

Ralph Richterkessing Farm, Barn
4600 I-70 North Service Road
St. Peters
St. Charles County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1919-B

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

RALPH RICHTERKESSING FARM, BARN

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Location: Ralph Richterkessing Farm, 4600 I-70 North Service Road, St. Peters, St. Charles County, Missouri.

Significance: This barn is a primary outbuilding that contributes to the agrarian setting and purpose of the Ralph Richterkessing farmstead.

Description

The primary barn on the Ralph Richterkessing property is located approximately 90' east of the house. The original vertical-board barn measures 65' x 55' but with additions, it is approximately 85' x 78'. The one and one-half story barn is rectangularly planned and has a side gabled roof that extends over a one-story shed wing on the rear. The foundation under the barn's original portion is stone but is concrete under the additions. The roof is corrugated metal over a wood frame. The main opening faces toward the west where the center of the wall is open and large enough to accommodate a vehicle.

The north facade contains two vertical-board door openings. A small, square window is positioned adjacent to one door and another is located in the shed wing. In the gable is a hay loft below a hood. A wood-frame, gabled roof building was added to the shed wing's north side. It has a concrete foundation, a metal roof, a wide, vertical-board door on the west side, and a square window bay on each side. The addition has been covered with brick-patterned asphalt.

A shed wing on a concrete foundation is located on the east side. Two groups of three window bays are placed near the east facade's south end. Although separated by vertical boards, each of these windows is tilted back toward the interior. A boldly-painted advertisement for Meramec Caverns in Stanton, Missouri, covers the roof and dominates the barn's east facade.

The south facade faces the I-70 North Service Road, also known as Old Mexico Road. A shed roof, metal addition covers most of the main part of the wall. Three bays are placed east of the addition. The vertical boards on the barn's original section appear to have been removed when the shed was added. An original door opening west of the addition remains intact.

History: This structure could have been constructed by a previous owner, perhaps J.B. Luerding before the turn of the twentieth century. The barn's mortise and tenon construction and hand-hewn beams make it difficult to determine its age. The

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owner built it in response to typical pre-mechanical farm operation requirements.

Sources: Previous fieldwork by David Crampton, Archaeologist, Missouri Highway Transportation Department; Site visits by Prawl and Sone.

Historians: Stacy Sone and Toni Prawl, Architectural Historians, Missouri Highway and Transportation Department.