

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Poeschel, William, House  
other names/site number Poeschel-Harrison House

## 2. Location

street & number W. Tenth St. N/A ☐ not for publication  
city, town Hermann N/A ☐ vicinity  
state Missouri code MO county Gasconade code 073 zip code 65041

## 3. 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
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u>  </u>	<u>  </u> sites
<u>  </u>	<u>  </u> structures
<u>  </u>	<u>  </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official G. Tracy Mehan, III, Director, Department of Natural Resources, and State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 5/11/90

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Agriculture/Processing

Agriculture/Storage

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Missouri-German

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Limestone

walls Brick

roof Metal

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The William Poeschel House is an ell-shaped, two-story red brick dwelling located on the river bluff approximately two miles west of Hermann. From its prominent site, encompassing 94.93 acres, the house commands a majestic view of both the valley to the south and the Missouri River to the north. Built ca. 1869, the house typifies the distinctive characteristics of Missouri-German craftsmanship, design, and construction. While Anglo-American vernacular building traditions are evidenced in the form and plan of the building, a modified central-passage I house, typical Missouri-German features are reflected in the fine masonry work, the brick dentil cornice, the segmental-arched openings, and the subterranean, vaulted wine cellar. The house was altered in the 1950's but retains sufficient integrity to convey its appearance and significance as an important Hermann example of Missouri-German architecture.

The house is constructed of red brick, laid in common bond on a continuous ashlar foundation of limestone. Two stories in height, the building consists of a rectangular front block (22'3" x 44'2") adjoined by a rear ell (24'4" x 35'0") aligned flush with the nominal west elevation of the front. The gable roofs, originally covered with wood shingles (see Photo #6), are covered with corrugated sheet metal, painted dark green.

The nominal south elevation of the front block forms the primary facade. The five-bay elevation is punctuated by regularly-spaced, segmental-arched windows, and a central, segmental-arched doorway with sidelights and transom. A corbelled, dentate brick cornice delineates the front and rear rooflines, and the gable roof is framed by end chimneys with corbelled caps. The primary entrance is defined by a two-story, gable-roofed portico, and a two-story porch spans the east side of the rear ell. The current porch columns and iron balconies at both porches are non-original replacements added ca. 1952-54. The rear ell features regularly-spaced, segmental-arched openings; a secondary entrance with sidelights and transom is located on the west elevation.

The original interior plan of the William Poeschel House remains largely intact. The interior of the front block is a variation on the central hall plan; one large parlor is located to the west and a large bedroom (originally two smaller bedrooms) is positioned to the east, both having access into the

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hall. The main staircase is located not in the front hall but in a perpendicular side hall located at the juncture of the front block and the rear ell. That side hall contains both the main walnut staircase and the entrance to the basement, which features a vaulted wine cellar. To the left of the side hall are located a dining room and kitchen.

The second-floor plan mirrors the first-floor plan of front and side halls. Two bedrooms are located in the front block, and one large room (originally a wine-tasting room/dance hall) occupies the entire rear ell. A particularly noteworthy feature of the second-floor interior is the intricately carved foliate design ornamenting the window and door surrounds in the east bedroom and hallway.

The basement level consists of a complex of cellars: vaulted wine storage cellar, press room, antechamber, and equipment storage room. The cellars are divided by thick stone walls pierced by segmental-arched doorways with brick voussoirs.

From the first floor of the house, access to the cellars is gained via a flight of steps located under the staircase in the hall between the front and rear blocks. The steps descend to an antechamber that separates the press room and wine cellar from the equipment storage cellar. Original double-leaf doors of random-width tongue and groove boards remain on the doors to the press room and the equipment storage cellar. The doorway on the south side of the antechamber leads to the press room. The press room retains painted walls and once had a painted plaster and lath ceiling. Five stone steps lead from the press room to the wine cellar, which lies 3 1/2' below the main cellar level. The vaulted cellar is constructed of rough-faced limestone, and the cellar floor is of sandstone. The doorway on the north side of the antechamber leads to a large cellar with exposed joists. This room was probably used for storage of equipment and/or apple cider. Access to the exterior was gained originally via an earthen ramp on the north, now replaced by concrete steps. (Another exterior door on the west wall of the press room is now blocked in.) The original dirt floors of this room and the press room are now covered with concrete.

At the time of the acquisition of the property by William and Mary Harrison in 1952, the house was in exceedingly deteriorated condition (see Photo #7). All that remained of the front portico was the gabled overhang, with pediment fanlight and cornice trim; the rear gallery porch was likewise deteriorated. The house had no plumbing and only a primitive system of wiring. First-floor joists had suffered extensive termite damage.

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The Harrisons spent the next two years rehabilitating the house. Termite damage was rectified, and plumbing and wiring were added. Certain non-original amenities were added, such as: fireplaces in the former dining room and dance hall (the house was heated by stoves originally); triple windows in the kitchen and first-floor bedroom; wide basement stairs replacing the original steep ones; and stairs at the exterior basement entrance replacing an entrance ramp. Deteriorated exterior panel doors were partially altered to accommodate glass lights in the upper halves, and the louvered wood window shutters were replaced with aluminum ones for ease of maintenance (the original shutters are retained in storage). The front portico and rear gallery were rebuilt in a simple, classicizing style (the historic photograph showing an ornate portico embellished with scrolls and brackets was not discovered until after the rehabilitation). Minor changes to the interior plan included the addition of bathrooms at the end of the front entrance hall and in the east bedroom; the removal of the brick wall separating the two east bedrooms on the first floor; and the alteration of certain interior doorways. (Intact interior woodwork, such as the foliate surrounds in the second-floor bedroom, was retained) The above alterations do not detract from the house's ability to convey substantially its original integrity of design, materials, workmanship, setting, location, feeling, and association.

SITE

The William Poeschel House is located on a parcel of 94.93 acres west of the Hermann city limits. The property includes approximately 25 acres of open, tillable land; the remainder is wooded, rolling gently toward the Missouri River on the north and the valley on the south. The property includes a non-contributing frame barn, dating to the 1920's. A family cemetery is located on a wooded plot southeast of the house. Rimmed by a simple wire fence and planted with myrtle and yucca, the plot contains a head stone marked "Gustav Poeschel," a foot stone inscribed "G.P.," and another foot stone marked "W.P."

The entire 94.93 acre parcel is included in the nominated property due to its direct association with William Poeschel, the construction of his house, and the operation of the Poeschel grape-growing and wine-making business. The land has been little changed since the period of its historic significance.

## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Agriculture  
Industry  
Ethnic Heritage/European

Period of Significance

ca. 1869  
ca. 1869 - 1919

Significant Dates

ca. 1869

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
Poeschel, William

Architect/Builder  
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The William Poeschel House is significant under criteria of eligibility A,B, and C: (A) it is associated with the German settlement of Hermann and its development as a wine-producing region of national and international renown, events significant in the history of Missouri; (B) it is associated with early German settler, farmer, and vintner William Poeschel, a figure of substantial importance in the growth and development of Hermann; and (C) it embodies the distinctive characteristics of Missouri-German building traditions and craftsmanship. The house is significant in the category of ARCHITECTURE, period of significance ca. 1869, as one of the most important, well-preserved Missouri-German properties remaining in Hermann that combines characteristic Missouri-German residential design features with specialized construction related to its function as a winery. It is significant in the categories of AGRICULTURE/INDUSTRY, period of significance ca. 1869-1870, as the only remaining property associated with William Poeschel, pioneering grape-grower and wine-maker. The house served both as his residence and as the center of his commercial enterprise, a family business that continued to flourish from the time of his death in 1870 until prohibition. A powerful symbol of Poeschel's social aspirations and commercial success, the house also reflects the importance of the grape-growing/wine-making industry in the economic growth and cultural stability of Hermann as a distinctly German community. Thus, the house has broader significance in the areas of AGRICULTURE/INDUSTRY and ETHNIC HERITAGE in the period from ca. 1869-1919.

### ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Coined by Charles van Ravenswaay in his 1977 book, Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri, the term "Missouri-German" is descriptive of the vernacular structures built by Germanic people in their settlements in Missouri.<sup>1</sup> While van Ravenswaay's study is patently regional, focusing on the lower Missouri River Valley, particularly the counties of Franklin,

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Gasconade, St. Charles, Warren, Osage and Cooper, ongoing survey suggests that this rubric may be applicable on a statewide basis as well.

German emigration to Missouri paralleled national trends. During the 1830's and 40's emigration began in force, peaking in the 1850's but remaining sizeable until the end of the nineteenth century. Many early emigrants were attracted to Missouri as a result of the writings of Gottfried Duden. Duden's "Report of a Journey to the Western States of North America," published in Germany in 1929, provided a stirring account of his two-year residency in Warren County and inspired thousands of Germans to emigrate to the area along the lower Missouri River.<sup>2</sup>

The architecture of Missouri's German settlements defies pat categorization. The buildings exhibit a variety of building materials, floorplans, exterior details, roof shapes, etc. However, all are distinguished by excellent craftsmanship, individuality, and general lack of stylistic pretension.

Characteristic building materials include half-timbered or "Fachwerk" construction and masonry construction of brick or stone or both. Early or rural structures tend to be half-timbered or stone, while later or urban buildings tend to be of brick.

Structures are uniformly well-built, with emphasis placed on quality of workmanship rather than stylistic design. However, although often modest or plain, Missouri-German structures are often individualized with details reflecting the skill of the mason, carpenter, or joiner. Such individual flourishes are seen in corbelled brick cornices, scalloped bargeboards and porch trim, chamfered porch posts, and elaborate door designs.

While wood or stone lintels are sometimes used, most Missouri-German buildings of masonry construction feature segmental arches, ranging from the squat, nearly flat arches of early buildings to the rounded segmental arches characterizing later 19th-century buildings.

"Toward the close of the nineteenth century the segmental arch became rounder, and so commonly was its sprightly form used that it is one of the signatures of German construction in Missouri and elsewhere."<sup>3</sup>

Missouri-German buildings reflect a fusion of various German traditions with the culture and environment of the American frontier. Structures were adapted to suit the needs of the builder, the lay of the land, the climate, and the availability of materials. German builders freely, perhaps unconsciously,

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adopted Anglo-American forms, while tailoring the design to retain a strong expression of cultural identity. Subtle though the differences may seem, the two-story brick I house of German construction is immediately distinguishable from its Anglo-American counterpart.

The William Poeschel House is an important, well-preserved example of Missouri-German architecture, exemplifying the blending of German design and craftsmanship with the demands of American culture and environment that is characteristic of the Missouri-German style. In addition, the Poeschel House is notable within the context of Missouri-German architecture in Hermann as one of the most substantial and well-situated properties, second only in importance to the main building of the Stone Hill Wine Company.<sup>4</sup> Salient features of the building include the original residential/commercial use; the unusual floor plan of intersecting hallways; the subterranean wine cellar; and the foliate window and door surrounds of the second-floor bedroom. The latter woodwork is a particularly significant example of the German wood-carver's art as applied to interior architectural ornament.<sup>5</sup> Although certain alterations to the original design of the William Poeschel House were made in the 1950's, as described in section 7, the property retains the distinguishing characteristics of its type and conveys substantially its original design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The City of Hermann was established in 1836 by a group of German immigrants in Philadelphia, the Deutsche Ansiedlungs-Gesellschaft zu Philadelphia (German Settlement Society of Philadelphia). The Society envisioned the founding of a German enclave in a remote part of the United States, where settlers could enjoy life in America while retaining their German language, customs, and heritage.

Following a tour of several midwestern states in search of a suitable location for such a colony, members of the Society proposed selection of a site along the Missouri River in northern Gasconade County, Missouri, an area whose bluffs and valley bore resemblance to the Rhineland. Baden schoolteacher George Bayer was soon dispatched to Missouri to acquire land for the Society. Bayer acquired nearly 11,000 acres of land in that vicinity by October 10, 1837. That land was transferred in turn from Bayer to the Society to the newly incorporated town, named Hermann after Germany's hero of the fourth century A.D. The town offered lots to settlers at a nominal cost; Society members were eligible to select the lot of their choice. By spring of 1839, Hermann had a population of 450 and boasted 90 houses, five stores, two hotels, and a post office.<sup>6</sup>

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The German settlers soon discovered that their rocky, hilly land was ill-suited for farming. However, the slopes and rocky ridges appeared ideal for growing grapes, as evidenced by the prevalence of native wild grapes. The Hermann trustees began encouraging the cultivation of grapevines as early as 1844, offering settlers the opportunity to purchase wine lots on an interest-free basis. Six hundred lots were sold at \$50.00 each.<sup>7</sup>

The first cultivated vine planted in town, an Isabella, produced fruit in 1845. That same year 50,000 vines were planted in and around Hermann, with the amount tripling the following year. The first wine was produced in 1846, surprising all by its excellent quality.<sup>8</sup>

As the first attempts at wine-making met with considerable success, both in terms of quality and a receptive market in St. Louis, many settlers seized the opportunity to better their meager conditions. In the words of pioneer winegrower, George Husmann, "a perfect rage for growing grapes, as a sure source of riches, took possession of our sober, steady citizens."<sup>9</sup> By the 1860's, Hermann vied with Cincinnati and upstate New York as the premier wine-producing area in the United States.

Among Hermann's early settlers engaging in viticulture were Michael, Melchior, and William Poeschel, sons of John Posechel of Altenburg, in Saxony, Germany.<sup>10</sup> Arriving in Hermann in the period between 1839 and 1854, the Poeschel brothers soon become prominent and prosperous citizens, establishing a wine-making dynasty that was to affect substantially the history and development of the community.

While Michael was to achieve the greatest commercial success, founding the Stone Hill Wine Company in 1861, brothers Melchior and William as well were actively involved in the industry.

"Among the pioneers in this lucrative business at Hermann belong the brothers, Michael Wilhelm and Melchior Poeschel, Franz Langendoerfer, Jacob Rommel, Sr., Geo. Husmann, Strecker, Vallet, Green and others..."<sup>11</sup>

Born in Saxony in 1829, William (Wilhelm) was the youngest of the Poeschel brothers. He arrived in Hermann in 1846 and purchased land along the river bluff west of town. Following a brief tour of duty in the Mexican War, terminated upon the disbanding of his company, and a 2 1/2-year service transporting provisions to the army by train, he returned to Hermann, planting his first vines (Catawba) in 1849.<sup>12</sup>



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In 1850, William married Theodora Neidhardt, a native of Baden, Germany.<sup>13</sup> The couple settled in a log dwelling on his land west of town (evidence of the log structure remained in 1952). In 1851, Poeschel produced his first wine, 150 gallons of Catawba, which he stored in casks buried in the ground for want of a more substantial wine cellar.

"One of our most successful winegrowers here, commenced his operations with a simple hole in the ground, dug under his house, and his first wine press was merely a large beam, let into a tree..."<sup>14</sup>

The quality and condition of the vineyards of Poeschel and neighbors Johann Fricke and brother Michael Poeschel were extolled in an 1852 account of an excursion up the Missouri River to Hermann:

"The next morning we took an excursion of three miles up the river (from Hermann). Climbing the hills by a zigzag path to the top of the precipice, which hangs over the river some two or three hundred feet high, we came out upon two beautifully cultivated vineyards--the vines kept in most admirable order, and the grapes not touched with the blight, but hanging in most abundant clusters. After enjoying the hearty cheer of Mr. Fricke, and tasting his delightful premium wine, we climbed some two or three hundred feet higher in search of an appetite we had lost, and to see the wines of friend Wilhelm Poeschel. The grapes at this high point were the ripest we had yet found, and also in fine condition. The magnificent view repaid us for our scramble, and before we got to Mr. Michael Poeschel's, we found we were quite ready to enjoy, with a hearty zest, his abundant cheer. These three vineyards have a southern exposure, which is very much preferred here."<sup>15</sup>

The early years of prosperity experienced by the Poeschels were not as successful for many Hermann winegrowers, however. The summer of 1849 proved disastrous for Hermann's wine industry, with two-thirds of the crop lost to mildew and rot.<sup>16</sup> Many lost their initial enthusiasm, and wine production dropped dramatically in the early 1850's.

Experts blamed total reliance on the Catawba grape for the slump in Hermann's wine industry. By the mid-to-late 1850's, new varieties, such as Norton's Virginia and Concord, were introduced, and in the late 1850's the state's first nursery was established near Hermann to supply cuttings of the new varieties.

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Varied plantings protected farmers for one total crop loss even in the worst of years, and the industry began to retain stability. By 1860 over 1,000 acres in the Hermann area were planted in grapes, and grapes were cited as Gasconade County's leading agricultural product. The 1870 census listed 42 farmers as "winegrowers," with production ranging from 500-1,500 gallons.<sup>17</sup>

High wine prices and a succession of good years ushered in a second building boom in the late 1860's. The optimism of the wine-makers was reflected in their building plans, which ordinarily included the costly construction of a vaulted, subterranean wine cellar of brick or stone. The cellar often incorporated in the plan for a substantial dwelling above.<sup>18</sup>

William Poeschel was quick to experiment with the cultivation of new grape varieties. By 1865 he was producing a broad range of wines, including Catawba, Concord, Norton's Virginia, Delaware, and Herbemont. According to statistics published by George Husmann, Poeschel sold over 2,670 gallons of wine in that year, for a grand total of wine and plant sales of \$8,290.00.<sup>19</sup>

Commercial and financial success allowed Poeschel to construct a new, substantial brick building not far from his log house. Completed ca. 1869, the building was designed to facilitate commercial usage as well as to serve as the residence for his growing family. The building featured the necessary accoutrement for a prospering wine-maker of an underground press house and vaulted storage cellar. A less-common feature was the second floor "tavern" (tasting room and dance hall) with separate access from the second-floor bedrooms.

Poeschel did not live to see the success of his concrete winery expansion. He was only 42 when he died in 1870 of "paralysis of the heart," leaving the property and business to his wife Theodora and their seven children.<sup>20</sup>

An early and active member of the agricultural society, William Poeschel was respected by his peers for his hard work and his pragmatic experience in grape-growing. Preeminent horticulturist George Husmann credited Poeschel as the first to recognize the importance of pruning and thinning the grapes in the early summer. Husmann remembered Poeschel as a "hard-working indefatigable experimenter," who "was without a doubt, one of the best, if not the best grape growers around Hermann," whose "vineyards and orchards soon became famous, as well as his wines," and who succeeded in winning a "habitation and a name for American wine."<sup>21</sup>

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By 1870, the year of William's death, the Poeschel winery was producing 2,700 gallons of wine.<sup>22</sup> That year brought recognition of Missouri's national prominence in wine-making, with the state leading the country with production of 326,173 gallons. Hermann's contribution reflected well over half the total.<sup>23</sup>

Throughout the 1870's and 80's, Hermann supplied large amounts of nursery stock (roots and cuttings), shipping locally, as well as to California and France, where native vineyards were being destroyed by Phyloxera. However, those years witnessed the decline of the small wine-makers, as a result of low prices and a series of bad growing seasons, and the growth of the Old Stone Hill Wine Company. Rather than compete, small growers began to sell directly to Stone Hill. The Stone Hill enterprise flourished throughout the late 19th century, and by 1912 had risen to a production of over 1,000,000 gallons, making it one of the largest wineries in the nation.<sup>24</sup>

William Poeschel's winery was one of the few small wineries to remain in active operation into the twentieth century. Poeschel's wife Theodora continued the business in her own name, receiving awards at the Hermann Wine Fair in 1870<sup>25</sup> and producing 1,500 gallons of wine in 1880.<sup>26</sup> The family business continued, although somewhat diversified, until prohibition brought an end to all wine production in Hermann in 1919. Although little documentation exists for comparative evaluation, it is likely that Theodora Poeschel's role in continuing operation of the winery may be eligible for future consideration in the area of women's history.

The William Poeschel House remained in family hands until 1919, when the property was transferred to August Hans for a consideration of \$5,000.00. In May of 1952, William F. and Mary Harrison acquired the property from Amanda Hans, his widow.<sup>27</sup>

The Harrisons had been Hermann residents since 1936, when William Harrison had taken over management of a mushroom-growing business at the Old Stone Hill Wine Company. (The heyday of the wine-making industry had ended with prohibition, when the wineries were closed and many vineyards uprooted. The winery was converted to mushroom-growing in 1923.) In 1952, the Harrisons purchased both the winery and the Poeschel House. Over the following two years, they set about rehabilitation of the house, which was in substantially deteriorated condition. At the same time, they began to develop plans for eventual preservation of the winery. Those plans began to materialize in the 1960's when the Harrisons and a small group of concerned citizens established a revolving fund which was ultimately used to encourage and assist Jim and Betty Held in the acquisition of the winery and the reestablishment of a wine

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industry at Stone Hill.<sup>28</sup> While of less than 50 years' significance, the Harrisons' pioneering involvement in the preservation of the Poeschel House and the Stone Hill Winery as important elements of Hermann's German heritage is well worthy of recognition.

METHODOLOGY

At the time this nomination was initiated in 1983, no comprehensive survey data existed for Hermann or the surrounding area. Considerable information existed on the community's German heritage, thanks to early efforts of local residents, including a nomination of the Hermann Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. In addition, the seminal publication Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri provided a broad framework for architectural evaluation. Further data was available as a result of a 1975 HABS survey of selected structures in Gasconade County.

In 1984, through an Historic Preservation Fund grant to the Missouri Heritage Trust, the Historic Preservation Program embarked on a comprehensive survey of the City of Hermann and an attendant thematic survey of properties in and around Hermann associated with the grape-growing/wine-making industry. Information gathered in that effort, particularly the thematic survey, has provided a specific framework for comparative evaluation of the William Poeschel House against other similar property types. Much of that information, gathered by David Denman, has been incorporated in this nomination.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

In summary, the William Poeschel House is one of the most significant Missouri-German properties in Hermann. The house evokes strong associations with the community's ethnic heritage and the contributions of William Poeschel to the growth and development of the grape-growing/wine-making industry. Dating to the period of the flowering of that industry, the house reflects both the importance of wine-growing to the Hermann economy and the significant contribution of William Poeschel. The design and construction of the house reflect typical Missouri-German details, including the excellent masonry construction, segmental arched windows, brick corbelling, interior woodwork, and vaulted stone cellars. Alterations made in the 1950's do not detract from the house's ability to convey its importance as a Missouri-German type.

While the nomination of the William Poeschel House can be strongly justified in terms of Criteria A,B, and C, the property also has the potential for future consideration under Criterion D. William Poeschel acquired the land in the period between 1846 and 1850, planting his first grapes in 1849. Evidence in literary sources suggests strong potential for historic archaeological remains.

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The potential for determination of the significant contribution of Theodora Poeschel to the growth and development of the Poeschel winery also exists, although it is doubtful that sufficient literary sources exist for comparative analysis in the area of women's history. Finally, future study may confirm the importance of William and Mary Harrison in the early history of the historic preservation movement in Hermann, through their efforts to preserve the Stone Hill Winery and the William Poeschel House in the 1950's.

1. Charles van Ravenswaay, Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri (Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 1977), p. 225.
2. Ibid., pp. 4-5.
3. Ibid., p. 231.
4. The building is included in the Old Stone Hill Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places on 5-21-69.
5. The woodwork is discussed and pictured in van Ravenswaay, Arts and Architecture, pp. 401-402.
6. Berton Roueche, "Hermann, Missouri," in Special Places: In Search of Small Town America (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1982), p. 57.
7. William G. Bek, The German Settlement Society of Philadelphia and Its Colony, Hermann, Missouri (Philadelphia: Americana Germanica Press, 1907), p. 152.
8. George Husmann, An Essay on the Culture of the Grape in the Great West (Hermann, Mo., Charles W. Kielmann, 1863), p. 39.
9. Ibid., p. 39.
10. History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford and Gasconade Counties, Missouri (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1888; reprint ed., Cape Girardeau, Mo.: The Ramfire Press, 1958), p. 1112-1113.
11. Bek, German Settlement Society, p. 154.
12. History, p. 1112.

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13. Ibid., p. 1112.
14. George Husmann, The Cultivation of the Native Grape and Manufacture of American Wines (New York Geo. E. & F.W. Woodward, 1866), p. 174.
15. Western Horticulture Review, Vol. III, No. 2 (Nov. 1852), p. 74.
16. Husmann, An Essay on the Culture of the Grape, p. 39.
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20. The Grape Culturist (Vol. II, No. 3, March 1870), p. 78.
21. Ibid., p. 78.
22. 1870 Agricultural Census, Gasconade County, Missouri.
23. Denman, "Hermann Winegrowing Region."
24. Ibid.
25. The Grape Culturist (Vol. II, No. 10, October 1870), pp. 276-77.
26. 1880 Agricultural Census, Gasconade County, Missouri.
27. Interview with Mary Harrison, Hermann, Missouri, October, 1983.
28. Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

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Poeschel, William, House

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Poeschel, William, House

UTM REFERENCES CONTINUED

	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>		<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
E	15	632720	4283520	F	15	632720	4283920
G	15	632880	4284120	H	15	633120	4284340

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property consists of the following parcel: The SW quarter of the NE quarter, the NE quarter of the SW quarter, and part of the NW fractional quarter bounded as follows: Commencing at the SE corner of said NW fractional quarter from which running North 9.50 chains to a stone, thence South, 87 West 15.92 chains to a post, thence South 8.60 chains to a post, thence East along the qr. sec. line 15.90 chains to the point of beginning, containing 14.93 acres, more or less, and containing in the aggregate 94.93 acres more or less, all in section 34, Township 46 North, Range 5 West. Excepting, however therefrom approximately (1) acre, more or less, sold to Western Union Telegraph Company, a corporation, together with easement right contained in said deed, as per deed of record in Book 79, at page 519 of Gasconade County Deed Records.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The 94.93 acres included in the nominated property have been associated with the William Poeschel Home since its construction ca. 1869 and have been directly associated with the Poeschels' grape-growing and wine-making enterprise. The land has been little changed since the period of its historic significance.



United States Department of the Interior  
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Section number Photos Page 1

Poeschel, William, House

The following information is the same for Photographs 1-8:

Poeschel, William, House

Rt. 1

Hermann, Gasconade County, Missouri

Negative Location: Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory  
Jefferson City, MO

The following information is the same for Photographs 1-5:

Photographer: Claire F. Blackwell

Date: September, 1983 (field verified April 1, 1990)

Photo #1 of 8

Primary facade, view from South.

Photo #2 of 8

View from Southwest.

Photo #3 of 8

View from Southeast.

Photo #4 of 8

View from East.

Photo #5 of 8

View from Northeast, showing barn.

Photo #6 of 8

Photographer: Unknown

Date: Unknown

Historic photograph, showing original front portico and vineyards in foreground.

Photo #7 of 8

Photographer: Unknown

Date: ca. 1952

View from Southeast, showing condition of house ca. 1852, prior to rehabilitation by William and Mary Harrison.

Photo #8 of 8

Photographer: Unknown

Date: ca. 1970's

Aerial view from South, showing Missouri River in background.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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☒ See continuation sheet

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 # HABS-MO-258
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 94.93 acres

UTM References

A 15 633520 4284340  
Zone Easting Northing

C 15 633120 4283930

B 15 633520 4283930  
Zone Easting Northing

D 15 633120 4283530

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

☒ See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Claire F. Blackwell, Director

organization Historic Preservation Program

street & number P.O. Box 176

city or town Jefferson City

date 2 November 1983; 2 May 1990

telephone 314/751-7858

state Missouri zip code 65102



Poeschel, William, House  
Gasconade County, Missouri  
# 1 of 8



Poeschel, William, House  
Gasconade County, Missouri;  
# 2 of 8



Poeschel, William, House  
Gasconade County, Missouri  
# 3 of 8





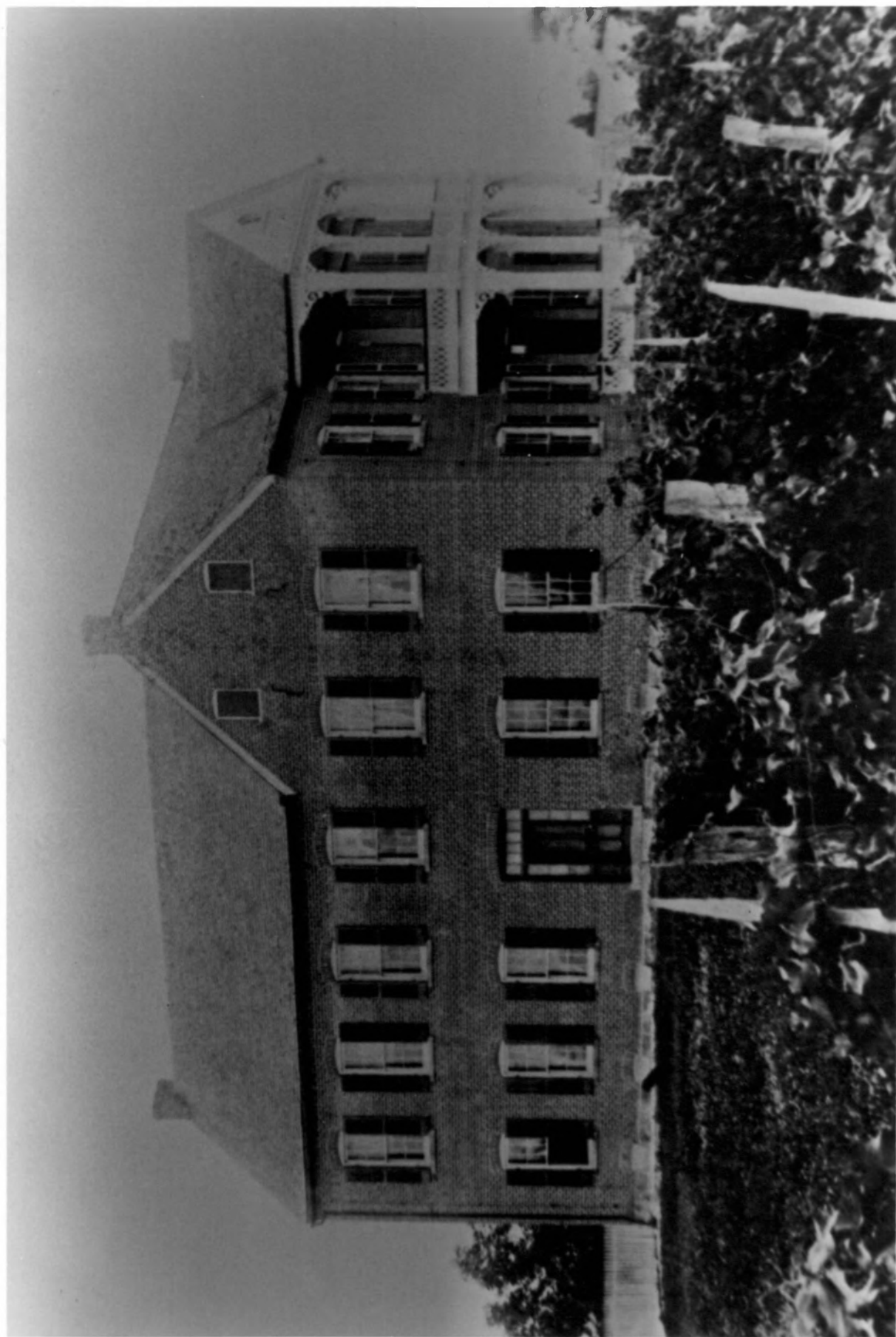
Poeschel, William, House  
Gasconade County, Missouri;  
#4 of 8



Doeschel, William, House  
Gasconade County, Missouri  
#5 of 8

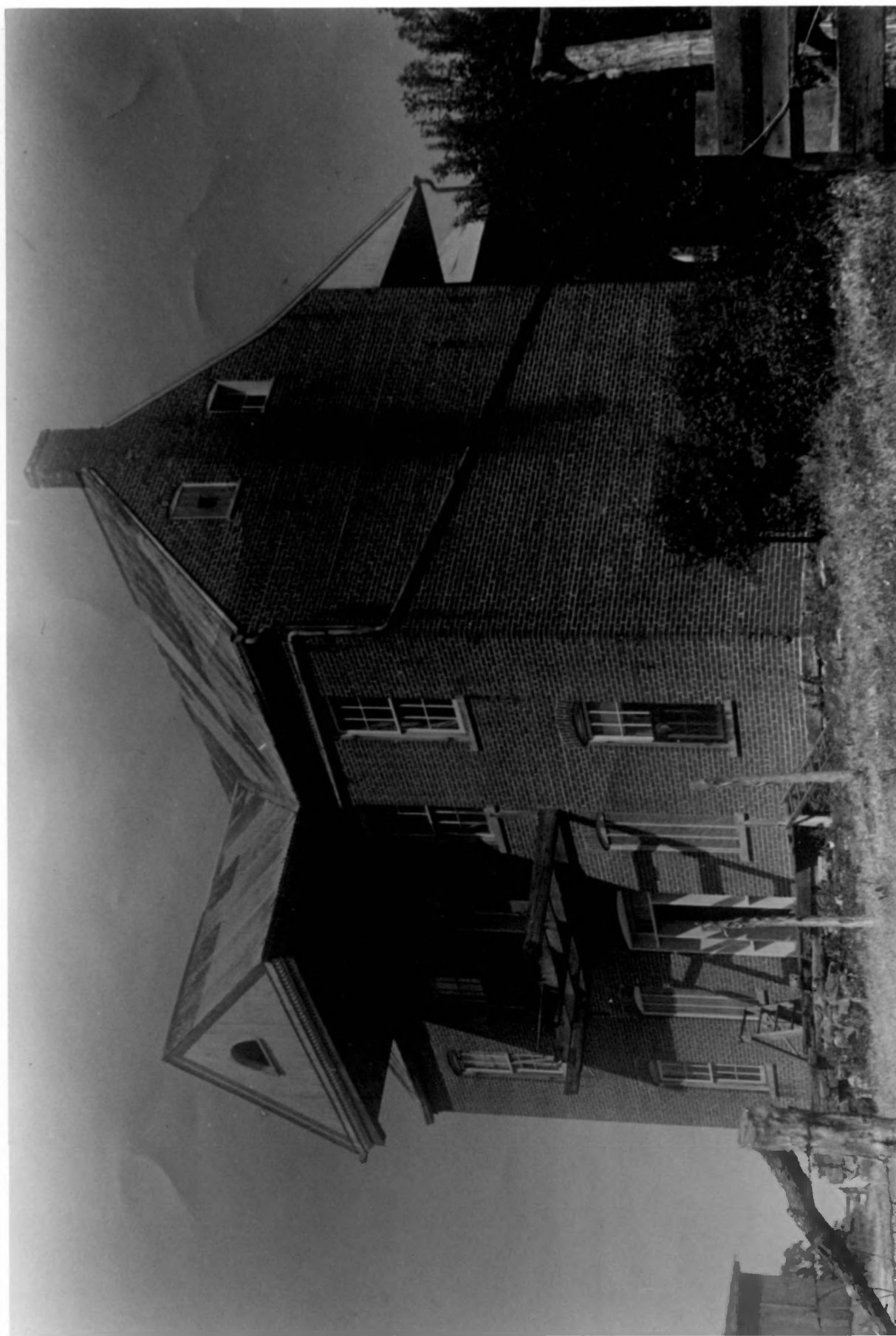


Poeschel, William, House  
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Poeschel, William, House  
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Doeschel, William, House  
Gasconade County, Missouri  
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