

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Helm, John and Wilhelmina, House

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

### 2. Location

street & number 536 E. Fifth Street

[N/A] not for publication

city or town Washington

[N/A] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Franklin code 071 zip code 63090-2307

### 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/Deputy SHPO

Date 8 August 2000

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:

☐ 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**5. Classification**

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

Name of related multiple property listing.

Historic Resources of Washington, MO

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

N/A**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**DOMESTIC: Single DwellingDOMESTIC: Secondary Structure**Current Functions**DOMESTIC: Multiple DwellingDOMESTIC: Secondary Structure**7. Description****Architectural Classification**Other: Missouri-Germanfoundation Brickwalls Brickroof Metalother Concrete

Narrative Description See continuation sheet [ x ].

See continuation sheet [ ]

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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].

## 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

# \_\_\_\_\_

### Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

ETHNIC HERITAGE:European

### Period of Significance

ca. 1868-ca. 1873

### Significant Dates

ca. 1868

ca. 1873

### Significant Person(s)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Unknown

### Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State Agency

☐ Federal Agency

☐ Local Government

☐ University

☐ Other:

Name of repository:

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

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	673700	4268860			
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 Debbie Shealsorganization Private Consultant date March 2000street & number 406 West Broadway telephone 573-874-3779city 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 FPO.)

name Dorothy Stumpestreet & number 532 E. Fifth telephone (636) 239 - 4767city or town Washington state MO zip code 63090

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Helm, John and Wilhelmina, House  
Franklin County, Missouri  
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**Summary:** The John and Wilhelmina Helm House, at 536 East Fifth Street in Washington, Missouri is a one story, five bay, house with two front doors. The house is an intact example of Property Type B. Vernacular Missouri-German, Subtype: Double Entrance. It meets the registration requirements for that property type set forth in the MPS Cover document "Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri." It has a side facing gable roof, brick walls and foundation, and a corbeled brick cornice on the facade. The windows of the house all have straight tops; those of the facade and the west elevation also have wide straight lintels, which are painted white. The house was built in two stages; it started out with a three bay, side entry facade, and had two more bays added sometime after 1869. The original house was built sometime before 1869, when it was shown on the "Bird's Eye View of Washington, Missouri."<sup>1</sup> It has been assigned a construction date of ca. 1868, based upon that image, although it is likely that it was built several years prior to that.

The only other resource on the property is a fairly large brick summer kitchen which is connected to the house by a covered breezeway. The kitchen appears to be close to the same age as the house, and has seen no significant changes. It has a gable roof which is perpendicular to the roof of the house, one-over-one wood windows, which are early or original, and a paneled door on the wall closest to the house. The period of significance for the property runs from ca. 1868, when the house was built, to ca. 1873, by which time it appears the kitchen had been built and the house had been expanded to its present form. Both the house and the outbuilding appear today much as they did more than a century ago, and are immediately recognizable to the period of significance. The house is a particularly early example of the vernacular Missouri-German building tradition.

**Elaboration:** The John Helm house sits close to the street, several feet above the level of the sidewalk. It faces north to East Fifth Street. Fifth Street is a busy street, and the buildings nearby represent a mix of types and construction dates. There is an early twentieth century house with a mid-twentieth century commercial addition directly west of the house, and an empty lot to the east. The edges of the level lot slope down sharply to the east and to the north.

The summer kitchen sits roughly eight feet from the back wall of the house. It has a front facing gable roof that extends forward to connect to the roof of the house, which creates a covered breezeway between the two buildings. (See photo 3.) The slope of the kitchen roof also extends down on the east side of the building to form a low porch. (See photo 4.) There is a brick sidewalk along the back wall of the house which widens near the kitchen into a small patio.

The kitchen building, which measures roughly 12 feet deep by 17 feet wide, has brick walls and a brick foundation. There are two windows on the south wall and one on the east wall; all three have

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<sup>1</sup> Ruger, H. "Bird's Eye View of the City of Washington: 1869." Copy in the collections of the Franklin County Historical Society, Washington, MO.

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straight tops and early one-over-one sash. An early paneled door with a wooden screen door is set off to the side in the wall which faces the house. A large internal chimney is centered on the south ridge of the roof. The kitchen is highly intact, and is a contributing resource.

The house has a rectangular plan, and sits with the wide part facing the street. The side facing gable roof is covered with early standing seam metal roofing. The walls and foundation are of red brick, and the walls are stuccoed with concrete near the ground. There is a small bulkhead door on the west wall which leads to a crawl space. A simple corbeled brick cornice runs along the front eaveline, and there is a corbeled chimney set into the west end wall.

The facade has five bays and an open front porch. It has two windows, then two doors, and then one more window. (See photos 1 and 2.) An open hip roofed front porch shelters the doors. The porch has a concrete foundation, turned support posts, and a solid wood railing covered with narrow wood weatherboards. It appears to date to the early twentieth century.

The windows of the facade are topped with wide straight lintels and have narrow wooden sills, all of which are painted white. The one-over-one window sash are modern, but the original openings are intact. The ground floor windows of the east side wall are nearly identical, except that they have six-over-six sash which are original or very early. The two front doors are also early or original, and each has a wooden screen door that appears to be more than fifty years old. Each front door now opens into a separate dwelling unit. The interior of the building has seen a good deal of remodeling, and now contains five very small apartments or sleeping rooms. (See Figure One, and photo 7.) That division did not involve any exterior changes, and most original interior walls were left intact as well.

Exterior details show that the Helm house was built in two main stages. It started out as a three bay, side entry, house with a square footprint. It was expanded to its present width at an early date, probably before the earliest surviving tax assessment of 1873. A copy of the 1869 "Bird's Eye View of Washington," shows this house as having only three bays at that time. The east part of the current house, which measures 25 feet 6 inches square, is the original section. The western two bays, which are 17 feet wide, are very similar in construction details, and appear to have been added shortly after that drawing was made.

The rear elevation also shows evidence of early changes. At least part of the back portion of the original house probably contained an open porch when the house was new. There is a distinct seam in the brickwork on the east wall, and the two attic windows there are off-center. (See photo 3; the seam is partly covered by a wire in that photo.) The rear part of the original house now contains an open recessed porch which includes an enclosed stairway to the unfinished attic. It appears that the porch extended all the way across the back wall when it was new; the back end of the east side wall was bricked in sometime after the front, and the back wall west of the porch shows signs of having been filled in at a later date. (See Figure One.) The brick wall of that section is unlike the other brick walls of the house, in that it uses a running bond rather than a common bond. Also, the window there appears to be newer, and is set lower in the wall than the others. The bricks and other details of the back part of the east side wall, however, are very similar to those of the original part of the house, and

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it appears that the east wall was extended at a very early date.

It is likely that the house had an open porch, and/or a frame rear wall when new. There are several other early houses in town which utilize that sort of construction, the most intact of which is the Louis Horn house at 631 Horn Street, in the proposed Stafford-Olive historic district. The lateral addition to the main house, and the changes to the back elevation, were done relatively early in the house's history, and represent a natural evolution of form. The interior changes, although newer, had no effect upon the exterior appearance, and a minimal effect upon the general integrity of the house. The basic form and patterns of fenestration are intact, and most exterior materials, including the brick walls and standing seam roofing, are original or very early. The house continues to function in a residential capacity, as it has, in one form or another, since the mid-1800's. Overall, the house and summer kitchen appear today much as they did in the early 1870s, when the house was part of the John and Wilhelmina Helm property. △

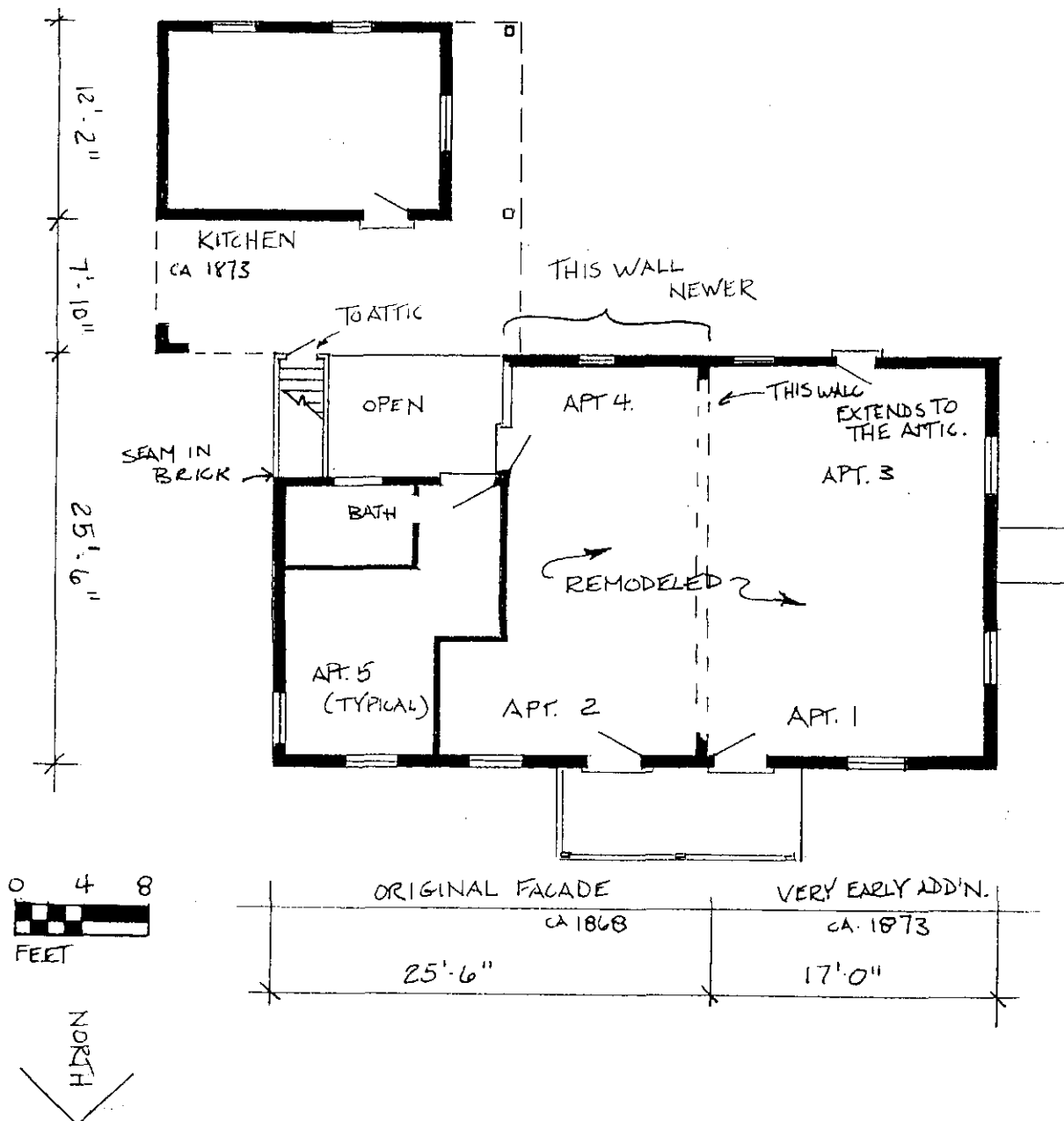
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Figure One. Floor plan and site sketch. Drawn by Debbie Sheals.





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**Summary:** The John and Wilhelmina Helm house, at 536 East Fifth St. in Washington, Missouri, is a particularly early example of the Missouri-German building tradition. As such, it is significant under Criteria A and C, in the areas of ETHNIC HERITAGE: European, and ARCHITECTURE. The deep plan, brick construction, and straight topped windows are all typical of early vernacular Missouri-German architecture. The heavy lintels of the front windows, which reflect Neoclassical ideals in architecture, are commonly identified with ante-bellum construction, and the Helm house gains special significance as a relatively rare example of the earliest phase of the Missouri-German building tradition. The house is an intact example of Property Type B. Vernacular Missouri-German, Subtype: Double Entrance. It meets the registration requirements for that property type set forth in the MPS Cover document "Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri," and falls under the contexts "Early Development and German Immigration: 1839-1870," and "Architectural Development: 1839-1950."

The original house was built sometime between ca. 1850, the construction date listed for it in City records, and 1869, when it was shown on the "Bird's Eye View of Washington, Missouri."<sup>2</sup> The Bird's Eye View is the more reliable of those two sources, and the house has therefore been assigned a construction date of ca. 1868. It is, however, likely that it was built several years earlier. The property was owned for many decades by John and Wilhelmina Helm and their offspring. In 1873, the Helm property included four acres and a number of buildings in the immediate vicinity. This house is the oldest building to remain on that four acre parcel. The brick kitchen building to the rear is highly intact, and a significant part of the property. It is a contributing building. The period of significance for the property runs from the time the house was built, ca. 1868, to ca. 1873, by which time it appears the kitchen had been built, and the house had been expanded to its present form. It remained in the Helm family into the twentieth century. The buildings on the Helm property appear today much as they did a century ago, and both retain integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

**Elaboration:** The Helm house illustrates the varied architectural influences which make up the vernacular Missouri-German building tradition. The brick walls, compact massing, and general form of the building are typical of Missouri-German houses built throughout the last half of the nineteenth century, and the prominent straight lintels of the windows reflect earlier Neoclassical influences.<sup>3</sup> The original plan of the house was typical of the Side Entry Subtype discussed in the cover document, in

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<sup>2</sup> Ruger, H. "Bird's Eye View of the City of Washington: 1869." Copy in the collections of the Franklin County Historical Society, Washington, MO.

<sup>3</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 and the associated subtypes.

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lateral expansion, which added another door, and a widow, resulted in a form typical of the Double Entrance subtype. That manner of expansion was not particularly unusual; a number of dwellings of the Double Entrance subtype were added to in such a manner.

The straight topped windows of the house indicate a relatively early construction date, as segmental arches were more common after the mid-to late 1850's. The use of large lintels over the windows is particularly unusual for Washington; brick jack arches were most commonly used for straight topped openings on houses of the study group. The heavy lintels of the Helm house are like those used on Neoclassical buildings, and reflect mainstream architectural ideals popular earlier in the century.

The house was originally part of a group of buildings owned by John and Wilhelmina Helm. The property is known to have been in their family between 1873 and 1931, and may have been owned by them earlier as well.<sup>4</sup> The Helm property, during most of that period, encompassed four acres of land and several buildings. The view of the property in the 1869 "Bird's Eye View of Washington" shows that there was originally a large two story building immediately west of this house. The large building is gone; a drop in tax assessments indicates that it was lost between 1885 and 1895. One other early building from that parcel does remain, however. It is a small two bay house at the west edge of the property, now numbered 520. That house, which was built ca. 1873 and remained in the Helm family into the 1920's, is also being nominated individually with this cover document, as the Charles H. Helm house.

The earliest surviving tax record for the Helm property dates to 1874. Tax records reflect no significant increase in value for the 4 acre parcel after that time, which leads to the conclusion that the house at 536 had been expanded and the kitchen had been added by the time of that assessment. The kitchen and addition have thus been estimated to have been made by ca. 1873. The 1870 census shows that the Helms at that time had seven children, and it is likely that they could have used both the addition to this house, and the smaller new house by that time.

The Helms continued to own the land and both of those houses well into the twentieth century. The 1898 atlas shows the 4 acres as a single tract owned by Wilhelmina Helm. (See Figure Two.) She apparently died soon after that, as 1910 property taxes and the 1919 atlas show that the land at the west edge of the property, which contains the house at 520, had been separated from the larger parcel. The main parcel was still owned by Wilhelmina Helm's estate, and city directories show that her daughter, Augusta Helm, was still living at 536 East Fifth Street in 1931.

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<sup>4</sup> John Helm owned the property in 1873, the date of the oldest surviving tax record. He was not found in earlier Franklin County deed records, many of which are too faded to be legible.

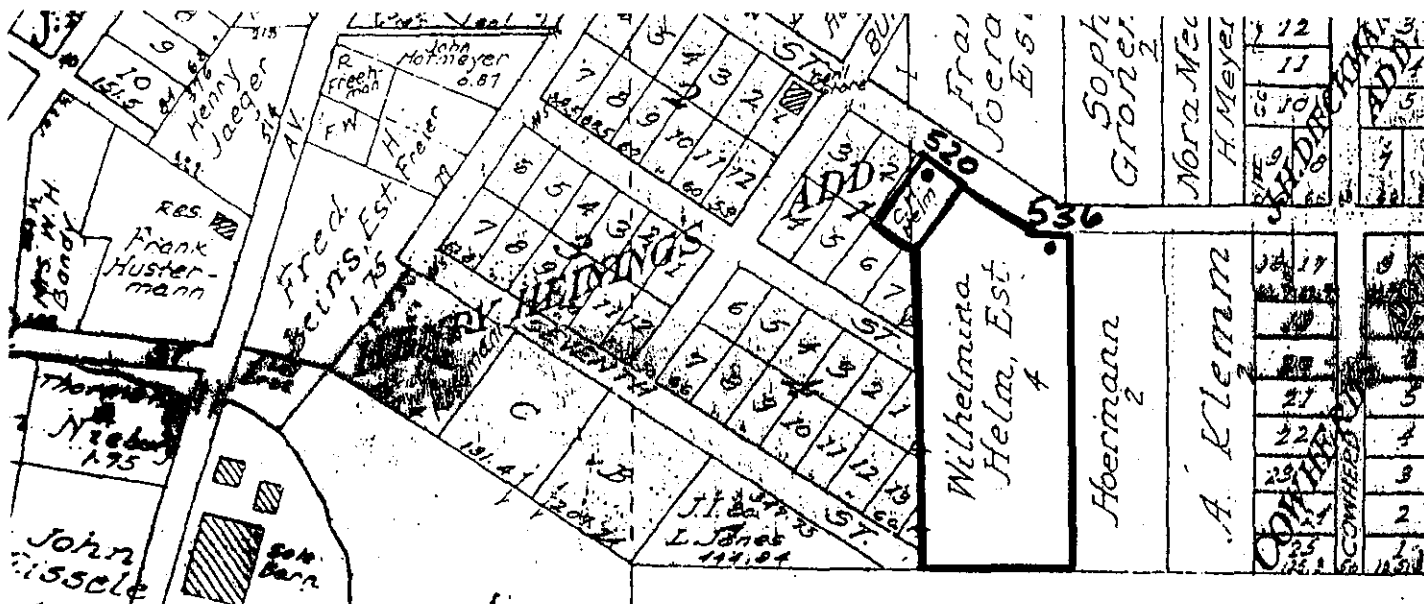
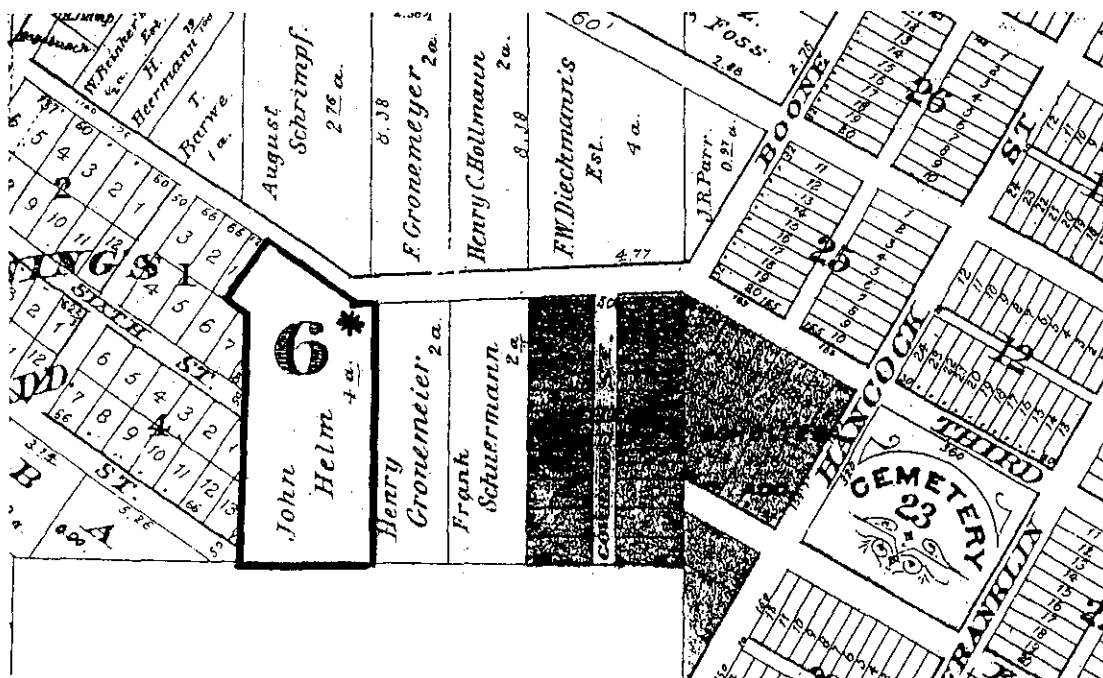
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**Figure Two.** Atlas Maps of the Helm Property. Top: 1877, Atlas Map of Franklin County, Missouri, (St. Louis: St. Louis Atlas Publishing Co., 1878, with a plat of the city done in 1877 by L.D. Worley.) Bottom: 1919, Standard Atlas of Franklin County, Missouri, (Chicago: George A. Ogle and Company, 1919.)



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The John and Wilhelmina Helm house appears today much as it did over a century ago, especially from the outside. Changes to the building for the most part reflect a natural evolution of form, and the house remains intact and immediately recognizable to its period of significance. It continues to function in a residential capacity, and is significant as one of the oldest intact residences in the study group. △

**Chronology**

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

1821 ca. John Helm born.

1850 ca. This house built, according to city records. (The formal construction date has been set at ca.

1868, the year before it was drawn for the Bird's Eye View.)

1860 Census John and Wilhelmina living in Washington, 4 children.

1869 Birds' Eye View shows this house, with only three bays.

1870 Census John and Wilhelmina have 7 children in their household.

1874 Taxes John Helm owns 4 acres on E. Fifth St., including land on which this house and the house at 520 E. 5<sup>th</sup> are located. \$950 valuation probably indicates both houses were built by then.

1877 Atlas, John Helm owns same 4 acres.

1880-1885 Taxes, John Helm, 4 acres.

1895 Taxes, Wilhelmina Helm, 4 acres.

1898 Atlas, Wilhelmina Helm owns the property.

1910 Taxes, Wilhelmina owns 3.5 acres of the original 4, including this house.

1919 Atlas, Wilhelmina Helm est., 3.5 acres.

1922 Directory, Augusta Helm & Louis Peters (Augusta Helm was the daughter of John and Wilhelmina; she was born ca. 1850.)

1931 Directory, Alfred Hoemann & Augusta Helm.

1940 Directory, Miss Hilda Merkel & Mrs. Amelia Danz.

1951 Directory, L.L. Wilzer.

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**Sources**

(See MPS Cover document "Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri," for further discussion and a complete biography of general sources.)

Franklin County Tax Records, Franklin County Courthouse, Union Missouri.

Gregory, Ralph. A History of Washington, Missouri. Washington, MO: Washington Preservation, Inc., 1991.

Goodspeed Publishing Company, History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford and Gasconade Counties, Missouri. (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1888, reprint Cape Girardeau: Ramfre Press, 1985.)

Ogle, George, and Co. Standard Atlas of Franklin County, Missouri. Chicago: George A. Ogle and Company, 1919.

Ruger, H. "Bird's Eye View of the City of Washington: 1869." Copy in the collections of the Washington Historical Society, Washington, MO.

Saint Louis Atlas Publishing Co. Atlas Map of Franklin County, Missouri. St. Louis: St. Louis Atlas Publishing Co., 1878. (With a plat of the city done in 1877 by L. D. Worley.)

United States Census Records. Census Indexes and Population Schedules for Franklin County, 1860-1880. Microfilm on file with the State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, MO.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The property is parcel number 10-5-22.0-1-099-404.100, as shown on Franklin County Tax Map 10-5-22-1. The map was prepared by Walker and Associates, with aerial photos taken 3-10-96, scale: 1"= 100'. Copies of the map are available at Washington City Hall and The Franklin County Assessor's Office in Union, MO. The boundaries of the property are also shown in heavy dashed lines on the portion of the map which is reproduced below.

**Boundary Justification**

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

**AERIAL-PHOTO MAP 10-5-22-1**



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**Photographs**

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Helm, John and Wilhelmina, House  
536 East Fifth Street, Washington  
Franklin County  
Becky Snider  
January, 1999

Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory, MO Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City.

**List of Photographs**

See photo key for camera angles.

1. Facade, north elevation.
2. Northeast corner.
3. Side, east elevations. (House and kitchen.)
4. Rear, south elevations. (House and kitchen.)
5. Southwest corner.
6. East elevation.
7. Interior, east room.

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Photo Key.

