

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NOV 17 1989

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Nichols Farm District
other names/site number Susie Nichols Cabin site/23DE73

2. Location

street & number Ozark National Scenic Riverways (OZAR) not for publication
city, town Cedargrove vicinity
state Missouri code MO county Dent code 065 zip code 65500

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>4</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Edmund C. B. [Signature] 11/15/89
Signature of certifying official Date
Chief Historian, National Park Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
G. Tracy Mehan III 7/24/89
Signature of commenting or other official Date
G. Tracy Mehan III, Director,
Department of Natural Resources, and State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Beth Boland 12/27/89
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

NOV 15 1989

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC--single dwelling

LANDSCAPE--National Park

AGRICULTURE--subsistence: storage

AGRICULTURE--subsistence: agricultural
outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vernacular/Ozarkian

foundation stone

walls weatherboard

log

roof metal

other wood shingles (under weatherboard)

asphalt (shingles)

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Summary

The Susie Nichols farm district is located in Parker Hollow, near the townsite of Cedargrove in the southwestern corner of Dent County, Missouri. This late nineteenth and early twentieth century Ozark farmstead has three standing structures (house, barn, and corncrib) and associated archeological deposits (dump). The structures are representative of the Ozarkian vernacular architectural style and the Scotch-Irish cultural presence. The Susie Nichols farm district, including: house, barn, corn crib, associated landscape features, and refuse dump are intact.

Although four other structures (an earlier house, two smokehouses, and a garage) are missing from the district, the district does exhibit a high level of integrity in that little modification of the farm's features, particularly in the house and barn, has occurred during the nearly eighty years since the construction of the house ca. 1910. The characteristics of the vernacular architecture have been preserved, as have the original design and substantially the original materials; the district's feeling in its remoteness and sense of completeness, the historical association to the Scotch-Irish family that owned it throughout its entire use, the association to the great Ozark timber era, and the unencroached-upon setting of the site.

Resource Count

Contributing Resources: The house and barn represent the two contributing buildings. The corn crib is a contributing structure, and the dump is a contributing site.

Noncontributing Resources: There are no noncontributing resources at this site.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture
Ethnic Heritage European
Exploration/Settlement

1910-1937

ca. 1910
ca. 1932

Cultural Affiliation

Scotch-Irish subsistence farmers

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

John Nichols

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary

The Nichols Farm District site is significant in the following areas: architecture, ethnic heritage (European), and exploration/settlement. The farm represents a significant example of Scotch-Irish subsistence farming practiced in the Ozark mountains from the post Civil War period of the late 19th century to the early 20th century prior to World War II. The structures are rare examples of typical vernacular Ozarkian architecture. The double-pen mirror-image facade house of sawmill construction and single-crib log barn are the most common forms of traditional architecture in the Ozarks and reflect the influence of the railroad and lumber industry in some of their architectural features. Social history is not only reflected in structural features like the rear ell used for cook stoves fueled by coal brought by rail, but by the actual location of Ozark farms and the effect this has had on the success of the farm operation.

The Scotch-Irish heritage is visible in the temporary nature of construction and do-it-yourself methods utilized. Subsistence farmers like the Nichols have also made a significant contribution to Ozark settlement and exploration. The location of farms near springs and utilization of water power to produce building materials provides evidence of the adaptability of these early settlers. The integrity of the standing structures, which contain many original materials and the potential of the site to yield archeological materials and information important to the interpretation of Ozarkian subsistence farm lifeways, makes the Susie Nichols farm district a site of considerable significance.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Adams, William H.
1976 Trade networks and interaction spheres - a view from Silcott. Historical Archaeology 10.
1977 Silcott, Washington; Ethnoarchaeology of a rural American community. Reports of Investigations, no. 54, Laboratory of Anthropology, Washington State University.

Adams, William H., Linda P. Gaw, and Frank C., Leonhardy
1975 Archaeological excavations at Silcott, Washington: the data inventory Reports of Investigations, no. 53, Laboratory of Anthropology, Washington State University.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: Midwest Archeological

~~Record # Architectural Context Study, The Nichols Farm 1986 Center, Lincoln, NE~~

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 3.75 acres

UTM References

A

1	5	6	2	2	1	0	0	4	1	4	4	6	7	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

1	5	6	2	2	0	0	0	4	1	4	4	5	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

1	5	6	2	2	1	0	0	4	1	4	4	5	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

1	5	6	2	2	0	0	0	4	1	4	4	6	2	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description The Nichols farm is located in the NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 29, & T32N, R6W. It is in the lower end of Parker Hollow, a little less than one-half-mile north of the confluence of Parker Branch and the Current River. The property bisects the NE 1/4 and SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4. The district is bounded on the north by a draw which runs east to west. The eastern boundary is a line running north and south ca. forty feet east of easternmost corner of the house. The southern boundary is a line running east and west ca. forty feet south of the spring. See continuation sheet The western boundary is a line running north and south ca. forty feet west of the westernmost corner of the barn.

Boundary Justification

See map.

The boundaries of the district were chosen to encompass the three extant buildings known archeological deposits, and related cultural features such as the spring, which was modified to serve as a source of fresh water.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathie Masters/James Price/Stephen Knight Contact: Cathie Masters
organization Midwest Archeological Center date 5/24/89
street & number 100 Centennial Mall North telephone 402-437-5392
city or town Lincoln state Nebraska zip code 68508

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Physical Description

The Nichols Farm District is on Parker Branch, a tributary of the Upper Current River. Parker Branch originates at Schafer Spring near the top of the hollow and flows through it. The Nichols farmstead is one half mile above the confluence of Parker Branch and the Current River, and is on a level terrace set among hills and steep ridges. One of the springs along Parker Branch served as the water supply for the farmstead. The farmstead is now overgrown with weeds and brush and there has been no use of the property, and consequently no changes implemented, subsequent to Mrs. Nichols' death.

House

The house is a one story L-plan building with three rooms originally and a front and rear porch; the rear porch was later enclosed and is constructed of oak. The house was constructed without framing, a method called "sawmill construction." The vertical sawn boards are nailed to a bottom, hand-hewn sill and a sawn two-by-four plate at the top. The single-board-thickness walls are fabricated on the ground, then lifted into place and nailed together at the corners. The vertical pine boards are between seven and ten inches wide and are cut from trees on the property. Battens are used on the exterior to cover the seams. The foundation is piers of native uncut stone.

The roof was originally covered with cedar shake shingles manufactured at the Schafer Mill on Parker Branch, but later was recovered with sheet metal. The roof is continuous over the front porch and the main structure; the rafters raise it above the top of the porch and the open space is filled in with odd shaped boards, pieces of wood crates (one painted with "Rod White") and the like.

The windows are all commercially produced with a four-over-four pane pattern. The one exception is the two-pane window in the rear porch which was hand routed. Frames are painted green, inside and outside, with two exceptions: the front window sash in the bedroom is painted white on the inside and the sash in the enclosed porch is unpainted. The door frames are hand-planed and are unpainted both inside and outside. The back window in the bedroom is now boarded over on the exterior. The reason for this and whether it was done during or after the occupation is not known.

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There is no fireplace in the cabin. The brick flue, which vented the cookstove and woodburning stove, is built into the wall between the south front room and rear ell. The brick flue is supported from the floor by hand-hewn wood framing. All of the interior walls at one time were covered with paper. The pattern is visible in the south front room and remnants remain on the walls of the rear ell kitchen. The first layer of wall covering is deadening felt held on with tacks and cardboard washers. The felt is covered by newspapers and two layers of commercial wallpaper.

The flooring in all the rooms is pine. The planks, 5.5 inches wide, are not joined by tongue and grooving, but are battened underneath. They are well worn in the living room and to a lesser extent in the kitchen.

The ceilings are horizontal boards; those in the kitchen and living room are stained brown to black. It is not clear if this is an intentional coloring or the result of smoke blackening (wood stoves were in use in both of these rooms). The ceiling boards in the bedroom are machine planed and are not stained. Ceiling height is 7.8 feet.

Details of the interior furnishing of the house are observable through wear patterns on the floor and items still present. A hand-made stool and crutch and single tree; fruit jars; pieces of wooden shipping crates; and an advertisement for a local store were recovered from the house. A bundle of several corn stalks were suspended in the unfinished attic for drying.

The house is in very good condition and has been recently stabilized. All of the window panes have been broken and some of the doors are missing. The structure is solid, sturdy, and the roof has kept the rain out. Except for four boards, a support beam underneath, and temporary louvered window covers, all of the materials are original. The enclosure of the rear porch and reroofing are the only two modifications and occurred during the period the farm achieved its significance. The house was never modernized with plumbing or electricity and has never been moved.

Barn and Corncrib

The central feature of the barn is a fourteen-by-eighteen foot log crib. The logs are unhewn and still have bark on them. They are saddle notched at the ends and chinked with a combination of split wood wedges and pieces of sawn boards. The crib rests upon stone piers. The west wall of the crib forms the center of the rear, or west wall of the larger barn. The crib is surrounded on the other three sides by a sawn board enclosure.

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There is no foundation under the sawn board walls. Hand-hewn beams extend along the top of the crib walls to the east wall of the barn and support a loft. The entire barn is covered by a single gabled roof. Currently, it is covered with sheets of metal nailed onto rafters, but there are wooden shingles under one section which indicate that it also was originally roofed with shingles from the Schafer Mill.

The barn also was recently stabilized. The northeast quarter of the roof had collapsed and boards were missing from the east and south walls. The crib portion, however, remains fairly solid and much of the chinking is intact. Except for the change in roofing there have been no modifications up until its stabilization, when missing siding boards, rafters, corner framing, metal roofing, and some deteriorated logs were replaced in kind.

The log corncrib, located north of the barn, is constructed of unhewn, unpeeled logs laid horizontally and joined at the corners with saddle notching. The floor of the single-crib structure is approximately ten by twelve feet and the walls are six feet high. The crib is elevated one and one-half feet off the ground by wood blocks and stone piers. The floor joists are log, but the flooring, door, gable wall, and roof are all sawn lumber. The roof is covered with rolled tar paper. The building had never been moved or modified until its stabilization when 50% of its logs and roof framing were replaced. The structure was stabilized from May to July of 1987.

Site

In addition to the standing structures, the farm district also includes several other cultural features, including an old road bed, domestic plantings, fence lines, and a refuse dump site (see sketch map). The placement of observable fence lines, roads, and domestic plantings provide information on yard and other activity areas. The dump site is associated with the farm and contains refuse of the Nichols family. The dump site is located approximately 240 feet northwest of the house on the west side of the old road in a small draw (see sketch map).

The Nichols Farm District site was visited by Cynthia Price and James Price, archeologists working under contract with the National Park Service - Midwest Archeological Center, in September, 1985 (Price and Price 1985). At that time the farmstead was photographed and mapped, and measured. Drawings

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were made of the floor plan of the three structures.

The three structures, along with the road, spring, dump site, and other cultural features have been preserved in a setting of high integrity. The buildings exhibit the characteristics of Ozarkian vernacular architecture and the farm district accurately reflects the architecture of early twentieth century subsistence farms along the Upper Current River. A more complete discussion of integrity is found at the end of the significance section (8).

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John and Susie Nichols were married in July, 1894, and lived on a farm near Reese, also in Dent County. In 1897 they acquired the property in Parker hollow from John's brother and moved into a dog-trot style house next to the small spring which supplied their fresh water. Sometime after the birth of their three children, and before 1910, they built a new house about fifty yards up the road from the spring. Soon after, they built a barn, and eventually added a garage, two different smokehouses, and, about 1932, a small log corncrib. The two smokehouses and garage are no longer standing.

John and Susie were subsistence farmers in the tradition of the Ozarkian Scotch-Irish. They raised enough food to feed themselves and purchase basic necessities. Susie canned fruits and vegetables from their garden and was well-known for her home-made remedies. They raised sheep, hogs, cows, chickens, guineas, and kept horses and mules for draft animals. After John's death in 1932, Susie continued the farming operation until her own death in 1959.

After John's death in 1932, Susie made few changes to the farm maintaining its pre-1932 integrity. In the 1930s, federal programs, tourism, and public utilities began to influence Ozark lifeways causing significant changes. Susie Nichols, in clinging steadfastly to her traditional lifestyle, caused her farm to become an anomaly in the region. It did not change in reaction to new influences and technology. It is in this preservation of its pre-modern form that the farm is most significant, allowing for a logical ending date for the period of significance at the normally arbitrary fifty year mark.

Criterion of Significance

Significance for the Susie Nichols Farm District is claimed under Criterion C, and A. Under Criterion C the buildings represent a type (typical vernacular Ozarkian architecture; also Scotch-Irish choices of construction in this area), period (1880-1920 period of influence from both the lumber company and the period.

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influenced by the railroad), and method (sawmill construction).

Criterion A is claimed because the nomination meets the criteria in the area of Ethnic Heritage (Scotch -Irish). Settlement choices and building methods of the Scotch-Irish subsistence farmers are contrasted with the German ethnic group also present in the Ozark region at the time. Criterion A is also claimed in the area of Exploration/Settlement in conjunction with the farm's Scotch-Irish identification because of the characteristics of this ethnic cultural group at the farm.

While archeological significance is not claimed under Criterion D, the site has the potential to yield historical archeological information from areas around the standing structures and from the historic dump site associated with the Susie Nichols family. Data could be recovered from this site which could be used to provide insights about the activities and lifestyle of Ozark subsistence folk families and their adaptations and transitions to changes in their environment.

Architectural Significance

The Nichols farm is significant as an excellent example of Ozarkian vernacular architecture by virtue of the design, construction methodology, location, and integrity of the surviving structures. The house is a double-pen with a mirror image facade, the most common form of traditional architecture in the Ozarks. It was built using sawmill construction, a method introduced to the region by the large lumber corporations, which was very popular at the turn of the century. The barn is a central-crib design typical of the Upland South tradition and mixes both log and sawmill construction. The corncrib also mixes different construction methods and is typical of the outbuildings present in an Upland South farm complex. The three structures, a spring, and other cultural features together represent the subsistence farming practiced by the Scotch-Irish in the Ozark Mountains. The high level of integrity throughout the district makes it a valuable source of information to archeologists.

The interior of the Ozark mountains was settled initially by Scotch-Irish who migrated west from southeastern Pennsylvania and settled on the highlands all across the South (Knight n.d.:10-11). One of the more dominant styles in their architectural repertoire was the double-pen, a form which originally derived from the practice of adding on to single-pens,

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but which eventually evolved into an autonomous form. (Ibid.:p.4) The double-door facade was a necessity in the double-pens which were created by the addition process, but persisted as part of the traditional design even after internal passages were incorporated into double-pens built all at once (Montell and Morse 1976:27-28; Tebbets 1978:46).

There were several options for placement of the multiple doors and windows on the facade of the double-pens. One alternative was to create a facade in which each half was a parallel image of the other, such as the window-door-window-door. Another alternative was to create halves which mirrored each other, such as window-door-door-window (Flanders and Morrow 1985:13). The overwhelming preference of traditional builders for the mirror-image pattern signifies the influence of the Georgian revolution in architecture. The Scotch-Irish who emigrated to America had been isolated from the mainstream cultural movements of Europe, and their persistent use of symmetry in building facades is the most visible indication that they understood the aesthetic values of Western culture (Swaim 1978:36).

The structures at the Nichols farm have architectural features which represent not only traditional culture, but also the influence of large lumber companies on the region during a specific time period. The railroads and lumber corporations came to the Ozarks during the "New South" period of industrial development (Rafferty 1980:39). The Missouri Lumber and Mining Company, the largest of the lumber corporations, began operations along the Current River in 1880. By 1920 it and the other large companies had clear-cut all the accessible timber and left the valley (Brown 1969:30-38). During their forty-year reign the socio-economics of the Ozarks were greatly altered.

The impact of railroad transportation on traditional life is reflected architecturally in the rear ell of the Nichols house. Fireplaces were the dominant features of older log single- and double-pen homes and were used for heating, lighting, and cooking (Ibid:52). Railroads made available to remote areas for the first time cast iron cookstoves, wood-burning heating stoves, and kerosene for lamps. Lean-to rooms were added to the rear of cabins to house the new cookstoves. Eventually the rear ell became an accepted part of the traditional-single- or double-pen floor plan (Price and Price 1986). The Nichols built their home without a fireplace. They relied on kerosene lamps for light and iron stoves for both cooking and heating. The rear ell was used as a kitchen area.

Another architectural feature of the Nichols house which

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represents the increased use of manufactured goods and the declining value of traditional skills is the method sawmill construction. Sawmill construction was introduced to the region by the lumber companies which built temporary houses for their employees. Sawmill houses were built without framing as described earlier. Sawmill houses were less substantial and comfortable than log homes but they were quicker and cheaper to build. The availability of thin wooden planks through which nails could easily be driven was a revolutionary change from the use of logs which required a high level of skill and experience to join together.

The Nichols barn also represents one of the most common forms of Ozarkian vernacular architecture. The single-crib log barn was the first of several versions developed by the Germans and carried south by the Scotch-Irish (Kniffen 1965:558-561). It was the most common form in Kentucky and very popular in the hills of southern Illinois (Montell and Morse 1975:61). Often the central cribs were surrounded laterally by lean-to type additions with all the openings on the gable ends rather than the sides. As the Scotch-Irish moved farther south, their barns became smaller because of climactic changes. The need to shelter stock from harsh weather was greatly lessened. Ozarkian barns are typically small and might not be larger than sheds in flatland agricultural areas. Ventilation in the cribs also decreased in the South because corn had a longer season to harden in the field and more perishable crops of the North, such as wheat, flax, and apples were not as common here (Kniffen 1965:563-574; Barker 1941:73). The Nichols barn is typically Ozarkian. It has a central log crib surrounded on three sides by a sawn-board enclosure. The outer dimensions are only thirty-three by twenty-eight feet. The log crib was chinked with split log wedges and pieces of sawn lumber.

The barn also tangibly reflects the transition from traditional to innovative techniques made possible by industrial development. Although it was constructed after the house, it mixes both log and sawmill construction. Even the chinking of the crib is a mixture of hand-split wood and pieces of sawn lumber. Like the house, the barn was originally roofed with wooden shingles but later they were replaced with sheet metal (Kell and Nichols 1986). The corncrib has the greatest range of materials of all three buildings. The walls are saddle-notched horizontal logs, and the roof has sawn framing and board planking covered by rolled tar paper. It is the only one of the buildings

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on which rolled roofing was used.

The presence of another crib in addition to the barn is typical of southern farms (Glassie 1968:101-102). The corncrib at the Nichols farm is a traditional form very similar to the crib in the barn. The horizontal log structure is ten by twelve feet and rests upon stone and wood piers. It was built by family members and neighbors during a traditional barn-raising.

Ethnic Heritage Significance

The Susie Nichols property is also significant for its association and ethnic ties to the Scotch-Irish cultural tradition. The Scotch-Irish were a very mobile people and during the period of initial occupancy of the Southern Ozark Highlands, they developed the ability to adapt to the environment rather than alter it substantially to suit their needs (Gerlach 1984:48-58). Originally, the Scotch Irish and Germans, the two dominant settlement groups in the Ozarks, carried their cultural manifestations with them south along the Appalachian ridge to the Tennessee River, up the Ohio and across the Mississippi River into Missouri and Arkansas.

The Scotch-Irish dominated the mountainous areas throughout the South because these areas reminded them of their homes in Kentucky and Tennessee. They were "probably the most numerous, culturally cohesive, white ethnic group in American history." (Flanders 1979:154) As descendants of Ulsterites in Northern Ireland they did not have historical roots in the Enlightenment and rationalism as did other European immigrants, so they tended to remain outside of the progressive forces of the country. Because of their preference for raising animals rather than crops for food, the isolated hill country and good water of the Ozarks provided an ideal area for settlement. Animals raised for food could roam the hills freely grazing on undergrowth. Scotch-Irish subsistence farmers like John and Susie Nichols had the ability to adapt to the environment (Ibid:176) and adjust to quickly changing conditions.

Throughout the Upland South, the Scotch-Irish settled near groups of Germans, and each displayed distinct characteristics. The Scotch-Irish preferred to maintain internal social control through the extended family and "clan", rather than depend on laws or appointed authorities. They lived by a leisure ethic, rather than a work ethic, like the Germans, and preferred an oral tradition over written literature (Flanders and Morrow n.d.:42-

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44). The flexibility of the Scotch-Irish has been responsible for a series of economic bases including: market hunting, crop farming, ranching, mining, lumbering, market gardening, public assistance, moonshining, tourism, and manufacturing. This is in contrast to the Germans, who settled on the best agricultural lands and persisted in shaping a permanent cultural landscape based on crop farming.

In the Upland South folk region, social status correlates with elevation of the farm. Valley farmers like the Germans tended to be progressive and successful, while Scotch-Irish subsistence farms were located primarily in the hills. Basic differences among these two ethnic groups make their farms distinguishable from each other.

While Susie Nichols farmstead was not built with mobility in mind, the Scotch-Irish are sometimes noted as a mobile people and their farms tend to reflect a more temporary building style. They preferred a quick and easy construction method (sawmill) with a light weight temporal nature. They used stone pier foundations, very common in the Ozarks. The Scotch-Irish emphasized symmetry in their building facades more than the Germans as preference for the double-pen, mirror-image facade illustrates.

The Germans, on the other hand appeared to favor a more solid, "snug", and permanent style of building with a sturdy, low foundation which utilized builder's trenches. Buildings were preferred that lay close to the ground, were warm, comfortable, neat, trim, and convenient. They also persisted in a preference for assymetrical configurations such as the triple pen facade versions.

Cultural features at the Nichols farm are significant as a unit because they represent subsistence farming in the Current River Valley. Unlike the Germans, who lived on the fringes of the Ozark Mountains and in the larger river valleys where they grew crops for market on the best soils, the Scotch-Irish were subsistence farmers (Kniffen 1965:574). Their lifestyle was characterized by the do-it-yourself tradition. When John Nichols built his home he did not buy the sawn lumber with cash. Rather, he cut his own timber, hauled it to a local mill, and probably paid for the milling by leaving some of it with the miller (Kell and Nichols 1986).

The presence or absence of other architectural features also reflects the Scotch-Irish lifestyle. There was no cellar at the Nichols farm, nor was there a springhouse. Vegetables were preserved during the winter by burying them in holes in the

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ground lined with straw, and dairy products were kept cool merely by placing them inside a fenced enclosure around the shaded spring. The strongest cultural trait of the Scotch-Irish was their preference for meat as the main ingredient in their diet (Brown 1973:78-82). The Nichols had two smokehouses behind the house; the second eight-by-ten foot model replaced a smaller four-by-six structure.

Exploration/Settlement Significance

The Ozark folk region was settled originally by Scotch-Irish and Germans who dominated the mountainous areas throughout the South. The Scotch-Irish preference for repetition in geography led ultimately to the cultural similarities between the Ozark and Appalachian regions and the perpetuation of many cultural traditions. "The Scotch-Irish ethnicity and the Appalachian roots of the Ozark's initial occupants has been thoroughly documented in formal demographic study and in the more informal recollections of Ozark residents" (Knight n.d.:11; Brown 1969). Initial occupancy in the Ozark region was clearly primarily Scotch-Irish from the Appalachian region. (Ibid)

Many of the Scotch-Irish cultural elements are represented at the Susie Nichols farm. The traditional architectural preference for sawmill construction and stone pier foundations by the Scotch-Irish has already been discussed and is the type used by John Nichols for his house.

Subsistence farming was the preferred Scotch-Irish lifestyle. John and Susie Nichols were clearly subsistence farmers. The presence of a good spring was a major factor in choosing the site of their farm (Kell and Nichols 1986). Scotch-Irish subsistence farmers considered clean running water the greatest asset of the Ozark Mountains. Many settlers choose the well-watered rugged hills with poorer soil over the richer soils of the dry plateaus (Flanders 1979:123; Sauer 1920:52). The size and number of buildings are typical of subsistence farms in the Ozarks. (Knight n.d.) Also, the farm is in an isolated area of the Ozarks in rugged terrain and buildings are unmodified by way of electricity or plumbing.

As mentioned before, the Scotch-Irish preferred raising domestic animals rather than crops. The one-time existence of two smokehouses at the farm attest to the fact that the Nichols probably raised pigs and shared the Scotch-Irish preference for a diet high in meat. The subsistence Scotch-Irish farmer also

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generally subscribed to the do-it-yourself tradition. This trait can also be seen reflected in the Susie Nichols farm. The water-powered Schafer Mill, located one-half mile up the road in Parker Hollow was probably the place where John Nichols hauled his timber to be cut into boards (Kell and Nichols 1986). The rived shingles used on the Nichols roof were produced there. They patronized the mill regularly and also had their corn ground into meal and cane milled (Ibid).

Not only are the elements of the Scotch-Irish cultural tradition present at the Susie Nichols farm, but they represent a rare example of this type of settlement still standing in its isolated natural setting in the region.

Archeological Potential

The Susie Nichols Farm District is a remarkably well preserved example of a late nineteenth and twentieth century rural eastern Ozark farmstead. In the absence of modernization, the site reflects a lifeway that ended in the era ca. World War II. As such, the site has the potential to provide archeological data relevant to studies of rural Ozark culture as it was during the post-Civil War-pre-modernization era.

The Susie Nicholls site is of particular interest to archeologists because the particular method of construction used on the Nicholls house tends to leave little trace after the building is removed or destroyed. Sawmill construction, originally intended for mobile groups of railroad workers, etc., generally utilizes no building trenches to protect artifacts underground and stone piers which become scattered and plowed under with other surface debris. The Nicholls farm represents a rare example of unmodified structures still standing in a subsistence farm complex.

The refuse dump constitutes an archeological deposit and contains artifacts which have the potential to provide information about the daily activities of the Nichols family. A refuse dump is a reflection of the lifestyle of a family and represents a record of how successful they were in adapting to existing conditions. The interpretation of its contents should be undertaken with careful consideration of their ethnic heritage and cultural tradition.

Important information about the site can also be obtained from local residents who knew members of the family or visited the site when it was occupied increases the research potential of

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this site. The productivity of combining archeology and ethno-archeology at early twentieth century sites has been well demonstrated (Adams 1976, 1977; Adams, Gaw, and Leonhardy 1975). The fact that this site was occupied by only one family, affords the opportunity to study in depth the changes and stability in the rural adaptation of the Nichols family.

Archeological Research Topics

The following research topics could be approached using data from the Susie Nichols site:

1. Subsistence. Subsistence questions focusing on such topics as: the amount of wild versus domestic game consumed, the amount of garden versus commercial foodstuffs consumed, food preparation and processing techniques, where food preparation and processing took place, amount of dependence on commercial foods, and any changes which took place in the degree of dependence on them could be addressed using materials recovered from archeological deposits at the Susie Nichols site. Changes in the subsistence practices or food preferences of the Nichols family through time might also be discovered from a stratigraphic analysis of dump materials and special activity food processing areas around the farmstead. Examination of food containers, floral and faunal remains, food procurement equipment (fire arms, hunting and fishing materials, garden tools, traps, etc.), and food processing and preservation equipment (canning, butchering, cooking, and smoking articles) would be very important in answering questions of subsistence and any changes which occurred.

The site maintains the original farmstead layout, thus providing the data needed to study the use of space and location of various activity areas. One area in which archeological research has been used to study farm layout and activity areas concerns the distribution of faunal remains. A study by C. Price at the Widow Harris site in Ripley County, Missouri revealed the importance of comparing the distribution of animal bone with ethnohistoric accounts of butchering and food processing practices as determinants of subsistence activity. It was discovered that small animal remains were concentrated close to the house along with certain bone elements from larger domesticated animals commonly cooked along with the meat. In addition, it was also learned that certain elements of larger

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domesticated animals were found near the smokehouse in presumed butchering locations. Similar analyses could also provide information about food processing and diet preference at the Susie Nichols site. Studies of this type provide archeologists with evidence to study the changes and stability of regional folk culture. (J. Price and C. Price 1978, C. Price 1985).

Subsistence data from the Susie Nichols site could also allow comparisons of this site with other rural Scotch-Irish self-sufficient farmers in the region or similar regions throughout the Upland South. In this way similarities or differences between groups of ethnic peoples could be detected. Further comparisons could be made between subsistence practices of the Scotch-Irish Nichols family and those of the other dominant ethnic groups present in the Ozarks, the Germans.

2. Stability of folk culture in the Ozarks. Questions about the stability of folk culture in the rural Ozarks can be approached through the study of the architecture of standing structures, farm layout, and the cultural materials of an ethnic group. Changes in these at the Susie Nichols site reflect how well they were able to adapt to their chosen environment, and subsequently keep the folk tradition stable. The more they were able to supply their own needs, the less change was necessary, resulting in more stability for the Scotch-Irish cultural tradition. To detect changes at the Nichols farm, comparisons could be made to other Scotch Irish farms in and around the Ozark region. Some changes and adaptations are visible at the farm, such as the installation of a metal roof on the house. Others could possibly be detected from examining materials from the dump site.

3. Trade and Economic studies. Materials in the dump site provide an opportunity to pursue studies of trade and economic activities within a basically self sufficient Scotch-Irish farm family. Manufactured items can many times be dated quite successfully and even the point of origin determined at times. Discarded items have the potential to yield information about the degree of dependence rural isolated self-sufficient farmsteads were able to maintain, and if this changed throughout the time the Nichols occupied their property.

Recovered artifacts which could be useful in answering these questions would be containers of foodstuffs, medicines, beverages, and a wide variety of household items. Many of the manufactured household items may have had handmade equivalents.

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The presence or absence of these items could be indications of folk culture stability. Manufactured articles might be expected to occur with greater frequency in later strata of the dump materials as they became more accessible to isolated rural families. The presence or absence of these materials could further indicate the Nichols involvement in local, national, and global economic systems.

4. Health Studies. Folk medicine has long been of interest to scientists and other professionals. Items recovered from the dump have the potential to further illuminate what is known about the practice of folk medicine among isolated rural groups. Susie Nichols was known for her homemade remedies, as was stated earlier. While ethnohistoric accounts provide the majority of information concerning the practice of folk medicine, archeological materials have the potential to contribute medicinal containers, traceable residues, etc. which could provide proof of the existence or prevalence of certain health remedies for existant conditions.

5. Technology Studies Questions about the rural technologies could also potentially be investigated through materials found in the Nichols dump site. Examples of homemade articles and tools used to produce them could be used to interpret folk lifeways at the Susie Nichols site. Methods and equipment used in such activities as farming, food processing, and the production of clothing and other necessities could be discovered. These articles, along with the architecture of the buildings help to define the folk culture of the region.

Integrity of the Susie Nichols Property.

The site, as a whole, is in excellent condition with its structural and archeological integrity preserved. The dump remains basically undisturbed and the overgrown condition of the farmstead gives it a feeling of isolation, not inconsistent with the remoteness experienced by early rural families. The Susie Nichols farm clearly reflects conditions at the time of abandonment - a rural lifeway now gone from the Ozarks.

Although there are several examples of double-pen, mirror image houses surviving in the Ozarks, most have been significantly modified by their subsequent or even first

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residents. The Nichols farm has not been altered, even to the point of adding electricity when it became available. It also stands in context with two of its most significant related structures in good condition, and in an unchanged and protected setting. The unmodified condition of the Nichols farmstead represents the culture and lifestyle of persons who lived along the Upper Current River and is the only farm in the park which exhibits a high degree of typicality and integrity.

The integrity of the cabin is enhanced by a number of in situ artifacts found inside. A gas refrigerator, metal wash tub, and base to a stoneware crock are still present in the kitchen. In the livingroom a "built-in" corner shelf is in the southeast corner and the attic contains a number of artifacts in a rat's nest including: a hand-made milk stool, fruit jars, an axe handle blank, a clear cork-stopper bottle, wooden spools, a lid for a wooden crate stenciled "Naptha Soap", and a paper advertisement for a store in Cedar Grove. A bundle of cornstalks remain tied from the rafters. Adding a personal touch to the property is the hand made frame and sash on the window on the rear porch, and the hand planed porch door and frame for a flue between the kitchen and living room. The key to the ability of the buildings at the Nichols farm to exhibit significance in so many contextual themes is their integrity. All of the buildings have integrity of location and have never been moved. The barn and the crib have complete integrity of design. Even though the barn has an appearance of possible modification, it is simply an example of an evolutionary form and was indeed constructed all at once. The only change in the design of the house is that the rear porch was closed in shortly after the house was built.

The Nichols farm has integrity of setting. The lower end of Parker Hollow is protected by its inclusion within the boundaries of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Consequently, there are no visual distractions and no apparent modifications to the surrounding landscape. Access to the site is limited to travel by foot, horse, or all-terrain vehicle. The area around the buildings is overgrown, which is not congruent with how the Nichols kept their farm but nevertheless adds to the atmospheric quality of isolation.

All of the materials used in the construction of the barn and crib are original. The only exception in the house is the sheet metal roof which replaced the wooden shingles. All of the buildings express integrity of workmanship. The house is a genuine example of sawmill construction and the temporal nature

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of Scottish-Irish architecture. The corn crib and the crib section of the barn are excellent examples of the traditional craft of log joinery. The barn crib is chinked with split logs and pieces of sawn lumber, a unique method used in some barns in the Upland South, but not in houses.

The Nichols farm is of local and state significance. It is the only farm remaining in the Ozark National Scenic Riverway which exhibits both a high degree of typicality and integrity. All of the structures incorporate architectural themes which are typical of the entire Ozark region. The Ozark Mountains comprise a major portion of the State of Missouri, and the Scotch Irish tradition, which dominated the Ozarks, influenced the development and history of the state.

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Continuation SheetSection number 9 Page 1Endnotes for Significance section

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17. Interview with Mrs. Mae Kell and Mr. Vernon Nichols by Stephen Knight and Jill York O'Bright, Houston, Missouri, 12 June 1986, National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office, Omaha, Nebraska.

18. Interview with Dr. James and Cynthia Price, 10 June 1986; and Interview with Mrs. Mae Kell and Mr. Vernon Nichols, 12 June 1986.

19. Interview with Dr. Robert Flanders, Center for Ozark Studies, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, 30 June 1986.

20. Interview with Mrs. Mae Kell and Mr. Vernon Nichols, 12 June 1986.

21. Russel L. Gerlach, "The Ozark Scotch-Irish: The Subconscious Persistence of Ethnic Culture," P.A.S.T. Pioneer America Society Transactions 7 (1984), 49.

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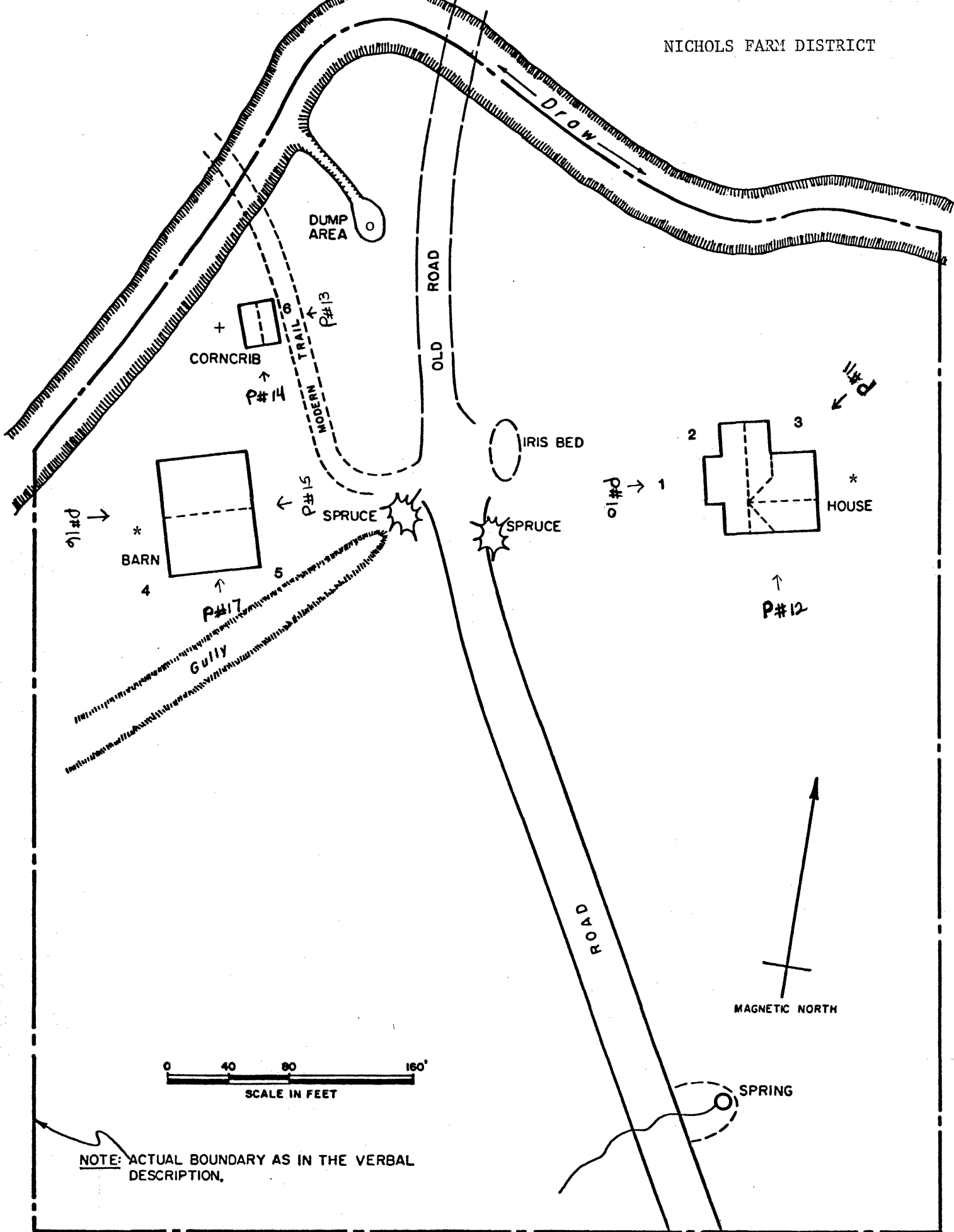
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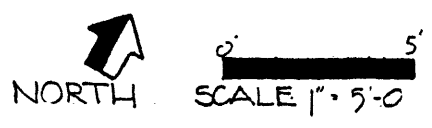
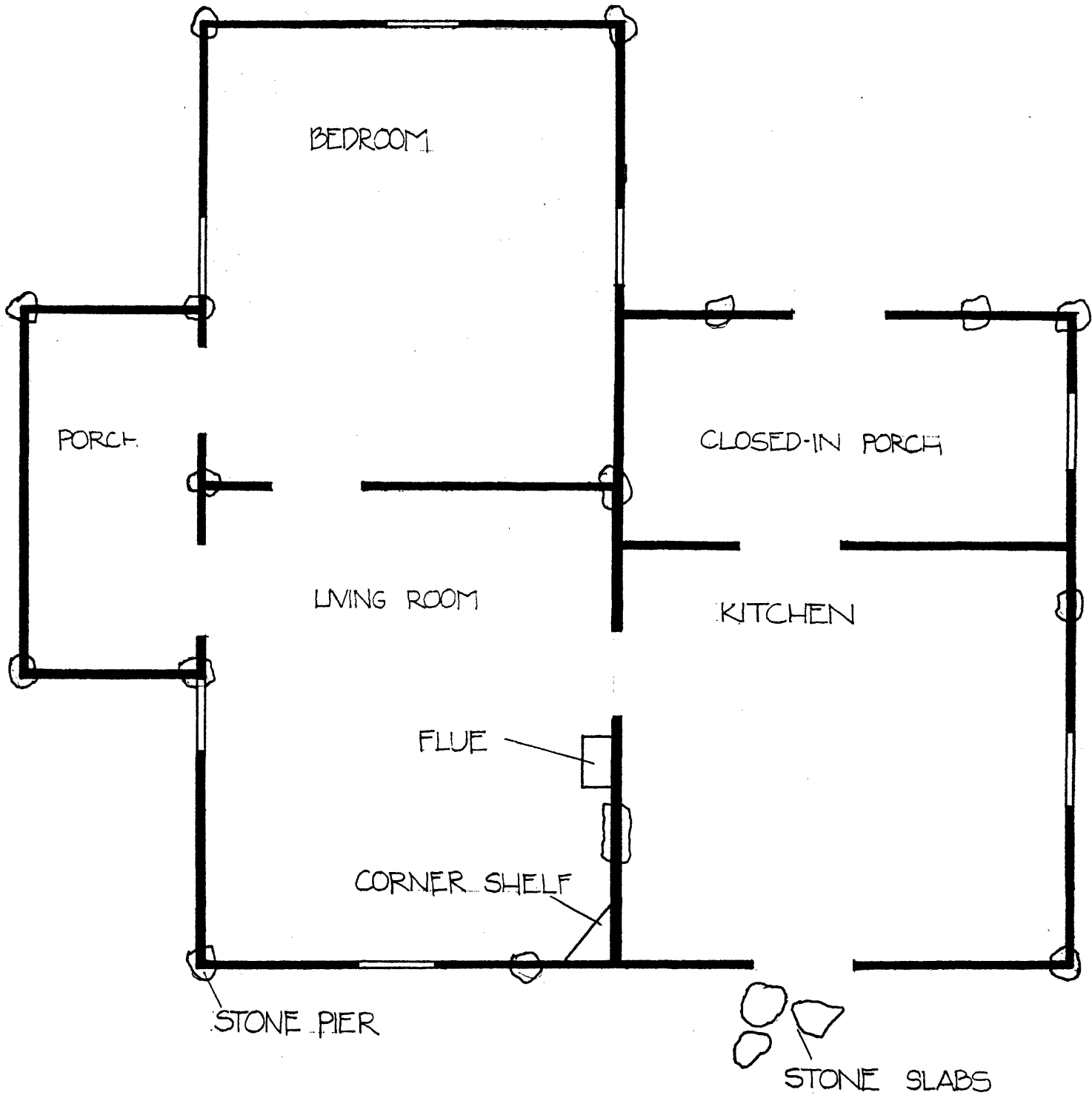
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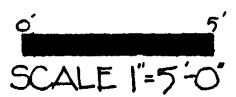
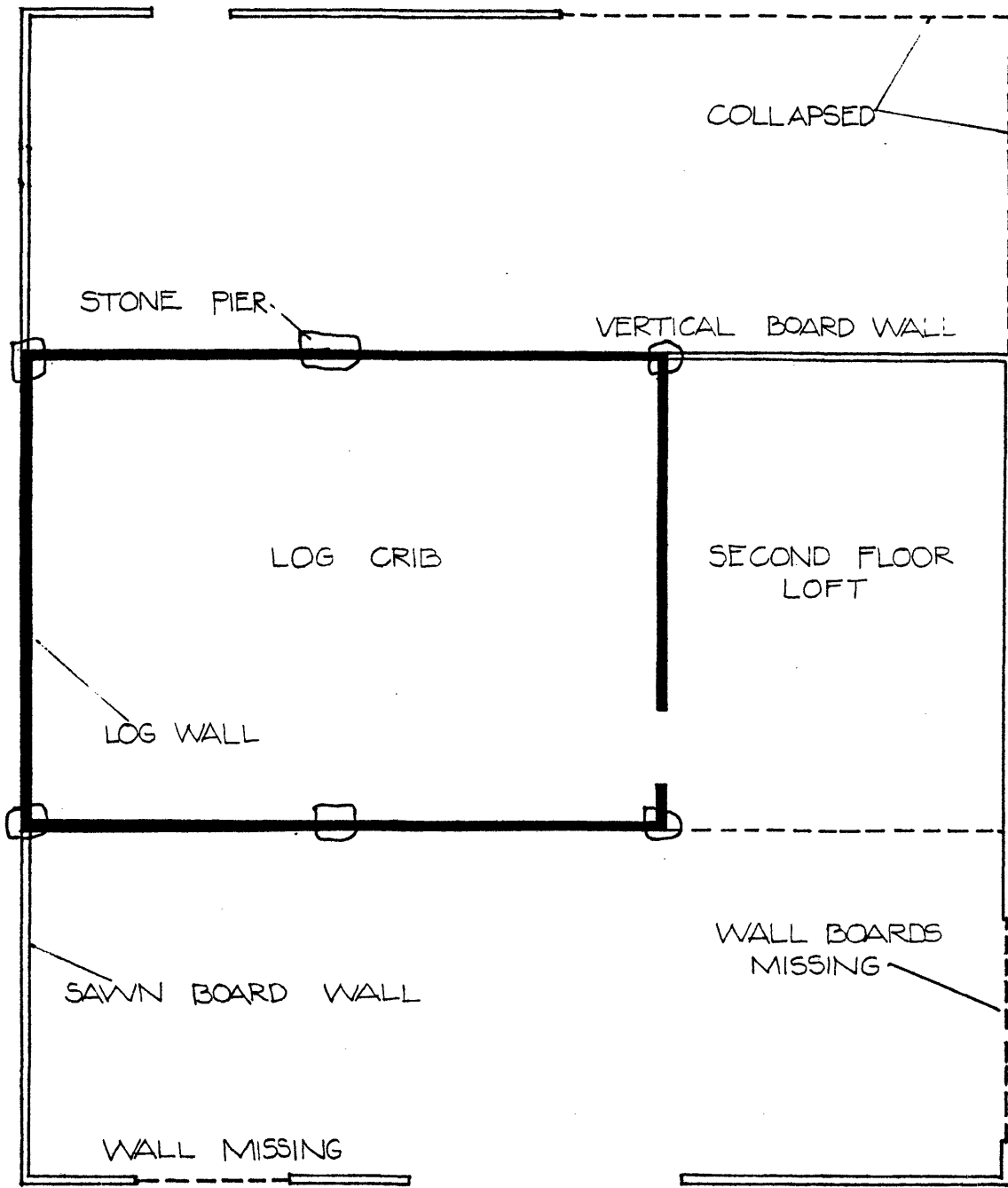
BOUNDARY MAP-NICHOLS FARM
OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAYS

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- *Contributing Buildings
- +Contributing Structure
- oContributing Site

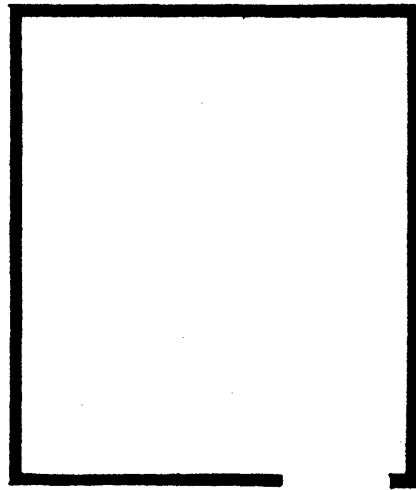


NICHOLS HOUSE

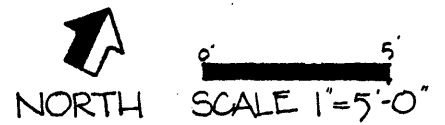


NICHOLS BARN

GABLE END



GABLE END



NICHOLS LOG CRIB

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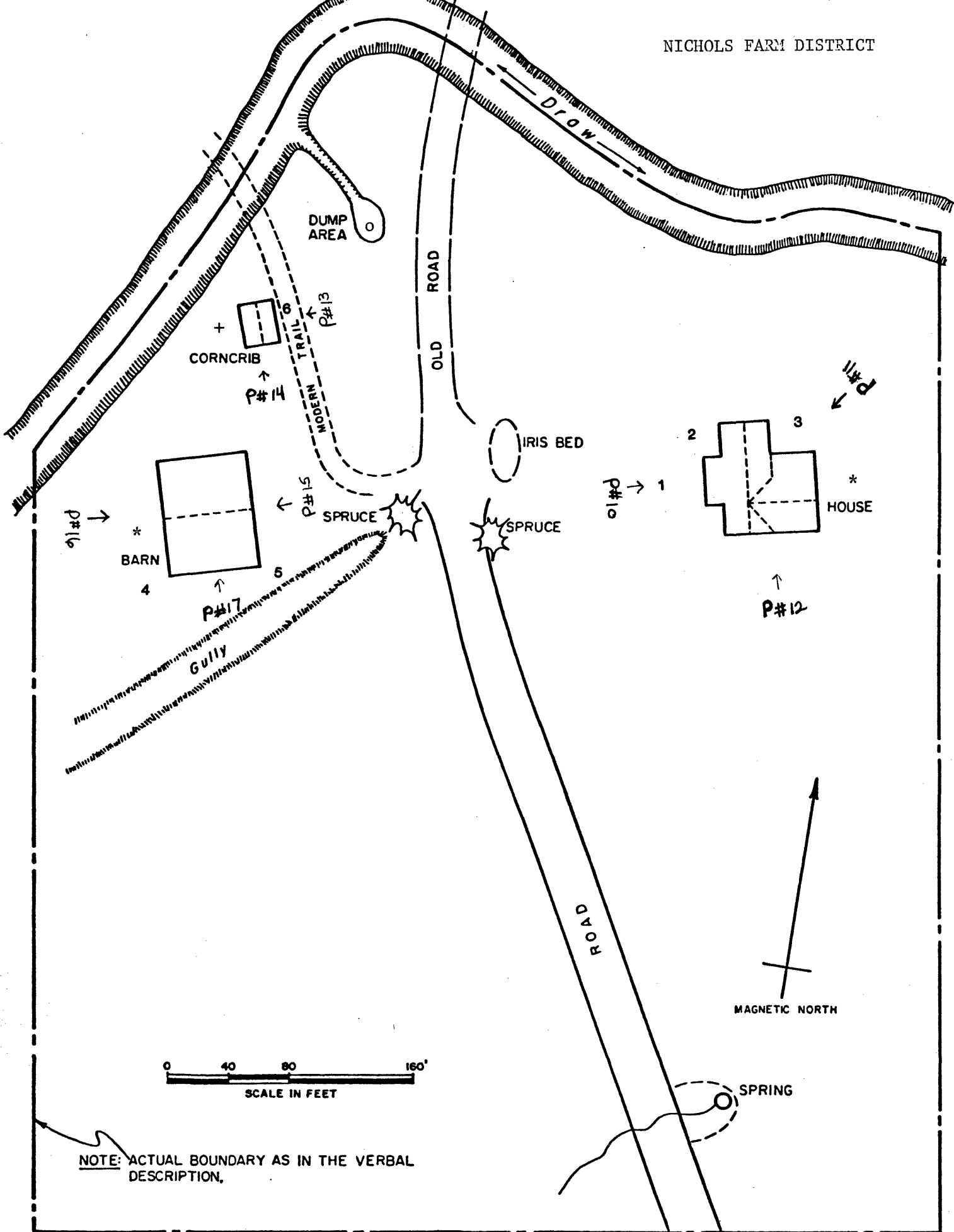
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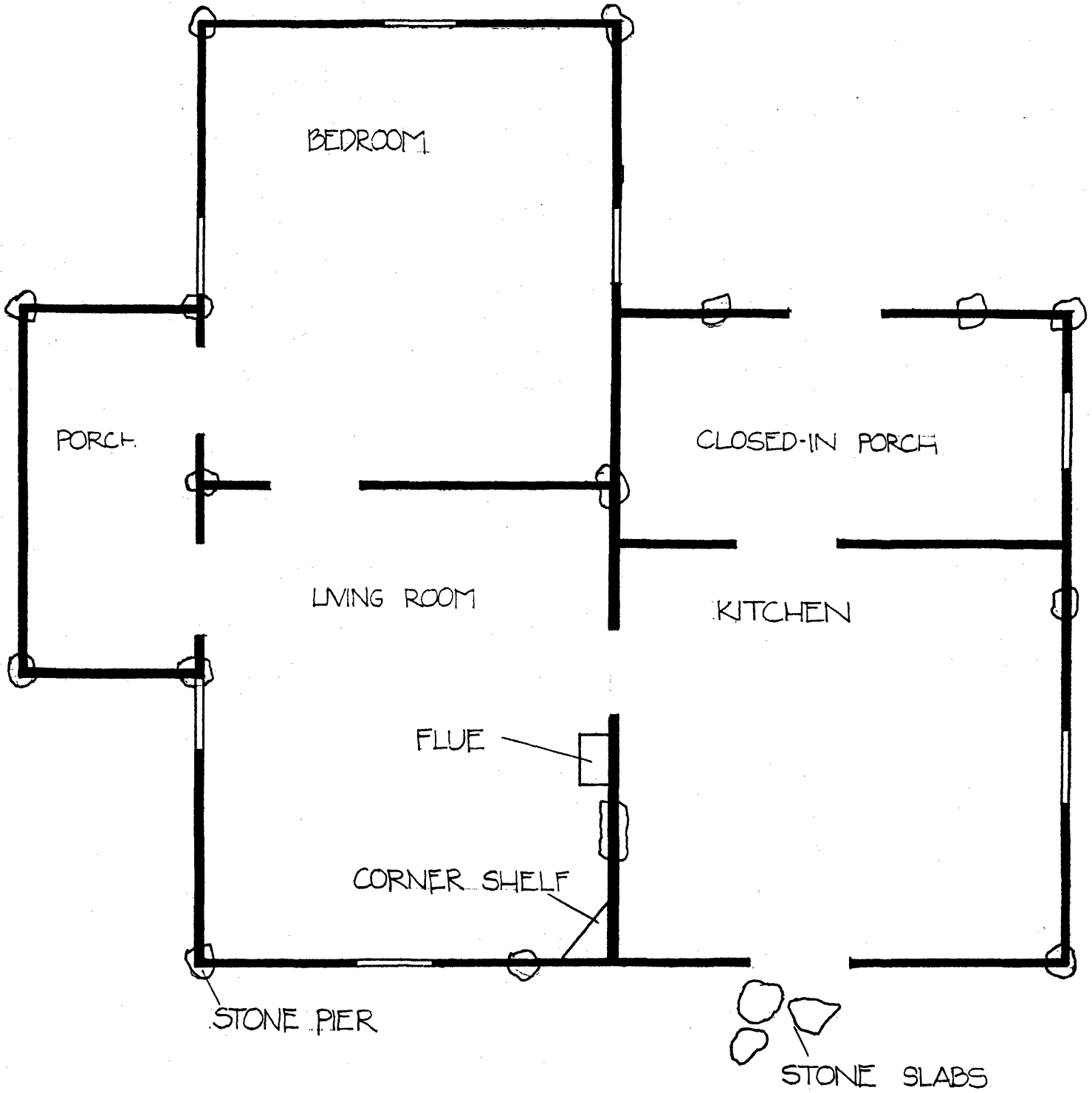
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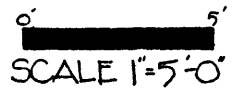
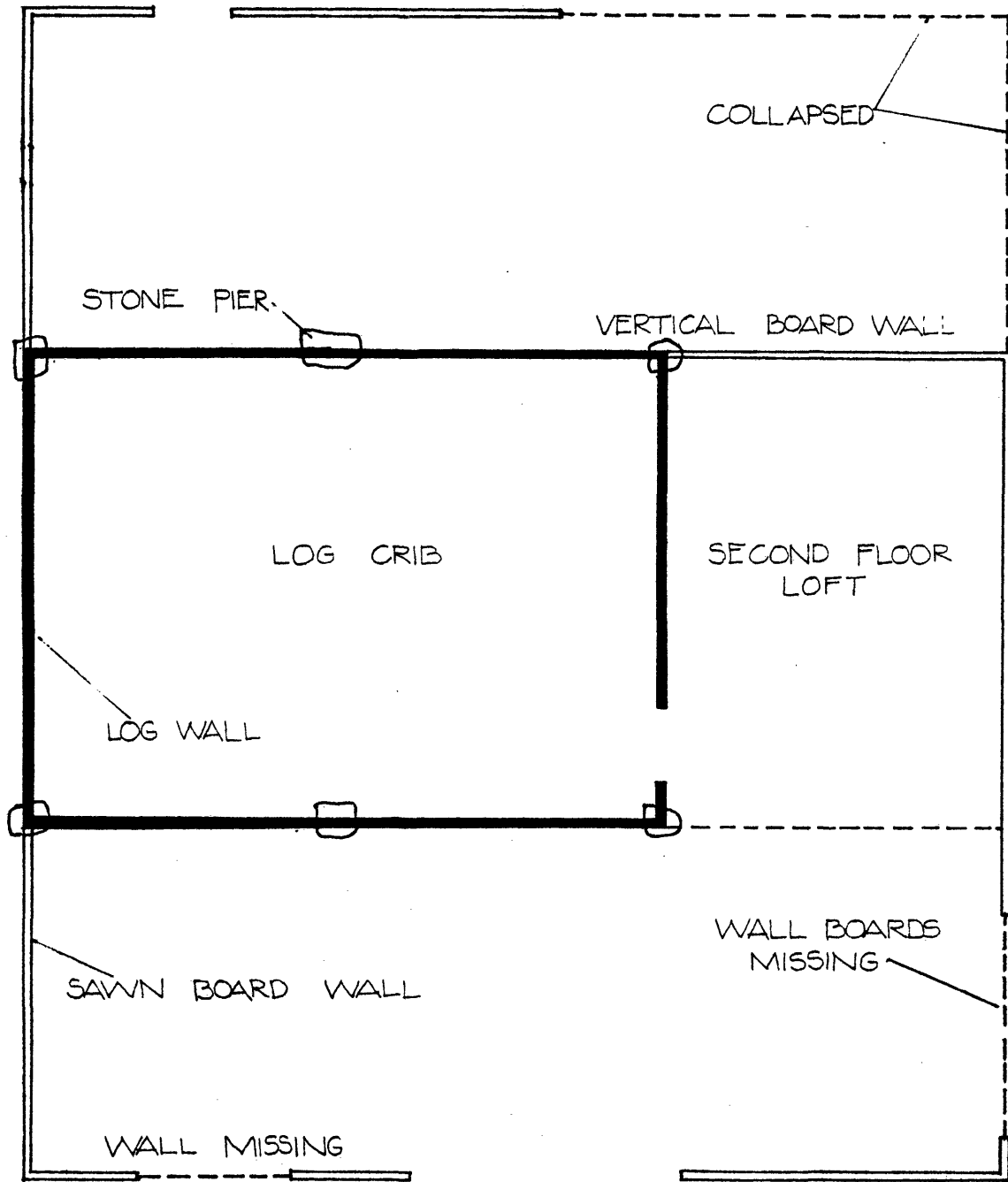
BOUNDARY MAP-NICHOLS FARM
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DATA SOURCE: Field Map, C. Price and J. Price, 21 September 1985

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- oContributing Site

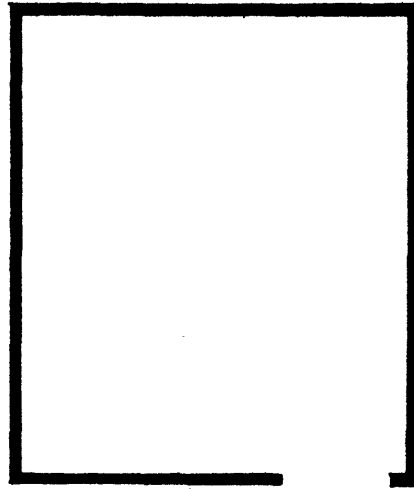


NICHOLS HOUSE



NICHOLS BARN

GABLE END



GABLE END



NORTH



SCALE 1"=5'-0"

NICHOLS LOG CRIB

Drawn: Stephen M. Knight.