

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name House at 1413 Lafayette Street

other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 1413 Lafayette Street [n/a] not for publication

city or town Lexington [n/a] 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
 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 [])

Signature of certifying official/Title *Claire F. Blackwell* 18 Feb. 99
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)	0	0	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	0	0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0	objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	0	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

Historic Resources of Lexington (Partial Inventory: Historic and Architectural Resources)

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions
Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
Greek Revival

Materials
foundation brick
walls brick
roof asphalt
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

Periods of Significance

circa 1840

Significant Dates

n/a

Significant Person(s)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (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: _____
-

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	424220	4337670			
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 see continuation sheet

organization _____ date _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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 Ralph Oliva

street & number P.O. Box 410101 telephone _____

city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64141

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

House at 1413 Lafayette Street
Lafayette County, MO

Summary: The house at 1413 Lafayette Street, Lexington, Missouri, is an example of the Greek Revival Buildings property type (see amended "Historic Resources of Lexington, Missouri [Partial Inventory: Historic and Architectural Properties], Associated Property Types: Greek Revival Buildings"). The house is a one and one-half story, side-passage, Greek Revival I-house built circa 1840 of locally fired bricks. The house features an impressive entry with transom and sidelights, a parapet gable roof, and segmental arched windows on the rear wing. Despite some deterioration due to neglect, the house retains substantial integrity of design, materials, and workmanship (see registration requirements for Greek Revival Buildings).

Narrative: The house at 1413 Lafayette, Lexington, Missouri, is a one and one-half story, side passage, Greek Revival I-house built circa 1840. The house is made of locally fired bricks, and sits on a brick foundation. There were several brickworks in ante-bellum Lexington, and bricks were frequently used for both walls and foundations.¹ The walls of the main block are approximately 14 inches thick, and the walls of the rear ell are approximately 8 inches thick. The north facade of the house is approximately 24 feet wide and 14 feet high. A concrete slab extends across the width of the house, suggesting the former presence of a porch extending across the front of the house. A semi-circular step rises from the concrete slab porch to the front door. The parapet roof has a parapet chimney on the west side of the house. "Historic Resources of Lexington" notes that several Greek Revival buildings in Lexington use parapet chimneys.²

The three-bay facade features two 6 over 6 windows, each 3 feet 4 inches tall and 3 feet 2 inches wide, with pine sills and lintels. The use of small 6 over 6 windows is common in Greek Revival architecture.³ A band of projecting bricks simulates a cornice, providing a simple, vernacular use of a Greek Revival characteristic. Another indication of the simplicity of the vernacular architecture is the absence of the small, frieze band windows, cited by McAlester as frequent in Greek Revival houses.⁴ The most striking feature of the north facade is the impressive paneled entry door with transom and side lights. The entry is recessed approximately one foot from the outer edge of the wall, a feature considered as typical of the Greek Revival style and said to create a "complex three-dimensional effect."⁵ The entry is 5 feet 9 inches wide. The sidelights are 6 inches by 12 inches. There are three panes vertically on each side, above a panel 14 ½ by 6 inches. The lintel is 6 " high. The transom is 20 " high, including its frame, and is divided into several panes of various sizes. The three center panes are 12 inches wide, on either side of the three center panes is a 4 ½ inch wide pane, and at each end of the transom is an 8 ½ inch wide pane. The panes are 10 inches tall. The elaborate entry is also typical of Greek Revival style, suggesting hospitality to visitors as well as revealing the status of its owners.

¹"Historic Resources of Lexington", 15.

²"Historic Resources of Lexington", 8.

³McAlester, 182.

⁴McAlester, 182.

⁵McAlester, 180.

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Section 7 Page 2

House at 1413 Lafayette Street
Lafayette County, MO

The side hall is 7 feet by 10 feet. A stairway to the upstairs is located on the east, a door to the parlor on the west, and a door to the rear wing of the house on the south. The stairway is of pine and was at some point in the past painted. The newel posts are walnut. The balustrade and balusters have been removed. The stairs are 3 feet wide, with 8 inch risers and 12 inch treads. Nine steps rise to a landing the width of the hall, and three steps rise from the landing to the second floor. On the first floor, a closet is under the stairs.

The walls of the house are plastered, though much of the plaster has fallen off. Exterior walls have plaster directly on the brick and interior partitions have plaster on wood lathe.

The parlor is inaccessible, as its door is locked from the inside. The parlor has a fireplace on the west wall, confirmed by the presence of a parapet chimney and a flue opening on the west wall of the chamber above the parlor. The parlor has two windows on the north facade, and one window, now boarded over, on the west facade south of the fireplace.

The chamber above the parlor is slightly over 14 feet by 13 feet. The central section of this chamber is almost 7 feet tall; the chamber is under the eaves and the eave walls are almost 5 feet tall. A 4'5" wide flue extends from the fireplace below through the upstairs room. On either side of the flue are six over six windows approximately 3 feet wide by 4 ½ feet tall. The chamber under the eaves is typical of one and one-half story house.

The rear ell of the house is almost 13 feet wide and approximately 27 feet long and 12 feet high. The back wall of the house has collapsed, and the floor has deteriorated, making an exact measurement difficult. The ell consists of two rooms. One is approximately thirteen feet by fifteen feet (these are exterior measurements, as this room is also inaccessible). The walls of this portion of the house are 8 1/2 inches thick. This room has one window on the west facade and a window, now bricked in, on the east facade. The south room of the ell is approximately 13 feet by 9 feet. The back wall and part of the side walls of the house have collapsed, leaving the floor exposed and damaged and the cellar under this portion of the house exposed..

The rear ell at one time had a porch on its east facade. Flashing visible on the main block of the house shows that a shed roof of the porch extended even with the east side of the main block. Each of the rooms of the ell had a door opening onto this porch. The window and door openings had segmental arch openings, the arches formed with ends of the bricks. Segmental arched windows and doors were in the 1840s typical of German construction, and may reflect the German influence provided by Lexington's large German community.⁶

The house at 1413 Lafayette sits on a hill, with steps rising from the sidewalk to the front yard. This elevation makes the house look impressive, and accentuates the ambience of the elaborate entryway. The house is in poor condition; much of the plaster in the landing and upper chamber has fallen away, revealing the bricks of the exterior walls. The rear wall of the house has collapsed. However, the main

⁶"Historic Resources of Lexington", 14; Marian M. Ohman, Twenty Towns: Their Histories, Town Plans, and Architecture (Columbia: University of Missouri, 1985):50; History of Lafayette County, Missouri (St. Louis: National Historical Company, 1881): 436-351 passim.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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**House at 1413 Lafayette Street
Lafayette County, MO**

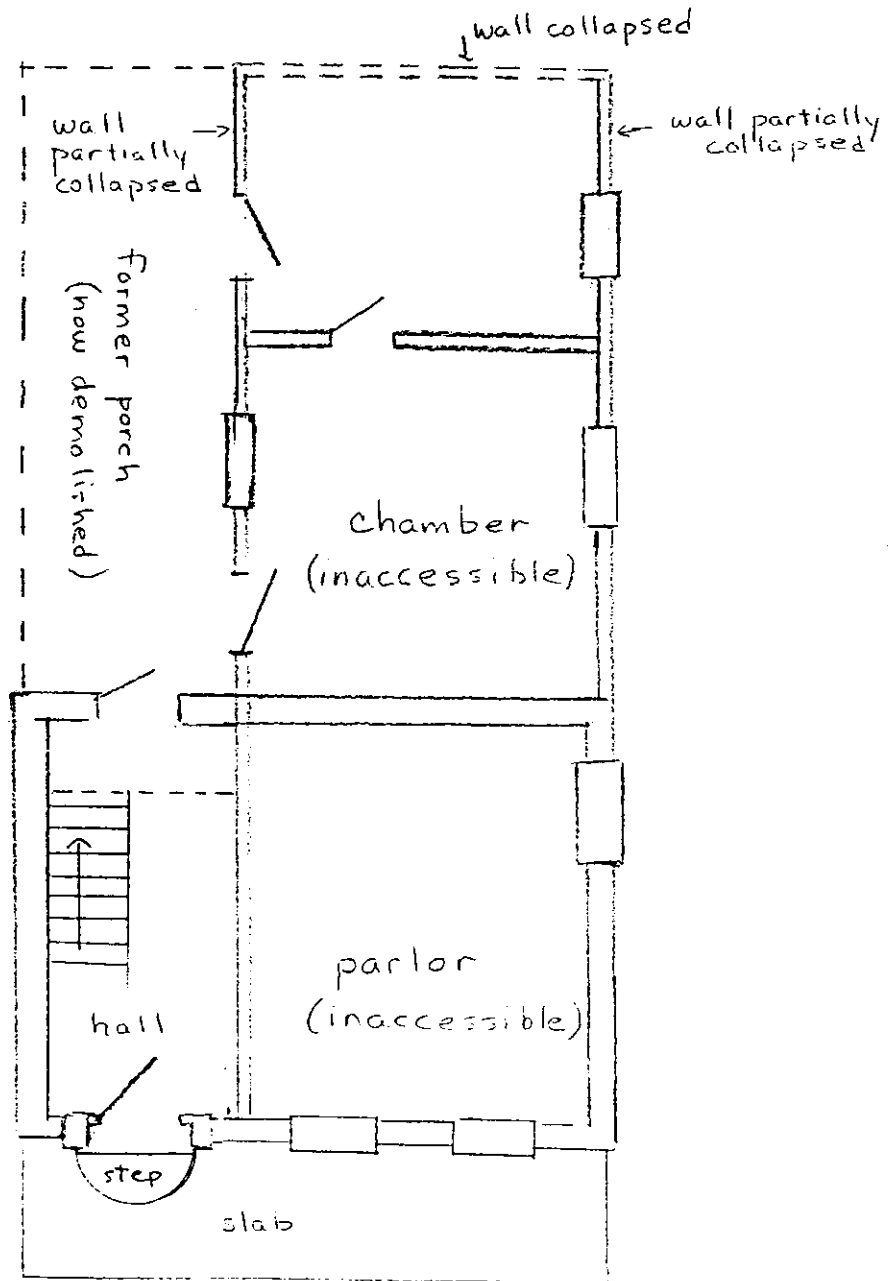
block of the house appears to be sound. Furthermore, little has been done to the house; the house has a limited amount of knob and wire electrical wiring, but has no indoor plumbing. As a result of the lack of previous remodeling, much of the original fabric of the building, including the entryway, porcelain doorknobs, and oxidized metal hinges, remains.

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**House at 1413 Lafayette Street
Lafayette County, MO**



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5

House at 1413 Lafayette Street
Lafayette County, MO

Summary: The house at 1413 Lafayette Street in Lexington, Lafayette County, is significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an excellent example of the use of Greek Revival style in a small vernacular dwelling. Built circa 1840 (see "Historic Resources of Lexington, Missouri (Partial Inventory: Historic and Architectural Properties), [Amendment,] "Western Outfitting in Lexington, 1820s-1860s"), this house exemplifies the Greek Revival Buildings property type (see "Historic Resources of Lexington, Missouri (Partial Inventory: Historic and Architectural Properties), [Amendment,] Associated Property Types: Greek Revival Buildings"). The house, a four-room dwelling in a less affluent section of town, may have also been a statement of respectability by the owner and suggested that the lower middle classes also used the Greek Revival style as a way of establishing their respectability in the community. An example of the side passage form which was relatively common in the Missouri River town, the house's most outstanding feature is an elaborate entryway typical of Greek Revival style. The house also uses design elements such as segmental arch windows, possibly a reflection of the impact Lexington's German community had on the development of the Lafayette County community (see "German Immigration in Lexington, 1840s-1900"). The building retains significant integrity. The house was included as a contributing building to the Old Neighborhoods Historic District in Lexington.

Narrative: The house at 1413 Lafayette, Lexington, Missouri, is an excellent example of Greek Revival architecture in a small vernacular building. The house apparently was built in the 1840s, some twenty years after the town of Lexington had been established, and during the period of Lexington's most rapid growth.

The house at 1413 Lafayette is a one and one-half story, side passage, Greek Revival I-house built circa 1848. "Historic Resources of Lexington" notes that the side-passage I-house, typically with three bays in the primary elevation, was a common house type in Lexington in the ante-bellum period. The ell may orient itself to the main block of the house on either a left-hand, center, or right-hand configuration.⁷ The house at 1413 Lafayette is a right-hand ell. According to McAlester, the Greek Revival style is characterized by a low-pitched, gabled roof, a decorative cornice or frieze band, and an elaborate door surround marked by a door topped by a rectangular transom and flanked by side lights.

The Greek Revival style was most popular between 1830 and 1850, and seems to have followed settlement patterns as settlers moved into Missouri from Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky.⁸ Russell Gerlach notes that most of the early settlers in Lafayette County were from Kentucky and Virginia.⁹ These southern settlers favored the Greek Revival style, and often attempted to "recreate in [their] new environment...with a pathetic wistfulness and crudity... old remembered forms."¹⁰ The house at 1413 Lafayette is a good example of the vernacular use of the Greek Revival style, having many of the characteristics of Greek Revival styling in a simpler form.

⁷"Historic Resources of Lexington", 23.

⁸Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Knopf, 1984):179.

⁹Russell Gerlach, Settlement Patterns in Missouri: A Study of Population Origins (Columbia: University of Missouri, 1986): 63.

¹⁰Talbot Faulkner Hamlin, The American Spirit in Architecture (New Haven: Yale, 1926), 140.

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Section 8 Page 6

House at 1413 Lafayette Street
Lafayette County, MO

Lexington, located on the Missouri River in Lafayette County, was settled in the early 1800s when a settlement grew up around a ferry operated by William Jack crossed the Missouri River and linked the river to a rough road from Fort Osage. The original town of Lexington, which came to be called Old Town, was platted in 1822 and a court house built in 1825. The original court house had to be replaced in 1835 due to poor construction. As settlement to the west increased, the river became a more important route of transportation and trade. Lexington's period of greatest growth was between 1820 and 1860. (For additional discussion of Lexington's period of growth, see "Historic Resources of Lexington, Missouri: Western Outfitting in Lexington: 1820-1860"). The business district began to spread from Old Town west toward the river, and in 1836, the First Addition was platted; many of the lots in First Addition were owned by brothers George and William Houx. A third court house, still in use, was built in 1847 when the city square was moved to a location closer the business district that had grown up near the river. The next year, in 1848, William Houx platted an addition bordered by Walnut Street (now Fourteenth Street) on the east and Ash Street (now Seventeenth Street) on the west, and by Clinton Street on the north and an alley south of Lafayette Street on the south. The plat for Houx Addition was filed on March 6, 1848.

The early settlers in Lexington were primarily from the southern states of Kentucky and Virginia. These settlers brought their lifestyle, attitudes, and architecture to their new homes. The southern settlers built homes in the Greek Revival style; the architectural survey of the area, "Historic Resources of Lexington" acknowledges the Southern ambience which permeates the community.¹¹

Lexington also developed a sizable German community, with many of the Germans being manufacturers of saddles, furniture, shoes or merchants of dry goods. Among the German settlers were the Houx family. Many of the German settlers in Lexington traced their presence in the United States to the time of the Revolutionary War, according to Young's History of Lafayette County, and migrated into Missouri from Pennsylvania.¹² Other Germans came as part of a migration that followed reports by Gottfried Duden and others, praising the opportunities along the Missouri River area. Gerlach notes the presence of many settlers from Pennsylvania, as well as migrations from Germany, and the History of Lafayette County records the presence of German-Americans in the religious, social and business activities of the city.¹³ The segmental windows suggest the influence of German design, not surprising since Lexington had a large German community.

The Houx family had been in the Lafayette County area since the 1830s. According to Young's History of Lafayette County, the first school in the area was near John Houx' home, in 1818, Nicholas Houx built a tannery, and in the 1820s, George Houx operated a saddlery. William Houx was an charter member of the Lafayette Lodge, No. 32, A.F. and A.M., and served as the lodge's first steward and tyler.

William Houx filed a plat of Houx Addition in 1848, and lots began to sell. On March 20, 1848, William S. Field purchased Lot 2 of Block 3 and Lot 8 of Block 5 from William and Charlotte Houx for \$190. It is

¹¹"Historic Resources of Lexington",

¹²William Young, Young's History of Lafayette County (Indianapolis: Bowen, 1910): 483.

¹³Russell Gerlach, Settlement Patterns in Missouri (Columbia: University of Missouri, 1986),63; History of Lafayette County, 485-545 passim.

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House at 1413 Lafayette Street
Lafayette County, MO

possible that Field had this house built, for it is on the west half of lot 2; if so the house was built after 1848.

The terrain of Lexington shaped its development beyond the obvious benefits of a location on the river. Several deep ravines cut through the town; these are shown of the earliest Sanborn Insurance Maps made in 1885 and in a "bird's eye view" map made in the 1860s. The hills and ravines lead to the use of stone retaining walls (sometimes topped with cast iron fences made at the Morrison foundry) and raised basement dwellings set into the sides of hills. Other dwellings, such as the house at 1413 Lafayette, were built on hills above the street, necessitating a flight of steps from the sidewalk to the house, and giving even smaller homes a grand appearance.

Despite the grand appearance the site provided, the house at 1413 Lafayette was in a less than desirable section of Lexington, bordering on Goose Pond Hollow. The hollow is described in the Official Commemorative Book of the Lexington Sesquicentennial as "an unearthly tangle of thicket, undergrowth, and nondescript trees in a main hollow extending from Sixteenth Street west to nearly Thirteenth Street and then winding on down to the Missouri River bottoms. A number of side gullies fed into the main hollow, and in summertime were spawned amazing quantities of mosquitoes in stagnant pools of water."¹⁴ Although the area was graded and an athletic field and city park built in 1913, prior to that year the area was difficult to build on and unpleasant to live near.

The lots in Houx' Addition sold slowly, however, perhaps because of the hilly terrain and swampy conditions in the valleys, and perhaps because of the distance from either the center of Old Town or the business district along the river. Apparently the neighborhood was not considered to be important by the city authorities, for its streets were not paved until after 1927. The houses in the area built in the late nineteenth century are smaller, frame houses, perhaps residences for working class families. The steep hills may also have slowed the development of city amenities. Although the city had a public water service in 1884 and telephone service in 1898, the main streets of Lexington were paved in 1902.

The prosperity of Lexington before the Civil War is evident in several large Greek Revival houses, including the Waddell-Pomery house, the Waddell-Young house, the Russell house, and the Winkler House. These dwellings are large, with impressive detailing, befitting the well-to-do entrepreneurs who had them built (see photocopy from the Official Commemorative Book). However, Greek Revival style was also used by those not so well off. Not everyone in Lexington was well-to-do. In addition to the poor and the working class, the community had a number of lower middle class merchants and businessmen who were struggling to achieve the prosperity that hard work, according to the values of the day, should have entitled them.

In describing high style architecture, Wayne Andrews defines taste as "the record of the ambition which leads the architect to spend more time and energy than is reasonable, and the client, often but not always, to invest more money than common sense would dictate."¹⁵ A similar definition of taste may be applied to vernacular architecture: taste leads the builder to copy high style architecture in order to reveal that the

¹⁴Sesquicentennial Celebration Official Commemorative Book, Lexington, MO, 1972, 19.

¹⁵Wayne Andrews, Architecture, Ambition, and Americans (New York: Free Press, 1978), xxi.

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House at 1413 Lafayette Street
Lafayette County, MO

builder has the wealth and status to enable him to do so. In choosing the Greek Revival style, the lower middle class may have associated it with wealth and status; they may simply have taken comfort in a style that was familiar, or they may have chosen to adopt a popular style because that style was socially acceptable.

The home, seen as a refuge from the stresses of the work world, was a visible sign of one's prosperity or one's potential for prosperity. The house at 1413 Lafayette, sitting high above the street, with its imposing and elaborate entryway, would have been evidence to all that its owner was beginning to be able to move up in the world or at least wished to present this appearance. The substantial nature of the brick dwelling, even a small brick dwelling, would confirm the potential prosperity of its owner.

Little can be confirmed about the history of the house or its occupants. If Lexington did publish city directories in the nineteenth century, they cannot be found at public libraries in Lexington or Kansas City or at the State Historical Society of Missouri. The Sanborn Insurance Maps do not detail Houx Addition until the early twentieth century, and then only show the part of the addition east of Fifteenth Street. While it seems odd that a town so imbued with its heritage would have so little of its history recorded, it is possible that the smaller houses on Lafayette Street were not considered impressive enough or their owners prominent enough to warrant attention being paid to this house.

The portion of the Old Neighborhoods Historic District which includes the House at 1413 Lafayette Street has been severely impacted by the construction of a cellular tower. Four neighboring buildings--1415 (noncontributing), 1417, 1500, and 1502 Lafayette--have been demolished and the district boundaries at the west end of Lafayette Street are no longer relevant; as part of the mitigation for the construction of the cellular tower, a boundary decrease is being prepared and 1413 Lafayette is nominated individually.

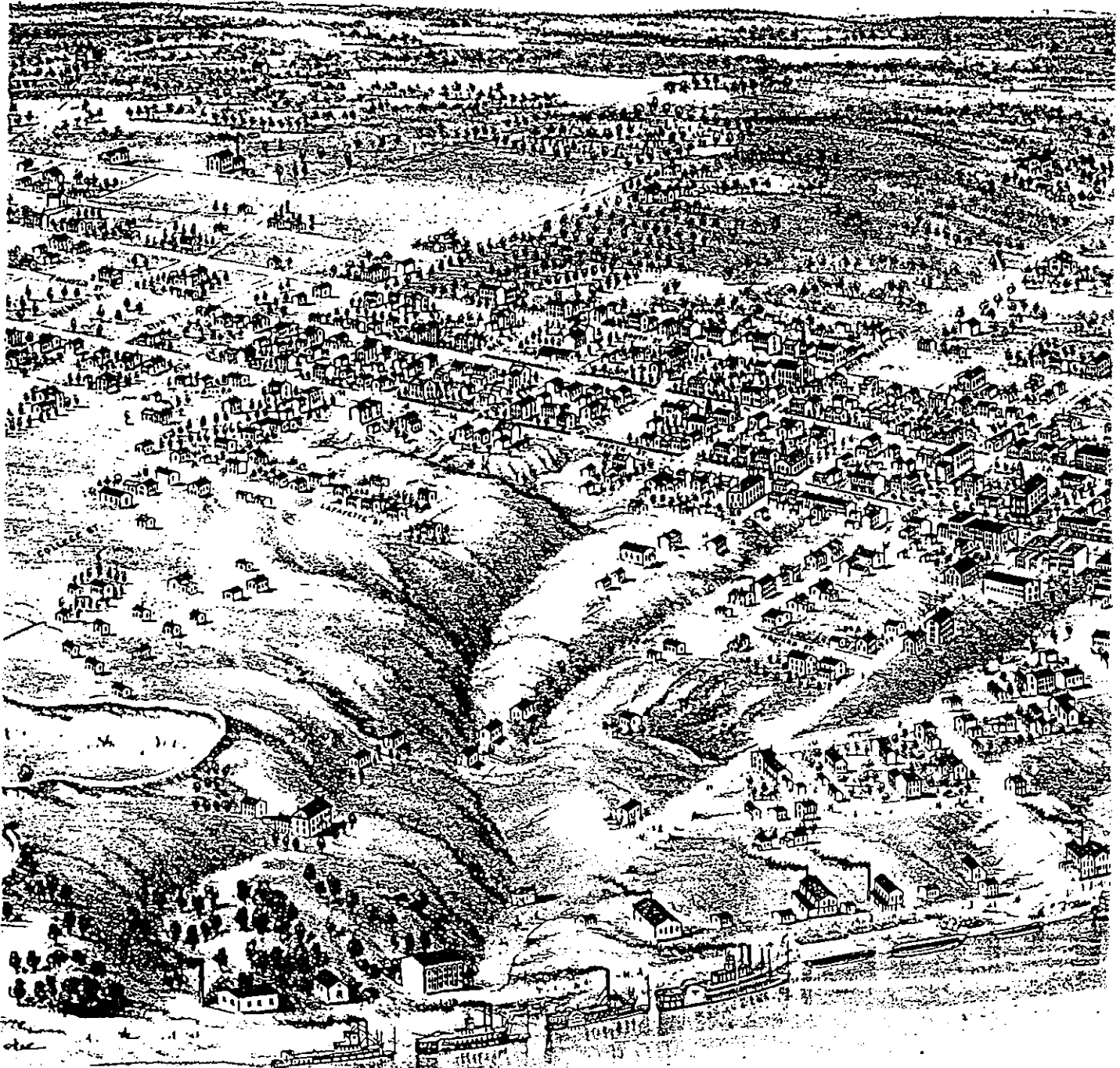
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**House at 1413 Lafayette Street
Lafayette County, MO**

Bird's Eye View of Lexington Showing Ravines and Development on Lafayette Street, 1869.

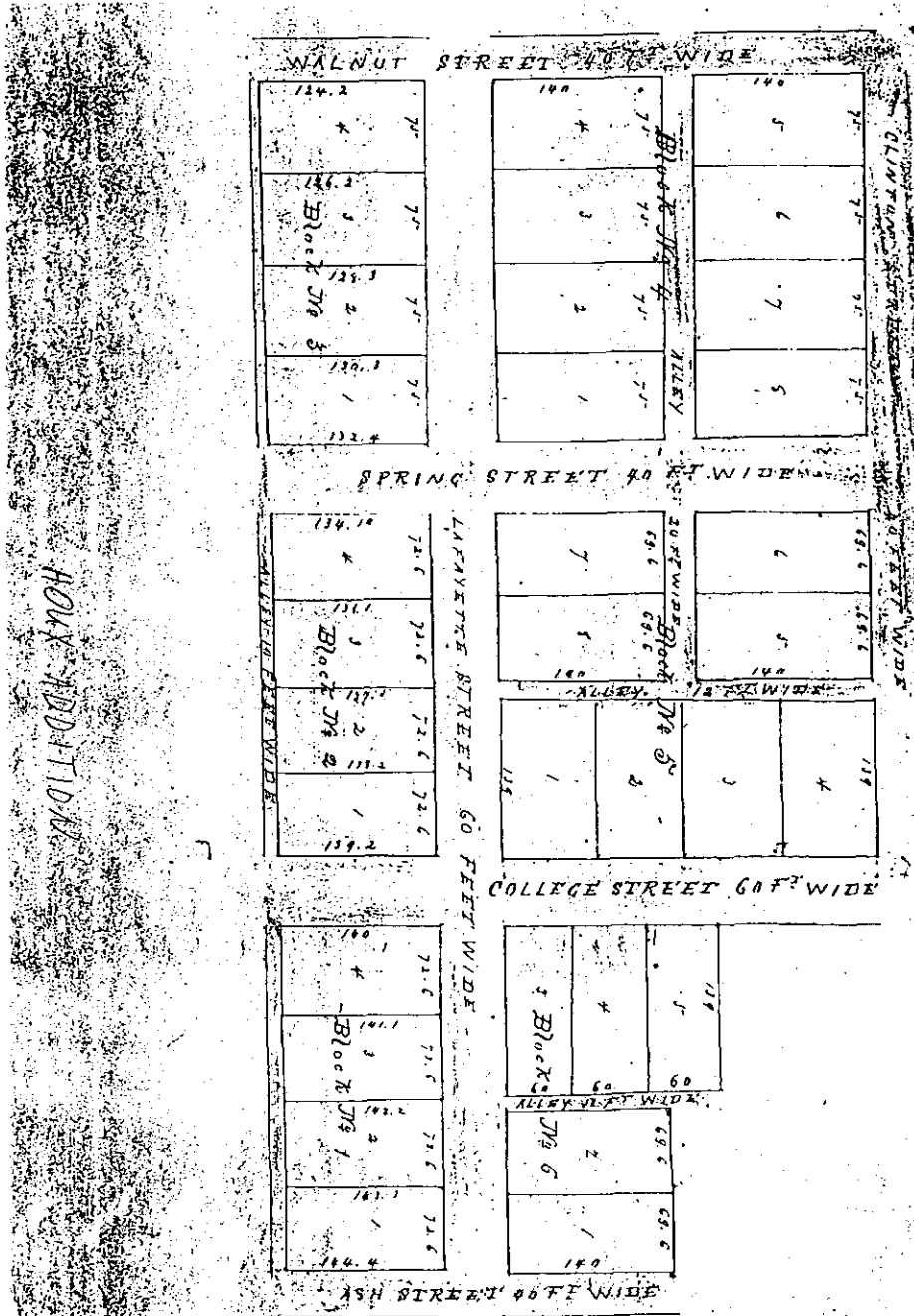


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House at 1413 Lafayette Street
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HOW ADDITIONAL

Plat Map
How Addition

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**House at 1413 Lafayette Street
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- Lafayette County Plat Book.
- Lafayette County Deed Index and Deed Records.
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House at 1413 Lafayette Street
Lafayette County, MO

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: The west ½ of lot 2 and the east 45 feet of lot 3, Block 3, Houx Addition, Lexington, Lafayette County, Missouri.

Justification for Boundary Description: The boundary includes the portions of two city lots historically associated with the property.

11. Form Prepared By

1. Rhonda Chalfant
Chalfant Consulting
619 West 32nd Street
Sedalia, MO 65301
660/826-5592
March 13, 1998
original draft nomination
2. Steven E. Mitchell, Assistant Director
Historic Preservation Program
Division of State Parks
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102
573/751-4692
Editor and revisions, items 1-11

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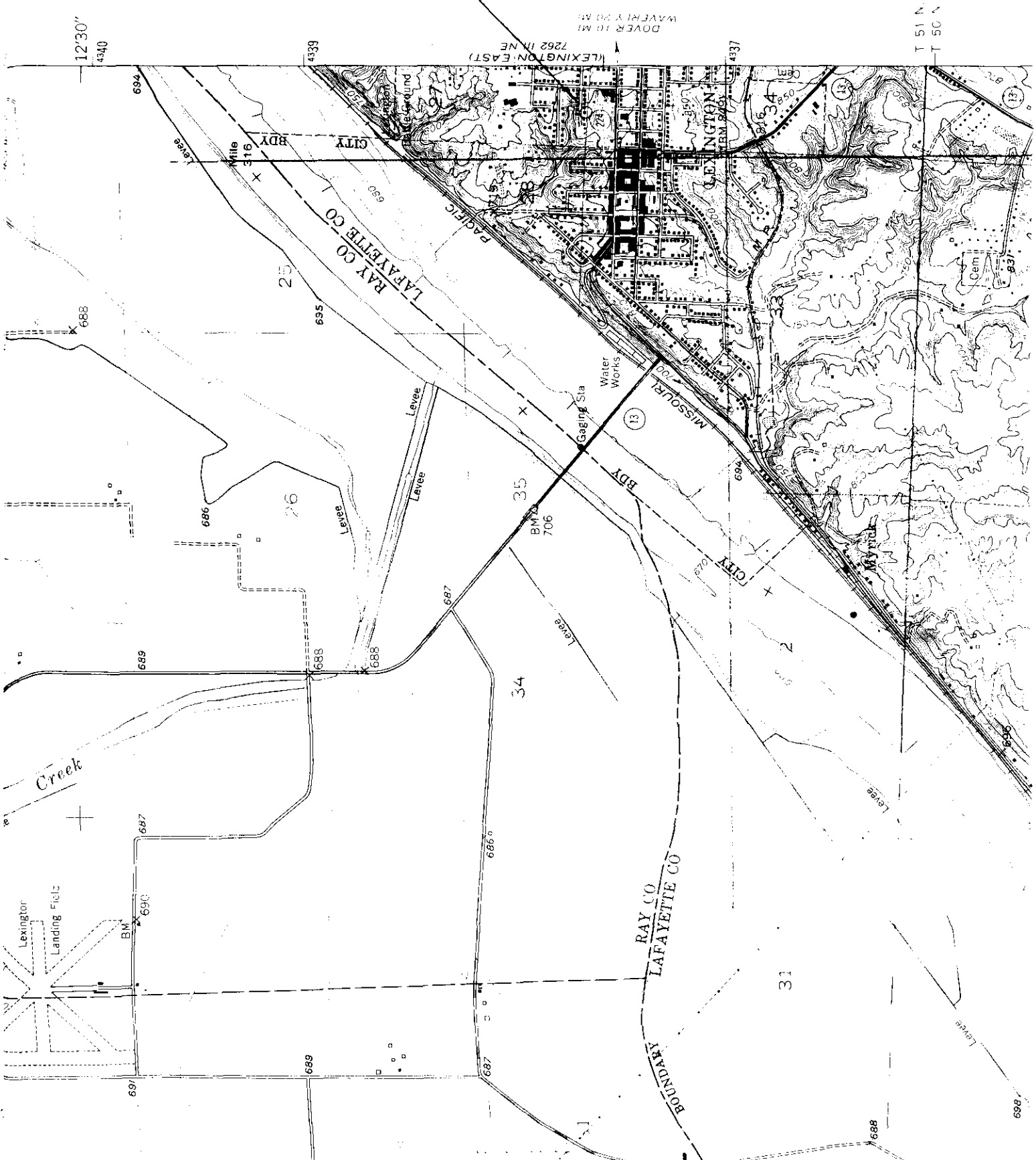
**House at 1413 Lafayette Street
Lafayette County, MO**

The following information is the same for all photographs:

House at 1413 Lafayette Street
Lexington
Lafayette County, MO
Rhonda Chalfant
March 1998
Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory, MODNR, Jefferson City, MO

- #1 camera facing southwest
- #2 camera facing southeast
- #3 camera facing south, entry
- #4 camera facing east/northeast
- #5 camera facing east/northeast,
- #6 camera facing south, entry hall and stairs

HOUSE AT 1413 LAFAYETTE STREET
LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MO
15/424220/4337670







91 12

NO
TRESPASSING

1073







EXTRA
PHOTOS

