

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Farmington Courthouse Square

other names/site number Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 1-115 W. Columbia, 201, 213, and 215 W. Columbia, 11 and 108 N. Franklin, 1-115 N. Jefferson, 1-214 W. Liberty, 118 W. Spring.

city or town Farmington [N/A] not for publication
state Missouri code MO county St. Francois code 187 zip code 63640 [N/A] vicinity

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)

Mark A Miles

04/27/04

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/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:

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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:)

**Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri**

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure
	<input type="checkbox"/> object

Number of Resources Within Property	
Contributing	Non-contributing
26	4
0	0
0	0
0	0
26	4
	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Commerce/Trade: specialty store
Commerce/Trade: business
Commerce/Trade: financial institution
Commerce/Trade: restaurant
Government: courthouse
Government: city hall

Current Functions

Commerce/Trade: specialty store
Commerce/Trade: business
Commerce/Trade: restaurant
Government: courthouse
Government: city hall

See continuation sheet [x]

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Mid 19th Century: Greek Revival
Mid 19th Century: Gothic Revival
Late Victorian
Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals: Beaux Arts
Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements: Craftsman

Materials

foundation Concrete
 walls Brick
Stone
 roof Asphalt
 other Terra cotta
Metal

See continuation sheet [x]

Narrative Description See continuation sheet [x].

**Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri**

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

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

COMMERCE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1871-1954

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architects: Pond, Charles H.

Howard, Norman B.

Builders: Emerlauer, John

McCarthy Construction Co.

See continuation sheet [x].

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository:

**Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri**

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 8.5 acres

UTM References

A. 15 726980 4184570
Zone Easting Northing

C. 15 727080 4184480
Zone Easting Northing

B. 15 727090 4184560
Zone Easting Northing

D. 15 727120 4184470
Zone Easting Northing

[x] 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 Contractor date November, 2003

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 See Continuation Sheets

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri

6. Function or Use, Continued.

Historic Functions

Government: correctional facility
Religion: religious facility
Social: meeting hall
Recreation and Culture: opera house
Domestic: single dwelling
Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

Religion: religious facility
Social: meeting hall
Domestic: single dwelling
Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding

Materials, Continued.

foundation Stone
walls Weatherboards
roof Tin
Ceramic Tile

Summary: The Farmington Courthouse Square Historic District is located in the commercial center of Farmington, Missouri. Farmington is the county seat of St. Francois County, and the historic county courthouse is a centerpiece of the district. The courthouse occupies a full block in the center of the downtown area, and is ringed by commercial properties. The square is bounded on the south by Columbia Street, which is the main commercial roadway in the downtown area. District boundaries include the courthouse and three sides of the courthouse square, as well as neighboring properties along adjacent streets. (See Figure One: Boundary and Footprint Map.) The district covers just over eight acres of land and includes the largest intact grouping of historic buildings in the downtown area; most of the properties there contain commercial or civic buildings. The buildings of the district offer a representative sampling of architectural trends which were locally popular in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Construction dates range from 1871 to ca. 1949, and stylistic influences include Late Victorian, Beaux Arts and Craftsman. Common property types include one- and two-part commercial blocks; there are also several automobile-related buildings. The overall level of integrity in the district is high. There are 25 building lots in the district; 21 of those contain contributing buildings. Most of the buildings are the only resource on the property, and all resources in the district are buildings. Of the 30 buildings within the boundaries, 26 are contributing resources. One contributing resource, the St. Francois County Jail, was listed individually in July of 1996.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri

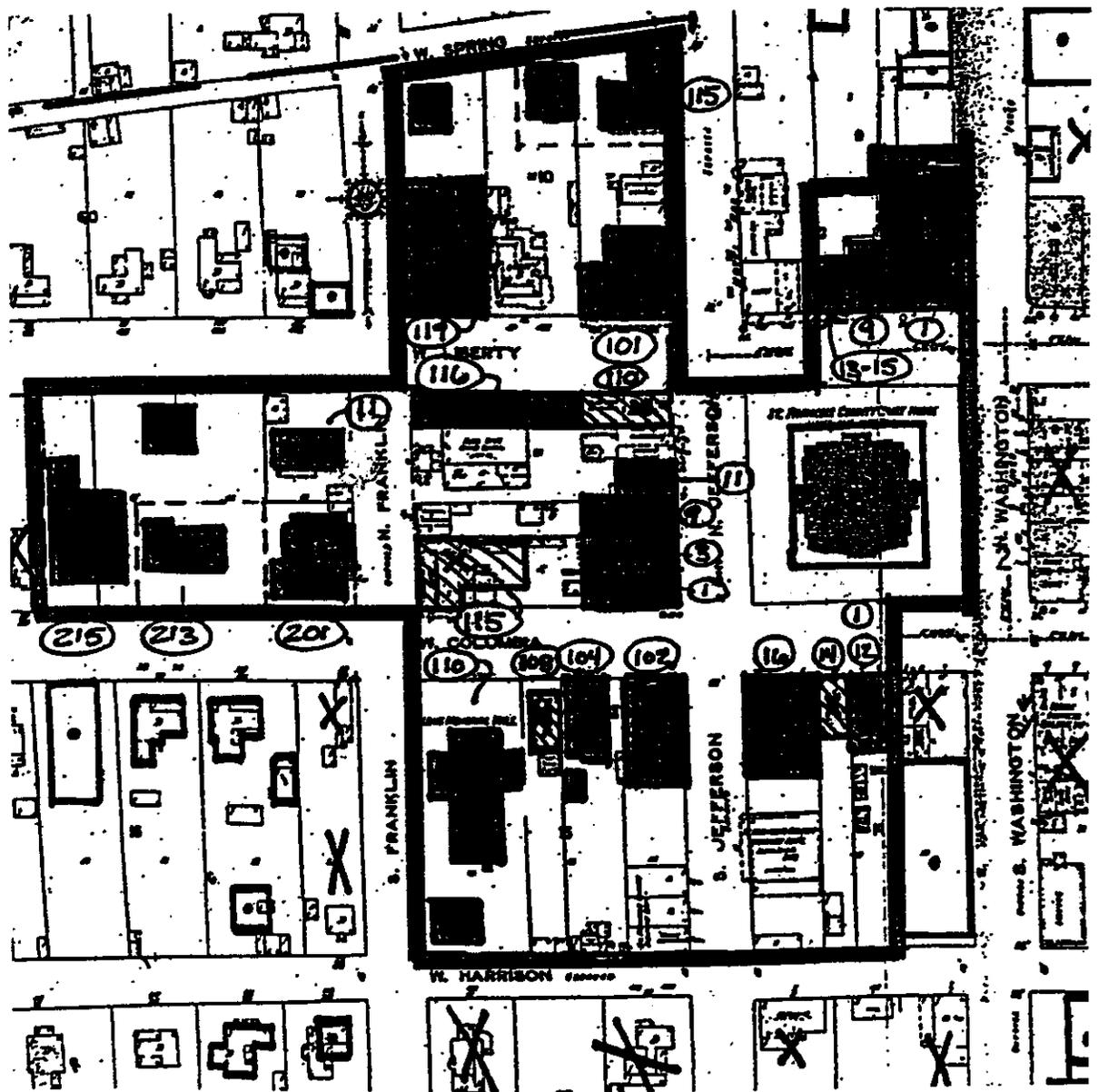
Figure One. Boundary and Footprint Map. Base Map-1927 Sanborn map of Farmington, MO;
buildings not outlined are no longer extant.

Resource Count:

- 26 Properties, with 30 buildings;
 - 25 contributing buildings; 4 non-contributing buildings; 1 previously listed building
- "X" indicates a newer or greatly altered building at that location.



Contributing and previously listed resources are darkened.



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

**Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri**

Elaboration: The historic district is located in downtown Farmington, which is the geographical and commercial center of the community. The downtown area today closely corresponds to the Original Town of Farmington, which was platted on 52 acres of land in the 1820s. The original plat includes 73 lots, on 24 blocks. The streets form a rectilinear grid, and there is an open courthouse square near the center of the plat. The town has grown outward from that plat over the years, and the downtown area today is ringed by residential neighborhoods.

The courthouse square of Farmington follows a common layout, with streets bordering all four sides of the open courthouse lawn, and business lots facing each side of the square. That layout is sometimes referred to as the "Shelbyville Square," after Shelbyville, Tennessee, which has one of the earlier examples of the plan.¹ The courthouse square and surrounding lots were all established by the original plat.

The boundaries of the Courthouse Square Historic District include the county courthouse, most of the surrounding courthouse square, and several neighboring properties. The square is bounded on the south by Columbia Street, on the west by Jefferson Street, on the north by Liberty Street, and the east by Washington Street. The properties on the east side of Washington Street, which contain newer buildings, are not included in the district. Columbia and Liberty Streets are the main east-west roads through the area. The boundaries of the district include all of the buildings which face those two streets on the square, and on the blocks immediately to the west. They also include those properties which face the north-south cross streets of Jefferson and Franklin Streets. (See Figure One.)

The buildings of the district are typical of the area in form and styling; they are exceptional in their age and general level of integrity. A recent survey of the area found this to be the largest intact collection of historic commercial resources in downtown Farmington.² The most common property type in the district is the two-part commercial block. The two-part commercial blocks of the district are all two-story tall commercial buildings, with open store fronts on the ground floor, and more enclosed second floor spaces. There are also several buildings which were described in the survey report as "business blocks", which are larger versions of the same type of building. Two-part commercial blocks with more than two business spaces at the ground floor have been referred to as business blocks in this document. The other most common property type in the district is the commercial garage; four of the contributing buildings in the district were built for automobile sales and service.

Almost all of the buildings in the district are fairly simple, with minimal styling. Those

¹ Marian Ohman, Missouri's County Seats and Courthouse Squares, (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Extension, 1983) pp. 28-29.

² Debbie Sheals, "Survey Report: Architectural and Historical Survey of Murphy's Settlement District, Farmington, Missouri," Typescript on file with the State Historic Preservation Office, Jefferson City, MO, 2003.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4

**Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri**

constructed before the 1910s tend to utilize modest Victorian styling, while later buildings reflect the popularity of the Craftsman Style. Common Victorian design elements in the area include corbeled or bracketed cornices and ornamental elements such as leaded glass windows and unglazed terra cotta ornamentation. Craftsman styling emphasizes clean lines and simple compositions, with little applied ornamentation. When used, ornamental features tend to be geometrical, and include such things as simple stepped parapets and rectangular brick wall panels. The two largest buildings in the district, the courthouse and Long Memorial Hall, exhibit more formal Beaux Arts styling. In general, brick is the most common construction material, and several buildings also utilize limestone or granite, most often as secondary ornamentation.

The largest building in the district is the St. Francois County Courthouse, which occupies almost all of its lot. It is a three-story tall limestone building with Beaux Arts styling. The courthouse has four nearly identical elevations, each of which has a monumental entranceway with two-story limestone columns and other classically derived ornamentation. Identical clocks are set in the parapets above the colonnades in each elevation. (The clocks are currently being returned to working order, for the first time in decades.) Each elevation has the words "St. Francois County Court House" carved into the stone below the clock.

The section of Columbia Street which runs through the district contains some of the largest and oldest buildings in the area. Directly south of the courthouse is the ca. 1904 Rottger Building, a Late Victorian two-part commercial block, and the ca. 1906 Farmers Bank, a two-story tall business block of brick and stone. The Braun Hotel and Opera House occupies the corner lot west of the bank, and the ca. 1876 Gierse Tailor Shop (the John Weber Building) is to its west. The Gierse Building is a two-story frame commercial building with Greek Revival styling. The recent survey of the area identified it as the oldest frame commercial building in downtown Farmington. West of the Gierse building stands Long Memorial Hall, a large Beaux Arts style building of brick and limestone which was built in 1924. Directly across from Long Hall is the ca. 1915 Neidert Funeral Parlor, which retains its basic form, but has seen sufficient modern alterations to be considered a non-contributing building.

The district extends one more block west on Columbia, to include three buildings on the north side of that street. (The south side of that block of Columbia Street contains a mix of newer commercial buildings and historic houses which have been too greatly altered to be included in the district.) The contributing buildings on the block are, from east to west, the ca. 1904 Methodist Episcopal Church, the ca. 1911 Masonic Temple, and the C. S. Fitz Auto Sales and Service building, ca. 1949. The simple Gothic Revival style limestone church is the only church within the district boundaries. The Masonic Temple is a wide two-story brick building with a symmetrical facade and simple Colonial Revival styling. The Fitz Building is the newest building in the district; it is a large tan brick building which clearly reflects its early automobile-related function. The Fitz property also includes a ca. 1937 Craftsman style auto body shop which sits close to Liberty Street, to the north.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri

Liberty Street, which runs along the north edge of the square, is also lined with historic buildings close to the square. The north side of the square holds a large one-story brick commercial garage now used for retail space, and a row of one-part commercial blocks which are now being used as offices. There is an empty lot west of those buildings, and further to the west is the 1902 A. S. Davis Building, a large brick business block with elaborate brickwork and Late Victorian styling. A one-story commercial building which was built ca. 1970 at 110 West Liberty is a non-contributing building on that block. To the west of the Davis building is a pair of early commercial garages. On the south side of the street is a long one-story brick building which was built for the Farmington Motor Company around 1921. Directly north of that building, across Liberty Street, is a large native stone garage built for the same company just a few years later. Both of those buildings have simple Craftsman styling, and both are largely intact.

Jefferson Street runs along the west edge of the courthouse square. A row of four historic buildings occupies most of the block of Jefferson which is opposite the courthouse. Those buildings, which were built between ca. 1879 and ca. 1899, are all brick two-part commercial blocks with at least some Late Victorian styling. Two of those buildings have recently been rehabilitated, and all are in good condition. One block north of the square on Jefferson is the J. D. Highley Livery building, which was either built or moved to this location around 1899. It is a modest frame building with metal siding and a gable roof. Just west of the livery is a small stone barn which was also built by or for Highley. The barn has a tin roof and thick limestone walls, with tin-covered frame side ells. The barn is one of the most intact early outbuildings in the downtown area, and the only one made of stone.

The other north-south street within the district is Franklin Street, which is one block west of the square. The only district building facing Franklin is the St. Francois County Jail, which was built in 1870-71. That building, which was listed individually in the National Register in 1996, is a two-story brick and limestone building with a formal Greek Revival style facade.

Washington Street, which is lined with newer buildings on the east side of the square, forms the eastern boundary of the district. On the east side of that road are three large bank buildings, one on each of the three blocks immediately adjacent to the district. Those modern buildings form a visual barrier between the courthouse square district and the proposed East Columbia Historic District, a second, smaller, collection of commercial resources located one block east of the square. (That district will be nominated to the National Register in the very near future.) Together, those two districts contain the majority of the intact historic commercial resources in downtown Farmington.

The buildings of the Courthouse Square Historic District function today much as they have for decades. As a group, they offer a representative cross-section of the types of commercial properties built in Farmington in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The overall level of integrity in the area is high; 26 of the 30 buildings there are contributing resources,

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 6

**Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri**

and the streetscapes today look much as they did in the early 1900s.

Individual Property Descriptions: The historic names and construction dates given below were determined by tax and deed records, and historic maps. The historic names are based upon the first known owner of the building currently on the lot. (In most cases, non-contributing buildings were not researched, and their construction dates are based upon appearance only.) The construction dates were set at one year prior to the first known record of their existence. In other words, if the property first showed as improved in the 1890 tax book, it was assigned a construction date of ca. 1889, and the historic name is based upon the person who owned it at that time. See Figure One for addresses and locations.

[c] Contributing Building, [nc] Non-contributing building. All resources in the district are buildings.

- 1.) 1 W. Columbia; St. Francois County Courthouse, ca. 1926. A three-and-a-half story tall Beaux Arts style courthouse with limestone walls. The building has four nearly identical elevations, each with a projecting two-story Corinthian colonnade and arcaded upper section. Most of the windows are modern, but similar to original; openings are unchanged. The basement windows may be original. Engaged Corinthian columns run between the window bays on all four walls. Medallions between the first and second story windows have flower ornaments that resemble stylized dogwood blossoms. The interior is highly intact. This is the only building on the block, which is the center of the courthouse square. [c]
- 2.) 12 W. Columbia; Rottger, O.F. & W.H., Building, ca. 1904. A two-story tall Late Victorian style two-part commercial block with brick walls. The wooden storefront is early or original. The facade, which is painted gray, is ornamented with square terra cotta accent tiles, similar to those found on other buildings in the survey group, including 12 W. Columbia and 111 W. Liberty. The cornice features egg and dart molding that also appears to be of terra cotta. Rough-cut stone pieces accent the edges of the arched second floor windows, as well as the piers between storefront units. The storefront piers, which are of curved bricks, also resemble those used on 101-111 W. Liberty. Storefronts and transoms have some new components and some original. Most appear to be early. [c]
- 3.) 14 W. Columbia; ca. 1965. A one story brick commercial building with an open storefront and brick facade. Although newer than its neighbors, it is of similar scale and composition. [nc]
- 4.) 16-18 W. Columbia; Farmers Bank, ca. 1906. A two-story tall Romanesque business block with brick and limestone walls. This large business block has recently been rehabbed

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri

and is in excellent condition. Most storefront components are newer, but very similar to the originals. The walls of the main block are of tan brick, and the ornamental cornice is of red brick, with unglazed terra cotta accent trim. The walls around the arches are faced with smooth limestone panels. The columns at the corner entrance are of polished red granite. All or most original patterns of fenestration are fully intact. Most second floor windows are new, but match two older ones located on the west wall. There are segmental arched, 6/6, windows in rear; some are early or original, some are new. Canvas awnings cover the rear ground floor windows. [c]

5.) 102 W. Columbia; Braun Hotel and Opera Hall, ca. 1884. A large, two-story tall Late Victorian style brick building with a corner entry. This building is undergoing a full rehab. A large corner entrance is flanked by storefront windows, which face Columbia and Jefferson streets. The front and east side elevations have very elaborate corbeled brick cornices, which are among the most ornate in the downtown area. Those walls also feature red granite accents, including corner blocks and keystones above the windows, and bracketed window sills. The prefabricated cast iron columns at the storefront have Corinthian capitals. The early balcony, which faces Columbia, has an ornamental cast iron railing. A one-story side ell on the west side of the building is of red brick; it was added after 1927, and appears to be just over fifty years old. The second floor has 16 foot tall ceilings. The side address is 102 S. Jefferson; there is an open parking lot to the rear. [c]

6.) 104 W. Columbia; Gierse Tailor Shop (Weber, John, Building), ca. 1876. A two-story tall Greek Revival building with a front-facing pedimented roof. The wood-framed storefront is early or original and in good condition. The walls are sheathed with early or original weatherboards, and the 9/9 front windows and their shutters also appear to be original. There is a small one story frame addition with a shed roof and vinyl clad walls on the back wall. One or two of the window openings on the east side wall have been filled with wood panels; the openings themselves are intact. There is a one story side addition on the west which now houses a separate business. The addition was built sometime before 1894 and was used by the Gierse Company until sometime after 1979. The addition now has a modern storefront and shingled hood; its west side wall is of brick, with six segmental arched windows, and one doorway. [c]

Gierse Dry Cleaning Building, ca. 1930. There is a brick service building and an open parking lot in the rear. The service building, which was used for dry cleaning equipment when new, is a small one-story open gable building. The east wall contains a set of double doors. Each door has 6 lights over 3 horizontal panels. The walls are built of large ceramic tiles with a wire-cut brick finish. The window sills are of standard bricks. [c] [c]

7.) 108 W. Columbia, building, ca. 1900, current facade ca. 1990. This narrow one and one-

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 8

**Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri**

half story tall commercial building sits back slightly from the sidewalk. The building dates to around the turn of the century; modern materials have replaced all original fabric on the facade. [nc]

8.) 110 W. Columbia; Long Memorial Hall, ca. 1924. A two-story Beaux Arts building with brick and limestone walls. The building has a symmetrical facade with a two-story pedimented main block, flanked by lower one-story ells. The main block has a very large monumental doorway with two-story Tuscan columns, an arched top and an open pediment. The side ells also have formal entranceways. The wide triple window sets have elaborate transoms and surrounds. The walls are of red brick, with smooth limestone accents. Limestone elements include the wide cornices at the roof line, as well as window sills and other ornamentation. The side ells have low flat roofs; the back section of the main block has a tall gambrel roof with ceramic roofing tile. All millwork and exterior architectural elements appear to be very early or original. [c]

24 South Franklin; Farmington Fire Department, ca. 1940. A small brick building with a flat roof. The roof has a short parapet wall with terra cotta coping. The early storefront openings have been partly filled with brick but remain apparent. This building now houses the Farmington Public Works department. [c]

9.) 115 W. Columbia; Niedert, Adam, Building; 1915. A two-story tall two-part commercial block with painted brick and stucco walls. There is a one story addition on the east side of the building. The storefront is made of new materials, and the openings have changed. Although altered, the basic form is intact. The second floor window openings appear to be original. Some openings have been fully filled in, and others have glass block infill. There is a large open side porch of frame, which is early or original. [nc]

10.) 201 W. Columbia; Methodist Episcopal Church, ca. 1904. A two-story Gothic Revival style steepled ell church with stone and limestone walls and a cross-gabled roof. The walls are of dark tan limestone, which is similar to that used on the ca. 1871 St. Francois County Jail which sits just north of the church. The gable ends are filled with slate shingles. The corner stone reads: "Christian Church est. 1853." Wide concrete steps lead up to a small bracketed hood over the front door. The doorway, like the stained glass windows, has a Gothic style pointed-arch top. The windows all appear to be original. Several of the basement windows are partly filled in. [c]

11.) 213 W. Columbia; Masonic Temple, ca. 1911. A two-story Lodge Hall with red brick walls and a symmetrical facade. Smooth-sawn limestone elements accent most of the ground floor openings. All door and window openings are intact; all doors and windows themselves are modern. There is a large Masons' crest above the front door, and a cornerstone on the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9

Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri

front wall which reads "Farmington Lodge No.132 A.F. and A.M. A.L. 5911 A.D. 1911." A pair of small hipped dormers on the front part of the roof have covered windows, but are otherwise intact. The low front porch is new, and of concrete, with an unobtrusive ramp built on one side of it. [c]

12.) 215 W. Columbia; Fitz, C. S., Auto Sales and Service, ca. 1949. This is a large commercial garage/car dealership of tan brick with aluminum accents. Few changes are apparent. The large central garage door is new; the opening is early or original. The shop area has metal casement windows which are early or original, and the storefront in the display area may also be original. There is a small office ell on the northwest corner. The back of this building has more garage entrances, accessible from W. Liberty. This was part of a complex in 1952, which included the commercial garage at 214 W. Liberty. The two still occupy the same parcel. [c]

214 West Liberty; Auto Body Shop, ca. 1937. A one-story style Craftsman style commercial garage with brick walls. The storefront is made of new materials, and the openings are original. It has a central entrance with an early or original door; two large display windows are set to either side of the entrance--they are all covered with plywood. There are three garage doors on the east side wall; the openings are original, the doors are newer. There are rectangular brick panels above the doors. The facade has an ornamental stepped parapet with brickwork panels above the display windows. [c]

13.) 1 W. Liberty; Clardy & Rozier Garage, ca. 1926. A one-story Craftsman style commercial garage with brick walls. This building includes 1-5 W. Liberty. The wide stepped front parapet is of brick, with ceramic tile coping. The front part of the building has a flat roof, and a much larger part at the rear has a barrel-vaulted roof. Some windows have been replaced or partly filled in; the openings are intact. There are three storefronts in the facade, all with newer doors. The rear parapet is of concrete block--it may have been added later. There is a large loading dock/door and garage doors on the rear elevation. [c]

14.) 9 W. Liberty; Williams Building, ca. 1926. A one-story one-part commercial block with brick walls. The storefront is made of wood and is early or original. This highly intact one-part commercial block shares a front parapet wall with the two buildings to the east, 13 and 15 West Liberty. The parapet is faced with brick-patterned asphalt and topped with crown molding. The molding may be of pressed metal. The front doors appear to be newer. The storefronts have large display windows topped by 3-light transoms. There has been some transom infill or painting of glass. The porch is early; the support posts appear to be modern. Located on the north side of the courthouse square. [c]

15.) 13 W. Liberty; Hale, O. H., Building, ca.1926. A one-story one-part commercial block

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10

Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri

building with brick walls. The storefront is made of wood and is early or original. Part of a group of 3 buildings (9, 13, 15 W. Liberty) all with similar facades. This building shares a front parapet wall with the buildings on either side, 9 and 15 West Liberty. The parapet is faced with brick-patterned asphalt and topped with simple crown molding. The molding may be of pressed metal. The storefront is highly intact; the door may be newer, all else is early or original. [c]

16.) 15 W. Liberty; West Liberty Commercial Building, ca. 1926. A one-story one-part commercial block with brick walls. The storefront is made of wood and is early or original. Part of a group of 3 buildings (9, 13, 15 W. Liberty) all with similar facades. This building shares a front parapet wall with the two buildings to the west, 9 and 13 West Liberty. The parapet is faced with brick-patterned asphalt and topped with simple crown molding. The molding may be of pressed metal. A newer concrete block wall has been added to west side wall, which overlooks an open lot. The storefront is early or original. [c]

17.) 101-111 W. Liberty; Davis, A.S., Building, 1902. A Late Victorian style business block with brick and stone walls. The storefront is made of wood and is early or original. Polychromatic touches include red and tan brick with dark red terra cotta and tan rock-faced limestone accents. The brick piers between the storefronts are rounded, with very narrow joints. (The piers and terra cotta are very similar to those on the facade of 12 West Columbia.) The early storefronts are in very good condition. An early corner entrance is now a window; the opening is intact. Some windows are newer as well. The posts for the front porch are early, but not original; the porch roof is very early and probably original. The facade is ornamented with square terra cotta accent tiles, which are similar to those found on other buildings in the survey group, including 12 W. Columbia and 114 E. Columbia. The east section of the building is set off by two sets of wide brick piers which flank a large doorway. The arched top of the doorway contains an art glass panel. The roof of the porch forms a balcony floor for the second story. Concrete caps on the piers at roofline may have been ornamented at one time. The west section of the building has an addition to the rear which is similar in form and materials, date unknown. [c]

18.) 110 West Liberty; ca. 1970. A low one story frame building with a shake shingle-covered mansard roof and a modern storefront. [nc]

19.) 116 W. Liberty; Farmington Motor Company 1, ca. 1921. A long narrow one-story Craftsman style corner entrance commercial building with brick walls. The storefronts on the west end are of newer materials, but similar to historic units. This building includes 116-118 W. Liberty. A small Mission style, shaped parapet is set above the corner entrance on the northwest, and a corbeled brick cornice runs along both of the street elevations. There are

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 11

Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri

three large openings on the long side wall; one with a modern garage door, one with solid infill, and one that is partly infilled with a pair of modern entry doors. The opening with the entry doors has a segmental arched top, as do two smaller windows on the north wall. The windows in those openings are modern. This building occupies most of the northern edge of this block. [c]

20.) 119 W. Liberty; Farmington Motor Company 2, ca. 1924. A one-story Craftsman style commercial garage with red granite walls and random flat raised joints. The flat sign board in the parapet of this large stone building is early or original; the current sign is painted on the smooth sign base in the wall. There are concrete sills on the windows, and a high concrete foundation. Concrete is also used for the cap on the battlemented parapet. The storefront windows are new units placed in the original openings, as are several of the side windows. Some of the early metal casement windows remain in place on the back of the building. A side doorway near the back has the address of 106 N. Franklin St. This parcel includes a granite bungalow to the rear (108 N. Franklin) [c]

108 N. Franklin; Horn, William, House, ca. 1935. A one-and-a-half story tall Craftsman style bungalow with stone foundation. The walls feature squared stones of red and gray granite with raised flat joints; some joints are dark gray, and some are yellow. A stone fireplace on the north has the same type of stone work. There is a garage in the basement to the north. The large gabled dormer on the front wall has a stone veneer on its front wall. The full front porch has stone walls for railings, with ornamental arched openings in the base of those walls for drainage. The front door is arched, with a round light; it is early or original. A small three-sided window bay is located on the south wall. [c]

21.) 1 N. Jefferson; Cayce, Milton, Building, ca. 1879. (Morris Brothers Store) A two-story tall, Late Victorian style two-part commercial block with brick walls. Newly rehabbed and very intact inside as well. Highly intact second floor and a newer though sympathetic storefront. The new wood storefront has large display windows with transoms above and bulkheads below. The north side elevation, which faces Columbia St., has the same type of Mesker Brothers prefabricated cornice used on the facade. The side windows on the second floor are like those on the facade, while the first floor side wall has shorter openings, set high in the wall. There is a large frame second floor porch on the back of this and the building to the north. Painted letters across the upper facade of this and 3 N. Jefferson (north of it) spell out "Morris Brothers." This building sits on the west side of the courthouse square. This building was joined to 3. N. Jefferson at an early date. [c]

22.) 3 N. Jefferson; Puttman, J.F., Building, ca. 1899. (Morris Brothers) A two-story Late Victorian style two-part commercial block building with brick walls. The storefront is made of new materials, and the openings are original. Newly rehabbed and very intact inside as well.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 12

**Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri**

Highly intact second floor and newer though sympathetic storefront. The new wood storefront has large display windows with transoms above and bulkheads below. This building is visually linked to each of its neighbors. The upper facade is similar to 5 N. Jefferson (north of it) in window configuration and cornice detailing and painted letters across the upper facade of this and 1 N. Jefferson (south of it) spell out "Morris Brothers." There is a large frame second floor porch on the back of this and the building to the south. This building sits on the west side of the courthouse square. This building was joined to 1. N. Jefferson at an early date. [c]

23.) 9 N. Jefferson; McEwan, Ella, Building, ca. 1899. A two-story Late Victorian style two-part commercial block building with brick walls. The upper story of the facade is highly intact; the ground floor is all new, although the general openings are intact. The windows of the second floor have high round arches with raised molding, which look much like those on the building to the south, 3 N. Jefferson. The facade is painted white at the second floor, and a wide band of newer tan material runs above the new storefront and flat awning. The prefabricated bracketed cornice at the roofline is a Mesker Bros product. This building sits on the west side of the courthouse square. [c]

24.) 11 N. Jefferson; Williams, Thomas, Building; ca. 1879. A two-story tall two-part commercial block building with brick walls. The storefront is made of new materials, and the openings are original. Storefront display window openings have been filled in newer 1/1 windows - the paneled bulkheads are intact, as are most of the other early storefront components. The front door and side light are early. The top of the facade has ceramic tile coping, which appears to be newer than the rest of the building. The north wall, which faces an empty lot, is faced with newer brick. On the west side of the courthouse square. This adjoins the building to south, and has an open lot to the north. [c]

25.) 115 N. Jefferson; Highley, J.D., Livery, ca. 1899. A one-story tall livery stable with embossed tin and brick walls. This building includes 115-119 N. Jefferson. Sanborn maps indicate that it was built here or moved to this location from the front of the lot around 1900. The open porch on the south side shelters entrances to what are now apartments; it has a new shed roof, which may be similar to the original. There are new garage doors off of Spring Street to the north. An early addition at Spring has brick walls and an early garage door. Some 2/2 windows on the building are early, some have newer 1/1 sash, in early openings. The building sits at the north end of a deep lot, with frontage on Spring Street and N. Jefferson. [c]

118 W. Spring; Highley, J. D., Barn, ca. 1907. A one-story gable end barn with stone and tin walls. One of the more unusual and intact early outbuildings in the survey area, and the only one built of stone. The center section has thick stone walls with small square window openings, and the side sections are of frame. The tin covered gable roof is early or original.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 13

**Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri**

The alley elevation is similar to that shown above; it has large wooden doors on the east side and a large wooden sliding door in the center section. A large rectangular opening in the gable end may have been for access to a hay loft. [c]

26.) 11 N. Franklin; St. Francois County Jail, ca. 1871. A two-story Greek Revival county jail with brick and stone walls. The jail was built in 1870-71, and enlarged slightly around 1909. The building sits close to the sidewalk. The narrow building is three bays wide, and the arched front doorway is centered at the ground floor. A carved datestone sits directly above the door. The lettering on the datestone is carved into a smooth oval section centered in a wider wall block. The date 1870 is centered in the oval, and is flanked by credits for the builder, John Emerlauer, and the construction superintendents, W.M. Carter and L. D. Walker. The upper walls of the building are of brick and the lower walls are constructed of rock-faced limestone blocks. [c] Individually listed in the National Register, 7-17-1996. △

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 14

**Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri**

Summary: The Courthouse Square Historic District, in Farmington, St. Francois County, Missouri, is significant under Criteria A and C, in the areas of Commerce, Architecture, and Politics/Government, with a local level of significance. The district represents the intact core of the historic civic and commercial center of Farmington. The downtown area has been a local and regional center of commerce since the town was founded in the early 1820s. The boundaries of the Courthouse Square Historic District encompass the largest concentration of intact historic commercial buildings in Farmington today, and the buildings found there represent all major periods of historic commercial development in the community. Individual properties of note include the 1884 Braun Hotel and Opera Hall, which is the only historic hotel in the downtown today, and the 1906 Farmers Bank, which is the only historic bank building. The area has also been the seat of county and local governments, and continues to serve as such today. Contributing buildings in the district include the St. Francois County Courthouse, Long Memorial Hall, which has housed city government for decades, and the St. Francois County Jail, an 1870s building which is listed individually in the National Register. (Listed 7-19-1996.) Overall, the buildings in the district form an impressive grouping. A recent survey of downtown Farmington identified fifteen different buildings which may be individually eligible for Register designation; ten of those are located in the Courthouse Square Historic District.³ The overall level of integrity among district properties is also high; 26 of the 30 buildings found there are contributing. Construction dates range from 1871 and ca. 1949; the period of significance for the district thus runs from 1871 to 1954, the arbitrary fifty year cut-off date. The buildings of the Courthouse Square Historic District look and function today much as they did in the early 1900s, and as a group, they strongly evoke their period of significance.

Elaboration:

Euro-American settlement in the Farmington area pre-dates the Louisiana Purchase. Rich iron and lead deposits in the region encouraged exploration during the late 1700s. Many explorers traveled by boat to the Mississippi River town of Ste. Genevieve, and then proceeded inland. One such traveler was Tennessee resident Rev. William Murphy, who arrived at what is now Farmington with his three sons in 1798. He and each of his sons, David, Joseph and William, laid claim to a 640 acre parcel of land. Rev. Murphy's claim was directly south of the present downtown area, and David Murphy's encompassed the area around the current courthouse, as well as land north of there.⁴

³ The survey, which was conducted in the summer of 2003 by Debbie Sheals, recorded 113 historic buildings in the Original Town of Farmington.

⁴ Marcus Kirkland, "History of Farmington," Typescript on file with the Farmington Public Library, Farmington, MO. ca. 1979.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15

Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri

Once their claims were established, the Murphy men returned home to Tennessee. Tragically, Rev. Murphy never made it; he died within a day's journey of home. In 1800, his sons returned to the claims they had filed, and established what became known as Murphy's Settlement. That settlement developed into the town of Farmington.

Settlement in the region greatly increased with the Louisiana Purchase, and by 1821, the population had grown enough to warrant the creation of St. Francois County. St. Francois County, which was named after the St. Francois River, was organized from Jefferson, Ste. Genevieve, and Washington Counties. Farmington became the seat of the new county very soon after.

In 1822, David Murphy donated 52 acres of his original 640 acre claim "to fix a county seat," after which the area was surveyed and divided into lots.⁵ The plat for the Original Town of Farmington was filed at the county courthouse on February 27, 1822.⁶ That plat, which created 24 blocks containing a total of 73 lots, today functions as the commercial core of Farmington. The plat established long narrow lots to maximize street frontage, and set aside a full block for the county courthouse. Lots in the blocks adjacent to the square are all oriented to face the courthouse.

That plan, which has been described by geographers as the "Shelbyville Square," may well have been influenced by the Murphy family's experiences in their home state of Tennessee. The plan is named after Shelbyville, Tennessee, which has had a similar layout since 1810 or 1812.⁷ The "Shelbyville Square" is the most common type of courthouse square in Missouri; 57 of 114 Missouri counties have such a layout.⁸ The Farmington Square is one of the oldest in the state. One study of courthouse squares in Missouri noted that Shelbyville Squares in Missouri date from the early 1820s to around 1861.⁹

Commercial and civic buildings began appearing on the streets created by David Murphy almost immediately. The town's first store opened on the south side of the square in 1823, the first hotel opened in the late 1820s, the first county jail was opened in 1824, and the first courthouse was completed in 1826. The courthouse was financed by a special tax and the

⁵ Kirkland, "History of Farmington," p. 2.

⁶ Kirkland and City of Farmington Planning Department, Copy of Original Plat of Farmington.

⁷ Ohman, Missouri's County Seats, p. 29.

⁸ Ibid, p. 33.

⁹ Ibid, p. 33.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 16

Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri

sale of lots donated by Murphy.¹⁰ The town was to eventually have four different courthouses, and four jails.

Commercial development continued at a moderate pace, and by 1856, the settlement had grown enough to be incorporated as a Village, with a population of about 500.¹¹ At least part of that growth can be attributed to mining activities in the area. A description of Farmington written in 1879 echoes numerous other 19th and early 20th century narratives: Farmington, it claimed "is in the centre of one of the richest mining sections of the State, being equidistant from Mine la Motte, Flat River, and Iron Mountain."¹²

Transportation facilities also played a role in Farmington's early growth. One of the most notable transportation developments was the construction of a 42 mile long plank toll road in 1853. That road, which was built by the Ste. Genevieve, Iron Mountain and Pilot Knob Plank Road Company, linked Farmington with the important river port and regional trade center of Ste. Genevieve. It was the longest plank road ever built in the United States.¹³ Although heavily used when new, it lasted less than a decade; it went out of business in 1857, due at least in part to the construction of the St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railroad.

The railroad provided alternate transportation to the region, but not a direct connection for residents of Farmington. As the Goodspeed regional history of 1888 noted, when the railroad was in the planning stages: "the county refused to vote a subscription of stock, and in retaliation the road was located as far as possible from Farmington—about two and one-half miles."¹⁴ For the next half-century, Farmington residents in need of railroad transportation were forced to travel two and one-half miles by stage or wagon to DeLassus, the closest town with railroad service. The 1879-80 *State Gazetteer* entry for the community noted that Farmington "stages meet all trains" in DeLassus.¹⁵ That arrangement appeared to work well enough until the early 1900s, when a group of Farmington businessmen succeeded

¹⁰ Bicentennial History Book Committee, Farmington, Missouri: The First 200 Years, 1798-1998, (Paducah, KY: Turner Publishing Co., 2000) pp. 16-17.

¹¹ Flat River Daily Journal, March 19, 1979, n.p. Clipping in "General History of Farmington," (Binder with assorted clippings, part of the Genealogy Collection of the Farmington Public Library, Farmington, MO, n.d.)

¹² Missouri State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1879-1880, (St. Louis, MO: R.L. Polk & Co. and A.C. Danser, 1880) p. 237.

¹³ Bicentennial History Book Committee, p. 58.

¹⁴ Goodspeed Publishing Company, History of Southeast Missouri, (1888, Reprint, Independence, MO: B.N.C. Library Service, 1978) pp. 440-441.

¹⁵ Missouri State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1879-1880, p. 237.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 17

Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri

in starting up an electric railway to provide a direct rail link for the community.

Horses continued to be the primary means of transportation, however, and businesses which catered to equine needs were an important part of the commercial scene. Area businesses which offered goods and services to horse owners included harness shops, wagon makers, and commercial livery services. Harness shops of note included that of Will Rottger, which operated on the south side of the square in the 1890s. A description of the town as it was in 1891 described that shop as "Will Rottger's Harness Shop, where you could buy anything to dress up your horse."¹⁶ Will Rottger and his brother O. F, a commercial baker, tore down their old log building to make way for a new two-story brick building for their businesses around 1904. That second building remains on the square today, at 12 W. Columbia; it is one of the more intact buildings of its age in the district.

One of the longest-lived livery businesses downtown was that of John D. Highley, who operated a livery service at the northwest corner of the square for a quarter of a century. Highley moved to Farmington and opened a livery service in the late 1870s and remained in business at that location into the early years of the 20th century.¹⁷ In 1901, he sold part of his prominent corner lot on the square to his son-in-law, A. S. Davis, who built a large new brick commercial building where the livery barn had been.¹⁸ Highley appears to have kept his hand in for a few more years after that, however; the 1908 Sanborn map of the area labels a building at the back of the lot as the "Highley Livery Company." That same map also shows a small stone barn in place just a few yards from the livery building. Both of those buildings appear to have been used for Highley's livery business in the early years of the 20th century. They are the only surviving historic buildings in the area known to have been associated with a livery business.

Farmington became a Fourth Class City in 1879. The entry for the town which appeared in the State Gazetteer and Business Directory that year included listings for 84 different businesses, and noted a population of about 1,500. The Gazetteer also mentioned that the town had "a very good public library and two hotels," as well as five churches.¹⁹ In addition to the daily stage service to the railroad depot in Delassus, residents had access to a stage to Ste. Genevieve three times a week.

A map of the town which was included in the 1880 St. Francois County Atlas shows

¹⁶ Bicentennial History Book Committee, p. 10.

¹⁷ Sanborn maps and "Farmington's Oldest Businessman Dies," Newspaper obituary, Clipping on file with the Farmington Public Library, ca. 1939.

¹⁸ "Pioneer Businessman Passed Away Friday," Newspaper obituary, Clipping on file with the Farmington Public Library, 3-5-1948.

¹⁹ Missouri State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1879-1880, p. 237.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 18

Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri

that there had by that time been several additions to the original town, and that the area around the courthouse square had become firmly established as the commercial center. (See Figure Two.) Fourteen of the buildings shown on that map have survived to modern times. That number includes four buildings in the Court House Square District; three are commercial buildings, and one is the county jail which was completed in 1871.

The St. Francois County Jail, at 11 N. Franklin, was the county's third jail. It was completed in 1871 and it operated in that capacity for over 125 years. The jail is a two-story building of stone and brick, with a formal facade and simple Greek Revival detailing. Although relatively modest in size, it is an elegant building which reflects the skill of Charles H. Pond, the St. Louis architect who designed it. It was used as the county jail into the late 1990s, and it is currently being rehabilitated for adaptive reuse by the City of Farmington. The jail is the only resource within the downtown area which is currently listed in the Register.

By the time that jail was completed, the streets downtown were becoming lined with commercial buildings. The commercial buildings in the district which were in place by the time of the 1880 Atlas are all two stories tall, with open storefronts on the first floor. Two are located on Jefferson Street, on the west side on the courthouse square, and one is on Columbia Street, just a few doors off of the square. All three of those buildings utilize the common vernacular building form of the "two-part commercial block."

Two-part commercial blocks are two to four stories tall, and are characterized by a horizontal division. The single story lower zones of such buildings were designed to be used as public or commercial spaces, while the upper floors were used for more private functions, such as offices, residences or meeting halls. In Farmington, all examples are two stories tall, and most have open store fronts on the ground floor with more enclosed second floor spaces.

A related subtype is the "business block", which is a large version of the same type of building. Two-part commercial blocks which contain more than two business spaces at the ground floor can be classified as business blocks. Four of the twenty-five historic two-part commercial blocks in downtown Farmington are business blocks; of those, two are within the district boundaries.

Architectural historian Richard Longstreth describes the two-part commercial block as "the most common type of composition used for small and moderate sized commercial buildings throughout the country."²⁰ Farmington is no exception to that trend; the two-part commercial block is by far the most common commercial historic building type in the community. Overall, nearly 25% of the historic buildings in downtown Farmington are two-part commercial blocks. Two-part commercial blocks were popular in Farmington (and elsewhere in the country) for decades; the form came into use in the last half of the 19th century, and remained popular well into the 20th century. Eight of the twenty-five two-part

²⁰ Richard Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street, (Washington, D.C.: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1987) p. 24.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 20

**Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri**

commercial blocks in the downtown area are in the Courthouse Square Historic District.

Although almost all of the two-part commercial blocks in the area are built of brick, there is one notable frame survivor in the district. The ca. 1876 Gierse Tailor Shop (the John Weber Building), at 104 West Columbia, is the oldest intact frame commercial building left in downtown Farmington today. It was built by or for John Weber around 1876, and in the early 1880s became home to the Gierse Tailor and Cleaning Company. It housed that business for over a century, and the building remains in the Gierse family today.

The Gierse shop is unlike other 19th century commercial buildings in the area in that it has simple Greek Revival detailing which includes a pedimented front gable. Although gable-front commercial buildings are extremely rare in the downtown area today, historic photos show that this was once a fairly common building form.²¹ This highly intact building is an important survivor from the earliest days of commercial development in Farmington.

Early photos also show that the level of styling seen on the jail and the tailor shop was somewhat unusual; many of the earliest commercial buildings in the area were simple vernacular buildings, with little to no formal architectural styling. The Greek Revival influence may have come from the design of Farmington's second county courthouse, a two-story tall Greek Revival building which occupied the courthouse square from 1850 into the middle 1880s.²²

The other two oldest surviving two-part commercial buildings in the district are more representative of late 19th century commercial architecture in the area, with brick construction and simple Victorian styling. One is the Milton Cayce Building, at 1 North Jefferson, and the other is the Thomas Williams Building, just two doors to the north, at 11 North Jefferson. Both of those buildings were built sometime before 1880, and both are two story brick two-part commercial blocks. The Cayce was probably built by or for M. P. Cayce, and soon after purchased by Simon Jacobson, who operated a general store at that location for many years. Jacobson is listed as the owner of a general store in the 1879-1880 and 1889-1890 Gazetteers, and a description of the town as it appeared in 1891 noted that Jacobson's store was at this location then.²³ The Cayce building has recently been rehabilitated and is in excellent condition.

The Thomas Williams building, at 11 North Jefferson, is similar to the Cayce building in size and general configuration. It held a similar function when new as well, housing a

²¹ Gina M. Tindall Beal's *Farmington Scrapbook: A Glimpse of the Past*, (Independence, MO: Bert Leonard Beal Archives, Legacies and More Desktop Publishing, ND ca. 1990s) for example, has numerous photos from a turn of the century parade on Columbia and Liberty Streets show numerous one- and two-story frame gable-front commercial buildings.

²² Bicentennial History Book Committee, p. 17.

²³ Bicentennial History Book Committee, p. 11.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 21

**Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri**

general store in the late 1800s, and then serving as a meat market through the early 20th century. The 1879-80 Gazetteer has an entry for Williams and Crowder (Thomas Williams and John H. Crowder) general store, and the 1889-90 entry shows that Mrs. Mary Williams had a general store, presumably having taken over her husband's business at this location. The building remained in the Williams family well into the 20th century.

The 1880s saw two major building projects on the courthouse square. In 1884 Carl Braun erected a large new brick hotel and opera house, and in 1885 construction began on the county's third courthouse. The Braun building is a large two-story brick building with an ornamental brick cornice and very tall double-hung windows. The first Sanborn map of the building, which was made in 1894, shows that the second floor at that time held a stage and scenery, with the hotel and a saloon on the first floor. An ad for the hotel in the state Gazetteer of 1898-99 noted that the hotel gave "special attention to Traveling Men" with "Good Sample Rooms, Electric Lights, Table the best the market affords."²⁴ Braun operated the business until his death in 1900, and it continued to be used as a hotel and saloon into the 20th century. It became home to the Farmington Post Office around 1920, and served in that capacity until the early 1930s. The Braun building is the only opera hall known to have operated in Farmington and it is the only historic hotel building left in the downtown area today.

Historical accounts of the courthouse construction project also show that the Braun building had another function when new. It housed county offices while the new courthouse was being built in 1885.²⁵ That new building was to be the third county courthouse to occupy the public square. The first courthouse, which was completed by 1826, had been replaced by a larger Greek Revival style brick building in 1850, which remained in use until the 1880s.²⁶ The new courthouse was a large brick building with Victorian Second Empire styling which was designed by Jerome B. Legg, an architect from St. Louis. That courthouse was completed in 1886. The Braun building is very similar in design to that third courthouse, and it seems likely that Legg was the architect for the Opera Hall as well.

The St. Francois County project came relatively early in Legg's career. He began working as a draftsman in the office George L. Barnett in the late 1860s. Barnett was at that time one of the leading architects in that city. By 1880, Legg had his own practice, and did the architectural work for the Exposition Building in St. Louis. He also worked on the state capitol in Jefferson City around that time. Later works included the Cenenary Hospital in St. Louis,

²⁴ Missouri Gazetteer and Business Directory 1889-1890, (Vol. VI. St. Louis, MO: R. L. Polk & Co., 1890) p. 357.

²⁵ Bicentennial History Book Committee, p. 17.

²⁶ Bicentennial History Book Committee, pp. 16-17.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

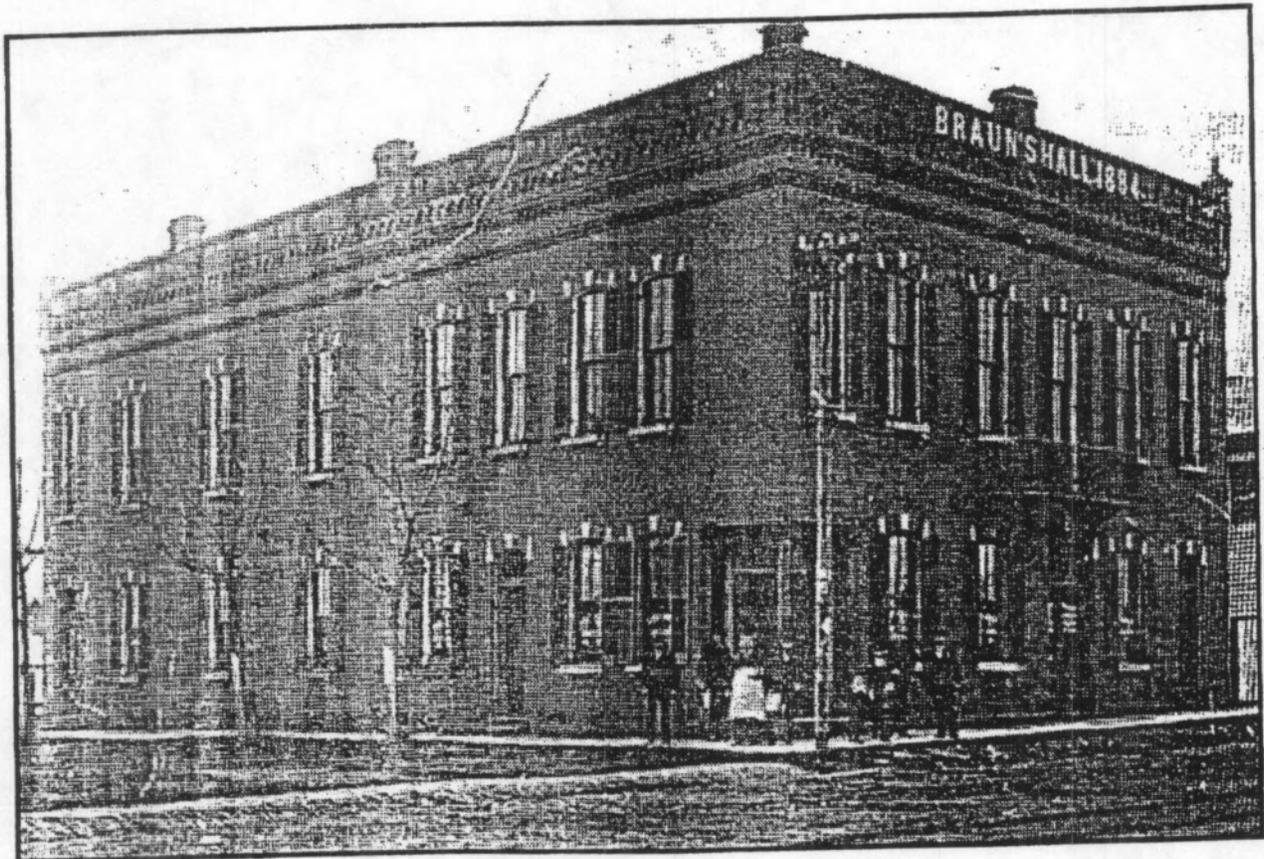
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 22

Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri

and the St. Charles County Courthouse, in St. Charles.²⁷

Figure Three. Historic Photo of the Braun Opera Hall and Hotel.
From the collections of the Farmington Public Library. The people in front of the building include Braun and his children, according to a note with the photo which was written by his son, Charles Braun.



²⁷ Henry F Withey and Elise Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), (Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956) p. 368.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 23

**Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri**

The Victorian styling for the courthouse and the Braun building reflects local architectural trends of the time. Almost all 19th century commercial buildings in the downtown area which show any stylistic embellishment utilize Victorian styling. The most common evidence of Victorian influence is the presence of bracketed cornices and other types of applied ornamentation, as well as a general emphasis on the picturesque. Window accents are also common, frequently in the form of sawn granite or limestone elements such as sills and lintels.

By 1890, the population of Farmington had reached 1,350, and the *Gazetteer* entry for the town listed 115 different businesses. The *Gazetteer* also mentioned good schools, stage and telegraph service, three hotels and three weekly newspapers. By that time, the town also had its own bank, the Bank of Farmington, which was incorporated in 1886. Another important development came in 1891, when the first electric lights were put into service. An article in the paper the next week noted that "the streets lit up beautifully and efficiently...the commercial houses that have the lights put in, as far as we have heard any expressions, are pleased with the exchange from coal oil to electricity..."²⁸

The first available Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map of the area, which was made in 1894, shows that one- and two-story commercial buildings of frame and brick lined all of the streets around the courthouse. Development patterns in place at the time of the 1880s Atlas map were still being followed. The courthouse square was surrounded by businesses, and Columbia Street was firmly established as the principal commercial artery in the area. Several blocks of Columbia Street east of the courthouse square were also lined with business buildings. The streets farther from the courthouse hosted a mix of commercial, residential, and manufacturing facilities.

By the turn of the century, the courthouse square was lined with commercial buildings. The west side, facing Jefferson Street, contained a solid row of two story brick buildings, dating from the late 1870s to the late 1890s. By 1910, at least three of those buildings were occupied by a single business, the Morris Brothers Mercantile Company. A photo of the block taken around 1910 shows that by then, the Morris Brothers occupied the south three buildings on the block and were offering a variety of items. Signs over each storefront described the offerings within, which included "Clothing & Gents Furnishings, Dry Goods, Furniture and Carpets."²⁹ Two of those buildings have recently been rehabilitated—during that project, the painted words "Morris Brothers" were found to have survived under modern paint. The lettering was carefully preserved and restored during the rehab, and the upper facades today look very much as they did in that 1910 photo. Walter Morris' obituary of 1960 noted that the Morris Brothers business "flourished more than forty

²⁸ Quote from the *Times*, October 29, 1891, reprinted in Bicentennial History Book Committee, p. 16.

²⁹ Bicentennial History Book Committee, p. 3.

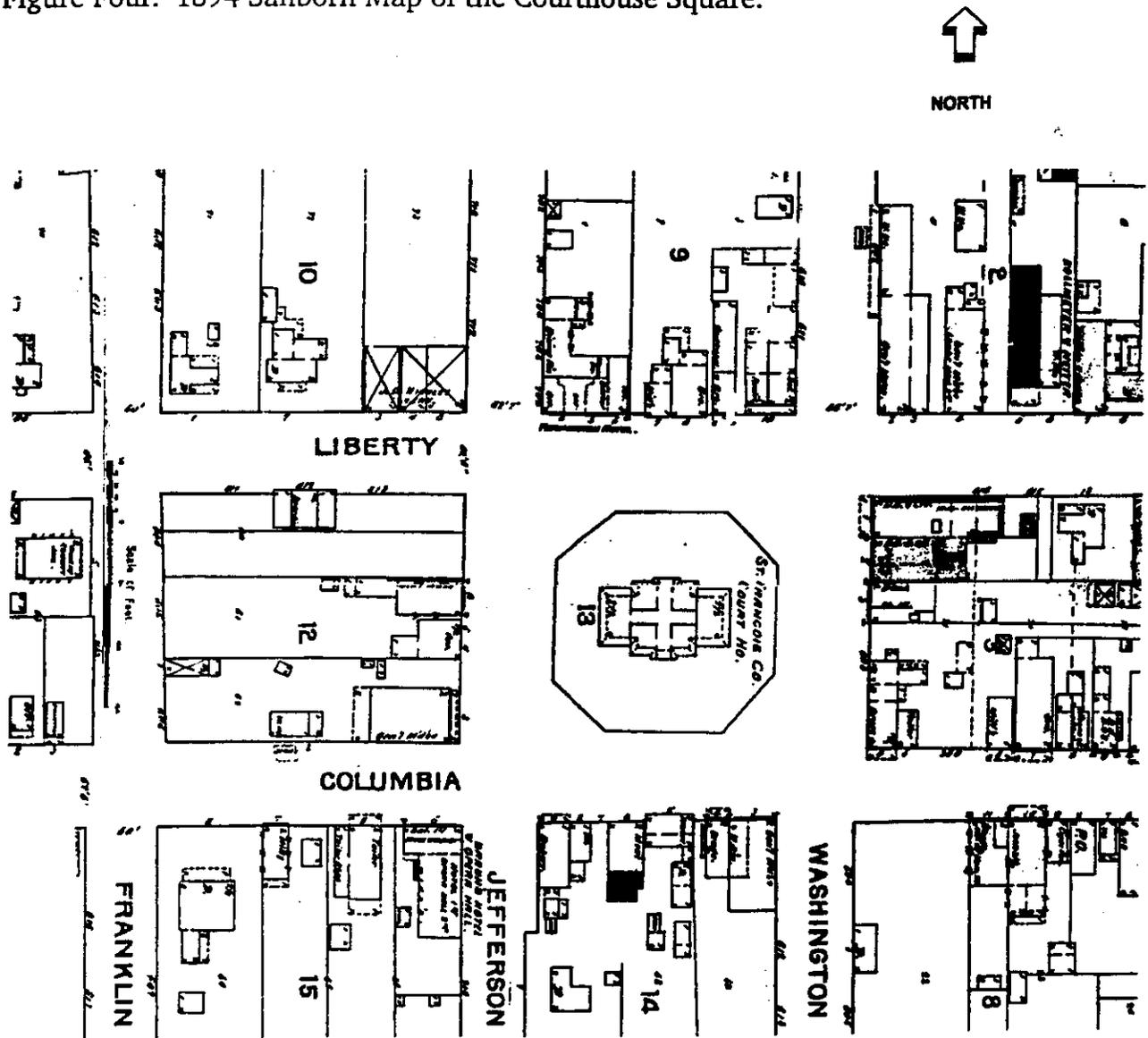
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 24

Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri

years at the corner of Columbia and North Jefferson Streets. It became known throughout the area as a leading countyseat store."³⁰

Figure Four. 1894 Sanborn Map of the Courthouse Square.



³⁰ "Walter L. Morris," Newspaper obituary, clipping on file with the Farmington Public Library, 1960.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 25

**Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri**

At the turn of the 20th century, Farmington was thriving. The 1898-99 Gazetteer entry for the town included 166 different businesses, several of which had large ads in the publication. The population was said to be "about 2,000," and the town was described as "a prosperous incorporated city in a rich mining district."³¹ The gazetteer also mentioned that the town had a telephone system under construction. City streets were in good condition, and at least one, Potosi Street, was a "rock road." Potosi Street intersects Liberty Street a few blocks west of the district boundaries.

Commercial development continued into the 20th century. The local economy saw a major boost on July 24, 1904, when Farmington finally received direct railroad service. The St. Francois County Electric Railroad Company, which was founded in 1901, managed to do what several other like-minded companies had not; they established an inter-urban railroad line to connect Farmington to major railroad lines nearby. That line, which ran by electricity, connected Farmington to Delassus, and the Iron Mountain Railroad line which ran through it. Extensions made soon after connected to the Mississippi River and Bonne Terre Railroad at Flat River, and the Illinois Southern at Esther.³² The rail line ran along the north and east sides of the downtown area, providing downtown businesses with easy access to commercial shipping.

Many new commercial buildings were erected on the square and on nearby streets at the turn of the century. While most of those were single-bay two-part commercial blocks, there were also a few larger buildings, including two new business blocks located within the present district boundaries. In 1902, local businessman A. S. Davis erected a large brick commercial block at the northwest corner of the square. That project was a family affair—Davis teamed up with his brother-in-law, Dr. B. J. Robinson, for the building project, and the building was erected on land which he purchased from his father-in-law, John D. Highley. (Highley's Livery Stable had occupied that spot.) Also, Robinson owned a house on the lot directly west of the new building, which appears to have been his residence.

The new building had two main sections which fronted on Liberty Street. The westernmost bays were used for Robinson's office, and the wider eastern section, which had a corner entrance facing the square, was occupied by Farmington Mercantile Company. The Mercantile Company was owned by A. S. Davis, W. F. Overall, and J. W. Simms.³³ Davis, who had operated several businesses in town prior to that, settled with the Mercantile Company, and remained active in that concern into the late 1930s.

The Davis building is today one of the largest intact commercial buildings in the

³¹ Missouri Gazetteer and Business Directory 1899, (St. Louis, MO: R. L. Polk & Co. 1899) p. 352.

³² Bicentennial History Book Committee, pp. 60-61.

³³ "Pioneer Businessman Passed Away Friday," and "Farmington's Oldest Businessman Dies."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 26

**Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri**

downtown area. It features an ornate corbeled cornice and distinctively detailed two-color brickwork, with tan brick used for accents on the red brick walls. The second floor windows are topped with high brickwork arches, and terra cotta tiles are used for additional ornament on the facade. The piers between the storefronts of the ground floor feature a combination of rough-cut stone blocks and rounded corner bricks.

Similar architectural detailing can be found on other historic buildings which were built in the area about the same time. Those include the ca. 1904 Rottger Building, which is in the district, and the ca. 1899 Henry Meyer Building, at 119 East Columbia. It is likely that those buildings were all the work of the same designer. The Meyer building is known to be the work of architect and builder Louis Miller, who may have worked on the Davis and Rottger buildings as well.

Louis Miller, who was also one of the founding partners for the inter-urban railroad, lived in the nearby town of Arcadia, and worked throughout the region from the 1880s into the 1920s.³⁴ His interest in bringing a railroad to Farmington may have been influenced by his architectural practice. One biography noted that "Miller practiced his trade in the towns along the railroad, often having dozens of men busy in multiple locations." The new inter-urban line made it easier for him to practice in Farmington, where, the same biographical account noted, he "built extensively."³⁵

A "Souvenir Album for St. Francois County," which was printed just after the turn of the century, mentions Miller several times, and one caption under a photo of his work claimed that he was the "largest builder and contractor in Southeast Missouri."³⁶ That same publication showed that he served as both builder and architect, depending on the project. He served as only the builder for the prominent Realty Building in Farmington, for example, while he was listed as the architect for the Meyer Building, and as both builder and architect for others. (The Meyer building is the only building mentioned in that publication that survives today.)

It was also in the first years of the new century that the sole surviving historic bank building in the area was erected. The Farmers Bank, at 16 W. Columbia, was built on the south side of the courthouse square around 1906. The bank was organized in 1904, and apparently started construction on this building soon after, as tax records and Sanborn maps indicate it was completed by 1907. A 1925 promotional publication noted that the "bank occupies the ground floor of its own substantial brick building, which is situated on the

³⁴ Lawrence Christensen, et al, Dictionary of Missouri Biography, (Columbia and London: University of Missouri Press, 1999) pp. 547-548.

³⁵ Christensen, et al, p. 547.

³⁶ Souvenir Album of St. Francois County, (St. Louis, MO: Central Illustrating Syndicate, n.d.) This appears to have been made just after the turn of the century.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 27

**Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri**

southwest corner of the Square. The officers are P.A. Shaw, President; G.B. Snider, Active Vice-President; W.C. Fischer, Vice-President; and L.H. Williams, Cashier.³⁷ That business apparently fell victim to hard times of the Great Depression; in 1933 the United Bank of Farmington was formed to replace what one historical account called "the defunct Bank of Farmington and the Farmers Bank."³⁸ The large brick and stone bank building survived, however, and has been fully rehabilitated in the last few years. It is individually eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

The downtown area was a strong center for social and religious as well as commercial life in the early 20th century. Several large new church buildings were built downtown during that time, and most, if not all, of the major congregations in the community worshiped in downtown buildings during this period. Local congregations tended to move around, and it was not unusual for one church building to have been owned by two or more congregations over the years. The Christian Church, at 220 E. Columbia, provides a good example of that tendency; it was built in 1901 by the Christian congregation, to replace a church building they had purchased from the local Presbyterian group in the 1880s. In 1950, the Christian congregation moved a block down the street to the building which the Methodist congregation had erected in 1904, at 201 E. Columbia. They remain at that location today. That highly intact church building, which has simple Gothic Revival style detailing, is the only church within the district boundaries.

Local lodges also had buildings downtown during that period. Two historic lodge halls remain in the area today. One is a tall frame meeting place of the Workingmen's Association, an early African American lodge, which is located several blocks south of the downtown area. The other is the Masonic Temple, which was built at 213 West Columbia in 1911. The Masonic Temple is a contributing building in the district. It has a wide brick facade with very simple Colonial Revival styling and a Mason's seal over the front door. A datestone on the front wall reads "Farmington Lodge No.132 A.F. and A.M. A.L. 5911 A.D. 1911."

The civic function of the area also remained strong in the early 20th century. The mid-1920s saw the construction of yet another new courthouse, as well as a large new municipal building, Long Memorial Hall. Work began on the fourth and current county courthouse in 1926, after citizens agreed to bond the county for \$250,000 to fund its construction. The large new building was designed by Norman B. Howard, of the St. Louis architectural firm Bonsack and Pierce, and the construction contract was awarded to the McCarthy Construction Co. in

³⁷ J. Cloud Cole, "A Message to the Homeseeker: Farmington, Fredericktown, Flat River and Bonne Terre," (Photocopy of a 1925 promotional publication, now in the collections of the Farmington Public Library) p. 3.

³⁸ Bicentennial History Book Committee, p. 13.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 28

**Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri**

1926.³⁹ The Beaux Arts style building was designed with four nearly identical elevations, apparently to avoid having any business face the back of the courthouse. The finished building was dedicated on October 13, 1927, and it has served continually as the county courthouse since that time. It is highly intact and serves as a visual anchor for the historic district.

Figure Five. Historic Photo of the West Side of the courthouse square, taken between 1908 and 1914. The Farmers Bank is at the end of the block, on the left, and the Morris Brothers buildings are on the right. Photo courtesy of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce.



³⁹ Marian M. Ohman, *Encyclopedia of Missouri Courthouses*, (Columbia: University of Missouri Extension, 1981), and Bicentennial History Book Committee, p. 18.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 29

Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri

The Beaux Arts styling of the courthouse may have been at least partially inspired by the design of Long Hall, which was completed about the time the Farmington Chamber of Commerce began pushing for a new courthouse. Long Hall, which was built at 110 West Columbia in 1924, was financed by Mrs. James A. Bisby, in honor of her brother, Dubart Long.⁴⁰ They were both direct descendants of town founder David Murphy. When new, the building served as a community center of sorts, housing the public library, city offices, a bowling alley, an auditorium and a dance floor. The library remained there until 1980, when the current library building at 108 Harrison Street was built. Long Hall serves today as the Farmington City Hall. Long Hall is one of the largest styled historic buildings in Farmington today; it is highly intact, and individually eligible for the National Register. Although an architect has not been linked with Long Hall, the design is almost surely the work of a professional.

Both Long Hall and the new courthouse utilized Beaux Arts styling. The Beaux Arts movement in architecture takes its name from the *Ecole Des Beaux Arts*, a school of architecture in Paris which was attended by several leading North American architects in the last half of the 19th century. The course of study at the Ecole emphasized such things as composition, symmetry and the creation of designs based upon academically correct interpretations of classical architecture.⁴¹ Classical columns and pilasters, along with arched openings and symmetrical facades, were often featured elements of Beaux Arts designs.⁴² The use of Beaux Arts styling for Long Hall and the courthouse reflect that style's national popularity in the realm of public architecture.

As the new century progressed, a new category of commerce came into existence. Between the 1910s and the 1920s, the automobile went from being a novelty owned only by a wealthy few, to an integral component of American life. By 1925, automobiles had become the largest industry in the United States, and by the end of that decade, 55% of all American families owned a car.⁴³ With the new cars came a new demand for good roads, and the teens and twenties saw extensive national road-building campaigns.

Farmington had always enjoyed access to good roads, a benefit which became increasingly important with the rise of the automobile. In the 1910s and 1920s, roads in the Farmington area were improved and tied into the new regional and statewide road system. In

⁴⁰ Bicentennial History Book Committee, p. 185.

⁴¹ Alan Gowans, *Styles and Types of North American Architecture* (New York: HarperCollins, 1992) pp. 217-219.

⁴² John C. Poppeliers, et al, *What Style Is It?* (Washington, D.C.: Preservation Press, 1984) p. 66.

⁴³ Jean-Pierre Bardou, et. al., *The Automobile Revolution: The Impact of an Industry*. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1982) pp. 112-113.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 30

Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri

1919, Potosi Street, which connects to Liberty Street just a few blocks west of the district boundaries, became the first concrete road in the county. By the mid-1920s, Liberty Street had become part of State Highway 9, which ran north and south through the region, and Liberty, Columbia, and North Washington Streets were all at least partially paved.⁴⁴ In the late 1920s, the Highway 9 became State Highway 61, and by 1930 that road was paved throughout St. Francois County.⁴⁵ The Farmington-Flat River road became State Route 32 about the same time.

Both of those state highways shared a route right through the downtown area, thanks to the efforts of local businessmen. Early plans had called for bypassing the downtown area in favor of a route along the north edge of the community. Downtown business leaders successfully lobbied for a route change however, and when complete, the new highways entered town from the north on Potosi Street, then ran along Liberty to Main, where they connected to the old Ste. Genevieve road, which leads southwest from the downtown area.⁴⁶

Automobile-related commercial buildings started appearing in downtown Farmington even before the state highways came through. Those businesses included modest gas stations as well as large sales and service operations. The 1927 Sanborn map shows that Liberty Street, which was by then partially paved, contained two or three gas stations and three large new commercial garages. All three of those garages are in the Courthouse Square district.

Two of the commercial garages on Liberty Street were associated with the same business, the Farmington Motor Company. That company at one time occupied almost a full block in the downtown area. Sanborn maps from 1927 and 1952 show that the business had buildings along an entire block of Liberty Street just west of the courthouse, and that they had an office in a building on North Jefferson which faced the courthouse square. Open land behind on the west side of the block housed "Used Auto Sales" in 1952.

The Farmington Motor Company was founded in the early 1920s by W. L. Gardner and R. L. Merseal, and by 1925 had become one of the larger dealerships in the area. A description of area merchants published in 1925 claimed that "this is one of the largest concerns of its kind in the county and has been accorded a liberal patronage from the outset."⁴⁷ The same publication described the two buildings from that operation which are still in place: "The

⁴⁴ Missouri State Highway Commission, "Missouri's Road System: Map Showing Construction Progress," January, 1924, (State Historical Society of Missouri), and the 1927 Sanborn Map of Farmington.

⁴⁵ Tom Miles, Brief Authentic History of St. Francois County, Missouri. (Series published in the Farmington News, Sept. 13 to Nov. 15, 1935, reprint on file with the State Historical Society of Missouri) pp. 27-29.

⁴⁶ Miles, p. 29.

⁴⁷ J. Cloud Cole, p. 2.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 31

Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri

Farmington Motor Company, located on West Liberty Street...occupies a brick building 50 by 150 feet, also a new brick and stone building just across the street from their original quarters."⁴⁸ The original building is located at 116 West Liberty, and the other is at 119 West Liberty. The first was built about 1922 and the other ca. 1924. Both are contributing resources in the district.

Liberty Street's prominence as an early auto route is illustrated by the presence of yet another early commercial garage, just north of the courthouse, at 1 West Liberty. That large brick building was constructed ca. 1926, for M. L. Clardy and C. E. Rozier. Clardy was a founding member of the St. Francois Motor Company, which was probably headquartered in the building on Liberty.⁴⁹ The 1927 Sanborn map labeled it as a "Garage" and noted that it had a capacity of 40 cars at that time. It continued in that function into the 1950s, and today contains office and retail space. It too is a contributing building.

Retail concerns remained strong into the late 1920s as well. One description which was written in 1925 noted that the town had "many up-to-date retail stores engaged in all legitimate lines of commerce and carrying as complete and high grade stocks as found in the larger trade centers of the country."⁵⁰ The 1927 Sanborn shows that retail activity was still concentrated along Columbia Street and the courthouse square at that time. The courthouse square was lined with tightly packed commercial buildings, most of which were two-part commercial blocks.

There were also a number of smaller, one-story commercial buildings constructed during this period, which use a common vernacular form often called a one-part commercial block. One-part commercial blocks are just one story tall, and function much like the lower story of two-part commercial blocks. In many cases the building is relatively narrow, and occupies the full width of its lot, often sharing a wall with neighboring buildings. The facade often consists almost exclusively of an open storefront with plate glass, and wood or metal framing. Ornamental cornices and space for signage above the storefront are common.

There are three such buildings in the Courthouse Square Historic District, all located in a row on the north side of the square. The three small commercial buildings at 9, 13, and 15 West Liberty were all built in the mid 1920s, and all appear to have been in continual use ever since. The building at 9 West Liberty was a restaurant early on, and 13 West Liberty was owned by Oscar L. Haile, who had an abstract company at that location for years. Haile may also have owned 15 West Liberty; it is almost identical to 13, and a photo of the two taken in

⁴⁸ J. Cloud Cole, p. 2.

⁴⁹ The ownership history is based upon tax records; Clardy's obituary notes the name of the company. See "Martin Linn Clardy Passed Away Tues.," Newspaper obituary, clipping on file with the Farmington Public Library, undated.

⁵⁰ J. Cloud Cole, p. 2.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 32

Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri

1939 show very similar signage for the two spaces. The sign at 15 read "Agricultural Loans", which may also have been Haile's business.⁵¹

Those small new buildings were typical of other commercial buildings constructed in the area after about 1910, in that they are unpretentious structures, with few stylistic embellishments. The most common type of styling during that period relates to the Craftsman style, which emphasized simple lines and an absence of applied ornamentation. Instead of the ornate bracketed cornices of the Victorian era, local commercial buildings of the early 20th century tend to have rectilinear stepped parapet roofs topped with simple concrete or ceramic tile coping. Upper facade and window ornamentation is also much simpler, if used at all.

The Craftsman style was extremely popular, locally and nationally, for residential architecture in the early decades of the 20th century, and slightly less so for commercial buildings. The term "Craftsman" was brought into popular use by Gustav Stickley, who published the Craftsman magazine from 1901 to 1915. Stickley and other proponents for the Craftsman movement in America, which was related to the English Arts and Crafts movement, emphasized clean lines and the use of native materials such as wood, brick and natural stone.

By 1930, Farmington could boast of a population of roughly 3,000 people, and the downtown area was still the commercial center for the community. The two new state highways brought travelers right through downtown, and the courthouse square continued its dual role as the civic and commercial center of town. County merchant license records for Farmington in 1925 document the existence of more than 70 businesses, offering everything from undertaking to soda bottling. Most of those were still in operation five years later, as the country entered the hard times of the Great Depression, and it appears that many made it through those trying times. By 1940, the population in Farmington had reached 3,738, and the community was classified as an "urban" area in the 1940 census.⁵²

State highway traffic continued to flow through the downtown area into the 1940s, bringing a continual stream of business. (A highway bypass was started in the late 1940s.) The growth of automobile-related commerce is evident in the function of many of the buildings erected in the downtown area in the 1940s and early 1950s. Many of those buildings were related in one way or another to automobile sales or service. Most were built away from the commercial core, outside of the Courthouse Square Historic District.

There is, however, one 1940s automobile-related building in the district. The C. S. Fitz Auto Sales and Service building, at 215 West Columbia, dates to the late 1940s. The 1951

⁵¹ The photo is from "Early Merchants in Farmington," (Binder with assorted clippings, part of the Genealogy Collection of the Farmington Public Library, Farmington, MO, n.d.). See also "Oscar L. Haile," Newspaper obituary, Clipping on file with the Farmington Public Library, 1953.

⁵² State of Missouri, Official Manual 1945-1946, (Jefferson City: Mid-State Printing Co, 1946) Census statistics, p. 1057.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 33

Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri

Sanborn maps shows that the large tan brick building was at that time the headquarters for an "Auto Sales and Service" business. A smaller building to the north and east was also part of the business—that building, which was built about 1937, was being used as an auto body shop at that time. That business was the Fitz Chevrolet-Buick dealership, owned and operated by C. S. Fitz. Fitz was a prominent area businessman who owned the local Chevrolet distributorship from 1936 until his death in 1960.⁵³ The buildings remained in use as a car dealership for several more decades, and have seen no changes of note; they are currently vacant.

As the century progressed, the commercial structure of the community saw some changes. As alternative roadways developed, so did secondary commercial areas located away from the center of town. For the first time in the town's history, downtown was not the only commercial area in the community. It was, however, still the civic center, thanks to buildings like the courthouse, Long Hall, and the Post Office, which still occupies a 1932 building a few doors east of the Courthouse. The area also continued to serve as a financial center, which is evidenced today by the presence of several large banking operations.

Commercial vigor in downtown Farmington continues, as do many of the use patterns established early in the century. The courthouse square and Columbia Street are still lined with retail and office spaces, and the surrounding streets still contain various commercial and public facilities. Although several major fires in the 1960s took their toll on the historic building stock downtown, significant concentrations remain, and most of those buildings continue in their original commercial function.

The Courthouse Square Historic District stands as a tangible link to those early days of commerce. The boundaries of the district encompass many of the largest intact historic civic and commercial buildings in the community today, and the overall level of integrity within the district is high. Downtown Farmington continues to serve in its original role as the civic and commercial center of town. The historic architecture found there reflects the long commercial history of the seat of St. Francois County, and plays a significant role in its present vitality. ◻

Figure Six. Gazetteer Ad for Braun's Hotel, 1898-99.

AND BUSINESS DEPARTMENT. 337

BRAUN'S HOTEL,
CARL BRAUN, Proprietor.

Special attention given to Travelling Men. Rates, \$1.00 and \$1.50 Per Day.

*Good Sample Rooms. Electric Lights. Table the best the market affords.

The Leading Hotel. Opp. Court House and near Post-Office, Farmington, Mo.

⁵³ "C. Sam Fitz Dies Suddenly," Newspaper obituary, clipping on file with the Farmington Public Library, 1960. The obituary noted that Fitz died of a heart attack while working at the dealership.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 34

Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri

Bibliography

- Bardou, Jean-Pierre, et. al. The Automobile Revolution: The Impact of an Industry. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1982
- Beal, Gina M. Tindall. Farmington Scrapbook: A Glimpse of the Past. Independence, MO: Bert Leonard Beal Archives, Legacies and More Desktop Publishing, ND ca. 1990s.
- Bell, Wilson, State of Missouri, Official Manual 1945-1946. Jefferson City: Mid-State Printing Co, 1946.
- Bicentennial History Book Committee. Farmington, Missouri: The First 200 Years, 1798-1998. Paducah, Kentucky: Turner Publishing Company, 2000.
- "C. Sam Fitz Dies Suddenly," Newspaper obituary, clipping on file with the Farmington Public Library, 1960.
- Cole, J. Cloud. "A Message to the Homeseeker: Farmington, Fredericktown, Flat River and Bonne Terre." Photocopy of a 1925 promotional publication, now in the collections of the Farmington Public Library.
- Christensen, Lawrence et al. Dictionary of Missouri Biography. Columbia and London: University of Missouri Press, 1999.
- Darnell, Dave. St. Francois County: Looking Back. Vols. I-III. Marcelline, MO: Walsworth Publ. Co., 1991-1993.
- "Early Merchants in Farmington." Binder with assorted clippings, part of the Genealogy Collection of the Farmington Public Library, Farmington, MO, n.d.
- "Farmington's Oldest Businessman Dies," Newspaper obituary, Clipping on file with the Farmington Public Library, ca. 1939.
- "Historical St. Francois County." Binder with undated photocopies of what appears to be a promotional pamphlet, part of the Genealogy Collection of the Farmington Public Library, Farmington, MO, n.d.
- "General History of Farmington." Binder with assorted clippings, part of the Genealogy Collection of the Farmington Public Library, Farmington, MO, n.d.
- Goodspeed Publishing Company. History of Southeast Missouri. 1888. Reprint, Independence, MO: B.N.C. Library Service, 1978.
- Gowans, Alan. Styles and Types of North American Architecture. New York: HarperCollins, 1992.
- "Historical St. Francois County," Binder with assorted clippings, part of the Genealogy Collection of the Farmington Public Library, Farmington, MO, n.d.
- Jennings, Jan and Herbert Gottfried. American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1985.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 35

**Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri**

Lawrence, Joseph A. St. Francois County, Missouri: Detailed Financial Statement. Farmington: Waters Press, 1910.

Longstreth, Richard. The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture. Washington, D.C.: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2000.

Kirkland, Marcus. "History of Farmington," Typescript on file with the Farmington Public Library, Farmington, MO, ca. 1979.

"Martin Linn Clardy Passed Away Tues.," Newspaper obituary, clipping on file with the Farmington Public Library, undated.

Miles, Tom. Brief Authentic History of St. Francois County, Missouri. Series published in the Farmington News, Sept. 13 to Nov. 15, 1935. Reprinted.

Missouri Gazetteer and Business Directory 1889-1890. Vol. VI. St. Louis, MO: R. L. Polk & Co., 1890.

Missouri Gazetteer and Business Directory 1899. St. Louis, MO: R. L. Polk & Co. 1899.

Missouri State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1879-1880. St. Louis, MO: R.L. Polk & Co. and A.C. Danser, 1880.

Missouri State Highway Commission. "Missouri's Road System: Map Showing Construction Progress," January, 1924, (State Historical Society of Missouri.)

Ohman, Marian M. Missouri's County Seats and Courthouse Square. Columbia: University of Missouri Extension, 1983.

_____. Encyclopedia of Missouri Courthouses. Columbia: University of Missouri Extension, 1981.

"Pioneer Businessman Passed Away Friday," Newspaper obituary, Clipping on file with the Farmington Public Library, 3-5-1948.

Poppeliers, John C. et. al. What Style Is It?. Washington, D.C.: Preservation Press, 1984.

St. Francois County Records. Deed Records, Merchant Records, Aerial Photo Maps and Real Estate Assessment Records, ca. 1868-1955. St. Francois County Courthouse, Farmington, MO.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. Maps of Farmington: 1894, 1900, 1908, 1914, 1927, and 1952, various pages.

"Scrapbook of Farmington Subjects", Missouri Historical Society. (St. Louis, nd.)

Sheals, Debbie. "Survey Report: Architectural and Historical Survey of Murphy's Settlement District, Farmington, Missouri," Typescript on file with the State Historic Preservation Office, Jefferson City, MO, 2003.

Souvenir Album of St. Francois County. St. Louis, MO: Central Illustrating Syndicate, n.d.
State of Missouri, Official Manual 1945-1946. Jefferson City, MO: Mid-State Printing Co, 1946.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 36

**Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri**

Thompson, Henry Clay. The County Historian. Bonne Terre, MO: Stewart Print, ca. 1937.

"Walter L. Morris," Newspaper obituary, clipping on file with the Farmington Public Library, 1960.

Withey, Henry F. and Elise Rathburn Withey. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956

Works Progress Administration, Report on the Works Program. Washington, D. C.: GPO, 1936.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 37

Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri

UTM's Continued

E. 15 727110 4184540
Zone Easting Northing

F. 15 727160 4184530
Zone Easting Northing

G. 15 727110 4184280
Zone Easting Northing

H. 15 726970 4184300
Zone Easting Northing

I. 15 726970 4184400
Zone Easting Northing

J. 15 726890 4184400
Zone Easting Northing

K. 15 726900 4184480
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries include all of the land currently and historically associated with the properties of the district. They are based upon current property lines, as defined by the St. Francois County Assessor. The boundaries are shown as a heavy dashed line on the boundary map on the next page.

Boundary Justification

The current boundaries encompass all of the land historically associated with the properties of the district which retains integrity from the period of significance. All of the properties immediately adjacent to the boundaries are either vacant, or contain new or greatly altered older buildings. The northern boundary has been drawn to exclude an empty lot on the north side of the courthouse square, and the boundary at the southeast corner of the district excludes a property which contains a building erected in the late 1960s. The other blocks of the district contain sufficient concentrations of intact historic buildings to be included in their entirety.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

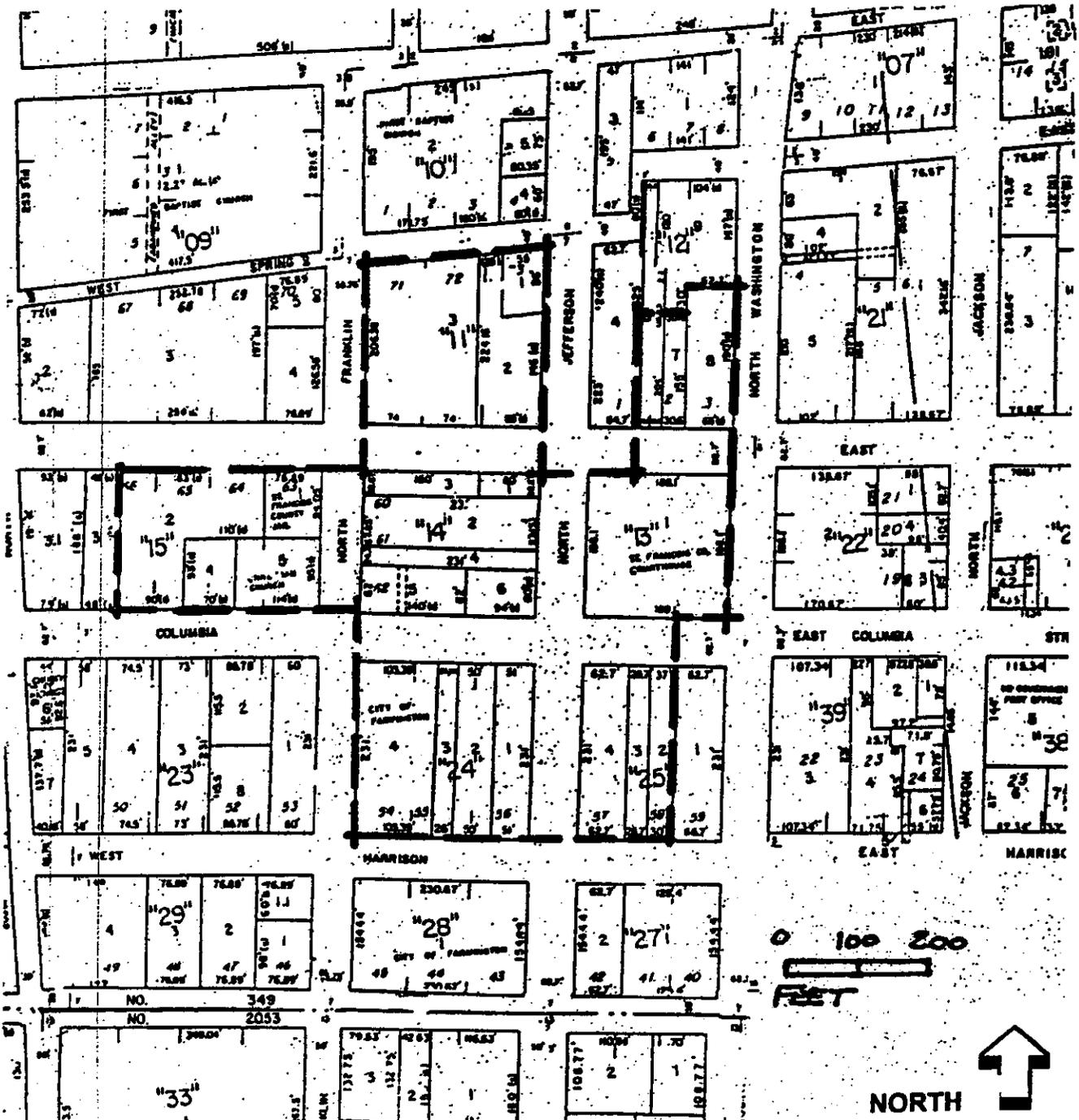
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 38

Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri

Boundary Map.

Base maps, St. Francois County Assessor maps 74-09-7-36-4, and 74-10-9-31-3.



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number photographs Page 39

**Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri**

Photographs

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Courthouse Square Historic District

Farmington

St. Francois County, MO

Debbie Sheals

September, 2003

Negatives on file with Debbie Sheals 406 West Broadway, Columbia, MO 65205

List of Photographs

See photo key for indications of description of camera angles.

1. Long Hall, 110 West Columbia, looking south.
2. Looking east on Columbia Street, right to left--104, 102 and 16 West Columbia Street.
3. Looking east on Columbia Street, left to right--215, 213, 201 West Columbia Street.
4. Looking west on Columbia Street, left to right--12, 14, 16, 102 West Columbia Street.
5. Detail, facade of 12 West Columbia Street.
6. Looking west on Columbia Street into the district.
7. Looking west on Columbia Street to Jefferson, left to right--1, 3, 9, 11, North Jefferson.
8. Looking south on North Jefferson Street--right to left, 11, 9, 3, 1, North Jefferson, 102 West Columbia in background.
9. Looking west on Liberty Street, right to left--1, 9, 13, 15, 101 West Liberty Street.
10. Typical elevation of the courthouse, looking west.
11. Looking west on Liberty Street, right to left--101, 119 West Liberty Street.
12. Detail facade of 101 West Liberty.
13. Looking west from North Jefferson, right to left--115 N. Jefferson with barn, house behind 119 West Liberty.
14. Looking east on Liberty Street, left to right--119, 101 West Liberty Street.
15. Looking north on Franklin Street, left to right--201 West Columbia, 11 N. Franklin. (115 West Columbia on right.)
16. Looking north on Jefferson, right to left--16 West Columbia (west elevation), courthouse.

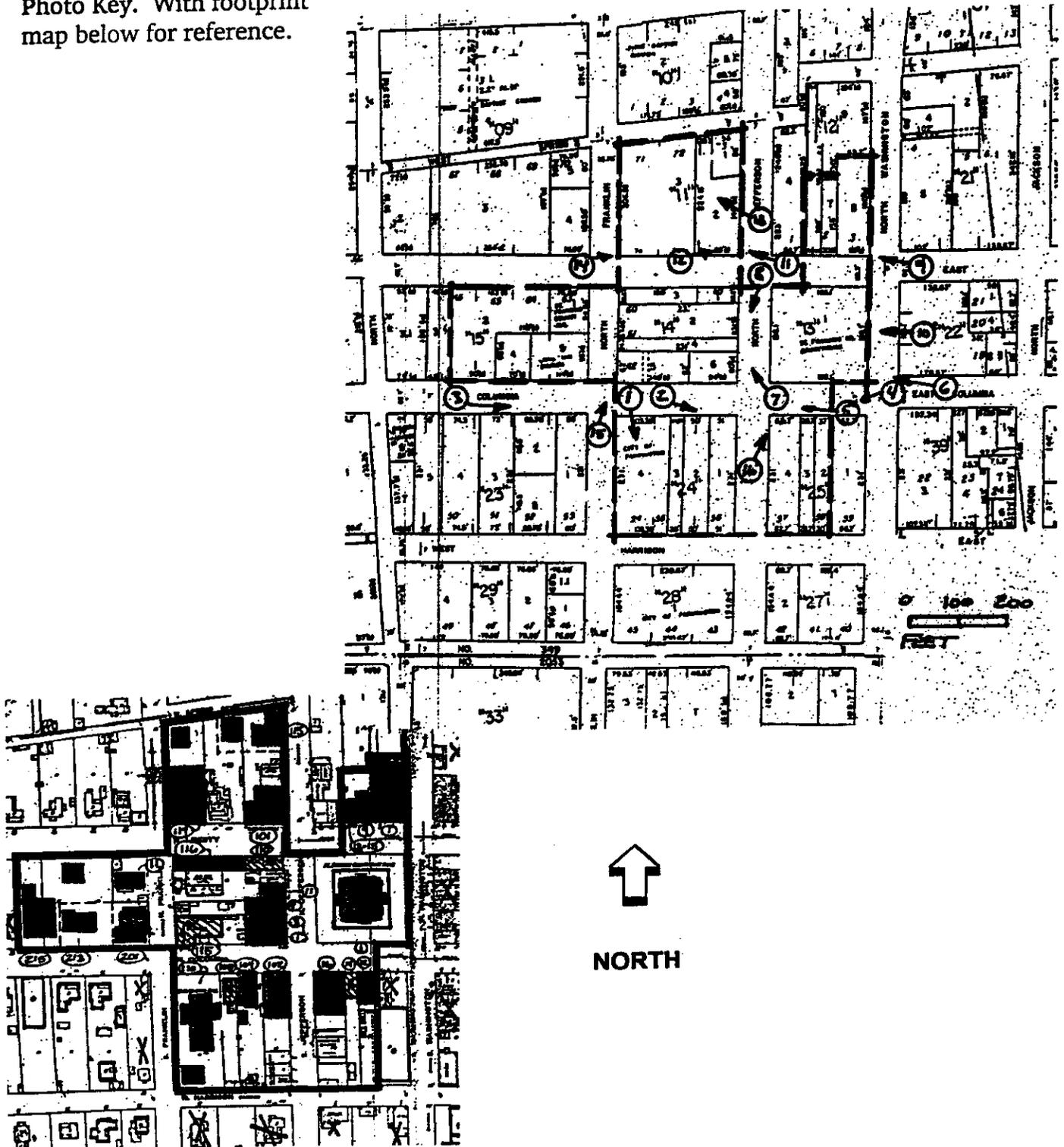
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

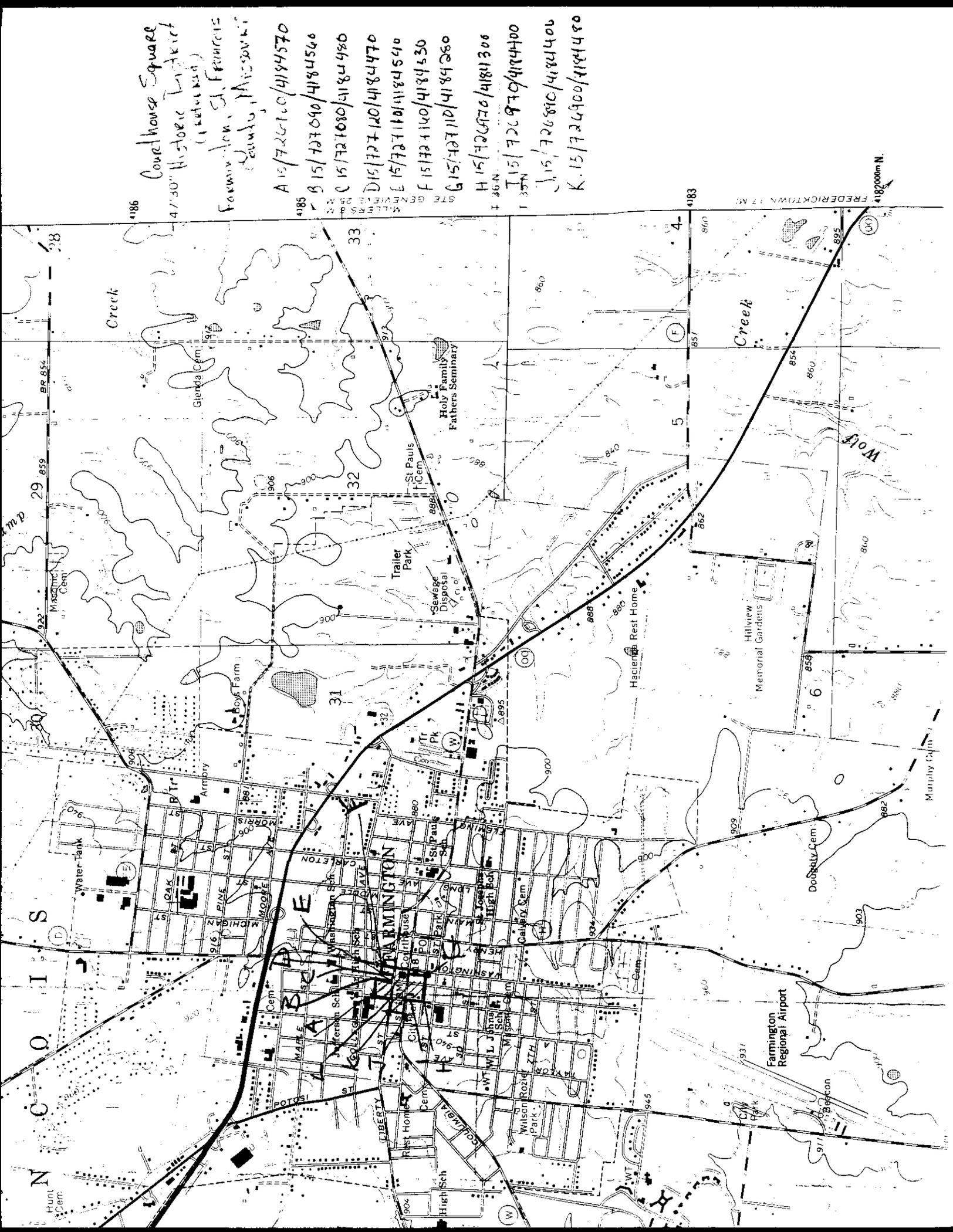
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number photographs Page 40

Courthouse Square Historic District (preferred)
St. Francois County, Missouri

Photo Key. With footprint
map below for reference.





4186
 4185
 4184
 4183

29 30 31 32 33

4186000m N
 4187000m N
 4188000m N
 4189000m N

BR 854
 BR 855
 BR 856
 BR 857
 BR 858
 BR 859
 BR 860

Farmington, St. Francois County, Missouri
 (1 section)
 15/726700/4184570
 15/727090/4184560
 15/727080/4184490
 15/727120/4184470
 15/727110/4184510
 15/727110/4184530
 15/727110/4184260
 15/726770/4184300
 15/726970/4184400
 15/726810/4184400
 15/726900/4184480

Creek

Creek

Wolf

FARMINGTON

Farmington Regional Airport

Holy Family Fathers Seminary

Hacienda Rest Home

Hillview Memorial Gardens

Doolittle Cem.

Murphy Cem.

Trailer Park

Sewage Disposal

St Pauls Cem.

Wilson Road Park

High Sch

















