

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

1 Name of Property

historic name House at 323 Themis Street

other names/site number Bohlke, Henry, House; Crow, Judith, House

2 Location

street & number 323 Themis Street [n/a] not for publication

city or town Cape Girardeau [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Cape Girardeau code 031 zip code 63701

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 [ ] )

Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SRPO Date 26 May 1997

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	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	1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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**Current Functions**

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

Other: German Brick Cottage

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**Materials**

foundation	Limestone
walls	Brick
roof	Weatherboard
other	Asphalt

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**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

ETHNIC HERITAGE - EUROPEAN

**Periods of Significance**

CIRCA 1864

**Significant Dates**

CIRCA 1864

**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**

**Acreeage of Property** less than one acre

**UTM References**

A. Zone 16	Easting 276500	Northing 4131480	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
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C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing
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[X] 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 Judith A. Crow

street & number 323 Themis Street telephone (314) 335-9393

city or town Cape Girardeau state MO zip code 63701

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

House at 323 Themis Street  
Cape Girardeau County, MC

**Summary:** Constructed circa 1864, the House at 323 Themis Street, Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau County, is located on the south side of the street, midway between Lorimier and Fountain Streets. This one and one-half story brick house is a good example of German Vernacular architecture, common along the river-ways of the midwest. It possesses most of the characteristics associated with this style.<sup>1</sup> The House at 323 Themis Street was originally three bays across and two piles deep. The front entry door is in the right bay and is unusual in that it is recessed. The floor plan is a variation of the two-thirds Georgian plan. The entry hall on the right is shorter which allows for a third room behind it. Two additions to the house were made prior to 1882. A brick kitchen lean-to was added to the south-east corner of the house and a frame addition and porch were added to the south-west corner.<sup>2</sup> Both additions were encased by a frame addition and garage in 1964. The east facade of the brick kitchen addition was not covered, although the siding on the original frame addition was replaced with fire resistant composition weatherboarding when the new addition and garage were built in 1964. These are the only significant alterations to the house after 1882. The house as a whole retains its integrity since the addition, while substantial, does not destroy or hide any of the defining architectural features of the house. Also, the addition is clearly discernable from the original house.

**Narrative:** The facade, or north elevation, of the house faces the street and presents a relatively plain appearance. Two arched, double hung, two over two windows and a recessed doorway are set into the wall. The entryway has the original solid wood door, a transom light above it, and wainscotting along the interior. Ornamental brick work below the eaves consists of bricks placed at an angle and bricks projecting beyond the wall surface. The steep second floor roof is interrupted by a gabled dormer which encases the original gable dormer. This alteration was made in the 1964 remodeling.

The west elevation faces a vacant lot. Two arched, double hung, two over two, sash windows are located to the rear of the original section of the house. There is no window in the hall section. A single arched window is located in the steep gable of the second floor. Broken pediments in brick work are the only decoration. The 1960's addition can be seen from this vantage point and presents a plain weatherboard surface except for two small windows.

The east elevation has three arched, double hung, two over two sash windows. The windows are placed so that one window is centered in the front parlor and two are in the dining room, which gives the facade an asymmetrical appearance. A single arched window is in the steep gable of the second floor. The double chimneys in the wall that would have projected through the roof line had been removed prior to the 1964 remodeling. The 1882 brick addition is also visible, and has one arched, six over six, double hung sash window. The cornice line is covered by weatherboard and hides the original slanted roof line. This addition also projects out from the east facade of the house. To the south is the 1964 frame addition and garage.

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<sup>1</sup>Douglas Meyer, "German Cottage Structure - Types of Southwestern Illinois", French and Germans in the Mississippi Valley: Landscape and Cultural Traditions, Editor Michael Roark, Cape Girardeau: Center for Regional History, 1988.

<sup>2</sup>Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, Sanborn Map: Cape Girardeau Missouri, 1882.

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Section 7 Page 2

House at 323 Themis Street  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

The south, or rear, elevation shows the frame addition and single stall garage. From inside the attic of this addition, one can still see the roof of the pre-1880's additions to the rear of the house. These rooms are literally encased within the frame addition, with only the east elevation of the pre-1880s addition visible.

The interior of the oldest part of the House at 323 Themis Street is in a relatively good state of preservation and retains much of its integrity. At one point, the house had been converted into three apartments, two downstairs and one upstairs. The 1964 remodeling restored the house to its single family configuration. Most of the original woodwork is intact. Poplar was the predominant building material used in the 1864 house, including stair treads, risers, and baseboards. The original walnut banister, approximately 17 feet long, is still intact, and the newel post appears to be made of oak. The woodwork was originally painted and, with the exception of the dining room and the kitchen, it still is. All of the interior doorways on the first floor of the house have transom lights above them and are original to the house. The original plaster walls in the hallway remain under the wallpaper and are visible in the closet under the stairway, as well as in the closet in the north end of the main bathroom. The other walls were replastered during the 1964 renovation.

The front doorway leads into a side hall. The stairs to the second floor are to the right, a doorway to the front parlor is to the left and a door to a bedroom is at the south end of the hall. The stairway retains the original banister and has a wood paneled wall with door below it. The parlor is in the northeast corner of the house and immediately behind it is the dining room. In the dining room a door on the south wall leads to the kitchen addition and a door on the west wall leads to the first floor bedroom. The kitchen has been modernized and has little integrity. A door to the south leads to a reading room built in 1964, and a door on the west wall leads to the 1880's frame addition which now serves as a bathroom. Through the bathroom a door on the west wall leads to what had been a kitchen, but was remodeled in 1964 to make a library. This room may have at one time been a back porch. A cistern was located in the southwest corner of this room, which was filled with scraps of lumber, etc., before the new floor was laid during the 1964 renovation. In the library a door to the north leads into the bedroom of the oldest part of the house and a door to the south leads to a bedroom added in 1964. This bedroom is connected by a door in the east wall to another bathroom. A door in the east wall of this bathroom leads to the reading room. A door on the south in the reading room leads to the backyard and another door leads to the garage. There is a crawl space below the house, and there is a root cellar, accessible through a trap door, below the kitchen addition. The root cellar is constructed of stone block walls and floor.

The second floor was originally a single, large, open room. It retains little integrity today. The top of the stairway was originally open, but now is partitioned off by solid oak pocket doors that serve as a paneled wall. The walls and ceiling have been framed and covered and a small bathroom has been installed.

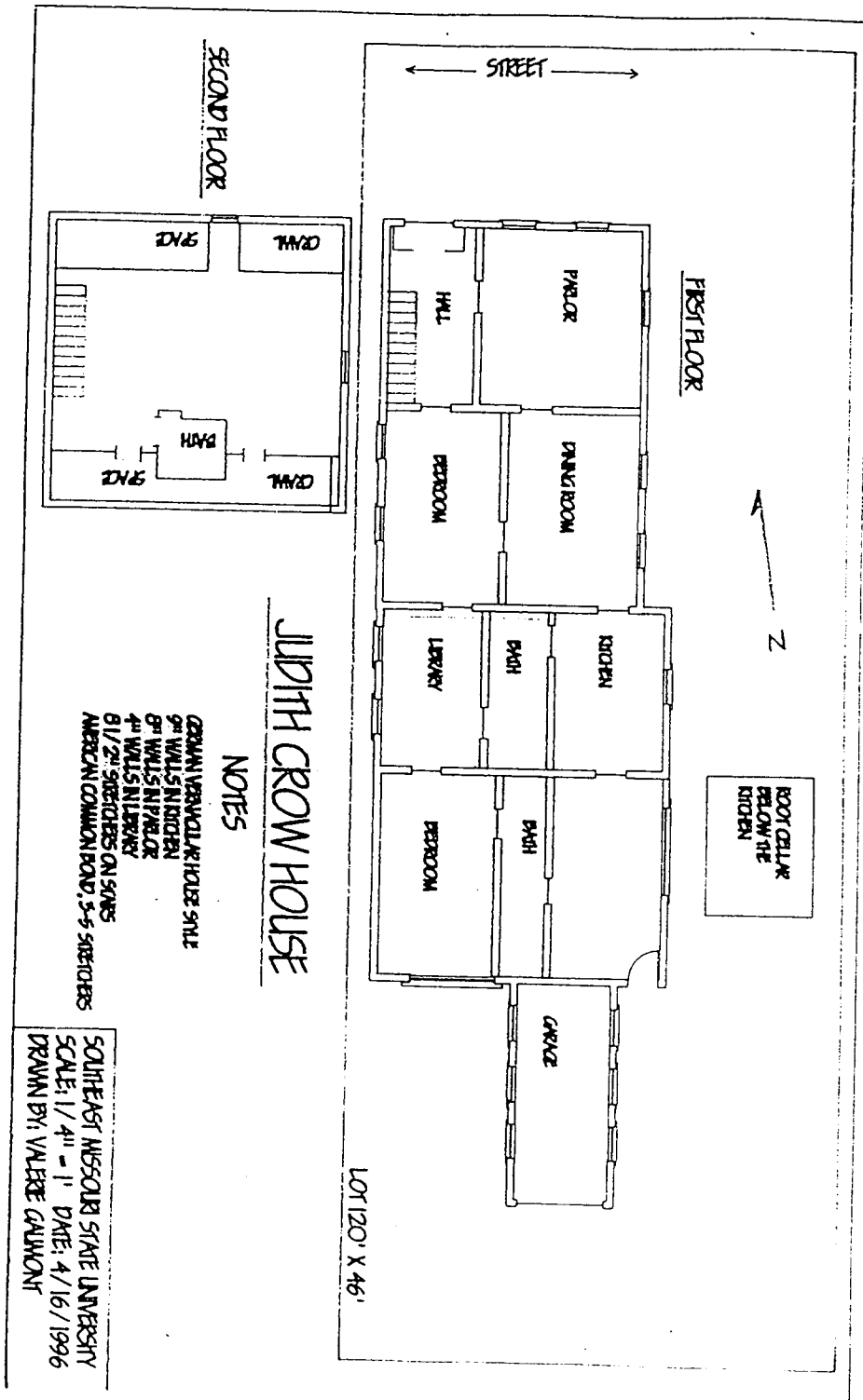
The House at 323 Themis Street has been occupied continuously for over 130 years. With minor exceptions, the interior of the house maintains a high degree of integrity. Original walls, doorways, and windows remain intact. The overall interior appearance is representative of a mid-nineteenth century German Brick Cottage.

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Section 7 Page 3

House at 323 Themis Street  
Cape Girardeau County, MO



JUDITH CROW HOUSE

NOTES

- GROUND WORK LIKE HOUSE 5/11/16
- 9" WALLS IN PARLOR
- 6" WALLS IN PARLOR
- 4" WALLS IN PARLOR
- 8 1/2" STUDIES ON SLOPE
- AMERICAN COMMON POND, 5-5 STUDIES

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY  
 SCALE: 1/4" = 1' DATE: 4/16/1996  
 DRAWN BY: VALERIE GAYMONT

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Section 8 Page 4

House at 323 Themis Street  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

**Summary:** The House at 323 Themis Street, Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau County, is significant under Criterion A in the area Ethnic Heritage -- European and Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Constructed circa 1864, the house contains most of the characteristic elements of the German Brick Cottage style: one and one half stories in height, with steep pitched gable roof, American common bond brick construction, modified two thirds Georgian floor plan, decorative brick elements, arched windows and doorways, and rear additions. Although a later addition was made in 1964, this section is clearly discernable from the original house and does not affect any of the defining architectural elements of this style nor diminish the integrity of the house. The interior is also in a relatively good state of preservation and has a high degree of integrity. By the 1860s, Cape Girardeau hosted a substantial contingent of German artisans and craftsmen; located in the historic "Haarig District", an enclave of German settlement in the town, the House at 323 Themis Street is an excellent example of the building traditions and forms which German immigrants brought with them to Cape Girardeau.

**Narrative:** During the 1850's the City of Cape Girardeau experienced a great influx of German speaking immigrants. Many of these immigrants passed through the port of New Orleans and came up the Mississippi River to settle in this busy river town. When they settled in Cape Girardeau, they duplicated their unique conservative building traditions and built a large number of German Brick Cottages.<sup>3</sup> Ethnic enclaves of Germans settled in the "Haarig District" along Good Hope Street and near Broadway, where the House at 323 Themis Street is located. The house styles they built there had served their housing needs in Hanover and Brunswick and they saw no need to change or alter them greatly when they arrived in this country. The German Brick Cottage varied in size from a full Georgian floor plan to a quarter Georgian floor plan. Examples of German variant floor plans with two front doors were also built. They were usually one and a half stories tall with steep pitched gable roofs and were occasionally only one story. They presented a very compact and simple appearance with little ornamentation. Ornamentation was restricted to brick entablatures below the eaves and small broken pediments in the gable ends. Houses with central or off center hallways had side lights and transom lights. Windows and doorways often had arched windows, although some examples have lintels above the windows and doors. Rear ells, additions, and outbuildings were very common. These cottage buildings were derived from plan forms and construction techniques popular in the German building tradition.<sup>4</sup>

German Cottage houses became a common element of Cape Girardeau's built environment. This was the direct result of the process of Chain Migration. Family members and friends in Germany would receive glowing reports of the opportunities available in Cape Girardeau and would decide to migrate themselves. This event was not isolated and also occurred in neighboring communities on both sides of the Mississippi.<sup>5</sup> In the City of Cape Girardeau the majority of these immigrants came from the German states of Brunswick and Hanover. By the year 1860 there were sixty three artisans of German

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<sup>3</sup>Walter Kamphoefner, "Chain Migration and Local Homogeneity of Immigration: Cape Girardeau County Germans in Comparative Perspective", *French and Germans in the Mississippi Valley*, p. 187.

<sup>4</sup>Meyer, p. 195.

<sup>5</sup>Kamphoefner, p. 197.



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Section 8 Page 5

House at 323 Themis Street  
Cape Girardeau County, MC

birth engaged in the building trades within the city. There were twenty eight carpenters, nine masons, eleven stone masons, six brick makers or molders, four brick masons or layers, two plasters, two painters, and one stone cutter.<sup>6</sup> This was enough manpower to employ several work crews of German builders, all working with their traditional building designs.

Cape Girardeau's German born artisans built houses in the style that they were accustomed to and significantly influenced the built environment of the city. A brief survey of these houses within the city of Cape Girardeau reveals approximately forty Brick German Cottages still standing today.<sup>7</sup> Douglas Meyer, a noted scholar of German Vernacular Architecture from Eastern Illinois University, examined these types of houses on the east side of the Mississippi in detail and called them, "remarkable architectural artifacts as distinctive ethnic imprints, and as regional vernacular types", which created, "a German overlay of structural forms...a distinctive local and regional cultural landscape that 'read' German..."<sup>8</sup> German-Americans in Cape Girardeau successfully duplicated their culture here. Part of the duplication of their ethnic heritage was in building with conservative traditional methods and minimal style. Betty Madden, noted author on early Illinois architecture, described these houses as "Small brick homes decorated with brick motifs under the eaves...built close to the street in the manner of old German towns."<sup>9</sup> By the 1860's Cape Girardeau had developed a German appearance reflected in the building heritage of the new immigrants.

The rich, distinct German flavor of Cape Girardeau's built environment and ethnic heritage is well represented by the House at 323 Themis Street. Built around the year 1864, the House at 323 Themis Street probably replaced an earlier building. In 1821 there was a 'small white dwelling structure' located on the property. Local tradition suggests that this building remains as the brick kitchen and that the rest of the house was added to it, however there is no evidence to confirm that any part of the House at 323 Themis is connected with this building. This house and lot passed through the hands of various owners including Uriah Brock, the only known Revolutionary War Veteran buried in Cape Girardeau's historic Lorimier Cemetery. Between 1858 and 1869 the lot had almost quadrupled its sale price from \$350 to \$1,362. This suggests that the present house was built during this time frame. From 1864 to 1865 the lot was owned by Henry Bohlke and from 1865 to 1867 by Peter Frank. Both of these men were German-Americans and it is possible that either of them had the present building constructed.<sup>10</sup> A rectangular shaped house appears on this lot in a military map made during the Civil War (Circa 1863 - 1864). The map shows the fortifications around Cape Girardeau and the houses within the city. No outbuildings or additions on the lot are visible on this map. A small building in the

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<sup>6</sup>United States Census Records for 1860, Cape Girardeau County, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

<sup>7</sup>Scott Cross, "Early German Vernacular Cottages in Cape Girardeau, Missouri: 1840-1865", unpublished manuscript, Southeast Missouri State University: Cape Girardeau, 1995.

<sup>8</sup>Meyer, p. 194.

<sup>9</sup>Betty Madden, *Arts, Crafts, and Architecture in Early Illinois*, Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1974. p. 134.

<sup>10</sup>Abstract of Title, December 29, 1821 (#22), Fractional Part of Lot 9, Range C.

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Section 8 Page 6

House at 323 Themis Street  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

south east corner of the lot and the brick and frame additions appear in a Sanborn map dated 1882. The small building was removed at an unknown later date. Its exact usage is unknown.

The house displays most of the architectural elements associated with German Brick Cottages. It has one and one half story steep pitched gable roof, American common bond brick construction, modified two thirds Georgian floor plan, decorative brick elements, arched windows and doorways, and rear additions. It is also built very close to the street in the fashion of houses in German villages. These are all distinctive elements associated with this style. The majority of the forty surviving German Brick Cottages are in a poor state of repair and the House at 323 Themis Street is amongst the few that still maintain a large percentage of their integrity. The House at 323 Themis Street is only one of two German Brick Cottages that has a two-thirds Georgian floor plan and represents a unique. Unlike most of the other thirty-nine surviving examples, it is one of only two that has a recessed arched entryway. In all other aspects; arched windows, decorative brick work, and one and a half story height, it presents a similar appearance common to these houses.<sup>11</sup> Although a later addition was made in 1964, this section is easily discernable from the original house and does not remove any of the defining architectural features of the style. The interior is in a relatively good state of preservation and has a high degree of integrity. The German-American heritage of Cape Girardeau is well reflected in this simple, compact, and sturdy house.

On September 8, 1995 the City of Cape Girardeau Historic Landmark Commission recognized the House at 323 Themis Street (Judith Crow House) for its significant character, interest and value, as a part of the development, heritage and cultural characteristic of the city. They also recognized it for exemplifying the cultural and historical heritage of the community. It was then listed with eight other properties as a City Historic Landmark. The house is commonly known in the Cape Girardeau community as the Judith Crow House in recognition of Ms. Crow's work in maintenance and upkeep of the house as well as her efforts at raising community awareness regarding the house's historic character since she purchased it in 1963.

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<sup>11</sup>Cross.

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Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 7

House at 323 Themis Street  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

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Abstract of Title, December 29, 1821 (#22), Fractional part of Lot 9, Range C.

Briant, Sharon, Jennifer McNeely, Tom Neff, Kevin Pontek, Tom Sater & Bob Smith, German Architecture in Cape Girardeau, unpublished manuscript, Southeast Missouri State University, 1987.

Cross, Scott, "Early German Vernacular Cottages in Cape Girardeau, Missouri: 1840-1865", unpublished manuscript, Southeast Missouri State University, 1995.

Historic Landmark Application Form, City of Cape Girardeau, Historic Preservation Commission, September 9, 1995.

Kamphoefner, Walter, "Chain Migration and Local Homogeneity of Immigration: Cape Girardeau County Germans in Comparative Perspective", French and Germans in the Mississippi Valley: Landscape and Cultural Traditions, Editor Michael Roark, Cape Girardeau: Center for Regional History, 1988.

Madden, Betty I., Arts, Crafts, and Architecture in Early Illinois, Urbana; University of Illinois Press, 1974.

Meyer, Douglas, "German Cottage Structure - Types of Southwestern Illinois", French and Germans in the Mississippi Valley: Landscape and Cultural Traditions, Editor Michael Roark, Cape Girardeau: Center for Regional History, 1988.

Phillips, Steven, Old House Dictionary, Lakewood Colorado; Preservation Press, 1994.

United States Census Records for the City of Cape Girardeau Missouri, 1860.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10,11 Page 8

House at 323 Themis Street  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

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**10. Geographical Data**

Verbal Boundary Description: All of Lot 18, Block 23, Original City of Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau  
(Lot size: 42' x 120'.)

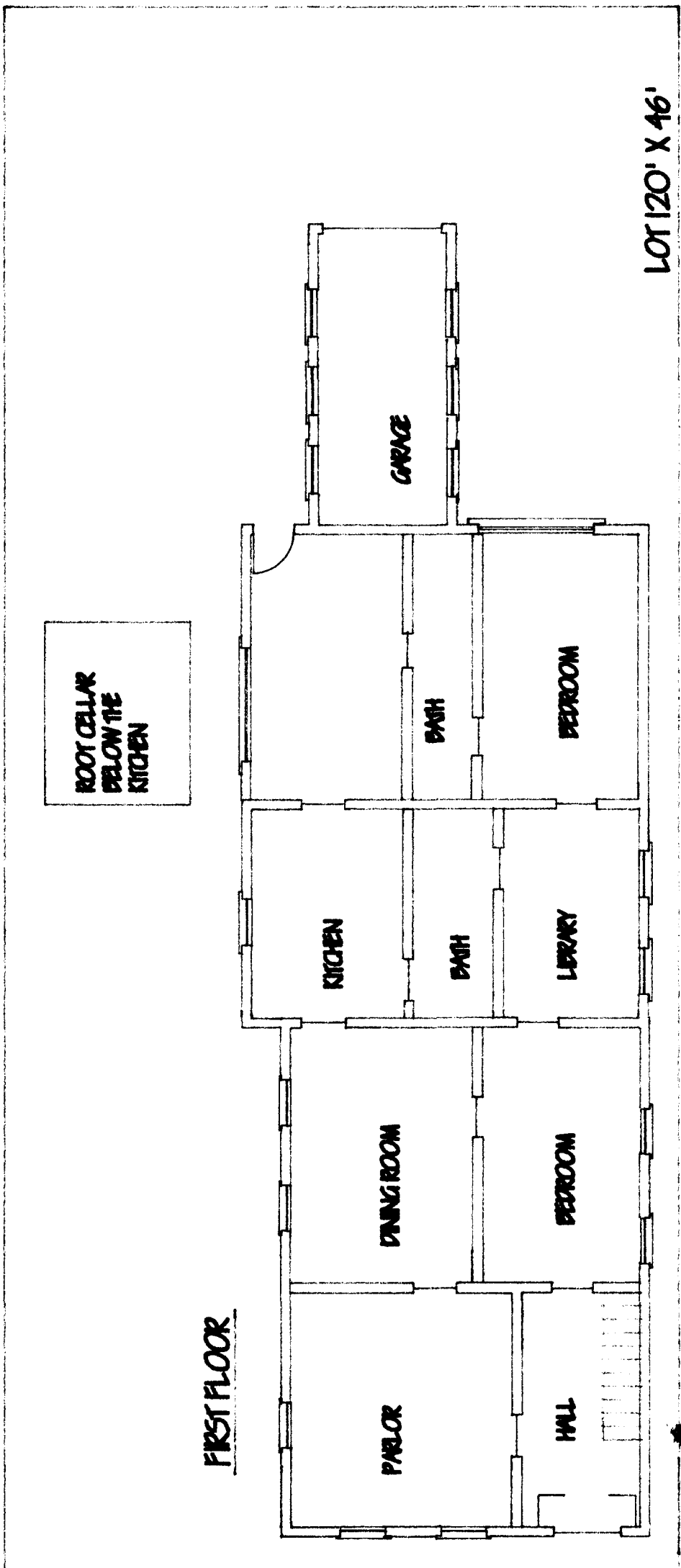
Boundary Justification: This is the entire city lot historically associated with the property.

**11. Form Prepared By**

1. Scott Cross  
Southeast Missouri State University Historic Preservation Program  
P.O. Box 174  
LeClaire, IA 52753  
319/289-3369  
November 17, 1996  
Original draft nomination, items 1-11
  
2. Allen Tatman  
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Historic Preservation Program  
Division of State Parks  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
573/751-7861  
May 6, 1997  
Editor, items 1-11

HOUSE AT 323 THEMIS STREET  
CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY, MO  
16/276500/4131480



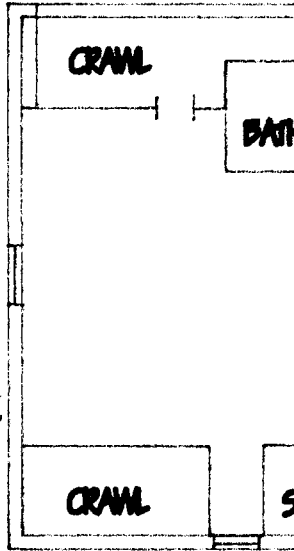


ROOT CELLAR  
BELOW THE  
KITCHEN

FIRST FLOOR

STREET

LOT 120' X 46'



SECOND FLOOR

JUDITH CROW HOUSE

NOTES

GERMAN VERNACULAR HOUSE STYLE

