

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Harris House

AND/OR COMMON

Harris House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

705 West Sixth Street

CITY, TOWN

Sedalia

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#4 - Hon. Ike Skelton

STATE

Missouri

CODE

29

COUNTY

Pettis

CODE

159

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dr. Robert W. and Lorrie A. Vito

STREET & NUMBER

705 West Sixth Street

CITY, TOWN

Sedalia

VICINITY OF

Missouri

STATE

65301

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds, Pettis County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Sedalia

Missouri

STATE

65301

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Missouri State Historical Survey

DATE

1979

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDSOffice of Historic Preservation
Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176

CITY, TOWN

Jefferson City

Missouri

STATE

65102

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

___EXCELLENT

X GOOD

___FAIR

___DETERIORATED

___RUINS

___UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

X UNALTERED

___ALTERED

CHECK ONE

X ORIGINAL SITE

___MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Harris House, 705 West Sixth Street, Sedalia, Missouri, is a three-story, red brick residence with full basement. An exuberant version of the Queen Anne style, it features a two-story tower, turreted oriel, sweeping veranda and porte cochere and is accompanied by a separate carriage house at the rear. Abounding in contrasting materials, textures and colors on the exterior, the house has a richly appointed interior highlighted by oak, cherry, maple and bird's-eye maple woodwork. Located on a triple corner lot in a quiet, residential area, the house stands out in the neighborhood as one of the only buildings surviving in original condition.

EXTERIOR

Overall dimensions of the house, excluding the veranda, are approximately 39' east-west by 59' north-south. It is constructed of red pressed brick, laid in running bond on a raised foundation of rock-faced, coursed ashlar limestone. Sawn stone, painted white, is employed for the water table capping the foundation and for the lintels and lugsills of most windows. Buff brick creates a frieze below the main cornice and the lintels of second story windows (except those of the primary facade). Wood painted white forms the boxed cornice with dentate band, as well as elements of the various porches and balconies. A lively surface treatment is obtained by the use of contrasting materials for decorative details, including stamped and cast metal, painted dark red or white; natural color, glazed terra cotta shingles; slate shingles, painted dark red; rock-faced, curved and moulded brick; and carved stone, painted white. The house is covered by a steeply-pitched, hip roof which bursts into gabled, pent, polygonal and hipped roofs over the many bays, porches and balconies. All roofs are covered with bluish-grey slate tiles.

The primary facade of the house, which faces north, is approached by a two-tiered flight of stone steps. A columned veranda spans the main facade and wraps around the northeast corner. At the top of the steps, the entryway is framed by an elliptical brick arch supported by two squat stone columns with depressed foliate capitals. Above the arch, the brick rises in a triangular parapet which is accentuated with stone copings and carved stone corner blocks.

From the northwest corner of the main facade springs a turret clad in fish scale shingles of natural color, glazed terra cotta. The turret emerges from a shell-like metal base, rising one story to peak in a bell-cast, conical roof with metal finial. Two curved, double-hung windows fenestrate the turret; bands of metal with rinceau designs in relief underscore the windows and fill the transoms.

On the opposite corner a two-story tower rises above the roof of the veranda. Its first story is round in plan and clad with rock-faced brick. Above its windows a wide band of metal curves out concavely to support an encircling balcony. The second story is slightly recessed and octagonal in shape. It is faced with slate shingles, painted red, and topped by a metal band with raised rinceau motif. An onion-shaped dome capped by a metal finial completes the tower.

The west facade of the house is marked by a hip-roofed porte cochere. Elliptical arches span the openings and decorative metal panels fill the spandrels and side panels. Beneath the porte cochere, a flight of steps trimmed with a simple balustrade approaches a side

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entrance. A gable-roofed bay extends west, beyond the porte cochere; beyond that a pent-roofed porch, partially enclosed, provides rear access. The wooden latticework which forms a decorative screen for that porch once formed a matching fence which extended across the rear half of the property.

The east facade of the house is defined by a central, polygonal bay highlighted by a massive end chimney. A white-painted stone inlay in the shape of an "A" emblazons the chimney below the cornice line.

Five massive brick chimneys lend further interest to the lively roofline of the house. All are embellished with inset panels and capped by projecting horizontal courses. As evident in an early photograph, the chimneys were once taller, with flaring, corbelled caps.

INTERIOR

The interior of the Harris House remains in very good condition, with its original layout and fabric surviving well intact. Salient decorative features include the woodwork, with a different wood highlighting each of the main first floor rooms; the intricately patterned parquet floors; the ornate wooden chimneypieces which dominate each of the major first floor rooms; the canvass-covered walls with hand-painted designs; and the stained glass windows. Decorative detail is also evident on the more functional items, such as gas jets, brass radiator covers, silverplated cabinet and door hardware, and bathroom fixtures. The interior is further highlighted by a varied and elegant collection of gas/electric ceiling fixtures and wall sconces, which range from simple, custard glass globes to a silver-toned chandelier with seven hanging art glass shades signed Quezal. One of the more unusual features of the house, located in the basement, is a large gas clothes dryer, patented 1894.

CARRIAGE HOUSE

Located at the rear of the property, to the south of the main house, is a rectangular brick carriage house. The two-story, hip-roofed structure is constructed of brick laid in common bond and capped by a louvered cupola. A stone-capped parapet dormer marks the south side of the structure. As shown in an early photograph, the north side originally echoed the south, with a similar parapet gable. A broad, segmental-arched opening ran crosswise (north-south) through the structure. Alterations made to convert the carriage house into a garage extended the east end of the roof of the north facade, eliminating that passageway.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PRE-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) local historical significance	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1895

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Harris House, 705 West Sixth Street, Sedalia, Missouri, is significant as an exceptional example of Queen Anne architecture in the Pettis-Benton County area and as a building surviving in virtually unaltered condition. The house has long enjoyed a prominent place in the forefront of Sedalia society, both as the city's preeminent Victorian landmark and as the residence of Henry Wilson Harris (1848-1923), one of Central Missouri's most prosperous and respected businessmen.

The house was built in 1895 for Joseph Imhauser, a local entrepreneur. Imhauser, who was born in the German settlement at Cole Camp in Benton County, operated a successful business, in partnership with J.D. Franklin, as a mail contractor in Sedalia. Imhauser occupied his splendid Queen Anne residence for less than three years, before selling it and some of its furnishings to Henry W. Harris in 1898.¹ The house remained in the hands of the Harris family until 1977, when it was purchased by Dr. Robert W. and Lorrie A. Vit from the estate of Miss Maurine Harris, daughter of Henry W. Harris.

Henry Wilson Harris was born in Sherburn, Kentucky, on July 24, 1848, the son of Dr. Nathaniel Wilson Harris and Amanda (Richardson) Harris. In 1856 Dr. Harris moved his family westward, settling in Linneus, Linn County, in north central Missouri. Later, upon the completion of the Hannibal-St. Joseph railroad line, he moved to an area about six miles south and founded the town of Laclede. When the turbulent years surrounding the Civil War made life in Laclede difficult for southerners, Harris moved his family to Boonville, in Cooper County.²

Henry was enrolled at the Kemper Academy, now known as the Kemper Military Academy, in Boonville, graduating in 1869. His father had retired to a farm in Pilot Grove, and Henry embarked on a career in the mercantile and grain trade in Pilot Grove.³ He operated that business successfully for twenty-four years, gaining a reputation throughout the county as one of the area's wealthiest and most enterprising businessmen.⁴ By 1893 Harris had dissolved that business, and by 1895 he had moved to Sedalia with his wife Leona (Boggs) Harris, whom he had married in 1875.⁵

The Harrises lived first in a house at 415 West Broadway before purchasing the home at 705 West Sixth from Imhauser in 1898. Harris assumed the position of Director of the Missouri Trust Company of Sedalia. When that company moved its headquarters to St. Louis, he became Vice-President of the Sedalia branch. By 1902 he had been appointed President of the Third National Bank of Sedalia, a post which he held for about twenty years. Following his retirement from that position, he became the Chairman of the Board of Directors of that bank, serving in that capacity until his sudden death on December 1, 1923.⁶ Harris was the first of three generations of Harrises to serve as President of the Third National Bank of Sedalia. He was succeeded by his son Henry R. Harris, and his grandson Henry W. Harris presently serves in that position.⁷

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The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." Therefore, the Harris House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the theme of "Architecture."

FOOTNOTES

1. Hazel N. Lang, Life in Pettis County 1815-1973 (Sedalia, Mo.: The Sedalia Democrat Company, 1975), pp. 778-79.
2. Walter B. Stevens, ed., Centennial History of Missouri, v. IV (St. Louis: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1921), p. 854.
3. Ibid.
4. Biographical sketch of Henry W. Harris, taken from unknown newspaper, ca. 1884. Scrapbook of Leona Boggs Harris, begun 1875 (In possession of Mrs. Tom Harris, Kirkwood, Mo.).
5. Stevens, Centennial History of Missouri, pp. 854, 857.
6. "Henry W. Harris Died Suddenly at Home Here," Sedalia Democrat, December 2, 1923.
7. Lang, Life in Pettis County, p. 778.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Cain, Dee. "Citizens Hope to Preserve Homes," Sedalia Democrat, November 12, 1978.
2. "Henry W. Harris Died Suddenly at Home Here," Sedalia Democrat, December 2, 1923.
3. Howard and Cooper Counties, Missouri. St. Louis: National Historical Company, 1883.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

QUADRANGLE NAME "Sedalia East, Mo."

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 479560 4283980

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 5, 6 and 7 in Harrison Place, an addition to the City of Sedalia, Missouri.

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

1. Claire F. Blackwell, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Natural Resources

DATE

April 11, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 176

TELEPHONE

314/751-4096

CITY OR TOWN

Jefferson City

STATE

Missouri 65102

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Director, Department of Natural Resources and
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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4. Imhauser, Phillip. Interview with Lorrie Vit, December 1978.
5. Lang, Hazel N. Life in Pettis County 1815-1973. Sedalia, Mo.: The Sedalia Democrat Company, 1975.
6. Melton, E.J. History of Cooper County, Missouri. 1937
7. "Reception at the H.W. Harris Home," Sedalia Democrat, January 3, 1900.
8. Scrapbook of Leona Boggs Harris, begun 1875. In possession of Mrs. Tom Harris Yount, Kirkwood, Mo.
9. Sedalia Democrat, December 14, 1936.
10. _____, December 16, 1936.
11. _____, January 4, 1937.
12. Stevens, Walter B., ed. Centennial History of Missouri. Vol. IV. St. Louis: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1921.
13. Yount, Mrs. Tom Harris. Interview with Lorrie Vit, October and November, 1978.

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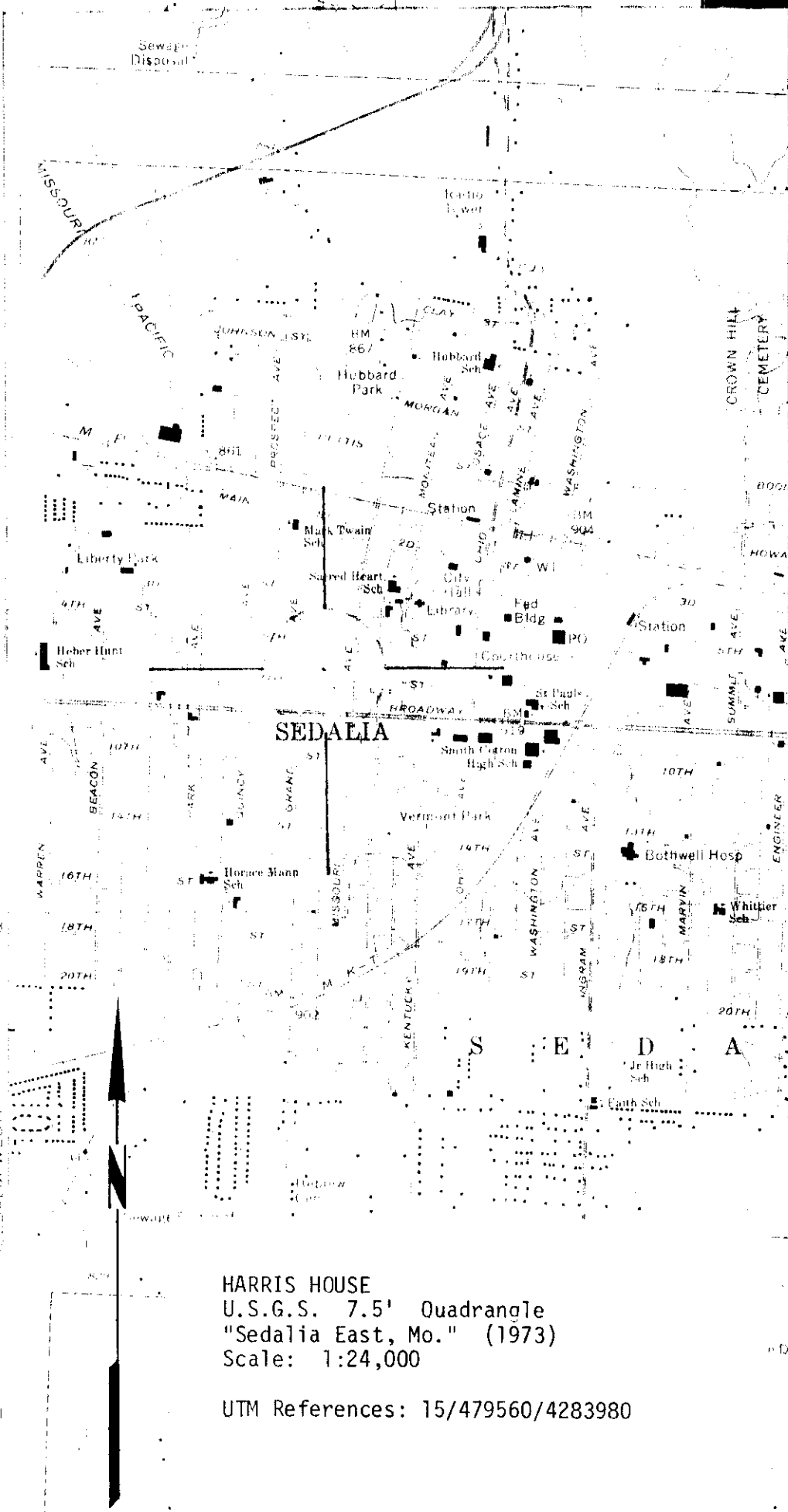
2. Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. Vit
705 West Sixth Street
Sedalia

January 15, 1979
816-826-3756
Missouri 65301

42°30"

736111 NE
SEDALIA WEST

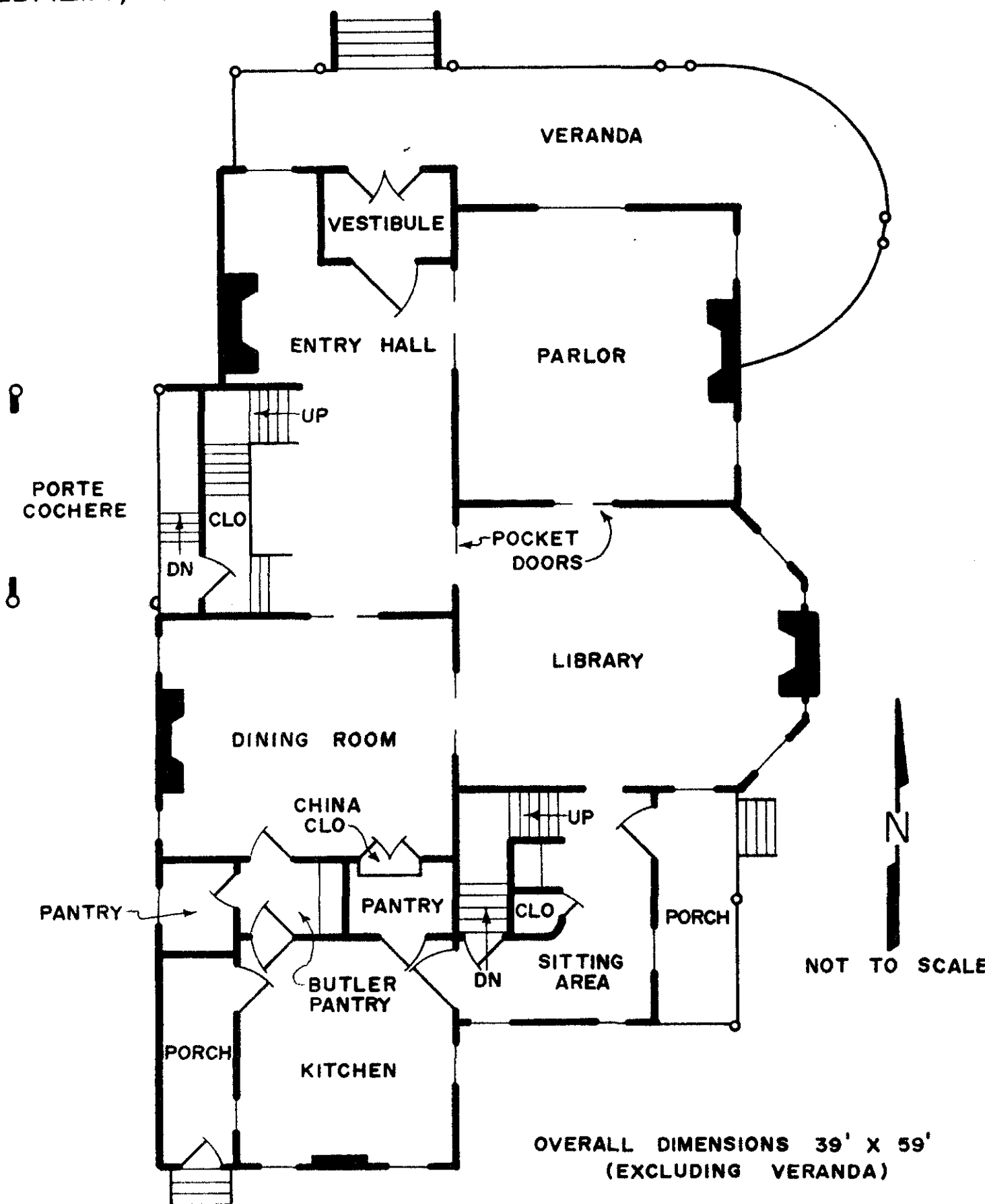
31



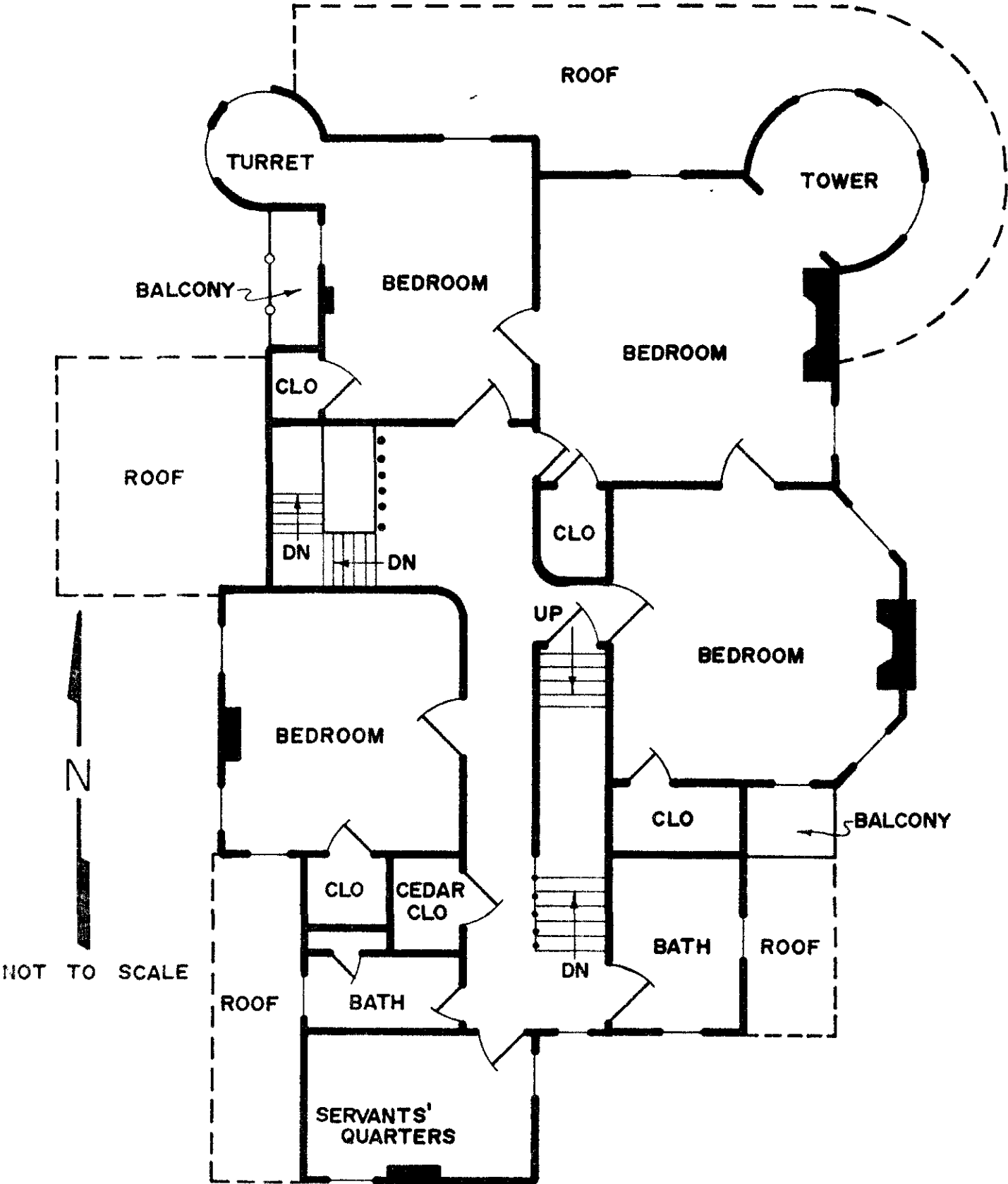
HARRIS HOUSE
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle
"Sedalia East, Mo." (1973)
Scale: 1:24,000

UTM References: 15/479560/4283980

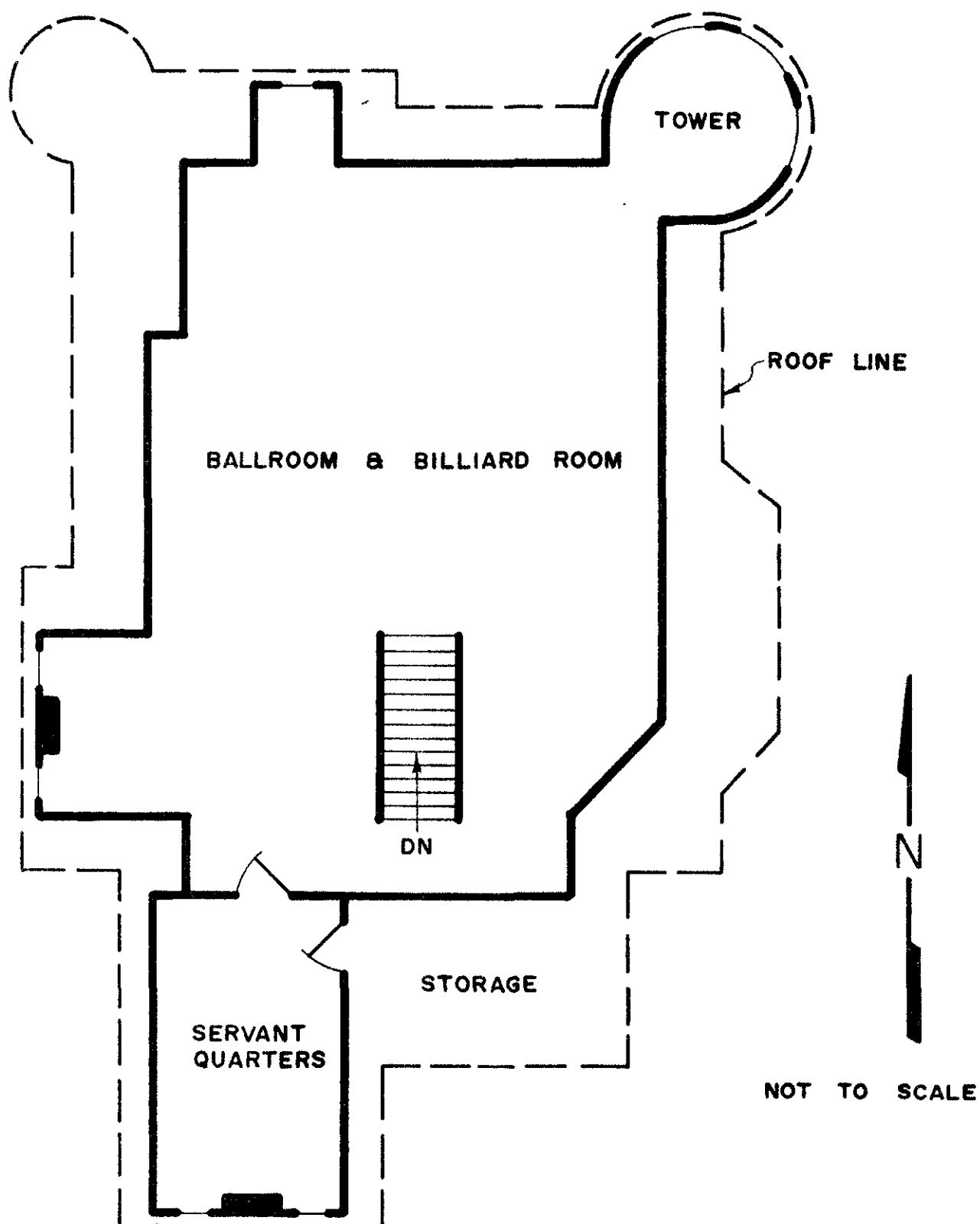
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
HARRIS HOUSE
SEDALIA, MISSOURI



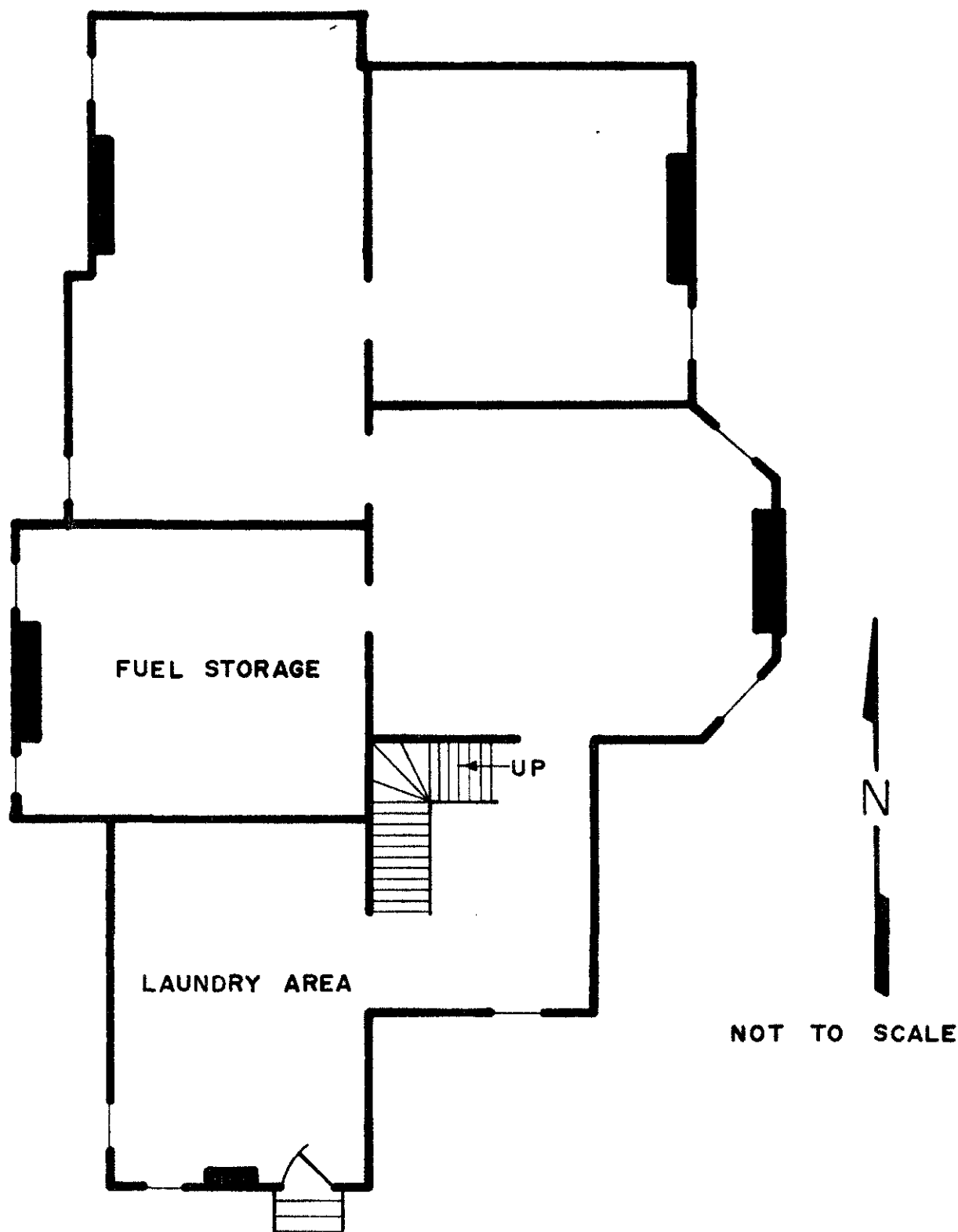
SECOND FLOOR PLAN
HARRIS HOUSE
SEDALIA, MISSOURI



THIRD FLOOR PLAN
HARRIS HOUSE
SEDALIA, MISSOURI



BASEMENT PLAN
HARRIS HOUSE
SEDALIA, MISSOURI



HARRIS HOUSE

#383

COUNTY:	Pettis
LOCATION:	Sedalia
OWNER: ADDRESS:	Dr. Robert W. & Lorrie A. Vit 705 West Sixth Street Sedalia, Mo.
DATE APPROVED BY A.C.:	April 27, 1979
DATE SENT TO D.C.:	May 23, 1979
DATE OF REC. BY D.C.:	May 29, 1979
DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER:	July 10, 1979
DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED (AND PRESENTOR):	
DATE FILE REVIEWED:	

The Harris House, 705 West Sixth Street, Sedalia, Missouri, is significant as an exceptional example of Queen Anne architecture in the Pettis-Benton County area and as a building surviving in virtually unaltered condition. The house has long enjoyed a prominent place in the forefront of Sedalia society, both as the city's preeminent Victorian landmark and as the residence of Henry Wilson Harris (1843-1923), one of Central Missouri's most prosperous and respected businessmen.

#1

HARRIS HOUSE

Sedalia, Missouri

Photographer: C.F. Blackwell

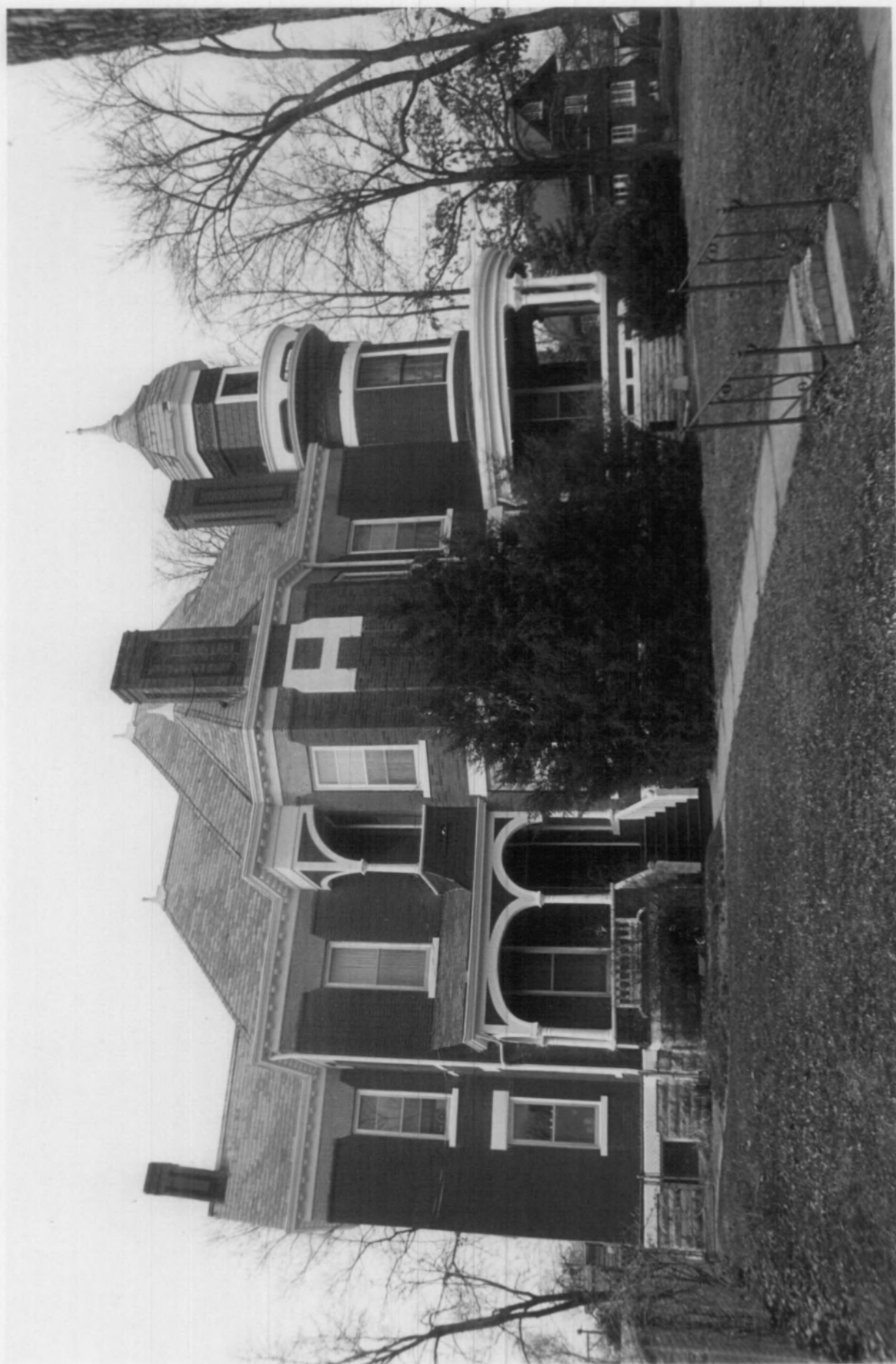
March 1979

Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources,
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

View from northeast.



HARRIS HOUSE
Sedalia, Missouri
Photographer: C.F. Blackwell
March 1979
Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources,
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102
View from southeast.



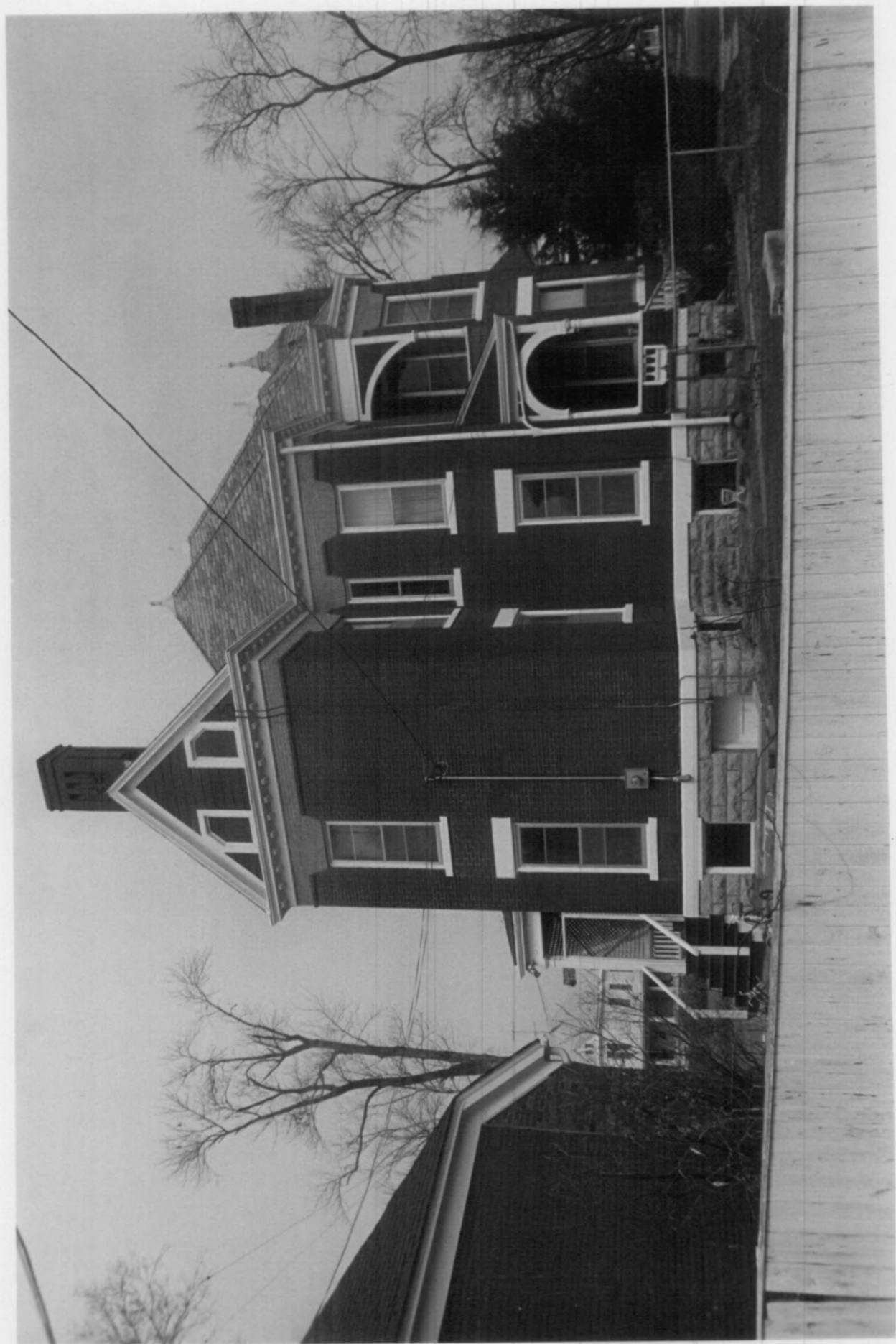
HARRIS HOUSE #3

Sedalia, Missouri

Photographer: C.F. Blackwell
March 1979

Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources,
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

South facade, view from southeast.



HARRIS HOUSE
Sedalia, Missouri
Photographer: C.F. Blackwell
Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

#4

West facade, view from northwest.



#5

HARRIS HOUSE
Sedalia, Missouri
Photographer: Dr. Robert Vit
November 1978
Neg. Loc.: c/o Dr. Robert Vit
705 West Sixth St.
Sedalia, Mo. 65301

Primary facade, view from northwest.



HARRIS HOUSE

#6

Sedalia, Missouri

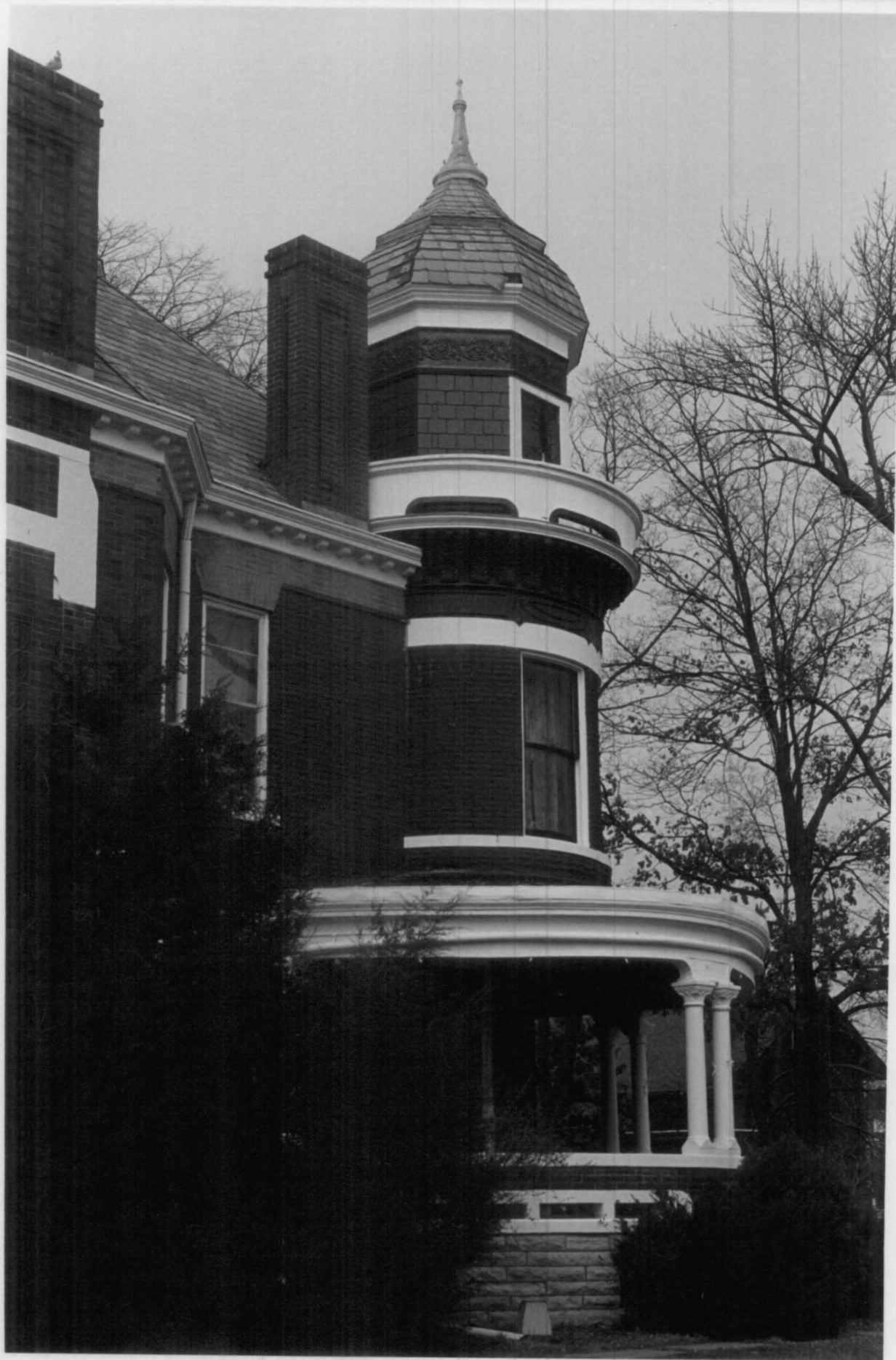
Photographer: C.F. Blackwell

March 1979

Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources,

P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

View from southeast, showing two-story
tower.



HARRIS HOUSE

#7

Sedalia, Missouri

Photographer: C.F. Blackwell

March 1979

Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources,

P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

View from west. Detail of west facade,
showing turret.



HARRIS HOUSE

#8

Sedalia, Missouri

Photographer: Dr. Robert Vit
November 1978

Neg. Loc.: c/o Dr. Robert Vit
705 West Sixth St.
Sedalia, Missouri 65301

Detail of entry hall, looking south, with
fireplace in right foreground and main
staircase beyond.



HARRIS HOUSE

#9

Sedalia, Missouri

Photographer: Dr. Robert Vit

November 1978

Neg. Loc.: c/o Dr. Robert Vit

705 West Sixth Street

Sedalia, Missouri 65301

Detail of cherry mantelpiece on east wall
of library.



HARRIS HOUSE
Sedalia, Missouri

#10

Photographer: Dr. Robert Vit
November 1978

Neg. Loc.: c/o Dr. Robert Vit
705 West Sixth Street
Sedalia, Mo. 65301

View of gas clothes dryer, patented 1894,
located in laundry room of basement.



HARRIS HOUSE #11
Sedalia, Missouri
Photographer: C.F. Blackwell
March 1979
Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources,
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102
Carriage house, view from north.

