

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

1. Name of Property

historic name Fairfax House

other names/site number Marshall, James C. and Elizabeth, House

2. Location

street & number 9401 Manchester Road [n/a] not for publication

city or town Rock Hill [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county St. Louis (County) code 189 zip code 63119

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Mark A. Miles

02/26/04

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

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 see continuation sheet [].

Fairfax House
St. Louis County, MO

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-Federal

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

contributing	noncontributing	
1	1	building
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	total

Name of related multiple property listing.

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Greek Revival

Materials

foundation CONCRETE
 walls WOOD: Weatherboard
 roof WOOD: Shakes

other _____

see continuation sheet []

see continuation sheet []

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet [x]

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

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

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

Criteria Considerations

Property is:

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

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

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

Areas of Significance

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance

C. 1841 - 1864

Significant Dates

C. 1841

Significant Person(s)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository: _____

USDI/MPS WRNP Registration Form

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property LESS THAN ONE

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
<u>15</u>	<u>729640</u>	<u>4276810</u>			
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Sarli, Ralph Wafer, Laura Wehrenberg, and Lynn Josse
organization _____ date January 25, 2004
street & number c/o Lynn Josse, 3517A Connecticut St telephone (314)776-5409
city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63118

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

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

Property Owner

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

name City of Rock Hill, Missouri
street & number 9620 Manchester Road telephone _____
city or town Rock Hill state MO zip code 63119

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National Register of Historic Places
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Section 7 Page 1

Fairfax House
St. Louis County, Missouri

SUMMARY

The Fairfax House is located at 9401 Manchester Road in Rock Hill, Missouri (St. Louis County). The House is a single pile, central passage house with Greek Revival architectural details and a side gable roof. Brick chimneys project above each gable end wall. The principal, or south, elevation of the house is two stories tall and five bays wide. The house is only one room deep, falling into the vernacular house type known as "I-House." The braced frame timber and milled lumber building is clad with weatherboard painted white. The house faces south on Manchester Road, set back about 100 feet from the road. Prior to 1941, the house was located on the other side of Manchester facing north, set back from the road and approximately 450 feet south of its present site. In 1941 the house was moved up to Manchester Road opposite its present location. Development threatened the Fairfax House again in 1997, when it was moved to the nominated site.

SITE

The Fairfax House stands, fronted by a large lawn, more than one hundred feet back from and several feet above the level of Manchester Road (Photos 1-2). An asphalt drive on the east leads to the church parking lot in the rear. Two large walnut trees shade the back yard. At the front of the house, a concrete walk leads to the front porch from a sidewalk that crosses the church grounds from east to west. The air conditioning condensing unit and gas and water meters are on the east side of the house, visible from the street (Photo 3).

The plot of ground on which Fairfax House resides is 102 feet wide. It is bounded on the east by a commercial building and on the west by the church's education building. A sign identifying the house and its date of construction is located on the lawn facing Manchester Road.

EXTERIOR

The visual character of Fairfax House is one of simplicity and pleasing proportions. The house is a rectangular, two-story box with a gable roof. Brick chimneys project above each gable end wall. The pleasing proportions of the house are partially due to the relationship between the height and width of the building. The ratio of height to width is very close to 1: 1.618, called the "Golden Mean" and acknowledged by architects from classical Greece to the Italian Renaissance as one of the most harmonious in nature. The principal elevation is on the long dimension of the rectangle, conforming to "the very old European custom of presenting the long side of the dwelling to the public eye."¹ Lines drawn from the side edges of the first floor porch to the mid-point of the lintel above the second floor door to the porch roof form an equilateral triangle.

¹ Howard Wight Marshall, *Folk Architecture in Little Dixie: A Regional Culture in Missouri* (Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri, 1981), 101.

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Fairfax House
St. Louis County, Missouri

The principal (south) elevation of the house is two stories tall and five bays wide. The rectangular first and second floor windows are stacked one above the other. The windows also repeat the 1:1.618 proportion of the Golden Mean. The size and pattern of the windows is similar on all four elevations, with the exception of a casement window on the north elevation. The regularity of the windows emphasizes the simplicity and good proportion of all views of the house. The window patterns on the south and west elevations are completely symmetrical. The gable end elevations at the west and east, without the triangular gable, are almost perfectly square—again, a pure geometric form that visually reinforces the simplicity of the building.

The roof is a simple gable with what Virginia and Lee McAlester describe as a "medium pitch" of 7:12.² The masonry chimneys at each end were originally much taller than at present.

Eaves and Gable Rakes

A 10" deep boxed eave is created by the extension of the roof rafters and the attic floor joists past the face of the front and rear walls. The wood fascia and soffit boards that comprise the eaves have been covered with pre-finished aluminum.

The rakes at the gables are also covered with pre-finished aluminum. It is clear from the projection of the aluminum covering that the rakes have a shingle mould attached (Photo 5), but it is not possible to determine the profile or condition of molding or the rakes. An aluminum ogee gutter is hung at the eaves and rectangular downspouts attached at each corner of the house.

Windows and Doors

The wood windows are original, with original trim both inside and out, except for the rear casement window. The windows are comprised of an upper and lower sash, each with six lights, creating a "six over six" pattern. The stiles and rails of the sashes are mortised and tenoned together, then pegged.

The windows are unusual because they are: 1) single-hung, meaning that only the lower sash operates, and 2) without sash counterweights even though weighted double-hung sash were available when Fairfax House was built.³ Without sash counterweights the operating sash requires another method of being held in the open position. Pegs, placed in the jamb, are most common, but there is no evidence at Fairfax House of holes for pegs in any window.

² Virginia & Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, N.Y., 1984) 90.

³ John Ray Hoke, Jr., FAIA, *Architectural Graphic Standards*, 10th Edition, p. 853; also Asher Benjamin. *The American Builder's Companion*, sixth edition (1827), Plate 24.

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The exterior trim at the jambs and head of all of the "six over six" single-hung windows is 4 3/8" wide and consists of a wood molding applied over a flat board. It is very similar to the interior window and door casing on the second floor. The sills project 1 3/8" from the wall, are 1 5/8" high at the edge and have a drip routed into the underside. All of the window frames on the south, west and east elevations have two mortises on both sides indicating where the hinges for shutters were placed. The shutters can be seen in the historic photographs of Fairfax House. The shutters on the building in recent decades were incorrectly sized and certainly non-operable. Interestingly, the windows on the north elevation (except the casement window) have mortises for shutter hinges only on one side of the frame.

The front door, the sidelights and the transom create an interesting composition. The door is wood with two vertical raised panels divided by a center stile. The sidelights on either side of the door are designed to consist of four glass lights divided by thin horizontal muntins above a raised wood panel. The current glazing has resulted in portions of muntins being removed to allow larger pieces of glass. So, while the four light pattern appears intact, it is not. The sidelights are approximately half the width of the door and are set nearly four inches inside the face of the exterior wall to create as much depth as possible. Simple ovolo molding applied to the lintel above the door and sidelights projects at the doorposts, visually producing an engaged column. This molding extends slightly further out at the frame of the sidelights, again replicating an engaged column and giving a sense of depth in a very shallow space. It is a clever use of molding to create a three-dimensional effect. The five lights of the transom are of unequal size, replicating the width and rhythm of the sidelights, doorposts and door below, suggesting an entablature supported by columns.

Close examination of the sidelights and transoms reveals that significant changes have been made to their glass patterns beyond those mentioned above. The existing horizontal muntins in the sidelights show evidence of there also having been two vertical muntins at the sidelights, thus creating a 12-light panel. The same holds true at the transom. Evidence shows there were once two horizontal mullions across the length of the transom, creating a 15-light panel. None of the historic photographs show the front door assembly well enough to estimate what is original, what is not and when changes were made.

Front Porch

The front porch is not original and was constructed when the house was first moved in 1941 to match the porch shown in the photo taken before 1860 (Figure 1), the only existing photo of the house in the ante-bellum era. It is difficult to determine the condition or character of the base and capitals of the square columns, since all of the wood is covered with aluminum.

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Weatherboards

Fairfax House is entirely covered with painted, lapped weatherboards of milled lumber, about ½-inch thick and 7 inches wide with a 6 inch weather exposure. On the south, east and west elevations, more than 90% appears to be original. On the north elevation approximately 40% of the weatherboards have been replaced because of the removal of an addition on this elevation when the building was re-located in 1997. Much of the old siding is split in places, typically at an end and where a nail penetrates it. In general, though, the siding is in remarkably good condition for being 162 years old.

Roof

Fairfax House is currently roofed with heavily textured split cedar shakes of various widths and sizes, installed over a plywood deck. The plywood, in turn, is installed over the original open sheathing. This work was done in 1997. It is an inappropriate choice for a historic wood shingle roof due to manufacturing and style differences. The original roof of Fairfax House was made of handsplit wood shingles, very likely fabricated on the site. They were almost certainly smooth-surfaced. Howard Marshall, who documented log and wood frame houses similar to Fairfax House in central Missouri, describes constructing a roof for these houses: "Wide decking boards [open sheathing] are nailed horizontally over the rafters and then hand-rived shingles are nailed in courses over the decking to produce a tight roof. The belief is that such an old-fashioned shingle roof will last fifty years if put on right."⁴ The 1841 open sheathing is still in place in Fairfax House and can be clearly seen from the attic. The boards are very wide, with bark still attached. They provide a visible connection to the pioneer aspect of building a house in the country in the mid-19th century.

INTERIOR

The plan of Fairfax House is symmetrical; a center stair hall with a single, almost square room on each side of the hall. The plan is similar on both floors. Upon entering the house, one may turn to the left or to the right to either of the parlors. The stair to the second floor is in the rear of the stair hall, immediately to the left of the rear door of the house. On the second floor, one may walk straight ahead to a door leading to the porch roof, enter the bedrooms on either side of the stair hall, or turn towards the stair to the attic. Houses of this type, two stories tall and one room deep, with or without a center hall, are sometimes referred to as "I-houses."⁵

⁴ Marshall, *Folk Architecture in Little Dixie*, p. 94

⁵ McAlester, diagrams, p. 27.

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In more than 150 years of occupancy, the only alterations that have been made, other than the addition and removal of its rear "ell," have been dropped ceilings and alterations for plumbing, ductwork and electrical wiring. Original plaster-finished walls and original wood trim are largely intact and the character of the interior spaces much the same as it was in 1841. Dr. Robert Flanders noted the rarity of both the pine moldings and the braced frame construction.⁶

Stair Hall and First Floor Stair

The stair hall is 10 feet wide and 19'-3" deep, trimmed with original 9½" deep baseboard. The closet under the stair has its original two-panel door. The east wall has drywall either laminated to the original plaster or applied directly to the studs. In the northeast corner is a shallow chase enclosing a plumbing stack serving the now inoperable bathroom above. The room has crown mould and the front half of the room has a shallow chair rail, neither of which are original. Above the rear door is an electrical light fixture with candle light bulbs. Vinyl tile has been installed over the original pine flooring.

The most important feature of the Stair Hall is the rear right-angle stair with winders, that begins in the northwest corner. The staircase is finished with raised panels attached directly to the double stair carriage, which is visible in the under-stair closet. The balustrade, of simple, painted 1" x 2" spindles, terminates in turned newel posts at the bottom and top of the stair. The 2¼" diameter hand-shaped handrail is mortised and pegged to the newel posts. The pegs can be clearly seen in the newel posts. Two things are noteworthy about the stair. One, it is very comfortable to use. The rise and tread of stair are 7¼" and 10½", reflecting the builder's knowledge of tread-to-riser ratios guiding stair construction. Two, the bottom newel post is pegged into place with a long, hand-made wooden peg below the floorboards in the basement. So, although the builder was sophisticated enough to know the math for proper stair construction and was a very fine carpenter, he employed, very competently, some basic joinery techniques.

West Parlor

This room is 17 feet wide and 19'-3" deep. Remaining original finishes include plaster, door and window casing and baseboard. The original fireplace has been plastered over; the wood corner bead indicates that the plastering is not recent and may have occurred when the house was renovated sometime after 1860. Ceiling plaster has been removed at the northeast and southeast corners and at each side of the flue to expose structure and to make structural repairs. Plaster has also been removed from the west wall for the same reason. At the southwest corner and the northeast wall, plaster has been removed to expose the braced frame structure and the studs

⁶ Donia Dymek and Cathy Sarli, unpublished notes of site visit by Robert Flanders, Ph. D., February 19, 2002

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framing the windows. Vinyl tile has been installed over the original pine flooring. The size of the fireplace (2'-6" x 6'-10") and the elaborate window casing offer evidence that this room was the formal parlor, used when guests visited.

East Parlor

The dimensions of this room are similar to the West Parlor. The less elaborate window casing, the chair rail around the perimeter and the cupboard in this room indicate that it was used by the family, probably for both dining and gathering. Although this room has undergone alterations, it includes some of the most intriguing elements in the house. The rear "ell" was added to this room. The door opening in the north wall that is currently covered on the exterior by wood siding was cut to provide access to the rear "ell" constructed c.1860. There is no structural header above the door, strong evidence that it is not an original opening. The door frame that was installed became the structural member supporting the bottom of the stud that was cut to create the opening. A piece of trim removed from the opening shows the trim to be two pieces attached to window and door frames.

When the house was first moved in 1941, an interior basement stair was built and the stair opening was cut into the floor of this room and concealed by a trap door. The trap door is now stored in the basement. Vinyl tile and carpeting have been installed over the original pine flooring and the original fireplace has been covered with plaster.

The most curious discovery in this room was brick infill in the east wall extending around the southeast corner to a height of just over five feet and also visible between the corner post and the second floor level diagonal brace above. Howard Marshall, in *Folk Architecture in Little Dixie*, notes that "brick nogging or infill serves more as insulation against the weather than as a structural feature."⁷ The wall with brick infill was behind a cupboard, so insulating the cupboard is logical. This cupboard was on the northwest corner of the house in its original orientation and it was thus exposed to prevailing winter winds. The brick infill visible above probably protects the second floor cupboard directly above the first floor one.

The cupboard was disassembled in 2002 to make structural repairs and the doors and trim have been stored in the room. Jesse Francis noted that the doors of the cupboard show evidence of hand-planing.⁸ Inside the cupboard, handsplit plaster lath and a peg for the mortise and tenon joint of one of the diagonal braces can be seen above the brick infill.

Plaster below the windows in the East Parlor shows the same cracks that can be seen in the West Parlor. A dropped ceiling was installed at some point and the remains of a recessed fluorescent

⁷ Marshall, *Folk Architecture in Little Dixie*, p. 90

⁸ Cathy Sarli, unpublished notes of site visit by Jesse Francis, March 30, 2002

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ceiling light can be seen near the stair hall partition. The dropped ceiling has been completely removed and two-thirds of the original plaster and lath have been removed to expose the joists and headers for the fireplace and hearth. A very interesting observation is that the remaining lath is both handsplit and milled. This raises questions regarding sources for the house's material and the craftsmen who built it. The fireplace has been covered with plaster.

Second Floor Stair Hall, Bath Entry and Bath

The dimensions of the Stair Hall were originally about 10 feet by 12 feet and a small room separated the Stair Hall from the door that provided access to the attic. Evidence for this is the 5½" thickness of the wall between the Bath Entry and the Stair Hall. The partition between the Bath Entry and the Bath was added later, indicated by its 4½" wall thickness. There is no door between the Stair Hall and the Bath Entry but mortises for hinges in the door casing show that the door to the Bath was originally hung in this partition. Inside the Bath Entry and the Bath, the baseboard is original but the walls above have been furred and covered with plastic panels. The ceiling in the Bath and the Bath Entry is covered with fiberboard panels.

In the Stair Hall itself, wall and ceiling plaster and the door casings are original. The trim around the opening of the door and sidelights that open to the porch roof is original. The single-hung window sidelights also appear original. The door, though, is not. From c.1860 until 1941 the Victoria porch was in place and there was no access to the porch roof. The current door, then, probably dates from 1941 when the replica of the original porch was built. Two layers of vinyl tile flooring with plywood underlayment have been added to the original flooring and can be seen at the top riser of the stair. The original wood thresholds are visible at the door to the porch roof and the door to the West Bedroom.

East Bedroom

The dimensions of this room are similar to the East Parlor on the first floor. This room contains the only fireplace not covered by plaster and also a casement window that is not original. The window casing on the south and east windows is original and simpler in profile than in the East and West parlors. A layer of fiberboard has been installed over the original plaster ceiling. The room is distinguished by the fireplace, a cupboard that has its original door, crown molding throughout and the original door into the room with original hardware. The baseboard is also original. It is interesting to note that the cupboard door was cut to make a bi-fold door from the original two-panel door. Mortises at the right side of the door show the original location of the hinges and the cut ends at the fold show the original rails joined to the center stile.

West Bedroom

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This room is similar in size to the West Parlor below it. Because of the windows on the south, west and north walls, it is beautifully lit. Crown molding was installed at an unknown date and surrounds the room. A drywall ceiling was installed over the original plaster ceiling. The fireplace is covered by plaster and the floor has at least one layer of vinyl tile over the original wood flooring. The original plaster and window trim are still in place and in good condition.

Attic Stair and Attic

The door to the attic is made of vertical tongue and groove boards and horizontal rails and is still painted the original Paris green on the stair side. The boards show hand-planing marks.⁹ It was originally a folding door but it has been modified by the addition of surface-applied rails so it will not fold. A flat panel covers the boards on the Bath side. This door, the West Bedroom cupboard door and the re-hung Bath door show how carefully materials were modified and re-used as the needs of the occupants changed, a lesson about re-cycling that is worth noting.

Both Jesse Francis, Faust Park Historic Village Curator, and Professor Robert Flanders commented about the unusual feature of a finished staircase leading to the attic. The stair has closed risers and bullnose treads. The staircase walls are of rough-finished plaster, with wallpaper and hooks and shelves along the north wall. At 3'-7", the attic stair is actually wider than the main stair below.

The attic is completely unfinished. It is ventilated by a pair of small casement windows in each gable. Rafters and joists are visible and the floorboards are an inch thick, varying in width from 12" to 20". Much of the original framing of the house is visible, including framing at the casement windows, headers carrying the flues and the girts at the east and west ends of the house.

Basement

When Fairfax House was moved in 1997, a new basement of poured concrete was built. The foundation walls are not as high as the foundation in the previous location at 9430 Manchester Road or in the original location of the house.

Access to the basement is by an open riser stair, c.1997, that runs down from the east wall of the East Parlor. Heating and cooling equipment, electrical panels and a water heater are located in the basement.

⁹ Cathy Sarli, unpublished notes of site visit by Jesse Francis, March 30, 2002

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Fairfax House
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STRUCTURE

Fairfax House is an unusual surviving example of braced frame construction. A braced frame consists of heavy hand-hewn timber sills, perimeter girts (also called timber sills and plates) and vertical corner posts joined to the girts by pegged mortise-and-tenon joints. The corners are stabilized by diagonal wood braces, also joined to the frame by mortise-and-tenon joints. The timber mortise and tenon frame of Fairfax House has survived two moves and is in very good condition.

Another aspect of the structural framing at Fairfax is worth noting. While the braced frame sills, girts and corner posts were made and joined by hand, the joists, studs (vertical wall framing) and rafters of the house are milled lumber. Jesse Francis explains that lumber from sawmills in Minnesota and Wisconsin was floated down the Mississippi to St. Louis.¹⁰ To keep the log floats together, holes were drilled in each board and a rope passed through and tied-off. Holes are visible in the end of each joist that is exposed in the East Parlor and in the basement.

The timber sills supporting the house can be seen above the foundation wall in the basement. They are twelve inches deep and 7 ½" to 8" thick.

Perhaps the most amazing piece of structure at Fairfax House is the roof framing, visible in the unfinished attic. The milled lumber rafters, 3½" wide and 4" deep, are simply butted to a thin shim board at the ridge. Careful examination of the joint with the shim board shows no evidence of any anchoring or attachment method: either mortise and tenon joints, straps, or nails of any kind.

Jesse Francis emphasized that this framing is unique.¹¹ The rafter tails bear directly on the ends of the ceiling joists at the eave. There is another thin shim board between the rafter tails and the ceiling joists. Anchoring methods here cannot be discerned, but toe nailing is assumed. Short studs that bear directly on the joists support the rafters at the 1/3 point. These "knee wall" studs are toe nailed to the joists. Hand-hewn timber plates can be seen at all four walls. The plates at the east and west gable ends bear on the plates of the north and south walls. The attic joists, of milled lumber 2½" wide x 7¼ "-7½" deep, are notched so that they also bear on timber plates at the north and south walls.

INTEGRITY

¹⁰ Cathy Sarli, unpublished notes of site visit by Jesse Francis, March 30, 2002

¹¹ Cathy Sarli, unpublished notes of site visit by Jesse Francis, March 30, 2002

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Despite two moves, the Fairfax House retains remarkable integrity. The original framing is intact, the original plan remains largely unchanged, and most of the exterior surface materials are original. The most obvious exception to this is the inappropriate shake roof, which is recommended for replacement with a more historically accurate wood shingle roof. The current foundation, poured concrete set for the building at its move in 1997, is also inappropriate. Original foundation stones are stored at Rock Hill City Hall, and it is possible that the house will be raised and the original foundation stones used during the course of restoration.

The front porch provides a certain amount of the visual character of the façade; this porch was constructed in 1941 as a replica of the original. It is currently sheathed in metal siding.

The interior house retains many significant features, including both stairs and much original trim. Perhaps the most obvious alteration is the removal of the fireplace mantels in all four rooms. Only one of the fireplaces is currently exposed. There have also been changes in flooring (generally added over the original), and modern systems (plumbing, heating, electricity) have been added. A nineteenth-century addition was removed, returning the house to its original size.

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Fairfax House
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Summary

The Fairfax House, located at 9401 Manchester Road in Rock Hill, Missouri (St. Louis County), is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A in the area of EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT and Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. When constructed in approximately 1841 by James C. Marshall, the Fairfax House was the first permanent structure erected in present-day Rock Hill. It soon served as a major landmark for those traveling along the Old State Road (now Manchester Road) and Military Road (now Rock Hill Road), and also as the center of an emerging community. By 1850 a church, school, store, post office and stage line stop were located either at the Fairfax House or on adjacent Marshall family property. The vernacular Greek Revival residence is also a locally unusual surviving example of a 19th century pre-Civil War braced frame structure that retains its original appearance and historic fabric. After moves in 1941 and 1997, the house is located 450 feet northwest of its original site. Because of the building's age, construction method, integrity, and associations, it is considered to have extraordinary significance locally. The period of significance begins in c. 1841 and concludes in 1864. This ending date is somewhat arbitrary, based on the date of the death of original owner James Marshall.

The Marshall Family and the development of Rock Hill

James Collier Marshall (1804 - 1864) a merchant/farmer from Worcester County Maryland, moved to the area now known as Rock Hill in 1838 or 1839 with his brother John Collier Marshall (1806 - 1869), two sisters, and other relatives. Anecdotal family stories claim the Marshall brothers decided to move to the area after visiting their cousin, an early Missouri settler. George Collier, also from Worcester County, came to Missouri in 1818 and was involved in manufacturing. According to William Thomas' *History of St. Louis County*, James Marshall was "urged by Mr. Collier to settle here."¹²

After their father's death in 1832, James and John Marshall were the executors of his estate. It is speculated that after this final settlement in 1835, the family began preparations for the move west. Letters indicate the move to Missouri probably took place after June of 1838.¹³ In all likelihood, inherited slaves accompanied the family on their trip west.

The Marshall brothers were partners in many endeavors including purchases of land. The earliest known recorded land purchase in St. Louis by the Marshalls was in 1839 when John and James Marshall purchased the Fairfax House site, approximately 200 arpents of land "on the waters of

¹² Thomas, William. *History of St. Louis County*. St. Louis, MO : S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1911. p. 338.

¹³ Oliver Marshall letter to James C. Marshall, dated 25 March 1839. [Original letter in possession of Barbara Marshall Janasak].

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the River des Peres,” for \$4,000 “hand paid.”¹⁴ The Marshall brothers eventually owned at one point in time in the late 1840s nearly 900 acres of land adjacent to Manchester Road (north and south of Manchester) along the banks of the Deer Creek branch of the River des Peres. The Marshall family property was within Central Township, which includes present day Rock Hill, Webster Groves and Brentwood.

The impetus for settlement in this area was Manchester Road, which was extensively improved after being declared a state highway in 1835. For the most part, the surveyors followed an existing primitive trail, a bridle path at one time, made by Indians and trappers, in mapping the new road of Manchester. As of 1837, a state amendment required that the route as mapped be approved, and “a commissioner was to open a road of at least 30 feet wide, with at least 15 feet of it being cleared of all stumps, trees, grubs and other obstructions.”¹⁵ Prior to 1841, Manchester Road in St. Louis County was referred to as a trail, dirt path and even a bridle path.

Manchester Road was a main thoroughfare for travel between the city and the county as well as for westward travelers. Supplies were hauled in by wagon train from St. Louis and mail delivered by mail coach also carried passengers to and from the various towns along Manchester Road and onward to Jefferson City. Passing settlers traveling along Manchester Road in their “prairie schooners” or covered wagons drawn by oxen often stopped at “mile houses” and were seen resting under the trees surrounding Rock Hill Presbyterian Church which was directly across the street from the Fairfax House.¹⁶

Rock Hill Road, formerly known by a number of names such as Old Military Road, Rock Hill Military Road, Reavis Barracks, or Reavis, led to Jefferson Military Barracks, a major military installment established in 1826 in southern St. Louis County. According to Benner, access to the Barracks “was reached by land by a road or clearing that was cut through the trees from what was to become the State Road (now Manchester) to the Barracks (now Rock Hill Road).”¹⁷

Rock Hill Road was also the only main road from Rock Hill to the Webster Groves area during the mid-1800s.

¹⁴ St. Louis Recorder of Deeds. *Book K, No. 2*, p. 117.

¹⁵ Missouri State Highway Commission. *Roads and Their Builders*. Jefferson City, MO : Missouri State Highway Commission. [1969?]. p. 42.

¹⁶ Easter . p. 3, 22.

¹⁷ Benner, *Webster Groves*. 1950. p. 11.

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Prior to the construction of the railroad, Rock Hill Road and particularly Manchester Road represented a social and economic lifeline for the residents of Central Township.

The name Rock Hill was first recorded a few years after the arrival of the Marshalls when John Marshall was appointed postmaster for Rock Hill in 1841. As of 1850, the population of Central Township was 1,133. The earliest known official record of Rock Hill's population is for 1881--a total of 50 residents.¹⁸ The community incorporated as a village in 1929.

Fairfax House as the center of a new community

On 09 September 1840, James Marshall married Elizabeth McCausland of St. Louis. According to Thomas, after their marriage James and Elizabeth resided in a log cabin building on the Marshall property until the Fairfax House was built.¹⁹ The proposed c. 1841 date of construction affords the newlyweds a few months in the log cabin before moving into their new home. There are no primary sources of evidence indicating the exact date of the start of construction and completion. Historic site inventory sources support the date of 1841, namely, Historic Sites Catalogue, 1963; Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory, 1965; 100 Historic Buildings in St. Louis County, 1970; St. Louis Metropolitan Area Historic Sites Inventory, 1976; and St. Louis Metropolitan Area Historic Sites Inventory, 1980. Marshall family descendants use the date of 1840 consistently.

When the Fairfax House was constructed it was among the few permanent structures in the area and certainly the most imposing. According to Thomas,

. . . the house was the only weather boarded house between St. Louis and Manchester, on the Manchester Road, and the only one between St. Louis and the present town of Kirkwood with the exception of Mr. Jas. C. Sutton's--built of stone--three miles east, and the Vogelsang's, three miles west, built of logs..²⁰

Located between the nine and ten mile mark from the City, the Fairfax House was sited parallel to Manchester Road, approximately 300 feet from the road, with a central entrance symmetrically flanked with windows. The house was situated facing north, atop a rolling knoll, with a long horseshoe driveway, affording a clear view of Manchester Road. The horseshoe driveway can be seen clearly from an aerial photograph taken in 1937.

¹⁸ Our City. [Single page document, unknown author with page number 25 noted at bottom. Located in Rock Hill Library Vertical Files under "Rock Hill History."]

¹⁹ Thomas. p. 339.

²⁰ Thomas. p. 339.

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Anecdotal Marshall family stories claim that the Fairfax House was modeled after a Marshall family estate called "Fairfax," in Berlin, Worcester County, Maryland. Secondary sources also cite this story but often interchange the State of Maryland with Virginia (Behymer, Blann, Bradley, 1975; Bradley, 1995; Brookes, Morris and Ambrose, Start, Thomas). Adding credence to the name of Fairfax are a number of sources that indicate that a stepping stone or old stone door step, bearing the "Fairfax" name, was among the items brought to Missouri by the Marshall family from the original Fairfax home.²¹

By 1850 the Marshall property was the center of a new community, with a church, school, store, post office and stage line stop. Many of these activities took place in or adjacent to the Fairfax House.

Church:

Dr. Artemus Bullard, a well-known abolitionist and Presbyterian minister in the St. Louis area organized the Rock Hill Presbyterian Church on 02 March 1845 at the request of James Marshall. Dr. Bullard frequently traveled from his parish church in the City of St. Louis to the Presbyterian Church in Des Peres and was alerted by a layperson that James Marshall was desirous of establishing a church in the Rock Hill area. Elizabeth Marshall, James' wife, was likely influential in efforts to secure a church. In a letter written by Elizabeth to a friend in Point Pleasant, Virginia, dated 10 April 1840, she discusses her faith and says "my heart dies within me and I cry out in anguish" at the thought of "being diminished forever from the presence of God."²²

James and Elizabeth Marshall donated over one acre of land and James oversaw the construction of the new church. The church was constructed of stone from the nearby quarries and measured 30 feet by 50 feet.

Until the new church was built, church services were held at the Fairfax House and/or warehouse on the Marshall property (Benner, Brookes, Scharf). The Rock Hill Presbyterian Church archival records, 1845-1945, indicate that church services began in 1844 in the area.²³ From 1844 to the 1920s, the Fairfax House was used as a meeting place for session meetings and various members

²¹ To date, no evidence of a property or homestead with the name Fairfax is noted within extensive probate records relating to the Marshall family of Worcester County, Maryland, 1750-1835. In addition, publications regarding historic Maryland homes were consulted with no listing of a Fairfax property; nor are there any properties named "Fairfax" in the National Register of Historic Places for the State of Maryland.

²² Letter written by Elizabeth McCausland to a friend in Point Pleasant, Virginia, dated 10 April 1840. [Letter in possession of Barbara Marshall Janasak]

²³ *Rock Hill Presbyterian Church Records, 1845-1945, Rock Hill, Missouri*. Heritage Patron Publication, No. 265. Philadelphia, PA : Presbyterian Historical Society. 1981. Microfilm.

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of the Marshall family served roles as an elder, treasurer, secretary, superintendent of the church property, and curator for the church. Social gatherings were held at the Fairfax House after Sunday services as well. Kate Gore's diary during this time period records "prayer meetings and dinners at the Marshall home."²⁴

The Rock Hill Presbyterian Church was the only church in the immediate area. In a narrative sketch in Thomas' book, Mr. Henry Prehn, an early settler of St. Louis County recounted his life in the area in the late 1850s:

"For a number of years the Rock Hill Church was the only one for miles around, and on Sunday mornings people could be seen coming from all directions--cutting across fields, some along well-beaten paths through the woods, some came on horseback, while others came in farm wagons--all to attend service there and to take part in the social meeting which always followed the church service."²⁵

According to a history of the Crestwood area, the Rock Hill Presbyterian Church was one of the earliest to serve the needs of the settlers in the Gravois and Crestwood area.²⁶ Even as late as 1889, a resident of Brentwood, Mrs. Anna Smith, recalled that "there was only one church for the whole community--that church was up in Rock Hill."²⁷

Farm and store:

James and John Marshall sold provisions to locals and travelers. According to Start, the Marshall brothers were primarily "businessmen who acted as overseers for their land," traded in furs, and operated a store and supply center.²⁸ Benner refers to the Marshalls as:

... overseers but not farmers in the strict sense of the word. The Marshalls did what many of the settlers of these parts did to some extent--traded in furs with the Indians, did a little trapping on their own and they did something else, possibly because of James Marshall's experience as a merchant while in Maryland; they had a sort of store or supply center at one time.²⁹

²⁴ Start, Clarissa. *Webster Groves*. Webster Groves, MO : City of Webster Groves, 1975. p. 21.

²⁵ Thomas. p. 349.

²⁶ Wasson, Neva Adams, compiler. *The Crestwood Story : A Glimpse into the Origins of the Gravois Creek Settlement*. Crestwood, MO : Crestwood Area American Bicentennial Commission. 1976. p. 23.

²⁷ Easter. p. 12.

²⁸ Start. p. 14.

²⁹ Benner, Velma. *Webster Groves, Missouri : Residential Satellite of St. Louis, MO*. St. Louis, MO : Washington University Department of Geography, 1950. p. 20.

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As of 1841, James Marshall had part of his land fenced in and had crops of corn, hemp, potatoes and tobacco under cultivation.³⁰ By 1850, he owned a total of 300 acres of land, 100 of which were improved. He claimed a value of \$1,500 for farming implements and 16 horses, seven cows, and 20 swine. The crops produced included 525 bushels of wheat, 600 bushels of Indian corn, 100 bushels of Irish potatoes, and 80 tons of hay of which was among the largest of his neighbors. He listed a value of \$600.00 for the "Value of Produce of Market Gardens," which included the production of garden products sold, consumed, or on hand. This value was among the largest in the Rock Hill-Webster Groves area and may be indicative that James Marshall participated in the production of market produce as a cash crop--acting as a grocer of sorts. In this capacity, James Marshall not only provided sustenance to the local community but to those traveling their way west along Manchester Road.

Stage Stop:

Stage lines or coaches were a vital means of transportation before the development of the railroad system in 1851 in the State of Missouri. With Manchester Road being the major thoroughfare in St. Louis leading to Jefferson City, it was an ideal stage line route. According to several sources the Fairfax House was a stopping place for the stage line (Blann, Bradley, 1995; Morris and Ambrose). Other sources indicate that the stopping place was a log cabin adjacent to the Fairfax House (Behymer, "Ten Years in Rock Hill"). In a speech given by Fannie Slaughter Bell Marshall, wife of Ernest Marshall (son of James C. Marshall) she stated that a log cabin built adjacent to the Fairfax House was the stopping place of the stagecoach that traveled west.³¹

Post Office:

Rock Hill was first designated as an United States Post Office on 02 September 1841 with appointment of John Marshall as postmaster.³² This was only the third post office in St. Louis County (preceded by Manchester, 1824, and Sappington, 1837).³³ According to Blann and other sources, the Fairfax House was the location of the Rock Hill Post Office. Other sources indicate

³⁰ Marshall, James C. Pre-emption land claim/testimony. Dated 10 February 1842. [Claim in possession of Barbara Marshall Janasak].

³¹ "A Speech Given to the Women's Group of Rock Hill Presbyterian Church" by Fannie Slaughter Bell Marshall. [Transcribed copy. Original document in the possession of Barbara Marshall Janasak]

³² *Record of Appointments of Postmasters : 1832-September 30, 1971-- Missouri List*. Microfilm Publication No. 841 Roll 74. National Archives and Records Service, 1973.

³³ Schulz, Robert. *Missouri Post Offices*. St. Louis, MO : American Philatelic Society. 1982.

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that an adjoining log cabin was the site of the first post office, including Fannie Slaughter Bell Marshall.³⁴

School:

According to the Rock Hill Improvement Association, the Fairfax House was used as a school until a "log cabin" owned by James Marshall was donated for use as a school. One source indicates that the "log cabin" school in Rock Hill was established between 1857 to 1861 (Blann). Records at the Rock Hill Presbyterian Church give accounts for a school house construction in 1845, but no further records of this school have been located and it has been speculated that these might actually reflect construction of the church itself.

Informal Social Center:

In addition to the formal institutions of a new community, the Marshall's home also provided a more informal social center for nearby settlers. A personal diary of Frederick Robinson, who lived in the area now known as Webster Groves, recounts in his diary his meeting with James Marshall in an entry dated 11 March 1859. "Went to James Marshall's to breakfast."³⁵ Another account is of a young Union soldier who was invited to regular Sunday dinners at the Marshall home despite the Marshall's ownership of slaves.³⁶

Such neighborly efforts by the Marshall family helped ameliorate the loneliness among the area residents and provided a brief refuge from the rigors of the pioneer life. These efforts still bear fruition after 160 years as the City of Rock Hill. The City of Rock Hill, officially incorporated in April of 1929 as a Village, currently operates as a 4th Class 'A' City, and has a population of 4,765 residents, with 165 businesses and 2,200 households.

James and Elizabeth had a total of seven children; five survived to adulthood and only one produced issue that survived to adulthood, Ernest. From his birth in 1850 until his death in 1926, Ernest Marshall resided in the Fairfax House.

Architecture

After a visit in early 2002, Dr. Robert Flanders, professor emeritus of the Center for Ozark Studies at Southwest Missouri State University, described Fairfax as a "vernacular Greek Revival" style house.²¹ A look at how architectural styles were communicated and adapted as people moved West will offer some understanding of Flanders' description. By 1840, when Fairfax was built, two pattern books that were extremely influential in the "wide dispersion of

³⁴ "A Speech Given to the Women's Group of Rock Hill Presbyterian Church" by Fannie Slaughter Bell Marshall. [Transcribed copy. Original document in the possession of Barbara Marshall Janasak

³⁵ *History of Webster Groves*. p. 19.

³⁶ *1977 Century Street*. Webster Groves, MO : WG Historical Society, 1977. p. 2.

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the Greek [style]" had been published. Builder-architect Asher Benjamin wrote and illustrated *The American Builder's Companion* and in 1827, the sixth edition of this book was printed. In 1833, Minard Lafever's design book, *The Modern Builder's Guide*, came out. J. Marston Fitch described their importance:

[T]hese books were studied not by architects and designers alone; thousands of literate homeowners, intent on keeping up with the world, scanned them . . . much as does a modern [homeowner] the pages of *House and Garden*. . . [The owner] would show the local carpenter what plates in the book he wanted "the house to look like."²³⁷

Plates 80 and 81 of *The Modern Builder's Guide* show different designs for doors and door surrounds. The front door of Fairfax House resembles these designs with their pattern of sidelights and a transom above the door. At Fairfax the surround has been simplified and molding at the lintel is used to suggest engaged columns, but the relationship is clear.²³ The profile of the molding also is similar to Grecian ovolo moldings shown in Plate XI of *The American Builder's Companion*.²⁴ The two-panel doors throughout the house are typical of Greek Revival style and Lafever shows this pattern in a number of plates. Other elements that define Greek Revival style have been described in architectural guidebooks. In *What Style Is It?*, columns and pilasters ("although not every Greek Revival structure has them"); bold, simple moldings; pedimented gables; heavy cornices with unadorned friezes and horizontal transoms above entrances are all listed as identifying elements.²⁵ Fairfax has all of these except a pedimented gable. Marcus Whiffen of the School of Architecture at Arizona State University lists as characteristics of the Greek Revival style simple rectangular blocks, bilateral building symmetry, low-pitched roofs without dormers, and no arches or fanlights. He notes, in addition, that "the smaller Greek Revival building is often without external ornament of any kind" and that square pillars may be used instead of columns.²⁶ On almost all counts, Fairfax conforms to the description. The roof slope is slightly too steep to be considered low-pitched. *Identifying American Architecture* gives similar characteristics, including columns of Doric, Ionic or Corinthian orders, a low-pitched pediment and a rectangular transom over the door "often broken by two engaged piers flanked by sidelights" and offers the comment that "many houses were built without the colossal temple front."³⁸ The excellent diagrams, descriptions and photographs of Greek Revival houses in *A Field Guide to American Houses*³⁹ can also be consulted for additional information.

³⁷ This citation and previous quote, J. M. Fitch, *American Building: The Forces that Shaped It*, p. 78

³⁸ John Blumenson, *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945*, 27

³⁹ Virginia & Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, pp. 176-195.

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An article by James Denny must also be mentioned in this discussion of style. Denny traces transitional elements of Greek Revival style in two houses in west central Missouri. The features he describes can also be found at Fairfax House: the boxed cornice, the one-story porch supported by square pillars, a front door with sidelights and a transom, doors with two elongated panels and bull's eye corner blocks at the door and window casings. These elements are clearly part of the Greek Revival style, adapted by the builder for the tastes and budget of the owner.⁴⁰

Howard Marshall, who spent many years studying the folk architecture of central Missouri, said that the research of American folk buildings is more about "documenting and analyzing cultural process, change, regional patterning, and aspects of the community" than about "establishing the kinds of dating and formal history that we develop when we research academic architecture."³⁰ Fairfax House, in its 162 years, demonstrates cultural process and change from its original design in the Greek Revival style through the alterations for a newer style and new technology after 1860 and further modifications for its use as a library and commercial offices. Its role as part of a regional pattern can be seen in its relationships to Thornhill and White Haven and to houses in central Missouri in structure and style.

The most significant aspect of the house's architecture is its braced frame, a rare survivor of this construction type in Missouri. A braced frame consists of heavy hand-hewn timber sills, perimeter girts (also called timber sills and plates) and vertical corner posts joined to the girts by pegged mortise-and-tenon joints. The corners are stabilized by diagonal wood braces, also joined to the frame by mortise-and-tenon joints. Braced frame construction was common in settlements along the Eastern seaboard because it was a familiar form of construction in England, but it was not so common in the Midwest. Howard Marshall says that the period of braced frame construction in Missouri's 'Little Dixie' (central Missouri near Columbia) was brief, but gives no dates and mentions only one house in Montgomery County that has a braced frame.⁴¹ Other known braced frame houses in St. Louis County are Thornhill, in Faust Park, and the original portion of White Haven, the family home of Julia Dent, wife of Ulysses S. Grant, in south St. Louis County. The timber mortise and tenon frame of Fairfax House has survived two moves and is in very good condition.

The braced frame construction contains massive hand-hewn support and sill beams secured with mortise and tenon joinery and wooden pegs. There are a number of timbers within the house that were hand-hewn or hand-sawn as well as commercially milled. The support beams in the basement are hand-hewn with an adz but the joists show evidence of being commercially milled and many of the joists have a small notch or hole, all identical in manufacture and size.

⁴⁰ James M. Denny, "A Transition of Style in Missouri's Antebellum Domestic Southern Architecture," *P.A.S.T.*, vol. VII (1984), pp. 1-4

⁴¹ Howard Marshall, *Folk Architecture in Little Dixie*, pp. 91-93

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According to Jesse Francis, Curator of St. Louis County's Faust Park, these notches are similar to those used in the transport of lumber via river from the northern suppliers.⁴² Large bundles of lumber were essentially secured together through the notches with rope and "floated" downstream to the St. Louis waterfront.

The central passage construction of two stories high, one room deep and two rooms wide, with room segregation allowed the homeowner to separate leisure activities from work activities. The rear right-angle staircase afforded additional privacy for the family. The architectural details of the sleeping quarters (upstairs rooms) are less elaborate as the downstairs rooms as they were not intended to be visible to outsiders or visitors to the home.

The architectural style and construction methods of the Fairfax House were intended to be a statement of affluence and display a commanding vernacular adaptation of modern and traditional architectural features. One can only speculate on the reaction of travelers along Manchester upon viewing the Fairfax House with its imposing facade in the midst of frontier woods.

It is not known who built the house. No "carpenter's signature" has been located despite a search of the usual locations for such. A number of secondary sources indicate that the Marshall family slaves helped build the house (Behymer, Benner, Blann, Bradley, 1995; Marshall, Morris and Ambrose). In the July 1941 issue of *Missouri Historical Review*, the editor noted the efforts of the Rock Hill Improvement Association to save the Fairfax House, the "old Marshall homestead" that was built by slaves in 1840. Anecdotal stories from family members and area residents also claim that slaves were used in the construction of the Fairfax House. Such oral tradition cannot be dismissed despite lack of primary evidence. To date, no primary sources have been located to establish who was responsible for the design or construction of the Fairfax House.

In all likelihood, James Marshall hired experienced carpenters to complete various sections of the house. A document located in the Rock Hill-South Webster Presbyterian Church archives titled "July 1845 School House Accounts Rendered" displays a listing of expenditures for materials and labor typically used for construction of a dwelling. A note attached to the document from James C. Marshall III who donated the document, indicates that the script is familiar to the handwriting style of James C. Marshall I as used in the Marshall family Bible. Items purchased included lumber, window frames, bricks, planks, rafters, sheathing, shingles, plaster and lime. Money paid out included the masonry work, carpenter's work, plaster's [sic] bill and boarding for the carpenter. A total of \$444.64 was spent. While it cannot be extrapolated to state for certainty that the same expenditures were made for the construction of the Fairfax

⁴² On-site visit by Jesse Francis. 30 March 2002.

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House, it does demonstrate that James Marshall had the wherewithal to hire carpenters and other laborers. Given that the number of tools alone that were required in the construction of this type of home ranged from at least 50 to 80 different hand tools, it is likely that specialty carpenters or laborers were hired to help with the construction of the Fairfax House.⁴³

According to Robert Flanders, Professor Emeritus of the Center for Ozark Studies at Southwest Missouri State University, based on his study of the Fairfax House, it is his opinion that the Marshall family hired a carpenter, probably of German descent, to erect the house based on plans provided by the Marshall family.⁴⁴

In view of the size of the Fairfax House, including the materials that were handcrafted, such as the quarry stones for the foundation and the hand-hewn timbers for the frame, it is possible, if not probable, that a member of the Marshall family or family slave possessed some knowledge as to construction methods and assisted with the construction of the house. As per Marshall's *Folk Architecture in Little Dixie: A Regional Culture in Missouri*:

Not only did the architectural equipment of the new Missourians include mental blueprints for certain traditional buildings they wished to replicate in their new land, but almost every pioneering family had a member with passable knowledge of carpentry . . .⁴⁵

A number of materials used in the house were outsourced such as the windows, lumber for the frame and interior downstairs trim with the bull's eye design, which according to Jesse Francis, was sold as a kit to be assembled by the homeowner. One can only imagine the near-Herculean effort required in transporting these materials to the densely wooded area on a road that was at best, wide enough for a wagon. Anecdotal stories of Manchester Road being nearly impassable during inclement weather are documented in the literature.

In the 1860s, a kitchen was built onto the house with an addition of a two-story ell to the rear and a Victorian-style porch was constructed to replace the original. This porch was removed when the house was moved in 1941; the present porch was constructed at that date to replicate the original, visible in one surviving pre-1860 photo.

⁴³ Marshall, Howard Wright. *Folk Architecture in Little Dixie: A Regional Culture in Missouri* (Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 1981) p. 89.

⁴⁴ On-site visit by Robert Flanders, Ph.D. 19 February 2002.

⁴⁵ Marshall. p. 89.

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Later years at the Fairfax House

On 02 February 1864, James Marshall passed away unexpectedly at the Fairfax House. The will of James C. Marshall, dated 21 November 1863, instructed that Elizabeth Marshall would have "my Home farm" and all of the household and kitchen furniture and sufficient farming utensils, including five head of horses, four milk cows, twenty head of hogs, fifteen head of sheep, a reaper, mowing machines, one two-horse wagon and harness, a buggy and harness, and a barouche harness. After Elizabeth's death in 1888, Ernest assumed the responsibility of the family property and Fairfax House.

Ernest married Frances (Fannie) Slaughter Bell on 05 June 1873 at Rock Hill Presbyterian Church. Ernest and Fannie had four children; two who survived adulthood. Ernest Marshall was known as a generous person and was proud of the Fairfax House. Sources indicate that Ernest opened up the Fairfax Home to both the "passerby and the tried friend."⁴⁶ One life-long resident of the area, Mrs. Frances Kelly Fontana, recalls her grandmother telling the story that the Ernest Marshall family provided lodging for the Kelly family in one of their slave cottages alongside Deer Creek branch when the family first came to the area in 1903. The Kelly family was told by area residents that the Ernest Marshall family provided assistance to those in need.⁴⁷

Ernest carried on the farming tradition by breeding of white-belted, big boned Poland China hogs and in 1909, he registered the Fairfax House as per State of Missouri Legislature Act to "Provide for the Registering of Farm Names." He was also a beer inspector at one time and an author of note. An unusual enterprise undertaken by Ernest at the Fairfax House farm was drilling for oil. According to Thomas, the first attempts to drill for oil in St. Louis County was around 1876, west of Des Peres. Later on, Ernest Marshall tried his luck on the Marshall property along Manchester Road but "according to reliable sources, nothing was found."⁴⁸

After Ernest's death in 1926, his widow Fannie moved in with her son Albert and his family. In 1939, the remaining Marshall family property, including the Fairfax House, was sold to a developer who was planning a new subdivision of residential homes, called Weston Park. The Fairfax House stood vacant and was slated for demolition until the Rock Hill Improvement Association purchased the house.

Upon investigation by the Association it was found that "Fairfax had been built in 1840 and occupied in 1841, and is of great historical value in that it is the oldest building in this area."⁴⁹

⁴⁶ Thomas. p. 339.

⁴⁷ Interview with Mrs. Frances Kelly Fontana, May 2003.

⁴⁸ Thomas. p. 204.

⁴⁹ *Ten Years in Rock Hill*. p. 3.

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On 20 January 1941 the St. Louis County Historical Society endorsed the efforts to move the "Old Ernest Marshall home," the Fairfax House, as it was a Manchester landmark.⁵⁰ The motivation for the Rock Hill Improvement Association in saving the Fairfax House is best summed up in a newspaper article dated 15 April 1941:

"At the outset it was the need of the association for a meeting place that prompted its interest, but out of this interest grew the purpose to render a civic service by saving the old landmark."⁵¹

In the July 1941 issue of *Missouri Historical Review*, the following was noted:

"Through the efforts of the Rock Hill Improvement Association in St. Louis County, Fairfax, the old Marshall homestead which was built by slaves at Rock Hill in 1840, has been acquired and moved to a new location fronting on Manchester Road near Rock Hill Avenue and will be restored to its original appearance and become a museum."⁵²

But most importantly, "Rock Hill's birthplace has been preserved and will remain available for the use of the people of Rock Hill at all times."⁵³

The Fairfax House was moved approximately 300 feet to a site fronting Manchester Road between January and April 1941. After the house was removed from its foundation by a contractor, the original foundation rocks were removed and placed in position for the new foundation.⁵⁴ Shortly after the move, the Victorian-style porch was removed and a new porch and gallery was installed replicating the original one erected c. 1841.

As one of the earliest community-based historic preservation efforts in St. Louis County, the 1941 campaign to move the Fairfax House may well be significant in its own right. Additional comparative research should be conducted to establish a context for early preservation efforts in St. Louis County.

From 1944 to 1957 the Fairfax House was the location of Rock Hill's first library. The library was housed on the second floor and according to *Ten Years in Rock Hill*, the Rock Hill

⁵⁰ *Missouri Historical Review*, Vol. 35, No. 3, April 1941. p. 452.

⁵¹ Behymer, F. A. "Preservation of a County Landmark." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 15 April 1941.

⁵² *Missouri Historical Review*, Vol. 35, No. 4, July 1941. p. 638.

⁵³ *Ten Years in Rock Hill*. p. 4.

⁵⁴ Behymer.

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Fairfax House
St. Louis County, Missouri

Improvement Association “repaired and remodeled the second floor of Fairfax at considerable expense to the Association.”⁵⁵ From 1957-1997 the house was rented by the Rock Hill Improvement Association to various businesses such as a word processing company, engineering firms and architectural firms.

In February 1995, the Rock Hill Improvement Association informed the City of Rock Hill that a developer had expressed interest in purchasing the property on which the Fairfax House was located. Recognizing the significance of the Fairfax House, the City of Rock Hill assumed ownership of the Fairfax House in 1997. Rock Hill-South Webster Presbyterian Church generously granted permission to move the house to the grounds of the church – the same church for which James and Elizabeth Marshall donated the original property in 1845. Fairfax House now faces its original location across Manchester Road.

Integrity

Much of the historic fabric of the Fairfax House is extant. The plan of the house is virtually unchanged and most of the interior finishes and the wood trim are original such as the interior trim with bull’s eye molding, the rear right-angle staircase (with what appears to be a hand-turned hand-rail and newel posts), the hand-hewn support and sill beams, and joists. The original newel post “key” for the staircase is visible from the basement and thick tree bark can be seen on the original roofing timbers. In the attic, the original knee braces that support the rafters are extant as well as the shims between the rafters at the base of the roof ridge. The exceptional condition of the braced frame structure of the Fairfax House is a marvel considering that it was moved twice and used for commercial purposes at a later date.

The Fairfax House has been moved twice, in 1941 and 1997, to ensure its preservation. Now approximately 450 feet northwest of its original location, the house is still situated on the original Marshall property. The 1941 move was secured by the efforts of the Rock Hill Improvement Association who saved the house from being razed for the Weston Park development by moving it closer to Manchester Road. In 1997, the City of Rock Hill and again, the Rock Hill Improvement Association, moved the house to its current location on land owned by the Rock Hill-South Webster Presbyterian Church, which is located next door.

⁵⁵ *Ten Years in Rock Hill*. p. 4.

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St. Louis County, Missouri

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1860 United States Census. Production of Agriculture. Manuscript Census. Central Township, Missouri.

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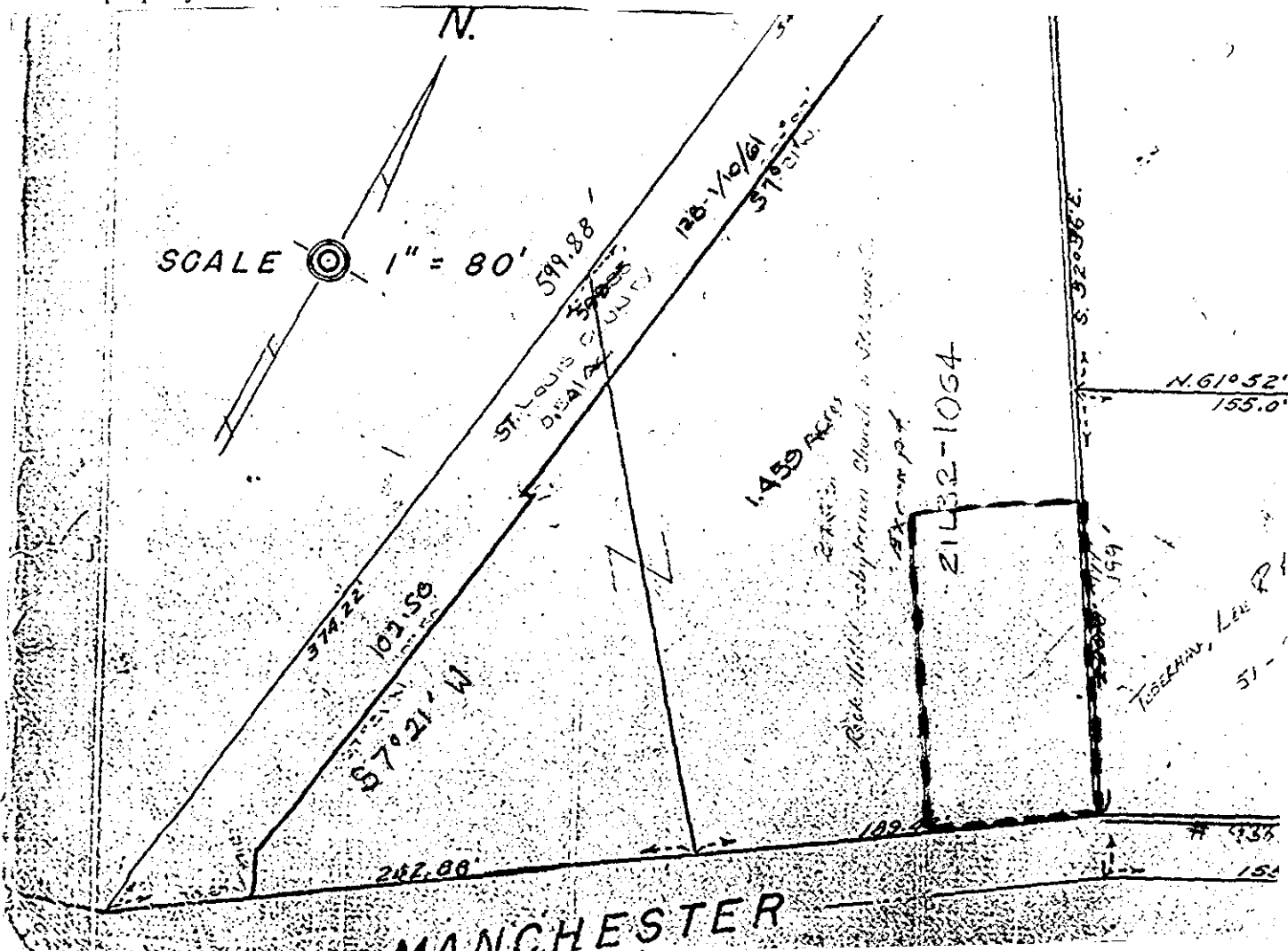
Fairfax House
St. Louis County, Missouri

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a parcel located at the southeast corner of the lot owned by Rock Hill Presbyterian Church of St. Louis County as recorded in St. Louis County Assessor's book and page 05 0448 B, measuring 85 feet by 150 feet. Please see map below (source: St. Louis County Assessor's Office).

Boundary Justification

Manchester Road has always been associated with Fairfax House and is the southern boundary of the nominated property. The eastern boundary is a property line. North and west boundaries are arbitrary divisions allowing a buffer zone around the house and excluding unrelated buildings and property.

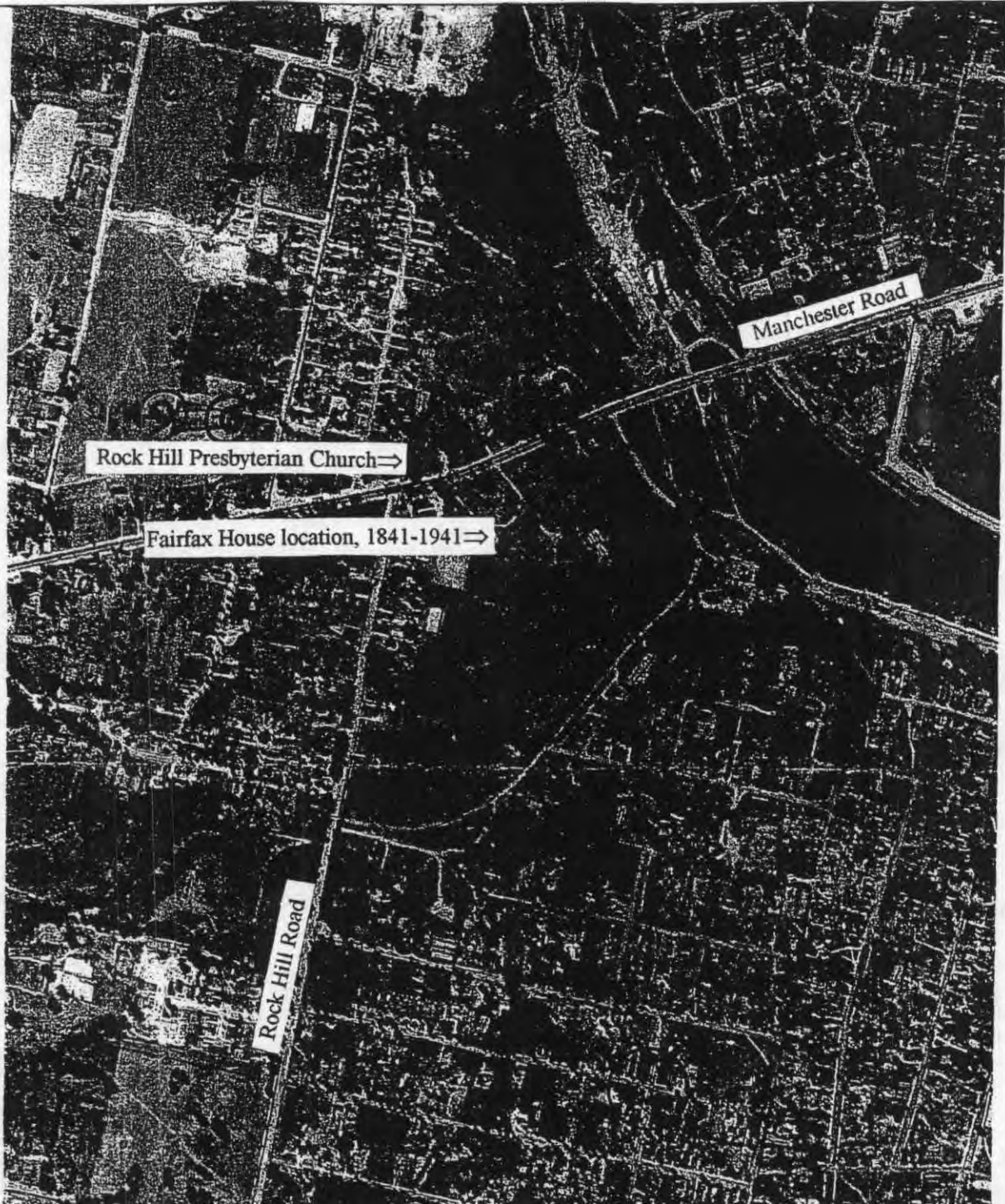


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St. Louis County, Missouri



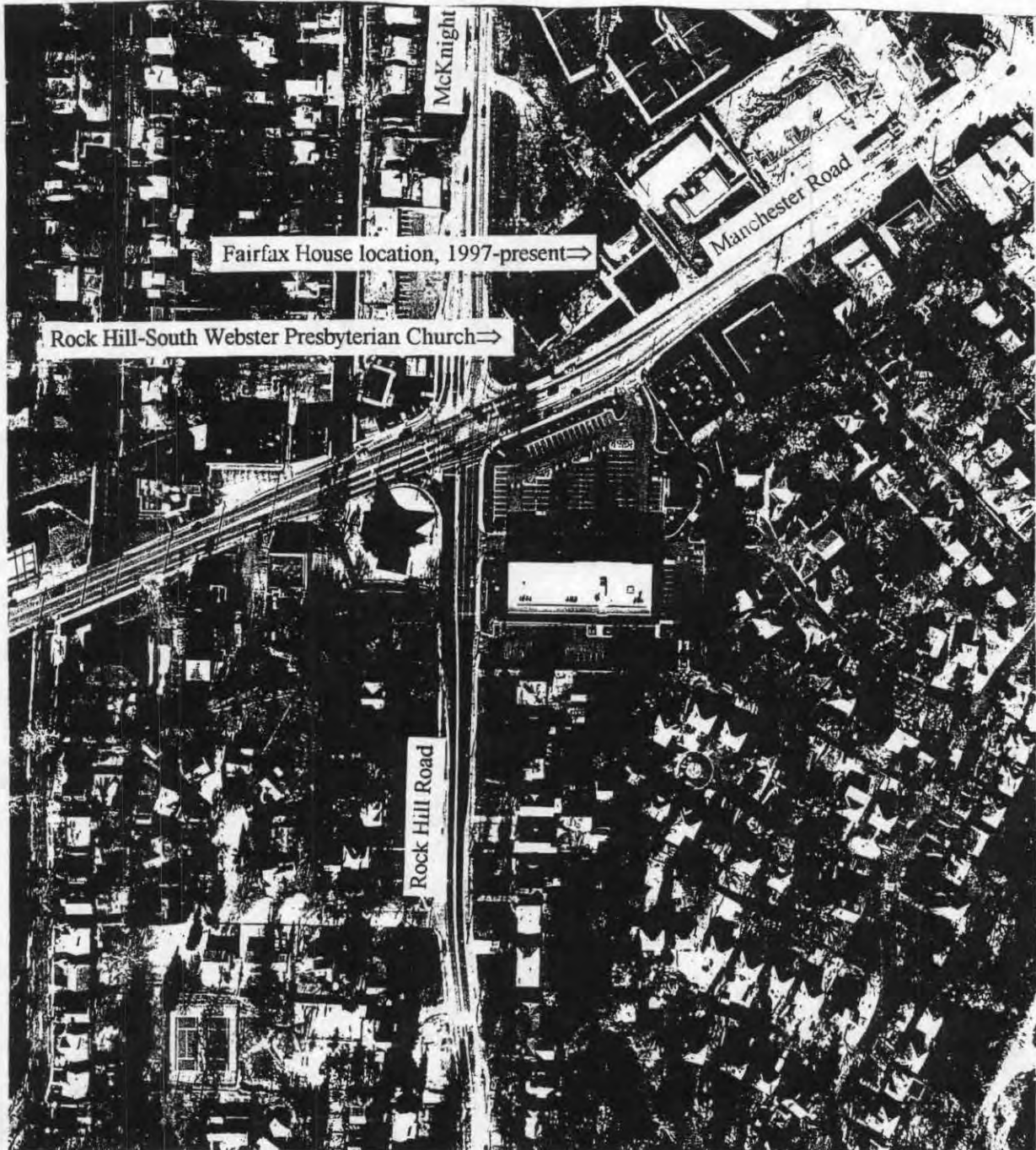
Aerial Map of the City of Rock Hill, 1937

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Fairfax House
St. Louis County, Missouri



Aerial Map of the City of Rock Hill, 2002

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Fairfax House
St. Louis County, Missouri



Fairfax House, Unknown (Before 1860)

Photograph courtesy of the Barbara Marshall Janasak Family

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Fairfax House
St. Louis County, Missouri



Photograph courtesy of the Barbara Marshall Janasak Family

Fairfax House, ca 1880



Photograph courtesy of the Barbara Marshall Janasak Family

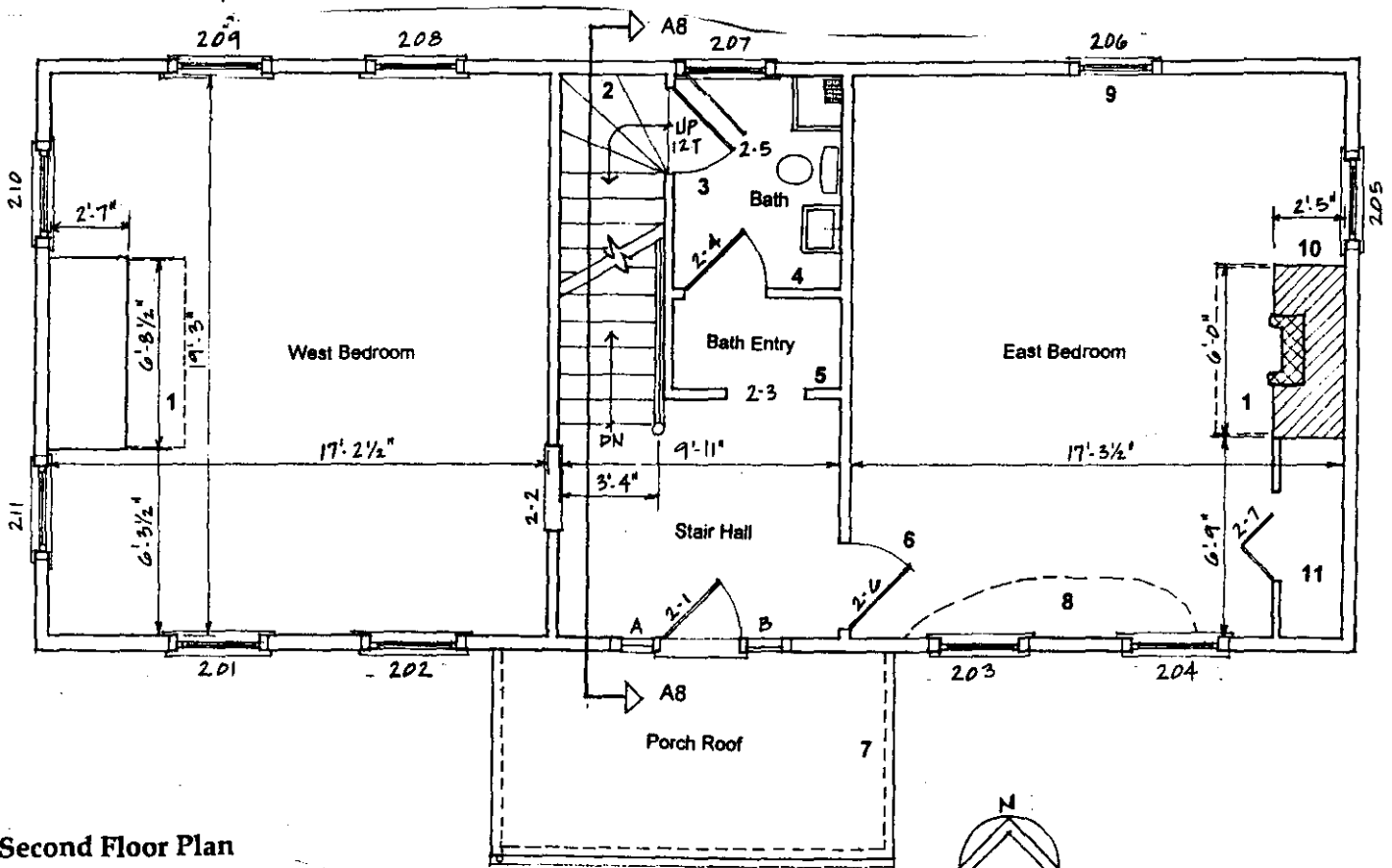
Fairfax House, Date Unknown, (after 1860)

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Fairfax House
St. Louis County, Missouri



Second Floor Plan

HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT
FAIRFAX HOUSE
Rock Hill, Missouri

Ralph Eglin Wafer, AIA
Architecture & Planning

A5

A5 Second Floor Plan

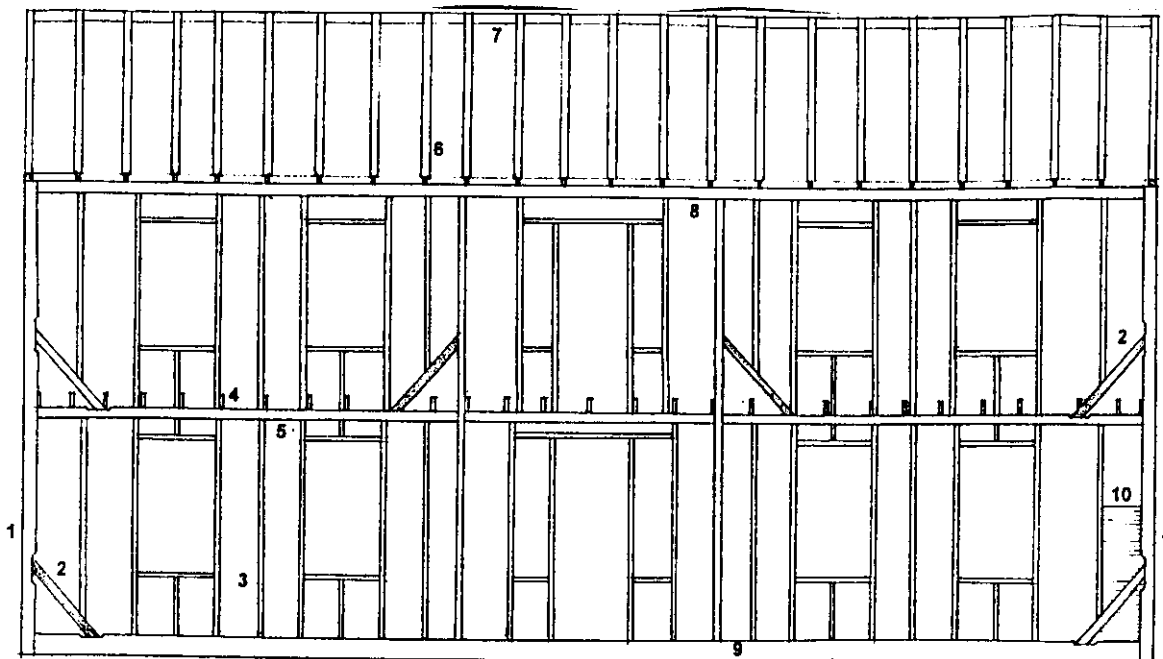
- 1 Original hearth below vinyl tile floor
- 2 Closed-riser right angle stair with winders goes to attic
- 3 Wood door made of vertical tongue groove boards and spaced horizontal rails was originally a folding door. It has been modified with additional rails so it will not fold. Covered on bathroom side with flat panel.
- 4 Later 4 1/4" gypsum board partition
- 5 Original 5 1/2" thick plaster partition
- 6 Original two-panel door with hardware
- 7 Porch railing removed in 1997
- 8 Ceiling removed in this area
- 9 Casement window with missing stool
- 10 Plaster removed from chimney. Fireplace is infilled with masonry to reduce size of opening. See Drawing A27
- 11 Closet/cabinet. Door has been cut in half vertically to allow it to fold.

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Fairfax House
St. Louis County, Missouri



Braced Frame at South
Elevation

A17 Braced Frame at South Elevation

This drawing is a reconstruction based on verification of framing at windows and doors and on visible diagonal braces. Shaded members were actually verified in the field. The braced frame is shown as if the wood siding has been peeled off the south elevation.

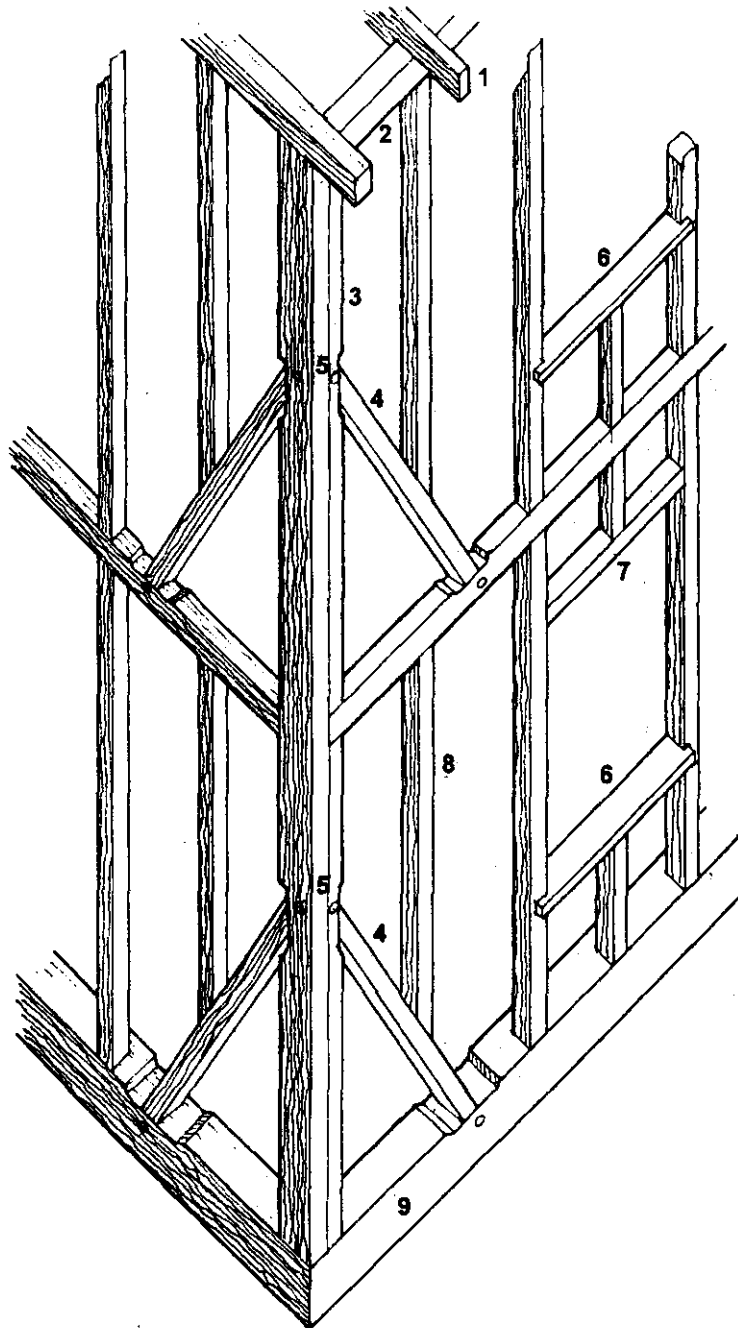
- 1 Original hand-hewn 3 1/4" x 8 1/2" corner posts, notched for diagonal hand-hewn braces
- 2 Original hand-hewn 5 1/2" x 4" diagonal bracing
- 3 Original milled lumber studs, 4" deep. Thickness varies from 3 1/2" to 3 3/4"
- 4 Original 2 1/2" x 8 1/2" milled lumber joists
- 5 Hand-hewn 4" x 6" timber plate
- 6 Original 3 1/2" x 4" milled lumber rafters
- 7 Shim board at ridge - rafters butt against it without any kind of fastening
- 8 Original 4 1/2" x 5" timber plate
- 9 Original hand-hewn timber sill, 12" deep. Thickness varies from 7 1/2" to 8" deep
- 10 Brick infill between studs at East Parlor.

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Fairfax House
St. Louis County, Missouri



A0 Schematic Drawing of Braced Frame
(Axonometric View)

- 1 Attic joist extends over plate
- 2 Timber plate, also called a girt
- 3 Corner post, continuous through two stories
- 4 Diagonal brace joined to corner post and timber plate with a mortise and tenon joint
- 5 Peg holding mortise and tenon in place
- 6 Milled lumber window sill
- 7 Milled lumber window head
- 8 Milled lumber stud (vertical framing)
- 9 Timber sill

Schematic Drawing of Braced
Frame (Axonometric View)

HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT
FAIRFAX HOUSE
 Rock Hill, Missouri



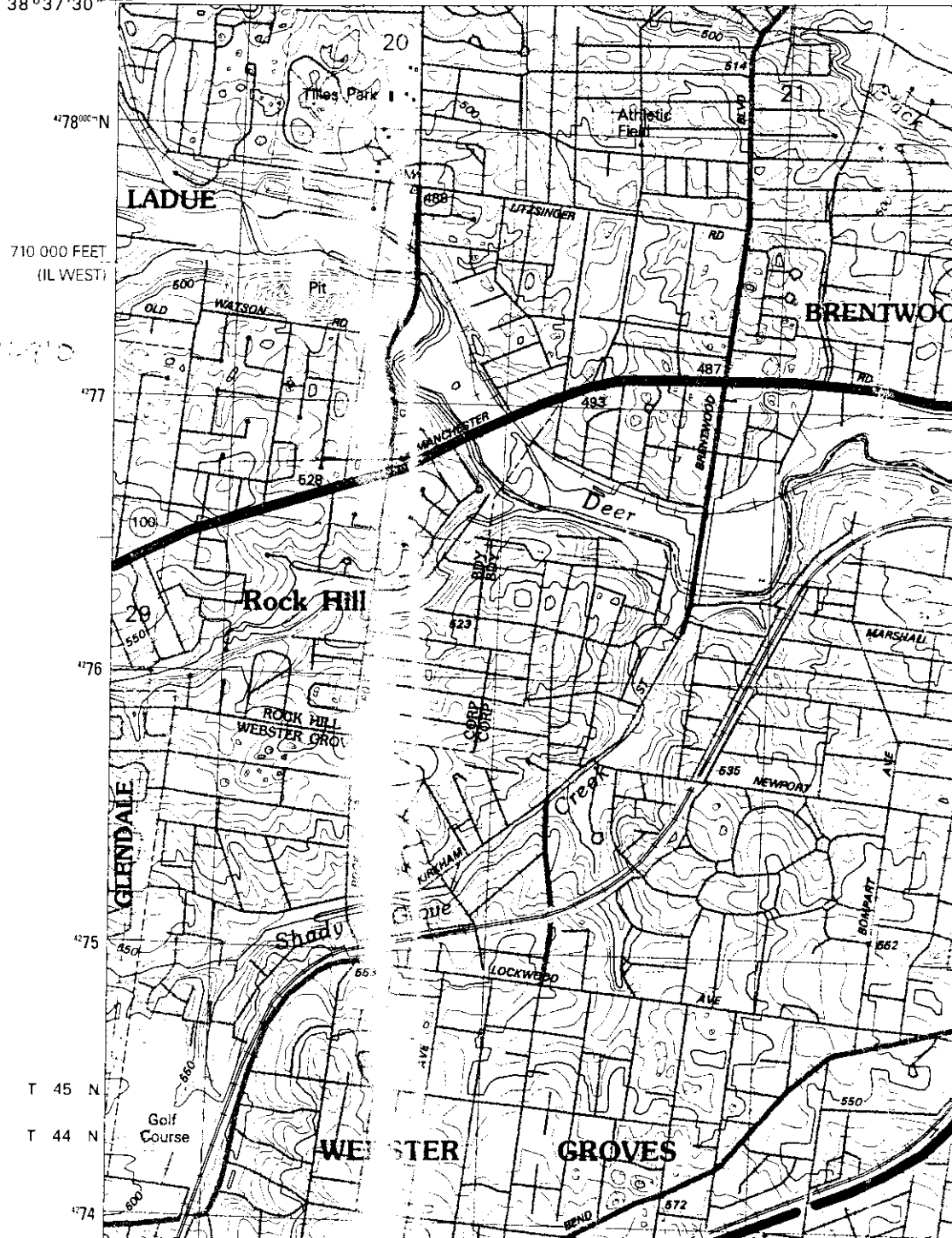
Ralph Eglin Wafer, AIA
Architecture & Planning

A0

90°22'30" 729000m E 2 2 10 000 FEET (IL WEST) 31 R 6 E
38°37'30" 478000m N 710 000 FEET (IL WEST)

Fairfax
House
S. L. ...
C. ...

1577 1440/4287-910



T 45 N
T 44 N

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Fairfax House** _____

City or Vicinity: **Rock Hill** _____

County: **St. Louis County** _____ State: **MO** _____

Photographer: **Lynn Josse** _____

Date

Photographed: **Sept. 2003** _____

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 7. Facing N.
- 2 of 7. Facing N.
- 3 of 7. Facing SW.
- 4 of 7. Facing N, second window of first story & part of porch.
- 5 of 7. W parlor, braced frame exposed.
- 6 of 7. Stair hall, camera facing NW.
- 7 of 7. E bedroom, facing NE.



FAIRFAX
HOUSE
1839











