

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

SENT TO D.C.
5/20/99

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 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 (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Eldred, James John, House

other names/site number Eldred, J. J., House

2. Location

street & number Bluffdale Township Road, 1640 yards east of Route 100 not for publication

city or town Eldred vicinity

state Illinois code IL county Greene code 061 zip code 62027

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

William L. Lhu /SHPO Date 5-19-99
Signature of certifying official/Title

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- 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.) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Eldred, James John, House
Name of Property

Greene, Illinois
County and State

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	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling
Domestic/secondary structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Work in progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival
Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone
walls Limestone
roof Asphalt
other Wood

Narrative Description

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

Eldred, James John, House
Name of Property

Greene, Illinois
County and State

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.)

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1861 - 1873

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Eldred, James John, House
Name of Property

Greene, Illinois
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 1.2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	5
---	---

7	1	1	5	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	5	3	5	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

3

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

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.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura Johnson, Architect

organization N/A date 12/15/98

street & number 3935 A Juniata Street telephone 314/664-9408

city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63116

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Illinois Valley Cultural Heritage Association

street & number 135 Westminster telephone 217/942-9000

city or town Jacksonville state Illinois zip code 62650

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

Description

Summary:

The James John Eldred House (J. J.) is located on the southeast corner of Section 16, Township 10, Range 13 west of the third principal meridian in Greene County, Illinois. This location is approximately 44 miles north from Alton, Illinois. The property is located 1,640 yards east of Route 100 on Bluffdale Township Road which runs between the bluffs now known as Eldred Hollow. The property consists of 1.2 acres surrounding the main house. Typical of farmhouse evolution, the limestone house was enlarged later. The J. J. Eldred House has two later additions. These additions are also constructed of limestone. Even though the west wing of the original construction and the later north and west additions are in serious deteriorated condition, the prosperity this farm once experienced is evident in its workmanship. Examples of this is the square cut and dressed limestone quoins at the corners of the structure and a carved stone lintel over the second floor front door with the inscription "J. J. Eldred 1861". The main portion of the house consists of a 2-½ story, three-unit wide, side-gabled structure with a low pitch roof. The wide cornice detailing forms a triangle pediment with a Palladian window on either end. Construction evidence proves that the north 1-½ story wing and a west wing were constructed at the same time as the main portion of the house. The north wing defines the "L" shape of the house while the rear wall of this wing extends to form the one story west wing. Small additions were then added at a later time. The additions are a one-story limestone structure attached to the north wing and another one-story structure to the west, slightly set back from the front wall of the west wing. The house has an L-shape with regularly spaced six-over-six light sash with square cut and dressed stone lintels and sills. The first and second front doors are set in elaborate doorways with sidelights. The first floor door also has a divided rectangular transom. The gable roofs on the main and north wing are currently clad in a temporary rolled asphalt-roofing material. Joist pockets on the front wall of the main house, a limestone foundation, salvaged millwork and early photos describe the detailing of the porch that once stood there. Limestone steps, a sidewalk and border treatment for a garden is still surrounding the front entrance. The ruins of a limestone privy, matching the main house in construction technique, exists just northeast of the house. A portion of the dry-laid stone fencing is still in place directly in front of the house and bounding the property partially on the east and west sides.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 2

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

Elaboration: Heading east on Bluffdale Township Road from the County Road, the J. J. Eldred House is immediately visible to the north (photo #1). The river bluff gradually rises behind the house to the north forming a backdrop and a natural boundary along the north and northeast property line. The structure faces Bluffdale Township Road leaving one gable end facing the river to the west and the other facing brush bounding a spring to the east. The property boundaries are now a four-sided polygon set back 19'-0" from the road right-of-way. The front of the property is 250'-6" wide. The dry-laid stone wall that runs the south length of the property is set back 4'-0" from the property line which is close to the section line separating Section 16 from Section 21. The stone fencing then returns back heading north approximately 50'-0" on the west section and 47'-0" on the east at full height. Both sides continue into overgrown brush, although the upper portions are missing. The west section of the stone wall is set back 16'-6" from the current property line to the east while the east section of the stone wall is set back approximately 11'-10" from the current east property line. The south portion of the stone wall was re-located approximately 15'-6" to the north in 1997-98, in order to be contained within the property line donated to the Illinois Valley Cultural Heritage Association and therefore safe from demolition and removal. The westernmost opening intended for a drive was enlarged at this time for future modern use. An original smaller opening for a pedestrian entrance was also re-located and is still centered on the original cut stone walk up to the front entrance of the house (photo #2). A raised stone mounting platform with steps to enter early carriages is on the south side of the stone wall. This was moved at the same time as this portion of the stone wall in order to retain its relationship to the pedestrian entrance and preserve it from demolition.

The main structure of the Eldred House is a five-bay wide and two-bay deep, 2 ½ story house measuring 44'-3" wide and 36'-0" deep with the principle facade facing south. The roof ridge runs east and west. A 1 ½ story north wing extends flush with the west elevation of the main structure 26'-2" and is 24'-1 ½" wide. The ridge runs north and south with the north gable end being stone. This will be referred to as the north wing. A later one-story addition, the north addition, heads in a northerly direction flush with the north wing on its east wall another 24'-3" and is 16'-8" wide. The north addition's roof ridge at one time ran north and south with the gable end being stone, although the roof has long since deteriorated and collapsed. The north wall of the north wing extends as the north wall of the west wing, built at the same time as the main house and the north

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

wing. The west wing extends 46'-0" to the west and is 19'-6" deep. A majority of the south wall was frame construction for 35'-1" from the west wall of the north wing, it has a stone foundation. To the west is a room with limestone walls on four sides on the end of the west wing measuring 10'-1" wide. A gable roof that existed at one time connected to the north wing and ran the extent of the west wing with the ridge running east and west. This roof was supported on the majority of the south elevation by wood posts and the west gable end is stone. A west addition extends the north wall of the west wing another 12'-6" and is 18'-2" deep. The west addition gable roof, which also no longer exists, had a ridge running east and west although it was set back from the west wing roof due to the shallower depth of this addition. The gable end to this addition is stone.

The Eldred House is built of rough-cut regular coursed local limestone with stipple-faced quoins, lintels and sills with 1" tooled borders. The front façade changes to a square-cut ashlar pattern with regular courses and stonework tooled in a hammered or etched manner. A stipple-faced projecting water-table with tooled edges divides the foundation with the upper two stories of the main structure on the front elevation only. The gable end of the main structure is framed in and detailed in the Greek Revival fashion while the gable ends on the wings and additions are extensions of the stone walls. A rolled asphalt roof was installed in 1995-96 to preserve the framing and interior of the main house and north wing. Prior to this there was a standing seam metal roof on the main house. Four brick chimneys, once plastered and tooled to represent stone, are located on the main structure. One is on south end of the west gable and two on the east gable end. There is also one larger chimney on the western half of the north wall shared by the main house and the north wing. The north wing stonework matches the main house in that it is rough-cut local limestone with stipple-faced quoins, lintels, and sills with tooled edges. The quoin stones on the north addition are of a rougher finish than on the main house and the north wing and do not have tooled edges. The north addition no longer has a roof and the stonework is failing due to exposure. During recent stabilization work, portions of the failing walls were taken down and the stone stored for re-assembly. The west wing is constructed of rough-cut limestone and, similar to the main house and the north wing, has limestone quoins on the corners although they are of a slightly lesser detailing. The west addition is constructed of the same limestone with no cut quoins. Most of the lintels on windows and doors in the complex are stone pediments with a matching finish to the limestone quoins on the body of the main house. They are stipple-faced with tooled edges. In general, only door

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

lintels on the west wing, north elevation, and the north addition are unfinished slabs. All exterior doors and windows have stone sills. All windows have six-over-six light sash except for the basement windows and the Palladian windows on the gable ends of the main house. The existing exterior doors are 6-panel, two rows of three vertical panels, throughout the house excepting the first floor front door and board and batten doors on later additions. A limestone privy matching the original construction detailing is located 45'-0" east of the northeast corner of the north addition. The roof, floor and both window sash and frames are missing. A significant sized tree that once grew from the interior has contributed to its current deteriorated condition. The privy is a contributing building to the nomination (photo #3).

The grade elevations around the Eldred House do not significantly change around the entire foundation. It is built on terrain that could be considered transitional between the river bottoms and the abrupt rise of the river bluffs. The center of the Illinois River is located approximately 5,300 meters or 17,389 feet (5,796 yards) to the east and the grade rises over 42 meters or 137'-9" (46 yards) from the river to the J. J. Eldred House. This puts the house well above any established flood plains.

The most dramatic portion of the house is the main two-story structure or main house (photo #6). The cut limestone walk, with raised limestone edging, heading to the front entrance becomes two sets of limestone steps with decorative stone haunches. The top step is set back 7'-0" from the building where at one time it put the visitor onto a front porch. Limestone garden edging radiates out from the stairs towards the corners of the porch foundation, forming a defined garden space. The main entrance is located in the center of this south facing elevation. The grade here is approximately 3'-0" (six steps) below the finished first floor. The entrance is a single solid door with sidelights and a divided transom. The door detailing has a chamfered panel that is repeated in the frames around the glass in the sidelights and transom. The transom consists of three lights while the sidelights have two upper lights and a lower wood panel. The cut limestone lintel is pediment-shaped with a stippled face and tooled edges. The stone lintel is 10" tall on the ends, 15" tall at the center, and 6'-6" long. A second floor six-panel solid wood door with sidelights is located directly above the lower door. This door has sidelights divided into 4 lights on either side with a lower panel. In place of a transom, there is a cut limestone pedimented lintel with tooled edges. Carved into this impressive stone is the original owner's name and date "J. J. Eldred 1861" (photo #7).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

On either side of both of these doors are two equally spaced six-over-six light sash windows measuring 2'-10" by 5'-10". At one time all of these windows had shutters attached with screwed hinges to the frames (photo #A). Smooth-faced limestone sills and pedimented lintels, both with tooled edges, repeat the detailing seen on the corner quoins and door lintels. The window pediments measure 7" on the ends and 10" at the centers and are 4'-0" wide. A 6" tall smooth limestone watertable divides the foundation from the walls above and was constructed in various length sections. Four basement windows, two of them with four-light sash, hinged on the top, measuring 3'-0" x 1'-2" are located one below each set of windows above. The two inner basement sash are no longer in place and are contained within the porch foundation. These basement openings have pedimented lintels and sills with stipple faces and tooled edges. The ends of the lintels are 7" tall while the centers are 10" tall and the stone is 3'-10" long. Possibly these two inner windows were exposed at one time and had fixed sash to match the others.

Evidence on the house suggests that an earlier, single bay porch existed here prior to the 1873 plat book sketch and any early photos. It should be mentioned that two wood brackets and two beam pockets below prove that at one time there was a one bay frame structure with posts instead of the three-bay wide porch (photo #6). The appearance of this earlier porch that may have been used from 1861 to sometime before 1873 will probably not be known. By 1873 the three-bay porch was finished, sitting on a full limestone foundation instead of posts. The added framing on the east and west ends utilized the framing set into the wood brackets and beam pockets. The porch collapsed some time ago, although enough remnants have been salvaged and photographs exist to completely re-build it.

The main house roof is trimmed with a 1'-11" deep wood frieze, a 1'-2" soffit overhang and a 10" cornice with a significant crown mold that forms a built-in gutter system. The frieze band is detailed with a continuous row of 2 3/4" wide by 6" tall by 4" deep dentils and bed molding broken up by four pairs of Italianate brackets. A single bracket on each end finishes off this carpentry work.

The deep Greek Revival detailing along the roofline continues across the east elevation (photo #8). The low-pitch roofline is outlined in the same ornate detailing as the frieze and cornice, forming a triangle shaped pediment on the gable end. An interesting quark

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

in the paired bracket locations occurs on this elevation. The paired brackets from the raking frieze do not line up with the paired brackets below in the band of trim bordering the pediment along the bottom. This can be explained by the off center location of the two windows at the first and second floor levels. The builder opted to center the lower row of brackets in relationship to these windows instead of centering them in relationship to the ridge. The brackets on the raking boards are centered on the ridge. The gable end is of frame construction sided with flush wood boards. A Palladian window is located in the center. This window assembly consists of a single sash, hinged on one side, with a half round top in the center flanked by fixed sidelights divided into four lights. This window is unusual in that the sidelights display half round tops and the mullion is detailed at the top with a wider version of the bottom half of the Italianate brackets. The surrounding casing is 1"x 4". The four windows below, set into the stone, are offset from the center of the ridge approximately 7 1/2" to the south. Two windows exist at each floor level. They measure, from the stone, 3'-3" x 6'-4" and are six-over-six light double-hung sash measuring 2'-10" by 5'-10". The lintels are pediment shaped cut limestone with stippled faces and tooled edges while the sills are 5" tall and also display the same tooled detailing. The limestone watertable found on the south elevation returns on the east elevation for a distance of 8". There are two basement windows, one under each window above with four-light sash measuring 3'-0" x 1'-2" tall. These windows also have pedimented limestone lintels and sills both significant stones with stipple faces and tooled edging and match the front elevation basement windows.

The majority of the north elevation of the main structure is attached to the north wing (photo #9). The only portion exposed is the eastern 20'-0" from the east wall of the north wing. On the first floor there is a six-over-six light double hung window to the east and a six-panel door to the west. Between these two openings is an access into the basement. This consists of a stone retaining wall on two sides and limestone steps. A splash block still exists on grade to the east of the retaining wall to the basement. This suggests that at one time a rear porch roof extended from the north wing over the stairwell. Above the first floor window is a matching window on the second floor. The frieze, soffit and cornice with the same dentil course detailing and brackets continue along this elevation with a built in gutter. The roof of the north wing intersects the frieze board.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 7

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

The east elevation of the 1 ½ story north wing extends 26'-2" to the north and is 14'-7" tall (photo #8). The stonework becomes more of an irregularly coursed pattern, although square-cut and tooled quoins exist on the northeast corner. There are no windows or dormers for the second floor on this elevation. Two, six-over-six windows let light into the first floor and a six-panel door is offset towards the south between them. A basement window exists below the northernmost window with the same stipple faced, cut and tooled lintel and sill to match the windows and door above. Remnants of porch framing are still visible in the stonework. A pocket in the stone wall indicates the original length of the porch to be just north of the door on the north wing. It was later extended past the northeast corner when the north addition was built, although it is not known just how far it was extended along the north addition.

The north addition extends north from the main portion of the house, leaving the cut stone quoins in place on the northeast corner of the north wing (photo #8). The north addition extends 24'-3" to the north and is 16'-8" wide. The current condition of the stone work has been seriously affected by exposure due to a collapsed roof for some time. During the last stabilization efforts on this building, failing walls on the north addition were taken down and the stone stored for re-assembly at a later date, leaving it in organized ruins. It is on this addition that the stone construction, window, and door detailing is of a significantly lesser grade than the main structure. The limestone is an uncut, irregularly coursed pattern with rough corner stones without tooling. The stone lintels are flat slabs of limestone devoid of any tooling and the sills are also rougher cut. From south to north, there is a door opening against the north wall of the north wing, a six-over-six sash window and an opening that was, up until recently, filled in as another window. During stabilization work, a sill for a door was uncovered at the base of this northernmost window. The southernmost door next to the north wing is a v-grooved board and batten style door while the other door on this elevation has been missing for some time.

The north elevation of the north addition has been completely disassembled (photo #9). The gable end was stone with a roof ridge running north and south. From this view, a cut stone slab floor on the interior is visible (photo #10). This flooring extends north 12'-11" from the north wall of the north wing. The sill of the doors at the stone slab is set at this level. The stone sill of the northernmost door is set at a higher elevation, suggesting that a frame floor existed at one time on the northern end of this addition.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

Presumably this space was divided into two rooms. The northern room had a frame floor and may have been used for living quarters for male domestic help. The south room with a cut stone floor suggests use as a wash house.

Much of the west elevation of the north addition is no longer in place. According to previous visits and photographs, a matching six-over-six window was at one time set in this wall directly opposite the existing window in the east elevation. A door is set next to the north wing matching the door on the opposite elevation. The cause of this wall's collapse is due to the ground drastically settling just to the west. This could be the location of a collapsed cistern as there is stone located here that may have made up the interior of the cistern and an overflow or infill pipe on the southwest side of the opening is exposed through the stone.

Turning the corner to the west, a window exists in the north wall of the north wing at this location. Directly above this window, in the gable end, are two six-over-six light double-hung windows (photo #9). The limestone wall is then continuous, heading west to make up the north wall of the west wing (photo #11). This stone wall extends 53'-6" from the west wall of the north addition to the end of the west wing. There are no limestone quoins below the roofline where the west wing joins the north wing. Square-cut and tooled quoins are located above the roofline at this location, proving that the west wing was built at the same time as the north wing of the main house. To the west of the north wing window is a door into the west wing, a six-over-six window and an opening with a sill set approximately 5'-0" higher than the sill on the window. The lintel to this opening would have been the wall plate that no longer exists and it is not clear what the opening was used for. The roof of the west wing has collapsed some time ago and the debris was removed recently for archeological investigations. Approximately 1'-6" of the upper section of the freestanding portion of the north wall of the west wing has collapsed following exposure. At the westernmost end of the west wing is a room surrounded on four sides by stone walls. This stonework has remained fairly intact at this end of the elevation.

The north wall of the west addition is flush with the west wing north wall, extending it another 12'-6" to the west. This addition is 18'-2" deep. The west wall of this addition has a window opening centered on the stone gable. It has a limestone lintel with a pediment and a limestone sill, although the frame and sash are no longer in place

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 9

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

(photo #12). The west stone wall is failing due to exposure without a roof. Subsequently, wood support framing installed in an attempt to keep the wall in place is bending with stress. The south wall of the west addition has a door opening with the frame still in place although wracked out of square (photo #13). The door is missing. The 1873 plat book sketch shows a brick chimney located at the northwest corner of this addition. This chimney was probably of the type that was supported by the ceiling joists. The corners are roughly dressed stone.

The west wing projects southward, where the west addition joins it, exposing 1'-4" of limestone and tooled quoins slightly less squarely cut than the main house and north wing. This wall extends 11'-2" to the east and turns the corner to join with the north wall of the west wing forming the enclosed west wing room. The south stone wall is severely deteriorated and has collapsed excepting for about 2'-0" of the southwest corner. A door opening is located on the east wall close to the southeast corner. An interesting detail exists at the west stone gable end. A diamond-shaped vent opening constructed of brick is centered on the ridge and appears to have been located just above the roof of the west addition (photo #12).

The interior of the stone enclosed west wing room consists of a stone-bordered trough constructed against the north wall. The trough projects 2'-0" into the room. Archeologists have also uncovered a 5'-0" diameter plaster lined tank or cistern located in approximately the center of this space and offset slightly to the east. Presumably this room was used as an icehouse and storage for perishable products from the farm, such as cheese. Melting ice may have drained into the cistern in an early attempt to preserve a cold microenvironment within this room.

According to early photographs, the south wall of the west wing continued from the southeast corner of the stone room to the north wing of the main house with a framed wall of lattice and posts supporting the roof (photo #E & G). This framed wall once consisted of, from the west, a pair of doors for a wagon to unload inside this space, a post, a doorway, another post, and another lattice filled opening. An existing stone foundation corner is located just to the west of the existing limestone steps leading up onto stone slab flooring (photo #14 & G). Set 5'-6" away from the north wing wall and 11'-10" from the south side of the north wall of the west wing on this platform is an unlined stone well. It has only a 2'-0" diameter opening and was presumably not

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

constructed to hold water but instead allow water to seep back into the ground below the bottom of the cisterns. It may have been used to dispose of wastewater from the kitchen. Archeological work also uncovered a cistern that was probably located within the walls of a frame structure behind the lattice wall (photo #H). Presumably this room was at one time a versatile workspace, living space or summer kitchen, for the 1873 sketch portrays a brick chimney at this location (figure #4). The archeological report suggests an early occupation as 1820's pearlware and china was located here. These were probably objects brought over or inherited by J. J. Eldred from his father's homestead across the road. A brick plaster-lined cistern was also located during the investigation. This cistern is 7'-0" from the south side of the north wall of the west wing and 2'-0" from the evidence of the east wall of the frame structure. Bricks were also located during this investigation and a brick structure once existing at this location was suggested. Brick would not have been a practical material to use in such a large quantity as would be required for an entire structure when an unlimited amount of limestone was readily available. The linear set of bricks, one brick wide, uncovered during the investigation instead made up the top of a sand filter, which leads from the bottom of the downspout located at the northwest corner of the north wing directly to the cistern within the remaining outline of the frame structure. These were completely exposed during the archeology work but the brick collector at the downspout still shows above grade at this time (photo #14). This type of system was not uncommon and is similar to others found at farmsteads. One example is located in Athens, Missouri where sand and charcoal is contained within the drainage passage to act as a filter to collect soft rainwater from the roof. Any loose bricks could have been remnants of the collapsed brick chimney, or remnants left over from building the brick cistern or filter.

The west wall of the north wing and main house is a continuous rough-cut, regular coursed limestone wall (photo #12, G, & H). There is a definite change in the mortar condition between the main house and north wing. The north wing mortar has eroded away significantly due to an earlier failing gutter system and the eventual collapse of the roof while the main house mortar is very intact. Square-cut, stipple-faced limestone quoins with 1" tooled edges are located above the west wing wall at the northwest corner of the north wing, above the roofline of the north wing on the northwest corner of the main house and at the fully exposed southwest corner of the main house. This proves that the north wing and west wing was constructed at the same time as the main structure. A door to the north and a window to the south are located in the west wall of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 11

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

the north wing at the southern end of the room. The northwest corner of the main house extends above the roofline of the north wing to the wide frieze band and cornice. The same detailing is repeated from the other three sides of the 2 ½ story structure where the frieze band is made up of a densely spaced dentil course with bed molding set in between. Three pairs of Italianate brackets break up this pattern with single brackets on either end. The same detailing is located on the raking frieze and cornice, forming a triangle pediment. A matching Palladian window and flush siding existing on the east elevation is repeated here on the west elevation. A brick chimney projects up through the roof at the southern side of the ridge on this wall. At one time it was plastered and tooled to appear as stone. Four windows are set into the stone wall at each floor level and are centered across the elevation. All eight measure, from the stone, 3'-3" x 6'-4" and are six-over-six light double-hung sash. Evidence on the frames indicates that all of these windows had shutters attached with hinges that screwed into the frames. The lintels are pediment shaped cut limestone with stippled faces and 1" tooled edges while the sills are 5" tall and also display the same tooled detailing. The limestone watertable found on the south elevation returns on the west elevation for a distance of approximately 8". There are three basement windows, one under the window of the north wing, one under the northern most window of the main house and one located under the third window from the northwest corner of the main house. All basement sash have four lights and measure 3'-0" wide x 1'-2" tall. The basement windows also have pedimented limestone lintels and sills with tooled detailing. The downspout from the built-in gutter along the southwest corner of the house once extended below the first floor windows to a cistern located just south of the intersection of the south wall of the west wing and the west wall of the north wing (photo #G). Rainwater was also collected from the north roof of the main house. Remnants of a dormer located on the west roof of the north wing were found during cleanup of the collapsed roof and framing. This dormer does not show up in the 1873 plat book sketch but does show up in early 20th century photos (photos #G, #H, & #E). The brackets of this dormer did not match the main house brackets in style or detail of the molding profile. This suggests that the dormer was added at a later date following initial construction of the main house, north wing and west wing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 12

JAMES JOHN ELDRÉD HOUSE

Interior

Entering the front door from the south elevation brings a visitor into a central hall (room #101) with a staircase on the east wall. There is a door on the east wall with the frame up against the south exterior wall in order to make room for a stair landing. A hall to the west of the staircase leads to a doorway on the north wall into the rear section of the house. A doorway set 2'-6" from the south wall on the west wall of the hall leads into a room at the southwest corner of the house. These doorways are framed with simple 1"x 3 3/4" casing set back from the frame for a 3/4" quarter round detail. The floor material in the hallway is tongue and groove wood flooring. The tall baseboards are made out of two 1" boards. The bottom board is 11" tall and is nailed directly to the wall framing, extending above the lower board 3 1/4". The lower board is nailed to the bottom board, is tapered at the top slightly and is 7 3/4" tall. At the door casings, the lower baseboard stops short 3 1/2" from the casings and has the same taper on the side as on the top (photo #16). This simple built-up base is repeated in only the front three rooms of the first floor of the house. The interior walls are plastered over wood lath. The exterior walls are plastered over the stone walls. Most of the plaster has fallen off the ceiling and the east wall due to a leaking roof and drastic changes in temperature in the interior of the structure. At one time there was elegant wallpaper with a border that now shows through later layers of paint. The cutout in the ceiling for the staircase is finished in 1" decorative wood trim boards elegantly rounded at the corners of the opening (photo #19). Simple bull-nosed treads extend from a skirt board against the east wall and past the face string on the west wall of the stair. A scotia molding is set under the nosing of the treads and wraps around the exposed edge of the west face string. Early stenciling is evident on the risers. Decorative turned balusters are set into the treads and a newel post is still in place at the bottom of the stairs (photo #15).

The southeast room (room #102) consists of exterior walls on the south and east sides. The south wall has two windows while the east wall has one window at the northern end of the room. The north wall has a door opening into a closet at the western end of the wall. The door swung from hinges on the east frame although the door is not in place at this time. The floor is tongue and groove wood although it has collapsed from a leaking roof and the storage of heavy farm equipment. The farm equipment has since been removed, although debris is covering the floor. The same two-piece baseboard as described earlier exists in this room. Plaster with wood lath and plaster over stone makes up the wall and ceiling finish but a majority of the north and west walls and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 13

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

ceiling plaster has broken off. Two flue openings for two generations of heating stoves are located one above the other centered between the window on the east wall and the southeast corner of the room. The lower flue opening, or thimble, is at the right height for a wood burning stove. It was later replaced by a coal stove, which typically required a higher thimble. The flue is located within the stone wall as there is no bump out on the interior or exterior of the wall. The windows have deep set frames that splay outward on the sides, possibly to spread available light more thoroughly throughout the room. The casings match the door casings as described previously, being simple 1" x 3 3/4" boards. Below the sill is a 1" x 4" sill apron with a scotia molding matching the type on the staircase. This room may have been J. J. and Emaline Eldred's bedroom since it has a closet and does not connect to the rear portion of the house.

Directly across the central hall is the southwest room (room #103). This room has two windows on the south elevation and two windows on the west elevation. A door cased in the same manner as the others previously described is located on the western end of the north wall. The door swung from hinges on the west frame into this room although the door is not in place at this time. The floor has been reinforced with plywood. The same two piece baseboard as described earlier exists in this room (photo #16). Plaster with wood lath makes up the wall and ceiling finish but all of the plaster on the ceiling has fallen out due to a leak in the roof at this area of the house. A decorative faux fireplace surround of wood fits between the two windows facing west (photo #17). This has an arched opening with curved triangular panels on each side, a simple 1" board frieze and mantle with a finial shaped carving in the center. There was never a hearth here, instead the baseboard and plaster wall continues behind the chimney piece. A decorative pattern is painted on the plaster within this space under later layers of paint. A flue opening is located about 1'-6" from the ceiling centered on the chimney piece. Due to its location, this thimble would have been used for a coal burning stove. This room was probably used as a parlor since it connects to the rear portion of the house.

Passing through the door on the north wall leads into a room (room #104) that takes up the northwest corner of the main house and the space north of the central hall. There are three doorways on the south wall, one connecting to the southwest room (room #103) on the western end of the wall. The two other doorways on the south wall are set side by side on the eastern end of the wall. One of these doors connects to the central hall and the other to a closet under the central hall staircase. Another door is located at

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 14

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

about the center of the east wall connecting to the northeast room. Two doorways on the north wall lead into the north wing, one on either end of the wall and fireplace (photo #18). The door frame on the western end of the wall still retains an existing six-panel door, swinging on the western edge of the frame into this room. Shelving was once located behind this door within the deep frame and was probably used for a china cabinet or pass through from the kitchen. The shelving is now gone but dados to support shelving boards are still in place on either side. Two windows matching the others described are set into the west-facing wall. The baseboard is simpler in this room in that it is made of only one 1" x 10" tall board with a quarter round and slightly chamfered at the top. The floor finish is a tongue and groove wood floor. Plywood is set on the floor in front of the chimney piece located between the two doors in the north wall. At one time the hearthstone fell into the basement below and can still be found there. This stone wall is built out on the other side of the stone wall, to make room for a firebox and large flue. Modern bricks now infill the opening. Two flue thimbles for stovepipes are located here in association to the chimney, one is within the brick infill and the other is directly above being located 2'-0" from the ceiling. Again, these thimbles were installed to accommodate two generations of stoves. The chimney piece features flat square pilasters with a base and crown molding stopping at the underside of a frieze board. The mantle has a molded edge with an ornate bed molding located on the underside (photo #18). A significant amount of plaster is missing from the walls and ceiling in this room. The outline of a missing large decorative ceiling medallion is located in the center of this room. The profile can be determined by the remnants of wallpaper cut around this feature. This room was probably used as a family parlor and dining room.

Passing through one of the doorways on the north wall leads into the north wing (room #105). This room has two doorways connecting to the previous room (room #104) on the south wall. The west doorway has evidence that it was at one time used as a china cabinet as described above. It appears that casings were at one time attached to the frame but they are no longer in place. Cabinet doors or a full door may have hinged on framing from the kitchen that is no longer in place at this time. Between these two openings is a stone bump out for the chimney hearth and flues protruding approximately 16" into the room. A thimble for the cook stove is located 6'-2 1/2" from the floor. Above this thimble, brick has replaced the stone. The east wall consists of, from the southern end, a window, a door and another window. One window is located on the westernmost end of the north wall. Evidence uncovered during the debris removal and

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 15

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

details in the plaster prove that this window was actually located within a pantry. Plaster outlines of shelving is located on the east and west sides of the window and turning the corner along the west wall. Ghost outlines from the pantry storage bins are visible under the window. The west wall contains a door and a window located exactly opposite the southernmost door and window on the east wall. Somewhere within this space, probably dividing the pantry from the kitchen, was a stairway to the second floor. This stairway could have been used for female domestic help in order to access their living quarters above. All of the framing within the north wing stone walls was recently rebuilt in order to stabilize the structure and begin the restoration. Prior to this work, the interior floors and roof had completely collapsed. The floor is currently plywood and the walls have been furred out with 2 x 4's in preparation for a future wall finish and insulation. New beams with beaded corners were installed to support the floor above and remain exposed below. This room was the kitchen.

Heading back through the dining room (room #104) within the main house, the northeast room can be accessed through the door on the east wall. A door to a closet is located at the eastern end of the south wall. The east wall has one window in the south corner and a matching, although smaller, version of the chimney piece found in room #104 in the center. The stone wall projects into the room and brick infills the early hearth. Two thimbles for stovepipes enter this flue, one is located within the brick infill inside the chimney piece and the other is directly above and 2'-2 1/2" from the ceiling. This flue configuration is similar to rooms #102 and #104, proving two generations of heat stoves were located in this house. The wall extends flush with the chimney as a framed wall with a plaster finish to the northeast corner of the room. This space has been utilized as a closet since the original construction. A six-panel door is located here, and the baseboard and casing match the rear rooms of the house. The north wall has a window at the eastern end and a door to the exterior on the western end. This door would have at one time lead to the rear porch although the porch is no longer existing. The floor is wood tongue and groove with plywood at the center for reinforcement. The baseboards match those in room #104 in that they are simple 1"x 10" tall with quarter round. The walls and ceilings are plaster with wood lath. The walls need only some plaster patching while the ceiling plaster is almost completely gone due to an earlier leak in the roof. This room was presumably a farm office for J. J. Eldred since it had an exterior door and fireplace.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 16

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

Returning into the dining room (room #104) and into the entrance hall (room #101) and up the staircase, leads to the landing at the top of the stairs (photo #19). This landing is located on the eastern side and approximately the center of the second floor stair hall (room #201). The second floor is laid out as a typical four-over-four house in plan. The south wall of the stair hall contains the six-panel door located above the entry door below. There is a set of sidelights with four lights and a wood panel at the bottom on either side. At one time this door lead to a second floor balcony that is no longer in place. The east wall contains a door on either end of the staircase opening into two separate rooms. At the northern end of the east wall is located an enclosed staircase to the third floor. A door on the southern wall of the staircase serves a closet under the stair. This six-panel door has never been painted over the original faux graining. The north wall has no fenestration. The west wall contains two doorways, one located towards the northern end of the wall and one at the southern end opening into two separate rooms.

Passing through the southern door on the east wall leads into the southeast corner bedroom (room #202). The south wall has two windows while the east wall has one located in the northern corner. Two stovepipe openings are located in the center of the east wall, one closer to the floor and one at 2'-4" from the ceiling. This flue configuration is similar to rooms #102, #104, & #106, proving two generations of heat stoves were located in this house. The flue is built into the stone wall for the plaster is flush. The north wall has a six-panel door located at the eastern end hinged to the eastern side of the frame. This door leads into a closet. The floor is wood tongue and groove, the baseboards are simple 1" x 8 1/4" tall boards tapered at the top slightly. There is no quarter round. The windows are detailed exactly like the windows on the first floor with splayed side frames and 1"x 3 3/4" casings set back for quarter round. The doors in this room may have been grained at one time because what appears to be graining was found on the six-panel closet door under later layers of paint. The plaster is in fairly good shape on the walls while approximately half of the ceiling plaster has fallen off due to an earlier roof leak.

Passing directly across the hall leads into the southwest bedroom (room #203). This room has two windows located on the south wall and two windows located on the west wall. Between the west facing windows are two stovepipe openings leading into flues which are built into the stone wall for the plaster is flush. One opening is located directly

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 17

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

above the other in a similar fashion as the southeast bedroom. The north wall has a six-panel door, hinged on the west side of the frame and opening into a closet. The floor is wood tongue and groove and the baseboards are simple 1" x 8 1/4" tall boards tapered at the top slightly. There is no quarter round. The plaster finish walls are set on wood lath or exterior stone walls. Much of the plaster is missing on the south wall and almost completely gone from the ceiling due to a roof leak. The doors in this room may have been grained at one time because what appears to be graining was found on the six-panel closet door under later layers of paint.

Returning to the central hall on the second floor and through the northern door on the west wall leads into the northwest bedroom (room #204). This room has one entry door on the east wall with a six-panel door still in place. This door has faux graining still in place on the hall facing side. There is another six-panel door on the eastern end of the south wall leading into a closet. The west wall contains two windows. The north wall has one door opening on the western side of the stone bump out for the chimney flue that leads into the second floor of the north wing. The stone chimney has one stovepipe hole close to the ceiling and a deteriorated opening in the stone approximately 3'-0" from the floor. The floor is wood tongue and groove and the baseboards are 1"x 7" with no quarter round. The plaster is almost completely gone on the ceiling and the stone chimney.

The north wall door of the northwest bedroom leads into the second floor of the north wing (room #205). The interior framing of this structure had collapsed some time ago and has recently been re-built. At this time there are only floor joists that will support a future tongue and groove wood floor. The east wall is approximately 4'-6" tall with no fenestration. The north wall contains two six-over-six light double-hung windows centered in the gable end. The west wall is approximately 4'-6" tall with no fenestration, matching the east wall. The ceiling is sloped and the exposed rafters and cross bracing forms a surface for the future wall and ceiling finishes. A dormer window shows up in early 20th century photographs on the west roof. As mentioned earlier, this room was probably used for female domestic living quarters as it is connected to the main house bedrooms for ease in caring for the children.

Returning through northwest bedroom, out the entry door and directly across the hall leads into the northeast bedroom (room #206). The entry door to this room is located at

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 18

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

the southern end of the west wall and is a six-panel door swinging on the south side of the frame into the room. The south wall contains a doorway into a closet located at the western end of the wall. This door is missing. The east wall has one window in the southern corner and a bump out for a flue in the center of the wall. This bump out contains only a stovepipe opening 2'-3" from the ceiling. The bump out forms a 7 1/2" plaster shelf where it sets back at 4'-6" from the floor. The north wall has one window at the eastern end of the wall. The floor is wood tongue and groove and the baseboard is a simple 1"x 7 1/4" tall board with no quarter round. The plaster on the walls is deteriorated while the majority of the ceiling plaster is missing.

The landing to the third floor stairway is located at the northeast corner of the second floor stair hall. This stairway leads to approximately the center of the third floor space along the north wall. A simple board and batten door and frame is located here. The rest of the north wall was at one time plastered but the remains of this plaster was removed for recent stabilization work. The rafters and wall plate are now visible. The outline of the room is obvious on the end walls due to the plaster still existing on these exterior walls. The north and south walls were approximately 5'-6" tall, the plaster ceiling sloped with the rafters until it met the cross bracing tying the rafter together at 7'-5" from the finish floor. At the center of the east and west walls are Palladian windows, with center sash that swing inward. The Palladian windows are interesting in that the flanking fixed sidelights are also arched at the top. The sills of these windows are located even with the finish floor. The south wall at one time was a finished wall with plaster. Only some framing and baseboards are still in place. As on the north wall, the rafters and wall plate are now visible. The floor is wood tongue and groove. The baseboards are simple 1" x 6 1/2" boards. Brick chimneys are located at the northeast, southeast and the southwest corners of the room just behind the walls.

It is interesting to note the differences in detailing between the more elaborate rooms on the first floor and more utilitarian rooms such as the kitchen and upstairs bedrooms. Fancy mortise locks are utilized on the first floor doors in the main house while box locks were installed in the kitchen of the north wing and the second and third floors of the main house. The front three rooms on the first floor of the main house have built-up baseboards with quarter rounds. The two rear rooms of the main house have simpler single board baseboards with quarter rounds while the baseboards on the second and third floors of the main house are single boards that are not as tall and do not have

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 19

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

quarter round. The only board and batten doors on the interior of the main house are found at the top of the stair on the third floor and in the basement.

The interior of the basement is only accessible from the exterior entrance located on the north wall of the main house. A stone stairwell is surrounded by stone retaining walls. The stairs have shifted over the years. An opening at the bottom of the stairs leads into the basement, which is divided into four rooms by stone walls. The first room (room #002) makes up the north half of the main house. The dividing stone south wall has two door openings through it. The east wall contains one window set high up on the wall measuring 3'-0" x 1'-2". A thimble for a stove or a clean out for the hearth above is located in the chimney bump out. The entry door is located on the eastern end of the north wall and a door into the north wing basement is located at approximately the center of the same wall. A window matching the other basement windows is located at the northern end of the west wall. A stone pier is located just off center in an easterly direction within this space. The floor is dirt, and the ceiling was at one time completely plastered. Remnants of whitewashed plaster can be found on the stone walls. A stone hearth from one of the fireplaces above is leaning against the southeast corner of this room. All doorways through the walls in the basement have stone sills set higher than the dirt floor.

The north wing basement is entered through the westernmost door opening in the north wall of room #002. This opening through the stone foundation is located in the eastern corner of the south wall of the north wing basement (room #001). On the same wall is located a 16 1/2" bump out for the fireplace above in the center of the wall. On the western end of the south wall is a large stone slab measuring 3'-6" x 5'-2 1/2" set on a stone base. The stone slab was most likely installed during the construction of the north wing. The east wall has one basement window at the northern end. The north wall has no fenestration. The west wall has one basement window located at the southern end. This window would have supplied light directly onto the unusual stone slab table. The floor is dirt and the walls are exposed stone with remnants of whitewashed plaster. The existing ceiling has been completely rebuilt during recent stabilization work.

Passing through room #002 through the westernmost door on the south wall is the southwest room of the basement (room #003). This room encompasses the southwest room and central hall above. The south wall consists of two basement windows

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 20

JAMES JOHN ELDRÉD HOUSE

openings centered on the windows on the first floor above. The easternmost window has been closed up. A framed door opening with remnants of a board and batten door through the stone exists on the east wall leading into the southeast room of the basement. In the north wall, offset to the east, is the framed door opening from room #002. This opening still has a board and batten door still in place with a 5" tall stone sill. The west wall contains one basement window set close to the north wall. A stone pier is located just off center in an easterly direction within this space. The floor is dirt, the walls have remnants of whitewashed plaster over the stone and the ceiling was at one time completely plastered.

Passing through the door opening and 6 ½" to 8" stone sill in the east stone wall of room #003 is the southeast section of the basement (room #004). The south wall consists of two basement windows centered on the windows on the first floor above. The westernmost window has been closed up. The east wall contains one basement window closer to the north wall of this room. The north wall has a door, centered on the wall that connects to room #002. The floor is dirt, the stone walls are plastered and whitewashed and the ceiling was at one time completely plastered. There are ghost markings for shelving that once was located in the northwest corner and the ceiling joists still have four hooks hanging from them spaced out at the corners of the room. This room could have been used to hang cheese.

The only mechanical system once located in the basement was two fuses on a block located in room #003 on the south wall. The fuses were probably installed in the 1950's when rural electric co-ops, sponsored by the government, brought electric into this area. It was very minimal, being just two 15 amp fuses, which could have only been used for lighting. The first floor, prior to recent stabilization work, had wiring from this panel leading to the center of the ceilings in the southwest room (room # 103) and the north wing (room #105). Two families left homeless during the 1943 flood lived in the J. J. Eldred House temporarily and probably utilized this electricity.

A limestone privy, matching the main house in masonry construction detailing is located 45'-0" east of the northeast corner of the north addition. The roof had a ridge running east and west. The roof collapsed at one time and a significant sized tree once growing from the interior of the structure has contributed to its current deteriorated condition (photo #3). The entrance is centered on the west elevation although the door lintel is no

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 21

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

longer in place. The stone walls are rough-cut local limestone with irregular courses and smooth-faced quoins with tooled edges. This elevation once had a stone gable end above the door. The south elevation consists of a window opening, although the frame is no longer in place, with smooth-cut stone with tooled edged sill and lintel. The lintel is of a pediment shape and appears to be suspended since no stone is left in place above it. The quoins on the southeast corner stop short of the ground to receive the east section of the stone wall surrounding the yard (photo #5). The east elevation is interesting in that the gable end is more intact and an opening close to grade is located in the center. This opening was presumably used as a clean-out. The north wall is a duplicate of the south wall (photo #4). There is evidence suggesting that the floor was wood with a sand filled pit located below. This allowed the liquids to filter through the sand and eventually into the ground. Solids were probably removed through the clean-out access in the east wall. The privy is a contributing building on the site.

The dry laid limestone fencing surrounding the property on the southern end is now a rare example of the seven miles of fencing that once bordered the early roads through this area. The dry-laid stone wall that runs the south length of the property is set back 4'-0" from the property line and returns back heading north approximately 50'-0" on the west section and 47'-0" on the east. The west section of the stone wall is set back 16'-6" from the current property line to the east while the east section of the stone wall is set back approximately 11'-10" from the current east property line. Rummaging through the overgrown brush on the eastern property line, the base of the stone foundation still exists continuing towards the northwest until it runs into the southeast corner of the privy. The south portion of the stone wall was re-located approximately 15'-6" to the north in 1997-98, in order to be contained within the property line and safe from demolition and removal. The westernmost opening intended for a drive was enlarged at this time for future modern use. An original smaller opening for a pedestrian entrance was also re-located and is still centered on the original cut stone walk up to the front entrance of the house. A raised stone mounting platform with steps to enter an early carriage is on the south side of the stone wall (photo #2). This was moved at the same time as this portion of the stone wall in order to retain it's relationship to the pedestrian entrance and preserve it from demolition. A wonderful example of just how much stone fencing once existing on this property is evident in the sketch of the J. J. Eldred property in the 1873 Greene County plat book (figure #4). The stone fence is a contributing structure on the site.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 22

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

This property has a total of three and maybe four cisterns. These were mentioned in the description of the structure. One cistern, on the outside of the house served the pitcher pump within the kitchen located in the north wing. One probably served the washhouse, being located just to the west of the north addition. Another collected soft rainwater that had been filtered through a sand-filled system. Yet another located inside the stone room of the west wing probably collected melting ice water and stored it underground within that space. The small 2'-0" diameter unlined stone well just outside the west door to the kitchen extends way below the bottoms of the cisterns and was not intended to hold water.

An arbor was once located extending south from the stone steps into the west wing, according to the 1873 plat book sketch. A portion of the end wall of the arbor can be seen in the tin type photograph on the west side of the house (photo #A). Another interesting cultural landscape feature in the 1873 sketch is an extensive formal garden once located between the main house and the barns to the west. There is only one other farmstead featuring such extravagance in the plat book of this era.

Barns and outbuildings were once located between the west stone fence enclosing the extent of the current property to the county road now known as Highway 100 (photo #B). Some were actually built prior to the stone house by J. J. Eldred's father, (Ward Eldred) whose homestead property was located across the road to the southwest of the later stone house (photo #C). Other support structures also surrounded Ward Eldred's home. The largest barn, built in 1851, ten years before the stone house, was located just north of the Ward Eldred homestead and may have been in construction when Ward Eldred died during that same year. This barn was four stories tall with the bottom two stories laid in limestone. The stonework was detailed in a similar manner as the later J. J. Eldred house in that it had square-cut limestone quoins and smooth-faced stone lintels and sills with irregular coursed limestone in between. The construction dates on the other two outbuildings adjacent to the barn is not known. There was a smaller barn to the west with a rubble stone foundation and frame walls with board and batten siding and a horse trough for watering the horses at the southeast corner of the large barn. The section line is along what is now known as Bluffdale Township Road. The north side of the road is a southern portion of Section 16 while the south side of the road is a northern portion of Section 21. Typically, residences were built along the bluffs

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 23

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

for natural protection, proximity to springs for fresh water and to reserve the most fertile land between the bluffs and the river for crops. The early Ward Eldred homestead and the 1861 J. J. Eldred home site was laid out in this way. The Ward Eldred homestead residence was divided into three tenant homes by 1918 (photo #D). The outbuildings, including the four-story barn did not make it past the later part of this century. A modern metal structure stands in their place. The current J. J. Eldred house property no longer includes the portions of Section 16 or Section 21 where these other outbuildings and the original Eldred homestead once existed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 23

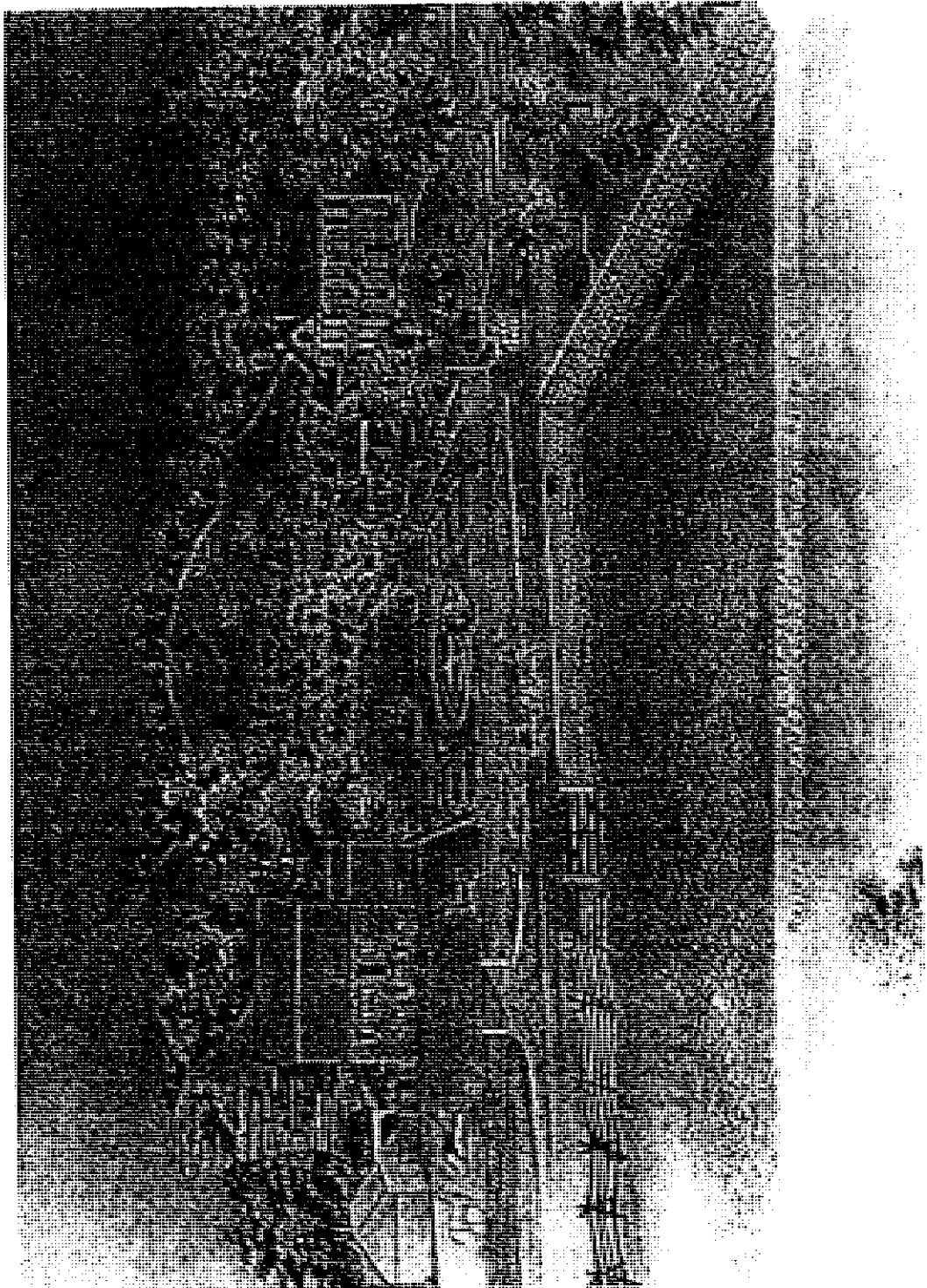
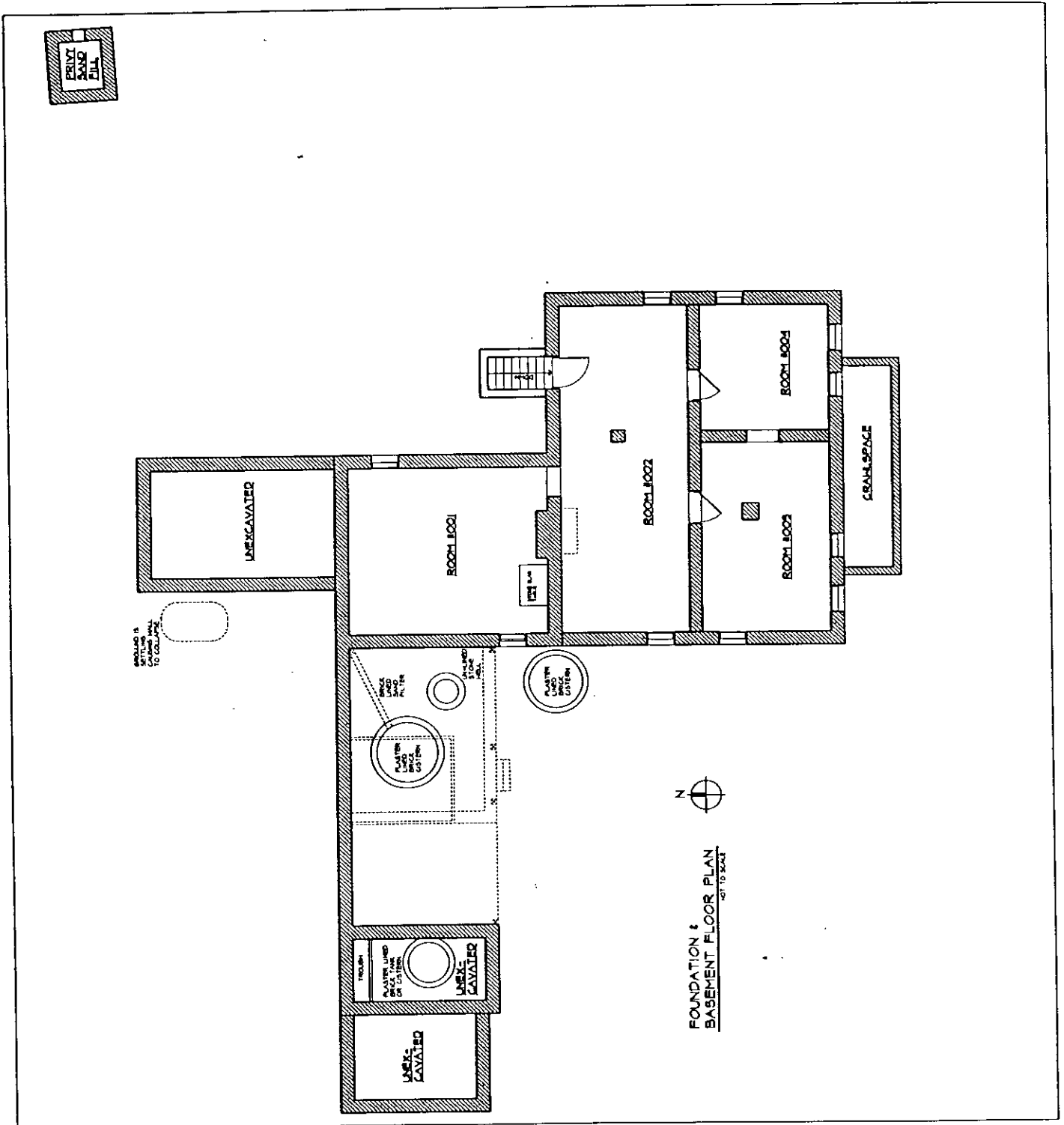


Figure 1873 Greene County Plat Book Sketch

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 24

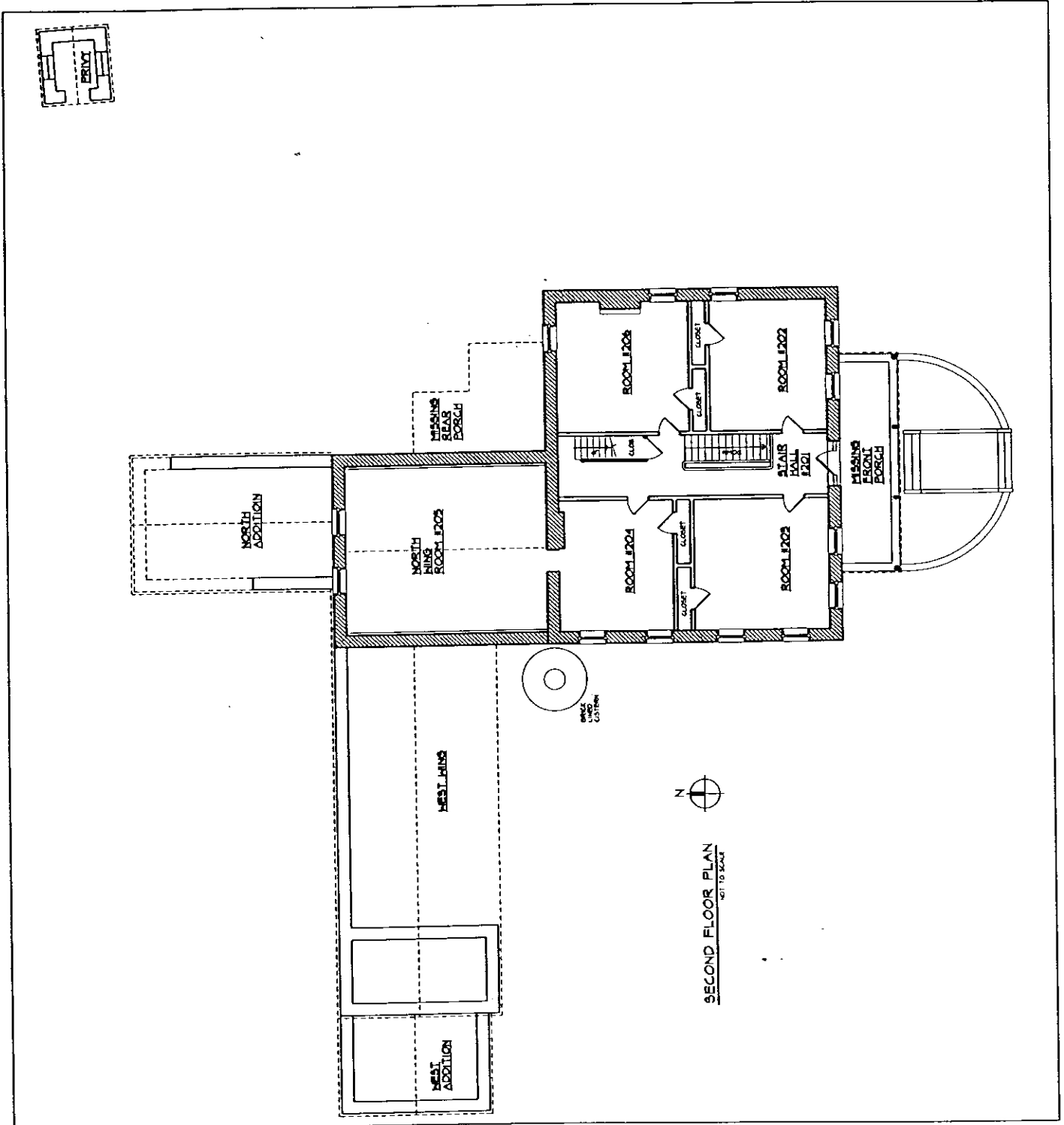


Existing Basement Plan

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 26

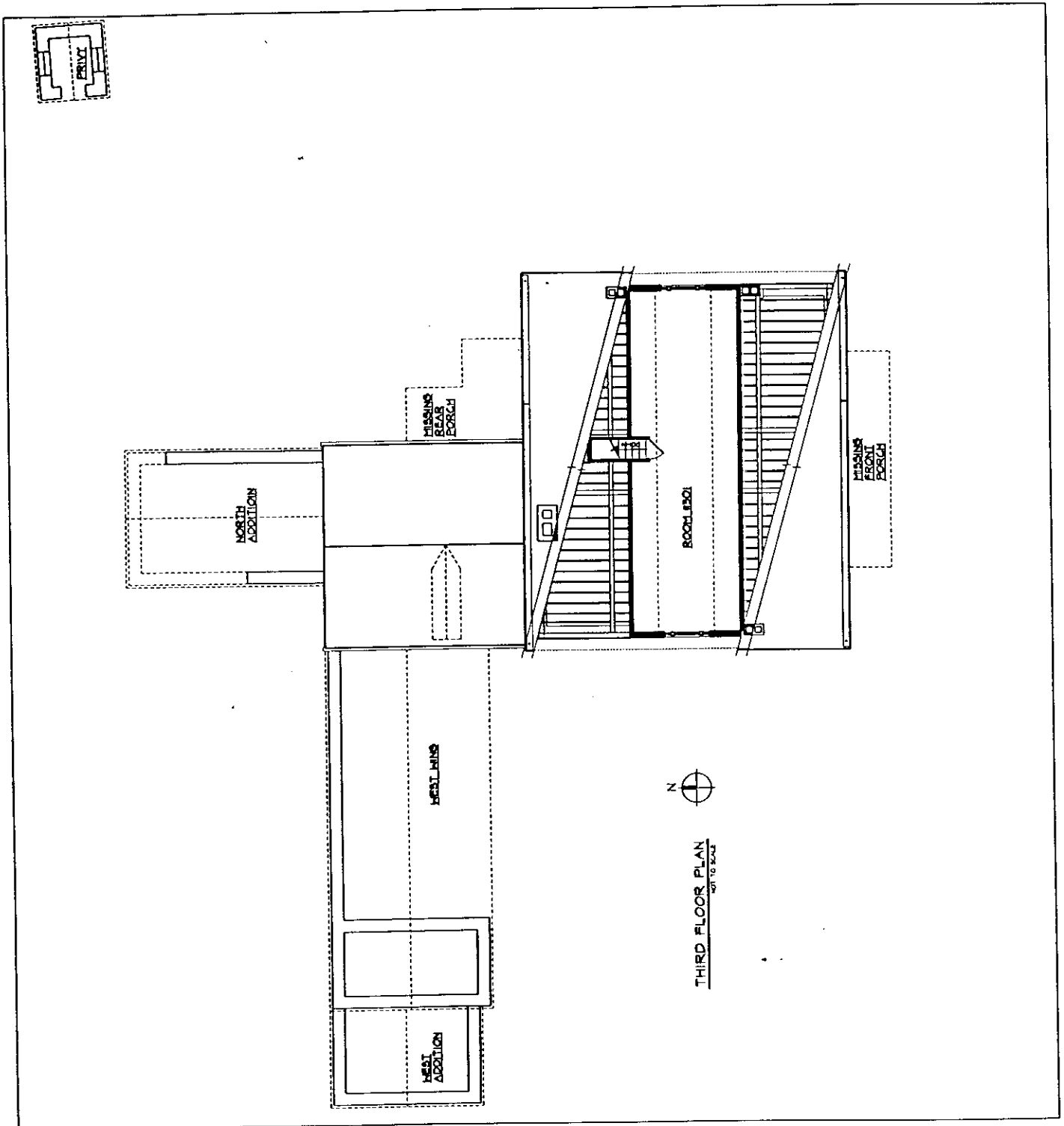


Existing Second Floor Plan

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 27



Existing Third Floor Plan

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 28

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

Statement of Significance

The James J. Eldred House, located in Greene County's Bluffdale Township just east of the Illinois River, is an excellent example in the region of late Greek Revival residential architecture, qualifying it for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance. Built in 1861 by James J. Eldred with some additions dating before 1873, the house served as the J. J. Eldred family residence and the center of his family farming operations for forty years. The Greek Revival design of the house with some Italianate details make it significant under Criterion C for architecture. The period of significance for the house is 1861 when the house was built to 1873 to include the construction of the north and west limestone wings. Its Greek Revival details include its symmetrical five-bay wide front facade, elaborate entry with sidelights and transom, six-over-six windows, pedimented lintels, and elaborate cornice with dentils, pediments, and Palladian window. Italianate details include the cornice brackets, front staircase newel post, and arched Italianate mantle. Sold by J. J. Eldred to his cousin Albon E. Wilson in 1901, the house and a significant portion of farmland were later purchased by R. H. Levis of Alton in 1936. In 1995, the Levis family donated the house and surrounding 1.2 acres to the Illinois Valley Cultural Heritage Association of Carrollton, a nonprofit organization. The house and grounds are to be restored for use as a visitor's center serving the Meeting of the Rivers Federal Scenic Byway.

The house maintains excellent historic integrity with many of its original interior features intact including most of the woodwork, all of the fireplace mantles, and most of the main staircase. The c. 1873 stone wings and additions to the north and west of the house have seriously been deteriorated but enough of their materials and design remain to convey their historic integrity. During the restoration of the wings all of the salvageable historic limestone is being retained to rebuild the walls. Further archaeological investigations will be conducted in the area of the wings to the north and west of the house before any reconstruction is done.

Elaboration: The J. J. Eldred House is a significant example of Greene County adaptation of Greek Revival architecture, but the site upon which it sits had been occupied many times prior to American settlement in the region after A. D. 1821. Archaeological excavations conducted at the site in the 1990s suggest at least three periods of site occupation by indigenous populations. The Center for American

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 29

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

Archaeology discovered prehistoric deposits at the base of the bluff that resemble those at the nearby Koster site, the subject of excavations over several decades. Prior discovery of stratified Middle/Late Archaic (ca. 2000 B.C.), Middle Woodland (ca. 50 B.C. - A.D. 250), and Late Woodland (ca. A.D. 900-1100) evidence has been supplemented by recent work. This includes investigation of late Middle Woodland deposits approximately 85 cm below the surface of the ground in the front yard of the house. Archaeological teams have uncovered "mixed late Middle Woodland/Late Woodland/Jersey Bluff" ceramics on the site.¹

The history of the Eldred property is tied to the expansion of the United States into the Old Northwest territories following the American Revolution and the gradual settlement of Illinois by easterners early in the nineteenth century. Born in 1796 in Connecticut, Ward Eldred had had his eye on Illinois while it was still a territory. He and his cousin Swift traveled by foot from their home in New York's Mohawk valley to Illinois in 1818 in the months just before statehood, surveying land in northern Madison County (presently Greene County) before returning to New York.² Although the Eldreds were not closely associated with the Russells, Robleys, and Spencers, important early settlers of Greene County who hailed from the Bennington area of Vermont, they shared those New Englanders' antislavery views. The Eldreds had waited for assurances that Illinois would not enter the union as a slave state before committing themselves to moving west. A letter from Madison County resident George Churchill to Swift Eldred, dated 1818, addresses this concern. Churchill had made the acquaintance of Swift during the Eldred visit, and he informed Swift that the state constitutional convention has "decided against slavery in general," though the presence of previously owned slaves was as yet undecided. Churchill is optimistic about the prospects for Yankee settlement; he hopes for "Yankee fashion" ballot-based elections and for ridding the new state of the "little remnant of slavery."³

Ward married his first of four wives in January, 1819 and promptly returned to west central Illinois with his brother Elon and a herd of sheep the two had driven from Ohio. In March 1820, Ward, his father, Jehosophat, and a clan of twelve other family

¹ Eric G. Hansen, "Preliminary Phase II Testing at the Eldred Mansion-Levis Site," 6.

² Orville Ward Eldred, *The Eldred Family: Particularly the Eldreds of Greene County, Illinois*, 1940, 9, 27.

³ George Churchill to Swift Eldred, September 9, 1818, reprinted in *ibid.*, 14-15.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 30

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

members journeyed from New York to Illinois, settling west of Carrollton and awaiting the creation of a new county with newly surveyed land.⁴ Early in 1821, the Illinois legislature created seven new counties, dividing Madison County in the process to create Greene County.⁵ Jehosophat Eldred and his sons William and Ward purchased Greene County land in January. Ward purchased five 80-acre (one-eighth section) tracts in Sections 17, 20, and 21 of Township 10.⁶ His family probably made their initial homestead in Section 21.⁷ His second son, James John Eldred, was born in 1828.⁸

The land on which the future J. J. Eldred House was built, at Township 10, Range 13, Section 16, is in a section with significance in the history of the Old Northwest. The Land Ordinance of 1785 had established a plan of land surveys for territories in the Northwest. Each township was to be divided into 36 square-mile sections. Income from land sales of Section 16 were to be set aside for the support of public schools. In fact, territorial education tended to be private and paid for by subscription or nonexistent, and these conditions continued into Illinois statehood despite the legislative efforts to direct funds from Section 16 land sales toward education.⁹ (Howard, 174-75). Rather than using an independent school house built for the purpose, Greene County students could be found in the cabins or houses of local families such as the Russells, transplanted New Englanders who valued learning.¹⁰

The Center for American Archaeology suggests habitation of the future J. J. Eldred House property during the 1820s, primarily due to the discovery of domestic debris from

⁴ Eldred, *The Eldred Family*, 27.

⁵ *Carrollton Patriot* Anniversary Edition, Sept. 2, 1938; reprinted 1993; David Allan Badger, *Illinois County Courthouses*, Carrollton, Ill., 1998. 19-20.

⁶ State of Illinois, Public Domain Land Tract Sales Archive: Ward Eldred.

⁷ The appraisal of Ward Eldred's property upon his death in 1851 suggests improved land in a relatively small parcel of Section 21 land, judging by the appraised value of the land. Greene County Clerk's Office, "Appraisal of Personal Estate of Ward Eldred at his death," Aug. 12, 1851.

⁸ Eldred, 27.

⁹ Robert P. Howard, *Illinois: A History of the Prairie State*, Grand Rapids, Mich., 1972.

¹⁰ S. G. Russell, "Russell's Memoirs," excerpt from unpublished memoirs printed in *Carrollton Patriot*, Nov. 2, 1906. Richard Robley obtained Section 16 land in 1833. By 1873 a Robley School was located on Robley land in Section 9, but it is one of several schools in the area by that time. *Atlas Map of Greene County, Illinois*, Davenport, Iowa, 1873.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 31

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

that decade during 1990s excavations.¹¹ Deed records indicate, however, that the school board commissioner did not sell the property until 1833, and it is likely that the 1830s occupants owned ceramics and pearlware dating to the mid-to-late 1820s.¹² Any 1820s homesteader would have been a squatter without title to the land, and such evidence as has been discovered is from excavations made within the walls of a later structure rather than in the yard of the house.

The land on which the Eldred House would be built was owned by one of the early settlers of Bluffdale, Richard Robley, but not until several years had elapsed since his migration with an idealistic group of New Englanders. In the late 1820s several Vermont families, including the Robleys, Spencers, Brushes, and Russells, moved to Greene County and named their new settlement Bluffdale.¹³ Richard Robley first purchased 80 acres of land in Section 9, just north of the future Eldred House, in 1823. He later purchased 80 acres in Section 15 to the east.¹⁴ The state legislature designated Section 16 land for schools in 1829, but amended the law to allow the sale of such lands in 1831. In 1833 Robley purchased 310 acres of the south half of Section 16 from the Illinois School Commissioner, Samuel Smith, but apparently deferred payment.¹⁵ In 1836, Robley sold the land to Hiram R. Brown, who paid \$752 for it and who may have built a dwelling on the site or occupied a Robley-built structure with his wife Hanna.¹⁶ During the Brown ownership, Ward Eldred's family lived across the road in Section 21.¹⁷ In 1838, the families likely contributed to the construction of distinctive limestone

¹¹ Hansen, 4-6; Kenneth Farnsworth, et al, "Excavations at Bluffdale: a Forgotten Pioneer Utopia" ADP application, 1996.

¹² Greene County Deed Record, State of Illinois to Richard Robley, Dec. 31, 1836. Robley had purchased the land on November 9, 1833.

¹³ Daniel H. Brush, *Growing Up With Southern Illinois: The Pioneer Memoirs of Daniel H. Brush*. Herrin, Ill., 1992, 10. The original settlement of Bluffdale no longer exists. The main town in the area is Eldred, an outgrowth of the L. C. & W. Railroad line built in the 1880s. By 1900 it had become an important agricultural supply point for the surrounding area. See *Carrollton Patriot Anniversary Edition*, p. 15.

¹⁴ State of Illinois Public Domain Land Records: Richard Robley.

¹⁵ Greene County Deed Record, State of Illinois to Richard Robley, Dec. 31, 1836.

¹⁶ Greene County Deed Record, Richard Robley to Hiram Brown, Dec. 31, 1836.

¹⁷ In 1918, property owner Cassie Wilson put up \$12,000 to remove a nineteenth-century house that may have been Ward Eldred's homestead and build a new house on that site in Section 21. The Meek family moved into this new house to oversee the farm. Arnold Meek interview with Laura Johnson, Dec. 30, 1998.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 32

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

fencing that ran for seven miles along the Bluffdale road.¹⁸ Road widening and paving in the 1930s destroyed a majority of the fencing.¹⁹

When Ward Eldred purchased the Section 16 property from Brown in April 1840, he paid \$4,000 for the 310 acres in Section 16 and 160 acres in Section 17, adding to his extensive holdings in the area. The increased value of the land is probably due in part to the presence of a residential structure and possibly other support structures on the property.²⁰ This coincides with archaeological evidence pointing to a structure on the site occupied during the 1830s.²¹

Eldred's new purchase must have seemed promising indeed, adding as it did to his current holdings. Nestled under a bluff overlooking the Illinois River bottoms, the new property commanded rich farmland. A traveler on the Illinois River that year, Eliza R. Steele, recorded her impressions of the fertile prairie land to the east of the bottom. According to Steele, Greene County contained "excellent land, well settled by eastern families, many from Vermont." Her description of the landscape attests to the farming possibilities. Greene was "one of the richest portions of land in the State, traversed by fine water courses and bounded by two large rivers,—containing beautiful prairies, and excellent timber." Further south, she noted that the Mississippi cliffs provided not only soft bituminous coal but "sandstone and limestone strata," with "crystal springs" flowing down to the river.²² Limestone deposits provided characteristic raw material for signature dwellings in the region, including the well-known writer and editor James Russell's 1828 home and the 1861 Eldred House.²³

Ward Eldred's first two wives had died before he purchased the Section 16 property in 1840. He would marry twice more in the coming decade while raising cattle and growing crops on his lands. All four wives died in childbirth. The 1850 Census reveals Ward, at age 54, as the head of the household, which also included his son James (21) along

¹⁸ John W. King, "Chronological History of Greene County, Ill., 1816-1960," n. d., 2.

¹⁹ No author, "Old Stone Fences Are Seen No More," *Carrollton Patriot*, n. d., ca. 1936.

²⁰ Greene County Deed Record, Hiram Brown to Ward Eldred, April 1, 1840.

²¹ Hansen, "Preliminary Phase II Testing."

²² Eliza R. Steele, "By Packet from Peoria to Alton, and the Towns Along the Way," in Paul M. Angle, ed., *Prairie State: Impressions of Illinois, 1673-1967*. Chicago, 1968.

²³ John Drury, *Old Illinois Houses*, Chicago, 1941, 42.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 33

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

with four younger brothers and a seven-year-old sister, Evaline.²⁴ The widower lost his own life in 1851 after contracting erysipelas (acute skin disease) while working cattle during a flood in the Illinois bottoms.²⁵ After his father's death, James John Eldred purchased his older brother Ward's interest in the Section 16 property. James had married Emeline Smead, the sister of his father's fourth wife, in February, 1851, and the couple probably lived in the old Eldred home.²⁶ During 1851, the Eldreds completed a new four-story limestone barn west of the house.²⁷

Ward had had need of such a structure, and had been gathering stone, flooring, and shingles for the purpose. At the time of his death, he had 194 head of cattle, 70 cows, 58 calves, 30 horses, and 5 oxen and goats. He sold cheese to the major market nearby, St. Louis, and grew wheat and corn. James J. Eldred inherited the cheese-making equipment and raised a variety of livestock and crops.²⁸ The farm flourished, and the Eldreds had four children by 1860. In addition to the immediate family, the Eldreds also supported two domestics, including the seventeen-year-old Evaline, J. J.'s half sister. Three farm laborers assisted the Eldreds in growing crops, including wheat and corn.²⁹ As the nation headed toward civil war, Eldred's personal prosperity led him to plan and construct a new farmhouse. The J. J. Eldred House, completed in 1861, was perhaps the most elegant residential structure in the region, and is an important surviving example of Greek Revival architecture transplanted to the Illinois bluffs. Combining the stylistic values of fashionable neoclassicism with traditional local materials, Eldred created a country estate home that became a centerpiece of regional social life during the 1860s and 1870s.³⁰

An 1873 Greene County atlas contains a visual representation of James J. Eldred's "Bluff Dale Farm" in its heyday. The unidentified artist's sketch presents a slightly

²⁴ Mabel Tuckery Scheffer, compiler, "1850 Greene County, Illinois Census," Carrollton, Ill., n. d.

²⁵ Eldred, 27.

²⁶ Ibid., 32.

²⁷ Norma Newton, "Eldred, James J. And Emeline,": in Ada Eileen Smith Cunningham, ed., *History of the Carrollton, Illinois Area, 1821-1989*. Vol. I., 300.

²⁸ "Appraisal of Personal Estate of Ward Eldred."

²⁹ Ben King and Thelma King, preparers, "The 1860 Census of Greene County, Illinois," Carrollton, Ill., n. d.

³⁰ Eldred, 32.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 34

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

idealized portrait of a bucolic country estate, complete with sheep grazing on the bluffs above the house, but also contains the best extant representation of the farm's layout and buildings. The Bluffdale Township road runs just to the south of the Eldred House, lined by Eldred's limestone fencing. A barn and corral complex, dominated by the 1851 four-story barn, sits adjacent to elaborate formal gardens located between the stables and a private lane running north from the road and bisecting the property. The Eldred House itself sits away from the road, imposing in its two-story grandeur and flanked by an arbor on its west side, with an orchard planted between the rear of the house and the hilly terrain beyond.³¹

The James J. Eldred House reflects a Greene County variation of a popular architectural style that dominated mid-nineteenth-century America, the Greek Revival. American motivations for adaptation of Greek architectural stylings are linked to a broader cultural consciousness that identified American traditions and ideals with Hellenic precursors. As nineteenth-century American elites articulated a sense of American destiny, they consistently drew upon Hellenic political and cultural models and became increasingly interested in the fate of modern Greece, generally supporting the Greek Revolution against the Turks from 1821-1828.³² Americans, keenly interested in expanding democracy and stimulated by recent archaeological discoveries in Greece, became intrigued by the origins of democracy in ancient Greece itself. The Massachusetts professor and politician Edward Everett, in particular, spent his academic and political career teaching classical Greek, extolling the virtues of ancient Hellenic civilization. He advocated a reconstitution of Hellenic ideals in modern America, including the use of Greek-structured public oratory, particularly in speeches dedicating battlefields at Bunker Hill and Gettysburg modeled after Greek funeral oration. He was also an advocate of the rural cemetery movement, which came into vogue in the 1820s and 1830s, reinterpreting Greek burial models for the American countryside.³³ His influence on American public intellectuals, including Ralph Waldo Emerson and George Bancroft, was immense.³⁴

³¹ *Atlas Map of Greene County, Illinois*. Davenport, Iowa, 1873, 57.

³² Stephen A. Larrabee, *Hellas Observed: The American Experience of Greece, 1775-1865*, New York, 1957, ix.

³³ Garry Wills, *Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words That Remade America*. New York, 1992, 63-64.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, 43-47.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 36

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

Greek Revival architecture had roots in Europe before crossing the Atlantic in the early national period. It first flourished in Philadelphia and Boston, in what is known as the "high style." The high style became influential early in the nineteenth century and was soon followed by a vernacular style that proved adaptable to various regions of the country, eventually reaching the Pacific coast in Oregon. A combination of pattern books and indigenous building materials created highly eclectic interpretations of the classic style.³⁵ The American Greek Revival scholar Talbot Hamlin argues that the period from 1820 to 1860 represents the height of the Greek Revival and traces its spread from urban centers to the South and Midwest.³⁶ By the time the style reached Illinois in the 1820s and 1830s with immigrants from the northeast, Greek Revival was already a standard for taste in residential dwellings, and by the 1840s a new sophistication is found in the application of the style.³⁷ While several Illinois homes reproduced some variation of the "high style," others fused elements of that style with local materials to form a vernacular style applicable to a range of dwellings from the relatively humble to the ostentatious. In the case of Illinois, this usually meant the employment of indigenous stone and brick materials "quite different in character from those found elsewhere."³⁸ The Vermonters who settled in Greene County might have been familiar with some of the earliest vernacular articulations of Greek Revival, as early versions of the style could be seen in western New Hampshire and Vermont. Thomas Dake, an architect from Castleton, Vermont, designed several significant Greek Revival structures in that region.³⁹

Greek Revival architecture is characterized by its symmetrical front facades, low-pitched gable or hipped roofs, wide cornices and friezes often with dentils, entry or full-width porches supported by prominent square or rounded columns often with Doric capitals, elaborate front entries surrounded by narrow sidelights and transom lights, and six-over-six windows.

³⁵ Robert K. Sutton, *Americans Interpret the Parthenon: The Progression of Greek Revival Architecture from the East Coast to Oregon*. Niwot, Col., 1992, 9.

³⁶ Talbot Hamlin, *Greek Revival Architecture in America*. New York, 1944, 317-319.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, 304.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, 305.

³⁹ Kennedy, 8.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 37

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

Among the significant Greek Revival features present on the Eldred House are the distinctive gabled low-pitch roofline, the use of a wide frieze band of stylized trim in the entablature, a symmetrical five-bay front façade, front doorway detailing, six-over-six light sash, and the pedimented lintels on windows and doors. Distinctive Greek Revival interior features include the two mantles on the first floor, and the interior layout in general.⁴⁰ Often in rural areas, local materials and building techniques are incorporated into the stylized detailing. During the Greek Revival movement in low-lying lands below the bluffs of Greene County, materials such as wood siding and large quantities of bricks, available in the east and urban areas, were not as easily available as the limestone of the surrounding hills. Therefore we see in the J. J. Eldred House an excellent example of an adaptation of a national style using very local materials. Limestone was so prevalent at this time that seven miles of dry laid fencing once existed in this area, walks and floors have been found on the site constructed of limestone slabs and utilitarian structures such as the barns and other outbuildings were primarily limestone. In fact, Ward Eldred's probate records from 1851 lists stone quarrying equipment. This suggests that J. J. Eldred's father, Ward Eldred, began a tradition of either hiring help to quarry his own limestone from the surrounding bluffs or family members did this work. Understanding the difficulty in hauling large quantities of brick or stone any distance during the mid-nineteenth century in a rural area such as this can lead us to the conclusion that the limestone used on the property was found nearby. The limestone for the J. J. Eldred house and other supporting farm structures may have been quarried either on site, from the bluffs on Sections 16 or 21, or at the active quarry just south of what is now the town of Eldred. There is evidence of quarrying on the bluff just east of the Eldred house and north of where the old stone barn once sat. Whether stone cleared from these locations was used on outbuildings, the house, or the limestone fencing cannot be known.

The most striking feature on this residence is the detailing of the wide band of wood trim forming the entablature. This feature is continuous across the gable ends of the building and repeated in the raking cornice, forming a dominant triangular pediment shape on the east and west elevations. Typical of the Greek Revival styling, a wide frieze band is located beneath the cornices. This banding is either detailed from plain

⁴⁰ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field guide to American Houses*. New York, 1997, 179-82.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 38

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

complex arrangements within the Greek Revival styling.⁴¹ The Eldred House displays a continuous frieze band broken up by a tightly spaced dentil course with bed molding between and paired Italianate brackets. The brackets equally break up the dentil pattern and extend to the bottom of the plain board architrave. Italianate brackets were not uncommon in post-1850 Greek Revival cornices.⁴² The low-pitched roof of the Eldred House further exemplifies this popular style. The combination of the earlier Greek Revival style with the later Italianate style was popularized after 1840 when pattern books, including A. J. Downing's *Cottage Residences, Rural Architecture and Landscape Gardening*, showed various styles including Gothic and Italianate architecture available for residences. Other Italianate details in the Eldred House include the front staircase newel post and arched mantle in the southwest first floor room.

Early photos and salvaged pieces of the front porch reveal precise Greek Revival features in the detailing. The 1873 sketch represents a one-story porch with a flat roof and a second-story rail.⁴³ It is typical of the Greek style to include flat-roofed entry porches.⁴⁴ The earliest photo of the porch (photo #A) believed to have been taken circa 1890 is the best account of the front porch while a later photo taken in 1943 portrays a clearer picture for details although the second floor railing is gone by this time (photo #F). It appears the cornice and frieze is very similar but at a smaller scale than the main roof detailing. Only one Italianate bracket is set above each of the four non-fluted square Doric style columns. The columns step out at the base to form a panel with a rounded top. The balusters on the first and second floors were decoratively sawn to form a silhouette of a turned baluster.

The front doorway is usually an excellent way of defining a building's style. The Greek Revival included many variations but all usually included a single or double door with transom lights and flanking sidelights.⁴⁵ The J. J. Eldred House exemplifies an arrangement consisting of a first floor single entry door with a pedimented limestone

⁴¹ Ibid., 180.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ *Atlas of Green County, Illinois*, 1873. 57.

⁴⁴ McAlester, 179.

⁴⁵ Ibid., 181.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 39

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

lintel and broken transom lights and sidelights with a bottom wood panel. The second floor door directly above also displays a pedimented limestone lintel and sidelights only with a bottom wood panel. The windows have six-over-six light sash, very typical of the Greek Revival era also with pedimented limestone lintels.⁴⁶

Although the Greek Revival structure appears symmetrical on the exterior, creative plans occurred on the interior in order to accommodate irregular uses of space. Typically, one-story wings were integrated into the plan to form an "L" or a "T" shape but the entry was usually through a central stair hall.⁴⁷ The Eldred House exemplifies this in that the entry is into a central stair hall. There are original one-story wings attached to the symmetrical main structure and the interior plan adjusts for different room uses and sizes within the residence. Three chimney pieces are located on the first floor. The parlor, (room #103, figure #6) has a mantle that appears more Italianate with an arched opening, inset curved panels, and a decorative finial shaped carving centered under the mantle. The dining room, (room #104, figure #6) has a large fireplace mantle with flat square pilasters with simple 1" bases and Doric style capitals. Another fireplace is located in what may have been a farm office (room #106, figure #6) with a matching mantle to the one located in the dining room, although smaller. The main staircase has decorative newel post and turned balusters which reflect a fancier, more elaborate styling, leaning more towards Italianate detailing than Greek Revival.

Other site structures from the same era include the symmetrical layout of the front exterior limestone walk leading up to existing limestone stairs and a garden border outlining the original location of the porch. The front walk then leads out to a corresponding opening in the dry-laid stone fence. The existing limestone privy located northeast of the main house and the extant three-story limestone barn is also consistent in stone workmanship with the main house.

Greene County and Scott County to the north has become known for the early stone buildings along the Illinois River bluffs. Others include the Marshall House, Phillip Young House, Azariah Sweetin House, Russell Homestead, Samuel Gates House, Schild House, and Clendenen House. Comparatively, the J. J. Eldred House has the

⁴⁶ Carole Rifkind, *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York, 1980, 39.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, 38-39.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 40

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

most elaborate Greek Revival detailing and is the largest surviving house. In Scott County, southeast of the intersection of Route 106 and the Eldred Road is the Marshall House. The Marshall House is a two-story limestone I-house with a gabled roof. The windows are recent vinyl replacements and the roof is covered with metal.

The northernmost existing stone house in Greene County is the Phillip Young House. The Phillip Young House is located in Section 16, Walkerville Township on the west side of the Eldred Road.⁴⁸ The windows, siding and porch have all been replaced over the years therefore only stone detailing can be compared at this time. The stonework consists of quoins at the corners and around the window openings. A stone chimney is set on the outside of the stone wall and becomes brick at the second story. Heading south is the Azariah Sweetin House which dates to 1848, located in Section 16, Walkerville Township on the east side of the Eldred Road.⁴⁹ It was at one time larger than the James J. Eldred House with its main structure being at least three stories tall although now in ruins. This house is made of limestone from the local bluffs. The stone is laid in a similar manner as the Eldred House in that it has corner quoins with rough cut coursed stonework in between. The detailing around the window and doors consists of quoin framing and flat stone lintels and sills. Two stringcourses exist similar to the watertable found on the Eldred House although in this case they separate the full first floor from the second and the second floor from the third. The Russell Homestead, built in 1832 or 1833, is located south of the Sweetin House and just north of the Eldred House in Section 3, Bluffdale Township, east of the Eldred Road. The one-and-a-half story house still remains in the Russell family, who has recently added a rear wood addition to accommodate the bed and breakfast business.⁵⁰ The front façade of this house has smooth-faced coursed and regularly sized limestone with quoins. The side elevations are rough-cut limestone with irregular courses. Four large chimneys dominate the north and south elevations. The windows have twelve-over-twelve light sash and the front door has a divided light transom. The 1830 Samuel Gates House is located just to the south of the Eldred House in Section 29, Bluffdale Township, west of the Eldred Road. It was built by David Woolley, a millwright from New York. This house has two stone chimneys on the main two-story structure, square-cut limestone quoins

⁴⁸ Eileen Smith Cunningham, *Lower Illinois Valley Limestone Houses*. Kane, Illinois, 1989, 28.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, 30.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, 26.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 41

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

on the corners and flat stone lintels. On the lintel above the front door and divided transom is the inscription "Whitstone".⁵¹ The local limestone was laid between the quoins in a rough-cut coursed manner that becomes more irregular on the side and rear elevations. This is an early house for this area since the windows have twelve-over-twelve light sash. The Schild House was built by 1861 in Section 16, Woodville Township on the east side of the Eldred Road.⁵² It is a very simple one-and-a-half story structure with no ornate detailing except for the turned wood posts on the front porch. As far as the stonework, the main structure is basically rubble limestone throughout. The windows have six-over-six light sash and the rear wing is wood frame. The Clendenen House built c. early 1820s is probably the oldest house in the county made famous by the 1969 Koster Archeological Site.⁵³ The house is located in Section 21, Woodville Township, east of the Eldred Road. There is no ornate detailing on the house and the stonework is rough-cut, irregularly coursed limestone. The corners have more finished larger stones for quoins and the windows have six-over-six light sash.

Traveling up the bluffs east of the Eldred House, other Greek Revival styled houses from the same era exist built of brick or wood frame. Although these homes have stone foundations, full stone houses are not seen above the bluffs for the same reason brick was not seen below the bluffs. Brick was more readily available in the upper regions of Greene County. Two examples are the C. H. Eldred House and the J. M. Meek House, both properties exist in the 1873 Green 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 c. 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. It is comparable in size to the J. J. Eldred House with a two-story wing attached to the east. Just north of Carrollton at State Highway 267 and the local road 1650 is the John Mewburn Meek House. This c. 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

⁵¹ Ibid., 20.

⁵² Ibid., 16.

⁵³ Ibid., 12.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 42

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

within the house and windows are six-over-six light sash, typical of the Greek Revival pattern. This house is still in the Meek family.

Within the Eldred home that mixed the fashionable and practical so well, James and Emeline Eldred raised children, managed a farm, and regularly hosted social gatherings. The prime years of the Eldred House were not all gaiety and light for its owners, however. All three Eldred daughters died at home: Alma at age 4 in 1861, Alice at 17 of tuberculosis in 1870, and Eva at 17 from the same cause in 1876.⁵⁴ The unpredictability of agricultural life left James Eldred's finances strained at times; in 1870, for example, a private tutor of the Eldred children sued Eldred for non-payment.⁵⁵ He faced another suit in 1900, owing money to John Snyder of Carrollton in a case apparently involving a lease on Eldred property that was settled out of court.⁵⁶ James, now 52, shared farming duties with his son Ward, 25, and also housed a 38-year-old cousin named Albon E. Wilson, a teacher at the Old Columbiana School at the Illinois River ferry landing on the Greene County side of the river.⁵⁷ Wilson was James Eldred's cousin, and discussed purchasing land from James as early as 1880 to settle a debt. Not quite ready to sell, Eldred nevertheless felt the strain of maintaining his holdings. Wilson's journal notes that in January, 1880, "James was wounded yesterday with a pain in his back. Was not able to be out all day to attend to his work . . ." ⁵⁸ In addition to teaching, Wilson helped on the farm and assisted in the sale and transport of Eldred's crops.⁵⁹

Wilson started a grocery business in Carrollton later in 1880, and the Eldreds began to sell land the following year, George Garretts bought 40 acres in Section 17 that year.⁶⁰ In March, 1883, floods sent many bottom dwellers away from the area and threatened crops.⁶¹ The Eldreds still retained their reputation as social hosts, receiving notice in

⁵⁴ Eldred, 32.

⁵⁵ Greene County Court Summons, Judge W. C. Rainey to James J. Eldred, Aug. 12, 1870.

⁵⁶ Albon E. Wilson, private journal, March 9, 10, 13, 16, 27, 1883.

⁵⁷ George Ben King and Thelma King, preparers, "1880 Census of Greene County, Illinois, Volume III," Carrollton, Ill., 13; Newton, *ibid.*

⁵⁸ Wilson journal, Jan. 16, 1880.

⁵⁹ Wilson journal.

⁶⁰ Greene County Deed Record, James J. And Emeline Eldred to George Garretts, Dec., n. d., 1881.

⁶¹ No author, "Bluffdale," *Carrollton Gazette*, March 10, 1883.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 43

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

April for another successful party, but as with several other landowners in the area, 1883 represented a diminishment of their agricultural efforts at Bluffdale. James J. Eldred, Jesse Flatt, Roswell Flatt, Ellen Hermens, and Anton Brichge all were "seized and possessed" of significant chunks of land, presumably for debt.⁶² Albon E. Wilson, having given up the grocery trade and betrothed to the wealthy Cassie Robertson, purchased title to this farmland, including the majority of Eldred's in April, 1883. Wilson paid Eldred \$8,000 for the old Eldred property in Section 21, married Robertson the next day, and began managing Bluffdale Farm.⁶³ While James and Emeline Eldred lived at the J. J. Eldred House until 1911, they sold their house and Section 16 property to Wilson for \$12,000 in 1901.⁶⁴ By that time, the Wilsons were living in Carrollton and the farm was managed by Lawrence Wagener. Wagener, who went to work on the farm in 1883 as a teen was assisted by his cousin Meek. Wagener moved into the J. J. Eldred house in 1896. Wagener raised his family there as he managed Wilson's agricultural affairs, overseeing wheat, corn, bean, and clover crops.⁶⁵ Before Albon Wilson died in 1912, he signed over the property to his wife Cassie. The Wagener and Meek families continued to live on and manage the farm until her death in 1936.⁶⁶

Upon Cassie Wilson's death, the property went up for sale. Robert H. Levis of Godfrey bought 1,517 acres for nearly \$27,000.⁶⁷ Levis bought and sold several pieces of land in the area in the 1930s and 1940s, but the house and its immediate property remained in his hands until 1995. Levis made the farm part of a budding absentee agribusiness enterprise, eventually naming it Bluffdale Farms, Inc., with on-site tenants as managers. Levis' farm managers did not use the J. J. Eldred House as a residence but rather the more modern 1918 house across the road.⁶⁸ The only upgrades that occurred to the

⁶² Lawrence Wagener, affidavit, June 29, 1936. Wagener testified in order to clear up questionable land claims when R. H. Levis purchased extensive property in the Bluffdale area in 1936.

⁶³ Greene County Deed Record, James J.

⁶⁴ James J. Eldred Obituary, *Carrollton Patriot*, April 6, 1911. James J. Eldred funeral announcement, Carrollton, Ill., April 1, 1911; Greene County Deed Record, Emeline Eldred and James J. Eldred to Albon E. Wilson, Feb. 11, 1901. It appears that the Eldreds continued to live in the Eldred House at cousin Albon Wilson's behest, although Emeline apparently lived in Carrollton after James's death.

⁶⁵ Wagner, 1-2.

⁶⁶ Greene County Deed Record, Albon E. Wilson to Cassie Wilson, July 30, 1912; Wagener, 3.

⁶⁷ Greene County Deed record, Estates of Albon E. Wilson and Cassie R. Wilson to R. H. Levis, July 10, 1936.

⁶⁸ Meek interview.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 44

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

house during the 20th century has been the addition of two 15 amp fuses. The only occupation of the house during the Levis ownership appears to have been a pair of families seeking refuge from a 1943 flood and archeologists during the nearby Koster excavations in the 1970s.⁶⁹

Over the years the house became an informal repository for farm equipment.⁷⁰ The Great Flood of 1993 inspired community leaders to coordinate economic recovery efforts that included historic preservation. The National Trust for Historic Preservation Economic Development/Flood Recovery plan, created in 1993, advocated the creation of an information center and a scenic byway in the area.⁷¹ A nonprofit organization, the Illinois Valley Cultural Heritage Association (IVCHA), formed in 1992 and began working to implement the recommendations, negotiating with the Levis family for transfer of the Eldred House.

After three years of negotiations, the Levis family donated the Eldred House to the IVCHA in June, 1995.⁷² The IVCHA hoped to restore the house and use it as a visitor center for the area, including Greene, Jersey, and Calhoun counties, as well as a bed and breakfast to help defray restoration and maintenance costs.⁷³ By the time Bluffdale Farms (the Levis family) donated the property, the building was in disrepair but the structure itself was sound.⁷⁴ The roof had deteriorated, leaving large openings and exposing the interior to the elements. The basement was a combination rubble heap and "trash pit" filled with old barrels and farm implements.⁷⁵

The stewardship of the IVCHA focused first on stabilization of the house. Bolstered by grants from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, IVCHA volunteers and a hired contractor restored the distinctive limestone exterior of the

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ IVCHA Newsletter, 1.

⁷¹ No author, "James J. Eldred Limestone House Donated to I. V. C. H. A.," *Carrollton Gazette-Patriot*, Dec. 21, 1995.

⁷² Bruce Hyde, "The James J. Eldred Limestone House and Site, Greene County, Illinois," *Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois Member's Preservation Brief #32*, Nov. 1995.

⁷³ IVCHA, "Lower Illinois River Valley Limestone House Tour," Oct. 19, 1996.

⁷⁴ "James J. Eldred Limestone House Donated to I. V. C. H. A."

⁷⁵ Kristi K. Nies, "Restoration Continues on Eldred House," *Jacksonville Journal-Courier*, Aug. 23, 1996.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 45

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

house within a year. Flooring has been stabilized, roof framing reinforced, and a temporary roof installed. Other permanent improvement was the restoration of window sash, frames and doors.⁷⁶ Within a year, the house was ready for visitors. In October, 1996, 350 people toured six limestone houses along the Illinois River valley, including the J. J. Eldred House as the featured attraction of the proposed Meeting of the Rivers Scenic Byway.⁷⁷

With the restoration and preservation of the James J. Eldred House, residents of and visitors to the tri-county region will share a place dedicated to remembering the many people who have called this place home. A private residence built in a high style will be a public focal point for remembering an ancient past, contemplating a historic settlement and farm, and considering the value of preserving an important part of the region's architectural, archaeological, and cultural heritage.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ No author, "Hundreds Take Tour of Limestone Houses," *Carrollton Gazette-Patriot*, Nov. 7, 1996, 1-2.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 46

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

Bibliography

- Atlas Map of Greene County, Illinois.* Davenport, Iowa: Andreas, Lyter & Co., 1873.
- Badger, David Alan. *Illinois County Courthouses.* Carrollton, Ill.: Creative Printing, 1998.
- Baxter, Christiann. "Activist claims burial grounds desecrated." *Jacksonville Journal Courier*, Nov. 11, 1995.
- Brush, Daniel H. *Growing Up With Southern Illinois: The Pioneer Memoirs of Daniel H. Brush.* Herrin, Ill.: Crossfire Press, 1992
- "Bluffdale." *Carrollton Gazette*, Saturday, March 10, 1883 Vol. 37, No. 36.
- Carrollton Patriot Anniversary Edition*, September 2, 1938. Reprinted 1993 IVCHA.
- Churchill, George. Letter to Swift Eldred, Sept. 9, 1818, printed in Orville Ward Eldred, *The Eldred Family* n. p., 1940.
- Cunningham, Eileen Smith. *Lower Illinois Valley Limestone Houses.* Kane, Illinois: Umphress Printing Company, 1989.
- Drury, John. *Old Illinois Houses.* Chicago: Chicago Daily News, 1941.
- Eldred, Orville Ward. *The Eldred Family: Particularly the Eldreds of Greene County, Illinois.* n.p 1940
- Farnsworth, Kenneth, et al. "Excavations at Bluffdale: A Forgotten Pioneer Utopia." Project Abstract, ADP Application, 1996.
- Greene County Clerk's Office. "Appraisal of Personal Estate of Ward Eldred at His Death." August 12, 1851

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 47

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

Greene County Court Summons. Judge W. C. Rainey to James J. Eldred, 12 August 1870.

Greene County Deed Record. Hiram Brown to Ward Eldred. April 1, 1840.

Greene County Deed Record. Emeline Eldred and James J. Eldred to Albon E. Wilson. February 11, 1901.

Greene County Deed Record. James J. Eldred and Emeline Eldred to Albon E. Wilson. April 17, 1883.

Greene County Deed Record. James J. Eldred and Emeline Eldred to George Garretts. December, n. d., 1881.

Greene County Deed Record. Richard Robley and Wife to Hiram Brown. Dec. 31, 1836.

Greene County Deed Record. State of Illinois to Richard Robley. Dec. 31, 1836

Greene County Deed Record. Albon E. Wilson to Cassie Wilson. July 30, 1912.

Greene County Deed Record. Estates of Albon E. Wilson and Cassie R. Wilson to R. H. Levis, July 10, 1936.

Hamlin, Talbot. *Greek Revival Architecture in America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1944.

Hansen, Eric G. "Preliminary Phase II Testing at the Eldred Mansion-Levis Site, CAA Project #613, Archaeological Short Report." Springfield: Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, 1996.

Howard, Robert P. *Illinois: A History of the Prairie State*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1972.

"Hundreds Take Tour of Limestone Houses." *Carrollton Gazette-Patriot*, Nov. 7, 1996.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 48

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

Hyde, Bruce. "The James J. Eldred Limestone House and Site, Greene County, Illinois." *Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois Member's Preservation Brief #32*, November 1995.

Illinois Valley Cultural Heritage Association. "Lower Illinois River Valley Limestone House Tour." Oct. 19, 1996.

Illinois Valley Cultural Heritage Association *Newsletter*, Spring/Summer 1997.

"James J. Eldred Limestone House Donated to I.V.C.H.A." *Carrollton Gazette-Patriot*, Dec. 21, 1995.

James J. Eldred Funeral Announcement, April 1, 1911. Carrollton Historical and Geneological Society Archives.

James J. Eldred Obituary, *Carrollton Patriot*, April 6, 1911.

Kennedy, Roger G. *Greek Revival America*. New York: Stewart Tabori & Chang, 1989.

King, Ben, and Thelma King, preparers. "The 1860 Census of Greene County, Illinois." Carrollton, Ill.: Greene County Historical and Geneological Society, n. d.

King, George Ben, and Thelma L. King, preparers. "1880 Census of Greene County, Illinois, Volume III." Carrollton, Ill.: Greene County Historical and Geneological Society, 1991.

King, John W. "Chronological History of Greene County, Ill., 1816-1960." (n.d., n. p.)

Larrabee, Stephen A. *Hellas Observed: The American Experience of Greece, 1775-1865*. New York: New York University Press, 1957.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997.

Meek, Arnold. Interview by Laura Johnson December 30, 1998.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 49

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

Newton, Norma. "Eldred, James J. and Emeline," in Ada Eileen Smith Cunningham, ed., *History of the Carrollton, Illinois Area, 1821-1989*. Vol. I. (pub info)

Nies, Kristi K. "Restoration continues on Eldred house." *Jacksonville Journal Courier*, Aug. 23, 1996.

"Old Stone Fences Are Seen No More." no author. *Carrollton Patriot*, ca.1936.

Pickering, Ernest. *The Homes of America*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1951.

Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: Plume, 1980.

Russell, S. G. "Russell's Memoirs: Extracts from Unpublished Volume by S. G. Russell." *Carrollton Patriot*, Nov. 2, 1906.

Sheffer, Mabel Tucker, compiler. "1850 Greene County, Illinois Census." Carrollton, Ill.: Greene County, Illinois Historical and Genealogical Society, n. d.

State of Illinois. Public Domain Land Tract Sales Archive. Springfield: Illinois State Archives.

Steele, Eliza R. "By Packet from Peoria to Alton, and the Towns Along the Way." In Paul M. Angle, ed. *Prairie State: Impressions of Illinois, 1673-1967, By Travelers and other Observers*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1968.

Sutton, Robert K. *Americans Interpret the Parthenon: The Progression of Greek Revival Architecture from the East Coast to Oregon*. Niwot.: University Press of Colorado, 1992.

Wagener, Lawrence. Affidavit. June 29, 1936.

Wills, Garry. *Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words That Remade America*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1992.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 50

JAMES JOHN ELDRED HOUSE

Verbal Boundary Description:

Survey Description

Commencing at an iron pipe located at Southwest corner of the Southeast quarter of Section 16, Township 10 North, Range 13 West of the Third Principal Meridian; thence running East along the South line of Section 16, Township 10 North, Range 13, a distance of 322.71 feet to an iron pipe; thence North 03° 33' 58" East along the Westerly side of the James J. Eldred House tract as described in deed recorded in Book 61 at Page 282 in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Greene County, Illinois, a distance of 43 feet, to a point which marks the Westerly end of the described line; thence generally in an Easterly direction 250.70 feet, more or less, to a point in the Easterly boundary of the said described Eldred House tract, said point being 31 feet North of the South line of Section 16, Township 10 North, Range 13 West of the Third Principal Meridian, all in the County of Greene, State of Illinois.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is determined by the Illinois Valley Cultural Heritage Association property ownership which is approximately 1.2 acres surrounding the core of the farm property historically known as the James John (J. J.) Eldred House.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to announce actions on the following properties for the National Register of Historic Places.
For further information contact Edson Beall via voice
(202) 343-1572, fax (202) 343-1836, regular or E-mail: Edson_Beall@nps.gov

Visit our web site at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr>

JUL 2 1999

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 6/21/99 THROUGH 6/25/99

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number, NHL, Action, Date, Multiple Name

ARKANSAS, DESHA COUNTY, Trippe Holly Grove Cemetery, AR 4 or Crooked Bayou Rd., approx. 2 mi. S of McGehee, McGehee vicinity, 99000729, LISTED, 6/25/99

ARKANSAS, JOHNSON COUNTY, Clarksville Confederate Monument, Oakland Memorial Cemetery, W. of Montgomery Ave., Clarksville, 99000709, LISTED, 6/25/99 (Civil War Commemorative Sculpture MPS)

ARKANSAS, PULASKI COUNTY, Argenta Historic District, Roughly, Melrose Cir. and Willow St. S to W. 4th St., and Main St. from W. 6th St. to W. 3rd St., North Little Rock, 93000094, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 6/21/99

ARKANSAS, WASHINGTON COUNTY, Mrs. Young Building, S S Block Ave., Fayetteville, 99000731, LISTED, 6/25/99

ARKANSAS, WASHINGTON COUNTY, Waterman--Archer House, 2148 Markham, Fayetteville, 99000730, LISTED, 6/25/99

CALIFORNIA, YOLO COUNTY, Downtown Woodland Historic District, Roughly along Main St. from Elm St. to Third St., Woodland, 99000471, LISTED, 6/22/99

FLORIDA, BREVARD COUNTY, Jorgensen's General Store, 5390 US 1, Grant, 99000711, LISTED, 6/25/99

ILLINOIS, GREENE COUNTY, Eldrid, James John, House, Bluffdale Township Rd., E of IL 100, Eldrid vicinity, 99000732, LISTED, 6/25/99

INDIANA, DELAWARE COUNTY, Beech Grove Cemetery, 1400 W. Kilgore Ave., Muncie, 99000734, LISTED, 6/25/99

INDIANA, DELAWARE COUNTY, Riverside Historic District, Roughly bounded by University Ave., Dicks, Gilbert and Light Sts., Muncie, 99000733, LISTED, 6/25/99

INDIANA, FLOYD COUNTY, New Albany National Cemetery, 1943 Ekin Ave., New Albany, 99000735, LISTED, 6/25/99 (Civil War Era National Cemeteries MPS)

IOWA, CLAYTON COUNTY, Franklin Hotel, 102 Elkader St., Strawberry Point, 99000740, LISTED, 6/25/99

IOWA, POLK COUNTY, Home Lodge No. 370 A F and A M, 603, 605, 607, and 609 E. Locust St., Des Moines, 99000738, LISTED, 6/25/99

IOWA, WOODBURY COUNTY, Davidson Building, 505 6th St., Sioux City, 99000736, LISTED, 6/25/99

MASSACHUSETTS, SUFFOLK COUNTY, Woodbourne Historic District, Roughly bounded by Walk Hill, Goodway, and Wachusett Sts., Boston, 99000593, LISTED, 6/04/99

MISSOURI, CALLAWAY COUNTY, Robnett--Payne House, 601 W. Sixth St., Fulton, 98001136, PROPOSED MOVE APPROVED, 6/13/99

MISSOURI, CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY, Frizel--Welling House, 209 W. Main St., Jackson, 99000742, LISTED, 6/25/99

MISSOURI, CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY, Pott, Frederick W. and Mary Karau, House, 826 Themis St., Cape Girardeau, 99000745, LISTED, 6/25/99

MISSOURI, CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY, Shivelbine, August and Amalia, House, 303 S. Spanish St., Cape Girardeau, 99000743, LISTED, 6/25/99

MISSOURI, CHARITON COUNTY, Thomas, Fabrishous and Sarah A., House, 302 E. Second St., Salisbury, 99000744, LISTED, 6/25/99

MISSOURI, GREENE COUNTY, Campbell Avenue Historic District, 200 and 300 blocks of S. Campbell Ave. and 300 block of Park Central West, Springfield, 99000714, LISTED, 6/25/99 (Springfield MPS)

MISSOURI, GREENE COUNTY, South Avenue Commercial Historic District, Walnut and Pershing Sts., South and Robberson Aves., Springfield, 99000713, LISTED, 6/25/99 (Springfield MPS)

MISSOURI, GREENE COUNTY, Springfield Warehouse and Industrial Historic District, E. Water, W. Mill and W. Phelps Sts. and Boonville Ave., Springfield, 99000715, LISTED, 6/25/99 (Springfield MPS)

MISSOURI, GREENE COUNTY, Walnut Street Commercial Historic District, Walnut St., Springfield, 99000717, LISTED, 6/25/99 (Springfield MPS)

NEBRASKA, HOWARD COUNTY, Dannevirke Danish Lutheran Church and Community Hall, Dannervirke Rd. and Wausa, Elba, 99000750, LISTED, 6/25/99

NEBRASKA, LANCASTER COUNTY, Burckhardt House, 1236 Washington St., Lincoln, 99000746, LISTED, 6/25/99 (African American Historic and Architectural Resources in Lincoln, Nebraska MPS)

NEBRASKA, LANCASTER COUNTY, McWilliams House, 1723 N. 29th St., Lincoln, 99000748, LISTED, 6/25/99 (African American Historic and Architectural Resources in Lincoln, Nebraska MPS)

NEBRASKA, LANCASTER COUNTY, Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church and Parsonage, 1225 S. 9th St., Lincoln, 99000749, LISTED, 6/25/99 (African American Historic and Architectural Resources in Lincoln, Nebraska MPS)

NEBRASKA, LANCASTER COUNTY, Ross, Nimrod, House, 445 S. 30th St., Lincoln, 99000747, LISTED, 6/25/99 (African American Historic and Architectural Resources in Lincoln, Nebraska MPS)

NEBRASKA, PLATTE COUNTY, First Welch Calvinistic Methodist Church and Cemetery, Rural Rte 2, Monroe vicinity, 99000762, LISTED, 6/25/99

NEW MEXICO, SANTA FE COUNTY, Jackson, J.B., House, 268 Los Pinos Rd., Santa Fe vicinity, 99000598, LISTED, 6/04/99