

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Buhr, Henry. J., House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number 309 Lafayette St. [N/A] not for publication

city or town Washington [N/A] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Franklin code 071 zip code 63090-2307

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments .)

*Claire F. Blackwell* 8 August 2000

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

Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources 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 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Buhr, Henry J., House**  
**Franklin County, Missouri**

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources Within Property		
		Contributing	Non-contributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	0	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	0	0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0	objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing.**

Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

**Current Functions**

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

Other: Missouri-German

foundation Stone

walls Brick

Concrete Block

roof Metal

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description** See continuation sheet [ x].

See continuation sheet [ ]

**Buhr, Henry J., House**  
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### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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

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.

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

See continuation sheet [x].

### 9. Major Bibliographic References

#### Bibliography

See continuation sheet [x].

#### 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
- # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE  
ETHNIC HERITAGE: European

#### Period of Significance

ca. 1873

#### Significant Dates

ca. 1873

#### Significant Person(s)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

Unknown

#### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other:

Name of repository:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Buhr, Henry J., House**  
**Franklin County, Missouri**

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** Less than one acre

**UTM References**

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	673140	4269420			
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 Debbie Sheals

organization Private Consultant date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 406 West Broadway telephone 573-874-3779

city or town Columbia state Missouri zip code 65203

**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 FOP for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

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

name Langmart Corp

street & number 407 Cedar Street telephone (636) 239 - 7612

city or town Washington state MO zip code 63090

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Section number 7 Page 1

Buhr, Henry J., House  
Franklin County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri

**Summary:** The Henry J. Buhr house, at 309 Lafayette Street, in Washington, Missouri, is a brick Side Entry house with a stone foundation, a side facing gable roof, and a dentiled brick cornice. It is set into a steep hillside; it is one story tall on the facade and two on the rear. The house has a three-bay facade, with segmental arched door and window openings. The front door is set to the side of the facade, and sheltered with an early shed-roofed hood. The house is representative of Property Type B. Vernacular Missouri-German, Subtype: Side Entry. It meets the registration requirements set forth in the Multiple Property Submission Cover document "Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri." The house was built ca. 1873, and has seen only one small side addition since. It is the only resource on the property and is a contributing building. The house exhibits a high level of integrity, inside and out. The original form and patterns of fenestration are little changed, and it appears today much as it did when it was built. Nearly all early features are intact and in good condition. The plan has seen few alterations, and almost all original interior woodwork is in place. Notable interior millwork includes a number of original four panel doors, and the formal staircase, which features an ornate polygonal newel post and walnut hand rail. Overall, the house appears today much as it did 120 years ago, and it is in good condition. It is one of the more intact Side Entry houses in the study group.

**Elaboration:** The Buhr house is located on the northern edge of the downtown commercial area. There is a modern carwash to the north; other buildings nearby exhibit a mix of dates and functions. The house faces southeast, to Lafayette Street. It sits very close to the sidewalk, on a large lot. There is a wide side yard on the south part of the property; the yard is separated from the sidewalk by a wire fence which is several decades old. The lot is eight to ten feet lower in the back than it is near the street. The grade change is handled by a pair of retaining walls. A modern concrete wall runs along the north edge of the property, and an older wall runs southwest from the side of the house. (See photo 3.) A steep set of concrete stairs leads from the side of the house to the back yard.

The house utilizes the common form of a Missouri-German Side Entry house. The facade is one story tall, with a steeply-pitched side-facing gable roof and a three-bay facade. The doorway is set to the side of the facade, and a dentiled cornice runs along the front eaveline. (See photo 1.) The door is topped with a small two-light transom, and is sheltered by a shed-roofed hood. The hood is supported by large wooden brackets into which are cut elaborate patterns. The hood appears to be very early, but not original. Both the hood and the roof are sheathed with very early standing seam metal roofing.

The house has red brick walls laid in a common bond, and the door and window openings are all topped with segmental brickwork arches. The arches are composed of sailor bricks, and the windows have two-over-two sash which are early, but probably not original. The dentiled cornice runs along the entire front wall. The cornice consists of several stepped rows, with dentils which are made up of header bricks stacked in pairs. The cornice and dentils wrap slightly around to the side

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**Buhr, Henry J., House  
Franklin County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri**

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walls. The back edges of the sidewalls have similar detailing; the cornice returns there are false, however, there is no cornice on the back wall. (See photos 2 and 3.) Three of four original corbeled chimneys remain at the ridge of the roof.

The back wall of the house is a full two stories tall. The ground floor wall is stone, and the upper wall is brick. (See photo 2.) There are two windows at each level, all with arched tops. The lower windows have brick arches which are set into the surrounding stone wall. (See photo 5.) They have six-over-six sash which appear to be original. One upper window has a newer one-over-one sash, the other is an early two-over-two. There is a door to the lower level at the front corner of the southwest side wall. That entrance is sheltered by a shed roof, which also covers a small storage room which is built onto the side of the house. The storage area has been in place since before 1893, when the house was first mapped by the Sanborn Company. It is set into the hillside, with a frame front wall and an early four panel door. The door to the house has an early wooden screen door, and is topped with the same type of brick arch found on the back windows. There is a small concrete patio outside the back door; an early pump and cistern cover are set into the patio, close to the house.

The side walls of the house are relatively simple. The southwest wall has one segmental arched window on the ground floor, and one flat topped window set into the upper gable end. (See photo 2.) The northeast wall also has an arched window at ground level and a flat one in the gable end. All of the window openings of the house appear to be original, and the two-over-two sash are early. There is a small one story addition on the lower rear part of the northeast wall. It has a flat roof, and a small one-over-one window on the front wall. (See photo 4.) The side wall of the addition is of modern concrete blocks; the front and back walls are brick. It appears that the addition was at one time connected to another building, which was probably demolished for the new car wash next door.

The interior of the house is as intact as the exterior. Neither the plan nor the interior finishes have seen significant changes. The front door opens onto a narrow stair hall. (See photo 6.) The hall features a straight-run staircase with a walnut newel post and handrail. The newel post has a tapered polygonal base and a rounded top. The hall also contains a door to the kitchen, which is at the rear of the house, and one to the front parlor, which is opposite the stair hall at the front of the house. There is another room next to the kitchen, in the north corner of the house. A door in that room leads to the small side addition, which contains a modern bathroom. (See Figure One, floorplan.) A second set of stairs under the main stairway leads from the kitchen to the basement. The plan of the basement echoes that of the main floor. The second floor contains two rooms, each of which has an end window. (See Figure Two, floorplan.)

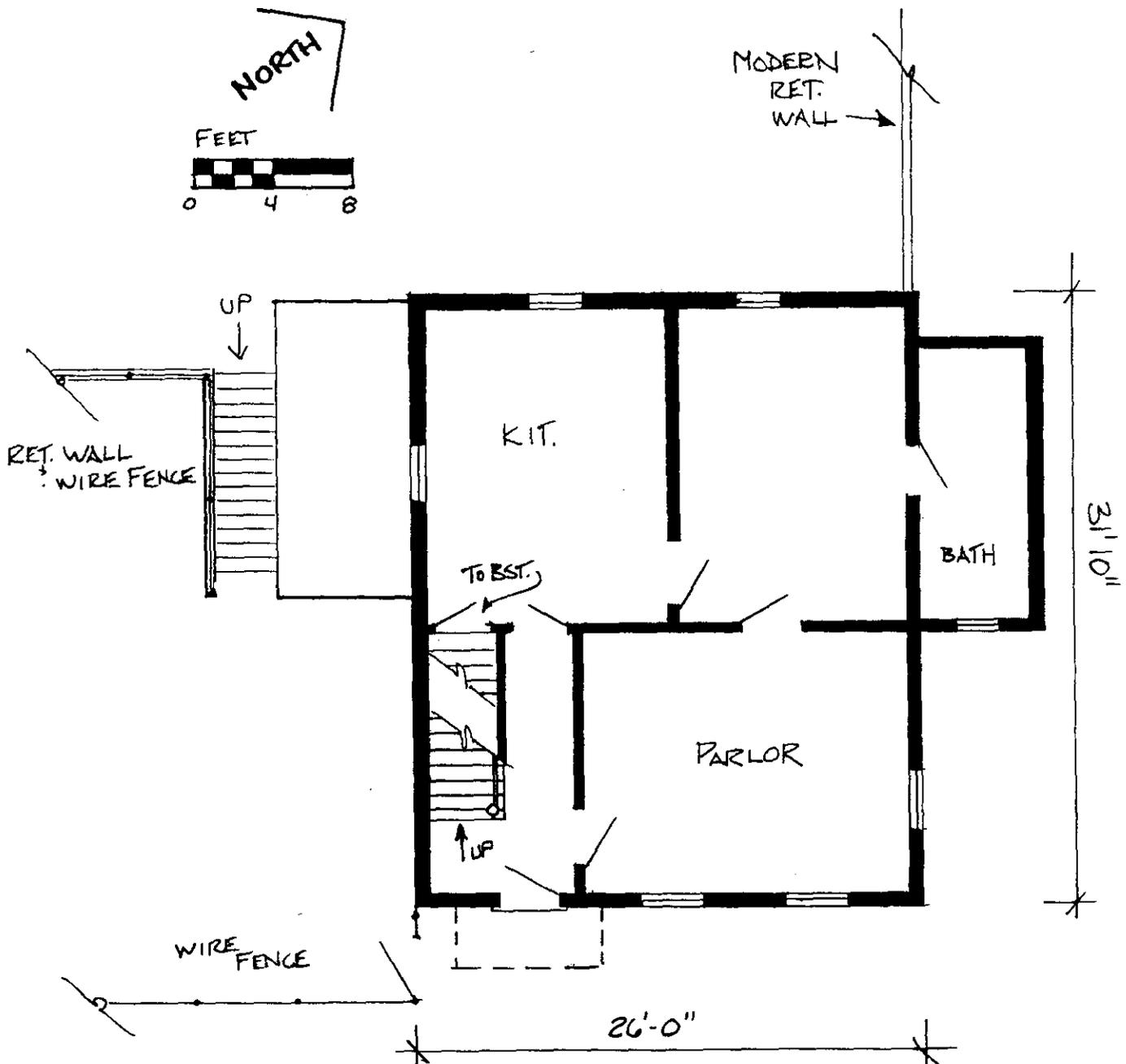
Most interior millwork is in place and little changed. The doors and windows have simple pedimented trim with narrow bands of molding along the top edges. The doors themselves have four panels, with two tall panels over two shorter ones, and most have original hardware as well. Many of the original plaster walls are intact and in good condition, as are some of the original wood floors. The Buhr house is highly intact, both inside and out. The building continues to serve in its original capacity as a single family residence, and it has seen no major changes to form or function. △

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Buhr, Henry J., House  
Franklin County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri

Figure One. First Floor Plan Sketch.  
Drawn by Debbie Sheals. Exact location of interior walls is approximate.



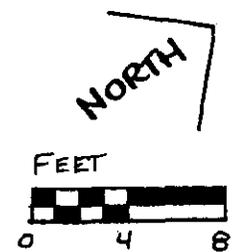
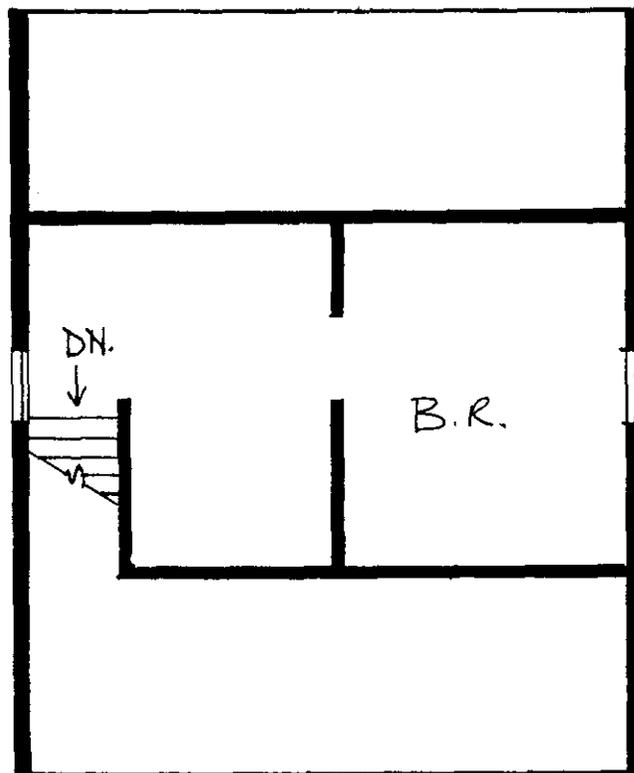
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Buhr, Henry J., House  
Franklin County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri

**Figure Two.** Second Floor Plan Sketch.  
Drawn by Debbie Sheals. Exact location of interior walls is approximate.



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Buhr, Henry J., House  
Franklin County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri

**Summary:** The Henry J. Buhr house, at 309 Lafayette Street, in Washington, Missouri, is an intact representative example of Property Type B. Vernacular Missouri-German, Subtype: Side Entry. It meets the registration requirements set forth in the Multiple Property Submission Cover document "Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri," and falls under the historic contexts "Early Development and German Immigration: 1839-1870," and "Architectural Development: 1839-1950." It is significant under Criterion A. in the area of ETHNIC HERITAGE: European, and Criterion C, in the area of ARCHITECTURE. The compact massing, brick construction, dentiled cornice and segmental arched windows are all typical of Missouri-German architecture of the last half of the nineteenth century. The side gable orientation, with a three bay facade and a side entrance are all typical of the Side Entry subtype. The house was built ca. 1873 for local wagon maker Henry J. Buhr, and it remained in his family into the early twentieth century. It has seen no major alterations in the last century, and it appears today much as it did when it was built. The house is a contributing resource, and the only resource on the property. The Buhr house does not appear to have functioned as anything other than the single family house it was built to be, and it is highly intact, both inside and out. It strongly reflects the vernacular Missouri-German building tradition and provides a highly intact example of the Side Entry subtype.

**Elaboration:** The Buhr house shares many characteristics with other early Missouri-German houses of Washington. The red brick walls, dentiled cornice and arched window tops are all hallmarks of vernacular Missouri-German architecture.<sup>1</sup> Brick construction and dentiled cornices are also nearly ubiquitous among the surviving 19<sup>th</sup> century houses in the community. Few early brick houses in town were built without a dentiled cornice. The form of the Buhr house is very typical of the Side Entry subtype, in that it has a side facing gable roof, and the door is set to one side of the facade. Side Entry houses in Washington generally have three or four bays; the three bay configuration found on the Buhr house is seen most frequently.

The plan of the Buhr house is also quite common among the Side Entry houses of the study group, especially those built after the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest Side Entry houses in the study group tend to have an off-center front door which opens directly into a room, while those built after the middle of the century have a stair hall entry. The stair hall plan is much more common. All five of the Side Entry houses being nominated individually with this cover document, for example, have nearly identical plans, in which the front door opens into a formal stair hall. The Buhr house has seen no major alterations to room size or plan layout, and provides a very good example of the Side Entry subtype.

The house was built by or for local businessman Henry J. Buhr, who was the son of immigrants

<sup>1</sup> See MPS Cover document "Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri: Architectural Development: 1839-1950, Section F, Associated Property Types," for a full discussion of Missouri-German characteristics.

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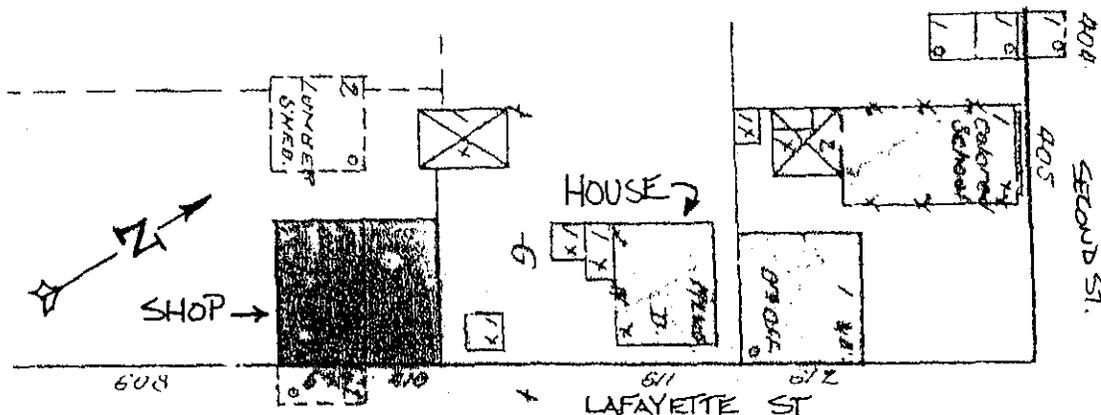
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Buhr, Henry J., House  
Franklin County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri

from Hanover. Buhr was born just a few miles from Washington, and was in the wagon making and repair business in town for more than forty years. He opened his first shop in Washington in 1862, and was still in business at the turn of the century. (See the chronology at the end of this section.) Buhr's primary business was wagon making, although he also did repair work and built ploughs. The Census of Industry for 1870 showed that he made an impressive 30 wagons and 100 ploughs that year, and a later biography noted that his shop produced an average of 15 new wagons a year for decades.<sup>2</sup>

His workshop was next door to the house on Lafayette for much of that time. Tax records show that he bought the part of the property directly southwest of this house around 1879, and that by the end of the century he owned a relatively large parcel adjacent to the house lot. A special edition of the Washington Journal which was published in December of 1895 included a description of the factory of H. J. Buhr and Co, which noted that "they have a good business and employ five hands. Farm wagons, spring wagons and buggies are manufactured at their factory which is located on Lafayette Street."<sup>3</sup> A photo of the two story brick shop building was included in another early source, and the shop and house were recorded several times on Sanborn maps.<sup>4</sup> (See Figure Three.)

Figure Three. 1893 Sanborn Map, with the house and wagon shop.



<sup>2</sup> United States Census Records, Census of Industry Records for Franklin County, 1870-1880. (Microfilm on file with the State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, MO.) and Goodspeed Publishing Company, History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford and Gasconade Counties, Missouri. (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1888, reprint Cape Girardeau: Ramfre Press, 1985) pp. 729-730.

<sup>3</sup> Washington Journal "A Solid Town of Brick," special edition, Dec. 13, 1895.

<sup>4</sup> A clipping from the Washington Citizen with a photo of Buhr's shop is part of the Kiel File on Buhr at the Washington Historical Society, in Washington, MO.

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**Buhr, Henry J., House**  
**Franklin County, Missouri**  
**Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri**

The house at 309 Lafayette was in Buhr's family for half a century, and it has been assumed that it was his home for most, if not all, of that period. The house does not appear to have ever served in anything except its original single family capacity. It is used as such yet today, and is intact and in good condition, both inside and out. It is immediately recognizable as an early Missouri-German building, and provides a significant example of the Side Entry subtype. △

### **Chronology**

From Land Tax Assessment Books, City Directories, Washington Historical Society Collections, and local histories noted in the bibliography.

- 1833 Henry Buhr's parents, John H. and Maria Buhr, move to Franklin county from Hanover.
- 1835 Henry J. Buhr is born on his parents' farm 3 miles south of Washington.
- 1855 Henry J. Buhr starts training in the wagon-making business.
- 1862 ca. Buhr opens a wagon making and repair shop in Washington.
- 1865 Henry J. Buhr marries Katie Placke. (They had six children, one of whom was named Henry F. Buhr.)
- 1870 Census of Industry, Henry Buhr, wagon maker, 3 full time employees, 30 wagons and 100 ploughs produced.
- 1873 ca. **This house built.**
- 1874 Taxes, Henry J. Buhr owns this property, valuation \$500.
- 1876 Atlas, H. J. Buhr.
- 1880 Census of Industry, Henry Buhr, wagon maker, 3 full time employees, and a \$500 payroll.
- 1886 An item in the *Washington Post* notes that Henry J. Buhr taught the wagon making business to John George Mintier.
- 1888 Buhr's biography in the History of Franklin County notes that he was in business by himself, which indicates that H. J. Buhr and Co. was formed after that time.
- 1893 Sanborn First map of house, shows it much as it is now. Shown on others up to 1926, no changes.
- 1898 Atlas, H. J. Buhr. Also, H. J. Buhr and Co. run ad in the paper for the sale of Deering Twine.
- 1901 H. J. Buhr and Co. are regular advertisers in the Franklin County Observer.
- 1904 Henry Buhr dies.
- 1906 W. H. Buhr, probably a brother, runs an ad in the paper announcing that he is the surviving partner in the firm of H. J. Buhr and Co.
- 1910 Taxes, Cath. Buhr (Henry J.'s widow) owns the same parcel.
- 1919 Atlas, H. J. Buhr.
- 1922 Directory, H.W. Helling
- 1940 Directory, Henry W. Helling
- 1951 Directory, Mrs. Adele W. Hempker

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Buhr, Henry J., House  
Franklin County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri

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**Sources**

(See MPS Cover document "Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri," for further discussion and a complete biography of general sources.)

Kiel, Herman Gottlieb. The Centennial Biographical Directory. Washington, MO: Missourian Publishing Co., 1986. (Reprint of the 1926 original.)

Franklin County Tax Records, Franklin County Courthouse, Union Missouri.

Goodspeed Publishing Company, History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford and Gasconade Counties, Missouri. (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1888, reprint Cape Girardeau: Ramfre Press, 1985.)

Ogle, George, and Co. Standard Atlas of Franklin County, Missouri. Chicago: George A. Ogle and Company, 1919.

Saint Louis Atlas Publishing Co. Atlas Map of Franklin County, Missouri. St. Louis: St. Louis Atlas Publishing Co., 1878. (With a plat of the city done in 1877 by L.D. Worley.)

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. Maps of Washington, 1893, 1898, 1908, 1916, 1926.

Washington Historical Society. Kiel Files. Washington, MO.

Washington Journal. "A Solid Town of Brick." Special Edition, Dec. 13, 1895.

United States Census Records. Census Indexes, Population Schedules, and Census of Industry Records for Franklin County, 1860-1880. Microfilm on file with the State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, MO.

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**Buhr, Henry J., House  
Franklin County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The property is parcel number 10-5-22.0-1-099-505.000, as shown on Franklin County Tax Map 10-5-22-1. The map was prepared by Walker and Associates, with aerial photos taken 3-10-96, scale: 1"= 100'. Copies of the map are available at Washington City Hall and The Franklin County Assessor's Office in Union, MO. The boundaries of the property are also shown in heavy dashed lines on the portion of the map which is reproduced below.

**Boundary Justification**

The current boundaries encompass all of the land currently associated with the house.

**AERIAL-PHOTO MAP 10-5-22-1**



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**Buhr, Henry J., House  
Franklin County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri**

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**Photographs**

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Buhr, Henry J., House

309 Lafayette Street, Washington

Franklin County

Becky Snider

January, 1999

Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory, MO Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City.

**List of Photographs**

See photo key for camera angles.

1. Facade, southeast elevation.
2. Side, southwest elevation.
3. Rear, northwest elevation.
4. Side, northeast elevation.
5. Window detail from the northwest basement wall.
6. Interior, stair hall.

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Photo Key.

