

A Map of Two Historic Sites in The  
Clinch River Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactor Plant Area  
Roane County, Tennessee

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During January of 1973, a brief mapping project was conducted by myself assisted by Robert Newman, a student at the University of Tennessee. Also participating were a group of students enrolled in a course entitled Archaeological Field Technique at the University of Tennessee - Stephen Ahler, Erik Burkhart, Howard Earnest, Michael Livesay, Jennifer Lund, and Michael McKinley. Two days were devoted to surveying in the Clinch River Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactor Plant area at two historical sites, 40RE120 and 40RE121. Both sites are abandoned farm houses probably occupied in the latter part of the 19th. century and early 20th. century.

Procedure

Two-man surveying crews used the telescopic alidade and plane table for mapping. The crews consisted of students unfamiliar with techniques of surveying and so the project served to train them in proper mapping procedures. Because of this lack of experience, each crew mapped the same area. The maps included in this report represent the work of the most experienced crew.

The object of the project was to provide an accurate plan of remains associated with the two sites. These results are presented in the two accompanying maps which are self explanatory. No systematic effort was made to record in elaborate detail the condition of the various structures or the nature of several associated features. The text makes mention of the remains, their condition, dimensions, and probable function, but should not be taken as an exhaustive descriptive account.

Elevation readings are based on temporary bench marks set by the crew in the vicinity of the mapped area and arbitrarily designated 100 ft. above sea level. Due to the short time spent at both sites, it was deemed unfeasible to tie the plan maps into distantly located geological survey bench marks. The maps were, however, tied into identifiable landmarks located in the near vicinity. Contour interval is two feet.

Site 40RE121

40RE121 is described by Schroedl (1972, 9, 12), but his account is limited to the area enclosed by the hand split picket fence. (Map 1) The mapping crew extended coverage east of the described enclosed area and found two additional structures, a well-house and a barn. Otherwise, the mapping operations served to locate precisely the features noted in Schroedl's description.

In an effort to tie the map to a permanent feature located on the U.S.-G.S. TVA 7½ minute Elverton and Bethel Valley Quadrangle maps, a line was run from the southeast corner of the [

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40RE121 consists of the remains of a now collapsed farm house with its associated outbuildings. The shape and dimensions of the house are not clearly discernable and so estimates had to be based upon the surface configuration of the rubble and standing stone supports. Remains of three chimneys, one standing, the other two collapsed, served to mark the exterior of the roughly L-shaped structure. The east-west arm of the structure measures roughly 35 ft. x 14 ft. while the north-south arm is 35 ft. x 13 ft., all measurements corresponding to the slightly elevated area of debris. A shallow depression approximately 14 ft. x 12 ft. in plan is located in the eastern extension of the

house and in all likelihood is the result of collapse into a cellar.

South of the house is a rubble pile and stone lined depression of a former root cellar. Remains of a log crib termed a cabin on map 1 were noted south of the root cellar. Originally the structure measured about 15 ft. x 11 ft. but is today in a state of almost total collapse. A plan of this structure (Fig. 1) shows the collapse has been relatively uniform in a northwest direction.

Other remains noted in Schroedl's report are a brick lined well, a four-post shed south of the house, the fence enclosing the house, and three pits north of the house. The three pits measure approximately 6 feet across and two feet deep. Each is covered with a layer of leaves and pine needles which appears to represent several year's accumulation. This is underlain by a soil with little or no humus material present. The impression is that the three depressions with their absence of a humus layer are relatively recent excavations, possibly postdating the occupation of the house. Regardless, their function is unknown.

Two gates providing access to the enclosure were located, one on the east near the four-post shed, the other on the west side of the enclosure near the log crib. Remains of leather strap hinges were found on posts at both gates.

An additional fence was noted which encloses an area west of the house. No structural features were observed within this area.

Immediately south of the enclosure is a garbage dump area. The surface of this area is littered with rusted cans, 20th. century jars and bottles, etc. which serve to date at least a portion of the period during which the site was occupied. Also, south of the enclosure is a small rectangular depression about 2.5 feet in depth. It's function is unknown, although a suggestion that it was an outhouse pit seems reasonable. However, no remains of a shed or other wooden construction were noted.



East of the house area are two additional structures. The first is a rectangular four-post well-house 8 feet x 5 feet which covers a circular stone lined well. The earthen mound adjacent to the well 10 feet x 13 feet and approximately 4 feet high probably was accumulated during excavation of the well. The second structure is a barn, rectangular in plan. The dimensions of this structure, are approximate and are based on the presence of stone foundation supports.

Summary: 40RE121 is a moderately well preserved historic farm house with a variety of associated structures and other features. It probably was constructed during the latter part of the 19th. century, but excavation would be required to certify this suggestion. Additional features may be present but were obscured by surface vegetation. Extension of the area surveyed could result in the location of other associated features. For example, nothing suggestive of a smokehouse was found, eventhough, such a structure is a very common feature in farmhouses such as this.

Site 40RE120

40RE120 is located [

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The remains consist of a collapsed house with a standing limestone fireplace. Figures 2 and 3 show three views of the opposing hearth fireplace. The house was mapped by estimating the original dimensions based on the remaining debris. The corners were rather well defined by remaining stone supports. The house appears to have been L-shaped with its greatest length being slightly greater than 40 ft. A rectangular depression within the limits of the house area appears to be the remains of a limestone cellar. The porch area delimited in the map was tentatively identified as the basis of the arrangement of support stones. Such an identification can not be positive without excavation. Also, it seems unlikely that a fireplace would face a porch area as is shown in the

map. To term this area a porch is doubtful. A rectangular, brick lined cistern is located just west of the structure.

In addition to the above mentioned structures, three other features were found. A small concentration of limestone rocks about 25 ft. north of the house was plotted. The function of this feature is unknown. Second, a portion of a fence of split logs was found. The fence runs northeast, a distance of 66 feet. Probably it served at one time to enclose the house, but no additional evidence of fencing was found. Third, a shed consisting of one post and utilizing three trees was found.

Summary: 40RE120 consists of a collapsed house with a standing fireplace, a cistern, and one associated shed. Additional associated structures are probably nearby, but have not yet been discovered.

REFERENCES CITED

Schroedl, Gerald F.

1972 Archaeological Reconnaissance and Test Excavations in the  
Clinch River Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactor Plant Site Area.  
Report submitted to the Tennessee Valley Authority, Knoxville.

**Exempted from Disclosure by Statute – Withheld Under 10 CFR 2.390(a)(3)**

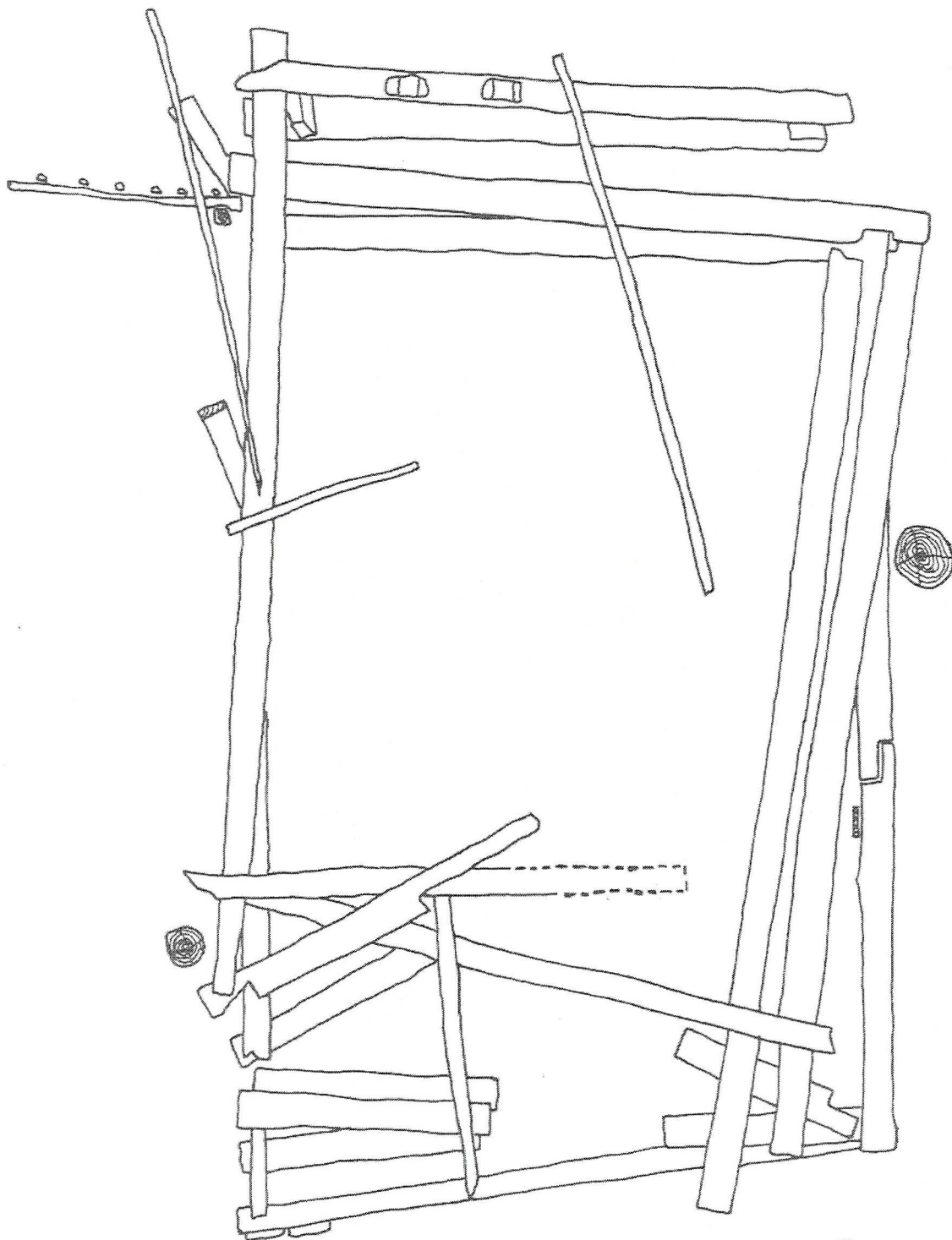
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north

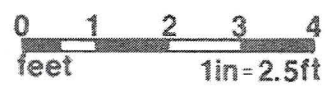
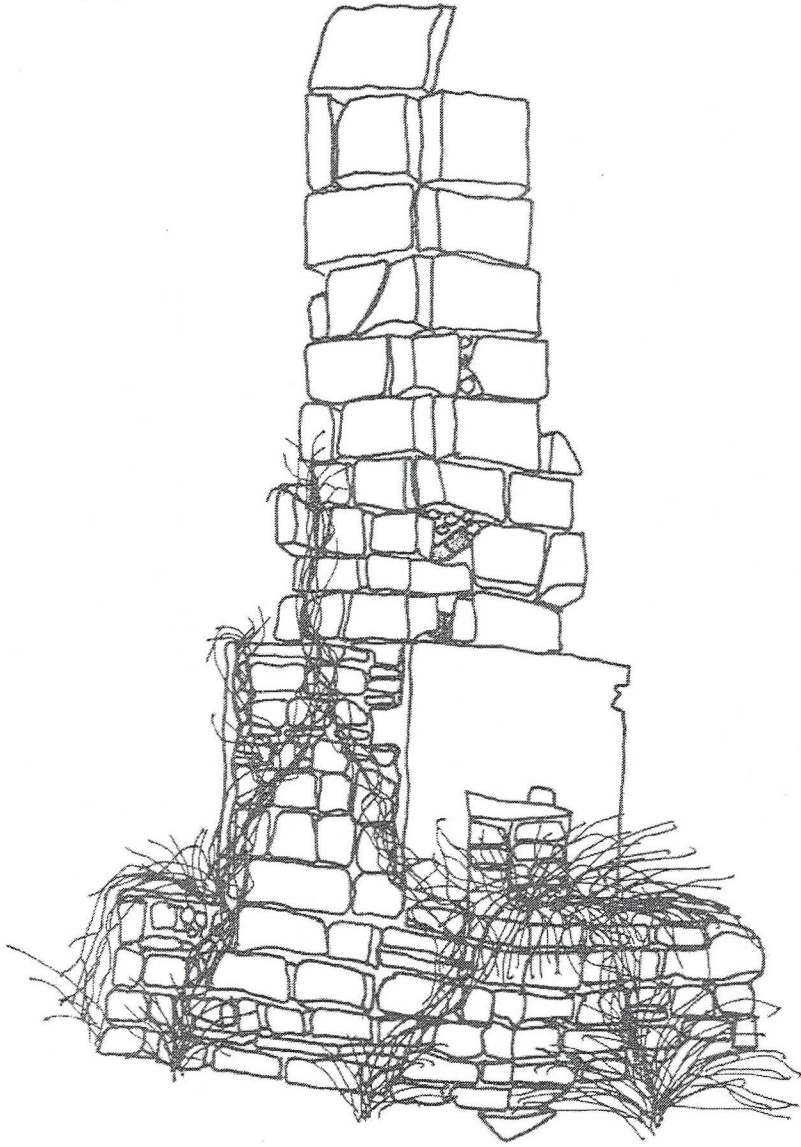
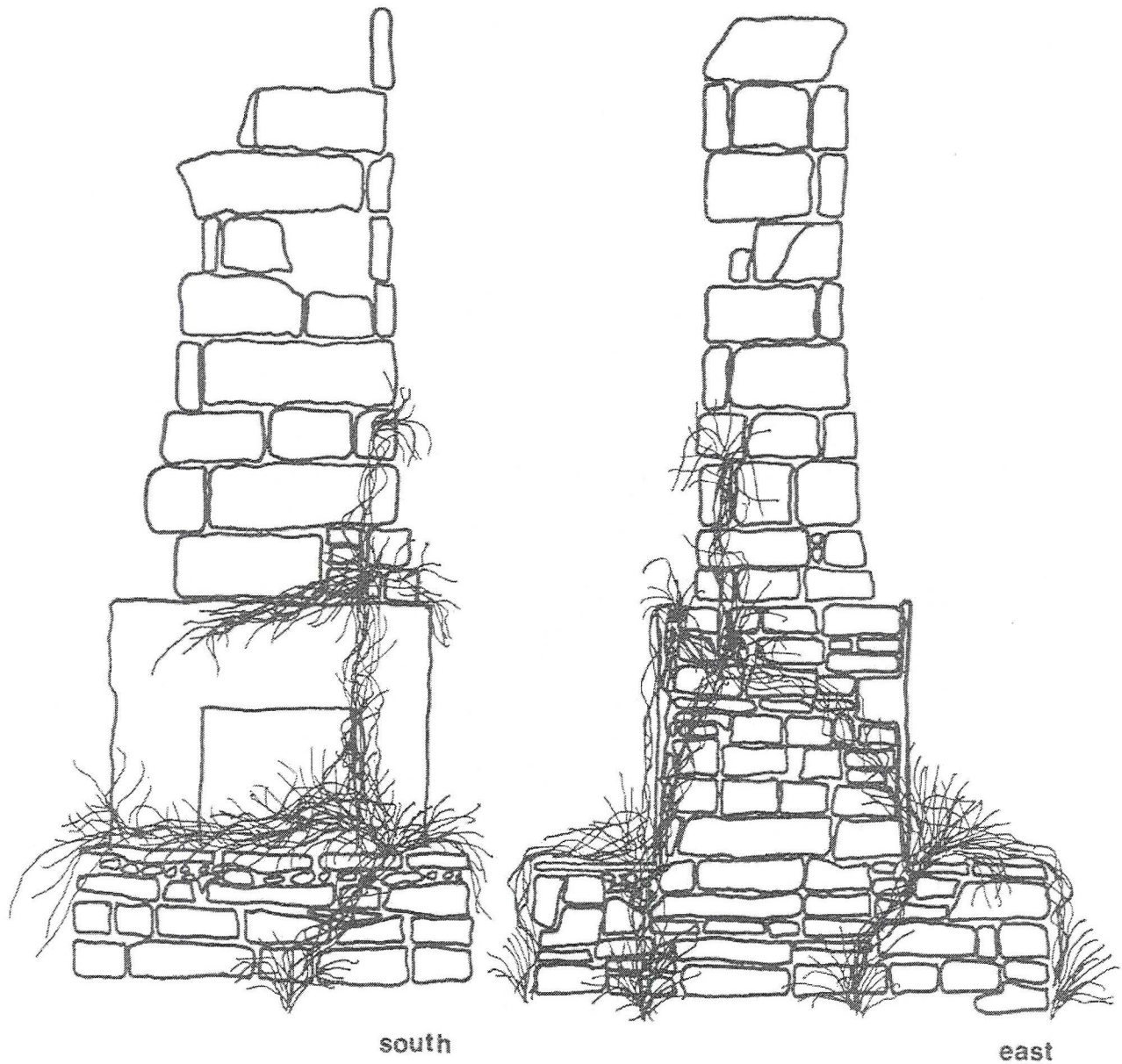


FIGURE 1—LOG CRIB—40RE121



northeast corner

FIGURE 2 - CHIMNEY - 40RE 120



0 1 2 3  
feet 1in = 2ft

FIGURE 3 - FIREPLACE - 40RE120