

STATE:
Kentucky

COUNTY:
Logan

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 28 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
South Union Shaker Centre House and Preservatory

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
U.S. Highway 68

CITY OR TOWN:
South Union

STATE Kentucky	CODE 42283	COUNTY: Logan	CODE 141
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted (Centre House) <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (Preservatory)
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational (Centre House) <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum (Centre House)	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Preservatory-home of caretaker, will be open to public in future

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Commonwealth of Ky. (leased to Shakertown Revisited, Inc.)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort	STATE: Kentucky	CODE 21
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Logan County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Russellville	STATE: Kentucky	CODE 21
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE OF SURVEY: **1971** Federal State County Local

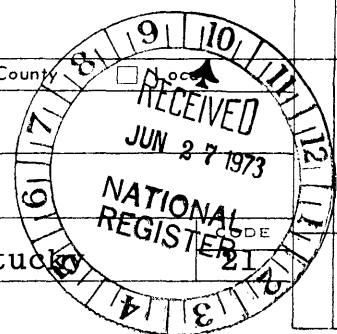
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
401 Wapping Street

CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort	STATE: Kentucky	CODE 21
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Centre House is a four-story Federal style building that was built between 1822 and 1833. It was constructed of hand-made brick and hand-hewn limestone. Centre House, a forty-two room structure, was the central building in the Shaker settlement. The upper floors were living quarters; the basement contained cooking and dining facilities. The Shaker influence can be seen in the separate stairways and doors for men and women; their fine craftsmanship can be seen throughout the building.

Double stone stairs lead to the main entrance of Centre House. The doorway is recessed, surmounted by a glass transom and flanked by tall narrow windows. A long stone lintel extends across the top of the windows and door. On the second floor, directly above the entrance the window treatment follows the theme set by the entrance. A central window is flanked by two windows, each half as wide as the central window and identical to those flanking the doorway. The long stone lintel above these windows bears the date 1824. The front facade has eight additional windows, each matching the central window on the second floor. All of the windows have shutters. There are three dormers in the roof at the front facade and others in the roof of the rear of the building.

The Centre House is T-shaped; the front portion of the house is the cross-bar of the "T". At the rear of the building is an annex that was added during the final stages of construction in 1833. It contains the stairway which runs from the basement to the attic. The latticed porch on the west side of the building has been glassed, but the original stone floor remains.

The exterior stone foundation and brick walls of the South Union Centre House have remained unchanged since its construction. Also unchanged are the stone gutters and the stone steps and walks. The original wood floors of the basement have been replaced by cement floors. All other original floors are in excellent condition. The building has been slightly altered with the addition of heating, plumbing and electricity. The original windows were replaced in the 1950's, however many of the original frames and small windows have been kept so these can be restored. Other windows can be returned to small panes. The bell tower which was on the back roof has been removed. Photographs of the porch and bell tower are available so both of these can be restored. Volunteers have been working to restore the interior to its original condition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Centre House 1822; Preservatory 1835 (?)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

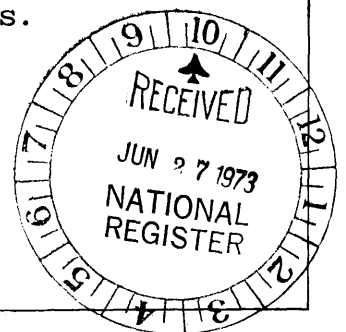
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mother Ann Lee led the Believers in Christ's Second Appearing - more commonly known as "Shakers" - to New York from England in 1774. In 1807 a Shaker society was organized in South Union, Kentucky. Fifteen years later, the members began their "Great House," designed as a dwelling house for the Church or covenant family. Known as the Centre House, the four-story building of 42 rooms was the most important of the many South Union buildings.

Begun in 1822 and completed in May, 1833, Centre House, a large building with a hand-hewn limestone foundation and hand-made brick walls, was a remarkable structure to have been built in Western Kentucky in the early 1800's. Authorities on Shaker architecture consider the South Union Centre House to be one of the finest Shaker buildings in existence.

James Thomas, vice-president of Shakertown at Pleasant Hill, Kentucky, has spoken of the "unusual refinement" of the doors and mantels. Professor Ray Pearson, School of Design, Illinois Institute of Technology, believes that Center House is possibly the best constructed Shaker building standing today. Colin Richmond, designer and photographer, Oneida, New York, found Centre House, with its many arches, "aesthetically pleasing."

The Preservatory, located directly behind Centre House, was one of the many buildings where the family members did their work. In the Preservatory the women canned and preserved fruits of all kinds for family use. The surplus was sold throughout the area. After the coming of the railroad, South Union Shaker preserves were shipped to Birmingham and New Orleans, Nashville, Louisville and other cities.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet # 9

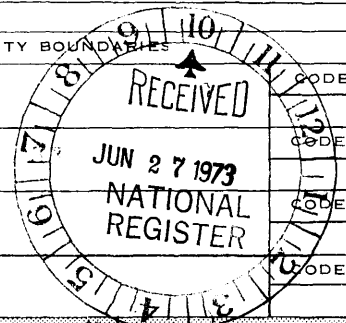
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36° 53' 04"	86° 38' 42"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 10

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



H/S CONTIN

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Julia Neal, Secretary

ORGANIZATION: Shakertown Revisited, Inc. DATE: May 5, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: South Union STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Mrs. Simeon Willis

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: June 20, 1973

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

[Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/28/74

ATTEST: [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6-28-74

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet) # 1

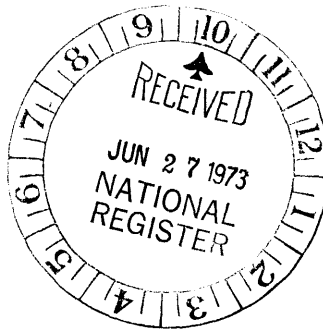
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No. 7 DESCRIPTION

The Preservatory is a two-story brick structure located behind the Centre House. It was built circa 1835. The exterior of the Preservatory remains unchanged, however, its interior has been altered. On the second floor partitions or temporary walls were added. The original structure can be easily restored.

The Centre House and Preservatory formed the core of the Shaker settlement at South Union. Other Shaker buildings that were located on the former 6000 acre tract are still standing. St. Mark's, a Benedictine Monastery, owns the Wash House and Warming House. Other buildings, such as the Ministry Shop and a tavern for guests, are private property. Three other buildings have been torn down.



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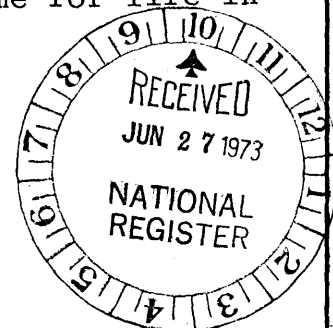
(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

The Shakers believed in pacifism, charity to all in need, cleanliness, industry, honesty in all dealings, celibacy for all members, community of goods, and the belief that Christ had appeared the second time in the form of Mother Ann Lee. Shaker women shared the leadership in both spirtual and temporal matters with the men.

The Shakers became widely known for reasons other than being a peculiar religious sect. They were the leading agriculturists and the manufacturers of the new western country, practicing scientific farming and rotation of crops before these methods had been heard of on the Kentucky frontier, and introducing purebred registered cattle to the region. The Shakers were the first to offer for sale packages of quality garden seeds. Among their other endeavors were sugar processing, hat, and broom factories, a tailor shop and bakery. They had a stone quarry, whiskey distillery, and flour mill. The South Union Shaker sisters were successful in raising silk worms. They processed the silk and wove it into silk kerchiefs for themselves and sisters in other Shaker societies. All articles made by the Society were of excellent craftsmanship.

By 1826 the South Union Shaker Colony had acquired over 6,000 acres of land. In the following year its membership reached a peak with 349 members. Famous visitors to the Shaker Colony included President James Monroe, General Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay and Sam Houston. During the Civil War the Shakers maintained a strict neutrality but were victimized by soldiers of both the North and South. Depending upon new recruits to keep the colony going, the community began its decline soon after the War Between the States. By 1911 there were only seventeen members left in the colony. When the South Union Colony closed in 1922 it was the last of the six Western societies to disband. The land and buildings were sold and the remaining nine members were given a choice of \$10,000 or a home for life in the New Lebanon Colony in New York.



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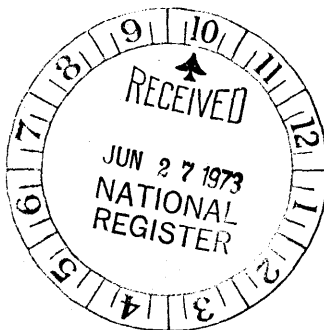
(Continuation Sheet) # 2

STATE Kentucky	
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#8 SIGNIFICANCE

After 1922 Centre House was occupied by farm families. In 1949 it was purchased by the Catholic Order of St. Benedict for use as a monastery. In 1971 Centre House, the Preservatory, and three acres of land were purchased jointly by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Shakertown Revisited, Inc. Since 1962 local residents have held an annual Shaker Festival and presented a regional drama entitled "Shakertown Revisited" which depicts scenes from the colony's history. Centre House serves as a Shaker museum and the building is presently being restored to its original condition. During the first summer that it was open (1972), 5,873 visitors registered, representing 42 states and 7 foreign countries.



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9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Coleman, J. Winston, Jr. Historic Kentucky. Lexington:
Henry Clay Press, 1968.

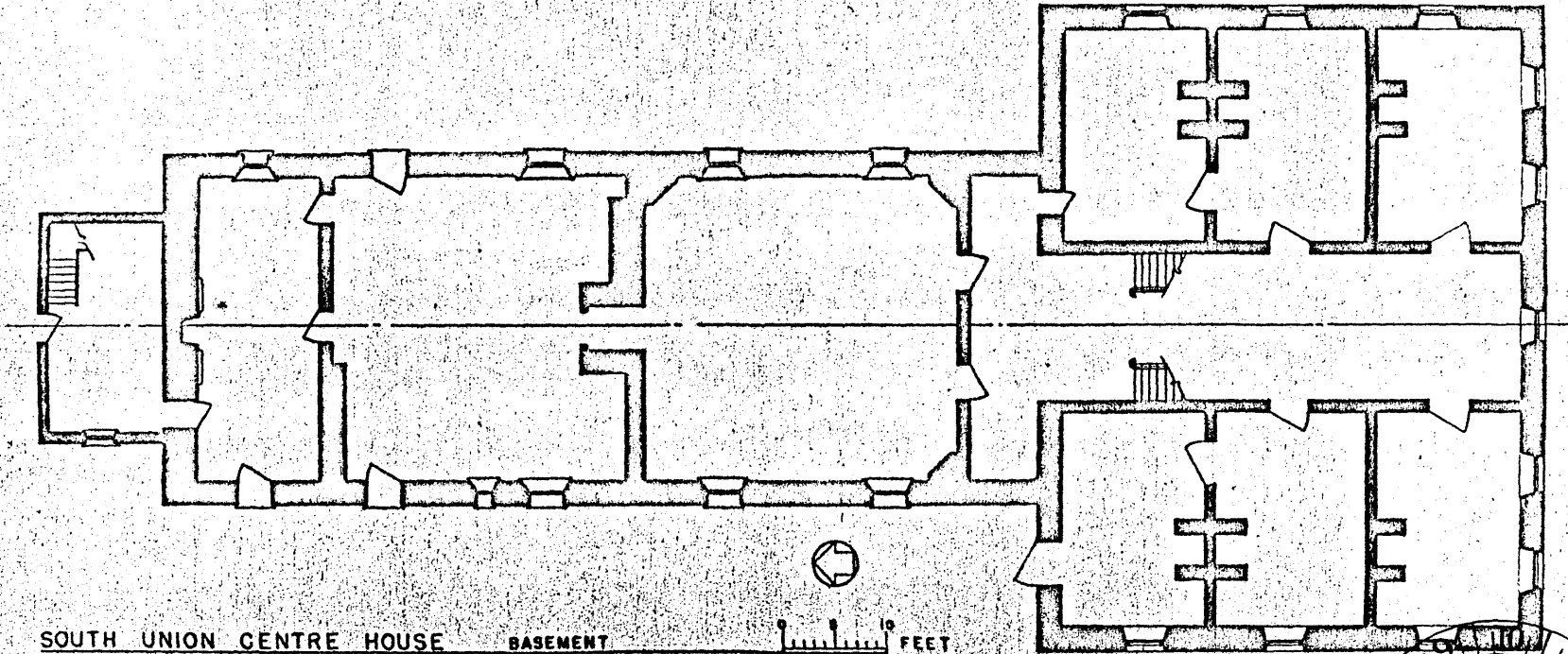
Neal. By Their Fruits. University of North Carolina, 1947.

Unpublished South Union Manuscript, journals and account books.

McNerney, Maureen. "Volunteer Effort Restores Shakertown
at South Union," Courier-Journal, April 23, 1972, p. G-4

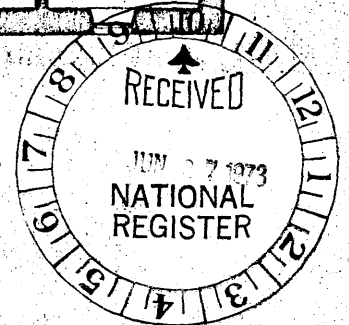


Measured drawings - South Union Centre House - Ray Pearson

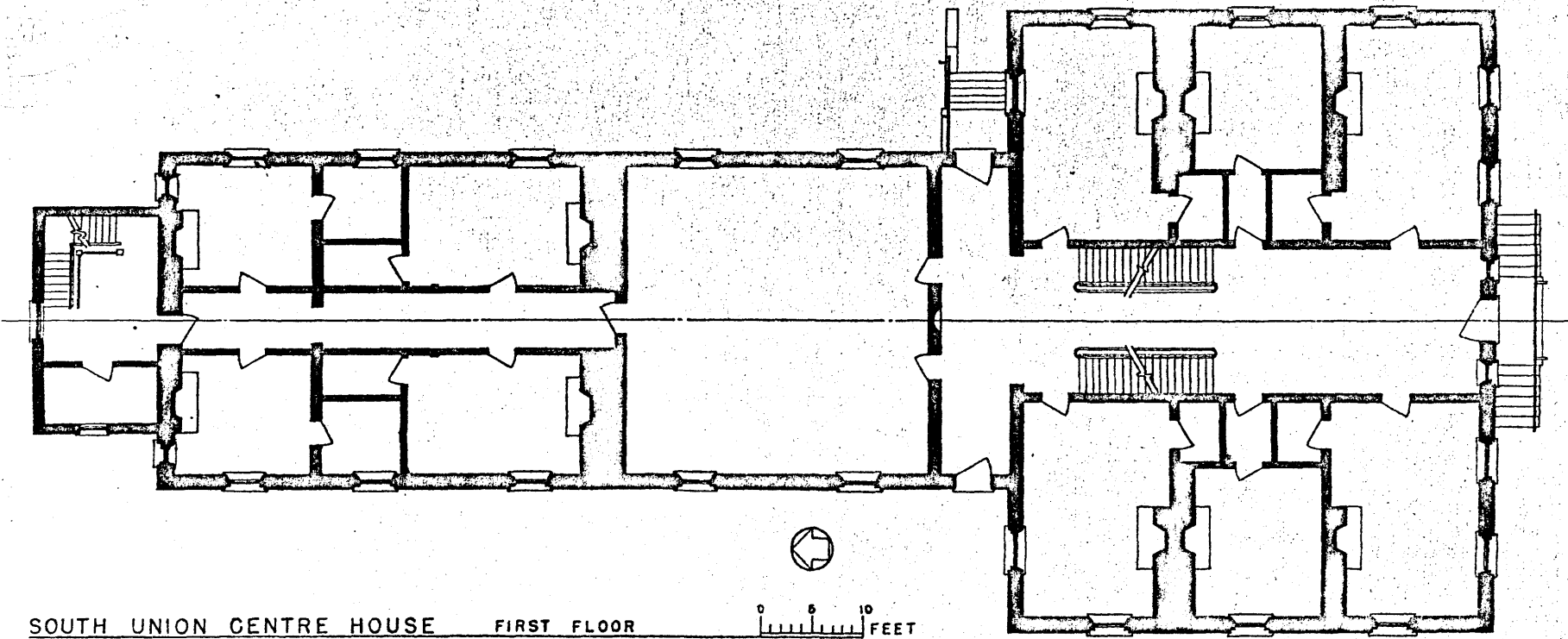


SOUTH UNION CENTRE HOUSE BASEMENT

~~NOT TO SCALE~~
~~AS SHOWN~~

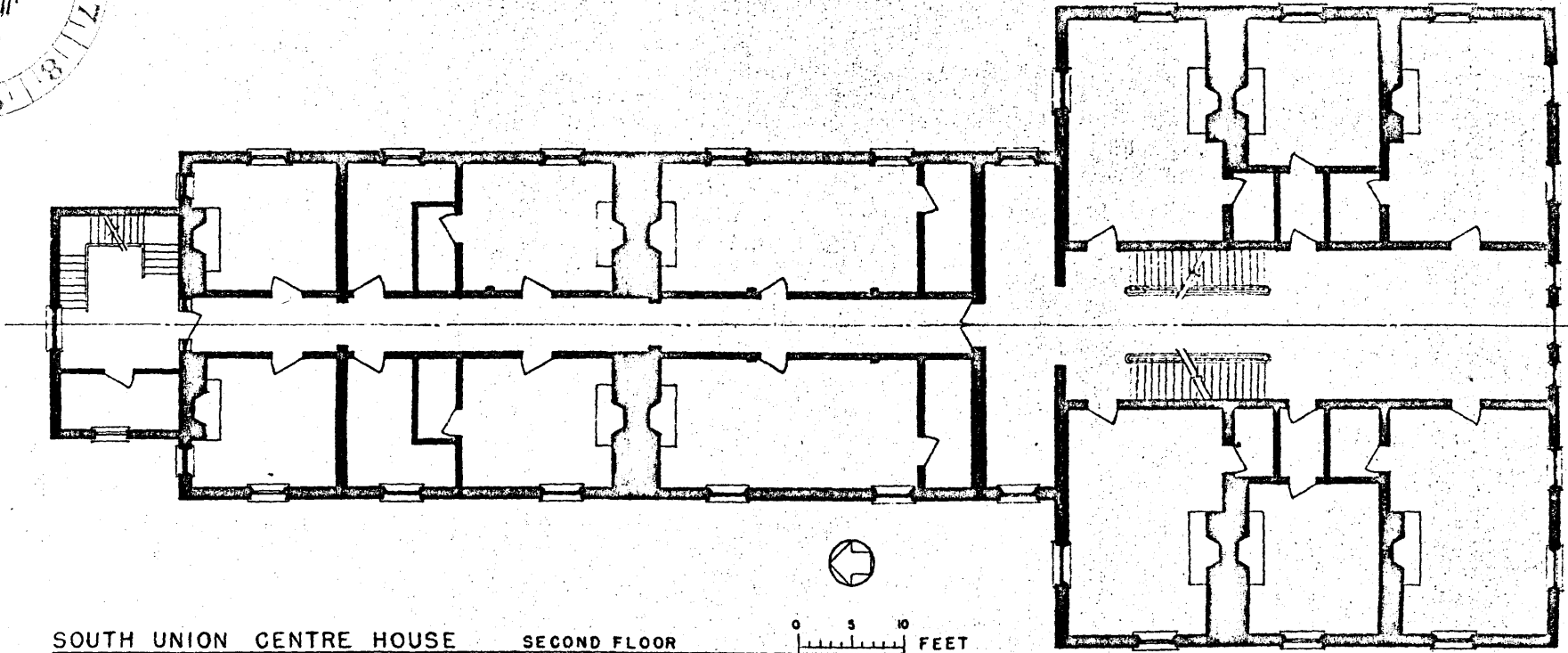
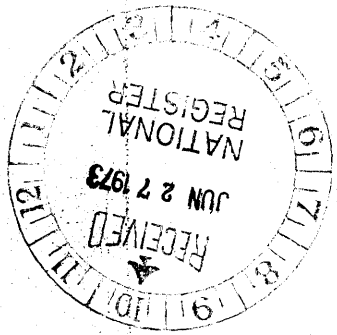


RECORDED
GENERAL
JUN 27 1973



SOUTH UNION CENTRE HOUSE FIRST FLOOR

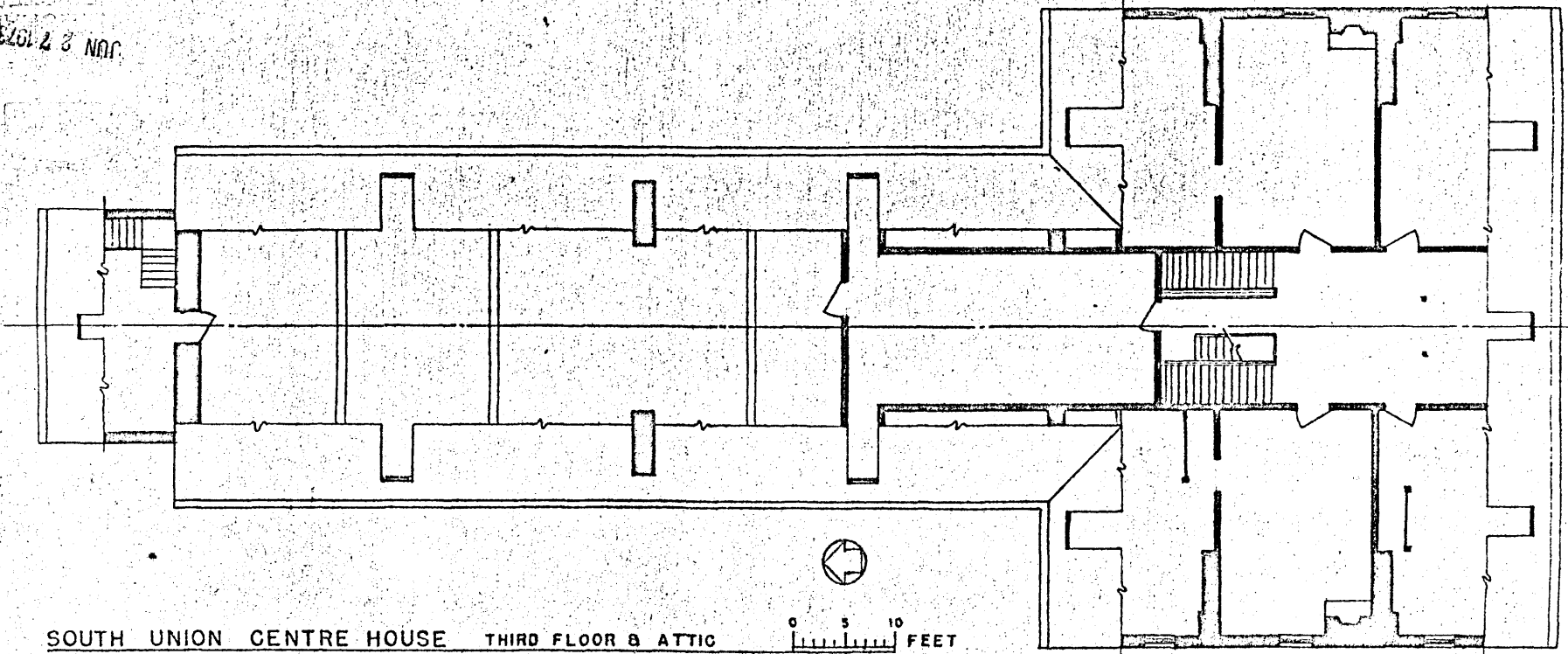
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SOUTH UNION CENTRE HOUSE SECOND FLOOR

0 5 10 FEET

REGISTER
JUN 2 1973



SOUTH UNION CENTRE HOUSE THIRD FLOOR & ATTIC

0 5 10 FEET