

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Frank Pisar Farmstead (NeHBS # SA00-3)  
and or common Joseph Kastanek Farm

2. Location

street & number N/A  not for publication  
city, town Dorchester  vicinity of  
state Nebraska code 031 county Saline code 151

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Joseph Kastanek, Jr.  
street & number R.F.D. #2  
city, town Dorchester  vicinity of state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk, Saline County Courthouse  
street & number N/A  
city, town Wilber state Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date On-going  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society  
city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			N/A

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Frank Pisar farmstead is situated in central Saline County, Nebraska and is composed of eleven contributing structures and buildings which supported a diversified general farming operation during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The location of the farm along a small limestone vein made this building material readily available for the construction of the original house and barn. Structural and historical integrity has been maintained.

**General Information**

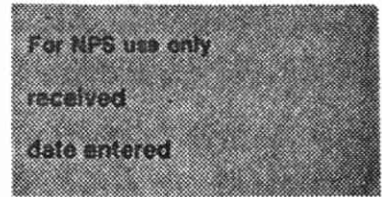
The Frank Pisar farmstead is located near the center of Saline County, Nebraska, two and one-half miles south of the now defunct village of Pleasant Hill. The 80 acre tract which comprises this nomination is the original homestead upon which Pisar filed in 1872. Though Pisar increased his farm land in later years, this smaller original tract provides an appropriate contextual setting for the farmyard buildings discussed in this nomination. This property is located in an area of Nebraska which geographically supports general diversified farming and is situated in the watershed of Spring Creek, a tributary of Turkey Creek. The farm is located at the northeastern end of a small limestone vein which supplied building materials for the structures included in the nomination. The inventory of principal buildings and structures follow with their numbers corresponding to those on the accompanying site map.

**Contributing Buildings And Structures**

1. **Stone house** (photos 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) built 1877, one and one half stories, native limestone laid in rubble-stone technique; brick segmental arches over facade openings; one dormer window on both the east and west facades; wood shingled roof; main level consists of two rooms in a hall-parlor or hall-chamber arrangement; loft level is one large space; original access to second level was along exterior east facade with entry the through dormer in an Old World fashion; an interior stairway was later installed along the northern and eastern walls of the house; date stone is set above front door, surrounded by brick; house is now used for agricultural storage.

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2. Stone barn (photos 6, 7, 8, 9) built 1888; rectangular plan, gable roof; lean-to cattle shed along east facade; marble date stone above south doorway (photo 8) reads: "Staveno Rok. 1888 hakladem Franka Pisar Stavitel Jan Maruska a Jos. Pisar"; barn stuccoed 1937.

6. Corn crib (photos 12, 13) built 1910's of perforated concrete blocks; oval shape (e.g. two cylinders divided by central passage) with central drive through separating two cribs; frame head house covered with tin atop the structure.

7. Hog house small octagonal frame structure; built ca. 1910's.

8. Cattle barn (photos 13, 16) rectangular frame structure; wood shingled, gabled roof.

9. Garage (photo 16, 17) built ca 1930's; frame, gabled entrance.

10. Windmill tower (photos 16,17) steel tower, early 20th century; used to pump water; attached steel ladder leads to platform; fan blades are missing however gear box and vane remain.

11. Cellar visible earthen mound with stone reinforced entry; ventilation pipe penetrates mound.

12. Two poultry sheds (photo 1) small frame shed-roofed buildings.

13. Outhouse (photo 14) square frame building with shed roof; doorway on east facade; diminutive ventilation opening on south.

14. Five hog/sheep sheds (photo 13,14,16) rectangular frame outbuildings with gable and shed roof lines; doors and windows oriented in south-facing direction.

**Non Contributing Buildings**

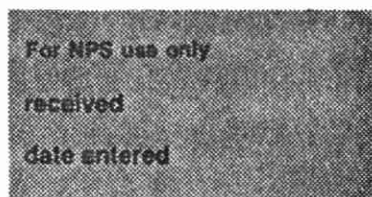
3. Frame house (photos 15,16) built 1950; one and one-half story; rectangular plan with extension; gable roof.

4. Garage ca 1950; frame, rectangular plan; gable roof.

5. Machine shed (photo 16, background) large metal quonset building.

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**Integrity**

Historical and architectural integrity is maintained for all contributing buildings and structures. The layout of the farm-yard still displays its modified central European courtyard plan. The buildings are virtually unaltered; show minor deterioration.



# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) ethnic

**Specific dates** 1877-c.1919

**Builder/Architect** Frank Pisar; Mr. Maruska

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Frank Pisar farmstead is significant in architecture under Criterion C for it's association with folk material technology and Bohemian-American culture. Ethnically, the farmstead conveys the family's Bohemian heritage in the loosely arranged courtyard layout of the farm buildings. The Pisar farmstead is significant in agriculture under Criterion A in the context of Southeastern Nebraska General Farming.

HISTORY

Bohemian and Moravian immigrants first settled in Saline County in 1865 taking advantage of the 1862 Homestead Act. By the 1870's, the continued influx of immigrants soon gave Saline County the second largest Czech population in the State of Nebraska.

Frantisek "Frank" Pisar (1840-1929) was a native of Stejska, Jindrichuv, Hradec, Bohemia. In 1872, Pisar, his wife Terezie and their children left Bohemia and homesteaded this 80 acre tract in Pleasant Hill Precinct, Saline County. Pisar was an enterprising farmer and by 1885 he owned 209 acres of improved land plus 110 acres of permanent meadows, had several head of livestock and a large orchard. Pisar also maintained an apiary and in 1884, he produced 45 pounds of honey. He managed a nearly self-sufficient farming operation and built three separate fruit cellars or caves for produce storage.

The area where Pisar settled is situated at the end of a limestone vein. This vein extends from section 22 (Pisar's section) and section 23 and runs in a south-westerly direction about 12 miles to just north of the town of Western, also in Saline County. There have been several small rock quarries and lime kilns opened in this precinct through the years. Most quarries were used by the individual landowner for his personal needs, however, a few companies leased land in this area and operated kilns and quarries for commercial construction and agricultural use.

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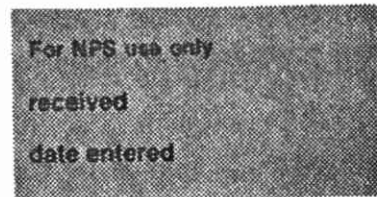
ARCHITECTURE

Architecturally, the Pizar house (1877) and barn (1888) are significant in two historic contexts -- folk material technology and Bohemian culture. Isolated limestone outcroppings are an unusual topographic feature of the Saline county environment. The local vein of limestone produced building materials for just five houses, several outbuildings, foundations and road rock, as far as has been recorded, primarily in Pleasant Hill precinct. The Pizar house and barn remain as the only two structures that have not fallen to ruin. Because this limestone was relatively poor in tensile strength, builders were required to use methods other than stone for lintels in spanning structural openings. The choice of brick for the segmental arches over doors and windows impart an aesthetically pleasing visual effect in the solution of this technical problem.

Limestone building technology is characteristic of several areas around Nebraska during the pioneering periods. The largest contiguous area is in southeastern Nebraska, comprising Cass, Otoe, Nemaha, Richardson, Johnson and Pawnee counties, and parts of Gage, Lancaster, Sarpy and Jefferson counties. Saline County lies outside this area; the Pleasant Hill outcroppings generally being of poorer quality than that of the larger area. Particular technical associations with the poorer quality stone is the use of rubble-stone masonry, sometimes with dressed faces, and the use of segmental or jack arches for structural openings rather than stone lintels (the Plouzek house, a nearby ruin, used stone for the arches). The Pizar buildings significantly express this geologic aspect, doing so within the tradition of folk masonry culture.

Ethnic architectural associations are also evident in the use of stone masonry, a construction technique which was relatively new to Bohemian emigrants. Stone construction in the Old Country by peasant farmers was made possible only after the peasant's social status changed as a result of several reforms beginning in 1781 and culminating in 1878 (Puskar & Thurzo, 256). With newly acquired freedom and enhanced economic status, new houses were built, and old houses remodeled, using stone masonry or plastering in imitation of masonry. The older technique, particularly in Bohemia, of horizontal log construction gave way to newly acquired masonry skills. Name and date stones prominently displayed on the front of the house are associated with this construction.

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In the New World, a variety of masonry techniques were employed by Bohemian-Americans. In South Dakota, a number of examples of a crude rubble and clay construction are known. In Nebraska, the Zavadil house (listed National Register of Historic Places, Cedar County) is the best-known, employing a combination of field stone masonry with dressed chalk-rock trim. The Pisar house and barn is notable in this context, being built of dressed (faced) stone laid in a uniform rubble pattern. The decorative name and date stones on both the house and the barn are symbolically significant of the new status of Bohemian emigrants in the New World.

Formally, no known Bohemian antecedents exist for the Pisar house or barn (although this is the first such first-generation barn to be recorded in Nebraska). The house, in this regard, appears to be modeled after American types, except in-so-far as the original stair to the loft existed only on the exterior, with access through the roof dormer. This unusual design feature is very typically central and eastern European in character, and has been noted as such in several Nebraska houses.

Ethnically, the Pisar farmstead also conveys the Bohemian heritage of the Pisar family in that the layout of the buildings typify a modified Central European courtyard design. The fencing patterns and major structural openings direct farm activities toward a central courtyard, a space which was tightly arranged in the Old Country, but which was retained in a loosely organized fashion by Bohemians in the New World. One of the better Nebraska examples is the Pavelka farmstead in Webster County (listed, National Register of Historic Places).

AGRICULTURE

The Pisar farmstead is significant in the area of agriculture in the context of Southeastern Nebraska General Farming. The Saline County area represents the western extension of the broader, midwestern cornbelt farming system which established the nation as a leading producer of agricultural products. This type of farming encouraged self-sufficiency. Grain and forage crops were planted in rotation, with the feed produced used to fatten the livestock (Schafer & Murphy). The Pisar family maintained a large orchard and bee apiary which further enhanced the self-sufficiency of the operation. The fine and extensive complex of buildings associated with the farm well-represent the property types associated with General Farming; the high degree of in-

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tegrity manifest here makes the Pizar farm one of a relatively small number of such farms with significant associations with General Farming.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 80 acres

Quadrangle name Pleasant Hill, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	4	6	6	2	1	8	0	4	4	9	1	4	9	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

1	4	6	6	2	9	7	0	4	4	9	1	5	1	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

1	4	6	6	3	0	0	0	4	4	9	1	1	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D 

1	4	6	6	2	1	8	0	4	4	9	1	0	9	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

### Verbal boundary description and justification

This property can be described legally as the north half of the southwest quarter of Section 22, Township 7 North, Range 3 East of the Sixth principal meridian, totaling 80 acres and includes all historically associated property.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet Jeffries Spencer, Cultural Historian; David Murphy, Architect

organization Nebraska State Historical Society

date January 1986

street & number 1500 R Street

telephone 402/471-4767

city or town Lincoln

state Nebraska

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*James A. Hanson*

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

date June 11, 1986

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Bibliography

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Centennial History Committee. **Centennial History of Dorchester and Pleasant Hill.** Crete, NE: Crete News, 1981.

**Dorchester (NE) Star.** April 18, 1929, Frank Pizar obituary.

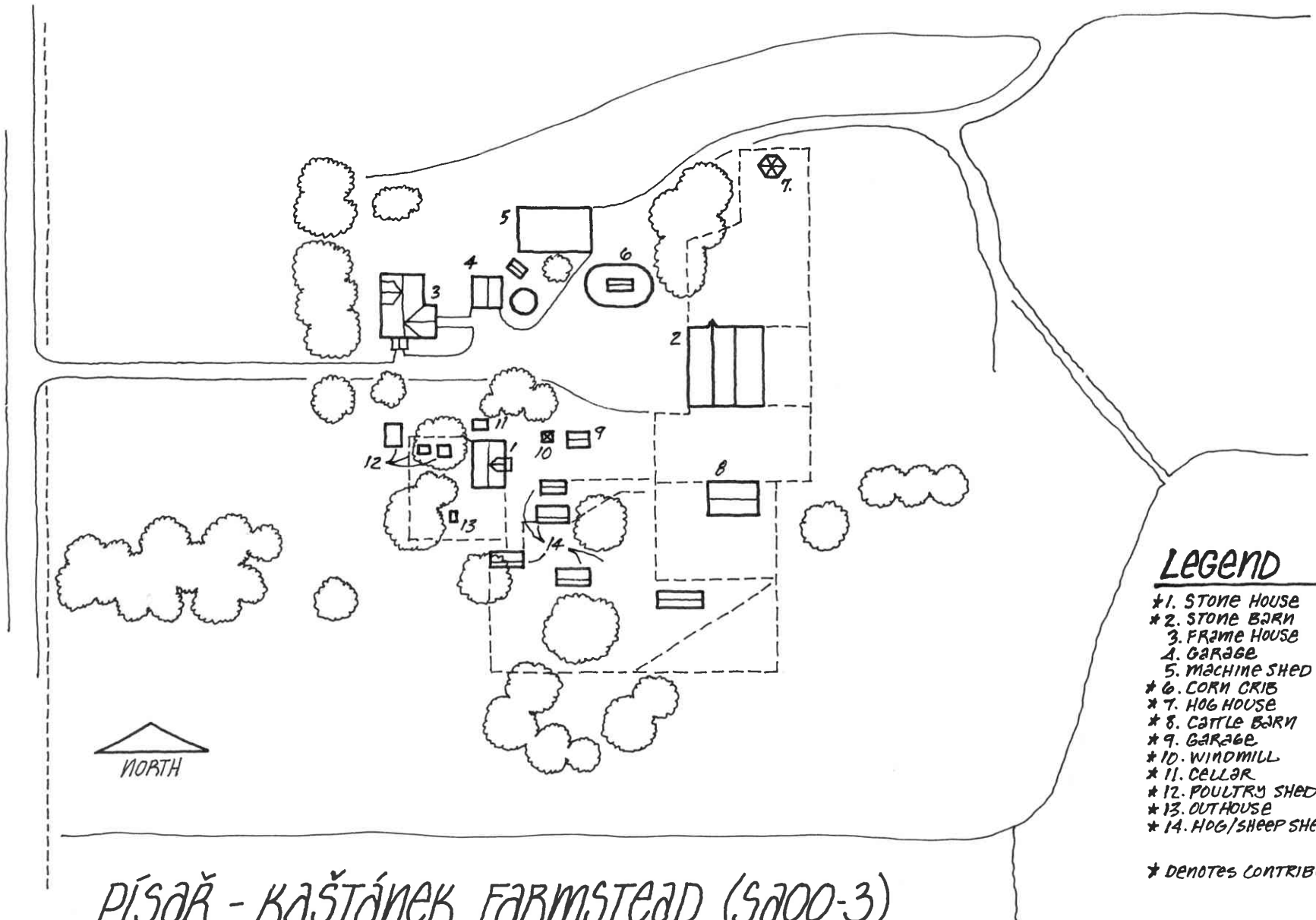
Puskar, Imrich, and Igor Thurzo. "Czech Village Architecture," **Architectural Review** 109:652 (1951), 255-61.

Rosicky, Rose. **A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska.** Omaha: Czech Historical Society of Nebraska, 1929.

Saline County, Nebraska census records, 1880, 1885, Pleasant Hill precinct.

Saline County, Nebraska land records.

Schafer, Anne, and David Murphy. "Southeastern General Farming: The Period of Expansion and Prosperity, 1876-1919." TS. Draft, 1985.



**LEGEND**

- \* 1. STONE HOUSE
  - \* 2. STONE BARN
  - \* 3. FRAME HOUSE
  - \* 4. GARAGE
  - \* 5. MACHINE SHED
  - \* 6. CORN CRIB
  - \* 7. HOG HOUSE
  - \* 8. CATTLE BARN
  - \* 9. GARAGE
  - \* 10. WINDMILL
  - \* 11. CELLAR
  - \* 12. POULTRY SHEDS (3)
  - \* 13. OUTHOUSE
  - \* 14. HOG/SHEEP SHEDS (5)
- \* DENOTES CONTRIBUTING

PÍSAŘ - KAŠTÁNEK FARMSTEAD (S000-3)  
 RURAL SALINE COUNTY NEBRASKA

SITE PLAN SKETCH DRAWN BY D. MURPHY FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS AND R.L. MAHER FIELD NOTES (3JUN76)  
 NO SCALE



Photo 1 of 17 – House, west façade  
Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE, 1977 (DM 7702a:20)

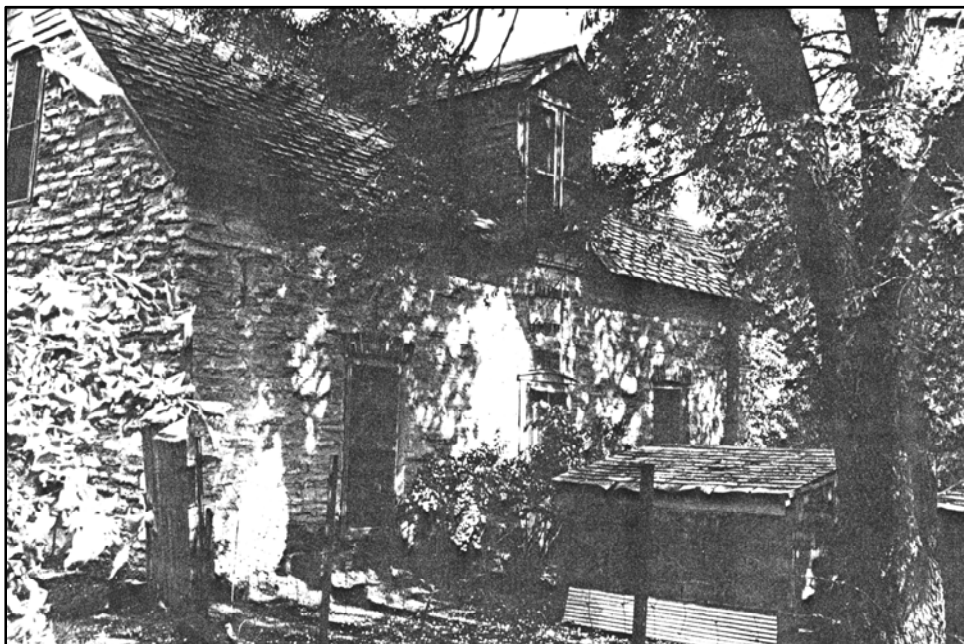


Photo 2 of 17 – House, north and west façade  
Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE, 1975 (DM 7505b:25)



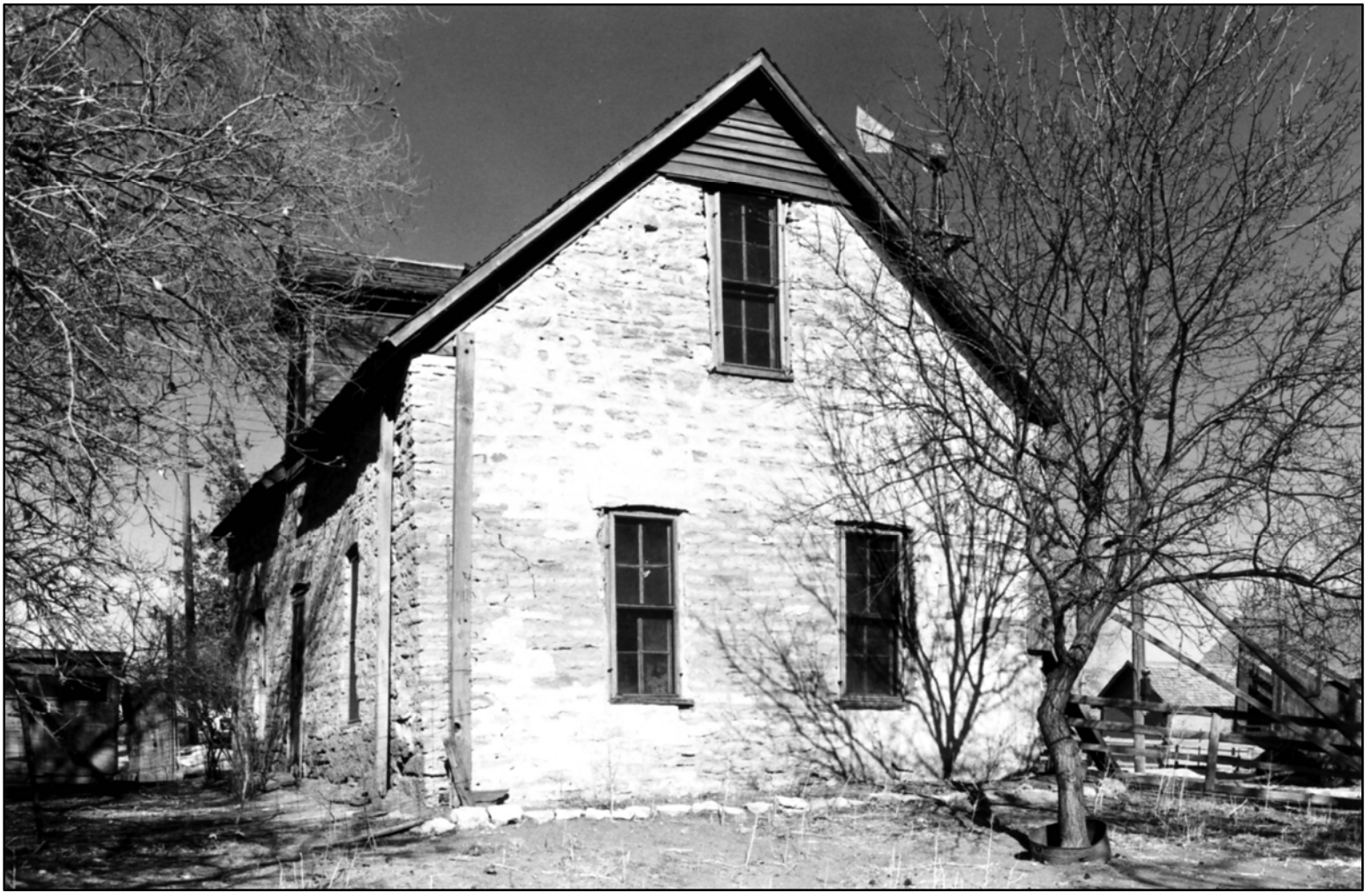


Photo 3 of 17 – House, west (front) and south facades  
Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE, 1977 (DM 7702a:23)



Photo 4 of 17 – House east (rear) façade  
Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE, 1975 (DM 7505b:30)

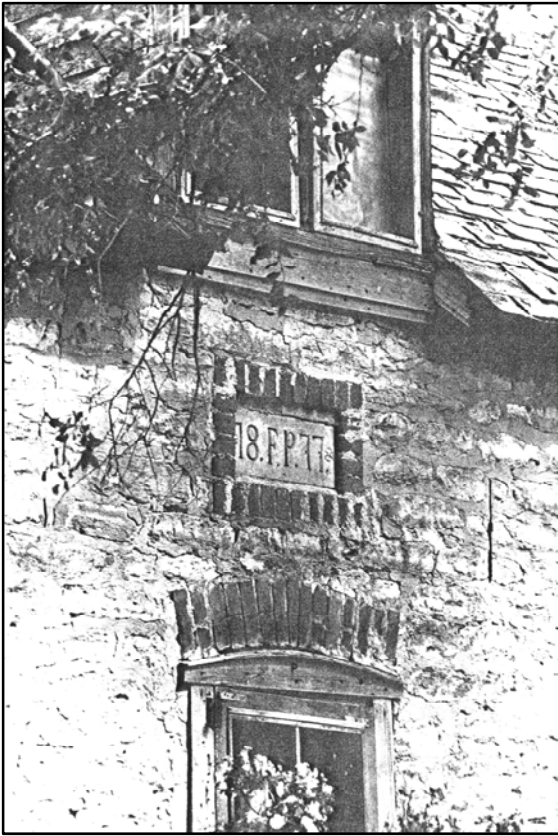


Photo 5 of 17 – house, date stone detail, west façade  
Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE 1975 (DM 7507b:26)



Photo 6 of 7 – Barn, west and south facades  
Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE, 1976 (DM 7606b:13)



Photo 7 of 17 – Barn, south and east facades  
Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE, 1977 (DM 7702a:32)

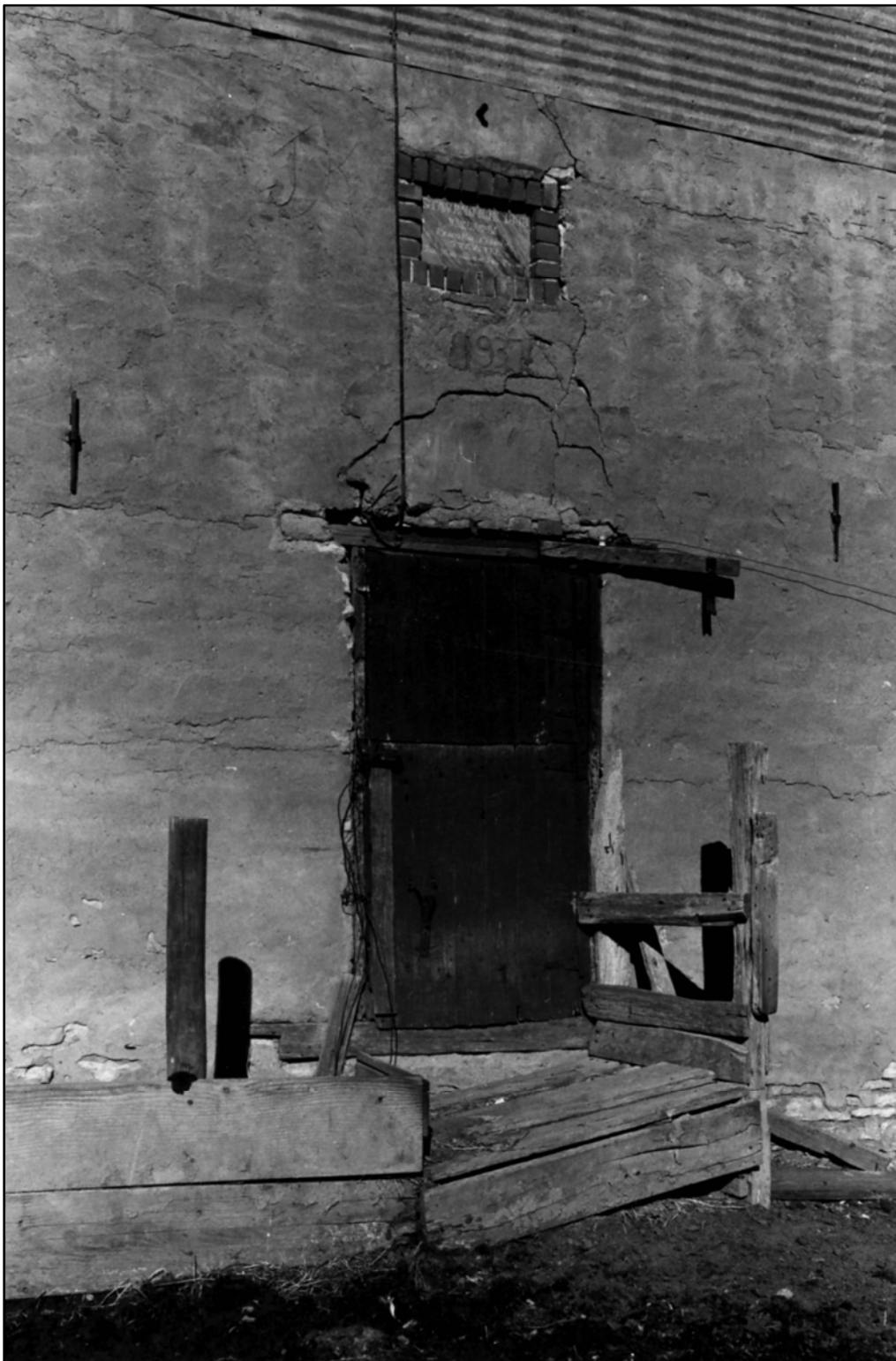


Photo 8 of 17 – Barn, detail south façade showing date stone  
Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE, 1977 (DM 7702a:34)





Photo 9 of 17 – Barn, west façade  
Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE, 1975 (DM 7505b:22)



Photo 10 of 17 – Barn and shed looking north  
Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE, 1977 (DM 7702a:35)



Photo 11 of 17 – view of farmstead looking north, chicken houses (left) and hog shed in foreground  
Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE, 1977 (DM 7702a:37)



Photo 12 of 17 – view of farmstead looking north, corncrib on left  
Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE, 1976 (DM 7606b:15)





Photo 13 of 17 – view of farmstead looking north  
Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE 1977 (DM 7702a:27)



Photo 14 of 17 – view of farmstead looking northeast  
Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE, 1977 (DM 7702a:25)



Photo 15 of 17 – view of farmstead looking northwest showing non-contributing 1950s farmhouse  
Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE, 1976 (DM 7606b:18)



Photo 16 of 17 – view of farmstead looking northwest  
Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE, 1977 (DM 7702a:31)



Photo 17 of 17 – view of farmstead looking southeast  
Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE, 1976 (DM 7606b:12)