

HENRY E. WILLIAMS FARMSTEAD, SMOKEHOUSE  
Southeast of Residence and east of Garage  
Cedar Point Vicinity  
Chase County  
Kansas

HABS No. KS-75-A

HABS

KANS

9-CEPO.V,

1A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
Great Plains Systems Office  
National Park Service  
1709 Jackson Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68102-2571

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HENRY E. WILLIAMS FARMSTEAD, SMOKEHOUSE

HABS No. KS-75-A

**Location:** The Smokehouse is located south of the Henry E. Williams Farmstead, Residence and east of the Henry E. Williams Farmstead, Garage, Cedar Point Vicinity, Chase County, Kansas.

**Present Owners:** Lorraine Walker, and the Kansas Department of Transportation

**Present Occupant:** Lorraine Walker

**Present Use:** Storage

**Significance:** The Smokehouse contributes to the historic character of the Henry E. Williams Farmstead.

**Description:** The one-story rectangular wood Smokehouse was constructed above a limestone cave. Both structures have west orientations. The distance between the northwest corner of the Smokehouse and rear porch of the Residence is 29'. Appraiser records listed the smokehouse as being built in 1911, however, the smokehouse, cooling house, and foundation were probably constructed after the 1916 fire (Archie Walker interview with Sheryll White, May 5, 1995). The Smokehouse may have been built following plans obtained from a catalog. The Smokehouse, which also served as a food storage building, has a concrete foundation that is also supported by the earlier limestone cave. The Smokehouse measures approximately 14.5' wide x 16.5' deep. The building has a shallow front gable roof with asphalt shingles. Only the west facade of the building has openings. The main facade has an offset-left door with a single rectangular pane window in the wood door. A small four-pane window is centered beneath and near the gable. A small rectangular concrete area projects from the rear foundation of the building. This projection is as high as the foundation and is located near the northeast corner of the east side of the building; it may have been used in some manner during the curing of meat.

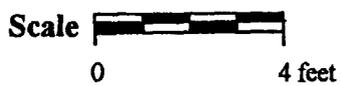
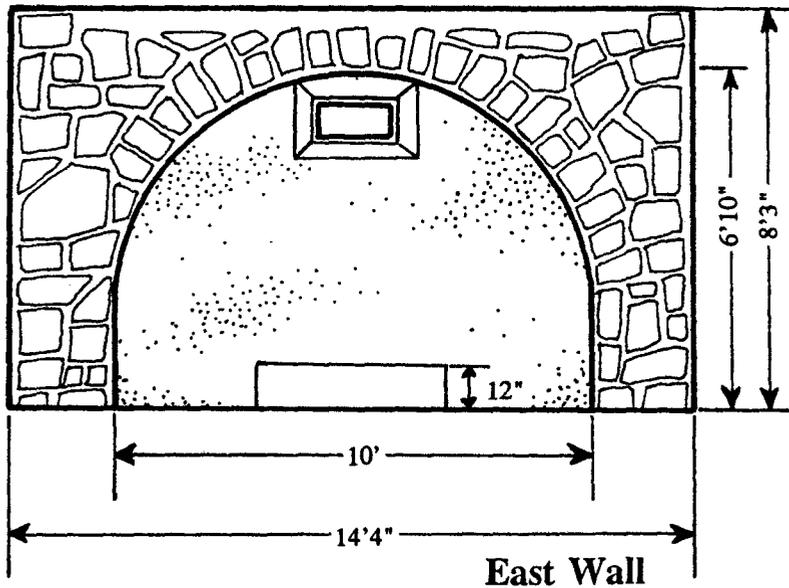
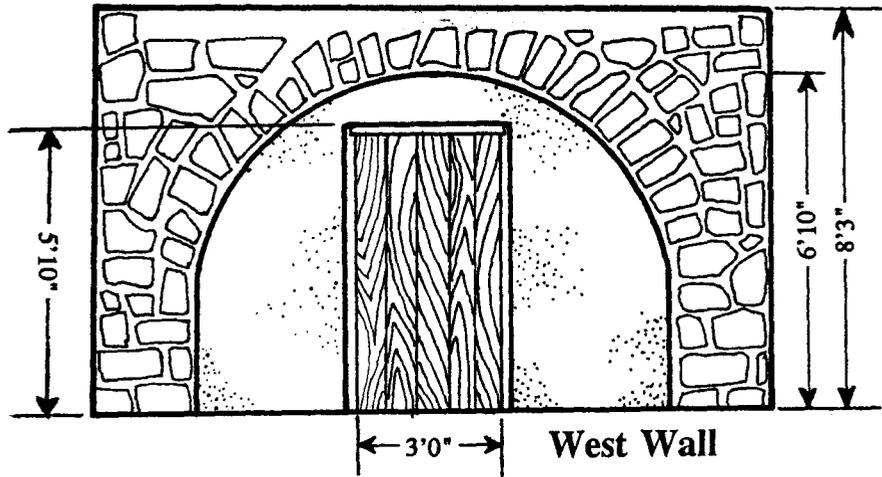
The Smokehouse is comprised of one large single room on the ground level. A small closet-like enclosure is located in the northeast corner of the room. This closet area is a meat storage area, complete with meat hooks. Smoke stains on the walls of this small closet suggest that this space was used in the curing of meat. The closet door is of plank design and fronts the west wall of the main room. A wide open staircase, set along the south wall of the building, provides access to a small gable area or loft where additional storage space was available. An open railing separates the floor of the loft from the stairway.

The Henry E. Williams Farmstead, Smokehouse is in fair condition. Of all the structures at the farmstead, the Smokehouse is probably the building showing the greatest degree of deterioration. When viewed from the main facade, this structure

appears perpendicular. However, when seen from the north or south side, it becomes obvious that the building is no longer centered. The interior of the structure is in good condition. The Smokehouse has experienced very little change. Most alterations and/or changes were made about 1970 when the Walkers added vinyl siding to the exterior wood surfaces of the smokehouse.

The cave entrance is at ground level beneath the gable of the Smokehouse. The cave has a limestone foundation. The interior of the cave measures approximately 10' wide x 12' long. A limestone stairway extended from ground level to the cave plank door set beneath the ground surface. The paired wooden doors that covered the stairway have been destroyed by rot. This set of plank doors formed a shed roof over the stairs.

The cave has a limestone round arch ceiling with a maximum height of 6'-10". The limestone cave was constructed by Christopher Columbus Williams in 1884 south of the residence, one of the first improvements made by the Williams family at the farmstead. The interior of the cave was plastered by Henry E. Williams in 1939. An inscription on the cave ceiling, probably by Henry Embree Williams, states: "BUILT 1884. By C. C. W.. PLASTARD [sic] 10/3, 1939 H. E. W." In many areas in the cave the plaster is absent. The floor of the cave is covered with dirt, which hides a concrete floor. Rows of metal hooks extend along the north and south ceiling arch. A single window, measuring 32" wide x 1'-10" high, is located in the east wall of the cave and abuts the ceiling. A 1' high concrete platform is situated against the east wall under the window.



ELEVATIONS OF THE WEST WALL AND EAST WALL OF THE CAVE BENEATH THE  
HENRY E. WILLIAMS FARMSTEAD, SMOKEHOUSE.