

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Ernst, Henry and Elizabeth, House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 901 Stafford Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Washington [N/A] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Franklin code 071 zip code 63090

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [X] locally.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ]. )

 8 August 2000  
Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ]. )

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] entered in the National Register.  
See continuation sheet [ ].

[ ] determined eligible for the  
National Register.  
See continuation sheet [ ].

[ ] determined not eligible for the  
National Register.

[ ] removed from the National  
Register.

[ ] other, (explain:)

See continuation sheet [ ].

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**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district			
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

Historic Resources of Washington, MissouriNumber of contributing resources  
previously listed in the National  
Register.N/A**6. Function or Use**

## Historic Functions

Domestic: Single Family

## Current Functions

Domestic: Single Family**7. Description**

## Architectural Classification

Other: Missouri-German

## Materials

foundation stonewalls brickroof asphalt

other \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet [ ].

See continuation sheet [ ].

**Narrative Description**

See continuation sheet [x].

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**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

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

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

**Criteria Considerations**

Property is:

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

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or grave.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

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

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

See continuation sheet [x].

**Areas of Significance**

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1874-1892

**Significant Dates**

ca. 1874

1892

**Significant Person(s)**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**9. Major Bibliographic References****Bibliography**

See continuation sheet [x].

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

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

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

# \_\_\_\_\_

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

# \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State Agency

☐ Federal Agency

☐ Local Government

☐ University

☒ Other:

Name of repository:

Washington Historical Society, Washington, MO

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**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property approximately one acre**UTM References**

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	6726000	4268740			

C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[ ] See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

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

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional Items**

(Check with the SHPO or FOP for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

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

name Mark and Barbara Trebacz  
street & number 901 Stafford Street telephone (636) 239-5855  
city or town Washington state MO zip code 63090

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7. Description, continued.

**Summary:**

The Henry and Elizabeth Ernst house is located on the southwest corner of Stafford Street and West Ninth Street in Washington, Franklin County, Missouri. Built ca. 1874, the Ernst house is a one and one-half story brick Central Passage house with a brick foundation, a side facing gable roof and a dentiled cornice. It has a symmetrical five-bay facade with low segmental arched door and window openings. The central front door is surrounded by rectangular side lights and an arched three light transom. The three quarter width front porch has brick piers and plain wooden railings. A prominent front gable, which is sheathed with fishscale shingles, was probably added in 1892 when the house was rebuilt after a fire.

The Ernst house is representative of Property Type B: Vernacular Missouri-German and meets the registration requirements set forth in the Multiple Property Submission cover document "Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri. The original house was constructed ca. 1873. In 1892, a fire partially destroyed the house and it had to be rebuilt. The period of significance runs from the construction date of the original house ca. 1874 to 1892, the year the house was rebuilt after the fire.

The house retains a good deal of historic fabric. The original form and patterns of fenestration are largely intact, and from the street, the house appears today much as it did when it was rebuilt in the 1890s. The front door is early or original, and the one-over-one windows on the facade are early, but probably not original. The interior of the house is very much intact. Most of the molded window and door trim, four panel doors and wood floors, which appear to have been installed as part of the 1890s reconstruction, is in place and in good condition. The two story frame rear addition, which was constructed in the late 1980s, is not visible from the street. A long garage/outbuilding, which has a gable roof and vinyl siding, is located southeast of the house. It is a non-contributing building. A modern above ground pool, which is located south of the house, is a non-contributing structure. Thus, the property consists on one contributing building, one non-contributing building, and one noncontributing structure.

**Elaboration:**

The Ernst house, at 901 Stafford Street, sits on the west side of Stafford just south of West Ninth Street. It is located in a residential neighborhood and sits approximately forty feet from the street. The house occupies a large, fairly level, rectangular lot. The garage, which is located approximately 85 feet southeast of the house, is a long narrow rectangular building with a gable roof and vinyl siding. (See Figure One) Single car garage doors are located in the middle of the east elevation and in the north elevation. (See Photo No. 13) A lean-to shed, located on the west side of the garage, is approximately half the length of the garage. The

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garage is modern and a non-contributing building. A modern above ground pool sits approximately 25 feet south of the house. It is a non-contributing structure.

The house, which faces east, consists of two main sections; the original house and a modern rear addition. The original part of the house, which is all that is visible from the street, is one-and one half stories tall. It has a stone foundation, brick walls, which are painted white, and a vaulted, brick wine cellar in the basement. The house has side-facing gable roof with a prominent front cross gable, and integral gable end chimneys.

The five-bay facade features a central entrance flanked by pairs of evenly-spaced double hung windows. (See Photo Nos 1, 2, 5) The one-over-one windows, which are early, but not original, are topped with low segmental arches and have wooden sills. (See Photo No. 6) The front facing gable, which is centered over the front door, is sheathed with fishscale shingles and has a centered one-over-one window which a round-arched top sash. The three-quarter width front porch has a shed roof, square brick piers, turned wooden posts, and a simple wooden balustrade. The posts and balustrade are modern replacements; the posts, which date to the 1920s were moved from the rear porch when the addition was constructed. At the roofline, a brick dentiled cornice runs the width of the facade. A tile sidewalk, which is early or original, leads from the street to the porch steps.

The north elevation of the Ernst house has two integral chimneys set into the gable end and three double hung windows which have wooden shutters. (See Photo No. 5) There are two equally-spaced windows on the first floor. One is an early or original one-over-one, the other is a newer six-over-six. On the second floor, a newer single six-over-six is centered in the gable end. The bulkhead access to the basement is also located on the north elevation.

The fenestration pattern of the south elevation is similar to the north. However, an additional window has been added toward the rear of the house, and the second floor window has been replaced with a door to permit access to a modern balcony. (See Photo No. 2) The south elevation also has two chimneys. However, only one is integral and they are not paired at the ridge like those on the north elevation.

The modern two story rear addition covers most of the rear elevation of the original house. The addition, which cannot be see from the street, has a gable roof with gable dormers and vinyl-sided frame walls. (See Photo Nos. 3, 4)

The interior of the Ernst house very much intact. Early or original molded trim, four panel doors and wood floors are in place throughout much of the house. The front door opens to a wide hallway, which, in turn, leads to both front rooms and to the back part of the house. (See Figure Two and Photo Nos.7, 8) The front of the house contains the living room to the north and a bedroom and bath to the south. (See Photo No. 9) The kitchen, dining room, and the stairs to the basement occupy the back part of the house. The dining room, which is located behind the living room, contains the stairs to the second floor. (See Photo No. 10) The staircase, which is in the northeast corner of the room, is completely enclosed. Part of the current kitchen may have

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originally been a recessed porch. Prior to the construction of the rear addition, the back wall of the kitchen was frame and the floor was brick. Furthermore, the wall between the current kitchen and bathroom is of the same type of brick used on the exterior of the house. A brick cistern under the area now used as the kitchen was discovered by the current owner during some remodeling. (See Photo No. 12) The stairs to the basement are located along the south wall of the house. The basement of the house contains a vaulted brick wine cellar. (See Photo No. 11) It is located under the living room and main hallway, and is approximately 20 feet long and 15 feet wide.

The plan of the second floor of the house is modern; new partition walls and new trim have been installed. Currently, there are three bedrooms on the second floor. (See Figure Three) A hallway connects the second floor of the original part of the house to the second floor of the addition. The second floor of the addition contains a bathroom and a large family room.

Overall, the Ernst house appears today much as it did when it was rebuilt after the fire in 1892. The rear addition is not visible from the street and the form and patterns of fenestration on the original part of the house are largely intact. The basic plan of the house has not been altered, and many of the historic interior features, such as window and door trim, doors, and wood flooring, are still in place. The house serves today in its original capacity as a single family home, a function it has kept for more than one hundred and twenty-five years.

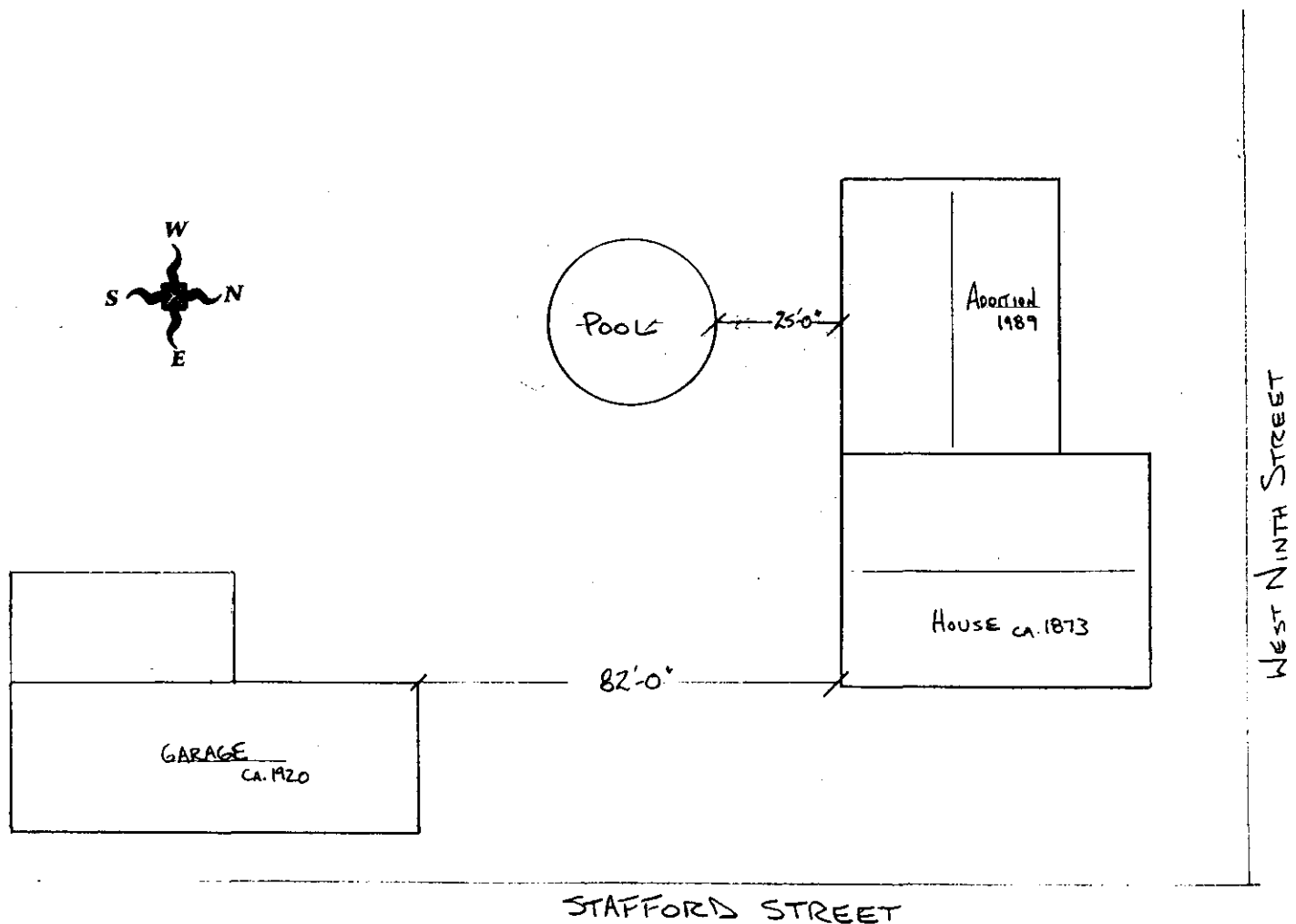
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Figure One: Site Plan. Drawn by Becky Snider.





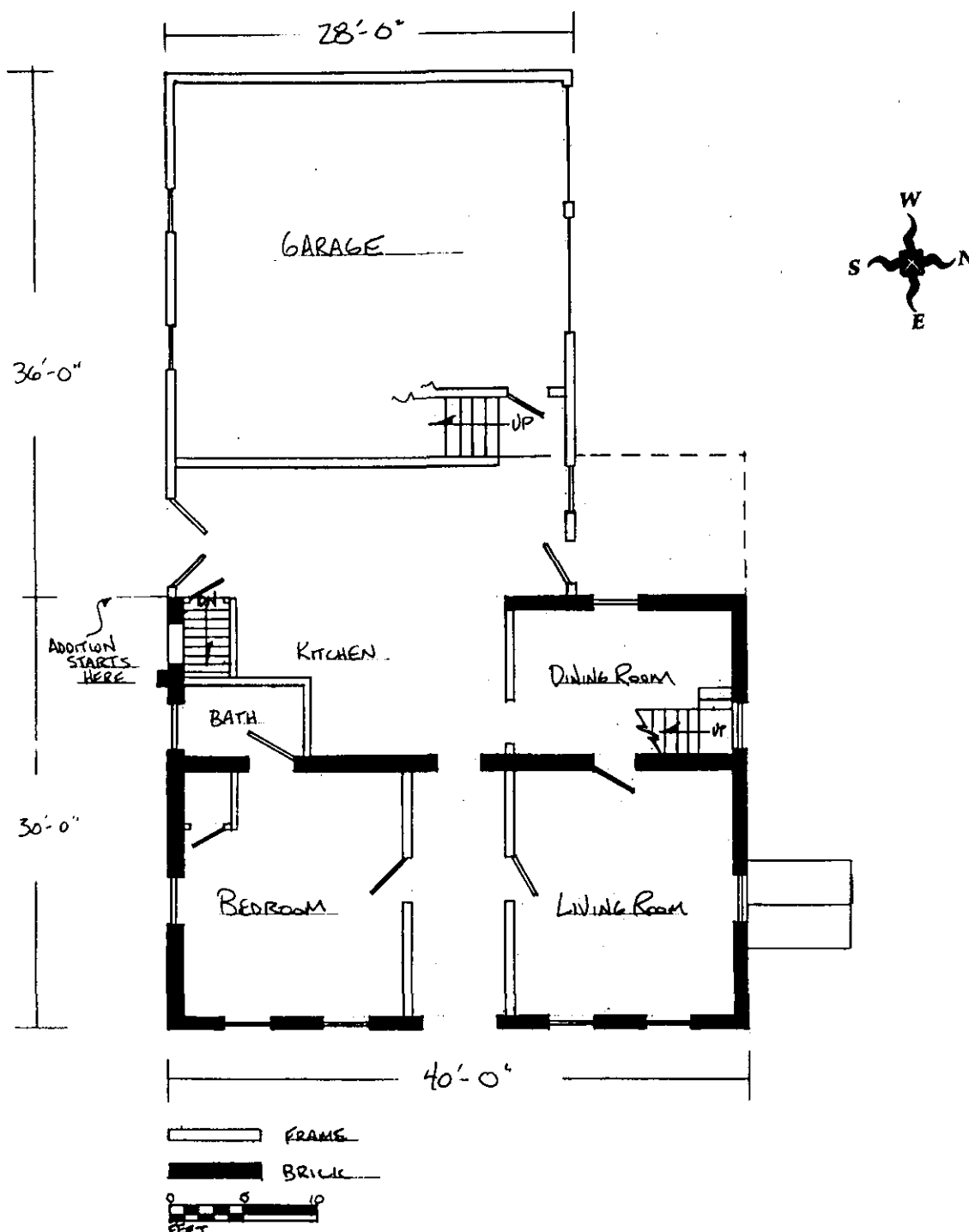
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Figure Two: First Floor Plan. Drawn by Becky Snider.



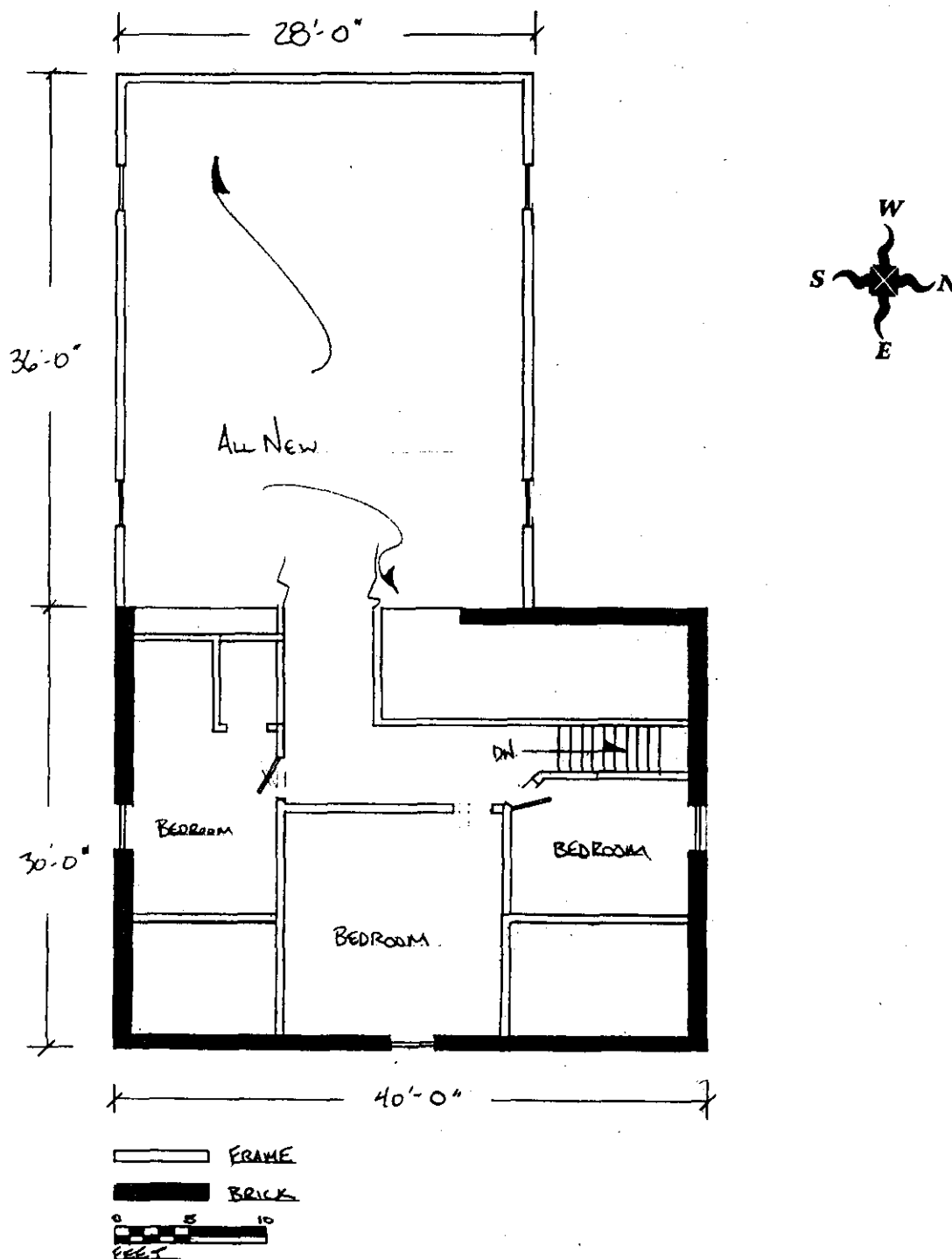
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**Figure Three: Second Floor Plan. Drawn by Becky Snider.**



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**Summary:**

The Henry and Elizabeth Ernst house, at 901 Stafford in Washington, Missouri, is a representative example of the Missouri-German building tradition. The compact massing, brick construction, dentiled cornice, and segmental arched windows are all typical of Missouri-German architecture of the last half of the nineteenth century. The Ernst house is a largely intact example of Property Type: B Vernacular Missouri-German, Subtype: Central Passage. It meets the registration requirements set forth in the MPS cover document "Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri" and falls under the historic context "Architectural Development: 1839-1950." As such, it is significant under Criterion A in the area of ETHNIC HERITAGE: European, and under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE.

The house was built ca. 1874 by or for Henry Ernst, a German born horticulturalist who owned a greenhouse and florist business in Washington from the mid-1870s to the 1930's. The house appears today much as it did after it was reconstructed in 1892 following a fire. It served as the Ernst family home into the 1920s. The house is a contributing building; the garage is a non-contributing building; and the swimming pool is a non-contributing structure. The Ernst house retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Overall, the Ernst house is little changed since the period of significance. In addition to being an excellent example of the Central Passage subtype and the Missouri-German building tradition, the house also demonstrates the application of Victorian ornamentation to traditional Missouri-German forms in the late nineteenth century.

**Elaboration:**

The Ernst house shares many characteristics with other early Missouri-German houses in Washington. The brick walls, dentiled cornice and arched window tops are all hallmarks of vernacular Missouri German architecture.<sup>1</sup> Brick construction and dentiled cornices are nearly ubiquitous among the surviving nineteenth century houses in the community, and the two almost always go together; few brick houses in town lack a dentiled cornice. The side-gabled roof and overall compact massing are also typical of Missouri-German construction in many areas of the state.

The plan of the house is typical of the Central Passage subtype discussed in the MPS cover document. It is like most Central Passage houses in the study group in that it is one and one-half stories tall, with a five bay facade. The centered front door and generously scaled

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<sup>1</sup> See MPS cover document "Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri: Architectural Development: 1839-1950, Section F, Associated Property Types." for a full discussion of Missouri-German characteristics.

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formal hallway are also characteristic of the house form. With the exception of the porch and front cross gable, the Ernst house is very similar to the John H. Broeker house at 605 Locust Street, which is also being individually nominated under the cover document "Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri."

The Ernst house bears witness to the growing popularity of Victorian styling in the late nineteenth century. Many houses, including those with traditional Missouri-German forms, were "updated" with Victorian features in the late nineteenth century. Two distinctly Victorian features appear to have been added to the Ernst house during its reconstruction after the fire in 1892. The addition of the prominent front cross gable with fishscale shingles and the molded interior trim with corner bullseyes, however, should be viewed as part of the natural evolution of the house.

Henry Ernst was a local flower dealer in Washington for more than forty years. (See Figure Four.) Ernst, a native of Germany, moved to Washington and started his floral business in 1874.<sup>2</sup> The same year he had the house on Stafford Street constructed.<sup>3</sup> In his first years in business, Ernst may have operated his business on the same property as the house. A newspaper notice from 1878 reported that "Henry Ernst in the southwest part of Washington has a flower garden and sells plants and flowers."<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Unlabeled newspaper article. (Kiel Files p. 9635, Washington Historical Society, Washington, MO).

<sup>3</sup> The house does not appear on the 1869 Bird's Eye Map of Washington, but tax records indicate that the property was improved by August, 1874.

<sup>4</sup> Die Washingtoner Post, October 3, 1878. (Kiel Files p. 9633, Washington Historical Society, Washington, MO).

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Figure Four: Advertisement for Henry Ernst's Floral Business. Washington Observer,  
February 21, 1890.

**GARDEN SEEDS,**  
Fresh and Reliable, for sale by  
**HY. ERNST,**  
the Florist, South Stafford  
Street, Washington, Mo.  
These seeds are sold loose,  
not in packages, and can be  
inspected by the buyer be-  
fore purchasing, and at  
a much lower price,  
than the commis-  
sion seeds for sale  
at the stores  
here can be  
bought for.  
My seeds are Northern grown  
seeds, and as I have used them  
for 15 years in my own plant-  
ing, and having at all times re-  
alized most satisfactory results,  
I can without hesitation recom-  
mend them to the public as the  
very best seeds in the market.  
Respectfully,  
*Hy. Ernst*  
2-21-90 **Hy. Ernst.**

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In 1892, the Ernst house was partially destroyed by a fire.<sup>5</sup> A story in the January 15, 1892 Die Washingtoner Post reported news of the fire.

Henry Ernst, the flower dealer in Washington had a fire at his house just before noon Monday January 11, 1892. The fire department responded, but could not make the long and hard distance in time to save the house. Loss \$1200. Insurance in Bassora \$600.<sup>6</sup>

The house appears to have been rebuilt almost immediately. A piece of trim found in the house by the current owners is inscribed "put on by February 22, 1892 J. E. Berry, J. C. Meyer Contractors." The prominent front gable was probably one of the changes incorporated when the house was rebuilt.

In 1898, Henry Ernst sold his greenhouse to his son and to Charles Klingsieck.<sup>7</sup> The 1898 Atlas shows greenhouses on a piece of land on West Fifth Street, which is owned by Elizabeth Ernst. It is unclear whether Henry sold one of these greenhouses, which was located next to the Ernst flower shop, to his son and Klingsieck or one located on the Ernst property on Stafford. Ernst continued to operate his flower shop until the 1920's, adding his son as a partner in the early twentieth century.

Ernst and his wife appear to have moved to a house or apartment on West Fifth Street around 1921. By 1922, directory listings show Henry Ernst living at 623 West Fifth Street, a few doors down from his shop and a family named Yaeger living in the Ernst house on Stafford. The house continued to function as a single family residence after being sold by the Ernst family, and it is used as such today. The house is in good condition and is largely intact, both inside and out. It is immediately recognizable as an early Missouri-German building, and provides a significant example of the Central Passage subtype.

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<sup>5</sup> The current owner reported that some of the floor joists are scorched.

<sup>6</sup> Die Washingtoner Post, January 15, 1892. (Kiel Files p. 9633, Washington Historical Society, Washington, MO).

<sup>7</sup> Die Washingtoner Post, April 1, 1898. (Kiel Files p. 9633, Washington Historical Society, Washington, MO).

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**Chronology:**

**From Land Tax Assessment Books, City Directories, Washington Historical Society Collections and local histories noted in the bibliography.**

1874 Henry Ernst moved to Washington  
ca. 1874 **House Built**

1874 Tax Assessment - Henry Ernst, 4.35 acres, \$700.

1878 Atlas - Hy. Ernst 4.35 ac.

1892 Fire destroys part of the original house. House rebuilt with Victorian front cross gable.

1898 Henry Ernst sold his greenhouse to his son and to Charles Klingsieck. Ernst still owned his floral business, Henry Ernst and Son. Floral shop and greenhouses located on West Fifth Street between Stafford and High Streets.

1898 Atlas - Elizabeth Ernst, 4.35 acres.

1910 Tax Assessment - Elizabeth and Hy Ernst, 4.35 ac., \$2120.

1919 Atlas - Elizabeth Ernst

1922 Directory - Yaeger

1931 Henry Ernst dies.

1931 Directory - Ida Gardner

1940 Directory - Harry S. Gardner

1951 No listing in the 900 block, but 1000 Stafford is owned by K. T. Jaeger. Street numbers changed a great deal as Washington developed. It is likely that the property numbered 1000 Stafford in 1951 is the same one numbered 901 today. Furthermore, since the Yaeger family owned the house in the 1920s, there may be a connection between the Jaeger and Gardner families.

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SOURCES:

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

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

Die Washingtoner Post. October 3, 1878, January 15, 1892, April 1, 1898. (Kiel Files p. 9633-9635, Washington Historical Society, Washington, MO).

Franklin County Deed and Tax Records, Franklin County Courthouse, Union, Missouri and Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City, Missouri.

Goodspeed Publishing Company. History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford and Gasconade Counties, Missouri. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, reprint Cape Girardeau: Ramfre Press, 1985.

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

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

Sutherland and McEvoy. Missouri State Gazetteer and Business Directory. St. Louis: Sutherland and McEvoy, 1860.

Washington Historical Society. Kiel Files. Washington, MO.



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10. Geographical Data

**Verbal Boundary Description:** Lots 13 and 14 in Kleekamps 1st Addition to the town of Washington, Franklin County, Missouri.

**Boundary Justification:** The current boundaries represent all of the property currently associated with the house.

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Photographs

The following information is the same for all photographs:

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

List of Photographs.

Camera Angles are indicated on the Photo Key Map

1. Front (east) elevation, facing west.
2. Front (east) and south elevations, facing northwest.
3. South and west elevations, facing northeast.
4. North and west elevations, facing southeast.
5. Front (East) and north elevations, facing southwest.
6. Facade detail.
7. Main hallway facing front entrance - east.
8. Main hallway, facing west.
9. Living Room
10. Dining Room
11. Wine Cellar

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List of Photographs continued.

- 12. Brick Cistern
- 13. Garage, facing southwest.

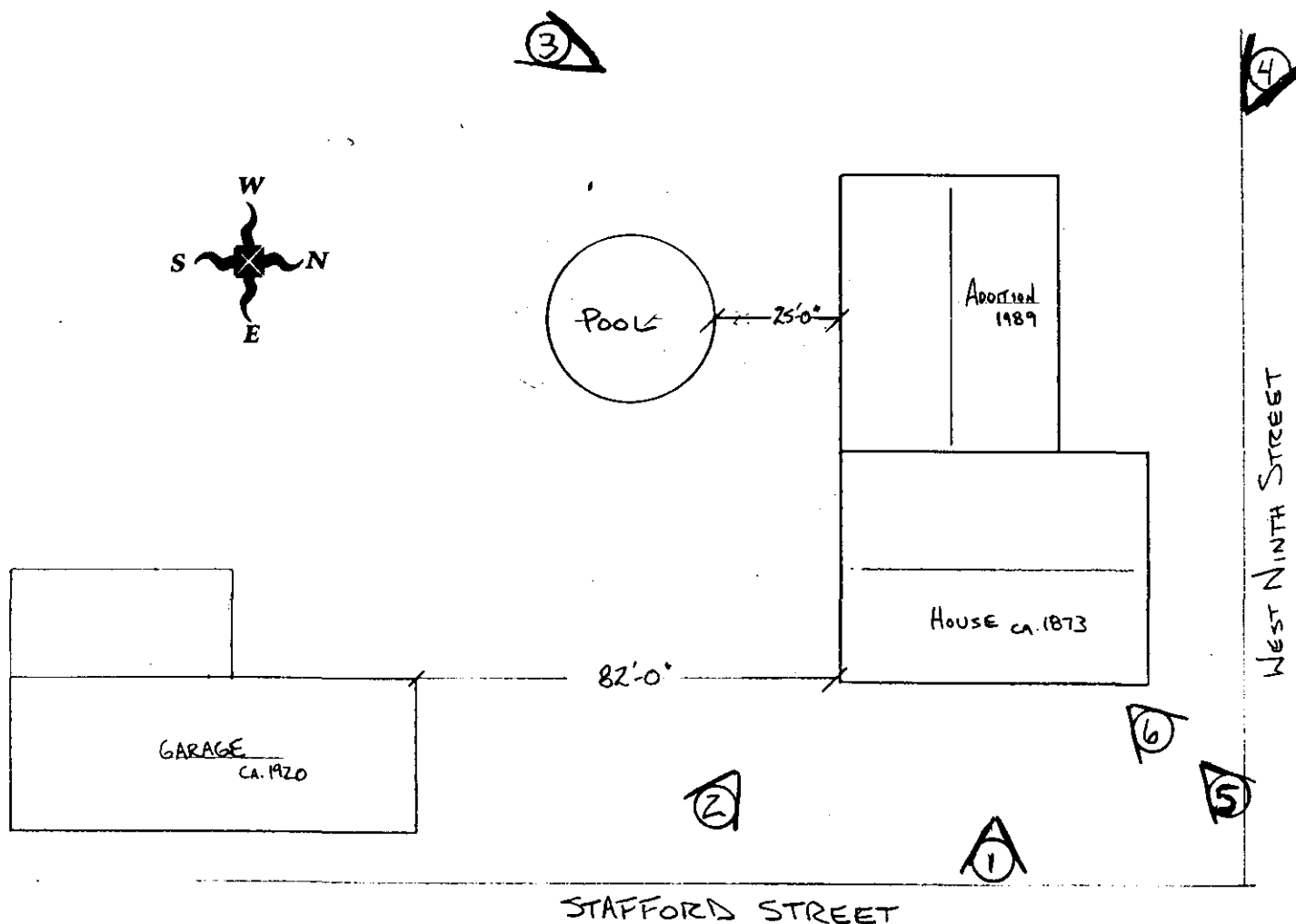
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Figure Five: Photo Key Map - Site Map. Drawn by Becky Snider.



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

