

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Garrett, Louisa, House

other names/site number Magill Cottage

2. Location

street & number 280 Washington Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Florissant [N/A] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county St. Louis County code 189 zip code 63031

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

MAY 15, 2007

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:

- entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet [].
- determined eligible for the
National Register
See continuation sheet [].
- determined not eligible for the
National Register.
- removed from the
National Register
- other, explain
See continuation sheet [].

Signature of the Keeper

Date

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Garrett House
St. Louis County, Missouri

5. Classification

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

Name of related multiple property listing.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

Historic Resources of the City of St. Ferdinand

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
 DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
 VACANT/NOT IN USE
 WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 OTHER/Missouri French

Materials
 foundation CONCRETE
 walls WOOD
 roof WOOD
 other _____

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

ARCHITECTURE

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Periods of Significance

1851-1957

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository: _____

Garrett House
St. Louis County, Missouri

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	731660	4297070			
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 Ruth Keenoy, Karen Bode Baxter and Timothy P. Maloney
 organization Karen Bode Baxter, Preservation Specialist date May 10, 2007
 street & number 5811 Delor Street telephone (314) 353-0593
 city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63109

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 Richard Deposki
 street & number 240 Coteau Lane telephone (314)837-3253
 city or town Florissant state MO zip code 63033

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Garrett, Louisa, House
Florissant, St. Louis County, MO

Narrative Description

SUMMARY

The Louisa Garrett House at 280 Washington Street in Florissant (St. Louis County), Missouri is a frame, one and a half-story, three-bay, side-gabled dwelling believed to have been constructed circa 1851-1853. The Garrett House exemplifies the broad "Missouri French" architectural subtype as described in the Multiple Resource Area (MRA) National Register nomination titled "Historic Resources of the City of St. Ferdinand." The north-facing house has a wood shingled, side-gabled roof containing three front-facing dormers, exterior weatherboard siding, and a continuous cast concrete foundation with rock-faced concrete block veneer. At the primary elevation is a full-width frame porch with a sloping shed roof supported by six square slender columns that extend below the porch floor and serve as foundation supports for the porch. The house is situated along the south side of the street at the southwest intersection of Washington Street and Rue St. Pierre in the old residential section of Florissant. The house has been undergoing restoration but a substantial amount of historic fabric remains and the general appearance of the house closely reflects its form in the late nineteenth century.

ELABORATION

The Garrett House is located near a series of high powered electrical lines at the west end of Washington Street, with a public park beyond this area (further west). The builder or carpenter is undetermined, but deeds and building records indicate that the house was constructed ca. 1851-1853 for Louisa Garrett. Following Mrs. Garrett's ownership, the house had many owners. The Garrett House is identified as property #105 in the St. Ferdinand MRA cover document, which refers to the property as "the Grote House" (Soren and Harper, Section 7:17).

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

A short flight of wooden steps leads to the main porch deck. This porch, constructed in 2006, was designed to approximate a full-width *galerie* style porch with six columns as depicted in a ca. 1898 photograph of the Garrett House (see Section 7, Page 8). The central bay features a solid wood replacement door. Above this entry is an original six-light transom. Sidelights flanking the entry retain their original framing although they are missing the glass. In 1898, as the photo view indicates, the Garrett House had weatherboard siding, the three dormers had wood shingle siding, and the windows were six-over-six design. Today's fenestration is the same but the two flanking windows are one-over-one double-hung sash. Three gabled dormers with pediments are uniformly arranged at the roofline, the same as in the historic photo. Each dormer features a one-over-one sashed window. At some point, interior end brick chimneys were removed; but as illustrated in the 1898 photograph, these were intact at that time.

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Garrett, Louisa, House
Florissant, St. Louis County, MO

Narrative Description (continued)

The east elevation of the house features one window at the main floor and one within the rear shed wing. Within the upper half-story are two small single-sash windows. The west elevation has similar window placement in the upper gable field and within the rear shed wing; however, the remaining window is set slightly further south than that seen on the east elevation.

The rear (south) elevation features a central entrance within a rear shed wing. The entry is flanked by windows, both of which are currently covered with plywood, as is the central rear entry. A central shed frame porch extends from the rear entrance with wood steps and two frame columns.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The primary entry leads into a central foyer with a linoleum covered wood floor and plaster walls covered with wallpaper. At the south end of the foyer is a dogleg staircase with a simple wood balustrade and handrail. A newel cap remains intact atop the upper floor landing newel. Two doors lead from the foyer into the two front rooms of the house -- one at the east and the other at the west. The east front room features a hardwood floor, frame molding, and plaster walls. A window is situated along the east wall, and an original four-panel wood door remains at the south wall. This door leads to a rear utility and kitchen area with a hardwood floor, plaster walls, and wainscoting along the rear (south) wall. Windows are present on the west and south walls. At the east end of the utility room is a door leading to the bathroom -- which is situated at the southeast corner of the house. The bathroom has modern fixtures and finishes. The east wall of the bathroom features a single window. The front west room (accessed via the entry foyer) is similar to the east front room with a hardwood floor, molding, and plaster walls. A window is situated at the west wall, and an original four-panel door leads to the rear kitchen/utility area.

The upper half-story holds two rooms -- one east and one west of the staircase landing. The north wall of the landing has a window set within the central dormer. The room to the west retains a beaded hardwood floor. Remaining floors are plank, and walls are plaster. The ceiling is angled steeply, reflecting the shape of the roof. Original side-hinged single-sash windows are situated at the east and west walls of the upper floor -- two against each wall.

The basement of the house is reached via the staircase mentioned previously. There is a rear door along the south wall. The basement, if original, was modified during the early twentieth century and has concrete block walls and above-ground two-light windows. The basement floor is concrete. Exposed rafters are visible at the ceiling.

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Garrett, Louisa, House
Florissant, St. Louis County, MO

Narrative Description (continued)

INTEGRITY ISSUES

Until 1949, the Garrett House retained its overall historic appearance. Modifications made to the dwelling after this time, including replacement of the original porch and addition of synthetic siding, threatened the property's architectural integrity. For many years, the Garrett House remained in a dilapidated state due to years of vacancy. Most recently, the house has been undergoing restoration. This work has revealed many original features, including exterior weatherboard siding, dormers and pediments. Still intact is the original design and layout of the house, as well as interior floors, walls, and ceilings. Original architectural details are being preserved in place. The primary porch has been recently reconstructed to match the 1898 porch in its design and scale, the roof has been re-clad with wood shingles, and brick chimney stacks are being reproduced to match those illustrated in early photographs.

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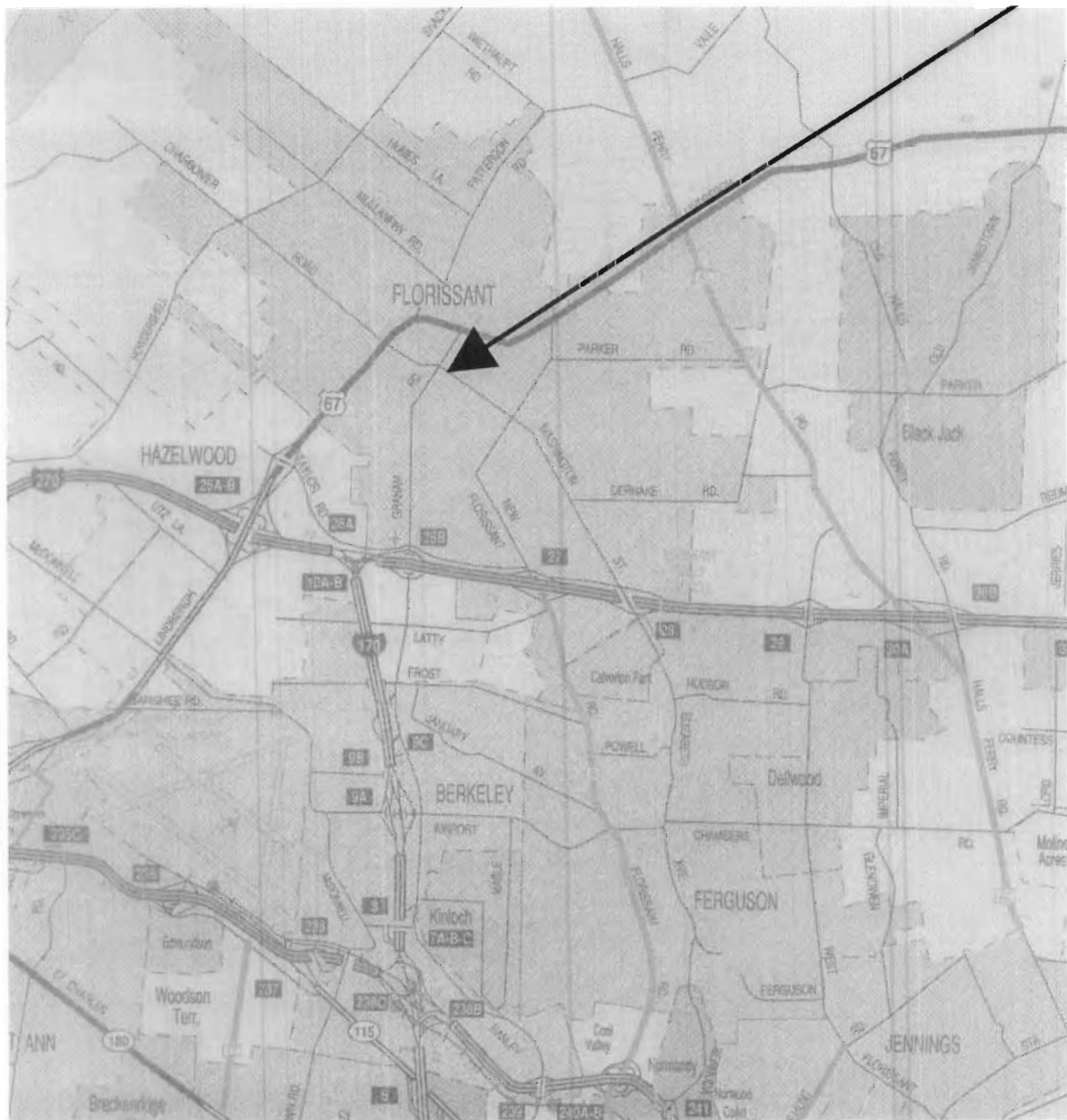
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Garrett House
Florissant, St. Louis County, MO

Map of City of Florissant, Missouri

Locating Property



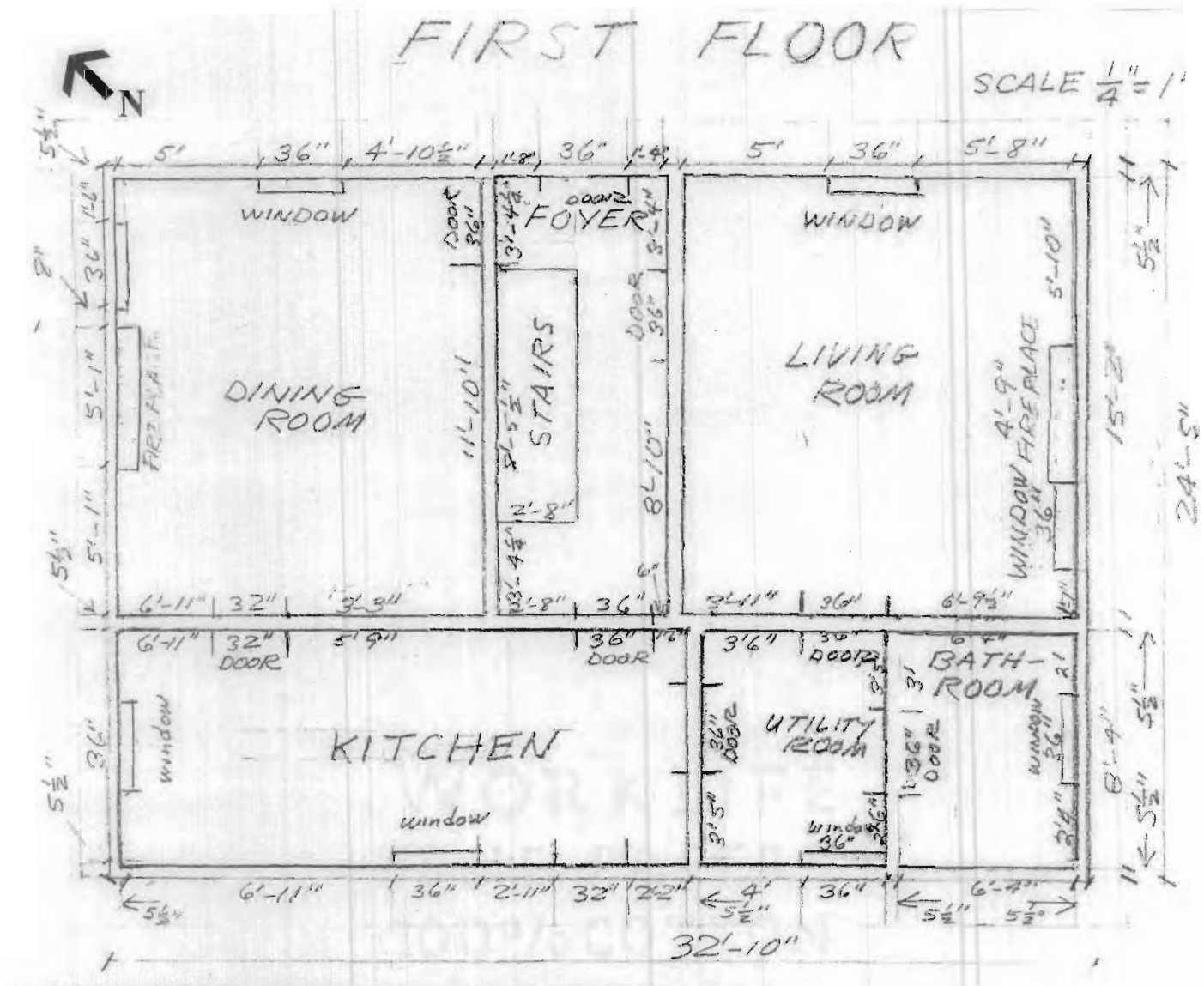
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Garrett House
Florissant, St. Louis County, MO

1st Story Floor Plan



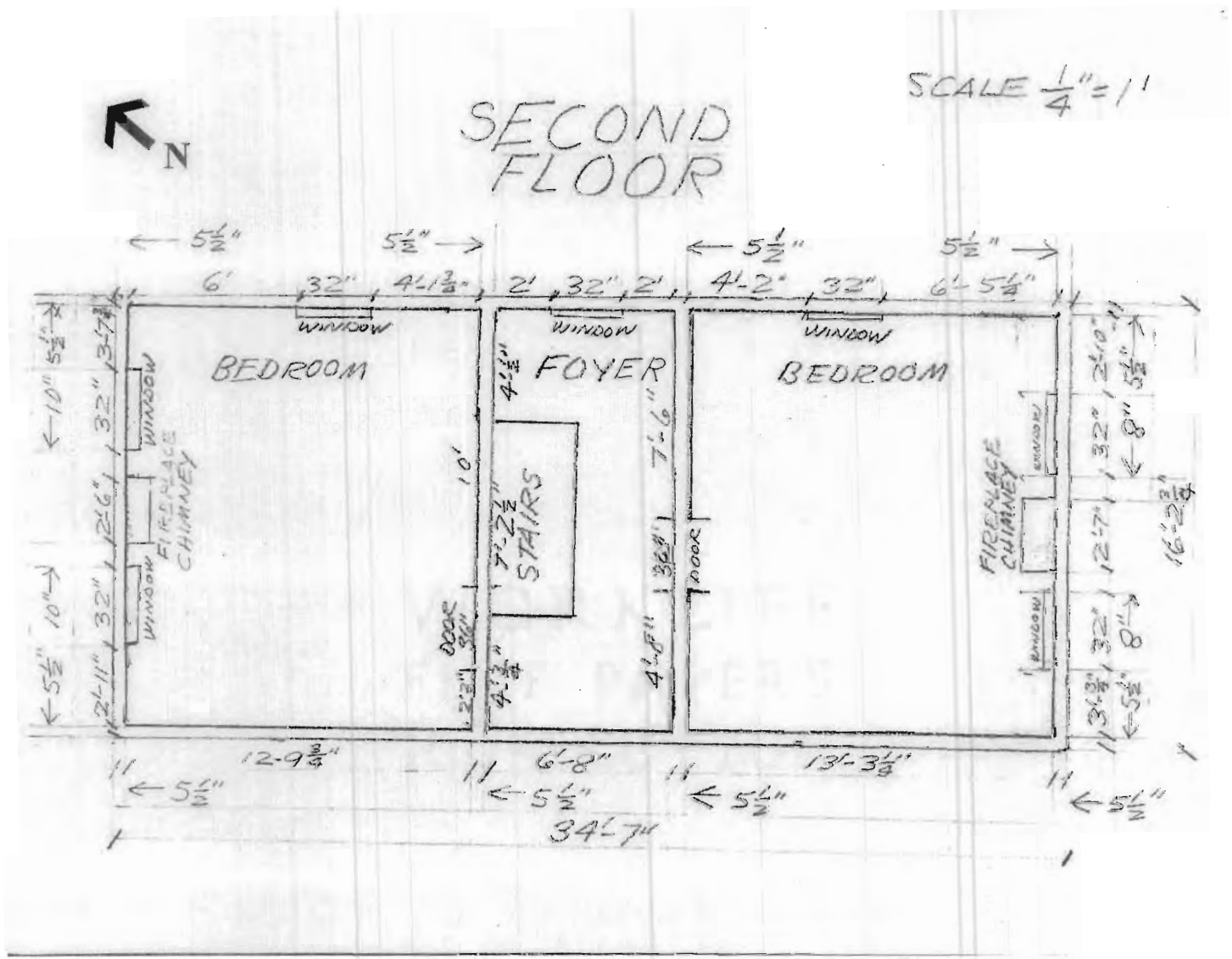
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Garrett House
Florissant, St. Louis County, MO

2nd Story Floor Plan



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Garrett House
Florissant, St. Louis County, MO

Courtesy of Historic Florissant, Inc.

Historic Photograph 1894



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Garrett, Louisa, House
Florissant, St. Louis County, MO

Narrative Statement of Significance

SUMMARY

The Louisa Garrett House in Florissant, St. Louis County, Missouri, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Exploration/Settlement and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The Garrett House has significant associations with the contexts of "Settlement" and "Architecture" as identified in the Multiple Resource Area (MRA) National Register nominated titled, "Historic Resources of the City of St. Ferdinand, Missouri." Under Criterion A, the Garrett House, constructed ca. 1851, reflects the period of settlement and growth related to the French/Spanish village of St. Ferdinand de Florissant (1786-1857) as discussed in the cover document. Under Criterion C, the side-gabled frame house exemplifies the "Missouri French" architectural subtype which is recognized in the MRA cover document as St. Ferdinand/Florissant's most popular residential building tradition with examples ranging from ca. 1790s to ca. 1940. The Garrett House has been altered but substantially reflects its historic appearance as depicted in a late nineteenth-century photograph. The dwelling is currently in the process of being rehabilitated. The ca. 1851-1957 period of significance represents the circa date when the house was constructed through the National Register's standard 50-year rule for non-exceptional significance. Mrs. Louisa Garrett, the original owner, held the property for a brief period of time. There were numerous subsequent owners including Ellen Magill, who acquired the property in 1893. Ellen Magill occupied the house for many years and it is due to her association that the house is commonly known as "Magill Cottage." In 1939, the city of St. Ferdinand's name was changed to Florissant. In 1975, the Garrett House – situated within the southwestern quadrant of "Old Town Florissant" – was designated a local historic landmark by the city of Florissant. The level of significance associated with the Garrett House is local.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW – ST. FERDINAND DE FLEURISSANT, 1787 – 1857; ST. FERDINAND, 1857 – 1939; AND FLORISSANT, 1939-1960

The city of Florissant has been identified by at least four names since the early 1700s. Prior to Spanish acquisition in the 1780s, the community was called "Valle Fleurissant" or flowering valley by its early French residents. Once the Spanish gained control of the area, it was called "St. Ferdinand de Fleurissant" until 1857, when the name became "St. Ferdinand." In 1939, the city was granted its current nomenclature, Florissant, by which it is most commonly referred to in this document. The community of Valle de Fleurissant was situated north of the Village of St. Louis within a "low flat area between Charbonnier Hill and Creve Coeur Lake" that was used for farming purposes.² In 1812, "the small village of St. Ferdinand" was described by Major Amos Stoddard of the United States Army as follows:

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Garrett, Louisa, House
Florissant, St. Louis County, MO

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

It contains about sixty houses; most of them are situated on a rising ground, at the foot of which is a considerable stream of pure water, and on the opposite side is one of the most fertile and valuable prairies in the Country . . . The plantations on each side of the prairie are so laid out as to embrace considerable portions of it as also the necessary woodlands. Considerable settlements are formed along the border of it . . . These settlements are wealthy, the people industrious and the lands cultivated by them of the first quality.³

By 1812, Florissant was the “second largest” community within the St. Louis district; however its population was only a quarter of that for the Village of St. Louis; and at no time did Florissant match St. Louis in “population or commercial importance.”⁴ Despite its small size, Florissant flourished as a residential, commercial, and agricultural center. Its organization in 1786 is attributed to Francois Dunegant dit Beausier, appointed by Spain as the village commander.⁵ Under Dunegant’s direction, Spanish governance was established, and the village was laid out as a 16-block grid, measuring approximately 320 feet square. The streets (which retain their original names and layout today) were named primarily for saints, reflecting the community’s early Catholic influences.⁶ Surrounding the residential area was a “commons” that covered approximately seven square miles. This open area was used by the community’s residents for grazing stock, raising agriculture, and producing timber for construction.⁷ Florissant was Spanish only by possession – its residents remained French in their social customs and speech for generations. Many of Florissant’s early settlers moved from earlier settlements such as Kaskaskia and Cahokia when territory east of the Mississippi River fell under the authority of Great Britain.⁸

In 1804, the St. Louis district was divided into three principal townships, including that of St. Ferdinand.⁹ Florissant was incorporated as a town in 1829; however the original charter failed so the town was again incorporated in 1843. In 1857, the village was chartered as the city of St. Ferdinand, for which it was legally known until 1939 when (as noted previously) the name was changed to Florissant.¹⁰ After 1843, the commons area was leased to residents in increments of 40-acre lots, usually for a period of a thousand years. In 1857, the city’s charter was altered to include sale of individual lots within the commons area, and by 1911, nearly all of the commons had been purchased.¹¹

The reasons for establishing the original commons area appear to be two-fold. First of all, by laying out narrow strips of land, residents could work side-by-side. This provided a measure of security that diminished the likelihood of Indian attacks.¹² The division of agricultural land as a commons area was typical of the French culture. In Canada, the commons normally bordered a body of water that provided everyone in the village with access to water frontage.¹³ Such was the case in Florissant, where the commons was bounded by Cold Water Creek. Once the basic needs of security and access to the creek for transportation were no longer necessary for survival, the commons was developed for residential and commercial use.

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Garrett, Louisa, House
Florissant, St. Louis County, MO

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

Dunegant received a Spanish land grant in 1782, much of which was gained by John Mullanphy in 1805. Mullanphy also purchased a 1600-acre parcel in Florissant from Marie Josepha Payant Rigache.¹⁴ These transactions made him a prominent landowner in the community. In 1808, Mullanphy acquired the “old Spanish government-house in Florissant” that he donated to Trappist monks who fled France for reasons of persecution. He also donated a great deal of money to fund construction of Florissant’s oldest church, St. Ferdinand, in 1821. Mullanphy resided in Florissant with his family, although his philanthropy extended well beyond the community. Mullanphy attempted to gain stature for the community on at least two occasions. In the 1820s, he offered to fund construction of the state capital building -- if Florissant were selected as the state’s capital city; and in 1877 Mullanphy offered 50 acres and ten thousand dollars if the Florissant became the county seat. Though generous, neither offer was accepted.¹⁵

In 1875, Florissant recorded an estimated 1,200 residents. At that time, the town remained surrounded by agricultural fields and supported “1 (brick) Catholic convent, 2 (brick) Catholic churches, 1 Catholic parochial school; aggregate value of Catholic property about \$80,000, 1 public school, value about \$2,000, 2 wagon shops and 7 stores.”¹⁶ The influence of Catholicism in shaping the early character of Florissant is immense. Jesuit priests established a mission and school for Native American boys in 1823 – the nation’s first federally funded Native American school. The priests also established St. Stanislaus seminary in 1823, believed to be the oldest Jesuit novitiate in the world. Even earlier was the arrival of Rose Philippine Duchesne, who in 1818 established a Catholic school for Native American girls in St. Charles that relocated to Florissant in 1819, where Duchesne also founded the Sisters of the Sacred Heart convent and school.¹⁷ These early Catholic missions and schools were associated with the St. Ferdinand parish. A second Catholic parish was established for the town’s German community – the Sacred Heart – in 1866.¹⁸

Despite its progress, Florissant remained a small town until after World War II. In 1878, the community gained access to streetcars and trolleys when the Narrow Gauge Railroad was extended north from St. Louis to Florissant.¹⁹ By 1880, the community had “six general stores, two hotels, three wagon shops,” and a shoe factory, but was by no means considered a large community, even by nineteenth-century standards.²⁰ As late as 1941, the community was described as “a loosely knit village of small gray and white frame, and red brick houses surrounded by gardens, orchards, and barns.”²¹ All of this changed rapidly after World War II. In 1880, Florissant’s population was estimated as 817 residents; in 1900, these estimates fell to 732 residents and again in 1920 to only 682 residents. In 1930, the population spiked to an estimated 1,039 persons; 3,737 residents in 1950; and even more astonishing, 38,166 residents in 1960.²²

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Garrett, Louisa, House
Florissant, St. Louis County, MO

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

Until the 1940s, Florissant had remained a quaint little town of narrow, tree-shaded streets and historic houses . . . World War II brought new industrial plants to the vicinity of Lambert-St. Louis Airport, not far from Florissant . . . When the post-war suburban building boom hit, Florissant was a prime target.²³

Although Florissant continues to expand in relation to suburban sprawl associated with the city of St. Louis and St. Louis County, the community's Old Town neighborhood, which comprises its original plan as laid out by Francois Dunegant in 1786, continues to richly illustrate the community's early French and Spanish heritage.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The Garrett House at 280 Washington is an example of an early Missouri-French style home once very common to the settlement of St. Ferdinand de Florissant. The Missouri-French style is a type of Creole dwelling frequently constructed in the Mississippi Valley during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The interior layout of the double-pen house is similar to Anglo-American dwellings in the southeastern United States. These homes were typically one room deep, two rooms wide, and one story in height with an upper attic sleeping area.²⁴ Differences that separate Creole from Anglo-American examples include a raised porch, a broken gable roof, and a deep *galerie* style porch.²⁵

The oldest French styles of architecture in Florissant were *poteaux en terre* construction in which vertical timber posts were set approximately three feet deep into the ground.²⁶ Because the posts were set directly into the earth, no *poteaux en terre* examples survive in Florissant today. However, a few vertical log buildings in which vertical posts were placed on a wooden beam or sill -- *poteaux sur sole* -- do survive, such as the August Aubuchon House (NR 9-12-79) at 1002 Rue St. Louis.²⁷ Vertical log construction remained popular for an extended period of time in the American French settlements along the Mississippi River and Great Lakes. The method of construction was eventually replaced by horizontal frame construction, such as that seen in the Garrett House.²⁸ Logs were replaced by sawn lumber once sawmills were established. Mills, including those used to cut lumber, were among the earliest types of industry established in and around St. Louis.²⁹

Examples of Missouri-French dwellings in Florissant range widely in construction dates -- from Casa Alvarez (NR 6-18-76) constructed in 1790 at 289 Rue St. Denis to the Barteau House (NR 9-12-79) located at 305 Castello Street, constructed ca. 1939 (*of note, the MRA lists the Barteau House construction date as 1937 [Section 7:1] and also as 1939 [Section 7:18]*).³⁰ According to the MRA cover document, Missouri French architecture "filtered up from Louisiana [and] formed the basis of this Florissant type" of dwelling.³¹

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Garrett, Louisa, House
Florissant, St. Louis County, MO

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

Because the population of the area was predominantly French Catholic, with origins in St. Louis, Cahokia and Kaskaskia as well as Canada, New Orleans and France, and even though the government was officially Spanish until 1800, local building tradition followed the French practice.³² French homes built in early America typically measured approximately “sixteen by twenty-five feet in size, and contained two main rooms, partitioned off sleeping areas, and had two doors and windows . . . depending on the size of the house, there would be one or two fireplaces. Most chimneys were constructed of stone . . . Many houses had a *galerie* or porch on two or all four sides and a small cellar for storage.”³³

These features of the Missouri French style identified in the MRA cover document, became the city’s residential “trademark.”³⁴ The Garrett House is an excellent example of Florissant’s Missouri French architecture and reflects the community’s early years of settlement, as well as the impact of French customs that settlers brought with them to Florissant.

HISTORY OF THE LOUISA GARRETT HOUSE

The Garrett House was constructed around 1851-53 for Louisa Garrett, wife of Silas W. Garrett. Although the property itself is recorded in St. Louis County deed books prior to this time, there is no mention of the house until after Mrs. Garrett purchased the site from Elisha and Lucy Patterson in 1851. When the property changed hands in 1853, at which time the site was gained by George Matlock, the house is specifically described as follows, and continues to be mentioned in deeds after this date.

A one story and a half or a story and an attick [sic] frame house about thirty four feet four inches in front by about thirty two feet in depth, including porch, containing three rooms on first floor, and two above situate [sic] on a certain tract piece or parcel of ground, and being in the Town of St. Ferdinand County of St. Louis and State of Missouri.³⁵

Although there is speculation that the house originally featured an open rear porch, this early description fails to verify this assumption. If the rear porch was an open plan originally, it was enclosed by the 1890s, as illustrated photographically.

The property upon which the house at 280 Washington sits today was owned by Pierre Belleville who in 1837, sold the parcel to Cyperion and Mary Billion. At that time, the parcel was bounded at the north by property owned by the late John Mullanphy, at the west by additional property owned by Billion, and at the east by property owned by Belleville. To the south, the parcel was bounded by the commons area.³⁶ In 1842, the parcel was sold to John Patterson. Nine years later (in 1849) John and his wife sold the parcel to Elisha Patterson, who sold the parcel in 1851 to Louisa Garrett for whom the house at 280 Washington was constructed.³⁷ Apparently there was a dispute about the property’s ownership in 1853, at which time George Matlock gained ownership. Matlock in

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Garrett, Louisa, House
Florissant, St. Louis County, MO

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

turn sold the property and house in 1853 to Elizabeth Giroux (also identified as “Geroux” and “Gereaux” in deeds) for \$600, including “forty acres more or less . . . on which there is a frame house.”³⁸

Many of Florissant’s early French settlers were from Canada, including the Billion and Giroux Families. As noted previously, many French Canadian families in Florissant originally settled in Cahokia and Kaskaskia prior to moving to the vicinity of Florissant and St. Louis.³⁹ John Patterson moved to Florissant from North Carolina around 1798.⁴⁰ The “Patterson Settlement” consisted of several family farms surrounding that owned by John Patterson’s. These farms collectively encompassed “from a thousand to fifteen hundred acres . . . bounded west by Hall’s Ferry Road, south by Cold Water Creek, north by the Missouri River and east by the Bellefontaine Road.”⁴¹ Patterson Road which exists today was named for the Patterson family associated with the Garrett House property.⁴²

In 1893, Elizabeth Giroux sold the property at 280 Washington Street to Ellen Magill for a sum of \$550. A map of the “City of St. Ferdinand” from 1878 illustrates that at that time, Giroux owned the parcel and house at the southwest corner of Washington and Rue St. Pierre (280 Washington). Jane and Ellen Magill (sisters) owned a parcel with a house at the northeast corner of Catharine and Rue St. Jean; with the southern boundary of the parcel bordering Washington northeast of Giroux’s property. The Magill sisters also owned a much larger parcel and home situated at 410 Harrison Street, constructed about 1840, which is still standing.⁴³

The Magill Family moved to Florissant from Kentucky around 1810. Ellen Magill was associated with the property at 280 Washington, as noted above. Her father, Samuel Magill, served as a justice of the peace (1814-19) and in the Missouri state legislature in 1824, 1826, and 1828. In 1828, Magill was selected as a delegate to the state convention that established the Missouri Democratic party. Ellen Magill was born December 30, 1833. Her siblings were Mary Jane Frame Magill (born August 21, 1831; died 1882) and William Samuel Magill (born January 16, 1836; died 1880). Ellen never married (nor did her older sister, Jane). She spent most of her life in Florissant where she attended Loretto Academy. Ellen also worked as a teacher in Mexico, Missouri and in Henderson, Kentucky, but returned to reside in Florissant after these occupations.⁴⁴ Magill lived in the house at 280 Washington until her death in 1920.⁴⁵ Due to the prominence of the Magill family, and because Ellen resided at the home for nearly 30 years, the Garrett House commonly became known as “Magill Cottage.”

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Garrett, Louisa, House
Florissant, St. Louis County, MO

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

In 1949, Clarence Grote purchased the Garrett House following a fire that destroyed Grotes' previous residence at 180 Washington Avenue. During the time that the Grote Family owned the home, several significant changes were made to the residence which had prior to that time, remained relatively unaltered. Exterior alterations included the addition of synthetic shingles in the 1940s and permastone in the 1950s. In addition, the original primary elevation porch was replaced by a modern awning-type porch. The bathroom appears to have been remodeled during this period of time as well. In 1995, a local newspaper article states that the "best solution for the Grote home" (as the Garrett House was known at that time) could be described in "two words. Historic Firewood."⁴⁶ The editorial relates to an ongoing battle between Clarence Grote, who wanted to demolish the house and Historic Florissant, Inc., the organization that ultimately saved the home by having it designated by the city of Florissant in 1975 as a local historic landmark.

CONCLUSION

The Garrett House located at 280 Washington in Florissant, Missouri, is a good example of the Missouri-French style popular in the Mississippi River Valley during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In Florissant, the style remained popular well into the twentieth century, with examples ranging from ca. 1790 to ca. 1940. Although the Garrett House was altered in the 1940s-50s, much of its historic fabric survived these changes. Today the Garrett House once again reflects its historic appearance. Modern siding added after 1940 has been removed and original weatherboard siding remains intact. The porch has been reconstructed and mirrors that featured in a photograph dated as 1898 – a traditional Creole *galerie* style supported by slender wooden columns. The interior floor plan remains intact as described in the 1853 deed, and interior restoration has uncovered original floors, walls, and ceilings. The Garrett House meets NRHP Criterion A reflecting the period of settlement and growth related to the French / Spanish settlement of St. Ferdinand de Florissant (1786-1857). The property also meets NRHP Criterion C as an excellent example of a nineteenth-century Missouri-French style home recognized as Florissant's most popular residential building tradition. The home is an original member of Florissant's mid-nineteenth century architecture and contributes to the category of French Missouri housing defined by the MRA cover document. The period of significance for the property extends from its date of construction, 1851, through the National Register's standard 50-year rule for non-exceptional properties, 1957.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

ENDNOTES

¹Noelle Soren and Linda Harper, "National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form - Historic Resources of the City of St. Ferdinand" (12 January 1979; NR listed 12 September 1979).

²Gilbert J. Garraghan, *Saint Ferdinand de Florissant: The Story of an Ancient Parish* (Chicago: Loyola University Press, 1923), 18; and Louis E. Pondrum, "Historical Records of St. Ferdinand of Florissant and St. Charles with Notes on Other Settlements of North St. Louis County" (Unpublished: 1989, on file at St. Louis County Library Headquarters, Ladue, MO), 24.

³Garraghan, 15.

⁴Ibid, 13, 17.

⁵Pondrum, 24; John Albury Bryan, "Florissant, Missouri, Historic Background for Landmarks Association of St. Louis Missouri: A Tour of North St. Louis County to Visit Old St. Ferdinand Shrine . . ." (29 October 1967; copy available at St. Louis Public Library Headquarters), 1-2; and Garraghan, 19.

⁶Garraghan, 20-23.

⁷Ibid, 30.

⁸Ibid, 24-25; and Andrew Hurley (ed.), *Common Fields: An Environmental History of St. Louis* (St. Louis: Missouri Historical Society Press, 1997), 59.

⁹Howard L. Conard (ed.), *Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri, Volumes 2 and 5* (New York: The Southern History Company, 1901), Vol. 5, 158.

¹⁰Ibid, 476; and Rosemary Davison, *Florissant Missouri* (Virginia Beach, VA: The Dunning Company Publishers, 2002), 12.

¹¹Garraghan, 32; and William L. Thomas, *History of St. Louis, Volume 1* (St. Louis: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1911), 296.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

¹²St. Louis City Plan Commission, "Physical Growth of the City of St. Louis" (online at <http://stlouis.missouri.org/heritage/History69/> Access date 12 October 2005), 3.

¹³Garraghan, 33.

¹⁴Ibid, 46, 60.

¹⁵Ibid, 60-63; 78-79.

¹⁶Davison, 15-16.

¹⁷John A. Wright, Sr., *Images of America: Florissant*. (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2004), 13-15; and Writers Program of the Works Project Administration, *Missouri: The WPA Guide to the "Show Me" State* (St. Louis: Missouri Historical Society Press, reprint 1998; original publication New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1941), 341.

¹⁸Wright, 20-21.

¹⁹Davison, 46.

²⁰Robert E. Hannon (ed.), *St. Louis: Its Neighborhoods and Neighbors, Landmarks and Milestones* (St. Louis: Regional Commerce and Growth Association, 1986), 159.

²¹Writers Program of the Works Progress Administration, 340.

²²Hannon, 159-161.

²³Ibid, 160-161.

²⁴Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach (eds.), *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture* (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 1986), 18.

²⁵Howard Wight Marshall, *Vernacular Architecture in Rural and Small Town Missouri: An Introduction* (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri) 1994, 22.

²⁶St. Louis City Plan Commission, 3.

²⁷Soren and Harper, Section 7:21; Section 8:1.

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Florissant, St. Louis County, MO

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

²⁸Upton and Vlach, 164.

²⁹Charles E. Peterson, *Colonial St. Louis: Building a Creole Capital* (St. Louis: Missouri Historical Society, 1949), 25.

³⁰Soren and Harper, Section 7:1.

³¹Ibid, Section 7:21.

³²Soren and Harper, Section 8:1.

³³Margaret Kimbal Brown and Laurie Cena Dean, *The French Colony in the Mid-Mississippi* (Carbondale, IL: American Kestral Books, 1995). 9.

³⁴Soren and Harper, Section 8:14.

³⁵City of St. Louis, Deed Book S, p. 506.

³⁶City of St. Louis Deed Book B2, page 342.

³⁷Oscar Collet, *Index to Instruments Affecting Real Estate Recorded in the Office of Recorder of Deeds: in the County of St. Louis, MO, 1804-1854* (St. Louis: St. Louis Globe-Democrat Job Printing Co., 1986), Vol. 1: 70; and City of St. Louis deeds: Book Y5, p. 588; Book H6, p. 548; and Book S, p. 506.

³⁸City of St. Louis deeds: Book S, p. 506; Book T6, p. 118.

³⁹Bryan, 4; and St. Louis Genealogical Society, "Earl Fischer Database of St. Louisans" (online database website at <http://www.stlgs.org/efdb/index.shtml> Access date: 3 July 2006), n.p.

⁴⁰Davison, 28-29.

⁴¹Garraghan, 66.

⁴²Davison, 29.

⁴³Julius Pitzman, *Pitzman's New Atlas of the City and County of Saint Louis Missouri* (Philadelphia: A.B. Holcombe & Co., 1878), 65.

⁴⁴John McCormick, Magill-Sullivan Family Collection at Historic Florissant, Inc., Florissant, Missouri (unpublished; primary documents), includes photographs, letters, and historical accounts.

⁴⁵Davison, 116-118.

⁴⁶Untitled editorial, concerning Grote House, Florissant, Missouri, *North County Journal* (23 April 1995), 5A.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Part of Lot 118 in Block 37 of Old Town of St. Ferdinand, now City of Florissant and described as beginning at the northeast corner of said Block 37 thence southwardly along the west line of St. Pierre Street, 210 feet to the north line of property now or formerly Tesson; thence westwardly along said north line, 47.40 feet to the east line of right of way of Electric Company of Missouri; thence northwardly along said east line to the south line of Washington; thence eastwardly along said south line 157.51 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

These boundaries incorporate all of the property associated with this building and the property's legal description. The building is surrounded by the front, side and rear yards, which extend to the property lines.

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Garrett House
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Photo Log

Photographer: Sheila Findall

August 2006

Negatives with photographer: Karen Bode Baxter, 5811 Delor Street, St. Louis, MO 63109

Photo #1: Exterior, looking S at NE façade and NW elevation

Photo #2: Exterior, looking N at SW and SE elevation

Photo #3: Interior, 1st fl, foyer, from E corner looking W

Photo #4: Interior, 1st fl, kitchen, from mid NE wall looking S

Photo #5: Interior, 2nd fl, stairs, from W corner looking E down

Garrett House
Florissant
St Louis County, Mo

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