

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Ponder, Abraham Russell, House
Cape Girardeau County, MO

SUMMARY:

The Abraham Russell Ponder House, 141 S. Louisiana, Cape Girardeau, Missouri is a two-story Neo-Classical Revival style brick house constructed for A.R. Ponder in 1905 and located on less than one acre within the city of Cape Girardeau. Local architect Lewis Brinton Blackwood designed the house with a central two-story double-tiered pedimented portico supported by full height fluted Ionic columns and pilasters. The building has a modified rectangular footprint that measures 46' x 30', with a projecting bay on the southern elevation and an 18' by 15' addition on the western (rear) elevation. The addition was constructed prior to 1931. The foundation is concrete and exterior walls are constructed of smooth hard pressed bricks that were produced locally by the Cape Girardeau Press Brick Co. In addition to the elaborate portico, the three bay symmetrical facade has a centered doorway surrounded by sidelights and transoms. The arrangement is repeated in the second story. The hipped roof has a moderate overhang with decorative brackets and a wide frieze with dentil molding. These defining exterior elements clearly articulate the Neo-Classical Revival style. The interior of the Ponder House retains many original features including three fireplaces, a stained glass window, two leaded glass windows, elaborate millwork with classic ornamentation, ornate columns and a grand staircase. The residence retains historic integrity and conveys its significance as a notable example of Classical Revival style architecture and the work of architect Lewis Brinton Blackwood.

ELABORATION:

Setting:

The Abraham Russell Ponder House retains its original setting on a hill in a historic neighborhood. The building is situated on a large 128.5' x 180' lot above the northwest corner of Louisiana Avenue and William Street. The property is level and at the edges of Louisiana and William drops steeply to the street. Louisiana Avenue is an older residential neighborhood which is part of the West End Place Second Addition. The location was considered the western most edge of the city at the time the Ponder House was constructed. The lot was in close proximity to the Cape Girardeau Press Brick Co. which was owned by Mr. Ponder. William Street is now a major thoroughfare in the city of Cape Girardeau. A contemporary black wrought iron fence encircles the lot, affording the home privacy. The secure fence has two ornate entrance gates and a third service gate located in the rear (west) edge of the property. On Louisiana (east), a pedestrian gate provides access to the sidewalk and front entrance of the home. On William Street (south) the electronic gate provides an entrance for cars to enter the driveway and side entrance of the home. Rose bushes, evergreens, and perennials are planted along the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Ponder, Abraham Russell, House
Cape Girardeau County, MO

perimeter of the fence. Within the yard, mature deciduous trees and towering evergreens provide shade to the Ponder House.

Primary (East) elevation:

The three bay symmetrical front or east facade is dominated by a two-story double-tiered pedimented portico supported by full height fluted Ionic columns and pilasters. The centered doorway is surrounded by rectangular sidelights and transom windows, which are each trimmed in decorative millwork. The arrangement of the doorway, sidelights and transom is repeated in the second story, and topped with a decorative wood frieze. On the second story, the balcony is surrounded by a wooden balustrade. The gabled classical pediment of the portico is accented with an oval window. The window has a raised surround with four keystones and is separated into eight lights surrounding an oval center light. Flanking the pedimented portico, the concrete porch supported by limestone blocks extends the full width of the facade. Originally a wooden balustrade connected the portico to the side elevations. Prior to 1972, a white wrought iron railing replaced the original wood railing around the southern style veranda on the eastern and southern elevations. While not original to the building, the railing is not permanent and does not detract from the historic character of the building. One large single pane double hung window is centered on each side of the portico, and identical windows are repeated in the upper story. The windows have limestone sills and are capped with gauged brickwork. The hipped roof has a moderate overhang with decorative brackets and a wide frieze with dentil molding.

South elevation:

The south elevation of the building faces William Street, a major thoroughfare in Cape Girardeau. The brick faced concrete foundation is differentiated from the first floor by a rough-faced limestone string course. Small casement windows provide light to the basement story. A two-story hexagonal bay projects from the left or west third of the facade, and a single story open porch projects from the other two thirds of the first story wall. The fenestration pattern of the southern facade consists of large single pane double hung sashes, and each window is mimicked in the second story. The two-story hexagonal bay has large single pane double hung windows on each side. The trio of windows repeats on the second story. The one-story porch shelters a wood entry door with fifteen single pane glass lites topped with a transom window and one large single pane double-hung window. The entry door is covered by a glass storm door. Two second story windows are placed directly above these openings. The porch has a flat roof and is supported by Ionic columns. The original wooden balustrade of the porch has been replaced with a white wrought iron railing. The railing and porch continue to the right (east) side of the porch and connect to the primary (east) elevation. The hipped

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

**Ponder, Abraham Russell, House
Cape Girardeau County, MO**

roof has a dormer on this elevation, with two small windows. A masonry chimney projects from the hipped roof.

Rear (West) elevation:

The rough-faced limestone string course continues on the western elevation, separating the foundation from the first floor. There are two small casement windows on the foundation as well as an entry to the basement. The fenestration pattern is not symmetrical on the west facade. The first floor has one single pane double hung window topped with a transom and two rectangular decorative bevelled glass windows. A single story 18' by 15' wood frame addition is attached to the northern half of the rear elevation. The date of the addition is unknown, but appears on a Sanborn Insurance Company map prior to 1931. The second story fenestration includes three single pane double hung windows. Two are located above the addition and one is in line with the second small decorative bevelled glass windows. A hipped dormer with two small double hung windows is centered above the west facade. Near to and just right (south) of the dormer, a masonry chimney extends above the roof line.

North elevation:

As the least visible side of the building, the north elevation of the Ponder House is less detailed. The fenestration consists of six single-paned double hung windows which are not symmetrically placed. Each is topped with a gauged flat arch and has a limestone sill. One pair of the windows, one per story, is aligned on axis at the eastern (right) corner of the elevation. Another pair of the windows, one per story, is aligned on axis at the western (left) corner of the elevation. The remaining two single-paned double hung windows are smaller and do not align on axis with each other. The first floor window is slightly off-center, closer to the western edge of the building. The second floor window is further off-center, and closer to the western edge of the building. This elevation also has a central hipped dormer and masonry chimney projecting above the roof line.

Interior:

The Ponder House has a modified rectangular, double pile floor plan with a central hall and grand staircase, which has survived with few alterations. The interior decorative features further define the Neo-Classical Revival style of the home. The interior woodwork remains intact, with elaborate baseboards that are ten inches in height and moldings with classical influences, such as egg-and-dart patterns. The first notable feature inside the Ponder House is the staircase which is surrounded in decorative panelling and has a light fixture for a newell post. Above the staircase is a 4' by 3' stained glass window. The entry hall provides access to each of the four main rooms on the first story, but the most formal opening is to the northeast living room. The

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

**Ponder, Abraham Russell, House
Cape Girardeau County, MO**

entrance is flanked by attenuated Ionic columns resting on decorative wood plinths. Inside the northeast living room, a mirror is attached to the north wall which is flanked by ornate Ionic columns resting on wood plinths and topped with a wood lintel. Swag and garland details decorate the frieze above the mirror.

The fireplaces of the Ponder House show similar use of classical ornamentation. The largest fireplace is located in the southeast living room, and again features two columns resting on plinths and supporting a carved lintel. The mantel shelf is supported by three brackets. Garland, egg-and-dart, floral, and bead designs accentuate the woodwork. A second first floor fireplace appears in the dining room, placed between two leaded glass windows. The dining room fireplace columns serve as candle bases, and the lintel is carved into a scroll motif. Floral swags and garland decorate the frieze and mantel shelf. A third, more restrained fireplace is located in the southeast bedroom on the second floor. Wood molding is used to frame the fireplace and mirror, and form a cornice for the top of the mantelpiece. The mantel shelf is decorated with bead molding and supported by carved brackets.

The described interior features of the Ponder House are original to the building and further illustrate the Neo-Classical influence.

Integrity:

With almost all of its original interior and exterior features intact, the Ponder House is a well preserved local example of the Neo-Classical style. Previous and current owners have maintained the historic fabric of the home while updating necessary systems and adding zoned HVAC. The kitchen and bathrooms have been remodeled. These updates serve to protect the livability of the home but do not diminish the quality of the historic features.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

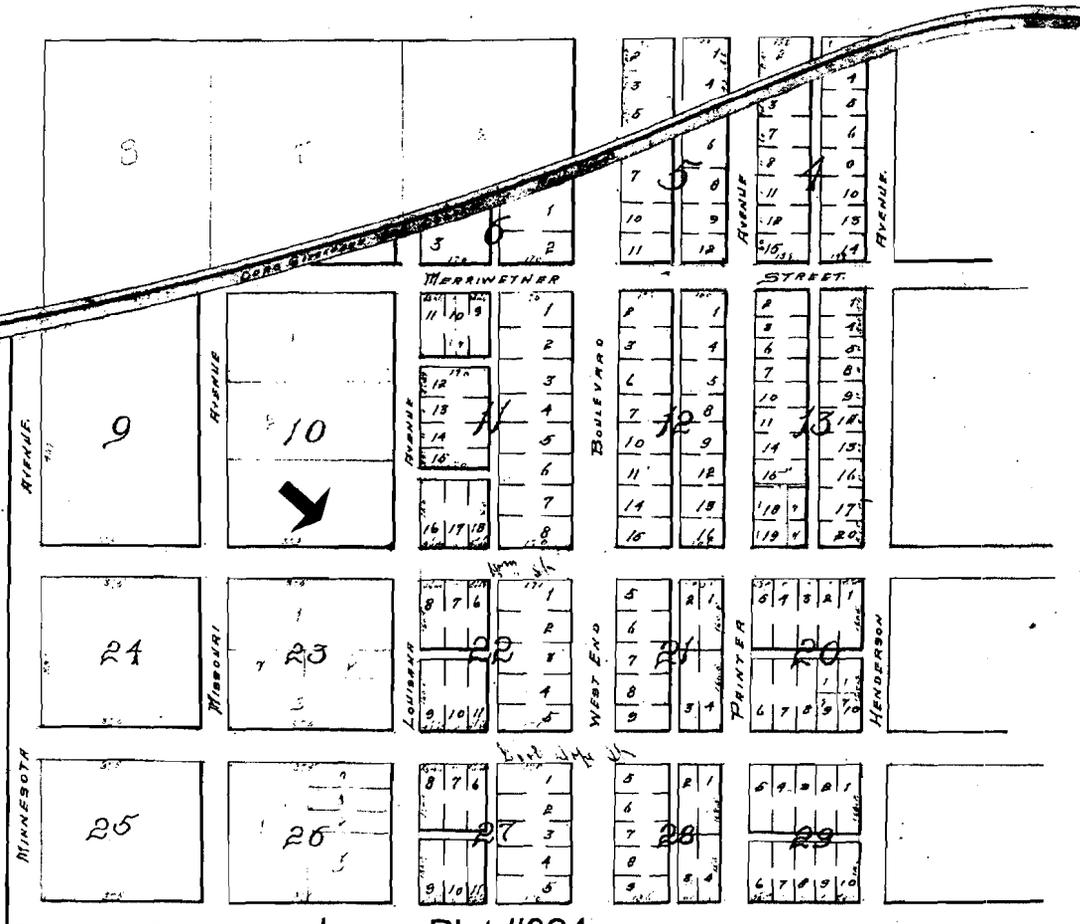
Section number 7 Page 5

Ponder, Abraham Russell, House
Cape Girardeau County, MO

Figure 1: 1910 City of Cape Girardeau Plat Map



Plot of West End Place 2nd Addition to
Town of Cape Girardeau



Plat #324

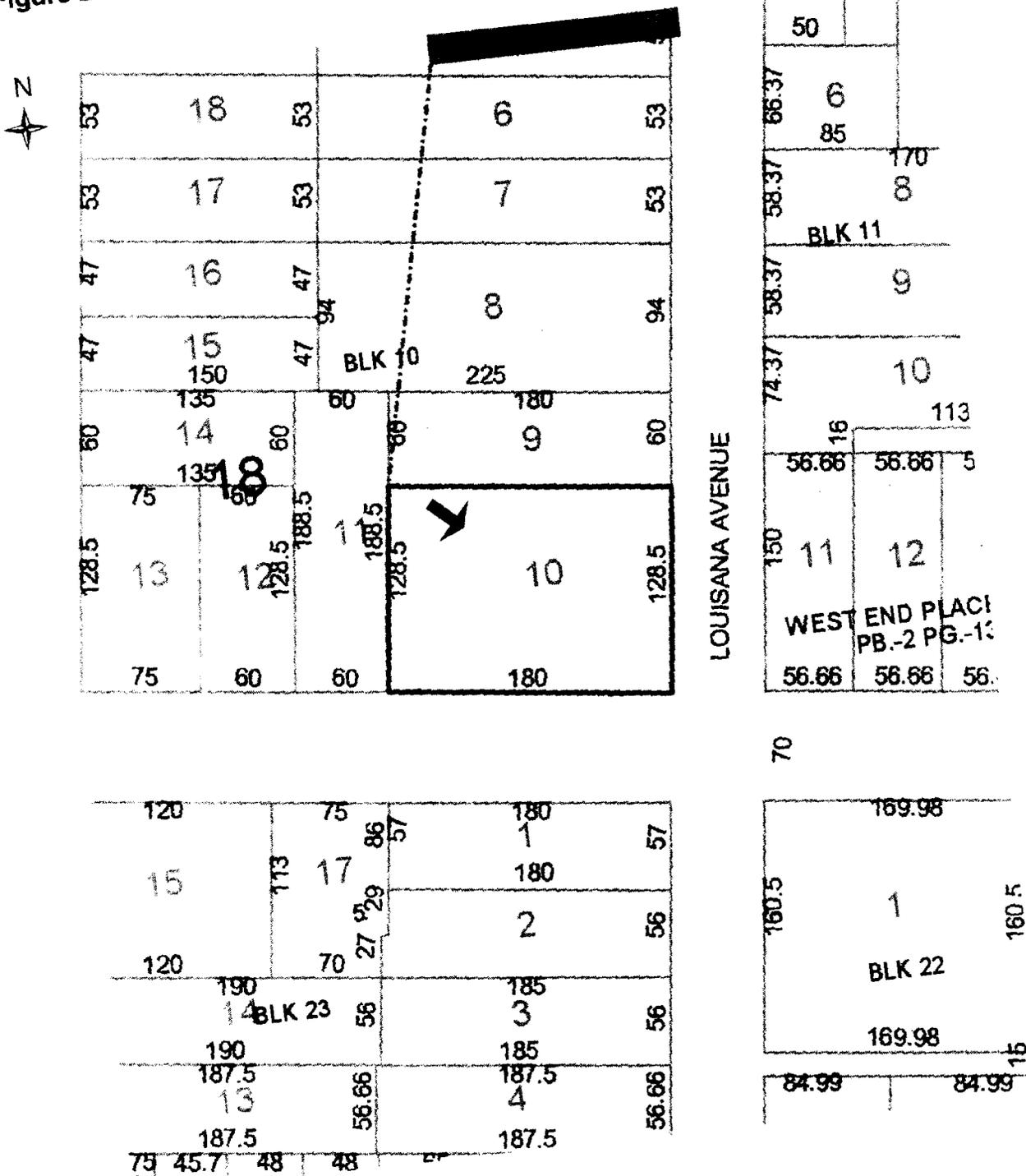
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Ponder, Abraham Russell, House
Cape Girardeau County, MO

Figure 2: 2007 Cape Girardeau County Plat



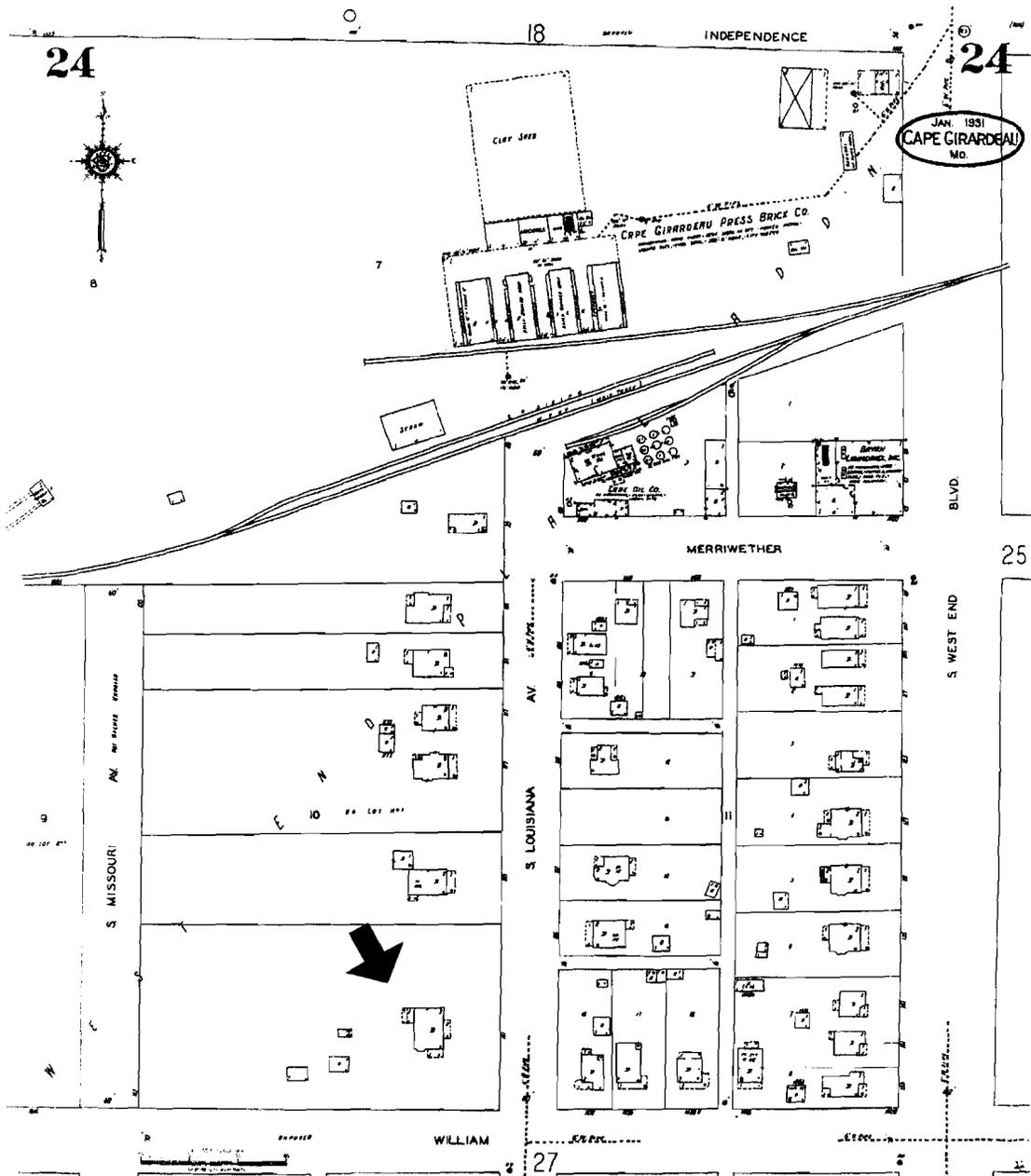
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

Ponder, Abraham Russell, House
Cape Girardeau County, MO

Figure 3: Sanborn Map 1931



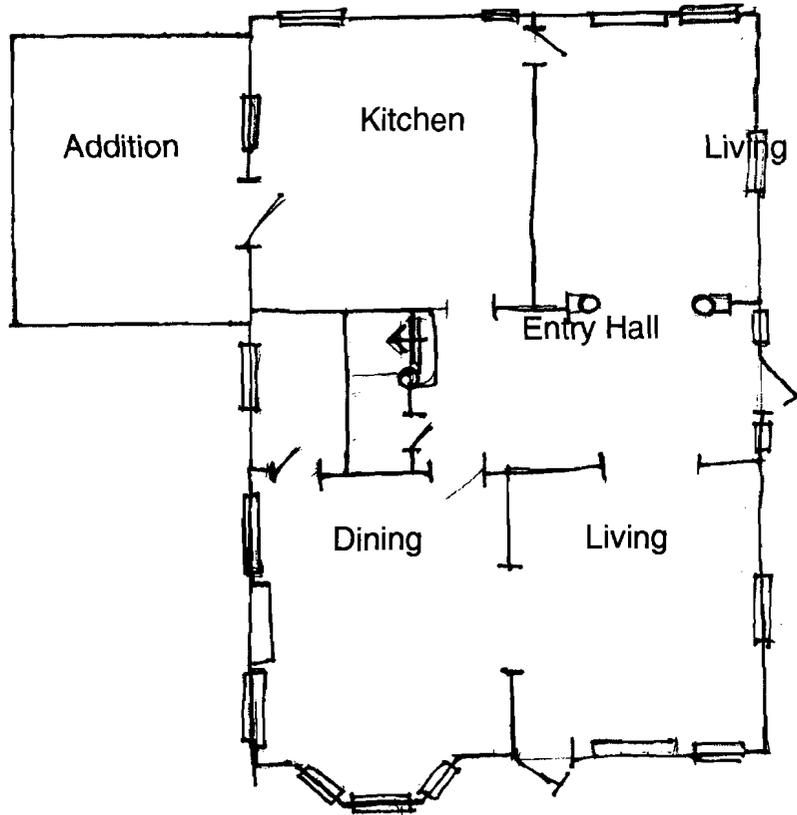
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 8

**Ponder, Abraham Russell, House
Cape Girardeau County, MO**

Figure 4: Floor Plan, First Floor



note: Not to scale

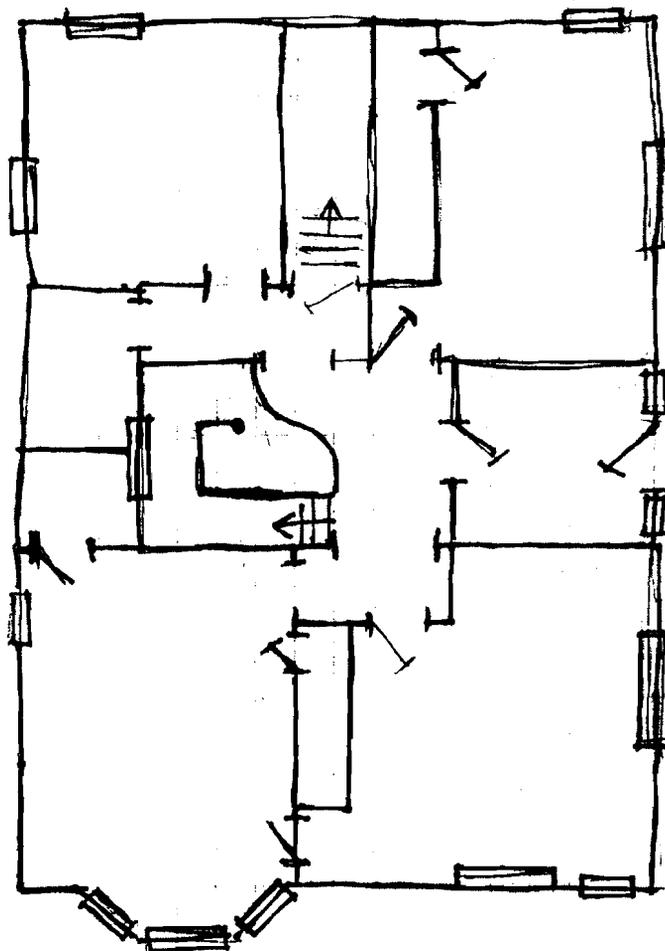
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9

Ponder, Abraham Russell, House
Cape Girardeau County, MO

Figure 5: Floor Plan, Second Floor



note: Not to scale

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

Ponder, Abraham Russell House
Cape Girardeau County, MO

Summary:

The Abraham Russell Ponder House, 141 S. Louisiana, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C: ARCHITECTURE. Under Criterion C, the Ponder House is a notable example of the Neo-Classical Revival style designed by locally significant architect Lewis Brinton Blackwood. The Ponder House was designed and built in 1905 for Abraham Russell Ponder, an enterprising Cape Girardeau citizen who was associated with building railroads, and organizing the first telephone system and streetcar system. The stately brick home has a central two-story double-tiered pedimented portico supported by full height fluted Ionic columns and pilasters. Blackwood's design capitalized on the popularity of the Neo-Classical Revival style, which coincided with Cape Girardeau's intense growth and expansion during the early 20th century. The period of significance is 1905, the year the home was designed and constructed.

Elaboration:

Neo-Classical Revival Architecture

Neo-Classical Revival became a dominant style for domestic buildings nationwide between 1900-1920s. It is classified very generally as having classical symmetry, full-height porches with columns and temple front, and classical ornament.¹ In American architecture, Neo-Classical Revival was one expression of the American Renaissance movement, ca 1890-1917. The Neo-Classical Revival style dominated the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, renewing interest in formal, symmetrical and large scale classical architecture.² The movement was characterized by renewed national self-confidence and a feeling that the United States was the heir to Greek democracy, Roman law, and Renaissance humanism. The American preoccupation with national identity in this period was expressed by a high regard for classical antiquity.

Neo-Classical Revival followed closely after the Beaux-Arts movement of the late 19th Century. Beaux-Arts and Neo-Classical Revival share many of the same characteristics

¹ Robin Middleton, Neoclassical and 19th Century Architecture (New York: Harry Abrams, Inc., 1977) 342.

² Gerald Foster, American Houses: A Field Guide to the Architecture of the Home (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2004) 296.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

Ponder, Abraham Russell House
Cape Girardeau County, MO

such as symmetry, a reference to a classical style or styles, and a use of architectural details such as balustrades, brackets and columns.³

The Neo-Classical Revival style is closely related to both the Greek Revival and Colonial Revival styles. Hallmarks of the style are a rectangular building form, marked by a double height front portico with Ionic or Corinthian columns, and a symmetrically balanced facade. The Neo-Classical Revival style is primarily distinguished from the Greek revival or Colonial Revival styles by its ornate detail. The Neo-Classical Revival style is identified by its use of Greek and Roman architectural elements, such as columns, pediments, and round arches.⁴ Architects frequently combined elements from Greek, Roman, and Italian Renaissance architecture into one design.

With its prominently pedimented, full height front porch, elaborate columns and hipped roof, the A. R. Ponder House is an excellent example of Neo-Classical Revival houses built between 1900 and 1920. The Ionic fluted columns supporting the full-height pedimented porch dominate the front façade of the building, while being classically symmetrical with the placement of the windows and centered front entry. The interior of the Ponder House exhibits the style further through elaborate millwork with classic ornamentation, carved mantels, decorative columns and a grand staircase.

Few Neo-Classical Revival style homes exist in Cape Girardeau. The Oliver-Leming House, 740 North Street, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 as a notable example of the Neo-Classical Revival style. The residence was completed in 1899 and features a two-story Corinthian portico. The current Cape Girardeau Historic Preservation Plan recognizes a number of properties which may be individually eligible to be listed on the National Register. Only two of the recommendations were identified to exhibit the characteristics of the Neo-Classical Revival: 702 North Street and 141 S. Louisiana Avenue.⁵ In contrast to the examples on North Street, the Ponder House is remarkable as the only known example of Neo-Classical Revival style design attributed to locally significant architect L.B. Blackwood.

³ Foster, *American Houses: A Field Guide to the Architecture of the Home* 294.

⁴ John Milnes Baker, *American House Styles: A Concise Guide* (New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 1994) 104.

⁵ "Reconnaissance Historic Structure Survey, City of Cape Girardeau, Volume 1." Manuscript on file with the Division of Inspection Services, City of Cape Girardeau, 1985.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13

Ponder, Abraham Russell House
Cape Girardeau County, MO

The Neo-Classical design of the Ponder House was conceived during a period of dramatic growth and development in the City of Cape Girardeau during the early 20th century. The potential for economic prosperity attracted both A.R. Ponder and L.B. Blackwood to the promising city. Ponder and his architect chose to articulate the achievements of the era, as well as Ponder's personal success, through the refined Neo-Classical style. The result is a professionally designed home which implies grandeur, power and stateliness.

History and Background

Abraham Russell Ponder commissioned architect Lewis Brinton Blackwood to design a new home for his family at 141 S. Louisiana, and construction began on June 15, 1905.⁶ The two-story Neo-Classical style residence was built of smooth hard-pressed bricks manufactured locally by the Cape Girardeau Press Brick Company, a business started by A.R. Ponder. The deep red bricks were a new color produced from coral, and rumored to have contained iron fillings for strength.⁷ The Press Brick Firm is just one of the businesses that Ponder was associated with during the time he lived in Cape Girardeau.

Abraham Russell Ponder was a native of Southeast Missouri, born in Ripley County on August 23, 1867.⁸ The young Ponder later moved with his family to Dunklin County. As a young man he obtained an education in engineering from the Rolla School of Mines, and census records identify his occupation as a civil engineer.⁹ Louis Houck hired Ponder to assist with his railroad projects in Southeast Missouri, and Ponder settled in Cape Girardeau.

The City of Cape Girardeau, as well as Southeast Missouri, greatly benefitted from the engineering skills and partnerships of A.R. Ponder. It was in 1897 that Ponder partnered with Maj. James F. Brooks and Leon J. Albert to organize the Cape Girardeau

⁶ Southeast Missourian. 15 June 1905.

⁷ Sally Wright Brown, "Warm Informal Living Makes House Into Home." Southeast Missourian 9 Dec 1972.

⁸ "A.R. Ponder, Cape Phone and Street Car Pioneer, Dies Suddenly in Texas." Southeast Missourian 9 Sep 1931: 1.

⁹ *Ibid.*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

Ponder, Abraham Russell House
Cape Girardeau County, MO

Telephone Company.¹⁰ In the following few years, he worked to establish the first telephone exchanges in the Missouri Bootheel communities of Kennett and Caruthersville. Ponder also worked with M.E. Leming in 1905 to construct the first streetcar system in Cape Girardeau.¹¹ It was Ponders relationship with John Tlapek, an investor in the SE Missouri Telephone Co. that led Ponder to pursue railroad building in Texas in 1909. Tlapek financed the Crystal City and Uvalde Railroad construction in Texas, and A.R. Ponder was named president of the railroad.¹²

The Ponders occupied the home at 141 S. Louisiana from the time of its construction until 1909, when the family relocated to Texas. In 1918, the home was sold to the J.A. Withers family who maintained the home until 1957. It was during their ownership that the rear addition was constructed. Sanborn map evidence documents that the change occurred prior to 1931. A.C. Bullock acquired the home in November of 1958 with the intention of restoring the home to its original condition. While the floor plan was not altered, the dining room was converted into a master bedroom and a dining room was relocated to one of the downstairs parlors. The butler's pantry was remodeled into a bathroom. The Donald Pemberton family purchased the home in 1960 and also attempted to maintain the home in its original condition, with the exception of adding closets to the bedrooms.¹³ Subsequent homeowners have maintained the property without altering the historic fabric of the house.

The Ponder House retains nearly all of its original character and is able to convey the importance of the Neo-Classical style as an expression of social and economic success for the elite of Cape Girardeau.

Lewis Brinton Blackwood

Architect L.B. Blackwood greatly impacted the built environment of Cape Girardeau in a short time. His turn of the century arrival coincided with the city's monumental building boom and the progressive architect designed many commercial and residential buildings from 1904-1910. Although Blackwood included classical details in many of his

¹⁰ Felix Eugene Snider and Earl Augustus Collins. Cape Girardeau: Biography of a City (Cape Girardeau, MO: Ramfre Press, 1956) 286.

¹¹ Ibid., 269.

¹² John Tlapek Correspondence. 1909-1935. WHMC-Rolla. R037.

¹³ Brown, 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15

Ponder, Abraham Russell House
Cape Girardeau County, MO

commercial and residential designs, the Abraham Russell Ponder House is significant as the only known Neo-Classical Revival style home attributed to the architect. Additionally, the Ponder House remains largely intact in contrast to most of the remaining residences designed by L.B. Blackwood.

Lewis Brinton Blackwood was born in Salem, New Jersey in 1844. He moved to Elm Grove, Kansas as a young man and eventually settled in St. Louis. The architect came to Cape Girardeau around the time of the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis and set up an office.¹⁴ Advertisements for his professional services appeared in Cape Girardeau newspapers beginning in 1903. By the spring of 1907 he returned to St. Louis to live and supervised his projects during frequent visits to Cape Girardeau. Mr. Blackwood died in St. Louis on August 20, 1911 at the age of 67.¹⁵

Commercial Architecture

In the period between his arrival and departure from Cape Girardeau, L.B. Blackwood had an important influence on the built environment of Cape Girardeau. The earliest completed work known to be designed by the architect is the First National Bank building, but L.B. Blackwood almost certainly had planned several buildings during the early part of the Cape Girardeau building boom. By the time the First National Bank opened in May of 1905, *The Daily Republican* reported that Mr. Blackwood's "ability and thoroughness of work are attested by the large number of buildings which he has ably planned" and that he was "the architect of all the most modern buildings of the city."¹⁶ However, no earlier works are known to be attributed to Blackwood. In addition to the First National Bank, Blackwood's known commercial and public projects include the Fairgrounds Club House, Centenary Methodist Church, the Liberty Carriage Factory, the remodeling of Peironnett's Main Street storefront, and the Dempsey flat buildings. Not one of these original designs remains intact.

The First National Bank at 115 - 117 North Main Street was built from 1904 to 1905 and demonstrates the architect's addition of classical details on a Romanesque design. The building was clearly a symbol of an economic boom and a source of pride for the

¹⁴ "L.B. Blackwood Finally Gone: Architect Who Designed Many Cape Houses Died in St. Louis," *Daily Republican* 24 August 1911: 1.

¹⁵ Certificate of Death, Missouri Department of Health.

¹⁶ "First National Bank's Modern New Home," *Daily Republican* 1 May 1905: 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 16

Ponder, Abraham Russell House
Cape Girardeau County, MO

citizens of Cape Girardeau. *The Daily Republican* called it “an eye-opener to those who think Southeast Missouri only a swampy wilderness.”¹⁷ Newspaper accounts of the opening describe the building in detail. It was designed by L.B. Blackwood in a Romanesque style with Richardsonian influences. The main entrance was dominated by a syrian arch springing from stone piers with impost returns. The structure was brick with a rough faced coursed white Bedford rock facade. Paired arched windows were separated by a ribbon of windows. Classic detailing was also present with ionic pilasters, a wide frieze with garland swags, and dentil moulding. The cornice was decorated with brackets and supported a roof-line balustrade. The interior was dominated by a large prism glass skylight and iron ceiling which were supported by six 18 foot high ionic columns. Panels of white Italian marble, five feet high, were used for wainscoting and fixture bases. Primavera mahogany, cathedral glass, and wrought iron trimmed out the fixtures. The “modern” interior also boasted 108 Incandescent lights, some of which encircled the columns just below the capital.¹⁸ The lights were reported to have made the bank look like paradise to the estimated 2000 spectators that attended the opening reception.¹⁹ The First National Bank operated at this location until 1956, when a new “modern” bank was built at Broadway and Main.²⁰ The property was then purchased by C.A. Hood who planned to remodel Blackwood’s design, but later demolished the structure.²¹

Residential Architecture

L.B. Blackwood’s popularity as an architect escalated following the opening of the First National Bank in 1905. His reputation had been established, and he had contact with many prominent citizens in the commercial and social circles of Cape Girardeau. His office was located in the First National Bank building, and men associated with the

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 1.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 1.

¹⁹ “Bank Reception: First National In New Home,” Cape Girardeau Democrat 6 May 1905: 1.

²⁰ Snider, 232-233.

²¹ Southeast Missourian, Images from the Past in the City of Roses, (Cape Girardeau: Concord Printing 1993) 139.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 17

Ponder, Abraham Russell House
Cape Girardeau County, MO

bank, including A.R. Ponder, were the first to hire Blackwood to build their homes. As the architectural fashion began to evolve in the early 1900's, Blackwood designed in various modes to accommodate the desires of his clients. The projects indicate local preference for the familiar Queen Anne form with classical details, as well as the popularity of the revival and classical styles at the turn of the century.

L.B. Blackwood designed several Queen Anne homes for citizens of Cape Girardeau, which included classical architectural elements. L.B. Blackwood planned and built a home for prominent businessman W.W. Ward at 421 North Frederick in 1905.²² The late Queen Anne style design included classic details, such as a palladian window on the front gable. While a few of the verge boards remain around the roof wall junction, the original wrap around porch has been removed and extensive renovations have altered the exterior to create apartments in the home.

John L. Miller, a saloon owner and director of the First National Bank, hired L.B. Blackwood to design a home to be built on the corner of Merriwether and Spanish as a gift for his wife Annie.²³ The 14 room house was completed in 1906. Originally the house had a full front wrap around porch, which was later enclosed with brick. The wrap around porch and three story bay are elements of the late Queen Anne period, yet the house indicates the influence of the new popularity of the revival and classical styles. The roof is slightly flared and hipped with dormers, and the eaves overhang a dentil molding. On the front facade there are symmetrical bay windows with garland details in the frieze. The northern exposure contains a grand arched window. The home was completely remodeled to accommodate the Cape Osteopathic Hospital which opened on April 24, 1949.²⁴

In 1910, the home Blackwood planned for Professor Henry Moore was completed at 828 North Street.²⁵ The brick home was designed in the late Queen Anne - Free

²² "W.W. Ward Called At Noon Today," Southeast Missourian 11 July 1912: 1.

²³ "To Build A Fine New Residence," Daily Republican 23 Feb, 1905: 1.

²⁴ "Formal Opening Planned for Osteopathic Hospital," Southeast Missourian 2 April 1949: 1.

²⁵ Cape Girardeau County Tax Records 1905 - 1911.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 18

Ponder, Abraham Russell House
Cape Girardeau County, MO

Classic style with a side gabled roof and a full width porch.²⁶ Classic elements included pedimented dormers and porch, as well as paired columns. Southeast Missouri State University razed the structure in 2005 to provide more campus parking.

L.B. Blackwood was also capable of designing high style interpretations of the Colonial Revival and Neo-Classical Revival modes. In 1905 Charles Juden commissioned L.B. Blackwood to plan a Colonial Revival country home for he and his wife Irma, the daughter of Louis Houck.²⁷ "Briarwood" was completed in 1907 at an estimated cost of \$75,000.²⁸ Characteristics of the Colonial Revival include the dual pitch gambrel roof, pedimented dormers, and entry door surround with sidelights and transom window. The double hung windows have a 12 over 1 arrangement. The restrained single-story entry porch has four square columns supporting an entablature. The home is fine example of Colonial Revival design, and one of the few Blackwood creations to remain intact.

The Abraham Russell Ponder House is the only known example of a Neo-Classical Revival home designed by L.B. Blackwood. The Ponder House design shares some of the physical features and design characteristics present on other buildings attributed to Blackwood. The use of columns, garland swags, prism glass and incandescent lights as decorative elements are found throughout Blackwood's designs. The features highlighted in the newspaper account of the opening of the First National Bank (FNB) are repeated in the design of the Ponder House. The FNB and Ponder House both utilize Ionic columns, and classic ornament such as garland swags. The FNB skylight of prism glass is translated to the Ponder House as prism glass windows in the dining room. Blackwood interprets the novelty of incandescent lighting as a design feature in the bank by encircling the column capitals with the lights, and in the Ponder House he adds the incandescent globe to replace the newell post on the staircase. These features are not only indicative of the period, but of Blackwood's creativity as a designer.

²⁶ Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004) 321.

²⁷ Southeast Missourian 15 June 1905: 5.

²⁸ Cape Girardeau Democrat 16 Feb 1907: 5.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 19

Ponder, Abraham Russell House
Cape Girardeau County, MO

Although his tenure in the city was brief, L.B. Blackwood played a large role in designing the architecture of Cape Girardeau. His commercial and residential works were landmarks of their time, commissioned by the leaders of the community. The A.R. Ponder House significantly represents the ability and influence of architect L.B. Blackwood.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 20

Ponder, Abraham Russell House
Cape Girardeau County, MO

Major Bibliographic References:

- 1850, 1900, 1910, and 1920 U.S. Federal Census. Cape Girardeau County, Missouri.
- "A.R. Ponder, Cape Phone and Street Car Pioneer, Dies Suddenly in Texas." Southeast Missourian [Cape Girardeau, MO] 9 September 1931: 1.
- Baker, John Milnes. American House Styles: A Concise Guide. New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 1994.
- "Bank Reception: First National In New Home." Cape Girardeau Democrat 6 May 1905: 1.
- Brown, Sally Wright. "Warm Informal Living Makes House Into Home." Southeast Missourian [Cape Girardeau, MO] 9 Dec 1972.
- Cape Girardeau. Map. Sanborn Insurance Company, 1901, 1908, 1923, 1931.
- Cape Girardeau County Personal and Land Tax Records. 1905 - 1911.
- Cape Girardeau Democrat 16 Feb 1907: 5.
- "Contract Let For First National Bank Building." Cape Girardeau Democrat 16 April 1904: 1.
- Daily Republican's City Directory of Cape Girardeau, MO for 1906. Cape Girardeau, MO: Naeter Brothers, 1906.
- "Dr. Popp Services Will Be Wednesday." Southeast Missourian [Cape Girardeau, MO] 25 September 1962: 2.
- "First National Bank's Modern New Home." Daily Republican [Cape Girardeau, MO] 1 May 1905: 1.
- Foster, Gerald. American Houses: A Field Guide to the Architecture of the Home. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 2004.
- "Formal Opening Planned for Osteopathic Hospital." Southeast Missourian [Cape Girardeau, MO] 2 April 1949: 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10

Ponder, Abraham Russell House
Cape Girardeau County, MO

Figure 6: USGS Aerial Photograph of 141 S. Louisiana



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 21

Ponder, Abraham Russell House
Cape Girardeau County, MO

John Tlappek Correspondence. 1909-1935. WHMC-Rolla. R037.

“L.B. Blackwood Finally Gone: Architect Who Designed Many Cape Houses Died in St. Louis.”

Daily Republican [Cape Girardeau, MO] 24 August 1911: 1.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004.

Middleton, Robin. Neoclassical and 19th Century Architecture. New York: Harry Abrams, Inc. Publishers, 1977.

“Mrs. Miller Had To Go At Last.” Daily Republican [Cape Girardeau, MO] 22 October 1907: 1.

Neumeyer, Tom, Frank Nickell, and Joel P. Rhodes. Historic Cape Girardeau: An Illustrated History. The Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio, TX: Historical Publishing Network, 2004.

“Rites for Professor Moore To Be Held Friday.” Southeast Missourian [Cape Girardeau, MO] 14 July 1955: 1.

Snider, Felix Eugene and Earl Augustus Collins. Cape Girardeau: Biography of a City. Cape Girardeau, MO: Ramfre Press, 1956.

“To Build A Fine New Residence.” Daily Republican [Cape Girardeau, MO] 23 February 1905: 1.

Southeast Missourian [Cape Girardeau, MO] 15 June 1905: 5.

Southeast Missourian. Images from the Past in the City of Roses. Cape Girardeau: Concord Printing, 1993.

“W.W. Ward Called At Noon Today.” Southeast Missourian [Cape Girardeau, MO] 11 July 1912: 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 22

Ponder, Abraham Russell House
Cape Girardeau County, MO

Geographical Data:

Verbal Boundary Description:

Part of Block Ten (10) of the West End Place Second Addition to the City of Cape Girardeau, Missouri described as follows:

Begin at a point of the West line of Louisiana Avenue 60 feet North 82 degrees West from the southeast corner of Block 11 of West End Place Second Addition the same being the northwest corner of Louisiana Avenue and William Street; thence in a westerly direction along the north line of William Street 180 feet; thence North parallel to Louisiana Avenue 128 1/2 feet; thence East parallel to William Street, 180 feet to the West line of Louisiana Avenue; thence South with the west line of Louisiana Avenue 128 1/2 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary encompasses all of the land historically associated with the building.

Accompanying Documentation:

Photographs:

The following information is the same for all photographs, unless noted:

Abraham Russell Ponder House, 141 S. Louisiana, Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau County, Missouri

Photographer: Morgan Meyr Lake

- #1 East and South Elevation, facing northwest at the NE corner of Louisiana Ave. and William Street.
February 2007
- #2 East and South Elevation, facing northwest.
February 2007
- #3 East Elevation, front facade, facing west.
April 2007

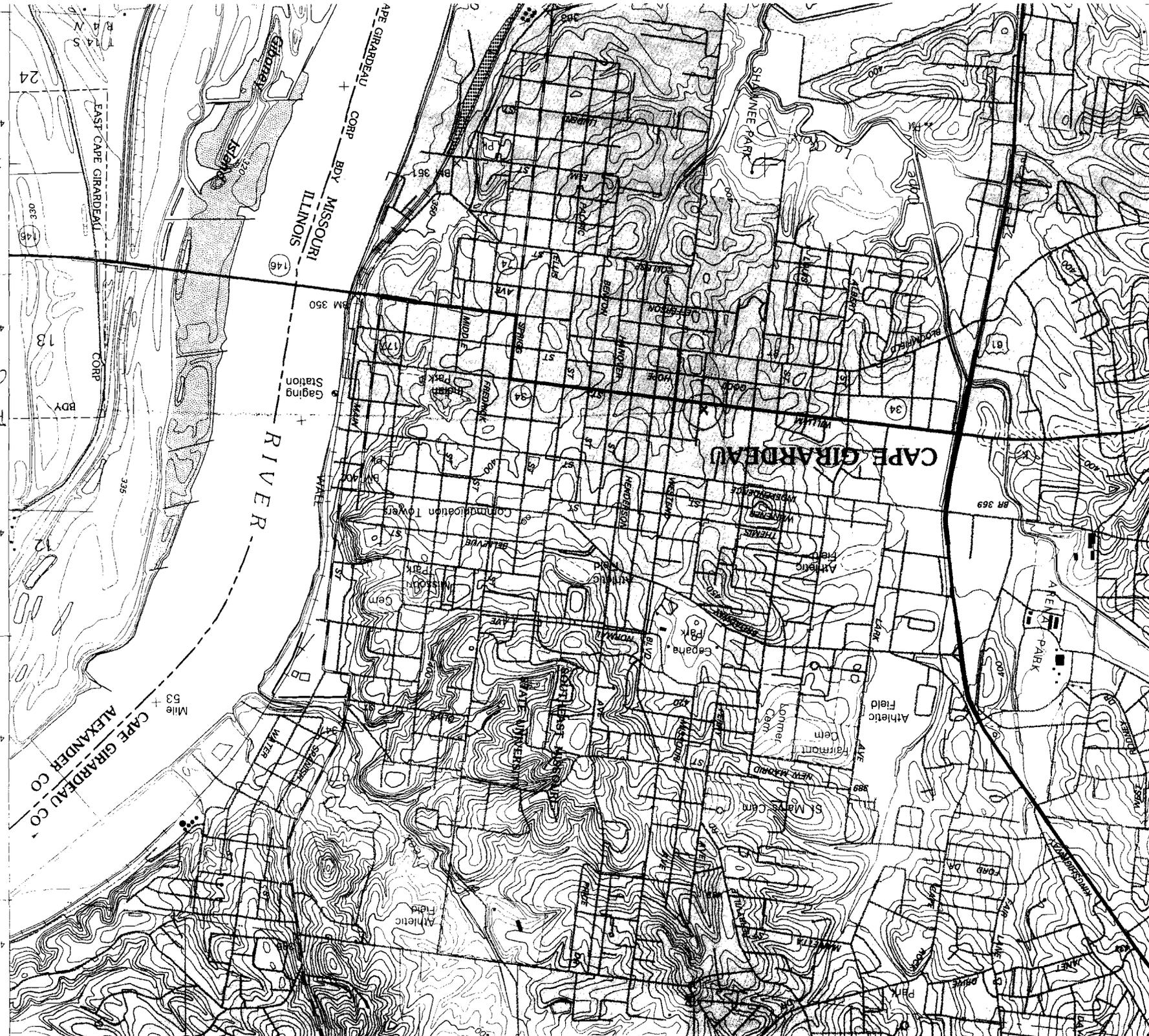
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 23

Ponder, Abraham Russell House
Cape Girardeau County, MO

- #4 South Elevation, facing north.
April 2007
- #5 West Elevation, facing east.
April 2007
- #6 North and East elevation, facing southwest.
February 2007
- #7 Inside entry hall, view of staircase and stained glass window, facing southwest.
April 2007
- #8 Inside entry hall, detail of globe light newell post, facing northwest.
April 2007
- #9 Inside entry hall, view of columned entry into living room, facing northeast.
April 2007
- #10 Inside northeast living room, detail of pier mirror feature, facing north.
April 2007
- #11 Inside southeast living room, detail of fireplace on south wall, facing southwest.
April 2007
- #12 Inside southeast second floor bedroom, detail of fireplace on south wall, facing south.
April 2007
- #13 Inside dining room, view of fireplace flanked by two lead glass windows, facing west.
April 2007



41 30
17' 30"
41 31
18
41 32
12
41 33
53 +
41 34

EAST CAPE GIRARDEAU
CORP
BDY

MISSOURI
ILLINOIS
146

CAPE GIRARDEAU CO
ALEXANDER CO
Mile 53 +

1/22/2019/4131434
Cape Girardeau
Missouri
Forsyth















