

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Schwegmann, John F., House

and/or common Schwegmann House

2. Location

street & number 438 W. Front Street

not for publication

city, town Washington

vicinity of

state Missouri

code

29

county

Franklin

code 071

3. Classification

Category

☐ district☒ building(s)☐ structure☐ site☐ object

Ownership

☐ public☒ private☐ both

Public Acquisition

☐ in process☐ being considered☒ N/A

Status

☒ occupied☐ unoccupied☐ work in progress

Accessible

☒ yes: restricted☐ yes: unrestricted☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture☒ commercial☐ educational☐ entertainment☐ government☐ industrial☐ military☐ museum☐ park☐ private residence☐ religious☐ scientific☐ transportation☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name French-Lee Inc.

street & number 438 W. Front Street

city, town Washington

vicinity of

state Missouri

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number Franklin County Courthouse

city, town Union

state Missouri

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Society has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1983 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ localdepository for survey records Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176

city, town Jefferson City

state Missouri 65102

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Schwegmann House is a double-pile, central-hall building made of brick, facing north from the southeast corner of Front and Olive Streets in Washington, Missouri. Complete in 1861, the structure is Georgian in form with some detailing in the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. Two shed roofed, brick additions at the rear of the building, one single story and one two story, complete the ell. The second story portion of the ell is served by a roofed sitting porch.

Most of the windows in the main house are double hung two-over-two lights with some sash appearing to be original. Exterior sills are of walnut. Windows on the second story have segmentally arched brick voussoirs in contrast to the first story secondary window openings which are flat arched. The four pedimented lintels on the first story front are of decorative cast iron. Original brackets remained on the three pedimented dormers in front and on the returns of the cornice. These were replicated across the front of the building, as was the chain molding beneath. The original iron balcony over the front door had been replaced by a bungaloid porch of brick, wood and concrete. Using an extant painting, the original iron balcony was replicated by the present owners. The concrete stoop received a wrought iron railing. The front door is recessed into an arched entryway and the initials of the home's builder, John F. Schwegmann appear in the glass of the transom.

The interior has a 9-foot central stair hall with a straight run staircase that features a continuous banister to the attic. The tapered octagonal newell post, delicately turned balusters and flat banisters are executed in walnut. Treads on the stairs are of quarter sawn lumber. The original, symmetrical layout of the main building remains unaltered with four rooms on each floor and two rooms in the attic. The two main parlors on the first floor are separated by wide, double sliding doors. Both rooms features fireplaces which have undergone considerable modification. Missing original mantels are replaced by ones of Georgian design. Doorways between rooms and window enframements features shouldered architraves and pedimented heads of Greek Revival influence.

The ell originally consisted of three rooms on the first floor and two rooms on the second. The configuration of second floor appears to be unaltered while on the first, a wall has been removed on the ground floor to make room for a modern kitchen. The ell and the main block are stylistically similar and the careful craftsmanship typical of German and American artisans of the period is in evidence throughout.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1861 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Schwegmann House is significant according to the criteria of evaluation under definitions A and C to wit: (a) it is associated with the German settlement of Washington, an event significant in the early history of both Missouri and the United States; and (b) it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Georgian derived mid-19th century vernacular style as interpreted and executed in German communities along the Missouri River.

Architecture: The Schwegmann House is a well preserved example of the design, style and craftsmanship that typifies Missouri German building traditions as they developed in many small towns along the Missouri River. The building's size (approximately 5000 square feet) is much larger than most other surviving single family dwellings of similar vintage in the Washington area, as is appropriate in a dwelling intended to express the wealth and status of one of the towns most successful citizens. Schwegmann's large stylish double-pile house with its double parlors and simple but tasteful Greek Revival decoration, represents a high level of Middle class achievement in Washington, Missouri. It is one of the most pretentious houses of its period. From a decorative point of view, the building exemplifies the transitional nature of Missouri architecture on the eve of the Civil War. The form and cornice decoration is Georgian derived. The first story lintels of the primary facade and the interior door and window surrounds are Greek Revival. The recessed entry door, the raised moldings of the dormers, and the one surviving mantel in the northeast upstairs room are Italianate in style.

Commerce: John F. Schwegmann was an early miller in Washington, Missouri, plying his trade from the mid-1850's until 1888. He provided a market for local grain, sold flour and grist, channeled money into the Washington economy through wages to his workers and even provided lodging to some of his hands and to his farmer/customers in the upstairs rooms of his home. By 1860, according to the U.S. Census, Products of Industry, Schwegmann was conducting the largest grist mill operation in Franklin County. He had a capital investment of \$12,000 in his steam powered operation, employed 8 hands and produced 41,000 pounds of flour and 6,000 bushels of meal. Ten years later his capital investment increased to \$35,000, and his workforce to 10 hands. In 1860 he processed 55,000 bushels of wheat; ten years later that figure increased to 70,000 bushels. His total production in that year produced a net of \$13,848. In 1880, the final year census figures are available, he realized a net profit of \$29,000 and enjoyed unchallenged prominence as the county's largest miller.

Social/Humitarian: The life of John F. Schwegmann represents the fulfillment of the middle class German immigrant's dream for success in America. John Schwegmann was part of the wave of "Forty-eighters" who began arriving in Missouri in 1851. A number of these immigrants, Schwegmann among them, soon became leaders in the professional and business life of Washington.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(see Attached)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name WASHINGTON WEST, MO

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	6	7	2	9	4	0	4	2	6	9	9	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

A parcel of land in the City of Washington, described as follows: Beginning at the Southeast corner of Front and Olive Streets, thence South 56 degrees East on the South line of Front Street 135 feet to an iron pin, thence South 34

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title L. R.L. Haynes

organization U.S. Forest Service

date June 15, 1983

street & number Rt. 4, Box 167

telephone 314/237-2865

city or town New Haven

state Missouri 63068

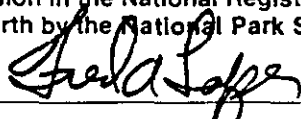
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Director, Department of Natural Resources and
State Historic Preservation Officer

date

1/31/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet SCHWEGMANN, JOHN F., HOUSE Item number 8

Page 1

By mid-1850's, Schwegmann was operating a flour mill in Washington and by 1860, the year the house was built, Schwegmann was listed as having a net worth of \$8,500. In 1861 and again 1870, he served as a Trustee (councilman) for the city. Although the Schwegmann Mill ceased operation in the 1880's, the house was occupied by heirs of the Schwegmann family until the 1950's. He was a successful businessman, a prominent citizen, a politician, patriarch of a large family, and he lived and died in an American community that stayed very close to its German folkways. In 1892, at 68 years of age, John F. Schwegmann died a hero while trying to rescue his son from a team of runaway horses. Today the Schwegmann house is in the process of being converted to commercial use as a bed and breakfast country inn. As much as possible, the structure is being returned to its original style while being renovated for public use.

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Continuation sheet SCHWEGMANN, JOHN F., HOUSE Item number 9

Page 1

Zesta Walker, American Shelter, The Overlook Press. Woodstock, New York, 1981.

Charles Van Ravenswaay, The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri. University of Missouri Press, Columbia, MO, 1977.

Herman Gottlieb Kiel, comp. The Centennial Biographical Directory of Franklin County. Published by Gottlieb Kiel, 1925.

Unpublished oral history dictated by John Schwegmann's grand-daughter, Ada Flake, in 1959.

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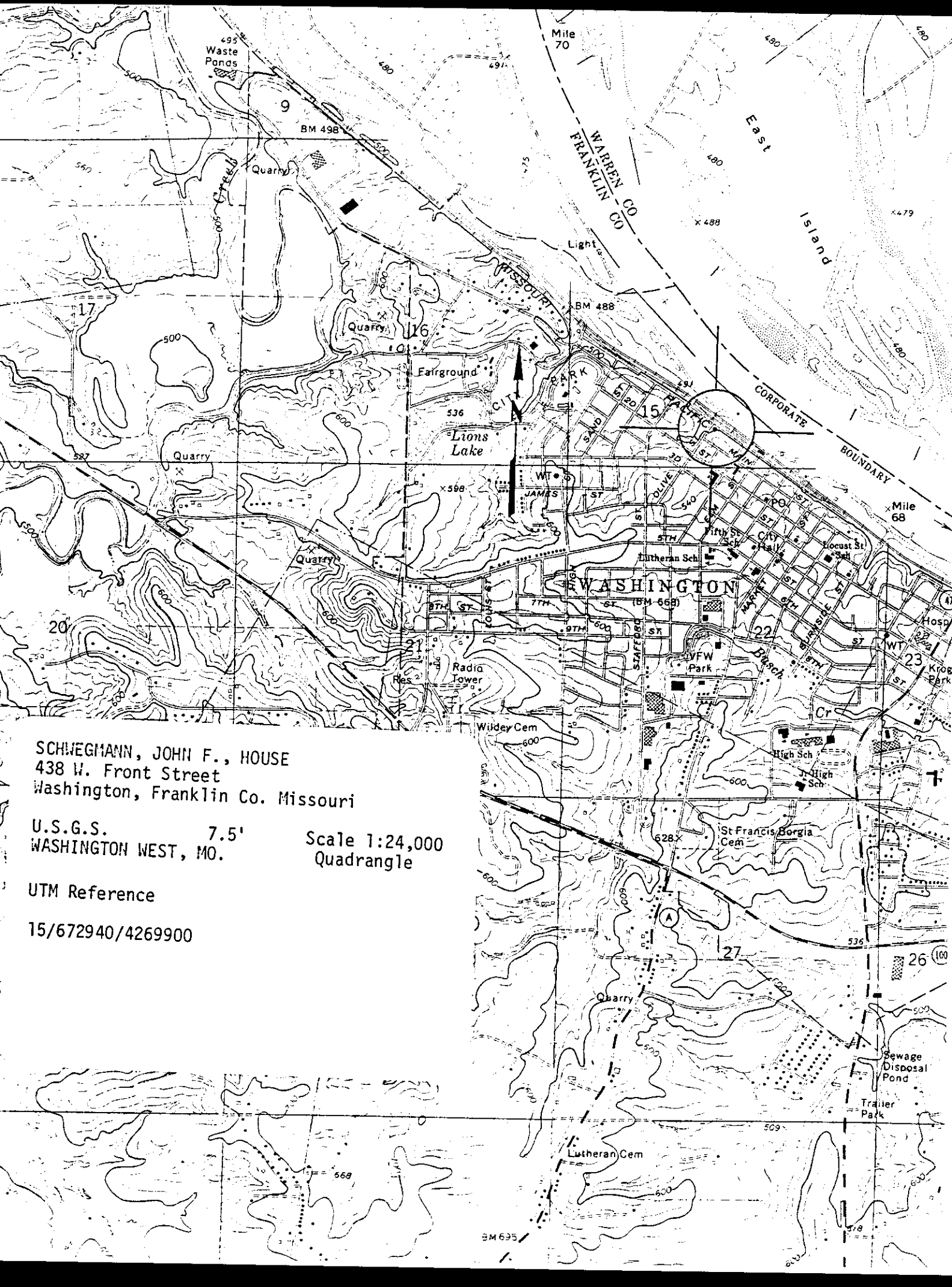
received

date entered

Continuation sheet SCHWEGMANN, JOHN F., HOUSE Item number 10

Page 1

degrees West 132 feet to an iron pin, thence North 56 degrees West parallel with Front Street, 135 feet to a point in the East line of Olive Street, thence North 34 degrees East on the East line of Olive Street to the point of beginning containing 0.41 of an acre, more or less.



SCHWEGMANN, JOHN F., HOUSE
438 W. Front Street
Washington, Franklin Co. Missouri

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Scale 1:24,000
WASHINGTON WEST, MO. Quadrangle

UTM Reference
15/672940/4269900

SCHWEGMANN, JOHN F., HOUSE 1 of 13
438 W. Front Street
Washington, Franklin County, MO

Photographer: James M. Denny
Date: July 26, 1983
Neg. Loc: Department of Natural Resources
 Historic Preservation Program
 P.O. Box 176
 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Primary facade; looking south.



SCHWEGMANN, JOHN F., HOUSE 2 of 13
438 W. Front Street
Washington, Franklin County, MO

Photographer: James M. Denny
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Primary and east facades; looking southwest.



SCHWEGMANN, JOHN F., HOUSE 3 of 13
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Washington, Franklin County, MO

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East facade; looking west.



SCHWEGMANN, JOHN F., HOUSE 4 of 13
438 W. Front Street
Washington, Franklin County, MO

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North end of rear wing; looking northeast.



SCHWEGMANN, JOHN F., HOUSE 5 of 13
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Detail of upper portion of primary facade.



SCHWEGMANN, JOHN F., HOUSE 6 of 13
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Detail of entrance door; looking south.



SCHWEGMANN, JOHN F., HOUSE 7 of 13
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Interior view of main hall; looking south.



SCHWEGMANN, JOHN F., HOUSE 8 of 13
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Interior view, looking from northeast parlor
into central hall; looking southwest.



SCHWEGMANN, JOHN F., HOUSE 9 of 13
438 W. Front Street
Washington, Franklin County, MO

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Interior view, looking from northeast parlor
into southeast parlor; facing southeast.



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Interior view, northeast second floor
bedroom; looking northeast.



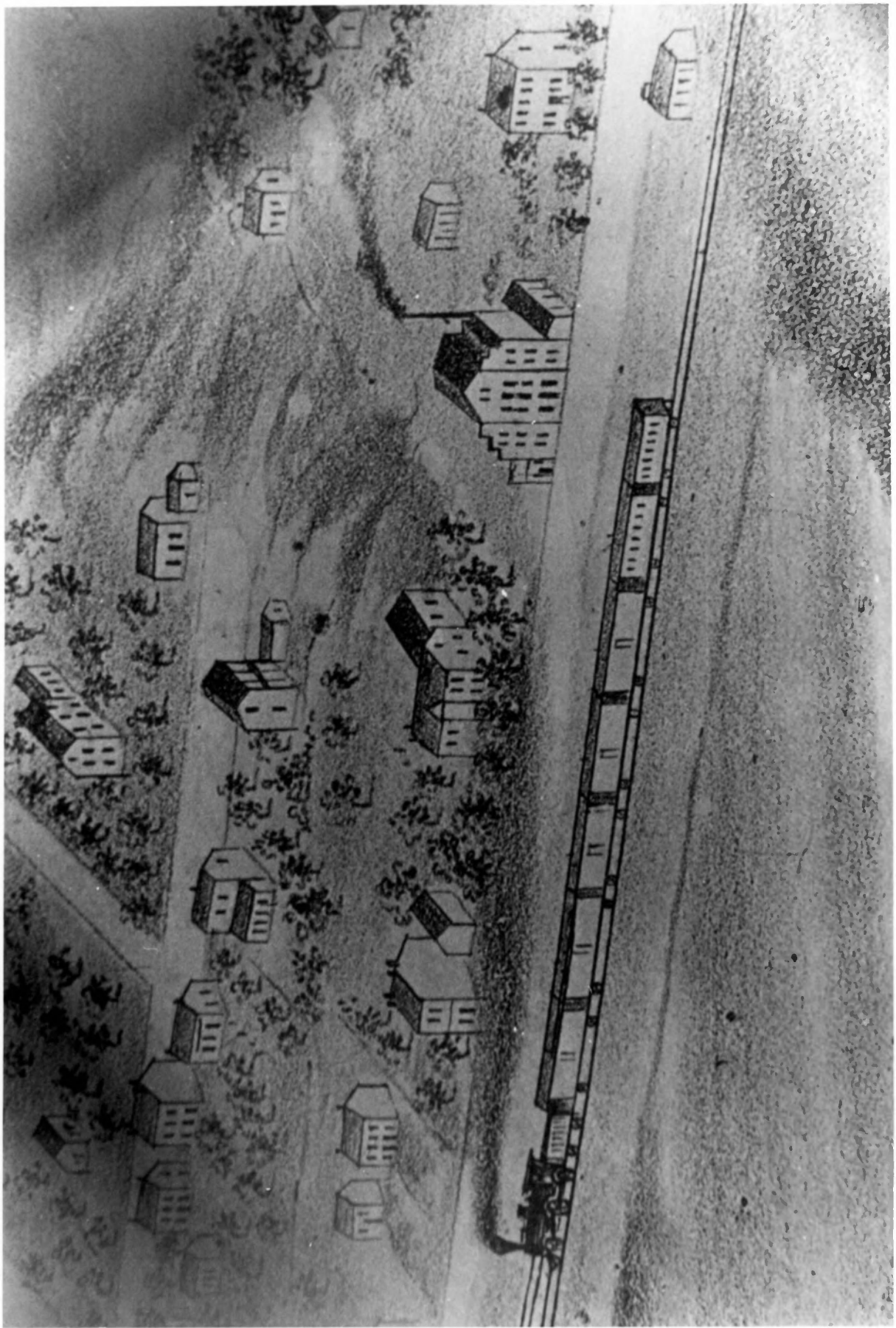
SCHWEGMANN, JOHN F., HOUSE 11 of 13
438 W. Front Street
Washington, Franklin County, MO

Photographer: NA

Date: unknown

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Detail of birdseye view of Washington,
showing Schwegmann house without dormers and
with what appears to be a double pedimented
portico. Mann's Mill immediately to the
west.



SCHWEGMANN, JOHN F., HOUSE 12 of 13
438 W. Front Street
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Photographer: NA
Date: unknown
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Painting of Schwegmann house on lampshade
done prior to alterations of 20th century.



SCHWEGMANN, JOHN F., HOUSE 13 of 13
438 W. Front Street
Washington, Franklin County, MO

Photographer: Ralph Haynes

Date: ca. 1982

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Schwegmann house immediately prior to
restoration, looking southwest.

