

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Shobe-Morrison House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number _____ not for publication

city, town Morrison vicinity of

state Missouri code 29 county Gasconade code 074

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input 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 checked="" 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"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Myron and Margaret Rost

street & number

city, town Morrison _____ vicinity of state Missouri 65061

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Recorder of Deeds

street & number Gasconade County Courthouse

city, town Hermann, state Missouri 65041

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri Historic Sites Cat. has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1963 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Missouri

city, town Hitt and Lowrey Streets
Columbia, state Missouri 65201

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Shobe-Morrison House is located on an .884 acre tract of land reached by a short gravel road off of State Route 100 just east of Morrison, Missouri in Gasconade County. The dates of construction are from 1828 to 1860. It is speculated that the house was built in two sections. The first being started in 1828 and completed in 1830. From carpenter's bills of this period, it can be assumed that the eastern section was initially constructed. This section is a log, v-notch construction design. This part of the house has a parlor-dining room on the first floor with living quarters on the second floor. In the parlor area we find a large, interior, gable-end fireplace built of local stone and held together with mud grout. A walnut mantle was installed initially but removed and a reproduction has been put in its place. To the left of the fireplace is a large, floor to ceiling, built-in, six door storage cabinet which was constructed in 1830 by the craftsman Thomas Taylor. This cabinet remains intact. To the right of the fireplace is a closet and staircase to the second floor. Thomas also installed these in 1830. The original doors remain intact although the stairs to the second floor have been replaced. The two original windows, eight panes each, remain intact. Thomas completed the windows in 1830. The original outside door on the west wall remains intact. It has six panels and strap hinges. The original flooring is still visible. At some point the interior walls were covered with lath and plaster. This has been removed. The ceiling, also covered at one period but now exposed, reveals hand-hewn beam construction. During renovation a chair rail was added upon discovery of nail holes which indicated such decoration.

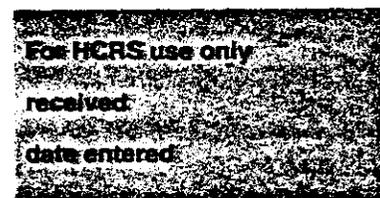
The second floor of the eastern section reveals a large sleeping quarters with stone fireplace. Some renovation has been done on the fireplace but it is largely intact. A closet to the left of the fireplace has been removed. The log walls in this room and the support beams were white-washed but have been stripped. Two windows, still intact, are six panes each. The original floor remains in this area. Renovation work is progressing on the fireplace and sandbox.

The entire eastern section was begun in the Fall of 1828. A bill to the owner, Shobe, from Thomas Taylor indicates that the framing and covering were done in this year. Another bill from Taylor in the Spring of 1829 indicates that he dabbled the logs and put in the flooring. In October of 1830 the windows, staircase, cabinet, closet and doors were added affectively completing this part of the structure. The total bill for Taylor's services was \$50.00.

The construction of the center hall and western section is unclear as no records exist to confirm labor or materials. After Shobe's death in 1835, his wife married James Parson. In 1841 Shobe's daughter, Jemima, married Jacob Fisher. The Fishers and the Parsons, according to probate records, all occupied the house. It can be assumed that the western section was built sometime after 1840 to accomodate the two families. It has been speculated that the western section was added and initially the first floor hall was left open in a dogtrot type of arrangement and that sometime later a stairway was put in the hall and the two ends were enclosed with doors. This theory does not seem entirely logical as access to the second floor could have been gained only through the staircase in the eastern section. Also adding to the confusion is the presence of an outside door on the second floor eastern sleeping room wall which goes into the hall.

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Continuation sheet SHOBE-MORRISON HOUSE Item number 7 Page 1

According to Taylor a porch was in the original construction plan. The porch might have been on the west side of the eastern section initially and then removed when the western addition was constructed. What seems most likely is that the western section was added including the staircase.

Evidence that the hall and western portion were built at the same time can be seen in the logs across the rear which measure, on the second floor rear 27' per single log. Entering the first floor hall from the front one sees a staircase to the center left with a door to the left into the eastern section and a door to the right into the western parlor. Opposite the front entrance is a rear exit door. All doors are original with hardware intact. The first floor parlor walls retain a lath and plaster finish. A bay window to the front was probably added later. The fireplace on the gable-end is exterior compared to its counterpart on the eastern section which is interior. In 1917 an earthquake shook the structure and the chimney stack was destroyed. It was then covered over. During renovation, the stack and fireplace were rebuilt with local stone. To the left of the fireplace is an exterior door. This door was evidently used to gain access to a weaving building which was located about 5' from the west wall. This cabin has been removed. The door itself is unusual in that it angles up from left to right. On the door itself it is obvious that a piece was added to the top to accommodate this angle. Observation of the door from the outside shows that the door support structure sunk at some point. We can imagine that during the earthquake this happened and that to accommodate this occurrence, a piece was added to the door.

The second floor of the western section is gained by the center staircase. In the second floor hall area a window to the north and a staircase to the south leading to the attic are found. A partition, not in the original design separates the sleeping area. In this sleeping area the Lion's Club has set up a small display of artifacts found around the house. The attic is interesting in that the original roof supports, complete with pins and roof supports, are in evidence. The roof was originally covered with wood shingling but has been replaced by a metal one. A tongue and groove floor covers this area.

The exterior still demonstrates the original weatherboarding which is a uniform thickness of approximately one inch. Some sections have been replaced due to decay but most of the original boards remain. Alterations to the front include the addition of guttering and a porch with carpenter gothic decorations. To the rear a porch has been added, as has guttering and an entrance to the cellar. Other buildings on the property have disappeared with exception to a log structure some 80' south of the house. This building was decayed to the point where it is dangerous and will probably be removed in the near future. It was said to have been the old slave quarters.

In our experience, this is the oldest, documented and preserved structure in this area. It warrants nomination to the Register because of its architectural significance and its place in the settlement history of Gasconade County and Central Missouri.

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 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 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 1828 **Builder/Architect** Thomas Taylor Robert Shobe

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Shobe-Morrison House is significant under criteria B and C to wit: that is associated with the life of Robert Shobe, a person significant to the pioneer history of Gasconade County; and that the Shobe-Morrison house is a rare survival in Gasconade County of a pioneer American-built I house with much of its simple federal style woodwork still intact.

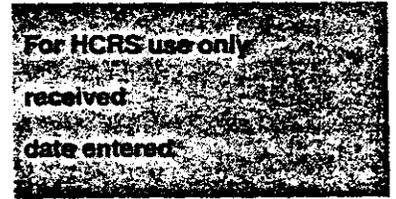
The town of Morrison is located in the northwest section of Gasconade County with the Missouri River as its northern border and Osage County bounding it on the west. Although the town was named for Alfred William Morrison, who at one time owned the structure now considered for nomination, it was Robert Shobe who first constructed and resided in the building.

According to records in the Gasconade County Clerk's Office, Shobe first bought the property upon which the structure now stands in 1818 when Missouri was still part of the Louisiana Territory. Although Shobe purchased the property in that year, a bill for labor from Thomas Taylor dated August 1828 indicates that ten years passed before the house was started. Between 1818 and 1828 Shobe was involved in the organization of the Gasconade County Court. Court records reveal that in 1821 Shobe was appointed Overseer of Roads, a position which he held until 1824 when Robert Parsons was given the position. In 1825 Shobe is listed as one of the three presiding officers of the County Court. In that same year he was appointed Justice of the Peace. A year later he resigned from this appointment. In 1826, Shobe appealed to the Circuit Court for the construction of a road from the area now called Morrison to Jefferson City. In 1827 approval was given to build the road. In 1828 construction on the house began. In 1835 Shobe became sick and died on May 5 from an undetermined illness. On July 6, 1837 Mary Shobe was appointed by the Probate Court as guardian of the children. Shobe was a slave owner according to the various probate property assessments. The property remained in the family until 1858. At that time it was sold to Alfred William Morrison.

Morrison was born in Jessamine County, Kentucky. In 1820 he moved, with his family, to Howard County, Missouri. Morrison was a surveyor for the State of Missouri. At various points in his life he also served as sheriff and member of the Howard County Court. In 1839 he was appointed by General John B. Clark to the Commission to Expel the Mormons. The state spent some \$200,000 on this successful effort. In 1851 he was appointed Secretary of the Treasury for the state by Governor King. He held this position until the outbreak of the Civil War. Morrison's southern sympathies prevented him from taking the Union Loyalty Oath once the provisional government was installed. It is believed that even though Morrison owned the property, he may not have occupied the structure. His son, William J. Morrison, however, was in residence according to the 1860 United States Census. On March 27, 1860 William Morrison was appointed the first Postmaster for Morrison. A. W. Morrison is credited with opening a store in town and helping to bolster the economy of the area. Apparently out of gratitude, the town was given his name.

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Continuation sheet

SHOBE-MORRISON HOUSE

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In 1864 the property was sold to Julius Meyer, a native of Prussia. The Meyer family held the property until 1959. Between 1890 and 1959 the house was rented to tenants. The present owners, Myron C. and Margaret Rost, consider the house of great historic importance. In accordance with this belief, they have rented the structure to the local Lion's Club for \$1 "for the purpose of repairing and maintaining the historical value of the Morrison House and other improvements they may deem necessary." During the Bicentennial year, the Lion's Club began renovation work which has proceeded as funds allow. The house is vacant and is used for meetings and tours. This attempt to save an important historic structure deserves much admiration.

The house is important architecturally for its very early age in Gasconade County, and for the fact that much of its simple federal style woodwork has survived intact. It is one of the few American period houses on the south side of the Missouri River to antedate the great German migration into the area which otherwise completely overwhelmed other building traditions and established the Germanic architecture for which Gasconade County is noted today.

9. Major Bibliographical References

van Ravenswaay, Charles, The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri (Columbia: University of Missouri Press) 1977.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 884

Quadrangle name Morrison, Missouri

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	1	5
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6	1	8	5	1	1	0
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4	2	8	1	1	2	1	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification

A tract of land being part of the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 7, Township 45 North, Range 6 West in Morrison, Missouri, being more fully described as follows:

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 1) April L. Black Associate Director-Gasconade County Project

organization Saint Louis University

date 20 November 1980

street & number 221 North Grand Avenue

telephone 314/658-2912

city or town Saint Louis

state Missouri

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Director, Department of Natural Resources and
State Historic Preservation Officer

date

For NPS 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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date entered

Continuation sheet SHOBE-MORRISON HOUSE

Item number 10

Page 1

Commencing at the intersection of the Gasconade-Osage County line also being the range line and the centerline of Missouri Route "100" being located Northerly 3,308.3 feet of a stone at the Southwest corner of the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 7, thence with the centerline of Missouri Route "100" as follows: S77° 53'E 265.4 feet to the PI, thence S42° 13'E a,099.3 feet to the point of tangent, thence with a curve to the right having a radius of 1,432.7 feet for 72 feet in a Southeasterly direction, thence leaving said centerline S67° 48'W 62.5 feet to a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch tube on the west right-of-way of said Route "100", thence with the west right-of-way in a Northwest direction 100.00 feet to the point of beginning, thence S69° 17'W 230.5 feet to a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch pipe, thence N13° 57'E 212.0 feet to a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch pipe, thence N58° 19'E 116.0 feet to the west right-of-way of Missouri Route "100", thence S42° 13'E with the west right-of-way of said Route "100" for 250.0 feet to the point of beginning, containing .884 acres more or less.

This boundary reflects the present ownership and offers a suitable setting for the nominated property.

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 11

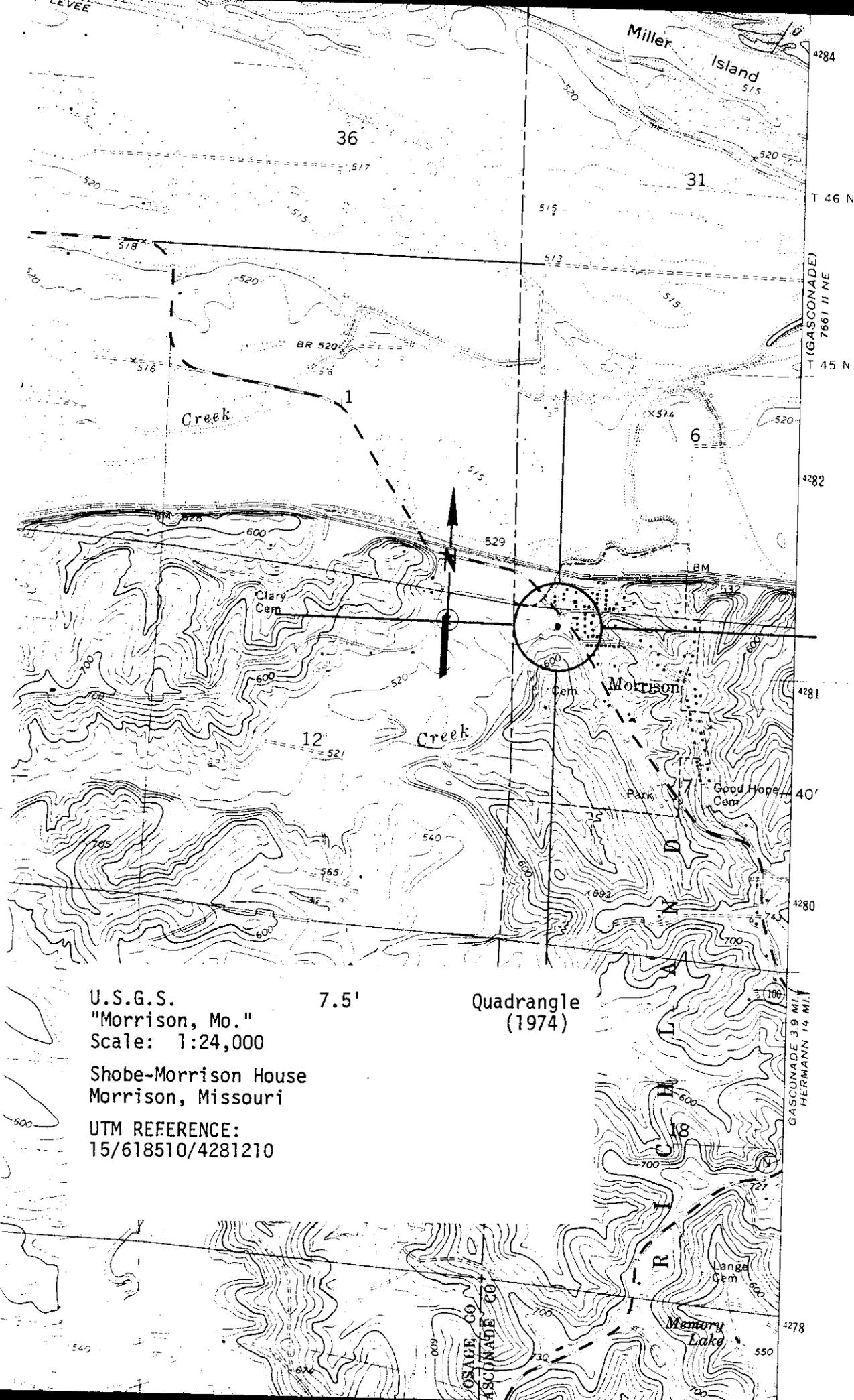
PAGE 1

2) James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey
and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri

November 1980

314/751-4096

65102



U.S.G.S.
 "Morrison, Mo."
 Scale: 1:24,000

7.5'

Quadrangle
 (1974)

Shobe-Morrison House
 Morrison, Missouri

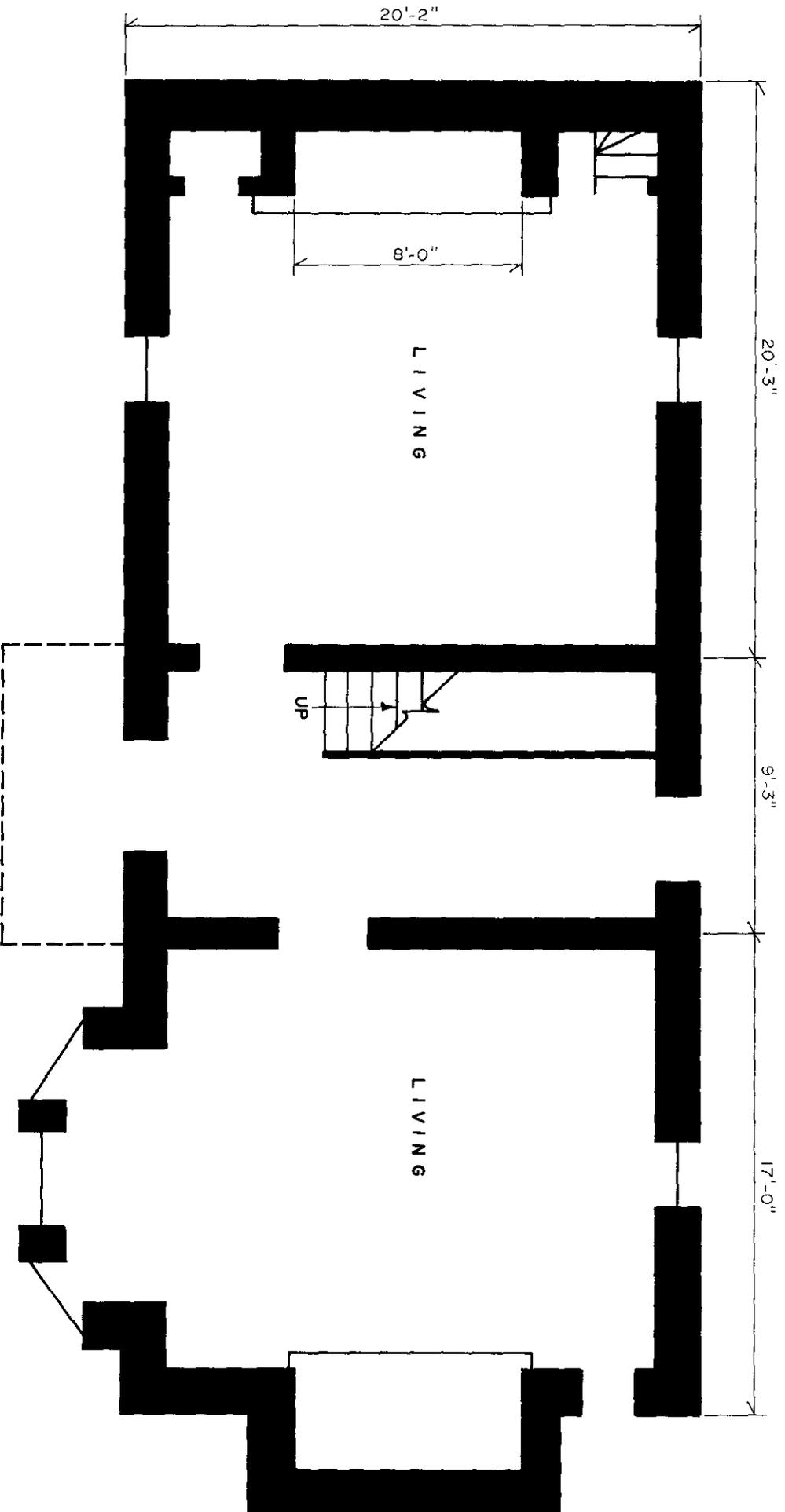
UTM REFERENCE:
 15/618510/4281210

(GASCONADE)
 7661 11 NE
 T 45 N
 4282
 4281
 40'
 4280
 GASCONE 3.9 MI.
 HERMANN 14 MI.

FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SHOBE - MORRISON HOUSE
MORRISON, GASCONADE COUNTY, MISSOURI

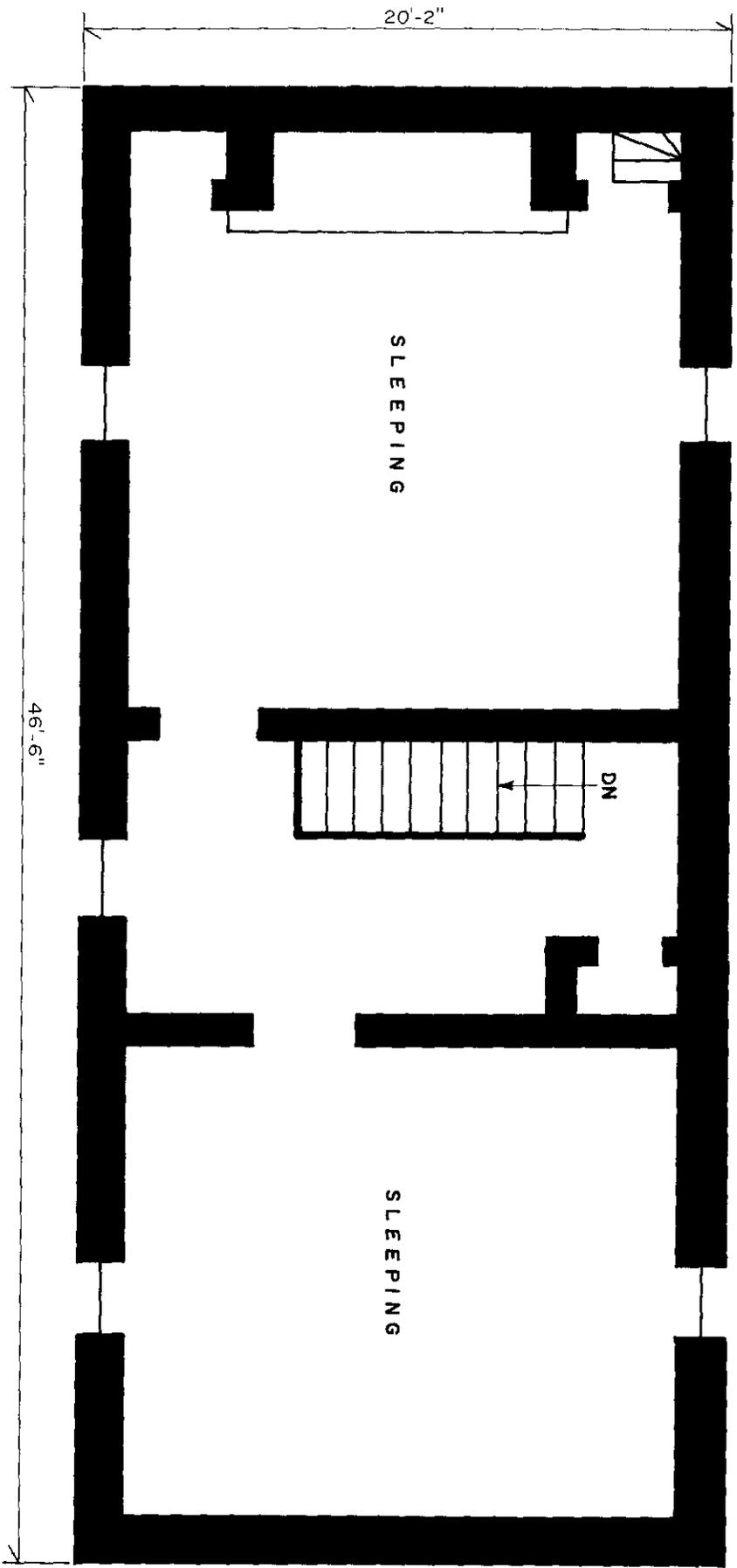
CIRCA 1828

NOT TO SCALE



**SECOND FLOOR PLAN
SHOBE-MORRISON HOUSE
MORRISON, GASCONADE COUNTY, MISSOURI**

CIRCA 1828



#1 of 9

Shobe-Morrison House
Morrison, Gasconade County, Missouri

Photographer: April L. Black
Sept. 1980

Neg. Loc.: Dr. Towey
St. Louis University
221 North Grand Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri

View from North, the primary facade.

NR 41A



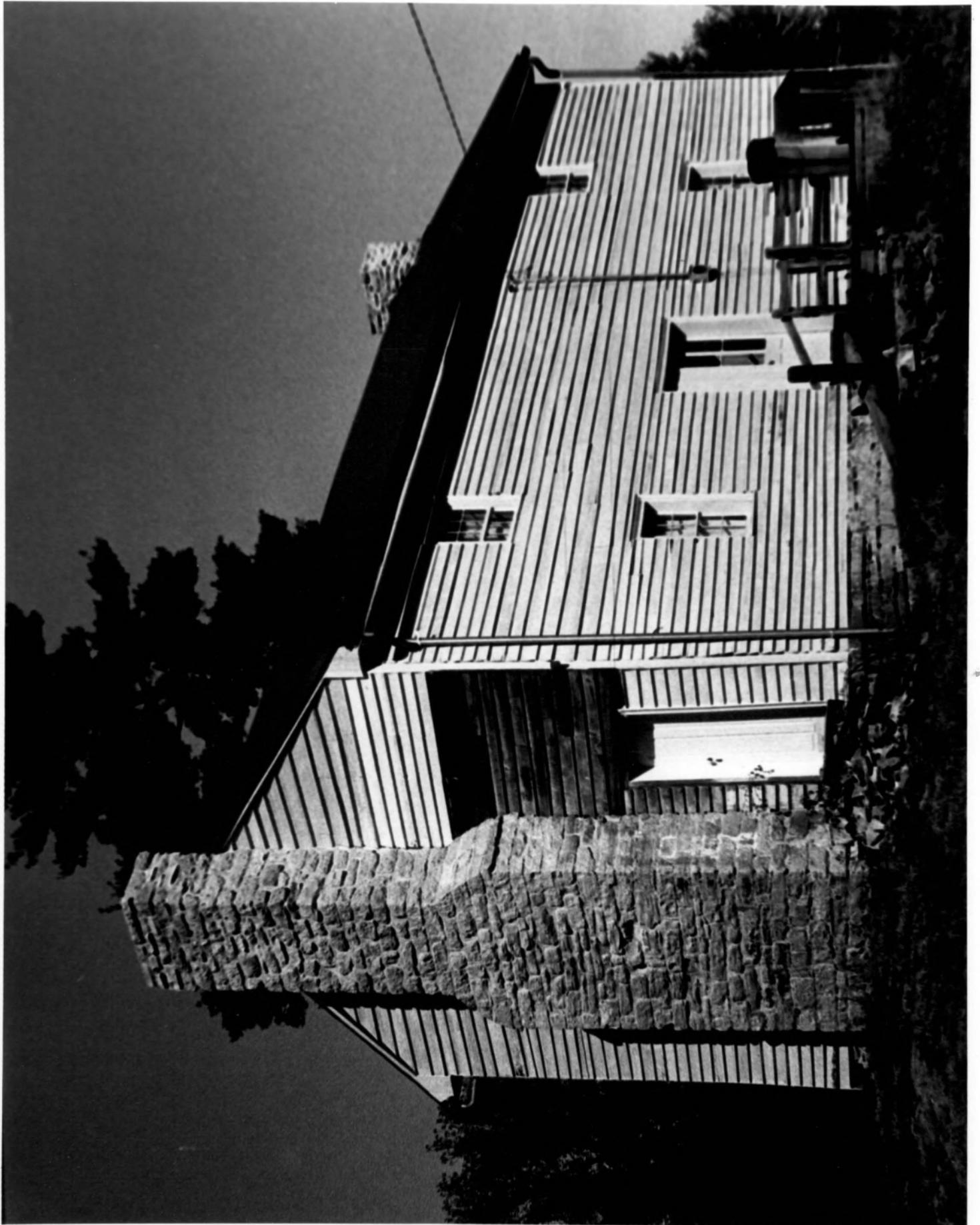
#2 of 9

Shobe-Morrison House
Morrison, Gasconade County, Missouri

Photographer: April L. Black
Sept., 1980

Neg. Loc.: Dr. Towey
St. Louis University
221 North Grand Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri

View from Southwest



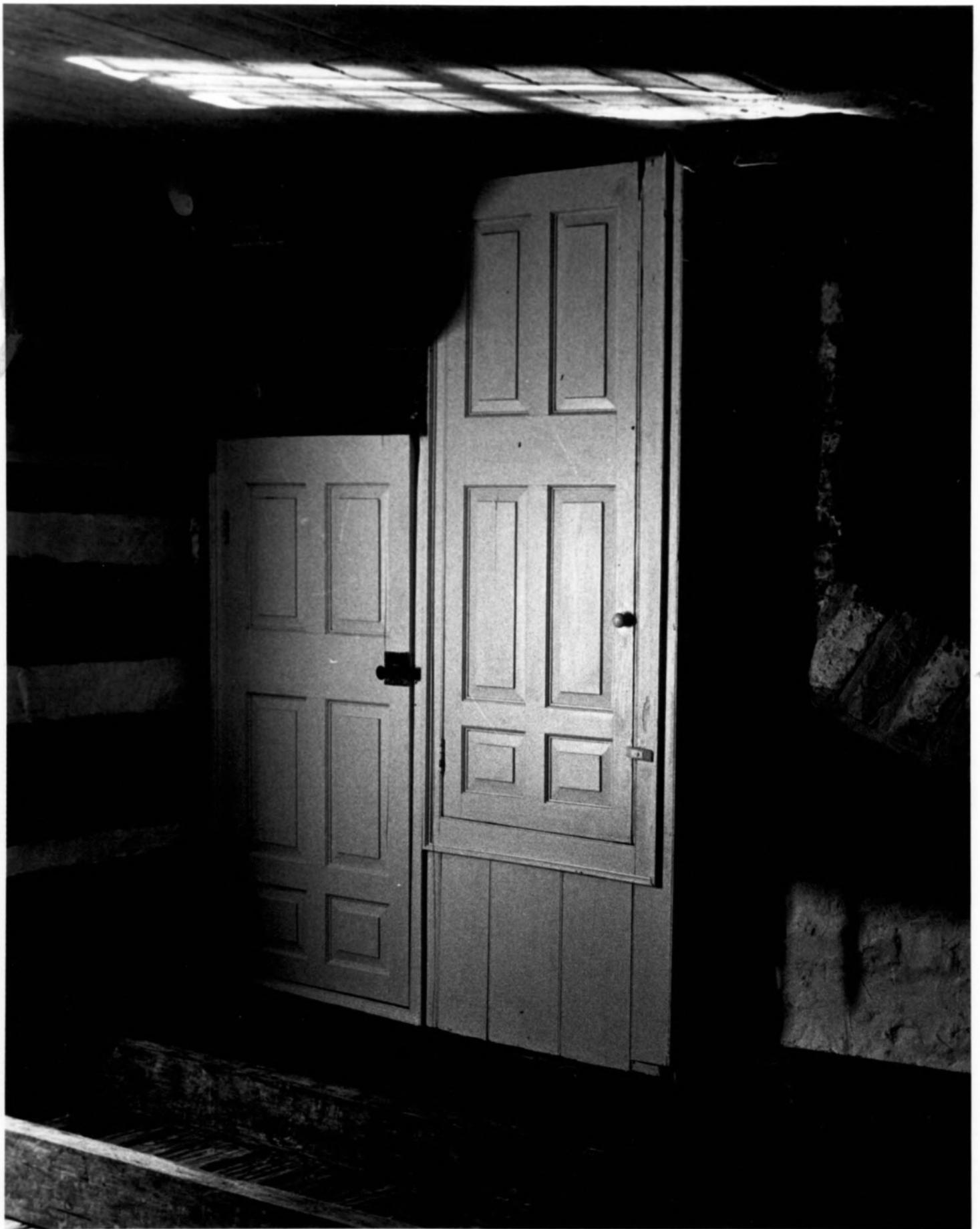
#3 of 9

Shobe-Morrison House
Morrison, Gasconade County, Missouri

Photographer: April L. Black
Sept., 1980

Neg. Loc.: Dr. Towey
St. Louis University
221 North Grand Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri

View from the west; parlor-dining room
showing closet & staircase to second
floor.



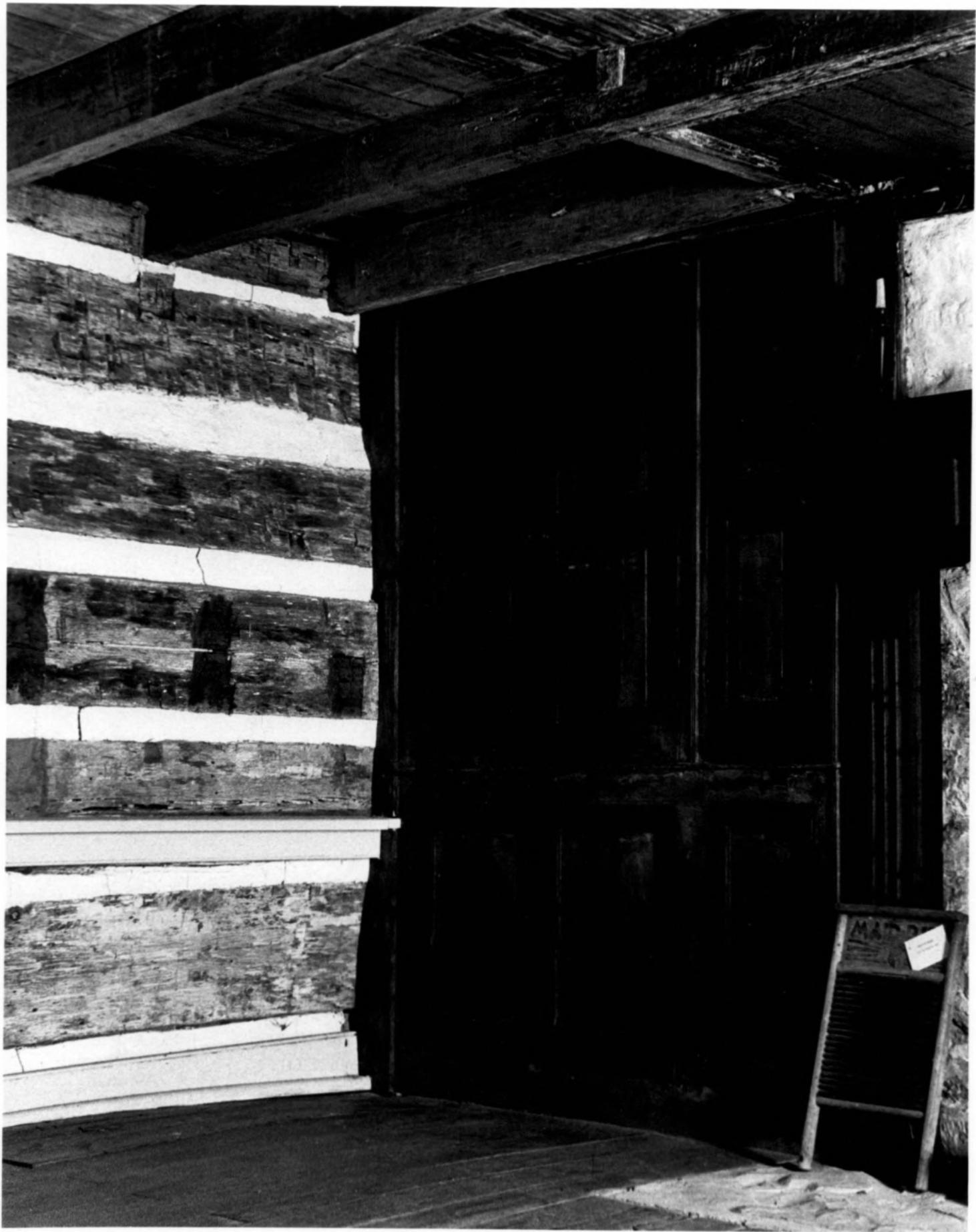
#4 of 9

Shobe-Morrison House
Morrison, Gasconade County, Missouri

Photographer: April L. Black
Sept., 1980

Neg. Loc.: Dr. Towey
St. Louis University
221 North Grand Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri

View from the west; showing six door,
floor to ceiling storage cabinet



#5 of 9

Shobe-Morrison House
Morrison, Gasconade County, Missouri

Photographer: April L. Black
Sept., 1980

Neg. Loc.: Dr. Towey
St. Louis University
221 North Grand Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri

view from the west; showing fireplace and
mantle in parlor-dining room.



#6 of 9

Shobe-Morrison House
Morrison, Gasconade County, Missouri

Photographer: April L. Black
Sept., 1980

Neg. Loc.: Dr. Towey
St. Louis University
221 North Grand Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri

view from the east showing door to
central hall from parlor-dining room.



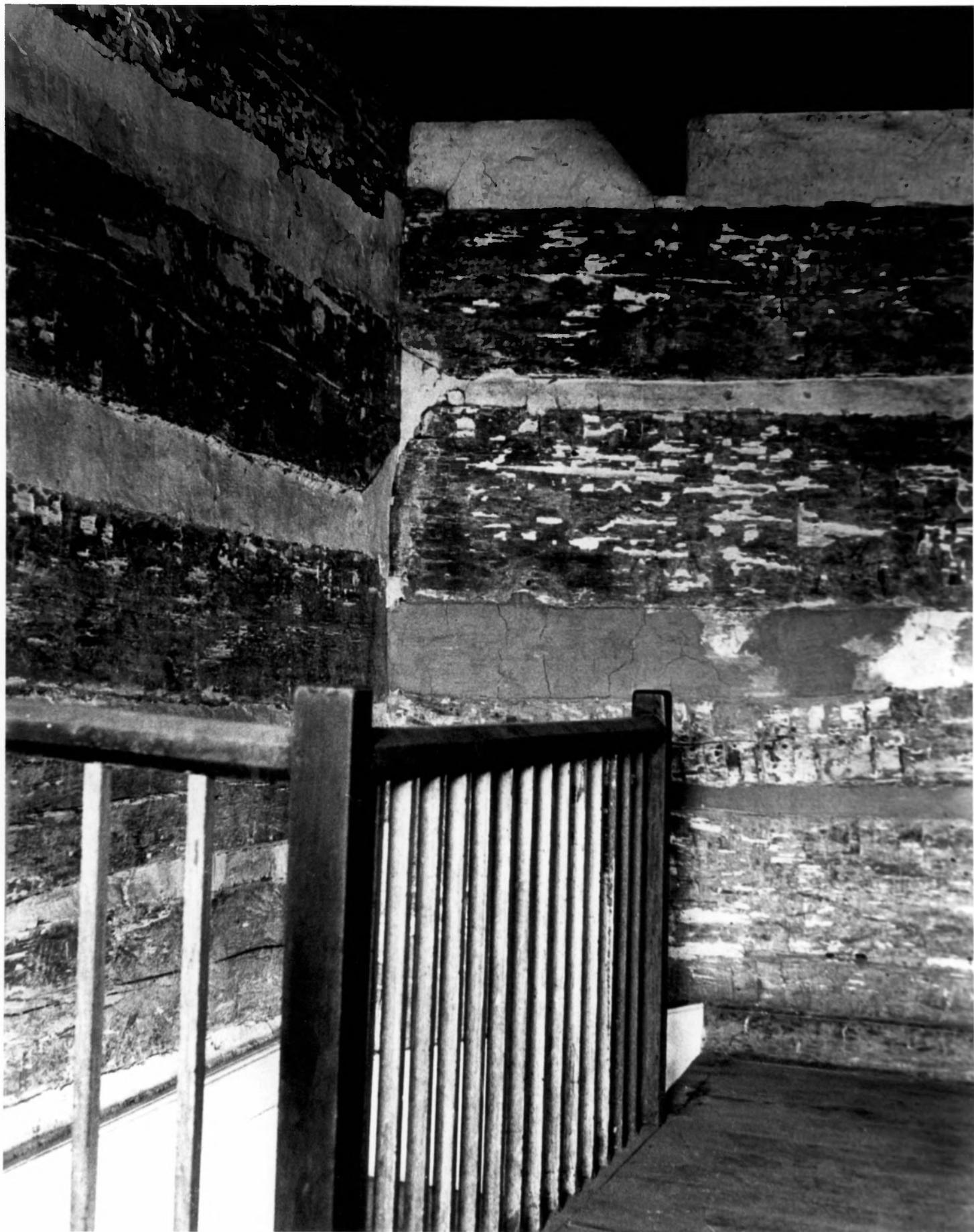
#7 of 9

Shobe-Morrison House
Morrison, Gasconade County, Missouri

Photographer: April L. Black
Sept., 1980

Neg. Loc.: Dr. Towey
St. Louis University
221 North Grand Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri

view from the north showing second
floor stairwell to the central hall



#8 of 9

Shobe-Morrison House
Morrison, Gasconade County, Missouri

Photographer: April L. Black
Sept., 1980

Neg. Loc.: Dr. Towey
St. Louis University
221 North Grand Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri

view from the northeast showing fire-
place, mantel and exterior door in
Western parlor.



#9 of 9

Shobe-Morrison House
Morrison, Gasconade County, Missouri

Photographer: April L. Black
Sept., 1980

Neg. Loc.: Dr. Towey
St. Louis University
221 North Grand Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri

view from the west showing fireplace
Eastern second floor bedroom.

