

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Baker, Sylvester Marion and Frances Anne Stephens, House

other names/site number n/a _____

2. Location

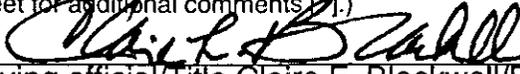
street & number 60 Boonslick Rd. [n/a] not for publication

city or town Montgomery City [x] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Montgomery code 139 zip code 63361

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)


Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO

19 July 1999
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

[] entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet [].

[] determined eligible for the
National Register
See continuation sheet [].

[] determined not eligible for the
National Register.

[] removed from the
National Register

[] other, explain
See continuation sheet [].

Signature of the Keeper

Date

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1 _____ 1 _____ buildings
 0 _____ 0 _____ sites
 0 _____ 0 _____ structures
 0 _____ 0 _____ objects
 1 _____ 1 _____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a _____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

n/a _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling _____

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

GREEK REVIVAL _____

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick _____
 walls brick _____
 roof asphalt _____
 other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance

circa 1850

Significant Dates

n/a

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Sparks

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.7

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A. Zone Easting Northing
15 627720 4307440

B. Zone Easting Northing

C. Zone Easting Northing

D. Zone Easting Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rhonda Chalfant
organization Chalfant Consulting date December 15, 1998
street & number 619 West 32nd telephone 660-826-5592
city or town Sedalia state MO zip code 65301

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Dr. and Mrs. Noel Crowson
street & number 34 Bobcat Road telephone _____
city or town Montgomery City state MO zip code 63361

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Baker, Sylvester Marion and Frances Anne Stephens, House
Montgomery County, MO

Summary: The Baker House, located 0.4 mile east of Danville, Montgomery County, was designed and built in 1854 by a St. Louis architect named Sparks and by homeowner Sylvester Marion Baker and his slaves. Designed in the Greek Revival style popular in the 1840s and 1850s, it features a one-story portico, formal entryway with open staircase, and an elaborate door surround. The two-story I-house with a two story right ell and one story shed roofed ell on the left has solid brick walls fourteen inches thick. On the rear is a wrap-around porch. An extension of the portico, the enclosure of the rear porch and the addition of a garage on the south of the house have been removed in an effort begun in late 1998 to restore the integrity of the exterior. The interior retains significant integrity.

Narrative: The Baker House was built on the site of the Prairie Lawn Seminary, the first female seminary in Missouri west of St. Louis, which had been destroyed by a tornado in 1849. Sylvester Marion Baker purchased the property later that year, and hired St. Louis architect and builder Sparks to design and oversee construction of the house. Much of the work was done by Baker's slaves, who molded the bricks from clay dug on the property and fired them in a kiln built to the south of the house.¹

The Baker House is a Greek Revival style I-house, a style popular during the mid-1800s and used frequently in Missouri by settlers from the South, who hoped to recreated the styles popular in their native states.² Baker's family came to Missouri from Virginia prior to his birth, and had established themselves as a prominent family in Montgomery County. S.M. Baker had married Frances Anne Stephens, originally from Danville, Virginia, in 1847. S.M. Baker was a well-to-do merchant, the second generation of Bakers to own a store along the Boonslick Road.³ The large house he began just two years after his marriage reflects the attitude of the time that a home was visible evidence of a person's social status.

The house, which faces the old Boonslick Road on the north, is a center hall I-house with a shed roofed addition on the south east and a two-story ell on the southwest. The walls, both exterior and interior, are brick, fourteen inches thick. The foundation, also of brick, includes separate foundations for each interior wall, providing substantial support for the interior walls. The interior walls are covered with horse hair and lime plaster applied to the brick. The house has seven fireplaces with chimneys at the east and west walls of the house and in the middle of the ell.

The house's twelve foot by twelve foot portico has pilasters and columns; the gallery above the portico has pilasters and a balustrade with sawn balusters. An elaborate door surround with side lights and transom accents the double front door and provides visitors with an immediate impression of the substance and

¹"Baker Plantation House." According to this typescript, based on a newspaper interview with Olive Baker, daughter of Sylvester Marion Baker, Sparks is identified only by his last name. Two documents in the Gaddis Collection at the Western Missouri Manuscripts collection at the University of Missouri also identify Sparks as the architect, but fail to give a first name. The St. Louis city directories for the 1860s, the oldest available at the State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia, do not list an architect named Sparks.

²Talbot Faulkner Hamlin, The American Spirit in Architecture. The Pageant of America Series, Vol 13. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1926).

³Olive Baker, "Life and Influence of Danville and Danville Township," Missouri Historical Review, 7(1912): 206, 210, 213.

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Baker, Sylvester Marion and Frances Anne Stephens, House
Montgomery County, MO

taste of the home's owner, an impression furthered by the open stairway with cherry wood banister and balusters, faux grained chamber doors, and molded plaster chair rail in the entry hall. The entry hall opens to the south onto a rear porch which extends from the addition on the southeast around the corner of the house to the south end of the ell.

To the right and left of the center entry hall are chambers, the east chamber probably serving as a parlor and the west chamber serving as a sitting room or bedchamber. Each chamber measures eighteen feet by eighteen feet. Each chamber has a fireplace on its exterior wall. The two six-over-six windows on the north wall of each chamber give the exterior the balanced, symmetrical appearance typical of Greek Revival style. The elaborate window frames, like the stairway banister and balusters, were made in St. Louis at Spark's shop and hauled to Danville by ox-cart to be installed in the house.⁴

The sitting room floor has burn marks on the floor supposedly made by William "Bloody Bill" Anderson's men when they burned the town in 1864; the set fire to the house, but according to Olive Baker, daughter of S.M. Baker, the fire was put out by Mrs. Baker and her children.⁵

The ell on the southwest of the house contains a dining room and kitchen on the first floor. The dining room has a built-in walnut cabinet next to its fireplace and an enclosed stairway into the basement on the west wall. The kitchen also has a built-in cabinet next to the fireplace. The kitchen fireplace features its original crane. The mantle has gashes and nicks in the wood that according to local legend were made by soldiers during the Union occupation of Danville during the Civil War. The shed-roofed ell on the east of the house was believed to have served as a pantry and storeroom. The ell opens onto the rear porch, as does the kitchen, suggesting its use for storage of food stuffs and laundry supplies.

The second story of the house is similar in layout to the first floor. The stair landing opens onto the upper gallery on the north, and on the east and west to two chambers, each eighteen by eighteen. The second story of the ell contains two chambers; the southernmost chamber over the kitchen was thought to have been a maid's room. A stairway leads from the middle chamber of the ell to the west chamber (sitting room) on the first floor.

The floors of the house are seven inch wide heart pine boards, the most common wood used for flooring during the mid-nineteenth century. Von Rosensteil and Winkler point out carpet as "an essential part of middle-class interior decorating."⁶ Baker chose a floral medallion motif in shades of green and red, a common color scheme of the time, but with shaded flowers condemned by mavens of taste such as Gervase Wheeler, who condemned "carefully shaded flowers, wreaths, and other vegetative decoration" on carpets because "to tread on worsted ones [flowers], odorless and without form, certainly seems

⁴"Baker Plantation House."

⁵Olive Baker, 220-221.

⁶Helene Von Rosensteil and Gail Caskey Winkler, Floor Coverings for Historic Buildings (Washington, D.C.: Preservation Press, 1988): 120.

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Baker, Sylvester Marion and Frances Anne Stephens, House
Montgomery County, MO

senseless." ⁷ Despite Wheeler's criticism, such floral motifs were typical of the era.⁸ Three interior rooms still have this carpet, made in wide strips and stitched together to form room-sized rugs.

The house retains much of the early hardware, including locks, brown mottled porcelain doorknobs, keyholes, shutters, and fireplace crane.

The non-contributing building is a small frame building with a shed-roofed porch believed to have once been used as a smokehouse. During the time the house was used as an antique store, this building was "enhanced" by the addition of Victorian-style gingerbread trim; as a result, it has lost much of its integrity.

⁷Cited in Gail Caskey Winkler and Roger W. Moss, Victorian Interior Design (New York: Holt, 1986): 91.

⁸Von Rosenstiel and Winkler, 120-150, passim; see also Winkler and Moss, 91-93.

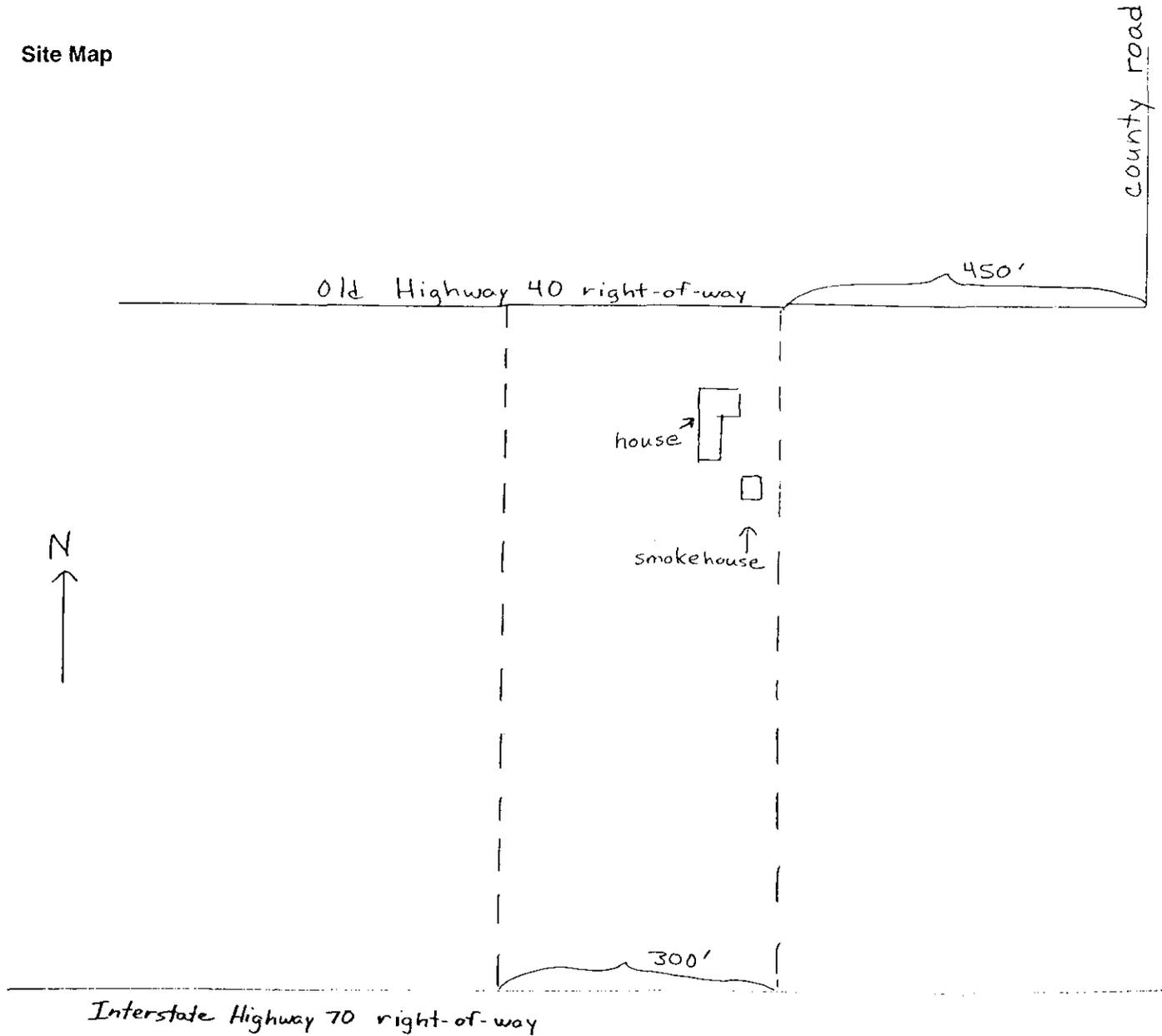
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Montgomery County, MO

Site Map



Not to scale

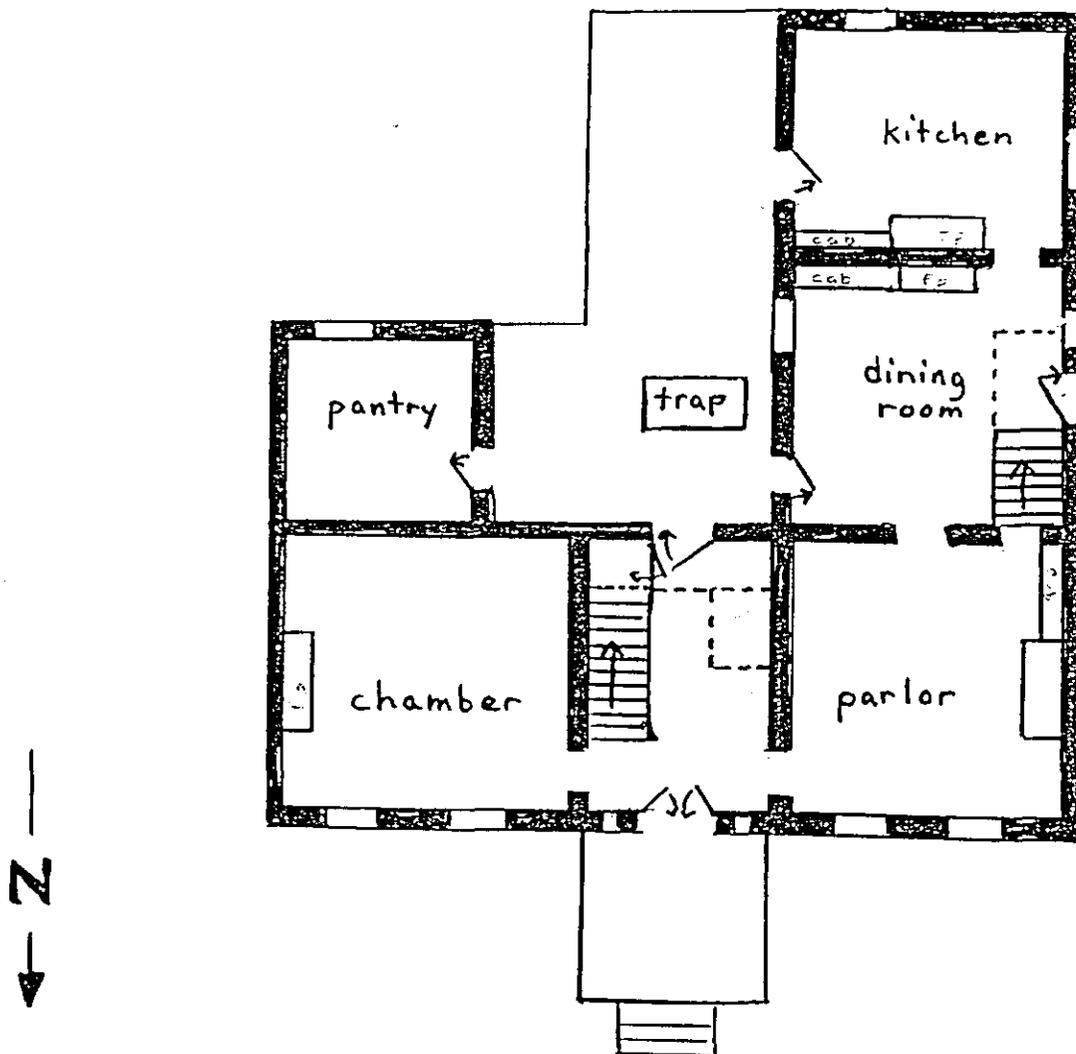
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First floor



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Early photos



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Photos showing rear enclosed porch
(now restored to open porch)



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Baker, Sylvester Marion and Frances Anne Stephens, House
Montgomery County, MO

Early undated photo of house
and Baker family

3: Unknown

Item No.: 1

Accession no. 003552

Date: 12-22-98

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Baker, Sylvester Marion and Frances Anne Stephens, House
Montgomery County, MO

Summary: The Sylvester Marion and Frances Anne Stephens Baker House, 60 Boonslick Road, Montgomery City vicinity [Danville], Montgomery County, is significant under criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE as a well-preserved example of the Greek Revival I-house. Constructed circa 1854, the Baker House typified the application of the nationally favored Greek Revival style to the I-house form, prevalent throughout the Little Dixie area of Missouri,⁹ and signaled the success of its middle class merchant and businessman owner. Bishop and Coblenz noted that "the successful and the ambitious at the beginning of the Victorian period usually chose the Greek Revival style when building their houses. Its grandeur imparted a sense of elegant stability that appealed to the rising middle class."¹⁰ The Greek Revival style was popular during the mid-1800s, and used frequently in Missouri by settlers from the South, who hoped to recreate the styles popular in their original homes.¹¹ The I-house form, which was used throughout the nineteenth century, is a two-story house with an addition, usually two-story, projecting from the rear of the one-room deep main house. The addition may be in the center, or on either the left or the right side of the main house, and usually contains the kitchen. The I-house was, according to Marshall, a "distinctive house type [which] dominates the Little Dixie landscape, as it does the Virginia and Carolina Piedmont."¹² The house was designed by an architect who supervised its construction, built windows, stairparts, window trim, and cabinets. The house remained in the Baker family until 1964 when it was sold to the Buchanan family who operated an antique store there. The few changes made in the original house--the enclosing of the rear porch, a garage addition, and a change in design of the portico--have been restored to the original by the current owners, Dr. and Mrs. Noel Crowson, so that the exterior of the house shows significant integrity. Little had been done to the interior of the house over the years, so it retains its integrity. The Baker House is one of the few remaining buildings in Danville.

Narrative: Sylvester Marion Baker's family came to Missouri from Virginia prior to his birth and soon established themselves as a prominent merchant family in Montgomery County, with a store located along the Boonslick Road, the main thoroughfare through Missouri in the mid-nineteenth century. In 1847, Baker married Frances Anne Stephens, originally from Danville, Virginia. Sylvester Baker continued in the family business, and, by 1850, the census records listed him as a merchant who owned \$3000 worth of real estate, part of which was east of Danville. Shortly after Prairie Lawn Academy was destroyed by a tornado in 1849, Baker purchased the site, and hired a St. Louis architect and builder named Sparks to

⁹Howard Wight Marshall, *Folk Architecture in Little Dixie* Columbia: University of Missouri, 1981): 2-9. Little Dixie is an area of north central Missouri between the Ozarks and the corn belt; it consists of Boone, Howard, Randolph, Monroe, Audrain, Callaway, Pike, and Ralls Counties, and a "peripheral zone of transition around the eight main counties," an area including Montgomery County.

¹⁰Robert Bishop and Patricia Coblenz, *The World of Antiques, Art, and Architecture in Victorian America*, (New York: Dutton, 1979): 33.

¹¹Architectural surveys of Lafayette, Pettis, Cooper, and Cole Counties may be found at the State Historic Preservation Office; see also Hamlin, 124-125.

¹²Marshall, 62.

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Baker, Sylvester Marion and Frances Anne Stephens, House
Montgomery County, MC

design and oversee construction of a house.¹³ The house, made of brick with fourteen-inch thick walls, presents a substantial appearance, reflecting the nineteenth century ideas that a building was a reflection of its use and occupants. Much of the work was apparently done by Baker's slaves, who molded the bricks from clay dug on the property and fired in a kiln built to the south of the house. The slave census of 1850 shows S. M. Baker owned seven slaves--a fifty-five year old male, a thirty-three year old male, a fourteen year old male, a nine year old male, a twenty-two year old female, a twelve year old female, and a four year old female--a typical number for a slave owner of the time.¹⁴ By 1860, Baker had prospered enough to hold 662.90 acres of land.

The house has a gable roof, rather than a hipped roof, with a cornice and pediment. Architectural critic Arthur Channing Downs Jr. noted that on the "better sort of detached country house . . . gables are invariably used instead of hipped roofs."¹⁵ The house has a twelve by twelve foot portico with pilasters and columns; the gallery above the portico has pilasters and a balustrade with sawn balusters. Downs identified a "portico of four to six wooden columns, occasionally on two stories with wooden floors and steps" as typical of the "better" Greek Revival style houses in rural areas.¹⁶

An elaborate door surround with side lights and transom accents the double front doors and provides visitors with an immediate impression of the substance and taste of the home's owner, an impression furthered by the open stairway with cherry wood banister and balusters, faux grained chamber doors, and molded plaster chair rail in the entry hall. The portico, elaborate door surround, and central hall help identify the house as Greek Revival style, according to McAlester and McAlester.¹⁷ The house's facade is symmetrical and balanced, with fireplaces on the east and west walls and with two six-over-six windows on either side of the portico on the first story and identical windows on either side of the gallery on the second story. The balanced five-bay facade is further evidence of the Greek Revival style.

Marshall described the central hall I-house with five bays as the "ideal Little Dixie farmhouse of the nineteenth century [symbolizing] the aspirations of southern farmers and settlers." The use of Greek Revival design elements in the I-house type reflects the Georgian influence and a degree of status of the

¹³"Baker Plantation House." According to this typescript, based on a newspaper interview with Olive Baker, daughter of Sylvester Marion Baker, Sparks is identified only by his last name. Two documents in the Gaddis Collection at the Western Missouri Manuscripts collection at the University of Missouri also identify Sparks as the architect, but fail to give a first name. The St. Louis city directories for the 1860s, the oldest available at the State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia, do not list an architect named Sparks.

¹⁴R. Douglas Hurt, *Architecture and Slavery in Missouri's Little Dixie* (Columbia: University of Missouri, 1992): 309. Eighty percent of the slaveholders in the Little Dixie region owned fewer than nine slaves each; only twenty percent owned more than ten slaves.

¹⁵Cited Bishop and Coblenz, 23.

¹⁶Cited Bishop and Coblenz, 23.

¹⁷Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Knopf, 1984): 179.

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Baker, Sylvester Marion and Frances Anne Stephens, House
Montgomery County, MC

house's owner. The ell on the southwest of the house contains a dining room and kitchen on the first floor and bedrooms on the second story, a typical pattern in the I-house.

The interior of the house also revealed Baker's taste, a concept defined by Wayne Andrews as "the record of the ambition which leads the architect to spend more time and energy than is reasonable, and the client, often but not always, to invest more money than common sense would dictate."¹⁸ The cherry wood banister and balusters in the central hall and the elaborate window frames were made in Sparks' shop in St. Louis and hauled to Danville by ox-cart to be installed in the house. The built-in cabinets in some of the rooms are of walnut, a wood common in Missouri in the nineteenth century and typically used in homes of this period. The furniture, much of it made by Sparks, was stylish and ornate. The green and red floral medallion carpet was a popular motif of the time, even though it featured the shaded flowers condemned by mavens of taste such as Gervase Wheeler, who criticized "carefully shaded flowers, wreaths, and other vegetative decoration" on carpets because "to tread on worsted ones [flowers], odorless and without form, certainly seems senseless."¹⁹ The carpet demonstrated the family's desire for fine things, despite the difficulty of procuring such furnishings in a town not located on the rail line.

The large house he began just two years after his marriage reflected the attitude of the time that a home was visible evidence of a person's social status. Thorstein Veblen would later describe as "conspicuous consumption" the tendency to own expensive and elaborate houses, clothing, and other consumer goods in order to exhibit one's wealth.²⁰ The Baker House, surrounded by a fence and facing the Boonslick Road, allowed all passersby to see the elegant and refined home inhabited by a successful and refined businessman.

The Baker House is also interesting because of what it reveals about the settlement patterns and town development during the early nineteenth century. The house was built by the second generation of Bakers to live in Montgomery County at a time when the family had accumulated substantial wealth. The Baker family had come to Montgomery County in the early nineteenth century; Sylvester Baker settled on Loutre Creek in 1818 and Captain John Baker arrived in 1820. The two built a water mill. A few years later, Sylvester sold his farm to his brother and purchased another acreage where he operated a horse-powered mill. In 1833, the county was divided, and a site for a new county seat was donated to Montgomery County. In 1834, the county seat town of Danville was platted, lots were sold, and the proceeds from the sale of lots was used to build a brick court house. At this time, the Bakers began their careers as merchants, opening a general store on the Boonslick Road.²¹

Danville grew rapidly during the 1840s. It boasted a brick Methodist Church building, the first A.F. & A.M. lodge in Montgomery County, and a number of schools. Danville had become a center for education when Prairie Lawn Seminary, a "very select [girls'] boarding school" was opened in 1833 by the Reverend

¹⁸Wayne Andrews, *Architecture, Ambition, and Americans* (New York: Free Press, 1978): xxi.

¹⁹Cited in Gail Caskey Winkler and Roger W. Moss, *Victorian Interior Design* (New York: Holt, 1986): 91.

²⁰Thorstein Veblen, *The Theory of the Leisure Class* (New York: McMillan, 1899), rpt. Dover, 1994: passim.

²¹Olive Baker, 200-223, passim.

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Andrew Monroe. In 1841, Harriet McGhee, a teacher at Prairie Lawn, opened the McGhee School, which was attended "by young ladies from the best families at a distance as well as near Danville." In addition, in the early 1840s, Sylvester Baker donated land for a boys' school in the south part of Danville. In 1848, James H. Robinson opened a school for boys which met in the court house; later this school was taken over by the Reverend Carr Walker Pritchett and renamed the Pritchett School. Robinson then established the Danville Female Academy in 1856. This "very successful and good school [was] attended by daughters of prominent families from all parts of Missouri as well as other states."²²

In 1836, Danville sent representatives to a railroad convention in St. Louis, which resolved that the railroad being built from St. Louis to Fayette should follow a route through Warrenton, Danville, Fulton, and Columbia. Despite the resolution, the convention was unsuccessful in convincing the railroad to follow that route. During the 1850s, the citizens of Danville attempted to persuade the Northern Missouri Railroad to establish its westward route through the town. In 1854, S. M. Baker represented Danville in the Missouri House of Representatives as a member of the Whig Party running on the "Railroad Ticket" which was attempting to secure a state loan for the construction of the railroad through Danville. However, when the railroad was built, it passed five miles north of Danville. Despite the loss of access to the railroad, Danville continued to grow, though Olive Baker suggests that this lack was the "first hindrance to her continued growth and prosperity."²³

By the 1860s, Danville had a number of business buildings around a square, including the Nunnally Hotel and the Watkins and Drury Store. The town had a newspaper, the Chronicle, which became the Herald in 1861. The Civil War, which began in April 1861, became the second hindrance to the town's growth.²⁴ Both Union and Confederate troops camped in and near the town, which was the scene of frequent skirmishes. In 1861, Alvin Cobb's Confederate Raiders held the town for a few hours. Divisions of the Second Illinois Cavalry and the Eighth Missouri Cavalry were stationed there. The most devastating event of the war was William "Bloody Bill" Anderson's raid in 1864. Anderson, at that time under authorization from General Sterling Price, was to destroy the North Missouri Railroad; instead, Anderson led his men into Montgomery County, where they burned Danville, New Florence, and High Hill. Anderson arrived in Danville the night of October 14 with fifty men. The business buildings around the square were looted and burned; the Danville Female Academy was spared, in part because of the Southern sympathies of some of the students.²⁵

²²Baker, 212,215.

²³Baker, 220.

²⁴Baker, 220.

²⁵Although the burning of Danville was a very small part of the overall war in Missouri, it was considered by residents of Montgomery County to be a devastating blow. Most contemporary works about the Civil War in Missouri, including those by Fellman and Parish, so not mention the raid, nor does John Edwards' nineteenth-century account of the guerilla war. Edward Leslie's biography of Quantrill, The Devil Known How to Ride, devotes one sentence to Danville. Baker's essay covers the raid, as does The History of St. Charles, Montgomery, and Warren Counties (St. Louis, 1885), and a memoir by Mary Robinson Kemper published as "Civil War Reminiscences at Danville Academy," Missouri Historical Review 62 (1968): 314-320.

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Montgomery County, MC

Olive Baker noted that the Baker residence had holes made by rifle balls in the front wall. Local folklore states that a cannon ball, lodged in the west wall of the house, was removed in the 1970s. Similar legends note cuts in the kitchen mantelpiece made by sabres of the men stationed in Danville. The most severe threat to the house, however, came during Anderson's raid, when Anderson's troops attempted to burn the house. Anderson acknowledged preying on women, in part as revenge for the deaths of two of his sisters in the collapse of a jail in which women sympathetic to the guerilla cause were being held: "I will have to resort to abusing your ladies if you do not quit imprisoning ours."²⁶

Olive Baker referred to two attempts to burn the house, and two rooms still show charring on the floor boards supposed to have been made by Anderson's men.²⁷ Local legend suggested that one of the attempts to burn the house originated in the bedroom used by Mrs. Baker, and that her clothing was used to help spread the fire. Mrs. Baker and her children were able to extinguish the fires and save the house. Another account of the fire, provided by Anna Baker in an interview with student Miles Staley, stated that a feather bed was set on fire, and one of the raiders came into the house to retrieve a pistol he had left there. He had to extinguish the fire in order to get his pistol.²⁸ If these accounts were accurate, they illustrated what Michael Fellman's study of guerilla activity in Missouri referred to as "symbolic rape," in which a woman's possessions, particularly clothing, and her home, particularly her bed chamber, would be destroyed.²⁹

After the war, the town rebuilt. In 1873, according to Wetmore's Gazateer, Danville was a "thriving village" with a "new brick court house, a jail, several stores, groceries, and mercantile establishments." An Illustrated Historical Atlas of Montgomery County, Missouri, compiled in 1878, noted a population of 225 people, three stores, three shops, two hotels, a restaurant and confectionery, a livery stable, three churches, and school buildings. The History of St. Charles, Montgomery, and Warren Counties, published in 1885, listed two general stores, one blacksmith shop, two hotels, one saloon, two churches, a Masonic Lodge, and thirty-five to forty residences. It appears, however, that the Gazateer and the county history had exaggerated Danville's growth.

Danville never fully recovered from the war. As railroads became more important in the distribution of goods, Danville's lack of a rail line hampered the town's economic development. In 1924, after a long controversy, the county seat was moved to Montgomery City. Little remains of old Danville today. The population of the unincorporated village, according to local residents, is less than one hundred. The Baker House and the Chapel of the Danville Female Academy remain, separated by a salvage yard on what were the grounds of the school. The remaining Baker daughters, Miss Olive and Miss Anna, died in the 1960s. The current owners intend to restore the house to its original appearance and open to the public.

²⁶Cited Fellman, 206-207.

²⁷Baker, 220-221.

²⁸Miles E. Staley, "The Baker House," a research paper prepared for Dr. Merrill Gaddis, Central College, 1949. Gaddis Collection, Western Missouri Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri, Columbia, folder 121: 17.

²⁹Michael Fellman, Inside War: The Guerilla Conflict in Missouri During the America Civil War (New York: Oxford, 1989): 207-209.

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**Baker, Sylvester Marion and Frances Anne Stephens, House
Montgomery County, MO**

The house merits placement on the National Register of Historic Places both for its architectural integrity and as a monument to what was once a thriving family in a thriving village.

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Baker, Sylvester Marion and Frances Anne Stephens, House
Montgomery County, MC

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Section number 9, 10, Photographs Page 16

**Baker, Sylvester Marion and Frances Anne Stephens, House
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10. Geographical Data

Boundary Description: At the northeast corner of the intersection of Old Highway 40 and the unnamed county road running north and south between section 24, Township 48 North, Range 6 West, and section 19, Township 48 North, Range 5 West, proceed west 450 feet along the north right-of-way of Old Highway 40; then proceed south across Old Highway 40 to the south right-of-way of the highway to the point of beginning; then proceed south to the north right-of-way of Interstate Highway 70; then proceed west 300 feet along the north right-of-way of Interstate Highway 70; then proceed north to the south right-of-way of Old Highway 40; then proceed east 300 feet along the south right-of-way of Old Highway 40 to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: This boundary was established to include the house and the former smokehouse but to eliminate a new barn built to the east of the house.

Photographs:

The following is the same for all photographs:

Baker, Sylvester Marion and Francis Anne Stephens, House
Montgomery County, MO
Rhonda Chalfant
June 1999
Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory

- No. 1 Exterior, north facade
- No. 2 Exterior, north facade, detail of portico and entryway
- No. 3 Exterior, east facade
- No. 4 Exterior, south facade
- No. 5 Exterior, west facade
- No. 6 Interior, carpet

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photographs Page 17

**Baker, Sylvester Marion and Frances Anne Stephens, House
Montgomery County, MO**

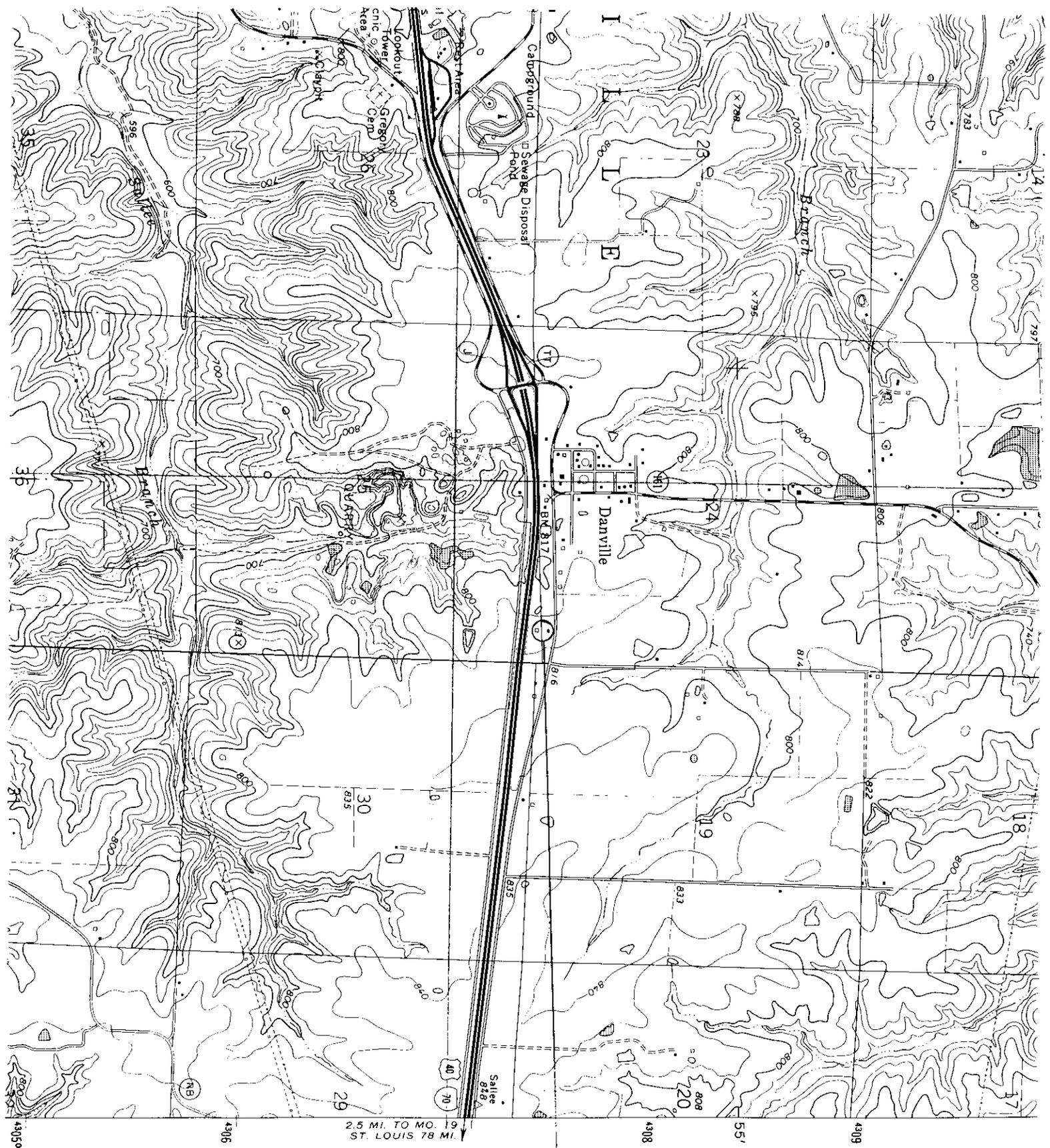
No. 7 Interior, fireplace, kitchen

No. 8 Interior, stairway

No. 9 Interior built-in cabinet, kitchen

No. 10 Interior, partition under stairway in central hall, camera facing south

No. 10 Non-contributing building



BAKER, Sylvester Marion and FRANCES ANNE STEPHENS, HOUSE
 Montgomery County, MO
 15/627720/4207440

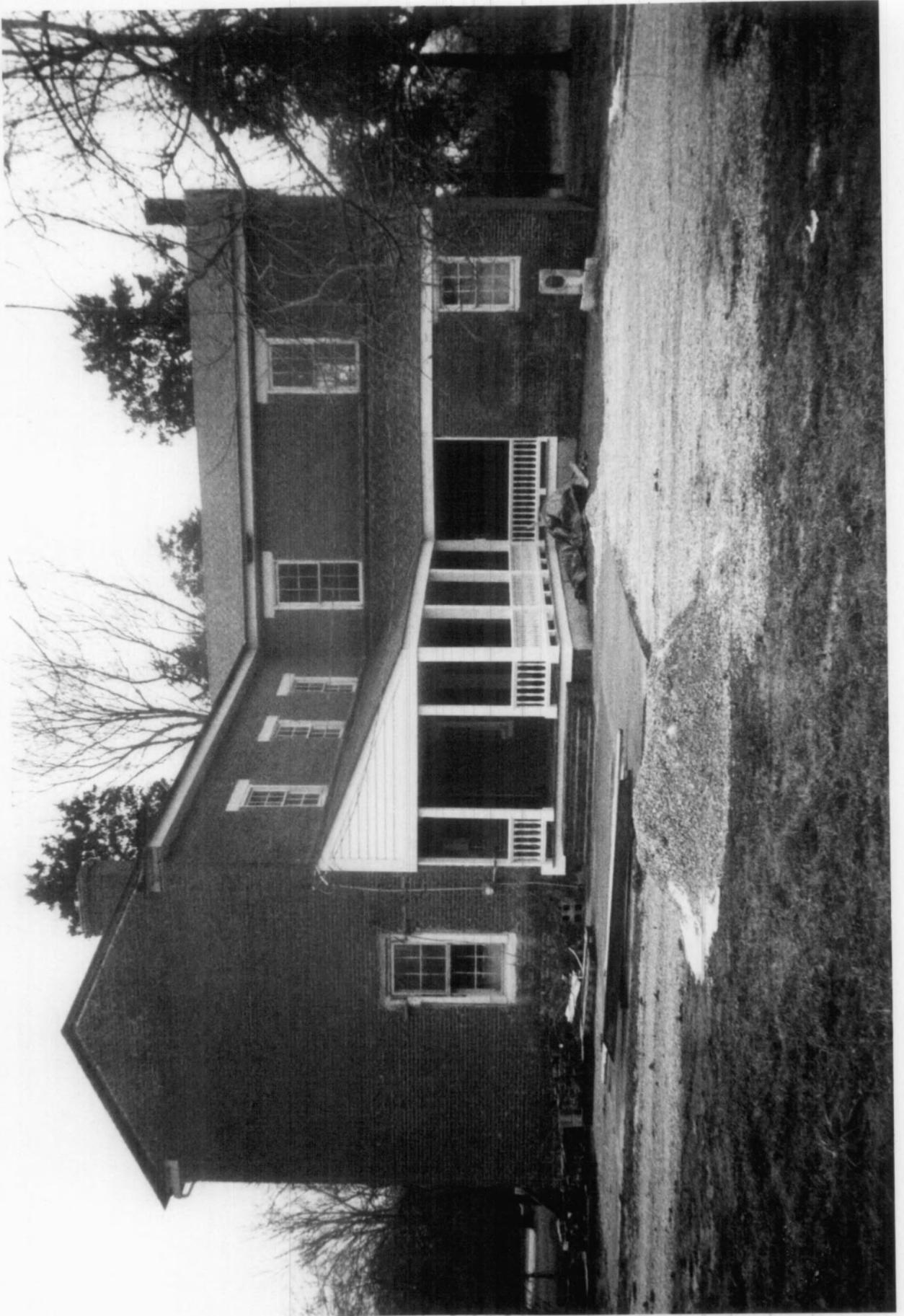


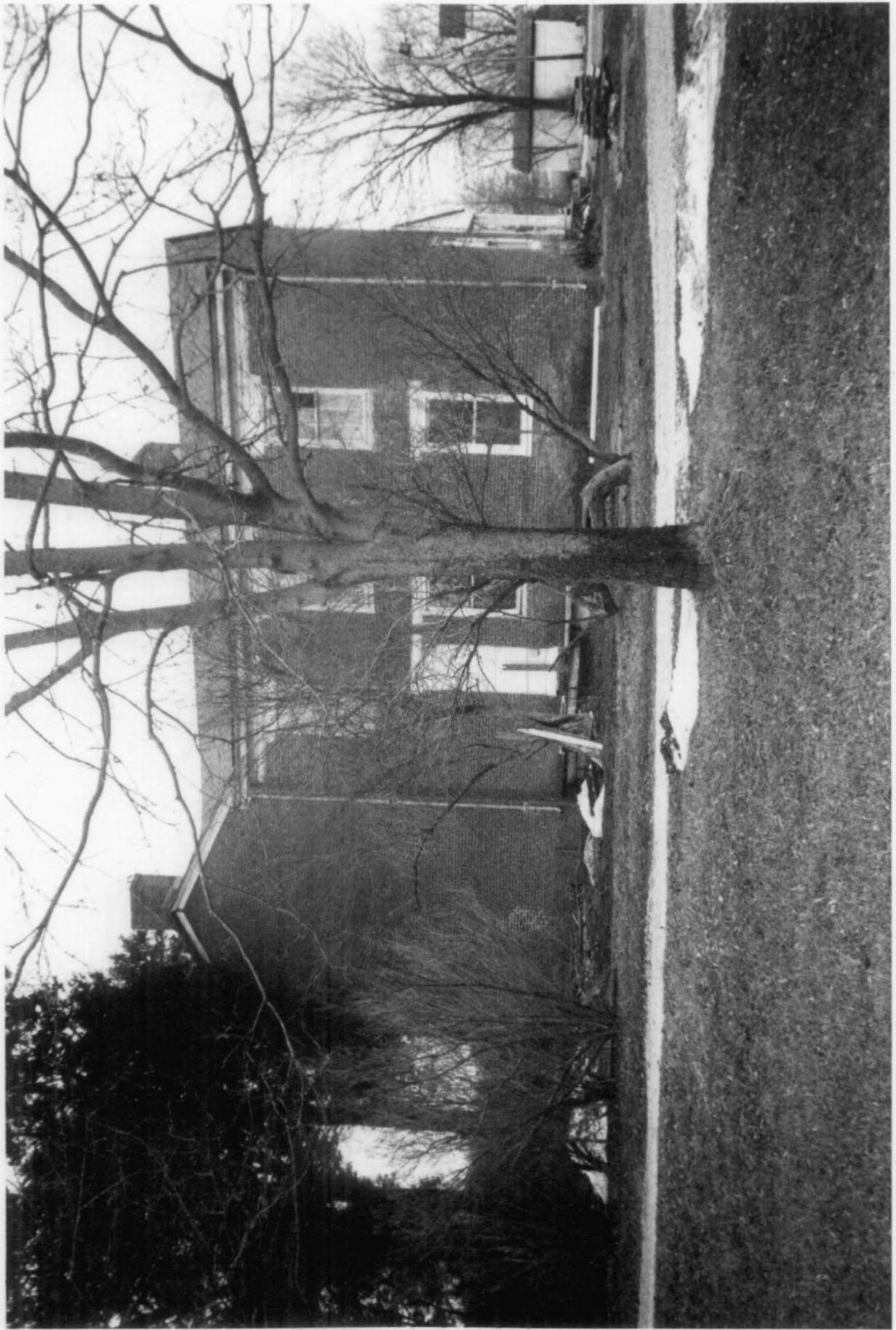


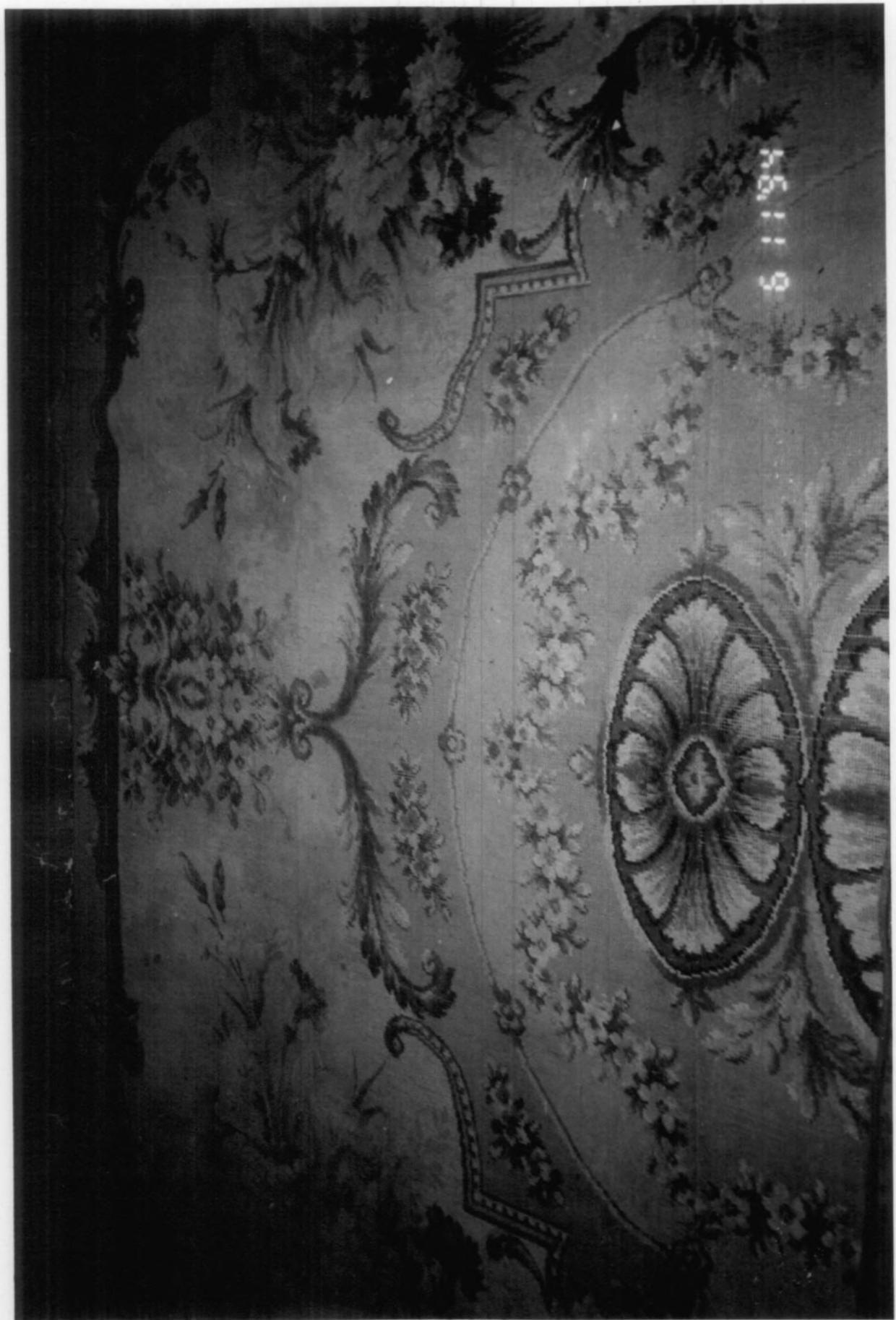
Baker, Sylvester Marion and Francis Anne Stephens, House
Montgomery County, MO

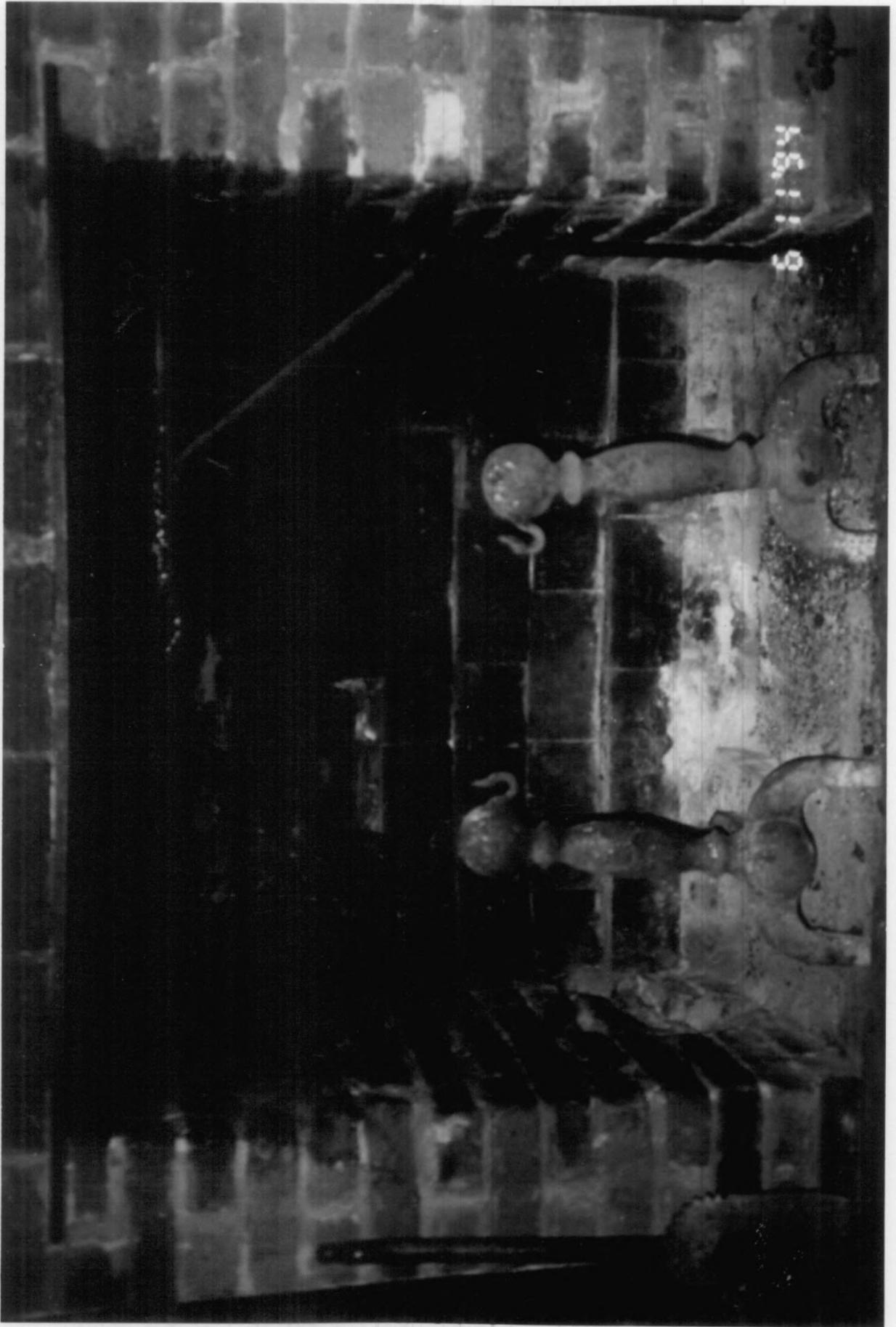
Photo No 2 Exterior, north facade, detail of
portico and entry way missing

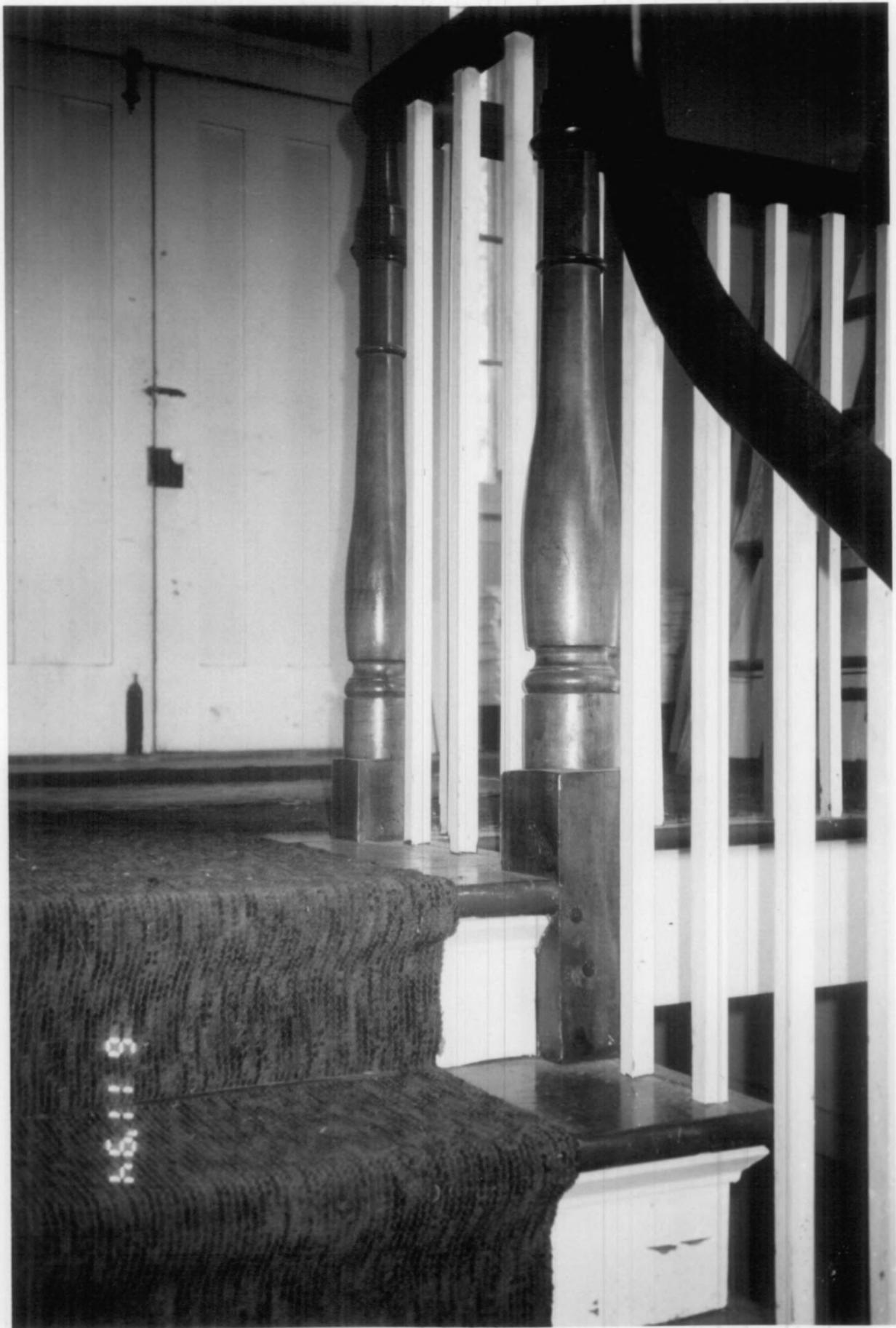












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EXTRA
PHOTOS

