

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Gray, William, House

other names/site number Simpson, G. H., House

2. Location

street & number 407 Washington [ n/a ] not for publication

city or town La Grange [ n/a ] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Lewis code 111 zip code 63448

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 [ ]. )

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

Date 30 April 1999

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:

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 [ ].

### 5. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-state  
☐ public-Federal

#### Category of Property

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

#### Number of Resources within Property

contributing	noncontributing
--------------	-----------------

1	1 building
0	0 sites
0	0 structures
0	0 objects
1	1 total

Name of related multiple property listing.

Historic Resources of La Grange, Missouri

Number of contributing resources  
previously listed in the National Register.  
N/A

### 6. Function or Use

#### Historic Function

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Current Functions

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 7. Description

#### Architectural Classification

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

OTHER: I-House  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

see continuation sheet [ ].

#### Materials

foundation stone  
walls Brick  
roof asphalt  
other  
\_\_\_\_\_

see continuation sheet [ ].

#### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet [x]

## 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

ca. 1860

### 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 15	Easting 627800	Northing 4433370	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
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 Beck L. Snyder / Debbie Sheals  
organization Private Consultants date December 20, 1998  
street & number 1008 Sunset Dr. / 407 West Broadway telephone (573) 443-3241 / 874-3779  
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 FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

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

name Craig & Sharon Illa  
street & number P.O. Box 158 telephone (573) 655-4135  
city or town La Grange state Missouri zip code 63471

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Gray, William, House  
Lewis County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of La Grange, Missouri, MPS

**Summary:**

The William Gray house is at 406 Washington Street in La Grange, Missouri. Built circa 1860, it is a two-story side hall brick I-house with a long one-story brick rear ell and Greek Revival ornamentation (see MPS cover document, "Historic Resources of La Grange, Missouri: Antebellum Affluence: 1795-1861: Property Type A: I-house, Side Passage Subtype"). The rear ell appears to have been built in two phases; the room closest to the front of the house appears to be original while the back part was added later. The roof on the east side of the rear ell has been extended to cover a newer frame porch and small brick bathroom addition. A large new garage sits behind the house in the southeast corner of the property. The property contains one contributing resource, the house, and one noncontributing resource, the garage.

Like all of the other antebellum I-houses in La Grange, the Gray house exhibits Greek Revival styling. It is three bays wide with equally spaced doors and windows on the main elevation. Both the main block of the house and the rear ell have gable roofs, and all the original 6/6 windows have prominent straight wooden lintels and sills. One of its most notable Greek Revival features is the wide cornice that bands the entire main block of the house. On the left side of the main elevation, the front door, surrounded by a rectangular transom and rectangular sidelights with a tooled stone sill, is sheltered by a single bay porch supported on octagonal columns. Although the Gray house is just one of many I-houses in La Grange, it is one of the most historically intact antebellum side-hall I-houses in town.

**Elaboration:**

The Gray House faces north and occupies a lot that slopes uphill both to the west and to the south. The house is on a corner lot at the intersection of Washington Street, which it faces, and Fifth Street, which runs along the west edge of the property. A new two-car garage has recently been built on the southeast corner of the property approximately 100 feet from the house (see Figure One, & Photo No. 12). The garage is a non-contributing resource.

The Gray House reached its current configuration as the result of several building phases. The I-house and front part of the brick rear ell, the oldest portions of the house, appear to have been built at the same time; there is no break in the construction between these two sections of the house. The rear part of the brick ell appears to have been built before the turn of the century. Modern additions to the house include the covered porch and the brick bathroom addition on the east side of the rear ell. On the east side of the main section of the house, there is a frame shelter for the staircase that leads to the basement.

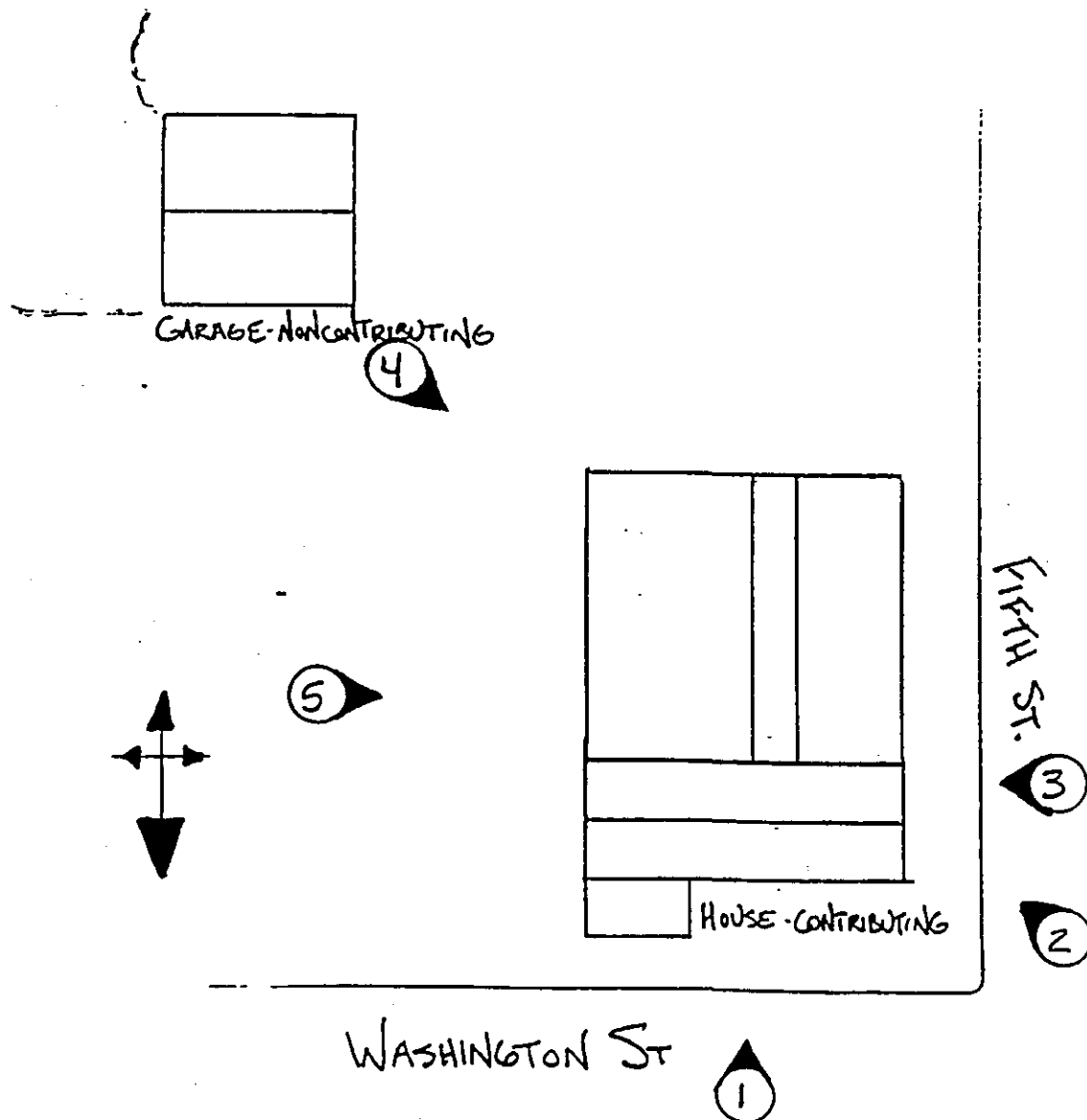
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

Gray, William, House  
Lewis County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of La Grange, Missouri, MPS

Figure One: Site Map Drawn by Becky Snider



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 3

Gray, William, House  
Lewis County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of La Grange, Missouri, MPS

The house is one of the most intact Side-Hall I-houses in La Grange. The three-bay house is two-stories with a single-story porch over the front door on the left side of the front elevation (see Photo No. 1). The flat roof porch is supported on the front by two octagonal columns. It is one of very few original antebellum porches in La Grange. The porch shelters a single-paneled front door. The door is topped by a seven-light transom and flanked by four-light sidelights (see Photo Nos. 1 & 8). A wide cornice runs around the roofline of the porch and the I-house portion of the house (see Photo No. 2).

The house sits on a stone and concrete foundation. The foundation and walls of the rear ells appear to have been reinforced with concrete or to be a concrete replacement as concrete extends approximately two feet above ground on the west and south elevations. The bricks for the front wall are laid in running bond, but the rest of the walls in the house were built with the bricks laid in common bond. The front section of the house has a low-pitched gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The rear ell also has an asphalt shingle covered gable roof, but its pitch is flattened on east side to extend over the porch. The Gray House has one chimney in each of the main sections of the house; The front section has an integral chimney that serviced a stove in the west gable end. In the rear ell each of the south walls has a chimney. In the older portion of the rear ell the chimney services a fireplace and in the newer rear ell the chimney services a stove.

The main block of the house is 28' feet wide along the front and 17' deep. The front section of the house is laid out in the customary side-hall plan (see Figure Two). A wide hallway containing the front door and staircase occupies one-third of the first floor and a large living area the other two-thirds. On the second story are two bedrooms, the larger is roughly the same size as the living room below. (See Figure Two) Interior walls on the second story were moved and added to create a second bedroom. The older part of the rear ell was probably originally used as the kitchen. Today it functions as a family room. (See Photo No. 11) The newer rear ell now functions as the kitchen and the new brick addition contains the bathroom.

Although the current owners have most of the original woodwork for the house, most of it was removed so new insulation and interior walls could be installed; it has yet been reinstalled. Interior doors and wood flooring throughout the house are largely original. The original doors are hand-grained and have two vertical panels. (See Photo No. 12) All of the windows in the house are 6/6, and all, except the window in the new bath addition, appear to be original. Window sills and lintels throughout the house are wood. The sill of the front door is tooled stone.

The Gray House continues to function, as it always has, as a single family residence. The current owners have been working on the house for many years and are taking great care with the rehabilitation. As a result of their efforts, the house remains one of the most historically intact houses in La Grange.

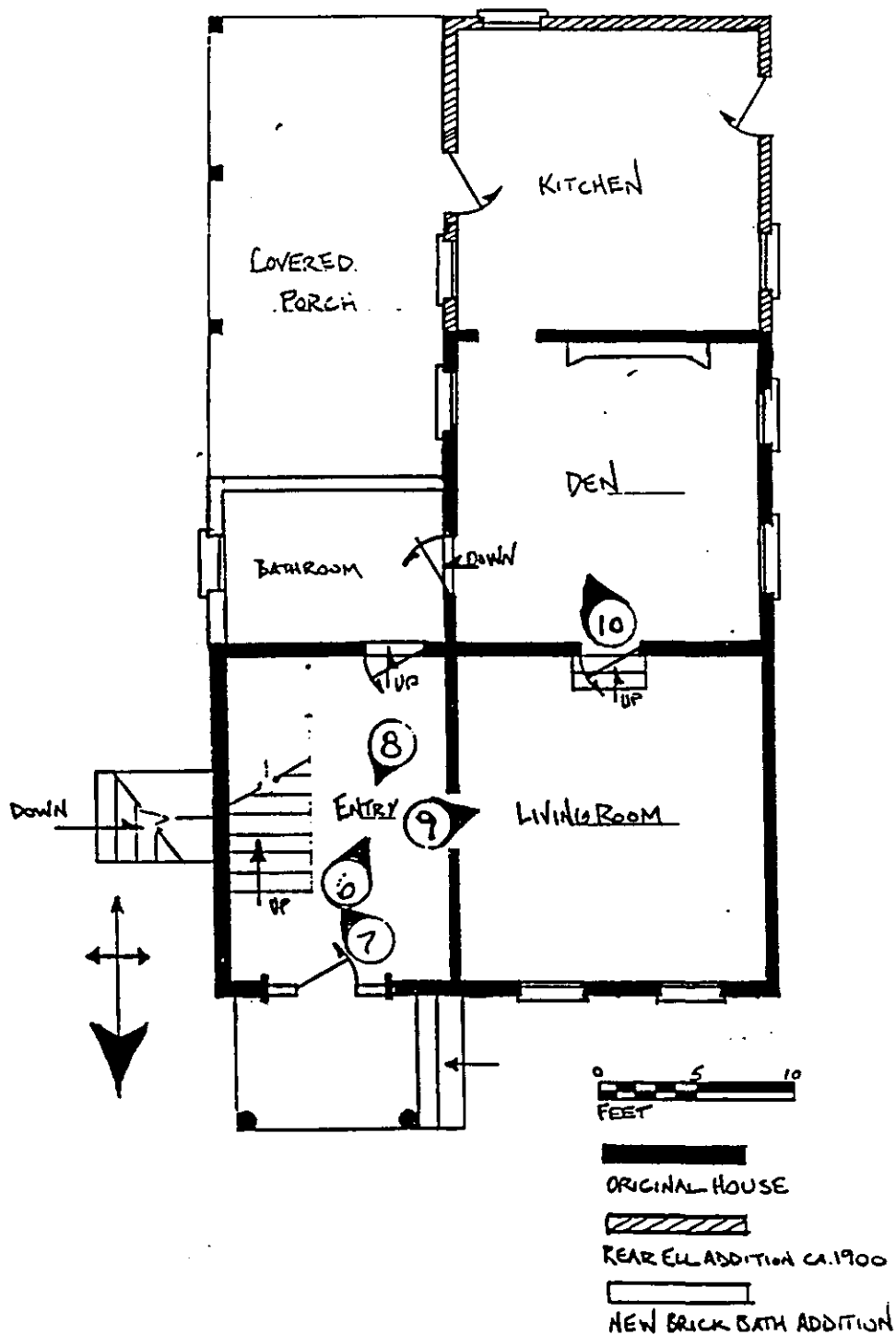
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 4

Gray, William, House  
Lewis County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of La Grange, Missouri, MPS

Figure Two: William Gray House First Floor Plan Drawn by Becky Snider





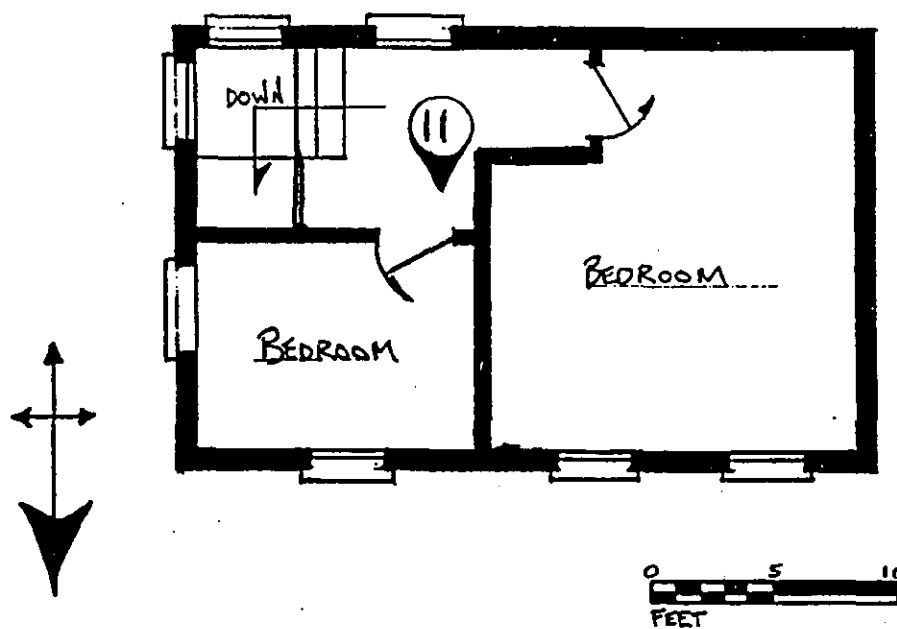
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Gray, William, House  
Lewis County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of La Grange, Missouri, MPS

Figure Three: William Gray House Second Floor Plan Drawn by Becky Snider



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 6

Gray, William, House  
Lewis County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of La Grange, Missouri, MPS

Summary:

The William Gray House, 406 Washington Street, La Grange, Missouri, is significant under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. Constructed of brick circa 1860, the Gray House stands as a remarkably intact example of a Greek Revival style antebellum I-house in La Grange (See MPS cover document "Historical Resources of La Grange, Missouri: Antebellum Affluence: 1795-1861:Property Type A: I-house, Side Passage Subtype.") The three-bay house exemplifies the Side Hall I-house subtype identified in the cover document mentioned above. The basic vernacular I-house form of the Gray House is embellished with Greek Revival ornamentation including a single story front porch supported on octagonal columns, a balanced facade, 6/6 windows with straight wooden lintels, and a wide cornice board that bands the entire main block of the house. The period of significance for the house was determined by the house's construction date of circa 1860; this was established based on Lewis County tax and deed records. The William Gray House retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, setting and feeling.

Elaboration:

In 1853, William Kelly purchased Lots 7 & 8 of Block 16 Wright and Shropshire's Addition from C. S. Skinner and his wife for \$80.<sup>1</sup> The next recorded transaction for the property was not until 1861.<sup>2</sup> On September 24, 1861, William Gray and his wife sold Lots 7 & 8 to G. W. Simpson for \$1450.<sup>3</sup> This price suggests that a house had been built on the property by 1861, presumably by William Kelly or William Gray. Evidently, the deed that recorded the transaction between Kelly and Gray was not filed.

William Gray first appears in the La Grange in the 1860 Census. He was born in Kentucky around 1827 and is listed as merchant. In an article in the May 1, 1858 La Grange National American about a new building being erected in La Grange, the author notes that "Mr. William Gray has already secured a lease on it for a term of years for a Tobacco Manufactory."<sup>4</sup> Gray must have done well in this business. Although the value of Gray's real estate (\$3000) listed in the 1860 Census is comparable to other merchants and businessmen in La Grange, the value of his personal estate (\$18,000) is much greater.<sup>5</sup> Gray's wife was also born in Kentucky, but their daughter and son were born in Missouri.

---

<sup>1</sup> Lewis County Deed Records, Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City, MO. Book K, p. 631.

<sup>2</sup> Lewis County Deed Records, Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City, MO. Direct and Indirect Indexes, 1833-1885.

<sup>3</sup> Lewis County Deed Records, Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City, MO. Book V, p. 10.

<sup>4</sup> "New Building" La Grange National American. May 1, 1858.

<sup>5</sup> United States Census Figures. Census Indexes and Population Schedules for Lewis County, 1850-1860.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8, 9 Page 7

Gray, William, House  
Lewis County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of La Grange, Missouri, MPS

George Simpson, must have moved to La Grange shortly before purchasing the house from William Gray as he does not appear in the 1860 Census Figures for Lewis County. However, tax records indicate that Simpson owned the property well into the 1890's.<sup>6</sup> Simpson is listed in the 1872 La Grange Business Directory as one of the proprietors of the pork packing business, Hay, Simpson & Co.<sup>7</sup>

The William Gray House is a fine example of the Side Hall I-house property type, with refined Greek Revival styling and a high level of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, setting and feeling.

9. Sources:

Abstract for Lots, 7 & 8 of Block 16 Wright and Shropshire's Addition, aka 406  
Washington St.,  
La Grange, MO, Property of Craig and Sharon Illa.

La Grange Business Directory, 1872.

Lewis County Deed Records, Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City, Missouri.

Lewis County Land Tax Records, Lewis County Recorders Office, Monticello, MO, 1867-1940.

"New Building" La Grange National American. May 1, 1858.

Sheals, Debbie. Inventory Forms and Summary Report, Architectural and Historical Survey: La Grange, Lewis County, Missouri. July 15, 1997. (On file with the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, Jefferson City, MO.)

United States Census Records. Census Indexes and Population Schedules for Lewis County, 1850-1860.

---

<sup>6</sup> Lewis County Land Tax Records, Lewis County Recorders Office, Monticello, MO, 1867-1940.

<sup>7</sup> La Grange Business Directory, 1872.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 10. Photographs Page 8

Gray, William, House  
Lewis County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of La Grange, Missouri, MPS

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The William Gray House is located on Lots 7 & 8 in Block 16 of Wright and Shropshire's Addition in the city limits of La Grange, Lewis County, Missouri

**Boundary Justification:**

The current boundaries encompass all of the land currently and historically associated with the house and outbuilding.

**Photographs**

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Gray, William, House  
La Grange, Lewis County, Missouri  
Becky Snider  
November, 1998  
Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory, MO Department of Natural  
Resources, Jefferson City.  
Negatives on file with Debbie Sheals, 406 West Broadway, Columbia, MO 65203

**List of Photographs**

See Figures 1-3 for indication of camera angles.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Front (north) Elevation                  | 7. Entrance Hallway (facing southeast)            |
| 2. Front (north) and Side (west) Elevations | 8. Entrance Hallway (facing north)                |
| 3. Side (west) Elevation                    | 9. Living Room (facing west)                      |
| 4. Rear (south) and Side (east) Elevations  | 10. Interior of Original Brick Ell (facing south) |
| 5. Side (east) Elevation                    | 11. Second Floor Bedroom Two-Panel Door           |
| 6. Entrance Hallway (facing southwest)      | 12. Garage (facing south)                         |

