

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received SEP 12 1986
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Starr, Edwin and Anna, House Number of contributing resources: 2
and/or common Same Number of non-contributing resources: 0

2. Location

street & number 26845 McFarland Road N/A not for publication
city, town Monroe vicinity of Fourth Congressional District
state Oregon code 41 county Benton code 003

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"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input 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 Crocker Farms
street & number 27118 Hubbard Road
city, town Monroe vicinity of _____ state Oregon 97456

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Benton County Courthouse
street & number 120 NW 4th
city, town Corvallis state Oregon 97330

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Benton County Cultural Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1983 federal state county local
depository for survey records Benton County Historical Museum
city, town Philomath state Oregon 97370

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Edwin and Anna Starr House represents the vernacular Gothic style of architecture and sits on its original site four miles northwest of Monroe, Oregon in Benton County. It was built for Edwin and Anna Starr c. 1889 and is an excellent example of a Gothic farmhouse in virtually unaltered condition. The T-shape plan, steeply pitched gable roof and Italianate bay window are typical characteristics of the vernacular Gothic style. It is a rare remaining example in the county of the use of a brick pier foundation, and it represents one of the typical structural systems of the period: box, or plank construction.

The house is currently vacant and is in fair to poor condition owing to lack of maintenance, but it is structurally sound. The present owners plan to rehabilitate the structure for a residence using data compiled from Philip Dole's University of Oregon Preservation Technology class (spring 1985) and recommendations from a Master's terminal project recently completed on the Starr House.

Located in Section 8, Township 14 South, Range 5 West, Willamette Meridian, the Starr House sits on part of the first donation land claim in Benton County. The latter was established by Thomas D. Reeves in 1845.¹ Natural boundaries are formed on the west and south of the house by a creek and woodland which have remained virtually unaltered since Reeves' claim. The house is surrounded by farmland, which is its historical context. A few of the original large black walnut trees shade the yard. The nominated area of two acres includes the farmhouse and yard, the dairy building and remnants of the original orchard.

EXTERIOR

The Starr House is a one and a half story, T-shaped plan formed by the perpendicular intersection of two building forms. These two parts create two distinctive wings producing a picturesque Gothic quality. The house measures approximately 49 feet in length, 28 feet in width on the west end and 21 feet in width on the east end. An unusual brick pier foundation system raises the house above the ground 7 to 12 inches; a typical pier dimension is 1 foot, 4 inches (2 bricks) in length by 8 inches (1 brick) in depth. Although most of the piers are original some have been replaced by concrete block or are missing. An 8 by 8-inch sill rests on the brick pier foundation. There are remnants of a water table and skirting that originally covered the the sill and foundation. 1 1/2 foot by 8 to 10-inch wide planks set vertically side by side, are nailed to the sill and plate to form the wall structure. This structural system is known as plank or box construction and was used until the turn of the century. It was known for its strength, durability and economy.

The roof expresses one of the most distinctive characteristics of the Gothic style, a steeply pitched gable form. The 45 degree pitched roofs are covered by wood shingles. The two original chimneys located at the center of each gable peak contain no flue or damper. They are one brick in thickness with corbelled chimney caps. Projecting boxed eaves and wide frieze board with bead mouldings extend

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around the house perimeter. Horizontal shiplap siding measuring 1 inch by 4 3/4 inches cover the structure and is nailed directly on the vertical planks. The shiplap corner seams are covered by vertical corner boards topped by small capitals. The corner boards and caps produce a pilaster-like effect reflecting a popular detail used during the 19th century.

The windows and doors are distinctive elements throughout the house. Detailed cap mouldings decorate the tops of each opening displaying fine craftsmanship and style of the period. The windows all have original one-over-one, double-hung sash which are unusual in a Gothic style and more typical of an Italianate or Second Empire house.² An Italianate bracketed bay window embellishes the north facade, another characteristic Gothic element. Four panel doors constitute the majority of the door types, and the front doors have overhead transoms.

The front porch is presently missing, but evidence of its configuration can be seen in paint lines on the front facade. The porch probably was an open, two level structure with turned posts supporting a balcony. Half of the back porch has been filled in to accommodate a bathroom built sometime in the 1940s and the other half has been enclosed to create a small interior room.

INTERIOR

There are two entrances to the Starr House; one opens directly into the dining room on the east-west wing and the other opens into an entrance hall located in the north-south wing. The entrance hall is a small rectangular room measuring 3 feet, 8 1/2 inches by 9 feet which separates the two wings and provides a direct access to the stairway. A door in the west wall of the entrance hall leads into a parlor, measuring approximately 13 feet, 8 inches by 16 feet, 2 inches. A bay window and fireplace embellish the family area. A back parlor, directly to the south, is accessible through a door in the south wall of the front parlor. The back room measures 11 feet, 7 inches by 19 feet, 11 1/2 inches. The back parlor may have functioned as a bedroom judging from the two closets on the north wall. It opens directly into the dining room to the east.

The dining room is almost square in plan, measuring 16 feet by 16 feet, 9 inches. It served as a central activity room with doors leading to the front porch, back porch (now the bathroom), entrance hall, back parlor and kitchen. An original fireplace, with a classical mantelpiece and Gothic trim, plus a built-in cupboard, decorate the east wall.

The kitchen is accessible from the dining room and the back porch. It is rectangular in shape with a pantry built onto the south end. Original cupboards remain on the east wall surrounded by newer 1950s countertops and cabinets. A door has been altered into a window on the east wall which apparently once lead to an outbuilding.

The second floor is comprised of four bedrooms, two in each wing, and a stair hall. The north-south wing bedrooms contain windows and closets and each have an entrance from the hall. Only the westernmost bedroom in the east-west wing open

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directly into the hall. This room also contains the door which once lead to the second level balcony. The easternmost bedroom is only accessible by passing through the western bedroom that is adjacent to the hall.

Floors and ceilings are tongue and groove boards trimmd by wide baseboards. Interior window and door trim and moulding are a very distinctive part of the house, projecting 4 inches from the plank wall. This detail is typical of box construction due to the thinness of the plank walls. Originally, wallpaper covered most of the interior surfaces and pieces of the first floor's covering can be seen behind the plaster board. The second story wallpaper has been stripped off exposing the plank wall with only traces of the original wall covering left. Woodwork in the second story bedrooms has its original clear finish while woodwork on the first floor has been painted over several times. Much of the hardware in the house if fragmented or missing but remaining orignal items are typical, ornate pieces of the Victorian era. The date 1887 was found on a piece of window hardware on the second floor.

OUTBUILDINGS

The only remaining outbuilding on the property is the dairy building. It is rectangular in plan and measures 16 feet, 3 1/2 inches in length by 10 feet, 2 inches in width. The dairy building is a balloon frame structure with a hipped roof and a Queen Anne style cupola, perched in the middle of the roof. It mimics the main house details in its use of shiplap siding, eaves and wide frieze board. The building is divided into two rooms, both having shelves on the north and south walls. A door leads to each room from a concrete sidewalk along the west. The dairy building is thought to have been built at slightly later than 1889 due to its Queen Anne-style cupola and balloon frame wall construction.

SITE

Cultivated fields surround the Starr House as they did one hundred years ago. The land and natural boundaries around the property have basically maintained the same configuration since the house construction. Muddy Creek and a woodland create natural south and east boundaries and a forested hill forms its western boundary. The house is on sloped prairie land and can be clearly seen from McFarland Road, its northern boundary. A long, gravel driveway running north-south from McFarland Road leads to the house. It passes on the east side of the house and continues south across an intermittent creek to a field. A separate driveway branches off of the main drive and passes the front of the house ending at a mobile home; a temporary feature which serves as the residence of the present owners, who intend to occupy the historic farmhouse as soon as it has been rehabilitated.

ALTERATIONS

Alterations to the Starr House have been minimal. The enclosure of the back porch and the addition of a bathroom have been the most intrusive alterations to the exterior of the structure. The interior alterations consist of finish changes, cabinet and counter additions, and altering a previous door in the kitchen to a window. The original exterior facades and interior spaces have remained virtually intact since the house was built.

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FOOTNOTES

- 1 Portrait and Biographical Record of Willamette Valley Oregon. Chicago: Chapman Publishing, 1903, p. 1172.
- 2 Interview with Philip Dole, Professor of Architecture and Historic Preservation, University of Oregon; Eugene, Oregon, December 12, 1985.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input 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 c. 1889-1910 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Starr House, a finely-detailed T-shaped farmhouse in the Rural Gothic tradition, is located in the Muddy Creek drainage approximately 4 miles northwest of Monroe in Benton County, Oregon. It qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places primarily under Criterion "c." It is locally significant as an unaltered example of vernacular Gothic architecture characterized by T-shaped plan, steeply pitched gable roof, fine window and door detailing, and Italianate bay window. It has remained virtually intact on the exterior as well as the interior and is located on its original site. The house is noteworthy as an example of box, or plank construction, and it rests on unusual brick pier foundation. The farmhouse is significant also for its association with early settlement of the county. The land claim it occupies was once owned by one of Benton County's earliest settlers, Thomas D. Reeves, who established his claim in 1845.¹ Edwin N. Starr, son-in-law of Thomas Reeves, bought a portion of the historic Reeves claim and is believed to have built the farmhouse for himself and the former Anna Reeves about 1889. Edwin Starr's family also had been Benton County settlers of the 1840s. Edwin and Anna Starr were highly regarded general farmers and stock-raisers. While the farmhouse and dairy building are all that remain of the functional ensemble developed and maintained by the Starrs between 1889 and 1910, these features stand in their historical agricultural setting. Included in the nominated area of two acres are two towering black walnuts, which are original plantings, and remnants of the original orchard.

ARCHITECTURE

The Starr House is a vernacular Gothic farmhouse which remains virtually intact. The Gothic style came to America from England, inspired by the Romantic or Picturesque movement, in the late 18th century and early 19th century.² The style was introduced into Oregon by the 1850s and became popular with the availability of patterns books. Especially influential were works by Andrew Jackson Downing. There were various styles associated with the Gothic movement but the Starr House reflects a later type of Gothic architecture, sometimes referred to as the Western Farmhouse.³ This style became prevalent in rural Oregon between 1875 and 1900 and its primary characteristics were a steeply, pitched gable roof, T- or L-shaped plan and a central gable. Virtually unaltered, the Starr House is one of the best-preserved examples remaining in Benton County of this once-common rural architectural style.

The construction method and foundation system distinguish the Starr House from other houses of the same period. The house sits on a brick pier foundation, a rare type of system to be found in Oregon today. It is raised above the ground 7 to 12 inches on piers made of bricks, measuring two bricks in length and one brick

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2 acres

Quadrangle name Monroe, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	0
---	---

 Zone

4	7	4
---	---	---

 Easting

5	2	0
---	---	---

 Northing

4	9	1	2	7	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

B

--	--

 Zone

--	--	--

 Easting

--	--	--

 Northing

C

--	--

 Zone

--	--	--

 Easting

--	--	--

 Northing

D

--	--

 Zone

--	--	--

 Easting

--	--	--

 Northing

E

--	--

 Zone

--	--	--

 Easting

--	--	--

 Northing

F

--	--

 Zone

--	--	--

 Easting

--	--	--

 Northing

G

--	--

 Zone

--	--	--

 Easting

--	--	--

 Northing

H

--	--

 Zone

--	--	--

 Easting

--	--	--

 Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property occupies a portion of Tax Lot 700, Section 8, T. 14S., R. 5W., Willamette Meridian, in Benton County Oregon. It is comprised of two acres, to include the historic farmhouse, dairy building, landscaped yard, and remnants of an historic orchard. The nominated area is more particularly described as

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries follows: (See continuation sheet)

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tada Suttitum and Sally Donovan

organization Historic Preservation Program date December 12, 1985
University of Oregon School of Arch.

street & number 1342 Alder Street, No. 3 telephone (503) 345-1933

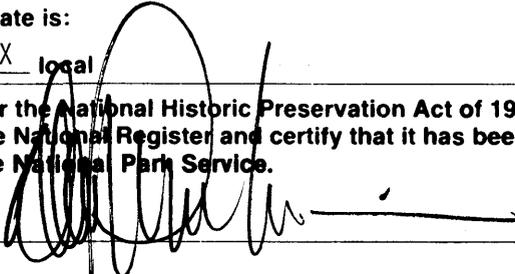
city or town Eugene state Oregon 97401

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

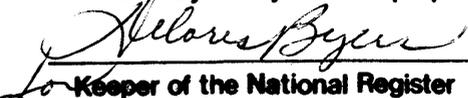
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date September 9, 1986

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

 date 10-9-86
for Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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in width. Another distinctive element of the house is its box or plank method of construction, which was no longer used after the turn of the century. Planks set vertically side by side were nailed to the sill and plate creating the wall structure. Excellent examples of period craftsmanship and detailing can be seen in the bracketed bay window, corner boards, mouldings, frieze boards, fireplace surrounds and mantelpieces, trim and stair railing. The window type, which appears to be the original one-over-one, double-hung sash is thought to be unusual in a rural context. Single pane sash was used more frequently after 1870, but usually in urban locations.⁴ The two porches, typical of the Gothic style, create a transitional space between the exterior and interior.

The Starr House functioned as a comfortable and utilitarian farmhouse characteristic of the late Gothic Revival. The plan provides easy access from one interior space to another reflecting a functionally oriented house plan. Room size and location were arranged according to various family activities, especially apparent in the dining room/living room. Although the original furniture and light fixtures have been removed, remaining wallpaper samples and hardware reflect ornate Victorian patterning popular in the late 19th century. The Starr House is a good example of the aesthetic quality of the Gothic Revival and contributes to the understanding of building techniques, materials and finishes of the time.

SETTLEMENT

The property on which the Starr House sits was originally a portion of Thomas D. Reeves' 1845 donation land claim, the first in Benton County, Oregon. Reeves was one of the earliest pioneers in the county and an early promoter of settlement in the area. His claim was adjacent to a major north/south transportation route making it a logical location for a farm. Reeves was known for his philanthropic efforts and "gave freely of his means to churches, schools and anyone who called upon him in assistance."⁵ One of the earliest schools was built in 1850 on his claim and named after him. He donated part of his land for the first cemetery in Benton County and was remembered as a "justly popular man, an enviable place in the esteem of the people of this county being his."⁶ T. D. Reeves lived in the area until his death in 1887.

The farm continued through the efforts of his daughter, Anna Reeves Starr, and son-in-law, Edwin N. Starr. Edwin Starr was born in Monroe, Oregon in 1856 to one of Benton County's early settler families which arrived in the area in the early 1840s. Starr was noted for shaping early farmland in the vicinity and served "in the interest of the Democratic party in the capacity of road supervisor. He has made himself a place in the community and winning thereby the esteem of his fellow citizens."⁷ Besides his community involvement, Starr was respected for his persevering labor in developing his farm. "He has excellent buildings of all kinds, good commodious barns and outbuildings and a comfortable dwelling. Out of two hundred and sixty acres he is now cultivating one hundred and thirty, following the methods of his father in carrying on general farming and stock raising."⁸

Anna and Edwin Starr sold the farm shortly after 1910 and moved to Bellfountain,

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Oregon. The property has changed hands many times, but its integrity as a farmstead has been maintained. In 1976, Crocker Farms bought the farm and presently Elizabeth Crocker Brooks, daughter of Sam Crocker, resides on the 260-acre holding. The Brooks plan rehabilitation of the house in the near future and will continue its use as a rural farmhouse.

RURAL LANDSCAPE

Certain historic outbuildings are now missing from the nucleus of the historic farmstead. The buildings were pulled down with the advent of mechanization and specialized crop production. The Starr House, however, retains its integrity and will once again have a function in farming operations. The setting is characterized by cultivated fields, creeks, and woodland. There is a high concentration of farm houses and outbuildings neighboring the Starr property which antedate 1900. The Edwards House and barn, west of the Starr House, was built in 1864 and the Porter House to the northwest dates from the same period.⁹ The landscape and historic dwellings in the Muddy Creek drainage have maintained their integrity generally to a remarkable degree.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Portrait and Biographical Record of Willamette Valley Oregon. Chicago: Chapman Publishing, 1903, p. 1172.
- 2 Rosalind Clark, Architecture Oregon Style, Portland: Professional Book Center, Inc., 1983, p. 45.
- 3 Portrait and Biographical Record of Willamette Valley Oregon. Chicago: Chapman Publishing, 1902, p. 1172.
- 4 Interview with Philip Dole, Professor of Architecture and Historic Preservation, University of Oregon; Eugene, Oregon, December 12, 1985.
- 5 Portrait and Biographical Record of Willamette Valley Oregon, p. 1172.
- 6 Ibid., p. 1172.
- 7 Ibid., p. 1180.
- 8 Ibid, p. 1180.
- 9 Interview with Philip Dole, December 12, 1985.

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Brooks, Elizabeth. Starr House owner, Benton County, Oregon. Interview, November 19, 1985.

Dole, Philip, Professor of Architecture and Historic Preservation, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. Interview, December 6 and 12, 1985.

Fagan, David D., History of Benton County Oregon, Portland: A. G. Walling, Publishing, 1885.

McFarland, Janine, "History of Reeves-Starr House," Paper for Preservation Technology class, University of Oregon, 1985.

Phinney, Mark, Historical Records Survey, Document on file at Benton County Historical Museum, Benton County, 1938.

Portrait and Biographical Record of Willamette Valley Oregon, Chicago: Chapman Publishing Company, 1903.

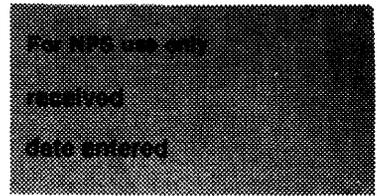
Suttitum, Tada. "Rehabilitation of the Starr House," Terminal Master's project, Historic Preservation Program, University of Oregon, 1985.

Tishler, William, "The Site Arrangement of Rural Farmsteads," APT Bulletin 10, no. 1, (1978), 63-77.

Vaughan, Thomas, and Virginia Ferriday, eds., Space, Style and Structure: Building in Northwest America, Vol. 1, Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1974.

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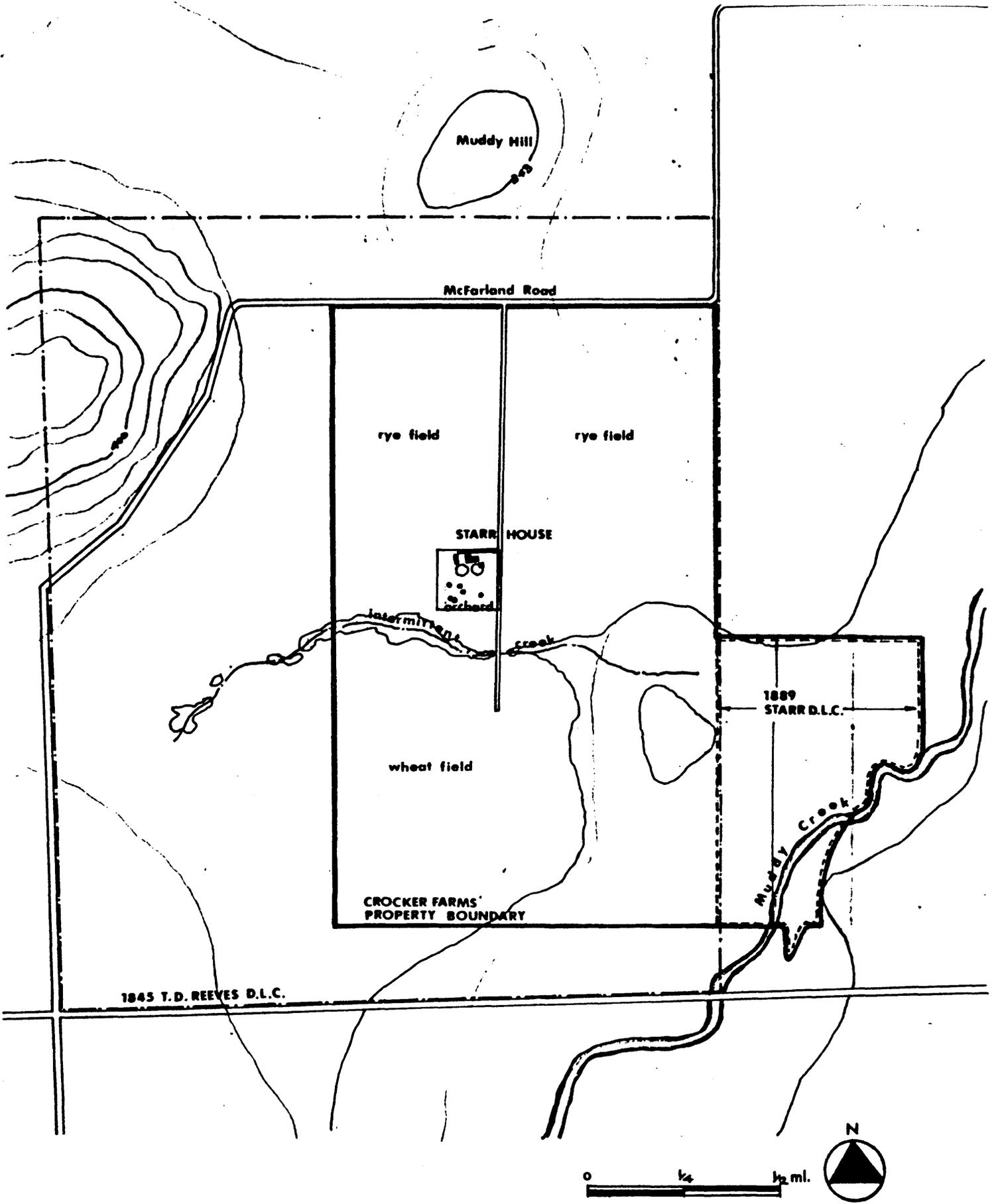
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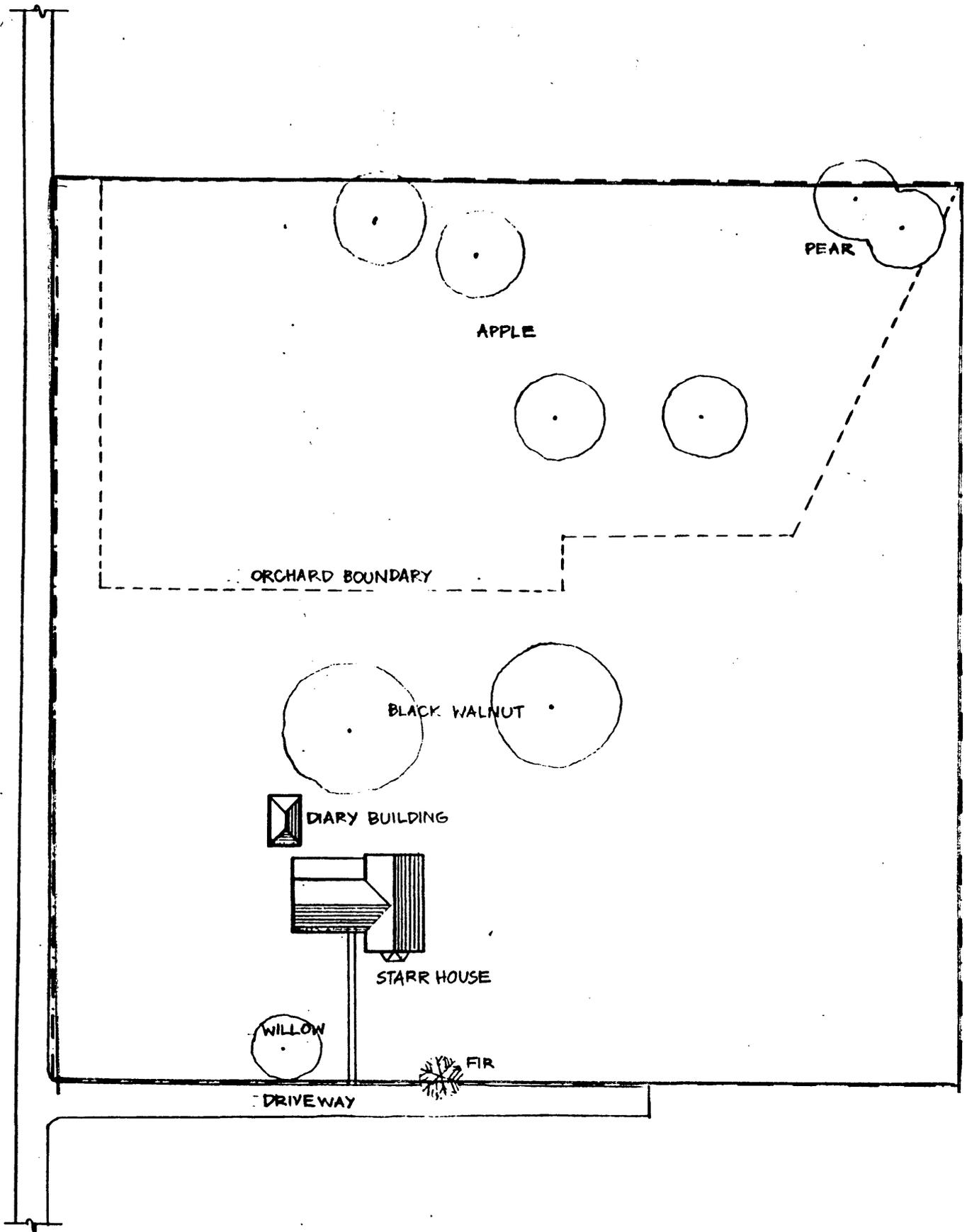
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Beginning at a point 21.04 chains West of a point on the East line of the Donation Land Claim of Thomas D. Reeves and wife, Claim No. 40, Notification No. 2540, in Township 14 South, Range 5 West of Willamette Meridian 39.47 chains North of the Southeast corner of said claim; thence North $0^{\circ}17'$ West 350 feet; thence West 250 feet; thence South $0^{\circ}17'$ East 350 feet; thence East 250 feet to the place of beginning, containing in all two acres, more or less.



STARR HOUSE
property map



SITE PLAN





NORTH ELEVATION

0 1 3 5 FEET





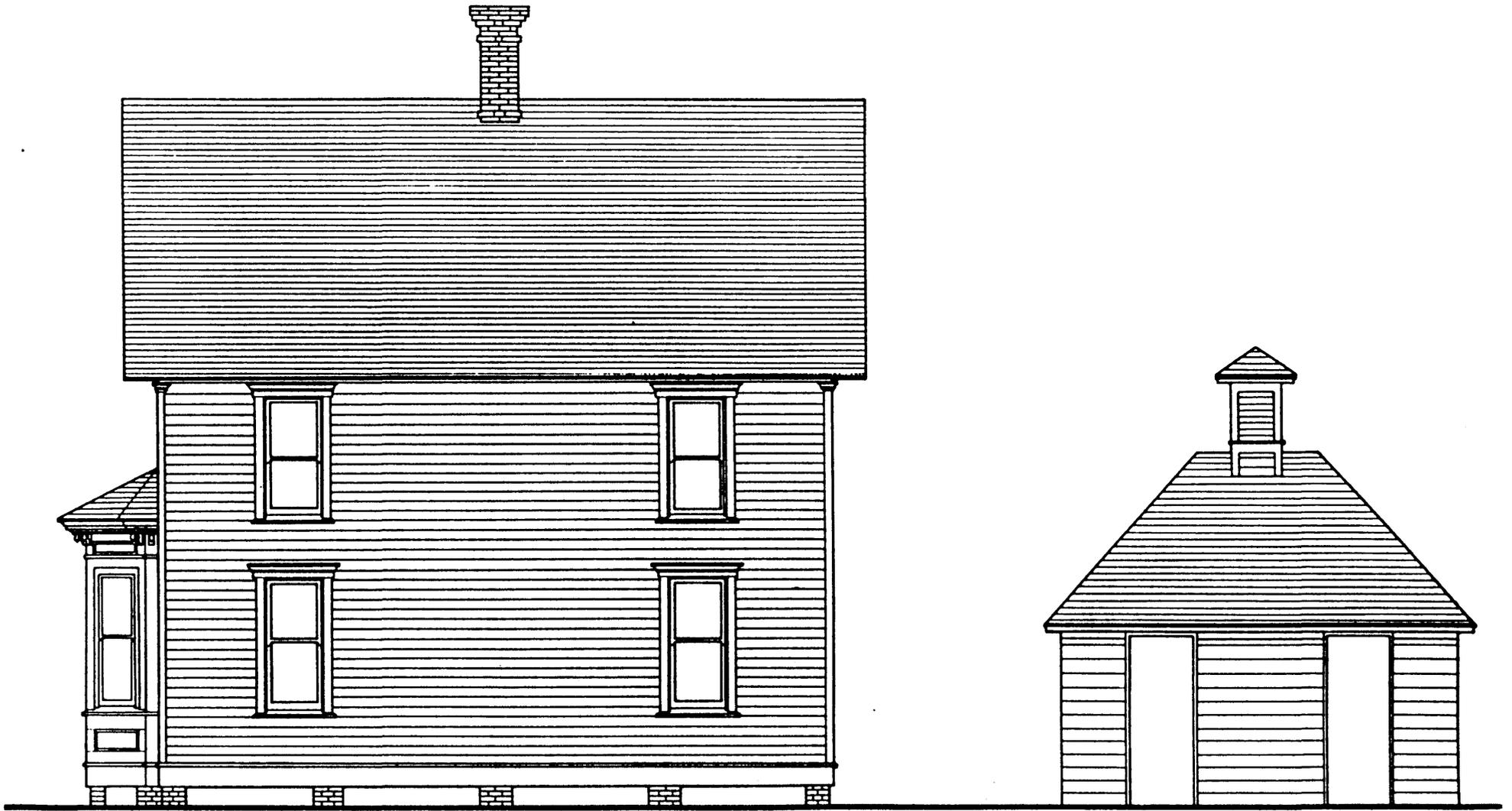
EAST ELEVATION

0 1 3 5 FEET



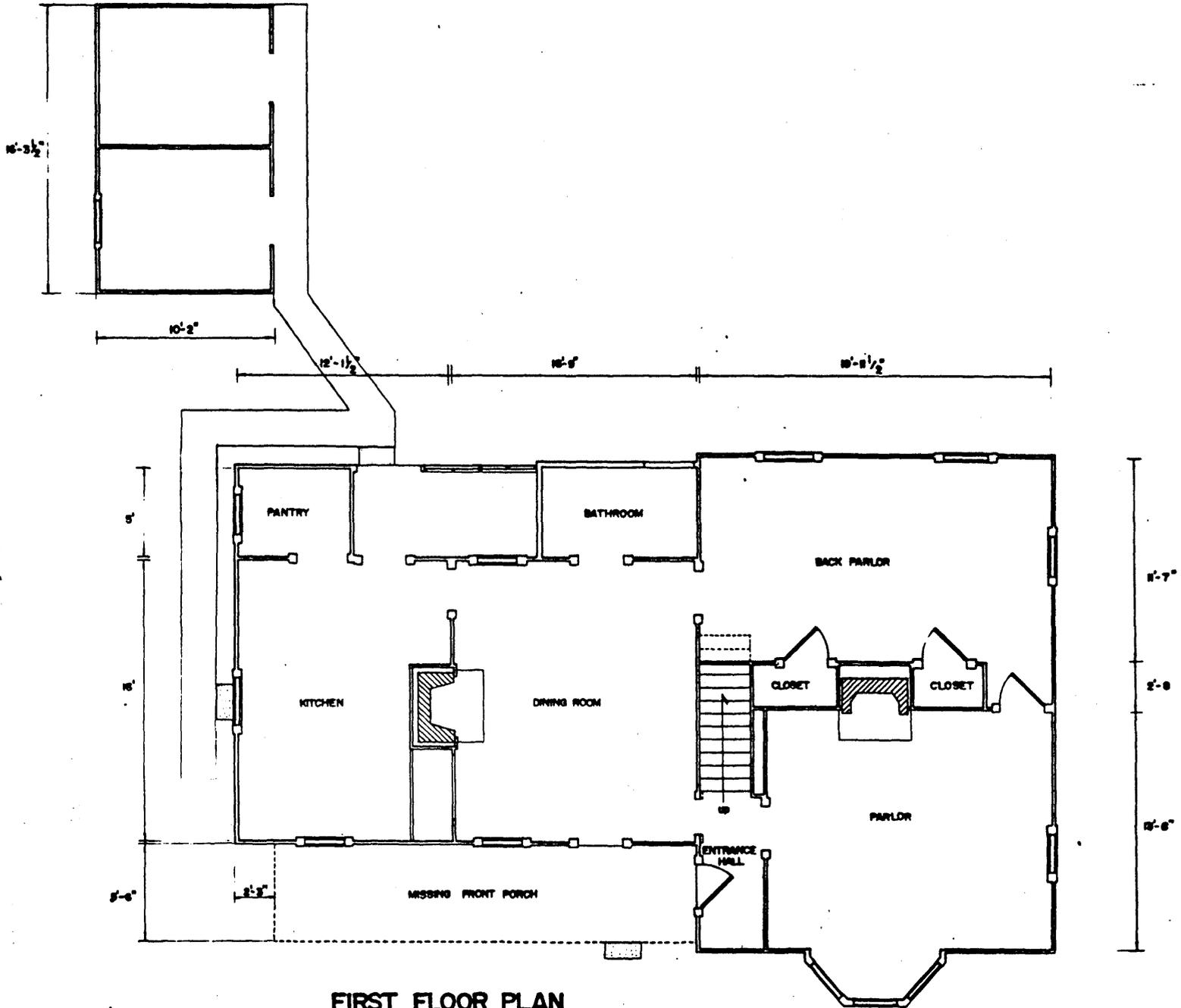
SOUTH ELEVATION

0 1 3 5 FEET

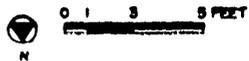


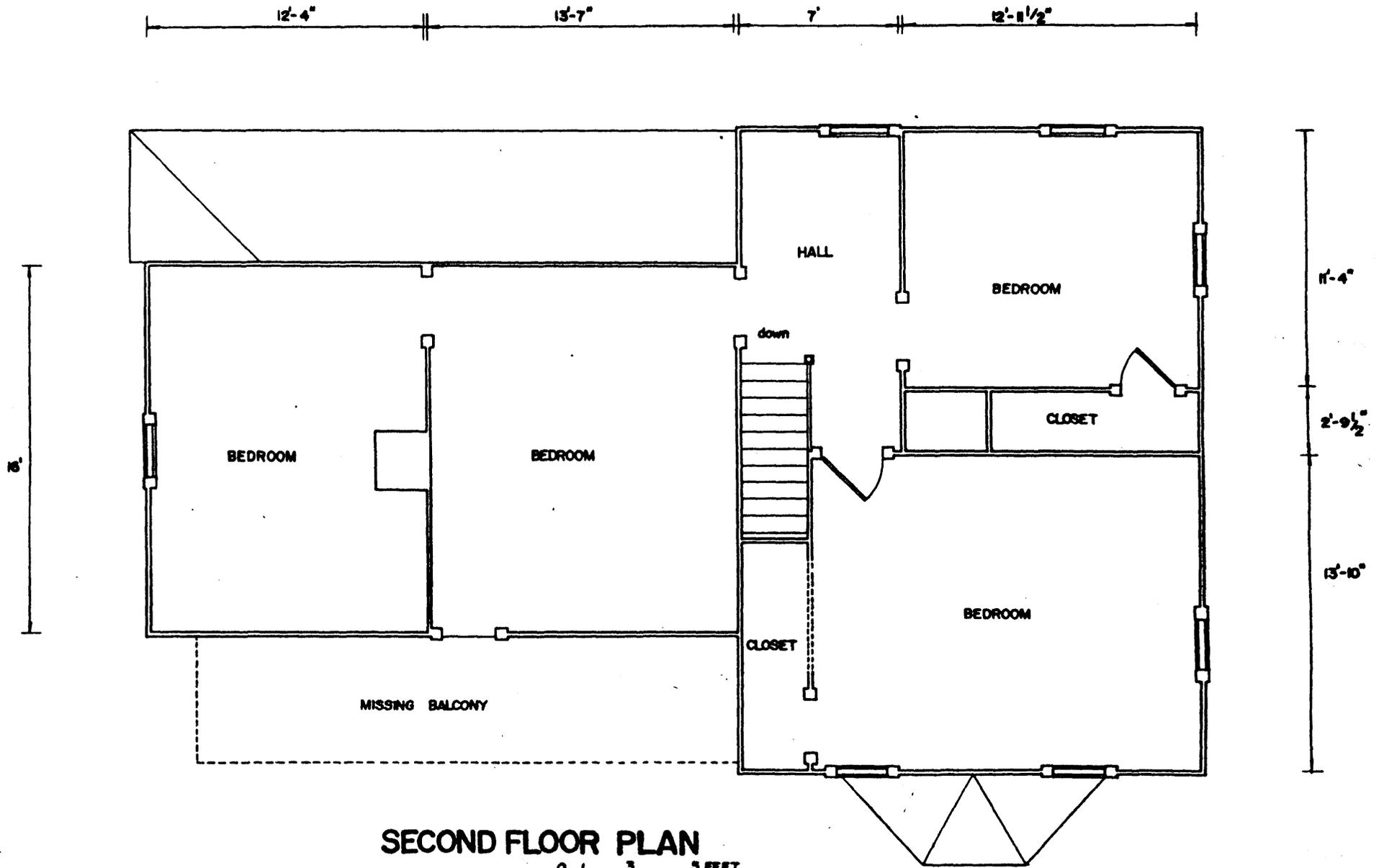
WEST ELEVATION

0 1 3 5 FEET

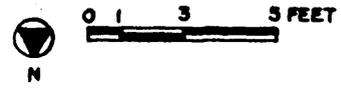


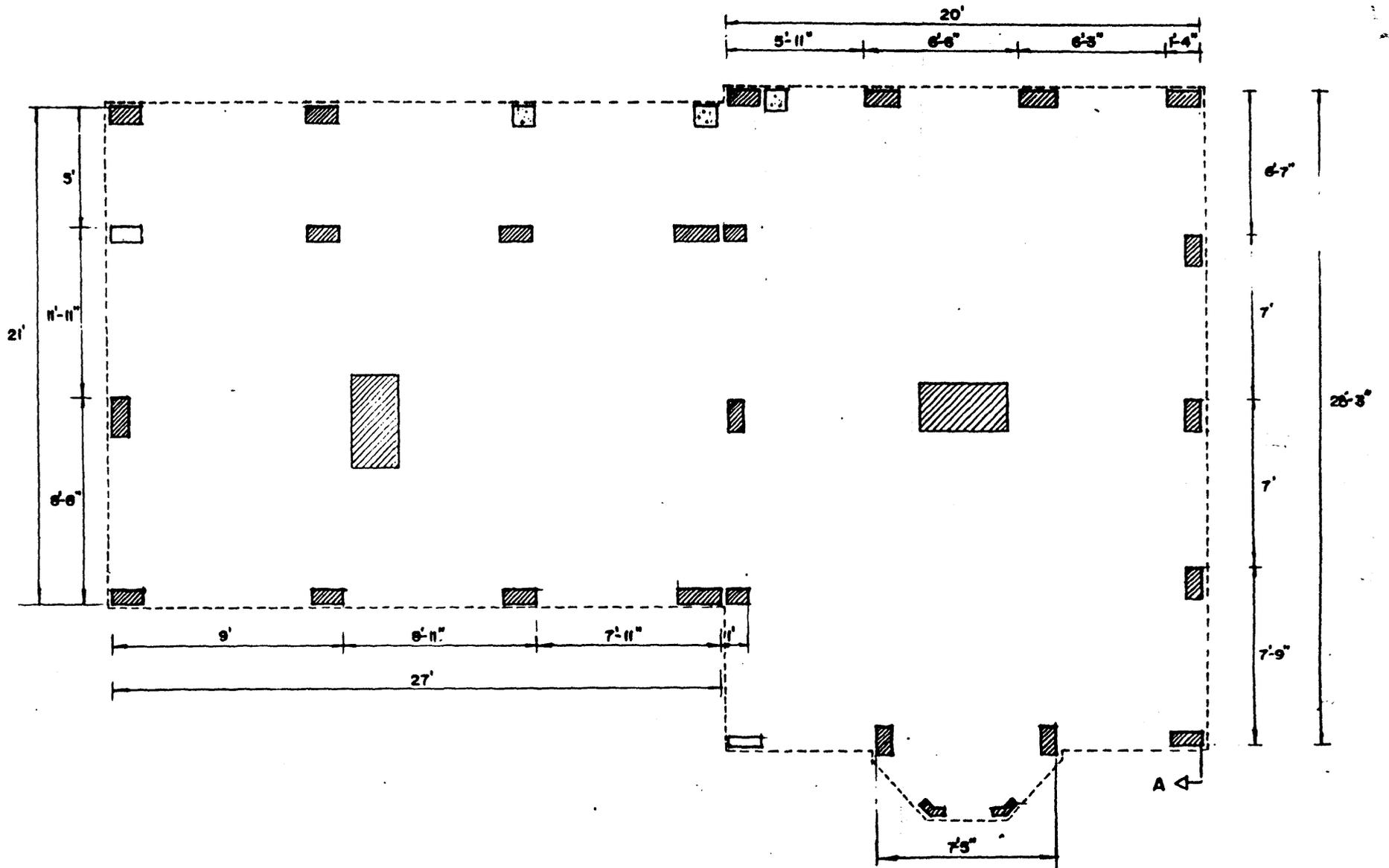
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



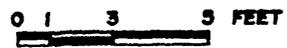


SECOND FLOOR PLAN





FOUNDATION PLAN

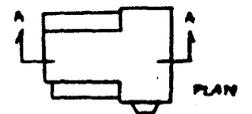


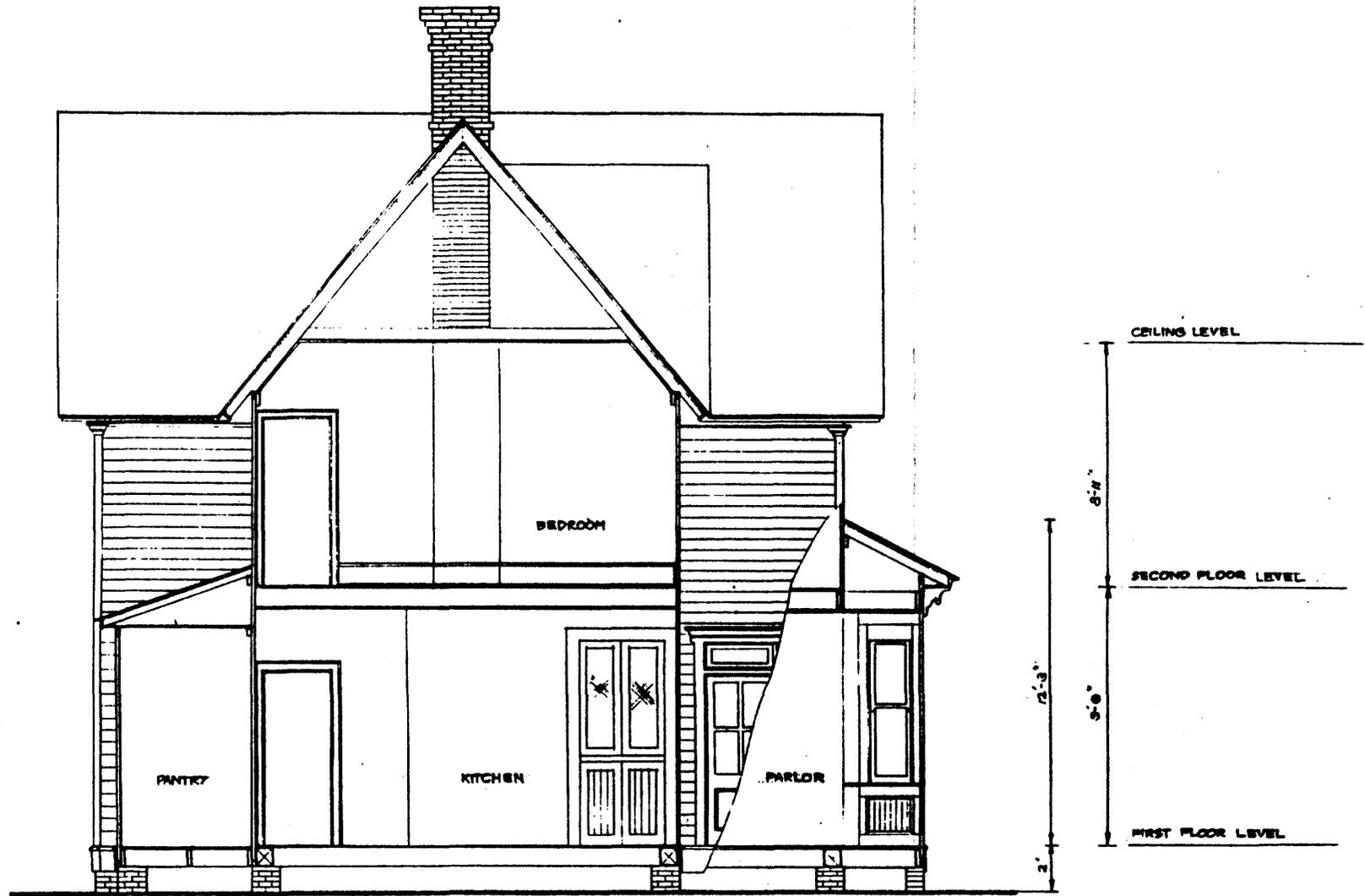
KEY:

-  BRICK PIER
-  MISSING PIER
-  CONCRETE BLOCK
-  WOOD BLOCK



SECTION A-A





SECTION B-B

