

# SITE FILE COPY

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Missouri	
COUNTY: Clay	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
James Brothers' House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Birthplace of Jesse James

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 2 1/4 miles east of Kearney on State Highway 92,  
north 1 3/4 miles

CITY OR TOWN:  
Section 19 - Township 53N - Range 30W

STATE Missouri	CODE 64060	COUNTY: Clay	CODE 047
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### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mrs. Robert James (presently in a nursing home)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Sevier & Turnage, Attorneys at Law, 17 North Water Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Liberty

STATE: Missouri	CODE 64068
COUNTY: Clay	CODE 29

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Office of Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Clay County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:  
Liberty

STATE: Missouri	CODE 64068
COUNTY: Clay	CODE 29

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue

DATE OF SURVEY: 1963  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
State Historical Society of Missouri

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Corner, Hitt and Lowry streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Columbia

STATE: Missouri	CODE 65201
COUNTY: Clay	CODE 29

Congressional District No. 6: Congressman W. R. Hull, Jr.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: MISSOURI  
COUNTY: CLAY  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Clay	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6.

JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE

Missouri State Historical Survey

1969

Missouri State Park Board

P.O. Box 176

1204 Jefferson Building

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 Code: 29

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The James Brothers' House near Kearney, Missouri, is a one-story two room log cabin built in 1822, and facing south. A later, wood frame addition with one story plus attic, is attached to the east wall and at a right angle to the cabin forming a "T" plan structure. The frame addition faces east.

EXTERIORLog Cabin

The log cabin is constructed of horizontal squared logs, 7 1/2" in diameter and is clapboarded on the exterior. The logs are flush and crudely dovetailed at the corners; interfill is of limestone rock and sand plaster. The 1 foot wide clapboards are unfinished.

An entrance porch spanning the eastern two thirds of the cabin's south wall is floored with wooden planks 3 1/2" in width and 7'9" in length. The bottoms of the three posts supporting the open south porch have rotted and are resting on limestone. The floor planks on the porch of the log cabin are also rotting. The west end of the south porch has been enclosed to form a small storage room. A tree has grown in the southwest corner of this room, separating the joining in this corner. Clapboards have been nailed directly to this tree. Rotted portions of the clapboarding on the west wall have been replaced with random boarding reinforced with sheet metal.

The openings in the log cabin include two windows and a door (which has been boarded shut) on the north facade; two doors on either side of a window on the south facade; and one entrance door on the east wall of the small storage room. The west door on the south wall and the entrance to the storage room are boarded. The windows are all double hung 6 over 6 light sash with board framing. The glass which is putty glazed from the exterior is imperfect and may be original. The lower half of the west window on the east wall has been boarded. The wooden plank doors are braced by two horizontal boards on the interior. The log cabin has settled three feet or more since its construction. Therefore, the former 5'11" high door on the north wall is now 3'10" high.

The log cabin has a simple ridge roof which is wood shingled. The southern slope of the roof continues over the south porch and is supported by three squared wooden posts. There is a large, centrally-located chimney made of roughly shaped limestone blocks set in lime mortar; it has a stone drip course and wooden cap with metal flashing. Two lightning rods are located on either side of the chimney stack.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Clay	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. #1

JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE

The Frame Addition

The southern two-thirds of the wood frame addition rests on a rubble coursed, limestone foundation. The northern third, constructed later, rests on a foundation wall of reinforced concrete. The entire addition has been clapboarded and painted white.

The openings in the addition consist of one window on the south facade, two doors flanked by two windows on the older section of the east facade, a double window on the newer section of the east wall, an entrance door on the northwest porch, and one on the southwest leading to the porch of the log cabin. (see sketch plan). The older windows are large double-hung 2 over 2 light sash. The two front doors are paneled, while the doors and windows all have a simple wooden sill and a decoratively molded wood lintel. Each corner of the frame addition has an applied pilaster and cap.

A porch, centered on the older section of the east facade, is approached by two wooden steps. Its sloping roof is supported by three round wooden posts across the front (east) and two identical half posts against the facade. Each of the posts has scroll brackets.

The simple ridge roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The frame addition has two brick chimneys on the roof ridge, one near the center of the ridge and one near the north gable end. The main bodies of the flues are enclosed within the frame walls. Two lightning rods flank the central chimney.

INTERIOR

Log Cabin

The interior of the log cabin is divided into two rooms by a large, central chimney with double back to back fireboxes. The west room is 17' by 16'4"; the east room is 17' by 13'3". The limestone blocks of the fireplaces and hearths are set in lime mortar. Both fireplaces have wooden mantels. A coal stove has been added in the west room and stands in front of the fireplace.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Clay	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. #2

JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE

Floors and ceilings in both rooms are of random width planks. The floor of the west room is about 2' above the level of the east room and is approached on the south by two wooden steps. The original ceiling height was about 6'4". The log walls are covered with wallpaper, backed by a canvas-like material. The dividing walls between the east, west and southwest rooms are all of squared logs covered with paper.

Ceiling, floors and walls of the log cabin are buckling as a result of the settling. The interior flooring is uneven and the ceiling exhibits a noticeable sag. This portion of the structure is presently in deteriorated condition.

The Frame Addition

The interior of the wood frame addition is divided into three rooms: the south room is 15'3" by 15'6", the middle room is 15'3" by 15'9", and the room on the north is 15'3" by 13'8". A 4'7" by 10' porch spans most of the western wall of the north room. The wooden plank flooring is covered with linoleum. The walls and ceilings are wallpapered. Two chimney closets protrude from the interior walls, one on the north wall of the north room and one on the south wall of the middle room. A modern heating stove is located on the south wall of the middle room. All of the interior doors in the southern two rooms are paneled and have the square and rosette framing molding at the corners. The door on the west wall of the middle room that connects with the log cabin has been made into a dutch door. The ceilings are approximately 10' high.

The frame addition is in good structural condition, although the interior wallpaper is peeling and there are several cracks in the plaster in the south room.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Clay	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. #3

JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE

CHRONOLOGY AND CONDITION

Jacob Gromer built a two-room log cabin with a log tack room and porch on the property in 1822. Only this portion of the presently existing house has historic associations with both of the James Brothers. The James family acquired the farm in 1845 and added a one and one-half story white frame addition to the cabin and covered the logs with siding. In 1893, after Jesse James' death, his mother sold the frame addition to the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. This same year she added the southern two rooms and east porch of the frame addition. In 1935, the log section of the house proved unlivable, and the remaining James family built a frame kitchen (north room) and screen enclosed porch. The log cabin was clapboarded for the first time in 1845 and resingled in 1935. (Mrs. Margaret Bade, administratrix of the property, interviewed by Charla A. Piggot on August 19, 1969.)

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century
- 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1845

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Historic</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Architecture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Art</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Commerce</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Communications</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Conservation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Education</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Engineering</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Industry</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Invention</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Landscape</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Architecture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Literature</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Military</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Music</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Science</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Theater</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)</li> <li><u>Folklore</u></li> <li><u>residence of</u></li> <li><u>outlaws</u></li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> </ul> |
|--|--|--|---|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The James Brothers' House is significant as the birthplace of Jesse and Frank James and has been selected as the most important site related to the James Brothers in Missouri. Within the scope of Missouri history, the brothers are stereotypes of guerilla bands emanating from the turmoil and violence of the Reconstruction period. The impact of their outlawry on the gubernatorial election of 1882 and on the legends evolving in the dime-novels on the "Wild West" reflect the significance of the James legend to American political and social history.

Frank James, born on January 10, 1843 and Jesse James, born on September 5, 1847 were the sons of Robert and Zerelda Scott James. Robert James was a respected citizen, serving as pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church for seven years and also as a member of the board of trustees of William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri. He died on the Pacific Coast while following the "gold rush" of 1849. His wife twice remarried: first to her neighbor Benjamin Simms, and upon his death to Dr. Reuben Samuel in 1855.<sup>1</sup>

"...the James band's career of lawlessness and the growth of the legends around it are deeply rooted in and inextricably bound to the events of the Civil War and its aftermath. The nature of the war in Missouri, a border state, produced bands of guerillas from which many postwar outlaws came." The family became involved in the intense Missouri and Kansas border warfare over the extension of slavery. During the Civil War, Frank James joined William Clark Quantrill's band of guerillas fighting for the Southern cause in Missouri. During the war, Mrs. Samuel and Jesse carried messages and served as lookouts. Suspected by the local militia for their rebel activities, the militia visited the house and abused the family. After this episode, Jesse, at the age of 17, joined Quantrill.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Clay	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. #1

JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE

After the war, the brothers returned to the farm and lived there for the next four years. However, they continued a lawless way of life and became notorious outlaws. Their first robbery took place in 1866 at the Commercial Bank of Liberty, Missouri where they stole \$58,000.00 and murdered a young boy. Their last robbery took place in 1881 when the gang robbed the Chicago and Alton Railroad near Blue Cut, Missouri.<sup>2</sup>

On January 26, 1875 a raid occurred on the James Farm which caused broad repercussions throughout the State of Missouri. A flaming ball was thrown into the window. The ball exploded, killing Mrs. Samuel's youngest son, Archie Peyton Samuel, and maiming her right hand so that amputation was necessary. Evidence pointed to the Pinkerton Detective Agency as the responsible party; the James brothers had previously murdered three Pinkerton men.<sup>3</sup>

The raid generated sympathy among the people of Missouri for the James family, and consequently, a resolution was passed in the General Assembly calling for an investigation. But this was not enough, the public soon agitated for the passage of an amnesty bill which would cover the acts committed by the James brothers during the Civil War. The Missouri Constitution of 1865 failed to provide means of granting amnesty to ex-confederates, and legislators heatedly debated the issue. Although a majority of the General Assembly voted for the bill (58 for and 39 against), it lacked the necessary two-thirds majority. The fact that it did almost pass illustrates the importance of the James brothers in Missouri history. Following are some excerpts from the bill:

Whereas, Under the outlawry pronounced against Jesse W. James, Coleman Younger, Robert Younger, James Younger, and others, who gallantly periled their lives and their all in defense of their principles, they are of necessity made desperate, driven as they are from the fields of honest industry, from their friends, their families, their homes and their country, they can know no law but the law of self-preservation; can have no respect of and feel no allegiance to a government which forces them to the very acts it professes to deprecate and then offer a bounty for their apprehension, and arms foreign mercenaries with power to capture and kill;

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Clay	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. #2

JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE

and

Whereas, Believing these men too brave to be mean, too generous to be revengeful, and too gallant and honorable to betray a friend or break a promise, and believing further, that most, if not all, the offences with which they are charged have been committed by others, and perhaps by those pretending to hunt them, or their confederates, that their names are and have been used to divert suspicion from, and thereby relieve the actual attention to the real criminals, and that common justice, sound policy and true statesmanship alike demand that general amnesty should be extended to all alike, of both parties, for attacks done or charged to have been done during the war; there be it resolved,...<sup>4</sup>

By the gubernatorial election of 1882, the Republican Party had maneuvered, by exploiting the lawlessness, to pitch the Confederate and ex-Union groups against each other. They charged the Democratic administration of Governor Thomas Crittenden as being responsible for the robberies and murders of the James Gang and exclaimed that the ruffians would remain free because of their Confederate background. The Republican Party lost this campaign issue when on April 3, 1882, Jesse James was killed by Bob Ford, a member of his own gang. Ford was bribed by Governor Crittenden of Missouri to kill James in return for full pardon for his crimes and a share of the reward money. After Jesse's death, Frank surrendered and was tried and acquitted three times for murder.<sup>5</sup> Frank James retired to the family home after the trials and lived there until his death in 1915.<sup>6</sup>

The people of Missouri were sympathetic to the Frank James case and condemned Ford and Crittenden for the premeditated murder of Jesse. At this time the Republicans attempted to capitalize on this turn of events by adopting a resolution congratulating Governor Crittenden for his actions. The Democrats realizing the political suicide involved quickly squelched the resolution.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Clay	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. #3

JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE

In newspaper accounts, dime-novels, and ballads, the brothers were celebrated and became folk heroes as "Robin Hood" characters who robbed the rich Northerners and arrogant railroad capitalists to give to the poor. Many people pardoned their murders by rationalizing that the brothers were a product of their environment and their violent upbringing. The Southerners in Missouri felt that Frank and Jesse were simply carrying on the war against the powerful northern railroad and banks.<sup>7</sup> Carl Sandburg has stated that: "Jesse James is the only American bandit who is classical, who is to this country what Robin Hood or Dick Turpin is to England, whose exploits are so close to the mythical and apocryphal."<sup>8</sup>

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. Bade, Mrs. Margaret. Administratrix of the James property, Kearney, Missouri. Interviewed by Charla A. Piggott, August 19, 1969, filed at Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.
2. Breihan, Carl W. The Day Jesse James Was Killed. New York: Frederick Fell, Inc., 1961.

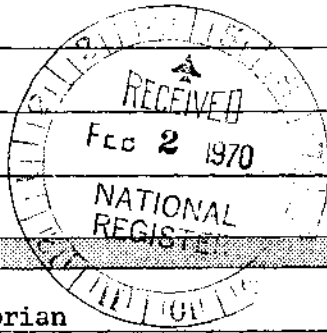
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	.	"	0	.	"	39	23	36
NE	0	.	"	0	.	"	94	19	18
SE	0	.	"	0	.	"			
SW	0	.	"	0	.	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than ten

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Charla A. Piggott, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION: Missouri State Park Board DATE: November 25, '69  
State Historical Survey and Planning Office

STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building

CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson City STATE: Missouri 65101 CODE: 24

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

National  State  Local

Name: Joseph Jaeger, Jr.

Title: Director, Missouri State Park Board, and Missouri State Liaison Officer

Date: 5 JAN 70

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Clay	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9.

JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE

3. Sandburg, Carl. The American Songbag. New York: Harcourt  
Brace and Book Press, 1947.
4. State Historical Society of Missouri. Columbia, Missouri.  
Historic Site Files. Ref. Clay County.
5. Settle, William A. Jesse James Was His Name. Columbia,  
Missouri: University of Missouri Press: 1968.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Clay	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE

Footnotes

- <sup>1</sup>William A. Settle, Jesse James Was His Name, 1968, pp. 6-8.
- <sup>2</sup>Carl W. Breihan, The Day Jesse James Was Killed, 1961, pp. 25-29.
- <sup>3</sup>Settle, 1968, p. 76.
- <sup>4</sup>Settle, 1968, pp. 78, 80, 83.
- <sup>5</sup>Breihan, 1961, pp. 138-39, 143-55, 201-209.
- <sup>6</sup>State Historical Society of Missouri, Historic Site Files; Clay County. Columbia, Missouri.
- <sup>7</sup>Breihan, 1961, pp. 61-66; Settle, 1968, pp. 2-3.
- <sup>8</sup>Carl Sandburg, The American Songbag, 1947, p. 420.

Form 10-307  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

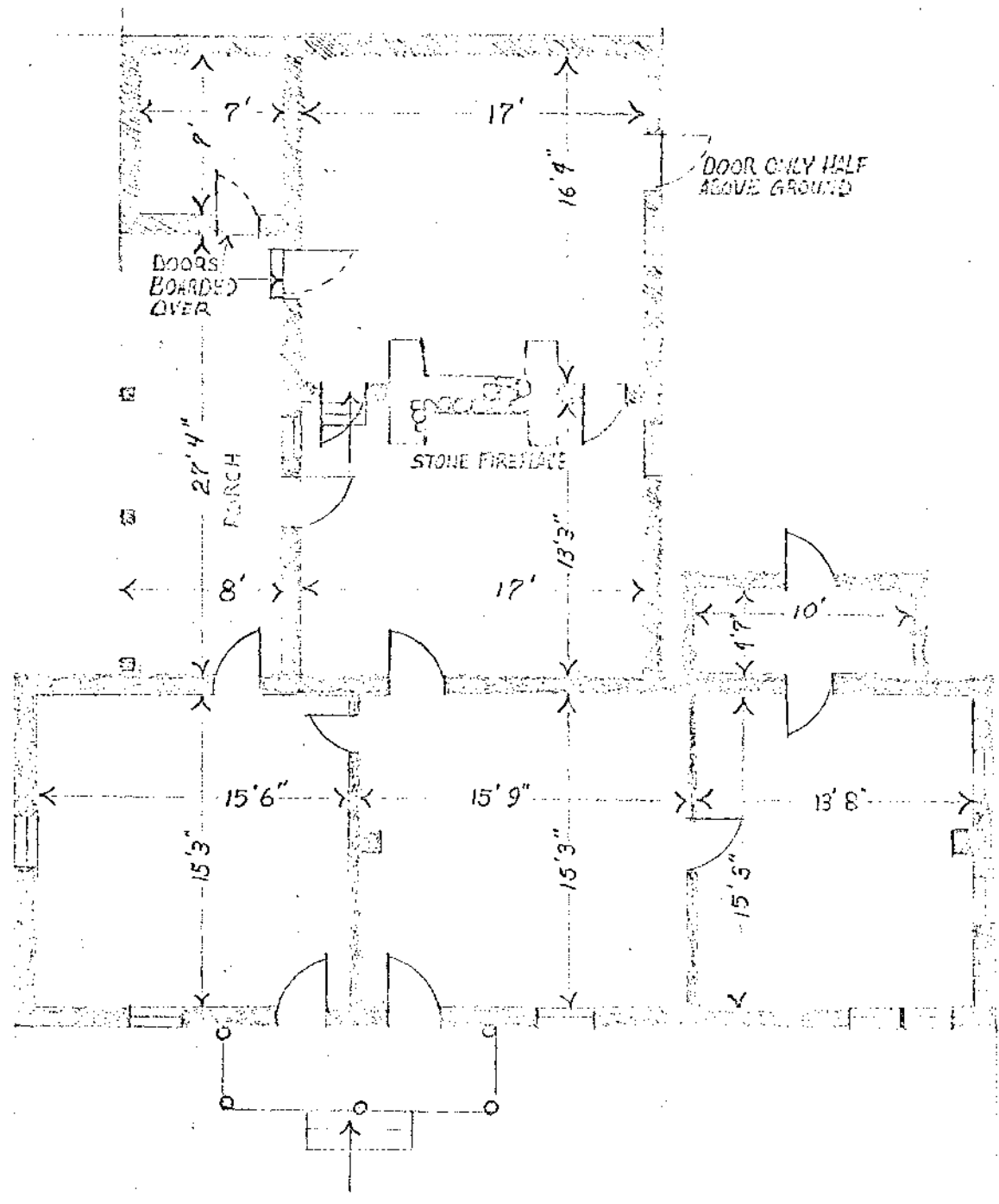
STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Clay	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: James Brothers' House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Jesse James Birthplace			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2½ miles east of Kearney on State Highway 92, north 1 3/4 miles			
CITY OR TOWN: Section 19 - Township 53N - Range 30W			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Missouri	64060	Clay	047
	21		
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: Pamela Hemenway, Missouri State Park Board, State Historical Survey			
SCALE: approx. 1/8" = 1'			
DATE: August 19, 1969			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

JUNE 1969

26' 6"



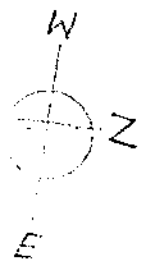
DOOR ONLY HALF ABOVE GROUND

DOORS BOARDED OVER

STONE FIREPLACE

PORCH

FRAME ADDITION



16' 11"

ROUGHLY TO SCALE: 1/8" = 1'  
PANEL REVISION 12 AUG. '69

Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

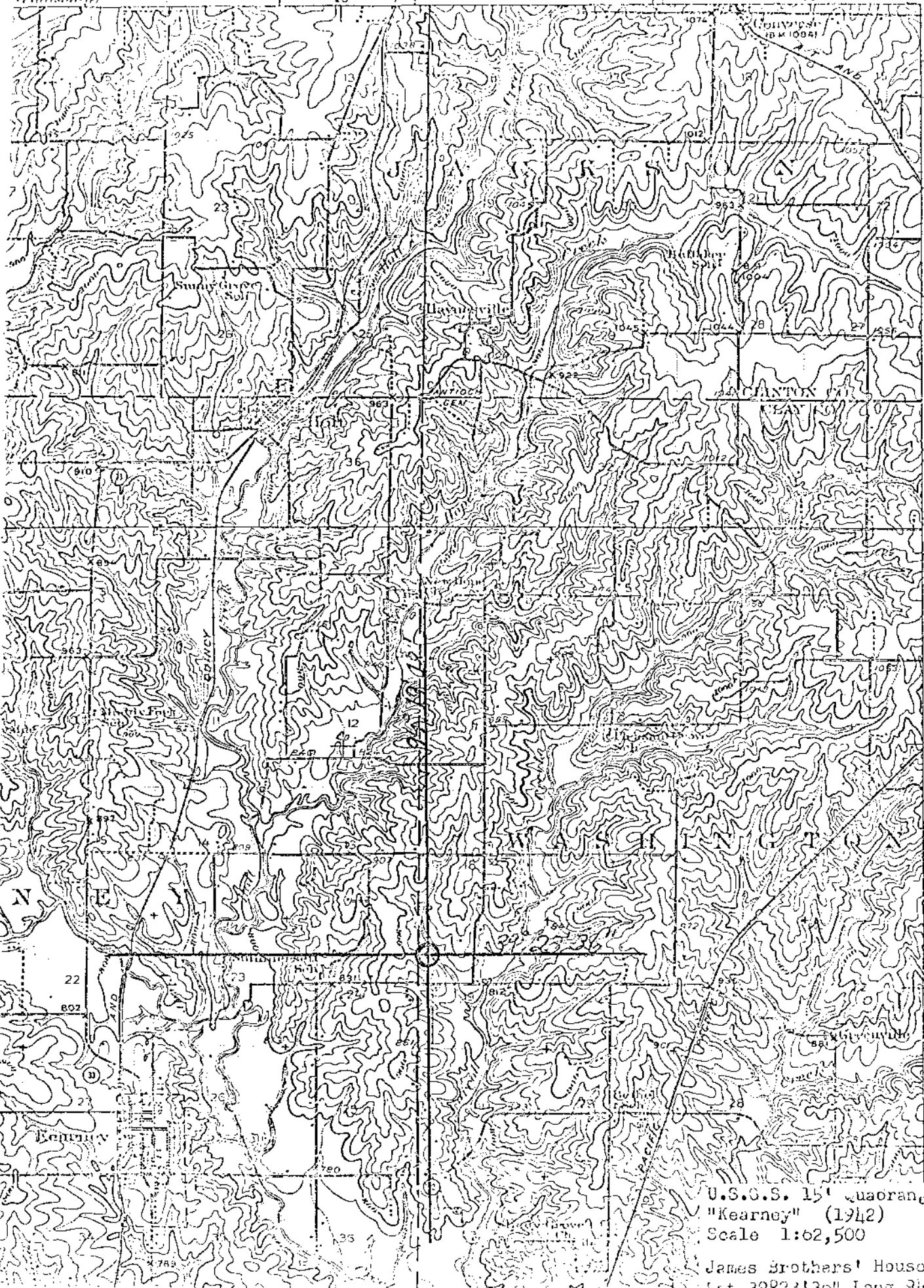
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

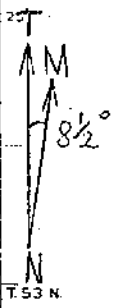
STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Clay	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: James Brothers' House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Birthplace of Jesse James			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2 1/4 miles east of Kearney on State Highway 92, north 1 3/4 miles			
CITY OR TOWN: Section 19 - Township 53N - Range 30W			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Missouri	64060	Clay	017
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 15' quadrangle Kearney			
SCALE: 1:62,500			
DATE: 1912			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



(Lansom 1:24,000)



JUNIC. U.S. NO. 69 0.8 MI.

U.S.G.S. 15' quadrangle  
"Kearney" (1942)  
Scale 1:62,500

James Brothers' House  
Lat 39°23'30" Long 94°19'10"

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

James Brothers' House and Farm

AND/OR COMMON

Birthplace of Jesse James

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

2 1/4 miles east of Kearney on State Highway 92,  
north 1 3/4 miles

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

X VICINITY OF Kearney

#6 - Hon. E. Thomas Coleman

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Missouri

29

Clay

047

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

County of Clay, Missouri

STREET & NUMBER

Parks & Recreation Commission 103 E. Kansas

CITY, TOWN

Liberty

VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri 64068

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Clay County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Liberty

STATE

Missouri 64068

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue

DATE

1963

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Missouri

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

Missouri 65201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE AND FARM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

- 
2. Missouri State Historical Survey  
1969 state  
Missouri State Park Board  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City Missouri 65102

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ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey  
1978 state  
Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City Missouri 65102

# DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The James Brothers' House near Kearney, Missouri, is a one-story two room log cabin built in 1822, and facing south. A later, wood frame addition with one story plus attic, is attached to the east wall and at a right angle to the cabin forming a "T" plan structure. The frame addition faces east.

### Exterior

#### Log Cabin

The log cabin is constructed of horizontal squared logs, 7 1/2" in diameter and is clapboarded on the exterior. The logs are flush and crudely dovetailed at the corners; interfill is of limestone rock and sand plaster. The 1 foot wide clapboards are unfinished.

An entrance porch spanning the eastern two-thirds of the cabin's south wall is floored with wooden planks 3 1/2" in width and 7'9" in length. The bottoms of the three posts supporting the open south porch have rotted and are resting on limestone. The floor planks on the porch of the log cabin are also rotting. The west end of the south porch has been enclosed to form a small storage room. A tree has grown in the southwest corner of this room, separating the joining in this corner. Clapboards have been nailed directly to this tree. Rotted portions of the clapboarding on the west wall have been replaced with random boarding reinforced with sheet metal.

The openings in the log cabin include two windows and a door (which has been boarded shut) on the north facade; two doors on either side of a window on the south facade; and one entrance door on the east wall of the small storage room. The west door on the south wall and the entrance to the storage room are boarded. The windows are all double hung six-over-six light sash with board framing. The glass which is putty glazed from the exterior is imperfect and may be original. The lower half of the west window on the east wall has been boarded. The wooden plank doors are braced by two horizontal boards on the interior. The log cabin has settled three feet or more since its construction. Therefore, the former 5'11" high door on the north wall is now 3'10" high.

The log cabin has a simple ridge roof which is wood shingled. The southern slope of the roof continues over the south porch and is supported by three squared wooden posts. There is a large, centrally-located chimney made of roughly shaped limestone blocks set in lime mortar; it has a stone drip course and wooden cap with metal flashing. Two lightning rods are located on either side of the chimney stack.

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JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE AND FARM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

INTERIOR

Log Cabin

The interior of the log cabin is divided into two rooms by a large, central chimney with double back to back fireboxes. The west room is 17' by 16'4"; the east room is 17' by 13'3". The limestone blocks of the fireplaces and hearths are set in lime mortar. Both fireplaces have wooden mantels. A coal stove has been added in the west room and stands in front of the fireplace.

Floors and ceilings in both rooms are of random width planks. The floor of the west room is about 2' above the level of the east room and is approached on the south by two wooden steps. The original ceiling height was about 6'4". The log walls are covered with wallpaper, backed by a canvas-like material. The dividing walls between the east, west and southwest rooms are all of squared logs covered with paper.

Ceiling, floors and walls of the log cabin are buckling as a result of the settling. The interior flooring is uneven and the ceiling exhibits a noticeable sag. This portion of the structure is presently in deteriorated condition.

The Frame Addition

The interior of the wood frame addition is divided into three rooms: the south room is 15'3" by 15'6", the middle room is 15'3" by 15'9", and the room on the north is 15'3" by 13'8". A 4'7" by 10' porch spans most of the western wall of the north room. The wooden plank flooring is covered with linoleum. The walls and ceilings are wallpapered. Two chimney closets protrude from the interior walls, one on the north wall of the north room and one on the south wall of the middle room. A modern heating stove is located on the south wall of the middle room. All of the interior doors in the southern two rooms are paneled and have the square and rosette framing molding at the corners. The door on the west wall of the middle room that connects with the log cabin has been made into a dutch door. The ceilings are approximately 10' high.

The frame addition is in good structural condition, although the interior wallpaper is peeling and there are several cracks in the plaster in the south room.

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JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE AND FARM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

CHRONOLOGY AND CONDITION

Jacob Gromer built a two-room log cabin with a log tack room and porch on the property in 1822. Only this portion of the presently existing house has historic associations with both of the James Brothers. The James family acquired the farm in 1845 and added a one and one-half story white frame addition to the cabin and covered the logs with siding. In 1893 after Jesse James' death, his mother sold the frame addition to the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. This same year she added the southern two rooms and east porch of the frame addition. In 1935, the log section of the house proved unlivable, and the remaining James family built a frame kitchen (north room) and screen enclosed porch. The log cabin was clapboarded for the first time in 1845 and resingled in 1935. (Mrs. Margaret Bade, administratrix of the property, interviewed by Charla A. Piggot on August 19, 1969.)

SITE

The James Brothers' House occupies the approximate center of a 40 acre tract of land. This property has been in the James family continuously from October 13, 1845 (Clay County Deed Record Book M, page 255) until July 7, 1978 on which date the property passed from the last James descendants, Chester and Gertie Barr to the County of Clay. The county proposes to use the farm as a historical site. Plans include restoration of the James Home (presently deteriorated) construction of a museum and gift shop, establishment of a "living farm" and possible creation of an outdoor theater to present the life of the James Brothers. These facilities will be properly screened from the actual home and outbuildings (David Frye, Administrative Assistant, County Court of Clay County, Missouri, correspondence with James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey, Office of Historic Preservation, May 25, 1978.)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	Folklore residence of outlaws
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1845 BUILDER/ARCHITECT \_\_\_\_\_

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The James Brothers' House is significant as the birthplace of Jesse and Frank James and has been selected as the most important site related to the James Brothers in Missouri. Within the scope of Missouri history, the brothers are stereotypes of guerilla bands emanating from the turmoil and violence of the Reconstruction period. The impact of their outlawry on the gubernatorial election of 1882 and on the legends evolving in the dime-novels on the "Wild West" reflect the significance of the James legend to American political and social history.

Frank James, born on January 10, 1843 and Jesse James, born on September 5, 1847 were the sons of Robert and Zerelda Scott James. Robert James was a respected citizen, serving as pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church for seven years and also as a member of the board of trustees of William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri. He died on the Pacific Coast while following the "gold rush" of 1849. His wife twice remarried: first to her neighbor Benjamin Simms, and upon his death to Dr. Reuben Samuel in 1855.

"...the James band's career of lawlessness and the growth of the legends around it are deeply rooted in and inextricably bound to the events of the Civil War and its aftermath. The nature of the war in Missouri, a border state, produced bands of guerillas from which many postwar outlaws came." The family became involved in the intense Missouri and Kansas border warfare over the extension of slavery. During the Civil War, Frank James joined William Clark Quantrill's band of guerillas fighting for the Southern cause in Missouri. During the war, Mrs. Samuel and Jesse carried messages and served as lookouts. Suspected by the local militia for their rebel activities, the militia visited the house and abused the family. After this episode, Jesse, at the age of 17, joined Quantrill.

After the war, the brothers returned to the farm and lived there for the next four years. However, they continued a lawless way of life and became notorious outlaws. Their first robbery took place in 1866 at the Commercial Bank of Liberty, Missouri where they stole \$58,000.00 and murdered a young boy. Their last robbery took place in 1881 when the gang robbed the Chicago and Alton Railroad near Blue Cut, Missouri.<sup>2</sup>

On January 26, 1875 a raid occurred on the James Farm which caused broad repercussions throughout the State of Missouri. A flaming ball was thrown into the window. The ball exploded, killing Mrs. Samuel's youngest son, Archie Peyton Samuel, and maiming her right hand so that amputation was necessary. Evidence pointed to the Pinkerton Detective Agency as the responsible party; the James brothers had previously murdered three Pinkerton men.<sup>3</sup>

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JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE AND FARM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

The raid generated sympathy among the people of Missouri for the James family, and consequently, a resolution was passed in the General Assembly calling for an investigation. But this was not enough, the public soon agitated for the passage of an amnesty bill which would cover the acts committed by the James brothers during the Civil War. The Missouri Constitution of 1865 failed to provide means of granting amnesty to ex-confederates, and legislators heatedly debated the issue. Although a majority of the General Assembly voted for the bill (58 for and 39 against), it lacked the necessary two-thirds majority. The fact that it did almost pass illustrates the importance of the James brothers in Missouri history. Following are some excerpts from the bill:

Whereas, Under the outlawry pronounced against Jesse W. James, Coleman Younger, Robert Younger, James Younger, and others, who gallantly periled their lives and their all in defense of their principles, they are of necessity made desperate, driven as they are from the fields of honest industry, from their friends, their families, their homes and their country, they can know no law but the law of self-preservation; can have no respect of and feel no allegiance to a government which forces them to the very acts it professes to deprecate and then offer a bounty for their apprehension, and arms foreign mercenaries with power to capture and kill;

and

Whereas, Believing these men too brave to be mean, too generous to be revengeful, and too gallant and honorable to betray a friend or break a promise, and believing further, that most, if not all, the offences with which they are charged have been committed by others, and perhaps by those pretending to hunt them, or their confederates, that their names are and have been used to divert suspicion from, and thereby relieve the actual attention to the real criminals, and that common justice, sound policy and true statesmanship alike demand that general amnesty should be extended to all alike, of both parties, for attacks done or charged to have been done during the war; there be it resolved,...

By the gubernatorial election of 1882, the Republican Party had maneuvered, by exploiting the lawlessness, to pitch the Confederate and ex-Union groups against each other. They charged the Democratic administration of Governor Thomas Crittenden as being responsible for the robberies and murders of the James Gang and exclaimed that the ruffians would remain free because of their Confederate background. The Republican Party lost this campaign issue when on April 3, 1882, Jesse James was killed by Bob Ford, a member of his own gang. Ford was bribed by Governor Crittenden of Missouri to kill James in return for full pardon for his crimes and a share of the reward money. After Jesse's death, Frank surrendered and was tried and acquitted

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE AND FARM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

three times for murder.<sup>5</sup> Frank James retired to the family home after the trials and lived there until his death in 1915.<sup>6</sup>

The people of Missouri were sympathetic to the Frank James case and condemned Ford and Crittenden for the premeditated murder of Jesse. At this time the Republicans attempted to capitalize on this turn of events by adopting a resolution congratulating Governor Crittenden for his actions. The Democrats realizing the political suicide involved quickly squelched the resolution.

In newspaper accounts, dime-novels, and ballads, the brothers were celebrated and became folk heroes as "Robin Hood" characters who robbed the rich Northerners and arrogant railroad capitalists to give to the poor. Many people pardoned their murders by rationalizing that the brothers were a product of their environment and their violent upbringing. The Southerners in Missouri felt that Frank and Jesse were simply carrying on the war against the powerful northern railroad and banks. Carl Sandburg has stated that: "Jesse James is the only American bandit who is classical, who is to this country what Robin Hood or Dick Turpin is to England, whose exploits are so close to the mythical and apocryphal."<sup>8</sup>

FOOTNOTES

1. William A. Settle, Jesse James Was His Name, 1968, pp. 6-8.
2. Carl W. Breihan, The Day Jesse James Was Killed, 1961, pp. 25-29.
3. Settle, 1968, p. 76
4. Settle, 1968, pp. 78, 80, 83.
5. Breihan, 1961, pp. 138-39, 143-55, 201-209.
6. State Historical Society of Missouri, Historic Site Files; Clay County. Columbia, Missouri.
7. Breihan, 1961, pp. 61-66; Settle, 1968, pp. 2-3.
8. Carl Sandburg, The American Songbag, 1947, p. 420.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE AND FARM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

3. Sandburg, Carl. The American Songbag. New York: Harcourt Brace and Book Press, 1947.
4. State Historical Society of Missouri. Columbia, Missouri. Historic Site Files. Ref. Clay County.
5. Settle, William A. Jesse James Was His Name. Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press: 1968.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Bade, Mrs. Margaret. Administratrix of the James property, Kearney, Missouri. Interviewed by Charla A. Piggot, August 19, 1969, filed at Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176, 1101 Southwest Boulevard, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.
2. Breihan, Carl W., The Day Jesse James Was Killed. New York: Frederick Fell, Inc., 1961.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 40 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME "Holt, Mo." (1971)

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	3,8,6	3,0,0	4,3,6,1	2,7,5	B	1,5	3,8,6	4,9,0	4,3,6,0	6,7,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C	1,5	3,8,6	0,5,0	4,3,6,0	6,8,0	D	1,5	3,8,6	0,6,0	4,3,6,1	2,7,5
E						F					
G						H					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A part of the Northwest Quarter of Section Nineteen (19) in Township Fifty-three (53), Range Thirty (30), and a part of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section Twenty-four (24) in Township Fifty-three (53) of Range Thirty-one (31) and

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

J. Priscilla A. Evans, Chief Research Historian

ORGANIZATION Missouri State Park Board

DATE

State Historical Survey and Planning Office

August 3, 1971

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P.O. Box 176, 1101 Southwest Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Jefferson City

Missouri 65102

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Director, Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FDR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE AND FARM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

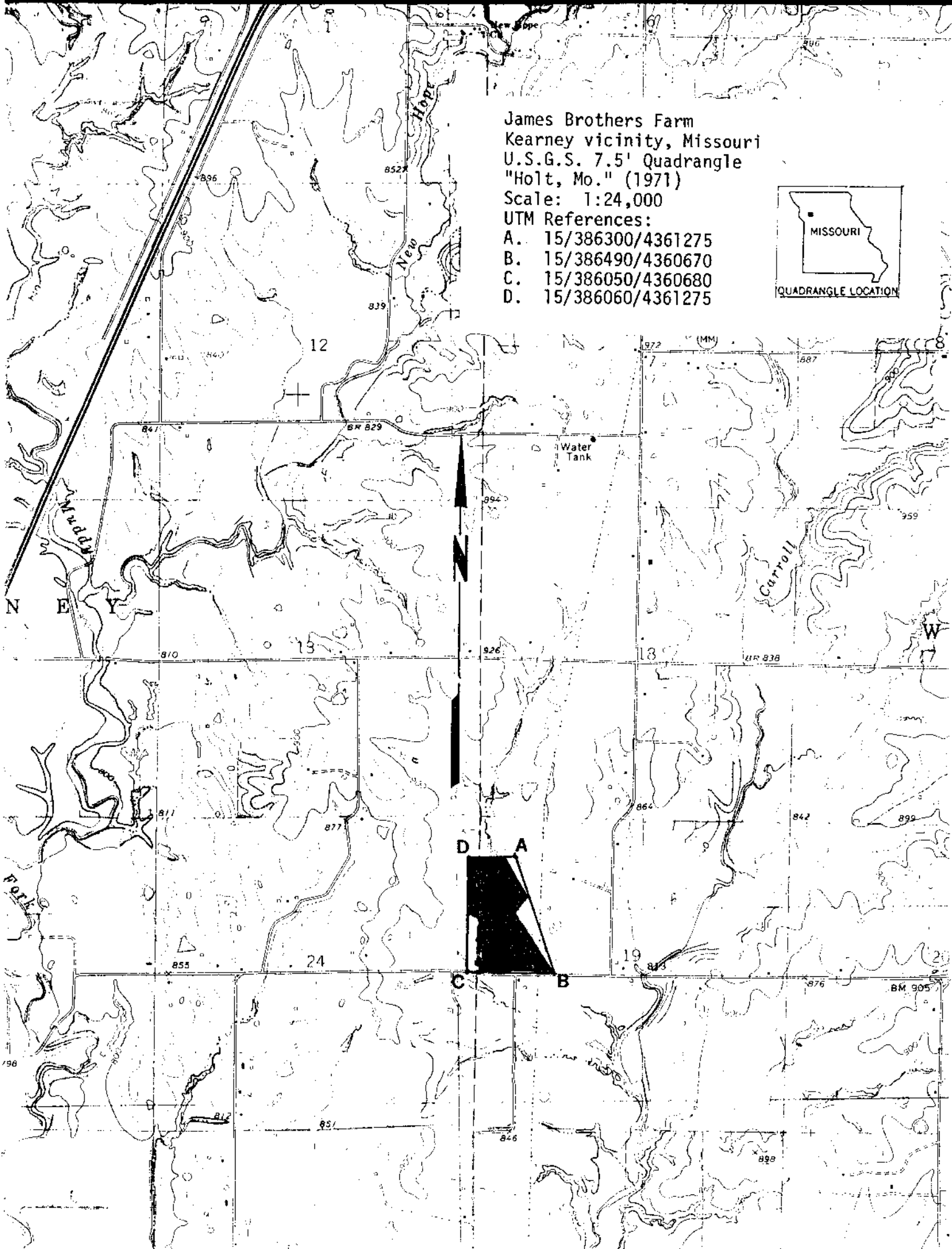
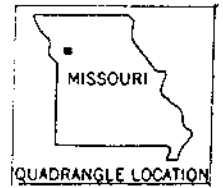
the whole bounded as follows, to-wit: Beginning at a point in the south line of said Northwest Quarter of said Section No. Nineteen (19), which is six and eighty-six hundredths (6.86) chains east from the southwest corner of said quarter section, said point of beginning being the southeast corner of J.B. Crook's two acres on March 29, 1902, thence running east to a point which is distant 80 poles from said southwest corner of said quarter section, thence running north  $31\ 1/2^\circ$  west sixty-eight poles to a point, thence running north  $14^\circ$  west twelve poles to a point, thence running north  $34^\circ$ , east eighteen poles to a spring, thence running north  $33^\circ$  west forty-three and four hundredths poles to a point, thence running west thirty-nine and eight hundredths poles to a point, thence running south fifty-nine and twenty-four hundredths poles to a point, thence running east eleven and eight hundredths poles to a point, thence running east fifty-four links to a point, thence running south twelve and four hundredths chains to the northwest corner of said J.B. Crook's two acres on March 29, 1902, and thence running south three and sixteen hundredths chains to the point of beginning, in Clay County, Missouri.

James Brothers Farm  
Kearney vicinity, Missouri  
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle  
"Holt, Mo." (1971)

Scale: 1:24,000

UTM References:

- A. 15/386300/4361275
- B. 15/386490/4360670
- C. 15/386050/4360680
- D. 15/386060/4361275



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	Missouri
COUNTY	Clay
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	

1. NAME: COMMON: James Brothers' House  
AND/OR HISTORIC: Birthplace of Jesse James

2. LOCATION: STREET AND NUMBER: 2 1/4 miles east of Kearney on State Highway 92,  
north 1 3/4 miles  
CITY OR TOWN: Section 19 - Township 52N - Range 30W  
STATE: Missouri 64060  
CODE 24 COUNTY: Clay CODE 047

3. PHOTO REFERENCE: PHOTO CREDIT: R. L. Walker, State Historical Survey, Missouri State Park Board  
DATE OF PHOTO: August 19, 1969, 11:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. (photocopy of old view)  
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176  
1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

4. IDENTIFICATION  
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. From southeast, view to the northwest. Old view of the house, photograph made, ca. 1875-1880. South wall of log cabin visible at left, south gable end wall of the 1845 frame addition at center, and east (front) facade of the frame addition at right. The entire 1845 addition was removed in 1893 when it was sold to the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago. Members of James family in the yard, Mrs. Samuel seated with her husband and perhaps Frank James and his wife.

S E M I N S T R U C T I O N S



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	Missouri
COUNTY	Clay
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	

**1. NAME**

COMMON: James Brothers' House  
AND/OR HISTORIC: Jesse James Birthplace

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 2 1/4 miles east of Kearney on State Highway 92,  
north 1 3/4 miles

CITY OR TOWN: Section 19 - Township 53N - Range 30W

STATE:	Missouri	64060	CODE	24	COUNTY:	Clay	CODE	047
--------	----------	-------	------	----	---------	------	------	-----

**3. PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT: R. L. Walker, State Historical Survey, Missouri State Park Board  
DATE OF PHOTO: August 19, 1969, 11:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.  
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176  
1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

**4. IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. From southwest, view to the northeast. West  
gable wall of the log cabin at left, south facade (the original front wall  
of the cabin) at center, and west wall of the 1893 frame addition at right.  
Tree located at the junction of the west and south walls of the log cabin  
has separated the joining of the corner and has become essentially a part  
of the building by serving as a vertical attachment for clapboards.



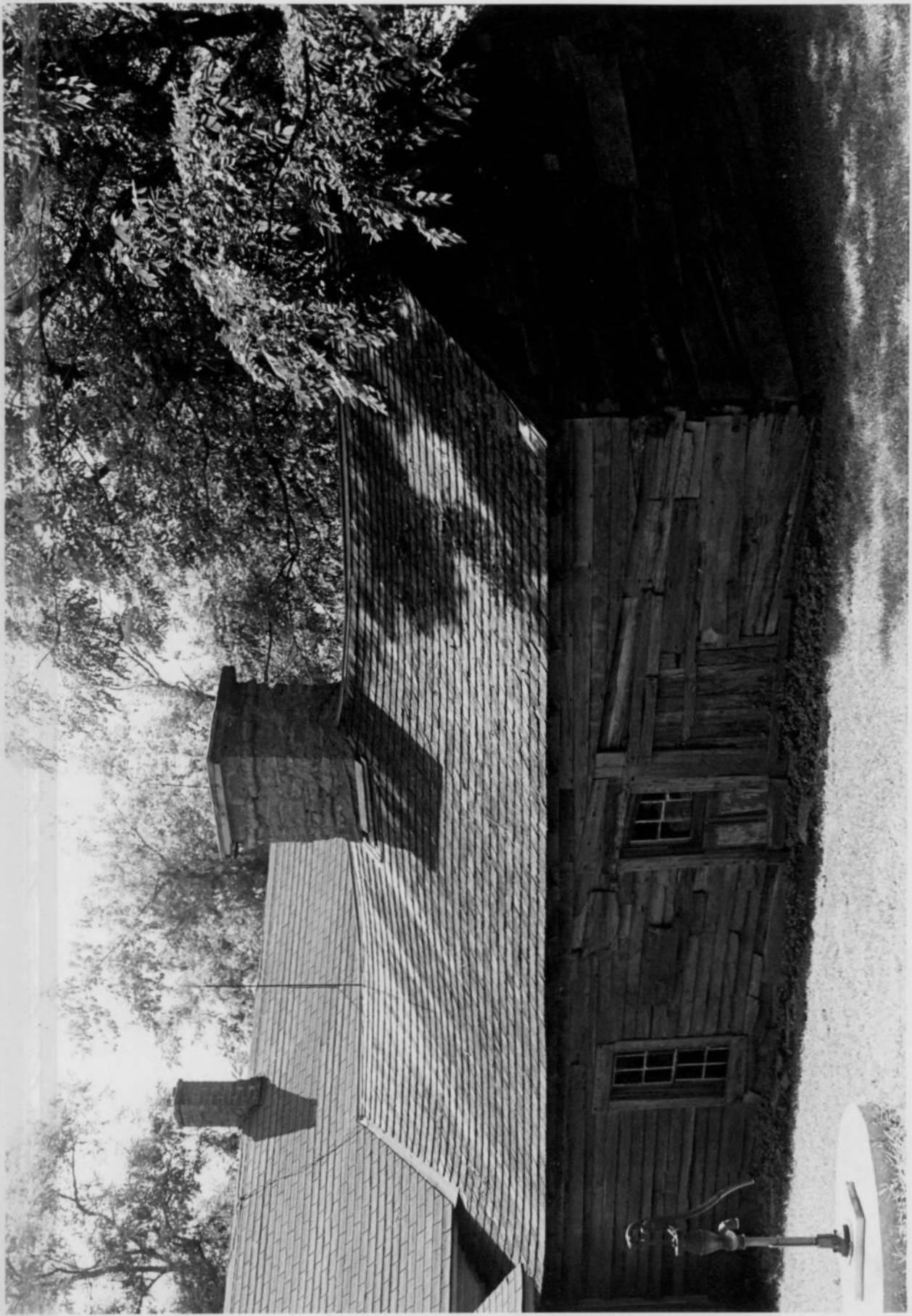
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE		Missouri	
COUNTY		Clay	
ENTRY NUMBER		FOR NPS USE ONLY	
DATE			
1. NAME			
COMMON: James Brothers' House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Birthplace of Jesse James			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2 1/4 miles east of Kearney on State Highway 92, north 1 3/4 miles			
CITY OR TOWN: Section 19 - Township 53N - Range 30W			
STATE: Missouri 64060			
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:	R.L. Walker, State Historical Survey, Missouri State Park Board	CODE	Clay
DATE OF PHOTO:	August 19, 1969, 11:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.	24	047
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. From northwest, view to the southeast. View of wall at right. Ridge roof of 1893 frame addition at upper left, west gable north chimney serves both interior rooms. Centrally located window on that window has been half boarded. Door immediately to the right (west) of			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE		Missouri
COUNTY		Clay
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
1. NAME		
COMMON: James Brothers' House		
AND/OR HISTORIC: Birthplace of Jesse James		
2. LOCATION		
STREET AND NUMBER: 2 1/4 miles east of Kearney on State Highway 92, north 1 3/4 miles		
CITY OR TOWN: Section 19 - Township 53N - Range 30W		
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:
Missouri	24	Clay
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT: R. L. Walker, State Historical Survey, Missouri State Park Board		
DATE OF PHOTO: August 19, 1969, 11:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.		
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101		
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. From east, view to the west. Interior view of original kitchen in log cabin section of house. Both doorways connect to west room of the log cabin. West firebox of the double (back to back) firebox chimney is intact. The box is closed and a stove flu opened. Note door paneling and detail of fireplace mantel.		

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	Missouri
COUNTY	Clay
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: James Brothers' House  
AND/OR HISTORIC: Birthplace of Jesse James

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 2 1/4 miles east of Kearney on State Highway 92,  
north 1 3/4 miles

CITY OR TOWN:

Section 19 - Township 53N - Range 30W

STATE:

Missouri 64060

CODE COUNTY:

24 Clay

CODE

017

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: R.I. Walker, State Historical Survey, Missouri State Park Board

DATE OF PHOTO: August 19, 1969, 11:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176

1201 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. From west, view to the east. View of west elevation of log cabin in foreground, and frame addition in background. The irregular siding on the log cabin was added to repair deteriorated earlier clapboarding which had been applied more uniformly. The under layer of siding is partially revealed just under the eave line of the left (north) slope of the log cabin's ridge roof.

S E M I N S T R U C T I O N S



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

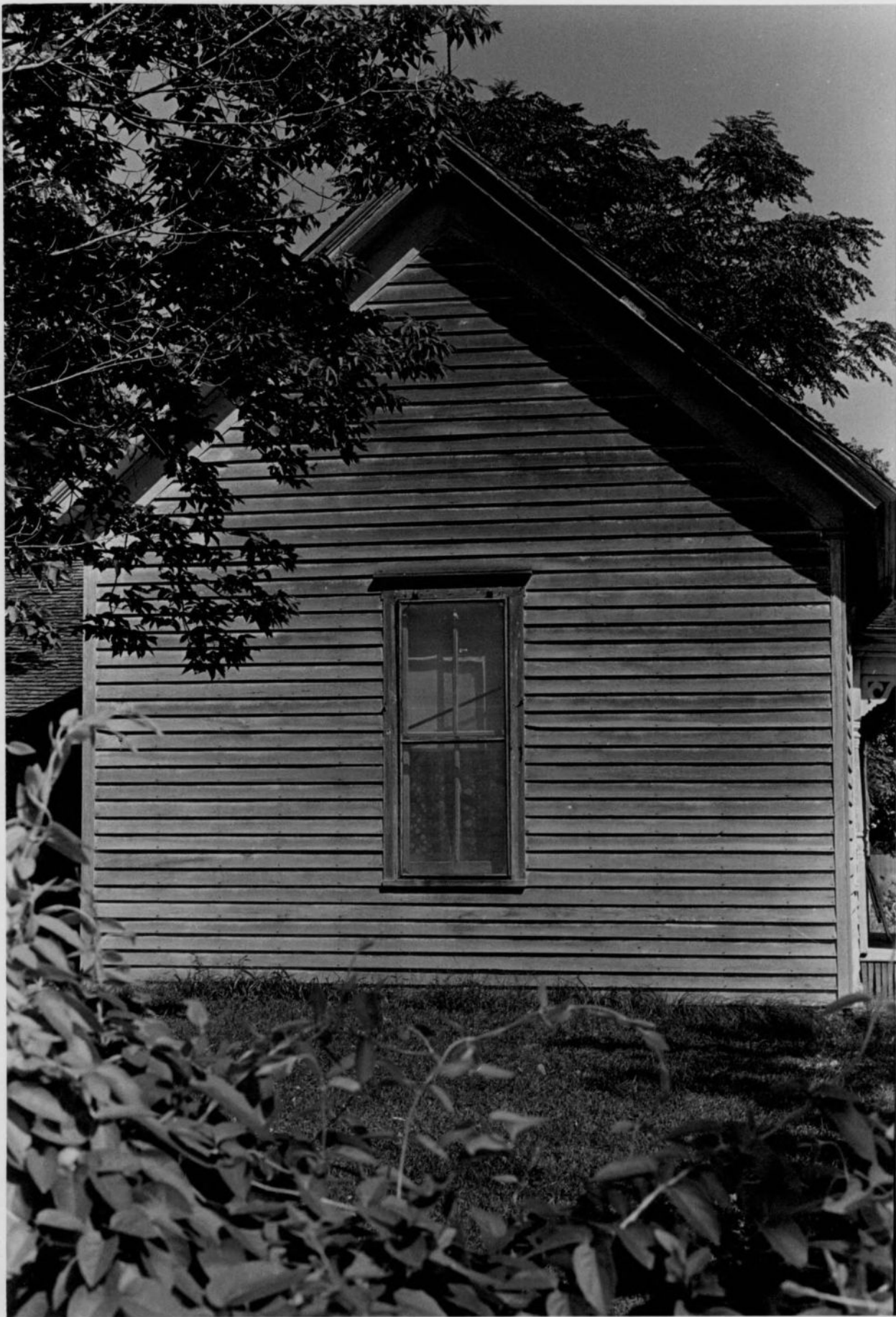
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	Missouri
COUNTY	Clay
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	

1. NAME	
COMMON:	James Brothers' House
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Birthplace of Jesse James
2. LOCATION	
STREET AND NUMBER: 2 1/2 miles east of Kearney on State Highway 92, north 1 3/4 miles	
CITY OR TOWN:	
Section 19 - Township 53N - Range 30W	
STATE:	Missouri 64060
CODE	24
COUNTY:	Clay
CODE	047
3. PHOTO REFERENCE	
PHOTO CREDIT: R.L. Walker, State Historical Survey, Missouri State Park Board	
DATE OF PHOTO: August 19, 1969, 11:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.	
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101	
4. IDENTIFICATION	
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. From south, view to the north, view of south elevation of the 1893 frame addition to the log cabin. Window is typical for that portion of the house, 2 over 2 light double-hung sash. Walls are trimmed with unfluted wood pilasters and simple molded caps.	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE		Missouri
COUNTY		Clay
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
1. NAME:		
COMMON: James Brothers' House		
AND/OR HISTORIC: Birthplace of Jesse James		
2. LOCATION:		
STREET AND NUMBER: 2 1/4 miles east of Kearney on State Highway 92, north 1 3/4 miles		
CITY OR TOWN: Section 19 - Township 53N - Range 30W		
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:
Missouri	64060	Clay
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT: R. J. Walker, State Historical Survey, Missouri State Park Board		
DATE OF PHOTO: August 19, 1969, 11:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.		
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101		
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. From northeast, view to the southwest. View of frame addition to the house. 1893 addition occupies the southern two- thirds of the east facade (left). 1935 addition occupies the northern one-third of the east facade (center) and the entirety of the north gable end wall (right).		

S E E M I N S T R U C T I O N S

