

1721

NATIONAL REGISTER

OMB No. 1024-0018

NPS Form 10-9000
(Rev. 8-86)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: The Charles and Martha Villeneuve House

other name/site number: The Herridge House / 015325

2. Location

street & number: 7575 Moon Valley Road

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Eagle

vicinity: N/A

state: ID county: Ada code: 01 zip code: 83616

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building (s)

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.

Thomas J. Lee 9-26-90
Signature of certifying official Date

Utah State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register Antonieta Lee 11/13/90
 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): _____

fa Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

Current : DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

Other Description:

	<u>Stone/</u>		
Materials: foundation	<u>river cobble</u>	roof	<u>Wood/shingle</u>
walls	<u>Wood/weather-</u>	other	<u>Asphalt</u>
	<u>board, shingle,</u>		
	<u>Stone/river cobble</u>		

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A & C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE
EXPLORATION/Settlement

Period(s) of Significance: 1881-1890

Significant Dates : 1881

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

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: Ada County

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property: .026 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 11 544520 4837250 B _____

C _____ D _____

_____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Gary Bowyer and Lou Ann Speulda

Organization: Ada County Development Services Date: June 15, 1990

Street & Number: 111 Louisa Street Telephone: (208) 345-5175

City or Town: Boise State: ID Zip: 83712

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The Villeneuve House, built circa 1881, is a one-and-one-half story cobblestone structure with Queen Anne-inspired features. The house stands within the original homestead of the pioneer settler who had it constructed. The setting maintains its rural character of open rolling farmland stretching south along the Boise River, nine miles west of Boise and three miles east of Star. The house site is at the northern edge of the property, in Section 15, T4N, R1W of the Boise Meridian, in Ada County, Idaho. The Villeneuve House, although altered for functional comforts through the years, maintains a high level of integrity. The overall shape, building materials, design, and decorative elements are intact.

Cobblestone was used for constructing the foundation, exterior walls, and fireplace of the Villeneuve House. River rock is a locally abundant building material found on the remnant terraces formed by the meandering Boise River, which forms the southern property boundary of the Villeneuve House. Although river rock is occasionally used for porches, chimneys, garden walls, and landscaping in the area, structures with extensive uses of cobblestone are rare in Ada County. The Villeneuve House is a unique example of the use of this material, and is further distinguished by its association with the Queen Anne architectural style.

The Villeneuve House reflects the quiet interpretation of an elaborate decorative styling which grew to national prominence between 1880 and 1910. The Queen Anne style is characterized by the use of irregular shapes, a dominant front-facing gable, patterned shingles, bay window, and variety of exterior wall coverings.

Exterior

The Villeneuve House was constructed circa 1881 for Charles Villeneuve. The house possesses an overall cross-gable massing. The roof is covered with wooden shingles which have been overlain with asphalt shingles. The cobblestone walls are 12-14 inches thick, providing insulation from extreme weather. The structural system consists of a balloon frame. The side gable is one room deep, and the front porch and rear addition provide a consistent profile on either side. The front bay provides a break in the generally square shape of the house.

The exterior is marked by its attention to the variety of building materials and assortment of decorative details. The gable ends are highlighted with the use of return eaves and cedar shingles painted

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green. Recently aluminum siding was added, obscuring the gable end shingles and masking exterior wood trim. The east elevation gable end maintains symmetrical placement of windows on the first and second stories. The first-story square bay window with a pent roof is a notable attribute of the front-facing gable.

A three-quarter-width porch provides decorative relief to the front facade. The front and side parlor entrances are enlivened by the use of turned posts with cut-out decorative brackets and spindle work. Tongue and groove planks are used for the porch flooring.

The front and side parlor doors also reflect Queen Anne style influence with the carved wood garland motif and single large pane of glass set into the upper portion. Stone lintels are present over both doors.

Cobblestone segmental relieving arches provide ornamentation around the windows on all of the first-floor windows. Quarried sandstone is used for sills. Window treatment is consistent one-over-one, double-hung sash, measuring 3' x 6' on most windows. The front bay window is slightly larger, while the rear kitchen window and second-story window above the front door are smaller. The windows are inset from the exterior wall by 4", supplying a wide sill on the interior. Aluminum storm windows have recently been added on the exterior.

The Villeneuve House had three interior-wall brick chimneys. The chimneys were located in the east end, center, and west end. Two chimneys were dismantled when the roof was covered with asphalt shingles. The west-end chimney is intact and still in use, serving as the flue for the cobblestone fireplace in the side parlor. The brick chimney extends above the center of the facing gable roof line and is topped with a decorative flared cap.

The south (rear) elevation has been altered by a 1960s addition. Originally, a board and batten lean-to was attached to the rear wall. Modern plumbing was added to the house in the addition; until that time an outhouse served the family needs. The bathroom, utility room, and breakfast nook were all part of a much needed addition to the house. The addition is not visible from the front and is partially covered with vines and vegetation on the west and east elevations.

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Interior

The interior spacing is essentially unaltered from its 1881 form. The original floorplan of a central living/dining room, side parlor, bedroom, and kitchen around an off-center, enclosed staircase is maintained. The thick (12-14") cobblestone walls allow little variation in the original house plan. The enclosed staircase is very narrow with steep risers which curve sharply to the east. (Refer to Figures 3 and 4).

The doors, hardware, and molding are all original building materials. The base molding is simple, with a bead finish. The molding around the doorways is also quite plain. The interior wooden doors are primarily 5-panel varieties with a decorative lock plate and black ceramic knob.

The cobblestone fireplace with arched fire box is the dominant feature of the small side parlor. A wide plank mantel provides an appropriate finish to the natural stone work.

Outbuildings

While the Villeneuve House is associated with an intact portion of an 1872 homestead, the farm grouping itself does not reflect the 1880s period when the house was built (refer to Figure 2). Therefore, while the numerous outbuildings and surrounding fields provide an appropriate backdrop or setting for the house, they do not maintain a level of integrity to be included for nomination.

As on any active farmstead, there are a variety of outbuildings to serve the various needs of the farm, and the elongated square farm grouping extending south of the Villeneuve House is no different. At the southern end of the farm yard stands the steeply pitched gable end barn (#12). The barn is distinctive because of its extreme roof pitch. The barn is a center opening with lean-to sheds around three sides. The barn was constructed circa 1940.

Wood frame sheds which serve many utilitarian functions such as chicken coop, loafing shed, tool storage, wood shed, smoke house, or privy are scattered around the farm yard. The property site plan (Figure 2) provides a view of the spatial arrangement of the buildings. The outbuildings #5 and #6 were moved on to the property in the 1970s from a farm in the vicinity, while sheds #8, #9, and #13 were all on the property at least when the current owners purchased it in 1965. A pole

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barn and pre-fab aluminum equipment garage are recent buildings (#7 and #11). A cinder block garage (#3) was constructed in 1949; the artesian well next to the southeast corner (#2) was re-activated in 1938. Fences and corrals have been built and modified to accommodate the changing livestock needs.

Surrounding the farm buildings are agriculture fields and pasture lands. Irrigation has always been an important factor for the success of crops in the Boise River Valley and two canals cross through the property: the Lawrence Kennedy and the Pioneer. The Pioneer Canal, which runs just south of the barn, was one of the original ditches built by pioneer settlers in 1863-64 and led to the development of the nearby Star townsite and the southern portion of the Boise Valley.

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The Villeneuve House is eligible for the National Register under criteria A and C. The property is significant for its association with two pioneer families and the early historic period in Ada County. It maintains a strong visual association with the pioneer period because its rural setting along the Boise River is unaltered. Furthermore, it is significant both as an example of the Queen Anne style, which is uncommon in southern Idaho, and for the extensive use of river cobblestone.

Charles Villeneuve homesteaded the property in 1874 and had the cobblestone house built about 1881. Villeneuve came to Idaho Territory with little, and he developed a stockraising business which was a major establishment in the Star vicinity. Phelps Everett, a pioneer who had arrived in the area in 1864, bought Villeneuve's property in 1888 after developing his own homestead in 1884. Both Villeneuve and Everett were part of the influx of farmers and merchants who developed a supply network for the miners who were working large gold deposits in the Boise Basin. The large demand for food and supplies, coupled with the rich bottomland of the Boise River and the potential for irrigation, enabled farmers such as Villeneuve and Everett to prosper. These two are not legendary figures in the history of Idaho; rather, they are two of the many individuals who arrived and were determined to stay and work the land rather than the mines.

Today, there are few reminders of the early settlement period in Ada County. Everett's homestead, which was noted in Wallace Elliott's 1884 History of Idaho Territory, was demolished. The increasing demand for property in what has become the most populated county in Idaho has replaced much of the nineteenth-century landscape. The Villeneuve House provides a strong visual link to the nineteenth century farms which people like Villeneuve and Everett developed along the Boise River. Standing in its original setting, the Villeneuve House serves as a reminder of the pioneer settlers and their families.

HISTORIC CONTEXT (1863-1890)

Boise Valley Settlement

Caucasian presence in the Boise Valley prior to 1863 was transient and limited to fur trading activities, missionaries, and miners en route elsewhere. The great migration route for thousands of pioneers, the Oregon Trail, led through the Boise Valley, yet few travelers were tempted to curtail their journey westward. The greatest inducement for

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settlement came in 1862-63 with the discovery of gold northeast of the Boise Valley. The influx of miners caused a dramatic shift in Idaho's historic development. Within two years ten thousand people poured into the Boise Basin, and the steady stream traveled primarily through the Boise Valley.

Along with the get-rich-quick adventurers came merchants and farmers who realized they could prosper by supplying the miners with food and equipment. Agriculture began on tracts of land adjacent to the Boise River. Ditches and canals were constructed to provide water for irrigation to the rich bottomland during the dry summer months. The first irrigation ditches were usually small and built by individual settlers or adjacent property owners. Large-scale canal construction was developed by the 1870s to meet the needs of the increasing population. Residents established irrigation districts to provide a systematic and fair distribution of water usage.

Initial settlement was along the Boise River as settlers took up claims under the federal Homestead Act of 1862. Requirements of the Homestead Act included five years of residence and yearly improvements on the property. Actually receiving the patented title to the property often took more than seven years.

By 1864 settlement had increased to the point that the area was established as Ada County during the Second Territorial legislative session. Census records provide an indication of the rapid population influx and development of farms. By 1870 the census reports a population of 2,675 with 19,180 acres of improved agricultural land. The 1880 census lists a population base of 4,674, with 256 farms, and 800,475 improved acres. Within Ada County, many small community centers developed because of the boom in farming and stock raising; these were the primary industries because of the market created by the miners.

Star

The community of Star developed in the early 1860's as a rural center for the neighboring farms and ranchers. The Pioneer ditch, which was started in the fall of 1863 by M. B. Palmer, was described by a local author as

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caus[ing] the country between Star and Middleton to be settled up more rapidly than other portions of the Boise Valley: it was one of the earliest portions of the valley settled because water was there.¹

The name Star is associated with the town reputedly because of a wooden cut-out star placed on the school-house door by a builder. The story goes that directions were given to travelers to make a turn at the building with a star on the door, and Star became the shortened version. However, a local variant of the naming of the community suggests that it was named for a brand of plug tobacco. Travelers and miners found food and lodging in Star on their way to and from Boise and the mines in the Boise Basin. The surrounding farmland was developed rapidly to supply the needs of the travelers.

In 1905, Star became an incorporated city of Ada County, encompassing four miles in all directions. An electric rail system, the Boise and Interurban, connected Star with Boise in 1907. The rail system provided incentive for new businesses and Star grew steadily for several years. However, in 1929, Star residents voted to disincorporate rather than pay the cost of paving State Highway 44 through the town. Today, Star remains incorporated, a quiet, farming community approximately fifteen miles west of Idaho's state capital, Boise.

History of Property

The Villeneuve House is located on the original 139.33-acre homestead filed by Joseph Villeneuve in 1872. Two years later Charles Villeneuve was listed as the owner of the property according to Ada County tax assessment records; a relationship between Joseph and Charles Villeneuve is assumed. A homestead certificate patent was listed for Charles Villeneuve in 1880.

Charles Villeneuve was born in Montreal, Canada. He moved with his family to Chicago, then traveled across the plains to the Boise Valley by 1874. In 1877, he married Martha Isabel Anderson, who had arrived the year before with her parents. The couple had three sons and two daughters. In 1876, the newspaper mentioned Charles and his stock raising success:

Mr. Villeneuve's is a sort of headquarters for stock-horsemen, and he has one...four-year old colt, which bears the good reputation of that stock.²

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The assessment records of 1881 for Charles Villeneuve report an increase of \$875.00 for improvements to the property, but this amount was assessed to a party other than Villeneuve. The value of the improvement suggests that a substantial structure was constructed. This is the only record of a large improvement to the property noted between 1874 and 1910. Thus, it is surmised that the cobblestone house was constructed in 1881. However, why the amount was assessed to someone other than Villeneuve is unresolved.

Villeneuve sold the homestead in 1886 to William Eddy. In 1887, the property was re-sold to A. C. and A. S. Guyer. Eddy and Guyer left little information behind during their short ownership of the property. Phelps Everett acquired the 139.33 acres in 1888, with all of the ditch and water rights.

Phelps Everett had made and lost a fortune by land speculating in Minnesota before he was thirty years old. He was looking for new opportunities and adventure when he was drawn west by the tales of immense riches in the Idaho gold fields. Everett spent the winter of 1862 in Walla Walla, Washington Territory, a supply town for the mines in Idaho. Everett apparently did not actually go to work in the mines, but rather came directly to the Boise Valley.

Everett took up a homestead claim west of Boise by 1866. Farming and supplying the miners with foodstuffs proved to be a lucrative business for Everett. He was also politically active, representing Ada County in the 6th (1870-71) Territorial legislature.

In December, 1874, he brought his bride, Lizzie Wilson, to his new home. Lizzie Wilson was the daughter of James Wilson, an early Boise Valley pioneer. Everett and Lizzie produced eight children between 1875 and 1898.

In April, 1876, a report by Judge Milton Kelly of the valley's settlers included a description of Everett's property as well as a mention of Villeneuve's homestead:

Next below (Jones) Smith is Doc Everett's place, on the opposite side of the road. He has a neat, inviting white house, a beautiful yard sown in clover and planted full of tall, handsome shade trees enclosed with a painted picket fence. Next he called at the homes of Charles Villeneuve, I. M. Stewart.... 3

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The Everett property was quite prominent in the neighborhood and was illustrated in an 1884 guide to Idaho history. The 1884 illustration is apparently the same house described by Judge Kelly in 1876. Unfortunately, Everett's primary residence (between 1874 and 1888) is no longer standing.

Between 1891 and 1895, the Villeneuve property was operated by Everett as a freight-station and the house probably served as a ranch house for his sons, Elza and Richard. Everett provided his son Elza with title to the Villeneuve House in 1905. Elza sold the property in 1909 and moved to Boise.

During the next eight years, the cobblestone house and property were owned by Daisy and Ernest Pulliam. By this time the size of the original homestead was reduced to its present size of approximately seventeen acres. The Pulliams lost their property through legal action and it was subsequently acquired by Henry and Grace M. Eltinge in 1917.

Between 1919 and 1961, the property was in the hands of the Petersons, Martin J. and son M. Raymond. The Petersons were involved in farming and/or stock raising. Local tradition suggests that the Petersons built the distinctive steeply pitched barn. The Petersons also constructed the garage.

The first major alterations to the cobblestone house occurred in the early 1960s. Glen and Melvina Suiter, owners from 1961-1965, added a 10' x 32' cinder block addition, creating a bathroom, indoor plumbing, and a larger kitchen. The Suiters also installed a furnace to replace the wood stove and partitioned the upstairs. The Suiters operated an iris business, "Skyline Gardens," on the property west of the house.

In 1965, Roy and Frances Herridge acquired the property. The Herridges operated a small scale farming and livestock interest while they raised a family of five. Although now retired, they continue to farm the surrounding fields and maintain the house and grounds.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The Villeneuve House is a fine example of a simplified version of the Queen Anne style. Popular from 1880 to 1910, the Queen Anne style was one of several romantic and exotic styles of the Victorian period. Queen Anne characteristics include roofs of irregular shape, usually with a dominant front-facing gable, and patterned shingles, bay windows,

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and other devices used to avoid a smooth-walled appearance. Facades were usually asymmetrical with one-story partial or full-width porches. The style is also characterized by ornamental spindlework and delicate turned porch supports.

The Queen Anne stylistic features are subtly but quietly stated on the exterior of the Villeneuve House. The asymmetrical shape, front-facing gable, bay window, and porch details present a rich three-dimensional facade. Yet the primary allegiance to the Queen Anne character is the random-course cobblestone wall-cladding, with sandstone trim, as the variety of materials and textures for exterior walls is an essential attribute of this style.

The house maintains a substantial level of integrity which includes both exterior and interior features as well as an appropriate setting. The exterior walls are intact and the decorative detailing is original. The interior maintains the original floorplan and use of space, decorative moldings, and cobblestone fireplace.

Cobblestone, or river rock, provided a free and easily obtainable building material for early Boise Valley settlers. The use of cobblestone for domestic architecture in Ada County, however, is limited, probably owing to both the passage of time and the fact that cobblestone veneers are labor-intensive. Cobblestone is more frequently used in the area for porches, chimneys, garden walls, and landscaping. The Villeneuve House achieves further significance as an example of the use of this building material and possesses exceptional qualities of craftsmanship, design, and setting.

1

Annie L. Bird, Boise, The Peace Valley, Caldwell, ID:
(Caxton Printers, 1934): 239.

2

Idaho Triweekly Statesman May 4, 1876, p. 2.

3

Ibid.

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Ada County Deed Records, 1880-1965

Ada County Tax Assessment Records, 1866-1910

Archives Manuscript files, MS-529 and MS-527

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Chaffee, Eugene B.

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March 25, 1873 p2 c 3-4
May 4, 1876 p2 c 1-4
March 8, 1883 p3 c2

Idaho Daily Statesman:

Sept 25, 1947 p1 c7
Oct 19, 1919 p5 c4
Feb 23, 1981 7B c 1-6, 8B c 3-4
Aug 24, 1907 p3 c 2-3
Aug 31, 1907 p3 c5
Jan 11, 1909 p2 c 4-6
June 27, 1979 p1E, 2E c 1-6

Caldwell Tribune: May 5, 1894 p3 c 3 1/2

Meridian Valley News: Dec. 21, 1977, p6B, 7B c 1-6

Nampa Idaho Press-Tribune: June 5, 1981 p13 c 1-5

Villeneuve Family: Teresa Villeneuve
Lollie Barrett

Everett Family: Judy Babbitt
Max Harrison
Jim Everett
Lorrane Adair
Geraldine Chase

General Information: Roy and Frances Herridge
Glenna and Karl B. Malott
Vida Ward
Nancy Suiter

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property herein considered for nomination encompasses only the cobblestone house. The house is situated on approximately .026 acres at the northern edge of the remaining 17.24 acres of the original 139.33 acre homestead. A sequence of metes and bounds of the 17.24 acre parcel is attached.

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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Only the house is considered for nomination. The farm as a whole does not reflect the original farm grouping. The barn and outbuildings have been moved on to the property or constructed since the 1930s. Thus, only the cobblestone structure retains the essential characteristics associated with the nineteenth-century Queen Anne farmhouse built during the pioneer period.

FIGURE 1

VILLENEUVE HOUSE
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION
1990

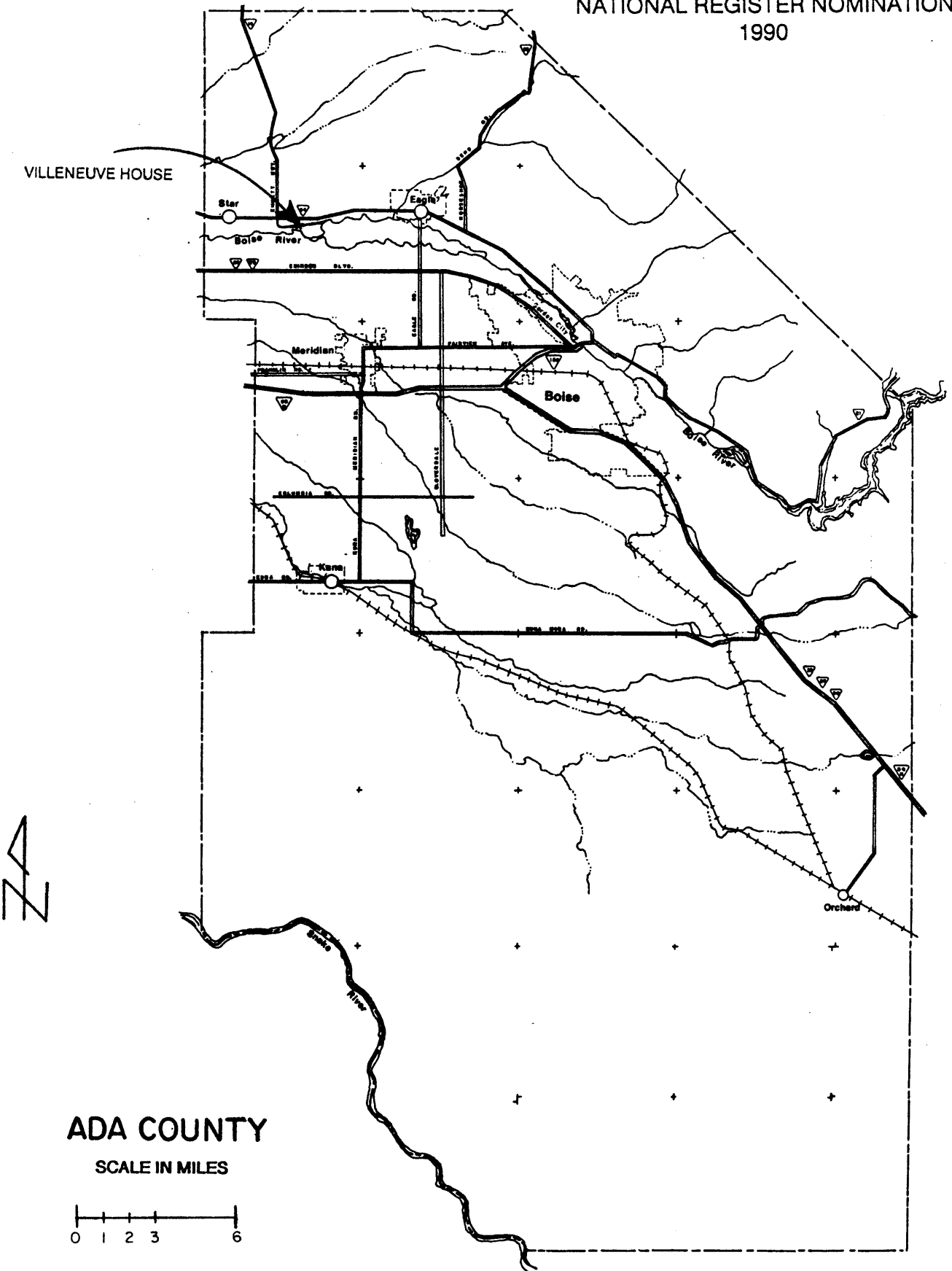


FIGURE 2

VILLENEUVE HOUSE
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION
1990

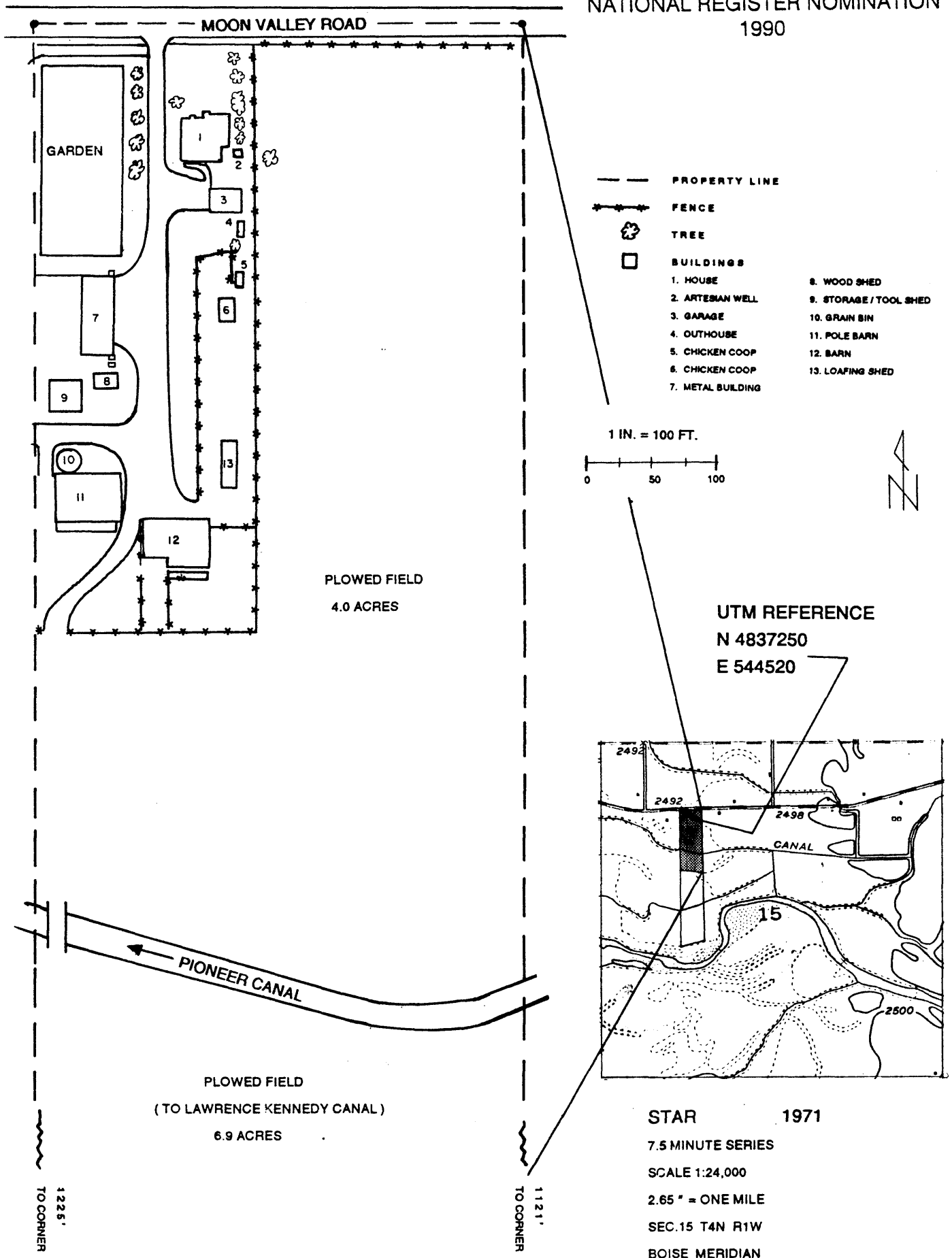


FIGURE 3
VILLENEUVE HOUSE
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION
1990

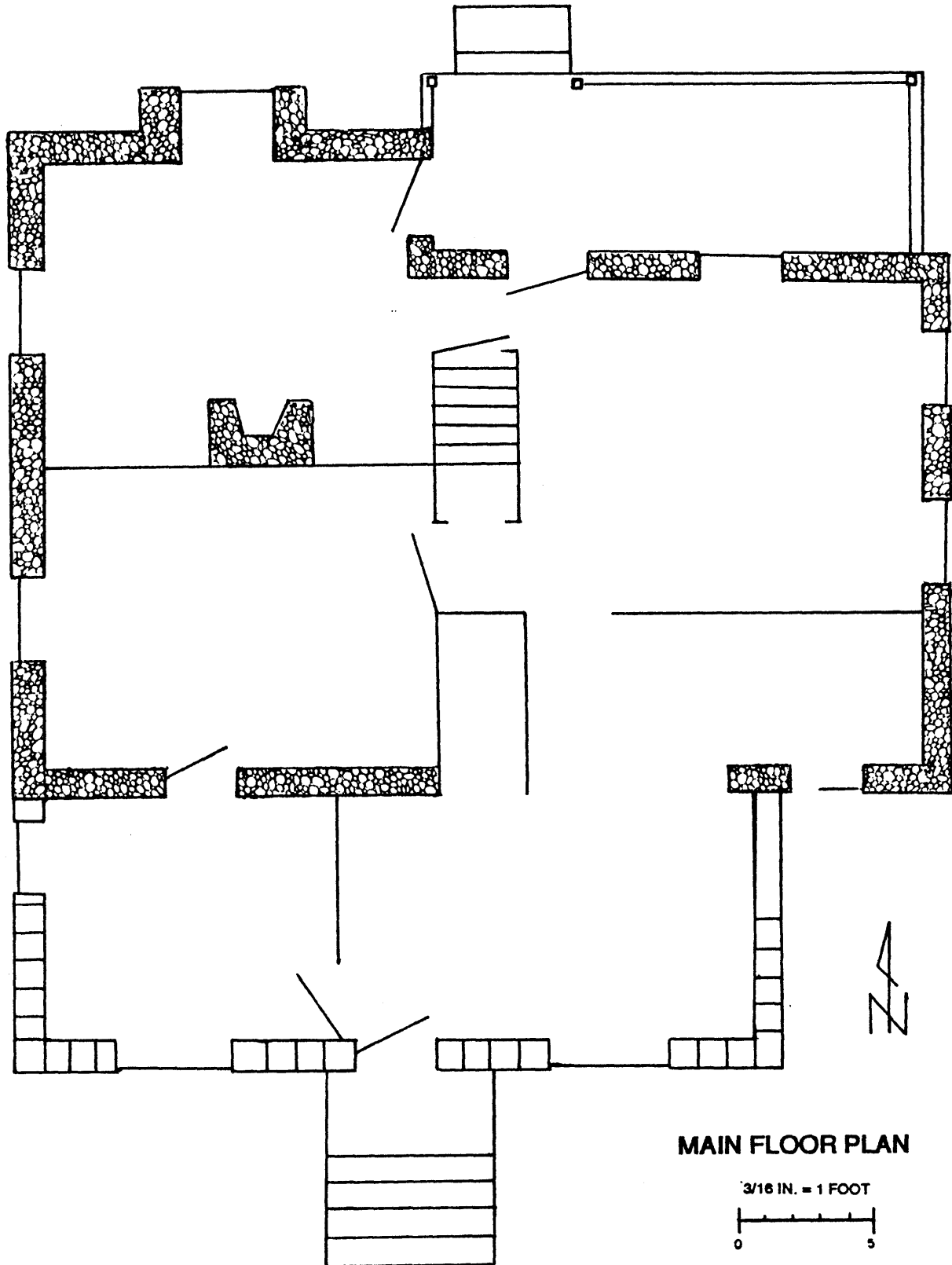
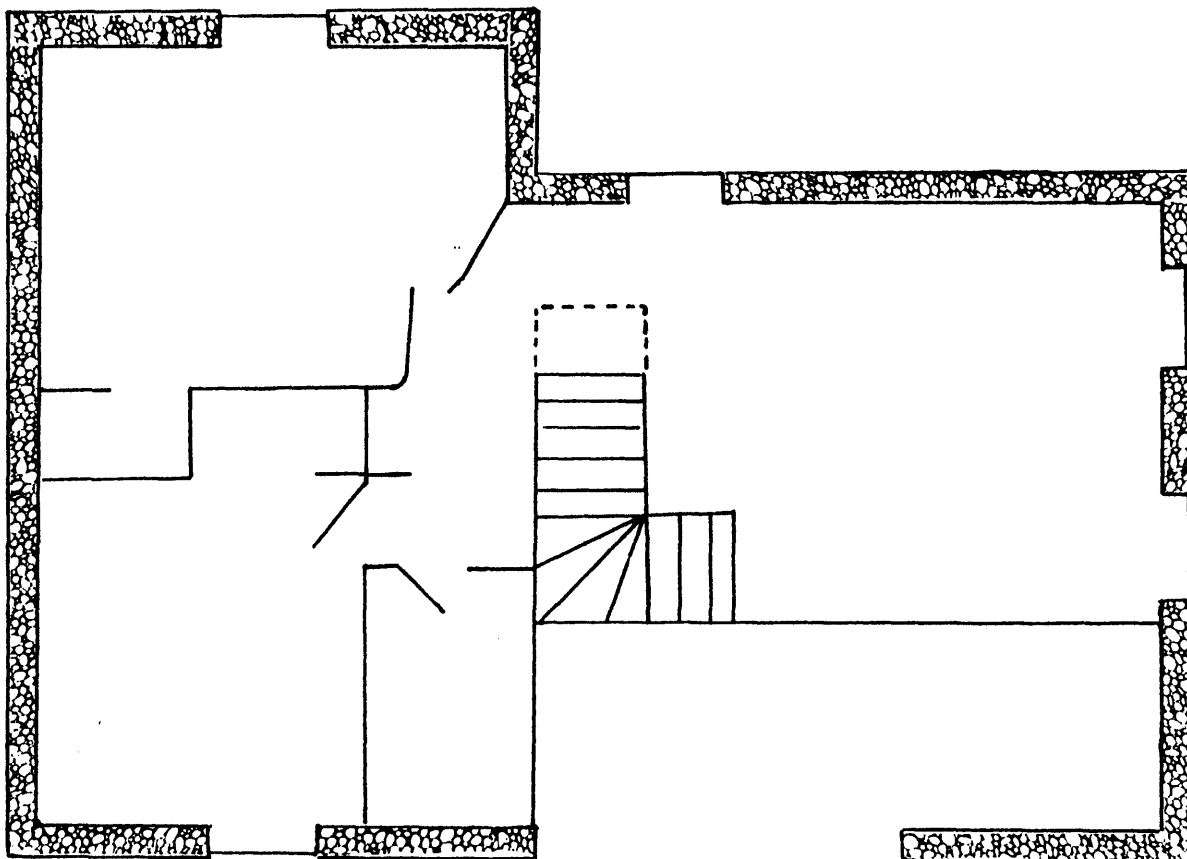


FIGURE 4
VILLENEUVE HOUSE
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION
1990



SECOND FLOOR PLAN
(PARTIONED 1960's)

3/16 IN. = 1 FOOT
0 5

