

Child House
110 South Water Street
Hardin
Calhoun County
Illinois

IL. H.A.B.S. No. C-1995-1

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Illinois Historic American Buildings Survey
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Old State Capital
Springfield, Illinois

ILLINOIS HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

THE CHILD HOUSE

IL-HABS NO. C-1995-1

Location: The Child House is located at 110 S. Water Street, in Lots 1 and 2, Block 1 of the original town of Hardin, in eastern Calhoun County, Illinois.

Present Owner: Village of Hardin

Present Occupant: None

Present Use: Vacant

Statement of Significance:

Although the Child House has been excessively remodeled and badly flood damaged, the building represents a traditional I-house form constructed during the late 1840s by the founder of the village of Hardin. As such, it represents one of the first houses constructed in this community. Although originally suspected as being of log construction, the house was built using heavy timber frame technology typical of the late 1840s and 1850s.

Part I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date(s) of Erection:

Historical sources indicate that the Child House was erected during the winter of 1847-8 (See following discussion).

2. Architect:

As with most vernacular buildings, the construction of the Child House was probably carried out either by an unidentified local carpenter/builder or the family members who occupied the structure. Such construction generally was conducted without the aid of formal plans and followed traditional house forms passed from generation to generation through non-written methods.¹

3. Original and Subsequent Owners:

The following list identifies the land owners of the property associated with the Child House:

United States (to unknown)
Andrew Hay (unknown to unknown)
Abel and Rebecca Harper (unknown to May 1835)
Benjamin F. Child (May 1835 to October 1876)
Helen B. Child (October 1876 to 1903)
George B. Child (1903 to 1922)
William Sudbrock (unknown to January 1926)
H. J. Eberlin (January 1926 to c1935)
Bank of Brussels (February 1935 to April 1939)
Federal Deposit Insurance Commission (April 1939 to May 1942)
Fred W. Perry, et al. (May 1942 to May 1943)
George Bates et al. (May 1943 to June 1945)
Harrel Miller (June 1945 to November 1968)
George Carpenter (November 1968 to June 1979)
Bonnie Law Parker (June 1979 to October 1980)
Reuben and Beatrice Bushy (October 1980 to August 1982)
Josephine K. Green (August 1982 to December 1994)
Village of Hardin (December 1994 to present)

4. Builders, Contractors, and Suppliers:

It is probable that the Child House was constructed by an unknown contractor/builder for Benjamin F. Child during late 1847 and early 1848.

5. Original Plans:

No original plans exist for the Child House.

6. Alterations and Additions:

The Child House has undergone extensive alterations through the years. The most pronounced of the alterations was the demolition of the rear service wing of the house. This wing was removed sometime during the 1950s; subsequently, a large single story addition was constructed onto the rear of the building. When this addition was constructed, the original portion of the house was also dramatically remodeled.

B. Historical Context:

Euro-American settlement in what is now Calhoun County dates to 1808, when Antoine DeJarlais is said to have settled in the French Hollow area, near present-day Hardin. Large-scale settlement, however, did not occur until 1819, when settlers began moving into the Military Tract.² Being closest to the existing settlements east of the Illinois River, the Calhoun County peninsula served as a convenient jumping off point for many of the settlers moving into the Tract.³

By 1821, sufficient settlement had occurred in the Military Tract for it to be organized as Pike County. Prior to this time, the region had been included within Madison County. Coles Grove, located three-miles west of present-day Hardin, was selected to be the first county seat. Several years after its organization, residents of the town of Atlas (located along the Mississippi River in western Pike County) began agitating for the removal of the county offices from Coles Grove to their community. Initially, these efforts were successfully opposed by John Shaw, a resident of Coles Grove who had engineered that town's selection as the county seat in the first place. While Shaw enjoyed a strong base of popular support (particularly in the southern portion of the county), his detractors accused him of controlling the county through election fraud and falsified documents. By 1823, Pike County was solidly split between pro-Shaw and anti-Shaw parties. The latter group went so far as to unilaterally name Atlas as the county seat and elect its own set of county officers.⁴

The Shaw conflict reached its crescendo during the 1823-24 legislative session, during which Illinois was faced with the decision of whether to remain a free state or allow slavery. John Shaw supported the introduction of slavery into Illinois, while his opponents, represented by Nicholas Hansen, were against it. After a tumultuous legislative session, a referendum on the issue was put before the people in August 1824, which resulted in an anti-slavery victory. Four months later, Nicholas Hansen introduced legislation in the General Assembly that proposed a division of Pike County. One of the new counties created was Calhoun County, which was officially organized on January 10, 1825. Symbolically separating themselves from their anti-slavery neighbors to the north, the citizens named their county after states' rights advocate John C. Calhoun of South Carolina; in addition, Coles Grove-- which had been

named after Governor Edward Coles-- was renamed Gilead, in opposition to Coles' anti-slavery stance.⁵

By 1830, the population of Calhoun County had grown to 1,090. That same year, work began on a two-story, brick courthouse in Gilead that was completed two years later. In spite of these improvements, the county remained one of the smallest and least populated in the state, and for a time, there were indications that the General Assembly might abolish the county as a political entity. Nevertheless, the county was able to avert dissolution and continued to slowly develop.⁶

During the first decades of settlement, Calhoun County was heavily forested, and timber was one of the first resources actively exploited by the early settler. The timber found a local use as a building material and as well as for firewood, but much of it was exported via the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers to the growing urban market around St. Louis. With the introduction of the steamboat on the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers in the 1820s, cordwood became a valuable commodity. The boilers on early steamboats were voracious creatures, burning up to 20 to 30 cords of wood per day. As such, steamboats needed to make frequent stops in order to replenish their fuel supply. In Calhoun County, as elsewhere, cordwood could be found stacked at any one of the various steamboat landings along the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. Aside from serving as refueling stations, certain landings also functioned as points of trade, where agricultural goods might be exported to outside markets and consumer items and manufactured goods were deposited.⁷

One of the more prominent early landings in Calhoun County was located due east of Gilead on the Illinois River. This point was originally named "Terry's Landing", after Dr. William Terry, who erected a house near the present-day corner of Main and Water Streets in Hardin. The use of the name "Terry's Landing" persisted until 1835, when Benjamin Child purchased Terry's land claim, at which time the location was renamed "Child's Landing." Aside from managing the landing, Child was also involved in the mercantile and shipping businesses. Taking advantage of Calhoun County's ample timber resources, Child did a thriving business shipping cordwood, staves and lumber downriver to St. Louis.⁸

Child's landing continued its existence as a small river

entrepot until 1847. That year, the old courthouse at Gilead caught fire and burned to the ground. Following this event, the county offices were temporarily removed to Hamburg, seven miles to the north. At this time, people also began to question whether or not Gilead ought to remain the county seat. As a result, the county commissioners decided that a vote would be held to determine a location for the seat of government. While Gilead was a traditional favorite among some voters, Hamburg and Child's Landing garnered considerable support. Benjamin Child sought to sway the vote his way by offering the county five acres of land and fifty thousand bricks, should the county seat be moved to his landing. Going even further, he staged a barbeque and offered a free dinner to anyone who would come.⁹

Child's efforts paid off. His landing received twice as many votes as either of its two rivals, and on August 12, 1847, it was officially named as the new county seat by the county commissioners. The commissioners also made arrangements for the five acres donated by Child to be platted into town lots, allowing for a public square "for the purpose of erecting a court house thereon." Rather than continuing using the existing name of Child's Landing, the county commissioners christened the town "Hardin", most probably to honor Colonel John J. Hardin.¹⁰

Businessmen in Hardin during the 1850s included Andrew Uhrig (who had a store and saloon located just south of the court house); merchants Stephen and John Lewis; and the enterprising John Gilbert (who kept a dry goods store, saloon, and a hotel in town). Hardin was also home to four lawyers during these years. The town continued to prosper in the decades that followed. Warner and Beer's 1876 Atlas of the State of Illinois noted Hardin as having "a graded school, church, five stores, and general trades" and observed that the community was a "pretty good business place, especially in court times."¹¹

Hardin also benefitted from its role as a shipping center. While the rest of the state was being connected by railroads, Calhoun County's rugged topography and isolated location negated the possibility of rail service ever being extended there. This fact-- coupled by its unparalleled access to both the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers-- made waterborne commerce the primary source of trade there well after it had declined in importance elsewhere in the state. During the latter decades of the nineteenth century, Calhoun

County became a major exporter of apples. After harvesting, the farmers would bring their apples to the major landings and store them in warehouses, awaiting shipping.

Despite its commercial prosperity, Hardin's population, remained surprisingly small for much of the nineteenth century. As late as 1876, the town's population-- while the largest in the county-- stood at only 150. The vast majority of the 7,600 people then residing in the county were rural based farmers, who utilized Hardin and its sister communities for basic commercial needs, but chose not to live there. By 1928, Hardin's population stood at only 694.¹²

The Child House is located in the NE1/4, SE1/4 of Section 27, Township 10 South, Range 2 West. This land was initially granted by the United States government to Andrew Hay in a patent deed of uncertain date.¹³ Documentary research failed to uncover any information regarding Hay, or to establish how long he may have owned the tract. By 1835, however, the SE1/4 of Section 27 was under the ownership of Abel and Rebecca Harper. While the Harpers are noted in deed records as residents of Calhoun County, it is uncertain where they may have been residing.¹⁴

On May 5, 1835, the northern part of the SE1/4 of Section 27 (which measured 41 rods north/south by 160 rods east/west) was sold by Harper to a partnership consisting of Caleb Stone, William Manning, Jr., and Benjamin F. Child, (all of Madison County, Illinois), and John Glover of Boston, Massachusetts. Half of the \$1,900 purchase price was paid by Stone, Manning, and Glover, while Child met the other half. For a number of years previous to this, these gentlemen had been conducting a mercantile operation based in Alton, with much of their trade passing through the Illinois River Valley. Child, who was a native of Massachusetts, was in charge of the firm's business dealings in Calhoun County. Shortly after the acquisition of the SE1/4 of Section 27, Child erected a seven room building there, adjacent to an existing steamboat landing; this structure is said to have been the first frame building in Calhoun County and functioned as both a store and Child's residence.¹⁵ Child subsequently bought out his partners and went into the mercantile and pork shipping business on his own.¹⁶

In 1844, the Illinois River flooded, and Child's residence was damaged. It was after this event that Child is said to

have begun considering the erection of a new house located on higher ground. Work on the Child House, however, did not begin until late 1847, following the removal of the county seat from Gilead and the formal platting of Hardin. The house's completion preceded that of the court house, and for a time court sessions were held in the large living room of this house. The house also functioned as a meeting place for religious gatherings until the erection of a combination school and church building during the early 1850s. At an unknown date, Child constructed a two-story addition onto the west side of his house; this wing housed Child's store and also served as the local post office.¹⁷

The 1850 U.S. Census of Population for Calhoun County lists Benjamin Child and indicates that he was then residing with his wife Hellen and two young children. In addition to his own family, Child was also boarding ten other individuals, whose occupations included "farmer", "merchant", "stone mason", and "carpenter." The census notes that Child's real estate was valued at an enormous \$8,000.¹⁸ Child's personal estate during this period was also considerable. Tax records from 1853 indicate that his personal estate was assessed at \$3,635; this figure included \$535 in livestock, two carriages valued at \$50, four clocks and/or watches with an estimated value of \$50, \$1,500 in merchandise, and \$1,500 in "unenumerated property". Lots 1 and 2 on which the Child House is located were each given an assessed value of \$500 that year.¹⁹

Benjamin Child died on February 11, 1872. At the time of his death, he owned 1,619.72 acres of land in Calhoun County, 763.69 acres in Greene County, and twenty-seven town lots in Hardin. His will allowed for the sale of all of these properties, save for the two lots on which his house stood, an orchard located south of the house, a vineyard northwest of Hardin, and the NE1/4, NW1/4 of Section 27, Township 10 South, Range 2 West. The latter properties subsequently came under the ownership of Benjamin's widow, Helen B. Child.²⁰

The 1880 U.S. Population Census for Hardin indicates that Hellen Child (then age 64) was residing with her son George B. Child and three servants. George Child had taken over the operation of the family store after his father's death and is listed as a "merchant" in this census.²¹ Following Hellen Child's death in 1903, the family home continued to be occupied by her son, George. George Child had an active interest in politics and would serve in a number of public

offices during the course of his lifetime. Aside from serving as postmaster and justice of the peace in Hardin, in 1882 he became the first Republican to be elected sheriff of Calhoun County and would later serve a partial term in the state legislature. During the later years of his life, George Child occupied only one of the rooms on the first floor of the Child House, while renting out the remaining rooms to another family.²²

Following George Child's death in 1922, the Child House was sold and was destined to be used as a rental property for the next forty-six years. While a chain-of-title search failed to find the deed detailing the sale of the property by his estate, by 1925 the property is known to have been under the ownership of William Sunbroch. On January 2, 1926 Sunbroch sold Lots 1-3, and 15 (all of Block 1) to H. J. Eberlin for \$3,025. That same day, Eberlin took out a mortgage on the four lots for \$1,500.²³

The tract index in the Calhoun County Clerk's office has no entry concerning Lots 1 and 2, until February 26, 1935. On that date the sheriff of Calhoun County sold the two lots, along with Lots 3 and 15, Block 1 to the Bank of Brussels for \$700.²⁴ The Bank of Brussels retained ownership of these lots until April 1939 when it turned the title of the property over to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).²⁵ On May 27, 1942, the FDIC signed a quit claim deed to Lots 1-3 and Lot 15, turning ownership over Fred W. Perry, et al.²⁶

In May 1943, Fred W. Perry, et al. sold Lots 1-3, and Lot 15 to George Bates, et al. for \$2,100. Bates and his associates retained ownership of the lots until June 1945 when they sold them to Harrel Miller for \$4,500. Later that year, Miller sold Lot 3, the north 9 feet of Lot 2, and part of Lot 15 to Robert Mortland for \$10.²⁷ At some point during the 1950s, Miller removed the rear wing of the Child House, which had formerly housed Benjamin Child's store. His ownership of Lot 1 and the majority of Lot 2 on which the Child House is situated, lasted until November 1968 when title passed to George W. Carpenter and his wife Ethel.²⁸

Unlike the owners during the previous four decades, the Carpenter family actually occupied the Child House. In March 1969, the Carpenter family took out a \$9,500 mortgage on Lots 1 and 2 with Alton Savings and Loan Association. During early 1973, the Illinois River again flooded and did extensive damage to the Child House. It is suspected that

the house was dramatically remodeled at this time by the Carpenter family. George and Ethel Carpenter retained ownership of the Child House until June 12, 1979 when they sold Lots 1 and 2, Block 1 to Bonnie Law Parker for \$10. Parker owned the property for less than two years before she sold it to Reuben Bushy for \$1. Shortly after the sale, Bushy took out a \$34,000 mortgage with the Home Savings and Loan of Alton; this mortgage was released on August 8, 1982.²⁹

In April 1982, Reuben Bushy sold Lots 1 and 2 to Josephine K. Green for \$10. Ms. Green resided in the Child House until the summer of 1993, when rising flood waters forced her to abandon it. A damage appraisal undertaken by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) authorities following the flood indicates that the Child House was flooded for five to six weeks doing an estimated \$80,000 in structural damage and \$35,000 worth of damage to personal property. Lacking the financial means to repair the damage, Ms. Green sold the Child House and the two lots it occupies to the Village of Hardin on December 16, 1994.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character:

The Child House is a large frame building that is represented by two episodes of construction. The front portion of the house, which faces the river and Water Street, is two-stories in height and dates from the late 1840s. The single story rear portion of the house was constructed during the middle twentieth century sometime after the demolition of nineteenth century wings that were once present on this house. The nineteenth century portion of the Child House is a relatively large, two-story, side-gable, I-House of timber-frame construction. Recognized as one of the oldest buildings in Calhoun County, the house was erected and occupied for sixty years by a wealthy merchant family associated with the founding of Hardin.

At one point, a two-story service wing, approximately 16' wide and 32' long, extended off the west side of the Child House, giving the structure a T-shaped footprint; this wing was removed during the 1950s. Local lore held that the Child House was of log construction. While our investigations into the

existing structure revealed this to be false, it's possible that the wing removed in the 1950s was not of the same construction episode as the main body of the house and may have been built with logs.

During the late 1960s or 1970s, a large, single-story addition was built on the west side of the Child House; approximately 63' wide and 24' long, it is divided into a bedroom, family room, sun porch, and garage. Given the addition's late construction date, the following architectural descriptions will concern only the original, four-room I-House which was erected in 1847-8.

2. Condition of Fabric:

The interior of the house was damaged by flood waters during the summer of 1993. Following the flood, the building was vacated and stood unoccupied until its demolition in the Fall of 1995.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions:

The Child House measures 18'-3" wide (east/west) and 43'-0" long (north/south).

2. Foundations:

The foundations supporting the Child House consist of stone walls 1'-6" thick. The large stone blocks used in the construction of this house were probably quarried from the nearby river bluff edge.

3. Walls:

The exterior walls of the Child House are of frame construction and are typically 6" thick. The original wood lapped siding has been covered with vinyl siding.

4. Structural System, Framing:

The Child House is of timber frame construction, much of which consists of large, hand-hewn beams connected by mortise and tenon joints. Virtually all of the timber used in the building is locally procured oak. The sill is an 8-1/2" x 9-1/2", hand-hewn beam, resting

directly on the stone foundations. The circular sawn floor joists, which are of variable thickness (measuring 2-1/4 to 2-1/2" thick by 9-3/4" wide) and positioned on 2'0" centers, are notched into the sill. Mortised into the sill are 8" x 9" corner posts that have been hewn into L-shaped posts. The first floor ceiling plate is a 4" x 8", hand-hewn girt connected by mortice and tenon joints to the upright corner posts. The lower side of the plate has mortice holes cut into it to accommodate full-dimensional 3" x 4" circular sawn studs, variably placed approximately 2' on center between the corner posts. The ceiling plate is a hand-hewn 4" x 6" hand hewn oak beam. The frame of the house was comprised of four bents resting on the massive sill plate and tied together by the ceiling plate.

The first floor ceiling joists are 2" x 8" circular sawn oak timbers that rest directly on top of the first floor girt. The second floor ceiling joists are circular sawn 2" x 6" oak. Both set of joists are spaced at approximate 2' centers.

The roof is supported by circular sawn, full-dimension 2" x 4" rafters on 2' centers resting on a 1" x 14" plate placed on top of the ceiling joists. No ridge board is present.

5. Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads:

While uncertain, it is suspected that the original Child House had a porch that stretched the full-length of the main elevation of the house (the east side) similar to what it has today. The current porch, however, is of relatively recent construction, with a poured concrete foundation and aluminum porch piers. The 1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map indicates that this same porch configuration was in place at that time. Additionally, the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map indicates that porches were associated with the north side of the rear service wing at that time.

6. Chimneys:

Originally, the Child House had two brick fireplaces enclosed within the north and south walls on the first floor of the house. The fireplace on the north wall of the house (which is an original feature of the house)

has an interior chimney stack that measures 4' x 5' in size and originally had a fire box that was 3' wide at the opening by 2' deep. In recent years, the fire box was widened in order to make room for a modern oven which was recessed into the fireplace stack. The fireplace rests directly on a solid foundation of quarried stone that measures 4' x 5'. Between the first and second floors, the chimney tapers down to approximately 1'-6" x 3' in size. A modern partition wall surrounding the chimney on the second floor made it difficult to assess the possible presence of a stove pipe hole. The chimney extends into the attic, ending approximately two feet below the roof line, having been dismantled past the roof line within the recent past.

The original fireplace located on the south wall of house is believed to have been removed sometime during the mid-twentieth century. This fireplace was substantially narrower than the north fireplace and probably suggests that the original fireplace on the north was a cooking fireplace while the south fireplace functioned only for heating purposes. When this was done, the original fireplace, chimney and stone foundation were all removed and a middle twentieth century fireplace with exterior chimney was constructed in its place. This fireplace, which was fueled by natural gas, probably was associated with the late 1960s or early 1970s remodeling of the house.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and Doors:

None of the doors within the house are original.

b. Windows:

As with the doors, none of the windows in the Child House are original having been replaced during the more recent remodelings. A circa 1940s photograph of the Child House indicates that the original windows were double hung sash with six-over-six lights.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, Covering, Material:

The Child House has a gable roof with a slope that

approximates 8" in 12". Although the house has been re-roofed several times in its history, it originally was covered with wood shingles. A photograph of the house taken in the late 1970s indicates that it was covered with a standing seam, metal roofing at that time. Currently, it is covered with wood shingles over plywood sheathing.

b. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers:

No dormers nor cupolas are present on the house.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

a. First Floor Description:

Entry into the Child House is made from the front into what is now a large living room. A stairway leading to the second floor of the house is located immediately to the right as one enters the door. Beyond the staircase is a narrow hallway leading to a north room that, most recently, has been used as a combination kitchen and dining area. Originally, it is suspected that the first floor of the house was divided by a central hallway that was approximately 10' wide. This hallway provided access to the two downstairs rooms (as well as those on the second floor, via the stairway) and lead directly into the rear, service wing. The presence of the south partition wall of the hallway (which was removed sometime during the twentieth century) is indicated by the location of the structural bent and mortice holes for the angled braces that were once present within this wall. At an unknown date, the south wall of the hallway was removed, thus expanding the existing south room. The original ceiling height on the first floor was approximately 8'-6".

b. Second Floor Description:

The second floor of the Child House largely mirrors that of the floor below. The stairway leads to a central hall, approximately 10' wide, that is flanked by two large bedrooms.

Originally, the hallway is believed to have been open and undivided, but at some point during the early to middle twentieth century, the eastern third of the hallway was partitioned and converted into a bathroom. The two bedrooms each measure 15'-6" x 17'-0" in size. The original ceiling height on the second floor was approximately 7'-10".

c. Basement/Cellar Description:

The basement beneath the Child House is a single room that measures 15' wide (east/west) and 40' long (north/south); it has a 6'-4" ceiling height. Originally, access to the cellar was provided via an exterior entrance way located along the south side of the house. In later years, an interior stairway to the basement was opened in the space beneath the interior stairway leading to the second floor.

2. Stairways:

Access to the second floor of the Child House is provided by an open stairway, located slightly off center from the main entrance way. The stairway is approximately 3'-6" wide. It has 10-1/2" treads with 8-1/4" risers. Although the handrail and simple turned walnut newel post appear to be original to the house, the painted walnut spindles are unusual and may represent replacements. The main flight of stairs ends at a landing situated several feet lower than the second story floor level; a short flight of stairs located on the north and south side of this landing complete the remaining distance.

3. Flooring:

Originally, the Child House had wide (variable between 5-1/2" and 7-1/2" in width), white pine, tongue-and-groove flooring on the first and second floors. On the first floor, this initial layer of flooring has been covered by subsequent layers of narrow maple and oak flooring during the twentieth century remodelings.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finishes:

The walls and ceiling on the first floor of the Child House are finished with two episodes of 1/2" gypsum wallboard. The older of the two layers is attached directly to the timber framework and is covered with wallpaper. While the more recent wallboard is attached directly to the older layer on the walls, on the ceiling the two layer are separated by 1" x 3" furring strips. The walls in both the kitchen and living room are covered with wallpaper, while the ceiling is painted. On the second floor, 1/2" gypsum wallboard is affixed to an original finish of plaster and hand-riven oak lath. As on the first floor, the walls are covered with wallpaper and the ceiling is painted.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and Doors: See II.B.7.a

b. Windows: See II.B.7.b

6. Decorative Features and Trim:

Virtually all of the decorative features and trim original to the house have been either removed or covered by modern materials.

7. Hardware:

No original hardware remains intact.

8. Mechanical Equipment:

a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation:

Initially, the Child House was heated by means of fireplaces located at the north and south ends of the building. In later years, this early heating system was probably replaced, or augmented, by coal or wood burning stoves, which utilized the existing chimney flues. Most recently, heat was provided by means of a gas furnace located in the basement. The house is also furnished with central air conditioning.

b. Lighting:

Presumedly, during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, this house was illuminated using a combination of oil lamps and candles followed so thereafter by kerosene lamps. During the early to middle twentieth century, the house was electrified. At that time, overhead lighting fixtures were added to each of the rooms. Additionally, wall outlets were added to each room.

c. Plumbing:

The house has modern, internal plumbing facilities connected to the village of Hardin's water and sewer systems.

D. Site:

1. General Setting and Orientation:

The Child House is located parallel to and approximately 25' west of Water Street, near the center of Hardin. The house is situated in a small yard and is flanked on the north and west by neighboring residences and on the south by Franklin Street. The house faces the Illinois River.

2. Historic Landscape Design:

No information is available.

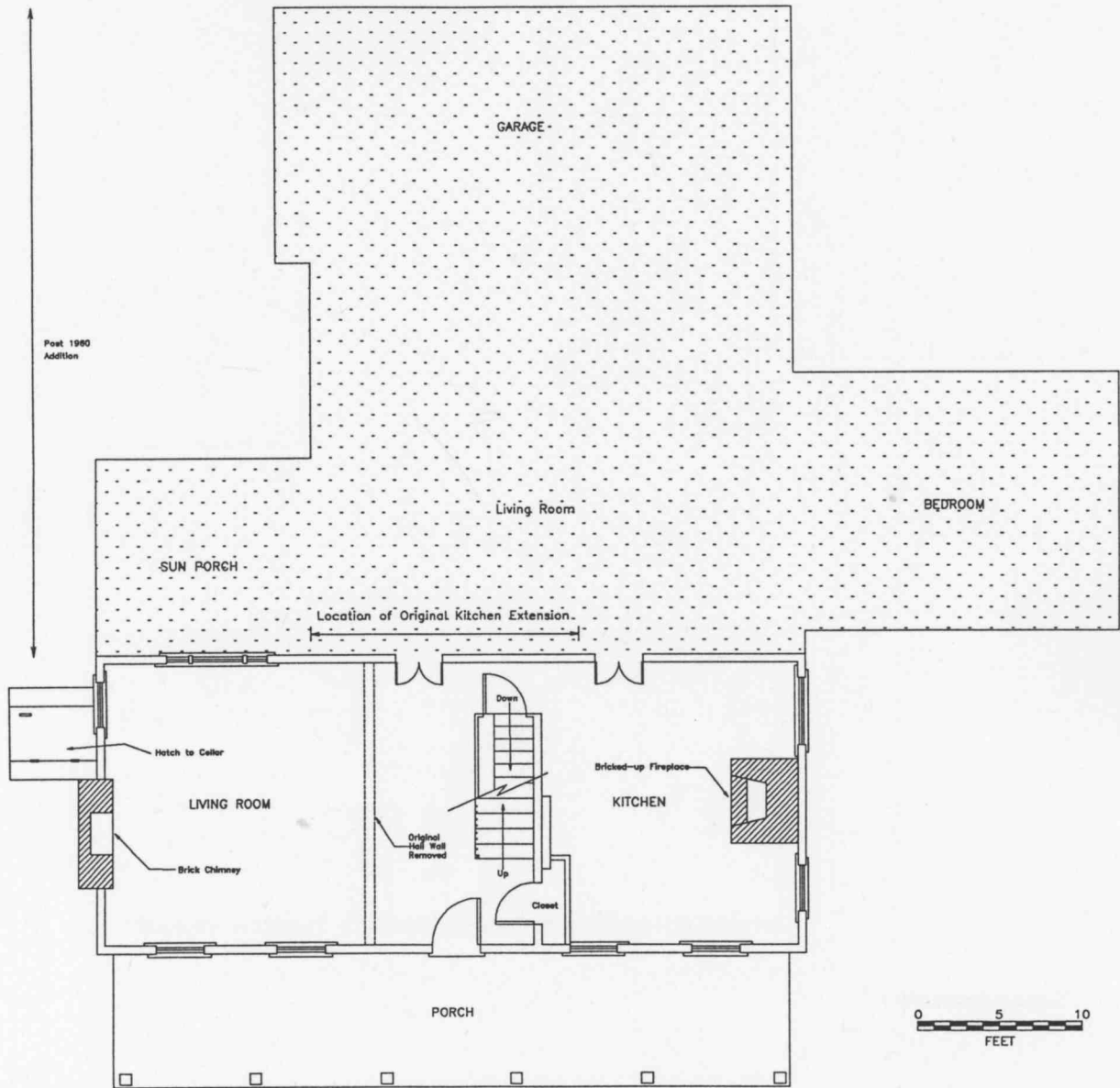


Figure 1. First floor plan of the Child House, 1995.
Drawn by F. Mansberger and C. Stratton.

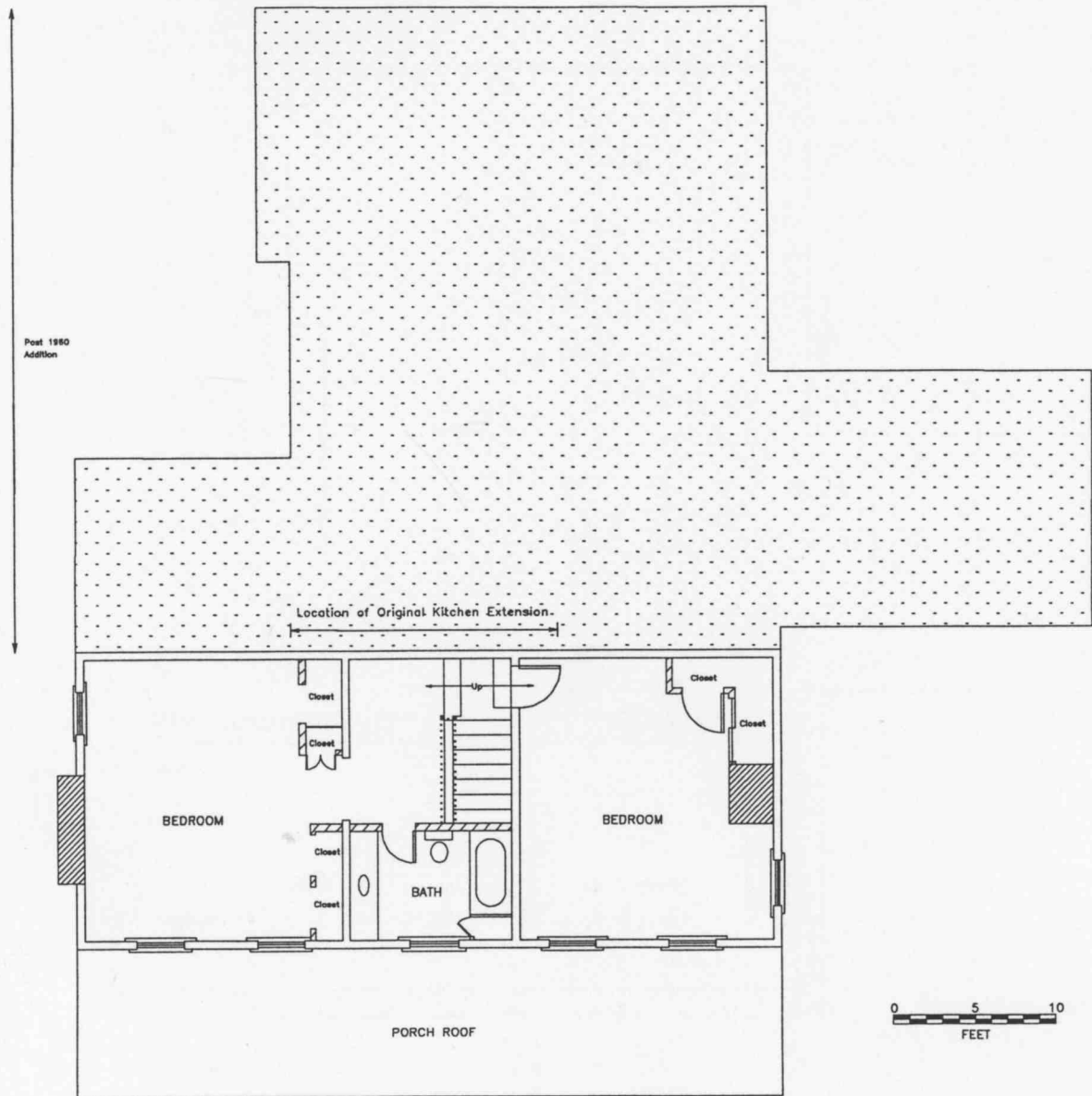


Figure 2. Second floor plan of the Child House, 1995.
Drawn by F. Mansberger and C. Stratton.

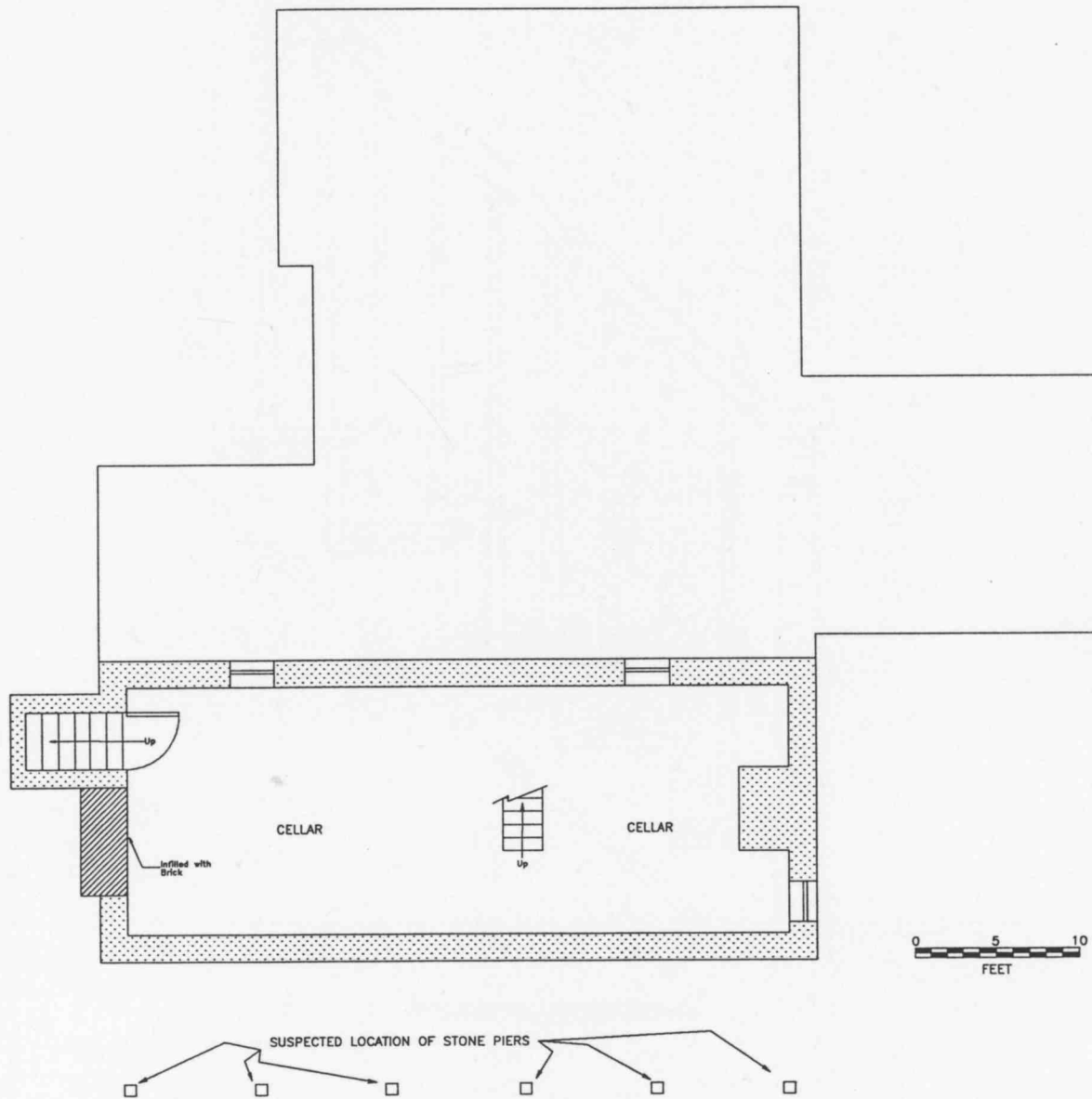


Figure 3. Basement plan of the Child House, 1995.
Drawn by F. Mansberger and C. Stratton.

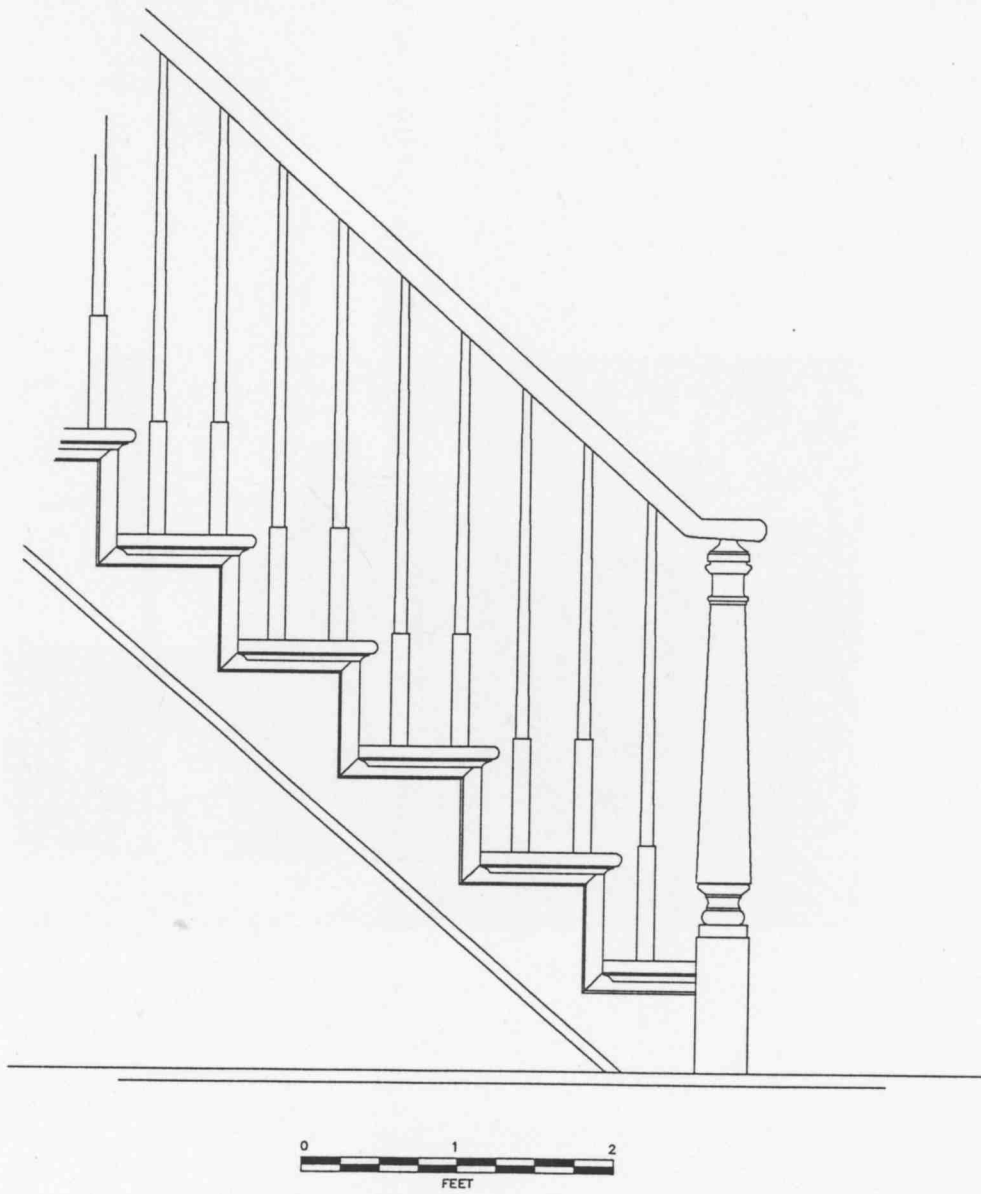


Figure 4. Newel post and stair detail, Child House, 1995.

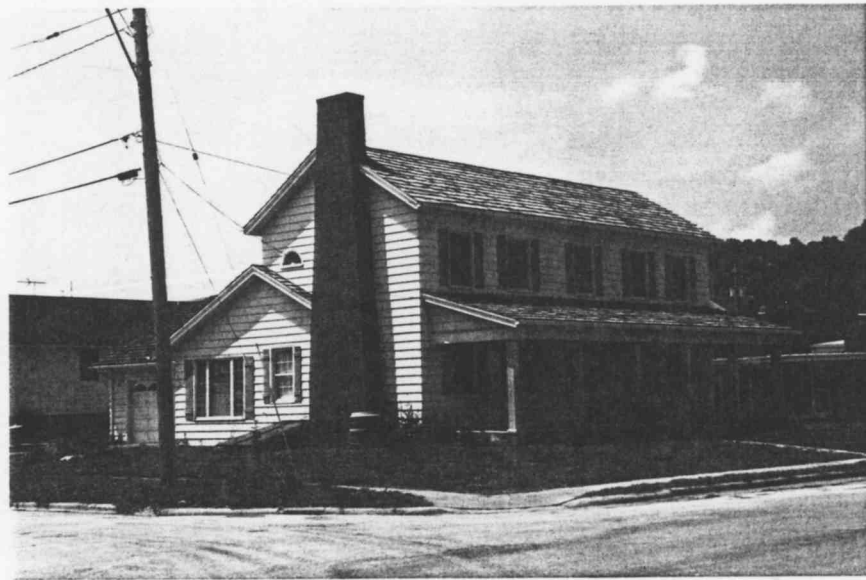


Figure 5. Exterior view of the Child House, looking northwest, 1995.



Figure 6. Exterior view of the Child House, showing additions on west side, 1995.

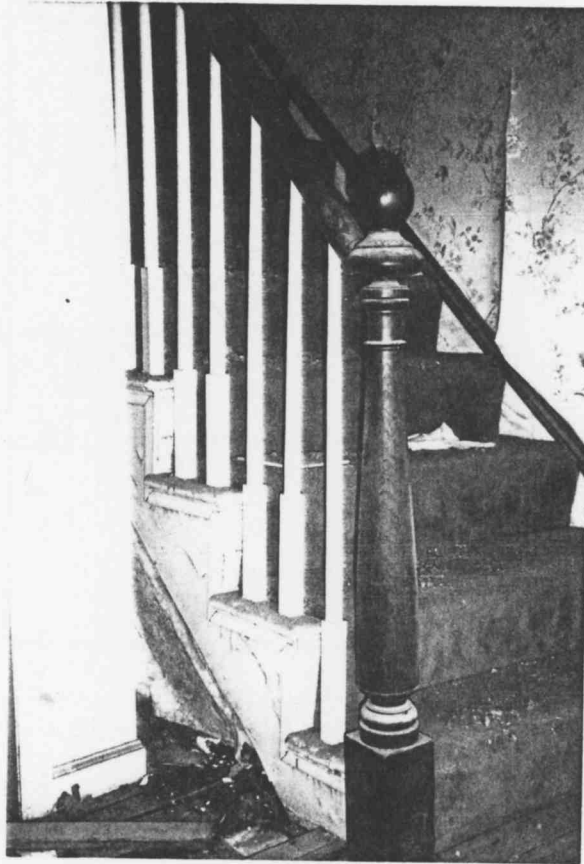


Figure 7. Newel post at the Child House, 1995. The ball at the top of the newel post is a recent addition.

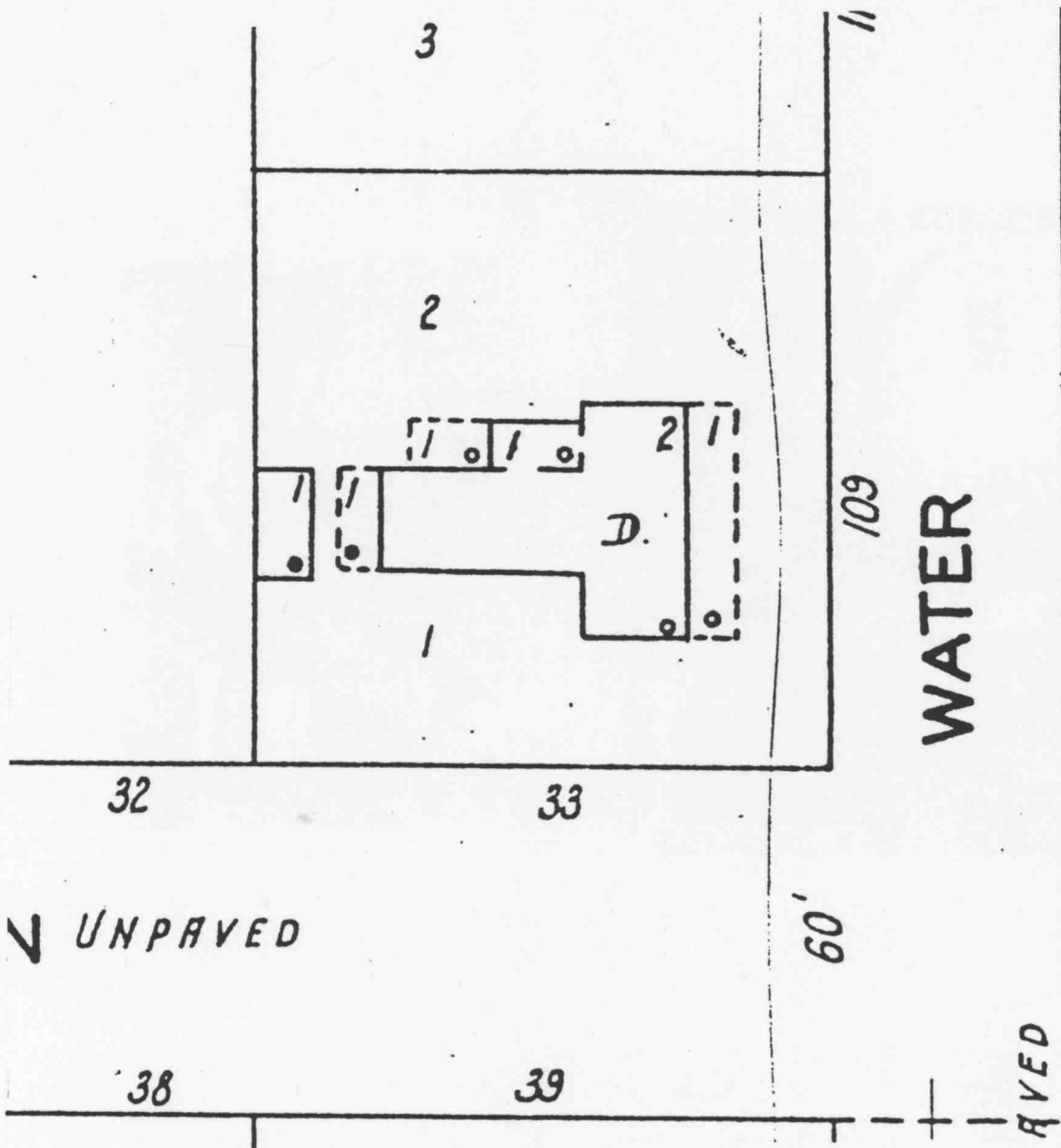


Figure 8. The Child House as shown in a 1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.



Figure 9. Exterior views of Child House, showing rear service wing, circa 1942.

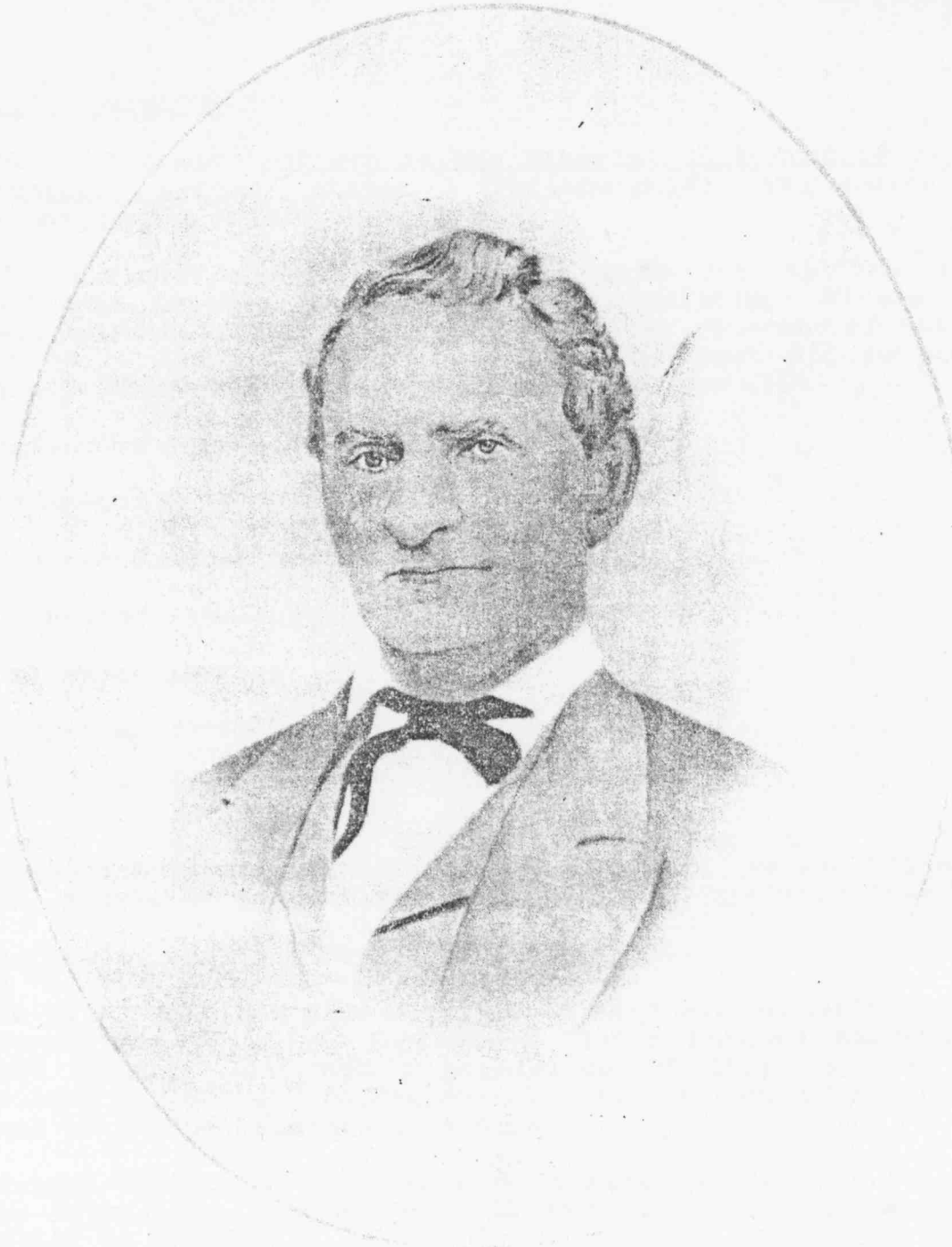


Figure 10. Benjamin F. Child (1806-1872), original owner and occupant of the Child House (The Child Family n.d.).

PART III. ENDNOTES

- (1) Henry Glassie, Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States, (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968).
- (2) The Military Tract, encompassing some 3.5 million acres situated between the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers, was set aside by Congress as bounty land for veterans of the War of 1812. Distribution of land in the tract did not begin until October 1817 (Howard 1972:85; Carlson 1951).
- (3) Underwood June-July 1975:16
- (4) Underwood June-July 1975:17.
- (5) Underwood June-July 1975:17-18.
- (6) Underwood June-July 1975:18.
- (7) Carpenter 1967:71.
- (8) Carpenter 1967:25.
- (9) Carpenter 1967:25.
- (10) John J. Hardin was the colonel of the First Illinois Volunteer Infantry during the Mexican War. He was killed at the Battle of Buena Vista early in 1847 (Carpenter 1967:26).
- (11) Carpenter 1967:27; Warner and Beers 1876.
- (12) In 1876, Hardin's closest rival in size was Brussels, with a population of 120. Farrowtown (later renamed Kampsville) and Hamburg each had a population of 100; Bellview and Gilead had 50; and Batchelderville (later renamed Batchtown) had 40 (Warner and Beers 1876:156).
- (13) Patent Record:20; Hay was also granted patent to 9.84 acres in Fractional Section 26, and 360 acres in the NW1/4 and SW1/4 of Section 27.
- (14) Deed Record A:236.
- (15) This structure is said to have been located 100 feet southeast of the Child House (The Child Family n.d.).
- (16) Deed Record A:236; The Republican 4/9/1903.

- (17) Except for one year during the Buchanan administration, Benjamin Child served as Hardin's postmaster continuously from 1848 until his death in 1872 (Carpenter 1983; The Child Family n.d.).
- (18) U.S. Census, Population Schedule 1850.
- (19) Benjamin Child's wealth continued to expand throughout the 1850s. By 1858, the value of his personal estate had grown to \$11,500, only \$3,000 of which was merchandise (Collector's Book 1853 and 1858). In 1863, Lot 1 was given an assessed value of \$1000, while Lot 2 was assessed at \$500. The higher assesment value of Lot 1 is reflective of the Child House lying more directly on it than on the neighboring lot. Aside from a devaluation of Lot 2 to \$400, these assessments would largely remain unchanged through 1870 (Collector's Book 1863, 1867, 1870)
- (20) Probate Record 77:3.
- (21) U.S. Census, Population Schedule 1880.
- (22) George Child's successful political career stands in marked constrast to his rocky family life. Married twice, George was divorced by his first wife on grounds that he abandoned her and by his second on charges of "cruelty and excessive drinking" (The Child Family n.d.).
- (23) Deed Record 5:400; Deed Record 17:482; The Child Family.
- (24) Deed Record B:204; It's possible that Eberlin failed to pay his taxes on the properties, and they were subsequently seized by the county sheriff.
- (25) Deed Record 8:4.
- (26) Deed Record 8:422.
- (27) Deed Record A-12:377; Deed Record A-13:234.
- (28) Deed Record A-13:293, 18:30.
- (29) Deed Record 35:18; Deed Record 25:436; Deed Record 26:256; Deed Record I:294, 532.
- (30) Woodward-Clyde Federal Services, 1994.

PART IV. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Original Architectural Drawings:

None are available.

B. Early Views:

Two photographs of Dorothy Liley and the children of Ida Bazilion in front of the Child House, circa 1942.

C. Interviews:

None conducted.

D. Bibliography:

1. Primary and Unpublished Sources:

Calhoun County Deed Record. Recorder of Deeds Office.
Hardin, Illinois.

Calhoun County Probate Record. Circuit Clerk's Office.
Hardin, Illinois.

Collector's Books for Township 10S., Range 2W.
Recorder of Deeds Office. Hardin, Illinois.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. "Population Schedule:
Calhoun County, Illinois." 1850.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. "Population Schedule:
Calhoun County, Illinois." 1860.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. "Population Schedule:
Calhoun County, Illinois." 1870.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. "Population Schedule:
Calhoun County, Illinois." 1880.

Woodward-Clyde Federal Services. "Acquisition and
Relocation of the Flood-Prone Portion of the Village
of Hardin, Illinois; Preliminary Final Environmental
Assessment." Prepared for the Federal Emergency
Management Agency. 1994.

Mansberger, Floyd. "Letter Report to the Illinois
Historic Preservation Agency regarding Historic

Properties in Hardin." July 25, 1995.

2. Secondary and Published Sources:

Carpenter, George W., Calhoun is My Kingdom: the Sequicentennial History of Calhoun County, Illinois. Hardin: The Calhoun News, 1967.

Carpenter, George W., 150 Years of Post Offices, Postmasters and Mail Carriers in Calhoun County, Illinois 1833-1983. Copy on file at Calhoun County Historical Society, Hardin, Illinois. 1983.

"Lived in Hardin for 67 Years: Mrs. Helen Child Celebrates Her Eighty-Seventh Anniversary and Tells About Good Times Gone By." The Republican. Hardin, April 9, 1903.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Hardin, Illinois. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1928.

The Child Family of Child's Landing: Ninety Years in Calhoun County. Author unknown. Copy on file at Calhoun County Historical Society, Hardin, Illinois.

Underwood, Larry, "A New Geography of Calhoun County." Outdoor Illinois. Volume XIV, Number 6. Benton, Illinois: Underwood, 1975.

PART V. PROJECT INFORMATION

During the summer and early fall 1993, the Mississippi River flooded its banks and devastated many communities and rural properties along its course. One historic Illinois community that was hit hard by the Flood of 1993 was Hardin, which is located along the Illinois River in Calhoun County. An architectural survey of the flood damaged properties in Hardin that were slated for acquisition and demolition was conducted by Woodward-Clyde Federal Services during the summer of 1994. Woodward-Clyde Federal Services identified three of these buildings in the Environmental Assessment (EA) that were potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. These included the Child House (identified as the Green Estate), a log house immediately north of the Joe Page Bridge, and "an old hotel" (the David Carroll Hotel) located on Route 100 north of the Joe Page Bridge.³⁰ This work was conducted to assist IEMA

and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in complying with their responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and for carrying out details of a Programmatic Agreement between FEMA, the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP), IEMA and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) for the identification and evaluation of historic properties impacted by the flood recovery activities from the Flood of 1993.

In July 1995, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency contracted with Fever River Research to conduct architectural mitigation for flood damaged properties in Hardin (Calhoun County), Evansville (Randolph County), Harrisonville (Monroe County) and Rural Monroe County. In July 1995, crew from Fever River Research visited Hardin intent on documenting these three historic properties. The results of this trip are outlined in a letter report submitted to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency on July 25, 1995. Based on these investigations, it was determined that neither the log house nor the David Carroll Hotel were eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The architectural recordation and documentary research presented in this report was conducted during the late summer of 1995 under the direction of Floyd Mansberger (Principal Investigator). Architectural recording was conducted by Floyd Mansberger and Christopher Stratton. Documentary and archival research was conducted by Christopher Stratton. Field drawings were digitized by Cynthia Phillippe.

PREPARED BY:

Floyd R. Mansberger,
and
Christopher L. Stratton

Fever River Research
P.O. Box 5234
Springfield, Illinois 62705

December 7, 1995