

**National Register of Historic Places  
Determination of Eligibility**

**Bellevue Farm  
Wildwood, Missouri**

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## **Description and Physical Evaluation of Site and Resources**

### **Summary**

Bellevue Farm consists of eight (8) buildings, including three cabins, two garages, a house on a tall stone foundation, a corncrib and a barn, in conditions ranging from good to poor. The barn and corncrib and possibly the westernmost garage date from the period of the farm's significance, 1875 to 1925. The lack of evidence as to the dates of construction however prevents the site from being eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

### **Description of Resources**

The site consists of a barn, corn crib, outhouse, 2 garages, three cabins, and a house. The gravel drive from the entrance to the property leads to an old wooden garage with a concrete block foundation, horizontal lap siding and asphalt shingle roof with a rolling metal door. To the east of the garage, on the top of the hill, are three cabins with concrete foundations, painted wood lap siding and standing seam metal roofs. To the west and south of the garage is a one story house that sits near the bank of a small creek. This house is on a tall old stone foundation (approximately one story tall) and has painted wood lap siding and a corrugated metal roof. Adjacent to the house to the west is another wooden garage with a stone foundation, vertical board walls, a wooden floor, and corrugated metal roof. Directly to the rear of this garage is an outhouse with horizontal lap siding and a metal shed roof. A wooden corn crib stands on poured concrete stilts approximately 50 yards north of the house. The corn crib has vertical board wood walls, a wood floor and a corrugated metal roof. Fifty yards to the west of the corn crib, on the other side of the small creek and in a wooded area there is an old 2-story wood barn, with a stone foundation, timber structure, vertical wood board walls, wood floors, and a corrugated metal roof. Second story doors on the north opens to a hay loft. The lower portion of the barn includes animal pens and has a dirt floor, and is accessible through sliding barn doors on the west side of the barn, as well as a center door on the long side that leads to a raised wood walkway aisle that extends across the barn.

**Evaluation of Integrity:**

For a potential Bellevue Farm Historic District, the following findings exist for the seven aspects of integrity:

**Location:** The farm resources that remain have not been moved.

**Setting:** The setting of the farm has been compromised by the growth of vegetation in recent years where the land was more open in the past, but that does not remove this aspect altogether. The setting of the farm has been further compromised by the addition of "modern" buildings: the cabins, the second house and the new garage. The setting has also been compromised by the loss of the original farmhouse. The open fields that extend to the east of the entrance road and to the north of the main farm complex provide some of the original farm setting.

**Feeling:** The remaining historic buildings combined with the open fields convey some of the feeling of a farm but the main farmhouse is missing. The overgrowth and recent secondary uses of the existing buildings and construction of ancillary buildings have weakened the feeling of a late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century farm.

**Association:** The barn, corncrib, and westernmost garage convey uses strongly associated with the historic significance of Bellevue Farm. The barn was used for animals and hay storage, the corncrib was used for grain storage and the garage was used for farm equipment storage.

**Materials:** The remaining historic buildings convey integrity of materials, but the intrusion of the more modern buildings and the absence of the original farm house is a detriment to this aspect. The barn structure is of rough-hewn timbers supported by stone piers and sided with vertical wood boards. The corncrib structure is large timbers supported by tall concrete piers and sided with vertical boards. The garage is constructed similarly, with a stone foundation instead of concrete.

**Design:** The historic design of the barn and corn crib are typical of the design of farm buildings constructed in the Midwest in the last nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The layout of the structures in relation to each other was typical for a farm of the period.

**Workmanship:** The corncrib and barn display the workmanship of Midwestern farm buildings constructed in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century, but as a fragment, do not adequately stand in for the workmanship of the entire farm.

## Evaluation of Historic Significance

### Statement of Significance

Bellevue Farm was evaluated for significance under the NRHP Criteria A, B, and C using guidelines set forth in the NRHP Bulletin, "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation."

Bellevue Farms is not eligible for listing due to the fact that the resources are not able to be identified as to when they were constructed. St Louis County does not have records of permits issued more than 30 years ago. No deed has been located that specifically references any of the buildings on the property other than the Mincke sawmill and the Pacific RR Depot. The only indicator of when the house was built is the plat maps of St. Louis County that were printed at intervals by local surveyors and engineers.

The preparer evaluated Bellevue Farm under Criterion A in the area of agriculture. The farm is associated with the development of the area as a source of provisions to the growing city of St. Louis, both in terms of building materials and foodstuffs. Julius and George Mincke operated a sawmill in the area beginning in the 1850s and purchased the land to provide the necessary resources of hardwood trees. They sold the lumber milled at their lumberyard located at Poplar and 17<sup>th</sup> Street in the City of St. Louis. In the late 1800s the farmland supplied foodstuffs to their groceries at 2244 Gratiot in the city of St. Louis, and in Carondelet.

The preparer also evaluated Bellevue Farm under Criteria B for association with Aylett Buckner, and George F. and Julius H. Mincke. Aylett Buckner purchased this land and subdivided it into the Town of St. Paul in 1854. Buckner, an attorney and member of a politically connected family from Kentucky, became the U.S. Representative from Missouri in 1873. By that time, Buckner had sold all of his interest in St. Paul to the Mincke brothers and other individuals, who in turn eventually sold their lots to the Mincke brothers. The Mincke brothers were merchants in St. Louis, operating a lumberyard and later groceries, during the period when the buildings at Bellevue Farms were constructed.

### Background

In 1810 this land was granted to Samuel Pruitt as Survey 1975. Pruitt in turn sold it to Archibald Harbison and in 1849 it was deeded to Green Harrison. In 1853 Green Harrison sold it to Aylett Hawes Buckner. Aylett Hawes Buckner was the nephew of Aylett Hawes, who served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1802 to 1806, in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1811 to 1817. Buckner was the cousin of Richard Hawes, the second Confederate Governor of Kentucky, serving from 1862 to 1865, and served as the U.S. Representative from Kentucky from 1837 to 1841. Buckner's cousin Albert Gallatin Hawes was the U.S. Representative from Kentucky from 1831 to 1837. Buckner was the editor of the Salt River Journal in Pike County MO and became

Clerk of the Pike County Court in 1841. He moved to St. Louis in 1850 and was the Commissioner of Public Works from 1854 to 1855. He returned to Pike County in 1856 and became a Judge in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District in 1857. Buckner moved to St. Charles in 1862 and became interested in tobacco farming. He was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1872 and served in the U.S. Congress from 1873 to 1885, as a Representative of Missouri.

Aylett Hawes Buckner platted the Town of St. Paul in 1854 with Daniel Hunt. Several lots were sold to individuals and speculators. Soon after acquiring the property, Buckner became aware of other relatives of Malinda Harrison who had claim to the land. He entered in to an Article of Agreement with Green Harrison wherein Harrison would obtain title from these relatives in exchange for \$1000 in groceries and \$100 in 12 months and \$900 in 2 years at 6%. On March 2, 1855 Buckner received a QCD to the property excepting the property conveyed to Mincke with a sawmill and that conveyed to the Missouri Pacific for a depot station known as St. Paul. One of the first purchasers of lots was Mary Goll. The property she acquired, 5 lots in block 1, 26 lots in block 2, all blocks 5 and 6, was held in trust by Joseph R. Tyler. She was the wife of Cephas Goll and she was permitted to have hold, use, occupy and enjoy...all profits and proceeds....for her own sole use and benefits, separate and apart from said husband and wholly free from his control or interference and was to be given to her heirs upon her death.

The town of St. Paul did not flourish and by 1865, George F. and John H. Mincke purchased the remaining lots. The brothers ran a lumber yard, J. H. Mincke & Brother, located between 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> and between the Missouri Pacific Railroad and Poplar in the city of St. Louis. Their sawmill was located south of the railroad near the St. Paul depot, on Block 17 of St. Paul. In 1876, according to Guzman's maps the lumber business, J. H. Mincke and Brother, owned Blocks 11, 12, 13, and 14 of St. Paul. By 1866 J. H. Mincke was listed in the St. Louis directory as residing at St. Paul Station, Pacific RR. On the plat of St. Paul there is a house located on the east side of Block 14 and it is also shown on the 1876 Guzman survey of the plat, and it can be inferred that this is the house that Julius Mincke lived in until sometime after 1876. Undoubtedly, the Mincke brothers utilized the hardwood forests of the St. Paul property to supply their lumberyard. The 1881 St. Louis directory lists George Mincke under hardwood lumber. By the late 1860s, George F. Mincke has taken over the lumber yard and continues in the business until 1890, moving the lumberyard to the south side of Rutger near Columbus in the early 1880s.

By 1870 John H. Mincke has a grocery at 2244 Gratiot. His father-in-law was a grocer. The 1870 census shows Mincke residing in Bonhomme township, Ballwin post office. Other residents at the Mincke house include George Seigel, a grocery store clerk and 3 farm workers. It is likely that these individuals worked the Mincke farm to provide produce and meat to the Mincke grocery. George Mincke operated a grocery in Carondelet in the mid-1870s as well. Both brothers continue to be involved in the lumber business until the mid-1870s. By 1880, John H. Mincke is residing at 1619 Chouteau in the city of St. Louis, next to his brother George, who resides at 1615

Chouteau. The 1878 Pitzman map of St. Louis county shows a house located on Block 15 and an adjacent building on what would be one of the southern lots of Block 1. These lots in Block 1 were owned by Julius Mincke and this structure may be the barn and the house on lot 15 is most likely the main farm house that recently was destroyed by fire.

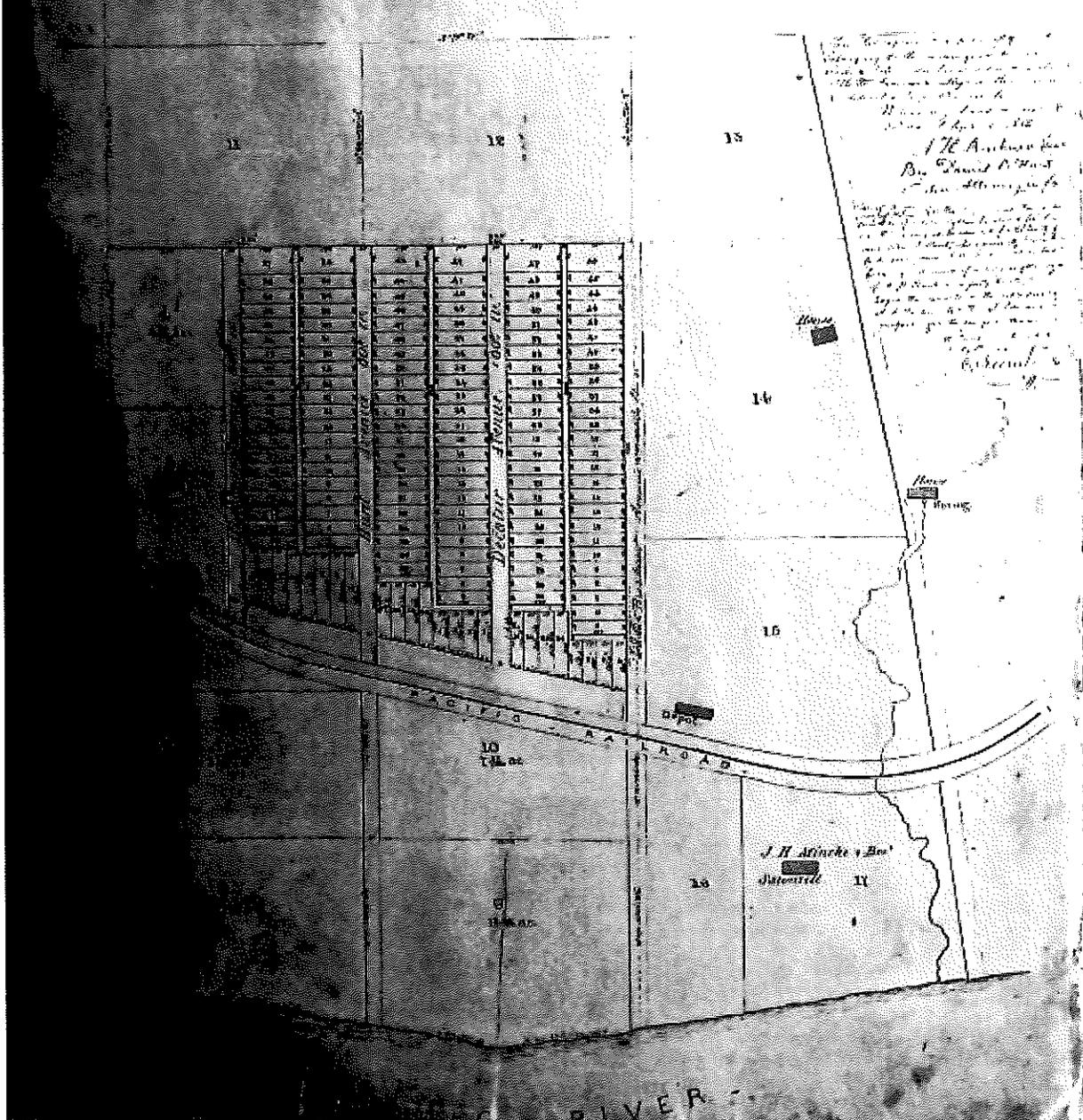
The 1893 St. Louis County directory shows a Mary J. Mincke residing at St. Paul Road in Sherman, MO and working as a farmer. Mary Mincke is listed as a farmer at this address until the late 1890s. Henry Julius Mincke, the son of Julius H. Mincke may have moved out to the farm at St. Paul in the early 1900s. His name disappears from the city of St. Louis directories after 1900 and the 1909 St. Louis County directory shows his address as St. Paul Road in Sherman and his occupation as a farmer. By 1928, Henry Mincke has moved to Clayton and no Minckes appear in the St. Louis County directory at the St. Paul address after that time.

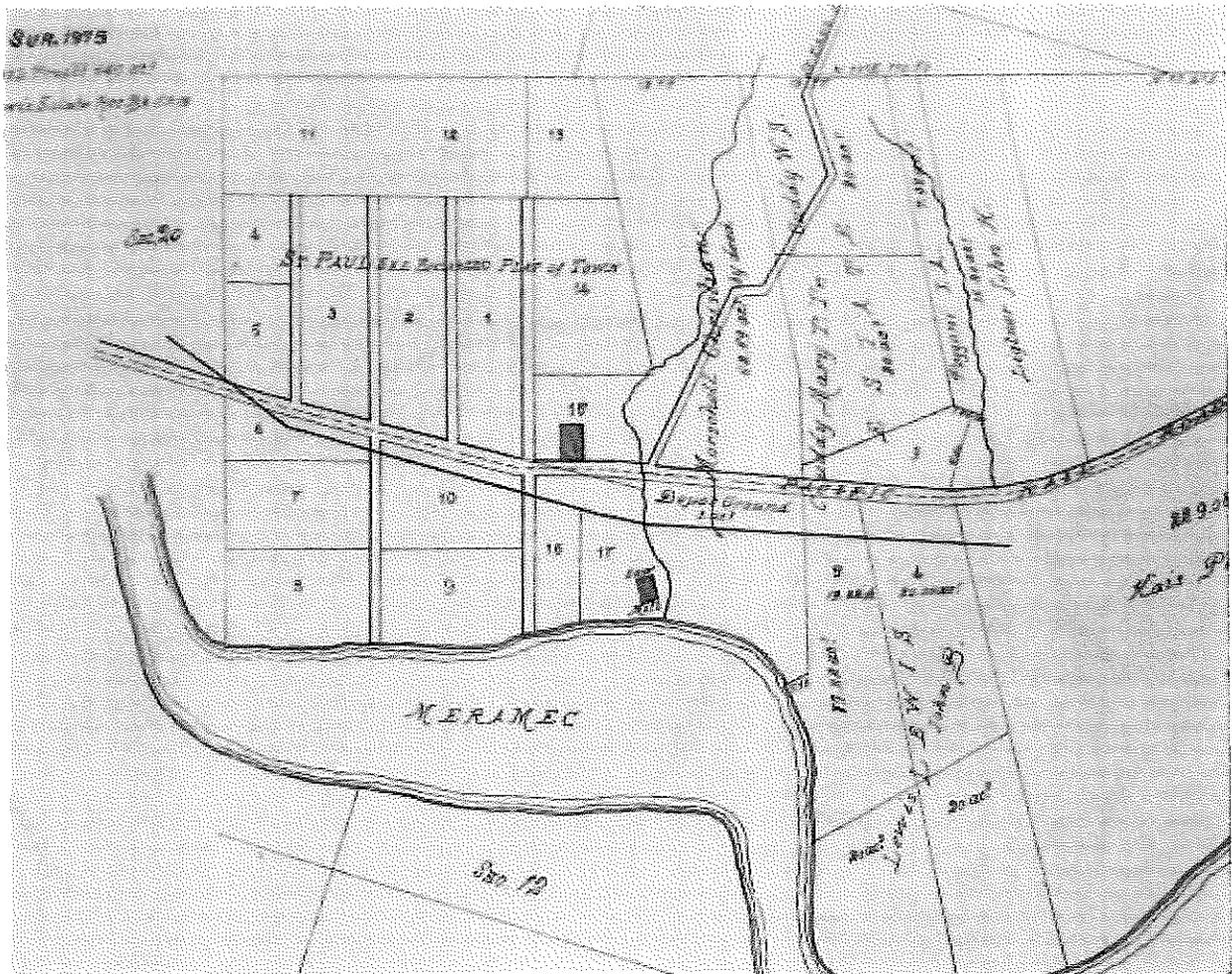
# SAINT PAUL

being a SUBDIVISION of Part of SURVEY N<sup>o</sup> 1916, Township 44. N. R. 4. E.  
of the 5<sup>th</sup> principal Meridian by

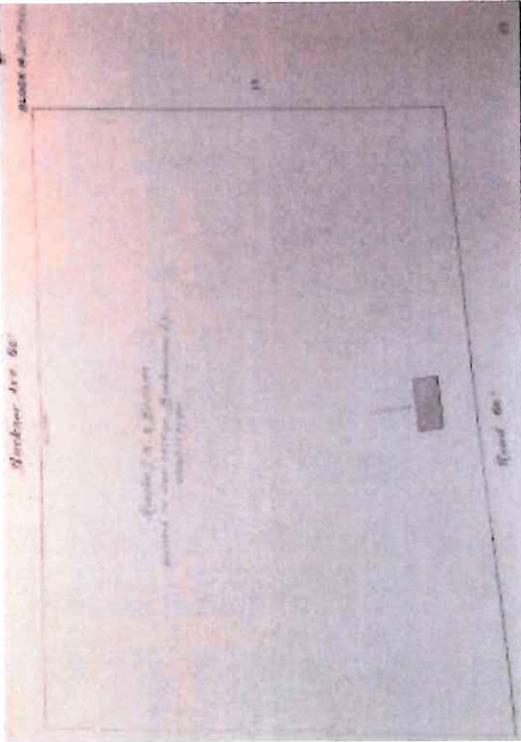
Surveyed by  
Crosby & O'Mahony

A. H. BUCKNER.

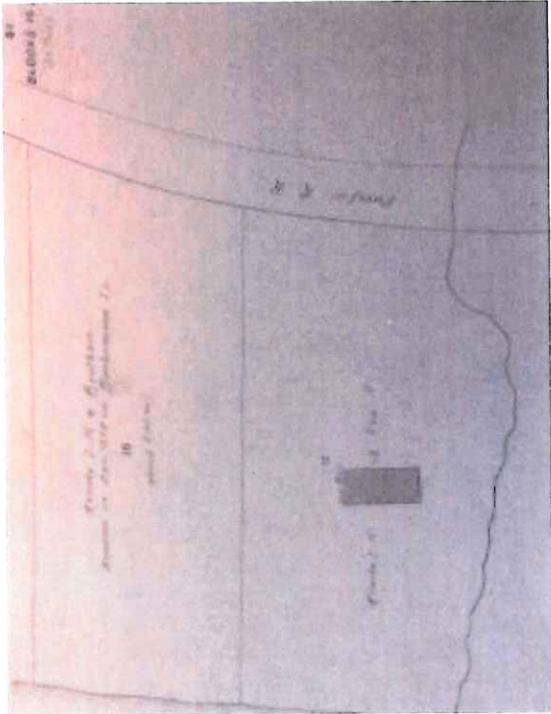




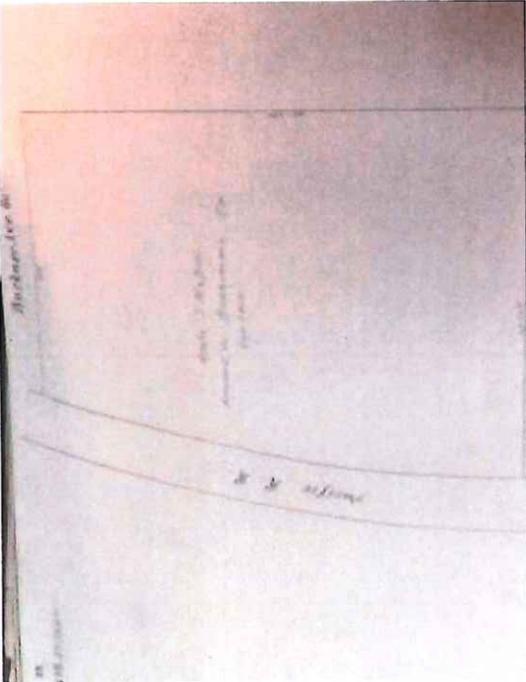
Guzman Atlas ca.1876



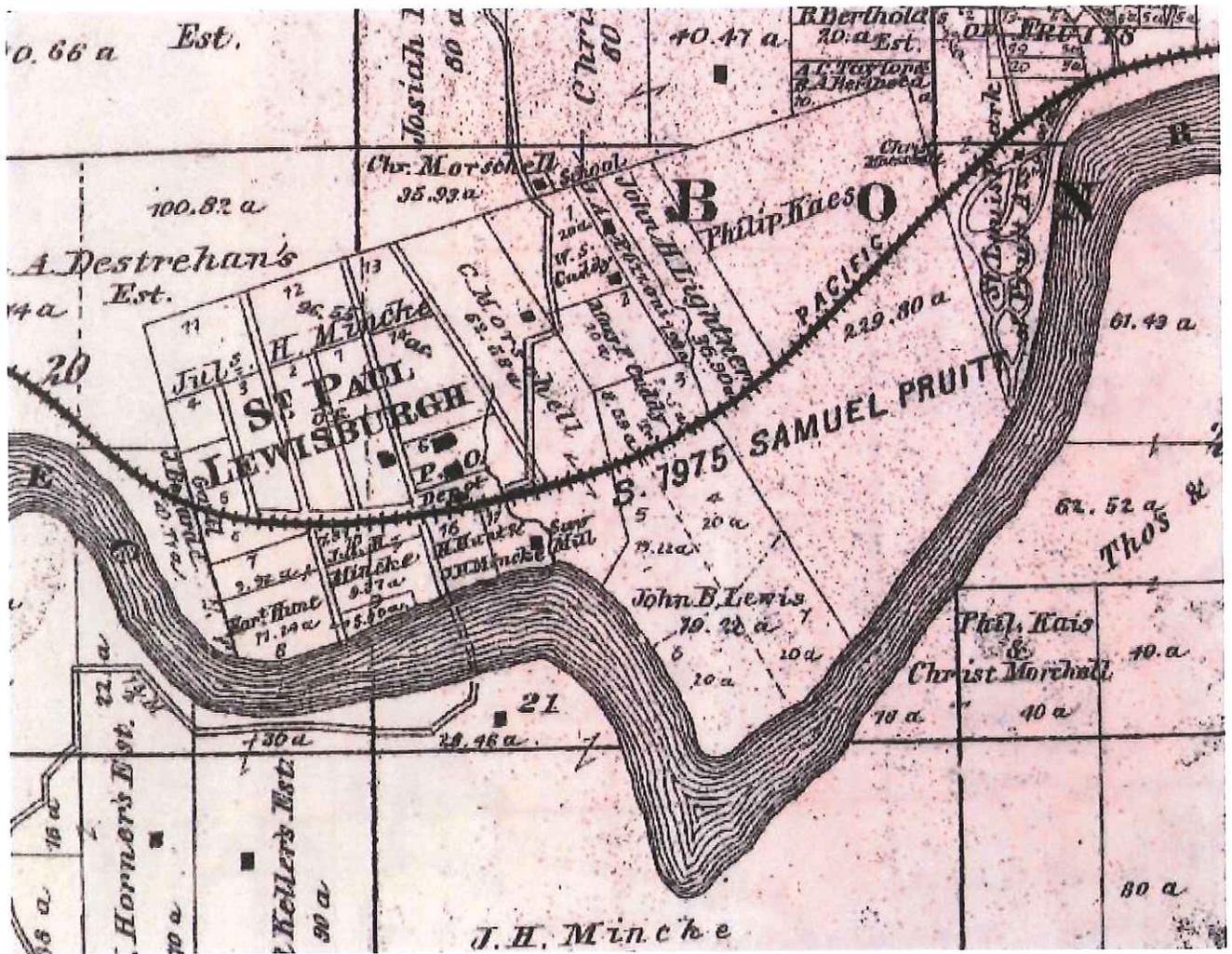
Guzman 1876 Block 14



Guzman 1876 Blocks 16 & 17



Guzman 1876 Block 15



Pitzman Atlas 1878



Panorama at end of drive



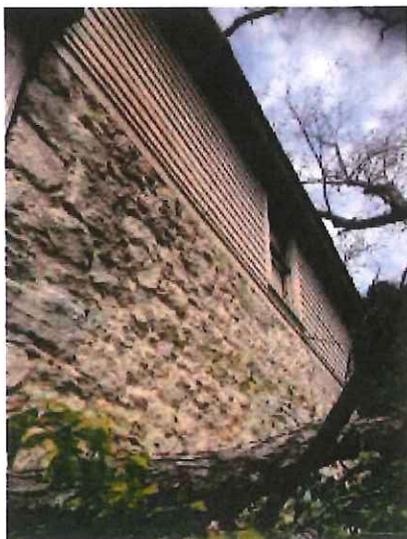
Panorama at entrance



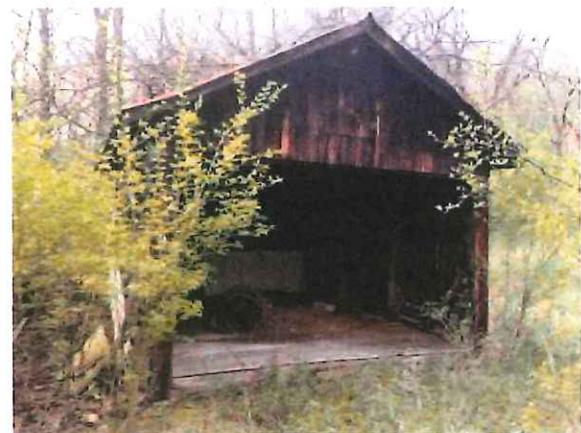
House near creek



House near creek



Stone foundation of house



Garage near house



New garage and cabins



Barn and corn crib



Barn and corn crib



Corn crib at concrete stilt



Barn – east side



Barn – east side



Barn – south side



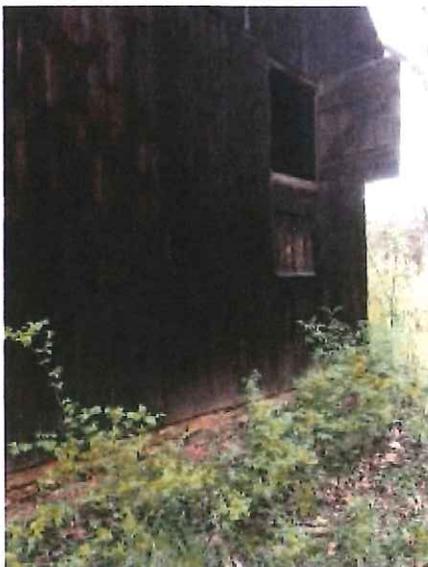
Barn -south side



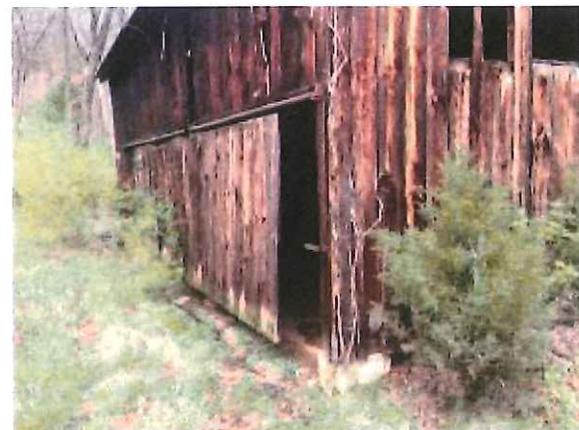
Barn – west side



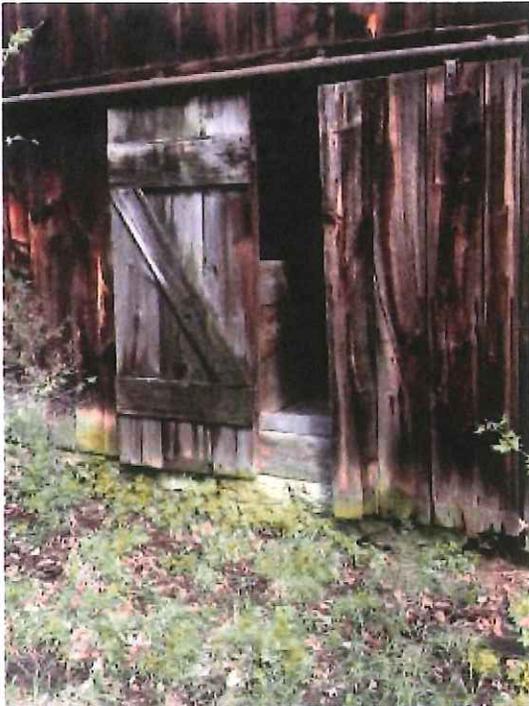
Barn – east entrance



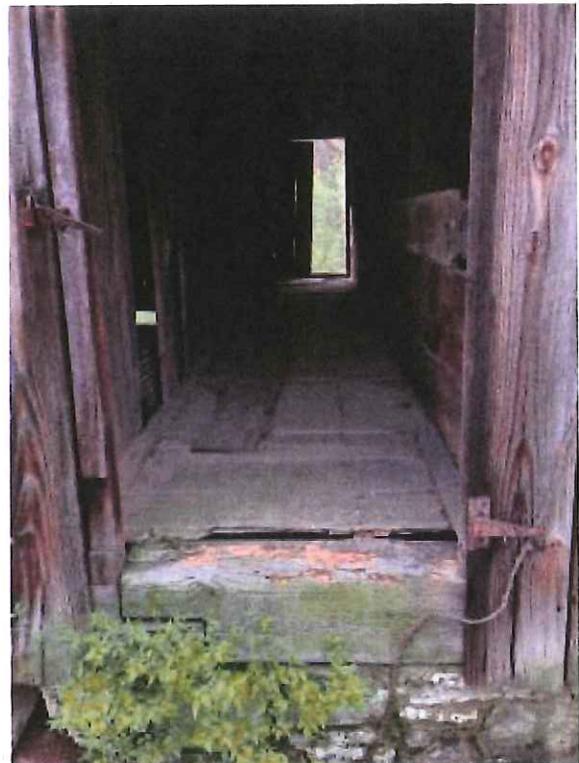
Barn – hay loft



Barn – west entrance



Barn – west entrance



Barn – elevated aisle



Barn – corner entrance



Barn – elevated aisle



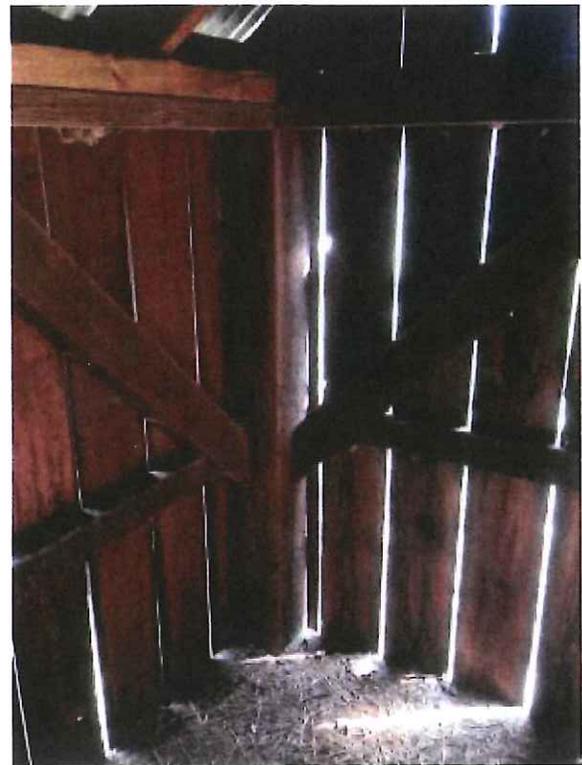
Barn – first floor



Barn – animal pens first floor



Barn – hay loft



Barn – corner structure detail



Barn – hay loft