

Kotthoff-Weeks Farm  
County Route J .6 of a mile west of intersection  
with State Route 100, then .7 of a mile north  
on gravel road to farm entrance  
Gasconade Vicinity  
Gasconade County  
Missouri

HABS No. MO-248

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MO,  
37-GASC.V  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

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MO,  
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1-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

KOTTHOFF-WEEKS FARM

HABS No. MO-248

Location: County Road J, .6 of a mile west of intersection with State Route 100, then .7 of a mile north on gravel road to the farm entrance. Gasconade vicinity, Gasconade County, Missouri.

Present Owner: Mr. Baumstark.  
Rock Cliff Investment Company, Inc.,  
9056 Saranac St., St. Louis, Missouri.

Present Occupant: Mr. Harry Weeks.

Present Use: Farm.

Significance: The three buildings of the Kotthoff-Weeks Farm are fine examples of the vernacular architecture of Gasconade County. The complex includes a log smokehouse (c. 1842), a half timber house (1850-60), and a masonry and frame barn (1860-64). Representative of various stages of settlement, they exhibit the adaptation of traditional building types and techniques to the Midwestern environment.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection:

House: 1850-60. The half timber house is the second built by the Kotthoffs and was constructed in three stages. There are no family or county records available for the building period of the house. Since the Kotthoffs settled on the property in 1842, and Christian Kotthoff married in 1850, this second house was probably built between 1850 and 1860.

Barn: 1860-64. According to the present occupant, Mr. Harry Weeks, the barn was built after the house but before Confederate troops came through the area in 1864.

Smokehouse: c. 1842. The log smokehouse belongs to the original complex of log farm buildings built by the Kotthoffs upon their arrival in 1842. Since a smokehouse is not an absolute necessity, it may have been built a few years after the Kotthoffs settled in Gasconade County.

2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The Kotthoff-Weeks Farm includes the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter and the north half of the southwest quarter of Section 19, Township 45, Range 5 west, Gasconade County, Missouri. The house, barn, and smokehouse are located on the border between the northeast and northwest quarters of the southwest quarter of the section. The following references to the title of this property are recorded in the Gasconade County, Missouri, Deed Books and Probate Records.

1842 Warranty Deed Town of Hermann to Bernhard Kotthoff  
Property: NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  and NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of SW  $\frac{1}{4}$   
Section 19 Township 45 Range 5W 80 acres  
Date signed: July 9, 1842  
Date filed: May 19, 1873  
Book X Page 410  
Consideration: \$180.00

1847 Warranty Deed Town of Hermann to Christian Kotthoff  
Property: NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  28.70 acres  
Section 19 Township 45 Range 5W  
Date signed: December 9, 1847  
Date filed: May 19, 1873  
Book X Page 411  
Consideration: \$10.00

1879 Probate Records Christian Kotthoff to Kotthoff Heirs,  
Emma Klott and George Klott her husband,  
Lena Brand and Fritz Brand her husband,  
Lizy Bereud and Charles Bereud her husband,  
John Bruns guardian of Theresa Bruns, and  
Frank Kotthoff  
Inventory dated: December 30, 1879  
Settlement: 1879  
Box 16 Bundle 4 Paper 2

1889 Warranty Deed Emma Klott and George Klott her husband,  
Lena Brand and Fritz Brand her husband,  
Lizy Bereud and Charles Bereud her husband  
to Frank Kotthoff  
Date signed: July 16, 1889  
Date filed: July 17, 1889  
Book 13 Page 329  
Consideration: \$2,505.00

1889 Warranty Deed Theresa Bruns, by guardian John Bruns  
to Frank Kotthoff  
Date signed: August 15, 1889  
Date filed: January 4, 1895  
Book 18 Page 504

- 1894 Warranty Deed Frank Kotthoff to Rudolph Heitland  
Date signed: June 21, 1894  
Date filed: June 21, 1894  
Book 16 Page 438  
Consideration:
- 1905 Warranty Deed Rudolph Heitland to Albert Weeks  
Date signed: March 9, 1905  
Date filed: March 10, 1905  
Book 29 Page 584  
Consideration: \$2,800.00
- 1936 Last will Albert Weeks to Bertha C. Weeks  
Date signed: March 19, 1936  
Date A. Weeks death: March, 1936  
Date recorded: April 10, 1936  
Book 67 Page 235
- 1946 Warranty Deed Laura A. Baumstark and Marcus A. Baumstark  
her husband, Helen Zikes and Charles Zikes  
her husband, Edgar Weeks and Anna Weeks  
his wife, Irene Jellison and Henry M. Jellison  
her husband, Myrtle Kormeier and Emil Kormeier  
her husband, Clarence Weeks and Edna Weeks his  
wife, Walter Weeks and Mary Weeks his wife to  
Harry Weeks  
Date signed: September 18, 1946  
Date filed: October 12, 1946  
Book 79 Page 29  
Consideration: \$1.00 and other valuable  
considerations.
- 1972 Warranty Deed Harry Weeks to Rock Cliff Investment Company, Inc.  
(Mr. Baumstark)  
Date signed: May 2, 1972  
Date filed: May 11, 1972  
Book 131 Page 520  
Consideration: \$1.00 and other good and  
valuable considerations.

4. Builder: Smokehouse: The original complex of log buildings was probably built by Bernhard Kotthoff and his son Christian with timber cleared from their land.
5. Original plans and construction: No original plans, early views, or written accounts of the construction of the buildings of the Kotthoff-Weeks Farm have been located.

House: The original one-and-a-half story, half timber house was built around the fireplace of the original log house in three stages. Two cells deep, it included a side hall, kitchen, and two other rooms. At this point, it is impossible to determine whether the southern or the central section was built first.

Barn: The large rectangular masonry and clapboarded frame barn is essentially in its original state. It is divided into three bays. Those on the ends are used for livestock and storage of hay and grain, while the central bay appears to be a large threshing floor with two doors in its west side.

Smokehouse: The smokehouse does not appear to have been altered extensively. It is constructed of rough hewn logs joined at the corners by V notches and has a simple rectangular plan.

6. Alterations and additions:

House: The house was enlarged twice, each time by the addition of two rooms. The construction materials and methods were the same as those used in the original structure. The additions were simply a natural extension of the original house. The northern section was probably the last of these additions.

The original wooden shingle roofing has been covered with corrugated sheet metal.

The chimney has been closed off with a piece of plywood.

Barn: The stairs leading to the haymow at the southern end of the barn were added after the building was completed. Part of the framing of the bent forming the southern wall of the threshing floor has been removed to accommodate this staircase.

The barn's original wooden shingle roof has been covered with corrugated sheet metal.

Some of the stall doors have been removed within the last ten years. The original barn doors, double doors on wrought hinges, have been replaced with large sliding doors running on overhead rollers.

Smokehouse: The major change in the smokehouse has been the addition of a corrugated metal roof. The original wooden shingles can be seen underneath the metal from the inside of the building.

Where the mud, straw, and stick chinking has deteriorated, it has been patched with concrete.

The door to the smokehouse may not be original.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Bernhard Kotthoff and his son Christian came to Casconade County at the beginning of its period of heavy settlement. The land they purchased was part of the large parcel bought by George Bayer for the German Settlement Society of Philadelphia, the organization formed to colonize Hermann, Missouri. The Kotthoffs may have come to Missouri through the efforts of that organization. They rapidly became prosperous and influential, building

the first frame house (History of Gasconade County) and one of the largest barns in the area. After Christian Kotthoff and his wife died, his children sold the farm to Albert Weeks, and it has been in the Weeks family ever since. Christian and Bernhard Kotthoff are buried with Elizabeth, Christian's second wife, in the family cemetery south of the house.

C. Sources of Information:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

1. County Tax Records, 1854, 1866-1900, in vault on second floor, Gasconade County Courthouse, East First Street between Market and Schiller Streets, Hermann, Missouri (key in care of County Clerk).
2. Deeds, Office of the County Recorder, Gasconade County Courthouse.  
Probate Records, Office of the Probate Clerk, Gasconade County Courthouse.
3. Interview, Mr. Harry Weeks, July 7, 1975, sequence of construction of house, plans for adding siding.

b. Secondary and published sources:

History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford and Gasconade Counties, (Goodspeed Publishing Co., Chicago, Ill.: 1888)

Arthur, Eric and Witney, Dudley, The Barn, a Vanishing Landmark in North America, (New York Graphic Society Ltd., Greenwich, Connecticut: 1972)

Hesse, Anna, Gasconade County Tours, (Anna Hesse, 1968)

Prepared by: Nanette M. Linderer  
Project Historian  
Summer, 1975

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The buildings on the Kotthoff-Weeks Farm are simple, well-crafted vernacular structures, displaying a surprising sophistication of detail.
2. Condition of fabric: The basic structures of the house and barn are in excellent condition; elements such as clapboards, shutters and window and door casings show marked deterioration. The smokehouse is in fair condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions:

House: 32'6" x 56'2"  
Barn: 30'6" x 90'8"  
Smokehouse: 12'0" x 16'11"

2. Foundations:

House: 21" limestone ashlar perimeter walls with stone piers under the south section.  
Barn: 23"-27" limestone ashlar walls.  
Smokehouse: Dry laid fieldstones.

3. Wall construction, finish and color:

House: Typical German Fachwerkbau construction, heavy wooden sills rest on the foundation walls, and the columns bear upon them. Intermediate beams are placed along the wall to frame doors and windows and provide added stability, and the end panels are braced diagonally. Girts are mortised into the top beam, and to these the rafters are notched 14" from the wall, forming a slight cantilever. This joint is boxed in. Roman numerals and letters carved into the wooden members indicated the relative position of each member in the wall to the house's builders. The white oak timbers and limestone nogging are exposed on the east (front) wall, and the remaining walls are covered with unpainted clapboards.

Barn: The first story of the barn is constructed of limestone masonry. A section at the center of the east wall is half-timbered, indicating the filling in of large wagon doors. The white oak frame structure system is the same as for the house, with the difference that limestone infill is used in only a few of the panels, and the cantilever formed by the girts is left open for ventilation. The frame section of the barn is covered with unpainted clapboards; the first floor masonry is exposed.

Smokehouse: Constructed of undressed logs. V-notched at the corners. Smaller logs form the chinking, and the daubing consists of contemporary portland cement.

4. Structural system:

House: Basically divided into three cells corresponding to the three stages of growth. Nine inch exterior half-timber walls form the skin, with nine inch half-timber walls between each cell. Log floor beams are notched into larger summer beams. Rafters are partially squared logs cross-notched at the ridge with no ridge beam. All joints are mortised, tenoned and pegged.

Barn: Exterior masonry walls on the first floor; 8" square wooden timbers at the loft level. The 12" square central column is diagonally braced.

Smokehouse: Log perimeter walls with rough-cut frame roof structure.

5. Porches:

House: A 7" wide, open porch runs the length of the east side.

Barn: None.

Smokehouse: None.

6. Chimneys:

House: Three inside chimneys (two brick; one tile) on the west side of the ridge.

Barn: None.

Smokehouse: None.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors:

House: The front door (four panel with plain fieldings) is hinged to a light panel which in turn is hinged to the wall. The wooden column to which the panel is latched is removable to facilitate the moving of large objects through the doorway. The door to the basement has a similar arrangement. Doorways are framed by flat casings and trims nailed to the columns and beams.

Barn: Two large wagon doors on the west side are suspended from and slide on metal tracks. A pair of smaller hinged double doors is situated on the east side.

Smokehouse: A single vertical plank door is located on the east wall.

b. Windows:

House: First floor windows are six-over-six double-hung with simple wooden framing. They are shuttered on the west, north and south sides. Attic windows are three-over-three double-hung.

Barn: One row of enbrasure slits spaced at 8' intervals on the first floor provides light and ventilation. The second floor has unglazed openings with flat casings.

Smokehouse: None.

8. Roof:

House and barn: Gable roof with corrugated metal sheet covering. The pitch on the house roof becomes more shallow over the porch.

Smokehouse: Gable roof covered by corrugated metal sheets.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

House basement: Partial basement with exterior access.

First floor: The house is basically a three cell building, two rooms deep. Entrance from the front porch leads into an off-center vestibule, which has a sitting room and bedroom to the left and three bedrooms to the right. The kitchen is beyond the vestibule.

Attic: An unfinished attic extends over the entire house.

Barn: The wagon doors enter into a central two-story space. On both sides are stalls and storage areas separated from the central space by half-timbered walls. Above the stalls are intermediate lofts, and running the entire length of the building is an upper loft.

Smokehouse: The smokehouse consists of one undivided space.

2. Flooring:

House: Variable width, oak tongue-and-groove boards presently covered by linoleum.

Basement: Basement has dirt flooring.

Barn: 12"-15" wide, oak floor boards with spline joints form the floors of the intermediate lofts. The first floor has a dirt floor.

Smokehouse: Dirt floor.

3. Wall and ceiling finish:

House: Patterned wall paper covers lath-and-plaster walls which are painted with blue calcimine beneath the paper,

Vestibule: The vestibule ceiling is made of beaded boards; all others are covered with paper.

Barn: All walls are exposed framing.

Smokehouse: Interior walls are the insides of the log walls.

4. Stairways:

House: An open-string stairway on the north wall of the vestibule leads to the attic. It is enclosed from the fifth tread up.

Barn: Open-string stairs lead to the intermediate lofts on both sides. Access to the upper loft is by ladder.

Smokehouse: None.

5. Doorways and doors:

House: Interior doors are four panel plain fieldings. The door to the kitchen is a vertical plank door with a Z-trace.

Barn: Plank doors with Z-braces.

Smokehouse: No interior doors.

6. Decorative features:

All three buildings have flat casings and trim.

House: Cast iron rimlocks with either thumb latches or knobs.

Barn: Wrought iron strap hinges on the doors.

7. Mechanical equipment:

House: Electric lighting: stove heating (the massive central fireplace is no longer used). A hand pump in the kitchen forms the plumbing.

Barn and smokehouse: None.

D. Site and surroundings:

The Kotthoff-Weeks Farm stands today much as it did during its early days. The most notable modern intrusions upon the setting are the creation of a reservoir to the north of the barn and the addition of a metal mobile home to the southwest of the historic structures. Building orientation is as follows: house front--east; barn front--west; smokehouse front--east.

Outbuildings: A chicken coop and a privy are located north of the house.

Prepared by: Clayton B. Fraser  
Project Supervisor  
Summer, 1975

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Hermann, Missouri, project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey, under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, with cooperation of Historic Hermann, Incorporated. Recording was carried out during the summer of 1975 by Clayton B. Fraser (HABS Washington Office), Project Supervisor; Nanette M. Linderer (University of Missouri at Columbia), Project Historian; and Student Architects Edward C. Freeman (Arizona State University), Jean C. Parker (Columbia University), and Donnie G. Seale (University of Florida). The photographs were taken in April and May 1983, by HABS/HAER Photographer Jet Lowe.

ADDENDUM TO:  
KOTTHOFF-WEEKS FARM  
County Route J vicinity  
Gasconade vicinity  
Gasconade County  
Missouri

HABS MO-248  
*HABS MO,37-GASC.V,1-*

COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001