Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



### FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

#### SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

NAME				
HISTORIC	Chilton-Williams F	arm Complex		
AND/OR COMMON	Chilton Place			
LOCATION	EHE	minerice a	Hô	
STREET & NUMBER	Missouri Route 106	1		
CITY, TOWN	Eminence wic X	VICINITY OF #8 -	congressional distri Hon. Richard Ic	ct chord
STATE	Missouri	CODE 29	COUNTY Shannon	<sup>CODE</sup> 203
CLASSIFICA	TION			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS		ENTUSE
DISTRICT	_XUBLIC	OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE		COMMERCIAL	
STRUCTURE SITE	-BOTH PUBLIC ACQUISITION	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
OBJECT	_IN PROCESS	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT	RELIGIOUS
		YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	
		<u>X</u> NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
AGENCY REGIONAL HEADQUART STREET & NUMBER	TERS:( <i>II applicable</i> ) Ozark National Sce	nic Riverways		
CITY. TOWN	Van Buren		STATE	souri 63989
LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR			
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS ET	cOffice of Recorder	of Deeds, Shannon	County Courthous	e
STREET & NUMBER	Courthouse Square	· · · ·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
CITY, TOWN	Eminence		STATE	souri 65066
REPRESENT	ATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
TITLE	History, Scenic Da Shannon and Carter	ta, Ozark National counties, Missouri	Scenic Riverways	, Dent,
DATE	1969	X FEDERALST	ATECOUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	Ozark National Sce			, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
CITY, TOWN	Van Buren		STATE Mis	souri 63965

### 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDI	TION	CHECK ONE	CHECK C	DNE
EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	UNALTERED		SITE
_XGOOD	RUINS UNEXPOSED	_XALTERED	MOVED	DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Chilton-Williams Farm Complex is located at Owl's Bend, on the west bank of the Current River in Shannon County, Missouri, along the Old Powder Road. All structures are original and have been unchanged for forty years.

The following is the inventory:

Building #315 - Chilton House: A two-story frame 29' x 32' building facing the Old Powder Mill Road about 100 yards south of the Current River. It is oriented north south. There are no outbuildings, though originally an outhouse, chicken house, smoke house and shed were immediately to the rear. Ruins of the first Owl's Bend Post Office (1923) and a blacksmith shop are immediately across the road and a storm cellar on the west, side of the yard.

Exterior: Gable roof, covered with corrugated iron; front wall covered with 11 1/2" flush horizontal boards. The other three sides are sheathed with 4 1/2" clapboard, painted white. It has hand-hewn beams and sandstone piers. A two-story veranda extends across the front and an enclosed porch is in the northeast corner. An outside rough cut stone chimney is in the center of the east end.

Openings: There are five doors and twelve windows. The front has three bays, the center of which on both floors are doors. Both doors have false wooden transoms. An additional door at the west end of the first floor gives access to a stair to the second floor. There is a single window on each floor in the west wall and a kitchen door opened onto a roofless wood porch, now missing. In the east wall is a single window between the chimney and southwest corner, first floor. Two windows are in the rear wall of the second story. All windows are double sash with 6 x 6 lights.

Interior: First floor: There are three rooms and an enclosed porch. The living room at the south end is 13'6" square. A single window and a sandstone fireplace are in the east wall, a window and entrance door in the south. (The wood mantel and facade have been removed.) A doorway in the west wall connects with a  $13'6" \times 15'9"$  bedroom. To the rear are an  $8' \times 13'6"$  porch and an  $8' \times 13'6"$  kitchen. Hardwood floors are in the living room and kitchen, and pine boards the other rooms. Walls and ceilings are 11 1/2" painted tongue and groove boards, which have been covered with wallpaper.

Second Floor: A single large room with walls and ceiling of 11 1/2" boards occupies the entire floor. It is reached by a 30' wide enclosed staircase that runs through the first floor bedroom.

Condition: Good. Boarded up and locked. Sprayed regularly with preservative. Building #318 - Williams-Baltz House: A 1 1/2 story rectangular frame house

### 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AR	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 1900-	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC 	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY NVENTION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIEY)

#### SPECIFIC DATES 1869-79; 1937

BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Francis,	Thomas V	V., Robert
BOILDEN/ANGINI LOT	Chilton;	Lillian	Baltz

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chilton-Williams Farm Complex is significant as representing the development of an Ozark farm from the post Civil War period to the present. The buildings range from forty to a hundred years in age. Among them is the Chilton House, one of the oldest buildings in Shannon County and the only surviving specimen of this style left in the area. The complex embraces a century of changes in agriculture and rural architecture.

The National Park Service is considering restoring the complex as an Ozark Living Farm.

<u>History</u> The Current River flows southward through Dent, Shannon, Carter and Ripley counties in south central Missouri, a remote, picturesque region, characterized by forested mountains and narrow valleys. Rivers here depend to a great extent on underground springs rather than surface runoff for water, which produces clear, sparkling streams.

Settlement began in the first part of the nineteenth century and by the time of the Civil War, all of the land had been taken. These people were primarily farmers from Tennessee and Kentucky. Their farms were small and isolated, being confined by topography to narrow valleys beside the streams. Crops were mainly corn, hay and wheat.<sup>1</sup>

One of the settlers from Tennessee was Thomas Boggs Chilton, who migrated to the Current River valley in 1816 with his wife, Susan, and several children. Their youngest child was Francis (Frank) who was born in 1827.<sup>2</sup>

Francis married Mrs. Margaret Fancher Stearman in 1845 and the union produced five children. On September 1, 1859, he received a grant of 189.52 acres of land on the west bank of the Current River in Shannon County, Missouri, six miles downstream from its confluence with Jack's Fork River. The property is in a wide valley formed by a horseshoe bend of the river.

Chilton farmed until his death in the 1860's. His widow operated the farm and raised their children, Napoleon Bonaparte, born in 1848, Elizabeth, born in 1850, Thomas Wesley, born in 1855, Robert, born in 1857, and Evaline, born in 1859.<sup>4</sup>

2. Chilton, Frank.	Personal Interview.	February 13, 1975.	
3. Chilton, J. J. Vol. 3, No. 1,	"The Chilton Family," (July, 1965), p. 5.	Shannon County Histo	Prical Review,
<b>DGEOGRAPHICAL</b> ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PRO UTM REFERENCES		ACREAGE NO	T VERIFIED
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DES			
	See accompanying map	• The northwestern bo	undary is marked by C
complex. All of t will remain undeve well. The open a	the land and the struct cloped. The area outsi irea within the boundar	the the boundaries is ties is wooded.	the structures of th deral property which federal property as
LIST ALL STATES AN	ID COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES (	OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUI	NTY BOUNDARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<del> </del>	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
STATE <b>1 FORM PREPARE</b> NAME / TITLE		COUNTY Revised by: Jill M	
<b>1</b> FORM PREPARE NAME / TITLE Milton ORGANIZATION	<b>D BY</b> F. Perry	Revised by: Jill M Histori MWRO DATE	York an June 30, 1980 November 23, 1976
<b>1</b> FORM PREPARE NAME / TITLE Milton ORGANIZATION STREET & NUMBER 1005 A	D BY	Revised by: Jill M Histori MWRO DATE 817 Jefferson	York an June 30, 1980 November 23, 1976
<b>1</b> FORM PREPARE NAME / TITLE Milton ORGANIZATION	<b>D BY</b> F. Perry Quality Hill Towers	Revised by: Jill M Histori MWRO DATE	York an June 30, 1980 November 23, 1976
<b>1</b> FORM PREPARE         NAME / TITLE         Milton         ORGANIZATION         STREET & NUMBER         1005 A         CITY OR TOWN         Kansas         2 CERTIFICATION         ST	D BY F. Perry Quality Hill Towers City SOF NOMINATION ATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION C YES X NO	Revised by: Jill M Histori MWRO DATE 817 Jefferson STATE OFFICER RECOMMENDATION NONE_ STATE HISTORIC PRE	York an June 30, 1980 November 23, 1976 816/221-7951 Missouri 64105
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### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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a.

#### CHILTON-WILLIAMS FARM COMPLEX

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facing east along a lane that runs north to various outbuildings and fields. In the yard is a privy, shed, a few trees and some rose bushes. The division between the south (older) and north section clearly shows.

Exterior: Gable roof, covered with corrugated iron; walls are 5 1/4" drop siding painted white. A single dormer window is in the east front roof. Foundations in the south sections are stone piers, those in the north, concrete. A covered porch extends across both front and north sides. An outside stair on the north porch leads to the second floor. There is a stone outside chimney in the south end and a brick chimney near the dormer window.

Openings: The south portion is four bays wide and consists of a pair of doors flanked by two 2 over 2 double sash windows. Between the chimney and an enclosed rear porch is another window, and a pair are in the south side, rear. There are three cottage windows in the front of the east section and a single window and three doors in the north wall; one window in the north. A single window is in the north attic wall.

Interior: There are a total of six rooms, a bath and a closet. The older part consists of three original rooms and an enclosed porch at the southwest corner. South is a 13' x 15' living room originally known as the "fireplace room." It was a combination living room and parents' bedroom. Walls and ceiling are tongue and groove boards. The stone fireplace is 40" wide and 42" high. There is a simple wood mantel.

Adjoining was the bedroom, remodelled for a dining room and connected to the living room by a 7 1/2' opening. Behind these rooms is the original kitchen which became a 13' x 18' bedroom.

The north section has a 12' x 12' front room now connected with the dining room and last used as the kitchen. It was built in 1937 for the Owl's Bend Post Office, and had only an outside entrance. Behind are two bedrooms. Each have doors to the nonth porch and bathroom between them and the original kitchen. All newer rooms have plaster board walls. There are two rooms in the attic. One is unfinished, the other sheathed with pine boards. All floors are pine. The house had electricity and plumbing.

Condition: Good. Boarded up and locked and sprayed regularly with preservative.

<u>Building #319 - Barn</u>: An unpainted 52'  $\times$  72' frame structure about 40' high on a knoll a hundred yards montheast of the house. It is oriented wast and west.

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Exterior: Center gambrel roof, and shed extensions covered with corrugated iron. Walls sheathed with vertical rough sawn oak and pine boards. The foundations are concrete and wood blocks.

Openings: Two doors are in the west ends of the extensions and another under the gable overhang.

Interior: Divided into three areas, a 40' x 52' center and two 15' x 52' extensions. Feed troughs are on the sides of the central portion. All lower floors are dirt. The loft is floored with rough sawn pine and oak planks.

Condition: Large sections of the roof are missing.

<u>Building #320 - Equipment Shed</u>: A 28'4" x 50'2" unpainted single-story frame structure in a group of work buildings 100 feet north of the house.

Exterior: Gable roof, covered with corrugated iron and walls with rough sawn vertical oak boards. It has concrete block piers. The east side is open.

Interior: Undivided with dirt floor.

Condition: Fair.

<u>Building #321 - Small barn</u>: A 14' x 24' unpainted single-story frame building 100 feet south of the Ghilton house.

Exterior: Gable roof covered with corrugated iron, and walls with vertical oak board siding on a loose stone foundation. Doors in the north and east sides.

Interior: There were two 14' x 8' and 14' x 16' rooms divided by a wood partition.

Condition: Fair.

<u>Buildings #322, 323</u> - Corn Cribs: Two identical unpainted 12' x 36' single-story frame structures between the barn and house. The gable roofs are covered with corrugated iron and sides with rough sawn oak boards with ventilation spreading. Foundations are concrete blocks.

Condition: Good.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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<u>Building #324 - Shed</u>: A single-story unpainted frame 12'2" x 12' 4" building with corrugated iron gable roof. The walls are vertical rough sawn boards over a foundation of concrete blocks.

Condition: Fair.

Building #325 - Tool Shed: A 7'7" x 8'9" single-story frame building with a shed roof covered with asphalt shingles and wood walls covered with black rolled asphalt siding resting on concrete block piers. The inside floor is made of wood planks.

Condition: Fair.

Building #326 Smoke House: An 11'8" x 7'8" single-story building immediately to the rear of the house. The gable roof is covered with corrugated iron. A 3' x 11' concrete porch is on the east end. Its walls are rough sawn pine boards covered with green asphalt shingles. The interior floor is concrete.

Condition: Good. Boarded and locked.

Building #327 - Shed Building: A 12' x 24' unpainted single-story frame structure. Its gable roof is covered with corrugated iron, walls with rough sawn vertical oak boards and foundations are concrete block piers. All interior walls are corrugated iron and floors tongue and groove pine.

Condition: Fair.

Building #328 - Barn: A single-story 24'6" x 36'6" unpainted frame structure. The gable roof is covered with corrugated iron and walls with rough sawn vertical pine boards above concrete block foundations. The interior floor is dirt.

Condition: Fair.

Building # 329 - Chicken House: An 8'4" x 10'6" frame structure. Tje shed roof is covered with corrugated iron. walls with boards covered with black rolled asphalt siding avobe foundations of stone piers. The interior floor is rough sawn boards.

Condition: Fair.

<u>Building #330 - Privy</u>: A 3'8" x 4'6" unpainted frame structure in the yard about 30 feet behind the house. It has a shed roof of corrugated iron walls of drop siding, and stone piers. The interior has a single pine seat.

Condition: Fair.

성장님 · 영양가 전망 여기 정상 수상 등 신입니다.

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<u>Building #337 - Storm Cellar</u>: A below-grade  $12' \times 12'$  concrete shelter in the yard west of the Chilton House. It is about 8' deep. A flight of concrete steps leads to it. All floors are concrete.

Condition: Good.

<u>Structure #338 - Silage Bin</u>: There is an open silage bin northeast of the out buildings. It is about 90' x 15' and 10' deep. A wire fence surrounds it.

Condition: Eroded and overgrown with weeds.

Two concrete silos are about 200 yards south of the house. They are 11' in diameter, 30' high with 7" thick concrete walls. They have no roofs and floors are dirt. Wooden ladders on the sides of each reach to the tops.

Condition: Good.

Buildings #331-335 were Livestock Shelters that are gone.

Building #336 was a barn which is also gone.

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In 1894, after Margaret's death, the farm passed into the hands of her three surviving children, Thomas Wesley, a cattle dealer, Robert, and Evaline.<sup>5</sup> When Robert Chilton died the farm was sold out of the family and divided in 1912. One section, the "lower" (downstream) farm, was bought by Jeff Davis Williams and the upper, containing the Chilton chomestead, by C. L. Williams, his brother. C. L. Williams traded his farm to a third brother Clinton H., on January 24, 1918.<sup>6</sup>

Jeff Davis Williams sold to W. T. ("Bud") Knuckles in 1918 but his brother and family remained on the upper farm until 1940, when the farm was joined back together by Lillian B. Baltz. It was acquired by the U.S. Government as part of the Ozarks National Scenic Riverways in 1967.<sup>7</sup>

Jeff Davis Williams built a small general store at the junction of the road to Powder Mill near his home in 1912. He operated it together with the lower farm until 1918 when he sold it to Knuckles and opened a store in the county seat at Eminence.<sup>8</sup> Clinton Williams was, among other things, the Presiding Judge (1924-26) of the Shannon County Court, (an administrative, not a judicial position) and Postmaster of the Owl's Bend Post Office. Appointed in 1923, he established the post office in a small building directly opposite the house, and gave it a name derived from birds that concentrate in the vicinity. Later Mrs. Baltz had the post office moved to an addition that was built to the house on the lower farm.<sup>9</sup>

The older dwelling house was constructed by the Chiltons. One family tradition ascribes the house as having been built by Francis Chilton, about 1869. Another attributes it to his sons Thomas Wesley and Robert Newton between 1875 and 1880.<sup>10</sup>

All versions have in common that the siding on the house was cut at a sawmill near the "junction," where the Current River and Jack's Fork merge, and was floated down the river to the house site. The builder(s) planed the boards by hand. The mill appears in Shannon County census records only once, and that was in 1880. At the time it was operated by Thomas A. Galbraith.<sup>11</sup>

Whether the house was built in 1869 or ten years later, it had several major additions prior to 1912. These consisted of the present kitchen, a rear porch, and clapboard siding on three sides. The two-story veranda appears to predate these additions. No major changes have been made since.<sup>12</sup>

When Jeff Davis Williams bought the lower farm in 1912, it had a fairly recent three room single story frame house on it. The room on the west was the "fireplace" room (it had the only fireplace) and was used as a combination living room and parents' bedroom. Adjoining was the bedroom, and to the north, the

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kitchen and porch. In 1937-38 an addition for the Owl's Bend Post Office and several bedrooms were added to it. At this time the Chilton House was abandoned and the center of activity shifted to the lower farm. Most of the remaining outbuildings are of this period.<sup>13</sup>

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At present, the farm is rented by the Ozark National Scenic Riverways to local farmers. The buildings are boarded up and secured and are sprayed with preservative regularly.<sup>14</sup>

#### FOOTNOTES

- 1. Edgar Allen, "The Current -- Daughter of Springs," <u>The Rivers of Missouri</u>, ed. Dan Sault, (Columbia, Missouri: M.F.A. Publishing Company, 1949) p. 41.
- "Eighth Census of the United States 1860, Population Schedules, Missouri," Vol. 27 (Washington, D.C.: The National Archives, n.d.), National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microcopy No. 657, p. 127; Committee for a Written History, <u>Eminence-Heritage-1976</u>, (Eminence, Missouri: no publisher, 1976) p. 32.
- 3. Shannon County, Missouri. Recorder's Record Book M, p. 633.
- "Ninth Census of the United States 1870, Population Schedules, Missouri," Vol. 24 (Washington, D.C.: The National Archives, n.d.), National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microcopy No. 805, p. 643.
- 5. Shannon County, Missouri, Recorder's Record Book 44, p. 199; Statement by Frank Chilton, Personal Interview, February 13, 1975; Statement by Frank Stevens, Personal Interview, November 3, 1976.
- Shannon County, Missouri, Recorder's Record Book B, p. 204; Book 40, p. 282; Book 42, p. 306; Book 59, pp. 533, 534; Book 84, p. 385; Statement by Mazie Lee Williams Hafner, Personal Interview, October 21, 1976.
- 7. Shannon County, Missouri, Recorder's Record Book 69, p. 578; Book 91, p. 411; Book R, p. 205; Hafner Interview.
- 8. Eminence Heritage 1976, p. 111; Statement by Glenn C. Williams, Personal Interview, November 3, 1976.
- 9. State of Missouri, <u>Official Manual for Years Nineteen Twenty-Three and</u> <u>Nineteen Twenty-four</u>, (Jefferson City: The Hugh Stephens Press, 1923), pp. 174, 890; Hafner Interview; Williams Interview; Statement by Merle Baltz,

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Personal Interview, November 11, 1976.

- 10. Williams Interview; Chilton Interview; J. J. Chilton, "The Chilton Family," Shannon County Historical Review, Vol. 3, No. 1 (July, 1965), p. 5.
- 11. "Tenth Census of the United States 1880, Population Schedule, Missouri," Vol. 43 (Washington, D. C.: The National Archives, n.d.), National Archives Microfilm Publication, Microcopy No. 805, pp. 365, 380; Williams Interview; Chilton, p. 5.
- 12. Williams Interview; Hafner Interview; both of these people lived in the house beginning in 1912.
- 13. Baltz Interview.
- 14. Statement of Alex Outlaw, Chief of Interpretation, Ozark National Scenic Riverways, November, 5, 1976.

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- 4. "Eighth Census of the United States 1860, Population Schedules, Missouri," Vol. 27, Washington, D. C.: The National Archives, n.d. National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microcopy n.d. No. 657, Shannon County, p. 127.
- 5. <u>Eminence Heritage, 1976</u> ed. Bicentennial Committee for a Written History. Eminence, Missouri; 1976, pp. 32, 111.
- 6. Hafner, Mazie Lee Williams. Personal Interview. October 21, 1976.
- 7. "Ninth Census of the United States 1870, Population Schedules, Missouri, Vol. 24, Washington, D. C.: The National Archives, n.d. National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microcopy No. 805, Shannon County, p. 643.
- 8. Outlaw, Alex. Statement. November 4, 1976.
- 9. Sault, Dan (ed.). <u>The Rivers of Missouri</u>. Columbia, Missouri: M.F.A. Publishing Company, 1949, p. 41.
- 10. Shannon County, Missouri. Recorder's Record Book B, p. 204.
- 11. Shannon County, Missouri. Recorder's Record Book N, p. 633.
- 12. Shannon County, Missouri. Recorder's Record Book R, p. 205.
- 13. Shannon County, Missouri. Recorder's Record Book 40, p. 282.
- 14. Shannon County, Missouri. Recorder's Record Book 42, p. 306.
- 15. Shannon County, Missouri. Recorder's Record Book 44, p. 199.
- 16. Shannon County, Missouri. Recorder's Record Book 59, p. 533.
- 17. Shannon County, Missouri. Recorder's Record Book 69, p. 578.
- 18. Shannon County, Missouri. Recorder's Record Book 84, p. 385.
- 19. Shannon County, Missouri. Recorder's Record Book 91, p. 411.
- State of Missouri. <u>Official Manual for Years Nineteen Twenty-three and Nineteen Twenty-four</u>. (Jefferson City: The Hugh Stephens Press, 1923), pp. 174, 890.

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- 21. Stevens, Frank. Personal Interview. November 3, 1976.
- 22. "Tenth Census of the United States 1880, Population Schedules, Missouri," Vol. 43. Washington, D. C.: The National Archives, n.d. National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microcopy No. 805, pp. 364, 380.
- 23. Williams, Glenn C. Personal Interview. November 3, 1976.