

NEVILLE-KANODE FARMSTEAD

East side of U.S. Highway 81, 2.5 miles S. of state line
Munden vicinity
Republic County
Kansas

HABS No. KS-76

HABS

KANS

79-MUN.V.

1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Midwest Support Office
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102-2571

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NEVILLE-KANODE FARMSTEAD

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For more information about other structures at the Neville-Kanode Farmstead, see:

HABS KS-76-A	Neville-Kanode Farmstead, Residence
HABS KS-76-B	Neville-Kanode Farmstead, Cellar
HABS KS-76-C	Neville-Kanode Farmstead, Well

Location: The Neville-Kanode Farmstead is located approximately 2.5 miles south of the Kansas-Nebraska border. The property is adjacent to, and east of, U.S. Highway 81. The farmstead consists of a six-acre tract in the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 13, Township 1 South, Range 3 West in Liberty Township, Republic County. The nearest town in this county is Munden, but the farmstead lies closer to the community of Chester, Nebraska.

USGS Munden, Kans. Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
14.618480.4424325

Present Owners: The Kansas Department of Transportation intends to acquire this property for the widening of U.S. Highway 81. However, the present ownership is not clearly documented. Mr. Randy Kniep and his wife acquired the property December 24, 1975 and then sold it to Rodger Leibsack on contract. That contract has not been recorded with the Register of Deeds, Republic County.

Present Occupant: Vacant

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: The Neville-Kanode farmstead has significant historical associations with the early settlement of Republic County during the 1870s and 1880s, the development of construction technology in Kansas (brick making), and the economic dominance of agriculture in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The form and style of the Neville house expressed the influence of the Italianate architectural style popular during the mid-nineteenth century.

Part I. Historical Information

A. Physical Context

The Neville-Kanode Farmstead is located just south of the Kansas-Nebraska state boundary in Liberty Township, Republic County, a predominantly rural county in north central Kansas. The farmstead consists of a six-acre tract adjacent to, and east of, U.S. Highway 81. This tract is part of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 13, Township 1 South, Range 3 West. The buildings are situated on a ridge overlooking the highway to the west and Rose Creek to the south and southeast. Rose Creek flows northeast into Nebraska and eventually empties into the Republican River which gives the county its name.

A brick residence, the principal surviving structure, is located on the highest part of the tract. As the county map in Everts' (1887) *Official State Atlas of Kansas* shows, a section line road preceded the present highway. Oriented north and south, the main front of the house faces the highway and former section road to the west. The house is now surrounded by prairie grass which has overgrown the yard. A few trees, including ornamental cedars, north and east of the house still shelter the abandoned buildings. The entrance lane runs north of the house. Surviving architectural features associated with the house include a root and storm cellar, a well, and a granary. The cellar, located southeast of the residence, has a steep stairway entrance facing north toward the house. The well is east of the northeast corner of the house. The granary is located on the north side of the lane to the east of the residence. A cluster of outbuilding foundations also remain east of the residence. The largest of these foundations, located east of the granary, was a barn. A large pasture extends to the east and southeast over broken ground to the woods bordering Rose Creek. Directly south of the house is a cultivated field.

B. Historical Context

The Neville-Kanode farmstead has significant historical associations with the early settlement of Republic County during the 1870s and 1880s, the development of building construction technology (i.e. brick making), and the economic dominance of agriculture in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century in Kansas. When the Neville House was constructed in 1885, Republic County was newly settled and prosperous. Regional and county population peaked in the late 1880s and gradually declined in the twentieth century. By 1887 the Burlington and Missouri Railroad route crossed the northern part of adjacent Rose Creek Township approximately two miles northeast of the farmstead.

Republic County was not organized until 1868. There were only five white inhabitants in 1861 and thirteen in 1862. After the end of the Civil War in 1865, new immigration to the county, especially in the spring of 1870, increased the population to 1,281 by the end of that year. In the pattern of settlement and economic development, the history of Republic County exemplifies the period of rural and agricultural dominance outlined in the Kansas Preservation Plan.

During the years from 1865 to 1900, Kansas was transformed from a frontier into a state with a substantial population and a diversified economy based on agriculture, but also including manufacturing and industry. The population in 1865 was concentrated in the eastern third of the state, where many American Indian groups still remained and where European-American settlement, associated with Missouri River and overland travel and commerce, had developed after the opening of Kansas Territory in 1854 and the admission of Kansas to the Union in 1861. By the 1870s, however, most Indian groups had been moved to reservations in the Indian Territory bordering Kansas to the south. The construction of railroads beginning in the late 1860s became a critical force in structuring the location of towns throughout Kansas and in fostering agricultural settlement. Generally, settlement moved across Kansas from east to west. By 1870 settlement covered the eastern half of the state and by 1890 the entire state was settled. Settlement in Kansas was a response to the availability of land and also the promotional efforts of local town developers and the railroads. During the years from 1865 to

1900, the economy of the state was based primarily on agriculture, particularly wheat and corn production, as well as livestock production and processing (Lees 1989:73-74).

Following the Civil War, the majority of Kansans lived and worked on farms. Eighty to ninety percent of the state's population consistently reported farm residence or agricultural employment to census takers. These people, and the farms they built, are central to the rural Kansas landscape. By the end of the century, basic patterns of Kansas agriculture had been established--patterns reflected in the buildings on Kansas farms. Diversified agriculture remained important in eastern Kansas. Along the northern border of the state, corn was the dominant crop, sometimes sold and sometimes fed to hogs which were being raised for market. Corn remained the chief crop of the state into the twentieth century, but as early as the 1880s, wheat was beginning to rival it in the central and western sections, and ranching was becoming a major business in the state (Kansas State Historical Society, Historic Preservation Department [hereafter cited as KSHS, HPD] 1984:I-18). The boom that characterized the development of Kansas following the Civil War ended in the early 1890s and an overextended economy collapsed in the financial panic of 1893.

Republic County grew dramatically in the 1870s and 1880s. There were 8,048 residents in 1875, 14,913 in 1880, 17,540 in 1885, and 16,852 in 1890. The peak of population in Republic County, 18,376, was reached in 1900. For the next three decades, population remained relatively stable with a gradual decline beginning after World War I. The population was 16,915 in 1915, 15,470 in 1920, 15,366 in 1930, and 13,314 in 1940.

The Neville-Kanode farmstead and brick plant were located in Liberty Township which also reached a peak population in 1900. According to the Kansas State Census, the township had 713 residents in 1880, 779 in 1885, 753 in 1890, 743 in 1895, 787 in 1900. The population of Liberty Township actually declined slightly earlier than Republic County as a whole. There were only 634 residents in 1905, 590 in 1910, 608 in 1915, 517 in 1920, 484 in 1930, and 410 in 1940.

Population growth and development in Republic County were stimulated by the construction of a railroad network serving north-central Kansas. By 1883 the Missouri Pacific Railroad ran through the northern tier of counties in adjacent Cloud County with a branch running north through western Republic County along the valley of the Republican River. The Burlington & Missouri Railroad paralleled the northern boundary of Republic County (Andreas, 1883:1033). Four years later, a branch of the Burlington cut across the southeast corner of the county and a branch of the Union Pacific was constructed through the center of the county linking Belleville, the county seat, with the rest of Kansas and Nebraska.

In an early history of the state, A.T. Andreas (1883) described Republic County as excellent for agriculture or stock-raising. About ten percent of the county was valley or bottom land and ninety percent was upland. When first settled, about five percent was forested, but Andreas reported that "the timber has been cleared away until scarcely three [percent] remains." Typically optimistic, Andreas concluded, "the lack of wood for fuel in this country is more than equaled by the supply of coal. The coal fields are in the center of the southern tier of sections, around Minersville." Stone and clay were other resources that were associated with the Neville House and James Neville's career. In Republic County, building stone was available in many places occurring "in layers of even thickness, five to eight inches, with a streak of red or iron-rust color through the center, which shows to good advantage when used for building purposes. There is also a fair quality of brick clay in most parts of the county" (Andreas 1883:1031-1032). These local resources were used in the construction of the Neville house.

Although there is no direct confirmation, it appears likely that James L. Neville had a fine brick residence built in a conspicuous location, in part, to advertise his own product and his business success. The Neville brick making operation was significant as a typical example of local manufacturing. In his "History of Manufactures in the Kansas District," Richard Douglas concluded in 1909 that the manufacture of brick had been a relatively important industry "from almost the first settlement of the different localities," and "one of the most widely

distributed.” In the 1870s and 1880s, there was a great period of “substantial construction” and “brickyards sprung up and flourished in almost every town,” especially in southeastern Nebraska and all of eastern Kansas (Douglas 1909:203). State gazetteers and business directories provide some indication of the number of brick manufacturing companies and their distribution across Kansas. The 1870 gazetteer listed ten brick manufacturers in eight communities, most located in the eastern portion of the state. These numbers increased steadily through 1884-85. There were thirty-two brick makers reported in twenty-two communities in the 1880 directory, forty-one in thirty-one towns in 1882, and 105 in sixty-eight communities in 1884-85. The numbers decreased slightly in 1886-87, with only seventy-eight brick manufacturers listed in sixty-three towns. There was a major increase in the number of brick makers in the 1888-89 directory, which reported 127 brick makers in eight-four communities (Polk 1878, 1880, 1882, 1884, 1886, 1888).

Like other local manufacturing enterprises in Kansas during the settlement period, Neville supplied building brick for the immediate vicinity and sections developing farther to the west. As Douglas commented, freight rates were high, hand labor was more important than machine production and the new manufacturer “had all the advantages of local spirit and reputation, knowledge of the needs of his market, and few of the disadvantages that the small factory now has” (Douglas 1909:117).

Because of the weight of bricks necessary for construction of even a modest dwelling, brick making was one of the most localized of all nineteenth century industries. Finding suitable clay for producing brick was not usually a problem. Bricks were often produced on the construction site and many urban and rural brickyards used “clamps,” or temporary kilns, where the bricks to be burned formed their own oven (Walters 1982:125-126). During the nineteenth century, hand-molded bricks were replaced by machine-made. Brick machines included soft-mud machines, presses, and stiff-mud machines or augers. Soft-mud brick machines imitated hand-molding methods, with the machine’s plunger, instead of a person’s hands, forcing the prepared clay into lubricated molds. Once filled, the machine pushed the mold under a plate which struck off the excess clay, and then the molds were dumped and the process started over (Gurcke 1987:19). Bricks produced by this method were generally of poor quality. Dry-press brick machines, patented in the United States during the 1820s-40s, used high pressure applied to both top and bottom of the mold to compress and form the bricks. Once technical problems were solved, the bricks produced by steam-powered presses were denser and more regular, but more expensive (Gurcke 1987:87). The stiff-mud machine, first patented in the United States ca. 1855, used a plunger or auger to extrude the prepared clay through a brick sized opening. After passing through the die, wires cut the bar of clay into individual bricks. This method produced a stronger, denser brick (Gurcke 1987:90-91). The auger-type machine was more popular for local brick making. In Illinois, for example, the last surge of local brick making occurred when hundreds of farmers and mechanics bought this type of machine between 1870 and 1890 to produce their own brick and drain tile (Walters 1982:132). As indicated in the contemporary descriptions and later recollections, the Neville brick making enterprise probably used an auger machine process.

In Kansas a decline in the number of brick making plants and the value of their products began before the end of the 1880s and continued after the panic of 1893. The number of brick manufacturers in the state declined steadily between 1889-1904. There were 121 companies making brick in eighty-four places in 1891, seventy-one in fifty-three towns in 1894, forty-nine in forty-two places in 1901, and fifty-seven brick makers in forty-three towns in 1904. The number of brick manufacturers increased by two, to fifty-nine, in 1908, but at the same time the number of communities in which these brick yards were located declined to forty (Polk 1888, 1890, 1894, 1900, 1904, 1908). Centralization of the brick industry began with the organization of the Coffeyville Vitrified Brick and Tile Company in 1896. Small, scattered brick yards survived in Nebraska, but the rapid development of gas-fired brick yards in southeastern Kansas after 1900 drove small local producers out of business and concentrated brick production in a small number of extensive plants in the gas belt. By 1909 there were “half as many plants as there were thirty years ago” and the output was five or six times as great. As brick making became centralized in large industrial plants, the manufacture and use of “artificial stone” made of cement and sand also threatened local brick making. Douglas noted in 1909 that, although

these cement blocks were not “the ideal building material,” the growth of this business “has been very rapid, especially in the last two or three years, and has undoubtedly had the effect of supplying a portion of the demand for common building brick” (Douglas 1909:204, 206). The national depression of the 1890s, the maturation of the small towns and agricultural communities in north-central Kansas, and the centralization of production combined to end the once-successful brick manufacturing business pioneered by James Neville in Republic County.

C. Specific History of the Farmstead

1. Dates of Construction:

Above the entrance in the main west wall of this large brick house, a stone plaque inscribed, “NEVILLE HOUSE 1885,” recorded the property owner and construction date. The architect-builder of the house is unknown. Original design or construction drawings are not available. Because of their similar materials and proximity to the house, the nearby stone-lined well and brick cellar appear to date from the same time. The only other standing structure, a wood-frame granary with a concrete foundation, appears to date from the early twentieth century.

2. Original and Subsequent Owners

James Louis Neville and his wife, Mary Ellen Kanode Neville, were the original owners of the property and the occupants of the brick residence. Their five daughters and two sons grew up in the house. In addition to the Nevilles, occasionally one of Mary Kanode’s siblings lived with the Nevilles. Workers in the brick making operation also took their meals in the house and slept in the attic during the manufacturing season.

Neville sold the main residence and most of the land (121 acres) to Peter Frederick Poppe in 1901. Neville retained the southwest corner of the quarter with the brick kilns and an older brick residence (not extant). In 1909 he sold the remaining property along Rose Creek, except for one acre with the older residence, to Edward Jungck. Finally, in 1918, the year he died, James Neville sold the remaining acre to Jungck.

In March, 1909, the Poppe family, Peter, Dorothy and their three children, traded the farm for another further west in Norton County. Albert G. Burruss of Thayer County, Nebraska was the new owner of a tract of 240 acres including the improvements. Burruss may never have occupied the house. The following year, he sold the property to Edward Jungck. Jungck sold to George Liebsack in 1928. The Liebsack family occupied the property until the 1950s when U.S. Highway 81 was constructed. Soon after the construction, the Liebsacks sold to Maxwell and Huetta Derowitsch and moved to Oregon. This transaction included the south half of the northwest quarter and southwest quarter of Section 13. After the sale, the old Neville house was not occupied. During the 1970s, Derowitsch twice thought he had found buyers for the house and its surrounding six-acre tract. Plans for converting the landmark building into a restaurant were initiated. A local contractor replaced broken windows and gutted the building interior before work was halted. Only a month after buying the property, Eric Hedval and his wife sold it on December 24, 1975, to Randy Kniep and his wife, residents of Republic County. Reportedly, the Knieps are selling the house on contract to Rodger Liebsack of Oregon whose father George owned the property in the early 1950s. However, the contract has not been recorded with the Register of Deeds, Republic County. The Kansas Department of Transportation intends to acquire the property in order to widen U.S. Highway 81.

3. Historic Events and Persons Associated with the Farmstead:

According to the Neville family recollections, James Louis Neville and his wife, Mary Ellen Kanode Neville arrived in Kansas in the spring of 1869 and claimed the southwest quarter of Section 13, Township 1 South, Range 3 West as a homestead. Only James Neville was recorded as the owner of the quarter. The 1870

United States Census listed Neville as a 24-year-old farmer whose real estate was valued at \$1,000 and whose personal property was worth \$400. His wife, "Mary," who was then 17 years old, had been born in Iowa. The couple had one child at that time, "Flora E.," who was four months old, having been born in February. Listed in the 1870 census immediately after the Nevilles, as head of a separate household, was "Rebecca Kanode," Mary's mother. Rebecca was listed as a 37-year-old female farmer. Her children, Mary's siblings, included "Hervey" [also recorded elsewhere as Harry or Harvey], age 12; "Joseph," age 10; "Franklin," age 8; "Clara," age 6; and "Marian," age 4. All of the Kanode children were born in Iowa. According to Max Schofield, whose grandmother was a sister of Mary Ellen Neville, Rebecca Kanode was the daughter of Jeremiah and Mary Carpenter. She was born in Ohio in 1832 and married Daniel Kanode, who died in Illinois between 1866-69. Upon moving to Kansas, the Neville and Kanode families claimed two adjacent homesteads, but shared a single domicile (personal communication, Sheryll White with Max Schofield, 1994). However, Rebecca Kanode was not found in county land records as an adjacent property owner. This may be due in part to her apparent remarriage ca. 1874 to E. G. Currier. Enumerated adjacent to the Nevilles on the 1875 state census was the family of E. G. and Rebecca Currier, consisting of the couple and six children: "Hervy Kanode" (now 17), "Joseph Kanode" (aged 15), "Frank Kanode" (aged 13), "Clara Kanode" (aged 11), "Maria Kanode" (aged 9), and "Daniel Currier" (aged 8 months) (Kansas State Census 1875).

James Neville was born in Illinois in December 1845, the son of an Irish immigrant father and an Ohio native mother. Family records indicate that Neville served in the Union Army during the Civil War and contracted smallpox in a southern prison at the end of the war. He survived and returned to Kawanee, Illinois where his parents lived. However, Neville never reported any military service on the state census returns (Kansas State Census 1885, 1895, 1905). James Neville was employed as a "hired man" by the Kanode family in Kawanee. When Daniel Kanode died sometime between 1866 and 1869, he left his wife and six children "without means of support." In this emergency, James Neville offered to marry Mary Ellen Kanode, only 15 years old, and move the entire family to Kansas (personal communication, Sheryll White with Max Schofield, December 1994; Palecek, "Neville Family File," 1974). Not long after the marriage and the move to Kansas, the Nevilles' oldest daughter, Flora, was born in February 1870. Reportedly, she was the first white child born in Liberty Township. Flora later married Pearl Brown, the first white male child born in the same township on May 20, 1871 (Savage 1901:146). James and Mary Neville eventually had four more daughters, Alice, Mirtle, Rebecca, and Mabel, and two sons, James and Walter.

Descendants of the Neville family recalled that the pioneer Neville and Kanode families originally lived in a large dugout on the north bank of Rose Creek at a point located on the property line dividing the two homestead quarters. An alternate account of the first Neville-Kanode residence by Republic County local historian I.O. Savage stated that James Neville built a small log house with a dirt floor (Savage 1901:145). This description implied that the log house was constructed when Neville occupied the property in the spring of 1869, but it may be that a dugout was occupied temporarily before the log house. The dugout was located approximately 300 to 400 yards east of the present U.S. Highway 81. After Neville began making brick on the property, a first two-story brick residence reportedly was constructed west of the dugout near the north bank of Rose Creek.

According to Beatrice Spry Spence, granddaughter of James and Mary Ellen, Neville arrived in Kansas with one team of horses and established a dray hauling business. The business depended on transporting railroad freight and often required extended trips when Neville was gone from his home for several days at a time. Meanwhile, the Neville and Kanode families immediately began improving their new homestead farms. Among Neville's earliest purchases for the farm were a rooster and pullet that cost him \$2.25 (Savage 1901:145). Eventually, the family maintained two chicken houses, raised hogs, and kept beehives for honey. The Nevilles also produced wheat, corn, and oats. From the agricultural schedule accompanying the 1870 federal census, it appears that at that time the Neville and Kanode families were working their farms together. Of his 160 acre farm valued at \$1,000, Neville had improved only five and another twenty were in woodland. Rebecca Kanode's 160 acres were also valued at \$1,000 and consisted of eight improved acres, six in

woodland, and 146 unimproved. Neville had \$50 worth of farm implements and livestock valued at \$300, including two horses, one milch cow, and three swine. Mrs. Kanode reported neither farm implements nor livestock. The Neville farm reported \$175 worth of products, including fifteen bushels of Indian corn, eighty pounds of butter, ten tons of hay, and \$80 worth of animals slaughtered or sold to slaughter. A value of \$300 was placed on products from Rebecca Kanode's farm, but no itemization was made of these products (U.S. Census 1870).

The value and production of the Neville family farm gradually, but steadily, increased over the next thirty years. In 1875 the value of Neville's farm had declined to \$800, but he now had thirty acres under cultivation, including fifteen in spring wheat, ten in corn, and five in oats. His livestock included two horses, and a milch cow and one other cow. During the preceding year the Nevilles had made 100 pounds of butter, sold \$5 worth of poultry and eggs, and had slaughtered or sold \$15 worth of animals to slaughter (Kansas State Census 1875). By 1880 Neville had ninety acres under cultivation and another ten acres in pasture. The value of the farm had increased to \$2,000, and he had farm implements valued at \$200. His livestock was valued at \$400, and included two horses, two mules or asses, two milch cows, one new calf, sixty-seven swine, and forty-eight chickens. During this census year the Neville family made 150 pounds of butter, collected 500 eggs, cut ten tons of hay, and harvested 700 bushels of Indian corn, 533 bushels of wheat, and sixty bushels of Irish potatoes (U.S. Census 1880). According to the agricultural schedule accompanying the 1885 state census, James Neville owned a 240 acre farm valued at \$5,000. He had farm implements worth \$2,000 and paid \$1,200 in wages over the previous year. Slightly more than one half of the farm, 140 acres, were fenced with 500 rods of wire fencing. The farm included fifty-five acres in corn, fifty-five acres in tame grass, twenty-five acres in prairie, two acres each in Irish potatoes and millet, one-half acre in strawberries, and an orchard containing sixty-nine bearing fruit trees (fifty apple, eight cherry, six pear, and five plum) and forty-three non-bearing fruit trees (forty apple and three pear). Among the farm's livestock were six horses, five milch cows, twelve other cattle, and 130 swine. During the year the farm produced fifteen tons of prairie hay, \$15 of garden produce, \$5 of eggs and poultry, 500 pounds of butter, and sold or slaughtered livestock valued at \$1,500 (Kansas State Census 1885). Over the next ten years additional acreage was cultivated and Neville switched from raising hogs to focusing on poultry. The 1895 agricultural schedule indicated that the farm, now valued at \$6,000, included 100 acres in corn, thirty in timothy, twenty acres each in oats and fenced prairie, fifteen in winter wheat, eight in millet, four in sorghum, one-half acre in Irish potatoes, and seventy-one bearing fruit trees (sixty apple, eight cherry, and three plum). Among the livestock on the farm were fourteen horses, five milch cows, seven other cattle, an unknown number of chickens, and four stands of bees. During the previous year the Nevilles cut three tons of prairie hay, made 400 pounds of butter, sold \$100 worth of poultry and eggs, and sold or slaughtered \$100 worth of livestock (Kansas State Census 1895).

James Neville was more than an ordinary farmer. His most significant enterprise was brick making. Family members reported that Neville learned the brick making trade from his Irish immigrant father. Since his skill probably was limited to manufacturing rather than masonry construction, it is unlikely that he built the 1885 house himself. The designer-builder is unknown. Family records indicate that Neville and his brother-in-law, Joseph Kanode, established a brick kiln on the banks of Rose Creek south of the surviving brick house.

James L. or "Louis" Neville's occupation was listed on the 1870 and 1880 federal and the 1885 state census as "Farmer," but he reported himself on the 1875 and 1885 state and 1900 federal census as a "Brick Maker" or "Brick Mfg [Manufacturing]." Unfortunately, Neville's brick manufacturing activities were not reported on the industrial schedules accompanying these censuses (Kansas State Census 1875, 1885; U.S. Census 1870, 1880, 1900). The Neville's brick kiln may have been operational as early as 1875, since Neville was already reporting himself as a brick maker on this census. However, Neville was not listed as a manufacturer of bricks in the 1878 (Polk) business directory. It is possible that his production was not yet sufficient to require advertising in such a directory. There were two listings under "Brick and Tile Manufacturers" in the 1880 (Polk) state gazetteer for "Neville J.L.," one in "Crainville" and the other in "New Liberty." Crainville was a small village and post office in Liberty Township, Republic County, located approximately eight miles north of

Belleville, the county seat, and six miles south of Chester, Nebraska. New Liberty was another small village in this township and county, situated approximately eleven miles north of Belleville (Polk 1880:248, 680). The post office in Crainville was established December 4, 1878, and discontinued on June 29, 1895. The New Liberty post office only in operation from April 29, 1873, through September 22, 1880 (Baughman 1986:30, 90). The 1882 (Polk) business directory contained only one entry for Neville's brick works, the one in "Crainville." The 1885 state census listed "Hervy Kanode," one of Mary Neville's brothers, as a "Brick Maker" residing in the household of John and Elizabeth Ratcliff in Liberty Township, Republic County, Kansas (Kansas State Census 1885). There were no entries for Neville in the 1884-85, 1886-87, 1888-89, or 1891 (Polk) directories. A "Kinnead James" [possibly a misspelling of Kanode] was reported in the 1884-85 and 1886-87 business directories as a manufacturer of bricks in the nearby Republic County town of Scandia. Entries again appeared in the 1894, 1900, and 1904 (Polk) business directories for a Neville brick works. These three directories list the proprietor as a "John Neville" and the location as Belleville, a community located approximately ten miles south of the Neville-Kanode Farmstead. The Neville brick works was no longer mentioned in the 1908 (Polk) gazetteer.

Soon after James Neville received a patent for the quarter section in Section 13, he mortgaged the property. In November 1878 he borrowed \$1,000 with the land as security and borrowed another \$500 in June 1879 (Republic County Real Estate records, Book B:271, Book F:281). Between 1879 and 1887, Neville borrowed only a few hundred dollars at a time. Then in 1887, while real estate values in Kansas were reaching their peak in the boom period of the 1880s, he borrowed \$1,600, which he paid off in March and April, 1892 (Rep. Co. Real Estate records Book T:480, Book 3:578). During the recession that lasted until the early 1900s, Neville again mortgaged the property several times for various amounts. He borrowed \$2,184 from Hervey Kanode, his brother-in-law in 1897. That loan was repaid on March 1, 1900, but in the following year, James Neville sold 121 acres of the homestead quarter to Peter F. Poppe. This sale included the 1885 brick house. Poppe paid \$3,500 for the improved farm and assumed Neville's outstanding mortgages, one for \$1,500 and another for \$1,000 (Rep. Co. Real Estate records Book 60:198, Book 65:566).

The large mortgages recorded between 1878 and 1890 were probably associated with farm improvements, the establishment of Neville's brick manufactory, and expansion of the brick works. According to a newspaper article published in Chester, Nebraska and dated May 2, 1890, a new brick kiln on the Neville property was almost completed. The kiln, installed by Mr. Collins of Nebraska, had a capacity of 40,000 bricks. During this period, Neville also helped his brother-in-law Frank Lewis Kanode start a brickyard at Hoxie, Kansas, and Neville was associated with a brickyard at Fairbury, Nebraska, managed by his son-in-law Clyde Spry (personal communication, Sheryll White with C. Derowitsch, 1994; Palecek, "Neville Family File" 1974). A brick yard operated by a "Frank Kanode," probably Mary Neville's brother, was reported in the west Kansas community of Quinter in the 1900 (Polk) business directory.

According to various published family accounts, the Neville brick factory had three or five kilns with a brick smokestack six feet in diameter at the base, four feet in diameter at the top, and 100 feet tall. Republic County resident Charles Derowitsch remembered five kilns linked to the main stack; he said that no more than two or three kilns were fired at the same time. This may have been the system constructed by Mr. Collins in 1890. Orville Brown, the son of Pearl and Flora (Neville) Brown, recalled three dome-shaped kilns approximately 20 feet in diameter and 15 feet high.

While Neville's clay source remained constant, the brick-making process changed over time. The clay for brick making was dug from the banks of Rose Creek. According to Orville Brown, thousands of bricks were formed at one time. Two horses walking in a circle around the press supplied power for compressing the clay into brick forms. After the bricks had air-dried for a week or more, they were stacked in the kiln and fired. In her account of the process, Josephine Rundus stated that bricks were first shaped by hand then buried in the sand for firing. This description may account for the imperfect bricks found between the outer walls of the Neville House. These less uniform bricks have indentations that resemble finger impressions, and are more

orange than the bricks on the wall exteriors. Originally the kilns were fueled from trees harvested from the creek bank. Later, coal became the fuel source. When the kilns were fired, the door was sealed with clay and four or five fire boxes on the outer wall were lit. The fires were monitored constantly for approximately one week until the firing process was completed. After a week of firing, another week was required for the cooling of the kilns before they were opened. The kilns originally were fueled by firewood cut from the stream banks, but coal was used later (Palecek, "Neville Family File," compilation of Mrs. Josephine Rundus, 1974; Palecek, "Neville Family File," recollections of Orville V. Brown). In these accounts, differences in the descriptions of the brick making process and the brick kilns probably are related to the development of a more efficient and productive manufacturing process. While the bricks may have been formed by hand and fired in smaller kilns in the 1880s, the system constructed in 1890 probably incorporated an auger-type machine, the horse-powered press, and larger high-temperature kilns.

When the brick making operation was in full production, James Neville hired hands to help in the brick works in addition to the Kanode brothers and his own sons. Neville's four oldest daughters, Flora, Alice, Mirtle, and Rebecca, helped with the chores involved in feeding and housing the workers who slept in the loft of the 1885 house. The presence of brick workers boarding with the Neville family was noted on only one census between 1870 and 1905. The 1900 census enumerated five boarders in the Neville household, all of whom were working in the Neville family brick yard: "Alfred Jackson" (aged 22, Wisconsin native, "brick setter"), "Howard Gross" (aged 23, Missouri-born, "brick worker"), "John Shooks" (aged 20, born in Kansas, "brick worker"), "Rollin H. Dimick" (aged 46, New York native, "brick layer"), and "James Ziler" (aged 21, born in Missouri, "brick worker"). All four daughters later married workers employed by their father (Palecek, "Neville Family File," 1974; Spry n.d.).

According to local resident Berline Mumm, older residents of the area attributed the failure of the brick factory to Neville's expectation that the Catholic convent, ultimately built at Concordia in Cloud County, would be constructed at Belleville, the Republic County seat. Anticipating the demand, Neville produced thousands of bricks that were hauled to Belleville where they remained unsold. Eventually, many of these bricks were stolen. While this loss probably contributed to Neville's financial problems, the untimely expansion of the factory in 1890 when a national depression was developing probably had just as much adverse impact.

Buildings known to have been constructed of Neville brick include the Frank Bush store on the east side of the Belleville town square, Liberty Schoolhouse-District 66, the Brennenstul house and several other houses. Other buildings in the area include the Odd Fellows Hall at Munden and the Navis store at Chester, Nebraska. Many additional buildings constructed of Neville brick have been demolished. These include the old Republic County Courthouse and a schoolhouse in Belleville (Palecek, "Neville Family File," compilation of Mrs. Josephine Rundus 1974).

In 1901 James Neville had to sell most of his farmland and the 1885 brick residence to Peter Frederick Poppe. The Nevilles retained the earlier brick house and a tract of land near Rose Creek where the brick making factory was located. Poppe, a native of Germany, immigrated to the United States in 1874 when he was only 15 years old. He joined his brothers in Ohio and eventually moved to Nebraska. Poppe married Dorothy Sorge September 16, 1886. They had three children, Fred, Martha, and Rudolph. The Poppe family was enumerated on the 1905 state census. The household consisted of five members: "Peter" (aged 45), "Dorothy" (aged 50, native of Germany), and their three children all born in Nebraska, "F.J.W." (aged 17), "M.M." (aged 16), and "R.A." (aged 10). The agricultural schedule accompanying this census indicates that the Poppe farm consisted of 280 acres, of which 200 acres were improved. The entire farm was valued at \$11,500, with buildings worth \$2,000 and farm implements valued at \$500 (Kansas State Census 1905). Sometime after 1905 the Poppe family adopted two children, Walter and Doris, who were brought west on an orphan train. A historical photo shows the Poppe family ranged in front of the southeast corner of the Neville house. The Poppe family increased the size of the farm from 121 to 240 acres during their ownership (Rep. Co. Real Estate records Book 65:566). The Poppes moved in 1909 after trading the farm for another in Norton County (personal

communication, Sheryll White with Mrs. L. Poppe, December 1994, Peter Poppe genealogical records 1994).

The next owner of the Neville house was Albert G. Burruss of Thayer County, Nebraska. He paid \$15,600 for the 240 acres with improvements. Burruss may never have occupied the house; he sold the property one year later to Edward Jungck who lived there until 1928. By that time Jungck had acquired all of the land once included in the Neville-Kanode homestead. In 1918 James Neville sold the brick plant to Edward Jungck. According to local resident Maxwell Derowitsch, one of the reasons for selling to Jungck was that he had several sons. Neville assumed that the family would continue the brick making business which had never fully recovered from the recession of the 1890s. Instead, the Jungcks stripped the existing bricks from the kilns, demolished the house near the creek, and sold the material. About 1928 Rose Creek cut a new channel eliminating the bend where the brick factory once stood and the last traces of the operation (personal communication, Sheryll White with Maxwell Derowitsch, December 1994).

By the time Neville sold the last remaining acre of the homestead property on Rose Creek in 1918, his children had all married and scattered throughout the Midwest. The Nevilles decided to sell their property and move to San Benito, Texas where they could live with their daughter Myrtle Brown and her husband, Ed. During the 1918 influenza epidemic, they visited their daughter Rebecca Spry who was living with her husband in Seward County, Kansas. James Neville contracted the disease and died in Republic County on December 17, 1918. His remains were interred in the cemetery at nearby Chester, Nebraska. Mrs. Neville continued to reside with her daughter in Republic County until her death at age 91. She was buried with her husband in the Chester, Nebraska cemetery (Beatrice Spry Spence, n.d.).

Part II. Architectural Context

The Neville-Kanode farmstead is located approximately 2.5 miles south of the Kansas-Nebraska border. The property is adjacent to, and east of, U.S. Highway 81. Located on a prominent ridge, the main building of the farmstead complex is the James L. Neville house. The residence was a local landmark when it was constructed because of its size, color, and form. According to Virginia and Lee McAlester (1984:212), popular historians of American residential architecture, "the Italianate style dominated American houses constructed between 1850 and 1880." The style was particularly common in the expanding towns and cities of the Midwest and probably in Kawancee, Illinois where James Neville resided before moving to Kansas in 1869. Although the Neville House was not constructed until 1885, the Italianate style was still associated with formal residential architecture in a community just emerging from frontier conditions. It is an example of the simple rectangular Italianate house type. The low hipped roof, central entrance and ornamentation, especially the bracketed eave cornice, are characteristic of the style.

Knowledge of popular styles was spread by traveling builders and by architectural publications that were widely available in the nineteenth century. These described construction techniques, building plans, and ornamentation. Aesthetic discussions were often combined with advice on practical matters, such as plumbing, ventilation, or heating. These publications went to great lengths to teach Americans to consider these new styles as the ultimate in beauty and to appreciate the ways in which such architecture could enhance morality and virtue. Some Kansans adopted, wholly or in part, the newer ideas being put forth by experts, while others continued to follow vernacular traditions in building (KSHS, HPD, 1984:I-6,10).

The impression of a landmark persists despite the Neville house's deteriorated condition. The structures comprising the farmstead are generally deteriorated. Although the brick masonry walls are stable, the house is in very poor condition. The interior has been gutted, the roof is leaking, and the remaining interior walls and floors are damaged and rotting. The nearby cellar and granary are in fair condition.

Structures associated with the Neville-Kanode house include a cellar, well, and granary. The barrel-vaulted,

brick cellar is covered with earth and has an entrance facing north toward the house. The 73' deep, stone-lined circular well is situated northeast of the residence. The gabled, wood-frame granary is located northeast of the house and well. Other foundations are present east of the granary. Among the other farmstead structures which were located on the farmstead property, but are no longer present, are hog houses, a wash house, a double garage, a smokehouse, and two chicken houses. No separate building was maintained for slaughtering animals. This task was carried out in the granary (personal communication, Sheryll White with C. Derowitsch December 1994). A garden was usually planted southeast of the cellar.

Additional features associated with the Neville-Kanode Farmstead were once located south of the residence near the banks of Rose Creek. The Neville brick kilns were reportedly situated along the south bank of Rose Creek. Near the kilns were a cluster of other structures, including two earlier residences occupied by the Nevilles. These included a dugout approximately 300 to 400 yards east of present-day U.S. Highway 81 and a brick residence constructed west of the dugout near the north bank of Rose Creek. No remains or evidence was found of these structures which have probably been obliterated by previous road construction and stream channelization.

Part III. Sources of Information

A. Early Views: (electrostatic copies of select images available in Field Notes.)

Original design or construction drawings are not available.

* Photograph of James L. Neville's parents on front balcony of Neville House, looking northeast (ca. 1900). From Frantiska Palecek, "Neville Family File," Family account by Beatrice Spry Spence.

* Photograph of Neville House and windmill with Neville family, looking southeast (ca. 1900). From Frantiska Palecek, "Neville Family File," Family account by Beatrice Spry Spence.

* Photograph of Neville's brick kilns (ca. 1890). From Frantiska Palecek, "Neville Family File," Family Account by Beatrice Spry Spence.

* Photograph of Neville House with Poppe family, looking northwest (ca. 1909). From Mrs. Livia Poppe, Peter Frederick Poppe genealogical records.

* Aerial photograph of Neville House property (September 1941). Kansas Department of Transportation, Topeka.

* Aerial photograph of Neville House property (November 1951). Kansas Department of Transportation, Topeka. Copy on file, Archeology Office, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.

* Aerial photograph of Neville House property (1994). Kansas Department of Transportation, Topeka. Copy on file, Archeology Office, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.

B. Interviews

Derowitsch, Charles H. 400 M Street, Belleville, Kansas 66935. Telephone interview by Sheryll L. White December 15, 1994. Notes on file, Archeology Office, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.

Derowitsch, Maxwell. Residence one mile east of Neville House property, Republic County. Telephone interviews by Sheryll L. White December 12-14 and at Chester, Nebraska December 14, 1994.

Notes on file, Archeology Office, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.

Derowitsch, Bernice. Residence three miles east of Chester, Nebraska. Interview by Sheryll L. White December 14, 1994. Notes on file, Archeology Office, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.

Kniep, Randy. Telephone interview by Sheryll L. White December 12, 1994. Notes on file, Archeology Office, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.

Leibsack, Rodger. Telephone interview by Sheryll L. White December 12, 1994. Notes on file, Archeology Office, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.

Mumm, Berline. Telephone interview by Sheryll L. White December 14, 1994. Notes on file, Archeology Office, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.

Poppe, Mrs. Livia. Residence immediately north of Neville House property. Interview by Sheryll L. White December 15, 1994. Notes on file, Archeology Office, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.

Schofield, Max. Residence Route 2, Scandia, Kansas 66966. Kanode descendant. Interview by Sheryll L. White 1994. Notes on file, Archeology Office, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.

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1878. Book B:271.

1879. Book F:281

1887. Book T:480, 520; Book 3:578.

1901. Book 60:198.

1909. Book 65:566.

1918. Book 83:641; 89:189.

1922. Book 89:302.

1928. Book 122:528.

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- _____. *Kansas State Gazetteer and Business Directory. Including a Complete Business Directory of Kansas City, MO. 1886-7.* Vol. V. (Detroit: R.L. Polk & Co., 1886).
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D. Supplemental Material

Floor plans of the Neville-Kanode Farmstead, Residence, first and second stories, prepared from field measurements by Sheryll White, Tim Weston, and Dale Nimz (Kansas State Historical Society), and Dale Newton (Kansas Department of Transportation), drafted by Wolfgang Guzman (Kansas State Historical Society).

Floor plan of the Neville-Kanode Farmstead, Cellar, prepared from field measurements by Sheryll White, Tim Weston, Dale Nimz, and Dale Newton, drafted by Wolfgang Guzman.

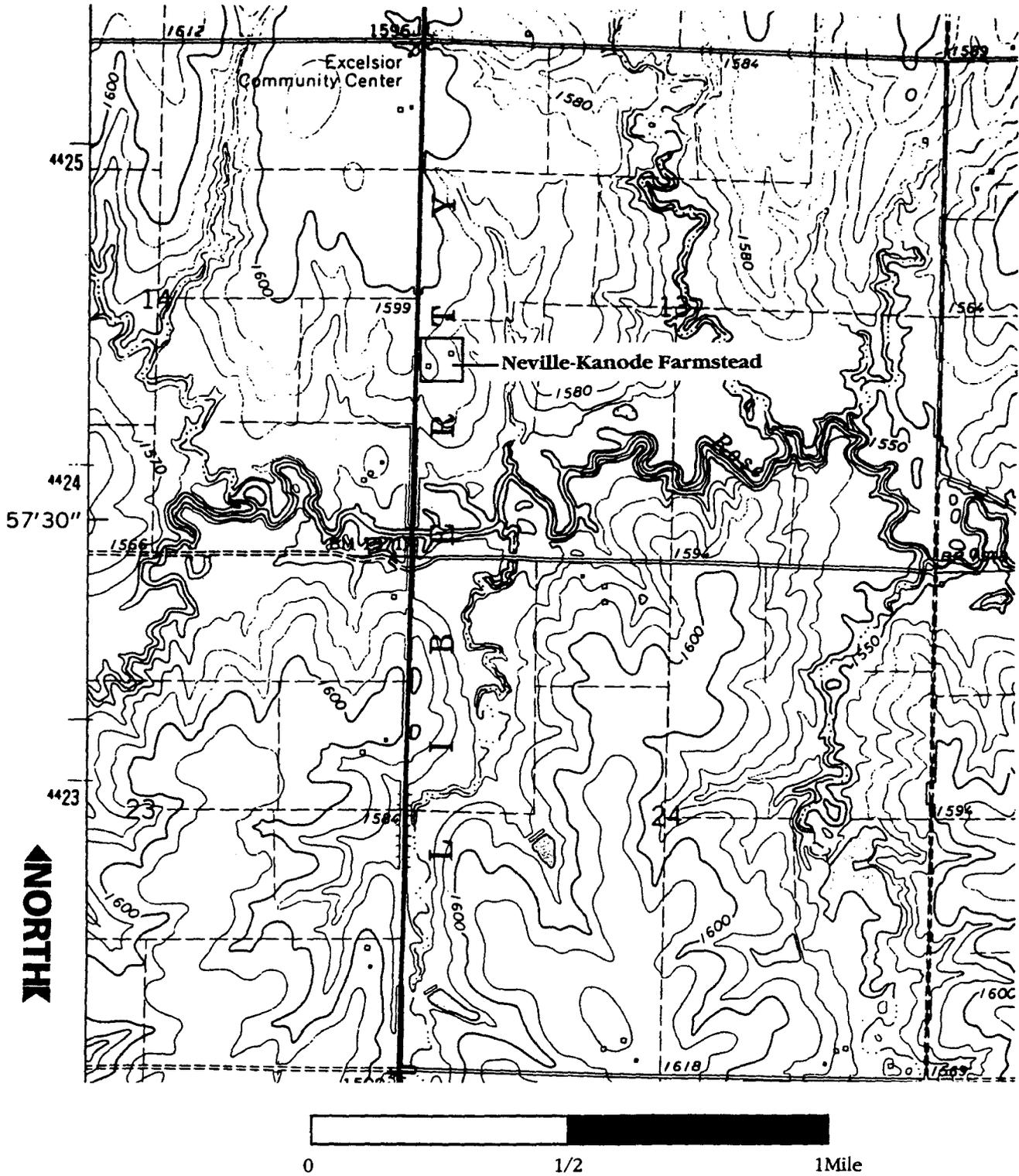
Site plan of the Neville-Kanode Farmstead, prepared from KDOT (1994) project plans and 1:4000 scale KDOT (1994) aerial photograph, drafted by Wolfgang Guzman.

Part IV. Project Information

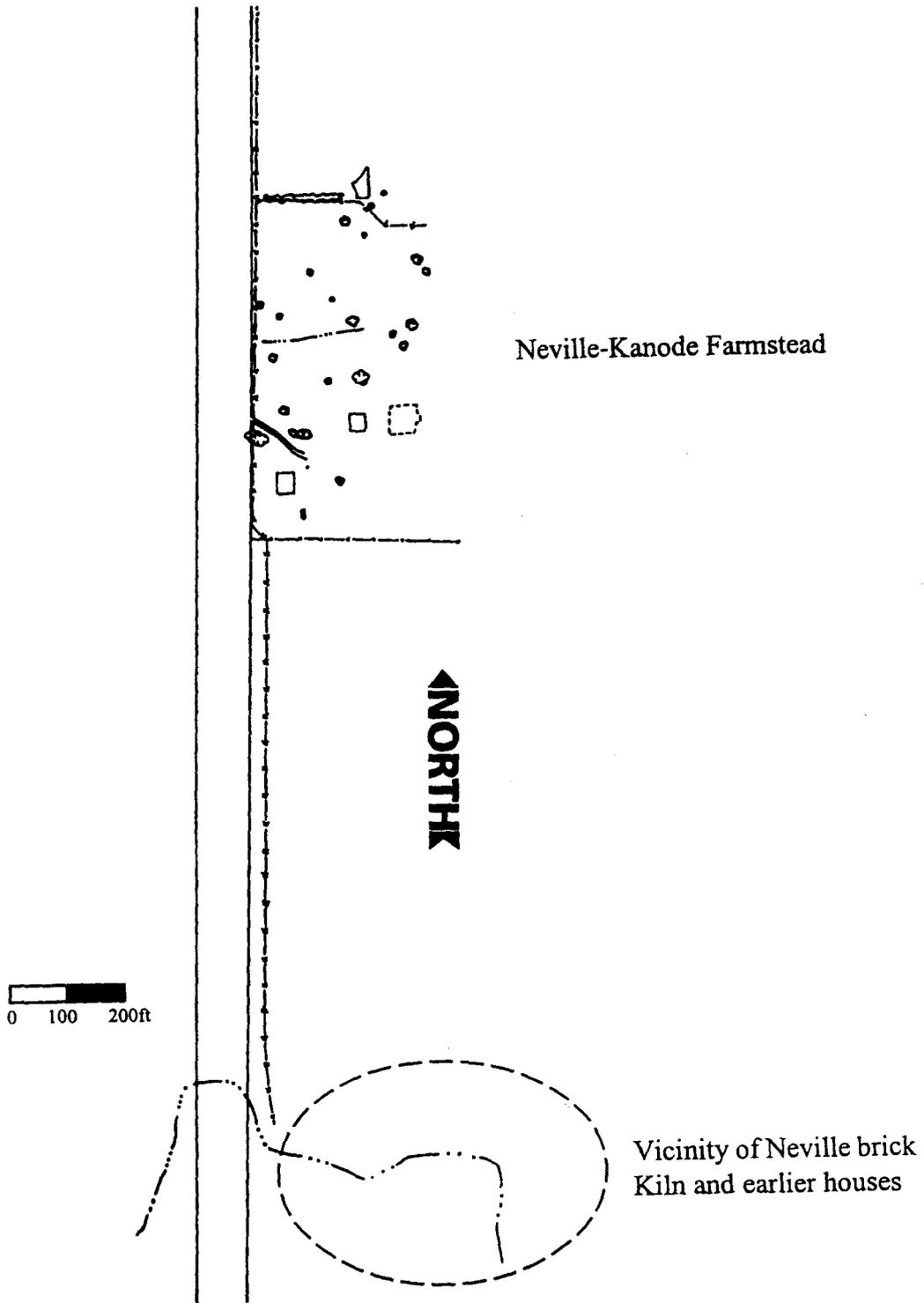
The project was undertaken in response to plans by the Kansas Department of Transportation to modify U.S. Highway 81 through Republic County, Project 81-79 K-5022-01, ACIN-43-2(62). This project was under the review of the Federal Highway Administration. The project was undertaken by the Archaeology Office of the Kansas State Historical Society under the Cooperative Agreement for Highway Archeological Salvage Program with the Kansas Department of Transportation. After initial review of the proposed highway project, an Activity II inventory was recommended and conducted at the farmstead. After review of the Activity II

inventory, the State Historic Preservation Officer, in a letter dated September 27, 1994, recommended Activity III documentation and research since the residence appeared to be eligible for the National Register under Criterion C. The Activity III investigations were initiated by a letter dated October 5, 1994 from the Kansas Department of Transportation. The Activity III report was submitted on March 27, 1995. The property was later determined to be National Register eligible, and so Historic American Buildings Survey documentation (Activity IV) was initiated by a letter dated January 10, 1997.

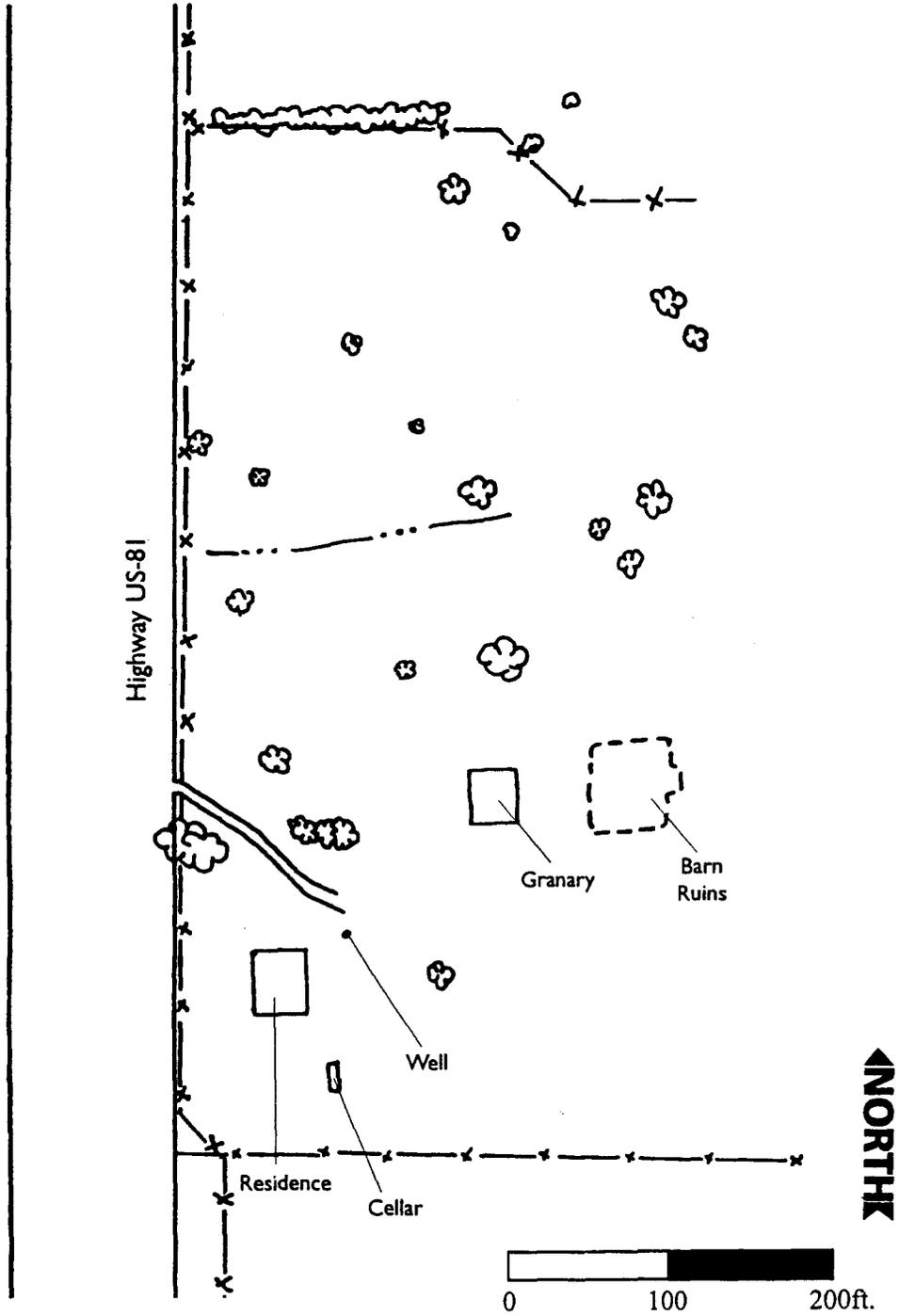
Activity IV documentation of the Neville-Kanode farmstead was completed during the late spring and summer of 1997 by Dale E. Nimz and Timothy Weston, and Dale Newton. Sheryll L. White was the historian for the Activity II and III reports. White conducted the basic research and interviews for the project and prepared the Activity reports from which the historical information was taken. Dale E. Nimz prepared the historical context section and drafted the HABS documentation. Marsha K. King compiled and prepared the HABS document. Graphics were drafted by Wolfgang Guzman and Linda Greateorex. The documentary photographs were produced by photographers Larry Colcher and Barry Worley (Kansas State Historical Society).



LOCATION OF THE NEVILLE-KANODE FARMSTEAD ON THE
1968 USGS MUNDEN, KANS. QUADRANGLE MAP.



SITE PLAN OF THE NEVILLE-KANODE FARMSTEAD, SHOWING RELATIONSHIP TO THE VICINITY OF NEVILLE BRICK KILNS AND EARLIER RESIDENCES ON ROSE CREEK.



SITE PLAN OF THE NEVILLE-KANODE FARMSTEAD.