Student Research papers  In 1978 one of Warren Roberts’ students documented a turn of the 20th century farm that had been in the same family since 1839. This house is the third dwelling, the first being a log house that was replaced after a year or two by a larger log house shortly after 1840.

It is tempting as one looks at the back of the house to think that the rear portion under the tin roof is an addition. Let’s keep in mind two things as we return to the front and side view to see if we can decide about this: 1) the center row of glass panes in the right hand
window is taller than the lower row and the upper row, and 2) note the character of the trim to the doorframe above the door.

At the windows on the side, the center row of panes is distinctly higher than the upper and lower rows, and we see the same decorative treatment of the frame at the top of the all windows and doors, both side and back.

A third point also speaks in support of both parts of the house being of the same construction. There is no seam or break in the stone foundation between the two parts of the house. We can conclude this to be all of one construction. Let’s look at the floor plan of the house to see if we can better understand this house.
Though it was built well into the 20th century in 1918, the plan itself has much earlier roots. It shows a central hall at the front door in the center of the house, and two large rooms to either side. In the rear portion a hall, moved somewhat to the right, also leads to a somewhat centered door on the rear.

Another student worked on houses similar to the I house type, and drew this house plan to show a representative house in its clearest form. The main house shows the center hallway, the room to either side of the hall, and in this case, one full-sized room in the rear portion.

The classic I house had a central hall, gable fireplaces before heating with stoves and furnaces, and could be one or two rooms deep, or any combination of one and two room depth.

The floor plan reveals both the organization of space in the house and the relationship of functional activities to each other, and therefore tells something of the social concepts by which people lived their lives.

The farmstead, that is, “the homeplace,” is organized in much the same way, and mapping it can reveal much about the daily life and routines in the past.

The layout of this farmstead is organized around a courtyard plan. Summer kitchen, barnyard, granary, garage, corn crib, and privy all led in a straight line from summer kitchen behind the house to the barn, at the north-east corner of the
courtyard. Ridge lines of house and barn were parallel, forming the front and back of the courtyard. Animal pens, chicken house, and brooding-hen house were on the side opposite the garage and summer kitchen.