

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Gosewisch, Theodore, House

other names/site number Fuenfhausen Residence

2. Location

street & number 1/2 mi. w. of jct. MO. 13 & Marshall School Road [n/a] not for publication

city or town Lexington [X] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Lafayette code 107 zip code 64067

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 [ ].)

Claire F. Blackwell 5 October 1997  
Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ].)

Signature of certifying official/Title

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

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

**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	0
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	0	0
		0	0
		0	0
		1	0

Name of related multiple property listing.

Antebellum Resources of Johnson,  
Lafayette, Pettis and Saline Counties,  
Missouri

Number of contributing resources  
previously listed in the National  
Register.

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

GREEK REVIVAL  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

foundation Stone  
walls Brick  
roof Metal  
other Wood  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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.

**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

# \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

ARCHITECTURE

**Periods of Significance**

ca. 1847

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person(s)**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

UNKNOWN

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

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

---

### 10. Geographical Data

---

Acreage of Property eight acres

#### UTM References

A. Zone 15	Easting 422950	Northing 4334455	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
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 Roger Maserang/Historic Preservation Coordinator  
organization Pioneer Trails Regional Council date April 15, 1996  
street & number 122 Hout Street telephone 816/747-2294  
city or town Warrensburg state Missouri zip code 64093

#### 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 Mr. and Mrs. Ron Fuenfhausen  
street & number Rt. #1, Box 215C telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Lexington state Missouri zip code 64067

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Gosewisch, Theodore, House  
Lafayette County, MO

Antebellum Resources of Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline Counties, MPS

The Theodore Gosewisch House, on Marshall School Road 1/2 mile west of Missouri Highway 13, near Lexington, Missouri, is a brick, central passage, vernacular Greek Revival I-House with an ell (see MPS cover document, "Antebellum Resources of Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline Counties, Missouri: Associated Property Types: Greek Revival I-Houses, Central Passage Subtype"). This three-bay, circa 1847 house exemplifies Greek Revival architecture as applied under frontier conditions in the Missouri River Valley. The Gosewisch House is an example of the "entry porch less than full height, or absent" subtype as defined by McAlester and McAlester.<sup>1</sup> Segmental arched windows in the austere, symmetrical primary elevation contain distinctive crown-like keystones and these, like the house's tiny attic windows, suggest a lingering Federal influence. The primary entrance features traditional Greek Revival sidelights and transom within a relatively subdued enframement. A pair of massive, curvilinear brackets, possibly inserted when a one-story Victorian front porch was installed in the early 1900s, serve as dividers within the transom. Integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location and setting are retained.

The Gosewisch House faces south from its location on the north side of Marshall School Road, approximately 0.5 mile west of Missouri Highway 13. U.S. Highway 24 is approximately 0.2 mile to the north. The property is just south of the Lexington city limit. Small outbuildings in the vicinity of the Gosewisch House are nonhistoric.

Constructed of brick laid in common bond, the Gosewisch House rests on an ashlar limestone foundation, approximately 75 feet from the north edge of Marshall School Road. Dimensions of the main block are 46 feet across by 20 feet deep. Dimensions of a lower although also two-story, left-hand ell are 17 feet by 28 feet. An open, shedroof porch is along the inner side of the ell. A room originally used for food storage is at the rear (north) end of the porch. The ell of the Gosewisch House apparently was constructed prior to the main block.

Interior brick chimneys emerge from the three gable ends. The date "1847" is scratched inside the ell chimney.

In a departure from typical Greek Revival styling, the cornice lacks even a token entablature which in many frontier examples is simply a wide trim board. (In this example, such a device would have blocked ornamental keystones in the upstairs window openings.) Modern guttering has been installed along the moderately projecting eaves. A gabled dormer has been added to the rear half of the main block, in the center. The main block has a recent metal roof with standing seams. The ell has an older, corrugated metal roof.

Segmentally arched windows with crownlike keystones and wood lugsills are evenly spaced across the upper level of the primary elevation. Similar windows with keystones flank the classical front entrance within a millwork enframement centered in the facade. The sidelights consist of three narrow rectangular lights above paneled aprons plus a fourth light which is also part of the transom. The main portion of the transom is a rectangular light above the door opening, separated from the flanking rectangular lights by two hefty, curvilinear brackets. These brackets add a decorative, Victorian touch which augments the effect of the replacement Victorian porch. The entrance door is a four-panel, inverted cross type. Most exterior woodwork is painted white. The front door is painted brown.

---

<sup>1</sup>McAlester, Virginia and Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985, p. 179.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

Gosewisch, Theodore, House  
Lafayette County, MO

Antebellum Resources of Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline Counties, MPS

---

The front porch features a spindlework frieze, scrollwork trim and ornate brackets supported by four tapering wood posts and two similar engaged pilasters. The porch has a hipped roof with asphalt shingles. The tongue-and-groove deck rests on short concrete piers.

Keystones are used only in main facade window openings, but virtually all window openings in the east and north facades have moderately rounded, segmental arches. Window openings on the west side, however, have flat arches with load-bearing wood lintels. Windows are double-hung 6/6s.

The floor plan is typical of the central passage I-House, with double parlors flanking a central hallway containing a stairway to upstairs bedrooms. At some point, the stairway was continued into the attic. There is also a boxed stairway leading from the west parlor to the room above. The slightly lower ell can be entered from the rear of the west parlor, where there are three steps. Recently, a partition wall was installed in the ell where a brick wall had been removed by a former owner. The main floor of the ell contains a kitchen and two relatively small rooms. The upper floor of the ell also contains three rooms.

The elegant interior features tall, moderately eared enframements in the central hallway as well as in the more luxuriously finished east parlor. Door and window enframements in other parts of the house are plain flat boards. The walnut staircase features a massive, turned newel post, heavily molded bannister which curves around the corners, and tapering, turned balusters. Pilaster mantels are in the two parlors as well as in upstairs bedrooms of the main block. Many rooms retain original flooring. Most woodwork on the first floor is darkly stained or painted brown. Second floor trim is painted white. Period furnishings enhance the house's ambiance. A sensitive restoration of the interior is under way.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

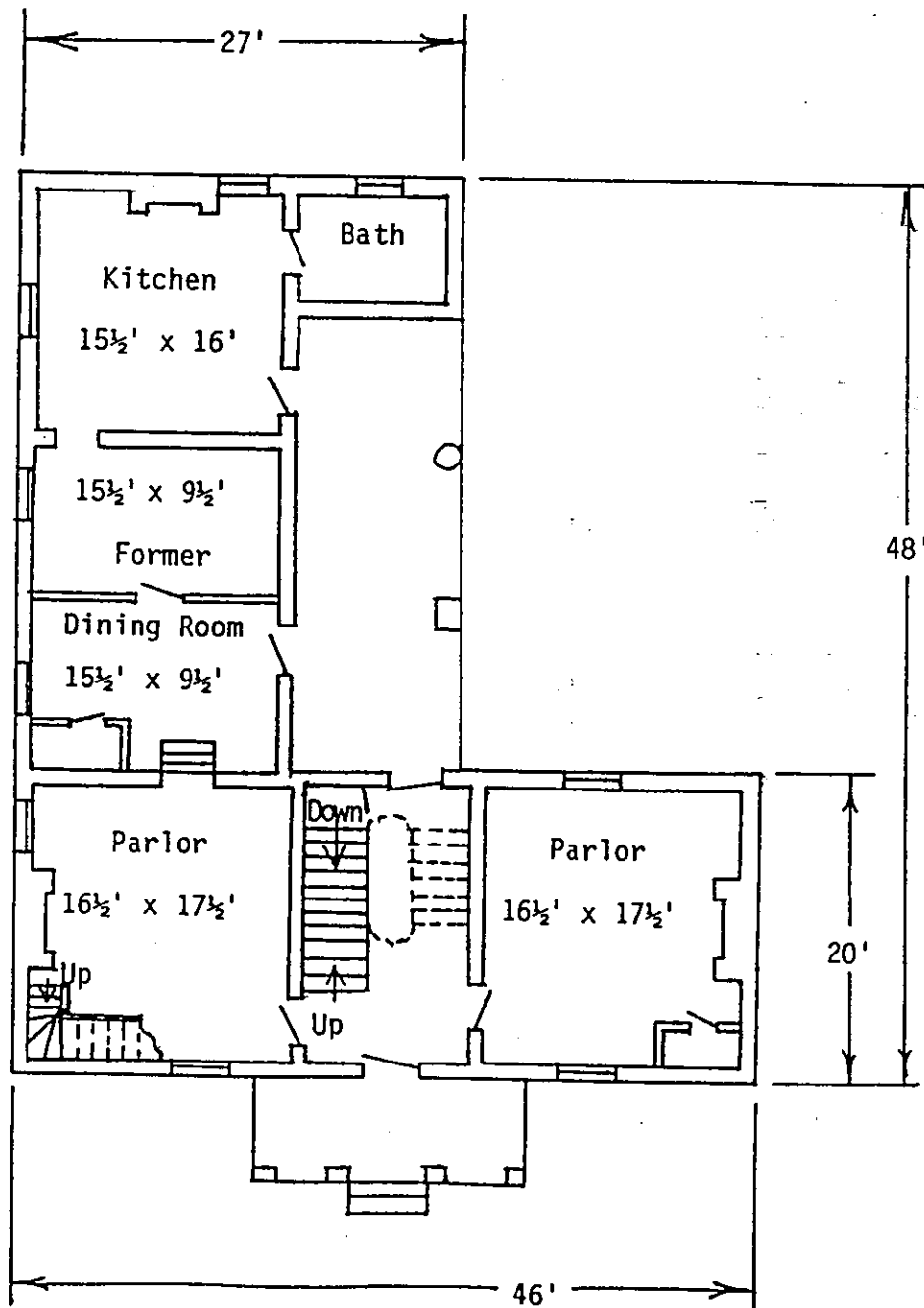
Section 7 Page 3

Gosewisch, Theodore, House  
Lafayette County, MC

Antebellum Resources of Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline Counties, MPS

First Floor Plan

Scale: 1" = Approximately 12'



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4

Gosewisch, Theodore, House  
Lafayette County, MO

Antebellum Resources of Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline Counties, MPS

The Theodore Gosewisch House, on Marshall School Road approximately 0.5 mile west of Missouri Highway 13, near Lexington in Lafayette County, Missouri, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. The Gosewisch House is associated with the development of vernacular Greek Revival architecture in the Show-Me Region of the Missouri River Valley (see MPS cover document "Antebellum Resources of Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline Counties, Missouri: Plantation Architecture, 1830s-1860s; and Greek Revival I-Houses, Central Passage Subtype"). Greek Revival architecture flourished during the three decades preceding the Civil War, as thousands of migrating agriculturalists from the Upland South settled in the Missouri River Valley of central and western Missouri. The ubiquitous central passage I-House was an excellent carrier not only of Greek Revival but of other lingering styles, and the Gosewisch House, circa 1847, is significant as a good and unique local example of the architecture which resulted. Unlike most plantation architecture, the Gosewisch House apparently was constructed by a German immigrant responding to many of the same influences as his neighbors from the Upland South. The Gosewisch House lacks an entablature because even a plain board would have interfered with decorative keystones in the upstairs window headers, and while the frontispiece includes the requisite Greek Revival sidelights and transom, there is no semblance of a classical order. While the frontier builders took various liberties in their interpretation of Greek Revival, they primarily simplified while adhering to the style's general principles, and much the same could be said about the builder of the Gosewisch House. Integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location and setting are retained.

Theodore Gosewisch, who emigrated to the United States from Germany in 1834, eventually came to Lexington where his confectionary business was so successful that he "retired" to the countryside south of Lexington prior to the Civil War. In August 1847, Gosewisch purchased 80 acres including the site of the Gosewisch House for \$1,200. Gosewisch or, more likely, tradesmen began building the house more or less immediately. A brick in the ell chimney bears the date, 1847. During the next year, 1848, Gosewisch married Catherine A. Moore and began his new life as a small-scale farmer.<sup>2</sup> While the house's form has much in common with the central passage Greek Revival I-Houses that were being erected during this period by migrating Southerners, its slightly rounded, segmental window headers are a device usually associated with German tastes and German craftsmen.

In 1850, the Gosewisch farm consisted of 40 improved and 40 unimproved acres and was valued at \$2,000. Production that year included 550 bushels of corn, 350 bushels of oats, 75 bushels of potatoes, and 50 pounds of butter. Gosewisch even dabbled in hemp, producing three-quarters of a ton. The temporarily retired confectioner owned relatively few animals--4 horses, 1 cow, 4 beef cattle and 20 swine.<sup>3</sup>

In 1852, apparently having lost interest in farming or for other reasons, Gosewisch sold the property to George W. Bradley for \$2,000.<sup>4</sup> Bradley, a native of Tennessee, is believed to have lived on the property with his

---

<sup>2</sup>History of Lafayette County, Missouri (St. Louis: National Historical Company, 1881), pp. 628-629; Lafayette County Deed Records Book M, p. 50.

<sup>3</sup>Manuscript Census, Agriculture, Lafayette County, Missouri, 1850. In the census, Gosewisch's name is misspelled "Goshenwich."

<sup>4</sup>According to the 1881 Lafayette County history, Gosewisch lost most of his wealth during the Civil War. But he opened a drug store in Lexington in 1863 and, by 1875, is said to have rebuilt his fortune.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 5

Gosewisch, Theodore, House  
Lafayette County, MO

Antebellum Resources of Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline Counties, MPS

---

family from approximately 1852-56. The Bradleys apparently left Missouri in about 1858, beset by creditors. Before leaving, Bradley mortgaged the property to three different individuals, the first of which was Gosewisch for the same amount that he originally paid, \$2,000. Fidelio Sharp, a Lexington attorney who held one of the mortgages, apparently purchased the property at a public sale on the steps of the Lexington Courthouse in 1858. Sharp then sold the 80 acre tract to Matthew W. Flournoy, in 1859.<sup>5</sup>

Flournoy, a Kentuckian who previously operated a fairly large hemp plantation in Washington Township, apparently planned to live out his years on the farm. At the time of purchase he was 64 and lived alone, but retained a slave family consisting of two adults and five children. According to the 1860 census, the Flournoy farm was then barely functioning. Not enough crops had been produced that year to report and Flournoy owned few animals--one horse, a cow and two mules. Flournoy died in the 1870s, and the property was sold again in 1877. Subsequent owners include Guseppe Roncelli in the early 1900s.<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup>Deed records, and Bradley family history compiled by Gerald S. Bradley of Livermore, California, titled "The George W. Bradley Family of Missouri." (Unpublished).

<sup>6</sup>Manuscript Census, Population, Agriculture, and Slave Schedules, Lafayette County, Missouri, 1850 and 1860; deed records.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 9.10 Page 6

Gosewisch, Theodore, House  
Lafayette County, MO

Antebellum Resources of Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline Counties, MPS

History of Lafayette County, Missouri (St. Louis: National Historical Company, 1881).

Missouri Historic Inventory Survey Form No. 75, "Fuenfhausen Residence/Gosewisch/Flournoy/Roncelli House." Lafayette County Survey, December 1988. Copy in Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, MO. (Note: Unfortunately, this form confuses Matthew W. Flournoy with Dr. Mathias W. Flournoy. Dr. Flournoy was a son of Gideon Flournoy, and possibly was a nephew of Matthew W. Flournoy.)

(For additional bibliographic information, see MPA cover document "Antebellum Resources of Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline Counties, Missouri").

Verbal Boundary Description:

That portion of parcel 47, Ownership Map 041-10-2-4, prepared under the direction of the State Tax Commission of Missouri and Lafayette County Tax Assessor, which lies south of U. S. Highway 24. The boundary contains approximately eight acres.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the eight acre portion of the seventy-one acre parcel that encompasses the Gosewisch House; a former privy and a storage shed of indeterminate age are also included within the boundary, but both are not significant in size or scale, are not related to the area or period of significance, and are not included in the resource count. The remaining sixty-three acres, which lie north of U.S. Highway 24, have been excluded from the boundary because of the physical and visual separation of that portion of the farmstead from the area adjacent to the house and because the land has been converted to modern practices of cultivation and is no longer associated with the period or area of significance of the Gosewisch House. At its greatest extent, the farmstead may not have exceeded eighty acres.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section photographs Page 7

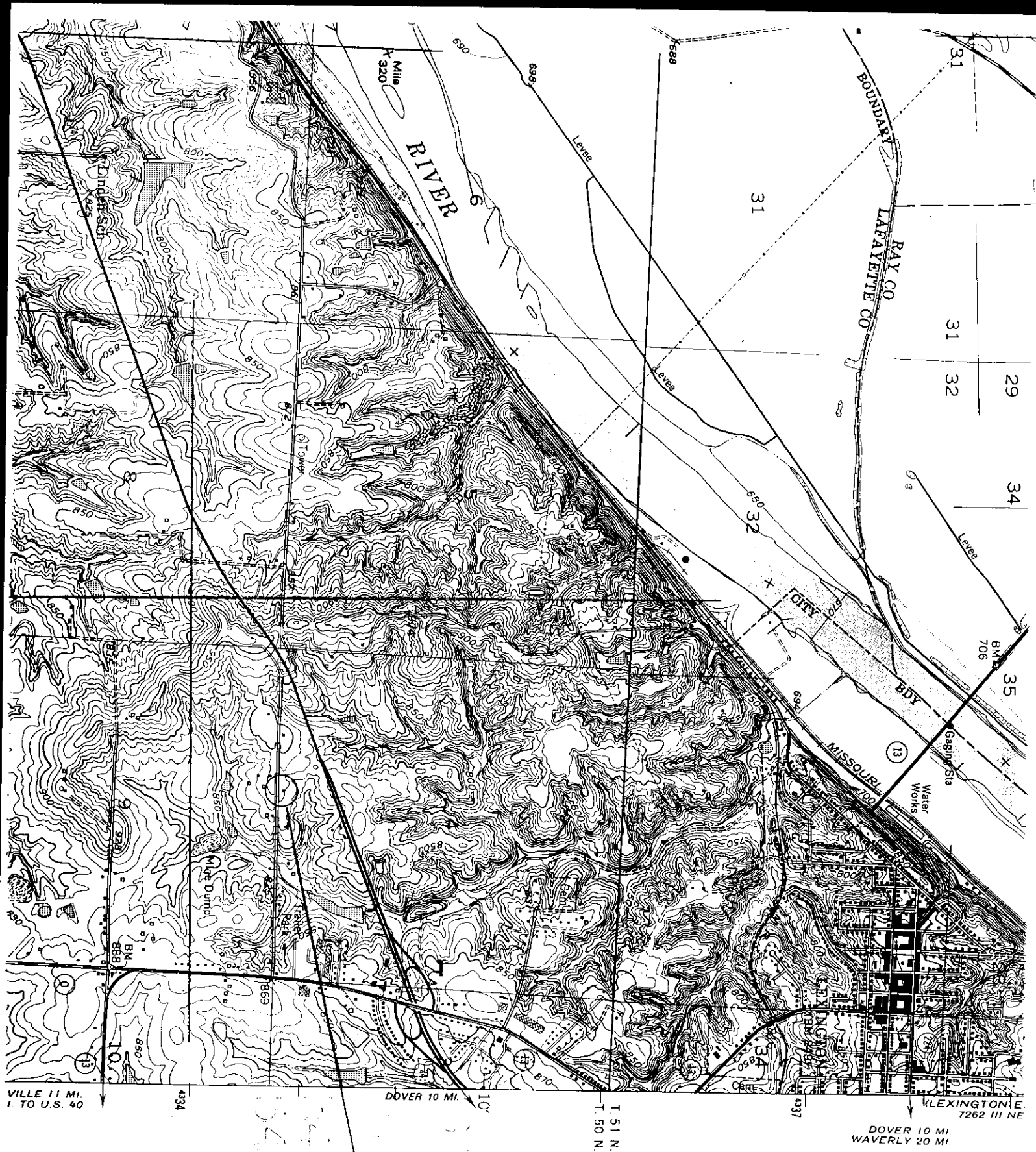
Gosewisch, Theodore, House  
Lafayette County, MO

Antebellum Resources of Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline Counties, MPS

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Gosewisch, Theodore, House  
Lexington vicinity, Lafayette County, Missouri  
Photographer: Roger Maserang  
Negative location: Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Historic Preservation Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| #1: View from south<br>March 1996                                       | #12: Upstairs west bedroom in ell, facing west<br>March 1996            |
| #2: View from west<br>March 1996  | #13: Mantel detail in west bedroom, facing west<br>March 1996           |
| #3: View from east<br>March 1996  | #14: Upstairs room at north end of ell, facing north<br>March 1996      |
| #4: View from northeast<br>March 1996                                   | #15: View of stairway to attic, from second floor landing<br>March 1996 |
| #5: View from north<br>March 1996                                       |   |
| #6: Detail of porch, view from east<br>March 1996                       |   |
| #7: Detail of entrance, facing north<br>March 1996                      |   |
| #8: View of staircase in central hallway, facing<br>north<br>March 1996 |   |
| #9: View of central hallway facing south<br>March 1996                  |   |
| #10: East parlor, facing east<br>March 1996                             |   |
| #11: West parlor (dining room), facing south<br>March 1996              |   |



GOSEWISCH, THEODORE, HOUSE  
 LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MO  
 15/422950/4334455



