

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SENT TO D.C.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

4-11-05

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Margaret Black Farmstead

other names/site number Black Homestead Farm (preferred)

2. Location

street & number RR 3 Box 118

____ Not for publication

city or town Carrollton

____ vicinity

state Illinois

code IL

county Greene

code 061

zip code 62016

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ____ nationally ____ statewide ☒ locally. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Wm C. W. 15400
Signature of certifying official

4-11-05
Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

American Indian Tribe

Name of Property Black Homestead Farm

County and State Greene, IL

4. National Park Service Certification

| I, hereby certify that this property is: | Signature of the Keeper | Date of Action |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|
| _____ entered in the National Register | _____ | _____ |
| _____ See continuation sheet. | _____ | _____ |
| _____ determined eligible for the | _____ | _____ |
| National Register | _____ | _____ |
| _____ See continuation sheet. | _____ | _____ |
| _____ determined not eligible for the | _____ | _____ |
| National Register | _____ | _____ |
| _____ removed from the National Register | _____ | _____ |
| _____ other (explain): | _____ | _____ |

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| <u> 8 </u> | <u> 0 </u> buildings |
| <u> 1 </u> | <u> 0 </u> sites |
| <u> 0 </u> | <u> 0 </u> structures |
| <u> 0 </u> | <u> 0 </u> objects |
| <u> 9 </u> | <u> 0 </u> Total |

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

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Name of Property Black Homestead Farm

County and State Greene, IL

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
AGRICULTURE: processing
AGRICULTURE: animal facility
AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
AGRICULTURE: processing
AGRICULTURE: animal facility
AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal
Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Stone

Roof Asphalt

Walls Brick and wood

other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See attached sheets.

Name of Property Black Homestead Farm

County and State Greene, IL

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance 1823-1955

Significant Dates 1823, 1855, Early 1900s

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder Reay, William

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See attached sheets.

Name of Property Black Homestead Farm

County and State Greene, IL

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 123 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| | Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|--|------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|
|--|------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|

| | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|
| 1 | _____ | _____ | _____ | 3 | _____ | _____ |
|---|-------|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|

| | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|
| 2 | _____ | _____ | _____ | 4 | _____ | _____ |
|---|-------|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|

☒ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------|
| Name of Property | Black Homestead Farm | County and State | Greene, IL |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------|

11. Form Prepared By

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------|----------------|
| name/title | Stephen F. Black | | |
| organization | | date | September 2004 |
| street & number | 113 Illini Lane | telephone | 618-254-0882 |
| city or town | East Alton | state | IL |
| | | zip code | 62024 |

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:
Continuation Sheets

Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Stephen F. Black, 113 Illini Lane East Alton, IL 62024

Kent Black, 1636 Georgetown Road, Pottsboro, TX 75076

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

Narrative Description

The Black Homestead Farm consists of 123 acres and includes a brick farmhouse built in 1823, a brick smokehouse (c. 1855), a carriage house/woodshed (c. 1855), and a horse barn (c. 1890). Additional contributing buildings include a cattle barn, garage, chicken house, and machine/ storage shed that were added in the mid 1900s. The house is a two story brick and frame, Federal style building with Flemish bond brick construction on the original front, a gable roof, and a later Greek Revival two-story porch with classical columns and front entry with sidelights and decorative lintel. The smokehouse is brick with wood trim and contains the original hardware for hanging meats for processing. The carriage house is a wood frame structure with an open front for carriage storage and second story closed area for storage of harnesses, feed, and other accessories. The horse barn is a frame structure building with hand-hewn beams and supports; including wood stalls and feeding troughs for up to a dozen horses and loft for storage of hay and straw.

The farm is located on flat ground at the top of the drainage divide on land that was originally tall grass prairie when purchased and settled in 1821. The front of the house now faces west, but the original front faced east when constructed in 1823. In the 1850s the road was moved to the west side of the house and the entries were modified in 1855. The smokehouse is located just to the south of the house, off the side entrance to the kitchen. The carriage house is located to the north of the house having been moved to that location in the early 1900s from its original location as attached to the northwest corner of the house where the wash-house is located. The horse barn is located to the northwest of the house and is in its original location. The original farmstead buildings are in excellent condition and have changed very little over the past 150 years other than regular maintenance. The farm has historic integrity in terms of its architecture, building layout and function as an early farm that has been in continuous operation for 181 years.

The exterior walls of the house are solid brick (three bricks thick) on a native rock foundation. The current brick walls and frame portions of the house are painted white, although the original brick that was made near the site were red in color. One section of the original brick under the second story porch stairs is unpainted and reveals the original red color. The exterior was painted white sometime between 1855 and the 1890s since the back porch stairs were added in 1855 and if the house had been painted prior the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

stairs construction, this wall would also have been painted. A picture of the house taken in the 1880's shows the outside walls painted white.

Twelve-over-eight double hung windows are present on the front and back of the lower level and nine-over-six double hung windows are present on the front and back of the second level. Many of the original panes of glass in these windows are still present today. Flemish bond brickwork is evident on the exterior walls in the original front of the house and dogtooth brick corbelling is evident along the top of the second level on the front and back where the walls meet the roof eaves.

Two prominent brick chimneys are present; one at each end of the house. Each chimney serves three fireplaces: two on the first floor and one on the second floor on each respective end of the house. The roof is currently asphalt shingles although tin roofing had previously been installed on the porch section of the house. The original roof was probably some type of wood shingles, but no evidence of the original roofing material exists today. Roof replacement in 1971 did reveal some sections with wood shingles.

The east side of the house was the original front of house and pictures from the 1880s show that wood shutters were located on all the windows. The original front door was located on this side and contains a decorative fanlight over the large front door. In the 1850s the road past the house was located to the west of the buildings and the front of the house now became the back. The current back porch was initially built in 1937 as an open structure. The porch was enclosed during the 1960s and made into an office and bathroom. The porch structure currently has white vinyl siding and asphalt roofing.

The north side of the house has a basement entry way that was added when the basement area was expanded. Exact date of this modification is unknown, although it was probably completed when the furnace was added. The remainder of the north wall is basically unchanged from original construction, except for the addition of aluminum storm windows to the original windows.

The west side of the house was originally the back of the house and the current center main entrance door was not present. There was not a wood porch or carriage house on the original 1823 brick house. The porch, wash house, and carriage house were built by Thomas Black in 1855 after the death of his mother, Margaret Black. The two story porch contains a suspended second level, stairway, and three wood columns. The roof is

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

asphalt shingles and a shed roof covers the porch. The two story porch, main entry way with decorative mantel and sidelights, and classical columns display a Greek Revival architecture. There are two storage areas at each end of the second level of the porch that are also of wood construction.

The south side of the house contains an enclosed porch that was added in 1937. It is currently used for storage and as a sun room. It has vinyl siding on the lower level and glass windows on the upper part of the structure. The remainder of the wall on the north side of the house remains unchanged from its original 1823 construction.

The center main entry door was installed in 1855 when the porch, wash house, and carriage house were constructed. The original stairway inside the house to the second floor had a landing that was across the wall where that door is now located, so no door could have been there originally. The center doorway on the upper level of the porch (directly above the present first floor main entry) was also added at a later date given the original location of the inside landing. This area was probably originally a window. The second door onto the upper porch north of the center door was originally a window and was converted to a door after the porch was added.

The interior of the house is the typical Federal style central hall floor plan with two rooms on each side of the hallway on both the upper and lower levels. All the interior partition walls of the house are constructed of brick (three bricks thick) like the exterior perimeter walls. The walls and ceilings were originally plastered and much of the original plaster remains on the walls and on some ceilings. All the interior doors are original six-panel style that was typical of that era. The fireplaces downstairs are all still functional (except for the one enclosed when the furnace was installed) and all had fireplace glass doors installed in 1973.

On the first floor the kitchen is located in the southwest corner of the house and contains a large fireplace with swinging cooking hooks to hold pots over the fire and an original mantel. A pantry was constructed in the corner of the kitchen when the porch was constructed on the west side of the house in 1855. The pantry contains wood storage areas with hinged tops that were probably used for storing flour, sugar, or other cooking supplies.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

The original dining room is located in the southeast corner of the first level and also contains a fireplace with original wood mantelpiece and mantelshelf. Built-in cabinets beside the fireplace are made of solid walnut. The room has hardwood flooring. The parlor and living room are located in the two adjoining rooms on the first level on the north end of the house. They are attached by a large opening that originally contained swinging doors to afford some level of privacy in the parlor room when needed. Both rooms have fireplaces with original wood mantelpiece and mantelshelf, although the fireplace in the northwest room was enclosed when the furnace was installed in the basement directly below this room. There are original walnut cabinets beside the fireplace in the northwest room. The cabinets beside the fireplace in the northeast room were replaced with open shelves and a lower storage area.

The central hallway on the first level extends through the first floor front to back and contains hardwood flooring. The stairway to the second level of the house is located on the west end of the hallway and currently proceeds straight up to the second level along the south wall of the hallway, beginning at the west main entrance. The stairway originally started up on the north wall of the hallway going west, then had a landing on the west wall about half way up, then proceeded on up to the second level going back to the east along the south wall of the hallway. This original layout was discovered in 1972 when the wallpaper was being replaced in the central hallway and the outline of the stairs and landing were evident on the original interior walls. The west main doorway was installed in 1855 when this change was made. The doorway contains a decorative Greek Revival architrave and sidelights.

The second level contains a central hallway with a bathroom now located at the east end of the hallway. The current bathroom was originally a sitting area at the end of the hallway. The upper level contains four bedrooms with the northeast and southeast rooms having fireplaces with original mantelpiece, mantelshelf, and brick work still in place. The upper level contains plank flooring that is 6 inches wide in all four bedrooms and the central hall. The door to the southwest bedroom was relocated in 1855 when the stairway was modified. The door at the west end of the central hallway that enters the second level porch and the door from the northwest bedroom that enters the porch were constructed from original window openings when the porch was added in 1855. Closets were added in three of the bedrooms at some unknown date. Other than the bathroom addition, the stairway changes, the closets, and the door changes, the remainder of the second level remains in its original state.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

The wash house is located off the northwest end of the house with entry from the north end of the covered porch. It contains a fireplace and large iron pot for boiling water for washing and for other types of processing that might have been applicable to a farm operation. The wash house also is the central location for the collection of all the rainwater from the house that is channeled to a cistern located just outside the building. Water can also be channeled to a large stone wash basin located in the wash house. The wash house is a contributing building.

The carriage house was originally attached to the west end of the washhouse and extended to the west, with the openings for carriages facing to the south. The carriage house is of wood construction and contains two open bays for carriages, one enclosed bay for a small buggy or carriage, and a second story enclosed storage area for feed, harnesses, and other accessories. This building was moved to its current location just north of the house in 1909. It currently has a tin roof, but the wood siding is original on three sides of the structure. It is currently used for storage and as a parking area for vehicles. The carriage house is a contributing building.

The brick smokehouse is located north of the house close to the kitchen area of the home. This structure was built in 1855 and contains the original hardware and accessories that were used for processing meats. The inside walls are black from the smoking process. The roof is now asphalt shingles and the center opening of the original structure has been closed in, although it is still evident from the inside. The smokehouse is painted white like the house. The smokehouse is a contributing building.

The horse barn is located to the north of the house and was built sometime in the 1890's according to oral history. There is no exact date for its construction, although the interior beams and supports show that they were hand-hewn. The barn has wood siding and a pressed metal roof. The interior contains several stalls for horses along with feeding bunks and a second level storage area for hay and straw. This barn housed many horses during the early 1900s that were used for all the agricultural operations before mechanization became widespread in the 1930s and 40s. The horse barn is a contributing building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 6 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

Additional contributing buildings include a cattle barn (ca. 1930), garage (ca. 1920), chicken house (ca. 1930), and machine/ storage shed (ca. 1930) that were added in the mid 1900s.

The Black Homestead Farm maintains sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Very few alterations have taken place to the house since its remodeling in 1855. The outbuildings were all built within the farm's period of significance and reflect the historical development of the property since its establishment in 1823.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 7 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary of Significance

The Black Homestead Farm is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for local significance under Criterion A for Agriculture and Exploration and Settlement, and Criterion C for Architecture. The Black Homestead Farm contains the oldest inhabited home in Greene County and perhaps one of the oldest homes north of Edwardsville, Illinois. The Black Homestead Farm was established by a land deed signed by President James Monroe on December 5, 1821. The house was one of the first built in newly settled Greene County and was constructed before any towns existed in the vicinity. The property serves as a link to the first settlement of land in areas north of Edwardsville, Illinois where the land office was located. The architecture of the farmstead and buildings highlights the period from 1823 to the early 1900s and is typical of a mid-western farm of those eras. Modifications to the farmstead in 1855 and early 1900s were of the architectural styles of the period and most of the features are still present today. The smokehouse, wash house, house, carriage house/wood shed, and barn depict the lifestyle of 19th century rural America. The current front of the house highlights the Greek Revival architecture of the 1850s and the original structure maintains its Federal style on the interior and exterior. The history of the Black family in moving to this site, building the house, and maintaining it for 181 years captures the evolution of agriculture and the exploration /settlement of the Midwest. While Margaret Black was the original owner, the property has been known for years as the Black Homestead Farm. The architecture of the farmstead dates from 1823 to the 1850s and then into the early 1900s.

History of Property and Chronological Development

The Black Homestead Farm, although smaller than it was originally in total acreage, exists today much as it did from 1823 to the early 1900s. Margaret and her brothers were some of the first settlers in Greene County having bought 1760 acres of land from the U.S. Government in 1821. Margaret Hobson Black was born in 1771 in Cumberland County, England. Her husband, William Black who was originally from Scotland, died in England in 1817. Margaret was the fifth of nine children which included six brothers. Her oldest brother, James Hobson was very interested in the events of the Revolutionary

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 8 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

War and was very sympathetic to the struggle of the colonists for liberty and independence. James persuaded his sister Margaret, his youngest brother, Robert, and several other families to move to America. Robert came to America from England ahead of the rest of the family in 1821 to obtain the land grants in the names of Margaret, himself, and others. He obtained the following lands for \$2 per acre from the US Government land office in Edwardsville, Illinois:

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Margaret Black | 480 acres |
| James Hobson | 480 acres |
| William Hobson | 480 acres |
| Robert Hobson | 320 acres |

The family bought a total of 1,760 acres, or about 2.75 square miles, in an area west and southwest of what would later become Carrollton in Greene County, Illinois. Most of the land was native prairie with some parcels containing woodlands.

On June 20, 1822 a party of 22 English people left Liverpool for the United States. The first ship wrecked about 10-15 miles out of port and they had to return for another ship. The second ship, the "Yamacrow," was successful, but all the adults were ill for most of the 47 days at sea. Margaret's twins, Thomas Black and Elizabeth Black, were 12 years old during the voyage. Thomas recalled upon arriving in New York harbor on July 12, 1822, that a severe thunderstorm was underway. His Uncle James Hobson said the sound was "the artillery of heaven welcoming us to the land of liberty."

The group avoided New York City where yellow fever was prevalent, bought horses and wagons in Jersey City, and set out for Pittsburgh. In Pittsburgh they decided to try flat boats and sold the horses. After going down the Ohio River to Wheeling, Virginia they decided this was even slower than wagons – having traveled only 90 miles in seven days. They bought horses again and went across country to Louisville, KY. There the party split up – some of the men continued over land to Shawneetown, IL and the rest of the party traveled there by steamboat down the Ohio River. From Shawneetown, they traveled again over land to what was then called Mt. Pleasant, IL, a new town being platted on the mound about one half mile southeast of the present Black Homestead Farm site. They arrived at their new land on December 22, 1822, an overland journey of 143 days or an average of about 7 miles per day. In total they had been traveling for six and one-half months.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 9 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

Before the Blacks and Hobsons arrived in Illinois, Robert Hobson (Margaret's brother) had laid out the lots for the new town of Mt. Pleasant, located on the site of the current Mound Farm to the southeast of the current Black Homestead Farm and about 2 miles southwest of what is now Carrollton. He had registered a number of these lots in Margaret's name as well as in his own. They expected Mt. Pleasant to become the county seat of Greene County. However, Mt. Pleasant had been laid out by "English" people and the anti-English sentiment was strong during those years following the War of 1812. When the vote was taken in 1821, only one person voted for Mt. Pleasant. The site laid out by Thomas Carlin, a War of 1812 veteran, that later became Carrollton was selected as the county seat.

In 1818 the immigration of settlers to what would eventually be Greene County began to increase.

The land sale of January 1821, at Edwardsville, was one of the most important events of those days. Before the sale the purchasers had made an agreement between themselves that they would not bid for the land previously selected by another. By this means all collision was usually avoided and the settlers obtained the land at the lowest possible government price. The land was sold in lots of not less than eighty acres each, and no bid was received for a less sum than one hundred dollars for each eighty acres. By means of this understanding among themselves, nearly all the land was purchased at this price. It, however, happened that Jehosaphet Eldred and Robert Hobson each claimed to have been the first to choose a very fine piece of land. The Eldreds came here in 1820, from New York State and had an abundance of money, so much that it is related that their saddlebags of gold and silver were so heavy that it required two men to carry them into the land office at Edwardsville.

Mr. Eldred and Robert Hobson did not succeed in coming to an agreement before that piece was sold, and the result was a contest. Mr. Eldred became the purchaser at \$150. Mr. Eldred then told Robert Hobson that if the latter was to buy any land at the sale he would also have to pay a like amount. Friends interfered and Mr. Eldred agreed to a compromise, provided that Mr. Hobson would pay to him the extra \$50 he had given for the land already purchased. This was agreed to all went on smoothly. (1)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 10 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

Robert then bought 1760 acres of land in his name and the names of his two brothers and one sister.

As soon as the organization of Greene County was initiated, quick-witted landowners began to lay plans for securing a county seat on or near their property. Prominent among the locations spoken of for the seat of government was Mount Pleasant, the first town laid out in the county by Robert Hobson. This location was only one-half mile from the current location of the Black Homestead Farm and very close to the other land purchased by Robert, James, and William Hobson. "An article in the Carrollton Press in 1860 said that Mount Pleasant was located on a beautiful mound in the midst of as fine a country as ever occupied a place on the map of the globe, in the prairie, just where a cool, shady grove or point of timber had found its way up the east side, nearly to its summit. From this elevated spot the eye delighted to range over the surrounding prairie to the north, the west, and the south, where the sides of the mound sloped gracefully down to the horizon, or to the dark groves of tall trees waving in the soft breeze." (2)

The public lands of this district were offered for sale in Edwardsville and Robert Hobson and John Evans were both interested in the site. Hobson paid Evans \$50 to not bid on the property and Hobson acquired the property without an opposing bid. He immediately marked out a town on the spot, and called it Mount Pleasant, erected a dwelling and store house, opened a stock of goods suitable to the demands of the country, offered inducements to others to make their homes in the new town, and in general manifested a commendable degree of energy, enterprise, and business talent. He had registered a number of these lots in Margaret's name as well as in his own. They expected Mt. Pleasant to become the county seat of Greene County, however, Mt. Pleasant had been laid out by "English" people and the anti-English sentiment was strong during those years following the War of 1812. When the vote was taken in 1821, only one person voted for Mt. Pleasant. The site laid out by Thomas Carlin, a War of 1812 veteran, that later became Carrollton was selected as the county seat.

Elijah Woodman, a blacksmith from Vermont, bought one of these lots in 1821 and built the first brick house in Greene County. In 1822 Robert Hobson, Margaret's brother, deeded 22 lots in Mt. Pleasant to her. After the county seat was lost the Hobson's began selling off these lots at much cheaper prices-sometimes only \$1 or \$2 per lot and Mr.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 11 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

Woodman acquired eventually the entire 200 acre tract around the mound. The site that was hoped by some to be the county seat had now faded away.

After Margaret had arrived at Mt. Pleasant in December of 1822 she was anxious to move Thomas and Elizabeth and the remainder of her family out of the log cabins that were previously built on the site by Robert Hobson, and immediately set out to build a permanent home on her new land. In April of 1823 she signed a contract for the brickwork for the new home. William Reay, an Englishman, agreed to lay the brick for a home with the size directed by Margaret for \$6.50 per thousand bricks including cutting the wood, digging and firing the clay, burning the lime and laying the brick. The work was completed by November 30, 1823 and the Black family moved in during late December 1823 even though the walls were not yet plastered. The total bill for the brickwork was \$3000 and the wood cost about \$350. The new home was very similar in design to their former house in Moorhouse Hall in England, near Wigton and Carlisle as documented by Thomas Black and his sister Elizabeth during a trip back to England in 1851 to visit. The entire trip from England to the United States in 1822 and 1823 was recorded in Thomas Black's autobiography. The original contract with William Reay still exists to document the details of their house building agreement and is in possession of the current property owner.

In 1829 Margaret Black paid taxes on 1,110 acres of land in Greene County. She had acquired additional land over the past six years from her brothers and others in the area. In 1831 Thomas Black went to the Blackhawk War with a unit under the command of Joseph Duncan, who later became the Governor of Illinois. Thomas went with this unit to Rock Island, Illinois where they fired across the river and burned the Black Hawk's village on Vandruff's Island. A treaty of peace was then signed that ended the war for that year.

In 1834 only Thomas Black was still living at the Black Homestead Farm with his mother, Margaret. Thomas was first married in June 1834 and his wife died in 1839. He was married again in 1842 and his second wife died in 1869. It was during the 1840s and 1850s that some major modifications were made to the farmstead. A large cattle barn was built west of the house in 1848 by Thomas. The current road that is west of the house was probably not present when this barn was built as it would have been a substantial obstacle for utilizing a barn with associated livestock. The road was probably

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 12 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

moved to this location between 1848 and 1855 and then the major additions to the house began to take place. In 1854, Margaret Black died and was buried at the Mt. Pleasant cemetery which was located on the mound near the original site of Mt. Pleasant. In 1855 the two-story porch, columns, carriage house/wood shed, and smokehouse were added by Thomas Black. It is suspected that Thomas was able to make these modifications now that his mother was dead in that Margaret may have wanted the house to remain in its original state as it was similar to the house she left in England in 1822. These porch features reflect the Greek Revival architecture that was prominent in the mid-1850s. The main entry door with decorative mantel and sidelights and the classic columns are typical of this style.

In 1869 Thomas married Martha Ellen Robinson whose family came from Middlesex County, Virginia. (Martha's family home, "Hewick", was built in 1670 in Urbana, Virginia and is still occupied today by descendants of John Robinson, who received his land in Virginia through a grant from the King of England). In 1887 Henry Sieyerling had purchased the first self-binder and got Thomas Black's permission to cut ten acres of a late piece of wheat on the Black Homestead. Thus, the self-binder also made its debut on the Black farm.

Thomas continued to operate the farm until 1879. At that time he sold his equipment and the farm was operated by another farmer for several years. In 1876 Thomas and Martha had a son, Robert T. Black. All the information relating to Robert Black was taken from his autobiography.

Robert served in the Spanish-American War in 1898 and the Philippine Insurrection from 1899 to 1901. After returning from the Philippines, Robert began to operate the farm on a full time basis and continued his involvement for the next 60 years. Thomas Black died in December of 1895 and his wife Martha died in 1897.

In the early 1900s Robert made several changes to the property. In 1904 he bought out his brother's half interest in the 143 acres of the farm that remains today as the Black Homestead Farm. In 1907 additional drain tiles were installed in the field to the south of the current farmstead. The carriage house/wood shed was moved in 1909 from its location attached to the northwest corner of the house to its current location north of the house. The cattle barn was built in 1909 at a cost of about \$500. (The barn was destroyed by a cyclone in 1927 and subsequently rebuilt.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 13 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

Robert was a very progressive farmer and was always interested in using the latest inventions on the farm. He installed a Delco Light Plant in the home in 1918 – one of the first electric light generators in Greene County. He was also one of the first farmers to have a gasoline powered tractor (an International Harvester 15-30 Titan) purchased in 1918 for \$1485. That price also included a three bottom plow. In 1918-1919 Robert was instrumental in forming the Carrollton Farmers Elevator Company and was elected a director in 1919 and was elected as treasurer in 1920. In 1924 Robert bought another International Titan 15-30 tractor for \$1150. In 1939 Robert purchased his first corn picker (an Oliver) for \$560. In 1936 Robert bought the first set of rubber tires for the Farmall tractor.

Robert made a few updates to the homestead while he resided there. In 1932 electricity was brought to the farm by the Central Illinois Public Service Company. Robert bought the first refrigerator for the homestead in that year. In 1937 a steam heating furnace and radiators were installed in the homestead at a total cost of \$775. Robert also made changes to the house. In 1919 he had the south and east porches constructed. In the 1960s the back porch on the house was closed in and remodeled as an office and bathroom.

Robert and Lucy Black's son, Kenneth, who was born in 1910, worked on the farm until 1946 when he moved to the adjoining Mound Farm that had been the location of the ill-fated Mt. Pleasant. Robert lived in the Homestead until his death in 1961. From 1961 to 1972 the farm was operated on a crop share basis with an adjoining farmer. In 1972 Kenneth and Jane Black returned to the Black Farm to live and operate the farm. He was the fourth generation in the Black family to continue farming the land that was settled in 1823. Kenneth died in 1981 and Jane passed away in 1986. The Black Homestead Farm is now owned by Kent and Stephen Black, the sons of Kenneth and Jane Black. The farm was operated on a crop share basis from 1981 to 2001 and Stephen, the fifth generation of Black's, began operating the farm in 2002.

The house currently contains two pieces of furniture, a blanket chest and a sugar chest, that were brought from England to the home site in 1823 during the original family journey as described above. In addition, the original contract signed in April, 1823 by Margaret Black and William Reay for construction of the house is still in existence.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 14 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

Early Agriculture in Greene County and the Black Farm

During the 1830s and 1840s increasing numbers of settlers moved into the prairies of Greene County, Illinois. At first they laboriously tilled the heavy, sun-baked prairie sod with cast iron plows. Then, in 1837, John Deere developed a new all-steel plow that turned the prairie soil much more effectively. By 1850 farmers were using the so-called Grand Detour plow across the prairie lands of central Illinois. With the invention of reapers, threshers, seed drills, corn planters, and multi-blade plows, farmers began to cultivate much of the former grasslands, especially in the west central part of Illinois. Corn and wheat were the principal cash crops grown, and by 1860, Illinois led the nation in the annual production of both crops.

Thomas Black was a prominent farmer in the county from the 1840s until his death in 1895 and was interested in using the latest agricultural technology and equipment. In 1845 Thomas purchased the first reaping machine in Greene County, a "Manny", produced by the John P. Manny Combined Harvester and Mower. Manny was a significant figure in the development of mowers and reapers. A few years later Thomas bought a "Hussey" reaper which was a single wheel driver, drawn by four horses. One man sat on the rear horse and another man on the machine. In places where the wheat was heavy it was necessary to guide the front team almost sideways to keep the machine going straight. The machine, however, was such an improvement over the old way of cradling the grain that it enabled farmers to greatly increase their acreage of wheat.

In 1853 Thomas was appointed road supervisor by the County clerk. In that same year he had records of selling wheat in St. Louis. On April 29, 1854 an article appeared in the Carrollton Patriot regarding the creation of the Greene County Agricultural Society which was the precursor of the Greene County Fair. Thomas Black was a member of the committee of prominent farmers and citizens in the county who were instrumental in this activity. The Society's goal was encouraging and promoting improvements in agriculture and like pursuits and mechanic and household arts.

Thomas Black was one of the first farmers in the area to get more advanced mechanized harvesting equipment during the 1850s according to articles from that period. In 1857

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 15 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

Thomas bought a "Buckeye," a two-wheel reaper that eliminated the side-draft. With this machine Thomas was the first man in Greene County to sow 100 acres of wheat and get it to market. The following year, Thomas sowed 100 acres of wheat on David Pierson's land in Macoupin County, bought a header in Canton, had it shipped to Virden and used it in harvesting that crop. After raising another crop he brought the header to Greene County.

While the current owner has noticed some discrepancies in the census data, the Agricultural Census Records for the Black Homestead Farm still provide a pretty good indication of the type of activity that was occurring on the farm during the mid to late 1800s:

| Product | 1850 | 1860 | 1870 | 1880 |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|---|
| Improved acreage | 320 | 280 | 443 | 195 |
| Unimproved acreage | 200 | 280 | 320 | 0 |
| Cash value | \$8,000 | \$20,000 | \$34,225 | \$23,400 |
| Value of farming implements & machinery | \$600 | \$800 | \$500 | 0 |
| Horses | 16 | 14 | 9 | 2 |
| Mules | 10 | 6 | 3 | 0 |
| Other Cattle | 130 | 10 milk; 13 other | 5 milk; 95 other | 3 milk; 19 other (sold 38 in 1879) |
| Sheep | 115 | 0 | 9 | 101 |
| Swine | 350 | 50 | 65 | 17 |
| Value of Livestock | \$2,300 | \$2,000 | \$9,150 | \$1,600 |
| Wheat (bushels) | 2,300 | 0 | 1,120 | 0 |
| Indian Corn | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,925 | 0 |
| Oats (bushels) | 200 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wool | 355 | 100 | 100 | 105 |
| Irish potatoes | 50 | 100 | 75 | 0 |
| Barley | 10 | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Wine (gallons) | 100 | --- | --- | --- |
| Pounds of butter | 500 | 500 | 150 | 250 |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 16 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

| | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Grass seed | 25 | --- | --- | --- |
| Tons of hay | 70 | 40 | 90 | 20 |
| Value of animals slaughtered | [illegible] | \$860 | \$5,000 | --- |
| Honey bees | --- | --- | 50 | --- |
| Value of forest products | --- | --- | \$38 | --- |
| Estimated value of all farm products | --- | --- | \$13,265 | \$4,600 |
| Total amount of wages paid | --- | --- | \$2,000 | \$800 |
| Weeks hired labor | --- | --- | --- | 180 |
| Product | 1850 | 1860 | 1870 | 1880 |
| Orchard products | --- | --- | \$90 | --- |
| Permanent meadows, pastures, orchards, vineyards (acres) | --- | --- | --- | 165 |
| Poultry | --- | --- | --- | 100 |
| Eggs | --- | --- | --- | 350 |
| Cost building & repairing fences | --- | --- | --- | \$100 |

The dates of land acquisition document the ownership and the acreage of the farm from the 1820s through the early 1900s:

Black Homestead Farm --Dates of Land Acquisition
Greene County Courthouse
County Recorder's Office Records

- 1821 Margaret purchased 480 acres from the US Government.
- 1823 Margaret received 320 acres when her brother, Robert Hobson, died. Now owns 800 acres.
- 1835 Margaret purchased additional 350 acres making total of 1150 acres.
- 1838 Margaret sold 517 acres to her son, William Black.
Margaret sold 283 acres to her son, Thomas Black.
Margaret sold 350 acres to her son, David Black.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 17 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

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- 1850 Thomas black bought 40 acres of timber north of the current farm. Now owned 323 acres.
- 1879 Thomas Black sold 80 acres. Now owned 243 acres.
- 1883 Thomas Black donated land to the Litchfield, Carrollton, and Western Railroad.
- 1895 Thomas Black died. The 123 acres currently in the Black Homestead Farm remained as a homestead for his wife and at her death the land went to Russell and Robert Black along with 20 acres of the woods north of the farm.
- 1905 Robert Black bought out his brother's, Russell Black, interest in the farm and now owned the 123 acres of cropland and the 20 acres of timber that is currently known as the Black Homestead Farm.

Farming in Illinois after 1900

Farming in Illinois during the early to mid twentieth century was affected by changes in economic, scientific, and technological advances. Some of the economic factors that influenced farming included land tenure, proximity to markets, and available transportation, capital, and labor. Up until 1880 most farms in Illinois were owner-occupied. The appreciation of land since then allowed more farmers to retire and rent out their fields. Land appreciation also made farmland attractive to investors as well as speculators, who would sell the land for a quick profit. Finally, since farm land was becoming more valuable, it was becoming more difficult for the less affluent to buy it. By 1930, the majority of farms (43%) were rented, while 40% were owner-operated. Only 16% of farms had some combination of the two (Case and Meyers, 1934:119). By 1950, 65% were owner-operated and 35% were tenant-operated. The number of farms that had both had increased from 1930 to 20% (Ross and Case, 1956: 19). The increase in the number of owner-operated was attributed to an increase in production due to labor-saving technology, which allowed for larger farms, and an increase in earnings, which enabled good tenants to purchase more equipment and more acreage. (Ross and Case, 1956: 20).

Being close to larger markets was an advantage for Illinois farmers. Illinois had the good fortune of being both a large industrial and agricultural center. While industries had taken over some of the functions that were once performed on farms, they also created new markets for them. Manufacturing facilities for food products certainly led to an increase in their distribution, which would benefit farmers (Case and Meyers, 1934:116).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 18 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

Illinois farmers also had little trouble transporting their goods due to its extensive railroad lines and paved roads (Case and Meyers, 1934:117). Having reliable methods of transporting goods and close proximity to industrial centers created a stable market for farming in Illinois. Illinois also had no shortage of labor for farming, although in the more industrialized areas of the state there was some competition for labor between industries and farm markets (Case and Meyers, 1934:117-119).

Many scientific advances were made in agriculture during the early to mid twentieth-century. Better pest and disease control, more fertile soil, and improved breeding and feeding practices for livestock allowed farmers to increase crop and livestock production and, if desired, to experiment with new crops (Case and Meyers, 1934: 22). Farmers employed more efficient farming methods in order to realize greater profits. By the turn-of-the-twentieth-century, farmers had begun to notice that the value of their land was increasing at a far greater rate than that of their crops and products. Due to the efforts of Illinois farmers seeking ways to improve the soil's fertility, the soil survey program was formed and a system of lasting soil fertility was founded under the supervision of a professor at the University of Illinois (Nelson, 1931:116). Fertilizers, erosion control, soil additives, and crop rotation helped farmers yield more crops (Ross and Case, 1956:86).

Illinois farmers also benefited from improvements made in technology during the early-to-mid twentieth century. The new machinery that was invented during this time did well in areas that were flat, had good soil, and large spaces of land that was all for plowing. This gave Illinois an advantage over other states and ensured the profitability of the state's crops (Case and Meyer, 1934:122). The mechanization of farming between 1930 and 1950 resulted in dramatic changes in farm operations. During that time "...the number of farms with electricity multiplied five times. The number of tractors and trucks on Illinois farms more than doubled, and the number of horses and mules decreased 78 percent...within the period of 1950-1954, the number of combines increased 12 percent; corn pickers, 13 percent; and pickup hay balers, 19 percent (Ross and Case, 1956:86)."

The U.S. Census recognized nine types of farming in the country, based upon their origins of income (Case and Meyer, 1934:154). Studies conducted in 1934 and 1956 at the University of Illinois divided the state into nine sections based upon the different types of farming occurring in each area. Greene County, along with several other counties located in the west-central region, was part of Area 5, General Farming, which consisted mostly of livestock (mainly cattle and hogs) and grain (typically corn, oats,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 19 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

wheat, and hay). About 40% of the farms in this area were livestock farms, 26% were general farms, and 17% were grain farms. Compared to the rest of the state, Area 5 had a larger proportion of self-sufficient farms (those where the majority of the produce was used by the farm operator's family) than anywhere else in the state (Case and Meyer, 1934:178). By 1950, 46% were livestock farms, 30% were grain farms, 15% were general farms, and 6% were dairy farms (Ross and Case, 1956: 49).

Available pasture and soil conditions were among the factors that influenced farming in this area. The land east of the Illinois River, where the Black Homestead Farm is located, had dark soil, which is more suitable for grain farming, as opposed to the land west of the river, which had conditions more suitable for fruit production. Almost all of the untillable farmland in Area 5 was used for pasture (Case and Meyer, 1934:179; Ross and Case, 1956: 51).

The Black Homestead Farm After 1900

Like other farms in the area, the Black Homestead Farm raised livestock and grain. Robert Black, who farmed the land from the early 1900s until his death in 1961, kept extensive records of his purchases and expenditures. Most of his purchases and income involved cattle and hogs, which he bought and sold during the duration of his farming. Other expenditures and income he recorded reflected the variety of products generated on the farm. Over the years, he had sold milk, butter and cream, apples, seed corn, cord wood and corn. He had hired people to bale hay and straw, cut corn, and do threshing. Since he sold very little of the grains he grew, one can assume that he used the majority of it to feed his livestock, which was common at the time.

His purchases and improvements made to the farm also reflect the changing technology in agriculture. He bought a binder (a machine that reaps and ties grains) in 1904, a De Level Separator in 1906, his first of many cars (a Model T ford) in 1914, his first tractor (made by International Harvester Company) in 1918, a Toro tractor in 1922, an International tractor in 1924, a Farmall tractor in 1934, a 12-foot M&M Combine and tractor in 1935, a corn picker in 1939, a 69-inch M&M combine in 1943, an Oliver tractor in 1944, a tractor spreader in 1945, and a special reel for the combine in 1947. New buildings constructed on the farm also reflected the mechanization of farming, as horses became replaced by machines. Between 1920 and 1930 Robert built a garage and a machine storage shed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 20 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

In addition to his interest in technology, Robert kept abreast of the scientific advances made in farming. In 1911, he went to the University of Illinois to take the short course on farming. He was also active in the farming community, and for he played a major role in forming the Carrolton Farmers Elevator Company. The company, owned by farmers – defined as those who earned a large percentage of their income from farming – was made possible by laws that were passed at the time which allowed for the creation of co-ops (Howard, 2005). It was believed that if the farmers would combine their efforts, they could increase their buying and selling power. Back then, there was not a lot of grain for sale; most of the grain that was produced was used to feed livestock. Wheat was the cash crop, and it is possible that those who formed the co-op did so to create another market for wheat in the vicinity. In addition to selling flour, the company also sold coal and livestock feed. The Carrolton Farmers Elevator Company is still in business today (Howard, 2005).

From 1930 to 1945, Robert's son Kenneth assisted him with the farm, and basically ran it during World War II. It is believed that Kenneth elected to stay on the farm during the war since there was such a need for people to operate farms on the home front. Robert resided on the Black Homestead farm until his death in 1961. The farm was operated on a crop share basis until 1972 when Kenneth and his wife Jane returned to the farm to operate it.

The Black Homestead Farm is still in operation today and owned by Kenneth's sons, Kent and Stephen. There are currently 123 acres around the farmstead. Eighty of those acres were part of Margaret Black's original land purchase; the remaining forty-three acres were originally purchased by Robert Hobson, Margaret Black's brother, in 1821. When he died in 1823 the land went to Margaret. There is an additional 20 acres of woodland (not included in the boundaries) that is about a mile and a half to the north of the house. The farm no longer has livestock, but produces corn and soybeans.

Architectural Significance

The Black Homestead Farm has characteristics of both Federal style and Greek Revival architecture. The original house still maintains its historic integrity from the original 1823 construction and the modifications of 1855 and very little has changed since that

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 21 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

time in regard to the appearance of the house and associated buildings. The Federal style of architecture was prominent in the United States from 1780 to 1820.

The Adams style [also called the Federal style] was a development and refinement of the preceding Georgian style. Established first by wealthy merchants along the New England seaboard, it drew on contemporary European trends, particularly the work of the Adam brothers who, at that time, had the largest architectural practice in Britain. The eldest, Robert, had traveled to Italy and the Mediterranean to study classical buildings himself. These studies, as well as those of others who reported on first-hand viewing, introduced a new interest in the early Greek and Roman monuments themselves, rather than as interpreted through the buildings of the Italian Renaissance. Adam popularized a number of design elements (swags, garlands, urns, and various stylized geometric designs) that he had seen in his travels. He also incorporated into his interiors a diversity of spatial planning found in some classical ruins. Because of the breadth of his influence, what had formerly been called the Federal style is now becoming known simply as the American phase of the English Adam style. (3)

The Black house represents a typical Federal style with its rectangular shape, symmetrical layout, and brick walls. The elliptical fanlight on the east side of the house above the original main entry door is also representative of the Federal style. In addition, the evenly spaced windows throughout the house, the gabled roofs, and the end chimneys are characteristic of this style. Although not currently present, the original louvered shutters that are shown on the house in a photograph taken in 1883 also complemented this style.

In the interior of the house the Federal style continues to be featured through the presence of original six-panel doors throughout the upper and lower levels. The parlor was used for formal entertaining during this period. In addition the walls contain the original smooth plaster representing the Federal style. Four of the rooms currently have paint on the original plastered walls. The wood moldings, door frames, and fireplace surrounds also are indicative of the era. The central hallway with two rooms on each side, or central hall, double-pile floor plan, is typical of Federal style houses. The wide plank

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 22 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

flooring fastened by nails, not pegs, in the upper bedrooms and central hallway is typical of the early 1800s construction.

The type of brick construction is also indicative of the period in that Flemish bond is evident on the front parts of the house. In this bond, headers and stretchers alternate in each course with the center of each header over the center of the stretcher directly below it. This type of bond is more decorative, but structurally weaker than an English bond. Since the Flemish bond technique of bricklaying was more decorative yet less structurally sound it was normally done only on the fronts of homes as in the case on this house. Flemish bond was a distinctive pattern of the 18th century and is represented here in this 1823 home.

In 1855 the house was modified and a smokehouse was added to the north of the house and the two story porch with classic columns, carriage house/woodshed, and wash house were added to the west side of the house. In addition, the main entry way was established on the west side of the house and this side now became the front of the house. Many of these features reflected the Greek Revival style of architecture that became dominant between 1820 and 1860 and was very prominent in the 1850s to the Civil War. The Greek Revival shared with the earlier Federal, or neoclassical movement, its basic intentions and aesthetic attitudes.

The Greek Revival began and ended in this country with public buildings built in Philadelphia. Among the first examples was the Bank of the United States (1818, William Strickland), and one of the last monuments was the Ridgeway Branch of the Philadelphia Library (1870, Addison and Hutton). Most domestic examples date from the period from 1830 to 1860. Among the earliest was a Greed remodeling of the Custis-Lee house in Arlington, Virginia, completed in 1820. The style was spread by carpenter's guides and pattern books, the most influential of which were written by Asher Benjamin (The Practical House Carpenter; The Builder's Guide) and Minard Lafever (The Modern Builder's Guide, The Beauties of Modern Architecture)....

One of the most familiar stereotypes in American architecture is the full-colonnaded Greek Revival mansion of the southern states. In this century these are sometimes called Southern Colonial houses, a historical

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 23 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

inaccuracy since most were built long after American independence. This particular Greek Revival subtype does, however, have a little recognized colonial background, for it sprang, at least in part, from French colonial building practices. Early in their colonial expansions both the French and English appended broad living porches, a rarity in Europe, to houses built in tropical regions. The origins of these large galleries or verandahs are obscure, yet they appear wherever British or French colonists encountered warm climates, including the West Indies, Africa, India, and Australia. In the United States, most were built by the French in subtropical Louisiana. With the waning of French influence after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, these forms slowly evolved in the Gulf Coast states into the full colonnaded Greek Revival form now sometimes known as Southern Colonial.

The decline of Greek Revival influence was gradual. In the more fashion-conscious urban centers of the Atlantic seaboard it began to be replaced by the Gothic Revival and Italianate movements in the 1840s. In the interior states, and in rural areas everywhere, it remained a dominant style for domestic buildings until the early 1860s. An important and enduring legacy of the Greek Revival to American domestic architecture is the front-gabled house. Popularized during the ascendancy of the Greek Revival style in the early 19th century, this became the predominant form for detached urban houses in cities of the Northeast and Midwest until well into the 20th century. There it occurs in unadorned folk versions, as well as in styled Gothic, Italianate, Queen Anne, and Shingle houses. In rural areas, the form of Greek Revival known as gable front and wing likewise remained a popular form for folk houses until the 1930s.(4)

The most dominant feature of this Greek Revival modification is the presence of the three large columns on the west side of the house. In the Greek tradition there were usually an even number of columns in order to avoid a center column, however, the Americans felt free to use an odd number when it suited their purposes, thus three columns on this home. Another major Greek Revival feature is the impressive main entryway with decorative lintel and sidelights. In the Greek Revival period the arched entrances and fan windows so common in the Federal styles were abandoned since in ancient Greece they did not use arches. Thus the east door of the house which was the original entryway contains an

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 24 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

elliptical fanlight representing Federal style and the west door contains the lintel and sidelights of the Greek Revival style.

The recessed two story porch also represents the Greek Revival style as do the three non-fluted Doric columns. Greek Revival houses were also painted white and this home was painted white sometime between 1855 and 1883 since one section of brick wall under the outside stairs to the second story porch still remains unpainted and shows the original red brick. If the house had been painted prior to 1855 that wall would have been painted. A picture of the house taken in 1883 shows the house painted white with shutters on all the east side windows. It is speculated the house was painted white when the modifications were completed in 1855.

The house on this farmstead is the oldest continuously inhabited home in Greene County and one of the oldest houses in Illinois. The combination of buildings on this farm represents the period from 1823 to the early 1900's and retains the architectural integrity significant to those periods. There are few other farmsteads that date to this period that still maintain this degree of integrity.

Comparable Homes in the Area

There are very few, if any, houses in the area that have elements of the Federal style and that were built during the same time period as the Black Homestead Farm. Properties identified in state surveys or National Register Historic Districts as Federal were either from a later date, or had so minimal exterior details that an interior inspection would be necessary to verify whether there were any characteristics of Federal architecture.

There are a few Greek Revival houses in the county. Two that have comparable construction dates are the C.H. Eldred House and the J.M. Meek House, both properties existing in the 1873 Greene County Atlas:

The C.H. Eldred House is located west of Carrollton on State Highway 108 and the road locally known as City Springs Road. This is a ca. 1850s two-and-a-half story brick Greek Revival home with an inset doorway framed by an elaborate border of flanking pilasters and an entablature above. The house has a continuous frieze band with a gable end front elevation. Just north of Carrollton at State Highway 67 and the local road

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 25 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

1650 is the John Mewburn Meek House. This ca. 1850s house is wood frame with clapboard siding and exemplifies the Greek Revival style in the low-pitch roofline and wide frieze banding that is discontinuous along the gable ends. Doors with two vertical panels can be found within the house and windows are six-over-six light sash, typical of the Greek Revival pattern.(5)

The Black House differs from these examples since its primary Greek Revival feature is its two-story, full-façade porch, a characteristic that is not common in Illinois. (6)

Footnotes

(1) History of Greene County, Illinois: Its Past and Present, Chicago: Donnelly, Gassette & Loyd, Publishers, 1879, Page 246

(2) History of Greene County, Illinois: Its Past and Present, Chicago: Donnelly, Gassette & Loyd, Publishers, 1879, Page 250

(3) A Field Guide to American Houses, McAlester & McAlester, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1989, p. 158.

(4) A Field Guide to American Houses, McAlester & McAlester, New Your, Alfred A. Knopf, 1989, Page 184.

(5) National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Dr. John Weir House, Pauline Meyer, January 1983.

(6) National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, James John Eldred House, Laura Johnson, St. Louis, MO, 1999, Page 41

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 23 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

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Section 9 Page 23 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 24 Black Homestead Farm, Greene County, IL

Verbal Boundary Description

S 1/2, SW 1/4, Sec 21, T 10 N - R 12 W consisting of 80 acres
NW 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec 28, T 10 N - R 12 W consisting of 43 acres

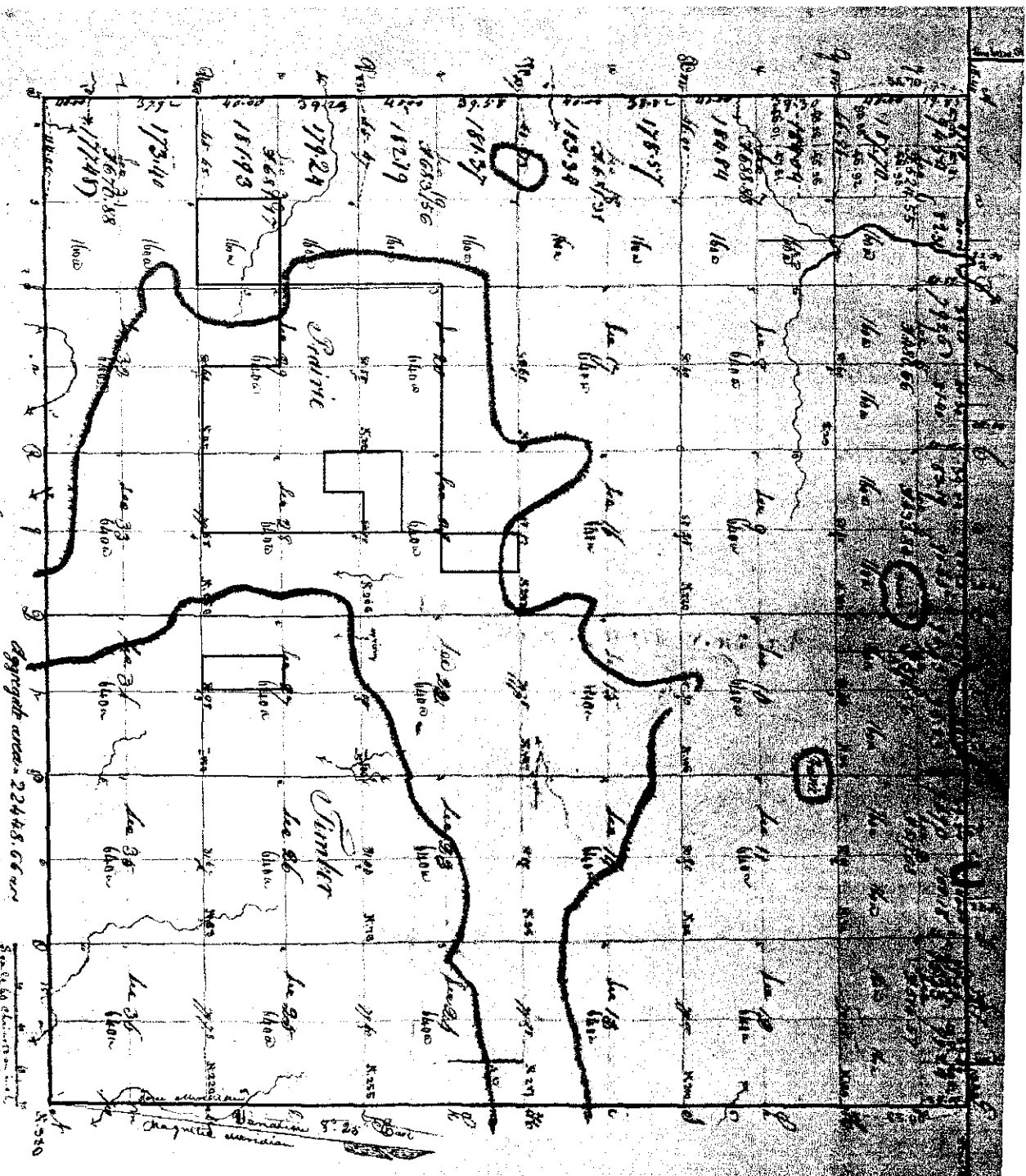
Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the farmhouse, outbuildings and acreage that have historically been part of the Black Homestead Farm. The 80 acres was originally purchased by Margaret Black in 1821. She inherited the 43 acres in 1823 after the death of her brother, Robert. Since the house was completed in December of 1823 the current land (123 acres) has been in the farm operation since the house was built.

UTM References

1. E720229
N4352684
2. E720982
N4352684
3. E720982
4352276
4. E720643
N4352276
5. E720643
N4351859
6. E720250
N4351877

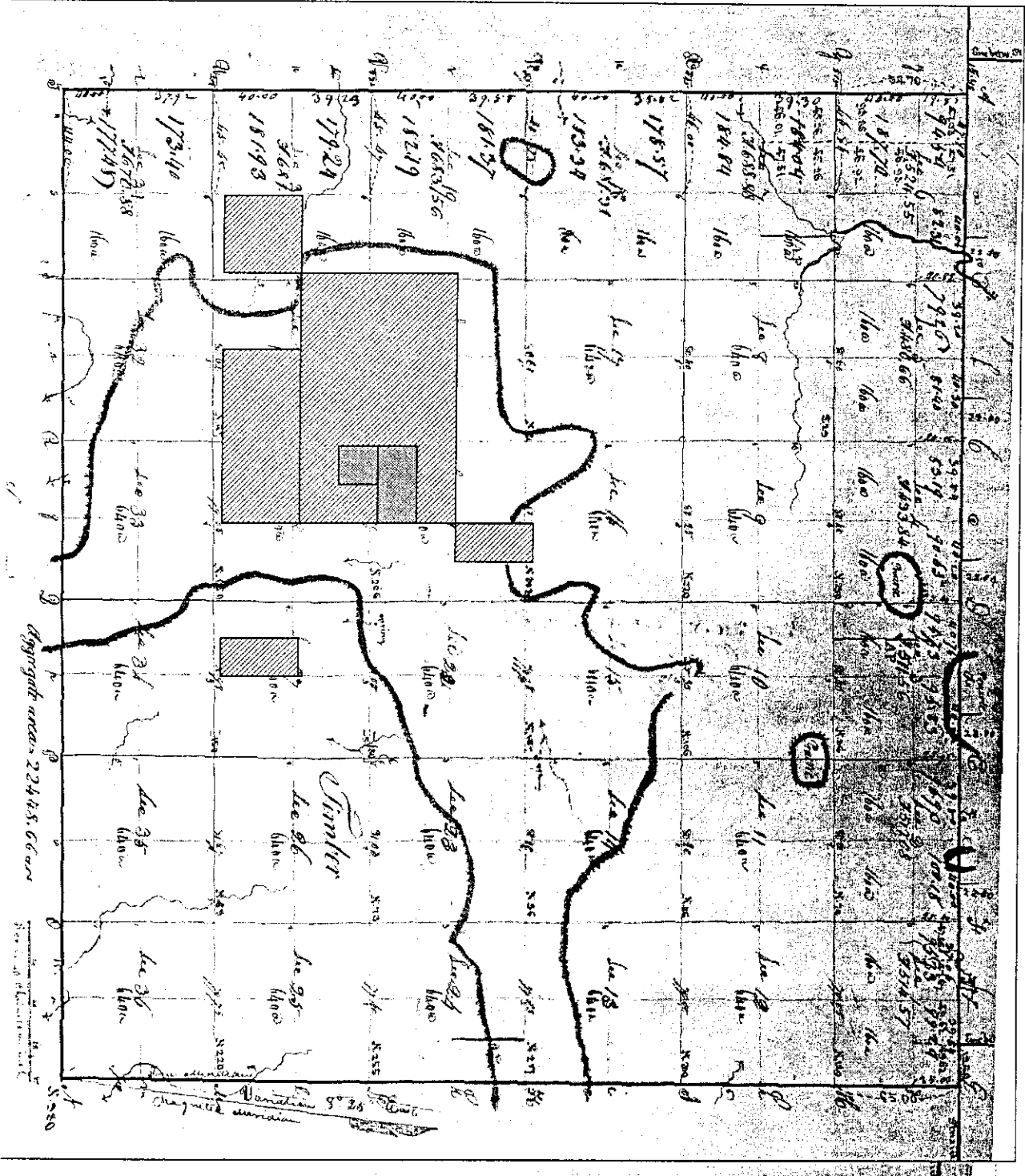
Black Homestead Farm
Greene County, IL



Blue lines =
land purchase
by the
Hobsons in 1821
(including the
land purchased
by Margaret
Hobson Black)

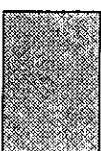
Red lines =
farm land
remaining
today

Black Homestead Farm Greene County, IL

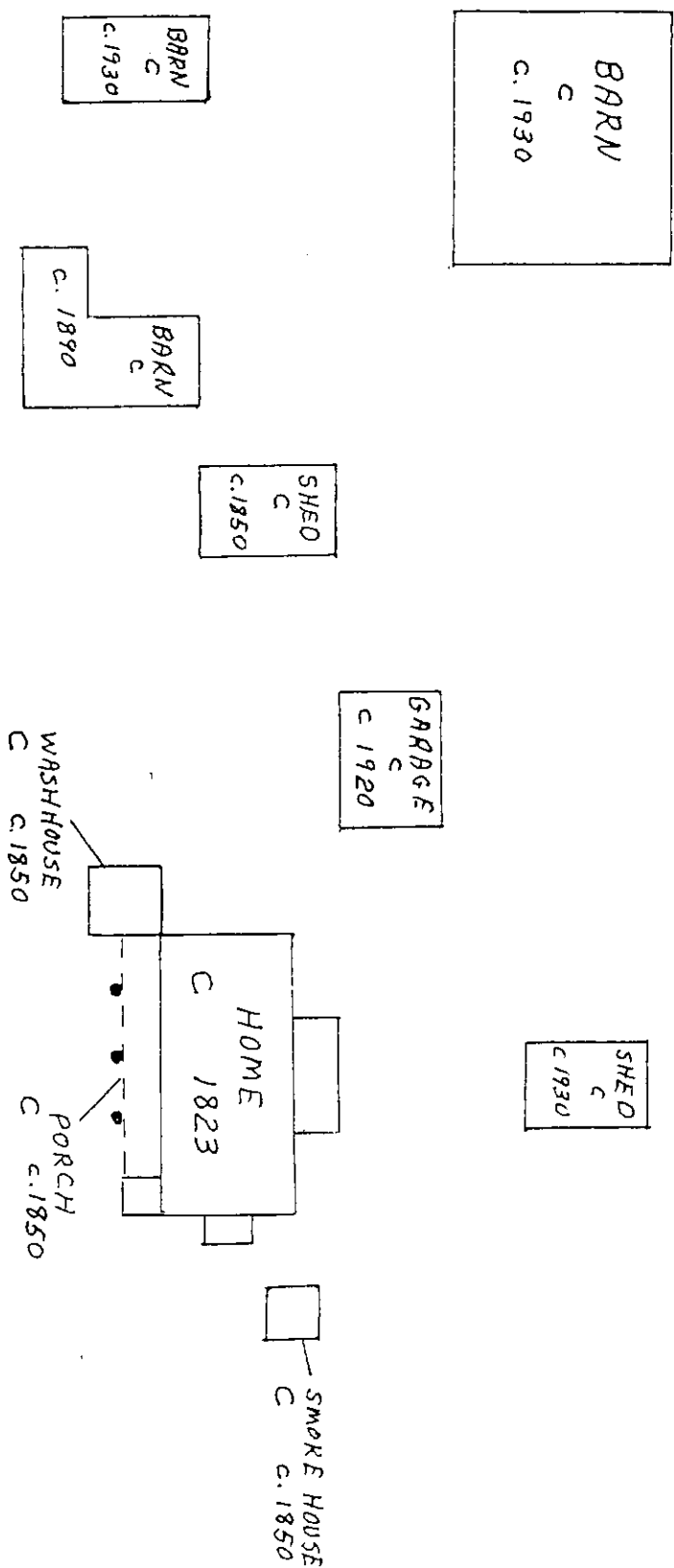


Land purchased by
the Hobson Family
in 1821

Black Homestead
Farm today



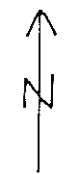
BLACK HOMESTEAD FARM SITE PLAN



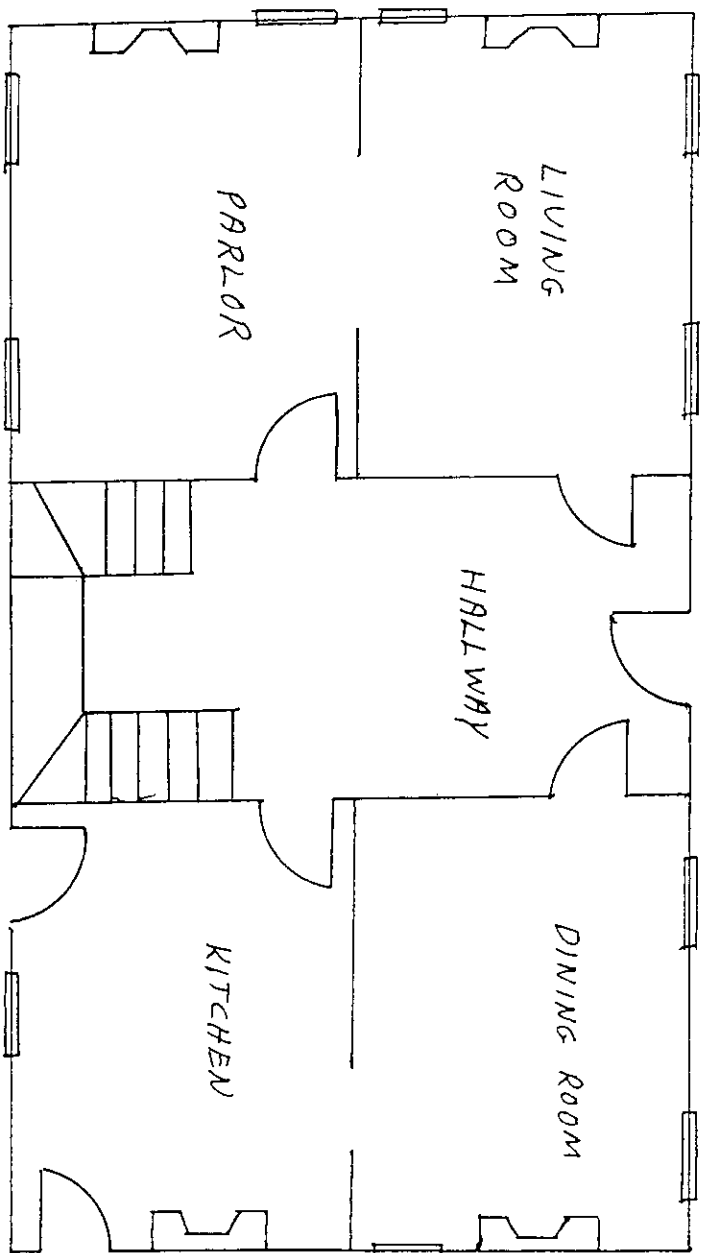
Road

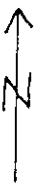
LOCATION:
N $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 21, T10N-R12W
GREENE CO. ILLINOIS

C = contributing

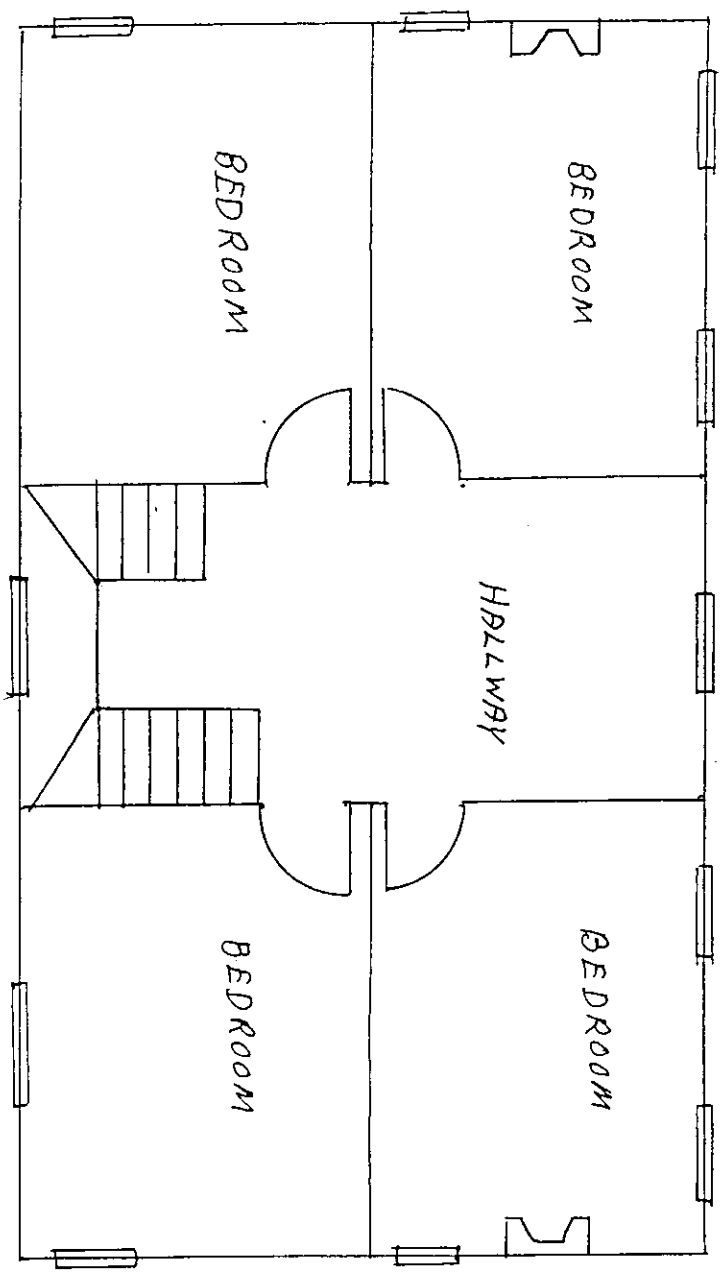


BLACK HOMESTEAD
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
1823



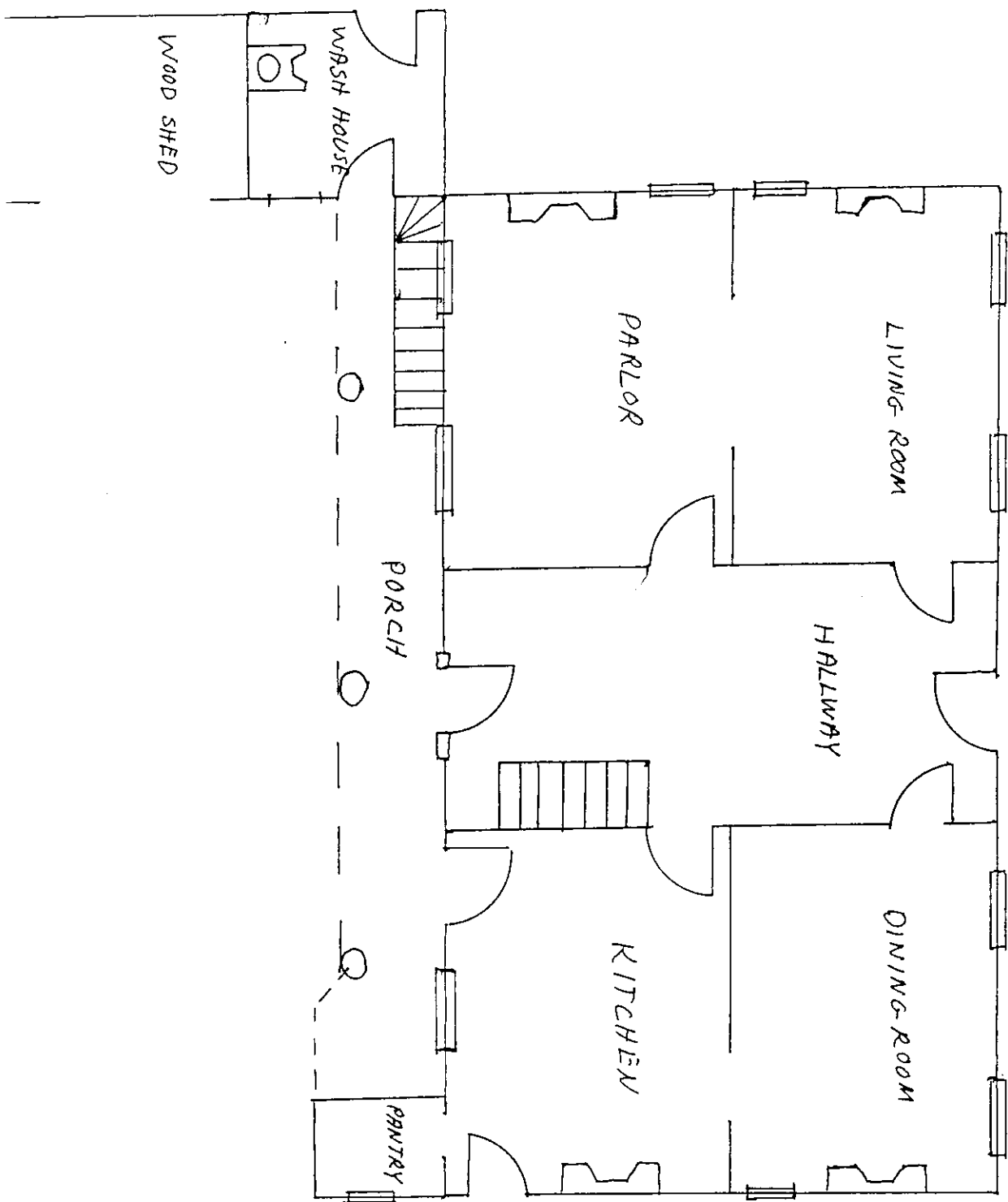


BLACK HOMESTEAD
SECOND FLOOR PLAN
1823



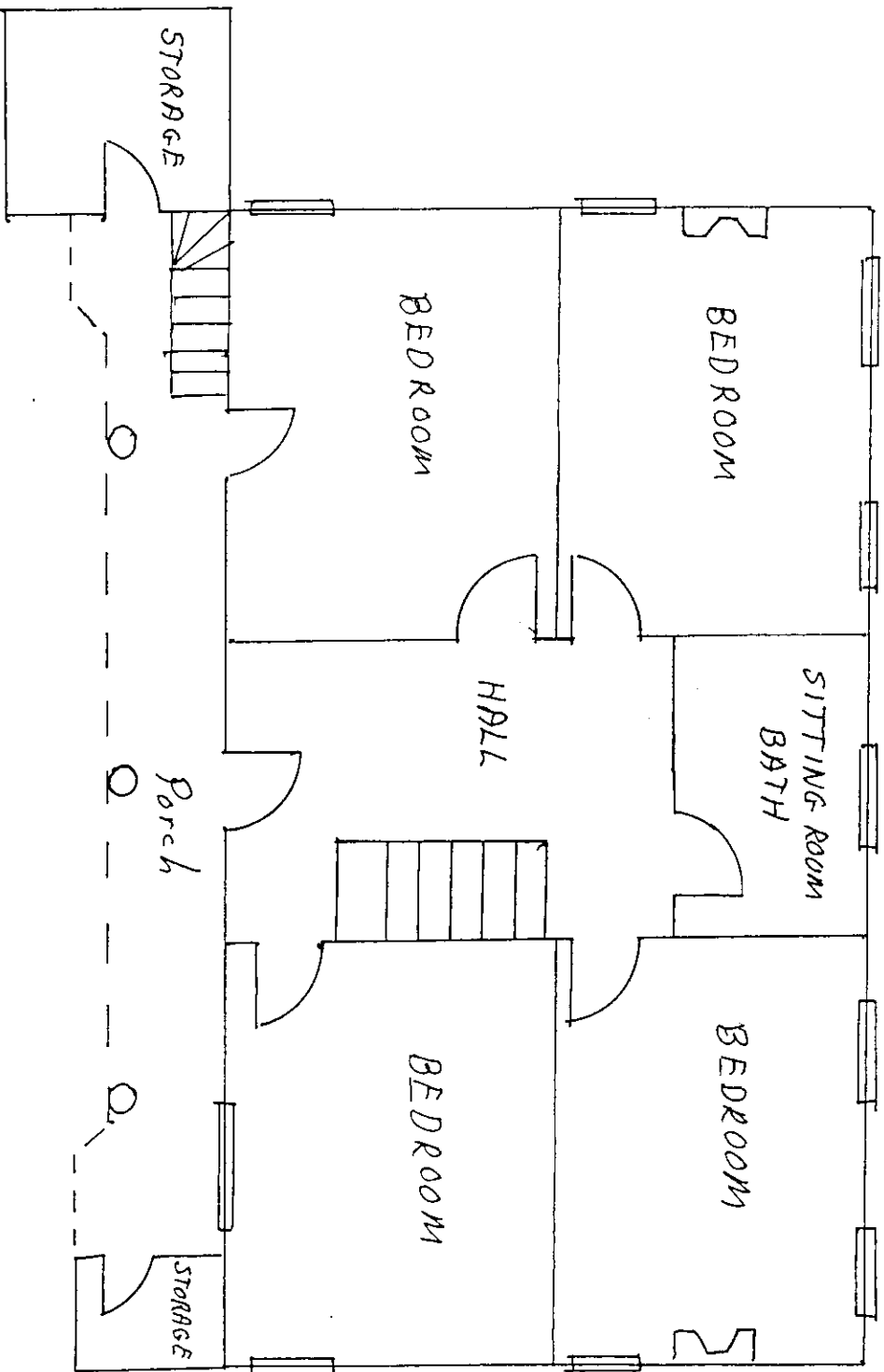
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BLACK HOMESTEAD
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
c. 1850

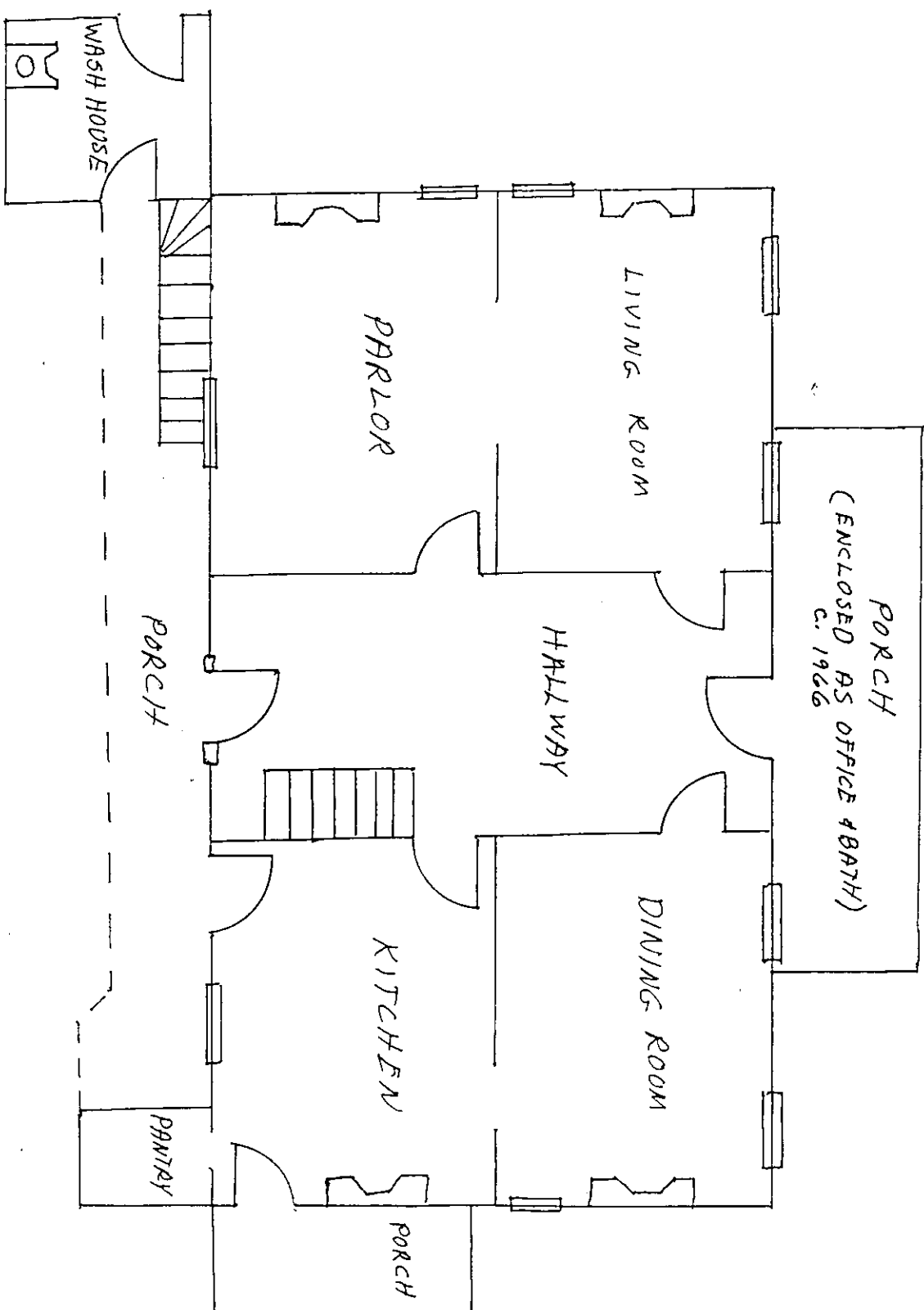
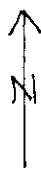


← Z

BLACK HOMESTEAD
SECOND FLOOR PLAN
c. 1850



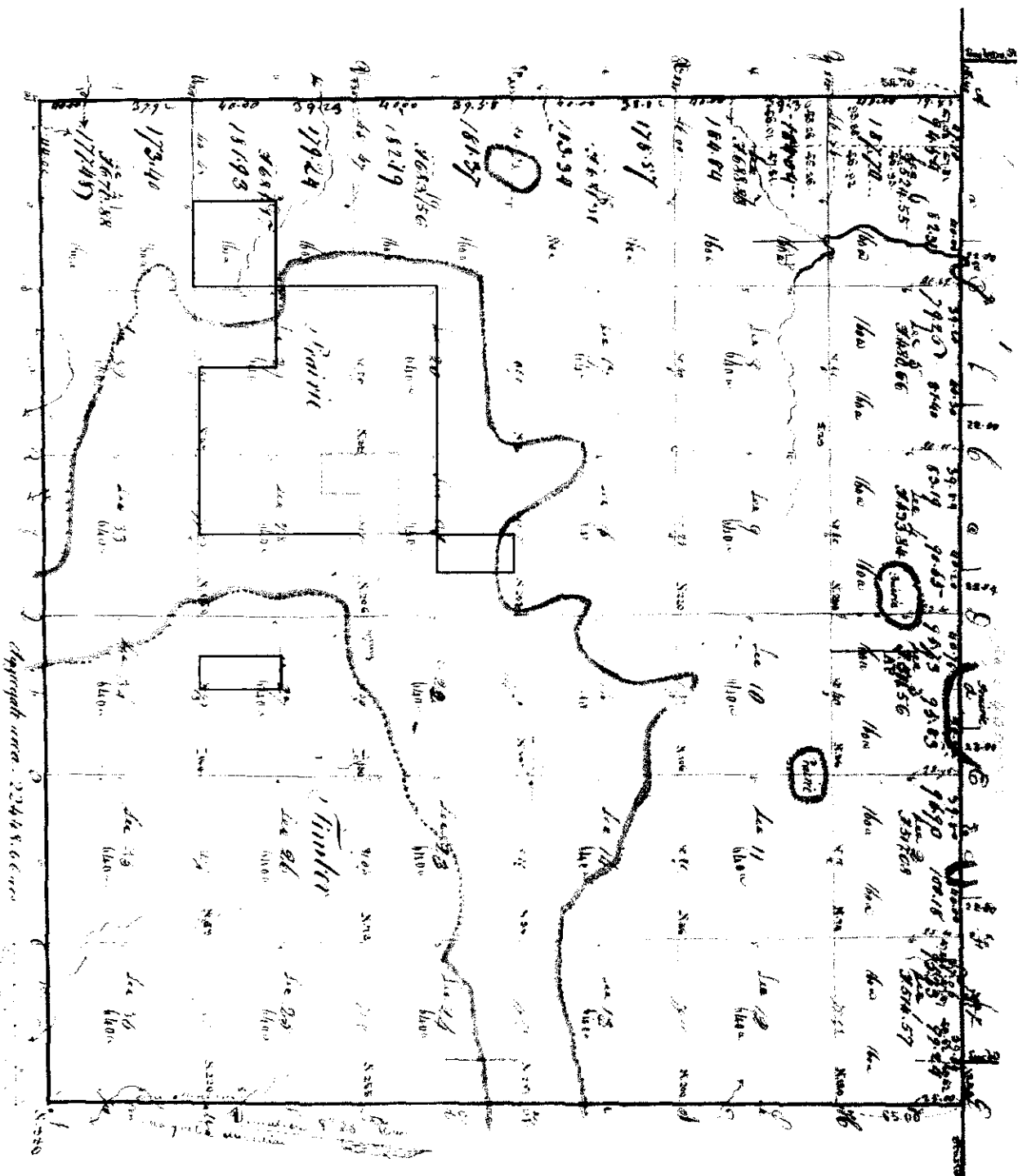
BLACK HOMESTEAD
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
c. 1909



Black Homestead Farm --Dates of Land Acquisition
Greene County Courthouse
County Recorder's Office Records

- 1821 Margaret purchased 480 acres from the US Government.
- 1823 Margaret received 320 acres when her brother, Robert Hobson, died. Now owns 800 acres.
- 1835 Margaret purchased additional 350 acres making total of 1150 acres.
- 1838 Margaret sold 517 acres to her son, William Black.
Margaret sold 283 acres to her son, Thomas Black.
Margaret sold 350 acres to her son, David Black.
- 1850 Thomas black bought 40 acres of timber north of the current farm. Now owned 323 acres.
- 1879 Thomas Black sold 80 acres. Now owned 243 acres.
- 1883 Thomas Black donated land to the Litchfield, Carrollton, and Western Railroad.
- 1895 Thomas Black died. The 123 acres currently in the Black Homestead Farm remained as a homestead for his wife and at her death the land went to Russell and Robert Black along with 20 acres of the woods north of the farm.
- 1905 Robert Black bought out his brother's, Russell Black, interest in the farm and now owned the 123 acres of cropland and the 20 acres of timber that is currently known as the Black Homestead Farm.

Black Homestead Farm Greene County, IL

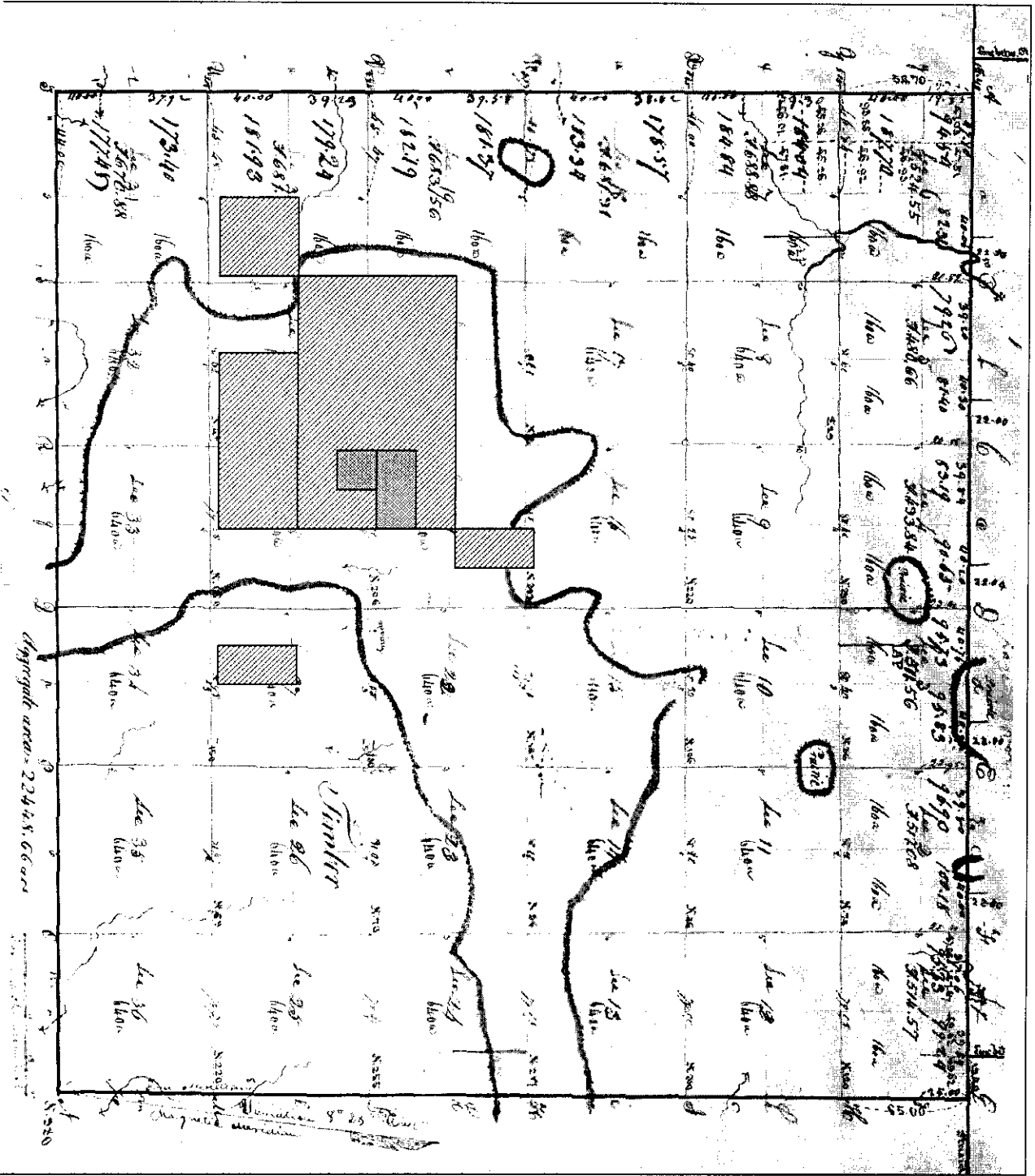


Blue lines =
land purchased
by the
HOBSONS in 1821
including the
land purchased
by Margaret
Hobson (Black)

Red lines =
farm land
remaining
today

Land Survey Map

Black Homestead Farm Greene County, IL

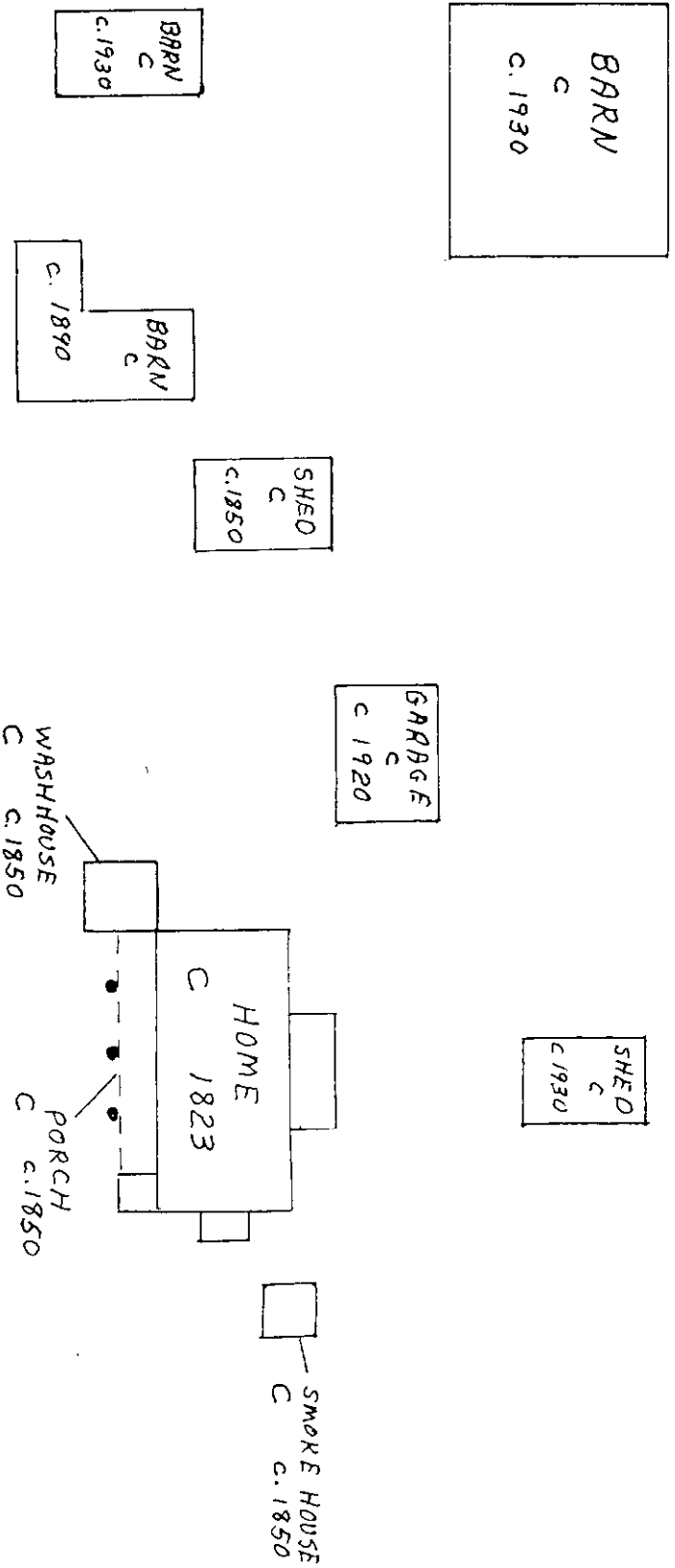


Land purchased by the Hobson Family in 1821

Black Homestead Farm today

BLACK HOMESTEAD FARM SITE PLAN

← Z



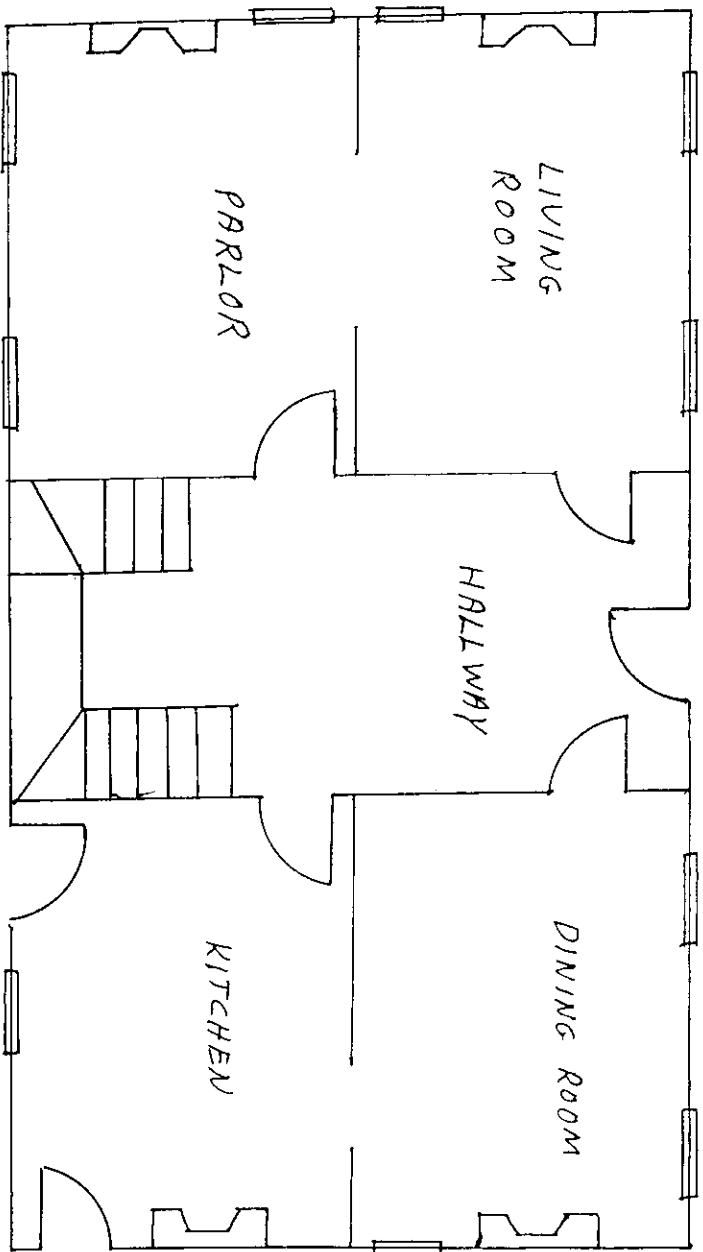
Road

LOCATION:
N $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 21, T10N-R12W
GREEN CO., ILLINOIS

C = contributing

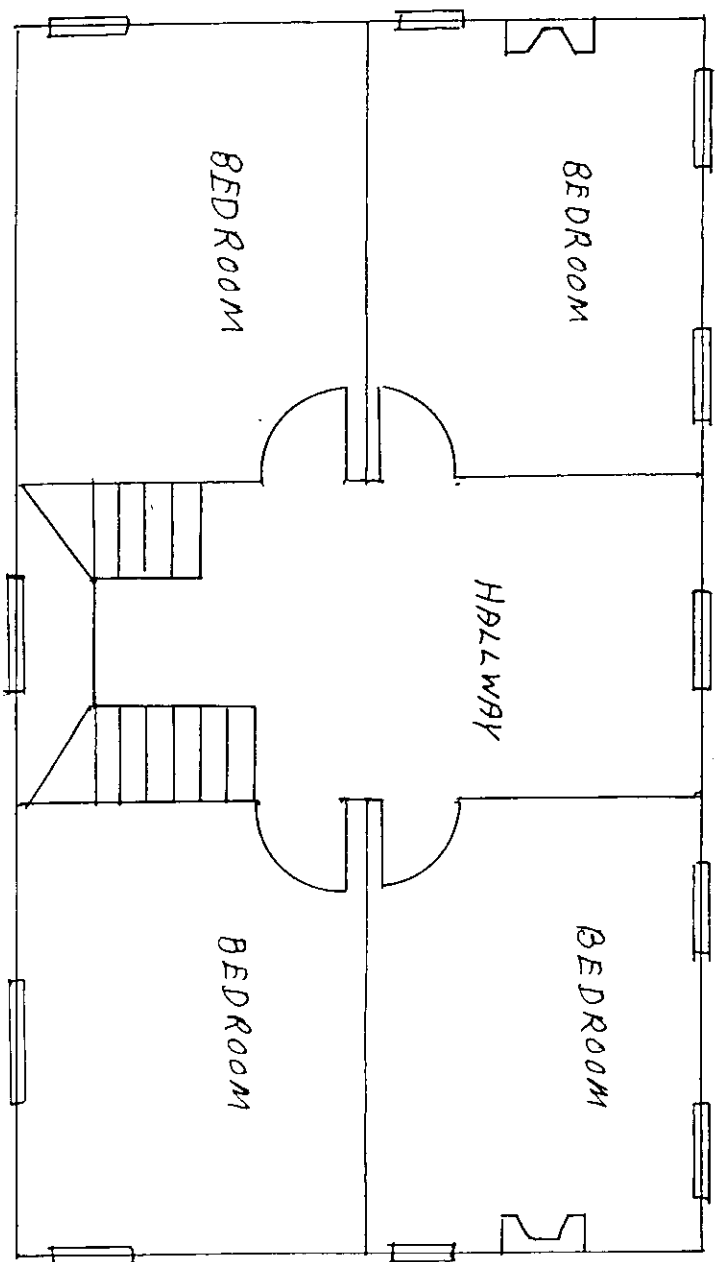
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BLACK HOMESTEAD
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
1823



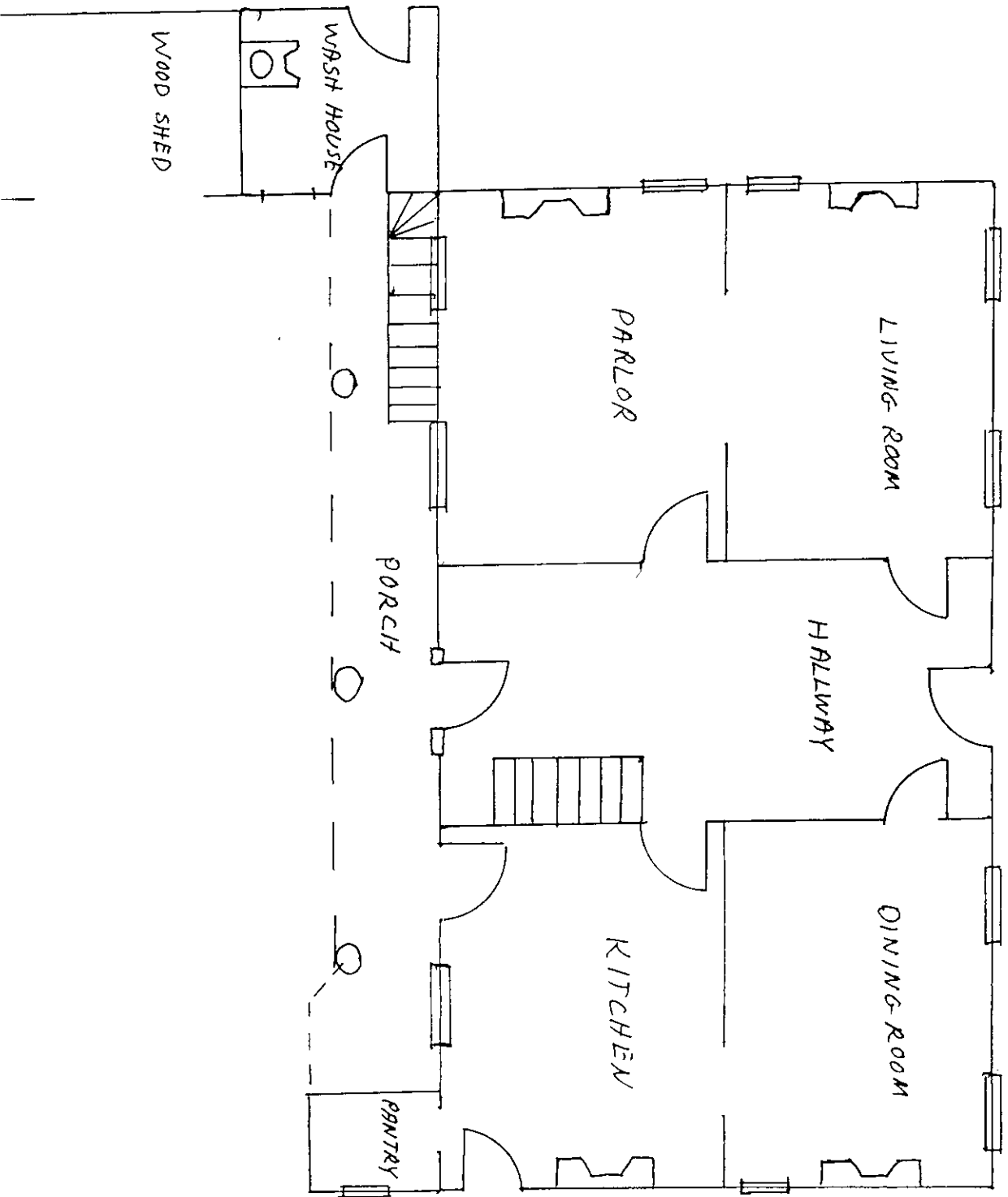


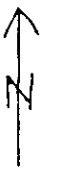
BLACK HOMESTEAD
SECOND FLOOR PLAN
1823



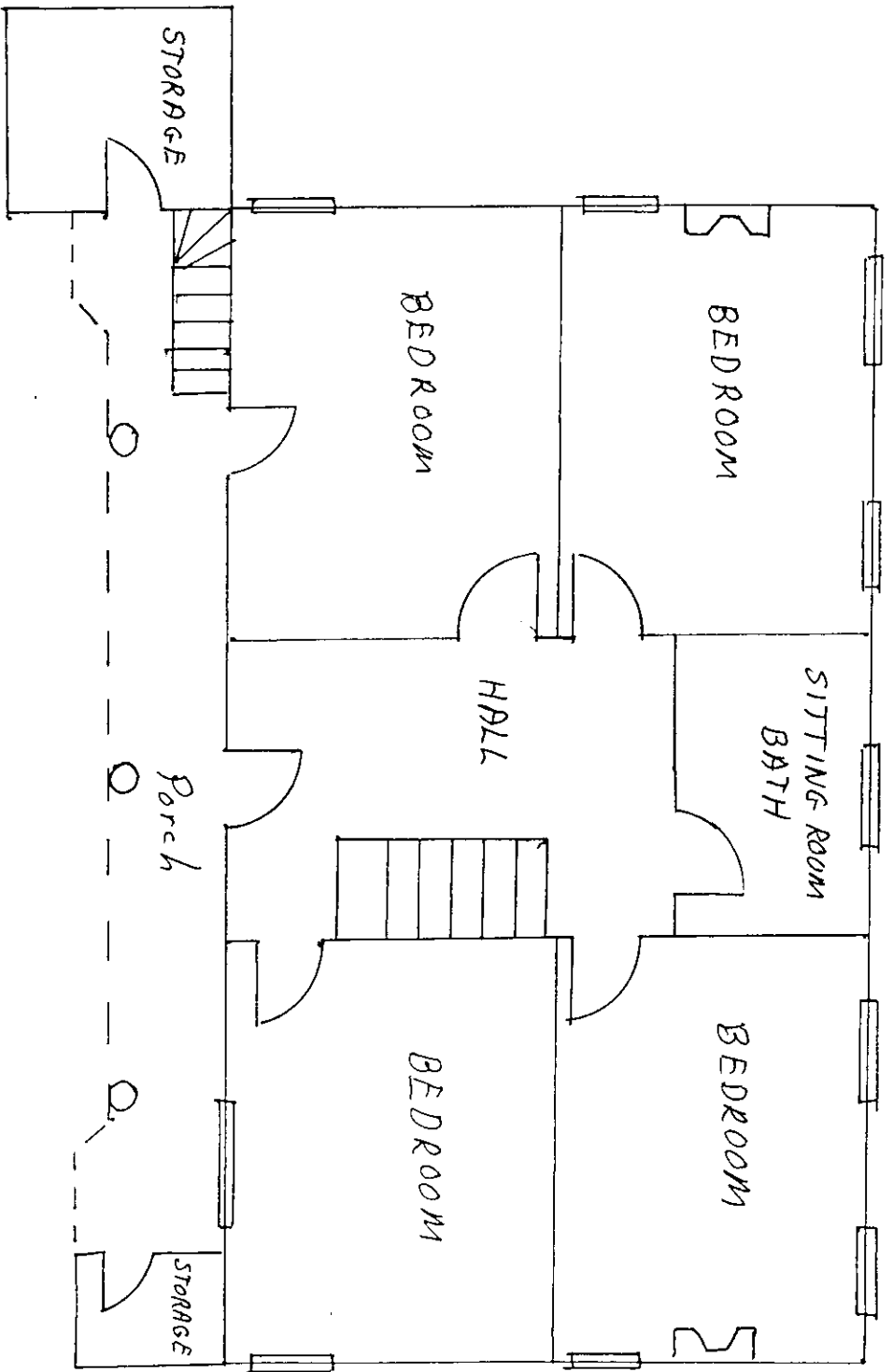
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BLACK HOMESTEAD
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
C. 1850

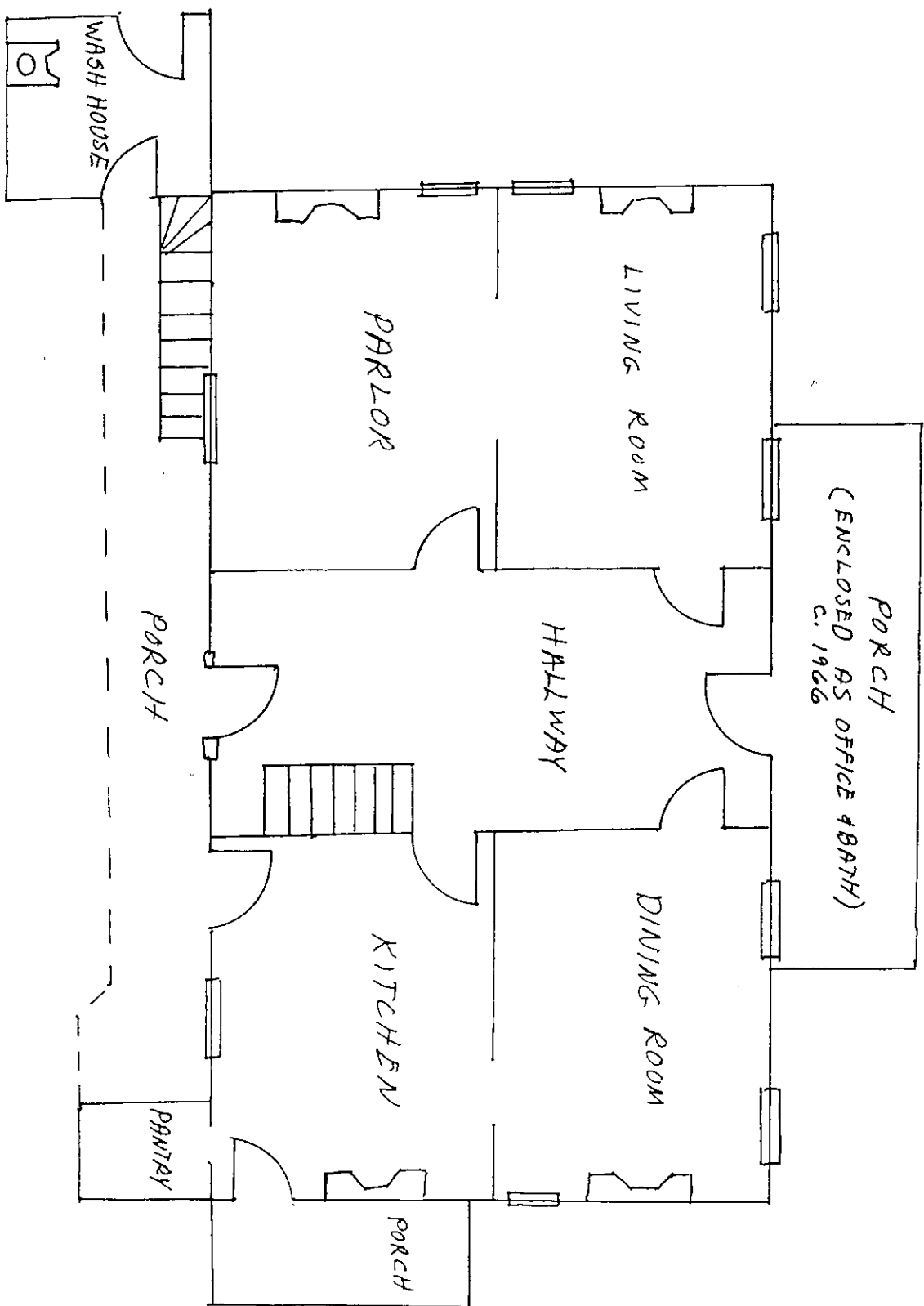




BLACK HOMESTEAD
SECOND FLOOR PLAN
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* ILLINOIS, GREENE COUNTY,
Black Homestead Farm,
RR 3,
Carrollton, 05000110,
LISTED, 5/24/05

ILLINOIS, LEE COUNTY,
Wright, Stephen, House,
612 Chicago Rd.,
Paw Paw, 05000433,
LISTED, 5/22/05

ILLINOIS, MADISON COUNTY,
Collinsville Masonic Temple Lodge #712 A.F. & A.M.,
213 W. Clay St.,
Collinsville, 05000430,
LISTED, 5/22/05

ILLINOIS, MENARD COUNTY,
Rogers, Col. Matthew, Building,
200 S. Main St.,
Athens, 05000431,
LISTED, 5/22/05

ILLINOIS, ROCK ISLAND COUNTY,
Villa de Chantal Historic District,
2101 16th Ave.,
Rock Island, 05000432,
LISTED, 5/22/05

KANSAS, DONIPHAN COUNTY,
Brenner Vineyards Historic District,
SW of jct. of Mineral Point and 95th Rds.,
Doniphan vicinity, 04001514,
LISTED, 5/24/05

MARYLAND, BALTIMORE INDEPENDENT CITY,
Rombro Building,
22--24 S. Howard St.,
Baltimore, 94001172,
LISTED, 5/26/05
(Cast Iron Architecture of Baltimore MPS)

MASSACHUSETTS, BARNSTABLE COUNTY,
Coast Guard Motor Lifeboat CG 36500,
berthed at Rock Harbor,
Orleans, 05000467,
LISTED, 5/27/05

MASSACHUSETTS, ESSEX COUNTY,
River Road--Cross Street Historic District,
Cross, Prospect Sts., River, Salem Rds.,
Topsfield, 05000465,
LISTED, 5/26/05
(Farms and Rural Retreats of Topsfield, Massachusetts MPS)

MASSACHUSETTS, MIDDLESEX COUNTY,
Higginson, Henry, House,
44 Baker Farm Rd.,
Lincoln, 05000468,