

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Mense, Frank, House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 304 High Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Washington [N/A] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Franklin code 071 zip code 63090

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 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 Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date

[] 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 [].

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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)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district			
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Domestic: Single Family

Current Functions

Domestic: Single Family

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Other: Gable Front

See continuation sheet [].

Materials

foundation stone

walls brick
asbestos
roof metal
tin
other _____

See continuation sheet [].

Narrative Description

See continuation sheet [x].

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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

Period of Significance

1923

Significant Dates

1923

Significant Person(s)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

See continuation sheet [x].

9. Major Bibliographic References**Bibliography**

See continuation sheet [x].

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:

Washington Historical Society, Washington, MO

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10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property less than one acre**UTM References**

A. Zone Easting Northing
15 672120 4269620

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 Becky L. Snider, Ph.D.
organization Private Consultant date March, 2000
street & number 1008 Sunset Drive telephone 573-256-1105
city or town Columbia state Missouri zip code 65203

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 FOP for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FOP.)

name Marc Houseman
street & number 304 High Street telephone (636) 239-3988
city or town Washington state MO zip code 63090

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7. Description, continued.

Summary:

The Frank Mense house is located at 304 High Street in Washington, Franklin County, Missouri. Built circa 1923, it is a one and one-half story Gable Front house with a stone foundation, brick walls and a full width front porch. It has a three bay facade, segmental arched window and door openings and a front porch with Colonial Revival styling. The Mense house is representative of Property Type F: Gable Front, and meets the registration requirements set forth in the Multiple Property Submission cover document "Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri." The period of significance of circa 1923 is based on the construction date of the house.

The Mense house is highly intact and is in excellent condition. The original form and patterns of fenestration are little changed, and the house appears today much as it did when it was constructed. The interior also is very much intact. Most of the original door and window trim, the early or original two panel doors, and the wood floors are in place and in excellent condition. A frame one car garage with asbestos siding and a gable roof sits to the east of the house. (See Figure One.) It appears to be less than fifty years old and was not constructed within the period of significance. Therefore, it is a noncontributing building. It is the only other resource on the property. The Mense house is one of the more intact Gable Front houses in the study group, and it is a fine example of the blending of a popular twentieth century house form with Colonial Revival and Missouri-German detailing.

Elaboration:

The Frank Mense house is located on the east side of High Street just south of West Third Street in a residential neighborhood several blocks south of the International Shoe Factory. It faces west, and sits close to the sidewalk on a narrow rectangular lot which slopes gently down away from the street. Nearby houses represent a mix of types and construction dates. A frame garage with a front facing gable roof and asbestos siding is located at the back of the property. (See Photo No. 12.) The garage, which sits to the rear of the property appears to be less than fifty years old.

The house sits on a stone foundation and it has brick walls and a gable roof covered with standing seam metal roofing. It has an asymmetrical three-bay facade. (See Photo Nos 1, 2, 4.) The door, which is off center, is flanked by large windows and is sheltered by an open porch. It is topped by a single light transom and is early or original. The wooden storm door also appears to be early or original. The windows throughout the house have three-over-one Craftsman style sash and are topped with segmental arches. They are all early or original. The full width porch has a hipped roof, tapered wooden columns, and a simple wooden balustrade, all of which are early or original and in very good condition. There is a pair of double hung

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windows in the upper gable end. The north and south elevations are very similar. Each has a shed dormer with a pair of double hung windows, and two double hung windows on the ground floor. There is also an integral chimney on the north elevation.

The patterns of fenestration on the rear elevation are similar to the front elevation. (See Photo Nos 3, 12.) The back door, which is topped by a single light transom, is set off center and is flanked by two double hung windows. A small enclosed shed-roofed porch shelters the back door and one window. The back porch is newer; paint lines on the brick indicate that an earlier porch extended almost the full width of the rear elevation. Like on the facade, a pair of double hung windows are centered in the upper gable end. The bulkhead entrance to the basement is also located on the rear elevation.

The interior of the Mense house is very much intact, and it is in excellent condition. (See Photo Nos. 5-11.) The house has a simple rectangular plan. (See Figure Two.) The front door opens directly in to the living room. To the north, a wide archway separates the dining room from the living room. The archway is embellished with three quarter height round wooden columns which sit on rectangular wooden bases. The kitchen and a den are located at the back of the house. On the first floor, the windows and doors retain their simple wide trim with plain cornerblocks, and the early or original two panel doors, and wood floors are still in place. The woodwork throughout the house retains its original natural finish. The stairs to the second floor are located between the living room and the den. (See Figure Two) The staircase, railing, turned balusters, and newel post are all original. There are two bedrooms, one bath, and a sitting area on the second floor. (See Figure Three.) The second floor trim is simpler than that on the first floor, but it is largely intact as are the two-panel second floor doors, and the wood floors.

Overall, the Mense house appears today much as it did when Frank Mense owned it. It is very much intact, both inside and out, and continues to function, as it has since it was constructed, as a single family dwelling.

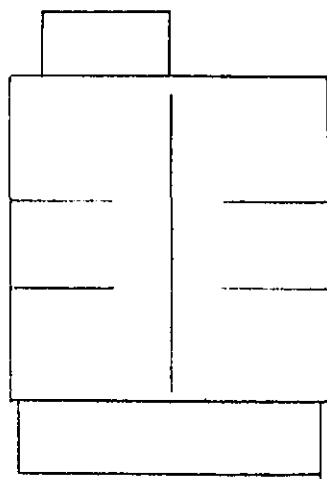
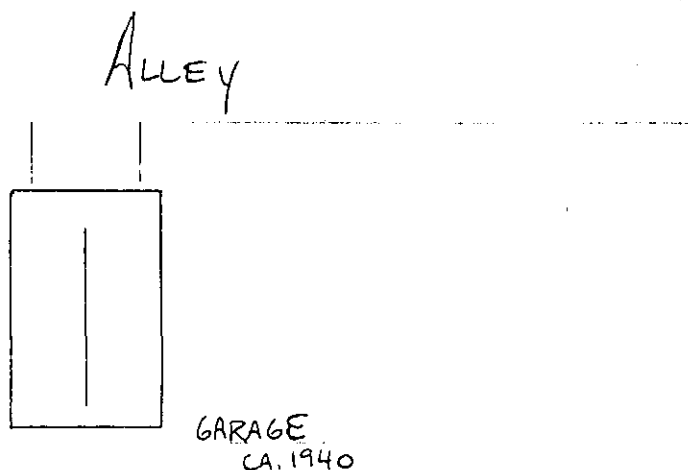
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Figure One: Site Plan. Drawn by Becky Snider.



HOUSE
CA. 1923

HIGH ST.



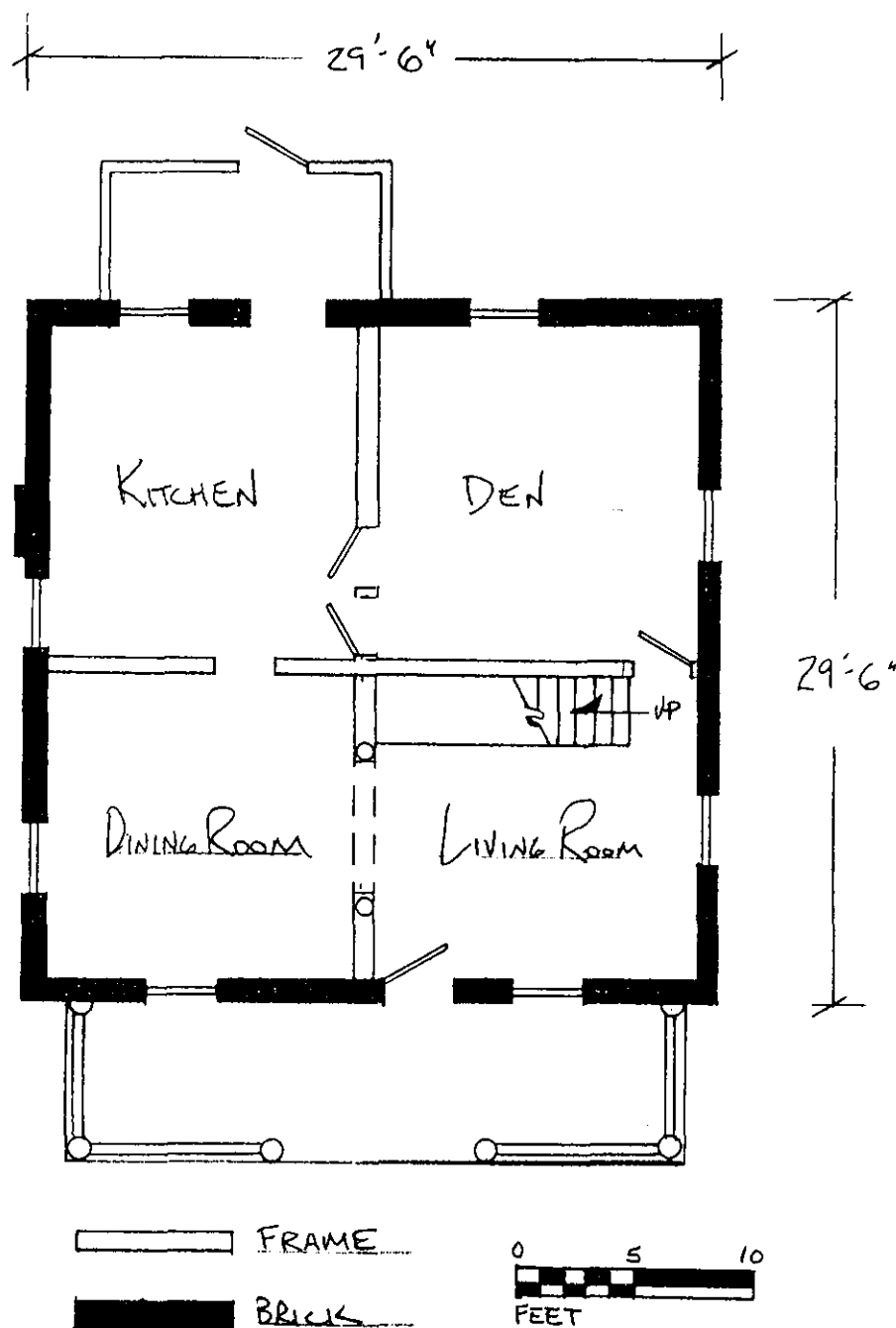
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Figure Two: First Floor Plan. Drawn by Becky Snider.



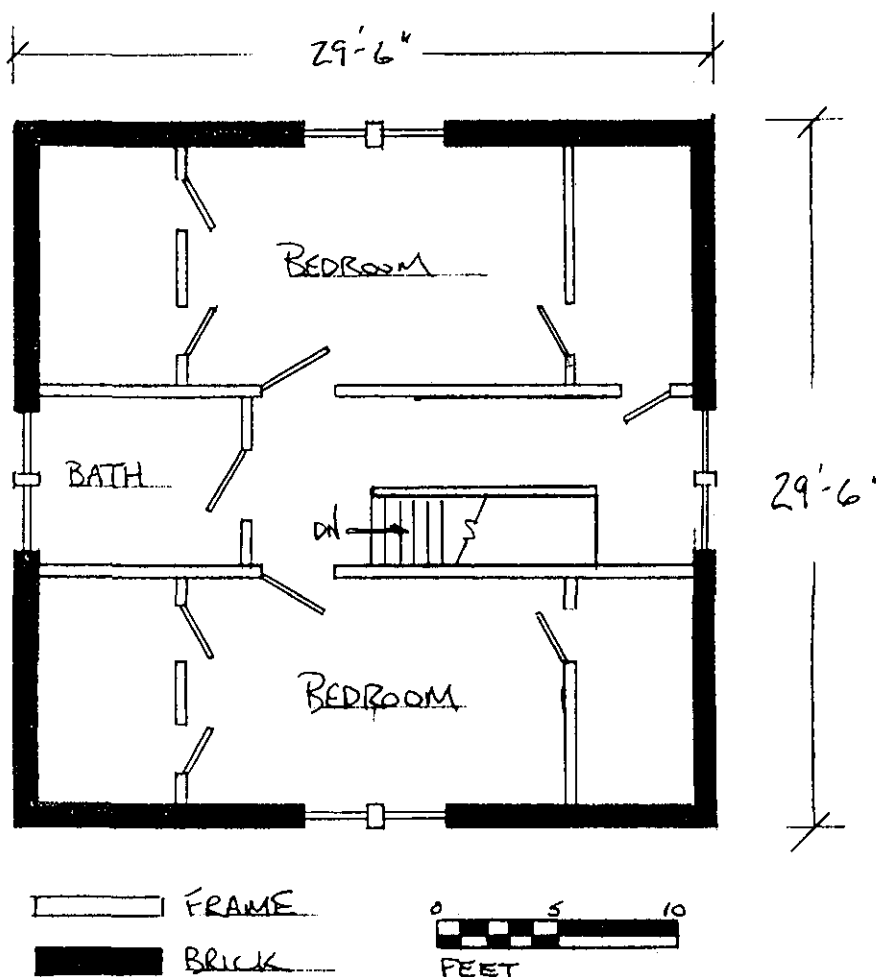
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Figure Three: Second Floor Plan. Drawn by Becky Snider.



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Summary:

The Frank Mense house is an excellent example of the Gable Front property type. It is typical in plan, massing, materials and detailing of Gable Front dwellings in Washington. The house is a highly intact example of Property Type F: Gable Front. It meets the registration requirements set forth in the MPS cover document "Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri" and falls under the historic context "Architectural Development: 1839-1950." As such, it is significant under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE.

The house was built ca. 1923 by or for Frank Mense and the house stayed in the Mense family for more than thirty years. The period of significance of circa 1923 is based on the construction date of the house. The house is a contributing building and the garage is a noncontributing building. They are the only resources on the property. The Mense house is highly intact, both inside and out, and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Elaboration:

The Mense house is typical of Gable Front houses in Washington. It has brick walls, segmental arched window and door openings and a Colonial Revival style porch, a combination of elements which was particularly common on Gable Front houses in the neighborhoods around the International Shoe Factory. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, builders in Washington began to construct houses based on nationally popular house types and styles. Undoubtedly, they often purchased plans from architectural pattern books and ordered porches, trim packages, and whole house kits from mail order companies. However, many builders continued to employ the brick walls and segmental arched window and door openings so prevalent on the houses built by their ancestors, features that reflect Washington's vernacular Missouri-German building traditions. The Mense house has these feature, but like many early twentieth century houses in town, it also has Colonial Revival detailing. The porch and interior trim are Colonial Revival in design.

The house was built by or for Frank Mense, a native Missourian who was employed at the International Shoe Factory.¹ A 1923 newspaper article announced the marriage of Frank Mense and Annie Noelker. The article noted that the groom "has recently put up a house on High Street

¹ 1910 Census Records show Frank Mense as a member of the Martin Marquart household, who worked as a day laborer on a dairy farm.

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where he and the bride will make their home."² Frank Mense owned and lived with his family in the house at 304 High Street into the 1950s.

Overall, the Mense house is an excellent example of the Gable Front property type in Washington, a popular twentieth century house form which was often given Colonial Revival detailing. It also demonstrates the longevity of Missouri-German building traditions in Washington. It is very much intact and is in excellent condition.

**Chronology: From Land Tax Assessment Books, City Directories, Franklin County Atlases,
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps and Washington Historical Society Collections**

1923 A newspaper article dated September 28, 1923 announced the marriage of Frank Mense and Annie Noelker. The article noted that the groom "has recently put up a house on High Street where he and the bride will make their home.

ca. 1923 House Built

1925 Tax Assessment - Frank Mense, McLean's 3rd Addition, Block 1, Lot 2 \$190.

1926 Sanborn - The house and a garage, which is in the approximate location of the current garage, are both in place by this year.

1931 Directory - Frank Mense

1940 Directory - Frank C. Mense

1951 Directory - F. C. Mense

² Newspaper clipping dated September 28, 1923. (Kiel Files p. 25211, Washington Historical Society, Washington, Missouri)

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SOURCES:

Baldwin, Robert Morton. Washington, Missouri Telephone Street Guide and Householder's Directory. Washington, MO: The Mullin-Kline and Miller Press, 1951.

Commercial Telephone Company. 1922 Directory of the Commercial Telephone Company. Observer Print Company, 1922.

Franklin County Deed and Tax Records, Franklin County Courthouse, Union, Missouri.

Hoffman, C. R. C. R. Hoffman's Washington, MO. Street Directory 1940. Washington, MO: C. R. Hoffman, 1940.

Ogle, Geo A. & Co. Standard Atlas of Franklin County, Missouri. Chicago: Geo A. Ogle & Co, 1919

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. Maps of Washington, 1893, 1898, 1908, 1916, 1926.

Schuyler Drury Publisher. Drury's Washington, Missouri City Directory. St. Louis: Schuyler Drury Publisher, 1931.

United States Census Records. Census Indexes and Population Schedules for Franklin County, 1910-1920. Microfilm on file with the State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, MO.

Washington Historical Society. Kiel Files p. 25211. Washington, MO.

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: Lot 1 in Block 2 of McLean's Third Addition to the City of Washington, Franklin County, Missouri.

Boundary Justification: The boundaries represent all of the property currently and historically associated with the house.

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Section number Photographs Page 10

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Photographs

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Mense, Frank, House
Washington, Franklin County, Missouri
Debbie Sheals & Becky Snider
January, 2000
Negatives on file with the State Historic Preservation Office
101 East High Street
P. O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

List of Photographs. Camera Angles are indicated on the Photo Key Map

1. Front (west) elevation, facing east
2. West and north elevations, facing southeast.
3. East elevation, facing southwest.
4. South and west elevations, facing northeast.
5. Living room, dining room, front entrance.
6. Living room, dining room.
7. Front door.
8. Kitchen.
9. Staircase.
10. Second floor hallway.
11. Bedroom.
12. Garage and east elevation, facing northwest.

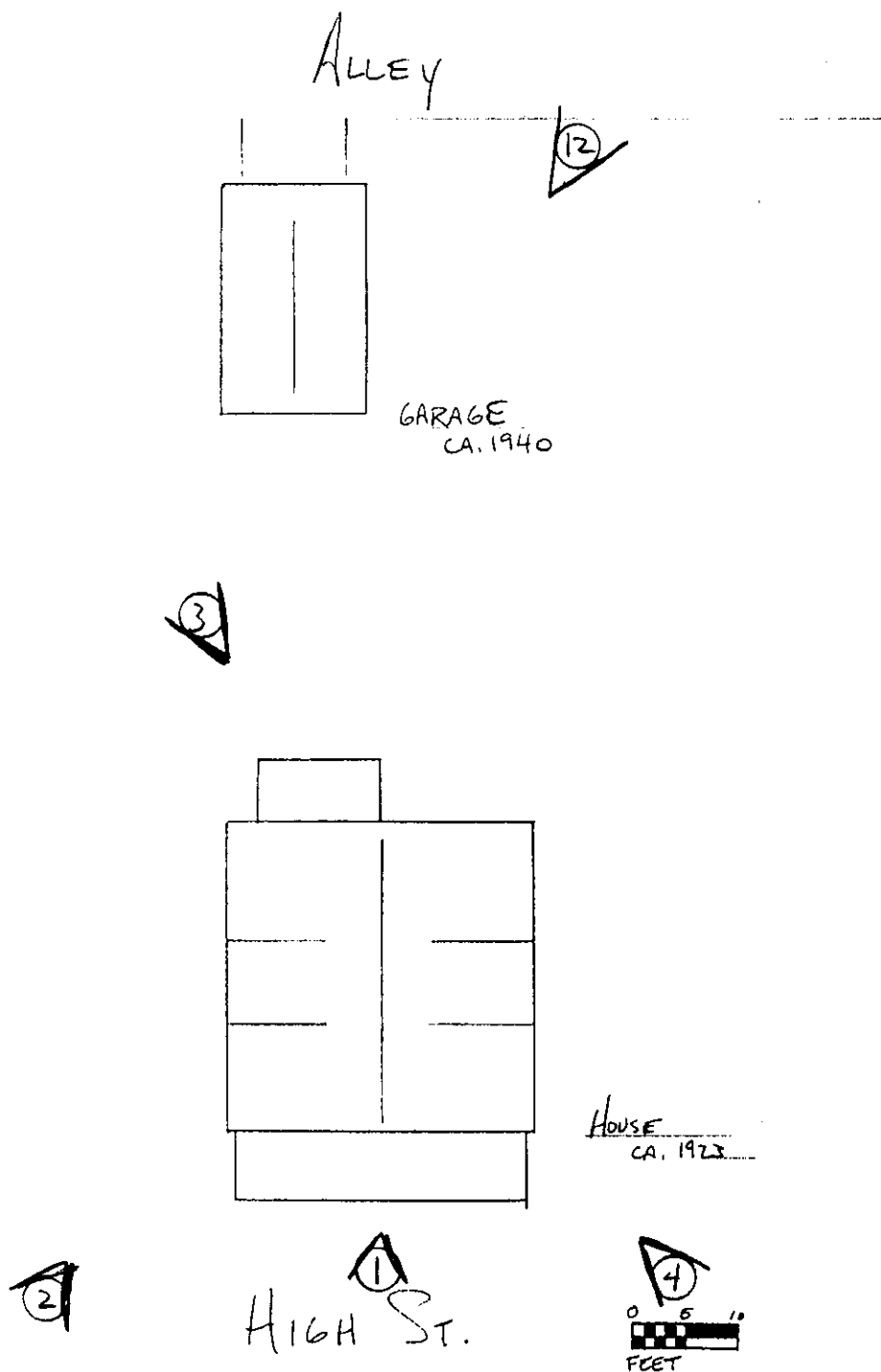
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Figure Four. Photo Key Map - Site Map. Drawn by Becky Snider.



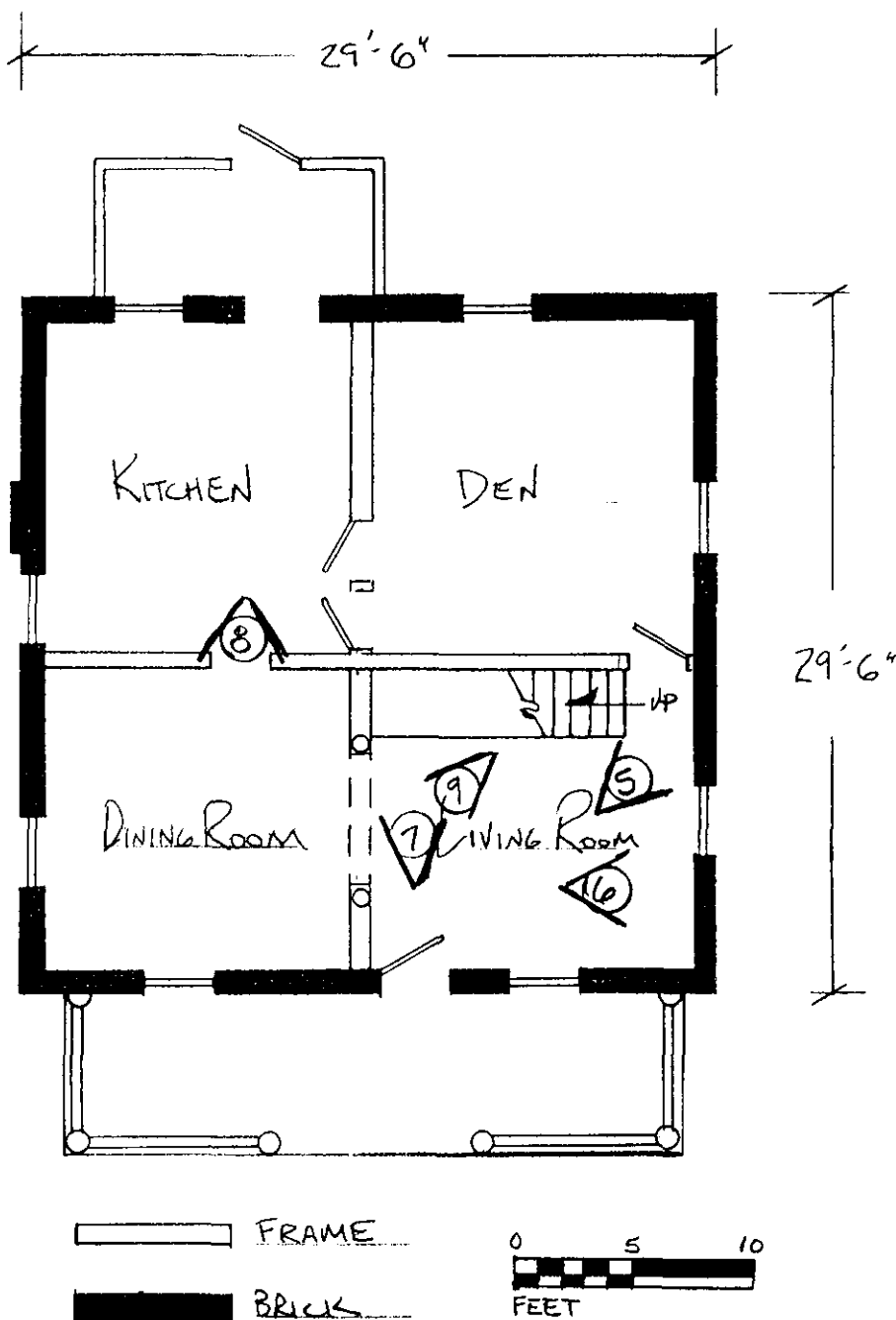
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Figure Five. Photo Key Map - First Floor. Drawn by Becky Snider.



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Figure Six. Photo Key Map - Second Floor. Drawn by Becky Snider.

