

Allard House  
Survey 25, Claim 1384  
Common Fields of Prairie du Rocher  
Township 5 South, Range 6 East  
Randolph County  
Illinois

IL HABS No. R-1996-1

PHOTOGRAPHS,  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Illinois Historic American Buildings Survey  
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
1 Old State Capitol Plaza  
Springfield, Illinois 62701

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ILLINOIS HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ALLARD HOUSE

IL HABS NO. R-1996-1

Location: The Allard House is located in Survey 25 (Claim 1384) of the Common Fields of Prairie du Rocher, in Township 5 South, Range 6 East, in northwestern Randolph County. Located along the western edge of Prairie du Rocher Creek, the Allard House is situated midway between the Mississippi River and the community of Prairie du Rocher.

Randolph County is located in southwestern Illinois. The county is bordered by Monroe County on the west, by St. Clair and Washington Counties on the north, by Perry and Jackson Counties on the east, and by the Mississippi River on the south. Significant waterways in the county include the Mississippi, Kaskaskia, and Marys Rivers. Chester is the county-seat and is the largest town the county.

Present Owner: Randolph County  
Randolph County Courthouse  
Chester, Illinois

Present Occupant: None

Present Use: Vacant

Statement of Significance:

The Allard House is a one-and-one-half-story, three-bay, single-pile, side-gable dwelling. Initially constructed as a single-pen, log house, the building has a brick-nogged, frame addition constructed onto its rear side. Associated with the early house, and later incorporated into the construction of this dwelling, is an early frame summer kitchen. For much of its history, the Allard House is suspected to have been used as a tenant-occupied farmstead. The Allard House retains its integrity of location, design, setting and materials. Although modest in character, this structure embodies the distinctive characteristics of a

type, method and period of construction and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as per Criterion C.

The Allard House is one of several log dwellings documented in the American Bottom region of Monroe and Randolph Counties as part of the FEMA Buyout mitigation effort. Of those dwellings, the Allard House is believed to be the oldest and may potentially date to the late eighteenth century. The house is the only one of the log structures documented to have evidence of a fireplace and is the only one that has square, corner notching. Aside from its architectural significance, the house also may be significant archaeologically in respect to the subsurface features that may be intact in the adjacent yard. Given the house's proximity to Prairie du Rocher --a community founded in 1721-- there is strong potential for there being a French colonial or an early American-period component to the site. The presence of an even earlier, pre-historic component is suggested by the discovery of several sherds of Mississippian shell-tempered pottery adjacent to the foundations of the house.

#### Part I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

##### A. Physical History:

###### 1. Date(s) of Erection:

As with many vernacular buildings, the actual date of construction of the Allard House is unknown. Based on a physical examination of the structure and the settlement history of the area in which it is located, the original log portion of the Allard House is suspected to have been built during the late eighteenth century, ca. 1790-1800. The frame addition constructed on the rear of the dwelling was added sometime during the early to middle nineteenth century (ca. 1830-50).

###### 2. Architect: None.

###### 3. Original and Subsequent Owners:

The following is a list of the owners of the land on which the Allard House is located between the time of its first granting by the French government to 1920.

Ignace Legras (July 1737 to unknown)  
August Allard (unknown to July 1810)

William C. Greenup (July 1810 to ca. unknown)  
Morgan T. Brown (unknown to 1855)  
Olive Blais (1855 to 1871)  
Gilbert Blais (1871 to 1887)  
Mary Blais (1889 to 1924)  
Albert E. Boyer (1924 to post-1940)

4. Builders, Contractors, and Suppliers:

The builders of the Allard House are unknown.

5. Original Plans:

No original plans exist for the house.

6. Alterations and Additions:

The house was initially constructed as a single-pen, log house. It had a 10'-2"x19'-0", brick-nogged, frame addition constructed onto its rear (north) side, ca. 1840. In the early twentieth century, the cabin was connected to a 20'-6"x14'-6", summer kitchen located to the rear of the house by building a 5'-8" wide, enclosed breezeway. Also at this time, a basement was excavated beneath the house. Over the years, the roof over the house was remodeled in order to conform to the additions constructed onto the dwelling. On the interior, the summer kitchen addition has been partitioned in two episodes. The first of these involved its division into a kitchen and a bedroom and was probably undertaken at the same time that it was connected to the main house. The second modification involved the construction of a bathroom and closet and is suspected to have occurred sometime after ca. 1960. Interior alterations to the remainder of the house are limited.

B. Historical Context:

1. Regional Context:

European settlement in southwestern Illinois dates to the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, when the French established a number of settlements along the American Bottom, in present-day St. Clair and Randolph Counties. The first of these settlements was Cahokia, which was founded in 1699 by a group of priests from the Seminary of Foreign Missions. Two years later, the Jesuit order established a mission sixty miles south of Cahokia at

Kaskaskia, near the juncture of the Kaskaskia and Mississippi Rivers. These initial religious foundations attracted additional French from Canada; many of these were fur traders-- the *coureurs de bois* and *voyageurs*-- who remained in the region for only part of the year, but there were also farmers-- the *habitants*-- who came and settled on a permanent basis. To protect their interests in Illinois, the French government constructed Fort de Chartres midway between Cahokia and Kaskaskia, in 1720. This fortification became the center of French administration in Illinois and ultimately encouraged the foundation of the village of Nouvelle Chartres in its environs. In 1722, the village of Prairie du Rocher was established several miles east of Fort de Chartres.

The extent of French settlement in the American Bottom is depicted in an 1755 map published in Villier du Terrage's Les Dernie`res Annes de la Louisiane Francaise. The map shows the villages of Cahokia, St. Philippe, Prairie du Rocher, and Kaskaskia, as well as Fort de Chartres.<sup>1</sup> In addition, it also depicts the primary Indian villages in the Bottom, including a Michigamea village adjacent to St. Philippe.<sup>2</sup> At the time that this map was published, these villages were among the largest and the most important in the French Illinois Country. They served as commercial and cultural entrepot, while the countryside between them provided wheat and other foodstuffs needed in French settlements further south. The French population in the American Bottom during this period is estimated to have numbered between 1,500 and 2,000 people.<sup>3</sup> Kaskaskia alone may have had over 600 people living in it.<sup>3</sup>

By the middle 1760s, the French communities in Randolph County had reached a healthy population: Kaskaskia had a population estimated at 1,000; Prairie du Rocher had 200 inhabitants; and Nouvelle Chartres had perhaps forty families living in it.<sup>4</sup>

Further development of these communities, however, was dealt a serious blow in 1763, when Illinois was ceded to Great Britain as part of the Treaty of Paris. British troops formally occupied the region in 1765, and many of the French settlers in Illinois subsequently moved across the Mississippi River into Spanish controlled Missouri. St. Philippe was particularly hard hit by this exodus. Viewing it in 1766, British Captain Philip Pittman described the village as consisting of "sixteen houses and a small church," but noted that the only residents at that time were the local captain of militia and his 20 slaves.<sup>5</sup>

While Cahokia, Prairie du Rocher, and Kaskaskia avoided St. Philippe's fate, these communities and the American Bottom as a whole stagnated under British rule. Trade and agriculture persisted among the established population, but further settlement in Illinois was largely prevented due to restrictions placed by the British government on American settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains and by the relative remoteness of the region. This situation persisted until 1778, when an American force under the command of George Rogers Clark captured Kaskaskia and Cahokia. In the wake of Clark's victories, American traders and settlers began filtering into southwestern Illinois.

In the absence of overland routes, many of these settlers entered Illinois by first descending the Ohio River and then moving up the Mississippi. As such, Kaskaskia served as a "gateway" for those settlers who were heading into the American Bottom or up the Kaskaskia River Valley. Two areas of early American settlement in the county were along Nine Mile and Plum Creeks, in the vicinity of present-day Evansville.<sup>6</sup>

In 1795, Randolph County was formally organized as a county within the Northwest Territory by Governor Arthur St. Clair. At the time of its organization, the county encompassed much of southern Illinois.<sup>7</sup> In March 1809, Kaskaskia became the capital of the newly formed Territory of Illinois. The town remained the territorial capital until December 1818, when Illinois was admitted into the Union. It then served as the state capital until 1820, at which time the seat of government was removed to Vandalia.

In 1796, the French agent, Georges-Victor Collot traveled through the central Mississippi River district and produced a detailed map of the region that was published in 1826 as part of his A Journey in North America.<sup>8</sup> Collot's map is an invaluable source in detailing the geography, settlements, and transportation routes in Illinois as they existed during the 1790s.

For the most part, the communities shown on the Collot map that were located in modern-day Monroe County were not "towns" in the traditional sense. They represented concentrations of individual homesteads, loosely clustered around a blockhouse or "station"<sup>9</sup> in order to assure mutual security. The threat of raids by such tribes as the Kickapoo persisted up through the War of 1812, limiting the initial scope of American settlement expansion and breeding an almost siege-mentality among the populace.<sup>10</sup> Once that

threat was removed with the conclusion of the war, however, settlement into the interior accelerated and formal towns began to develop.

Kaskaskia remained the county-seat of Randolph County until 1847. The flood of 1844 severely damaged the community and highlighted its susceptibility to future flooding. As a result, a vote was held to decide whether the county-seat should be moved to a new location. Chester, located on the bluffs several miles south of Kaskaskia, ended up winning the contest.<sup>11</sup>

While the flood of 1844 was certainly a precipitating factor, Kaskaskia's displacement as the county-seat was also a reflection of the development that had been occurring in upland Randolph County during the 1830s and 1840s. The towns of Chester, Evansville, and Sparta had all been founded by the 1830s and were growing, while the older Bottom communities were remaining relatively stagnant. Prairie du Rocher --once the third largest town in Illinois-- could count only two stores and a steam mill as its business interests in 1840.<sup>12</sup>

By the 1880s, Chester had grown into the largest town on the Mississippi between St. Louis and Cairo. It was the most important river port in Randolph County, and in 1872 it became the western terminus of the Wabash, Chester, and Western Railroad. The Cairo and St. Louis Railroad began operating northern and western Randolph County in 1875, passing through the towns of Red Bud, Baldwin, Sparta, and Avery.<sup>13</sup> A third railroad, the Centralia and Chester, began operating through Sparta, Evansville, and Chester in 1898.<sup>14</sup>

The American Bottom was completely bypassed by the railroad development that occurred in upland Randolph County during the late nineteenth century. Nevertheless, the area did experience some growth. Prairie du Rocher was finally organized as a village in 1873, and by 1883 it had three general stores, a grocery store, two blacksmith shops, two shoemakers, three physicians, and a flour mill.<sup>15</sup> Four miles south of Prairie du Rocher, the town of Brewerville was laid out sometime prior to 1875, on the east end of Claim 2207 (Survey 365). In 1883, Brewerville's business interests included a blacksmith shop run by Henry Heine, a saloon, and a store that also functioned as the local post-office; a school was located just north of the town.<sup>16</sup>

Kaskaskia had a population of 350 in 1880, and another 600 people were reported as living on the adjacent commonfields.



The following year, however, the old town heard its death knell, when the Mississippi broke across the narrow peninsula that separated it from the Kaskaskia and took over the lower five miles of the Kaskaskia River bed. This shift in the Mississippi's course resulted in the formation of Kaskaskia Island and forced the people living in Kaskaskia to abandon the town and move to a new location in the commons; old Kaskaskia has since been completely washed away by the Mississippi.<sup>17</sup>

In 1901, the St. Louis Valley Railroad began operating through the American Bottom between East St. Louis and Chester. This railroad ran through Prairie du Rocher and passed one mile south of Brewersville, promising further growth for both communities. Sometime prior to 1919, Brewersville's name was changed to Modoc.<sup>18</sup>

## 2. Site Specific Context:

The Allard House is located on an early land claim designated as Survey 25 (Claim 1384). Containing 65 acres, Survey 25 is a classic, French "long lot" and stretches across the American Bottom in a narrow band from the bluffs on the east, nearly to the Mississippi. The tract was initially surveyed on July 9, 1737 for Ignace Legras, of whom unfortunately little else is known.<sup>19</sup> By the end of eighteenth century, Survey 25 was being claimed by an August Allard, who was listed as a resident of Prairie du Rocher in a 1787 census. In the census, Allard is noted as one of three sons (possibly stepsons) of Jacques Perrien.<sup>20</sup> Survey 25 was ultimately granted to Allard by the group of commissioners who were sent to Illinois in 1803 by Congress for the purpose of settling the conflicting land claims there.<sup>21</sup> Allard retained ownership of the property until July 9, 1810, when it was auctioned off at a sheriff's sale to William C. Greenup for a mere \$0.40.<sup>22</sup>

A resident of Kaskaskia, William C. Greenup was a prominent land owner who served for many years as Randolph County Clerk.<sup>23</sup> Chain-of-title research failed to discover a deed detailing the sale of Survey 25, but circumstantial evidence points to it occurring by the middle-to-late 1830s. Greenup, for one, appears to have been experiencing financial distress during this period, and a significant portion of his property is known to have ended up on the auction block due his failure to pay his creditors.<sup>24</sup> Whatever the case, tax records indicate that by 1851 title to the property was in the name of Morgan T. Brown. Brown himself had died by this time, and the taxes on Survey 25

and four adjacent surveys formerly owned by him were being paid by an Olive Blais.<sup>25</sup> Olive Blais' relationship with Brown is unknown, but it is suspected that she may have been his daughter. The 1850 census of Prairie du Rocher lists her age as 36 and the head of the household that included Mitchel and Ferdinand Blais (ages 10 and 8) and Mary and Theresa Brown (ages 17 and 15).<sup>26</sup>

On June 6, 1855, William Henry --acting as commissioner of the estate of Morgan T., Julie, James, and Mary Brown, deceased and formerly of Randolph County-- sold Survey 25 and five adjacent tracts of land to Olive Blais for \$1,620 through a deed of partition. In the deed, Olive is noted as the guardian of Gilbert and Ferdinand Blais, who were said to be "heirs-at-law" of Morgan T. Brown and James and Mary Brown.<sup>27</sup>

In January 1859, Olive Blais married John Brewer.<sup>28</sup> The census undertaken the following year notes the couple as residents of Prairie du Rocher and indicates that John Brewer was then employed as a justice of the peace. Residing with them at the time was Ferdinand Blais, who was 16.<sup>29</sup> Olive Blais Brewer retained ownership of Survey 25 until her death on April 27, 1871. According to the terms of her will, her son Gilbert was to inherit one-half of the farm on which he was then residing and half interest in her house and lot in Prairie du Rocher. The remainder of her real estate and the half-interest in her house was to go her grandson, Henry Blais, who was Gilbert's son.<sup>30</sup>

Gilbert Blais' ownership of Survey 25 is indicated in an 1875 county atlas, which also shows him owning a total of 369 acres (located in a multiple of adjacent Survey Claims). The atlas depicts a structure on Survey 25 (believed to be the Allard House) that has a small orchard or grove located immediately south of it, with a water course named the Becket Coulee beyond that. Aside from the Allard House, the atlas shows three other residences on Gilbert Blais' property, which makes it difficult to determine which of those homes he may have been occupying.<sup>31</sup> However, given the character of the Allard House, it seems unlikely that he would have selected that dwelling over the others. The house was probably occupied by a tenant farmer during this period.

Gilbert Blais died in 1887 at the age of 48 or 49.<sup>32</sup> His widow, Mary, subsequently assumed ownership of his real estate. The 1900 and 1910 censuses of Prairie du Rocher both list Mary Blais as a resident, thus suggesting a

continued tenant occupation of the Allard House.<sup>33</sup> Tax records indicate that the property taxes on Survey 25 were assessed in Mary Blais' name until 1925, when they were assessed in Albert E. Boyer's name. Boyer retained ownership of the tract through 1940<sup>34</sup>.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

#### 1. Architectural Character:

The Allard House is a one-and-one-half-story, three-bay, single-pile, side-gable dwelling. Initially constructed as a single-pen, log house, the building has a brick-nogged, frame addition constructed onto its rear side. Associated with the early house, and later incorporated into the construction of this dwelling, is an early frame summer kitchen. For much of its history, the Allard House is suspected to have been used as a tenant-occupied farmstead.

#### 2. Condition of Fabric:

The interior of the house and its roof were heavily damaged by flood waters during the summer of 1993. Following the flood, the house was vacated and has since stood unoccupied.<sup>35</sup> Prior to the flood, the summer kitchen addition had sustained significant termite damage.

### B. Description of Exterior:

#### 1. Overall Dimensions:

Excluding the front porch, the original log house measures 16'-8" (north/south) by 19'-0" (east/west). With additions, the Allard House measures 53'-0" (north/south) by 19'-0" (east/west) at its greatest extent.

#### 2. Foundations:

The foundations associated with the original log house and the brick-nogged frame addition consist of rough-cut, irregularly-coursed limestone.<sup>36</sup> A small test excavation adjacent to the fireplace opening indicated that the stone foundations extended only a

short distance (8-10") below the existing ground surface and that, no evidence of the fireplace base remained intact.<sup>37</sup> Following the excavation of the basement, a 1'-4" to 1'-10" wide, concrete retaining wall was poured just inside of the foundation circuit.

Originally, the summer kitchen appears to have rested on stone piers. When the basement was excavated, the piers were removed and replaced with an 8", poured-concrete foundation. In addition, a concrete retaining wall similar to that beneath the remainder of the house was poured. In recent decades, concrete blocks have been laid up on the north end of the basement.

3. Walls:

The walls of the original house are of log construction and, during the initial decades of construction, were probably exposed on the exterior of the building. Following the construction of the brick-nogged addition, it and the original house were covered with beveled clapboard siding. The summer kitchen addition was originally covered with vertical, board-and-batten siding, utilizing white pine boards varying in size between 1"x8" and 1"x12". During the middle of the twentieth century, composition shingle siding was applied over the existing siding all around the house, except for the south elevation which was covered with vertical, tongue-and-groove siding.<sup>38</sup>

4. Structural System, Framing:

The walls of the original house are constructed with oak logs that measure between 8" and 12" in diameter and have been hewn on two of their sides. The unbarked logs are joined at the corners with square notching -- a method by which the ends are hewn on four sides, lapped over one another, and then joined together by an oak dowel (roughly 2" diameter) driven into a hole that has been drilled down through the ends. The interstices between the logs are filled with chinking consisting of limestone, wood fragments, and lime mortar. The first floor of the original house is supported by log sleepers placed on 1'-8" to 2'-0" centers. The sleepers are adzed flat on their upper surface and measure between 7" and 10" in diameter. The floor joists supporting the second floor are non-original, 1-1/2"x7", circular-sawn, surfaced-two-sides, yellow

pine that were placed on 1'-8" to 2'-0" centers. The ends of these floor joists rest in pockets that have been cut into the wall logs.<sup>39</sup> Those portions of the walls above the uppermost logs are generally framed with 2"x4", circular-sawn, white pine studs with centers that vary between 1'-9" and 2'-7".

The brick-nogged addition is supported by log sleepers that are adzed flat on their upper side and measure 7" to 8" in diameter. The sleepers are set on 1'-4" to 2'-0" centers and have their ends resting on a 9"x1'-2", hand-hewn, oak sill. The walls are framed with 2"x4", combination circular- and vertical-sawn, unsurfaced, white pine studs and 4"x4" corner posts of the same character as the studs. The studs are toe-nailed into the sill and extend, on the north, to a 6"x4", circular-sawn, unsurfaced, white pine plate that supports both the ceiling joists and the rafters. On the east and west sides of the addition, the studs are continuous from the sill to the rafters but have short sections of 2"x4" studs laid horizontally between them as supports. The interstices between the studs have been nogged with soft-mud brick that is laid in a soft lime mortar. The ceiling joists in the addition are 2"x4" in size, combination circular- and vertical-sawn, unsurfaced, white pine placed on 2'-0" centers. The rafters (which also extend over the original house) have the same character and spacing as the ceiling joists but have been circular-sawn on all four sides, as opposed to just two.

The summer kitchen addition was originally supported by 8" diameter, oak sleepers. A number of the sleepers, however, have been damaged and have been replaced with 1-3/4"x9-3/4" to 10", circular-sawn, oak joists. The sleepers and joists are placed on 1'-4" to 2'-0" centers and have their ends resting on a 4"x6", combination circular- and vertical-sawn, unsurfaced, oak sill. The walls of the summer kitchen are framed with 5"x5", hand-hewn, oak corner posts that extend from the sill to the rafter plate. The corner posts are connected to one another by 2"x8" and 2"x5-1/2", circular-sawn, white pine ribbons that are notched into the outer face of the posts and are set approximately 2'-8" above the level of the floor. Additional support for the walls is provided by the rafter plates, which are 5"x5", hand-hewn oak and have their ends half-lapped around one another. The rafters are saplings "in the round", measure between 4" and 5" in

diameter, have 2'-6" centers, and are a mixture of locally-procured sycamore, elm, and oak. The relatively light framing of the summer kitchen and the use of unsawn lumber in its construction is reflective of the structure's original use as an outbuilding separate from the main house.

5. Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads:

An open, 7'-10" wide porch extends across the full width of the north elevation. The porch is "incised" beneath the principle roof of the house and has four, 4"x4", porch posts. A wood balustrade with a 2" wide rail was once present, but was washed away in the 1993 flood. The porch has a wood deck that is supported by three, 8" diameter, oak sleepers that are fully in the round. The sleepers themselves rest on three limestone, foundation walls that run parallel to one another and extend out from the main foundation circuit. The ceiling on the porch is finished with narrow, tongue-and-groove planking. While the front porch has certainly seen modifications through the years, it's suspected to have existed --in some form-- from the date of the house's initial construction. Prior to the construction of the brick-nogged addition, the south porch may have been mirrored by a porch on the north side of the house. The existence of such a porch, however, is purely conjectural, as no direct evidence for it was encountered in the field.

A second porch is located on the east side of the summer kitchen addition. It measures 10'-2"x4'-7", has a concrete deck, and is covered by an extended shed roof. The porch was formerly screened-in and is believed to have been added after the summer kitchen was connected to the main house.

A bulkhead surrounding an exterior basement stairway is located on the west side of the log house. It has 6" thick, concrete sidewalls and provides a 3'-10" wide stair opening.

6. Chimneys:

The original log house once had a fireplace with an external chimney on its east side. The chimney measured 5'-6" in width at its base and is presumed to have been of stone construction. The date of the chimney and fireplace's removal is unknown, but it is

suspected to have coincided with the construction of the brick-nogged addition ca. 1840. The fireplace opening, after the removal of the fireplace, was infilled with brick (except for a section in which a new window was installed). The fireplace and chimney were replaced by an interior brick chimney located along the north wall of the log house. The latter would have vented a wood burning stove(s) and may have remained in use until the middle of the twentieth century, at which point it was completely removed. An interior chimney in the summer kitchen has also been removed.

The house currently has an interior brick chimney, measuring 1'-5"x1'-11", situated along the south wall of Room 104. It vents a central furnace in the basement and exits the roof just downslope from the ridge.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and Doors:

In the original log house, the front entrance holds a four-paneled door that measures 2'-11"x6'-2". The rear door is no longer present, but its opening measures 2'-10"x6'-0".

None of the doors in the brick-nogged addition remain. Their openings measure 2'-6"x6'-6".

The summer kitchen addition has four-paneled and two-paneled, machine-made doors that measure 6'-1/2"x2'-6"x1-1/4". The doors are made of yellow pine/cypress and were originally varnished.

b. Windows:

The windows on the first floor of the log house and in the brick-nogged addition measure 2'-4"x3'-9" and have double-hung sash with six-over-six lights. The sills of those windows are located approximately 2'-8" above the floor. The windows on the second floor have 2'-4"x3'-10", double-hung sash with six-over-six lights and have 2'-1" high sills.

The windows in the summer kitchen addition measure 2'-4"x3'-10", have double-hung sash with one-over

one lights, and have 2'-7" high sills.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, Covering, Material:

The log house is believed to have always been covered by a side-gabled roof. Following the construction of the brick-nogged addition, the original roof was removed and a new side-gable roof was constructed encompassing both the log house and addition. The roof is covered with wood shingles that have been overlaid with standing-seam metal. The roof sheathing is 1"x5", tongue-and-groove, white pine flooring.

The summer kitchen addition has a front-gabled roof that has been tied into the principle roof, creating a cross-gable. The roof was originally covered with wood shingles that may have later been overlaid with standing-seam metal.<sup>40</sup> The roof sheathing is 1"x6", circular-sawn, unsurfaced, white pine set with a 3" to 4" gap between.

b. Cornice, Eaves:

The house has 6" deep eaves with enclosed rafters. The cornice is unembellished.

c. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers:

None are present.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

a. First Floor Description:

As originally constructed, the first floor of the Allard House consisted of a single room measuring 15'-3"x17'-6" (Room 101). Exterior access to the room was provided by a front door on the south and a rear door on the north. The room had two windows in its south wall and a third window in its west side. A fireplace was situated along the east side of the room. Room 101 would have originally functioned as a common living room,



kitchen, dining room, and bedroom. It is suspected that the access to the upstairs loft in this early house was gained through a simple ladder placed through a scuttle in the ceiling. Unfortunately, no evidence for a scuttle or earlier stairway was encountered during our research.

Following the construction of the brick-nogged addition on the north side of the house, the fireplace and associated chimney were removed. The opening left behind in the wall by their removal was partially filled by installing a new window. Room 101 also had a brick chimney constructed along its north wall at this time. The original rear entrance to the house became an interior doorway accessing the addition, which consisted of a 9'-8"x18'-0" room (Room 102). Believed to have functioned as a combination kitchen and dining room for much of its history, Room 102 has a stairway leading to the second floor on its west side. On both its east and west sides is a single window.

A doorway on the north side of Room 102 is suspected to have once led onto an open, 5'-8" wide breezeway connecting the main house to the summer kitchen to the rear.<sup>41</sup> This summer kitchen originally consisted of a 19'-6"x13'-6" room (Room 103) that had unfinished wall and ceiling surfaces and had a chimney along its west side. During the early twentieth century, the south wall of the summer kitchen was removed and the intervening space between it and the main house was enclosed. The summer kitchen was then partitioned, creating an 11'-2"x13'-6" bedroom (Room 105) on the north and a 14'-1"x13'-6" kitchen (Room 104) on the south. Room 104 has a single window on its the west and has a built-in cupboard on its east side. The room has exterior doorways on its east and west sides, and has interior doorways accessing Rooms 102 and 105. A doorway on the east side of Room 104 leads into a 5'-7" wide entrance hall that can be entered at grade level through an exterior doorway on the east. A stairway accessing the basement descends along the north side of the hall. Room 105 has one window each in its west and north walls. A closet and toilet partition that post-date 1960 are found on the

east side of Room 105.

The ceiling height in Room 101 is 8'-1". Rooms 102, 104, and 105 have 7'-4" high ceilings.

b. Second Floor Description

Prior to the construction of the brick-nogged addition and the subsequent raising of the roof, the second floor may have been a simple loft that was accessible from Room 101 by way of a ladder. The second floor currently consists of a 12'-6"x17'-6" room (Room 201) that has a window in each of the gable-end walls. The ceiling is garretted and has a 6'-9" height.

c. Basement/Cellar Description:

The house has a full basement beneath it that was excavated during the early twentieth century. Access to the basement is provided by means of the exterior stairway mentioned above in II.B.5 and by way of an interior stairway off Room 103. The basement is not partitioned, but can be spoken of as having north and south halves.

The south half (Room 001A) is located beneath the original log house and the brick-nogged addition. It measures 22'-2"x12'-9" and has two window openings on its east side. At the time of the 1993 field investigations, a meat locker was situated along the south side of the room and a tub and shower were found on the east side of the basement.

The north half of the basement (Room 001B) is situated beneath the the summer kitchen addition and the "breezeway" that was constructed to connect it with the rest of the house. It measures 25'-1"x9'-7" and has one window each on its west and north sides. Room 001B has a wash stand and water heater along its west side. A furnace and the base of the chimney that vents it staddle the division line between Rooms 001A and 001B. The ceiling height in the basement is 6'-10".

2. Stairways:

The stairway leading to the second floor rises from north to south along the west wall of Room 102. It measures 2'-11-1/2" in width and consists of a single flight of eleven steps with 8" treads. The stairway is open on the first floor and enclosed on the second. The space beneath the stairway in Room 102 is framed-in with beadboard and is utilized as a closet.

3. Flooring:

The flooring in the brick-nogged addition is 1"x5", tongue-and-groove, white pine. The summer kitchen additions has 1"x12", white pine, plank flooring.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finishes:

The wall finish in Room 101 is believed to have originally consisted of whitewash applied to the exposed logs. During the early twentieth century, the walls were covered with plaster applied to wood lath and the ceilings were finished with 7/8"x6" to 8", tongue-and-groove planks. The walls and ceilings in Room 201 above are covered with 1/2"x3-1/4", tongue-and-groove, yellow pine beadboard.

The walls in Room 102, in the brick-nogged addition, are covered with a thin coat of plaster that was initially painted, later wallpapered, and most recently covered with 1/4" gypsum board. The ceiling in the room is covered with 5/8"x3-1/4", tongue-and-groove, white pine beadboard that has been painted multiple times.<sup>42</sup>

The wall finish in the summer kitchen originally consisted of whitewash applied to the interior side of the vertical board siding. The ceiling was left open, which would have lowered the temperature inside the building during the hot summer months. After the summer kitchen was attached to the house, however, there was a greater concern for the walls and ceilings being enclosed. As a result, 2"x4" studs were laid in along the walls, and 2"x3-1/2" to 4", circular-sawn, unsurfaced, oak ceiling joists were strung between the rafters, like tie beams. The walls and ceiling throughout were then covered with 3/8" gypsum board, and the walls were subsequently wallpapered.

5. Openings:

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

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

6. Decorative Features and Trim:

The door and window openings in the log house and the brick-nogged addition are cased in plain, white pine trim. The head trim over the doorways in the log house is pedimented.

The summer kitchen addition has plain, 7/8"x3-1/2", yellow pine trim around its openings.

7. Hardware:

Machine-cut nails were used in the framing of the brick-nogged addition and summer kitchen. They also were used in the construction of the principle roof. The front door to the house has a rim lock, while those in the summer kitchen addition have mortise locks.

8. Mechanical Equipment:

a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation:

The Allard House initially was heated with a fireplace. Following the fireplace's removal (ca. 1840), the house is presumed to have been heated with wood-burning stoves that probably remained in use well into the twentieth century. A gas furnace was installed in the basement, ca. 1950.

b. Lighting:

Given the date of its construction, the house presumably would have been illuminated with candles and/or oil burning lamps, and by the middle nineteenth century, with kerosene-burning lamps. These lamps, or similar apparatus, may have remained in use until the late 1930s, or early 1940s, when the house was wired for electricity. The wiring in the house is minimal. Room 102, for instance, has a single, overhead light and no outlets.

c. Plumbing:

A cistern and two stone-lined wells are located in the yard on the east side of the house. Prior to the provision of electrical power to the house, the occupants of the Allard House would have hand-pumped their water from one or all of these sources. Once electric power became available (whether by means of a main power line or gas-powered generator), an electric pump was installed by which water could be drawn from one of the wells into the kitchen. The installation of bathroom facilities in the house appears to have taken place much later (post-1960), and even then, they were quite rudimentary. A full bathroom never has been constructed and the toilet, sink, and tub/shower unit are spread between Rooms 104, 105, and Room 001A.

D. Site:

1. General Setting and Orientation:

The Allard House is located approximately one mile southwest of Prairie du Rocher, a short distance east of the levee bordering Prairie du Rocher Creek. Facing south, the house is situated on a one acre parcel that straddles the crest of a low ridge and surrounded on all sides by agricultural fields. The yard immediately adjacent to the house is circuted by a low, concrete curb that may mark the original property lines, once the house was separated from the Blais family holdings in Survey 25. The remainder of the one acre lot is surrounded by a wire fence. Portions of the lot appear to have been used at one time or another as a chicken yard and a small horse pasture. Outbuildings associated with the house include a chicken coop[?] and a shed, both of which were destroyed in the flood, and a pole barn that has corrugated steel siding.

2. Historic Landscape Design:

No information is available.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Original Architectural Drawings: None available.
- B. Early Views: None available.
- C. Interviews: None conducted.
- D. Bibliography:

1. Primary and Unpublished Sources:

[Book of] Declarations Taken in the Cahokia and Kaskaskia Claims, 1807-1812. Testimony taken at Cahokia under the Superintendance of Thomas Sloo. Report on file, Illinois State Archives, Springfield.

Lowrie, Walter and Matthew St. Clair Clarke. American State Papers, Volume I. Gales and Seaton, Washington, D.C., 1832.

Lowrie, Walter and Walter S. Franklin. American State Papers, Volume II. Gales and Seaton, Washington, D.C., 1834.

Mansberger, Floyd, Christopher Stratton, and Patrick Steele. After the Great Flood of 1993: An Architectural Survey of Flood Damaged Harrisonville and Fults, Monroe County, Illinois. Report Prepared for Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Federal Emergency Management Agency. Report on file at Fever River Research, Springfield, Illinois, 1994.

Mansberger, Floyd, Patrick Steele, Sr., and Christopher Stratton. After the Great Flood of 1993: An Architectural Survey of Flood Damaged Randolph County, Illinois. Report Prepared for Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Federal Emergency Management Agency. Report on file at Fever River Research, Springfield, Illinois, 1994.

Randolph County Assessor's Files. County Assessor's Office, Chester, Illinois.

Randolph County Collector's Books. Treasurer's Office, Chester, Illinois.

Randolph County Deed Records. Recorder of Deeds Office, Chester, Illinois.

Randolph County Probate Records. County Clerk's Office, Chester, Illinois.

Randolph County Surveyor's Book. County Clerk's Office. Chester, Illinois.

Statements Regarding the Extent of the J. Edgar Claims, Illinois State Archives, Springfield, 1804.

Steele, Patrick, Floyd Mansberger and Christopher Stratton. "After the Great Flood of 1993: An Architectural Survey of Valmeyer, Monroe County, Illinois." Report Prepared for Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Federal Emergency Management Agency. Report on file at Fever River Research, Springfield, Illinois, 1994.

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

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

U.S. Bureau of the Census. "Population Schedule: Randolph County, Illinois." 1900.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. "Population Schedule: Randolph County, Illinois." 1910.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. "Population Schedule: Randolph County, Illinois." 1920.

2. Secondary and Published Sources:

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Alvord, Clarence Walworth. Kaskaskia Records

1778-1790. Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, Volume V. Virginia Series, Volume II. Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, 1909.

Alvord, Clarence Walworth and Clarence Edwin Carter. The Critical Period 1763-1765. Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, Volume X. British Series, Volume 1. Springfield, Illinois, 1915.

Alvord, Clarence Walworth. The Illinois Country. The Centennial History of Illinois, Volume I. Illinois Centennial Commission, Springfield, 1920.

Beckwith, H. W. Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, Volume 1. H. W. Rokker Company, Springfield, 1903.

Bleem, Catherine Berra. Evansville on the Kaskaskia. Evansville, Illinois, 1975.

Brink, W. R. and Company, An Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Randolph County, Illinois. Illinois, 1875.

Brown, Margaret K. National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form: Historic French Colonial District. On file, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, 1973.

de Finiels, Nicolas. An Account of Upper Louisiana. Edited by Carl J. Ekberg and William E. Foley. Translated by Carl J. Ekberg. University of Missouri Press, Columbia, 1989.

Gates, Paul W. History of Public Land Law Development. Arno Press, New York, 1979.

Horsely, A. Doyne. A Hazardous Environment: Kaskaskia Island, Illinois. Bulletin of the Illinois Geographical Society Volume 18, Number 2, 1976.

McDonough, J. L. and Company. History of Randolph, Monroe and Perry Counties, Illinois. Philadelphia, 1883.

Ogle, George A. and Company. Standard Atlas of



Randolph County, Illinois. Chicago, 1919.

Pittman, Captain Philip. The Present State of the European Settlements on the Mississippi With a Geographical Description of that River illustrated by Plans and Draughts. Edited by Frank Heywood Hooder. Arthur H. Clark Company, Cleveland, 1906, (Originally Published in 1770).

Sears, Roebuck and Company. Sears, Roebuck Home Builder's Catalog, 1910. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1990.

Secretary of State. Origin and Evolution of Illinois Counties. State of Illinois, Springfield, 1991.

Tucker, Sara J. Atlas of Indian Villages of the Illinois Country, Scientific Papers no. 2., Illinois State Musuem, Springfield.

E. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:

Although extensive documentary research was conducted for this project, several additional avenues of research remain open for further work. One source of information that has not been investigated is the early deposition given by Allard to the Federal Land Commissioners. Record of this deposition should be in the "[Book of] Declarations Taken in the Cahokia and Kaskaskia Claims, 1807-1812" which is housed at the Illinois State Archives, Springfield. These records often describe the settlement history and early improvements made to the various claims.

One avenue of research that was not pursued thoroughly as part of this work is oral history. Although the number of individuals available to discuss the early history of rural Randolph County is limited, their knowledge of the rural community is invaluable. Of particular interest are the various families that have farmed and/or lived on this property.

Similarly, the archaeological integrity of the subsurface resources around the Allard House have not been assessed. Archaeological investigations have the potential to yield a wide range of information regarding this early structure and the activities that were associated with it. Additionally, subsurface

resources (especially filled trash pits, privies, and adjacent middens) associated with these structures have the potential to contribute dramatically to our understanding of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century rural lifeways in this region. Similarly, the Mississippian period site that is suspected as being at the same location has the potential to contribute significantly to our understanding of the late prehistory of this region.

Although the integrity of these resources is not known, there is every reason to believe that the subsurface integrity of this site is good. Nonetheless, it is suspected that they were impacted by post-flood cleanup and demolition activities (especially the demolition of the house).

#### PART IV. METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH

##### A. Research Strategy:

This documentation project began with an architectural survey of flood damaged properties in Monroe County (including Harrisonville, Valmeyer and Fults), Randolph County (including Evansville), and St. Clair County, as well as in Grafton (Jersey County). As a result of the Flood of 1993, over 830 buildings were documented in southwestern Illinois, along the Mississippi River Valley (See Table 3).

The architectural survey of Randolph County was conducted during the winter of 1993-94 by Mr. Patrick Steele, an employee of Fever River Research (Springfield). This survey included a building by building inventory of every structure within the county limits that had been damaged by the flood waters and was over 50-years of age. Black and white 35mm photographs were taken of all buildings that pre-dated 1940. Select views of building types and street scenes were also documented using color slide film. While in the field, a survey form which documented such items as a building's address, construction materials, and integrity was completed for each of the pre-1940 buildings. Forms were numbered as prepared and keyed to the photographs of each building as well as maps of the community. A copy of each form and photograph of each building is included as an Appendix of the survey report. Although outbuildings were identified on each

Table 3

Number of Buildings Documented during the  
 Survey and Post-Survey Phases of this Project

	Survey	IL HABS Outline
Rural Randolph County	152	1
Evansville (Randolph County)	16	2
Rural Monroe County	270	10
Harrisonville (Monroe County)	34	6
Fults (Monroe County)	37	14
Valmeyer (Monroe County)	239	27
Grafton (Jersey County)	84	8
Hardin (Calhoun County)	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Totals	832	69

of the building inventory forms, they were not treated as individual buildings within the survey. Criteria used to evaluate the significance of the properties was based on standard National Register of Historic Places criteria. The results of this survey are detailed in the report "After the Great Flood of 1993: An Architectural Survey of Flood Damaged Randolph County, Illinois" which was prepared by Floyd Mansberger, Christopher Stratton and Patrick Steele, Sr. (1994).

Upon completion of the survey report, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency determined that several of the buildings in rural Randolph County were eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. After a long wait, the participants in the Federal buyout programs were finally identified --with only the Allard House being identified as participating within the Federal program. Mitigation work at the Allard House was conducted in October 1995.

B. Actual Research Process:

The mitigation process consisted of documenting the above ground remains of the Allard House with line drawings and photographs. While in the field, measurements of the structure was taken, floor plan

sketches drawn, and notes on structural details (including materials used, decorative details, alterations through time, etc.) were transferred to a field form. All floor plan drawings (which generally included a basement, first floor, second floor, and roof plan) were drawn at a 1/4" scale. Additionally, 35mm photographs (black and white) were taken of both interior and exterior details.

The field work was hindered by the extremely deteriorated condition of the building. Nearly a year and a half had passed since the flood waters had receded. Within the Allard House was the jumbled pre-flood contents of the house scattered among the flood deposited silts.

In conjunction with the field documentation process, archival research was conducted in both local and regional repositories. This research was conducted to answer site specific questions about the Allard House and the family that occupied it, as well as to develop an historical context for the building.

Back in the Springfield office, the field drawings were digitized using Design-CAD software and printed with the aid of a laser printer. Additionally, the outline format was written, a selection of photographs were chosen, and 5"x7" prints were made. The photographs were mounted on archival photo mount cards and the text printed on archival bond paper. Upon completion, a microfiche copy of the report was made, and it, with the archival original, was submitted to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency to be placed on file with the Illinois State Historical Library. All notes, and additional photographs (with negatives) are on file with the Illinois State Museum (an approved curational facility).

C. Archives and Repositories Used:

County records were consulted at the Randolph County Courthouse in Chester. At that location, deed records in the Recorder of Deeds Office, and naturalization records, death records, as well as probate records in the Circuit Clerk's Office were investigated. Additionally, the resources of the Randolph County Historical Society (particularly the county tax records which have been transferred to that location), and the Chester Public Library were investigated.

In Springfield, resources at the Illinois State Library (county atlases, and published histories), Illinois State Historical Library, and the Illinois State Archives (Federal population, industrial and agricultural census returns, state census returns) were utilized. Additionally, the resources at the Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) in Carbondale were consulted.

D. Research Staff:

1. Primary Preparer:

This IL HABS form was prepared by Mr. Christopher Stratton and Mr. Floyd Mansberger, Fever River Research, Springfield, Illinois.

The fieldwork for this project was conducted by Mr. Christopher Stratton, Mr. Floyd Mansberger and Ms. Cynthia Phillippe (all with Fever River Research, Springfield, Illinois).

Using the field notes, Mr. Christopher Stratton, research historian with Fever River Research, prepared the written outline. Mr. Floyd Mansberger, principal with Fever River Research, coordinated the field work, and assisted with the written outline production. All aspects of this project were under the direct supervision of Mr. Floyd Mansberger, principal investigator, Fever River Research, P.O. Box 5234, Springfield, Illinois, 62705.

2. Photographer:

All field photographs of the Allard House were taken by Mr. Christopher Stratton (Fever River Research) during the course of the field documentation. All photographs were processed by the Photographic Services Corporation, Springfield, Illinois.

3. Delineator:

The field drawings were digitized, using Design-CAD software, by one of several individuals. CAD operators included Mr. Timothy Townsend, and Mr. Christopher Stratton --all employees of Fever River Research.

4. Additional Staff:

Additional typing and editing was conducted by Ms. Cynthia Phillippe, research assistant with Fever River Research.

PART V. PROJECT INFORMATION

During the summer and early fall of 1993, the Mississippi River flooded its banks and devastated many communities and rural properties along its course. Three communities in the Monroe Bottom that were completely inundated by the Flood of 1993 were Harrisonville (MO-1996-3), Valmeyer (See MO-1996-2) and Fults (MO-1996-1), Monroe County, Illinois. Additionally, several properties were documented in rural Monroe County (See MO-1996-4) as well as nearby Evansville (See R-1996-2 and R-1996-3).

In response to the flood emergency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assisted local residents with their immediate needs for food and shelter, as well as long term relief from the threat of flooding. The Federal government has two land acquisition and relocation programs designed to alleviate damage to families caused by flooding. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides communities with cost-share funds to purchase flood damaged properties and convert them into open space. Section 1362 of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) allows FEMA to purchase flood damaged properties that carry flood insurance and convey them to a local community to be used as open space.<sup>43</sup>

The work described in this report was conducted by Fever River Research to assist the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in complying with their responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) and for carrying out a Programmatic Agreement among FEMA, the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP), the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA).

ENDNOTES

- (1) A copy of this map is found in Clarence Walworth Alvord's The Illinois Country, The Centennial History of Illinois, Volume I, 154. Springfield: Illinois Centennial Commission, 1920.
- (2) This village was attacked in 1753 by a raiding party composed of Fox, Sauk, and Sioux.
- (3) Alvord, 1920, 202.
- (4) Alvord, Clarence Walworth and Clarence Edwin Carter. The Critical Period 1763-1765. Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, Volume X. British Series, Volume I. Springfield, Illinois, 1915:xxx-xxxii.
- (5) J. L. McDonough and Company. Combined History of Randolph, Monroe and Perry Counties, Illinois, Philadelphia, 1883, 383.
- (6) McDonough, 1883:415.
- (7) Secretary of State, Origin and Evolution of Illinois Counties, Secretary of State's Office, Springfield, Illinois, 1991:16-18.
- (8) A facsimile of this map is published in Alvord, 1907. A contemporary map showing the settlements in the Illinois Country is the "Carte d'une partie du cours du Mississippi, depuis la riviere des Illinois..." drafted by Nicolas de Finiels between 1797 and 1798 (Carl Ekberg and William Folley, editors. An Account of Upper Louisiana, by Nicolas de Finiels, University of Missouri Press, Columbia, 1989).
- (9) Stations were often nothing more than fortified houses that provided protection for its owners and their adjacent neighbors in the event of a raid. One of the more notable of these fortifications was Whiteside's Station, located mid-way between present-day Columbia and Waterloo.
- (10) On May 23, 1790, James Piggot of the Grand Ruisseau settlement wrote Arthur St. Clair, who was then Governor of the Northwest Territory, the following:

The Indians, who have not failed one year in four past to kill our people, steal our horses, and at times have killed and drove off numbers of our

horned cattle, render it impossible for us to live in this country in any way but in forts and villages, which we find very sickly in the Mississippi bottom; neither can we cultivate our land, but with a guard of our inhabitants equipped with arms.... (Lowrie and Clarke, Americian State Papers, Volume I 1832, 20)

By 1812, the line of American settlement in Illinois would be marked by a succession of forts and stations.

- (11) McDonough 1883:287.
- (12) McDonough 1883:377-8.
- (13) Brink 1875; McDonough 1883:51.
- (14) Bleem, Catherine Berra. Evansville on the Kaskaskia. Evansville, Illinois 1975.
- (15) McDonough 1883:377-8.
- (16) Brink 1875; McDonough 1883:375.
- (17) Horsley, A. Doyne. A Hazardous Environment: Kaskaskia Island, Illinois. Bulletin of the Illinois Geographical Society, Volume 18, Number 2, 1976:23.
- (18) This change was made on account of there being another Brewersville Post Office in Illinois. For more information on the formation of this railroad line, see discussion in Valmeyer (IL HABS MO-1996-2) as well as Rural Monroe County (IL HABS MO-1996-4).
- (19) Beginning in early 1791, Arthur St. Clair (governor of the Northwest Territory) attempted to sort out the many conflicting land claims within the region. This process continued under his successor William Henry Harrison (See Walter Lowrie and Walter S. Franklin, American State Papers, Volume I, Gales and Seaton, Washington, D. C., 1832). Under the authority of Acts of Congress passed in March 1804 and March 1805, a Federal Board of Land Commissioners was appointed to go to Illinois to sort out the land claims. In a report filed by the Commissioner's Office at Kaskaskia on December 1, 1809, the commissioners established that Auguste Allard was both the original and present claimant of Survey 25 (See Walter Lowrie and Walter S. Franklin, "[Report] Of the common field, village, and common of Prairie du Rocher", in American State Papers, Volume II. Gales and Seaton, Washington D.C.: 1834:183-85; Also see attached map of the



land claims in the Prairie du Rocher Common field). For a discussion of these early land transaction practices and policies, see Paul Gates, History of Public Land Law Development, Arno Press, New York, 1979).

- (20) Clarence Walworth Alvord, Kaskaskia Records 1778-1790, Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, Volume V, Virginia Series, Volume II. Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, 1909:419.
- (21) Randolph County Federal Patent Book, County Clerk's Office, Chester, Illinois.
- (22) Randolph County Deed Record, County Clerk's Office, Chester, Illinois, M:50-4. This deed also details the sale of 31 other properties by the Randolph County Sheriff to Greenup.
- (23) Randolph County Deed Record, County Clerk's Office, Chester, Illinois. As county clerk, Greenups' name appears on numerous deeds dating to the first decades of the nineteenth century.
- (24) More than likely, the transaction occurred after the Economic Panic of 1837. Monroe County Deed Record, County Clerk's Office, Waterloo, Illinois, B:360, 362. These deeds, both dated October, 1, 1836, detail the sale of over 1500 acres of Greenup's land in Monroe County due to failure pay several debts.
- (25) Randolph County Tax List, County Clerk's Office, Chester, Illinois, 1851.
- (26) U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Population Schedule: Randolph County, Illinois (typescript copy)," County Clerk's Office, Chester, Illinois, 1850: Prairie du Rocher.
- (27) Randolph County Deed Record, FF:408-10. Olive Blais was appointed guardian of Gilbert and Ferdinand Blais in August 1845. Both boys were under age 14 at the time (Randolph County Abstracts of Guardianships, County Clerk's Office, Chester, Illinois, 1833-1849:95-6).
- (28) Randolph County Marriages, County Clerk's Office, Chester, Illinois, 1859:#25.
- (29) U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Population Schedule: Randolph County (typescript)," County Clerk's Office, Chester, Illinois, 1860: Prairie du Rocher.
- (30) Randolph County Probate Record, Circuit Clerk's Office,

Chester, Illinois, Box 12: Will and estate letters of Olive Blais Brewer. The absence of Ferdinand Blais from the will suggests that he may have died prior to his mother.

- (31) W. R. Brink and Company, An Illustrated Historical Atlas of Randolph County, Illinois, Edwardsville, Illinois, 1875.
- (32) Randolph County Probate Record, Box 127.
- (33) U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Population Schedule: Randolph County, Illinois," 1900, 1910.
- (34) Randolph County Collector's Books, Treasurer's Office, Chester, Illinois, 1889-1925.
- (35) At the time of the flood, a great deal of clothing, newspapers, and magazines were being stored in the house. The flood waters scattered these materials and left them laying in a 8" to 12" thick layer across both floors of the house. The fact that there had been little to no effort to clean up the house after the flood and that these materials were left sitting in an enclosed area for two years prior to the field investigation made the investigation of the interior a rather unpleasant task.
- (36) It is suspected that the construction of these foundations coincided with the construction of the brick-nogged addition. Prior to that, the log house may have been sitting on stone, or possibly wood, piers.
- (37) Although few historic artifacts were encountered in this test excavation unit, this small shovel test excavation uncovered several shell tempered Mississippian pottery sherds.
- (38) The reason for the north elevation being provided with a different siding from the rest of the house is unknown, though it's possible that it may relate to that elevation being the formal facade of the house.
- (39) The fact that the floor joists are yellow pine and are surfaced on two sides suggests that they were installed during the early twentieth century remodeling. Upon noticing the abrupt change in the lath pattern on the first floor walls, initially it was thought that the original joists may have been removed and new ones installed in order to raise the first floor ceiling from 7'-4" to 8'-1". A closer investigation of the walls, however, revealed no empty joist pockets or the cut-off ends of old joists, as one would expect to find if the ceiling had, in fact, been

raised.

- (40) The summer kitchen lost nearly all of its roofing during the 1993 flood, so it's uncertain whether or not it had standing-seam metal. However, given the fact that the principal roof is covered by it, it seems likely the roof over the summer kitchen would have been covered also.
- (41) The presence of a breezeway between the house and the summer kitchen is suggested by the stone foundations that extend north of the foundation circuit beneath the brick-nogged addition.
- (42) The beadboard in Room 102 has been painted blue, green, yellow, gray, and white through the years.
- (43) The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is authorized by Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 93-288, as amended).

Final Environmental Assessment; Acquisition and Relocation of the Village of Valmeyer, Illinois. Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, D. C., April 1994.

Final Environmental Assessment; Acquisition of Flood-Damaged Properties in the Village of Fults, Illinois. Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, D. C., July 1994.

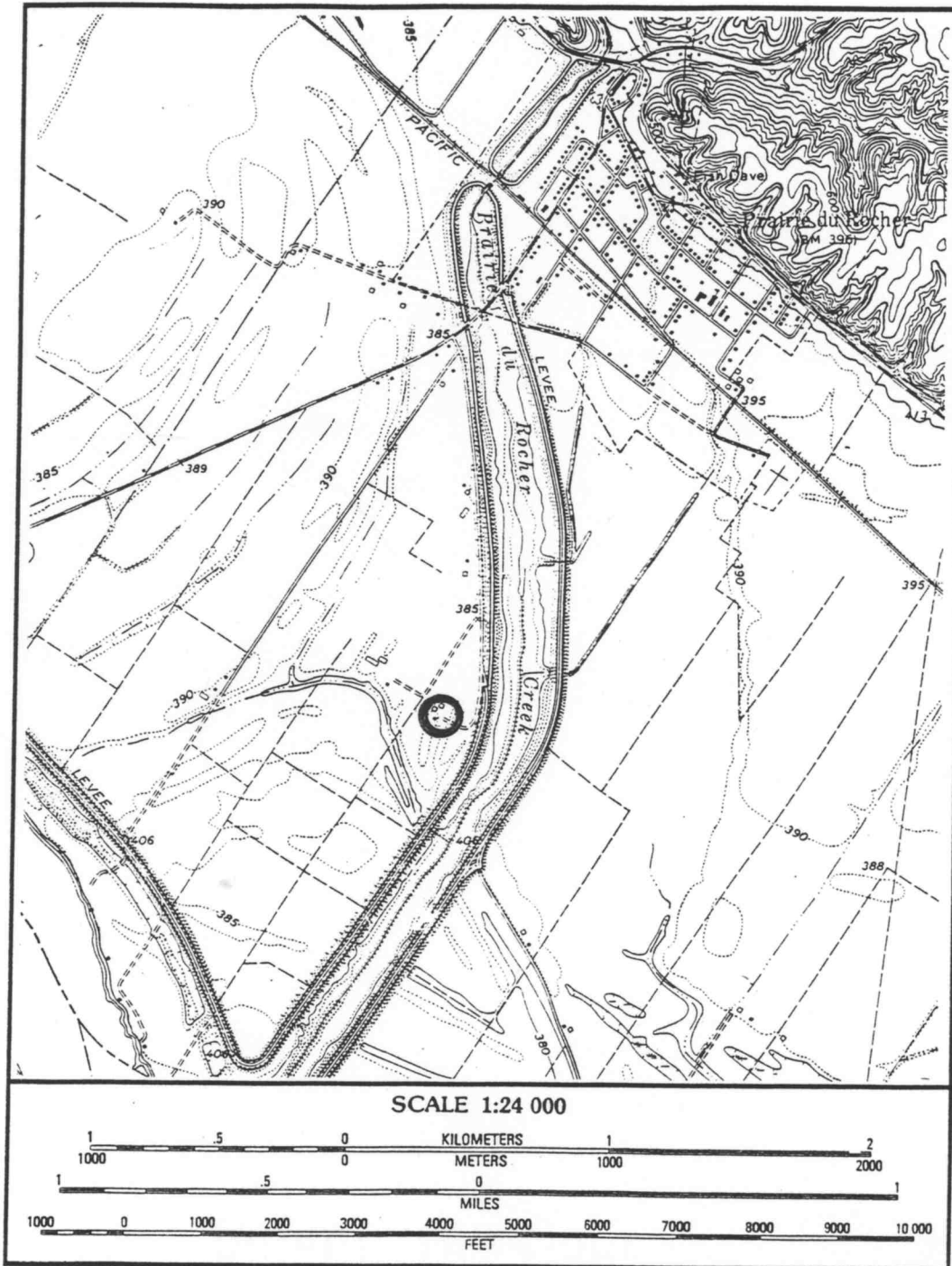


Figure 1. Location of the Allard House on the 1970 Prairie du Rocher U.S.G.S. Topographic Map.

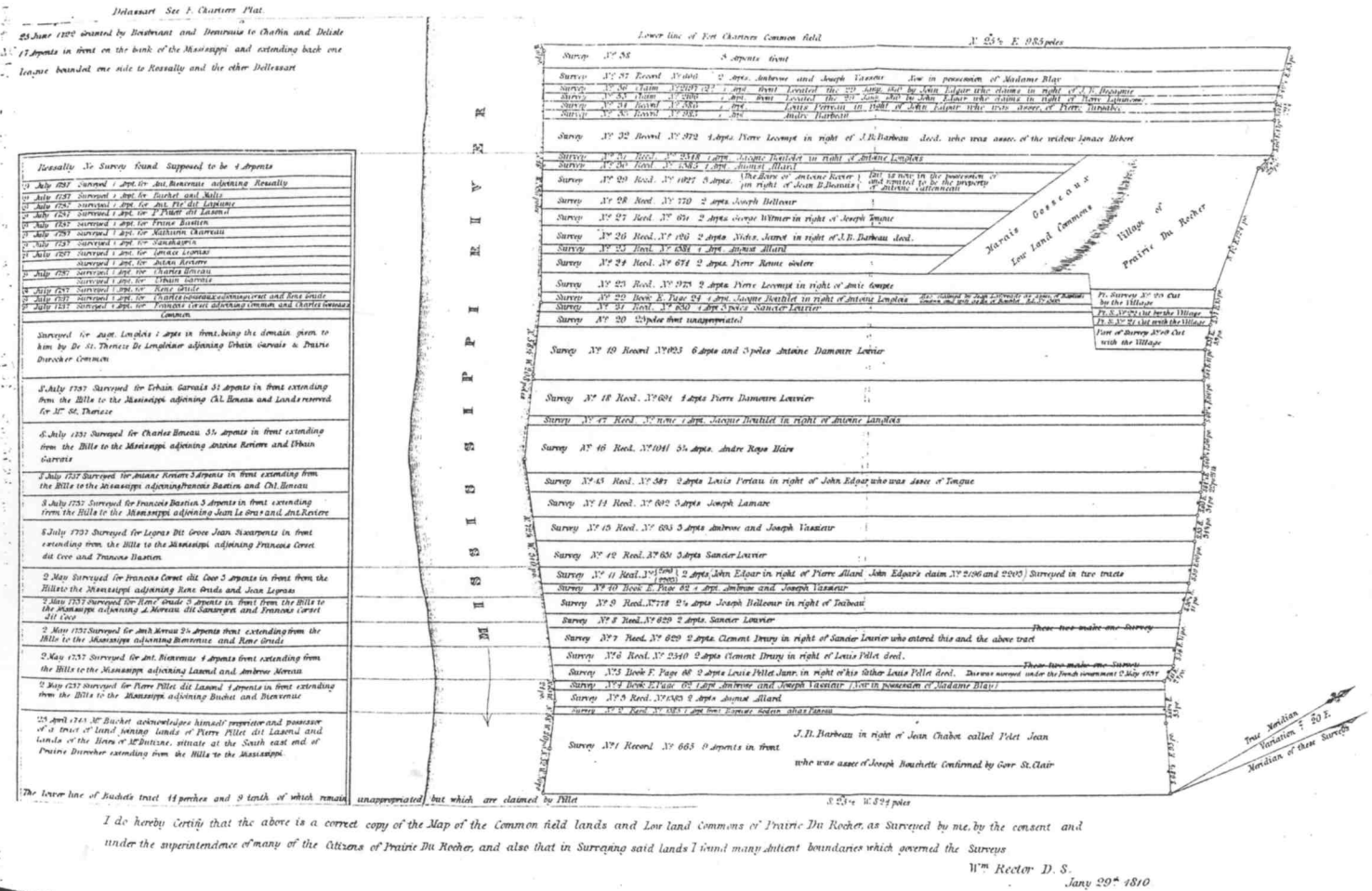


Figure 2. Map of the Common Fields of Prairie Du Rocher (American State Papers, Volume II 1834:n.p.).

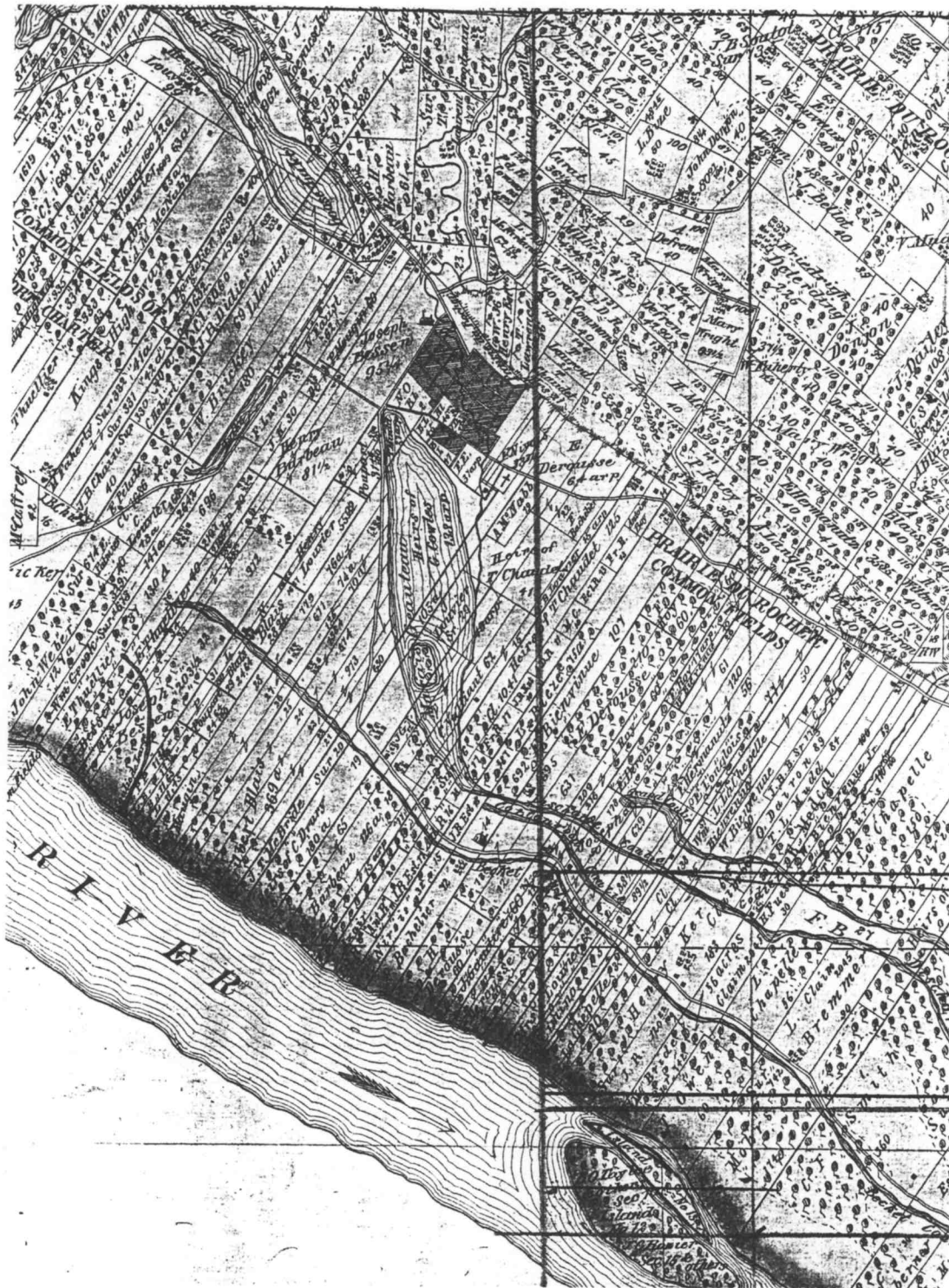


Figure 3. The Praire Du Rocher Common Fields illustrating the Gilbert Blais land holdings and the Allard House (Brink and Company 1875).

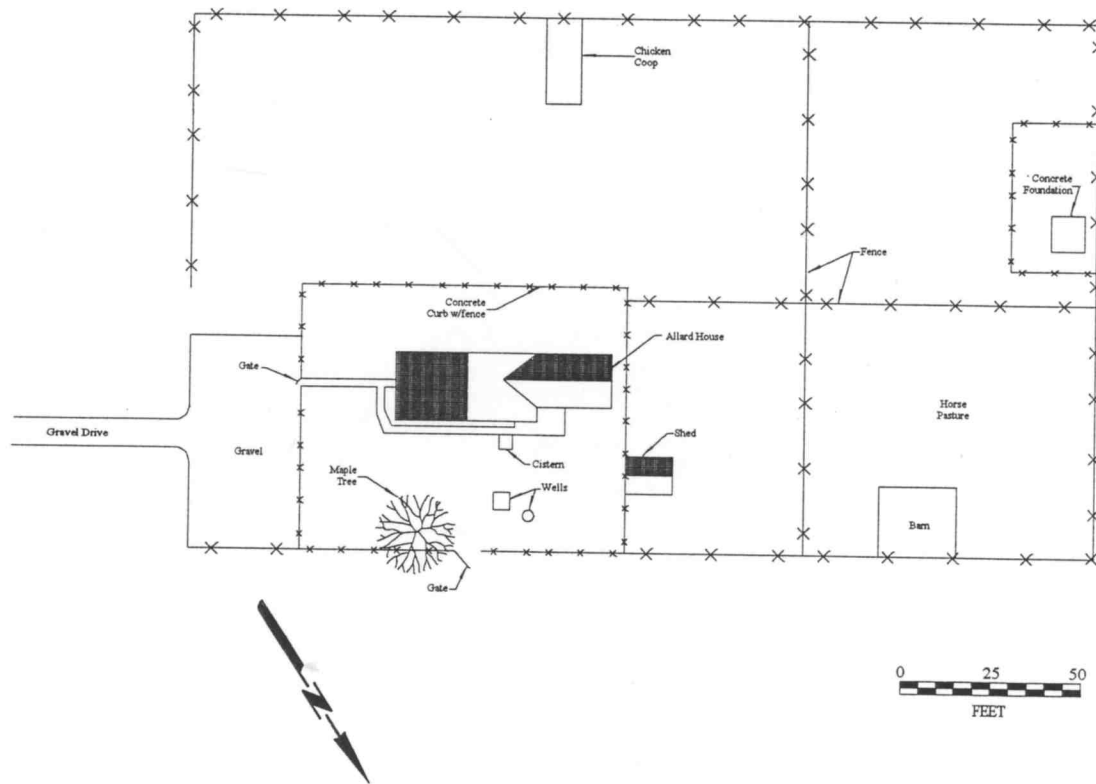


Figure 4. Site plan showing the Allard House and surrounding lot, 1995.

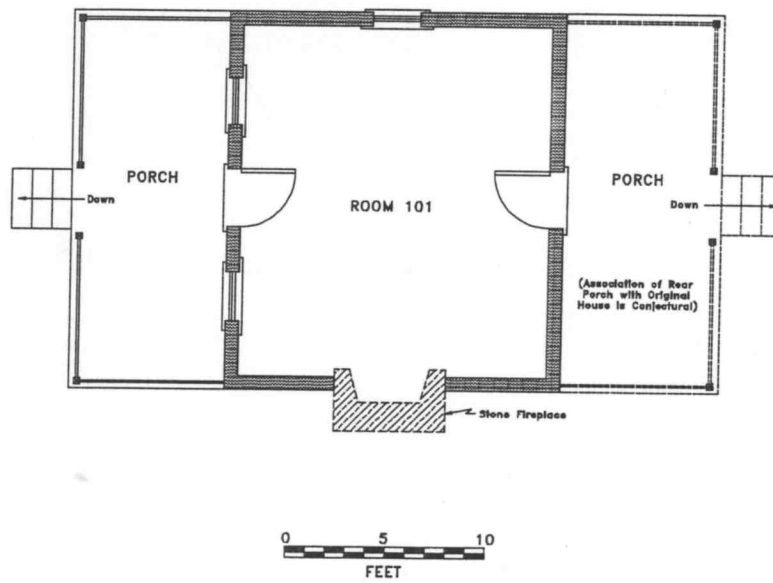


Figure 5. Ground floor plan of the Allard House, as originally constructed (ca. 1810).



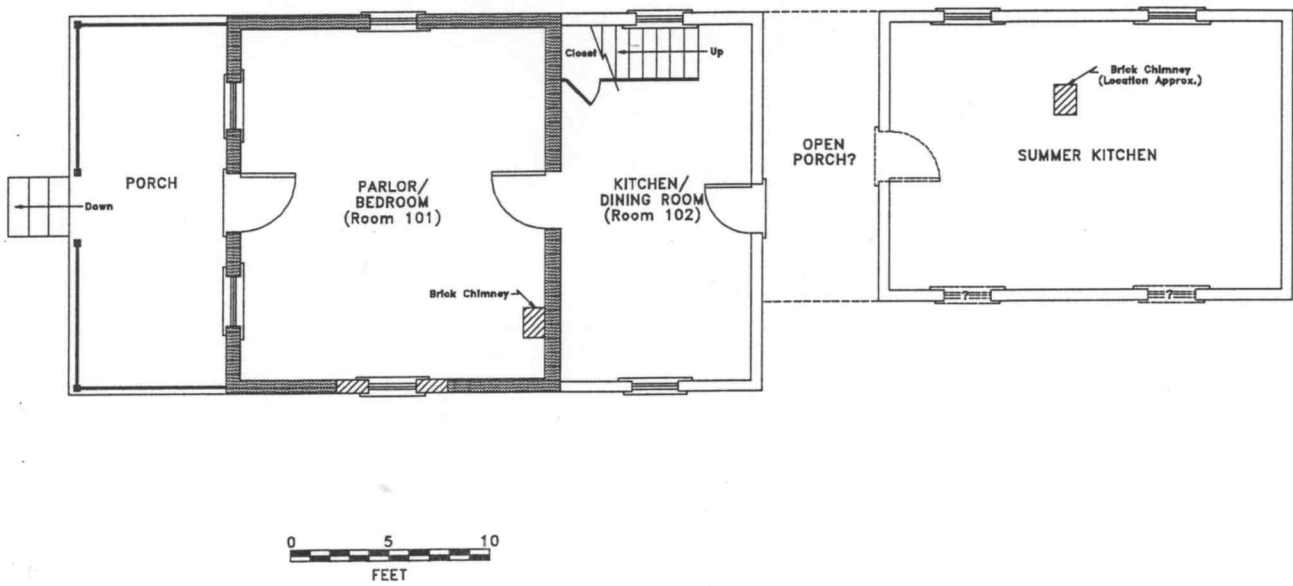


Figure 6. Ground floor plan of the Allard House, after construction of the brick-nogged addition and summer kitchen (ca. 1850-60).

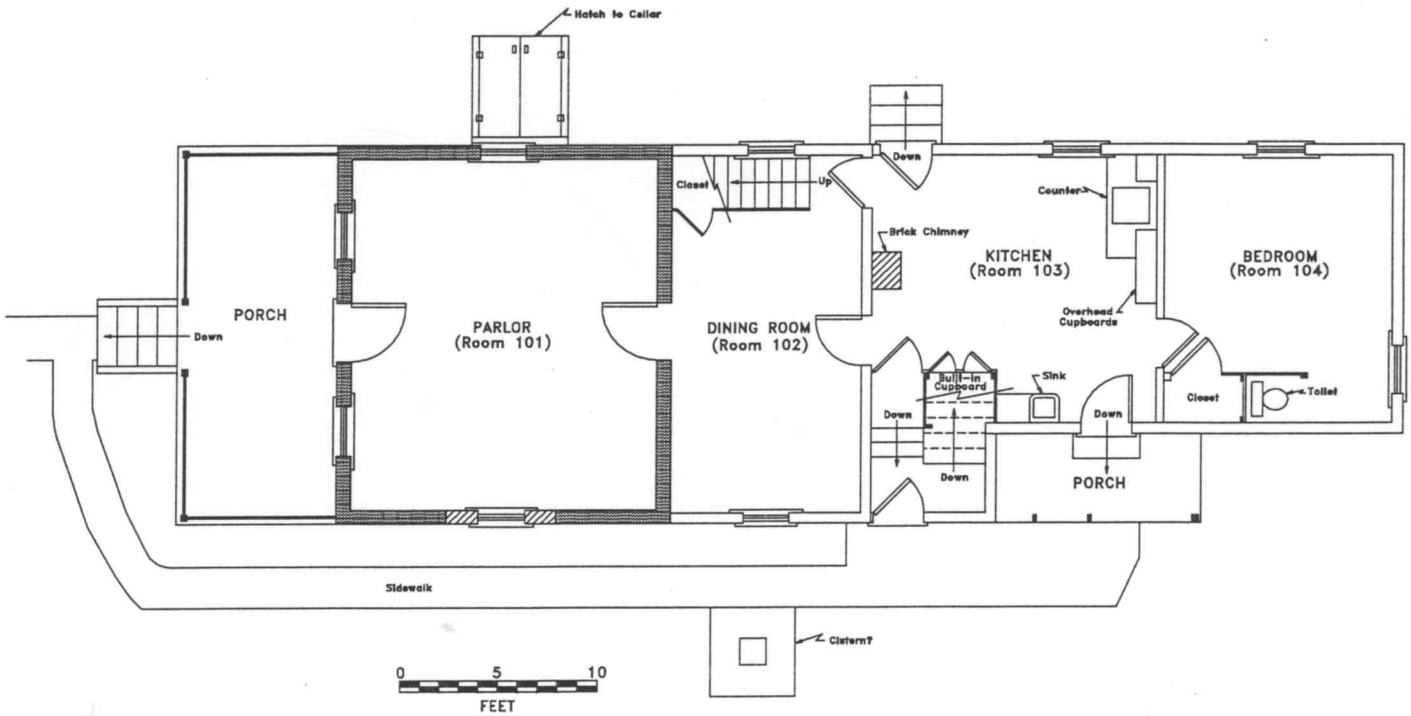


Figure 7. Ground floor plan of the Allard House, showing the summer kitchen addition and the recent modifications to the house, 1995.

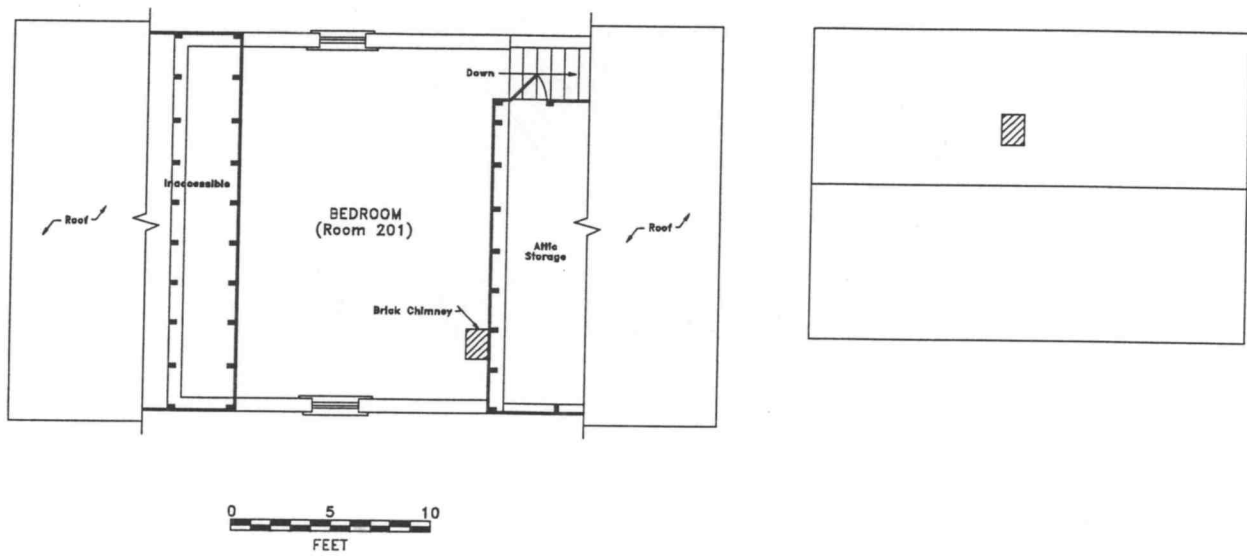


Figure 8. Second floor plan of the Allard House, after the construction of the brick-nogged addition (ca. 1850-60).

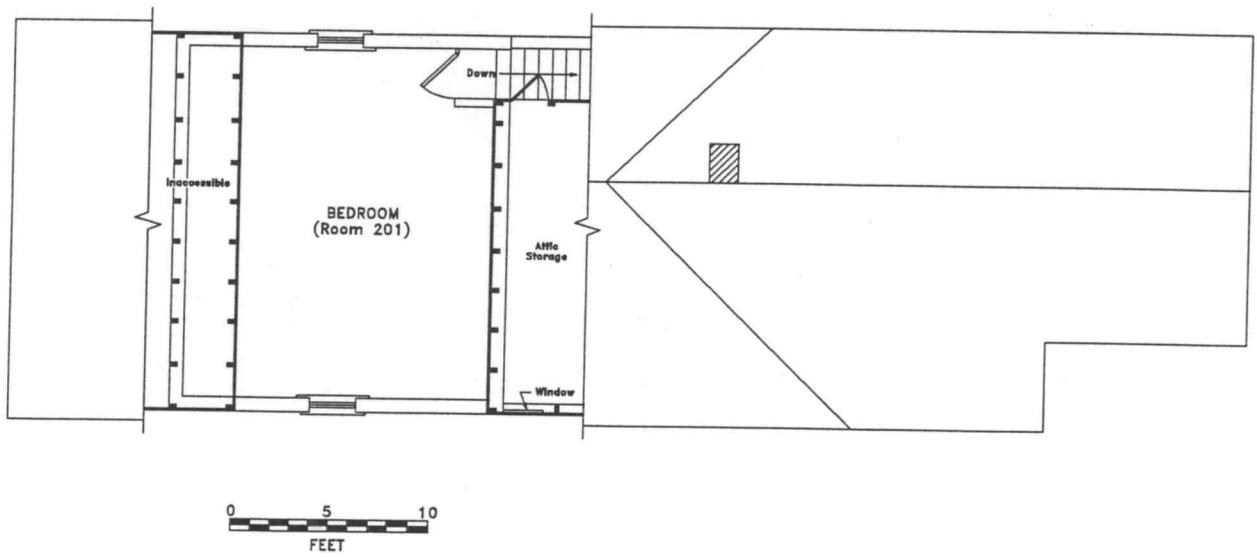


Figure 9. Second floor plan of the Allard House, 1995.

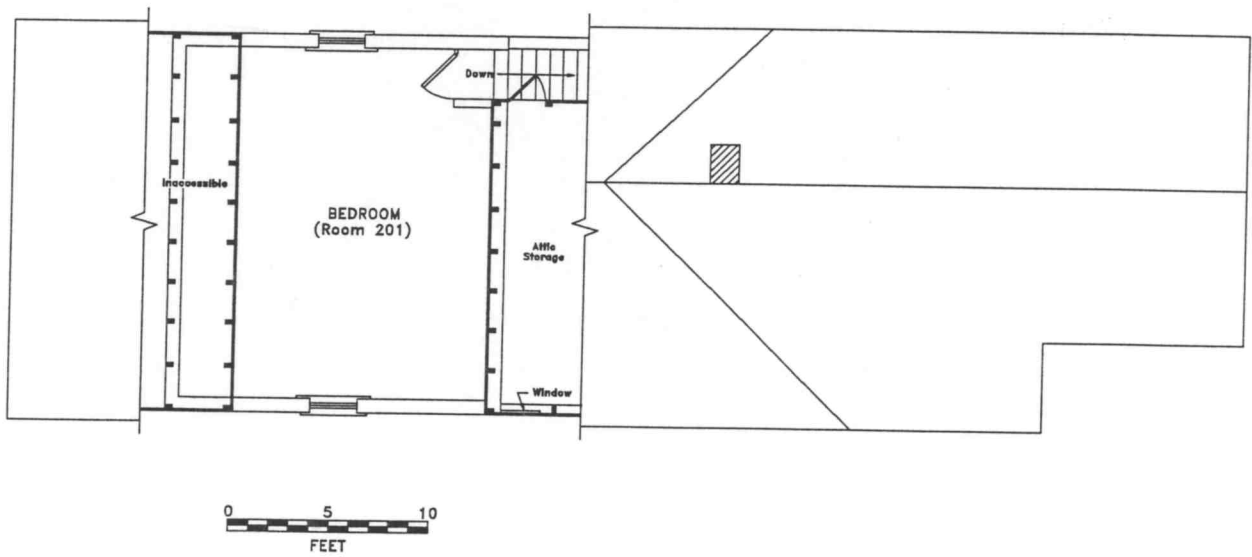


Figure 9. Second floor plan of the Allard House, 1995.

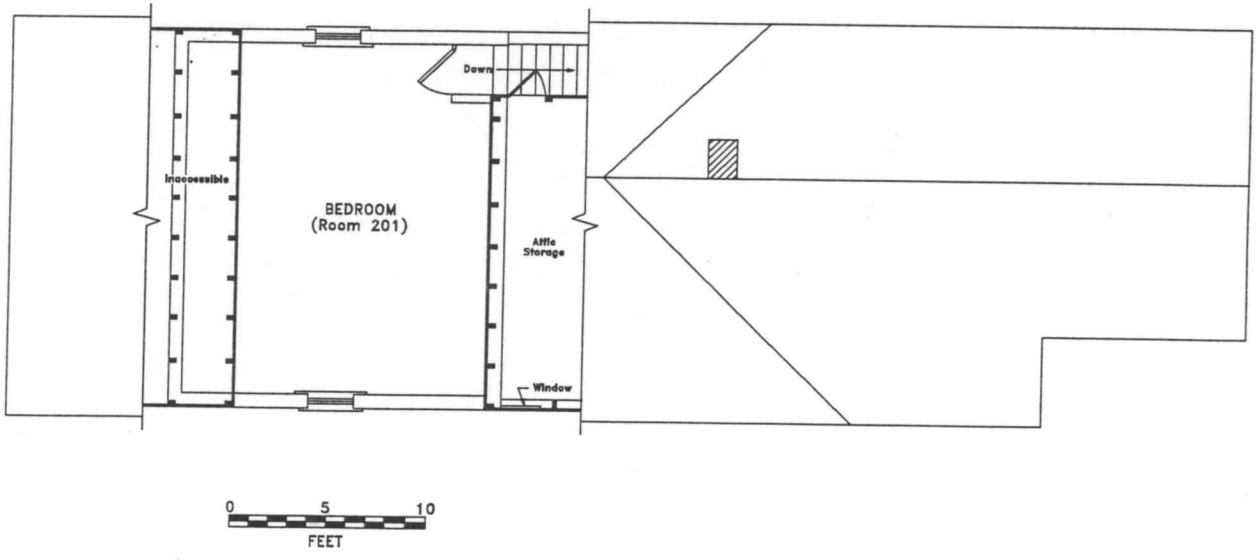


Figure 9. Second floor plan of the Allard House, 1995.

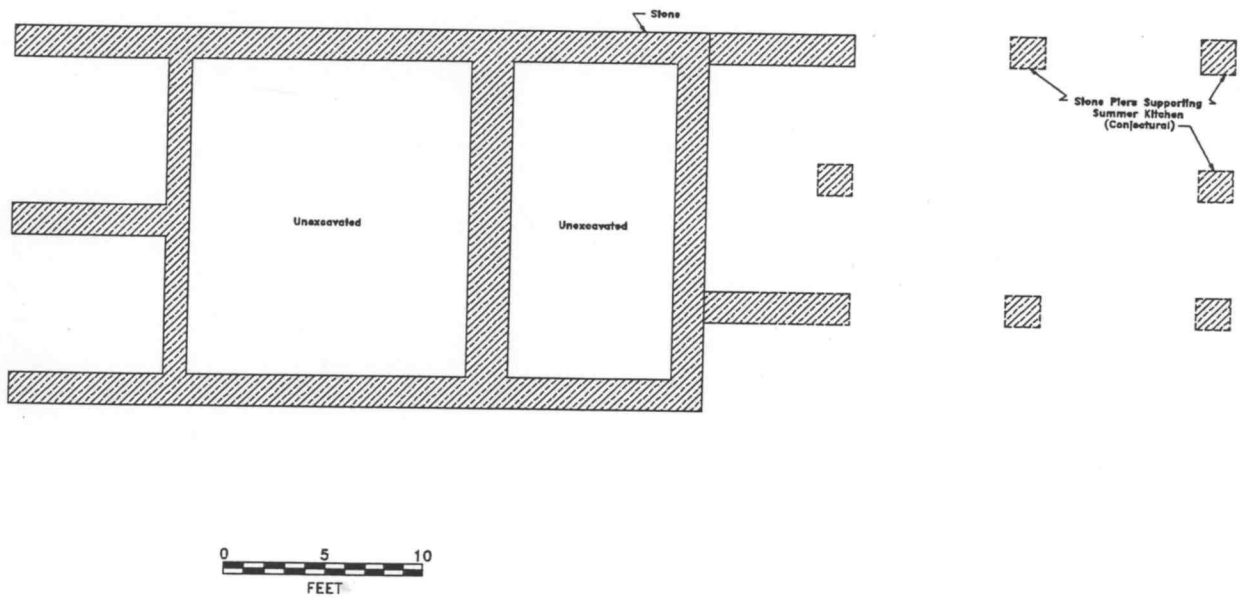


Figure 10. Basement and foundation plan of the Allard House, ca. 1860.

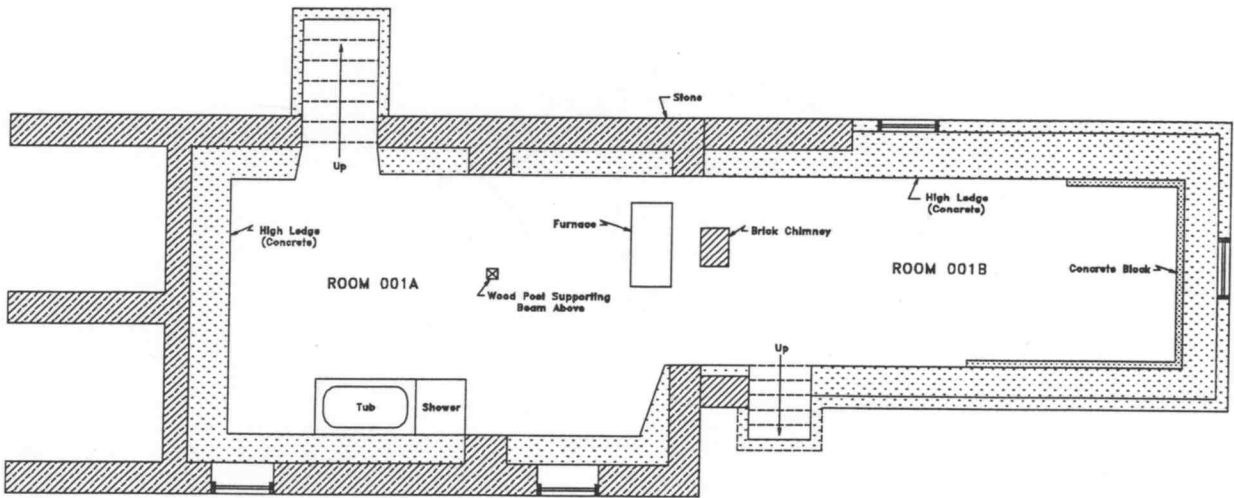


Figure 11. Basement and foundation plan of the Allard House, 1995.



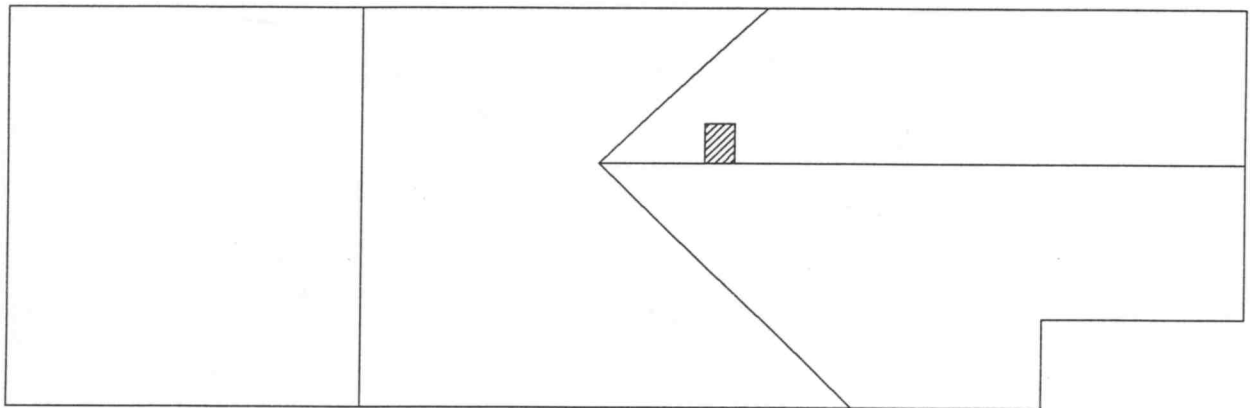


Figure 12. Roof plan of the Allard House, 1995.

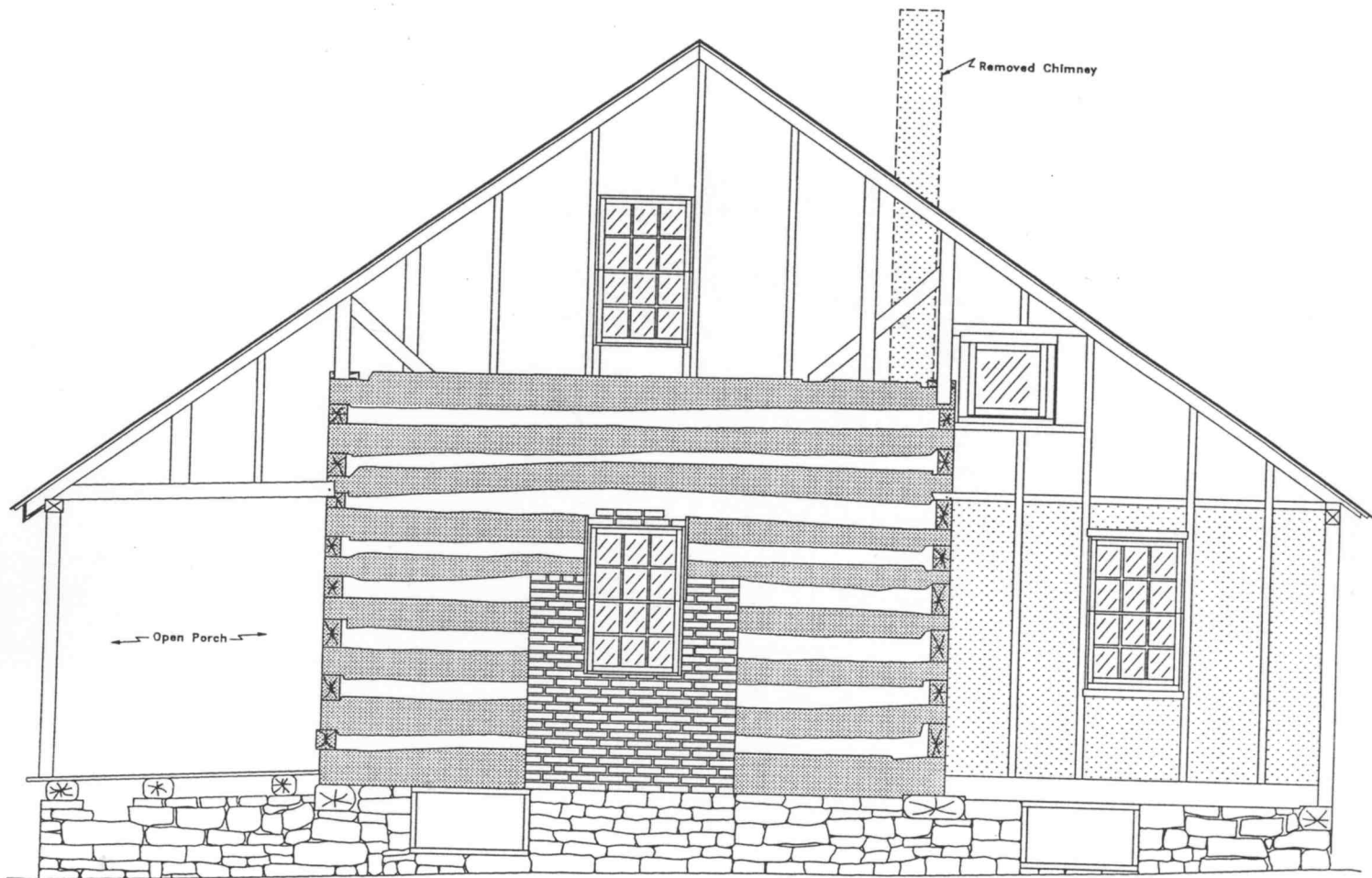


Figure 13. East elevation of the Allard House, 1995.  
Areas of light shading are infilled with brick nogging.

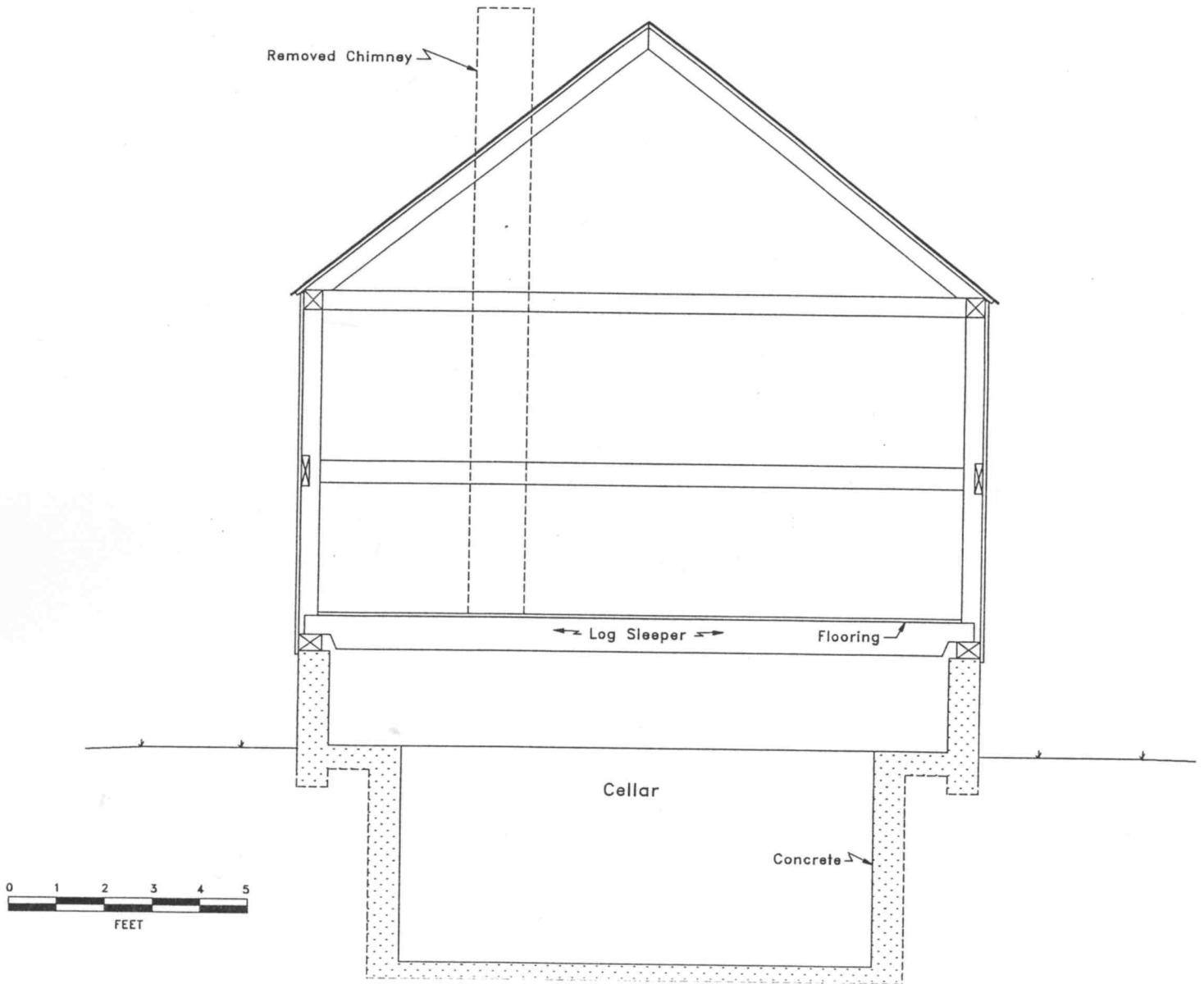


Figure 14. North sectional view of the Allard House summer kitchen.

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IL HABS No. R-1996-1

Documentation: 8 photographs (1995)  
47 data pages (1996)

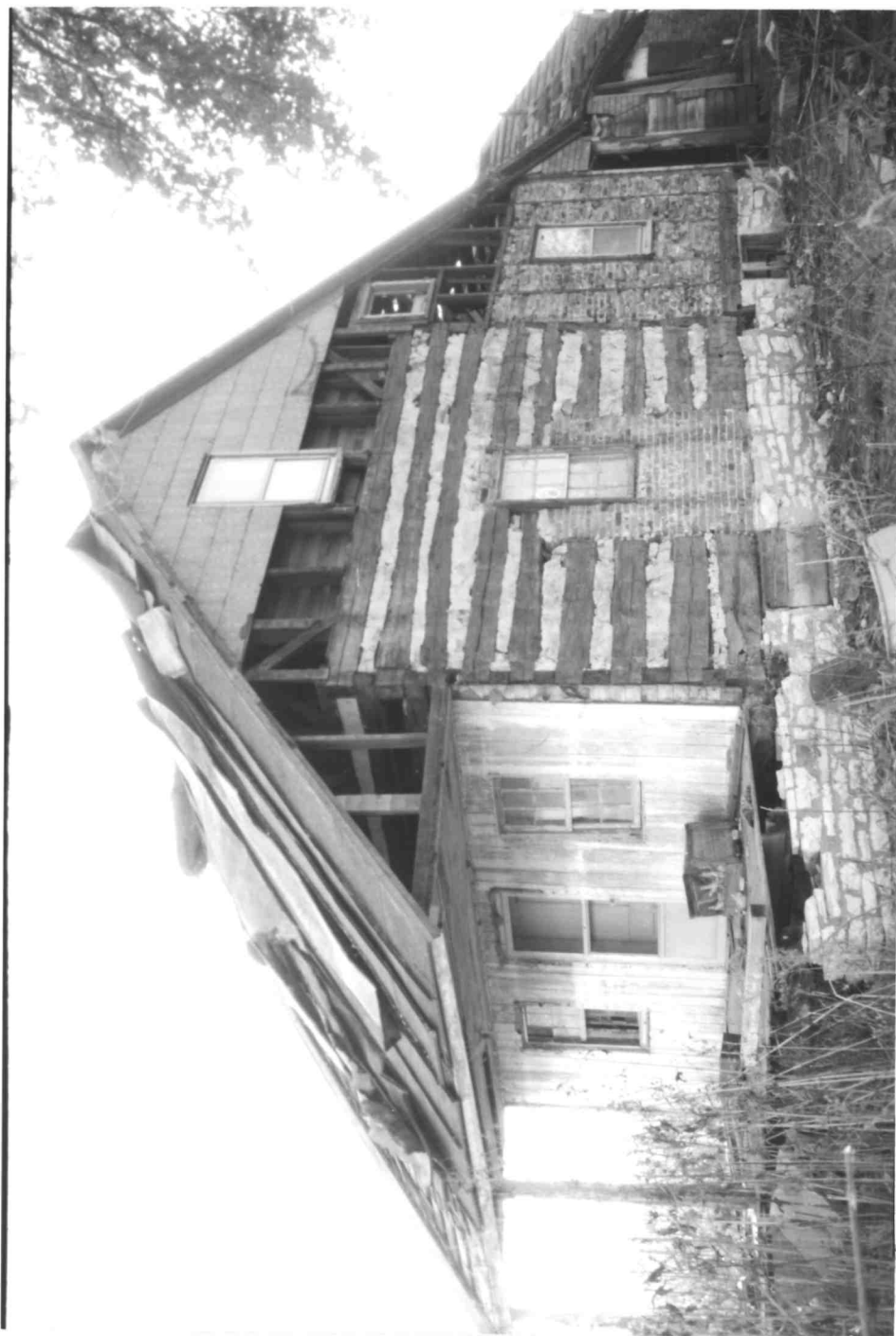
Christopher Stratton, Photographer, October 1995

- R-1996-1.1 Front and side view of the Allard House.
- R-1996-1.2 Front and side view of the Allard House.
- R-1996-1.3 North elevation of the Allard House.
- R-1996-1.4 North elevation of the Allard House, showing  
bricked-in chimney.
- R-1996-1.5 North elevation of the Allard House, showing  
rear extension.
- R-1996-1.6 North elevation of the Allard House, showing  
notching details.
- R-1996-1.7 Details of north elevation of the Allard House,  
showing notching details.
- R-1996-1.8 Interior view at the Allard House, showing  
floor joists.

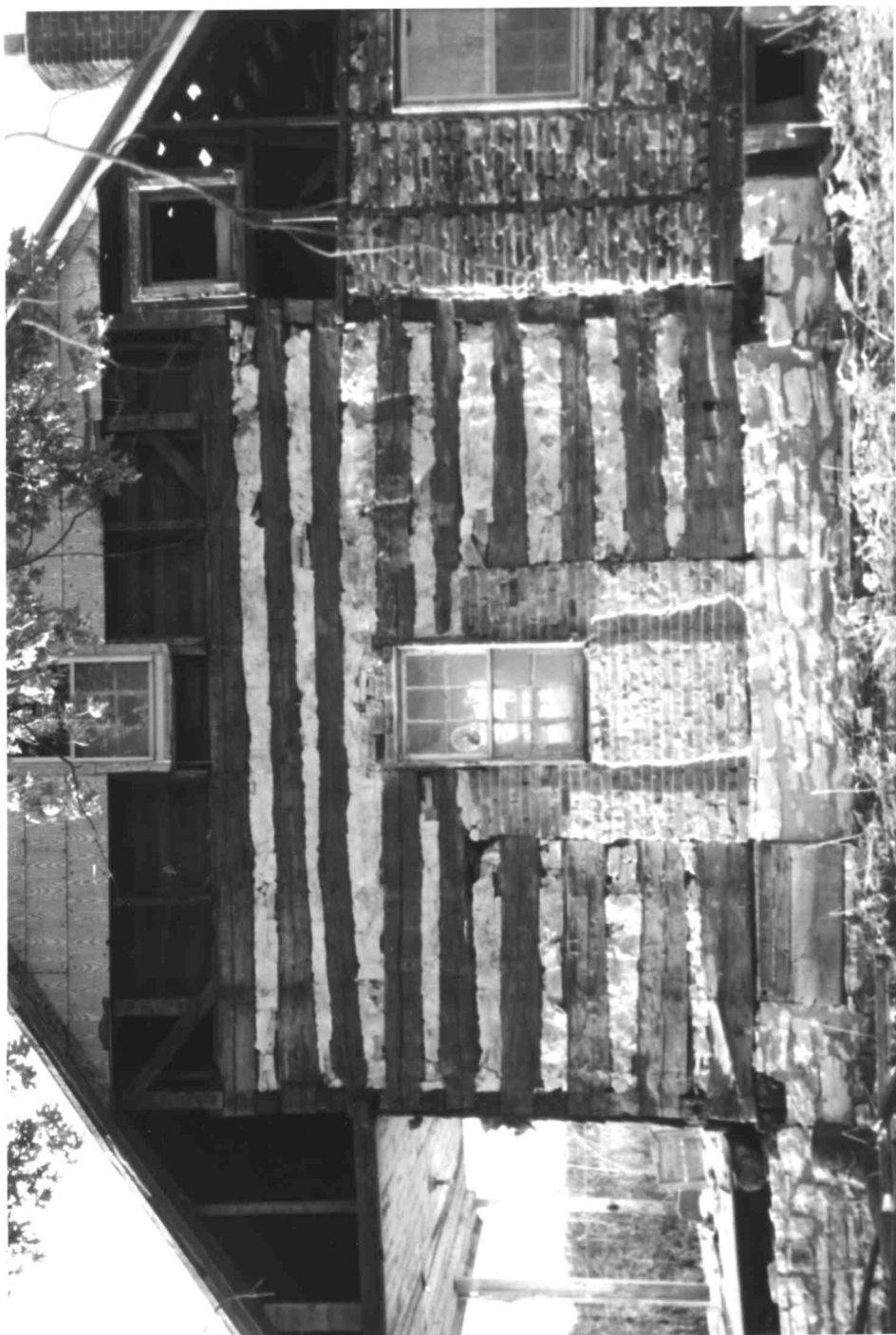
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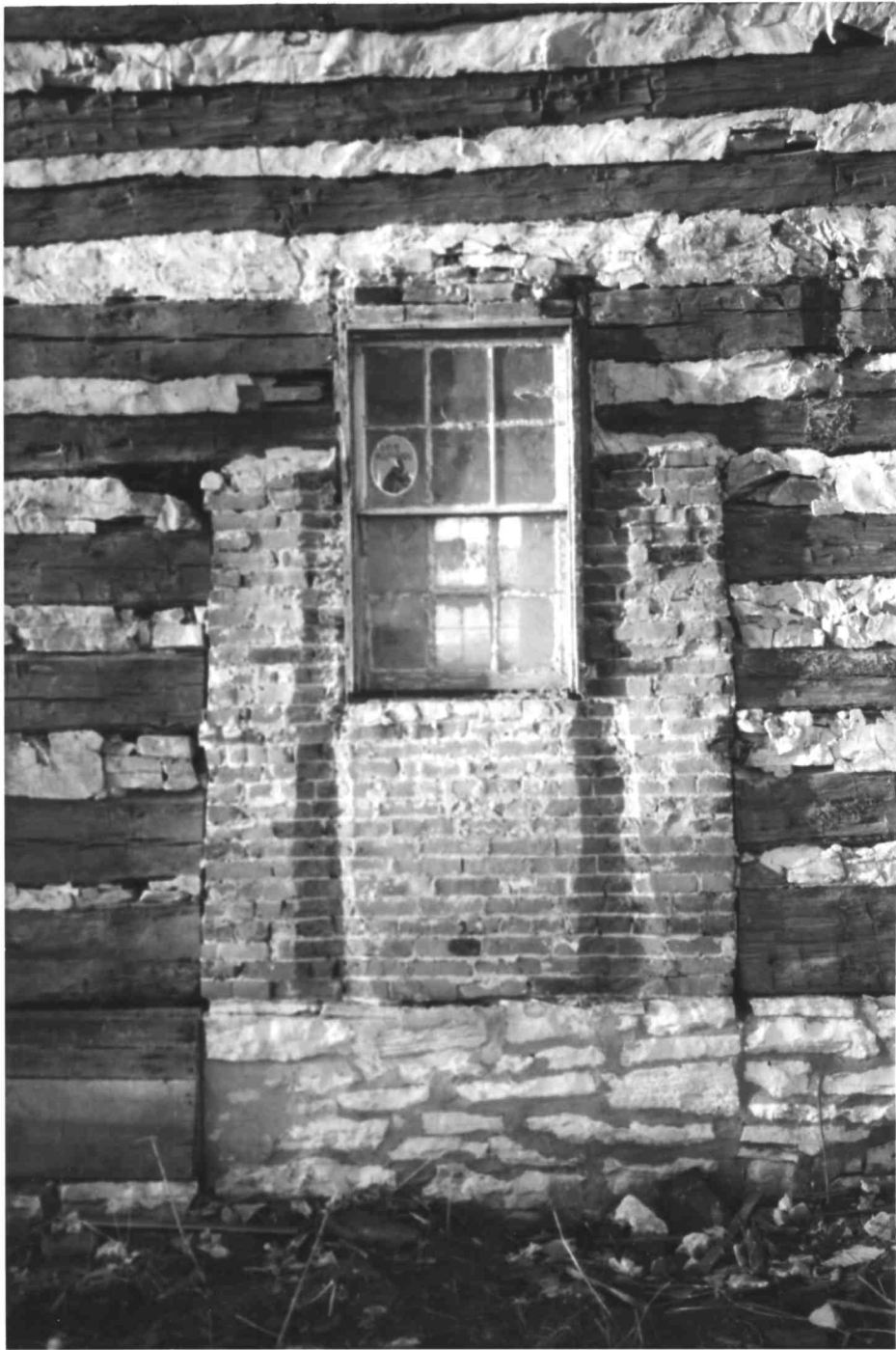


ALLARD HOUSE  
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ALLARD HOUSE  
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ALLARD HOUSE  
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