

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON: "Ravenswood"

AND/OR HISTORIC: "Ravenswood," Leonard Home

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Rural Route # 1 Congressional District: # 4  
The Honorable William J. Randall

CITY OR TOWN: Bunceton

STATE: Missouri CODE: 65237 COUNTY: Cooper CODE: 053

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments tours by admission & arrangement

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Charles W. Leonard

STREET AND NUMBER: Rural Route #1

CITY OR TOWN: Bunceton STATE: Missouri CODE: 65237

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER: Cooper County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Boonville STATE: Missouri CODE: 65233

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Missouri State Historical Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973-1974  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Department of Natural Resources

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 176

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

 Excellent
  Good
  Fair
  Deteriorated
  Ruins
  Unexposed

(Check One)

 Altered
  Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved
  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Ravenswood," situated on the original 1,932 acre farm, approximately 10 miles south of Boonville in Cooper County, is an example of Victorian eclecticism. The main house was constructed in 1880, with subsequent additions in 1907-1908, 1913 and 1914.

The irregular-plan, two-story plus attic and basement, brick mansion measures 54' north-south and 125' east-west. The primary facade faces west toward Highway 5.

The foundations are constructed of coursed rubble stone faced with ashlar limestone blocks on the major exterior walls. The foundations of rear walls and interior partition walls are not faced with cut stone.

The walls are constructed of an inner core of dark red, unglazed clay brick fired on the farm, laid in common bond, and faced with a hard-fired brick veneer.

Exterior walls and interior masonry partition walls support the floor and roof wood-frame structural systems.

The house has three porches: a monumental, Neo-Classic portico (1907) extending across the west facade, a platform porch on the south and a terrace porch at the southeast corner. None of these porches are original.

There are five brick chimneys corresponding to the locations of present and past fireplaces. They are topped with brick belt courses.

The west and south facades and the west half of the north facade are given prominence by the treatment of windows and doors - each having a terra cotta cap with keys and drops over segmental arched openings.

The primary facade is given further prominence by a frontal tower having a Neo-Gothic crenellated parapet with Neo-Classic swags. The tower originally terminated with a balustrade of more classic lines.

The roof is a low-angle Mansard covered with asphalt on top and grey, slate shingles on the slopes.

The floor plan is an elaboration of the typical nineteenth century configuration of central stairhall and flanking rooms. Bay windows, small service rooms, and additions introduce eccentricities into the plan.

The central hall is given a more monumental appearance by lacking a stairway which has been placed in a "T" off the main hall to the north. The stairway winds continuously to the attic. The front part of the main floor has formal rooms - library, music room, parlor and dining room. The rear part has pantries, kitchen, the "morning withdrawing room" and the "morning breakfast room" (the latter two rooms being 1907-1908 additions), a solar conservatory and fountain room built in 1914.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Cooper	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. #1 "RAVENSWOOD"

Ceilings of the first story are 11' 10" high.

The interior decoration features ornamental plaster cornices, medallions above the lighting fixtures and marble, brick and tile fireplaces. Woodwork, doors and stairways are all original and in good condition.

The second floor plan follows that of the first floor, except it does not extend as far to the east.

The large attic is unfinished, and serves as a storage area. Access to the tower is through the attic.

The house originally had a hot air furnace in the basement - this is a relatively early Missouri example of central heating. The original system was replaced with steam heat in 1945 - this system is not currently operating.

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS

Major changes were made in 1907-1908. They included:

1. Replacement of the original front porch with a Neo-Classical porch.
2. Addition of the wrought-iron balcony at second-story level on the west facade and alteration of second-story bedroom windows to French doors for access to the balcony.
3. The two-story plus attic structure at the southeast corner of the house was added. It includes the morning room and breakfast room on the first story, a bedroom and sun porch on the second story, and water tank storage area in the attic.

In 1913 the following additional alterations were made:

1. The northeast porch was enclosed to become a storage area and locked pantry, now used as a display room.
2. A second-story playroom was constructed above the former northeast porch.
3. The arched, enclosed, second-story "bridge" connecting the playroom and summer kitchen was built.

In 1914 the conservatory with terrace porch and the power plant were added. In 1928 the Leonards removed equipment from the power plant, and modified this area to serve as an addition to the conservatory.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Cooper	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. #2

" RAVENSWOOD "

THE SITE

The house and outbuildings are situated in a relatively remote rural area. Vestiges of gardens, plantings and a grape arbor still remain. Numerous species of trees and shrubs are planted in the open landscape in front of the house.

Outbuildings

Original outbuildings still remain on the property. The summer kitchen at the northeast corner of the house is older than the house, dating from 1869. Other buildings include the Tally-ho Barn, the Mule Barn, a Sheep Barn, Milk Barn, Carriage House, Manager's House, servants' houses, smoke house, sheds, a garage, and a pump house. The buildings are in various states of repair.

Statements in this description are based on data received in personal interviews with Charles Willard Leonard, the present owner of "Ravenswood," and great-grandson of Nathaniel Leonard, founder of "Ravenswood," Spring, 1973.

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |  |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian: | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century   | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1880-early 20th century

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Ravenswood," constructed in 1880, is a rare survival of an intact, late nineteenth century, wealthy Missouri farm residence. Outbuildings, including barns, stables, hired hand houses and sheds remain standing in a moderate state of repair and the 1,932 acres of farmland give an almost unparalleled view of the apparatus and workings of a late nineteenth century Missouri gentleman's farm.

The 1880 house, with subsequent alterations and additions, is an example of Victorian high eclecticism, as evidenced by several architectural influences. The original house represented a fairly pure Italiannate manner, as is shown in a print of the architect's facade elevation of 1880.<sup>1</sup> A secondary influence is the "French Second Empire" style of the modified mansard roof.

Two other architectural styles are evident in the additions and alterations. The Neo-Gothic style is evident in the tower, which replaced the simple Italian balustrade of the original structure. The two-story front porch, in the Neo-Classic style, replaced the one-story original veranda. Its four prominent columns show the exaggerated entasis given columns in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The glass conservatory addition is reminiscent of the mood of Edwardian England.

The floor plan reveals a less obvious period influence. By 1880, interior space planning became more important than a preconceived exterior wall arrangement. The many bays and irregular features of the plan indicate this concept.

The interiors of certain rooms of the house provide excellent examples of the typical monied Victorian American taste of the late nineteenth century.

PRESENT STATUS

The house is in moderately good condition, and some of the original and accumulated appointments remain, including wallpaper and drapery. A large portion of the structure is served by a steam heat system, presently inoperable.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Missouri	
COUNTY Cooper	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. #1

"RAVENSWOOD"

The present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Willard Leonard. The house and its environs are now open to the public at an admission charge of \$1.50 per person, generally with no advance arrangement necessary.

ARCHITECT

Architect of the house was W. Angelo Powell, of St. Joseph, Missouri. Original documents in the form of plans, elevations, specification sheets, and other detailed information and descriptions survive, many in letter form, in the Leonards' collection.

ORIGINAL AND SUBSEQUENT OWNERS

Nathaniel Leonard, the founder of "Ravenswood" farm<sup>1</sup> was a noted landowner and cattle-raiser in central Missouri. He was born in Woodstock, Vermont, June 13, 1799. In 1822, he went to Chicago, and engaged in fur trading for the American Fur Company.<sup>1</sup> After working there for two years, he decided to follow the suggestion of his brother Abiel (who lived in Fayette, Howard County, Missouri) and come to Missouri. Abiel arranged for the purchase of 80 acres of land in Cooper County, and Nathaniel settled there in 1825 and began to build his farm. Abiel helped Nathaniel financially until the early 1830's when Nathaniel went into partnership with a neighboring farmer, James S. Hutchinson. On September 28, 1832, he married Hutchinson's widowed sister, Margaret Johnson.<sup>2</sup> In the early years of the farm, Nathaniel was involved in raising and trading mules, many of which he sold in the south.<sup>3</sup>

In 1839, Nathaniel made his first purchases of purebred Shorthorn cattle, (the first purebred cattle of any breed brought west of the Mississippi), with the help of his brother Benjamin, in Ohio, and J. S. Hutchinson.<sup>4</sup> Nathaniel went on to build a sizeable herd, but it was his son, Charles Edward, who was mainly responsible for its later excellence.<sup>5</sup>

Nathaniel's house burned in 1850, so he built a frame house at the site of the present brick one.

Charles Edward Leonard was born March 27, 1839, and attended Kemper Military School in Boonville, Missouri. (The first of three generations to attend Kemper.) He graduated from the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, in 1860. During the Civil War he served in the State Militia, where he attained the rank of Captain, a title that stayed with him the rest of his life.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Cooper	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. #2 "RAVENSWOOD"

In 1872 he married Nadine Nelson, daughter of James M. Nelson, a wealthy Missouri banker. In 1880, he built the present brick house at "Ravenswood" to replace the frame house built by his father. The house was paid for largely by his father-in-law.

Captain Leonard was a leader in financing the American Herd Book of Shorthorn cattle. He was an active member of the American Shorthorn Breeders Association and served as a director in it from 1882-1906. He was its president from 1889 to 1902.<sup>6</sup> He was also president of the Central National Bank in Boonville.<sup>7</sup>

Charles and Nadine Leonard had one son, Nathaniel Nelson. Nelson, as he was generally known, attended Kemper Military School and Vanderbilt University, from which he graduated with a law degree in 1898. In 1909 he married Roselia Willard, daughter of a manufacturer of gas and electric fixtures in Chicago. During this period Nelson made some additions to the house, including the Neo-Classic porch and balcony, four rooms at the back of the house - the Breakfast Room, sun porch, and two rooms above them, a connecting archway between the summer kitchen and the house, and the conservatory.

Nelson and Roselia Leonard had three children, one of whom, Charles Willard Leonard, is the present owner of "Ravenswood." Charles Edward Leonard, eldest son of the present owner, is a businessman in Boonville and manages much of the operation of the farm. He has three sons; thus "Ravenswood" moves into its fifth and sixth generations.

FOOTNOTES

1. Abiel Leonard Collection, 1786-1933, State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, Reference # 1013.
2. Nathaniel Leonard Papers, Account Book 1835-1845, The Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, Columbia, Missouri, Reference # 2525.
3. Frederick A. Culmer, editor, "Selling Missouri Mules Down South," Missouri Historical Review, Vol. XXIV, (July, 1930), pp. 537-549.
4. Nathaniel Leonard Papers, op. cit.
5. Nathaniel Leonard, Draft of will, undated and unsigned. (Included in papers owned by Leonard family.) Further discussion of the importance of the herd can be found in the following sources: History of Howard and Cooper Counties, Missouri (St. Louis: National Historical Company, 1883), pp. 1062-1065; W. F. Johnson, History of Cooper County (Topeka [Kansas]:

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		Missouri	
COUNTY		Cooper	
FOR NPS USE ONLY			
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE	

(Number all entries)

8. #3

"RAVENSWOOD"

Historical Publishing Company, 1919), pp. 928-930; and Walter Williams and Floyd C. Shoemaker, Missouri Mother of the West (Chicago: American Historical Society, Inc., 1930), Vol. 3, p. 184.

6. Williams and Shoemaker, op. cit.

7. Ibid.

8. A general note: It should be noted that Nathaniel Leonard was a slave holder, as reflected in the Slave Census of 1850, and that "Ravenswood" farm therefore demonstrates the use of slave labor in building up a large homestead in Missouri prior to the Civil War.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. Culmer, Frederick A., editor. "Selling Missouri Mules Down South," Missouri Historical Review, Vol. XXIV, (July, 1930), pp. 537-549.
2. History of Howard and Cooper Counties, Missouri. St. Louis: National Historical Company, 1883.
3. Johnson, W. F. History of Cooper County. Topeka [Kansas]: Historical Publishing Company, 1919.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38 ° 50 ' 02 "	92 ° 51 ' 46 "				
NE	38 ° 50 ' 02 "	92 ° 48 ' 48 "				
SE	38 ° 48 ' 36 "	92 ° 48 ' 48 "				
SW	38 ° 48 ' 36 "	92 ° 51 ' 46 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1,932 Acres

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: (P. Egbert, C. Kerr, A. Needle, P. Ryan, P. Snadon, and J. Steinkamp)  
1. Class Members

ORGANIZATION: Restoration Design Class, Home Economics Department DATE: July 30, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: University of Missouri-Columbia

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: Missouri 65201 CODE: 29

**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 James L. Wilson

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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	
Cooper	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9. #1 "RAVENSWOOD"
4. Leonard, Abiel. Collection, State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri. Reference # 1013, 1786-1933.
5. Leonard, Charles Willard. Personal Interviews, Spring, 1973.
6. Leonard, Nathaniel. Papers. The Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, Columbia, Missouri, Reference # 2525.
7.         . Draft of will, undated and unsigned. Included in papers owned by Leonard family.
8. Williams, Walter, and Floyd C. Shoemaker. Missouri Mother of the West. Chicago: American Historical Society, Inc., 1930.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Cooper	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

17. #1

"RAVENSWOOD"

2. M. Patricia Holmes, Research Associate  
State Historical Survey and Planning Office

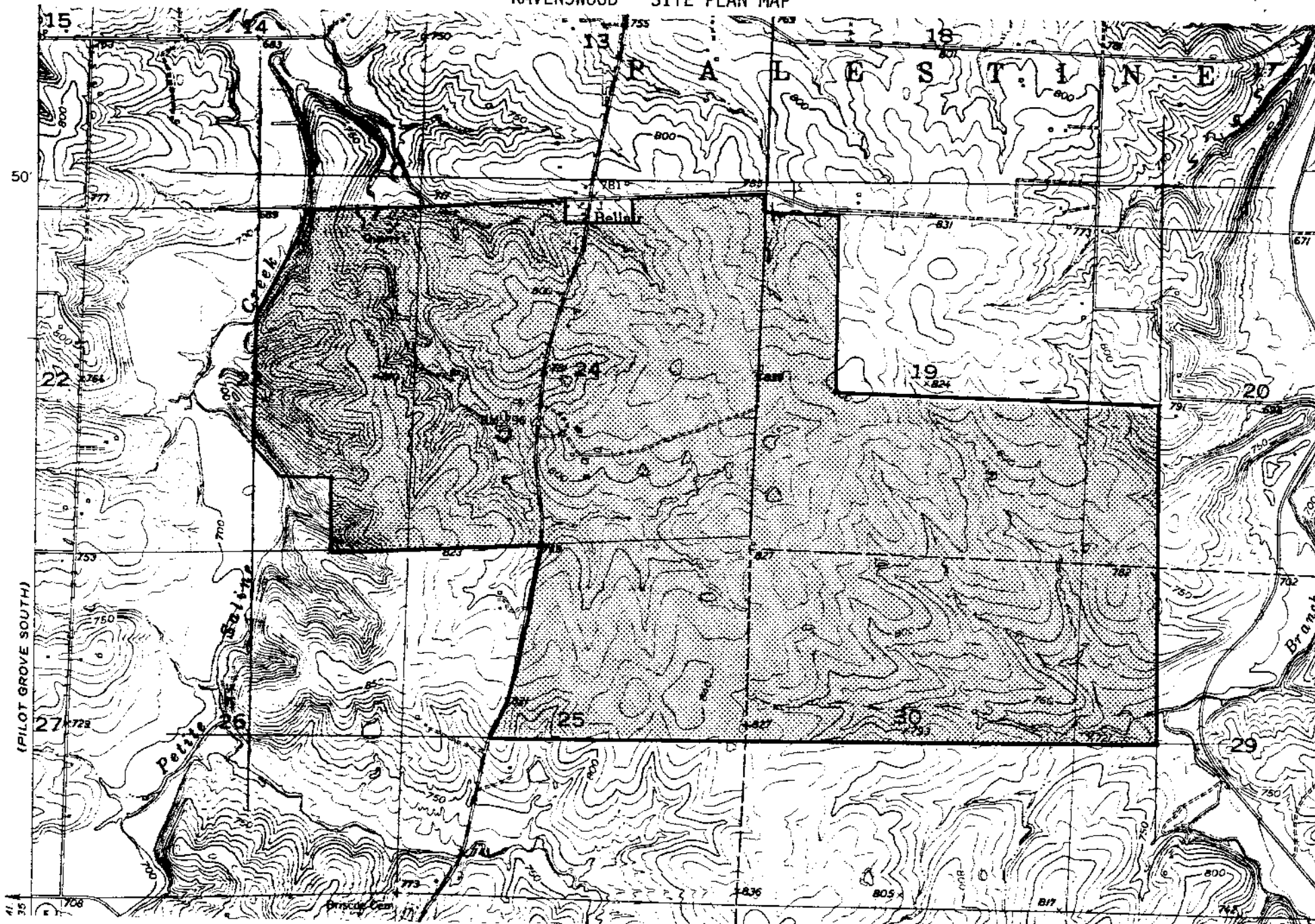
P. O. Box 176

Date: September 14, 1974

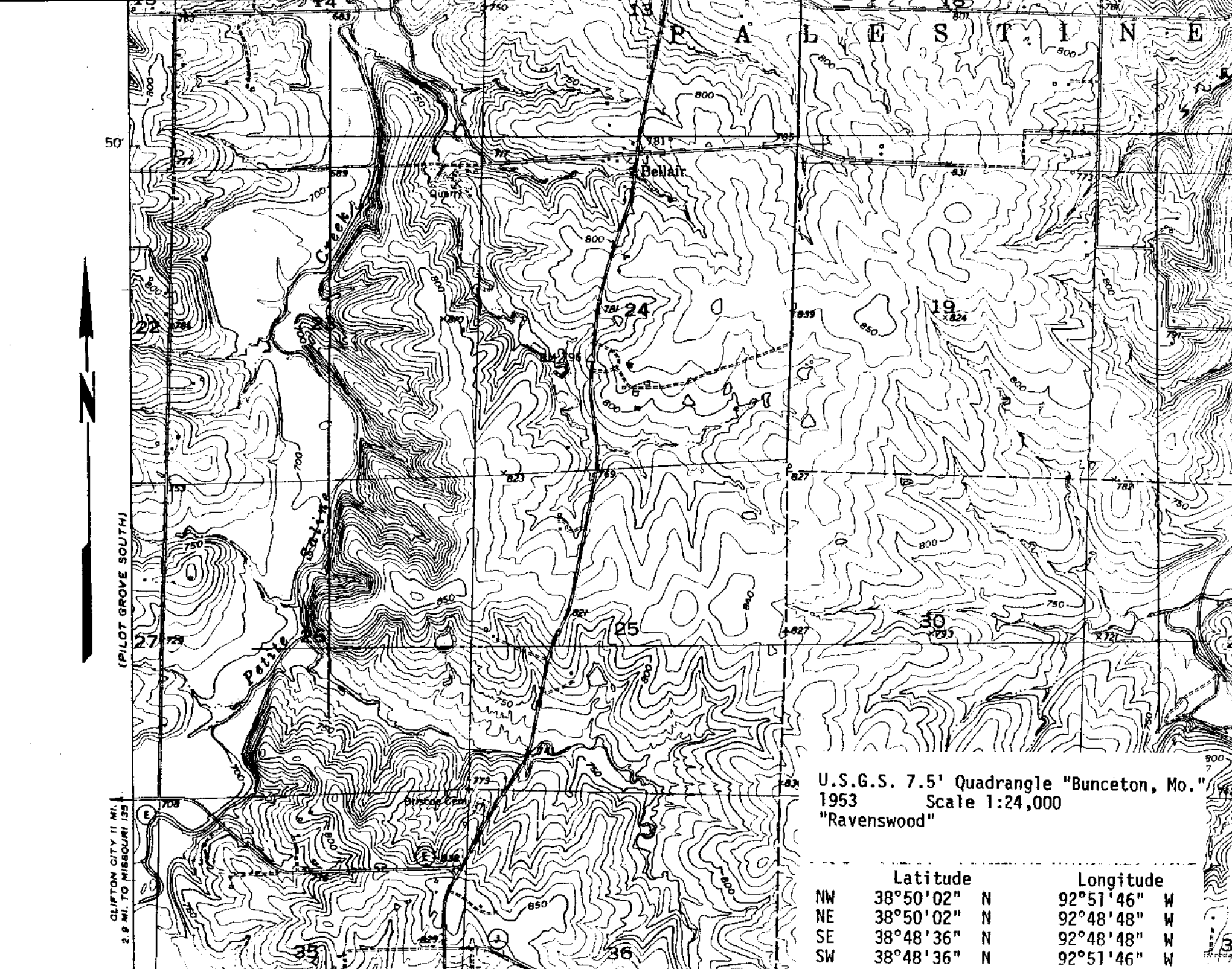
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Code: 29

"RAVENSWOOD" SITE PLAN MAP



Denotes "Ravenswood" Farm owned by Charles W. Leonard and being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places



(PILOT GROVE SOUTH)

CLIFTON CITY 11 MI.  
2.9 MI. TO MISSOURI 135

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle "Bunceton, Mo."  
1953 Scale 1:24,000  
"Ravenswood"

	Latitude		Longitude	
NW	38°50'02"	N	92°51'46"	W
NE	38°50'02"	N	92°48'48"	W
SE	38°48'36"	N	92°48'48"	W
SW	38°48'36"	N	92°51'46"	W

**Photo Log:**

Name of Property: **Ravenswood**

City or Vicinity: **Bunceton**

County: **Cooper County** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Earl Kogler**

Date

Photographed: **April 1974**

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

1 of 5. Mule barn south of the house, from the NW, looking SE. Even the outbuildings of Ravenswood have a grandeur surpassing the usual farm buildings in out-state Missouri.

2 of 5. North wall from NE, looking SW. 1869 summer kitchen is at extreme left. Window modifications appear in the section of wall at center. The front portion of the house, at right, has a smooth cut and joined stone foundation which contrasts with the rusticated ashlar of the central section and the squared rubble stone foundation on the 1869 structure.

3 of 5. Rear € wall from SE, looking slightly NW. At upper left is the 1907-1908 attic addition. At lower left is the 1914 section which was originally a power plant, but was later modified to serve as an addition to the conservatory. At right is the 1869 summer kitchen attached to the NE corner of the 1880 house.

4 of 5. Interior view of the S parlor from the W looking E toward the fireplace. Wall treatment, furnishings, draperies and ancestral portraits reflect the accumulated Leonard family heritage.

5 of 5. Aerial view of the building at Ravenswood farm, from SE looking NW. Structures include: 1. The house, 2. Servants' quarters, 3. Carriage house, 4. Mule barn, 5. Tally-ho barn, 6. Manager's house, 7. Sheep barn, 8. Barn











1

2

3

6

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4

7

8