

North Sprigg – North Middle Local Historic District Survey

Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Conducted by
Students of the Historic Preservation Program
Southeast Missouri State University

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HP 588: Legal and Economic Principles of Historic Preservation
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Students in the Legal and Economic Principles of Historic Preservation class (HP 588), under the guidance of Dr. Steven Hoffman, conducted an architectural survey of residential buildings in the North Sprigg-North Middle Local Historic District in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The main purpose of this survey was to construct an inventory of the buildings in the neighborhood immediately east of Sprigg Street between Broadway and North Street for the Historic Preservation Commission of Cape Girardeau.

The area surveyed is bounded by North Street on the north, Sprigg Street on the West, the alley behind Middle Street on the East, and rear lot line of the properties facing Broadway on the south.

The proposed Boulevard Historic District is architecturally significant as an excellent example of a late-nineteenth to mid-twentieth century neighborhood housing Cape Girardeau's expanding middle class from the turn of the twentieth century until the present day. The North Sprigg-North Middle Local Historic District retains its character as a distinctive neighborhood comprised of homes built in a variety of twentieth century architectural styles along streets lined with mature trees. With occasional infill construction, the majority of the building stock is older and the neighborhood is characterized by its straight streets and sidewalks, and its similar architectural styles, rooflines, and building heights. The predominant styles represented in this neighborhood include Missouri German Vernacular, Queen Anne, American Four Square, Craftsman Bungalow, Cape Cod, Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Neoclassical Revival, and Ranch. Other early twentieth century American styles represented in this neighborhood are the

Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival and Neoclassical Revival. These are the dominant housing styles favored by America's middle class families from the turn of the twentieth century through the 1950s. In addition, the neighborhood contains a local historic landmark, the Edward H. Engelmann House, 504 Bellevue, built 1894 (Local Registration, 8/19/02), as well as a 1950s mid-century modern Post Office. Although there are several infill apartment buildings that are incompatible intrusions, the neighborhood as a whole retains its integrity and successfully conveys the look and feel of a late-nineteenth to mid-twentieth century residential neighborhood.

Methodology

At the request of the Cape Girardeau Historic Preservation Commission, in the Spring of 2010, students in HP 588: Legal and Economic Principles of Historic Preservation extended their Historic Resource Survey to include the neighborhood east of Sprigg Street. The Commission asked the class to survey the area bounded by North Street on the north, Sprigg Street on the West, the alley behind Middle Street on the East, and rear lot line of the properties facing Broadway on the south. Archival research and reconnaissance survey was utilized to survey, photograph, and inventory the buildings in this entire area. Due to the limited time available, only a reconnaissance level survey could be conducted by this class, which will assist the city in future Preservation Planning.

Students worked in teams of three each, with each team assigned ten to twenty buildings. Flyers were posted to inform business as well as homeowners of the survey. The students documented their assigned buildings which, included taking photographs, researching the history of the building with the use of property tax records, and filling out State of Missouri Historic Resource Survey forms based on observations of the building from the street.

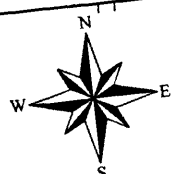
This information was compiled, photocopied, and bound. One copy was presented to the Historic Preservation Commission of Cape Girardeau, one copy deposited in the Regional Archives of Southeast Missouri State University, and one copy retained by the Historic Preservation Program, Department of History, Southeast Missouri State University. Upon completion of the survey of the entire district, the original forms and photographs will be forwarded to the State Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources in Jefferson City, MO.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the following for their invaluable help and assistance, without which this survey could not have been completed:

- ◇ Cape Girardeau County employees for their help with the Property Tax Records of the many buildings included in this survey.
- ◇ District property owners for their cooperation and assistance.
- ◇ The staff of University Printing and Duplicating for their help duplicating and binding the final report.
- ◇ Employees of Cape Girardeau City Hall, especially Richard Reinhardt, for providing assistance and maps of the survey area.
- ◇ Cape Girardeau Historic Preservation Commission for providing assistance and support for continuing survey work in Cape Girardeau.

2010 Historic Preservation Survey Location



Boundaries:

Sprigg Street on the west,
North Street on the north,
the alley between Middle and Fountain on the east,
and the rear (north) property line of the parcels located on the north
side of Broadway on the south.



North St

Bellevue St

Sprigg St

Broadway

Middle St

Frederick St

St

- Legend**
- current_structures
 - Streets
 - Parcels
 - City Limits

