

**ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY FORM**

1. Survey No. RY-AS-11-18		2. Survey name: Excelsior Springs Historic Resources	
3. County: Ray		4. Address (Street No.) 30993	Street (name) W 161 <sup>st</sup> St
5. City: Excelsior Springs	Vicinity: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6. Geographical Reference: 39.384720, -94.20584	7. Township/Range/Section: T: 53N R: 29W S:19
8. Historic name (if known): Grandma & Grandpa's house. Black velvet house. Antler velvet house. Fortress house. Escape house.		9. Present/other name (if known): I don't and likely never will know.	
10. Ownership: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Public		11a. Historic use (if known): Cantaloupe, mostly. The melons and tomatoes and okra grown here: oh let there be a record. Let there be a record of strung-up bucks in the garage, of flank and chuck, of bloodletting, steamy, down the garage drain. Please record, too, the history of hiding from drunk fathers. Let there be a record of refuge. Let there be a record of guns.	11b. Current use: Maybe it's still an escape, just someone else's escape. My brother and I had to sell the property after our mom passed away. An isolated, rural home we couldn't afford to live in. Maybe the trees are still fruiting. Maybe the soil still yields. Maybe it doesn't matter that I don't know.

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

12. Construction date: 1974	15. Architect: n/a	18. Previously surveyed? <input type="checkbox"/> Cite survey name in box 22 cont. (page 3)
13. Significant date/period: 1986-2015	16. Builder/contractor: n/a	19. On National Register? <input type="checkbox"/> individual <input type="checkbox"/> district Cite nomination name in box 22 cont. (page 3)
14. Area(s) of significance: AGRICULTURE; SOCIAL HISTORY	17. Original or significant owner: Donald and Carolyn Carver	20. National Register eligible? <input type="checkbox"/> individually eligible <input type="checkbox"/> district potential <input type="checkbox"/> not eligible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not determined
21. History and significance on continuation page. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		22. Sources of information on continuation page. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION**

23. Category of property: <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site <input type="checkbox"/> structure <input type="checkbox"/> object	30. Roof material: Asphalt shingle	37. Windows: <input type="checkbox"/> historic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> replacement Pane arrangement: Double Pane/Storm
24. Vernacular or property type: Corner lot, acreage, ponds	31. Chimney placement: Rear slope	38. Acreage (rural): 3 acres Visible from public road? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
25. Architectural Style: Raised Ranch style	32. Structural system: Wood siding, board/batten	39. Changes (describe in box 41 cont.): <input type="checkbox"/> Addition(s) Date(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Altered Date(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Moved Date(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Other Date(s):
26. Plan shape: Rectangular	33. Exterior wall cladding: Stone and lumber	



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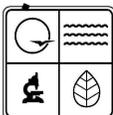
27. No. of stories: 1 Front 2	34. Foundation material: Basement	Endangered by: the accumulation of dust, which is to say the way time has a harvest season
28. No. of bays (1 <sup>st</sup> floor): Eight	35. Basement type: Full/finished	40. No. of outbuildings (describe in box 40 cont.): Two
29. Roof type: Medium hip	36. Front porch type/placement: Verandah Partial width	41. Further description of building features and associated resources on continuation page. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**OTHER**

42. Current owner/address: [Redacted]	43. Form prepared by (name and org.): Someone who will never not dream of what they could have done with this land. The things grown. The life tilled & nurtured. If only they could. If only.	44. Survey date: 2018
		45. Date of revisions:

**FOR SHPO USE**

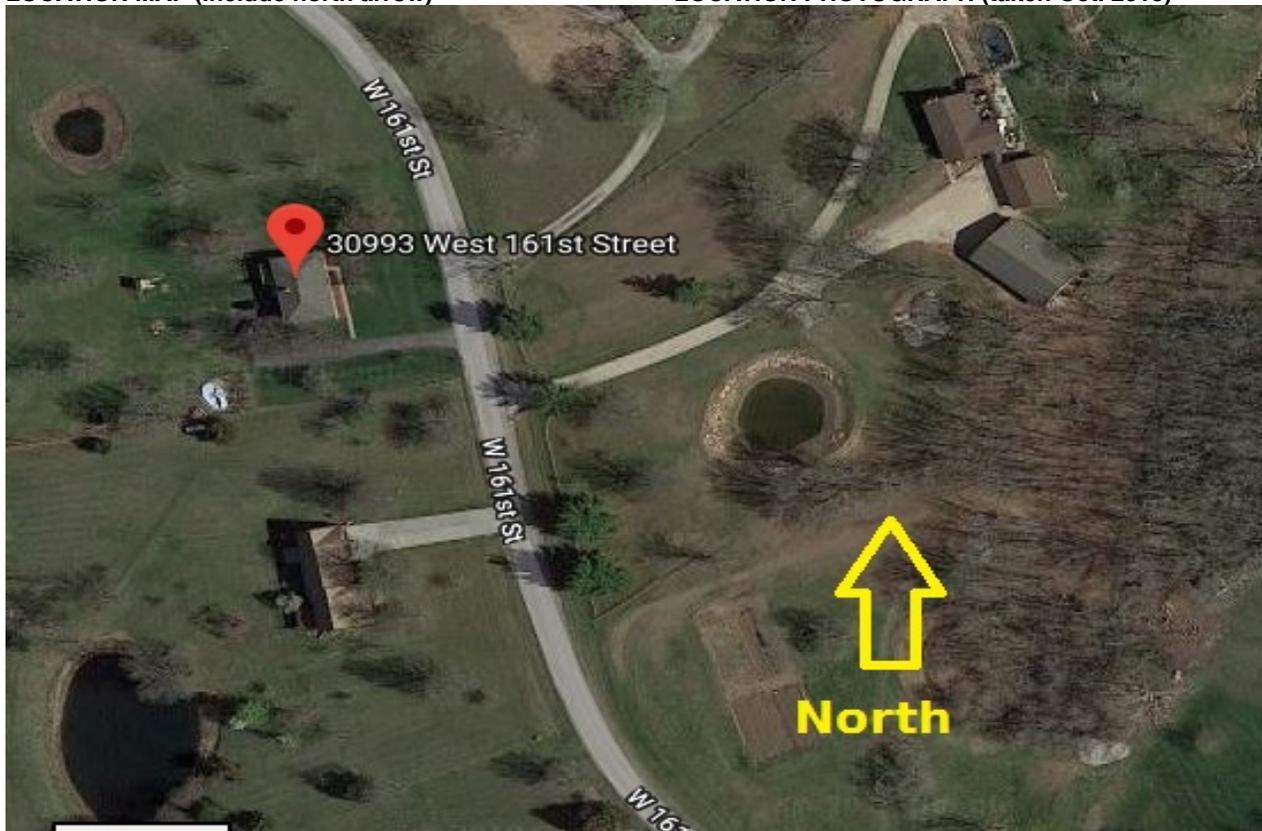
Date entered in inventory:	Level of survey <input type="checkbox"/> reconnaissance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> intensive	Additional research needed? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
National Register Status: <input type="checkbox"/> listed <input type="checkbox"/> in listed district Name: <input type="checkbox"/> pending listing <input type="checkbox"/> eligible (individually) <input type="checkbox"/> eligible (district) <input type="checkbox"/> not eligible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not determined	Other:	



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LOCATION MAP (include north arrow)

LOCATION PHOTOGRAPH (taken Oct. 2013)



**PHOTOGRAPH**

<p>Photographer: RE/MAX Area Real Estate</p>	<p>Date: Dec. 2016</p>	<p>Description: Just out of frame: the pond sheathed by cattails, no longer stocked with crappie. Just out of frame: where the white wooden fence used to be. Just out of frame: the apple trees, fruits dangling near where the pen for the bird dogs used to be, by where the tractor used to be. Just within the frame: you can see it — the black walnut tree where girl tried to be where me used to be.</p>
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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

21. (cont.) History and significance.

This would be the easy image: my grandpa, in his garage, showing me how to properly fill & case a shotgun shell while, half-listening, I stare at the jug of sun tea my grandma has brewing on the stoop over by the birdbath. How binary. How romanticizing domestic labor yearning my femininity. How dismissing generational forms of masculine knowledge passed down.

Expand box as necessary, or add continuation pages.

This would be the harder image: I was fully listening to my grandpa, and I still think of the smell of gunpowder and polished copper, the weight of the crank turning over, compressing the shell. I know that singed carbon breath of a Winchester .243's exhale. I know the texture of antler bark how much grip it takes to lift a lifeless head I know how, even among the dried leaves and iron-slicked soil, field-dressing a buck somehow smells like soft old milk and I miss it sometimes. A grounding clarity.

40. (cont.) Description of environment and outbuildings. Expand box as necessary, or add continuation pages.

It used to be quite the imposing fortress — painted all black with red accent trim; the front porch buttressed with storm-sky stone walls. After my parents divorced, my mom's parents softened things up, opting for a sky blue color that remains to this day. But growing up it was a warning. The basement too was black and red. Bright red shag carpet & wooden walls stained soot. A full black bar, black stools. Red glass vases and candle holders. The old rotary dial tv collecting as much dust as my grandma's collection of miniature white porcelain cats starkly posed around the black stone fireplace. The sitting room upstairs was no less intimidating despite its white carpet and blue walls. That same black stone load bearing wall up here featured a large black velvet painting of a ship at sea being tossed around on a stormy night. The ceiling was vaulted with dark batten and beam. I felt safe here. I felt protected in this lair, in this hull. I felt comforted as a child by depictions of vampires, necromancy, the dark arts, villains plotting their plots. When you are confronted with a monster, after all, you learn to fight fire with fire.

41. (cont.) Description of primary resource. Expand box as necessary, or add continuation pages.

I'm thinking about if I wasn't the boy in the garage, or the latent girl, but the shell. & what if I was really the sun tea, steeping. & what if it is a spectrum anyway — either way a thing filled, either way a thing warmed through. & how I tried to hold gender distinct from rural knowledge but I was wrong. Gender is agrarian — seeds planted, harvested. We cultivate it. The only real gender binary is you either come into yours fast or slow.