



BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
UNIQUE SITE NO.	_____
QUAD	_____
SERIES	_____
NEG. NO.	_____

YOUR NAME: Nancy Todd DATE: August 1987

YOUR ADDRESS: E.S.P. Agency Bldg 1 TELEPHONE: 518-474-0479

ORGANIZATION (if any): Division for Historic Preservation
See continuation sheet 11

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): Abell Farmhouse and Barn, Component #15
- 2. COUNTY: Madison TOWN/~~ENVY~~: Cazenovia VILLAGE: na; Cazenovia vic.
- 3. STREET LOCATION: Ballina Road
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: see attached ADDRESS: see attached
- 6. USE: Original: residence/barn Present: residence/barns
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain no; private residence

DESCRIPTION

- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard : farmhouse b. stone c. brick d. board and batten : barn
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: farmhouse: modern siding
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints
b. wood frame with light members
c. masonry load bearing walls
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other: barn farmhouse
- 10. CONDITION: a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated
- 11. INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

See item #18

12. PHOTO: N. Todd, 1987;
Cazenovia Preservation
Foundation, 1985

13. MAP: See continuation sheets
Acreage: 95.37 acres

1. Farmhouse and barn, viewed from southwest



COMPONENT #15

14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known b. zoning c. roads
 d. developers e. deterioration
 f. other: _____
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
 a. barn b. carriage house c. garage
 d. privy e. shed f. greenhouse
 g. shop h. gardens
 i. landscape features: _____
 j. other: non-contributing tenant farmhouse
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
 a. open land b. woodland
 c. scattered buildings
 d. densely built-up e. commercial
 f. industrial g. residential
 h. other: _____

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
 (Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

See continuation sheet

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

See continuation sheet

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: Farmhouse: ca. 1870; Barn: ca. 1870

ARCHITECT: unknown

BUILDER: unknown

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See continuation sheet

21. SOURCES:

See cover form, item #9

Cazenovia Multiple Resource Area
Cazenovia, Madison County, New York

Continuation sheet, page 1
Jabez Abell Farmhouse and Barn, Component 15

5. Owners:

Farmhouse:

Mr. Seward Fisk
or current owner
Ballina Road
Cazenovia, New York 13035

Barn and tenant farmhouse:

Mr. William Johnson
2551 Ballina Road
Cazenovia, New York 13035

17. The Abell Farmhouse and Barn occupy a 95.37-acre farm on the northeast corner of the intersection of Stone Quarry and Ballina Roads approximately two and one-half miles southeast of the village of Cazenovia. The isolated rural road is characterized by scattered modern and altered older farmhouses and farm-related outbuildings. The nominated farmhouse and barn sit close to the road and are surrounded by extensive open land and cultivated fields. A tenant farmhouse is located several hundred yards east of the pair; although it may date from the nineteenth century, it is non-contributing due to extensive alterations. A lumber mill, established in the 1940s, is located on the south side of Ballina Road opposite the farmhouse and barn.

The entire acreage of the property is included in the nomination as it reflects the historic agricultural use of the property. The heavy black outline on the attached county tax map (107-1-32 and 107-1-33) identifies the boundary of the nominated property.

Contributing buildings: 2
Non-contributing buildings: 1

18. The Abell Farmhouse is a two-story, cubic-massed, Italianate style frame residence built ca. 1870. Constructed on a random ashlar stone foundation, the building is covered by a low-pitched, hipped roof surmounted by a belvedere. The principal (south) elevation is characterized by a projecting two-story pavilion. The entrance consists of a double paneled door and transom flanked by molded pilasters and sheltered by a portico. Paired, turned wood pendants embellish the portico, which is supported by paired, scroll-sawn consoles. At the second-story level, a door provides access to a small porch formed by the

Cazenovia Multiple Resource Area
Cazenovia, Madison County, New York

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Jabez Abell Farmhouse and Barn, Component 15

portico below. A decorative balustrade surrounding this porch was removed at an undetermined date. A decorative molded cornice and paired brackets delineate the roofline beneath broad overhanging eaves. Fenestration throughout the structure is regular and symmetrically spaced. The south elevation is characterized by tall, paired windows beneath molded lintels. A two-story bay window dominates the east wall. Window openings contain double-hung sash.

The integrity of the farmhouse has been slightly compromised due to unsympathetic renovations in the early 1970s and extensive deterioration since its abandonment in the mid-1970s. Exterior damage includes the application of modern siding, extensive deterioration of the cupola, roof and front cornice, loss of the front porch (former appearance unknown) and slight deterioration of door and window trim. However, the original clapboard is believed to survive intact beneath the siding, and several sections of the cupola, including the large, rounded window units, were salvaged and are in storage.

Original interior fabric included cherry and walnut woodwork and an elegant spiral staircase. Much of the interior was gutted during the early stages of the 1970s renovation. The project was abandoned soon after most walls and trim were removed; some sections of original lath and plaster survive and a variety of woodwork (primarily door and window trim) was salvaged and stored (photo 5). The spiral staircase (photos 6 and 7), woodwork in the entrance vestibule (photo 8) and pocket doors between parlors (photo 9) survive intact.

Despite alterations and deterioration, the farmhouse retains integrity of location and setting, the majority of its original design characteristics, evidence of a high level of craftsmanship and a good portion of its original materials, thus meeting the National Register criteria for integrity.

The Abell Barn, built ca. 1870, is located east of the farmhouse on Ballina Road. Built above a raised stone foundation, the two-story frame building is constructed on a cruciform plan, its gable roofs intersecting beneath a louvered ventilating cupola. The barn is covered with board and batten siding cut in a decorative saw-tooth design above the second story. Gable end panels are embellished with molded trim reflecting the same saw-tooth motif.

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Cazenovia, Madison County, New York

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The one and one-half story tenant farmhouse is located several hundred yards to the east of the barn. Sited close to the road, the rectangular frame building features a gable roof, modern shingle siding, brick exterior chimneys, a modernized interior and a large modern rear wing. Although the building is believed to date from the nineteenth century, it is considered non-contributing due to extensive alterations. It does not meet the National Register criteria due to loss of integrity of design, materials and workmanship.

20. The Abell Farmhouse and Barn are architecturally significant as distinctive examples of Picturesque late nineteenth century farm architecture in the town of Cazenovia. The farm buildings, together with a substantial portion of the farmstead's original acreage, also recall Cazenovia's prominence as a prosperous agrarian community and provide important information on the history of farming and rural building traditions in the town and region. Of primary significance is the barn, a large, cruciform dairy barn which embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Picturesque Queen Anne and Eastlake styles, including asymmetrical massing, board-and-batten siding, saw-tooth woodwork at the cornice line, an ornate cupola and ornamental woodwork in the apexes of the gable ends. The barn is a rare surviving example of its type in the town; large-scale, farm-related dependencies were not often executed with such fashionable sophistication and elegance. As a farm dependency, the dairy barn reflects the shift from crop production to dairy farming in Cazenovia's agricultural history. With the advent of rail transportation in the region in the 1870s, the shipment of fresh milk became possible, and Cazenovia soon became an important center of dairy farming. The significance of the property is enhanced by the survival of an unusually large portion of the farmstead's original acreage.

Despite alterations and deterioration, the Abell farmhouse retains sufficient integrity to meet the National Register criteria. It retains its original historic setting in a rural, relatively unpopulated agrarian area surrounded by the major portion of its original farmland and in close proximity to its unusual, highly intact and distinctive farm dependency. Moreover, even in its present condition, the farmhouse embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type, period and method of construction. On the exterior, the farmhouse is clearly identifiable as an example of Italianate style residential

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Cazenovia, Madison County, New York

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Jabez Abell Farmhouse and Barn, Component 15

architecture, distinguished by its two-story scale, cubic form with central projecting pavilion, projecting bay windows, original window and door openings and wooden sash, the majority of its broadly projecting bracketed cornice and nearly all of its decorative wooden trim - door and window surrounds and highly ornate entrance portico. Although a portion of the roof has been destroyed due to lack of maintenance, its low-pitched hipped configuration is still evident, as is the form, scale and placement of the deteriorated cupola. The level of deterioration has somewhat compromised the building's integrity of materials as has the application of aluminum siding to the exterior; however, the majority of the original decorative materials are intact and in good condition and it is presumed that its original exterior sheathing is intact beneath the siding. Those materials that survive evince a fairly high level of craftsmanship, especially paired turned wooden pendants and scroll-sawn consoles around the entrance, a decorative molded cornice with brackets, molded window lintels and a double-panel entrance door. Intact interior features include some door and window trim in the entrance vestibule and southeast parlor, two sets of pocket doors in the southwest parlor and a handsome spiral staircase. A variety of woodwork, although removed from its original position, was salvaged and remains in storage. The Abell Farmhouse continues to convey the image of its sophisticated design and it remains one of Cazenovia's best examples of traditional, Italianate style residential architecture, comparable to the dwellings located at 53 Sullivan Street, 8, 10 and 12 Forman Street, 3, 5, 7 and 9 Willow Street, 33 and 112 Albany Street, 57, 59 and 117 Lincklaen Street and 13 and 19 Chenango Street, all components of the Cazenovia Village Historic District.

The Abell Farmhouse and Barn complex is one of five intact examples of late nineteenth century, Picturesque rural architecture that recall Cazenovia's prominence as a prosperous agricultural region during the nineteenth century. The other examples are the Crandall Farm Complex (ca. 1870), the Brick House (ca. 1860s), the Meadows (ca. 1880s) and Glenwood Farm (ca. 1885), Components #13, 14, 16, and 18, respectively. A number of earlier examples of rural farm architecture that also provide information on farming and rural building traditions in the central New York region are also included in the nomination. These include the Federal period Beckwith Farmhouse (ca. 1810), Niles Farmhouse (ca. 1807), Sweetman Farmhouse (ca. 1825), Tall Pines (ca. 1835), Middle Farmhouse (ca. 1820), Zephnia Comstock Farmhouse (ca. 1830), Chappell Farmhouse (ca. 1835), Evergreen

Cazenovia Multiple Resource Area
Cazenovia, Madison County, New York

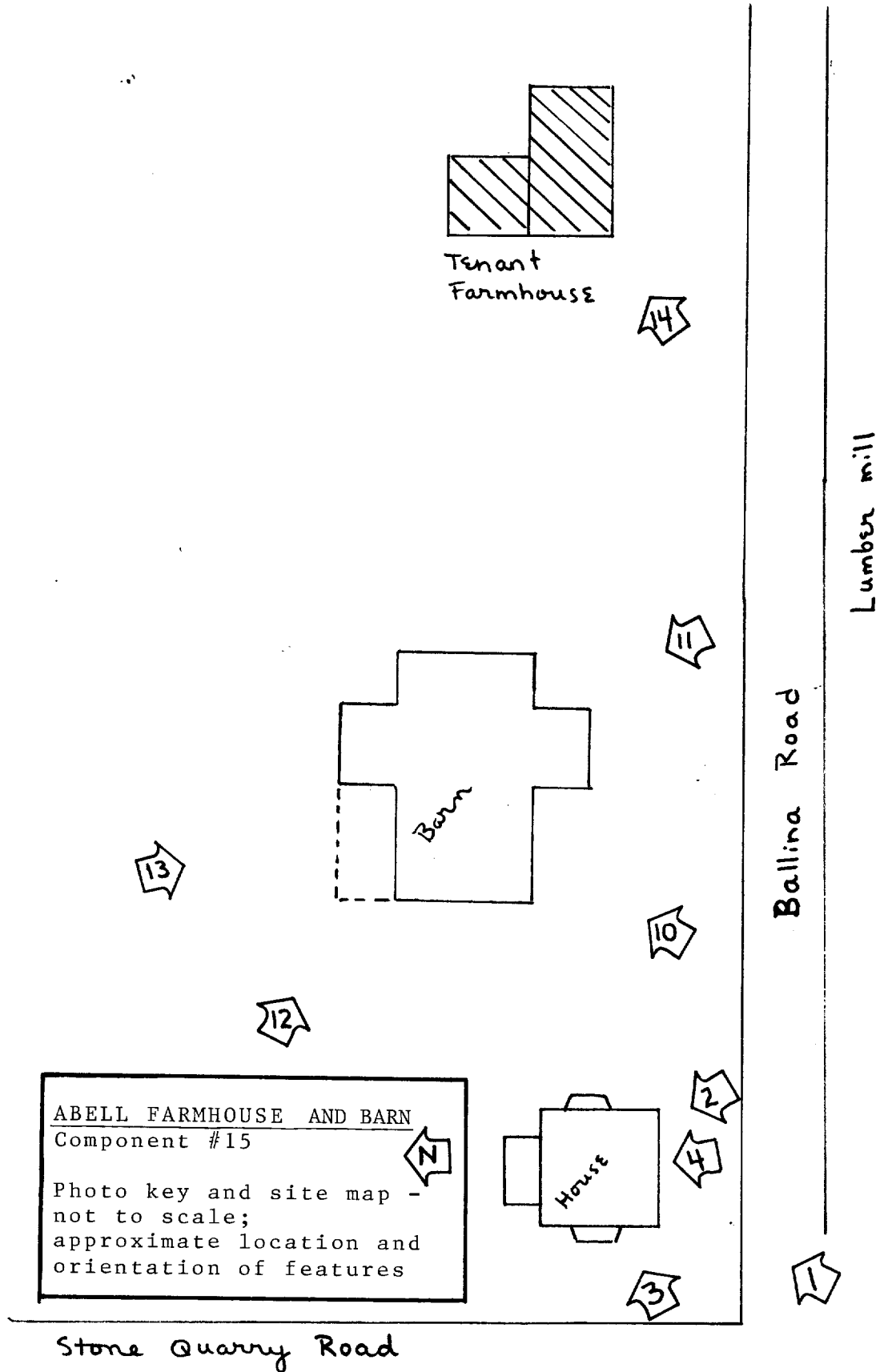
Continuation sheet, page 5
Jabez Abell Farmhouse and Barn, Component 15

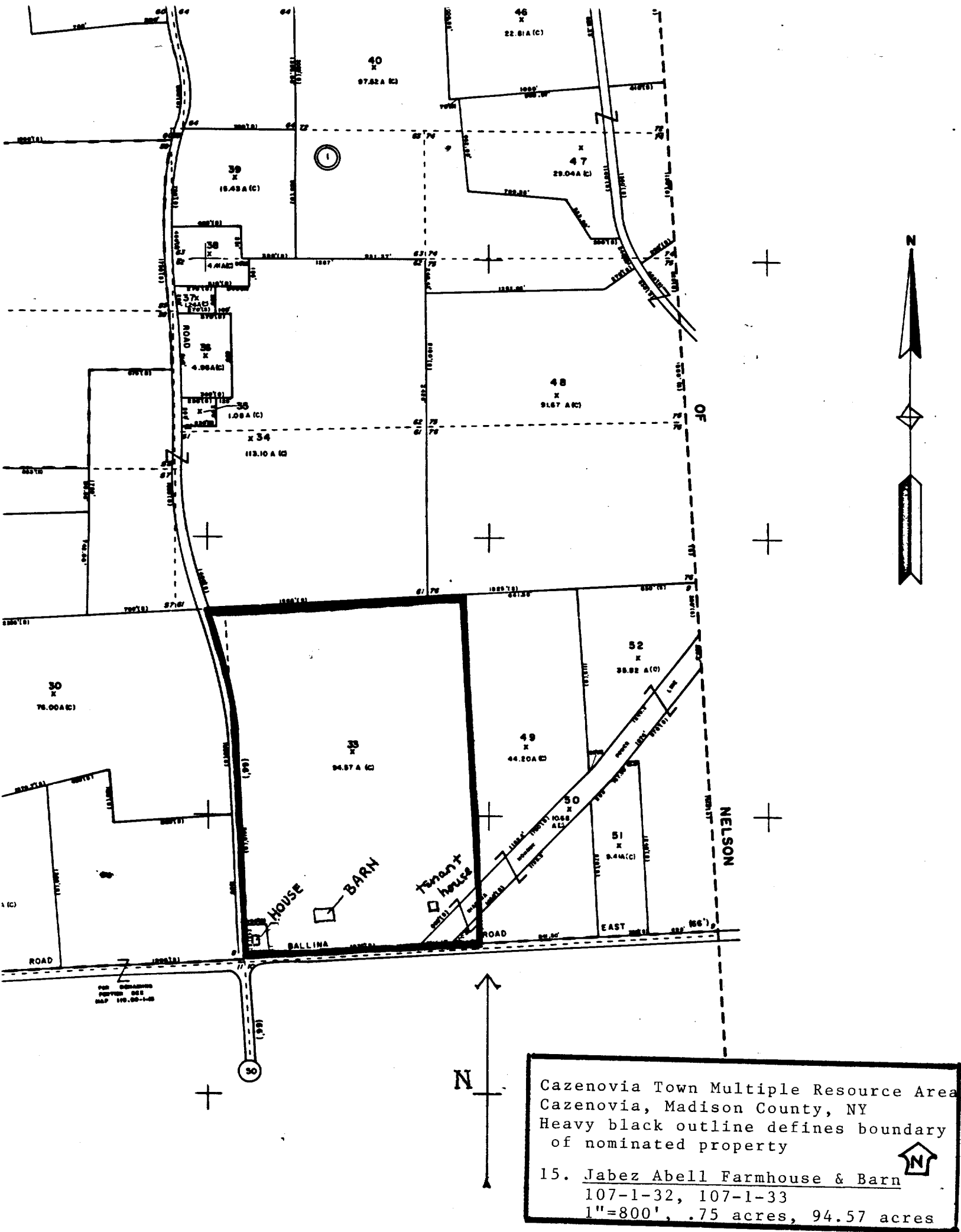
Acres (ca. 1814), Annas Farmhouse (ca. 1832) and Parker Farmhouse (ca. 1820), Components #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 17, respectively, and the mid-nineteenth century, Greek Revival period Maples (ca. 1830), Rolling Ridge Farm (ca. 1837) and the Cobblestone House (ca. 1840), Components #10, 11, and 12, respectively.

According to local tradition, the original 100-acre farmstead was established in 1793 by Jabez Abell. Abell, an early settler in Cazenovia from Rhode Island, is believed to have been the first settler in Cazenovia under the Lincklaen land grant program (see cover form, item #8). Little is known about the first building(s) erected on the property. Until the present Italianate style farmhouse was built, the main Abell residence was located on a slight knoll just north of the current farmhouse and barn. Based on the fact that the Abell family was one of Cazenovia's foremost families during the first half of the nineteenth century, it is assumed that the first farmhouse was probably a fashionable Federal style residence comparable to the finer dwellings in the village. The Abells were upper class, high society people, thus explaining the relative sophistication of the present Abell Farmhouse. According to local tradition, the Abells were small-scale gentlemen farmers; by the late nineteenth century they had switched from crop production to dairying as had many farmers in Cazenovia. The property remained in the Abell family until 1929 when the last of the Abells (most of whom carried on the Jabez name) died without heirs. The farmstead was acquired by the Johnson family who converted the property into a full-scale dairying operation. At some point during the mid-twentieth century, a number of support structures, including a milkhouse, workshop and corncrib, were lost as the second generation of Johnsons gave up farming and, in 1940, established a lumber mill across the road. Much of the arable land continues to be farmed by leasees; thus, the nominated property retains a high degree of integrity of setting and location.

Cazenovia Town Multiple Resource Area
Cazenovia Madison County

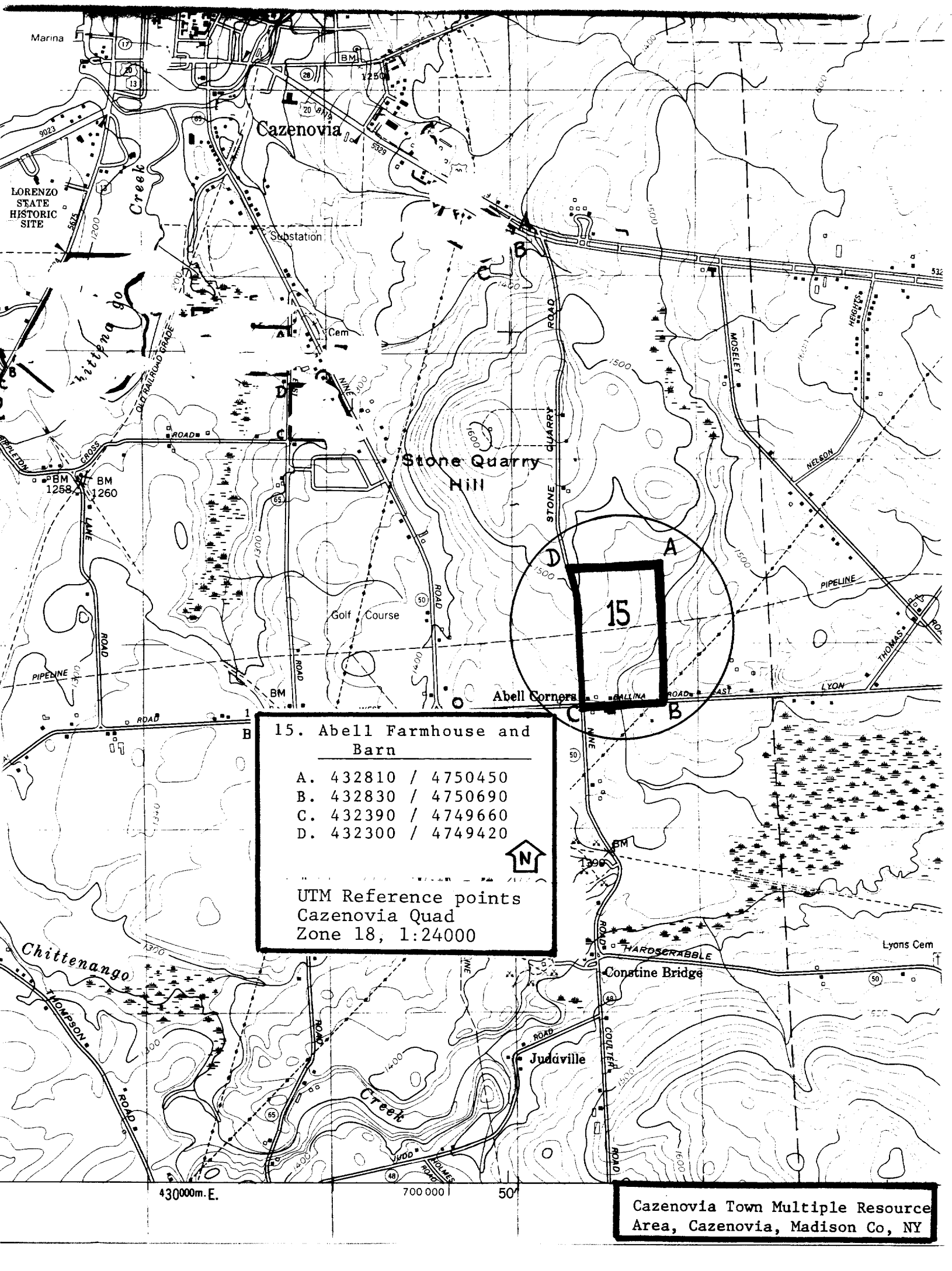
Abell Barn and Farmhouse, Component #15





Cazenovia Town Multiple Resource Area
 Cazenovia, Madison County, NY
 Heavy black outline defines boundary
 of nominated property

15. Jabez Abell Farmhouse & Barn
 107-1-32, 107-1-33
 1"=800', .75 acres, 94.57 acres



15. Abell Farmhouse and Barn

- A. 432810 / 4750450
- B. 432830 / 4750690
- C. 432390 / 4749660
- D. 432300 / 4749420



UTM Reference points
Cazenovia Quad
Zone 18, 1:24000

430000m. E.

700 000 50'

Cazenovia Town Multiple Resource Area, Cazenovia, Madison Co, NY

Abell Barn and Farmhouse, Component #15



2. Farmhouse, viewed from southeast

3. Farmhouse, viewed from southwest



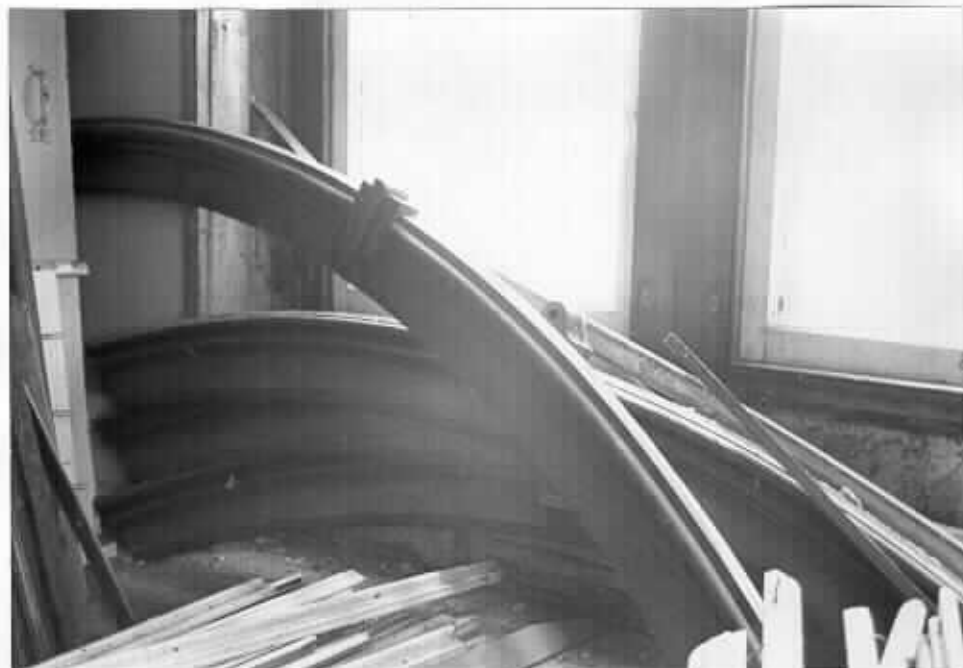
Cazenov, Madison County

Abell Barn and Farmhouse, Component #15

4. South facade,
entrance detail



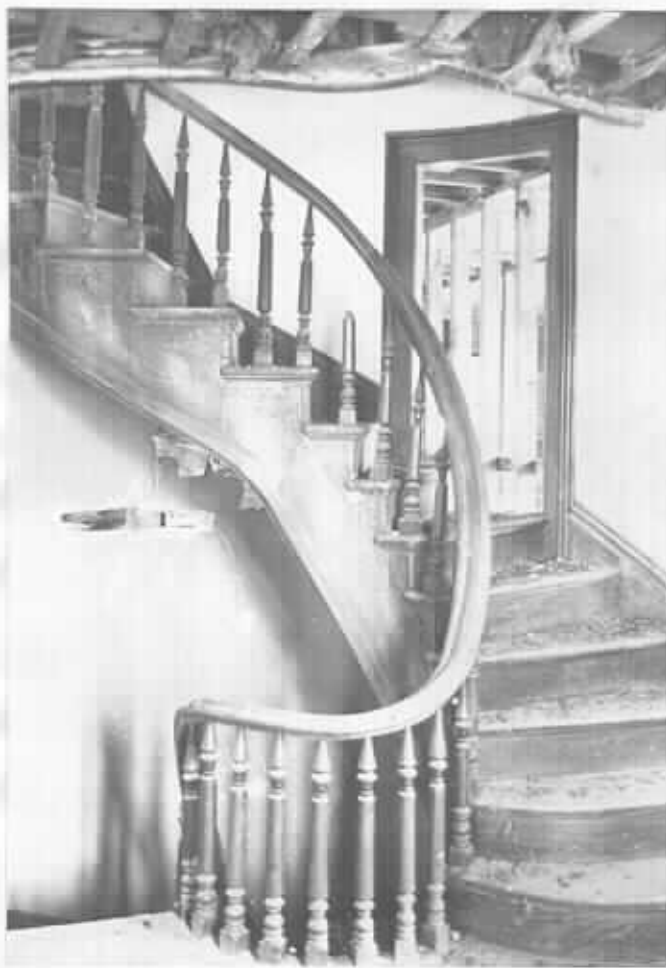
5. Salvaged interior woodwork



Abell Barn and Farmhouse, Component #15



6. Staircase,
entrance parlor



7. Staircase,
second-floor landing



8. Door detail,
entrance parlor



9. Pocket doors between
southwest and north-
west parlors

Abell Barn and Farmhouse, Component #15



10. Barn, viewed from southwest

11. Barn, viewed from southeast



Abell Barn and Farmhouse, Component #15



12. Barn, viewed from west

13. Rear elevation, viewed from northwest



Abell Barn and Farmhouse, Component #15



14. Tenant farmhouse, non-contributing