



Register of Historic Kansas Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating individual properties and districts. The format is similar to the National Register of Historic Places form. 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 an 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. Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name John Kelly Stone Building

Other names/site number KHRI # 045-4566

Name of related Multiple Property Listing _____

2. Location

street & number 777 N 1750 Rd n/a not for publication


city or town Lawrence n/a vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Douglas code DG zip code 66049

3-4. Certification

I hereby certify that this property is listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

Applicable State Register Criteria: A B C D

 11-18-21
 Signature of certifying official/Title Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO Date

Kansas State Historical Society
 State agency

Listed November 13, 2021

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.)

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the State Register

n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: blacksmith shop

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: STONE

walls: STONE

roof: Synthetic wood shakes

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the current physical appearance of the property.)

Summary Paragraph *(Briefly describe the overall characteristics of the property and its location, setting, and size.)*

The John Kelly Stone building is located at 777 N 1750 Rd in Douglas County, Kansas. The building is located on a historic farmstead with several buildings, and historic Oregon-California trail ruts. It is a single-story limestone masonry structure, rectangular in shape and features a side-gable synthetic-shingle roof. There is an attached wood-framed addition with a metal roof creating an "ell" on the west side. The stone building features three large masonry door openings and three smaller window openings. The addition has a side gable roof and shed roof portion. The building was in severe disrepair as of 2013, and it went under a large reconstruction project. The building was taken down and reconstructed stone by stone with a historically compatible mortar. Overall, the building is in good condition and retains its integrity and character-defining features like the native limestone and open roofing system. The limestone building is a good example of an early vernacular structure in Douglas County.

Elaboration *(Provide a detailed description of the building's exterior, interior, and any associated buildings on the property. Note any historic features, materials, and changes to the building/property.)*

The John Kelly stone building is located on a historic farmstead, with three barns, outbuildings, a shed, and two houses. The oldest building on the property is the stone building, which is the only building included in this nomination for its association with the early settlement of Douglas County and its connection to the historic trails in the area. Other elements of the property include the acres of historic trail ruts across the open farmland.

This section is developed from "Stone Building Kanwaka Township Douglas County Kansas" by Matthew Miller, a student at the School of Architecture, University of Kansas, prepared May 11, 1995. This document is on file at the Kansas Historic Preservation Office in the site file for this property.

The simple design of the stone building consists of a rectangular form divided into three sections on the interior (Figures 2-3). Each of these sections has a separate exterior entrance with no interior connections to one another. The north elevation has a door with a small window directly above it. The interior walls of this northern section were at one time stone covered in plaster. Most of the plaster has since deteriorated, revealing the original stone walls beneath and stone floor. The central section features a door on the east elevation, similar to the northern door. There is a window on the western side that leads into an attached wooden shed that was added later.

The northern wall was once made of stone which spanned from the floor to about seven feet tall. The southern interior wall is of wood and features 1x8s nailed side by side to a 6x6 beam built into the exterior stone walls. This wooden wall reaches the peak of the roof.

The south elevation contains a door with a small window directly above, like the north facade. This southern section contains a window on its eastern side that is twice as large as the windows on the north and south sides. This section has a cement floor with a "1941" date scribed in the floor indicating when the floor was poured. All three sections are relatively the same size, with the central section being the largest.

The wood-framed addition is made of shiplap wood siding and has two rectangular portions, the north under a gable roof and the south under a shed roof. The north elevation has a single door on the eastern third and a single window in the central and western thirds. The west elevation consists of a double barn door entrance which takes up most of the elevation. The west elevation of the shed roof has a single square window opening. The south elevation has two large horizontal rectangle openings also in shiplap siding.

The construction and individual elements are of quality workmanship. The walls were built of stone rubble in various sizes. The sixteen-inch exterior walls consist of three courses of stones. The middle layer contains

small stones, while the outer two layers are of larger stones. These three layers are held together with a limestone mortar except in places that were patched at a later date with a cement mixture. The corners contain large quoin stones, which are the only worked stones of the building. These quoins appear in an alternating large-small configuration. The largest stones appear in the exterior walls above the doors and windows. These large single stone lintels span the entire width of each door and window opening. The interior walls directly opposite these stone lintels are different. Instead of large stones above the doors and windows, the interior lintels are rough-cut timber embedded in the stone walls. This feature appears on all the doors and windows of the building. The roof is supported by the stone walls and is covered by wood shake shingles and has been since at least 1946. In an interview with Harold Willits, he recalled patching the wood shingles with Willis R. Colman in the late 1940s. The original make-up of the roof is not known.

There is black soot present on the stone, likely from when the building was a blacksmith shop. There is other evidence of the usage due to several hooks that were used to hold tools. Some of the interior stones have turned reddish in color due to excessive heat. The building was previously used as a smokehouse, and there are various elements still within the structure.

The structure underwent a full reconstruction to address a sizeable portion of the building which had collapsed. The fallen materials were collected and organized, including the fall stone, pieces of the loft, and other portions of the roof. By 1998, some of the walls began falling in as well. The building was searched for remaining artifacts and other structural elements, in which blacksmith tools and resources were discovered, organized, and put aside. Trees that had taken over some of the structure and pulled apart the masonry walls were cut away from the structure. The undamaged wall portions were stabilized with a wood frame while the fallen pieces of stone walls were rebuilt. Some pieces of stone were replaced and lumber to remake the windows, doors, and roof. A mixture of sand, lime, and cement was purchased and used to make the mortar. Karl Ramberg was the main stonemason for the reconstruction process. The project took several years but ultimately saved as much of the structure as possible and continues to share the history of the building and its importance to Douglas County settlement.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for State 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1859-1960

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

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

Period of Significance (justification)

The period is based on the historic use and function of the structure related to the settlement and growth of the area.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

n/a

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph *(Provide a summary paragraph that notes under what criteria the property is nominated.)*

The John Kelly stone building, located in Lawrence, Douglas County, is eligible for listing in the Register of Historic Kansas Places because it is historically significant for its association with settlement in Douglas County. The simple stone building has been reconstructed with the help of expert stone masons and architecture students. The building is a good example of this type of stone structure from the era. The period of significance is 1859-1960 and is related to the use and function of the building on the property.

Elaboration *(Provide a brief history of the property and justify why this property is locally significant.)*

Before Kansas becoming a territory and before the land was surveyed by the General Land Office, the Oregon and California Trail passed through this area of Douglas county approximately one mile southwest of where the 160-acre farmstead of John A. Kelly would be located. (Figure 1) An act of the United States Congress on March 3, 1855, awarded tracts of land to officers and soldiers who had served in the United States military service. This act would also provide the means by which John A. Kelly would acquire his 160-acre parcel.

In pursuance of the Act of Congress, approved March 3, 1855, entitled "An Act in addition to certain Acts granting Bounty Land to certain Officers and Soldiers who have been engaged in the military service of the United States," there has been deposited in the General Land Office, Warrant No. 41570 for 160 acres, in favor of Mehitable H. Sanders, widow of Samuel Sanders Seaman Ship Constitution, Unites States Navy, War 1812, with evidence that the same has been duly located upon the Southeast quarter of Section twenty-four, in Township twelve, of Range eighteen, in the district of lands subject to sale at Lecompton Kansas containing one hundred and sixty acres.

According to the official plat of the survey of said lands returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General the said warrant having been assigned by the said Mehitable H. Sanders, to John A. Kelly in whose favor said tract has been located. Now know ye, that there is therefore granted by the United States unto the said John A. Kelly as assigned as aforesaid and to his heirs the tract of land above described: to have and hold the said tract of land with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said John A. Kelly as assigned as aforesaid and to his heirs and assigns forever... ¹

The 1859 Kansas Territorial Census shows John A. Kelly lived in Lecompton Township. He began living on this land sometime after 1860. It was during this time that the stone building (earliest date inscribed 1874) and stable were built. The farm is in Kanwaka Township (named by Dr. Helen Heath because the township is halfway between the Kansas and Wakarusa rivers). Willis A. Colman purchased the farm in 1902. Willis A. Colman was born March 15, 1855, and died in 1934. He was the son of Ezekiel A. and Mary Jane Wendell. He is thought to have been the first Caucasian boy born in Douglas county. The 1905 census valued the farm at \$5000 and the value of the buildings at \$2000. The farm still has over ½ mile of stone fencing and a barn built in 1929. After losing a leg in a farming accident, Willis A. Colman moved into Lawrence and built this barn for his horse and carriage. When he moved back to the farm in 1932, he split the barn in half and moved it to the farm. The barn is the southernmost building on the property. Coleman's children farmed the land collectively until 1940. At this time, Willis Ray Colman (b 11/30/1895, d 7/18/1960) became the sole owner of the farm. He lived in a modest seven-room house that burned on March 5, 1951; this was the 3rd home to burn on the farm.

¹ Land patent details accessed at the Bureau of Land Management's website 08/29/2021. <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/> The warrant No. 41570 was signed August 10, 1860.

He then built the cottage in 1951 and lived in it until he died. After his death, his wife, Nellie Colman, and their daughter, Waneta (b 7/9/1927 and her husband, Harold Willits (married 7/27/1947), lived on the property and farmed the ground. Nellie Colman died in 1962. The farm was divided in 1965, with Willits as owners of the 160 acres. In 1965 the Willits built the ranch-style home which exists today. Waneta Willits died in 1994, and the family sold the farm to Gary and Terrie Price in 1994. Today, the farm still has an equipment shed, a single grain crib barn built around 1949, and a nearby clearing a stone fire pit (stones are cemented) where community meetings were held. (Figure 19)

Portions of this section are developed from the "Stone Building Kanwaka Township Douglas County Kansas" by Matthew Miller, a student at the School of Architecture, University of Kansas, prepared May 11, 1995. This document is on file at the Kansas Historic Preservation Office in the site file for this property.

Based on an interview with Harold Willits and written correspondence with Clare Colman, it is suggested that the building served three purposes for part of its existence. The northern section served as a smokehouse; this was based on evidence in 1995 by the black soot accumulation on the underside of the vertical ceiling boards spaced about twelve inches apart and positioned in the walls. These blackened boards contain numerous large meat hooks. Harold Willits stated that he never smoked meat in this location.

Mr. Colman stated that the central section was used as a blacksmith shop, although not a blacksmith shop that would serve the necessary smithing for the farm. Mr. Colman is aware of a stone fire pit in this central section with a rectangular wooden chimney that extended through the roof but did not connect with the pit. The anvil and the forge were positioned outside the shop. The forge, which Mr. Colman describes as having a crank, sat just south of the eastern door; the anvil sat directly east of the door. The anvil and forge and a majority of the tools were sold at an auction. The wooden wall which separates the central and southern sections contains many hooks which could have held tools at one time. The interior stones in this section are reddish in color that would indicate exposure to intense heat; this may result from the fire pit that Mr. Colman describes. The southern section was used as a chicken house. Mr. Willits used it for this purpose until wild animals killed several chickens. There is a wooden roost for the chickens that hangs from the rafters.

Based on the evidence found on the historic materials and structure, it appears that the building served as a smokehouse, a blacksmith shop, and a chicken house. However, based on secondary source materials, the original purpose was a house for John A. Kelly. Many of the elements within the building are characteristic of Irish or Scottish longhouses. The idea behind these early longhouses is the lodging of both humans and livestock under one roof. The traditional longhouse was long and narrow in plan and divided internally into three sections. These were light partitions of thin wood to allow heat to move from room to room in many instances. Most consisted of one story, which sat at ground level with no steps leading to a central doorway. In some instances, a chimney was present, but many featured a central open hearth with an opening in the roof.

All of the characteristics of a longhouse are present in the John Kelly stone building as well; however, the most similarities occur within the details. The stone rubble used in construction is similar – random rubble construction was common to many longhouses. These were generally built with stones three courses thick and held together with a limestone mortar. Most of the exposed stone faces were left as they were found or quarried with little or no shaping done. The exception would have existed in the corner treatment. Just as in the Kelly stone building, longhouses often featured large worked stones, or quoins, at the corners. These stones provided a decorative element as well as added support for the roof at the corners.

Other similarities exist in the treatment of the doors and windows. The large single stone lintels above the doors and windows of the Kelly stone building are also characteristic of longhouse construction. The lintels above the east and north doors have been whitewashed. Irish builders, almost, as a rule, preferred to whitewash stone farm buildings. The windowsills bear a striking resemblance to the longhouse as a typical sill would consist of a thin stone or combination of them that would not project out from the wall more than three-eighths of an inch, if at all. The use of wood to frame both the doors and windows is yet another equivalent characteristic. All of these features and characteristics of a longhouse are present in the Kelly stone building.

Though it is questionable whether this building was an actual longhouse, based on these numerous similarities, it was at minimum based on the building tradition of Ireland or Scotland.

The John Kelly stone building retains excellent integrity of historic location, setting, materials, design, and workmanship. The building went through extensive reconstruction. Each piece was numbered, labeled, and cataloged in a drawing so that the collapsed building could be properly reconstructed in a traditional method with accuracy.

Images of the reconstruction are included as Figures at the end of the nomination.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gary Price
organization Owner date 2021
street & number 777 N 1750 Rd telephone _____
city or town Lawrence state KS zip code 66049
e-mail _____

Property Owner:

name Same as above
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Figures

Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below.

Figure 1: Partial view of 1858 General Lane Office survey map of Township 12 South; Range 19 East

Figure 2: Site plan of the buildings on the farmstead.

Figure 3: Plan of the stone building and the wood addition. Stone masonry building is outlined with thick masonry walls.

Figure 4: John Kelly stone building timeline for Colman property.

Figure 5: Original outside of east wall of stable. Wood structure added in 2001

Figure 6: Inside east original wall, wood frame and wall rebuilt to left 2001

Figure 7: Stable NW outside, wall rebuilt and wood wall added 2001

Figure 8: Stable, inside NW end west 2/3rd rebuilt and wood wall added 2001

Figure 9: Stone building se view taken 2001

Figure 10: Stone building south end with attached shed. Shed built early 1900's

Figure 11: Stone building east wall south end

Figure 12: Stone building inside wall south end, chicken coup on other side.

Figure 13: Stone building NW side and north side of shed

Figure 14: Stone building east wall

Figure 15: Stone building inside north wall

Figure 16: Farmstead from west

Figure 17: Farmstead from north

Figure 18: Grove and farmstead from NE overlooking a native prairie field

Figure 19: Fire pit in grove where they had community meetings early 1900's

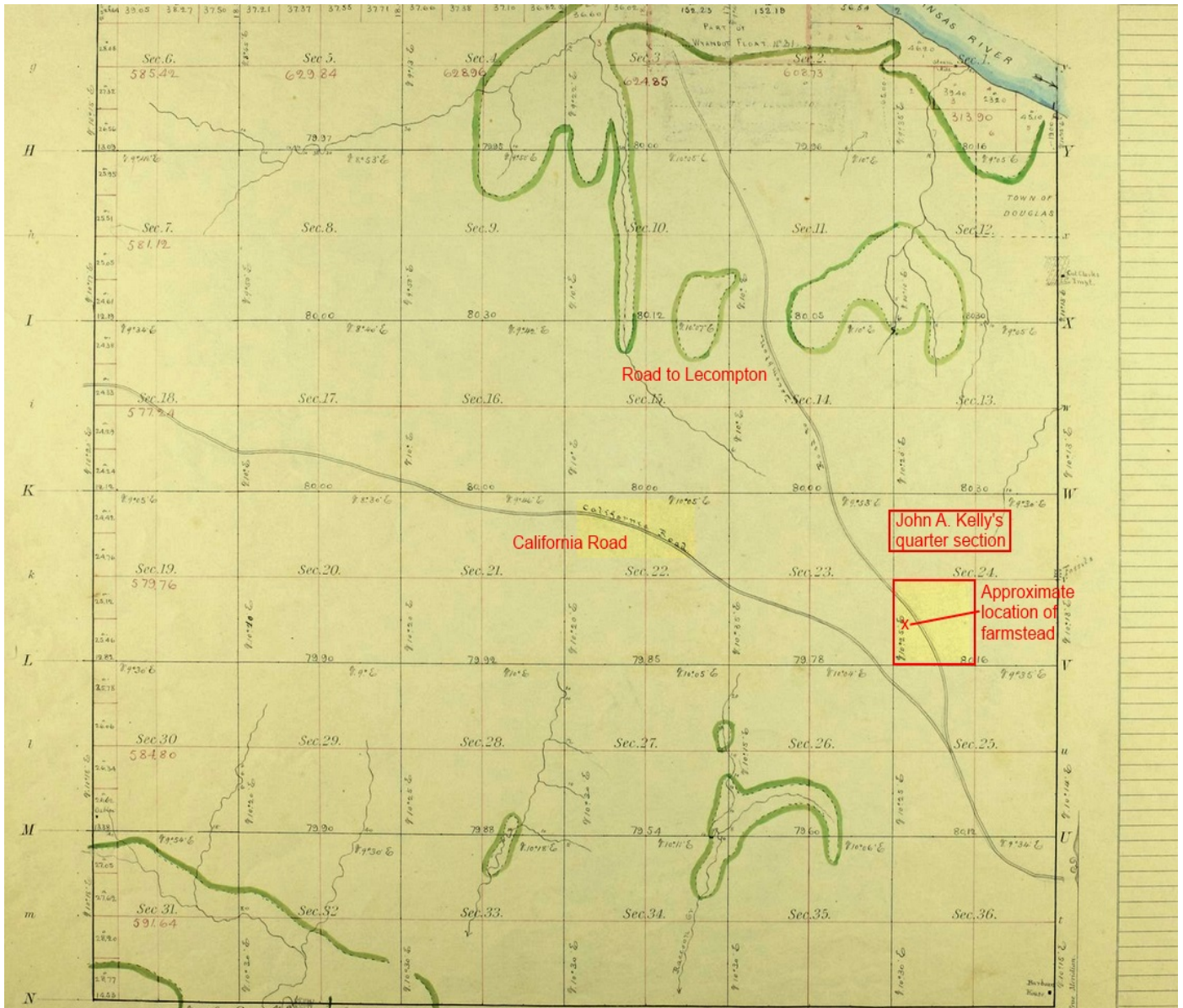


Figure 1: Partial view of 1858 General Lane Office survey map of
Township 12 South; Range 19 East
Accessed at:

<https://www.kansasmemory.org/item/223914/page/12>

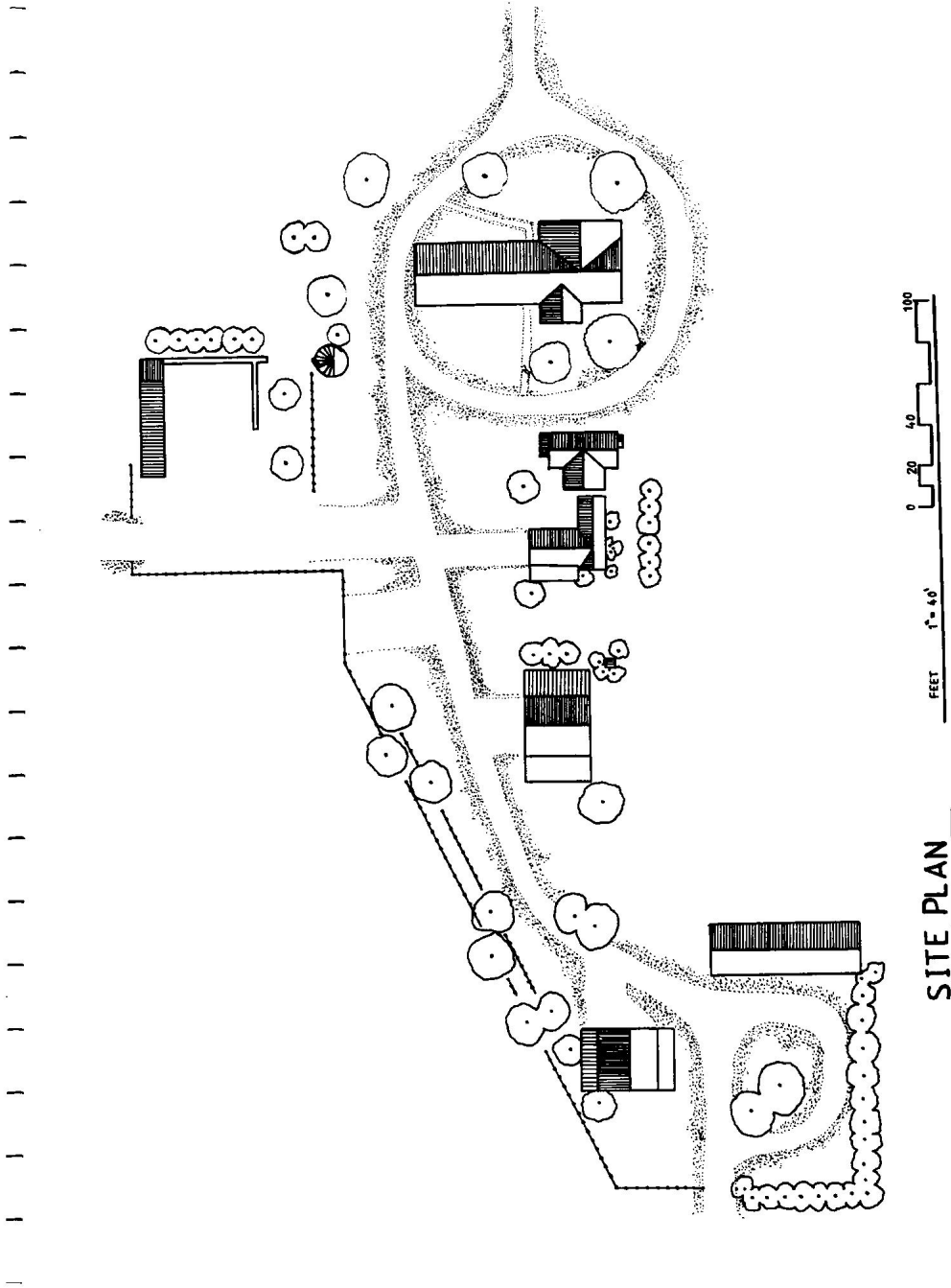


Figure 2: Site plan of the buildings on the farmstead.

From *Stone Building Kanwaka Township Douglas County Kansas*. By Matthew Miller, University of Kansas, School of Architecture. May 11, 1995.

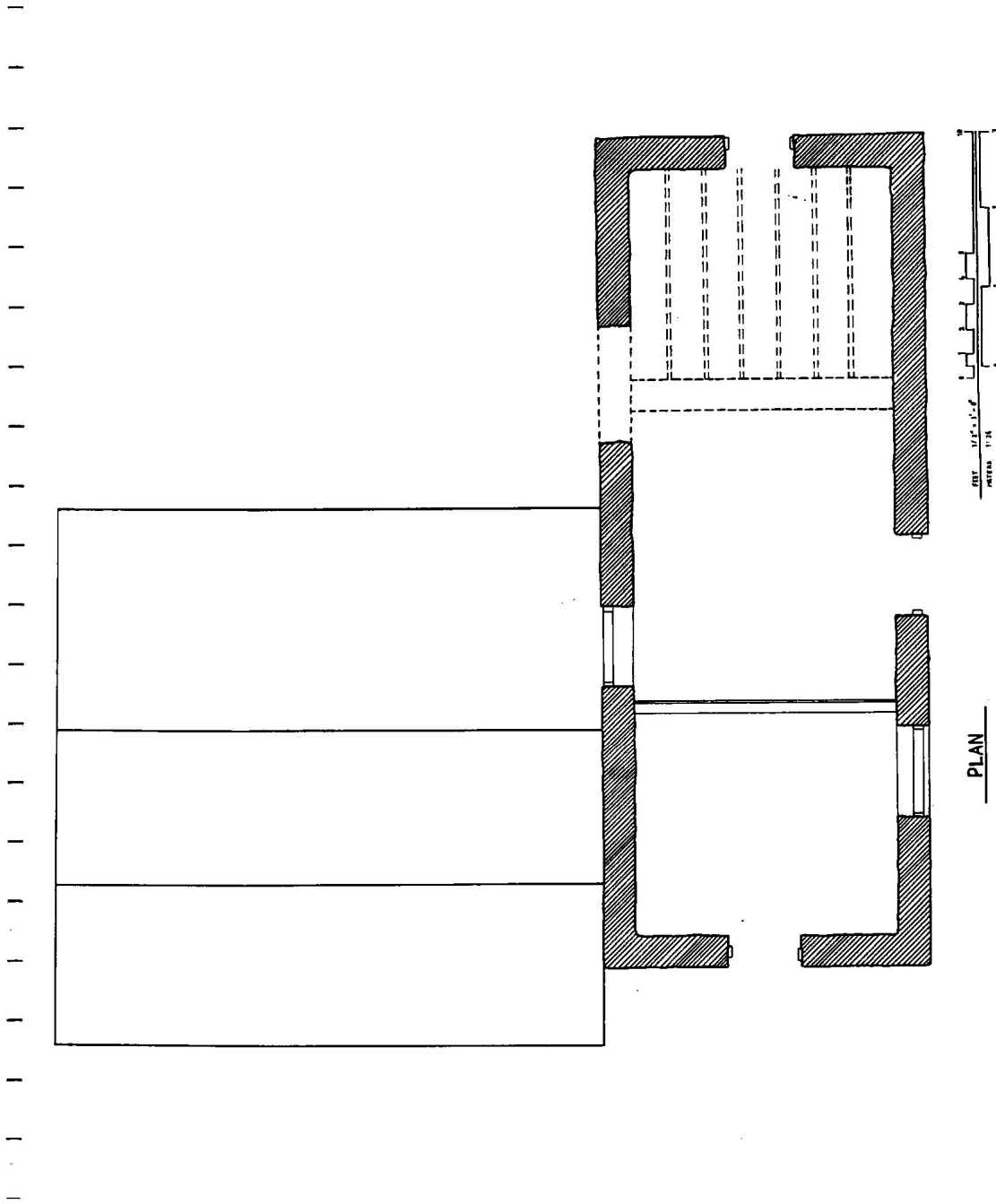


Figure 3: Plan of the stone building and the wood addition. Stone masonry building is outlined with thick masonry walls.

From *Stone Building Kanwaka Township Douglas County Kansas*. By Matthew Miller, University of Kansas, School of Architecture. May 11, 1995.

Colman Historical Property

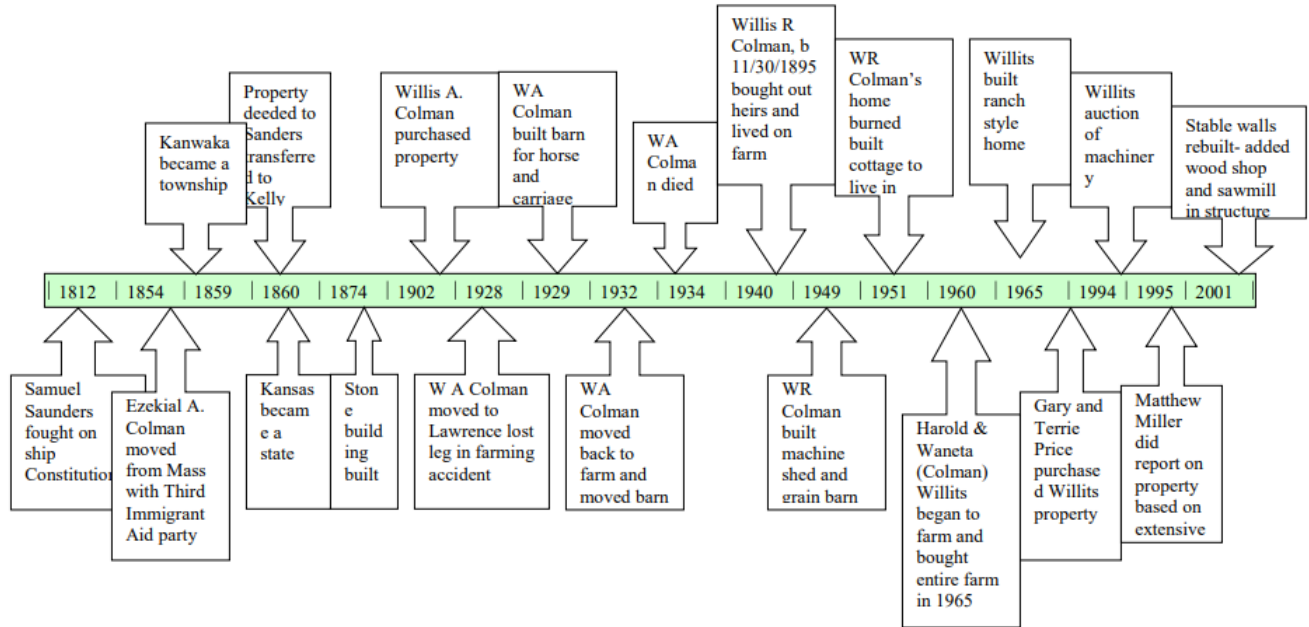


Figure 4: John Kelly stone building timeline for Colman property.



Figure 5: Original outside of east wall of stable. Wood structure added in 2001



Figure 6: Inside east original wall, wood frame and wall rebuilt to left 2001



Figure 7: Stable NW outside, wall rebuilt and wood wall added 2001



Figure 8: Stable, inside NW end west 2/3rd rebuilt and wood wall added 2001



Figure 9: Stone building se view taken 2001



Figure 10: Stone building south end with attached shed. Shed built early 1900's

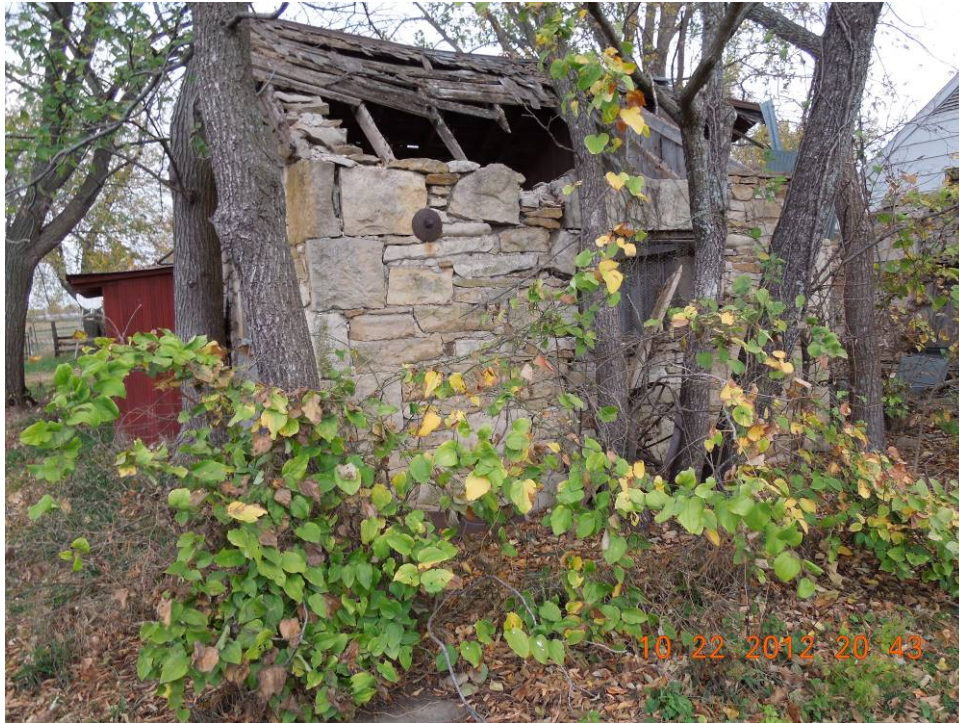


Figure 11: Stone building east wall south end



Figure 12: Stone building inside wall south end, chicken coup on other side.



Figure 13: Stone building NW side and north side of shed



Figure 14: Stone building east wall



Figure 15: Stone building inside north wall



Figure 16: Farmstead from west



Figure 17: Farmstead from north



Figure 18: Grove and farmstead from NE overlooking a native prairie field



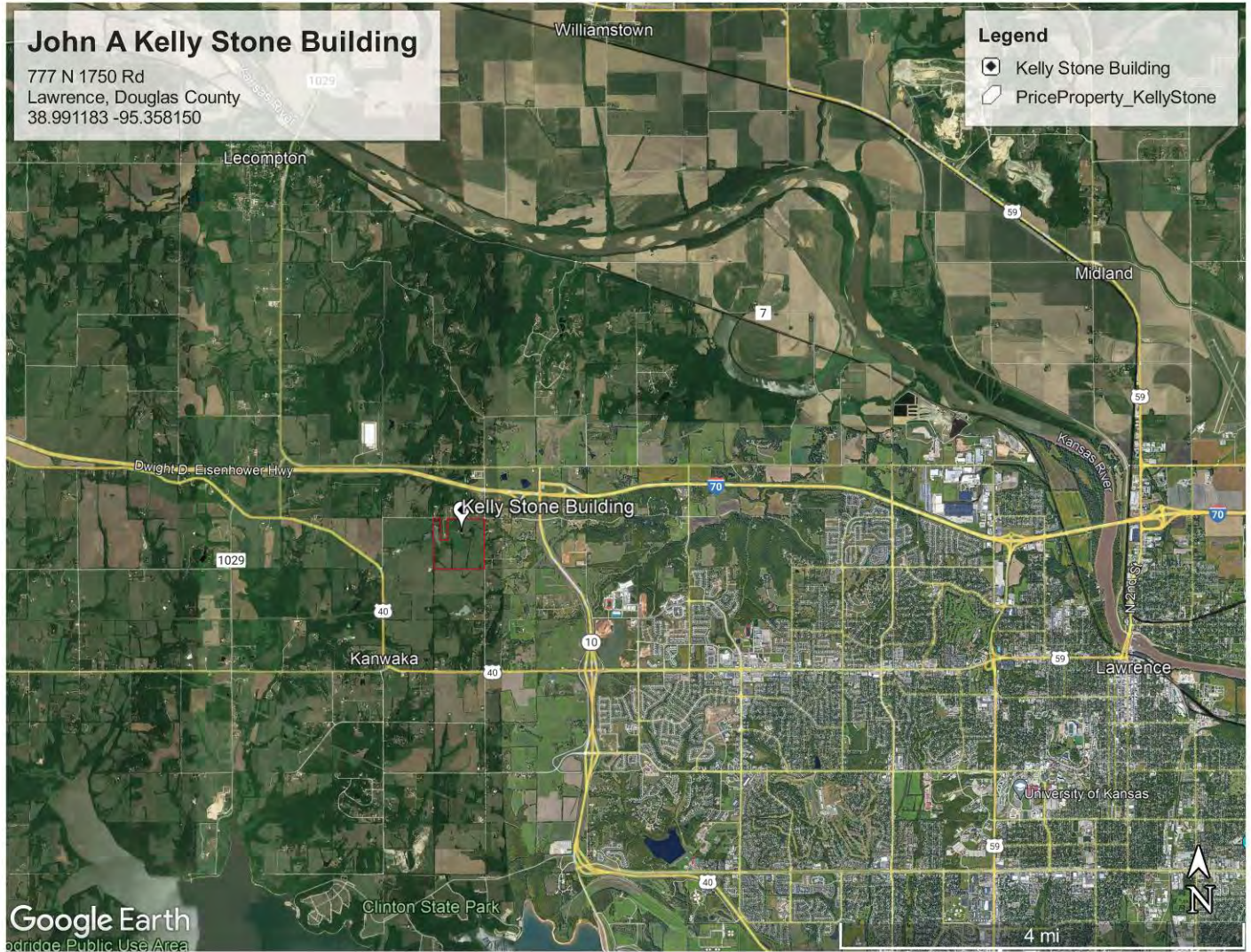
Figure 19: Fire pit in grove where they had community meetings early 1900's

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:









Photograph Log

Name of Property: John A Kelly Stone Building
 City or Vicinity: Lawrence
 County: Douglas State: KS
 Photographer: Jamee Fiore – KSHS
 Date Photographed: October 23, 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo Number	View	Description
1	E	West elevation
2	NE	West and south elevations
3	W	South elevations
4	NW	South and east elevations
5	NW	East elevation
6	W	East elevation
7	SW	East elevation
8	SW	East elevation
9	W	North elevation
10	S	Interior – of north room
11	NE	Interior – of north room
12	SW	View of East elevation door to middle room
13	W	Interior – middle room
14	E	Interior – middle room
15	NE	Interior – middle room
16	NW	Interior – middle room
17	NW	Interior – south room
18	--	Interior – south room close up
19	SE	Interior – south room
20	E	Interior – south room window
21	S	Interior – south room door and window
22	W	Interior – south room
23	E	Interior – wood-framed addition looking toward stone building
24	E	Interior – wood-framed addition looking toward west
25	SE	North and west elevations



Photo 1: West elevation



Photo 2: West and south elevations



Photo 3: South elevations



Photo 4: South and east elevations



Photo 5: East elevation



Photo 6: East elevation



Photo 7: East elevation



Photo 8: East elevation



Photo 9: North elevation

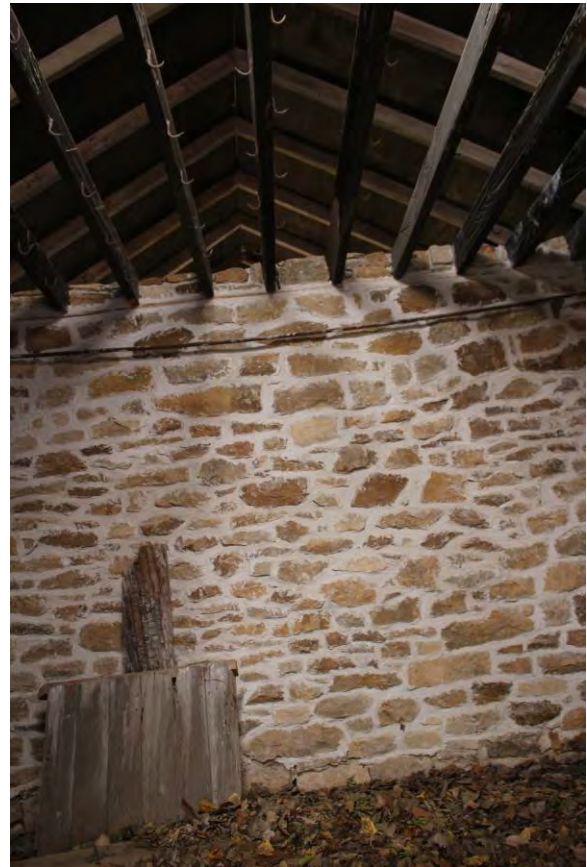


Photo 10: Interior – of north room



Photo 11: Interior – of north room



Photo 12: E elevation door to middle room



Photo 13: Interior – middle room



Photo 14: Interior – middle room



Photo 15: Interior – middle room

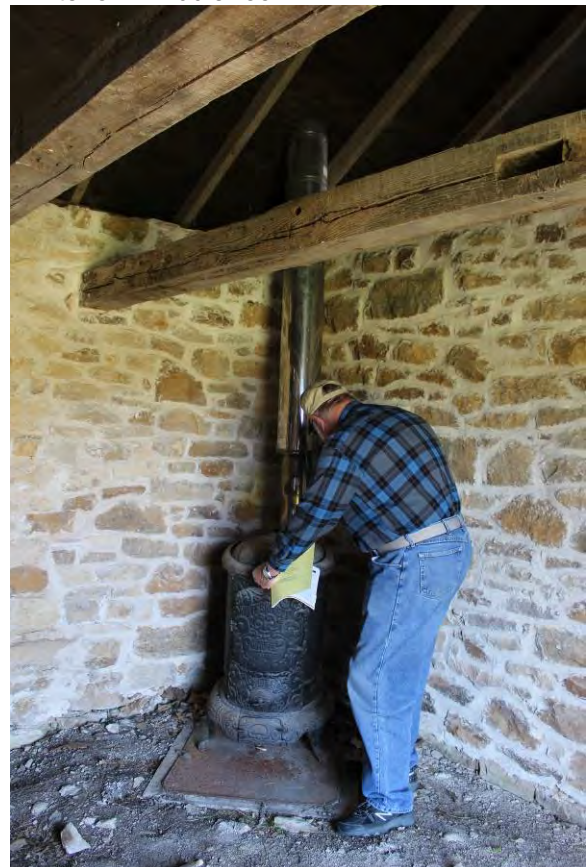


Photo 16: Interior – middle room



Photo 17: Interior – south room



Photo 18: Interior – south room close up



Photo 19: Interior – south room



Photo 20: Interior – south room window



Photo 21: Interior – south room door and window



Photo 22: Interior – south room



Photo 23: Interior – wood-framed addition looking toward stone building



Photo 24: Interior – wood-framed addition looking toward west



Photo 25: North and west elevations