

FINAL

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Arnold, Dr. John, Farm
other names/site number Arnold's Home 139-203-25047 (Cabin and Settlement)
139-203-25048 (farmstead)

2. Location

street & number RR#2, Box 48 (450 East) not for publication
city, town Rushville vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Rush code 139 zip code 46173

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>12</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>16</u>	<u>3</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Patrick K. Kalish 7-31-89
Signature of certifying official Date
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE - agricultural
outbuilding; agricultural field
DOMESTIC - single dwelling
FUNERARY - cemetery

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE - agricultural outbuildings
agricultural fields
DOMESTIC - single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival
No style
Other: Midwest Three Portal Barn

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls WOOD: weathered
STONE: limestone
roof METAL
other WOOD: log

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Arnold's farm which consists of one quarter section is located approximately five and one half miles northeast of Rushville. County Road 450 East forms the property's western boundary and provides vehicular access to the farm. Ben Davis Creek, or Mahoning Creek as it was called by the Delaware Indians, crosses the farm diagonally. The creek bed causes a low depressed area about twenty feet below upland with a natural clearing of 300 to 500 feet as its floodplain. A number of large trees of many varieties line the creek. Steep bluffs follow part of the course of the creek with the siting of the farmhouse and outbuildings on the western bluff and the settlement area and cabin on the eastern bluff.

In the northwest section of the farm is a timbered area known as Raven's Wood. This area contains some virgin timber and has been left in a natural condition. Pasture land for the cattle includes part of the woods, the floodplain, which is referred to as Springfield, as well as a field south of the farmhouse. These sections are delineated by webbed fencing which also acts as animal control. There is a fine four-board fence with slanted top rail surrounding the farmhouse on the east and north sides. Farmland which is cultivated lies in the southwest and northeast sections of the farm. (See Figure 1)

The farm encompasses several time periods and these divisions are reflected somewhat by the division of the land. The floodplain is a natural clearing and the family records indicate it was home to a tribe of Delaware Indians, under Chief Ben Davis, when the property was homesteaded in 1820. The chief's name has been given to the creek along which his tribe encamped. The area was attractive to settlement with there being three springs, known as Three Suck Lick, that are still active near the ford of the creek. The early settlement that developed in the 1820s on the homestead of John Arnold took place on the eastern bluff of the creek. Here the remains of the original cabin is just to the east of the building. A stone tomb carved out of the bluff in the 1820's is intact. The early cemetery is still marked by several headstones although all bodily remains have been removed to East Hill Cemetery near Rushville.

Located on the opposite bluff is the outstanding Gothic Revival farmhouse constructed by Dr. John Arnold in 1853, as well as several outbuildings dating to that time. An allee of evergreen trees was planted in front of the home lining the path from the road. Several of these trees remain but the area also supports many maples and pawpaw seedlings as well as a very large black walnut. Recognized by the State Forestry Department as one of the largest trees of its species in the state, the nuts have been collected by the department for research to improve the strength of the black walnut in Indiana. Also in the front yard are four low mounds which is the soil that was removed when the cellar of the farmhouse was excavated in

See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1820-1920

Significant Dates

1820

1853

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

Arnold, Dr. John

Architect/Builder

J. Tom Smith and

William E. Smith

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The land known as Arnold's Home has a strong local history, rich in Indian lore and the early settlement of Rush County, Indiana. The original 160 acres, purchased by John Arnold in 1820, is one of the few original pioneer holdings still intact and held by the family descendants. The farm offers an excellent example of how a rural homestead in Indiana developed and progressed towards the twentieth century under the management of one family. The son of the original owner, Dr. John Arnold, has been recognized both locally and statewide as a county historian. It was his heavy contributions to the published late nineteenth century county histories, that has given Rush County a record of the early Indian and pioneer settlement of the area. Dr. John continued to improve his fathers farm using traditional methods of the period in which he lived. The rural Gothic Revival farmhouse constructed by Dr. John in 1853, is an outstanding example of its style in eastern Indiana.

Much of the early history of Rush County and Arnold's Home was recorded by Dr. John Arnold who was a young boy when his father purchased the homestead in 1820. Arnold wrote a series of papers entitled "Reminiscences of an Old Settler" for the RUSHVILLE WEEKLY REPUBLICAN from 1872-76. He was also a contributor to the County Atlas (1879) and the Rush County History (1888). It is from his accounts that a written record was established which recorded the Delaware Indian activity in Rush County during the early 1820s. Research on the Delaware Indians in Indiana has primarily focused on the tribes located along the White River with little information on any other part of the state. While the Arnold farm has not been field checked by any archaeological team, Dr. John's accounts are believed to be true and accurate and have a long tradition in the county's history. Artifacts have been collected from the property over the past 170 years by the family. Dr. John had amassed a collection which was dispersed by the family after his death in 1899. Unfortunately there were few museums in Indiana at that time which kept written records. Only a small portion of his collection has been located at the Joseph Moore Museum at Earlham College, in Richmond, Indiana. Collection records indicate the items, which include projectile points, banner stone, knives, axes, celt, pestle and gordet, were donated in 1903.¹ A brief examination of some of the artifacts found in the fields in recent years by the family show a long history of Indian activity, predating 1780-1820 when the Delaware were in the Rush County vicinity.

To begin a history of the county and explain how it was opened for settlement

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 160 acres

UTM References

A

1	6
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6	4	0	8	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	8	8	2	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Zone Easting Northing

C

1	6
---	---

6	4	1	6	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	8	9	0	6	0
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B

1	6
---	---

6	4	0	8	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	8	9	0	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Zone Easting Northing

D

1	6
---	---

6	4	1	6	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	8	8	2	2	0
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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Northeast Quarter of Section 25, Township 14, Range 10, not including public right of ways. Refer also to UTM references.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The 160 acres represents the original homestead entered in the landbooks by the Arnold family in 1820. Located on the homestead are two historic sites, the family cabin and an area of land which was a early Fush county settlement. The Arnold's, as early pioneers, were attracted to the rolling upland landscape which had a natural source of water and good runoff for agricultural fields. The integrity of the land is strong and has remained

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Katherine M. Jourdan, Program Coordinator
 organization Historic Landmarks Foundation, ERO
 street & number P.O. Box 284
 city or town Cambridge City,
 date 21 April 1989
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1853. The mounds did have evergreens planted on them but the trees have not survived. At the rear of the house is a pump which also proved a source of water for the farm. The later farm buildings which represent a time period of roughly a hundred years are heavily concentrated on the western bluff but are scattered as well on the opposite side of the creek.

The resource count includes these contributing/non-contributing elements. The lower case letters refer to their location on the Site Plan. (Figure 1)

CONTRIBUTING:

Buildings:	a. Farmhouse	g. Chicken House
	b. Smokehouse	i. Granary
	c. Milkhouse	k. Crib/Shed
	d. Privy	l. Cattle Barn
	e. Tool Shed	m. Cabin
	f. Buggy Shed/Garage	p. Calf Shed

Site: Settlement Area

Structures: j. Corn Crib
q. Corn Crib
r. Tomb

NON-CONTRIBUTING:

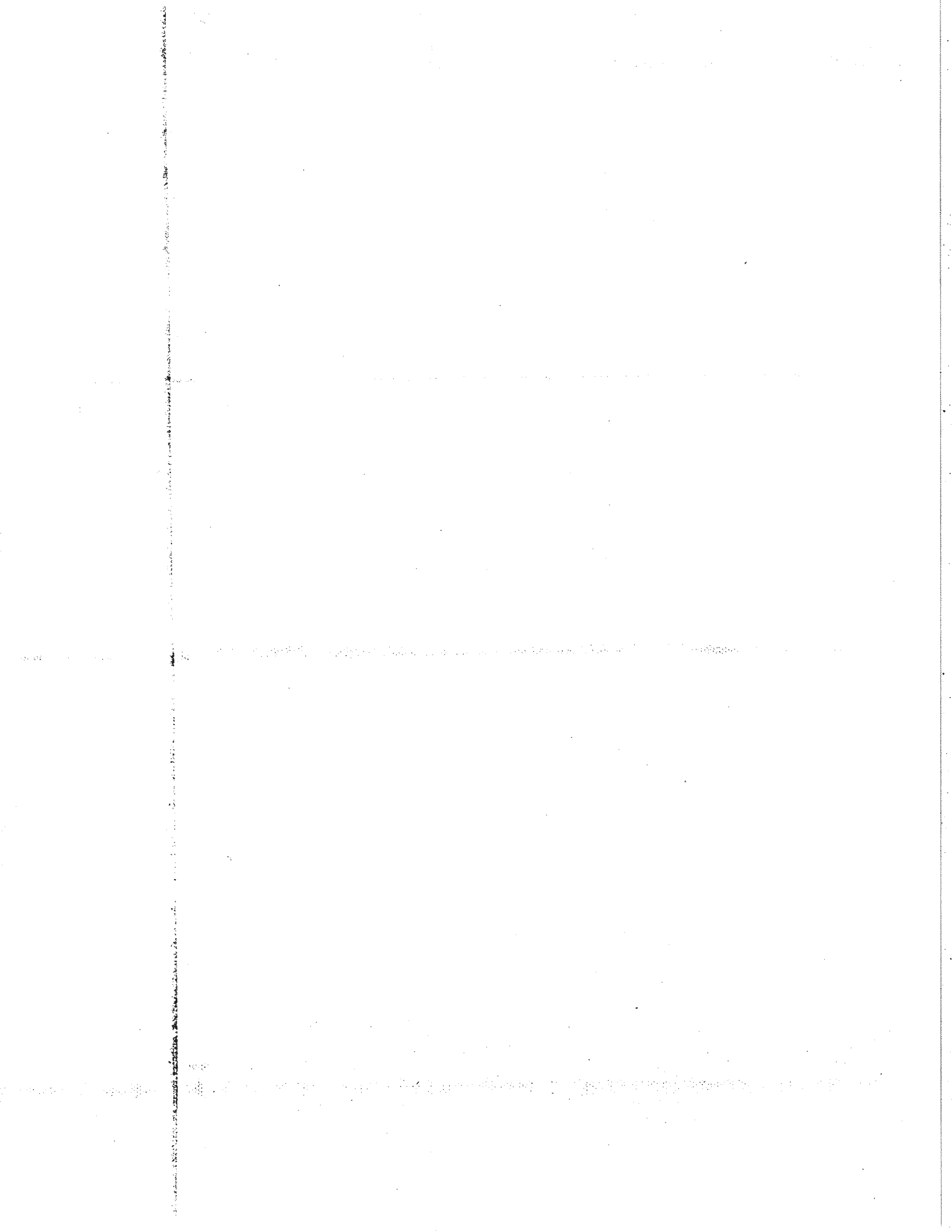
Buildings: h. Pole Barn
o. Pole Barn
n. WPA Privy

NOTE: Due to unknown dates of erection and their small scale, fences were not counted.

Here follows a description of the site contributing to the nomination as well as an architectural description of all the farm buildings and structures which are keyed to the site plan:

SITE Settlement Area 1820-1850 (Photos 27 & 31)

This site is the eastern bluff of the creek and is referred to in this nomination as the settlement area. On the site plan (Figure 1) it would be the area between the letters m. (Cabin) and r. (Tomb). The settlement area is where the family first settled after purchasing the acreage in 1820. There had been a squatter on the property named Samuel Gruell who had a cabin and a clearing of half an acre. He was paid for his improvements after John Arnold entered the land. Arnold soon built his own house which was one and a half stories of hewn logs. Over the course of the next ten to fifteen years several other cabins were built of round logs in this area for the tenant farmer and other transient families to use. Arnold added a storeroom and porch to his cabin and operated the first post office in Rush County as well as a



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general store. Families gathered here for church services, musters, etc. with the natural clearing below the bluff being used for horse races and muster grounds. In the early 1820s a tomb was constructed in the side of the bluff that was used as a temporary shelter to retain bodies until a circuit preacher arrived to grace the burial. A small cemetery was in the grove of trees just above (north of) the tomb which was in use until 1859-77 when the remains were moved to East Hill Cemetery outside Rushville.

GOTHIC REVIVAL FARMHOUSE

1853

(a)

(Photo 6)

This outstanding Gothic Revival home is probably the most significant rural example of its style in eastern Indiana. The home was built by Dr. John Arnold, son of the original homesteader, in 1853 from plans which came from England. The home was constructed by local contractors named J.T. & William E. Smith who completed the final detailed specifications and built the home for a cost of \$2,200. In front of the home is an area of trees which has already been described. Across the front of the home is a Victorian iron fence which replaced the original white picket fence. The iron fence was removed from a house, owned by a family member in Rushville, which was razed for the city's first post office in 1930. The gate of the fence is quite elaborate with a star and heart pattern, and is an interesting addition to the property. (Photo 4)

The two-story home is wood clapboard-sided with five gables forming a double crossed T-shape plan. The foundation is a hammered faced quarried limestone and the timber frame is poplar. A large brick chimney serving four fireplaces intersects where the roofline of the three gables converge in the front section of the house. The opening is corbelled and there are channels running the length of the four sides. A shed roof porch is attached to the rear and a wrap-around front porch was added to the house in 1900. The roof was originally wood shingle but is now a metal shingle roof painted a medium green. Each gable is steeply pitched with vergeboard running along the eave line. An additional smaller vergeboard runs under the eaves for the side of the roof edge visible from the front of the house (west facade). Each gable end also has a pointed decorative finial and small triangular vent. (Photo 7) On the front end gable is a six-light square window. Under this was a large projecting bay window which provided light for the interior stairwell. This bay was removed when the front wrap around porch was added in 1900. Now there are two single fixed windows above the porch roof. Under the roof area the bay was filled with narrow boards in a diagonal pattern. The porch also required the removal of two small porticos on either side of the front end gable. These were situated so the two solid wood doors could be used to open onto both sides of the front hall. Opening onto these portico areas were large single double-hung windows with 6/6 lights. The porch today has four thick brick posts across the front and two brick pilasters against the side extensions of the house. These support the roof that wraps around the three sides of the front gable.

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The south facade of the house is almost the reverse image of the north facade (Photo 8) except that the side center porch was entirely enclosed in 1965 on the south side, and is screened on the north facade. A small wooden railing on the roof of the south porch was also removed. Under the front gable are four double-hung windows with two 4/4 lights on the second floor and two 6/6 lights on the first floor. The rear gable has paired double-hung windows on the two floors but these are all 4/4 lights. On the extension of the house between the front and rear gables are single gabled dormers on the south and north facades. These dormers also have the ornamental vergeboard. Beside the porch on the two sides of the house there are also two small rooms with flat roofs. These rooms have single 4/4 light windows. Opening onto the porches are single double-hung 6/6 windows next to the doors which have two long panes over two short vertical panels.

The rear facade (Photo 8) has a wide shed roof porch with asphalt shingles that was added after 1879. A decorative vergeboard runs under the eave on the east facade. The porch has a wooden lattice on the south side and half the length of the east elevation. The remainder of the porch is open with a wooden railing and round pickets. The floor is wood and is supported by large blocks of cement. A door opens onto this porch as do three double-hung 4/4 windows.

INTERIOR:

The floor plan (Figure 2) for Arnold's Home is rectangular on the first floor although the front section is slightly wider than the rear portion of the structure. With the elimination of the first floor porches, the second floor shows the core plan of a double crossed T-shape plan.

All the framing for the house is poplar. The front hall, sitting room and parlor are finished entirely in black walnut. All the rest of the finishing lumber is yellow poplar with the exception of the floor of the porches, dining room, kitchen and other service rooms which is ash.

The woodwork framing around the doors and windows in the hall, sitting room and parlor is slightly tapered with the width of the top being narrower than at the bottom. The black walnut is not painted but is shellacked. In the front entry hall (Photo 9) the tall bay window has been removed and now has two long paired windows above a ledge. The stair curves against the front wall and has a tall tapered newel post which once held a kerosene lamp until electricity was added in the 1930s. The stairs lead to the second floor where there is a hall landing. Solid doors lead to the exterior of the north and south elevations. Solid doors also lead separately into the sitting room and parlor. All the doors in the hall, sitting room and parlor are four recessed-panel doors with a pointed Gothic arch in the top panel surrounded by a small carved design (Photo 10) The mantels in the sitting room and parlor have walnut wood with a low elliptical arch on the panel under the mantel. The plaster over the brick surrounding the opening has been removed so the brick is exposed (Photo 12). The front windows in the parlor and sitting room are 6/6 lights but under the windows are two small doors which swing open so that the windows extend to the floor. These are

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referred to as "coffin doors" by the family (Photo 15). Opening off the parlor is a small room called the library. The original shelving is intact. Another small room leads off the sitting room and was used as a small bedroom but is now an office. The ceilings in these two small rooms are lower due to the flat roof line on the exterior.

The dining room is in the center of the house with doors leading on each side to the side porches. The north door is presently used as the house's main entrance. The woodwork in this room is oak-grained and the doors have four raised panels without the Gothic decoration but with the panels having bevelled edges. The paired doors on the west wall lead to the sitting room and a closet. The paired doors on the east wall lead to the kitchen and rear second floor stairs.

The rooms across the back have been altered. At the north end were two small rooms for the meal room and pantry which also had the cellar stairs. A small center room was used as the kitchen and contained a small fireplace. To the south was a hired girl's room that led outside and a well room where the pump was located. Today the meal room and pantry have been opened to the kitchen to provide one large room. The fireplace which had been closed is now reopened. The pantry shelves are intact and the lower pantry doors have been extended out but are still used as cabinet fronts. The two small rooms on the south are intact.

The second floor is used as bedroom space with five rooms. The woodwork there is of plain square boards that were painted (Photos 18 to 20).

SMOKEHOUSE c. 1900 (b) (Photo 21)

Used to smoke meat for the family as a method of preserving food for a long period.

The smokehouse has rough vertical wood siding, with arrow hinges on the small south side door. There are not any other openings. The roofing material is asphalt on the gable roof.

MILKHOUSE c. 1853 (c) (Photo 22)

Used to store and cool milk as well as other vulnerable food products.

The foundation is limestone with vertical wood siding that is painted white. The north elevation angles from approximately four feet in height to the roof gable which extends out. There is a small door on this elevation. A small opening covered with lattice on the west and east sides is typical as a method to circulate the cool air inside a milkhouse.

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Used as the outdoor necessary, the building has periodically been moved as sanitation required.

The small building is gabled with white painted vertical siding. The roof is metal with a stamped fishscale shingle design.

TOOL SHED c. 1915 (e) (Photo 24)

Used to feed and house hogs in the past and later to store hog feeders, the building has been used as a tool shed for a number of years.

The tool shed has rough vertical wood siding with gable roof. The metal roof also has the stamped metal shingle design.

BUGGY SHED/GARAGE c. 1880 (f) (Photo 25)

Originally housed buggies for family use but is now used to shelter automobiles.

This gabled building is covered with asphalt shingles and has large openings with swinging doors on the west elevation. Underneath the shingles is wide vertical boards as siding.

CHICKEN HOUSE c. 1915 (g) (Photo 26)

Used to house chickens.

The gable roof has wood shingles. The building is sided with rough vertical boards, a small door is found on the south elevation. There are paired windows on the east and west elevations with squared four light openings.

POLE BARN 1960 (h)

Erected in 1960, this modern barn houses the large farm machinery. It is constructed of metal sheets and is listed as non-contributing.

GRANARY c. 1860 (i) (Photo 27)

This building was used to store grain in the bins and the drive through and side extensions were storage space.

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The granary has a rectangular plan, standing-seam metal-covered, gable roof with side extension under a shed roof, and board-and-batten siding. Hinged, double-leaf doors open to central aisle from north and south ends. The building is gabled with the openings on the north and south elevations. The building has two side bins for grain storage flanking a center drive through. The width of the sheathing boards indicates the granary's early construction.

CORNCRIB c. 1880 (j) (Photo 28)

Used for the storage of corn to feed livestock. This is one of the oldest structures still on the property. It had been moved at some point of time but in 1930 was replaced in its original location.

It is a small gabled building with horizontal siding spaced at even intervals to allow air circulation.

CRIB/SHED c. 1880 (k) (Photo 29)

This building served a dual purpose with a corncrib to one side, to store food for livestock, and the other side partitioned to store equipment.

It is a gabled structure with rough vertical wood siding, a side aisle crib with shed extension.

CATTLE BARN 1900 (l) (Photo 30)

This large building is used as a feeder barn and for the storage of hay.

The cattle barn is a Midwest three-portal barn with three openings on the south elevation. The wood siding is painted red with a protruding hay hood on the south gable supported by wood braces. The roof is sheet metal. The outside corridor is open in a U-shape to allow cattle to enter. On the inside of these aisles are corncribs for storage as well as openings to place hay. In the center of the barn is a level approximately six feet from the ground which is open for hay storage. Above this is an additional level over the outside aisles for more hay storage. The barn is pin-framed with large hand-hewn square beams.

LOG HOUSE 1825/1965 (m) (Photo 31)

The original house was built by the first John Arnold for his family in 1820, and is constructed of hand hewn beams with the square logs being notched at the ends. The house was a story and a half with two rooms on the ground floor and one above.

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Planking, the first to be used in the area, was shipped to the farm to be used for the room partition, floors, and doors. This house was preserved by the family although the other cabins in the settlement area were lost. The house was being used as a tool shed when a large tree fell on it in 1955. The building was then dismantled and marked by the family and reconstructed as a smaller one-room cabin.

The house is one story with a small loft area. There is one central room with a six panel door opening in the north elevation. On the south elevation is a six light square window. Both the door and window are original materials. The logs are chinked with mortar and the large fireplace and chimney are made from pieces of the old limestone sidewalks from Rushville. The roof is wood shingled with oak on the north side of the gable and new walnut shingles on the south side.

WPA PRIVY c. 1935 (n)

The form of the interior dates it to those constructed by the Works Progress Administration during the 1930s. It was moved onto the property from a neighboring farm. Although listed as a non-contributing building for this nomination, these vanishing structures are highly noteworthy for their advancement in sanitation design and for the historical period in which they were constructed.

It is a small wood-sided building. There is one section of concrete poured for both the floor and the stool. A wooden seat and lid are still intact. Missing is the ventilation pipe leading from the back of the stool through the roof. The roof is a metal shed roof.

POLE BARN 1986 (o)

This is a modern single open sided barn used for hay storage. The barn is constructed of sheet metal and is non-contributing.

CALF SHED c. 1895 (p) (Photo 32)

Used to shelter young calves during their development.

The shed has rough vertical boards forming the siding. A door leads from the west elevation to the low gabled structure.

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Used to store corn for livestock.

The corncrib is a small structure with horizontal boards spaced for ventilation. A small door is on the east elevation and in the two gable ends are small square doors to assist in filling the crib.

TOMB c. 1822 (r) (Photo 33)

This tomb was used as a temporary shelter to store bodies until the circuit preacher arrived for the burial. It was probably constructed within the first five years of the homestead before a church was established.

The tomb is constructed high on the side of the east bluff of the creek. The interior is a barrel vault of rough-split limestone or fieldstone which has been plastered; hidden under a thin layer of dirt is a brick floor. On the exterior the limestone is concave with a stepped and chiseled edge. The door is dressed limestone, which has cracked with time and the elements, but is held in place by metal straps. The door had been lying on the ground for years but was repaired with the metal straps and rehung in the early 1970s. The two hinges are large with three tines. Over the doorway was placed a slab of marble with an inscription from the King James Bible "I am the resurrection and the life saith the Lord: He that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. John XI Chap. XXV Ver."

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one must start with a short history of the Delaware Indians. Also known as Lenni Lenape, they were living in 1656 on the east coast of North America beside a large river which was named Delaware after Lord De La War, who had an extensive land grant along the waterway. The Indians inhabiting its banks became known as the Delaware.

Due to the encroachment by white English settlers and the powerful confederacy of the Six Nations Indians, the Delaware were driven westward until they were living in western Pennsylvania along the Mahoning River. There they resided until 1784 when they were again driven west and began to settle in Ohio and Indiana. The Delaware in Indiana occupied all the land in east and central Indiana from the White River in the northwest, south to the Ohio before the settlement of the state. Here they remained until they relinquished their lands in the Treaty of St. Mary's of Ohio in 1819 and relocated west of the Mississippi. The land opened to white settlement after the Treaty of St. Mary's was known as the New Purchase.

Dr. Arnold records² that when the treaty was signed there was a tribe of Delaware Indians encamped along the bluffs of the creek in what would become Union Township in Rush County. The tribe was under the leadership of Chief Ben Davis, who was described as a powerful man. The Indians called the creek Mahoning after their former home in Pennsylvania and this name was used by the early white settlers. Part of their village site would become Arnold's home when the land was homesteaded. The tribe was attracted to this part of the country by the open clearing along the floodplain and the natural springs which fed into the creek. The area provided good hunting since the water source and salt-lick, on the eastern bluff, also attracted wildlife. The Indians were reluctant to depart from their lands and Chief Ben Davis refused to sign the New Purchase treaty. The chief was later killed by a white assailant near Brookville in 1820. Although there was still some Indians in the area for a few years the tribe did move farther west according to the treaty agreements. The creek running through Union Township was later renamed Ben Davis Creek after the Delaware Chief.

The treaty of St. Mary's and the survey and division of the land for market opened the New Purchase to white settlers. Rush County received the early wave of settlers since it was on the edge of the New Purchase. The land which now forms Rush County was made up of three main types: 1) Level Uplands, 2) Rolling Uplands, and 3) Terraces or second bottoms.³ The settlement of the county began in the southeast and progressed northwest across the rolling uplands and terrace lands to the level uplands. The rolling uplands were highly preferred as these were located next to the major streams and tributaries. "Purchasing in the early years illustrates dramatically the preferential ranking of land types. By the end of 1822, nearly 40 percent of the county had already been purchased. Of these purchases, however, nearly 60 percent was in the rolling uplands, while less than 40 percent of the terraces and river bottoms, and less than 20 percent of the level uplands had been purchased by this date."⁴ Land sales in Rush County were closed in 1837.

John Arnold purchased the 160 acres in 1820 on the first day of the land sales in Brookville. Arnold's property would be considered rolling uplands as was most

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of Union Township. Arnold was from the Isle of Wight off the coast of England and had come to America with his brother, Richard, in search of land to purchase. He found the land in what would become Rush County "rich, well timbered, well watered by good springs, and sufficiently rolling for surplus water to run off readily".⁵ It is highly probable that the distribution of certain forest species and their location suggested to the early pioneers which lands were more desirable, and influenced which lands were first settled. Dr. John Arnold notes what his father found in Union Township when he first moved to the area: "Not only the number and size of the trees, but also the kinds of timber found here proved the strength and richness of the virgin soil which they shaded. The growth and kinds of timber indicate with infallible certainty to the observant traveler, the quality of the land... This was essentially a beechen country, for this variety largely predominates over any other, and where it grows, as it does here, large and lofty, with but few horizontal branches and dividing into large wide spreading limbs to form the top, it shows a strong and fertile soil; but where it grows small with roots widely spreading over the surface, and a multitude of side branches, the top running to a point, and it perhaps dead, you may conclude that the land is cold and wet and poor, and by no means desirable for agricultural purposes."⁶

Before entering his land, John Arnold agreed to pay a squatter, Samuel Gruell, for his cabin and clearing which was about half an acre. Boarding there temporarily until the sale of the land in October 1820, Arnold then set to improving his land by clearing the acreage and building a new house. It was here that he was joined by his wife, Mary Ann, and children in the following year.

The land John Arnold had purchased was heavily timbered, as was most of Indiana prior to settlement. To the east of the cabin is the area of land which was first cleared for crops. The field paralleled the creek on the southwest edge and was squared at the other corners (Figure 3). The half acre Gruell had cleared was enclosed with a brush fence.⁷ Arnold expanded this acreage with the help of his brother, Issac, who owned a nearby farm, and by hiring men to smacksmooth for ten dollars an acre. These men lived in Gruell's empty cabin while they worked for Arnold.⁸ Later he had a tenant farmer who also was involved in this major task. One of the three methods of clearing land for cultivation was to 1) "deaden the trees"-by slashing the bark and then farming among the deadened trees for a number of years, this was also called girdling; 2) "eighteen inches and under" - all the trees under 18 inches in circumference are felled and burned. The land can be seeded for pasture and after a few years planted in crops; 3) "smacksmooth" - all trees, logs and brush are burned.⁹ This third method was often accomplished by hiring someone to live on the property and clear the land for the owner.¹⁰ Men hired themselves out for this type of labor and then in turn purchased acreage of their own. Arnold used all these methods as did most of the early settlers in Rush County. As time allowed, and the trees had become decayed, the stumps were removed and the fields laid open as they are seen today.

The home John Arnold constructed of square hewn logs was one and a half stories with two rooms below and one above. He had the first wood planking in the area shipped to the farm which was used for the partition, flooring and door frames.

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Arnold had a second house built next to his own for his brother, Issac, and his family. It was a two story home with a central chimney. They lived there for a year until Issac purchased land east of his brother's. In return for the work on his brother's house, John sold the carpenter, John Shirley, a 32 acre section on the east edge of the farm. This section was again acquired by the family before the 1850s. Other common cabins of round log construction were built nearby, in the settlement area which developed. Arnold operated the first post office in the county and soon he added a porch and storeroom to his house for use as a general store. While engaged with the store Arnold hired a tenant farmer, who lived in his brothers old house, to clear and work the land. People began gathering in the small settlement for Sunday church meetings, musters and horse races, which were held on the open flood-plain beside the creek. John Arnold also brought a library of 500 volumes from England to his home. An unusual occurrence on the frontier, this library attracted to his home and store persons who were able to read and sought material.

The first Union Church in the township was established soon after the Arnold home was built. During the period of 1820-24 a tomb was constructed in the hillside of the east bluff, high above the creek. The interior with its barrel vault of split limestone and fieldstone was plastered and had a brick floor. The doorway was a solid piece of limestone set into a concave stepped entrance. Above the door is the inscription "I am the Resurrection and the Life" from John 11:25. The tomb was constructed soon after the homestead was established. The bodies were held until the circuit preacher could arrive for a Christian burial. The area in the grove of trees just above (north of) the tomb was used as a cemetery until 1859-77 when the remains were moved to East Hill Cemetery outside of Rushville. Several of the old headstones remain in the area of the cemetery.

Arnold's settlement of his land occurred prior to the 1822 organization of Rush County. The land had formerly been part of Franklin County and was acquired by the New Purchase from the Indians in 1819. The name Rush was suggested by Dr. William B. Laughlin, who was in the legislature representing Franklin County. Laughlin had been a pupil and friend of Dr. Benjamin Rush, of Philadelphia. Dr. Laughlin, his sons, and others had surveyed all the land when it was acquired from the Indians to have the area ready for land sales. He along with Zachariah Hodges donated land for the county seat of Rushville.

In 1824 John Arnold and his family left the homestead in the hands of a tenant farmer and moved to Cincinnati. There he was engaged in the clothing business for two years before moving to Aurora, Indiana where he had a store of general merchandise. After the death of his wife, John Arnold returned to the farm in Rush County in the following year of 1827. The farm had been rented in his absence to Edward Swanson who stayed on until 1828. During that year Swanson shot and killed a man on the property following one of the local musters. He escaped but later was caught and tried for murder. His hanging was the only one ever to take place in Rush County. According to published reports¹¹ Swanson's body was claimed by friends who secretly buried the corpse on one man's farm. Over 100 years later a skeleton was found protruding from a creek bank located on property once owned by this man. The bones were removed, and examination found the man died of a broken neck. Coffin nails, now owned by the

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Arnold family, were found with the skeleton and are typical of the 1828 period. The bones were again interred in the 1970s on the Arnold property, near the cabin. Ironically the skeleton is buried only a few hundred feet from the murder site.

John Arnold resumed his role as postmaster and operated his general store for a period of ten years. His farm and settlement catered to several transient families at a time, who were settling or passing through the area. By 1833 Arnold had made a number of improvements to this farm. His journal dated in that year lists some of the following buildings and fixtures: "water gates, dwelling house (67' x 25"), barn and cattle shed, corn crib and stables, cattle shed, spring house, stable, smoke house, ashes house, privy, cyder press, brick oven, cottage."¹² Areas of his farm had been given names reminiscent of England such as New Garden, Raven's Wood, and Springfield. A few of these names are still in use today. Arnold's journal entries of 1833 and 1841 also list the livestock to be found on his farm. He raised cattle, sheep and hogs which are very typical for farms in Rush County. "Hogs are Rush Counties claim to fame and justly so. It has always ranked as the leading hog-producing county in Indiana, and in 1860 there were more hogs produced in Rush County than in any other county in the U.S."¹³ Part of the rolling land on Arnold's farm is naturally inclined towards pasture. In the early days hogs were allowed to forage for themselves in the woods feasting on the abundant supply of acorns and beechnuts. Such a method of management often resulted in straying or lost herds. "By the turn of the century most of the woodland was gone and the hogs were confined to the farm and eating large amount of corn."¹⁴ The corn cribs which developed for easier feeding were usually portable and routinely moved to clean pasture to prevent hog cholera. As the availability of good splitting timber disappeared they were replaced by wire cribs or drying bins. The Arnold farm still has two good corn cribs dating from 1880 and 1915, which reflect this improvement in farm management.

The Arnold's oldest child and only son was also named John. He attended an academy run by Dr. William B. Laughlin in Rushville for one year before enrolling at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio in 1830. After four years at the university he began the study of medicine with Dr. Jefferson Helm in what is now Glenwood in eastern Rush County. Upon receiving his license to practice medicine in 1836, John formed a practice with Dr. Helm with whom he was associated for five years. Following a trip to England for health reasons in 1841, Dr. Arnold established a practice in Connersville for ten years. He had married Sarah Ann Ball in December 1838. Sarah was the daughter of Abner Bell, one of the first settlers of Fayette County. The couple had four children.

In 1852, Dr. Arnold purchased the homestead from his father who later moved to Connersville and resided there until his death in 1864. Dr. Arnold erected a handsome Gothic Revival home in 1853 from plans which came from England. The home was constructed by J. T. and William E. Smith who completed the final specifications and built the home for the sum of \$2,220. The structure is an outstanding example of a Gothic Revival farmhouse and one of the few examples of this style in Rush County. The two-story frame home is enriched with vergeboard at the eaves of its five gables and the peaks have ornate finials. The front center bay and two side porches were

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altered at the turn of the century for a wrap-around porch but all other details remain essentially intact. Besides the farmhouse there are two other buildings which represent this period, the milkhouse, and the privy, both in excellent condition.

Dr. Arnold's journal of 1859-1872 offers a good glimpse of how the farm was being managed during the 1860s. The farmland had continued to be cleared for cultivation avoiding those areas which were wet or swampy. Dr. Arnold employed a farm hand in 1862 to "clear a piece of land north of the clover field, he is to make it ready for the plow for \$22.00".¹⁵ His method of clearing land by deadening the trees is confirmed by his next entry: "On the 19th (January) hired F. Short to clear the dead(e)ning in hog lot at \$8.00 per acre to be made ready for the plow".¹⁶ The fields were delineated by rail fences, as were the garden and dooryard. The garden and orchard were south of the house and included peach, cherry and apple trees. The livestock of cattle, hogs and sheep as well as the work horses occupied the pasture lands located between the fields. (Figure 4) The livestock and horses were often turned into the stubble or orchards to forage. By this time Arnold had purchased additional land across the road (450 East) which was used for pasture. The family had also purchased 80 acres once owned by Issac Arnold's son-in-law, John Horlock. Lying east of the homestead it was called Walnut Grove Farm and was occupied by the Doctor's son, John, Jr. Products listed as being sold from the Arnold farm included wool, bacon, wheat, hide and hickory nuts. The family also raised corn and oats, the majority of which probably went towards the feeding of the livestock. Built during the 1860s was a granary, constructed of wide planks, the building is still used as a outbuilding for farm equipment.

Arnold's journal goes on to mention the cycling of land, with clover or timothy being planted for one or two years followed by wheat or corn. An early method of rejuvenation for the soil, chemical fertilizers were not used until 1914. Although the land is rolling in places with good drainage, certain spots were prone towards holding water. Removal of the forest added to the problem of increased surface runoff. To provide better crops this excess water had to be removed before damage occurred. Arnold's method of field drainage is described in his journal: "Dug a ditch in the field north of the old barn over 3 feet deep. Put in oak and walnut timbers. There had been a shallow one in the same place which only lasted 6 years. This I calculate will last 12."¹⁷ Clay tile became available by the 1870s and was popularly accepted. The Arnold's installed these tiles in the last quarter of the 19th century where there was trouble with standing water. The tiles are still in use today and their placement is noted in Figure 5. From examination and comparison of all the farm improvements (Figure 7) and the aerial map (Figure 8) one can note where these wet areas and tiling are located.

Dr. Arnold and his wife lived on the farm until 1877 when his wife's ill health forced them to move to Rushville where he continued his medical practice. Although Dr. Arnold and his father had been involved in all the farming and livestock operations, they had tenant farmers working the land during part of their ownership. This was because both had been involved with their own business interests, merchandising and medicine. Dr. Arnold's sons, William and John Jr. are listed with their wives as living at Arnold's Home in the 1879 Atlas.¹⁸ They were helping their father with the

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farm by the 1860s and are occasionally mentioned in his journal. Since this period all family members have been farmers and have worked the land as a unit.

From the dates of the many remaining outbuildings one can see small expansions in construction of the farm service buildings beginning around 1880 and 1900. This progression marks the total involvement of Dr. Arnold's sons and the later ownership by John Jr. and his wife, Alice Clifford, who inherited the farm in 1899. These buildings and structures are good examples of the type of vernacular construction being used in agricultural buildings during those times. The large cattle barn with its hand hewn beams, pegging and pinned construction is an excellent example of the nineteenth century pin-frame barns built across Indiana.

By the turn of the century the farm was beginning to take the form it has today. The woods between the fields had been cleared and were bordered by fences. The family continued to raise livestock and were using horses for heavy farm work. Crops grown during this period included corn and wheat. In 1910, the field in the southwest corner of the farm (Figure 6) was enlarged to its present configuration, with tiling added for drainage. Modern methods which were being used included the farm's first tractor. Although chemical fertilizers were being instituted on the farm by this time period, soybeans were often grown to add nutrients to the soil instead of being a cash crop. The last three acres of current cropland, known as Hickory Grove, was cleared in 1950. The land was not cleared earlier due to its swampy terrain.

The farm has continued to be passed down in the family by inheritance (Figure 9). John Jr. deeded the farm to his son, Richard in 1934. Richard was unmarried and the farm passed to his brother, Harvey, and wife, Grace, in 1943. The present owners, Clarence and Eleanor Arnold, have owned the farm since 1976. The original 160 acres marks only a small portion of the land now owned by the Arnold's. It has been a family tradition since 1820, when John and his brother, Issac, farmed together, that the family has worked as a unit. The big extension of the farm unit was in 1950 when the Arnold's made a move towards the larger machinery of that period. Today the family unit is made up of Clarence Arnold, and his brother, Harvey, plus Clarence's son, John. Together they farm approximately 1,100 acres under varying combinations of ownership, bordering or near the original homestead. Although not the largest farm in the county, this total number of acres represents how much the family can farm with their own labor and today's smaller equipment.¹⁹

Arnold's Home is an excellent example of how a pioneer homestead has moved into the twentieth century under the ownership of one family. The farm has had few changes in field size or pattern since 1920, and is still active in agriculture production. The integrity of the land is intact due to the family's sensitivity to the history of the farm, house and outbuildings.

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FOOTNOTES

¹Personal Interview with Dr. Gertrude Ward, Joseph Moore Museum, Richmond, Indiana, January 1989.

²Dr. John Arnold, "Reminiscences of an Old Settler: Paper 1". Rushville Weekly Republican, 9 January 1875.

³Wayne E. Kiefer. Rush County, Indiana a Study in Rural Settlement Geography. Geographic Monograph Series, 2 Volumes, (Indiana University: Department of Geography, 1969), p. 2:27.

⁴Kiefer, p. 30.

⁵Arnold, "Reminiscences: Paper 16", 21 November 1875.

⁶Arnold, "Reminiscences: Paper 23", 26 February 1876.

⁷Arnold, "Reminiscences: Paper 16", 21 November 1875.

⁸Arnold, "Reminiscences: Paper 17", 7 December 1875.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Kiefer, p. 40.

¹¹Mary Alexander and Capatolo Dill, Sketches of Rush County, Indiana. (Rushville: Jacksonian Publishing Company, 1915).

¹²John Arnold, "Farm Journal and Store Accounts", (Unpublished, 1833-1841), p. 1.

¹³Kiefer, p. 91.

¹⁴Kiefer, p. 95.

¹⁵Dr. John Arnold, "Farm Journal", (Unpublished, 1859-1872), pp. 66-67.

¹⁶Arnold, "Farm Journal", p. 67.

¹⁷Arnold, "Farm Journal", p. 52.

¹⁸Atlas of Rush County, Indiana. (Chicago: Lakeside Building Corp., 1879; Reprinted Knightstown, IN: The Bookmark, 1974), p. 22.

¹⁹Personal Interview with Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, 27 January 1989.

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Arnold, Dr. John. "Farm Journal". Unpublished personal records, 1859-1872.

Arnold, Dr. John. "Reminiscences of an Old Settler" RUSHVILLE WEEKLY REPUBLICAN Papers published on the following dates:

Paper 1	9 January 1875
Paper 4	20 February 1875
Paper 5	6 March 1875
Paper 7	10 April 1875
Paper 10	23 June 1875
Paper 15	6 November 1875
Paper 16	21 November 1875
Paper 23	26 February 1876

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Boundary Justification (continued)

intact since 1920. The Arnold's Home Farmstead is an excellent example of an original Indiana homestead owned by one family, and is worthy of preservation.

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Section number PHOTOS Page 1 Arnold, Dr. John, Farm

PHOTOGRAPHS

Information is the same for all photographs*

1. Arnold's Home*
2. Rushville, Indiana (vicinity)*
3. Marsh Davis*
4. September 26, 1988*
5. Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana*

6. Camera pointing southeast, across Springfield, toward creek and settlement area.
7. #1

6. Camera pointing southwest from creek ford, across Springfield, to main house.
7. #2

6. Camera pointing northeast, across field and pasture, to south side of main house and outbuildings.
7. #3

6. Camera pointing west, iron fence gate.
7. #4

6. Camera pointing east, along allee to main house.
7. #5

6. Camera pointing northeast, south and west facades of main house.
7. #6

6. Camera pointing north, roof and gable detail of south facade.
7. #7

6. Camera pointing southwest, house and fence from rear.
7. #8

6. Camera pointing northeast, following line of stairs to second floor.
7. #9

6. Camera pointing west, sitting room looking into stairhall.
7. #10

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- 6. Camera pointing southwest, sitting room.
- 7. #11

- 6. Camera pointing north, sitting room.
- 7. #12

- 6. Camera pointing northeast, sitting room looking into dining room.
- 7. #13

- 6. Camera pointing north, parlor.
- 7. #14

- 6. Camera pointing west, "coffin doors" in parlor.
- 7. #15

- 6. Camera pointing east, dining room with kitchen beyond.
- 7. #16

- 6. Camera pointing south, kitchen with pantry beyond.
- 7. #17

- 6. Camera pointing northwest, front bedroom with stairhall beyond door.
- 7. #18

- 6. Camera pointing west, middle bedroom with front bedroom beyond door.
- 7. #19

- 6. Camera pointing north, rear bedroom.
- 7. #20

- 6. Camera pointing northeast, smokehouse.
- 7. #21

- 6. Camera pointing southwest, milkhouse
- 7. #22

- 6. Camera pointing southeast, privy
- 7. #23

- 6. Camera pointing southwest, toolshed
- 7. #24

- 6. Camera pointing northeast, buggy shed/garage
- 7. #25

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6. Camera pointing east, chicken house to right, looking toward Springfield
and east bluff.

7. #26

6. Camera pointing northwest, granary.

7. #27

6. Camera pointing northeast, corn crib.

7. #28

6. Camera pointing north, across field to crib/shed.

7. #29

6. Camera pointing northeast, cattle barn and fields.

7. #30

6. Camera pointing southeast, log house/cabin.

7. #31

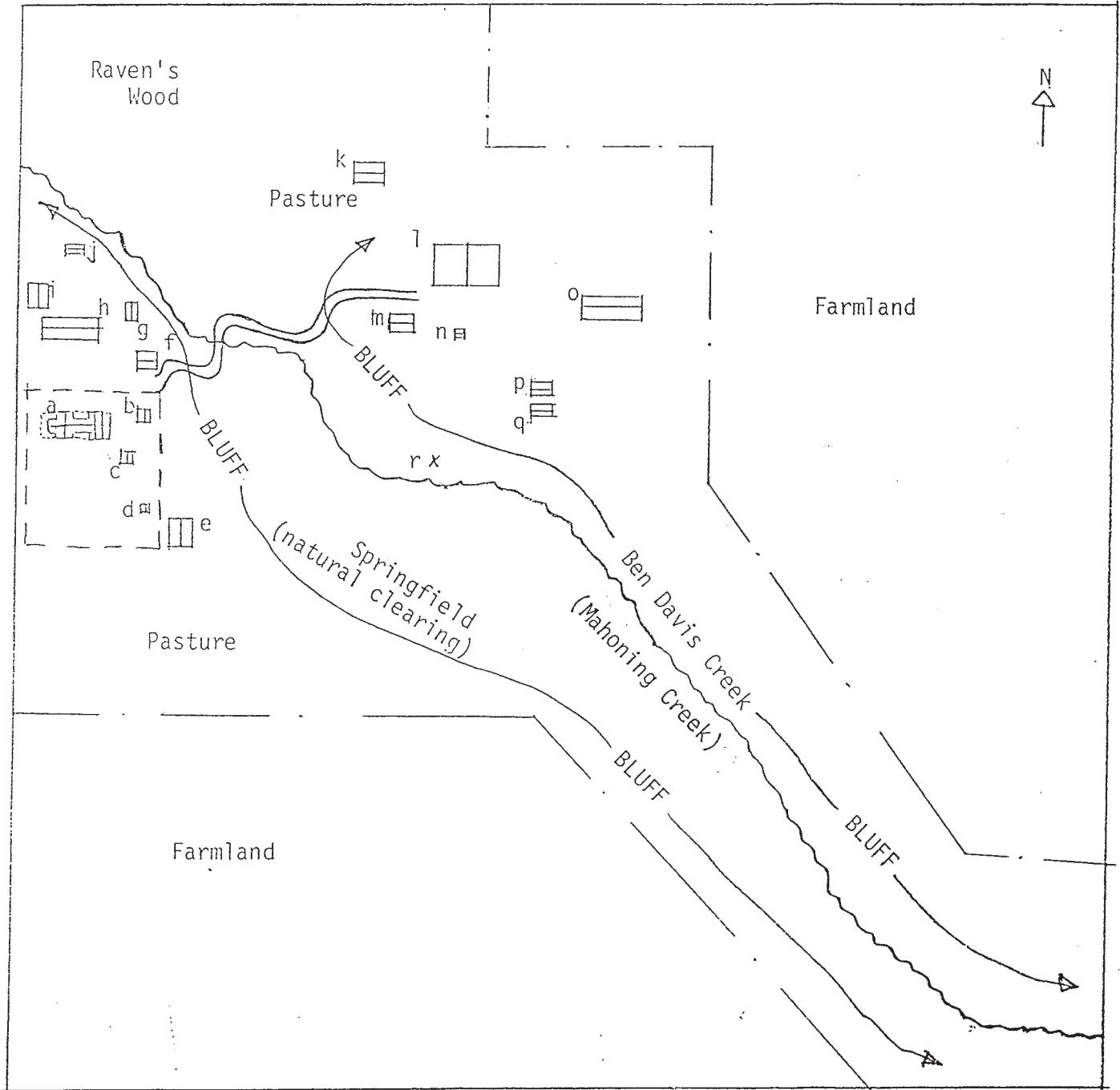
6. Camera pointing southeast, calf shed and crib, with fields beyond.

7. #32

6. Camera pointing northeast, tomb.

7. #33

Site Plan 160 acres
(Not to scale)



KEY TO BUILDINGS

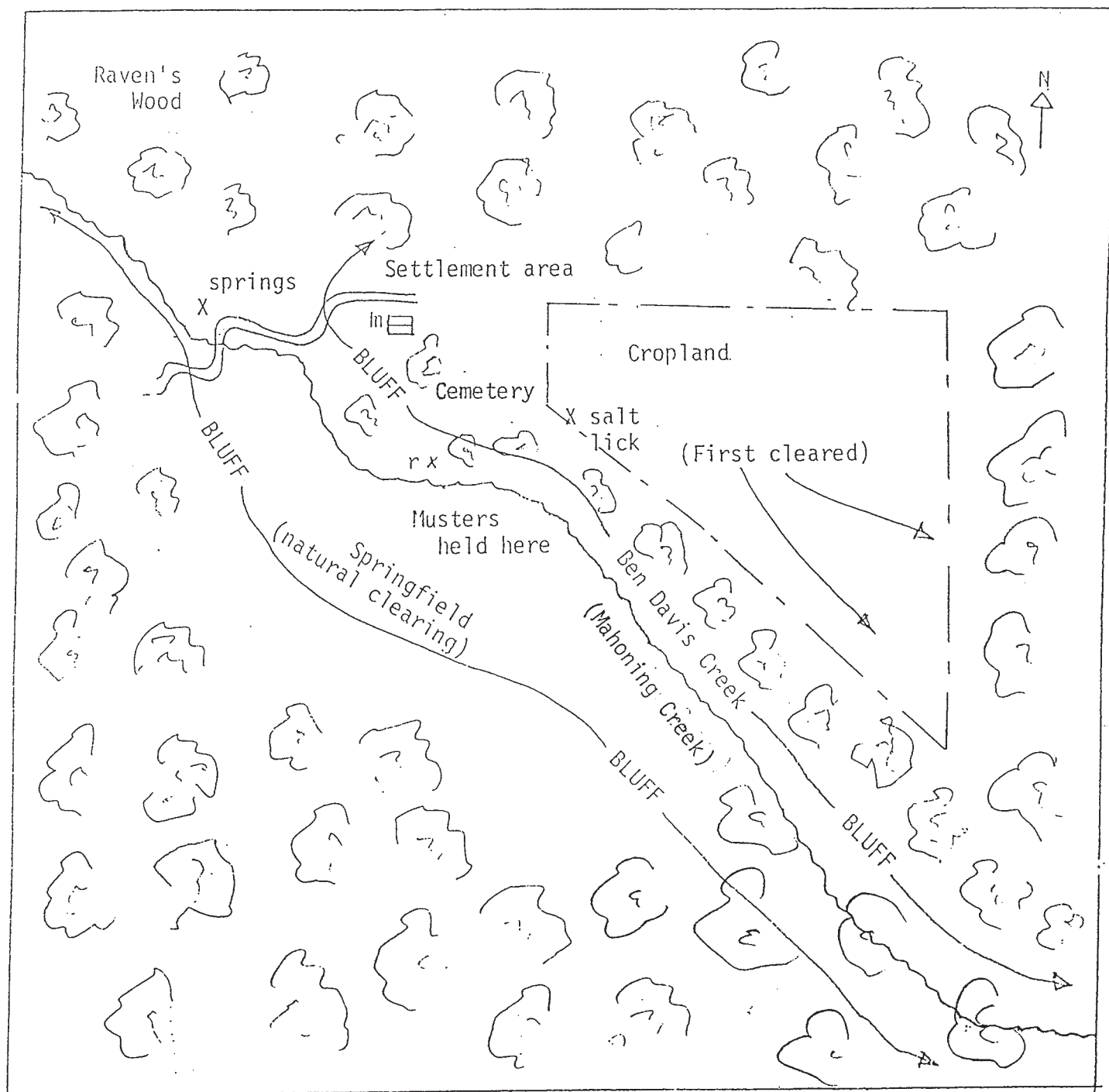
All buildings are contributing except those noted.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| a. Farmhouse, 1853 | j. Corn Crib, c. 1860 |
| b. Smokehouse, c. 1900 | k. Crib/Shed, c. 1880 |
| c. Milkhouse, c. 1853 | l. Cattle Barn, 1900 |
| d. Privy, c. 1853 (moved) | m. Cabin, 1820/1965 |
| e. Tool Shed, c. 1915 | n. WPA Privy, c. 1935 (moved) (NC) |
| f. Buggy Shed/Garage, c. 1880 | o. Pole Barn, 1986 (NC) |
| g. Chicken House, c. 1915 | p. Calf Shed, c. 1895 |
| h. Pole Barn, 1960 (NC) | q. Corn Crib, c. 1915 |
| i. Granary, c. 1865 | r. Tomb, c. 1822 |

Site Plan 160 acres
(Not to scale)

FARM IMPROVEMENTS

YEAR 1825



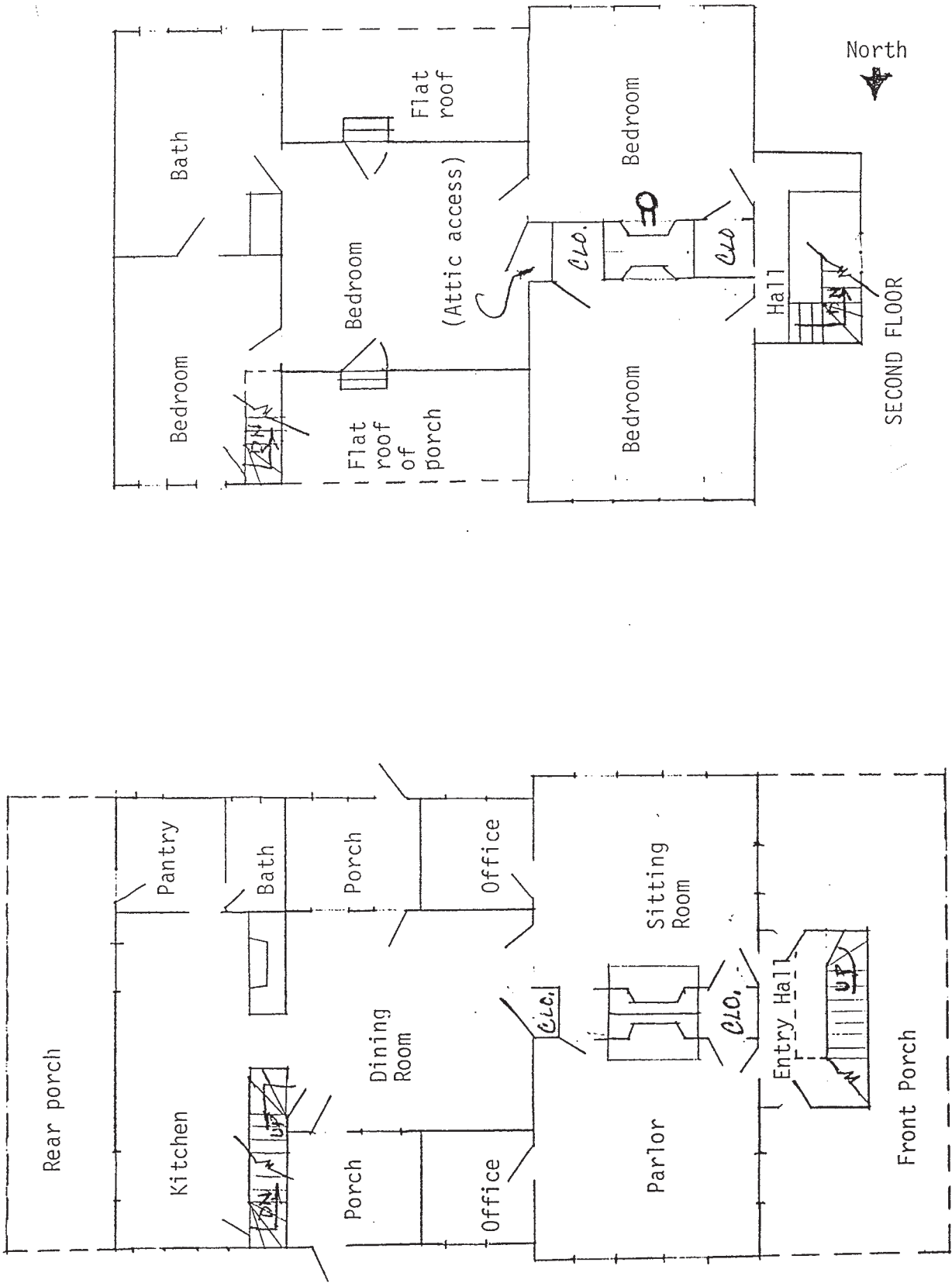
KEY TO BUILDINGS

- m. Cabin, 1820
- r. Tomb, c. 1822

AREAS OF INTEREST

- Settlement area
- Muster ground/floodplain
- Springs
- Salt lick
- Cemetery (active use until 1859)

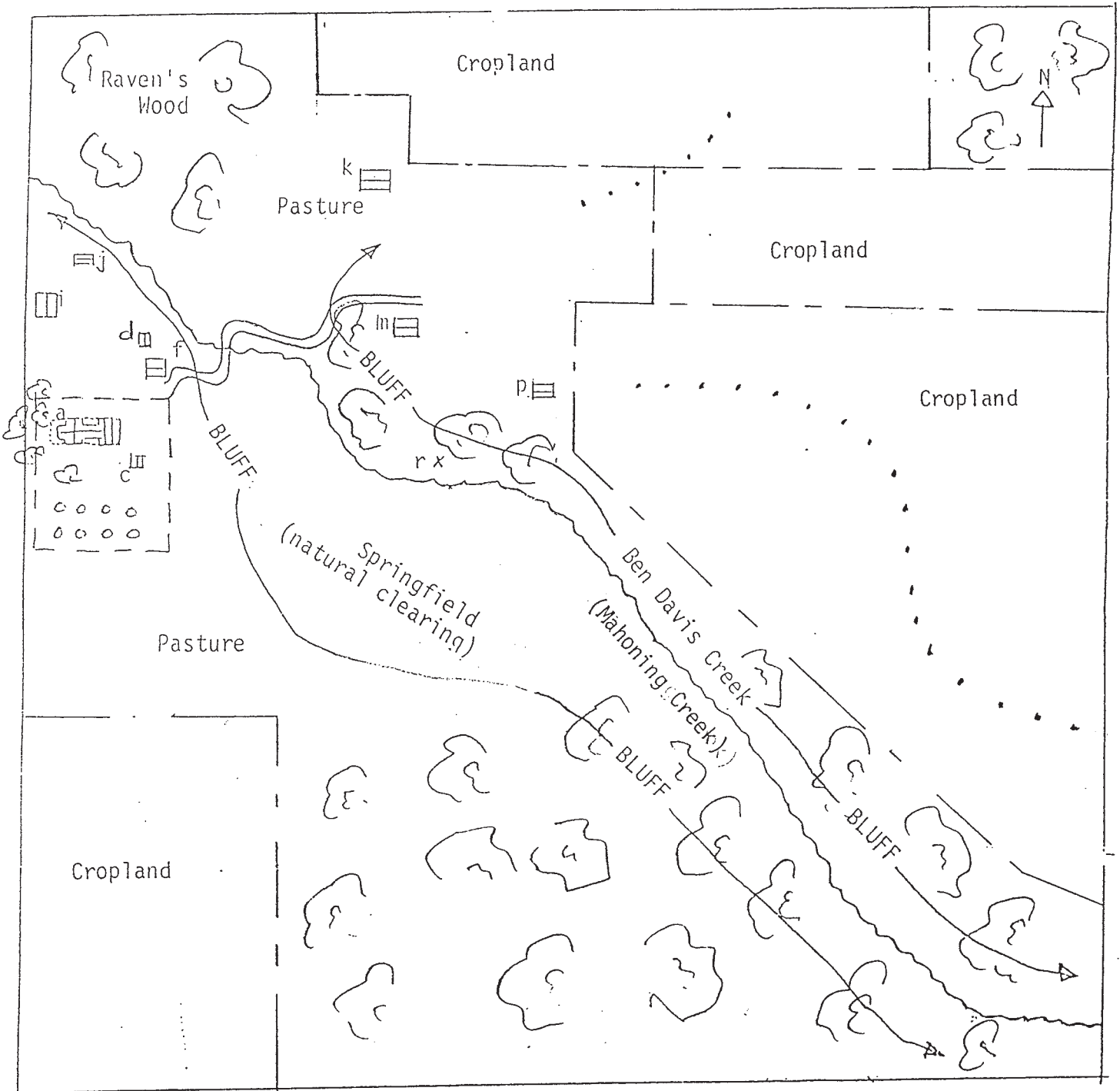
FIGURE 2



ARNOLD'S HOME: SKETCH PLAN

(Not to scale)

Site Plan 160 acres
(Not to scale)



KEY TO BUILDINGS

- a. Farmhouse, 1853
- c. Milkhouse, c. 1853
- d. Privy, c. 1853 (moved)
- f. Buggy Shed/Garage, c. 1880
- i. Granary, c. 1865
- j. Corn Crib, c. 1860
- k. Crib/Shed, c. 1880
- m. Cabin, 1820/1965
- p. Calf Shed, c. 1895

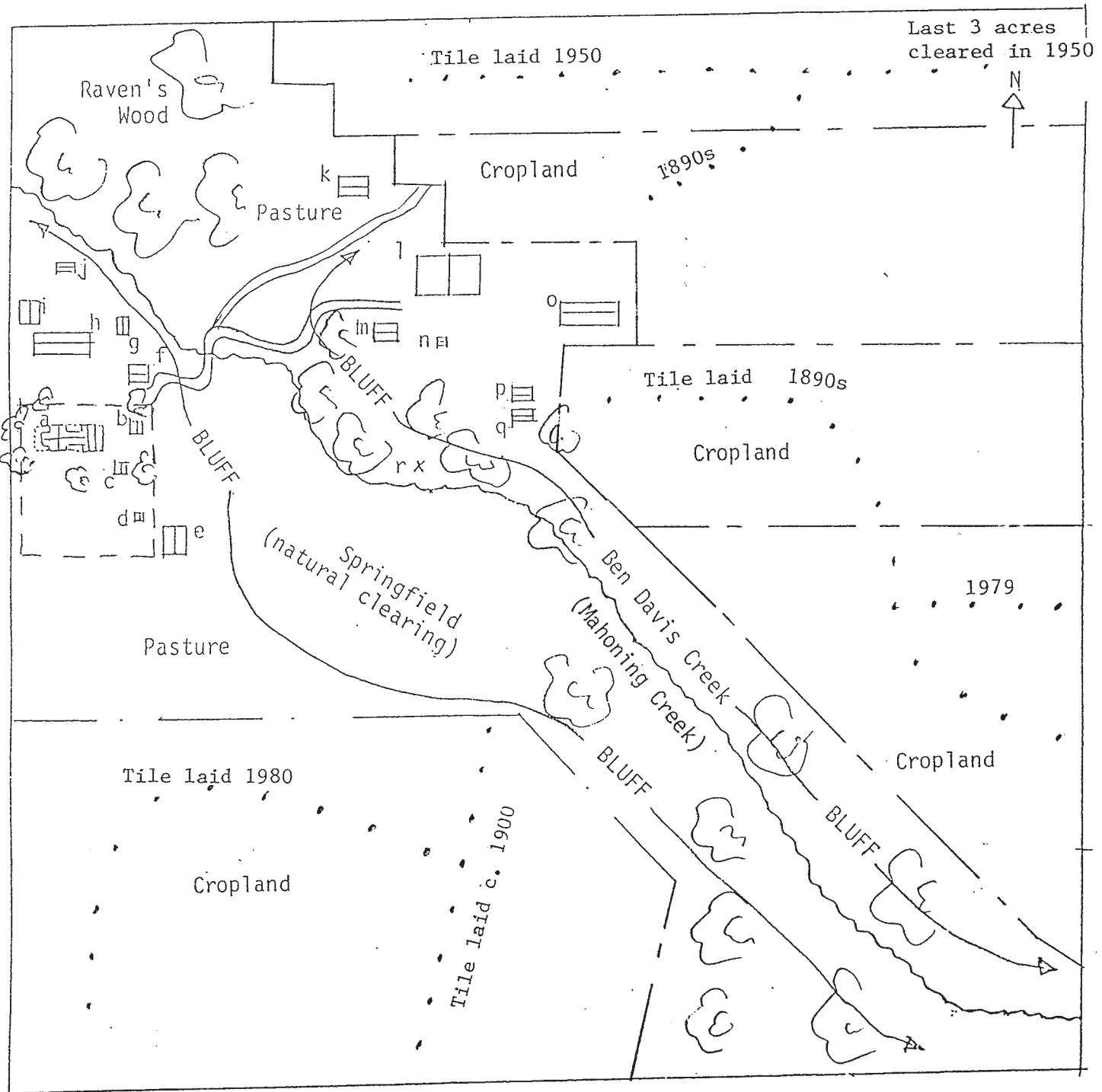
r. Tomb, c. 1822

SYMBOLS

- Tiles
- Fences - - - - -
- Woods

Site Plan 160 acres
(Not to scale)

FARM IMPROVEMENTS UP TO 1989






KEY TO BUILDINGS

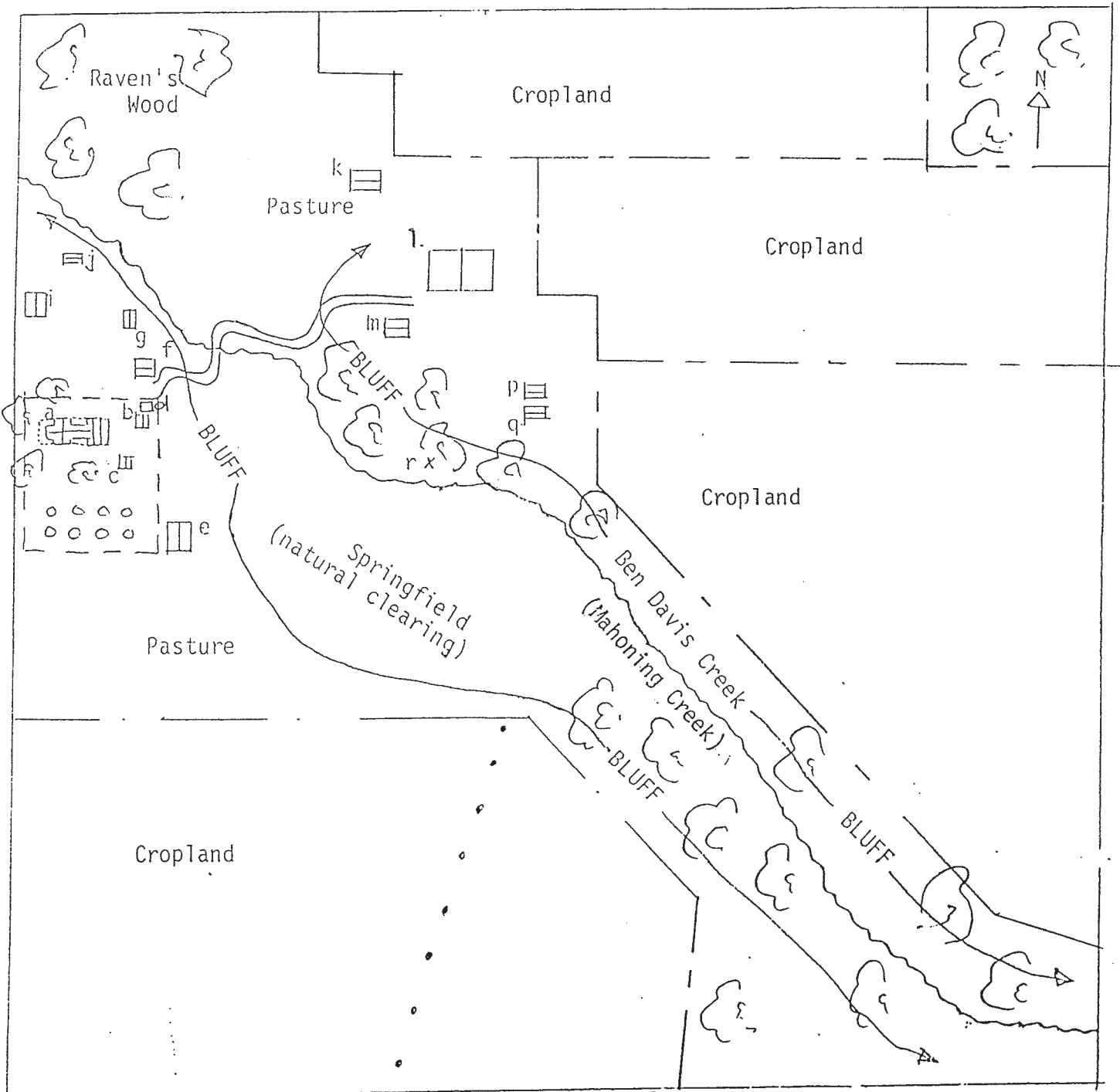
All buildings are contributing except those noted.

- a. Farmhouse, 1853
- b. Smokehouse, c. 1900
- c. Milkhouse, c. 1853
- d. Privy, c. 1853 (moved)
- e. Tool Shed, c. 1915
- f. Buggy Shed/Garage, c. 1880
- g. Chicken House, c. 1915
- h. Pole Barn, 1960 (NC)
- i. Granary, c. 1865

- j. Corn Crib, c. 1860
- k. Crib/Shed, c. 1880
- l. Cattle Barn, 1900
- m. Cabin, 1820/1965
- n. WPA Privy, c. 1935 (moved) (NC)
- o. Pole Barn, 1986 (NC)
- p. Calf Shed, c. 1895
- q. Corn Crib, c. 1915
- r. Tomb, c. 1822

SYMBOLS

- Tiles 
- Wire Fences 
- Woods 



KEY TO BUILDINGS

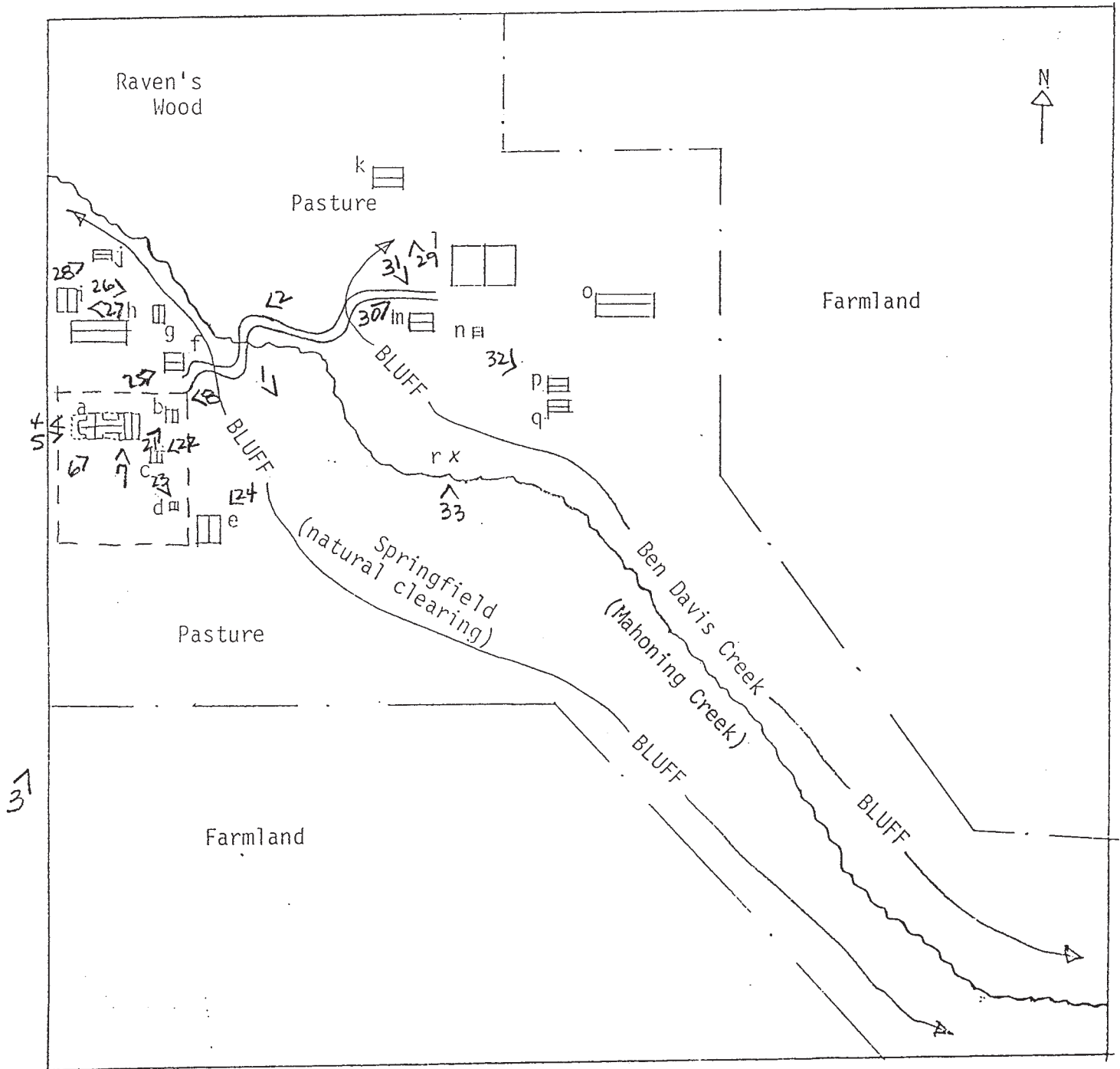
- a. Farmhouse, 1853
- b. Smokehouse, c. 1900
- c. Milkhouse, c. 1953
- d. Privy, c. 1853 (moved)
- e. Tool Shed, c. 1915
- f. Buggy Shed/Garage 1880
- g. Chicken House, c. 1915
- i. Granary, c. 1865
- j. Corn Crib, c. 1860

- k. Crib/Shed, c. 1880
- l. Cattle Barn, 1900
- m. Cabin, 1820/1965
- p. Calf Shed, c. 1895
- q. Corn Crib, c. 1915
- r. Tomb, c. 1822

SYMBOLS

- Tiles • • •
- Fences - - - -
- Woods ☁

Site Plan 160 acres
(Not to scale)

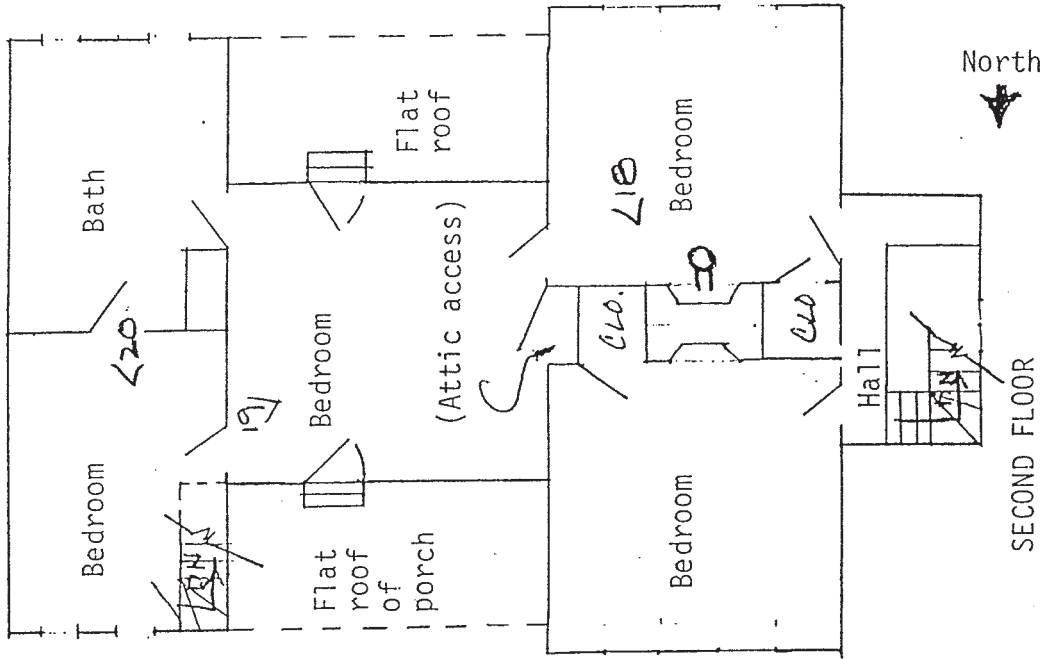
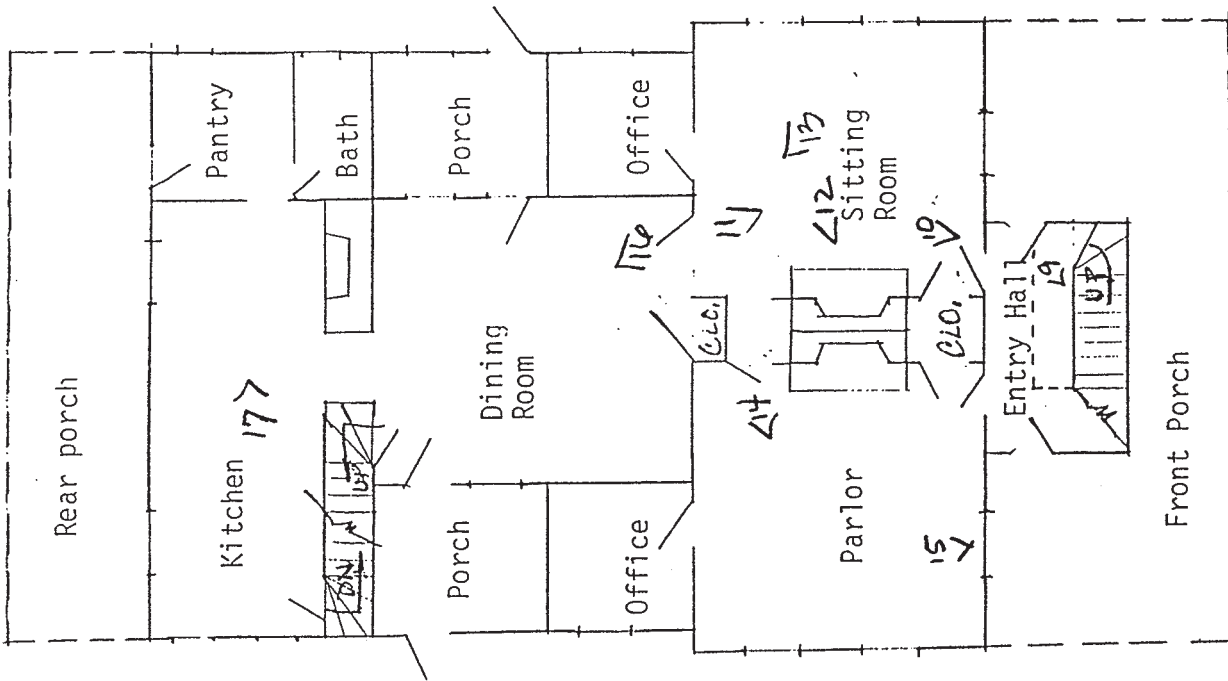


KEY TO BUILDINGS

All buildings are contributing except those noted.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| a. Farmhouse, 1853 | j. Corn Crib, c. 1860 |
| b. Smokehouse, c. 1900 | k. Crib/Shed, c. 1880 |
| c. Milkhouse, c. 1853 | l. Cattle Barn, 1900 |
| d. Privy, c. 1853 (moved) | m. Cabin, 1820/1965 |
| e. Tool Shed, c. 1915 | n. WPA Privy, c. 1935 (moved) (NC) |
| f. Buggy Shed/Garage, c. 1880 | o. Pole Barn, 1986 (NC) |
| g. Chicken House, c. 1915 | p. Calf Shed, c. 1895 |
| h. Pole Barn, 1960 (NC) | q. Corn Crib, c. 1915 |
| i. Granary, c. 1865 | r. Tomb, c. 1822 |

PHOTOGRAPH MAP



ARNOLD'S HOME: SKETCH PLAN

(Not to scale)