Gardner House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
421 Hamilton and Main Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Palmyra

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

Both

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC ACQUISITION:
- In Process
- Being Considered

STATUS

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
- Yes:
  - Restricted
  - Unrestricted
- No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- Agricultural
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Religious
- Scientific
- Entertainment
- Commercial
- Educational
- Private Residence
- Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Palmyra

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Office of Recorder of Deeds, Marion County Courthouse

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

State Historical Society of Missouri

STREET AND NUMBER:
Corner, Hitt and Lowry streets

COLUMBIA
Missouri 65201
The Gardner House in Palmyra, Missouri, is a domestic structure exhibiting the tendency in Missouri to combine the central hall symmetrical plan and general format of a Federal style home with the details characteristic of the Greek Revival style. Constructed of gray painted brick, it has a two-story "L" shaped plan, a common ridge roof and two unusual three-step gables. The house was built in approximately 1828 and faces west onto Main Street.

EXTERIOR

The west facade of the house is six bays wide, but is treated as a typical five bay structure. The entrance is situated at the first floor level to the north of center and is flanked by five evenly spaced double-hung windows which have nine over six light sash. Two windows are placed to the left of the door and three to the right. The second floor is characterized by six identical windows placed directly over the first floor openings. The facade ends in a simple molding of small brick dentils.

The gable walls have two nine over six light double-hung sash windows at the first floor level located just to the left and right of center. This fenestration is repeated at the second story level. Each wall ends in a three-step gable with a central chimney included within and flush with the exterior walls. Each chimney is topped by a round metal flue.

The east, back wall of the building is characterized by a single door and window at each level, thus indicating the possible existence of an original double gallery. The molding of dentils is repeated.

The ell of the Gardner house is a later addition, but the actual date of its construction is unknown. It is broken into two sections and, like the main part of the house, is constructed of brick with two simple ridge roofs. The rooflines, however, are lower than those of the main building, the gables are not stepped, the cornice is omitted and the double-hung windows have only six over six light sash.

The windows are all framed with wood painted white. The main entrance has a simply panelled door topped by a rectangular six light transom and flanked by narrow side-lights. The door jambs, which form mullions between the door and each side-light are treated somewhat as pilasters and extend through the transom bar.
### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Gardner House, constructed in approximately 1828 in Marion County, Palmyra, Missouri, is significant as a tavern located on a north-south stage coach route between St. Louis, Missouri and east Iowan towns. (The significance of the house is further enhanced by its generation of public interest in historic preservation in the Marion county vicinity.)

The role of taverns in the history of Missouri has evoked a generalization that "... the Missouri tavern was the center of public affairs during those pioneer decades. In no other state does it appear, from somewhat cursory inquiry, that the tavern has played such an important part." (Walter B. Stevens, Centennial History of Missouri, 1, 1921, p. 114.) The first state legislature met in a tavern; the first constitution of Missouri was drafted in a tavern.

Located a few blocks from the Federal Land Office, established in 1825, the Gardner House of 1828 was an apt center of public affairs. Samuel Morton utilized the building as a tavern and a place of public entertainment for at least two years (1828 and 1829). However, it is very possible Morton maintained the tavern until 1847, at which time he sold the building to a John A. Devericks (Devereaux).

It is not until the early 1870's that one again finds documentation of the Gardner House functioning as a place of public entertainment. At this time, a native Prussian, by the name of Gartner, managed the tavern. (R. I. Holcombe, History of Marion County, 1884, p. 860.) It is from this proprietor the building receives its name.

The building's usage during the interim period of 1847 and the early 1870's is vague. There are evidences of the building being used as a domestic residence, a hotel, and an elementary school. The Devericks Family (later becoming the Devereaux Family) occupied the building as their residence. On the south wall of the Gardner House faint wording appears through paint labelling the building the "Devereaux Hotel."
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>0° 1' 20&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>0° 1' 20&quot;</td>
<td>91° 31' 20&quot;</td>
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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

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<th>LATITUDE</th>
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<tr>
<td>39° 47' 46&quot;</td>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than ten

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

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</tbody>
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FORM PREPARED BY

Priscilla A. Evans, Research Historian
Missouri State Park Board State Historical Survey and Planning Office
P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building
Jefferson City Missouri 65101

STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [ ] State [ ] Local [x]

Name: Joseph Jaeger, Jr.
Title: Director, Missouri State Park Board and Missouri State Liaison Officer
Date: August 24, '70

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Date:

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register
Date:
to the lintel. The entire doorway is surrounded by an undecorated frame capped with a simple cornice. All the trim is painted white.

INTERIOR

The first floor is divided at the entrance by a stair hall with a single room to each side. Behind the smaller left-hand room are two more rooms occupying the ell space. A cherry, dog-leg stair in the hall leads to a second story hall which also has a single room to either side. The second story ell area contains only one room with a floor level lower than that of the two front rooms. Each of the four rooms in the main sections of the house has a fireplace at its gable end wall. These are all closed now, but the original mantelpieces still remain.
Several local citizens remember their parents’ talk of attending elementary school at the Gardner House and claim the building to be the site of the first primary grade school in Palmyra. (Mrs. Mary Baynard White, Palmyra resident, interviewed by Priscilla A. Evans and H. Roger Grant, staff members, Missouri State Historical Survey and Planning Office, July 21, 1970.)

The Lauck Family purchased the title in 1889. The Gardner House remained in their possession as a residence until the late 1940’s. After that time, the building served as a furniture warehouse until the late 1960’s.

The structure is now owned by the City of Palmyra. It was to be demolished in 1970 to make room for a medical center. It is at this point the building assumes additional importance in that Marion countians spoke out for the preservation of the Gardner House. This united effort has led to a concentrated effort and viable organization to regenerate not only the Gardner House but may other Palmyra buildings.

Upon fruition of plans for an adaptive use, the building’s significance will be further expanded. With restoration complete, the building will house the town’s library. An upstairs lounge will be a community meeting room and a place for farmers’ wives to relax while waiting for their husbands to complete business in this rural community.
9. GARDNER HOUSE


Marion County Deed Record Book. Book R-2, 1864.


Tuesday, Mrs. Mary Baynard White, Palmyra resident, interviewed by Priscilla A. Evans and H. Roger Grant, staff members, July 21, 1970. On file at the Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.
# National Register of Historic Places

**Property Map Form**

**Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. NAME</th>
<th>Common: Gardner House</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AND/OR HISTORIC:</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. LOCATION</td>
<td>STREET AND NUMBER: 421 South Main Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CITY OR TOWN: Palmyra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STATE: Missouri</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CODE: 29</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>COUNTY: Marion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CODE: 127</td>
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<td>SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle Palmyra, Missouri</td>
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<td>SCALE: 1:24,000</td>
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<td>DATE: 1950</td>
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<td>TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS</td>
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<td>2. North arrow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Latitude and longitude reference.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GARDNER HOUSE

COUNTY: Marion
LOCATION: 427 Hamilton & Main streets, Palmyra, Mo.
OWNER: Heritage Seekers of Palmyra
ADDRESS:

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.: 12-12-70
DATE SENT TO JEFF. CITY: 01-20-71
DATE SENT TO D.C.: 01-20-71
DATE OF REC. IN D.C.: 01-26-71
DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER: 03-04-71
DATE FILE REVIEWED:
The Gardner House, constructed in ca. 1828 in Marion County, Palmyra, Missouri, is significant as a tavern located on a north-south stage coach route between St. Louis, Missouri, and east Iowan towns.
# Property Photograph Form

**Property:** Gardner House  
**State:** Missouri  
**County:** Marion  

## 1. Name
- **Common:** Gardner House
- **And/or Historic:**

## 2. Location
- **Street and Number:** 421 South Main Street  
- **City or Town:** Palmyra  
- **State:** Missouri  
- **Code:** 29  
- **County:** Marion  
- **Code:** 127

## 3. Photo Reference
- **Photograph Credit:** H. Roger Grant  
- **Date of Photo:** July 21, 1970  
- **Negative Filed At:** Missouri State Park Board P.O. Box 176  
- **Address:** 1204 Jefferson Building Jefferson City, Missouri

## 4. Identification

Describe view, direction, etc.

The west front facade and south side of the Gardner House; View from the southwest looking northeast.
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME:
   COMMON: Gardner House
   AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: 421 South Main Street
   CITY OR TOWN: Palmyra
   STATE: Missouri
   CODE: 29
   COUNTY: Marion
   CODE: 127

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT: H. Roger Grant
   DATE OF PHOTO: July 21, 1970
   NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board P.O. Box 176
   1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
   The south side, east rear facade and ell of the Gardner House; view from the southeast facing northwest.