

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name O'Hara, Mark, House

other names/site number Kuenzel, W. F., House

2. Location

street & number 1 South Point Place [N/A] not for publication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 ☒ 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 ☐)

 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 ☐.

Number of Resources within Property

```
[x] building(s)
[ ] district
[ ] site
[ ] structure
[ ] object
```

Noncontributing

1 1 buildings

0 0 sites

0 1 structures

0 0 objects

1	2	Total
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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri

N/A

6. Function or Use

Current Functions

Domestic: Single Family

Domestic: Single Family

7. Description

Materials

Early Republic: Federal

foundation stone

walls brick

roof asphalt

other _____

See continuation sheet { }.

See continuation sheet [1].

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.

Areas of Significance

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1856-ca.1873

Significant Dates

ca. 1856

ca. 1873

Significant Person(s)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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
 # _____

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 6 acres

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	676350	4267865			

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 Rosemary Hirschl
street & number 1 South Point Place telephone (636) 239-4507
city or town Washington state MO zip code 63090

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7. Description, continued.

Summary:

The Mark O'Hara house is located at 1 South Point Place close to the eastern city limits of Washington, Franklin County, Missouri. It is an intact representative example of Property Type A: Neoclassical Styles, Federal Subtype and meets the registration requirements set forth in the Multiple Property Submission Cover Document "Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri. The five bay Federal style house, built ca. 1856, sits high on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River on approximately 6 acres of land.¹ The large two and one-half story house has a symmetrical five-bay facade, a stone foundation, brick walls, flat topped windows, and a side-facing gable roof. A two story brick side ell, which may predate the other part of the house, is set to the rear half of the south elevation. There is a modern two story garage southwest of the house and a modern in ground swimming pool south of the house.

The original form and patterns of fenestration of the O'Hara house are little changed, and the interior is very much intact. Early or original pedimented door and window trim is in place throughout the larger section of the house, as are the four panel doors, early wood floors and fireplace mantels. The house continues to function as a single-family dwelling, as it has throughout its history. The O'Hara house is a contributing building; there is also a modern two car garage, which is a non-contributing building and a modern in ground swimming pool, which is a non-contributing structure, on the property.

Elaboration:

The O'Hara house is located on a private drive, which is reached via East Fifth Street near the eastern city limits of Washington. The house, which faces east, sits approximately 150 yards off of East Fifth Street on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River. The house is approached on the private drive from the northwest. At the house, the driveway splits; one section circles around the front of the house and one leads to a roundabout behind the house and to the garage. (See Figure One) The garage, which sits approximately 25 feet southwest of the house, is a square building with a gable roof and brick veneer walls. (See Photo No. 11) It is modern

¹ The construction date of 1856 and the historic name come from the 1988 survey form, but neither was verifiable through any found written sources. The earliest tax records available to confirm the existence of the house date to 1873 when the property was owned by F. W. Wood and was valued at \$2000.

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and is, therefore, a non-contributing building. The modern in-ground swimming pool, which is located south of the house and is surrounded by a chain link fence, is a non-contributing structure. The only house in close proximity to the O'Hara house sits to the south of the house; it is a modern house which is located on another street.

The O'Hara house consist of two sections: a large two story five-bay main house and a smaller two story three-bay side ell. The two sections are very similar and, due to the limited information about the early history of the house, it is impossible to say which section was constructed first. Both have common bond brick walls, side-facing gable roofs, straight topped windows, and simple brick cornices. The minor differences in the two sections lead to the assumption that they were constructed at least a few years apart; the front cornice on the side ell is ornamented with brick dentils, and the side ell has several windows topped with jack arches.

The five-bay facade of the main house features a central entrance flanked by pairs of evenly spaced double-hung windows. (See Photo No. 1) The six-over-six windows, which are modern replacements, have louvered wooden shutters and are close to the original in size and design. The front door is surrounded by rectangular sidelights and a rectangular transom. It appears to be modern replacement.. The second floor of the facade has a fenestration pattern similar to the first. However, the door in the center, which originally lead out to a second floor balcony, has been replaced by a six-over-six double hung window. The two story porch is a modern replacement and no longer features a second floor balcony. However, based on the information and photo in the 1992 survey form, it is the same scale and size as the earlier porch, which dated to ca. 1900. A simple brick cornice spans the width of the facade. (See Photo Nos. 1, 2, 5)

The north elevation of the main house has three double-hung windows, which are near the back of the house, on both the first and the second floors. (See Photo No. 5) In the gable end, centered between the two chimneys, there is a single six-over-six window. The chimneys, which are integral, are connected by a parapet wall. The west half of the south elevation is covered by the side ell; the east half has windows in the same locations as the north elevation. (See Photo Nos. 2, 4) There is one on the first floor, one on the second floor and one in the gable end.

The west elevation of the main house has an unusual fenestration pattern. (See Photo No. 4) With the exception of one small window on the second floor, which appears to be a modern addition, there are no windows or doors on the north half of this elevation. On the south half of the west elevation, there is a door and two evenly-spaced double-hung windows. The door is very similar to the door on the east elevation; it has rectangular sidelights, but no transom. A hip-roofed porch shelters this entrance; it has square posts, spandrels, and a wooden railing with scrollcut balusters. The porch is not original, but it is a replica of an earlier porch. A simple cornice, identical to that on the facade, spans the width of the west elevation.

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The bulkhead which shelters the exterior staircase to the basement also is located on this elevation.

Unlike the larger part of the house, the main elevation of the side ell does not have a rigidly symmetrical pattern of fenestration. (See Photo No. 2) However, the windows on the second floor are placed in line with those on the first floor. The doorway, which is located on the north end of the first floor, still has the original transom in place, but the original door has been replaced by a sliding glass door. At the roof line, the cornice, which runs the width of the side ell, is very similar to that on the simple brick cornice on the larger part of the house, but it also features a single row of brick dentils. A one story shed roofed porch spans the facade of the side ell.

The side and rear elevations of the side ell are unadorned. (See Photo Nos. 3, 4) The windows in this part of the house are, like those in the larger section of the house, six-over-six. Several of these windows retain their original jack arches and sash. A large opening has been cut in the rear elevation to accommodate a modern garage door.

The interior of the O'Hara house is very much intact and in excellent condition. The main house has a double pile central hall plan. (See Figure Two) The front door opens onto a wide hallway which extends the entire depth of the house. (See Photo Nos. 6, 7) The hallway contains the main staircase to the upper floors, and has doors leading off into the living room on the north and into the dining room and the kitchen on the south. Originally, the first floor of the main part of the house had four equally-sized rooms plus the central hall; the room now used as the living room was originally divided into two rooms. In the main part of the house, all of the rooms retain their high ceilings (12') and four panel doors, and the doors and windows have early or original pedimented trim. (See Photo Nos. 6, 7, 9, 10) Many rooms also have early or original wood floors. The staircase to the second floor is located towards the back of the house and occupies one-half the width of the hallway. The original newel post, bannister, and tapered balusters are still in place up to the third floor attic. (See Photo Nos. 7, 8)

The master bedroom, master bathroom and two smaller bedrooms are located on the second floor of the main part of the house. (See Figure Three) Like the living room on the first floor, two rooms were joined to make the large master suite. The rooms on the second floor also retain their early or original trim and four-paneled doors. The third floor attic is unfinished.

The first floor of the side ell, which is accessed via the kitchen, has a utility room, a bath, a two car garage and a staircase to the second floor. (See Figure Two) When the current owners purchased the house, the kitchen and dining room were located in the side ell. The staircase to the second floor is much less formal than one in the main part of the house. It is a winding narrow staircase which is enclosed on both sides. On the second floor, there is a bath, a bedroom and a large den. (See Figure Three) The interior stairs to the basement are located

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beneath the stairs to the second floor. Despite the changes in function for several of the rooms in the side ell, the early or original doors and trim are largely in place.

Overall, the O'Hara house is in excellent condition and appears today much as it did during the period of significance. The exterior of the house retains its original form and patterns of fenestration; the interior is particularly intact. The house continues to serve in its original capacity as a single family home.

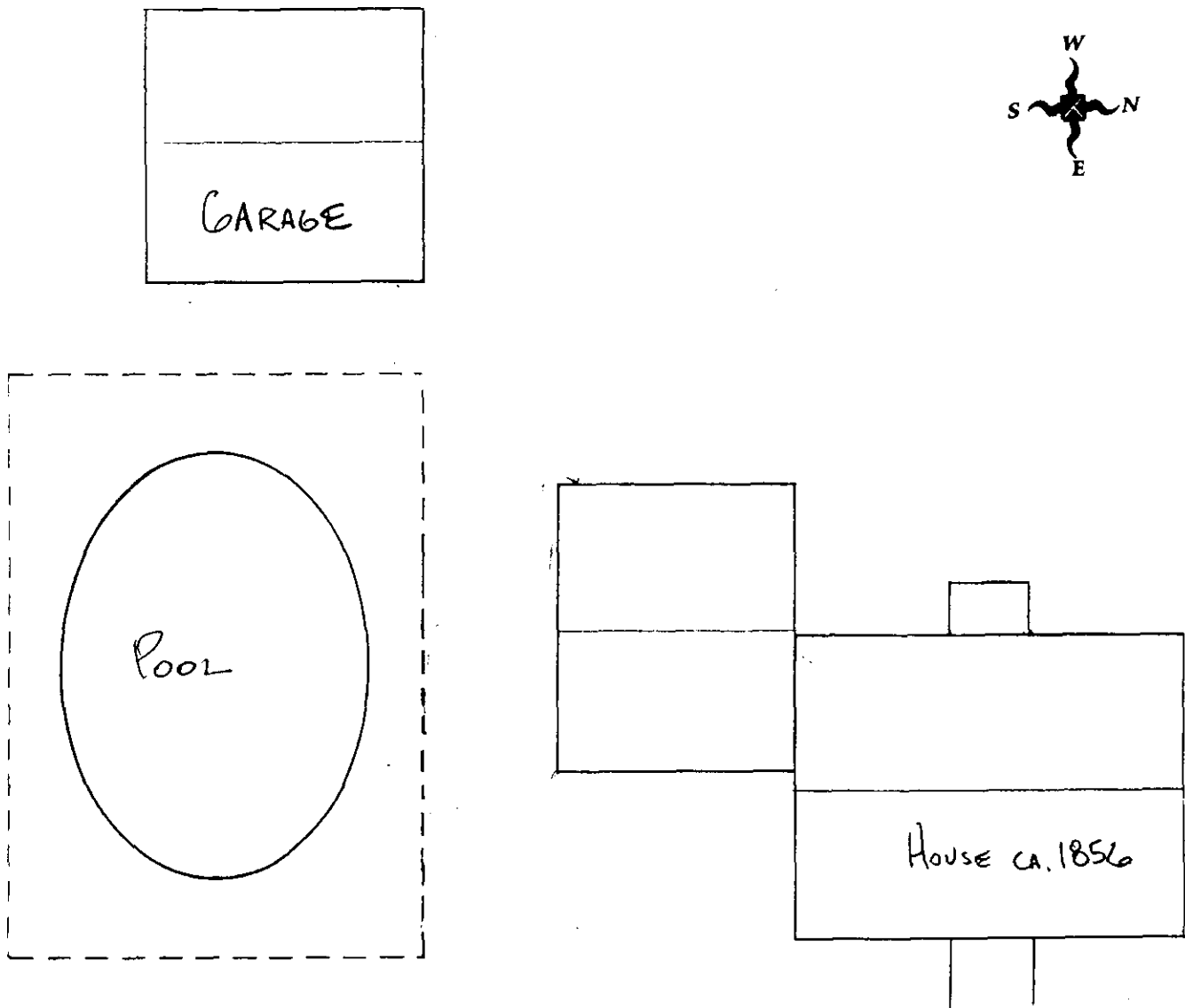
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Figure One: Site Map. Drawn by Becky Snider.



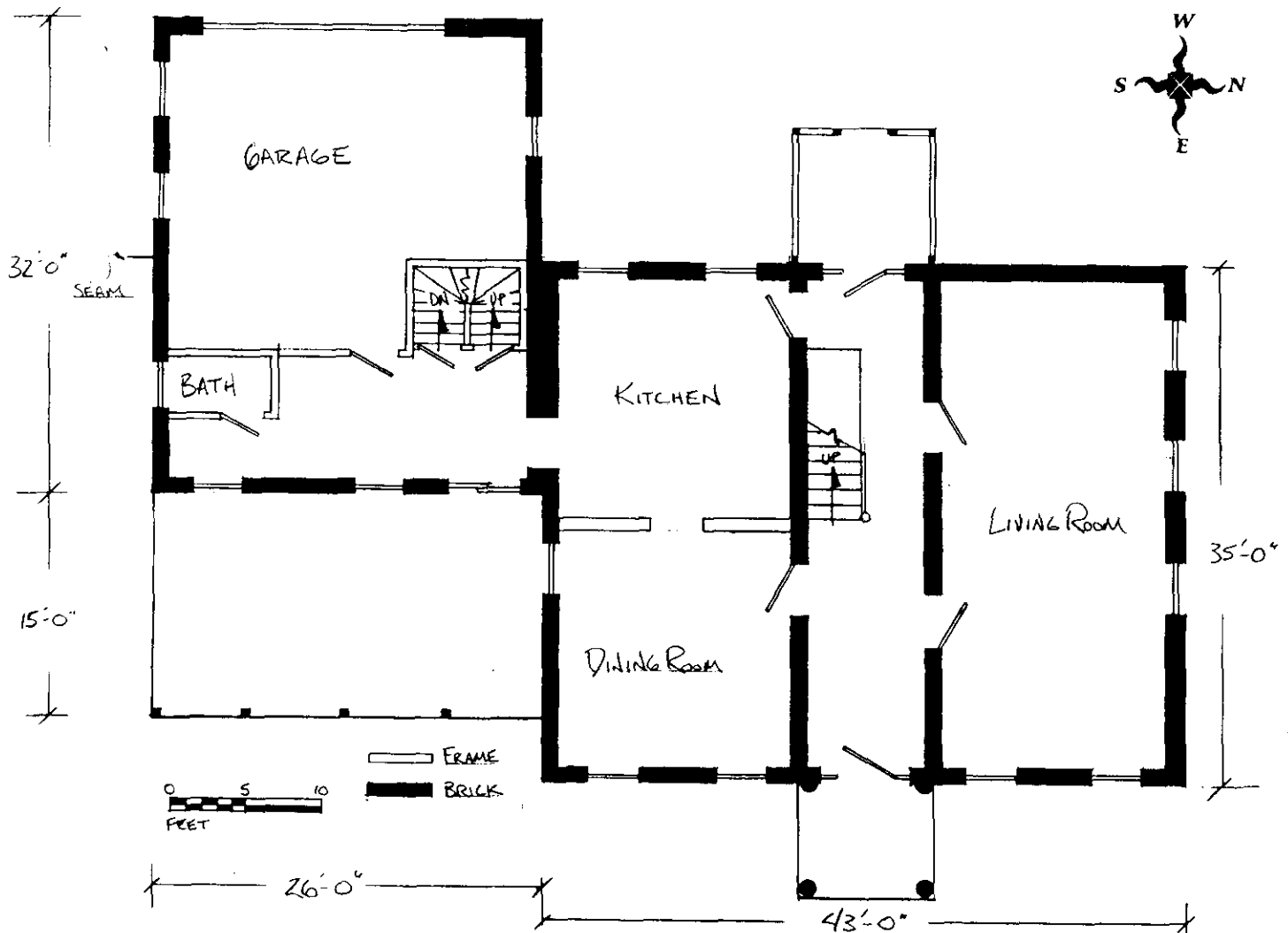
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Figure Two: First Floor Plan. Drawn by Becky Snider.



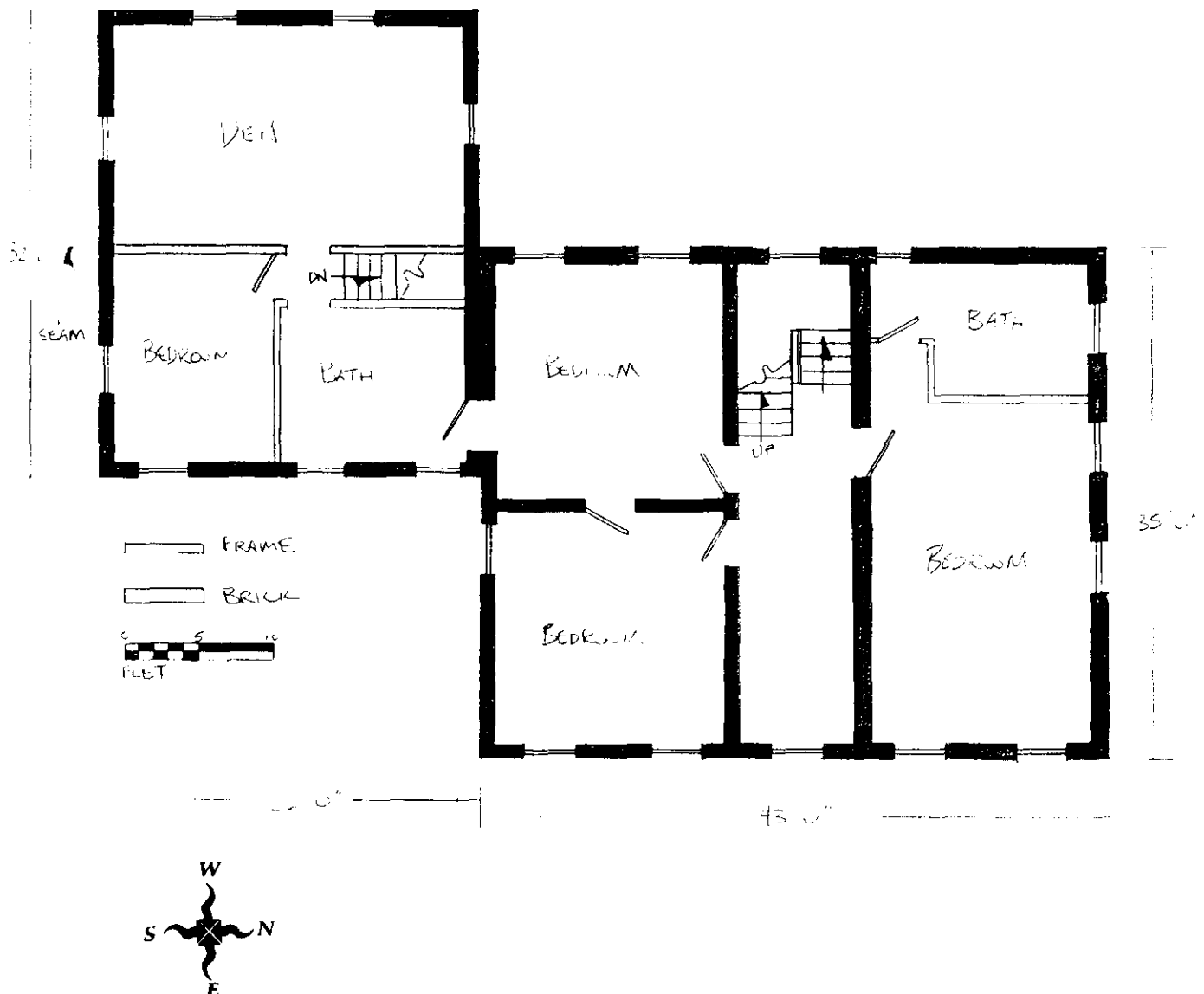
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Figure Two: Second Floor Plan. Drawn by Becky Snider.



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Summary:

The Mark O'Hara house, located at 1 South Point Place, is a fine example of Neoclassical styling and is one of the few Federal houses still standing in the Washington area. Built ca. 1856, the house is representative of Property Type A: Neoclassical Styles: Subtype Federal. It meets the registration requirements set forth in the MPS cover document "Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri," and falls under historic context "IV. Architectural Development: 1839-1950." As such, it is significant under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE.

The O'Hara house can be distinguished as a Neoclassical style dwelling through its simple form and symmetrical ornamentation.² Its rectangular form, symmetrical and evenly-spaced fenestration, flat wall surfaces, and a side-facing gable roof are also typical features of the Federal subtype discussed in the MPS cover document.

The period of significance was established using information from the owner, the 1992 survey form and tax records, and from the style and detailing of the house. It begins circa 1856, the year of construction and ends circa 1873, the year by which both sections of the house are believed to exist. The O'Hara house is particularly intact on the interior and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The house is a contributing resource; the modern garage is a non-contributing building; and the in-ground swimming pool is a non-contributing structure.

Elaboration:

The O'Hara house stands as one of the largest Federal style houses in the Washington area. Its simple rectangular form, symmetrical fenestration and side-facing gable roof are typical of the Federal subtype. The plain brick cornice and parapet walls at the roofline provide the only exterior ornamentation. The O'Hara house also has characteristically Neoclassical flat-topped window openings as opposed to the arched windows so common in Washington in the late nineteenth century. The very much intact interior ornamentation also reflects the house's

² See MPS cover document "Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri: Architectural Development: 1839-1950, Section F, Associated Property Types." for a full discussion of Federal characteristics.

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Federal style; the restrained detailing is limited to wide base molding, pedimented door and window trim, and paneled wainscotting.

Local history holds that the house was built in 1856 for riverboat captain, Mark O'Hara. However, a check of early deed records produced no information about the property or Mark O'Hara. Because the O'Hara house is located approximately two miles from downtown Washington, it also does not appear on Sanborn maps or the Bird's Eye View of Washington, thereby making dating the house a challenge. The earliest tax records available for Franklin County date to 1874. By that year, the property, Lot 1 in O'Hara's Second Edition, is valued at \$2000, a figure which indicates the presence of a large house on the property. The Federal styling of the house and, in particular, the flat topped windows suggest a pre-Civil War construction date for the house.

A story titled "An Arrow Rock Romance of the Early River Days" published in The Old Tavern Book of Recipes, recounts the history of riverboat captain, Marke O'Hara.³ The Captain O'Hara from the story may be the same Mark(e) O'Hara who built this house, but aside from the details in the story, little else is known about him. According to the story, Captain O'Hara piloted the side-wheeler Euphrasia from Westport to St. Louis in the 1830s. He married Alice Shroyer, whose family lived in Arrow Rock, and they made their home in St. Louis. In 1840, the Euphrasia was struck by lightning in a storm and sank; Captain O'Hara was believed dead. "Among some debris from the destruction wrought by the storm near the point where the Euphrasia went aground, a man was found by a family named Turpin."⁴ Although he was alive, O'Hara was seriously injured and had amnesia. The Turpin family adopted the man they found and gave him the name John Turpin. Several years went by before surgery relieve the pressure in John's skull and his memory was restored. In 1844, Captain O'Hara was reunited with his wife and young son. They moved back to St. Louis, where they raised a large family and lived for many years. At the end of the story about Captain O'Hara, the author notes that "an old two story brick house built by Capt. O'Hara still stands at South Point on the river bluff about 3/4-mile from the present town of Washington, MO."⁵ If this story is about the same man who built the house currently known as 1 South Point Place, Captain O'Hara must have moved his family to South Point in the 1850s and built this house for them.

³ Don Pealer (compiler). "An Arrow Rock Romance of the Early River Days" The Old Tavern Book of Recipes. Arrow Rock, MO: Daughters of the American Revolution, 1939, p. 26-27.

⁴ Ibid, p. 26.

⁵ Ibid, p. 27.

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By 1873, the property is known to be owned by F. W. Wood. Several years later, it was owned by farmer/rancher W. F. Kuenzel. The current owners purchased the property in 1963. Between 1898, when W. F. Kuenzel owned the property and 1963, the property changed owners at least seven times.⁶ (See chain of ownership below)

The O'Hara House is one of the very few remaining residential examples of Federal styling in Washington. It is quite intact, particularly on the inside, and is in excellent condition. The O'Hara house is immediately recognizable as an early Neoclassical style building and provides a significant example of the Federal subtype.

⁶ Information from the owner, Rosemary Hirschl.

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Chronology from Land Tax Assessment Books and Franklin County Atlas Maps

1874 Tax Assessment - F. W. Wood \$2000
1878 Atlas - no name listed, just Lot 1, O'Hara's Second Addition.
1898 Atlas - Wm F. Kuenzel - Farming and Stock, South Point, Washington, came to county
1889.
1898 Atlas shows block 1 in O'Hara's Second Addition as the residence of W. F. Kuenzel
1910 Tax Assessment - Hy Eidmann \$500
1919 Atlas - no name listed, just Lot 1, O'Hara's Second Addition.
1920 Tax Assessment - Block 1, O'Hara's 2nd Addition - F. W. Schweer \$1280
1963 The property is purchased by Dick and Rosemary Hirschl.

Note: No Sanborn or Directory Coverage

Chain of Ownership (from current owner and tax records)

Mark O'Hara ca. 1856
F. W. Wood ca. 1873
W. F. Kuenzel ca. 1898
Hy Eidmann ca. 1910
Fred Schweer ca. 1920
Althage Family
J. T. Gibbs
Williams Family
Alex Smith
John DeBroeck
Dick and Rosemary Hirschl (1963 - present)

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SOURCES:

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

Pealer, Don (compiler). "An Arrow Rock Romance of the Early River Days" The Old Tavern Book of Recipes. Arrow Rock, MO: Daughters of the American Revolution, 1939, p. 26-27.

Ogle, George A. Standard Atlas of Franklin County, Missouri. Chicago: George Ogle and Co., 1898.

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

Saint Louis Atlas Publishing Co. Atlas Map of Franklin County, Missouri. St. Louis: St. Louis Atlas Publishing Co., 1878.

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: Lot One of South Point Place in the city of Washington, Missouri.

Boundary Justification: The current boundaries encompass all of the property that has been associated with the property since the end of the period of significance.

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Photographs

The following information is the same for all photographs:

O'Hara, Mark, House
Washington, Franklin County, Missouri
Debbie Sheals & Becky Snider
December, 1999
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. East and South Elevations, facing northwest
3. South and West Elevations, facing northeast
4. West and North Elevations, facing southeast
5. North and East Elevations, facing southwest
6. Main House - Entrance Hallway, facing east
7. Main House - Entrance Hallway, facing west
8. Main House Newel Post
9. Living Room
10. Dining Room
11. Garage, facing southwest.

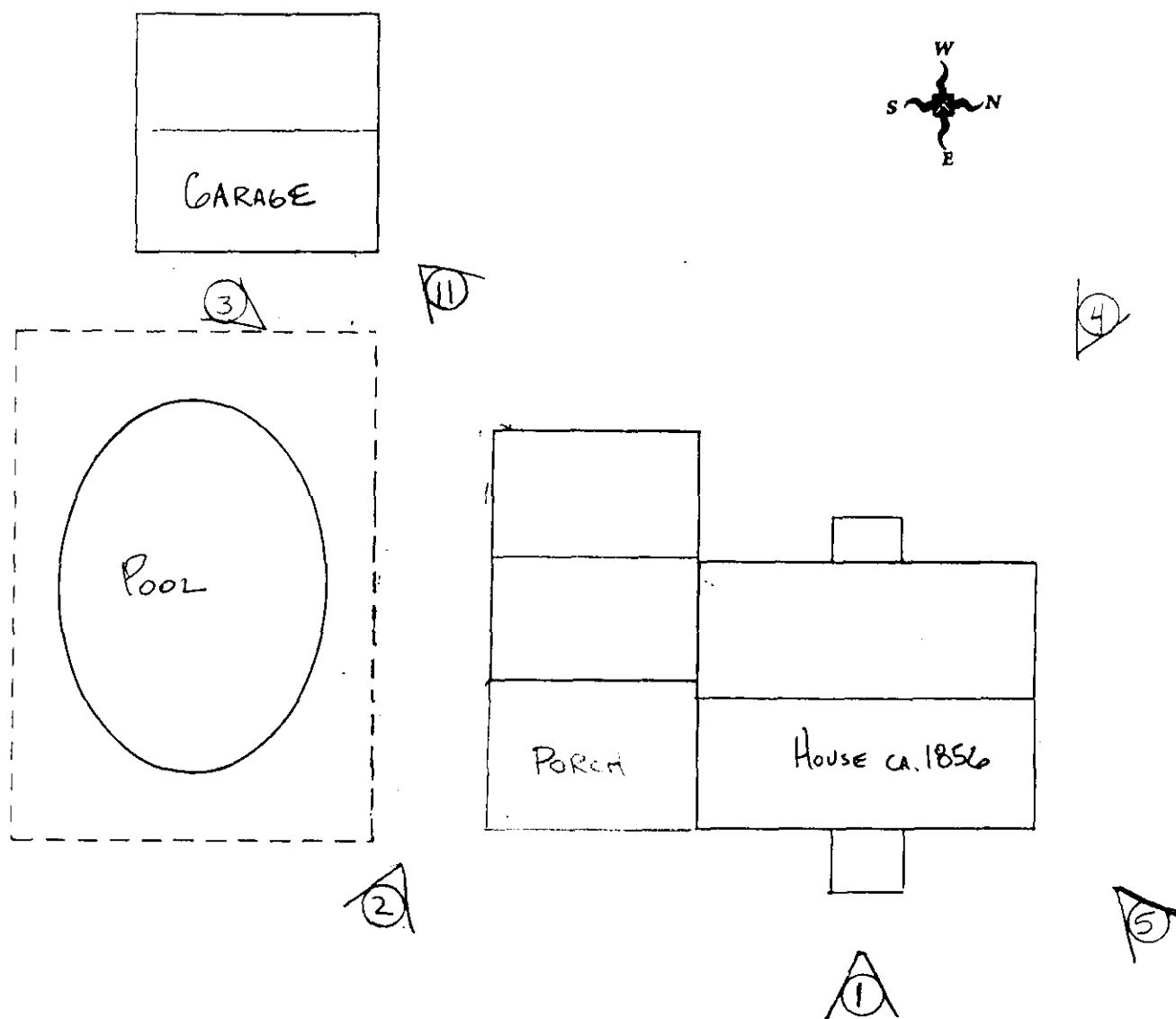
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Figure Four: Photo Key Map - Site Map. Drawn by Becky Snider



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

