

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 O' Hair, James Edington Montgomery, House

other names/site number J.E.M. O' Hair House, 133-250-20020

2. Location

street & number U. S. 231 1/2 mile south of 500 North N/A not for publication

city, town Brick Chapel vicinity

state IN code IN county Putnam code 133 zip code 46135

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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.

Signature of certifying official Richard R. Kalita
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Date 10-28-91

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)
DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: I-House
EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal
LATE VICTORIAN: Stick/Eastlake

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone
walls BRICK
STONE: limestone
roof ASPHALT
other CONCRETE

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The James Edington Montgomery O'Hair House stands in rural Monroe Township of Putnam County, Indiana. The site, which is about six miles due north of the county seat of Greencastle, is shaded by mature deciduous trees. The house and a small wood frame shed are all that remains of the J.E.M. O'Hair farm. The shed is now under separate ownership and is not part of this nomination.

Fronting toward U.S. 231, the O'Hair House is a two-story brick I-House with a medium pitch side-facing gable roof. The house rests on a limestone foundation. The house was built in two sections: the west wing was erected c.1835 and an east-west ell was added (or perhaps replaced) in 1863. The form and massing of the west wing conform to the widely-recognized I-House type. Many details of the west wing reflect the influence of the Federal style. For example, the flat arch lintels, simple cornice, and interior woodwork are in the Federal vernacular.

The main facade faces west (Photo 1). Brick walls on this elevation bear an intriguing discrepancy: the first floor has flemish bond brick work, while the second story is of common bond. It is possible that the second story was added to a basic central-passage cottage. However, if so, it seems that the addition of a second story was done within several years after the initial construction of the house.

The symmetrical west elevation of the west wing has five bays: a central doorway flanked by two windows on either side. All first story openings on this side have tall flat arch lintels with stone sills. The central entry consists of a multi-paneled wood door with sidelights and transom. Windows are two-over-two wood double hung sash. On the west wing, this window type is likely a mid-1800s replacement; originals were probably six-over-six sash. The two-over-two type is found consistently on all elevations unless otherwise noted. The second story duplicates the first, except that the doorway has no transom.

A simple wood cornice caps the entire two story section. The side gabled roof has asphalt shingles.

Several different porch designs have covered the front of the house at various times in its history. The first porch on the house was likely a two level portico covering only the entry, similar to that on the Lusk house in Parke County (NRHP, 10-29-74).

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)
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
c.1835-c.1880

Significant Dates
c.1835
1863
c.1880

Cultural Affiliation
NA

Significant Person
NA

Architect/Builder
Unknown

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

The James Edington Montgomery O'Hair House meets Criterion C as one of the best examples of a vernacular I-House in Putnam County, Indiana. The O'Hair House is also architecturally significant for its intact Federal style detailing, especially its interior woodwork. Examples of Federal architecture are rare in rural Indiana, even more so in Putnam County. The rear ell of 1863, with interior features remodeled in c.1880, is a good example of late nineteenth century domestic design. In all, the house is a unique representative of the early and late 1800s, and, of course, of the prosperity of J.E.M. O'Hair and his family.

In Putnam County, as elsewhere in Indiana, the I-House became symbolic of permanent settlement and profitable agriculture; they were the second or third generation of dwelling following pioneer log cabins on subsistence farms. Putnam County was established in 1821 and settled by Upland Southerners mainly from Kentucky. It appears that they brought the I-House tradition with them. Indeed, a number of existing I-Houses exhibit Georgian hip roofs rather than gable roofs. Montell and Morse have recognized this variant in Kentucky (Kentucky Folk Architecture, Figure 15). The I-House was likely quite popular in Putnam County, yet as of 1982 only 18 were known to exist. Of these 18, only 6 were rated "outstanding" by the 1982 Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory (outstanding is the highest rating). The O'Hair House is among the oldest and most significant of these.

The story of the O'Hair family is a microcosm of the settlement of Putnam County. J.E.M. O'Hair's father, Michael O'Hair, came to America from County Down, Ireland in 1775. He settled in Virginia and fought in the Revolutionary War in Captain John Hay's Ninth Virginia Regiment, serving under Generals Morgan and Green in several southern campaigns. Shortly afterwards, Michael O'Hair moved to what is now known as Jessamine County, Kentucky, and married Eleanor Hawkins. After Eleanor's death, he married Elizabeth Tribbett in 1794. The O'Hairs later moved to Hazel Green, Wolfe County, Kentucky. James Edington Montgomery O'Hair was born in 1804, the sixth child of his father's second wife.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Atlas of Putnam County, Indiana. Chicago: J. H. Beers & Co., 1879.

Biographical and Historical Record of Putnam County, Indiana. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1887.

Brann, Mrs. Gerald. "The Michael O'Hair Family," No Publisher, May 1957.

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. Putnam County Interim Report. Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. 1982.

Lake, D. J. and A. Warner. Map of Putnam County, Indiana. Philadelphia: Cowles and Titus, 1864.

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 1.02

UTM References

A

1	6	5	1	1	3	2	0	4	3	9	7	2	1	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

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

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

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

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description A part of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 21, Township 15 North, Range 4 West of the Second Principal Meridian, more particularly described, to-wit:

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification The boundary includes the most architecturally important building associated with J.E.M. O'Hair. A small shed of little architectural significance, now under different ownership, is not included.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David C. Arnold

organization _____ date January 16, 1991

street & number R. R. 3, Box 512 telephone 317/653-1260

city or town Greencastle state IN zip code 46135

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 O'Hair House

Later in the 1800s, (probably in 1863 when the rear wing was remodeled or added) an arcaded Italianate porch was installed. Its ghost marks are visible today (Photo 1, also see zerox copy). About c.1915, brick piers were added to shore up the porch in a manner similar to the north porch. Prior to 1982, the Italianate porch was removed, leaving only the piers seen today.

The south gable end of the west wing has no openings on the first and second stories. The chimney on this end projects from the wall, but is not completely external. Brick is laid in common bond. Two small square openings infilled with boards flank the chimney in the gable end.

The north gable end (photos 2 and 4) has no openings. A shed roofed porch extends from the rear section partially across the north gable. It features Queen Anne or Eastlake style ornamentation. Turned posts with crocket-like brackets support a frieze of cut-out oculi. The half gable has vertical boards and false half timbering. Brick piers were added c.1915 to shore up the porch.

The rear or east elevation of the west wing has three openings (Photo 3). To the south is a wood door with blocked transom. A single one-over-one window is north of the door. On the second story, directly over the door, is a window.

The one-and one-half story east-west wing obscures the rest of the two-story portion of the house. It is of common bond brick construction and has a gambrel-like roof (Photos 2, 3, and 4). The previously described north porch shelters a glazed door with transom.

Along the north elevation of the rear ell are, from west to east, a paired window grouping, a single window, and a paneled door. All openings on the rear ell have simple stone sills and lintels. A gabled wood dormer stands above the window pair.

The east elevation has three symmetrically placed windows, two on the first floor and one in the gable end.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 O'Hair House

The south wall of the ell has, from east to west, two transomed doors leading to a concrete stoop or patio and a window. A dormer is roughly centered in the roof.

The interior of the west wing of the O'Hair House has the plan one might expect of a typical I-House. A central stair hall is flanked by parlors on the first floor, and bedrooms on the second floor. Upon entering the house, one is met by a handsome stair hall (Photos 5 and 5A). Finishes common to the house found here include wide wood flooring and plaster walls and ceilings. Simply detailed wide baseboards and chair rails are common to the first story of the west wing. All door and window surrounds on the first story consist of fluted boards with bull-eye corner blocks.

Rising from the north wall of the stair hall is a simple Federal style stair case with a delicate turned newell post and simple balusters. A bathroom is found under the stairs, and a door at the east end of the stair hall leads to the rear ell.

South of the stair hall is a parlor (Photos 6 and 6A). The south wall is of primary interest. The projecting chimney with segmental arched fireplace bears a fine Federal style mantel with fluted pilasters, paneled capitals, plain frieze and cornice. Low cupboards with pilasters and paneled doors flank the chimney.

North of the stair hall is another parlor (Photos 7 and 7A). Woodwork here is stained walnut rather than painted wood. Again, the fireplace wall is the focal point. The mantelpiece is similar to that of the south parlor, but the four door cupboards are floor to ceiling in height.

Upstairs, woodwork is much simpler, yet is indicative of the early 1800s. The hall has a paneled door with sidelights (Photo 13). Two bedrooms flank the hall.

The south bedroom has the simple flat woodwork typical of this section of the house (Photos 14 and 15). There are no chair rails or mantles upstairs. Wood floors are painted or stained. The north bedroom is similar to the south, however, the north room has a door on its east wall leading to the rear ell and two small closets on the north wall (Photos 16 and 17).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 O'Hair House

The interior of the rear east-west wing or ell has four exterior entries. From the north porch, one reaches a parlor (called the Courting Parlor). East of this is an enclosed stair case and kitchen; south is a dining room; southeast is a butler's pantry. Finishes, including wood work, appear to date from c.1880, even though this section was built in 1863.

The Courting Parlor is typical of this section of the house (Photo 12). All door and window surrounds are Eastlake style and consist of finely fluted, chamfered boards with bull-eye corner blocks of various design, vertical boards. Occasionally, horizontals overlap with eared or mitred tabs. Some headers are pedimental. Doorways are typically transomed. Baseboards have molded caps. Floors are wood.

The dining room has much the same character as the courting parlor (Photos 9 and 10). In addition, this room has a wainscot and built-in cupboard/pass-through on the east wall.

Upstairs is a bathroom (connecting to the north bedroom) and a small bedroom. Each has a dormer window.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 O'Hair House

At age 15, J.E.M. O'Hair boarded with James Montgomery of Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, working as a laborer. In 1825, J.E.M. was married to Montgomery's daughter, Margaret. The couple settled in Estil County, Kentucky. After having three years of little success farming in this desolate terrain, the O'Hairs decided to move.

Initially hoping to settle in Illinois, the O'Hairs did not find their future neighbors to their liking. Instead, his brother-in-law offered J.E.M. 80 acres of land for \$200.00, along with an adjoining tract of 80 acres for no charge. James and Margaret agreed, and the tract of land which includes the nominated property was settled by them in October of 1829. The O'Hairs promptly erected a log cabin and set about clearing land. By about 1835, J.E.M. had likely acquired enough wealth to begin construction of his impressive I-House. By 1849, the O'Hairs had a family of ten children; certainly they would have needed the extra room of a two story house. In that year, Margaret died. In 1852, J.E.M. married Permelia Lockridge, by whom they had two children. She died in 1856.

The O'Hair family was both prosperous and prolific. J.E.M. built his wealth on his agricultural pursuits, including crops and livestock operations. He invested his profits into land ownership in Monroe Township, and in turn passed ownership of several parcels over to his sons. By 1879, the O'Hairs controlled over 2,000 acres in Monroe Township, including most of the land comprising the village of Brick Chapel (the church at which was erected largely using J.E.M.'s donations). Four other houses owned by various members of the O'Hair family still stand in Monroe Township. James Edington Montgomery O'Hair died in 1899, leaving the house to his wife and family. The house remained in the family until recently. Current owners, David and Dixie Arnold, have done much needed maintenance work since they purchased the house in July of 1989. They plan to open the house to the public several times per year.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1 O'Hair House

Bibliography (continued)

Montell, William Lynwood and Michael Lynn Morse. Kentucky Folk Architecture. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1976.

Putnam County Sesquicentennial Commission. A Journey Through Putnam County History. No Publisher, 1966.

Weik, Jesse. History of Putnam County, Indiana. Indianapolis:
B. F. Bowen, 1910.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1 O'Hair House

Verbal Boundary (continued)

Beginning at a point on the south line of the northwest quarter of Section 21, Township 15 North, Range 4 West, which point is 2522.2 feet west of the southeast corner of said northwest quarter; thence west 116.27 feet with said line to a concrete marker on the east right-of-way line of U. S. Highway 231; thence with said east right-of-way line north 00 degrees 26 minutes east 108.36 feet to a concrete marker; thence north 01 degrees 44 minutes east 250.0 feet to a concrete marker; thence leaving the east right-of-way of said U. S. Highway 231 north 55 degrees 14 minutes east 136.82 feet; thence south 53 degrees 22 minutes east 15.60 feet; thence south 11 degrees 59 minutes west 102.42 feet; thence south 00 degrees 45 minutes east 326.79 feet to the point of beginning containing 1.02 acres, more or less.

Also, an easement for the purposes of ingress and egress over a strip of ground 15 feet in width and being 7.5 feet on each side when measured at right angles to the following described centerline:

Beginning at a point on the east right-of-way line of U. S. Highway 231, which point is 282.13 feet north and 2632.39 feet west of the southeast corner of the northwest quarter of Section 21, Township 15 north, Range 4 West, which point is also south 01 degrees 44 minutes west 76.15 feet from the northwest corner of a 1.02 acre tract; thence north 56 degrees 56 minutes east 52.67 feet; thence north 21 degrees 54 minutes east 50.47 feet; thence north 38 degrees 07 minutes east 93.96 feet to a point on the northeasterly property line of the aforesaid 1.02 acre tract and south 53 degrees 22 minutes east 7.80 feet from the most northerly corner of said 1.02 acre tract containing 0.07 of an acre, more or less.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page _____ O'Hair House

The following information is identical for all photographs:

1. James Edington Montgomery O'Hair House
2. Brick Chapel vicinity, Putnam County, Indiana
3. David Gjesvold
4. March 12, 1991
5. David Gjesvold, Gjesvold photo and art center, 1062 Indianapolis Road, Greencastle, Indiana.

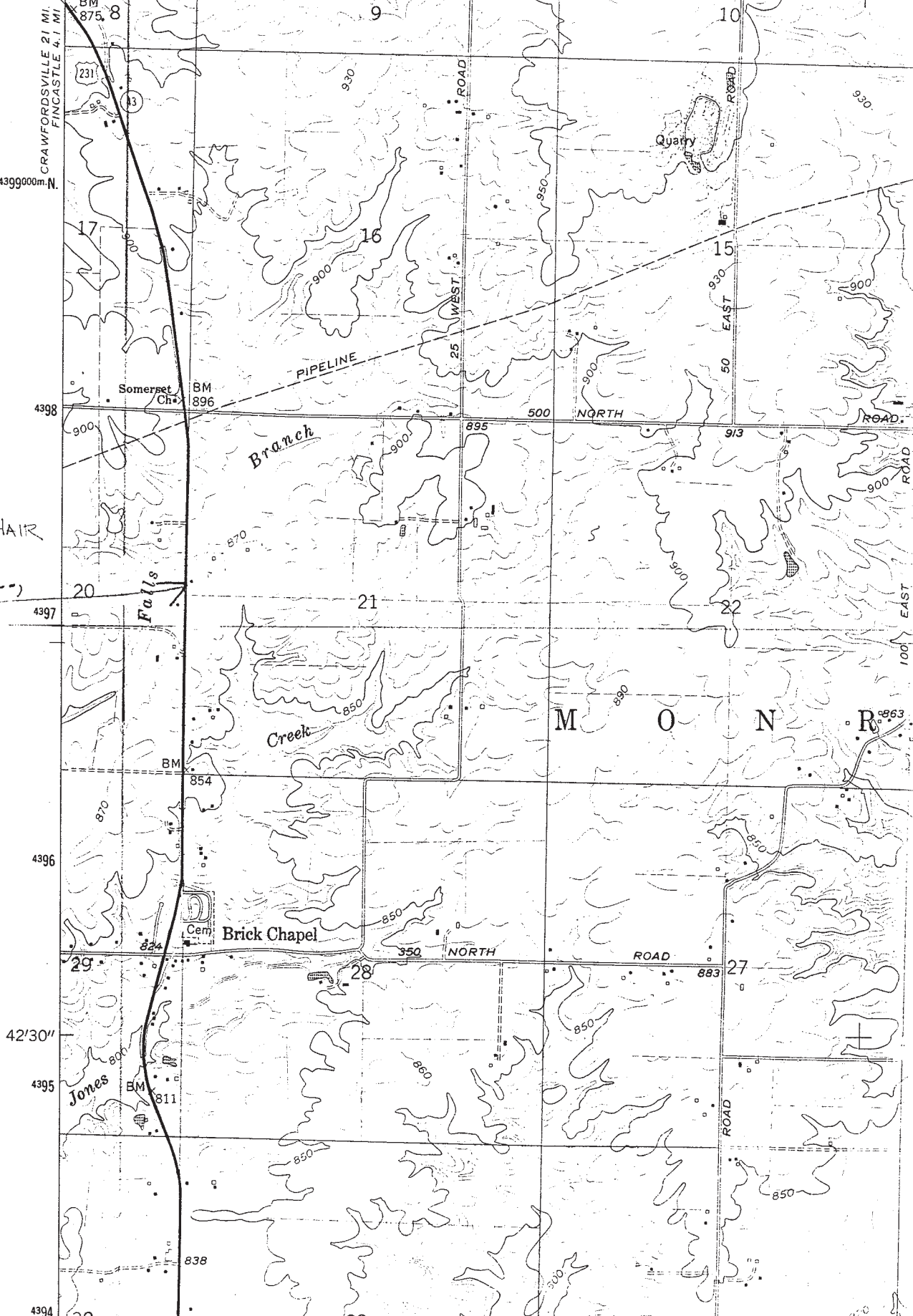
- #1 exterior-west and south elevations, looking northeast
- #2 exterior-north elevation, looking south
- #3 exterior-rear section, looking northwest
- #4 exterior-side porch, looking southeast
- #5 interior-stair hall and main entry, looking west
- #5A interior-stair hall, looking east
- #6 interior-south parlor, first floor, looking south
- #6A interior-south parlor, first floor, looking south
- #7 interior-north parlor, first floor, looking north
- #7A interior-north parlor, first floor, looking west/northwest
- #8 interior-dining room, looking east
- #9 interior-dining room, looking east
- #10 interior-courting parlor, looking northwest
- #11 interior-stair hall, second floor, looking west
- #12 interior-south bedroom, second floor, looking south
- #13 interior-south bedroom, second floor, looking southwest
- #14 interior-north bedroom, second floor, looking southwest
- #15 interior-north bedroom, second floor, looking northeast

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

3663 IV SW
(RUSSELLVILLE)

86°52'30" 511000m.E. 512 513 514 50'

39°45' 4399000m.N.
CRAWFORDSVILLE 2.1 MI.
FINCASTLE 4.1 MI.



JAMES EDDINGTON
MONTGOMERY O'HAIR
HOUSE
BRICK CHAPEL VIC.,
PUTNAM CO., IN
16 511320 4397210

210 215