

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Greenwood

and/or common Estill-Parrish House

2. Location

street & number Route 2

not for publication

city, town Fayette

vicinity of

state Missouri

code 29

county Howard

code 089

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Cale Parrish

street & number Route 2

city, town Fayette

vicinity of

state Missouri 65248

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number Courthouse, County of Howard

city, town Fayette

state Missouri

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue 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 Columbia

state Missouri 65201

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Greenwood is a Georgian form, Greek Revival Style brick mansion built in 1864 which on a high point of ground well back from Highway 5 between the towns of New Franklin and Fayette, Howard County, Missouri. Associated with it are significant outbuildings of antebellum origin including a frame meat house, a single-cell slave house, a double-cell slave house and an ice house. Closer to the highway is White Hall School, a one room frame school house built in 1860 with a bell tower and lean-tos added later. Greenwood is a double-pile large brick house in pristine condition on the exterior and interior. It's woodwork is among the finest to be found in Howard County and it's hall is dominated by a straight-run stair with 22 risers. The house has a two story rear wing with an arcaded wooden gallery porch.

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Greenwood is located in Franklin Township, Howard County, between the towns of Fayette and New Franklin along a route (now Highway 5) which saw the establishment of many fine southern country estates. Because of the deprivations of time, the number of country houses for which Howard County was (and still is) renowned has dwindled considerably during recent decades until Greenwood, remains as the finest rural house of its period (ca. 1864) in Howard County and one of the finest such houses presently existing in the state of Missouri. Being nominated are the Robert R. Estill mansion and four of its outbuildings: A double-cell slave house, a single-cell slave house (also used as Estill's office), an ice house, and a meat house. The outbuildings predate the main house, or are at least its contemporaries. The ensemble is a very fine and unusual survival of a farmhouse and some its dependencies. Also included is Whitehall School, a frame one room school house dating in construction from the period of the Estill house, and also associated with J.R. Estill, as well as being a part of the property of the present owners.

The Estill mansion, itself, is a double-pile, or Georgian form central hall house of brick construction with a two story rear wing and one-story kitchen attached. The building rests on a brick foundation and has a cut limestone water table. A hipped roof of shallow pitch with standing seam tin sheathing caps the house.

The primary facade of Greenwood is divided into five bays, the central three of which are spanned by a one-story porch. This porch has boxed square pillars of wood that have recessed paneling in both their bases and shafts. A wrought iron balustrade that may be original tops the porch. Entrance doors occur on both stories in typical Greek Revival fashion and have side lights and transoms. The upper entrance is enframed by a shouldered architrave capped by a small cornice while that below is more dramatic consisting of pilasters with elongated panels supporting a frieze having Greek keys flanking a paneled center section and terminated with a projecting cornice upon which the porch ceiling rests. The reveals of both entrances are deep and paneled. The windows of the primary facade, and of the secondary facades as well, have six-over-six double-hung sash and pedimented lintels, and original shutters flank all windows. The frieze and boxed cornice of the primary facade also continue around the other sides of the main block and the second story section of the ell, with widely spaced paired brackets lending an Italianate flavor as well as visual support to the broad projection of the cornice.

In addition to the front porch, there is a two story porch that spans the entire south side of the rear ell with a one story extension sheltering a one bay wide portion of the back side of the main block. Stick work arches with latticed spandrels give an arched effect to the gallery, and a jig-sawn balustrade occurs on the second story and additional jig-work decorates the cornice of the one-story porch. Except for having been screened in, this porch is in original condition.

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The one story back kitchen is the only gabled portion of the house and its west wall is decorated only by the projecting raking cornice and returns, while the north and south sides have lean-tos of recent origin.

The interior plan of Greenwood is of the Georgian type with a central hallway running the entire length of the main block and two rooms occurring on either side. The hall is 10' by 36' with the rooms being 18 feet square. The rear wing also has two 18 foot square rooms which are separated from the main block by a small vestibule/bathroom. The second floor was not inspected but is assumed to be nearly identical in layout.

The staircase in the entrance hall is placed well forward in a way reminiscent of those in I (single pile) houses, but has a dramatic straight run stair containing no less than twenty-two risers. This staircase, with its balusters, bannister and newell is executed in walnut. The newell post, painted white, is the tapered octagonal variety with delicate turnings and resting on a solid block. The open string is decorated by scrollwork and the stair casing has vertical paneling that increases in height as the stair rises.

All remaining exposed woodwork in the house, including the random width flooring, is pine. That of the baseboards, doors, window and door trim is finished with fine quality and varies in design from room to room, except for the doors which are all of a six paneled Greek Revival version of the old "cross-and Bible" design and most still have their original porcelin knobs. Door surrounds in the hall and the southeast parlor have shouldered architraves with raised outer moldings topped by projecting cornices. In other rooms of the main block doorways are flanked by pilasters supporting entrablatures also having projecting corinices. The two rooms comprising the north half of the main block are en suite, being joined by sliding doors which recede into the walls. The opening is flanked by engaged octagonal pilasters and spanned by an entablature having a shallow four-centered arch as do the window surrounds in these two rooms.

There are no original mantels in the north rooms of the main block, although those that were there were probably of the pilaster variety. The Adam Style mantel in the northwest room came from a nearby house. In the southeast room is an Italian marble mantel with a beveled serpentine shelf, incised designs and a keystone above the round arched fireplace opening which once had a cast iron coal grate, now fronted by a gas space heater.

Another interior feature of interest is the secondary staircase which is located in the forward portion of the rear wing. This stair has a small turned newell post and winds upward in a tight spiral to the second floor. Flanking it on the left is a small closet.

The Illustrated Atlas Map of Howard County, published in 1876, contains a lithograph depicting Greenwood and its immediate outbuildings as they appeared

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at the time. The house is shown surrounded by shade trees, and while this is still the case, there appeared to have been many more trees in the front yard including numerous conifers. On to the north there appeared to be a grove of native hardwoods, and this area is now pasture. The house now, as then, is encircled by wood board fencing painted white, but the present fencing cannot be original. In the south side yard were two gazebos and two frame outbuildings one of which, the meat house, is still there. In the back yard were two more outbuildings of frame construction, one with an overhanging roof at both gable ends, and behind the larger frame building immediately to the north the roof of yet another appears, probably the office building which still survives. Immediately to the rear of these buildings are three others, two double-cell slave quarters and an ice house. One of the slave houses, obviously of horizontal log construction with external brick chimneys, is gone but the other two structures survive and will be discussed shortly. To the south side of the yard was an enclosed area which contained the stable and a smaller outbuilding, and at the southeast corner of this area was a moderate sized barn surrounded by shed extensions on three sides with a split rail fence making up a temporary barnyard. Close by was a smaller barn or shed, and to the south, in the foreground of the picture was a pasture with at least one small pond in evidence.

The stable, barns and frame sheds are all gone, and the present day farm buildings are not being proposed for nomination, as this form is concerned only with the surviving 19th Century structures associated with the time of Robert Estill. In this category are several which have already been alluded to. To the south of the main house in the side yard is a frame outbuilding, the "meat house," which rests on a stone foundation. The gable projects forward on the north end to shelter stairs leading to the cellar below or the upper floor which is illuminated by a window on the west side. Directly behind the kitchen is one of the two surviving brick buildings. This building was Robert Estill's office at one point but may have been "quarters" in antebellum times and is somewhat unusual in having its entrance on the east gable end opposite the chimney which is an external one. While the eaves are flush with the gable wall on the west side, on the entrance door side they project to form a boxed cornice with returns. The doorway with its stone stoop has a bower that shelters the door itself, an unusual eight panel or "double-cross" design such as was common in the federal period (ie. pre-1840) in Howard County. There is a window on the south side, a small frame addition on the rear and the building rests on a stone foundation.

Several yards to the rear and somewhat to the south is the double-cell slave quarters, also of brick construction resting on a stone foundation. The chimneys at either end are external to the fabric and there are only two piercings across the front (east), both originally being doorways into the

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respective eighteen foot square rooms. One of these doors has somewhat crudely been converted into a window. Although the rooms presently communicate, this may not have been the case in the days of slavery. The 1876 Atlas showed a verandah spanning the front of this building giving it somewhat of a creole flavor.

Directly south of the slave quarters across the space once occupied by the log slave house, is the ice house. The atlas shows it having vertical siding, but it presently has ventilated horizontal board siding. Inside is a circular brick lined pit not unlike that of the ice house of the Abiel Leonard estate in nearby Fayette which has recently been nominated to the Register.

The Estill-Parrish House is in good shape on the outside and in pristine condition on the interior. The outbuildings are in generally good repair although some are in better shape than others and the double-cell slave house has obvious foundation problems creating cracks in its brick walls. As in former times, the house is still the centerpiece of a large and prosperous farming operation and occupies some 545 acres. The house and grounds sit well back from the major road, State Route 5, at the end of a driveway that is some 750 meters in length. From its site, one of the highest spots of ground around, is one afforded a vista of the rolling hills of Howard County.

Closer to the beginning of the driveway, some 100 meters back from Highway 5, sits White Hall School. Of the frame, one room variety, the building faces north. On the east side of the building are four windows; on the west, three windows and a door. The front is dominated by a frame bell tower, the lower portion of which contains the entrance door and serves as a foyer. It is sheltered by a lean-to porch of 1920's vintage, while on the opposite of the tower is another lean-to which is completely enclosed excepting the door on the west side that has already been mentioned. The tower itself in addition to the entrance door contains two windows, one above the other, on its north side, and above the second story window are louvered openings on three sides. The tower, like the school itself, is covered by a gable roof. The building is in fair to poor condition, but is presently abandoned, although it has been painted in recent years, and the windows of the building proper are boarded up to discourage vandalism.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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)

1864-house;

Specific dates ca. 1844-60 outbuildings. **Builder/Architect** Joseph Megraw (builder)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Greenwood, the James Robert Estill House, is significant according to the criteria of eligibility under definitions B and C to wit: it is associated with the life of James Robert Estill, a person prominent in the agricultural life of Howard County and a benefactor of religion and education; it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Georgian derived mid-19th century Greek Revival mansion as built in the trans-Mississippi West. The areas of significance are as follows:

Agriculture: J.R. Estill practiced diversified agriculture on an ever larger scale, and had one of the largest agricultural operations in Howard County. A large force of slaves, supplemented by free labor, was necessary to run his pre-Civil War operation, and the outbuildings, associated with that era are an outstanding survival. After the Civil War, he gained a reputation as a breeder of fine cattle.

Architecture: Greenwood represents the ultimate development of the pretentious southern house in the trans-Mississippi West. Derived from the Georgian plan, its Greek Revival detailing was the most sophisticated to be employed in Howard County, and its builder Joseph Megraw was one of Howard County's most successful builders, and may be responsible for introducing a number of Architectural innovations into the region.

Education: White Hall School, founded by Estill and his neighbors to provide for the educational needs of their children, is an early surviving one room school house.

Social/Humanitarian: J.R. Estill's life is an important model of the successful southerner in the trans-Mississippi West. Of a good family of Virginia and Kentucky extradition, he arrived to Howard County well connected and quickly named into the local gentry and began to accumulate property at a steady rate until by the end of his life, he was regarded as the wealthiest citizen of the county.

Transportation: He was active after the Civil War in securing the route of the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad through Howard County and in promoting the construction of the Boonville Railroad Bridge across the Missouri River.

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Greenwood survives as an exceptionally well preserved artifact from a period when the Central Missouri river valley region, called the Boonslick, in which it is located was widely noted for its wealth and fertility. In Howard, the "Mother County" of the Boonslick, in one of its most superior sections, James Robert Estill founded Greenwood farm. The year of this event was 1845, just two years after his arrival as a young man from Kentucky. At the time of his death 57 years later, he was considered to be the wealthiest man in the county. Greenwood, his home, was built in 1864, exemplifies life at the top of the Country Gentry in the Boonslick. It is an important example of the highest level of gentility achievable in one of the westernmost reaches of the Upper South. This house makes a very late appearance in the story of southern architecture and in many ways closes a chapter in the saga of the Georgian house in America. And J.R. Estill's life, like his house, is an important case study, a model of the successful southerner in the trans-Mississippi West.

Estill's pedigree was an ideal one and almost archotypically southern. His paternal ancestry was Scottish and his family established itself in Virginia around the time of the Revolution. Around 1780, Estill's grandfather, Capt. James Estill, quitted the Virginia backcountry of Augusta County to launch into the Kentucky wilderness, there to establish Estill Station on the banks of the Muddy Creek in what was to become the prosperous Bluegrass County of Madison. An Indian skirmish in 1781 left him with a rifle shot wound and the following year, death came to him at the hands of Wyandotte Indians in a celebrated battle that has become known as "Estill's Defeat". He was only 32 and left behind a widow and five children. Estill County, Kentucky is so named in his honor. He had been well thought of back in Virginia, so well so that script had been entrusted to him by neighbors with a speculative bent for the purpose of making land purchases in Kentucky for them. Despite his premature death, a success ethic was strongly implanted in his children. His eldest son, William, became a prominent trader. Another of his sons, James, Jr. took up part of a 15,000 acre tract surveyed by his father and built upon it around 1820 a Georgian house called Castlewood. Said to have been designed by the renowned Kentucky architect Gideon Shyrock, this house is justly noted for its carved interior woodwork of the finest craftsmanship, and is yet another contribution by the Estill family to America's architectural legacy.

Another of Capt. Estill's sons was Wallace, the father of J.R. Estill. He was only an infant when his father died and was raised by his mother to be, it was said, a fair scholar and good surveyor. He married twice, selecting daughters of good families each time. His second wife, Elizabeth Rodes, had for a father Robert, a prominent businessman and large scale farmer in Madison County. During the early days when the Missouri River country was just beginning to open up following the War of 1812, Wallace made several trips to the Boonslick region on land buying ventures, and with several others helped lay out Columbia, the major town and county seat of Boone County. In the end, he never took up any of his Missouri holdings although he often expressed his intention to do so.

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J.R. Estill was born in Madison County in 1819 and grew up to maturity there. For a two year period, at what must have been a very young age, he served as sheriff. In 1843, he moved to Missouri and two years later took up the tract upon which he would found his farm. He was only 26 at the time, and must have been well connected, for by 1845 the land boom of the preceding three decades was in a severe eclipse with the average parcel patented in that year being 47.5 acres. Howard County by then was well past its frontier phase and most of its most desirable lands had been claimed. The focus of its economy had shifted away from the Missouri River towards the interior of the county where in 1823 the county seat had been transferred. Estill was obviously functioning well above the norm, for his tract consisted of 460 acres and was situated in a major nucleus of rich soil south of Fayette, the county seat. Land in this fertile loess upland with gentle slopes had been taken up quickly by the first settlers and was in private hands by 1830. Estill's tract embraced farms that had already been improved, parts of which had been reduced to cultivation as early as 1816.

Another undertaking in 1845 which could not have retarded his rapid social and economic rise was his marriage in March to Mary Turner. Her father, Talton, had also hailed from Madison County, Kentucky, but had been established in Howard County since 1818. A surveyor, he participated in the initial government surveys of several counties and then grew wealthy by securing contracts to supply western government posts, and Indian stations. By the time of his death on the eve of the Civil War, he was regarded as one of Missouri's largest land holders.

J.R. Estill must have possessed a high measure of probity from the time of his arrival for in 1846, he was installed as elder of the Mount Pleasant Church of Christ and was still holding the post thirty-seven (37) years later when that fact was noted in the county history.

No flavor of Estill's personality penetrates the unctuousness of the official biographies of him which all parade forth a pasteboard figure possessing all the desired measures of uprightness, acumen, intelligence, and benevolence, and hospitality. The specifics of his fascinating career are sketchy at best; still, enough is there to perceive the profile of man of exceptional abilities to match his good connections. Census records and other indicators suggest that during his nearly six decades residence in Missouri, Estill accumulated wealth and property at a steady rate. By 1850, the year of the first agricultural census, he had increased his land holdings to nearly 800 acres (350 improved) and valued his real estate at \$12,000. A decade later he owned a thousand acres (750 improved) with the cash value of his real estate listed at \$30,000, and in 1870 his acreage was listed at 1600 (1200 improved) and value his farm at \$40,000. During the slavery years, his chattel holdings were impressive. In 1850, he possessed 15 slaves; 4 females, and 11 males, all but 3 of working age. Ten years later, the census enumerator recorded a substantial increase to thirty; 11 females, 19 males. Four slave houses were mentioned. The census of 1860 also records several free persons residing in Estill's household: five men, two of them married, were listed as laborers by occupation

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(except for one listed as a farmer) with all coming from southern states except for one German.

As his acreage increased, so did his farm production. Estill's operation, like most in Missouri and throughout the Upper South, did not rely on the production of one crop but was diversified in nature. For 1850 and 1860 the figures for his livestock holdings were as follows: horses 5 (1850), 7 (1860); mules 32, 73; milk cows 8, 12; oxen 8, 10; other cattle 15, 30; sheep 30, 65; swine 40, 100. He produced a variety of crops: wheat 450, 500 bu.; indian corn 1500, 4500 bu.; wool 20, 300 lbs.; and also hay, irish and sweet potatoes, peas butter and orchard products. Hemp was a major antebellum plantation crop in Howard County and Estill did grow a ton of dew rotted hemp in 1850 and twice that much in 1860, both figures being very modest and well below plantation level output. Around 1870, there appears to have been a shift in the emphasis of his operation in favor of livestock raising. His mule holdings dropped precipitously from 73 to 12 suggesting that he was phasing out of the mule trading business. At the same time his holdings increased noticeably for cattle (from 30 to 100 head), sheep (65, 250) and swine (100, 150) and his output of wool increased from 300 to 1200 lbs. Production of corn, oats and hay remained as high (5000, 10,000 bu. and 20 tons respectively) as did his wheat raising (3000 bu.).

Not only was Estill's net worth on the increase, but in typical southern rural fashion, so was his family. The census of 1850 recorded only one child Wallace, 2, but others may have died in infancy during the first five years of James R. and Mary Estill's marriage, for of the eight children they produced, three died in infancy. Three of the five who did attain maturity were born during the decade of the 1850's, and the fifth, Mary was born in 1864, the year in which the present Greenwood mansion was said to have been built. In that year, the other children would have been 15 (Wallace), 11 (Alice), 8 (Ella), and 5 (William).

One story states that Greenwood was built on the foundation of an earlier house that burned during the Civil War years. This assumption can be questioned, but it is quite likely that the house did occupy the approximate, if not exact, site of the previous one, and that the brick slave quarters were associated with that earlier house.

Greenwood's appearance on the cultural landscape of Howard County was an important culminating event in the evolution of southern architecture in the Boonslick country--a story that can be read from beginning to end within a ten mile radius of Estill's mansion in a cluster of homes dating from as early as 1819. The earliest home in central Missouri, the Thomas Hickman home, said to date from 1819, is only a few miles distant and is an extremely rare Missouri house form--the Georgian cottage type. Other early examples in the immediate area built before 1835 include one of the of the most traditional and early southern house plans, the hall-and-parlor plan, in one and two story versions. One of the earliest known central-passage I houses built in the Boonslick, the Nicholas Burchardt House, ca. 1832, (HABS: MO-243) was little more than a mile

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due east of Greenwood. Within the area between Fayette and New Franklin, every house type common to the Upper South can be encountered covering a half century span. No better laboratory could be wished for in studying the persistence of tradition in southern architecture over space and time than this setting situated as it is in the trans-Mississippi West, three states removed from its source areas in the Tidewater South. One conclusion that one is drawn towards based on the study of examples which have survived (if only long enough to be photographed) is that in this region, this western terminus of the Upper South, the remote echoes are still to be found of one of the most profound events in Western consciousness--the impact of the Renaissance up on the Medieval world. This process was only beginning in England at the time of the colonization of the New World, and found resolution on this side of the Atlantic as well as on the other at a whole variety of cultural levels, one of the most revealing of which being the material culture of domestic architecture. Along the southeastern seaboard this process was worked out along a continuum that had single-cell and hall-and-parlor cottages of Medieval origin on one end and Renaissance inspired (or Georgian) central-passage dwellings of double and single pile variants on the other. It is curious that this process of accommodation took three centuries or more to fully unfold, and that the two poles of the continuum established in the 17th and 18th centuries in seaboard source areas are precisely those in which the early to mid-19th century southern architecture of the Boonslick region unfold. It is the appearance of Greenwood, and a small group of houses of its type, beginning in the mid to late 1850's, that completes the process and brings the story of southern architecture full circle almost as if the biological principle of ontogeny recapitulating phylogeny had its counterpart at the regional level of material culture as it related to its larger civilization. It should be noted that this process of development from hall-and-parlor houses in the 1820's to full blown double-pile georgian mansions of the 1850's occurred at the level of plan only, and not of style. Throughout the development of Boonslick architecture, the vocabulary of Classicism was in full force in a folk Federal style that lasted until about 1840, succeeded by a folk Greek Revival mode that could still be encountered well into the 1870's. But as so often has been the case in English derived architecture since the Jacobethan period, style did not so much transform form as was merely applied to it, and nowhere is this more true in America than in the architecture of the South. Indeed, one of the area's hall-and-parlor houses contains folk Adam style woodwork as fine as any that can be seen in the trans-Mississippi West. The Greek Revival woodwork of Greenwood is as refined, as close to "high style", as Howard County can offer and was probably imported rather than locally crafted. But this informed fashionability is a laggard one, for back East the Greek Revival had long ago been superseded by the picturesque styles, and in form the conservatism of Greenwood is even more evident. For despite its mid-19th century appearance and despite its style, Greenwood is a Georgian house. The time of its occurrence followed closely a development taking place throughout the vernacular landscapes of the Upper and Middle South where by the mid-19th century, upwardly mobile members of the rural and town gentry were abandoning the single-pile, or I house, type for the double-pile Georgian houses adorned with Greek Revival or Italianate woodwork. Differing from such manifestations back East, however, was the fact that the

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revived Georgian house in the Boonslick was something new on the landscape. Without earlier predecessors (except for those rare and exotic Georgian cottages) the Georgian house added the final basic type to the ensemble of southern forms in the Boonslick and completed, if only a visual sense, the last chapter of southern domestic architecture in the West.

While in a broad sense Greenwood, in both form and style, is the inevitable product of historical developments that occurred throughout the South, in another sense it had much to do with the arrival to the Boonslick of one man-- Joseph Megraw, who is believed to be the builder of Robert Estill's mansion. He unfortunately shares in common with most builders of this time the fact that almost nothing is known of his life and building activities. But the fragmentary data that is available does give rise to the intriguing speculation that his contribution to Howard County building was a profound one. He was only seventeen when in 1847 he arrived to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from his native Ireland. There he adopted the carpenters trade and must have advanced rapidly. One legend states that he was imported by Dr. John Talbot in 1852 to build a mansion for him, making his career parallel in a backcountry way that of William Buckland who was imported a century earlier from England by George Mason for the purpose of building Gunston Hall. Whatever the circumstances of Megraw's arrival, he was one of what must have been several skilled craftsmen who were drawn to Missouri to participate in the building boom of the 1850's. Although he was only 22 when he came to Fayette, he must have already been in the possession of exceptional abilities for he quickly cultivated a wealthy clientele. The 1883 county history said of his practice: "For many years he has been one of the leading contractors and builders of Howard County, and there is hardly an important edifice in Fayette or the surrounding country that he had not constructed or been consulted in regard to its construction." No list of what he built has survived, nor have any personal papers, so any assessment of Megraw's career must be based on attribution and hypothesis. This writer's tentative assessment of Megraw's contribution to Howard County building is based on the examination, where possible, of houses attributed to Megraw, and others which might be by him. The conclusions are that Megraw, if he did not introduce the hipped roof into Boonslick building practice, he was clearly one of the first builders to employ it on an extensive scale; that if Megraw did not build the first Georgian form house in the Boonslick, he probably built more of them than any other individual area builder; that he was virtually the only antebellum Boonslick builder employing the Gothic Revival style to any significant degree; that he was the first contractor to favor the hollow wall technique of brick wall construction (note the thickness of the reveal of the entrance door, photo 6), and in many houses to carry the house on a brick rather than the usual stone foundation; and that in at least three of his double-pile Greek Revival houses (including Greenwood), similar woodwork was employed, equally elegant upstairs and down, having spacious halls with large formal staircases in either straight-run or spiral designs with fine tapered octagonal newell posts, woodwork, all of pine, finished in a well proportioned and sophisticated, if simple, Greek Revival style with a door and window enframements having projecting cornices over pilaster supported entablatures or shouldered architraves. This woodwork may represent the first use of a factory

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Continuation sheet GREENWOOD Item number 8 Page 6

finished product imported in rather than being made in the shops of local carpenters/contractors. There is a recent article about a Virginia and North Carolina builder named Joseph Holt whose building activities over a four decade span, 1840-1880, are centered around Georgian type houses similar to Greenwood. But Holt's broad scale of activity powered by a workforce of 42 slaves and 17 free whites has no match in any contractor in outstate Missouri. They operated on a much smaller scale, keeping few apprentices on hand at any time, hiring labor as it was needed, having no more than a few slaves as supplements to their work force. Megraw's profile in 1860 was a modest one; a household consisting of himself, his wife, and infant son and a 15 year old female slave. His real estate was valued at \$1500, his personal estate at \$5130. Ten years later he did have a more extended household. His family by then had grown to five children and a white carpenter and two black carpenters were recorded as residing in his household. In addition to his extensive residential construction activities, Megraw also erected larger public buildings among which was the Fayette school and the most ambitious undertaking of his career, the building of the second Howard County Courthouse.

It is not possible to follow J.R. Estill's agricultural activities closely after 1880. His production figures for that year differ little in scope from those recorded ten years earlier, and the census data is curiously imprecise concerning his livestock holdings. He was by then known primarily as a raiser of the finest class of stock. The county history of 1883 stated that he had 1450 acres in cultivation according to "progressive" principles and that he fed for market every year several hundred head of cattle. The 1880 census noted an orchard of six acres, but the 1883 history states that these were several large orchards, "15 acres of which is devoted exclusively to the Ben Davis Apple." The biographies of him published in 1876 and 1883 both agree that by then, Estill owned extensive acreage; 2400 and 2800 acres in Howard County, large farms in Chariton and Saline Counties, holdings in Kentucky and fine city property in St. Louis. J.R. Estill was described in this period as being a man who attended strictly to farming, and never sought any other office or position of prominence. He supported the causes of his religion and of education, as shall shortly be seen. He lived, it was said, surrounded by all the elegancies and conveniences of life, yet attaching no social value to that wealth, possessing that "hospitality peculiar to southern people which knows no distinction between those who are worthy in principle tho differently circumstanced in life." One exception to this characterization was his deep involvement in securing the route of the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad through Howard County. The county court appointed him manager and superintendent of the county's stock suscribed towards its construction. He was also active in promoting the construction of the railroad bridge at Boonville across the Missouri River. The railroad, when it was constructed, passed directly through Estill's land and a small depot was built around which the hamlet of Estill's Station developed.

J.R. Estill must have had a key role in the construction of White Hall School. The school was organized in 1860 and was built on land donated by Mr. S.T. Hughes and conveniently located at the head of Estill's driveway. The first

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Continuation sheet GREENWOOD Item number 8 Page 7

school board consisted of Estill and other prominent local citizens including neighbor Thomas C. Boggs, brother to Governor Lilburn Boggs, who in 1868 erected a mansion which, it was said, much to the chagrin of Mr. and Mrs. Estill, was every bit as large in size (ca. 4700 sq. ft. of floor space), scale and grandeur to Greenwood, itself (this competitor was in recent years demolished, restoring Greenwood to an unrivaled dominance). And the first school-mistress for White Hall School was Miss Rita Barnes, a governess in the home of J.R. Estill. When the school opened in September of 1860, its student body contained three Estill children, Wallace, Ella and Alice, and children from the Boggs, Hughes, and Baskett families, all locally prominent. The present one room building is intact, with later additions including the bell-tower and modern lean-tos across the front.

By the time of J.R. Estill's death on March 16, 1900 (followed by that of his wife a week later) his position at the very top rung of the Howard County financial ladder was universally recognized, and this was not an inconsiderable position to hold in one of central Missouri's most prosperous counties and the seat of a few fortunes. Readers of the April 6, 1900 Boonville Weekly Advertiser were given a very vivid demonstration of the nature and the extent of J.R. Estill's wealth as revealed in his will, the details of which were published. To his son, W.R., went Greenwood and 600 acres valued at \$24,000, and for his late wife \$10,000 had also been set aside. To his son, Wallace, he and had already advanced \$76,000, and further bequeathed to him and his wife and children the farm on which they lived, containing 680 acres valued at \$20,000. To his son W.R., he had already given the sum of \$59,594, and further directed that William's children receive Stone farm 254 acres, value \$8,890, Elliot Place, 331 acres, value \$10,000, and Branham farm, 276 acres, value \$5,520. To his daughter Ella Estill LaForce he bequeathed real estate in Kansas City, Missouri worth \$119,255, having already advanced \$28,000, along with \$34,000 to his grand-daughter Mary Clifton LaForce. If the Advertiser's portrayal of J.R. Estill as Howard County's wealthiest citizen is correct, then this will may be read as a prescription for success in the Boonslick country, as a measure of the level of wealth necessary to achieve the forefront of a country gentry whose prosperity and high level of culture created a landscape dotted with "storied mansions" which in their totality and by virtue of their qualities of construction and design define the standard by which antebellum domestic architecture in Missouri is to be evaluated.

Greenwood finally passed out of the Estill family in 1947 at which time the property passed into the possession of the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Cale Parrish. The survival of the house and its antebellum dependencies at its present level of condition is extraordinary. Other single-cell quarters with gable entries have been noted and double-cell quarters are rare, but several Howard County examples do survive, and a few other ice houses can also be located. But taken as an ensemble, a remnant of the quasi-self sufficient large-scale southern antebellum farming operation, this group of buildings is of exceptional significance. And while it may not have direct bearing and evaluation processes of the National Register, it must still be of direct and intimate relevance to the social milieu as it has evolved over time in the

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Continuation sheet GREENWOOD Item number 8 Page 8

Boonslick Country that the occupants of this house are part of an ever dwindling minority who spring from, understand, and cherish the genteel southern traditions of the Boonslick region, and who still live at the level of elegance and hospitality that the highest standards of that tradition have engendered.

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Continuation sheet GREENWOOD Item number 9 Page 1

1. Bishir, Catherine. "Jacob W. Holt, an American Builder," Winterthur Portfolio, Spring 1981. pp. 1-31.
2. Denny, James M. "Form and Style in Missouri's Antebellum Domestic Architecture," Unpublished paper, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, April 11, 1981.
3. History of Howard and Cooper Counties. St. Louis: National Historical Publishing Company, 1883. pp. 173-174, 280, 347-348, 393, 503-505, 791.
4. Hahn, Paul. "Research Paper on the Parrish Home," unpublished paper, nd, copy in Historic Site Files, State Historic Society of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.
5. "How White Hall [School] was organized," Boonslick Sketches, August 29, 1939.
6. Illustrated Atlas Map of Howard County, Missouri, St. Louis: Missouri Publishing Co., 1876. pp. 23, 43.
7. Missouri Seventh Census, 1850. Population Schedule, Slave Schedule, Products of Agriculture.
8. Missouri Eighth Census, 1860. Population Schedule, Slave Schedule, Products of Agriculture.
9. Missouri Ninth Census, 1870. Population Schedule, Products of Agriculture.
10. Missouri Tenth Census, 1880. Population Schedule, Products of Agriculture.
11. "Princely Bequests made by Col. James R. Estill," Boonville Weekly Advertiser, April 6, 1900. p.1, Col. 1.
12. Schroeder, Walter A. "Spread of Settlement in Howard County, Missouri: 1810-1859," Missouri Historical Review, October 1968, pp.1-37.
13. Van Ravenswaay, Charles. "Architecture in the Boonslick Country", Missouri Historical Society Bulletin, vi (July 1950).

9. Major Bibliographical References

(see attached)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .462 (Estill house) .052 (School)

Quadrangle name Franklin, Mo. (Estill House; New Franklin, Mo. Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References (Whitehall School)

A

15	521540	4323660
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

15	522040	4323260
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

D

Verbal boundary description and justification The Estill House, meathouse, Ice House, double-cell slave house and single cell slave house-office are enclosed by an imaginary rectangle roughly centered on UTM coordinate A of which the southeast border extends twenty feet beyond and parallel to the primary facade of the Estill House; the northeast border extends

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, Chief, Nominations-Survey

organization Historic Preservation Program date September 30, 1982

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title 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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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

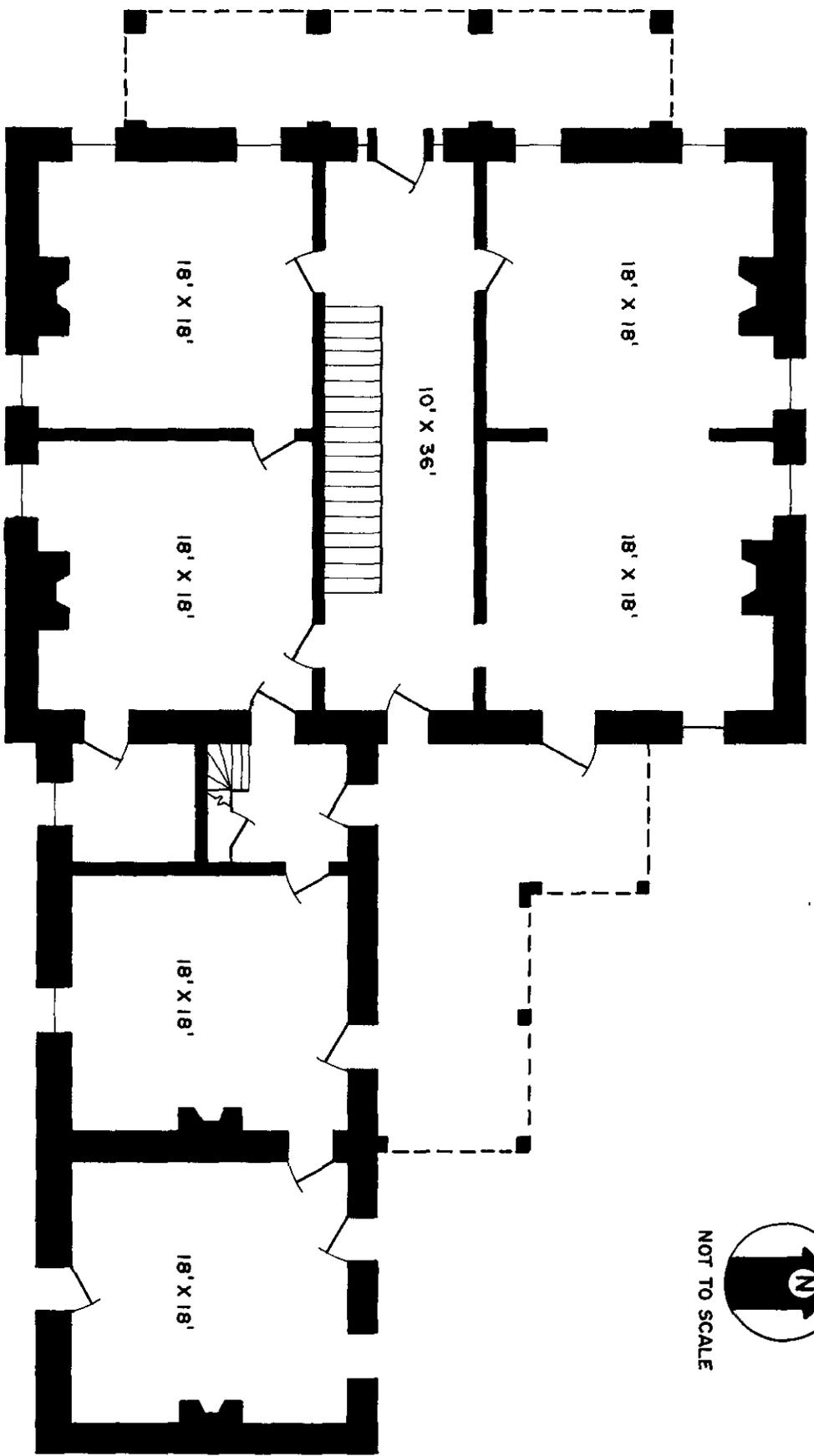
Page 1

parallel to and ten feet beyond the wall of northeast facade of the house; the southwest border extends parallel to and 50 feet beyond the southwest wall of the house; on the northwest border extends parallel to and 75 feet beyond the wall of the rear ell (northwest facade). The whole being a rectangle approximately 183 feet along its northwest southeast running sides and 110 feet along its northeast southwest running sides, the whole containing approximately .462 acres.

White Hall School is enclosed by an imaginary rectangle centered on UTM coordinate B with North-South, East-West running sides located 10 feet beyond the respective walls of the school, an area which contains approximately .052 acres.

Justification for both properties is that the smallest area identifying all nominated resources was selected.

FIRST FLOOR PLAN
ESTILL-PARRISH HOUSE (GREENWOOD)
FAYETTE VICINITY, HOWARD COUNTY, MISSOURI



NOT TO SCALE

ESTILL-PARRISH HOUSE, Fayette vicinity
Howard County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny

Date: October 1980

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

General view; looking Southwest

#1 of 22

23



ESTILL-PARRISH HOUSE, Fayette vicinity
Howard County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny

Date: October 1980

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Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

View of primary (East) facade; looking
West.

#2 of 22



ESTILL-PARRISH HOUSE, Fayette vicinity
Howard County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny
Date: October 1980
Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

View of primary and South facades; looking
Southwest.

#3 of 22



ESTILL-PARRISH HOUSE, Fayette vicinity
Howard County, Missouri

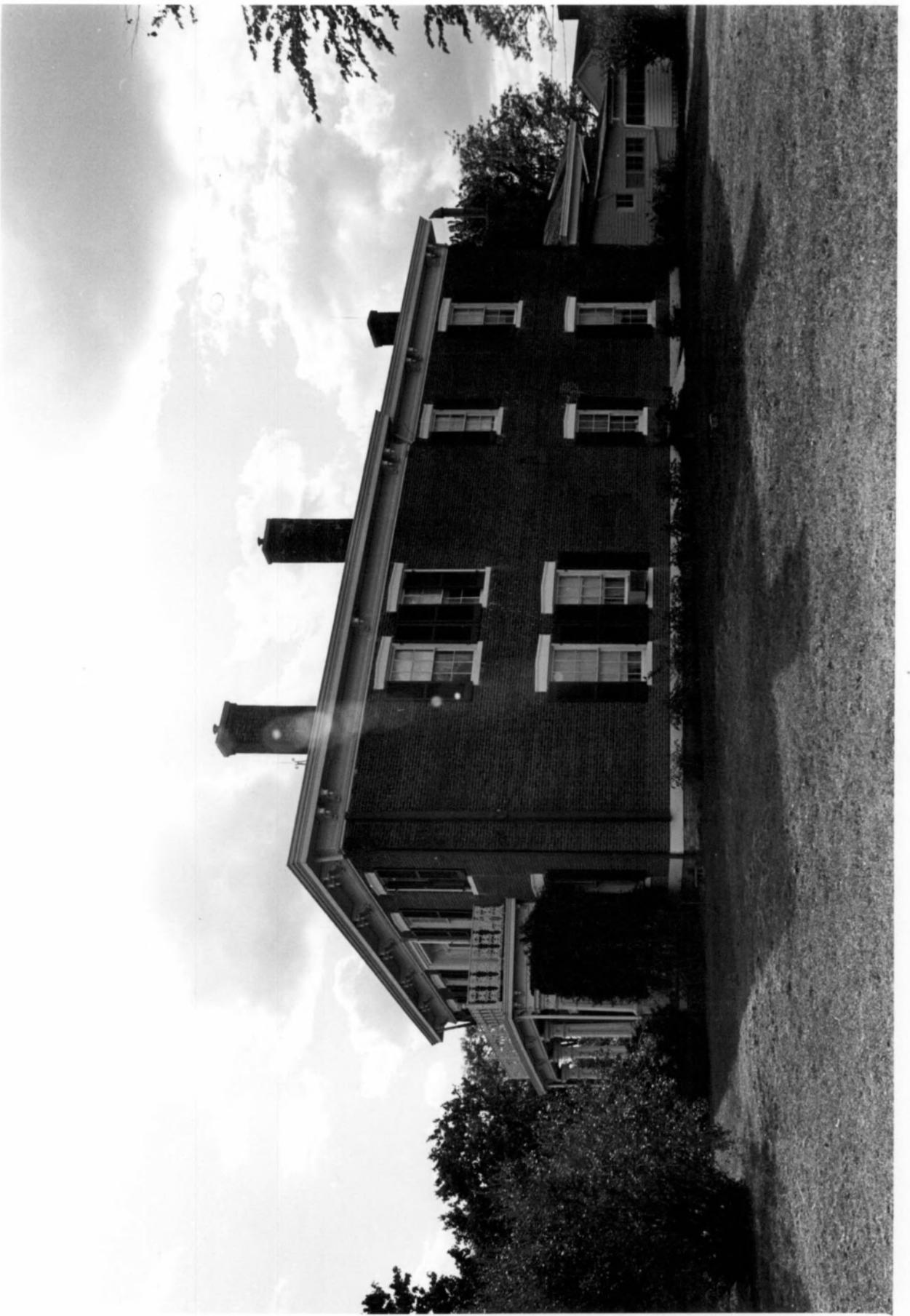
Photographer: James M. Denny

Date: October 1980

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View of primary and North facades; looking
Southwest.



ESTILL-PARRISH HOUSE, Fayette vicinity
Howard County, Missouri

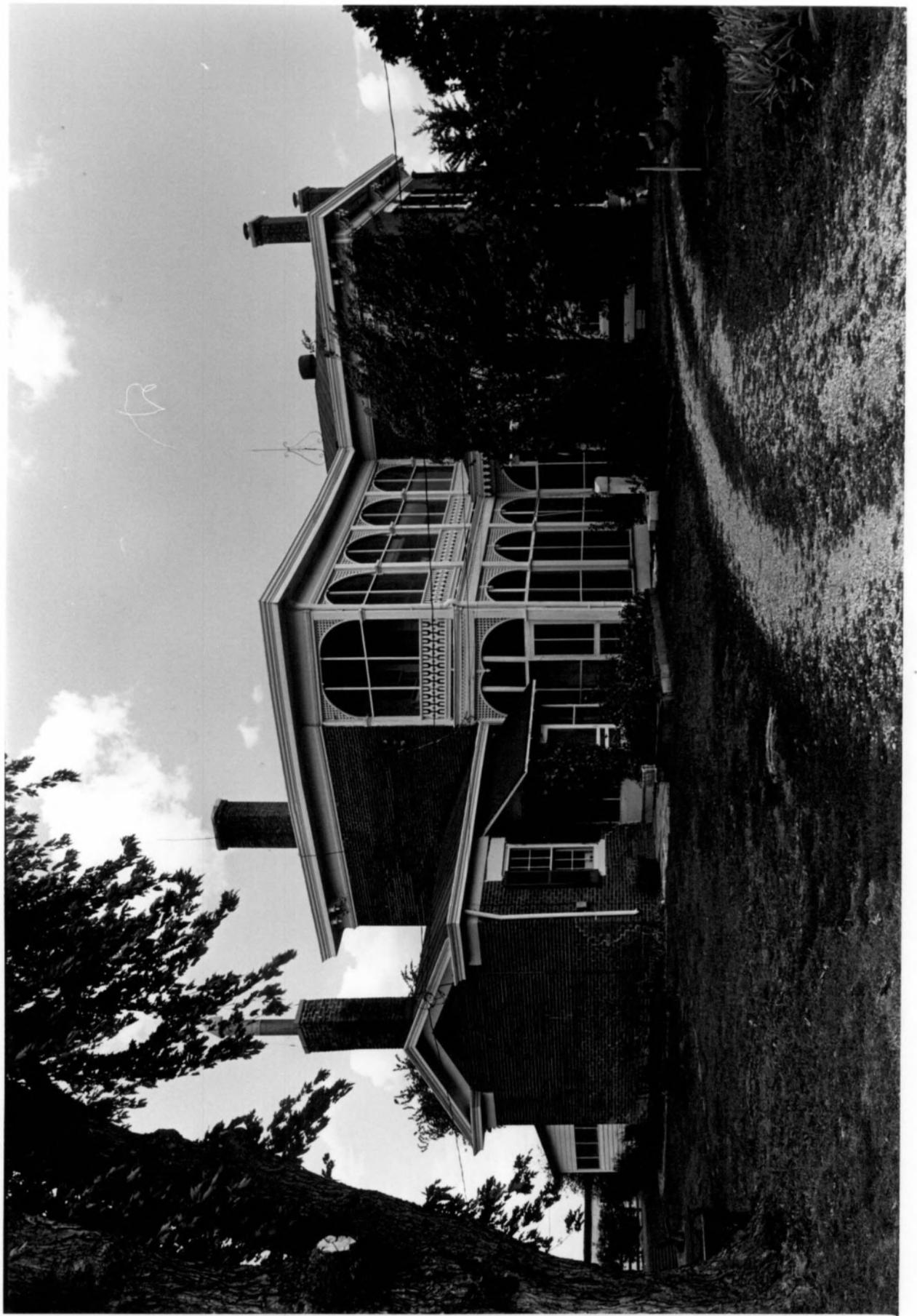
Photographer: James M. Denny

Date: October 1980

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Rear view; looking East, slightly north.

#5 of 22



ESTILL-PARRISH HOUSE, Fayette vicinity
Howard County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny
Date: October 1980
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Jefferson City, Missouri

Exterior detail of front porch; looking
North, slightly West.

#6 of 22



ESTILL-PARRISH HOUSE, Fayette vicinity
Howard County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny
Date: October 1980
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Exterior detail of entrance door; looking
West.

#7 of 22



ESTILL-PARRISH HOUSE, Fayette vicinity
Howard County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny
Date; October 1980
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Interior view of central hall; looking West,
slightly North.

#8 of 22

23



ESTILL-PARRISH HOUSE, Fayette vicinity
Howard County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny
Date: October 1980
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Interior view of central hall; looking East.

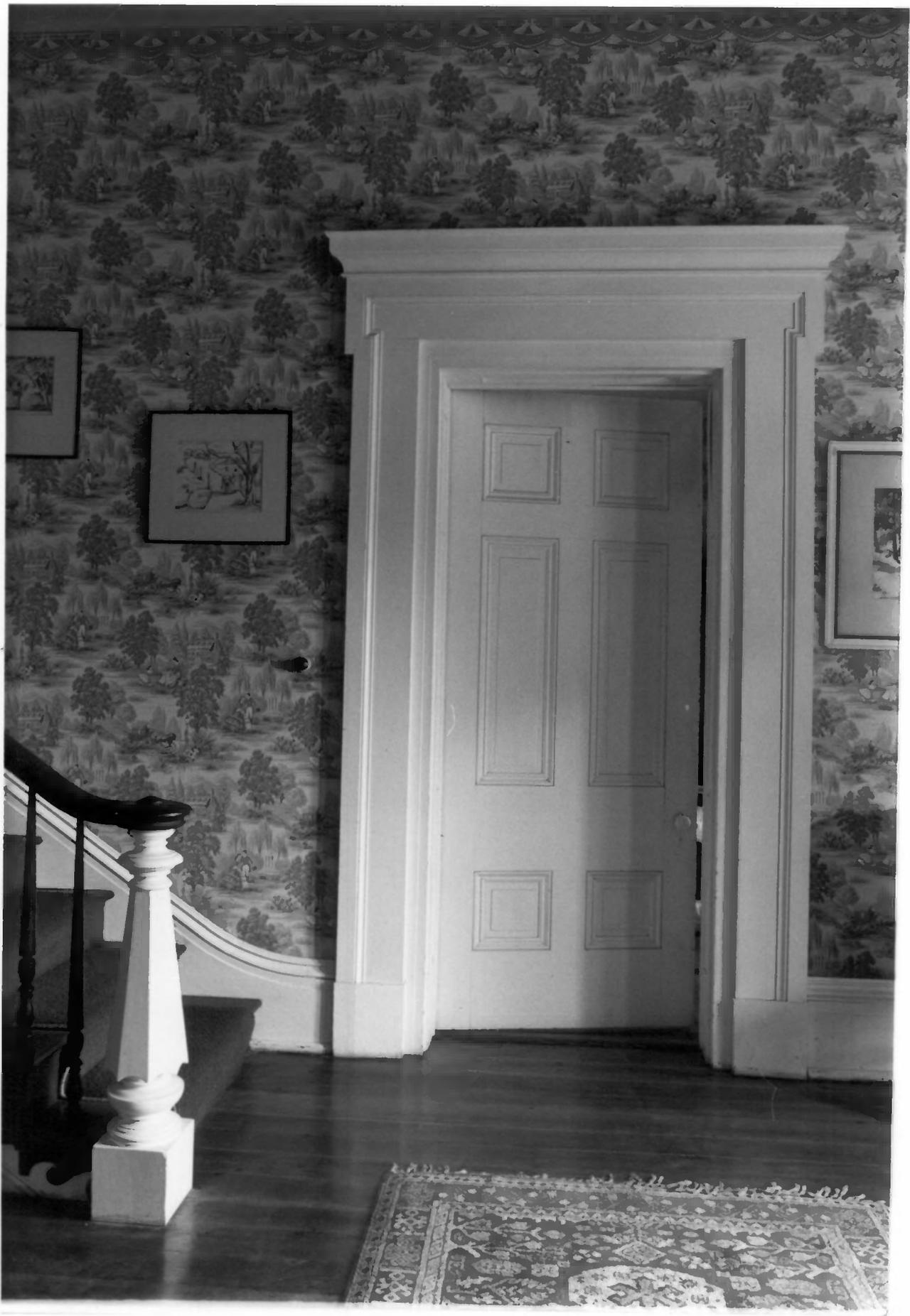
#9 of 22



ESTILL-PARRISH HOUSE, Fayette vicinity
Howard County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny
Date: October 1980
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Interior detail, newell and door in central
hall; looking North.



ESTILL-PARRISH HOUSE, Fayette vicinity
Howard County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny
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Interior view of double parlor comprising
two South rooms of main block; looking West.

#11 of 22



ESTILL-PARRISH HOUSE, Fayette vicinity
Howard County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny

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Interior view of North parlor; looking
Northeast.

#12 of 22



ESTILL-PARRISH HOUSE, Fayette vicinity
Howard County, Missouri

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Interior view of dining room; looking east.

#13 of 22



ESTILL-PARRISH HOUSE, Fayette vicinity
Howard County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny
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Interior view of Secondary stair in rear
wing; looking North.

#14 of 22



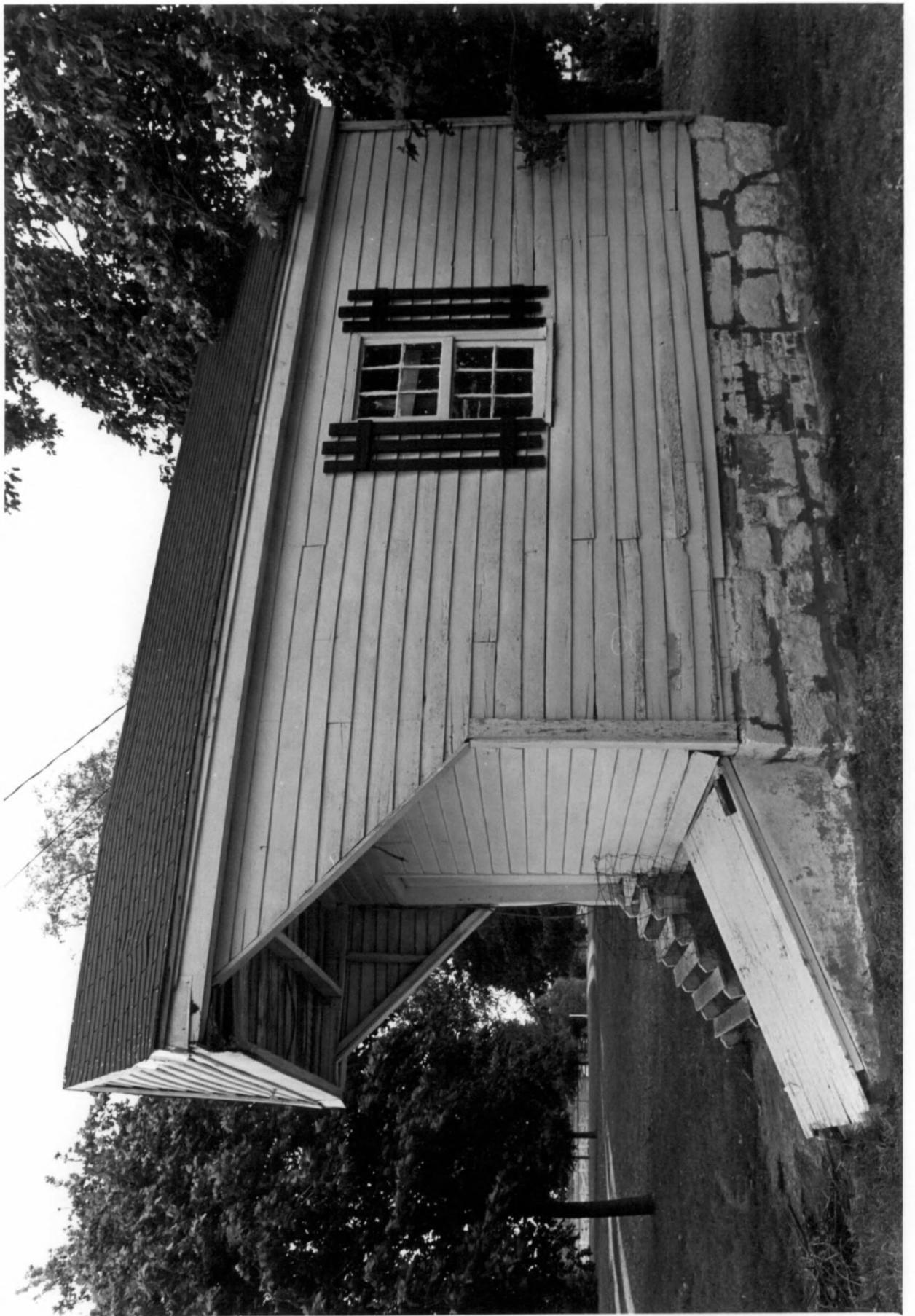
Meat house -

ESTILL-PARRISH HOUSE, Fayette vicinity
Howard County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny
Date: October 1980
Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
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Exterior view of Meat house; looking East,
slightly South.

#15 of 22



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Howard County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny

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Exterior of single-cell outbuilding;
looking Northeast.

#16 of 22



ESTILL-PARRISH HOUSE, Fayette vicinity
Howard County, Missouri

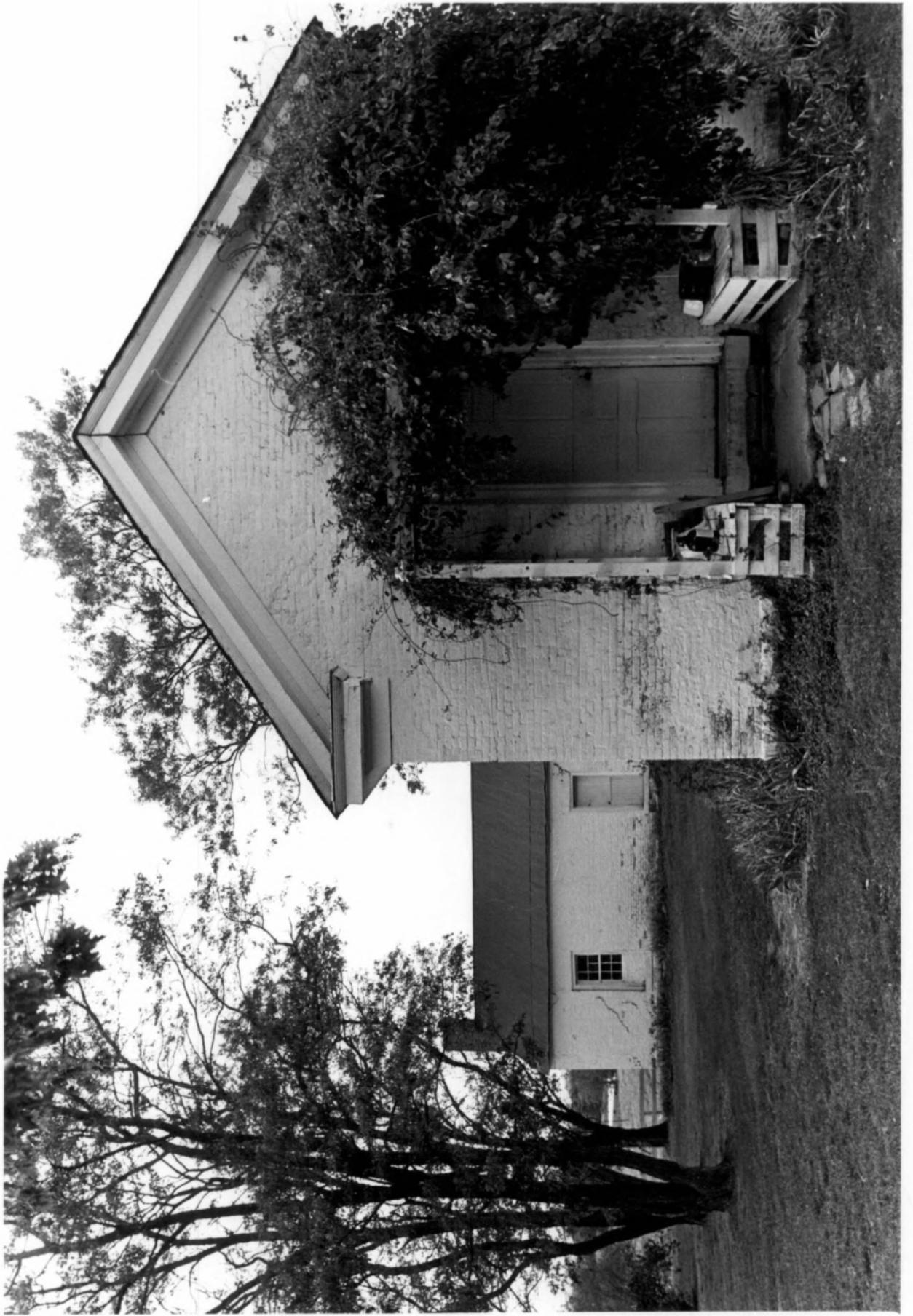
Photographer: James M. Denny

Date: October 1980

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Exterior view of single-cell outbuilding with
double-cell outbuilding immediately to rear;
looking West.

#17 of 22



ESTILL-PARRISH HOUSE, Fayette vicinity
Howard County, Missouri

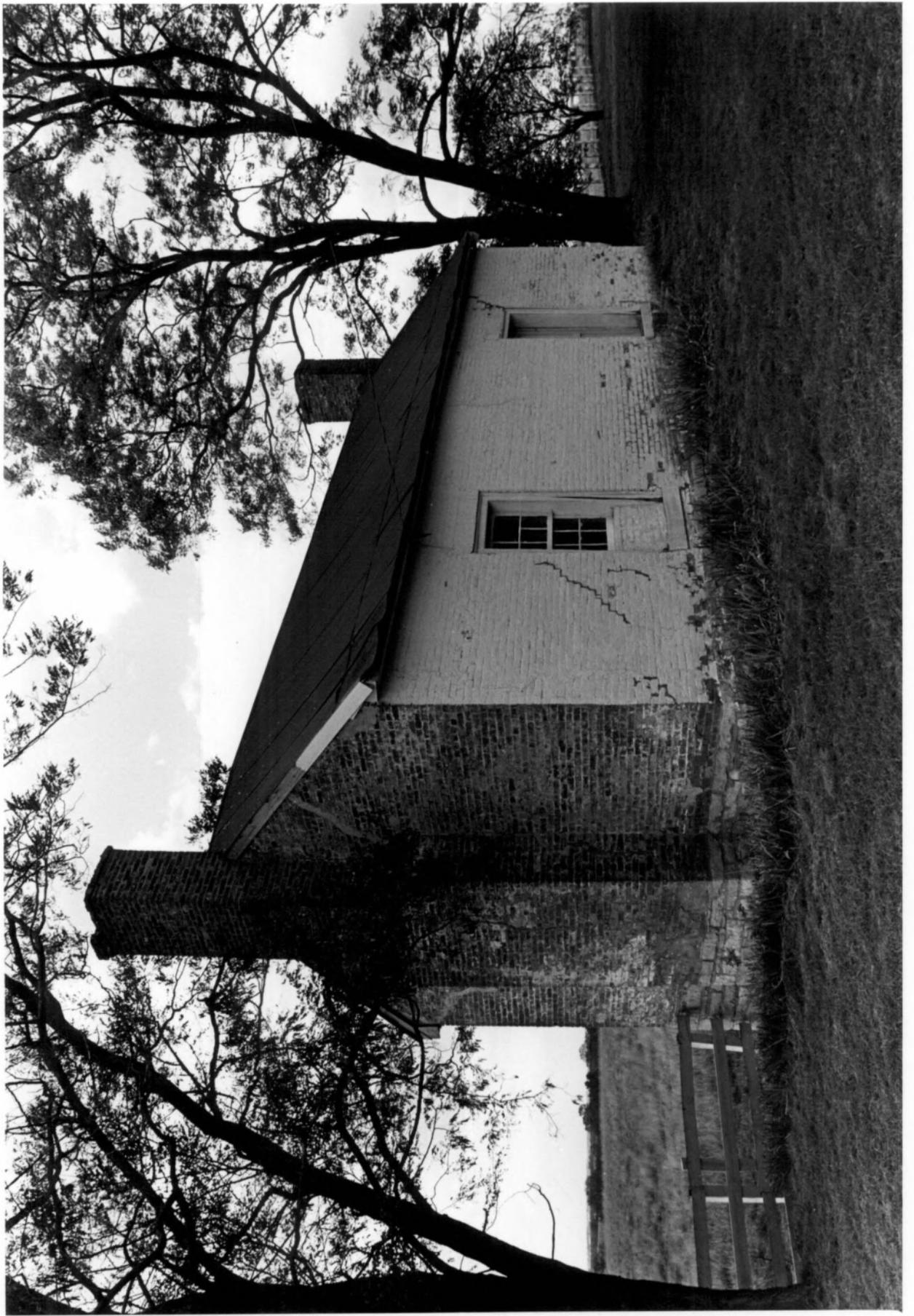
Photographer: James M. Denny

Date: October 1980

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Exterior view of double-cell outbuilding;
looking Northwest.

#18 of 22



ESTILL-PARRISH HOUSE, Fayette vicinity
Howard County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny

Date: October 1980

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Exterior view of ice house; looking
Southwest.

#19 of 22



ESTILL-PARRISH HOUSE, Fayette vicinity
Howard County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny

Date: October 1980

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Exterior view of White Hall School: looking
Southwest.



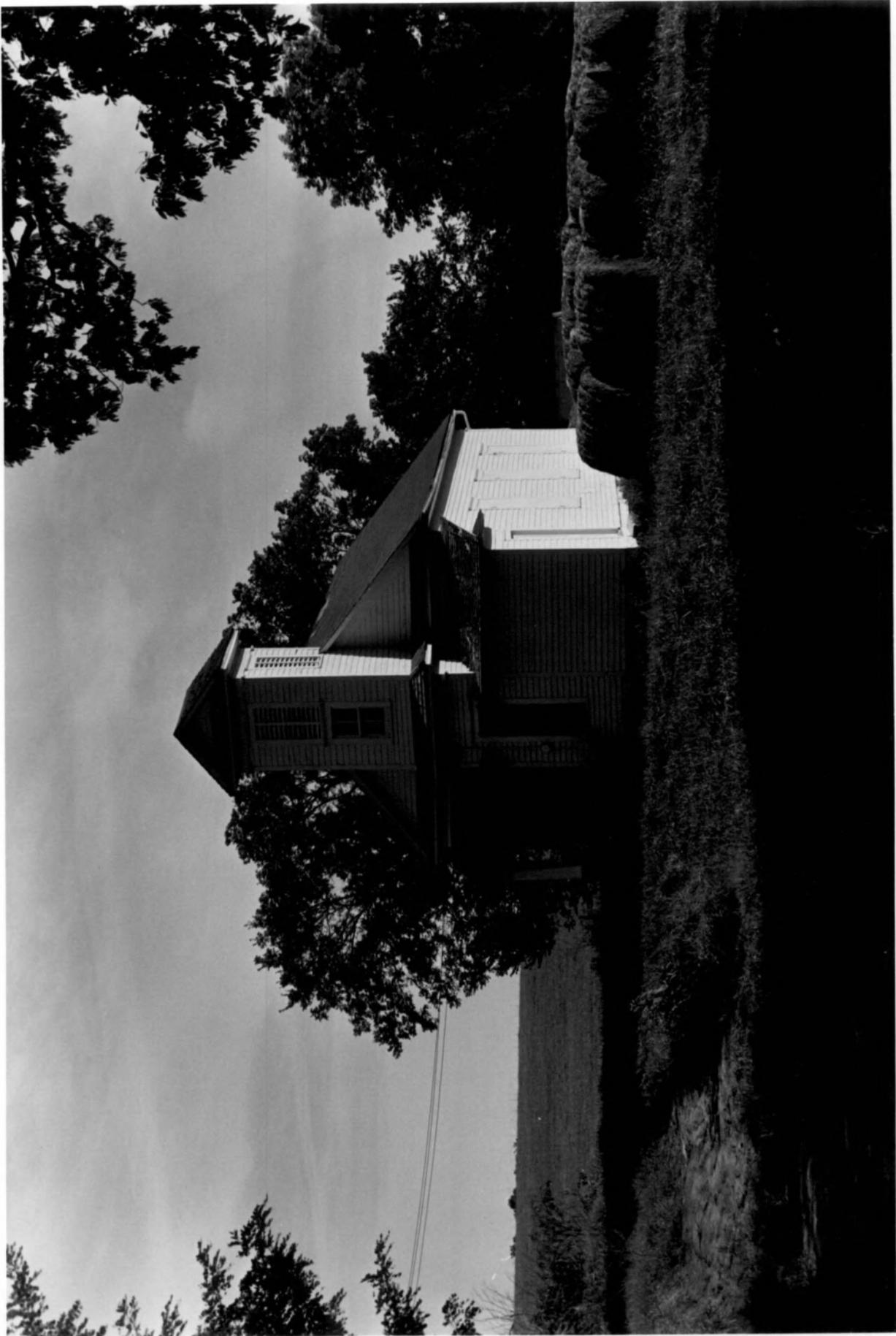
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Howard County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny

Date: October 1980

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Exterior view of White Hall School; looking
Southeast.



Greenwood - property of G. R. Estill Esq., Howard Co., Missouri

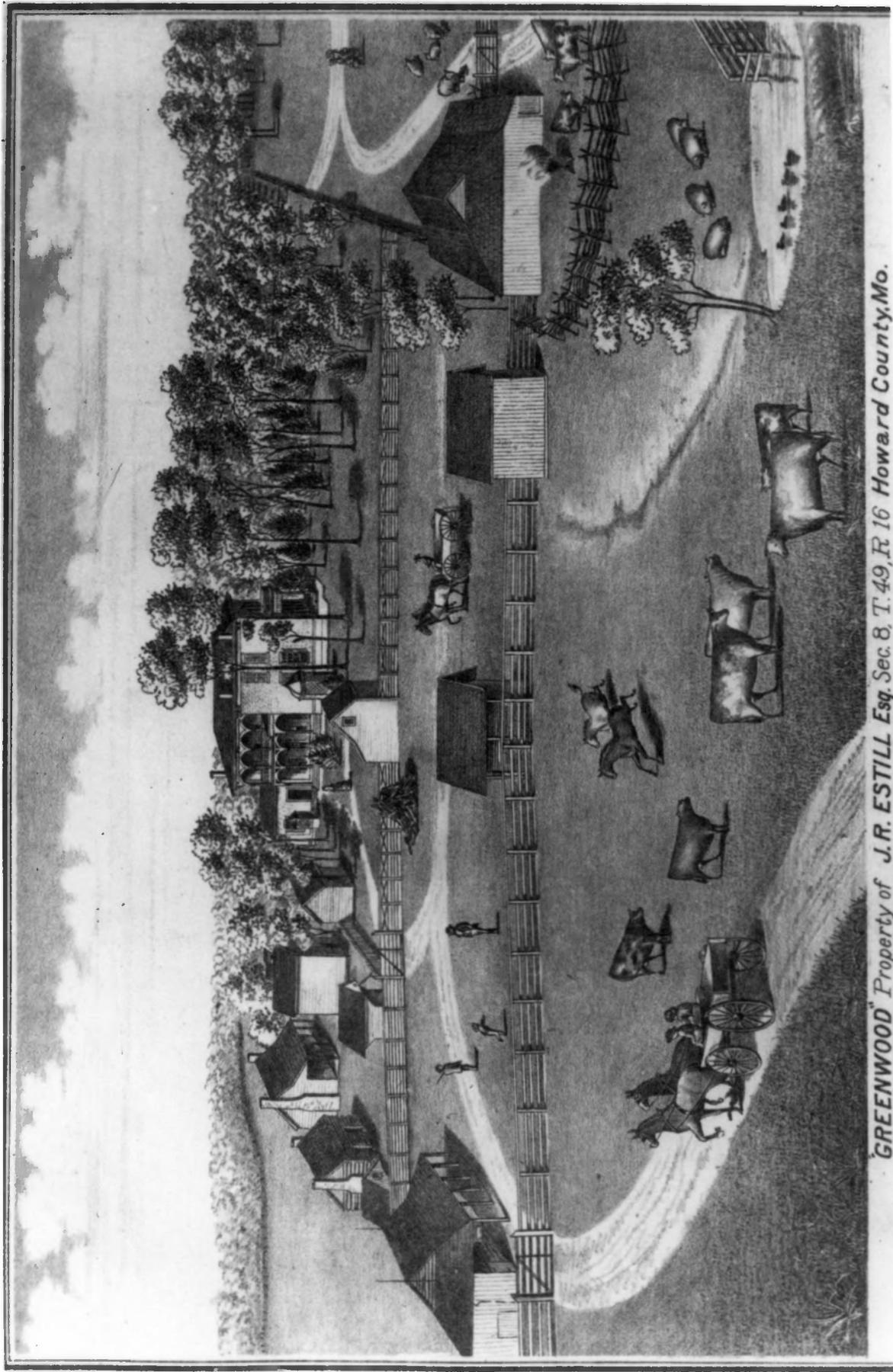
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Howard County, Missouri

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Date: 1876
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Historic view from Illustrated Atlas of
Howard County, Missouri; looking North.

#22 of 22

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