, 1980

street & number P.O. Box 176

telephone 314/751-4096

city or town Jefferson City

state Missouri, 65102

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

title Director, Department of Natural Resources and
State Historic Preservation Officer

date

For HCRS 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

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HARRIS-CHILTON-RUBLE HOUSE

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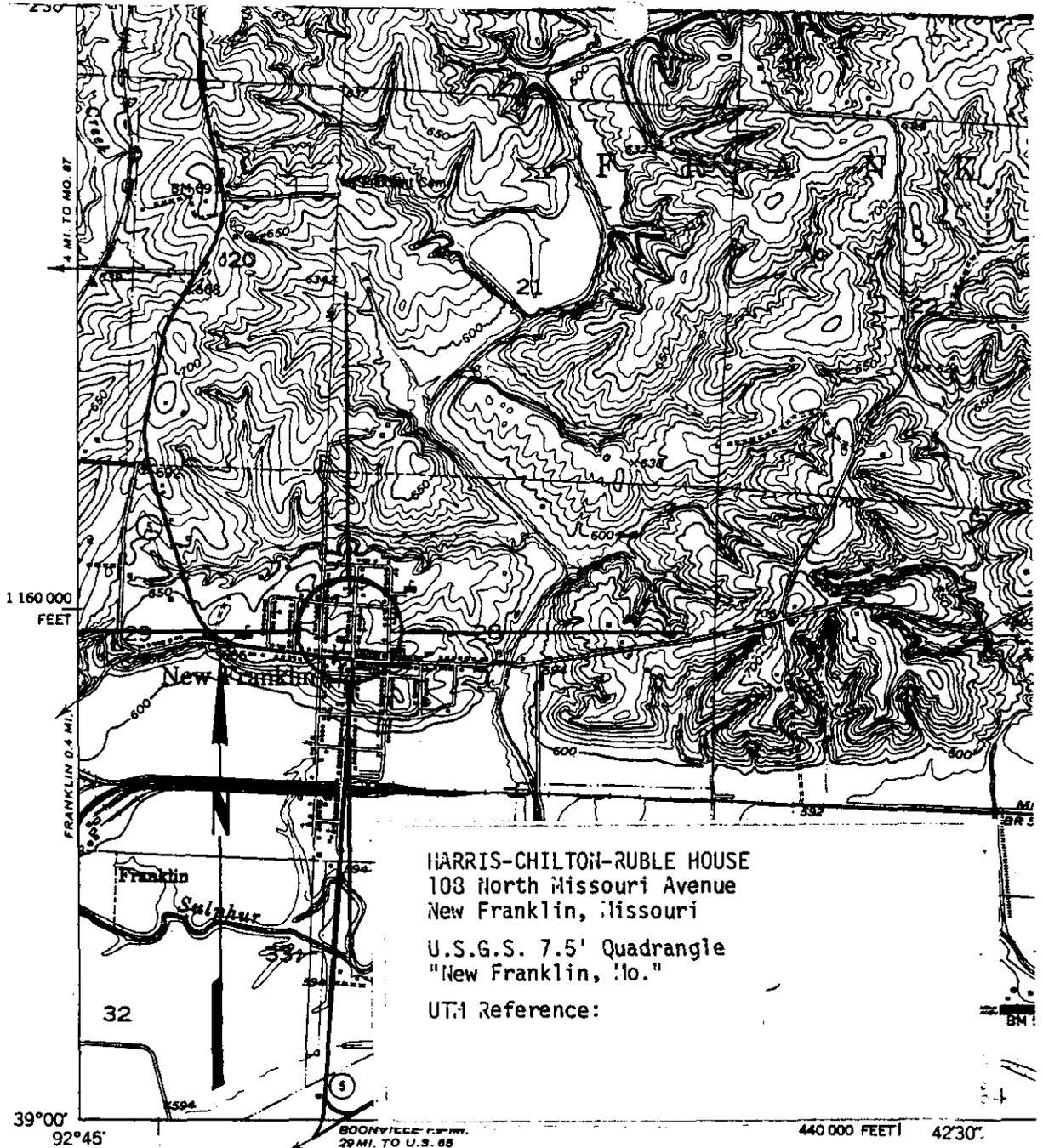
ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

2. History of Saline County. St. Louis: Missouri Historical Company, 1881
3. Kingsbury, Lilburn A. "Federal Style of Architecture," Boonville Daily News, n.d.
4. _____, September 2, 1975.
5. Missouri Intelligencer and Boon's Lick Advertiser, April 23, 1819.
6. _____, May 28, 1822.
7. _____, May 7, 1825.
8. _____, July 9, 1825.
9. Newcomb, Rexford. Old Kentucky Architecture. New York: William-Helburn, Inc., 1940.
10. van Ravenswaay, Charles. "Architecture in the Boon's Lick Country," Missouri Historical Society Bulletin, VI (July, 1950).
11. _____. "The Boon's Lick Country: A Guide for the William Clark Society." Mimeograph, June, 1940.

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

2. Missouri State Historical Survey
1980
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City

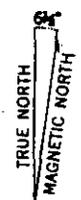
Missouri 65102



HARRIS-CHILTON-RUBLE HOUSE
 103 North Missouri Avenue
 New Franklin, Missouri
 U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle
 "New Franklin, Mo."
 UTM Reference:

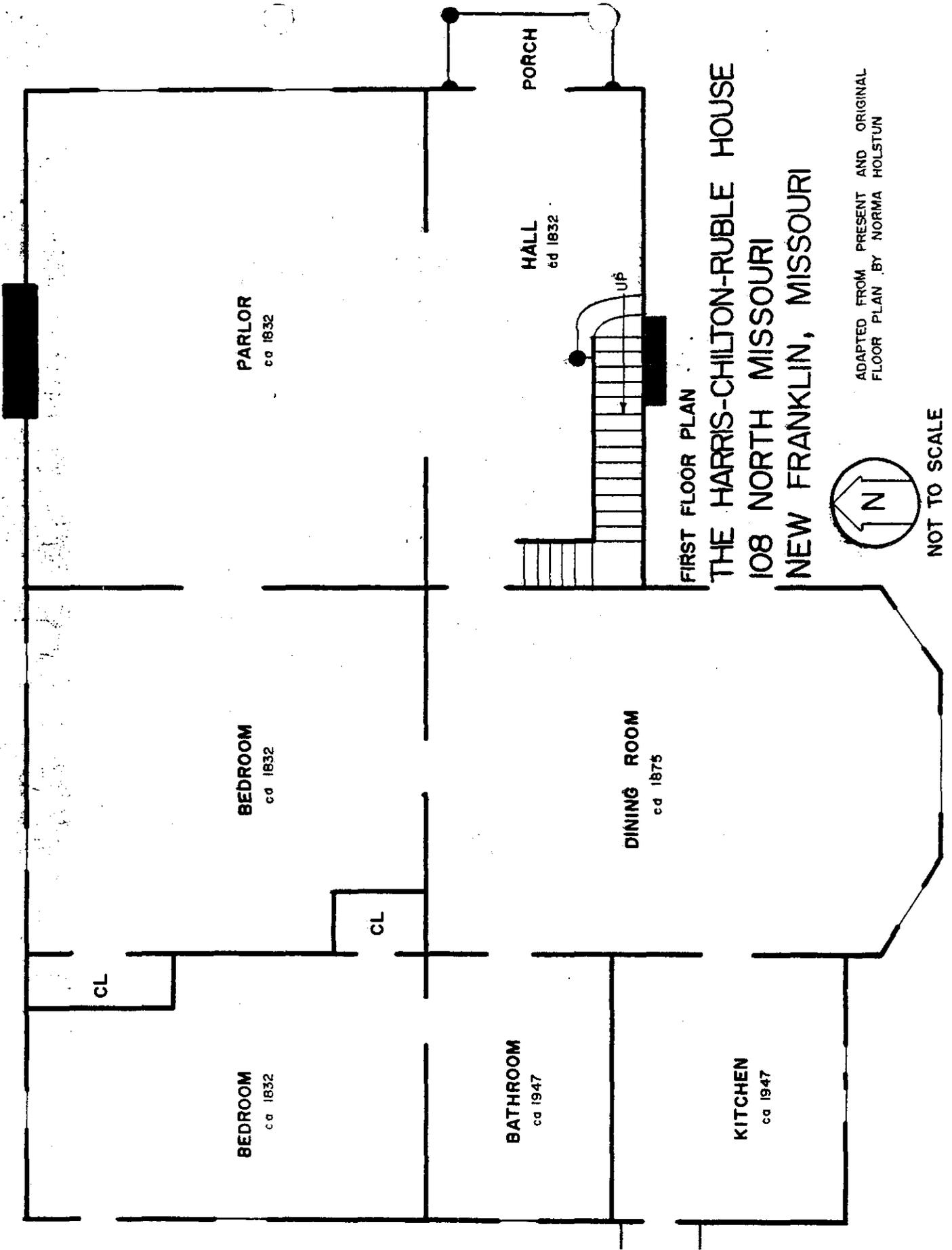
(BILLINGSVILLE)

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS
 Topography from aerial photographs by Kelsh plotter
 Aerial photographs taken 1948. Field check 1952
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Missouri coordinate system,
 central zone

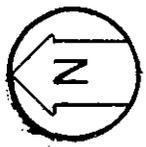


APPROXIMATE MEAN
 DECLINATION, 1952

FOR SALE BY



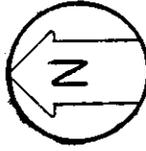
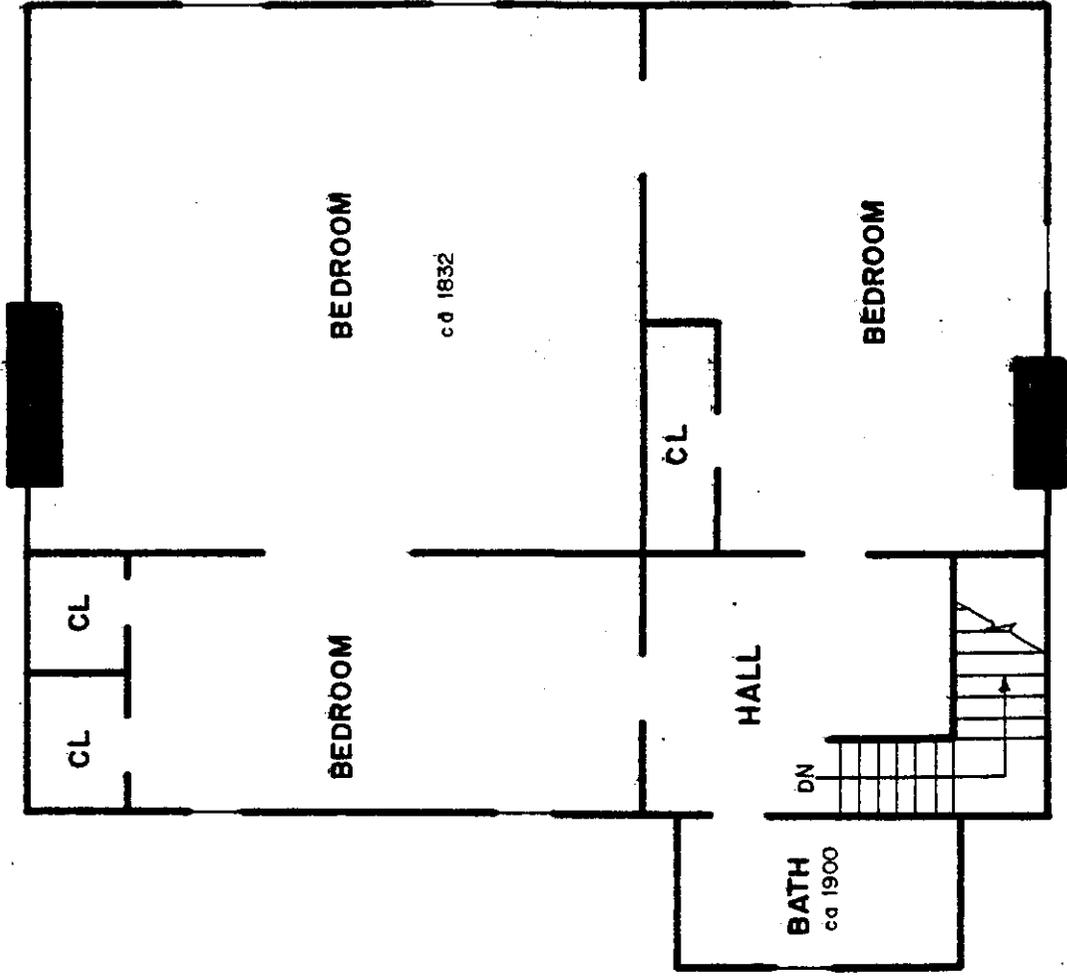
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 THE HARRIS-CHILTON-RUBLE HOUSE
 108 NORTH MISSOURI
 NEW FRANKLIN, MISSOURI



ADAPTED FROM PRESENT AND ORIGINAL
 FLOOR PLAN BY NORMA HOLSTUN

NOT TO SCALE

SECOND FLOOR PLAN
THE HARRIS-CHILTON-RUBLE HOUSE
108 NORTH MISSOURI
NEW FRANKLIN, MISSOURI



NOT TO SCALE

ADAPTED FROM PRESENT AND ORIGINAL
FLOOR PLAN BY NORMA HOLSTUN

1 of 13

HARRIS-CHILTON-RUBLE HOUSE
108 North Missouri Avenue
New Franklin, Missouri
Howard County, Missouri
Photographer: James M. Denny
December 20, 1979

Primary (east) facade; view looking north-
west.



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HARRIS-CHILTON-RUBLE HOUSE
108 North Missouri Avenue
New Franklin, Missouri
Howard County, Missouri
Photographer: James H. Denny
December 20, 1979

Primary (east) facade; view looking south-
west.



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HARRIS-CHILTON-RUBLE HOUSE

108 North Missouri Avenue

New Franklin, Missouri

Howard County, Missouri

Photographer: James H. Denny

December 20, 1979

South facade, rear addition; view looking
northwest.



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HARRIS-CHILTON-RUBLE HOUSE

108 North Missouri Avenue

New Franklin, Missouri

Howard County, Missouri

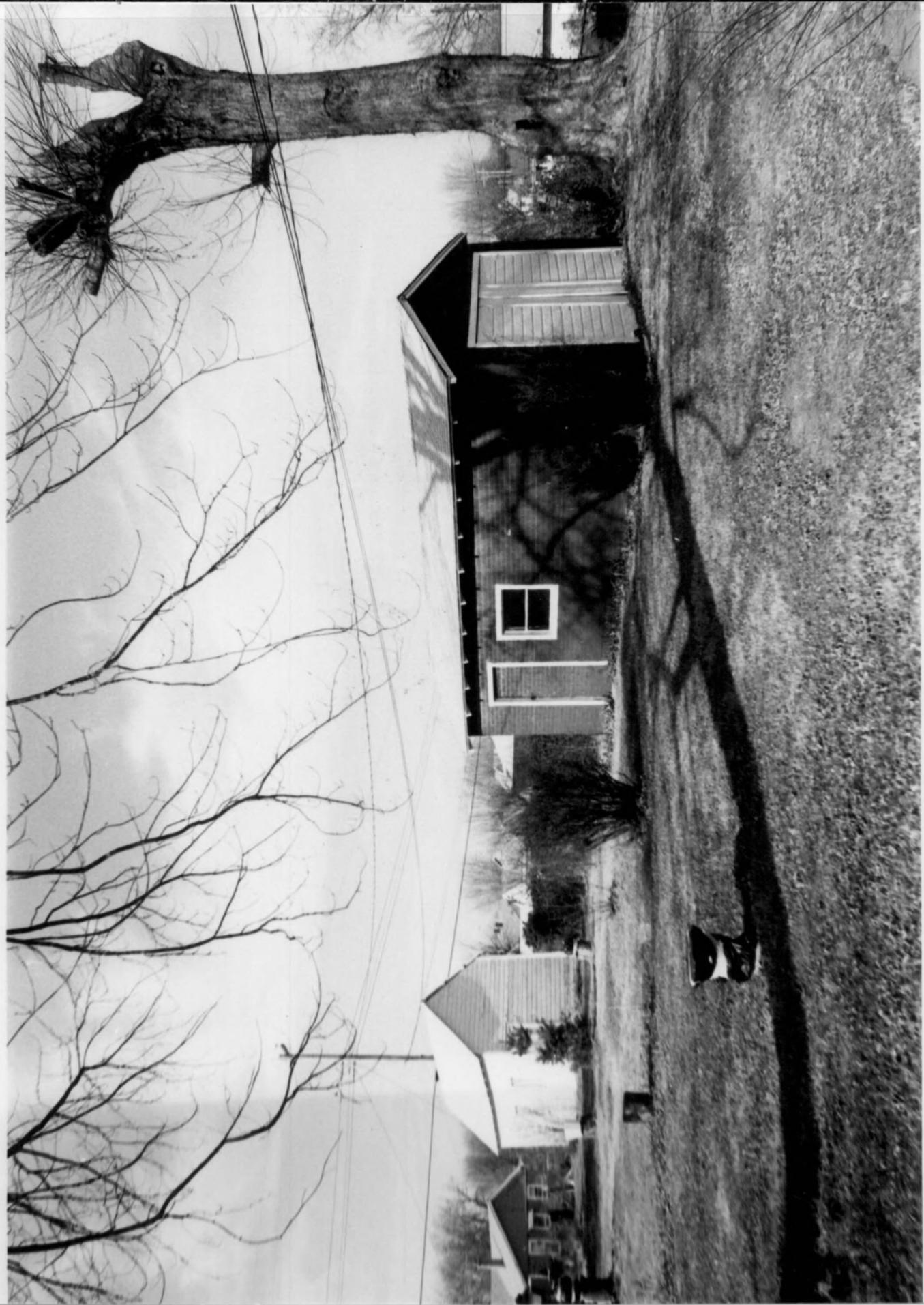
Photographer: James H. Denny
December 20, 1979

West facade; view looking east.



HARRIS-CHILTON-RUBLE HOUSE 5 of 13
108 North Missouri Avenue
New Franklin, Missouri
Howard County, Missouri
Photographer: James H. Denny
December 20, 1979

Outbuildings; view looking northwest.



HARRIS-CHILTON-RUBLE HOUSE 6 of 13
108 North Missouri Avenue
New Franklin, Missouri
Howard County, Missouri
Photographer: James H. Denny
December 20, 1979

Detail, primary facade cornice; view looking
northwest; lintels over windows are brick
stretchers painted white.



#10

HARRIS-CHILTON-RUBLE HOUSE 7 of 13
108 North Missouri Avenue
New Franklin, Missouri
Howard County, Missouri
Photographer: James M. Denny
December 20, 1979

Detail, primary facade entrance door; view
looking west.



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HARRIS-CHILTON-RUBLE HOUSE
108 North Missouri Avenue
New Franklin, Missouri
Howard County, Missouri
Photographer: James M. Denny

December 20, 1979

Detail, entrance door fanlight and
enframement; view looking west.



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HARRIS-CHILTON-RUBLE HOUSE

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108 North Missouri Avenue

New Franklin, Missouri

Howard County, Missouri

Photographer: James H. Denny

December 20, 1979

Interior view, entrance door; view looking east.



HARRIS-CHILTON-RUBLE HOUSE

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108 North Missouri Avenue

New Franklin, Missouri

Howard County, Missouri

Photographer: James H. Denny

December 20, 1979

Interior view, staircase; view looking north-
west.



HARRIS-CHILTON-RUBLE HOUSE
108 North Missouri Avenue
New Franklin, Missouri
Howard County, Missouri
Photographer: James H. Denny
December 20, 1979

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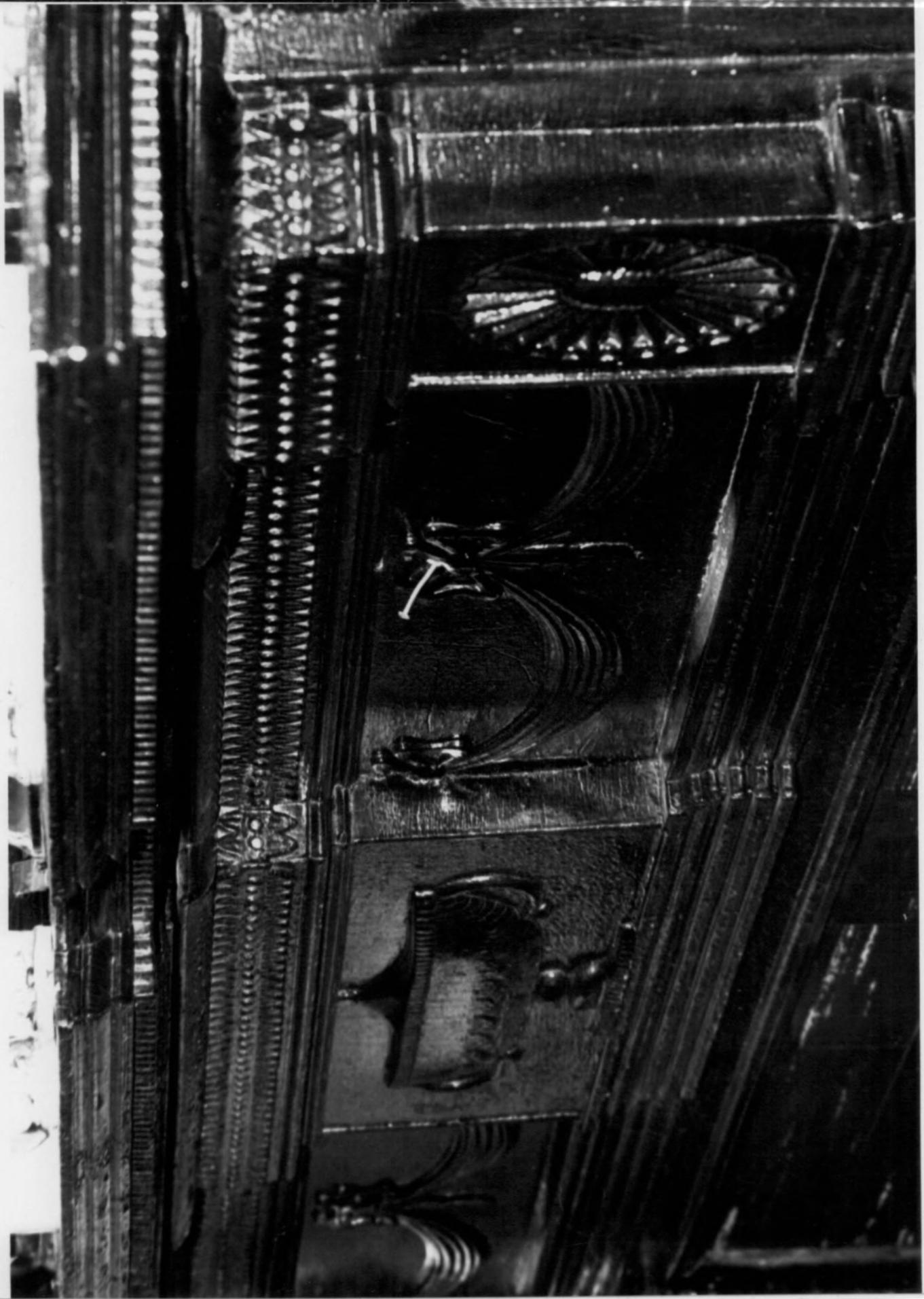
Interior view, parlor; view looking north.



HARRIS-CHILTON-RUBLE HOUSE
108 North Missouri Avenue
New Franklin, Missouri
Howard County, Missouri
Photographer: James M. Denny
December 20, 1979

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Detail, parlor mantel; view looking northeast



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HARRIS-CHILTON-RUBLE HOUSE
138 North Missouri Avenue
New Franklin, Missouri
Howard County, Missouri
Photographer: James H. Denny

December 20, 1979

Interior view, second floor mantel; view
looking north.

