

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Pott, Frederick W. and Mary Karau, House

other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 826 Themis Street [n/a] not for publication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  
 nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the  
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my  
opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered  
significant.  nationally  statewide  locally.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ]. )

Signature of certifying official/Title *Claire F. Blackwell* Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO

Date 14 May 1995

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

Name of related multiple property listing.

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**  
Domestic/single dwelling  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
Domestic/single dwelling  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
Late Victorian  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
 foundation stone  
 walls brick  
 roof asphalt  
 other wood  
metal

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

**A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

**B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

**C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

**D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

Property is:

**A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

**B** removed from its original location.

**C** a birthplace or grave.

**D** a cemetery.

**E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

**F** a commemorative property.

**G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Periods of Significance**

1885 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

n/a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person(s)**

n/a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

n/a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

unknown \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

# \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

# \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** less than one acre

**UTM References**

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
16	275820	4131830			
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[ ] See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title see continuation sheet

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state MO 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 Mr. and Mrs. Steven Mellies

street & number 826 Themis Street telephone 573/334-7948

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

Pott, Frederick W. and Mary Karau, House  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

**SUMMARY:** The Frederick W. and Mary Karau Pott House, 826 Themis Street, is located at the northeast corner of Themis and Pacific Streets in Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau County, Missouri. Constructed of brick in circa 1885, the 2½-story Pott House is a picturesque and well-preserved rendering of the Italianate style with a side-gabled roof, a projecting pedimented front gable and parapet chimneys. Typical Italianate elements include an overhanging eave with curvilinear brackets and modillions across the building's symmetrical five-bay front, tall narrow windows with round and segmental arches and bracketed lugsills, and an ornate central portico supported by groups of chamfered columns. Paired end chimneys are connected by parapets which add stability to the tall stacks. The south-facing main block is approximately square, with a central 2-story ell attached sometime before 1893. A five-sided bay window with a bracketed cornice emerges from the east wall of the ell. Most windows in the secondary elevations have segmental arches with wood insets containing an incised design. The remodeled interior retains an original staircase with an ornate newel post. With the exception of a tiny wooden vestibule in the rear (circa 1940), the exterior of the Pott House retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship and location. It is an excellent example of Italianate architecture in Cape Girardeau, and its uncommon side parapets with chimneys are an interesting variation on this once highly popular style.

**ELABORATION:**

Most of the Pott House's Italianate detailing is concentrated in the primary south elevation (Themis Street). A projecting front gable with a triangular serifed pediment and a scroll-sawn panel within the tympanum is centered in the facade. The presence of this front gable exemplifies the Centered Gable subtype as described by McAlester and McAlester in their handbook of American residential architecture.<sup>1</sup> The main roof is side-gabled with parapets. Pairs of large, curvilinear brackets are interspersed with modillions along the roofline. A frieze band displays an intricate pattern of diamonds and crosses. Painted white, the Pott House rests on a rock-faced, coursed stone foundation.

The most prominent feature in the primary elevation is an elaborate portico with a railing deck. Decorated with a scrollwork frieze and brackets, it frames a complex main entrance with a segmental archway. The portico deck--accessed from a walkout second floor window--is supported by two groups of three chamfered columns with two matching pilasters. The columns are capped by capitals decorated with a leaf pattern. Scroll-sawn spandrels also are present. The deck railing consists of scroll-sawn circles imposed over Xs. The double, double-leaf entrance features deeply recessed inner doors with a transom, a tiny vestibule, and outer panel doors. Inner doors have tall glass windows above rectangular panels. Outer doors are normally open, resembling paneled reveals; actual reveals are smooth vertical boards. An iron railing encloses a short flight of steps to the landing.

On the first floor, the portico is flanked by two individual round arched windows on each side. Second floor windows (plus one above the entrance) are similarly arranged but have segmental arches. In a mild departure from the usual Italianate styling, window heads on the Pott House are neither hooded nor otherwise elaborated. Projecting stone lugsills, however, are supported by massive stone brackets. Sash are double-hung 1/1s.

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<sup>1</sup>McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985, pp. 210-221.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2

**Pott, Frederick W. and Mary Karau, House  
Cape Girardeau County, MO**

On both side elevations (east and west) of the original block, interior chimneys protrude from opposite ends of the brick parapets. The elaborate bracketed cornice across the primary elevation wraps for a few feet into both sides. East and west fenestration differs somewhat except at the third level, where two evenly spaced, double-hung windows are centered in each elevation. Most side windows including those in the bay window and ell are segmentally arched, double-hung units with wood insets containing a delicate incised design, and stone lugsills.

On the east elevation of the main block, fenestration is symmetrical with two evenly spaced windows on all three levels. Two segmentally arched basement windows with incised insets are similarly aligned. Attic windows are shorter than first and second floor windows. A five-sided bay window with a bracketed cornice extends from the east wall of the ell. The bay window's three primary angles contain segmentally arched windows with incised insets. The bay window continues to the basement, with two additional windows set in its stone foundation. A double window, also segmentally arched, is centered at the second floor level of the ell. A band of corbeled brickwork adds a decorative touch to the ell roofline. Basement windows in the east elevation are somewhat larger than those on the west.

Mainly, the west elevation of the main block (facing Pacific Street) differs from the east in that another window is added near the north end of the facade on the first and second floors as well as the basement--three per floor instead of two. As on the east elevation, the two third floor windows are shorter. The other windows are of the same construction as those on the east, with decorative insets, but lugsills protrude farther and are supported by brackets, as on the main elevation. A tall, segmentally arched entrance--possibly a window conversion--is in the north half of the ell. Wood paneling fills the upper portion of this opening below an incised inset. A flat-arched window is south of the entrance, below a similar upstairs window. A segmental window is above the entrance. Midway between the first and second floors is another flat-arched window, only narrower. As on the east, corbeled brickwork elaborates the cornice. The ell has a flat roof with side parapets.

The north (rear) elevation of the ell has another entrance within a tiny enclosed vestibule, built of wood and sided in circa 1940. This gabled addition toward the east end of the ell has a west-facing door. Four windows with segmental arches and insets, two on each floor aligned vertically, are located near the east and west ends of the ell's rear elevation. The east portion of the second floor also has a small, 1/1 window with a flat arch. A small window opening on the first floor near the center of the facade has been infilled with brick. A black iron star, probably a turnbuckle, is west of center near the plain cornice. Two windows also are in the rear portion of the main block adjacent to the east wall of the ell. The upstairs window has a segmental arch and the first floor window has a flat arch. West of the enclosed vestibule, six steps lead down to a basement door. A coal chute is nearby.

The floor plan is arranged around a central hall containing an original staircase. The handrail is made of cherry wood. The highly detailed newel post incorporates medallions made of metal. Except for the staircase, much of the original double-pile interior was altered when the property was converted to a professional building around 1938. Renovation of the interior for residential use is under way. The current owner hopes to recreate as much of the original floor plan as feasible.

West of the staircase is a large room from which a wall with a doorway has been removed. A fireplace with a mantel is in the southwest outer wall and a nonoriginal fireplace is in the northwest portion. Some

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 3

**Pott, Frederick W. and Mary Karau, House  
Cape Girardeau County, MO**

original plaster work is intact. Southeast of the stairs is another room with a fireplace. A metal spiral stairway in the kitchen is a nonoriginal replacement of an earlier boxed stairway. When this nomination was prepared, renovation was in progress in the east area south of the ell as well as upstairs.

On the second floor west of the landing is a bedroom with a fireplace and bathroom. North of the stairway is a hallway leading to a washroom, office, and darkroom. The master bedroom is in the southeast corner of the second floor. This room is equipped with a fireplace, bathroom and walk-in closet. In the southwest corner is a sitting room with a fireplace. There is also a small room centered over the entry. Remodeling/renovation of the master bedroom, darkroom, washroom, and office has been completed. The west bedroom will be completely redone. The sitting room will undergo only minor changes.

The third floor has a bedroom and bathroom on the west side, a bedroom with two closets on the east side, and a closet in the middle on the south. This floor is completely modern and further renovations are not planned.

The unfinished basement consists of three large rooms, a wine cellar and a fireplace. Large wooden doors divide the rooms.

A wrought iron fence with ornate posts extends around the lawn area adjacent to the public sidewalks on Themis and Pacific. Neatly trimmed shrubbery is arrayed along the south edge of the house and a wooden privacy fence which encloses the west side yard. Trees and other evergreen bushes occupy the southeast and southwest corners of the lot. A landscaped garden with a brick patio, a fountain and additional bushes and trees is within the privacy area. A concrete drive is on the east side of the lot and a blacktop drive is on the north.

The Pott House occupies a typical town lot in an architecturally diverse residential neighborhood. Various forms and architectural styles are represented although the homes are spaced more or less similarly on their lots. A smaller house with Italianate affinities is three doors away but the Pott House is unsurpassed for the variety of stylistic elements displayed and for its level of integrity. No comparable Italianate properties of the Centered Gable subtype are extant in Cape Girardeau.

A circa 1920 photo depicting the west and south facades of the Pott House strongly supports the impression that its historic appearance is essentially intact. In circa 1920, trim was painted a dark color unlike today's universal white, but no other modifications are apparent.<sup>2</sup>

The presently white house will be painted a cream shade and the nonhistoric back vestibule will be removed but no significant changes to the exterior are planned. Despite interior changes dating from when the building was converted into offices at about the time of World War Two, the Pott House retains integrity to a significant degree, especially in its outward appearance. It is a noteworthy interpretation of the Italianate style in Cape Girardeau.

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<sup>2</sup>Southeast Missourian Newspaper. Images of the Past In the City of Roses. Cape Girardeau, Missouri: Concord Publishing House, 1993, p.30.

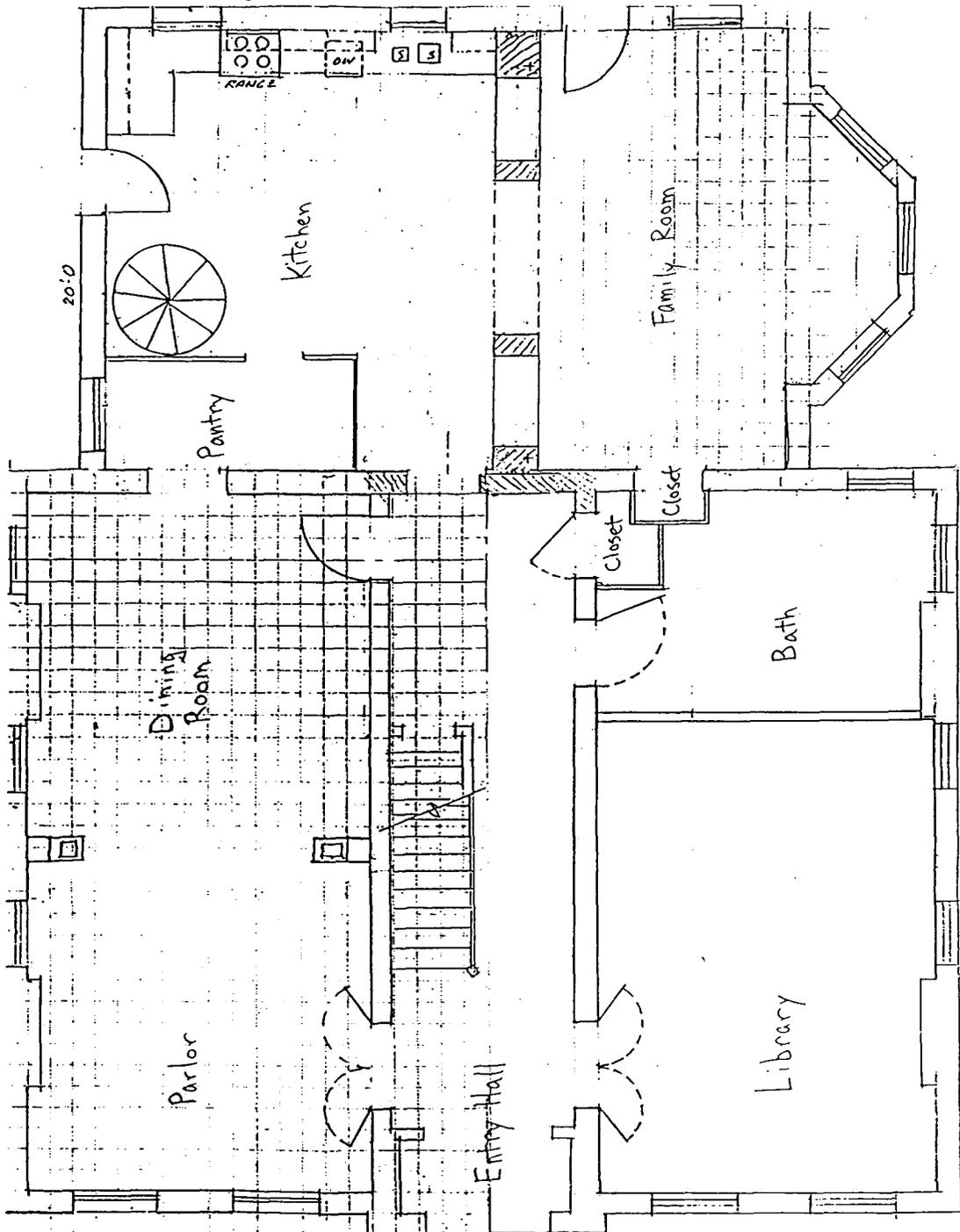
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 4

Pott, Frederick W. and Mary Karau, House  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

First Floor - not to scale.



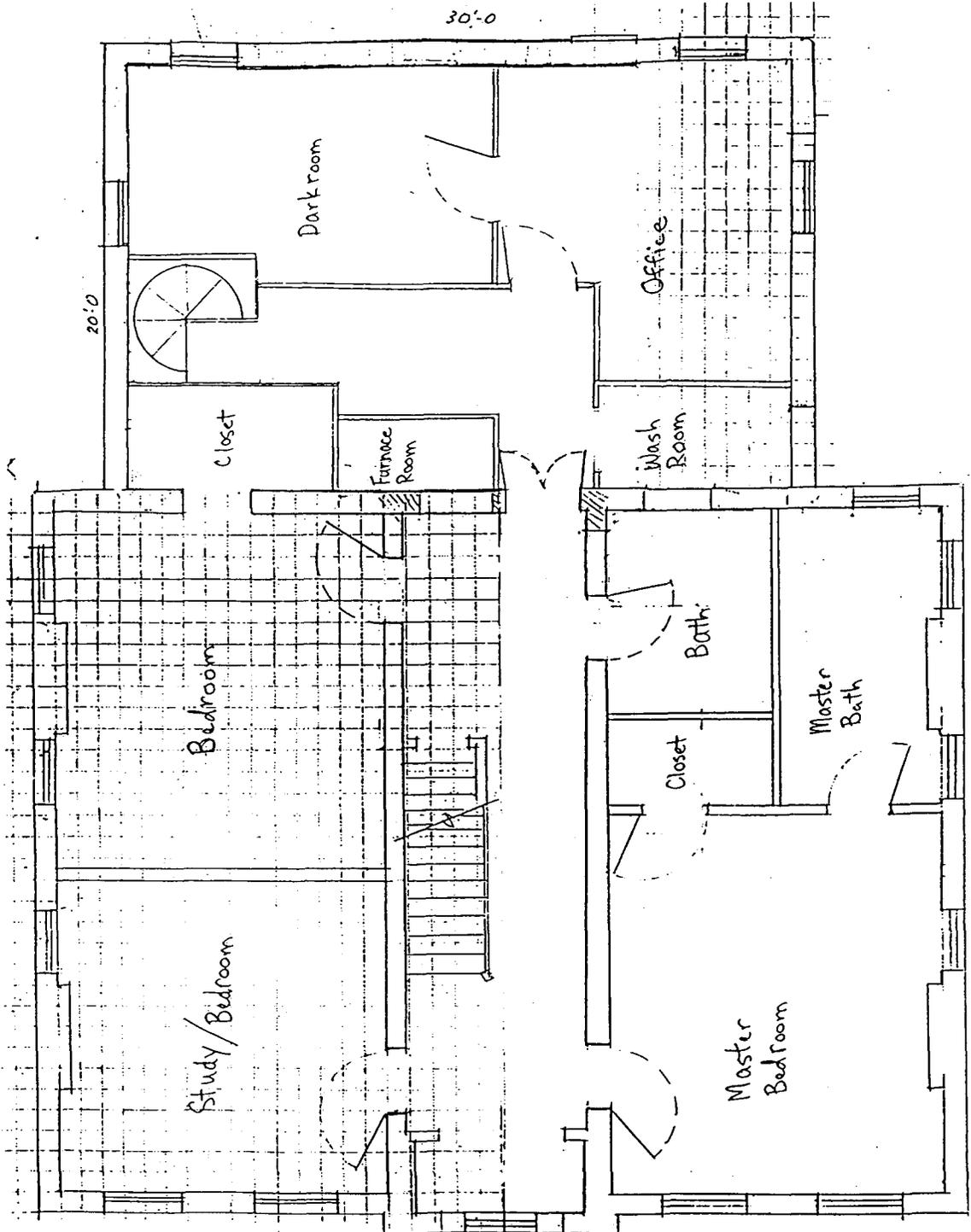
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Pott, Frederick W. and Mary Karau, House  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

Second Floor - not to scale.



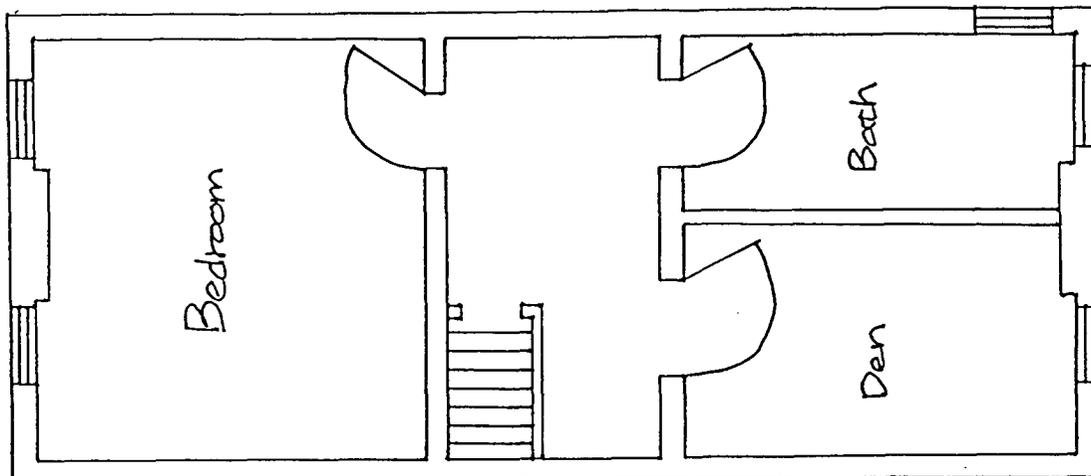
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

Pott, Frederick W. and Mary Karau, House  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

Third Floor - not to scale.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 7

Pott, Frederick W. and Mary Karau, House, House  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

**SUMMARY:** The Frederick W. and Mary Karau Pott House, 826 Themis Street, Cape Girardeau, is significant under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. The main block of the Pott House, constructed in circa 1885, exemplifies a rural variation of the Italianate Centered Gable subtype as described by McAlester and McAlester.<sup>3</sup> While key defining elements of the Italianate style are present, the combination of a boldly bracketed cornice, a tympanum filled with scrollwork, a wide frieze with a delicate incised design of diamonds and crosses, and pairs of parapet chimneys in the side gables sets this house apart. With its elaborated portico and the presence of other elements common to the style, the Pott House is a well-articulated example of the Italianate style of architecture in Cape Girardeau. Other stylistic elements include tall arched windows and ornate double doors with large-pane glazing. Features such as parapet chimneys and segmental arches suggest the influence of a German building tradition in Cape Girardeau. This was appropriate since Pott, a pioneer mill operator in the old river town, was a native of Prussia. The property remained in the Pott family until 1938, then was used for several years as a professional building for doctors. Today the Pott House, again a single family residence, survives with minimal alterations to the exterior and retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, feeling and setting.

**ELABORATION: HOUSE AND FAMILY HISTORY**

Born in Prussia in 1839, Frederick W. Pott found work in local mills after immigrating to Cape Girardeau with his parents, Frederick and Joanna Pott, in 1854. When the Civil War began, father and son both enlisted in the Federal army. Frederick W. Pott served with the Second Illinois Light Artillery. He was captured in the Battle of Shiloh. After seven months of confinement, he was released in a prisoner exchange and ultimately rejoined his regiment at Memphis. Near the end of the war, Pott's father died of an illness he contracted while in the service.<sup>4</sup>

After the war Pott returned to Cape Girardeau and again found employment in the milling industry, probably at the Union Mill which had been the city's first. He married Mary (or Maria) Karau of Germany in 1866 and they proceeded to have 11 children. In 1877, after operating a rented mill across the Mississippi River in Illinois for several years, Pott obtained a loan and built Planters Mill at the foot of Main Street. Despite competition from two other mills operating in Cape Girardeau at the time of its construction, Pott made money and within four years owned the new facility outright.<sup>5</sup>

When Cape Girardeau's first railroad was completed in 1881, the town's continued prosperity must have seemed assured. By circa 1885, Pott and his family were ready for a new and larger house. Various construction details suggest that German builders were commissioned for the job. The large and exuberant nature of the residence was a clear indication of Pott's status in the community as a prosperous tradesman. Probably, the two-story ell was soon added to the main block. The extended space would have been appreciated by the large Pott family.

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<sup>3</sup> McAlester and McAlester, op cit.

<sup>4</sup> Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1888, pp. 416, 790-91.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 8

Pott, Frederick W. and Mary Karau, House, House  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

By 1888, Pott had increased the capacity of Planters Mill from an initial daily output of 80 barrels of flour to 200 barrels. By this time the mill provided employment for 10 men and was probably still expanding. However, prosperity ended for Pott on March 27, 1909, when fire swept through a group of riverfront businesses including Planters Mill. The entire facility was destroyed. Pott's insurance only partially covered the loss of the mill, elevator, warehouse and a large quantity of wheat, flour and bran that had been stored on the premises. The total loss was estimated at \$50,000. Pott died the next year, 1910.<sup>6</sup>

The house's circa 1885 construction date was determined primarily from tax records and the fact that no building is depicted on the site prior to 1885. On June 9, 1882, Frederick W. Pott purchased part of Lots 31 and 32 in Range D at the northeast corner of Themis and Pacific Streets for \$176.<sup>7</sup> Between 1885 and 1886, property valuation at this location increased from \$580 to \$2,000.<sup>8</sup> Given this rise in valuation, the house was probably built sometime in late 1885 or early 1886. The ell was constructed soon afterward and is depicted on the 1893 Sanborn fire insurance map. The first appearance of the bay window is on the 1900 Sanborn map, so it may or may not have been constructed when the ell was initially added. The Pott House remained in the family until 1938, when it was sold to D. W. Hope, a Cape Girardeau physician.<sup>9</sup>

Professional offices were developed in the building after it was acquired by Dr. Hope, city directories from 1942-73 indicate. The H-R-S Company was formed by Dr. Hope and three other doctors: A. J. Rasche, Frank W. Hall, and Mitchell H. Shelby. These and other doctors maintained offices in the former Pott residence for some 30 years.<sup>10</sup> The next owner was James McHaney, who sold the property to the current owners, Steven and Emily Mellies, on April 28, 1995.<sup>11</sup>

**ELABORATION: ARCHITECTURE**

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<sup>6</sup>Southeast Missourian Newspaper, op cit., p.147.

<sup>7</sup>Record of Deeds, Vol. No. 13, Cape Girardeau County Courthouse, Jackson, Missouri, pp.487-489.

<sup>8</sup>1885 Land Tax Book, Index #4953, and 1886 Land Tax Book, Index #5342. Cape Girardeau County Courthouse, Jackson, Missouri.

<sup>9</sup>Maria Pott, Frederick W.'s wife, purchased the land from the estate of her husband for \$1 in 1912. On May 16, 1938, the family sold the property to Dr. D. H. Hope for \$4,500. The sellers were Helen Pott Bertling, Louis J. Pott, Hermine Pott, Emma Pott, Emil Pott, Edward G. Pott, Anatolie M. Pott, Gustave C. Pott, Laura Pott, Alma M. Pott Popp, L. F. Pott, Erna Pott Rodibaugh, Lawrence Rodibaugh, Naomi Pott, Fred A. Pott, Gussie Pott, Loren Pott, Ethel Pott, Elmer Pott, Irma Pott, and Marie Pott. Presumably these were children or grandchildren of Frederick and Maria, or they were spouses to those who were. See Deed Record, Book 56, pp. 149-50 and Miscellaneous Deed Record, Book 113, pp. 131-132, Cape Girardeau County Courthouse, Jackson, Missouri.

<sup>10</sup>Miscellaneous Deed Record, Book 158, Cape Girardeau County Courthouse, Jackson, Missouri, pp.548-549.

<sup>11</sup>Warranty Deed Record, Book 752. Cape Girardeau County Courthouse, Jackson, Missouri, p. 533.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 9

**Pott, Frederick W. and Mary Karau, House, House  
Cape Girardeau County, MO**

Between 1850 and 1880, the Italianate style dominated American residential architecture in several geographic areas including the Midwest. The Italianate style began in England where established classical ideals in art and literature were being challenged. The Picturesque movement, as it was called, encouraged adopting the casual, rambling style of Italian farmhouses which allowed great flexibility. Andrew Jackson Downing is credited with helping popularize the style in America through a series of pattern books such as *Victorian Cottage Residences*, published in 1842. Downing described the Italian Villa as being simultaneously picturesque and practical, while allowing exceptional freedom in planning. In America the square tower or cupola that characterized the Italian Villa was often lost in the translation but the "freedom in planning" part was widely embraced. Elements of the evolving style were freely modified, embellished and molded into something uniquely American. During its heyday in the 1850s and 1860s, the Italianate style was sometimes referred to as the American Bracketed style or simply the American style.<sup>12</sup>

By the time the Frederick W. Pott residence was constructed on Themis Street in circa 1885, the Italianate style already had lost favor nationally and was being replaced by Queen Anne and other Victorian styles.<sup>13</sup> This news had not necessarily reached rural Missouri, however, where numerous buildings with at least some Italianate elements continued to be constructed into the 1890s and beyond. In the 19th century, new architectural styles might jump quickly from city to city but filtered rather slowly into the nation's hinterlands. Meanwhile, the old styles faded gradually.

American Italianate houses were modified according to the materials available, the climate, and the cultural background or whims of the builder. Cornices, windows, porches and doorways were the main areas of elaboration. Bracketed projecting eaves were a universal detail, although the size, form and execution of the brackets varied greatly. Tall round-topped and segmentally arched windows also were basic, along with massive carved or molded crowns. Pairs and groupings of windows were common. Most houses had single-story porches with square beveled supports. Primary entrances often had elaborate enframements echoing the treatment of windows. Pairs of ornate doors, often incorporating glass panels, were common. Sashes were typically 1/1s or 2/2s. While the house form could be symmetrical or asymmetrical, the latter more closely followed the spirit of the original movement with its emphasis on informal, rambling Italian farmhouses.<sup>14</sup>

Various elements of the Pott House make it an excellent local representative of the Italianate style. Key stylistic features found in the Pott House include a cornice supported by large decorative brackets, rendered in pairs interspersed with modillions; tall and narrow windows with round and segmentally arched tops; an elaborated one-story portico; and a complex entrance deeply recessed behind a large

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<sup>12</sup>McAlester and McAlester, *op cit.*; Whiffen, Marcus. *American Architecture Since 1780*, Cambridge and London: The M.I.T. Press, 1969, pp.69-72; Baker, John Milnes. *American House Styles*. New York and London: W. W. Norton & Co., 1994, p.78.

<sup>13</sup>McAlester and McAlester, *op cit.*, p. 214.

<sup>14</sup>McAlester and McAlester, *op cit.*

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 10

**Pott, Frederick W. and Mary Karau, House, House  
Cape Girardeau County, MO**

segmentally arched opening. The richly detailed portico is particularly striking with its extensive and varied use of scrollwork in the deck railing, frieze and spandrels. Ornate double doors with tall vertical windows inset above horizontal panels are an excellent type for the primary entry of an Italianate house.

The Pott House probably never had exuberant window crowns, unless they were removed prior to circa 1920. Appropriate window elaboration is present, however, in the form of delicate incised designs and projecting stone lugsills with massive, curvilinear stone brackets. Sash, primarily one-over-one and two-over-two, are consistent with an Italianate mode.

The Pott House has a balanced facade and a symmetrical footprint although an asymmetrical, rambling plan also would have been in keeping with the style. Virtually the only departure from symmetry is a bay window with a bracketed cornice that emerges from a side wall of the central ell. The ell blends so well with the somewhat older main block that it would be easy to imagine their simultaneous construction.

The pedimented front gable suggests that the Pott House is somewhat transitional between the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. While this may indicate a lingering Greek Revival influence, an association with the German building tradition in Cape Girardeau is strongly suggested by paired parapet chimneys at the gable ends. As Charles van Ravenswaay has pointed out, German builders in Missouri often paired chimneys at gable ends and connected them with brick parapets, as was done on the Pott House. Consequently, the characteristic wide eaves are limited to the primary facade and a more traditional silhouette results: the Pott House appears to be much older than circa 1885. Except for evidence to the contrary, it would be easy to imagine that a much older house was simply reworked by Pott as an Italianate. Other indications of a probable affinity with German vernacular architecture include segmentally arched windows and decorative brickwork in the ell. Large numbers of Southerners and German immigrants were involved in the settlement of southeastern Missouri, and both building traditions are in evidence in older parts of Cape Girardeau.<sup>15</sup>

The circa 1885 Frederick W. and Mary Karau Pott House further demonstrates the architectural range of the Italianate style, of which it is a good and well-preserved example in Cape Girardeau. Its probable association with a German building tradition in Cape Girardeau adds to its significance. A circa 1920s photograph suggests that the exterior house is relatively unaltered from the time of its construction. Consequently, the Pott House retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, feeling and setting.

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<sup>15</sup>van Ravenswaay, Charles, The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri (Columbia, Missouri and London: University of Missouri Press, 1977), p.236.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 11

Pott, Frederick W. and Mary Karau, House  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 12

**Pott, Frederick W. and Mary Karau, House  
Cape Girardeau County, MO**

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Miscellaneous Deed Record. Book 323, Cape Girardeau County Courthouse, Jackson, Missouri, pp. 387, 434.

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Warranty Deed Record. Book 112, Cape Girardeau County Courthouse, Jackson, Missouri, p. 545.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 10, 11 Page 13

Pott, Frederick W., House  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description:** Beginning at the northwest corner of the intersection of Themis Street and Pacific Street, proceed north along the east right-of-way of Pacific Street 131.5 feet; then proceed east, parallel with Themis Street, 96.5 feet; then proceed south, parallel with Pacific Street, 131.5 feet, to the north right-of-way of Themis Street; then proceed west along the north right-of-way of Themis Street 96.5 feet, to the point of beginning.

**Boundary Justification:** The nominated property includes the parcel historically associated with the Frederick W. Pott residence.

**11. Form Prepared By**

1. Laura Keal  
1703 Oakwood Avenue  
New Ulm, Minnesota 56073  
507/354-8684  
February 23, 1998  
Original draft nomination, items 1-11
  
2. Roger Maserang  
Historian  
Historic Preservation Program  
Division of State Parks  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
573/751-0504  
April 1999  
Editor and revisions, items 1-11

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section Photographs Page 14

**Pott, Frederick W. and Mary Karau, House  
Cape Girardeau County, MO**

**Photographs**

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Frederick W. and Mary Karau Pott House

826 Themis Street, Cape Girardeau

Cape Girardeau County, MO

Photos 1-7, Roger Maserang, March, 1999

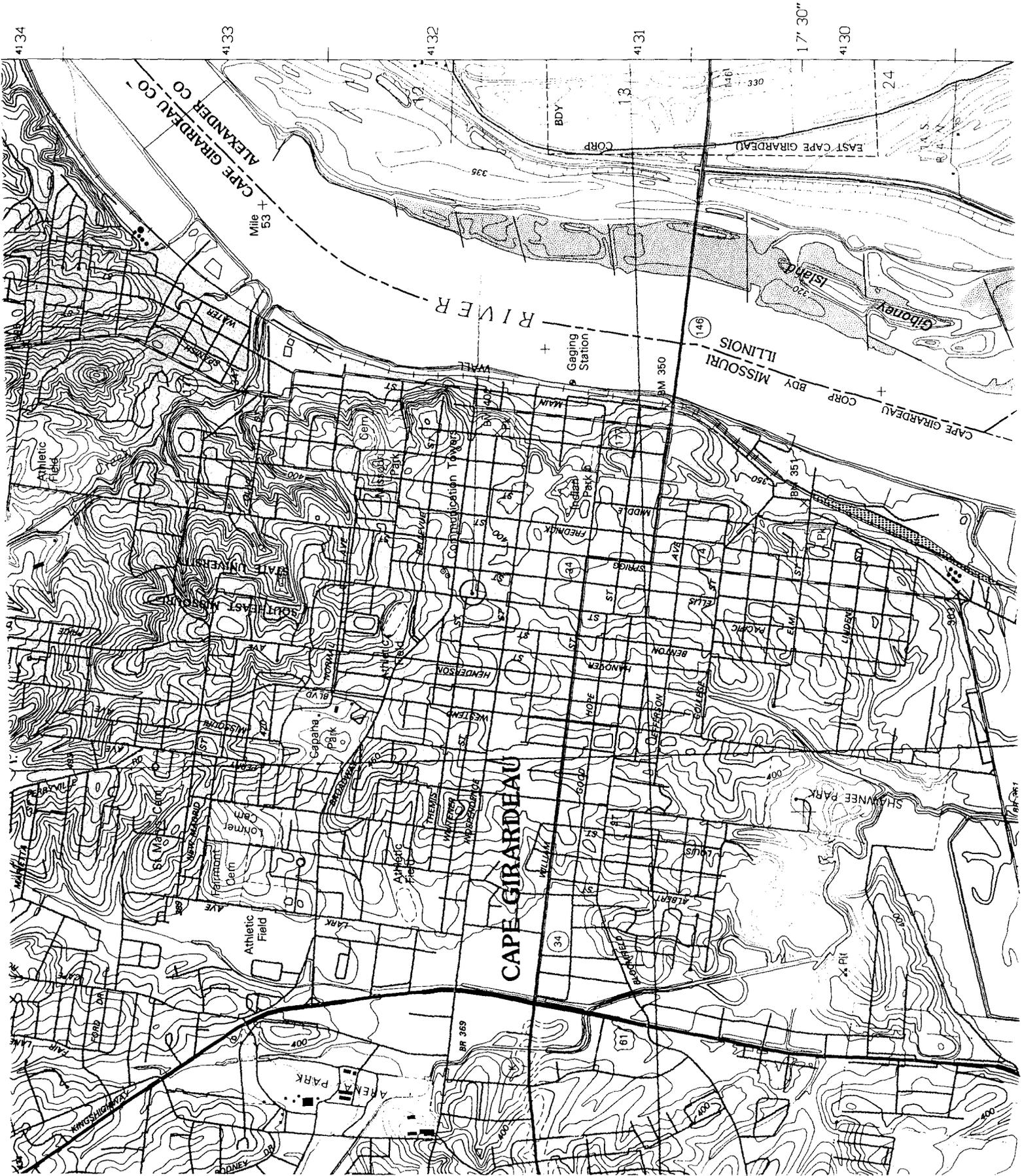
Photos 8-11, Scott Myers, March, 1998

Negatives on file with Missouri Historic Preservation Program

**List of Photographs**

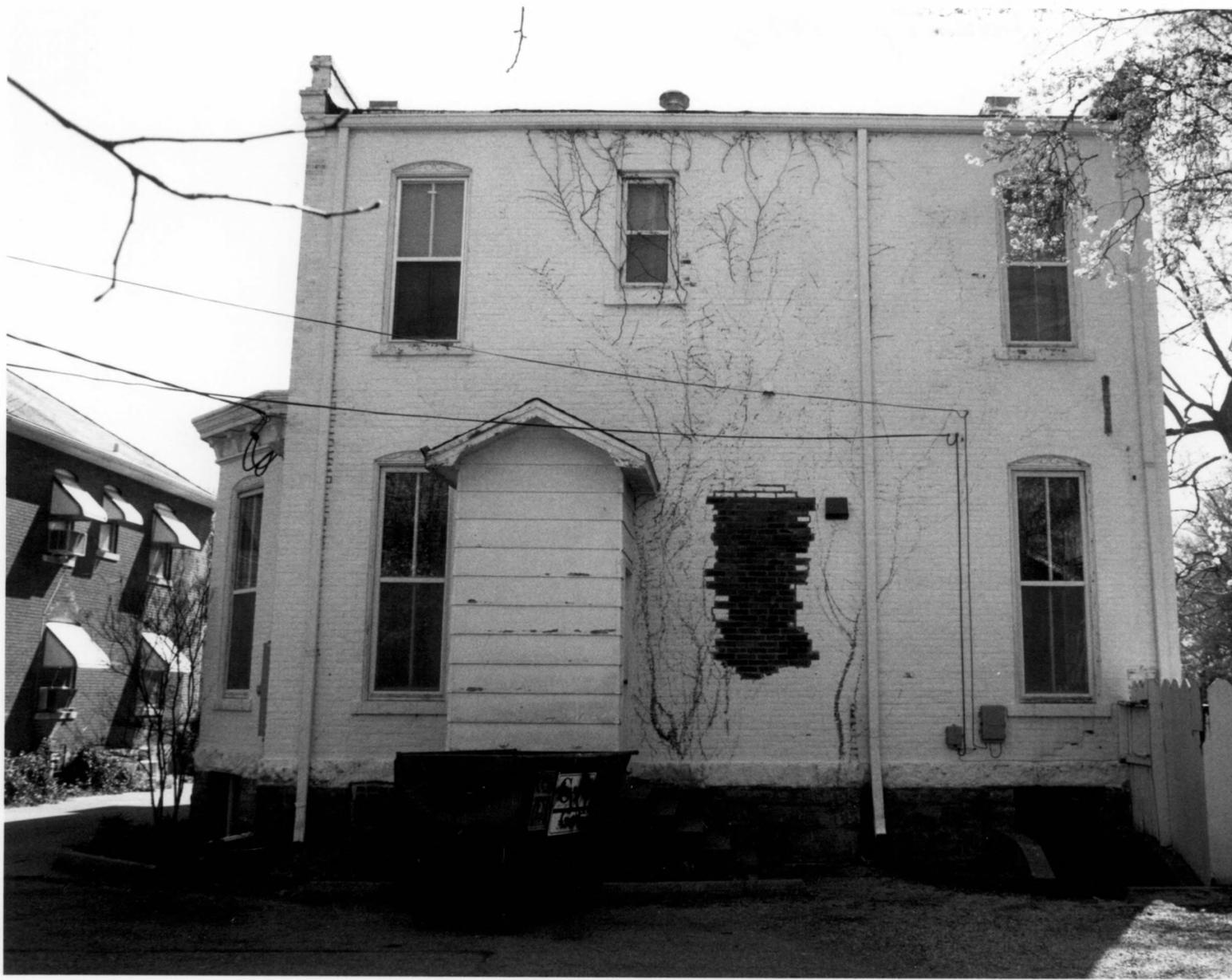
1. Main facade elevation and west side, looking northeast
2. West side elevation, looking east
3. Rear elevation, looking south
4. Bay window on the northeast corner, looking northwest
5. Main entrance, looking north
6. Detail of main entrance, looking north
7. Iron fence surrounding front of property, looking northeast
8. First floor west front room, looking south
9. Fireplace in first floor west front room, looking west
10. Detail of staircase in first floor hall
11. Second floor hall

16/10/2019 13:18:30  
Cape Girardeau, MO  
Prof. Frederick Ward Mead, K. R. R. 1932















826











EXTRA  
PHOTOS

