Information Sheet

R Elgin, Robert L., 1914-2007
1015 Photograph collection, ca. 1950s-1990s
Forty-four folders

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

These are black and white photographs, color slides, plans, and detail drawings of historic structures in the northern Ozarks of Missouri. Several counties are represented, but especially Crawford, Franklin, Gasconade, Maries, Phelps, Osage, and Washington. The primary topics are vernacular architecture, log structures, churches, and cemeteries.

Robert L. Elgin is a native of Platte County, Missouri. He attended the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy at Rolla, where he graduated in 1937 with a degree in civil engineering. During World War Two, Elgin was commissioned Ensign in the U. S. Navy and served in the South Pacific with Seabee battalions building airfields and base facilities. He retired from the Navy as commander, USNR. He returned to Phelps County in 1945, becoming director of operations at Maramec Spring Park for the James Foundation. He made the first architectural and archaeological surveys of this important early industrial site in Missouri, and his research and drawings were used extensively by James Norris in his history of the Maramec Iron Works, Frontier Iron. Elgin was Phelps County Surveyor for thirty-six years, and in 1962 formed Elgin Surveying and Engineering, Inc. The firm is now owned and operated by his son, Richard L. Elgin.

Elgin was professionally and personally interested in mining sites, vernacular architecture, historic homes, log structures, churches, cemeteries, traditional crafts, and woodworking. About 1960, he began to visit and photograph sites in Missouri, especially in Crawford, Franklin, Gasconade, Maries, Osage, Phelps, and Washington counties. Some of the structures, notably the log structures, were in ruins when he visited them and others were in the process of demolition. Many are no longer standing and the photographs by Elgin may be the only record of the structures. There are also several folders concerning historic sites and the Lutes family of Platte County, Missouri.

The Elgin collection consists of several hundred 2½” x 2½” black and white negatives, prints, and 35mm color slides. Most of the negatives are enclosed in envelopes bearing information on location such as section, township and range, and sometimes a sketch map of the site. The slides include a program on churches and cemeteries, along with accompanying notes, once shown to civic and social groups around Phelps County. The photographs are organized by county and the slides topically. The collection is strongest for images showing vernacular architecture, log homes, and churches, but there are also views of barns, brush arbors, grave markers, lead furnaces, log outbuildings, mills, privies, schools, smokehouses, and examples of early woodcraft.

There is extensive documentation for several sites, including a site plan, elevations, floor plans, and drawings of features at the Snelson (also known as Brinker) cabin in Crawford County near Maramec Spring, along with preservation and development estimates prepared for the James Foundation in 1960; drawings of the wellhead at the old Maries County jail in Vienna; detail
drawings of the fireplace mantle of the McGirk house in Montgomery County; elevations and plan of the Muenks house near Loose Creek in Osage County; drawings of details of the Fort, Lewis (also known as Brown), and Muller cabins near Maramec Spring; and elevation, plan, and details of the Krafczik blacksmith shop in Phelps County. There is also a “Condition Report and Preservation Estimate” for the Valle-Rozier house (now known as the Felix Valle house, a state historic site) and adjacent slave quarters in Ste. Genevieve, prepared for the Missouri State Park Board in 1969.

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<td>15 June 2005</td>
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**Shelf List**

These are black and white photographs, color slides, plans, and detail drawings of historic structures in the northern Ozarks of Missouri. Several counties are represented, but especially Crawford, Franklin, Gasconade, Maries, Phelps, Osage, and Washington. The primary topics are vernacular architecture, log structures, churches, and cemeteries.

**Folders 1-30: Photograph collection**

F. 01: Boone County, Rocheport
   Green House
   Rocheport buildings

F. 02: Clay County
   Withers House near Liberty
   Mill dam across Little Platte, Smithville

F. 03: Crawford County
   Argo, Mo., sorghum making
   Cook Station
   Marion Crow farm, southeast of Bourbon, log building
   Oak Hill
   Log house near Oak Hill
   Scotia furnace ruins near Leasburg
   Woven wire and rived paling fence at Scotia
   “Hog trough” bridge (print only)

F. 04: Crawford County: Snelson Cabin near Maramec Spring
   (with correspondence, detail sketches, and preservation estimates)

F. 05: Franklin County
   Making clapboards near Anaconda
   Cove furnace, 2 miles southwest of Moselle
   Noser Mill
   Willenburg Cabin northwest of Argo

F. 06: Gasconade County
   Maupin House (also Swarmin) north of Drake, being demolished
   Abandoned church near Swiss; stone barn near Bay; log house in Phelps County
F. 07: Greene County
   Ray House, Wilson’s Creek battlefield

F. 08: Laclede County
   Dry Knob mill on Osage Fork

F. 09: Lafayette County
   House in Lexington

F. 10: Maries County
   Old store building in Maries County
   Buildings at Paydown
   Dr. Bowles’s office on Lane’s Prairie
   Old Maries County Jail, Vienna
   Well head and detail drawing, Old Jail, Vienna
   Abandoned tie raft in Gasconade River near Nagogami Lodge
   Swinging bridge over the Maries River

F. 11: Miller County
   Bray’s Mill, Iberia
   Lodge hall, Iberia

F. 12: Montgomery County
   Log smokehouse
   Log house (Lewis Jones) near Rhineland
   McGirk house near Rhineland
   Judge McGirk house, detail of fireplace mantle
   Log barn at Judge McGirk house

F. 13: Osage County
   Bonnot’s Mill hotel
   Jaeger log cabin and buildings near Loose Creek
   Muenks House, Loose Creek
   Elevation and floor plan of Muenks house

F. 14: Ozark County
   Rockbridge Bank

F. 15: Phelps County
   Asher Hollow school; Clinton Bank school; Forest Grove school; Rector’s Mill,
   Oak Hill, Mo.
   Cedar Hill Baptist Church near Edgar Springs
   Brush arbor near Edgar Springs
   Brush arbor near Macedonia Church (single color print only)
   Rolla buildings: Phelps County courthouse; Old Phelps County Jail; stone
   building near Fort Wyman; Rolla Building on M. S. M. campus
   Wash schoolhouse near Royal
   Log barn or storage building
   Log storage building and picket fence
   Log corn crib
   Walnut side chair owned by Mary Lou Corn
F. 16: Phelps County—Maramec Spring and vicinity
  Fort cabin at Maramec
  Lewis (or Brown) house in Brown Hollow (with detail drawing of fireplace mantle)
  Muller cabin at Maramec (with plan and detail drawings)

F. 17: Phelps County—St. James and vicinity
  Eikhorst school, north of Asher Cemetery
  Log building on Hwy. B north of St. James
  Log house at Dean Ford near St. James
  Log house in ruins south of Dillon
  Catholic Church in St. James [Scioto and Emory Streets], photos showing sill timbers
  Dillon house in St. James, framing details
  Dunmoor [William James mansion] in St. James
  Old Grade School in St. James
  Log privy south of St. James
  Picket fence at Pino Cardetti’s house, Rosati

F. 18: Phelps County: Emil Krafczik blacksmith shop on Hwy. J
  Photographs, plan, and detail drawings of the shop

F. 19: Platte County
  Chauvis Tavern, Barry, Mo. The border between Platte and Clay counties went through the building.
  Hardesty House near Linkville

F. 20: Pulaski County
  Log cabin, “One-on-one,” Hwy. 17, northwestern Pulaski County
  Log cabin (recent)
  Miller Spring
  James Rollins Cabin southwest of Waynesville
  Schlicht Spring and mill

F. 21: Ray County
  Old Ray County Courthouse, Richmond, Mo.

F. 22: Saint Charles County
  Half-timbered house, east edge of Cappeln
  First state capitol, Saint Charles

F. 23: Sainte Genevieve County
  Photographs of buildings in Ste. Genevieve and railroad car ferry
  (photocopies)
F. 24: Shannon County
    Akers Ferry
    Log barn at the Sinks, George Hellmuth farm

F. 25: Vernon County
    Schell City [also views of Wheatland, Mo.]

F. 26: Warren County
    Flanders Callaway house near Marthasville (includes correspondence with
    Charles van Ravenswaay concerning the house, 1960)
    Log granary

F. 27: Washington County
    Store and outbuildings at Berryman; Coleman’s store, St. James
    Springhouse near Berryman
    House, east end Caledonia
    Murphy’s lead furnace near Fertile
    Palmer lead furnace on Hazel Creek
    Palmer manager’s house, company store, and privy
    Copies of photographs from the Missouri Geological Survey:
      Fort Davidson
      Furnaces at Valle mines
      Higginbotham’s smelter
      Smelter near Old Mines

F. 28: Prairie Grove, Arkansas
    Log buildings at Prairie Grove battlefield
    Mill at Cane Hill; Morrow House; Latta House

F. 29: unknown locations
    Milt Yeary log house in ruins
    Log house on Hwy. O, west of junction with Hwy 63
    House barn
    Frame house with outside fireplace and chimney
    Log barn (print only)
    Log house and chimney at Summers [Summersville?], ca. 1880 [copy print]
    unknown locations—smokehouse, notching and sill details, etc.
    A. W. Schell General Merchandise [original photograph]
    Indian dwelling reconstructed at Van Meter State park

F. 30: “Church Tour Sponsored by Washington Museum Society, 24 April, 1960,
    Tour Leader—Ralph Gregory. Photos—R. L. Elgin” The tour included
    churches at Washington, Newport, Port Hudson, Beemont, Carmel, and
    Krakow in Franklin County.

F. 31: Cemetery headstones and grave markers, photos and drawings, ca. 1990s.
    Pine Hill Cemetery in Phelps County
    Fulkerson, Grove Dale, Johnson, Sewell, and Skaggs Chapel cemeteries in
    Maries County
    Miscellaneous photos
Folders 32-41: Slide collection

F. 32: Lecture notes accompanying slide collection

F. 33: Slide program on churches and grave markers:
(slides 01-17) Westphalia
(slides 18-21) Rich Fountain
(slides 22-25) Osage City
(slides 26-28) Freeburg
(slides 29-31) Stolpe
(slide 32) Hermann
(slide 33) Fredericksburg
(slides 34-36) Stony Hill

F. 34: Churches (arranged alphabetically by town)
Bay
Caledonia
Casco
Cuba
Drake
Ironton
Hermann
Krakow
Newport
Oak Hill
Old Mines
Platte City
Platte County
Potosi
Red Bird
Rich Fountain
St. James
Schubert
Stolpe
Stone Church
Stony Hill
Swiss
Washington
Watkins Mill
Westphalia

F. 35: Buildings, houses, log structures, mills, etc. (arranged alphabetically by town)
Akers Ferry
Arrowrock
Bay
Beemont
Burns Mill
Camdenton
Dillard Mill
Dry Knob Mill
Fort Zumwalt
Gerald
Hermann
Kimmswick
Noser’s Mill
Phelps County
Platte City
Platte County
Potosi
Ste. Genevieve
Schlicht Mill
Sinks
Sullivan
Swiss
Vienna
Washington

F. 36: Miscellaneous topical collection  (arranged alphabetically by topic)
Artillery gate, Jefferson Barracks
Blacksmith shop, Fort Sill
Brush arbors
Clapboards being rived
Covered bridges
Gravel dredge at Mari-osa Delta
Half-timbered houses
Harvesting wheat and hay
Log building
Log privy
Missouri River boat
Rock breaker near Akers
Sorghum making

F. 37: Historic ironworks  (National Historic Sites)
Saugus Ironworks, MS
Cornwall Furnace, PA
Hopewell Furnace, OH

F. 38: Historic Missouri ironworks and related sites
Ozark Ironworks near Newburg, MO
Moselle furnace at Moselle, MO
Stellaville
Irondale furnace
Hamilton furnace
Scotia furnace near Leasburg
Sligo furnace
Mideo ruins
Pilot Knob
Cherryville mine
Brandsville plant ruins
Springfield furnace
Valle Forge
F. 39: Maramec Ironworks and improvements at Maramec Spring Park

F. 40: Missouri First State Capitol site, St. Charles

F. 41: Watkins Mill State Park

Folders 42-44 Platte County, Missouri

F. 42: Covered bridge and Farmer School sites, Platte County

F. 43: Farmer School drawings and photographs

F. 44: Lutes Family research

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