

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 2 ½" x 2 ½" 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.

<i>r1025</i>	<i>27 February 2004</i>	<i>Robert L. Elgin</i>	<i>Gift</i>
<i>r1142</i>	<i>15 June 2005</i>	<i>Robert L. Elgin</i>	<i>Gift</i>

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
"Matthew M. Hughes' Map of the Boundaries of Platte County, Mo." By Robert L. Elgin, n.d.
- 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
"Condition Report and Restoration Estimate, The Valle-Rozier House, Ste. Genevieve, Mo." Produced for the Missouri State Park Board, Jefferson City, Mo., 1969. With plans and elevations of house and slave quarters.
(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
- Krakov
- 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
Midco 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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