FHR-8-300 (11-78)

NRSLC101

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic Sugar Loaf Mound

and/or common Archaeological Survey of Missouri Number 23SL9

2. Location

street & number ____ not for publication

city, town St. Louis City ____ vicinity of congressional district

state Missouri code 29 county code 510

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
____ district	____ public	X occupied	____ agriculture	____ museum
____ building(s)	X private	____ unoccupied	____ commercial	____ park
____ structure	____ both	____ work in progress	____ educational	X private residence
X site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	____ entertainment	____ religious
____ object	____ in process	X yes: restricted	____ government	____ scientific
	____ being considered	____ yes: unrestricted	____ industrial	____ transportation
	X N/A	____ no	____ military	____ other:

4. Owner of Property

name

street & number

city, town St. Louis City ____ vicinity of state Missouri

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Louis City Hall

street & number 12th and Market Streets

city, town St. Louis City state Missouri 63103

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Archaeological Survey of Missouri has this property been determined eligible? ____ yes X no

date N.D. ____ federal X state ____ county ____ local

depository for survey records Archaeological Survey of Missouri - UMC

city, town Columbia state Missouri

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	__ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
_X_ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Presently Sugar Loaf Mound (23SL9) is privately owned and extends over two tracts of land;

The name Sugar Loaf Mound is attributed to French settlers in the St. Louis area. According to Gill (N.D.:4) the mounds shape reminded the pioneers of brown sugar formed into a cone and widely used in those days. The Mound sits atop a bluff with a commanding view of the Mississippi River, within 50 to 100 yards (45 to 85 M) to the east. The bluff is a vertical wall, cut to a railroad line below. Directly to the south of the mound is a partly filled quarry which was in operation for many years.

Little is known of the mound's original appearance aside from a few newspaper descriptions and vague outlines on several land survey maps such as: 1812, Mosberger Plat. of St. Louis (Figure 2); and 1820, J.C. Brown Map of St. Louis (Figure 3).

A 1932 (30 March) Globe-Democrat news article describes Sugar Loaf Mound as "conical in shape, about forty feet high and measures approximately one hundred feet in a north and south direction, and seventy-five feet east and west." A further article in the Globe-Democrat (13 October 1940) suggests Sugar Loaf Mound be converted into a city park. But, whereas the 1936 article notes Sugar Loaf as a conical mound the 1940 park article does not, because a portion of the mound may already have been removed by this time. Evidence for this is found in a photograph of Sugar Loaf Mound in the Post-Dispatch (3 October 1940). The photograph (Figure 4) clearly shows an exposed south face, a utility building and possible quarry equipment belonging to the now defunct Hoffman Quarry.

The earliest photo known of Sugar Loaf Mound is from the Post-Dispatch (1940). Fortunately Mr. Leonard Blake made a comprehensive photo study of Sugar Loaf Mound in 1950 for the files of the Archaeological Survey of Missouri (Figures 5, 6, 7 and 8). The Blake photos have been matched for comparison with photos taken in the Fall of 1980 (Figures 9, 10 and 11).

A comparison of the Blake photos of Sugar Loaf taken in 1950 and more recent photos show a clear difference between the early "undeveloped" view of Sugar Loaf Mound and the more developed view. Development threatens Sugar Loaf Mound as a further housing site or as landfill. The present owners,
are concerned about the preservation of the mound.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 900 A.D.-1200 A.D. **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Sugar Loaf Mound is an earthen structure overlooking the Mississippi River. In prehistory it dates to approximately A.D. 900 to a.D. 1200 in the Mississippian Period (Chapman 1980:164). It is associated with the better known Cahokia Mound Complex in the neighboring American Bottom. How many other earthen mounds existed on the Missouri side of the Mississippi River in the vicinity of St. Louis is unknown as is the size of the indian population living around them. Sugar Loaf Mound is perhaps the last remaining mound in the "Mound City" in the state of Missouri.

There are five reasons why Sugar Loaf Mound (23SL9) is of local and state importance.

1. It is the last of the St. Louis Mounds. The portion still "in situ" is therefore of increased value to the future understanding of native American cultural processes in the area.
2. Sugar Loaf Mound is an important remnant of a late prehistoric manifestation in the St. Louis area, on the Missouri side of the Mississippi River. The St. Louis mound complex, of which Sugar Loaf may be counted, is comparable in importance to the Cahokia complex but, due to the early destruction of nearly all the St. Louis mounds, Sugar Loaf has remained in relative obscurity.
3. The Sugar Loaf Mound site provides the potential for future comparative studies between the Missouri St. Louis mounds and the Illinois Cahokia complex.
4. It is expected that important data are present within the Sugar Loaf site which will add significantly to the knowledge of archaeology in the St. Louis area, to the understanding of the prehistoric woodland and Mississippian Periods and to the archaeology of the entire eastern United States.
5. The owners, have expressed an interest in preserving the site and have already protected the mounds remaining structural integrity. It is possible that future owners will not be similarly inclined or may be totally unaware of the sites cultural and historic significance.

Sugar Loaf Mound (23SL9) is of significance to the St. Louis area in two respects. First, to the prehistory of the east central Missouri region and to the pioneer and cultural development of the city of St. Louis. The prehistoric relationship of Sugar Loaf Mound to other St. Louis Mounds is not well understood due to the paucity of information about all the St. Louis mounds as a whole. When and who built Sugar Loaf Mound is unknown but the possibility that Sugar Loaf Mound and the St. Louis mounds are associated with the Cahokia Mounds and their builders has long been suggested (Fowke 1912:93; Chapman 1947: 77; Fowler 1977:5). The Cahokia Mound builders are known as the Village Farmer Tradition and the time of construction is during the Early Mississippian Period, A.D. 900 to A.D. 1200 (Chapman 1980:164).

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE ATTACHED

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property One

Quadrangle name Cahokia Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 7.5'

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	15	741100	4273000
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

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 Robert P. Wiegers

organization Missouri Archaeological Society

date June 4, 1981

street & number 910 West Broadway

telephone (314) 874-2671

city or town Columbia

state Missouri 65201

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national X 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 Fred Hoffer

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

date 12/29/83

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Registration

Present dimensions of the mound are: 21.86 feet (8 m) high at the south face; 141 feet (42 m) long on a north to south axis; and 109 feet (32 m) wide at the south face. Original ground surface is not known due to a reported 5 feet (1.5 m) of landfill around the mound base.

The site covers less than one acre.

Ethnographic reports of the pyramidal construction of the 27 or more St. Louis mounds is cited as evidence of the relationship to Cahokia. Chapman (1980) links the St. Louis mounds, and Sugar Loaf Mound although he does not name it specifically, to the Cahokia Mound group. The Powell Mound in the Cahokia complex is a ridge top mound located on the American Bottom. It has been described as a conical mound with an elongated aspect, possibly similar to Sugar Loaf Mound. During the destruction of the Powell Mound in 1930 it was measured and recorded by Titterington (1938) as forty feet high; 310 feet long and 180 feet wide (Titterington 1938:13).

Information available concerning the composition of Sugar Loaf comes from observations made by Peale (1862) of the St. Louis Mounds and some daguerreotypes taken by Thomas M. Easterly of the biggest St. Louis Mound, the Big Mound (Williams and Goggins 1956: 19). The Big Mound was located in the vicinity of the present streets of Broadway and Seventh (reference Figure 12, Museum of Science and Natural History street overlay and Houser 1980:13) until it was removed for railroad fill in 1869. Big Mound was thought to have been a ceremonial mound of the Early Mississippian Period (Williams and Goggins 1956; chapman 1980:164).

Historical documents do not describe Sugar Loaf Mound specifically, but Conant (1877: 29) stresses that almost every promontory on the second terrace of the Mississippi River at St. Louis was occuppied by a mound. If mounds were that numerous on the Missouri side of the river then the ethnographic descriptions of the St. Louis Mound group can be applied to Sugar Loaf Mound as a mound in close association with the St. Louis group. This suggests that Sugar Loaf Mound dates to the Mississippian Period.

Aside from a short undated pamphlet (McCune Gill N.D.) describing all the St. Louis mounds, few people have taken much interest in the nature and purpose of the St. Louis mounds possibly because of the notoriety given the Cahokia area and the American Bottom.

In the historic period of St. Louis area development, Sugar Loaf Mound played an important part as a natural landmark. Early in the cities growth Sugar Loaf Mound was recorded on several land surveys of St. Louis and the south St. Louis area. (1812 St. Louis Mosberger Plat. of twps 44 and 46 N, 45 N, Range 7E of the 5th Principal Meridian---Figure 2; and 1820 St. Louis, 23 March, J.C. Brown Map. States Sugar Loaf Mound was 268 feet (80 m) from the river--Figure 3.

This was common practice in pioneer days for the well known mounds, like Big Mound, to be used in surveys. "In primitive surveys, it (Big Mound) was made a standard landmark" (Spencer 1869:2). Sugar Loaf Mound was to the southern part of St. Louis what Big Mound was to the northern area of the St. Louis community. Sugar Loaf Mound, like its counterpart Big Mound, also served riverboat traffic as a landmark and navigational aid (Gill N.D.:2).

Anonymous
1940 Historian Calls on Mayor to Preserve "Sugar Loaf", 3 October, St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Anonymous
1932 Indian Mound Found in South St. Louis, 30 March, St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Anonymous
1940 Sugar Loaf Mound Urged as Park Site, 13 October, St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Chapman, Carl H.
1947 A Preliminary Survey of Missouri Archaeology, Part II, Middle Mississippi and Hopewellian Cultures. The Missouri Archaeologist, Vol. 10, Part II.

1980 The Archaeology of Missouri, II. University of Missouri Press, Columbia, Mo.

Conant, A. J.
1877 Mounds and Their Builders. Switzler's Illustrated History of Missouri from 1541 to 1881.

Fowke, Gerard
1912 Some Notes on the Aboriginal Inhabitants of Missouri, Missouri Historical Society, vol. IV, No. 1, St. Louis, Mo.

Fowler, Melvin L.
1977 The Cahokia Site, Explorations into Cahokia Archaeology, Illinois Archaeological Survey, Bulletin No. 7.

Gill, McCune
N.D. The Mound City. St. Louis, Mo.

Houser, James G.
1980 The Mounds of St. Louis. Cahokian. Cahokia Mounds Museum Society. Collinsville, Illinois.

Peale, T. R.
1862 Ancient Mounds at St. Louis, Missouri, in 1819. Annual Report Smithsonian Institution, 1861. Washington, D.C.

Smith, Spencer
1869 Origin of the Big Mound of St. Louis, A Paper Read Before the St. Louis Academy of Science, St. Louis, Mo.

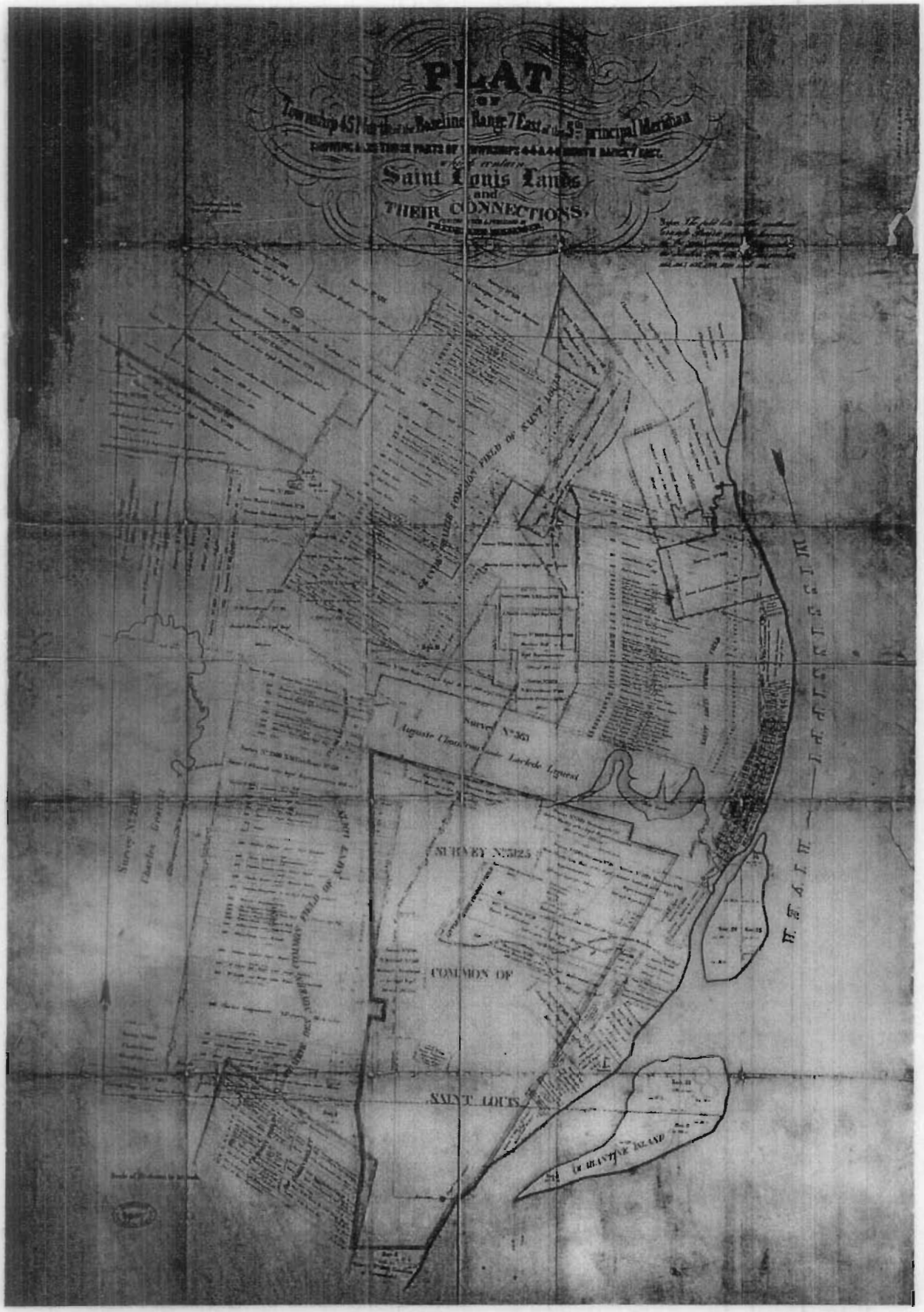
Titterington, Paul F.
1938 The Cahokia Mound Group and Its Village Site Material, St. Louis, Mo.

Williams, S. and J. M. Goggin
1956 The Long Nosed God Mask in Eastern United States. The Missouri Archaeologist. Vol. 18(3).

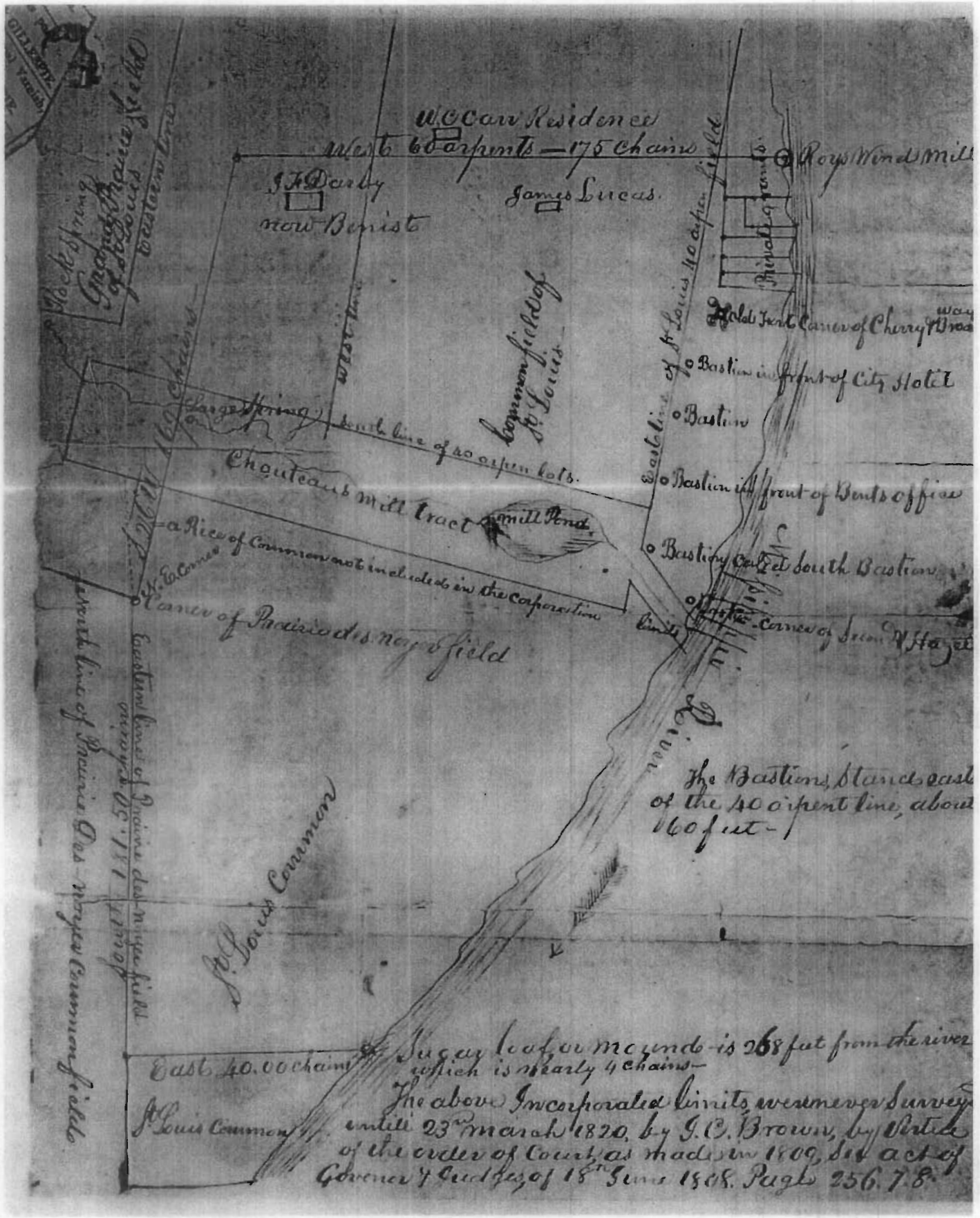
ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Survey and Registration
and State Contact Person June 1981
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program (314) 751-4096
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City Missouri 65102

SUGAR LOAF MOUND 2 of 14
St. Louis City, Missouri
Photographer: Missouri Historical Society
Date: 1812
Neg. Loc.: Missouri Historical Society
Jefferson Memorial Building
St. Louis, Missouri 63112
Mosberger Map of St. Louis. Sugar Loaf Mound is located in lower portion of map. Across from southern tip of Quarantine Island.

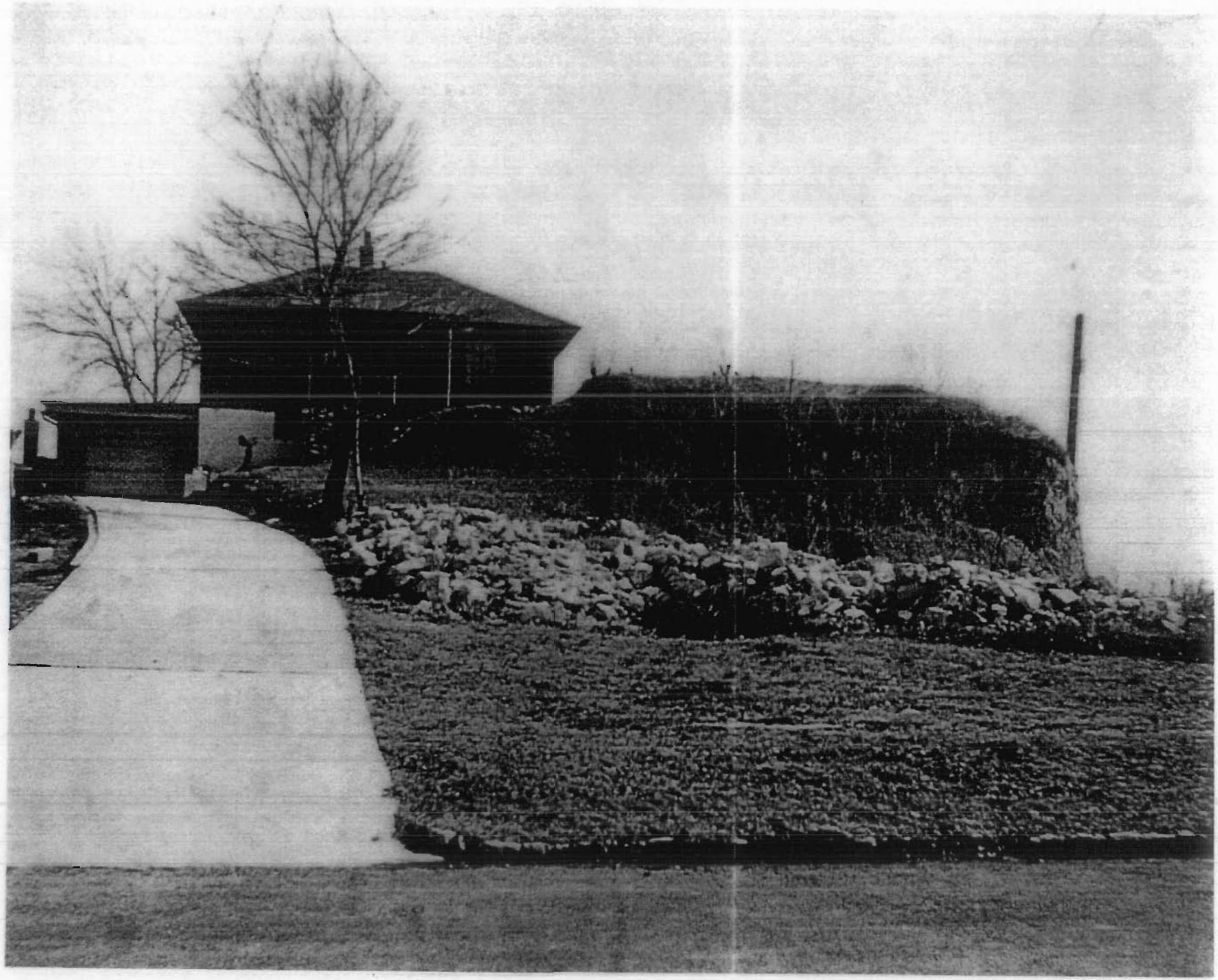

PLAT
OF
Township 45 North of the Baseline Range 7 East of the 5th principal Meridian
Saint Louis Lands
and
THEIR CONNECTIONS.
Survey No. 363
Auguste Chouteau Lacleda Liguest
SURVEY No. 3125
COMMON OF
SAINT LOUIS
MISSISSIPPI
W. & A. I. W.
Charles Gratiot

SUGAR LOAF MOUND
St. Louis City, Missouri
Photographer: Missouri Historical Society
Date: 1820
Neg. Loc.: Missouri Historical Society
Jefferson Memorial Building
St. Louis, Missouri 63112
J.C. Brown map of St. Louis. Sugar Loaf Mound is in lower center of map.

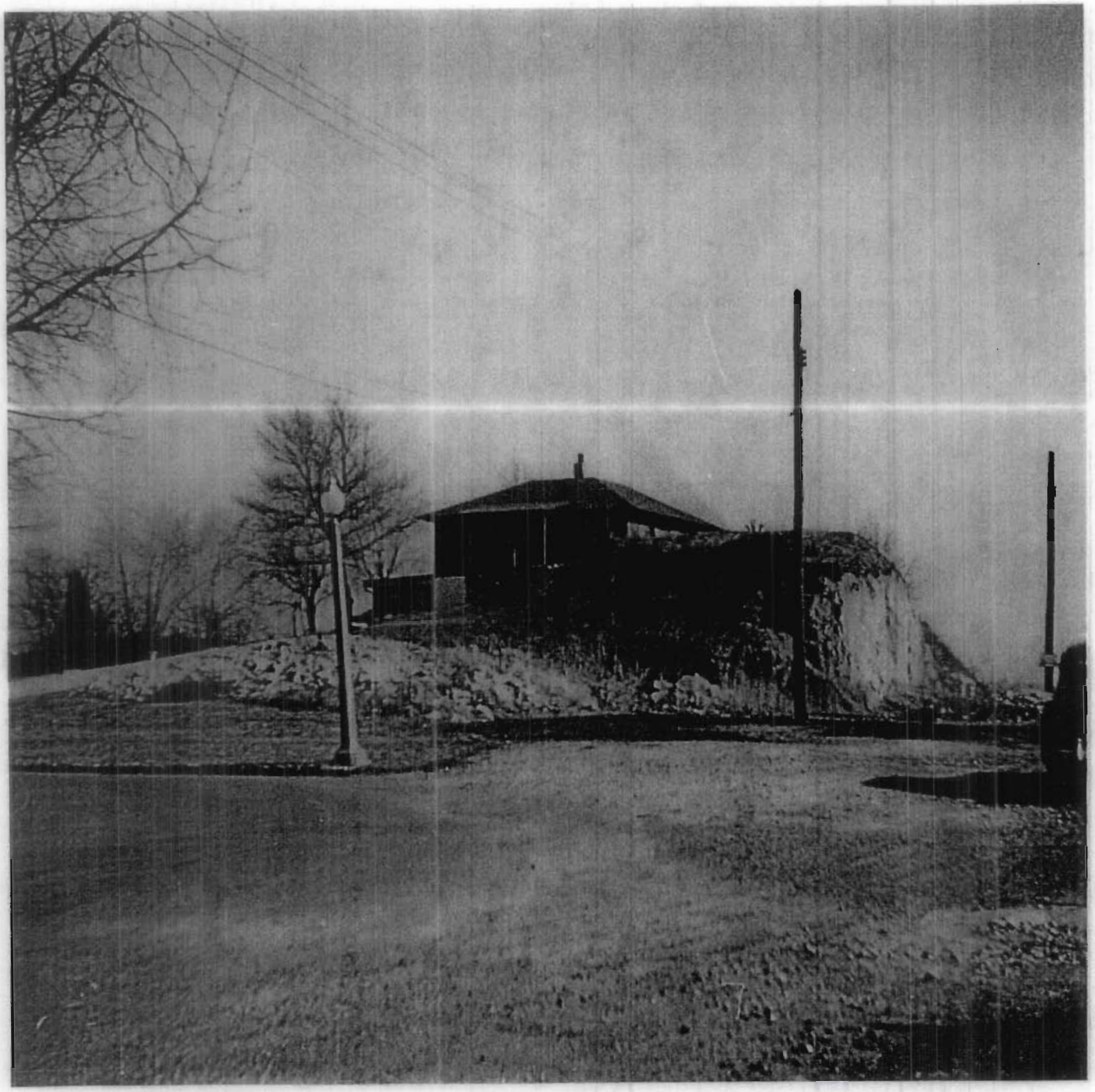
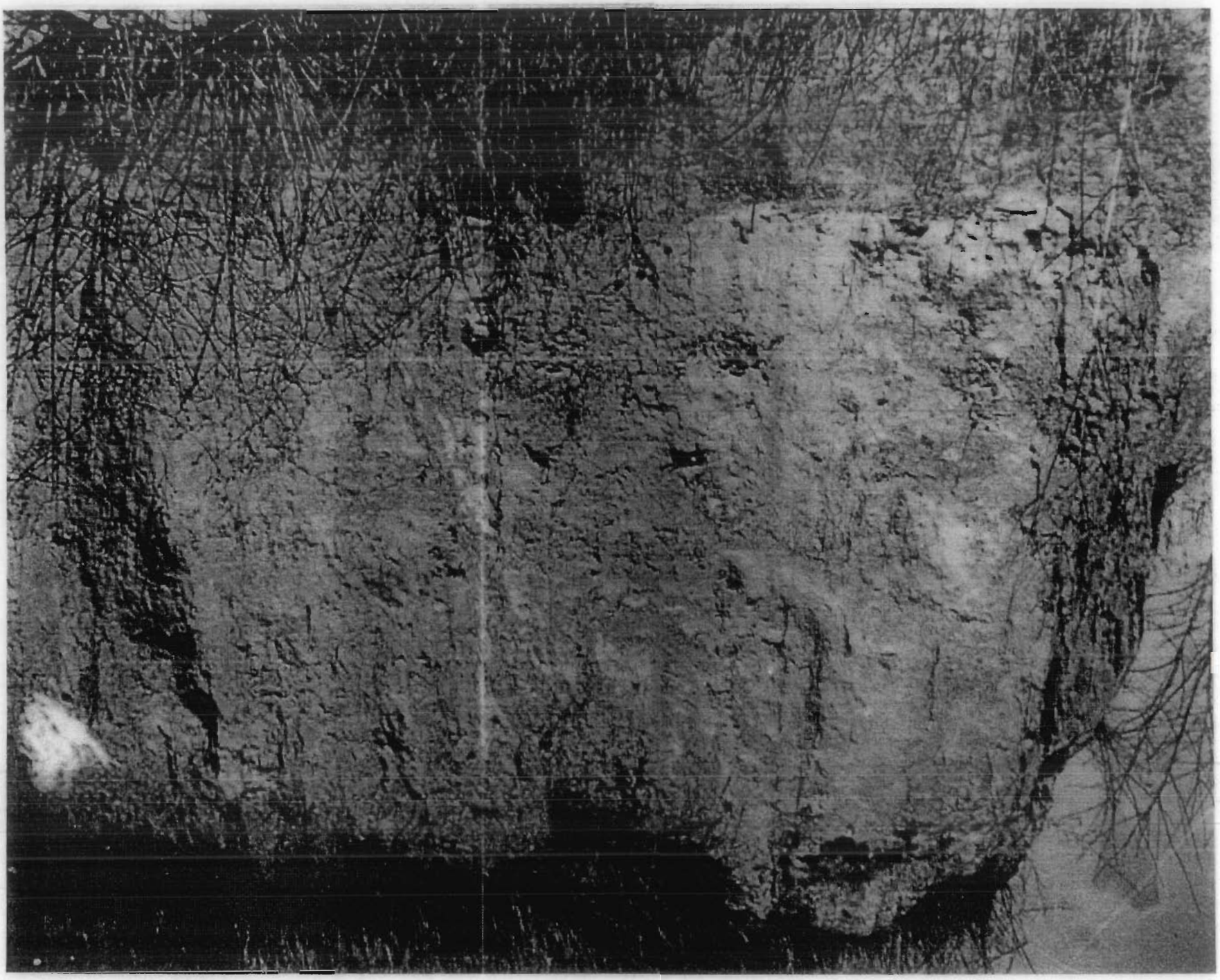

W.C. Carr Residence
West 60 arpents — 175 chains
Roys Wind Mill
J.F. Darby
now Benist
James Lucas
Private grants
Rock Spring
Grand Prairie field of St Louis
Eastern line
West line
Common field of St Louis
East line of St Louis 40 arpen field
Hold Front Corner of Cherry & Broadway
Bastion in front of City Hotel
Bastion
Large Spring
South line of 40 arpen lots
Chouteaus Mill tract
Mill Pond
Bastion in front of Bents office
Bastion called South Bastion
a Rice of Common not included in the corporation
N.E. Corner
Corner of Prairie des noyer field
limits
Corner of Second & Hazel
Eastern line of Prairie des noyer field
South line of Prairie Des noyer Common field
St Louis Common
The Bastions Stand east of the 40 arpent line, about 60 feet
Sugar loaf or mound is 268 feet from the river which is nearly 4 chains
East 40.00 chains
St Louis Common
The above Incorporated limits were never Surveyed untill 23rd March 1820, by J.C. Brown, by Virtue of the order of Court as made in 1809, See act of Governor & Judges of 18th June 1808. Page 256.7.8.

SUGAR LOAF MOUND
St. Louis City, Missouri
Photographer: Leonard Blake
Date: Fall 1950
Neg. Loc.: Leonard Blake
840 Berick Drive
University City, Missouri 63132
View of Sugar Loaf Mound looking northeast

SUGAR LOAF MOUND 6 of 14
St. Louis City, Missouri
Photographer: Leonard Blake
Date: Fall 1950
Neg. Loc.: Leonard Blake
840 Berick Drive
University City, Missouri 63132



SUGAR LOAF MOUND 7 of 14
St. Louis City, Missouri
Photographer: Leonard Blake
Date: Fall 1950
NEg. Loc.: Leonard Blake
840 Berick Drive
University City, Missouri 63132
Profile, looking east.



SUGAR LOAF MOUND 8 of 14
St. Louis City, Missouri
Photographer: Leonard Blake
Date: Fall 1950
Neg. Loc.: Leonard Blake
840 Berick Drive
University City, Missouri 63132
View of exposed south face.