# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x' in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

The Name of Property is the property of the property of the second of th	
historic name Stephens, Hugh and Bessie, House	
other name/site number	
street & town 601 Jackson Street	N/A not for publication
city or town Jefferson City	N/A vicinity
state Missouri code MO county Cole code 051 zip code	e <u>65101</u>
SanState/Federal Agency Certification - Provenies - 1997 -	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify the request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. I property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be continuationally statewide locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/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 comments )	n the National Register n my opinion, the nsidered significant
State or Federal agency and bureau	
I hereby certify that the property is:  Signature of the Keeper  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:)	Date of Action
Cole County, MO	

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		slate	
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(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Name of Property	County and State		
8. Statement of Significance			
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)		
☐A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	ARCHITECTURE		
☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.			
X <b>C</b> 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.	Period of Significance 1913-1918		
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)			
Property is:	Significant Dates N/A		
☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	N/A		
☐ B removed from its original location.	Significant Persons (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A		
☐ <b>C</b> a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation		
□ D a cemetery.	N/A		
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.			
☐ <b>F</b> a commemorative property.	Architect/Builder Tracy, Evart		
☐ <b>G</b> less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Swartout, Egerton		
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	⊠See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8		
9. Major Bibliographical References Bibliography			
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more cont	inuation sheets.		
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:		
□ preliminary determination of individual listing (36	X State Historic Preservation Office  Other State agency Federal agency X Local government X University X Other Name of repository:  Missouri State Archives, Missouri River Region Public Library		
	See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9		

Cole County, Missouri

Stephens, Hugh and Bessie, House

10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property 1.62 acres	
UTM References (Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	
1 <u>1/5</u>	2 / / Zone Easting Northing
3 / Zone Easting Northing	4 / Zone Easting Northing
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.) Begin east line at Jackson Street and south line at Whitton Exprenortheast 105.4'; northwest 286' (s) POB.	essway; southwest 200'; southeast 145'; east 161';
Property Tax No. N/A	
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.) Boundary description taken from records of the Cole County Office associated with the house.	ce of Deeds and includes property and lawns historically    See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Debra Foster Greene, Ph.D. (edits and additional in	nformation by Tiffany Patterson, MOSHPO)
organization Lincoln University	date August 30, 2007
street & number820 Chestnut	telephone 573-681-5231
city or town Jefferson City	state MO zip code 65101
Additional Documentation	
Continuation Sheets  Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the pro A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional stems).	large acreage or numerous resources. f the property.
Property Owner	
name/title Lincoln University, ATTN: Dr. Carolyn Mahoney, P	
street & number 820 Chestnut city or town Jefferson City	telephone 573-681-5042
city of town deficison city	state MO zip code 65101

**Paperwork Reduction** Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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#### **Summary:**

The Hugh and Bessie Stephens House, 601 Jackson Street, Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri is a 2 1/2 –story French Eclectic style residence built from designs by Evart Tracy and Egerton Swartout. Located on a hill overlooking downtown Jefferson City and the Lincoln University campus, the house has a steeply pitched hipped roof with front facing cross gables on either corner. A one-story wing projects from the northeast corner of the north-facing building. The walls are clad in stone and have small fenestration openings, lending an air of age to the building not reflected by its 1913 construction date. A contributing hipped roof stone-clad garage is located behind the building as is a noncontributing metal garage/storage building. The large (1.62 acre) lot slopes dramatically to the north and east and includes a contributing retaining wall connected to a square stone gazebo (counted as one contributing structure) that provides views of the city. Although deteriorated, the building retains its significant architectural features and conveys its architectural significance.

#### Elaboration:

The original parcel of land on which the house sits was described in the original deed as "parts of inlots no. 740 and 741 beginning at the northwesterly corner of inlot no. 740 thence running in an easterly direction along the alley between Miller and Elm Streets, 208 feet 9 inches to the easterly line of said inlot no. 741, 100 feet 1 inch, thence westerly parallel with Elm Street 208 feet 9 inches to Jackson Street thence northerly along Jackson Street 100 feet 1 inch to the place of beginning."

The lot begins at the east line at Jackson Street and south line at Whitton Expressway (US Highway 50), running southwest 200 feet, southeast 145 feet, east 161 feet, northeast 105.4 feet and northwest 286 feet. The lot contains several trees on the north side of the property at the front of the house and landscape shrubs across the front entry. On the south side is a tree with additional ornamental shrubs and flowering bushes. To the rear of the house are two large evergreen shrubs. There are several trees on the property near a detached concrete patio (non historic) southeast of the house.

The main block of the primary (north elevation of the house is symmetrically arranged and is clad in irregularly cut limestone slabs. The façade is dominated by the steeply

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Cole County Property Deed, 4 June 1912.

NPS Form 10-900-a OMB Approval No. 1024-0018 (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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pitched hipped roof and cross gables at the east and west corners. The central entrance has a round arch portico and is flanked by short paired windows covered by metal grills. On the second floor of the center section are two widely spaced multi-pane wood frame windows covered by storm windows. Above these are two shed roof dormers with paired six-pane casement windows. Beneath the eastern cross gables are three grouped multi-pane windows on the first floor and paired wood double-hung windows on the second. The western cross gables have paired windows on the second floor, and two widely spaced windows on the first. A one-story wing (added c. 1918) projects from the northwest corner of the house. The wing has a side gable roof and pair of wood windows in its north wall. The east wall is dominated by a chimney clad in stucco, stone, brick and slate. Projecting northwest from the house is a stone wall that terminates at the stone gazebo overlooking downtown Jefferson City.

The rear elevation of the house has a projecting cross gable with clipped-gable roof to the east and a less prominent cross gable to the west. The center section and west gross gable have 5 evenly spaced 6/6 wood windows (With metal storms) on the second floor. The center bay has 4 grouped windows on the first floor. There are three evenly spaced wood windows, covered in metal grills, on the first floor of the eastern cross gabled section. The projecting western cross gable has two sets of French doors on the second floor providing access to a metal balcony. Beneath this was once an open sunroom/inset porch that is now infilled with a glass wall. The glass windows and entrance door are covered with decorative grill work.

The eastern side elevation is asymmetrical with a very small gross gable roughly centered on the elevation. To the north is a massive chimney with three chimney pots and a tie rod end connecting it to the roof for stability. The second floor has two sets of 4/4 paired windows. The first has two widely spaced wood windows covered by decorative grills and a round arched entrance (to the former inset porch) also behind grills. The western elevation is similarly arranged with small cross gable and massive inset chimney. The 1918 library addition (described above) obscures part of this elevation.

#### Interior:

The interior of the house has four levels, basement, two full floors, and a half/story. The top  $\frac{1}{2}$  story contains a 370 square foot bedroom with small bathroom. Siding and dropped ceilings were installed sometime in the last quarter of the  $20^{th}$  century. The third floor is accessed by narrow, steep stairs from the second floor.

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The Second floor contains the master bedroom suite. The sitting room has a fireplace and decorative crown molding. There are also guestrooms a bath, and storage rooms on this floor. The first floor contains the public spaces of the house (See Figure 1). The entrance opens onto a foyer accessing the living and dining rooms. The basement has a concrete floor with dropped ceiling tiles and four rooms.

The historic (contributing) detached garage is a one-story structure with stone walls similar to those of the main house. Roof is hipped, through there is a large arched dormer containing a sunburst pattern window centered over the garage door. The paneled garage door is modern. To the west is metal garage with flat roof and paneled door.

The square gazebo (contributing) has stone walls and supports and a hipped roof. It is connected to the house by a high stone retaining wall.

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**SUMMARY:** The Hugh and Bessie Stephens House, 601 Jackson Street, Jefferson City, Cole County, is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Hugh and Bessie Stephens commissioned Evart Tracy and Egerton Swartout, architects for the Missouri State Capitol building, to design the home in 1913 at a construction cost of \$16,000. Stephens, heir to the Tribune Printing Company and publisher of the Daily Tribune, was a local businessman and civil leader with ties to local and state government. The house, a representative example of the symmetrical subtype of the French Eclectic style, and its size and prominence reflects Stephens' wealth and position in the Jefferson City community. Its 1918 library addition borrows from the original design, but provides an asymmetrical detail commonly seen in other examples of the style. French Eclectic architecture is relatively uncommon in Jefferson City, particularly one dating prior to the 1920s when the style peaked in popularity in the United States. The building's steeply pitched roof, masonry exterior, and relatively small fenestration are characteristic of the style and lend the building an Old World feeling despite its age and location. <sup>2</sup> The Stephens lived in the house for almost fifty years, and the house has served as the Lincoln University President's residence since 1965. The period of significance for the house is 1913-1918, the date of construction through the period that it took on its significant architectural features.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Elaboration:**

In 1913 French Eclectic style was unknown to Jefferson City and the construction of the Stephens house presaged the post-World War I popularity of the style. Compared to other French Revival styles popular in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, namely the Chateauesque and Beaux Arts styles, most houses built in the French Eclectic style were relatively unornamented. Rather than the high style and elaborate designs of French residential and public buildings, the French Eclectic took as its models the vernacular farm and manor houses of rural France. Because the style drew from a wide variety of prototypes, the revival style is diverse with few "standard" characteristics. Most however, can be identified by their steeply pitched hipped roofs and use of

<sup>2</sup> Alan Gowans, *Styles and Types of North American Architecture: Social Function and Cultural Expression.* New York: Icon Edition, 1992.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Missouri State Capital: A Collection of Historic Information about its Architectural Design. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Senate Committee on Accounts, [1979] 1992; Zelma Lloyd Frank, A History of the Homes for Lincoln University Presidents. Jefferson City, MO: Lincoln University, 1981; Gary Kremer, Heartland History: Essays on the Cultural History of the Central Missouri Region, volumes 1- 2. St. Louis: G. Bradley Publishing, 2000, 2001, p. 162-164, p. 142-146; Official Manual of the State of Missouri, 1911-1912, Cornelius Roach, Secretary of State, Capital Building Commission; Official Manual of the State of Missouri, 1925-1926, Charles U. Becker, Secretary of State, Missouri State Highway Department.

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masonry (stone or brick) and/or stucco wall cladding. According to Virginia and Lee McAlester, the style is uncommon in the United States with most examples dating from the 1920s and 1930s. Its post WWI peak in popularity is likely due to returning veterans who had seem the style's models in person while serving in France and the publication of *Small French Buildings* by Henry Polhemus and Louis Coffin in 1921.<sup>4</sup>

It is unknown what factors may have influenced the selection of the style by the Stephens for their new home in 1913. Early examples, according to some commentaries on the style were often influenced by Chateauesque or Beaux Arts styles, displaying more ornamentation. However, the Stephens house is unadorned except for the arched portico over the door. Its relative plainness may give it more in common with post WWI examples of the style than contemporary examples found elsewhere. The large lot and use of irregular stone shapes in the wall cladding, and small window openings, give the house a sense of age and permanence more characteristic of original, rural, French prototypes.

The architects for the Stephens House were Evart Tracy and Egerton Swartout, a New York architectural team in Jefferson City to oversee the design and construction of the Missouri State Capitol building (1912-1916). Swartout and Tracy met while working at the firm of McKim, Mead, and White. They joined forces in 1900 and earned several major commissions including the former Yale Club (now Penn Club) in New York (1900); and St. John's Cathedral in Denver (1905-1911), and the Department of Commerce building in Washington D.C. (1912), before winning the commission for the Missouri State Capital building through a design competition in 1911 or 1912. Tracy and Swartout's design for a grand Beaux Arts capital beat out 68 other entries in 1912. The capital might have been one of their most prestigious commissions, but the firm also is known for such works as the Mary Baker Eddy Memorial, Boston; and the Elk's Memorial Building, Chicago. Swartout also designed the U.S. Post Office and Federal Court building, Denver, Colorado; Webster Hotel, New York City; the Bailey Memorial Fountain, Brooklyn, New York; the National Metropolitan Bank, Washington, D.C.; the Municipal Auditorium, Macon, Georgia and a wing of the Yale Art Gallery which now bears his name. Swartout was appointed by President Herbert Hoover to the National Committee of Fine Arts. Tracy also pursued solo projects and in March 1913, his and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Jeffery Howe, ed., *The Houses we Live In.* San Diego: Thunder Bay Press, 2002, pp. 300-302.; Gowans; Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1995, p. 387-389.

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sculptor Augustus Lukeman's statuary model was chosen to honor Isidor and Ida Straus, both lost on the *Titanic*. <sup>5</sup>

The single family residential commission and use of the French Eclectic style may have been a departure for Tracy and Swartout. The pair would have been familiar with examples of the style and had used the French Beaux Arts model to design the state capital building. However, their work seems to have been marked by large commissions reflecting Greco-Roman and Renaissance Classicism rather than vernacular French influences. Little information is readily available on the team's residential commissions, and the Stephens house may be their only residential building in Jefferson City and Missouri. The partnership may have simply taken on the commission for the Stephen's house while overseeing the construction of the state capital, or as a favor to Stephens who was closely connected to the Missouri State Capital Commission.

The French Eclectic Style is not common in Jefferson City, though the peak period of the style (c. 1915-1945) was a time of rapid growth and development in the city—sparked in part by the construction of the new Missouri State Capitol Building completed in 1917. The vast majority of new construction in Jefferson City during the 1910s and 1920s were modest houses showing Craftsman and Tudor Revival style influences. Though the city's historic neighborhoods have not been thoroughly surveyed, a review of existing survey forms and a windshield survey of some of the community's historic areas only revealed one other clear example of the style, the Ott-Steppleman House at 1117 Moreau Drive (see Figure 2). Built in the 1920s, the house has several gables interrupting its hipped roof and a turret entrance. Though both "French Eclectic" in style, the Stephens and Ott-Steppleman House represent two different subtypes of the style and show just how varied the style can be even in a small geographical area.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Gowans; Trent Pheifer, "Exploring New York City's Titanic Memorials,"

<sup>&</sup>lt;a href="http://www.glts.org/articles/nyc\_memorials/">http://www.glts.org/articles/nyc\_memorials/</a>; Mark Swarthout, "Famous Swarthouts,"
<a href="http://swarthoutfamily.org/Famous/Egerton.htm">http://swarthoutfamily.org/Famous/Egerton.htm</a>; archINFORM: International Architecture Database, <a href="http://eng.archinform.net/arch/73704.htm">http://eng.archinform.net/arch/73704.htm</a>; Adolf Placzek, ed. *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects*, volume 4. New York: The Free Press, 1982, p. 165-167.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> "Egerton Swartout," http://www.answers.com/topic/egerton-swartwout-2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Gary R. Kremer. *Exploring Historic Jefferson City*. Jefferson City, MO: City of Jefferson, 2003, p. 99-102.

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#### **Background:**

Hugh Stephens, member of a prominent Columbia, Missouri business family, was a leading businessman in the City of Jefferson. Stephens' paternal grandfather, James L. Stephens, a state senator from 1880-1884, was an early supporter of the Columbia Baptist Female College. After James Stephens gave a gift of \$20,000, the trustees renamed the school Stephens College in his honor. Hugh Stephens' father, Edwin W. Stephens, chaired the 1911 State Capitol Board Commission that selected Tracy and Swartout to design the new State Capitol building. Edwin Stephens owned the Tribune Printing Company in Jefferson City and published a newspaper called the *Daily Tribune*. The Tribune Printing Company also took care of the printing needs of state government. In addition, Edwin Stephens served as president of the Missouri Press Association in 1890 and called for a School of Journalism to be established at the University of Missouri in 1896. The School of Journalism was established in 1908. Edwin Stephens was also instrumental in establishing the State Historical Society of Missouri. Hugh took over the management of the Tribune Printing Company in Jefferson City when his father became ill in 1897-1898. This meant Stephens had to withdraw from the University of Missouri after only one year of study but by 1905, he had built a new building on Madison Street and renamed the business the Hugh Stephens Printing Company.

In 1911, Hugh Stephens was elected president of the Jefferson City Commercial Club and became responsible for leading the \$3, 500,000 state bond issue to rebuild the state capital. He served eight terms as president of the Commercial Club which later became the Chamber of Commerce; and lead the efforts to create an industrial fund, expand St. Mary's Hospital and build the Governor Hotel. Stephens was also directly involved in state government with his membership and service on the commission that was the forerunner to the State Highway Commission. His other civic activities included service on the board of Exchange National Bank (now Hawthorn Bank), president of the Stephens College board of curators, Rotary Club president, and member of the board of curators of the First Baptist Church.<sup>8</sup>

Mrs. Bessie Miller Stephens was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Tuesday Club, a women's literary club founded in 1895 by wives of local businessmen. The Tuesday Club members read and studied American and European authors and hosted parties where they dressed in period costumes. At least one such event was hosted at the Stephens home during the 1920s. Tuesday Club

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Kremer, p. 162-164, p. 142-146.

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members were also responsible for encouraging the establishment of a subscription library in the city and later the free library with the help of a \$25,000 grant from the Andrew Carnegie fund.<sup>9</sup>

When Hugh Stephens died in 1960 and his wife, Bessie in 1962, his house went to his daughters. After a brief rental period, the Stephens house was bought by the Jefferson City Housing Authority under its Urban Renewal program. In March 1965, Lincoln University bought the house from the city as a permanent residence for its presidents. The original Lincoln University president's home, constructed in 1892 from a state government appropriation of \$1,000 and located on the university campus grounds, was demolished to make way for a new science building. The first Lincoln University president to live in the Stephens house was Dr. Earl Dawson. His family moved in during the summer of 1966. Each president or interim president, with the exception of Dr. John Chavis, interim president February 1982-1984, lived and entertained in the house until 1999. <sup>10</sup>

The Hugh Stephens/Lincoln University Presidents' house was occupied as a residence continuously for 86 years until April 1999 when then President David B. Henson was forced, because of the deteriorating condition of the house, particularly water leakage in the basement causing mold and mildew, to live in a private home. The house had been the site of many business and social functions for both the Stephens family and the Lincoln University presidents. In 1988, during the administration of Dr. Wendell Rayburn, the Lincoln University Board of Curators approved a three-phase renovation of the house. The first phase included structural changes to the interior and refurbishing the walls, ceilings and floors. The second phase included the renovation of home's heating and cooling system. The third phase was to install additional utility pipes and restore the ceilings of the basement and third floors. No major work has been done to the house since 1988. The current president is seeking funding to alleviate the water

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Frank, p. 9-10; Albert P. Marshall. *Soldier's Dream: A Centennial History of Lincoln University.*Jefferson City, MO: Lincoln University, 1966; Antonio Holland. *The Soldiers' Dream Continued: A Pictorial History of Lincoln University of Missouri.* Jefferson City, MO: Lincoln University, 1991.

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leakage and the accompanying problems and to repair the roof, chimneys, install a new mechanical system, repair architectural features and bring the home into ADA compliance. The University's long term plan is to reoccupy the home.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Bob Bax. "Renovation of Lincoln University President's Home Under Way," Jefferson City, Missouri, Post Tribune, 17 November 1988.

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The following is true of all photographs:

Stephens, Hugh and Bessie, House Cole County, Missouri Photographs: Debra Green

- 1. Façade, facing southeast
- 2. East elevation, facing northwest.
- 3. Rear elevation, facing northwest.
- 4. Garage, facing north.
- 5. Retaining wall and gazebo, facing north.

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## List of Figures

- 1. First Floor Plan, Susan Richards Johnson & Associates.
- 2. Photos of Hugh Stephens House and the Ott-Steppleman House

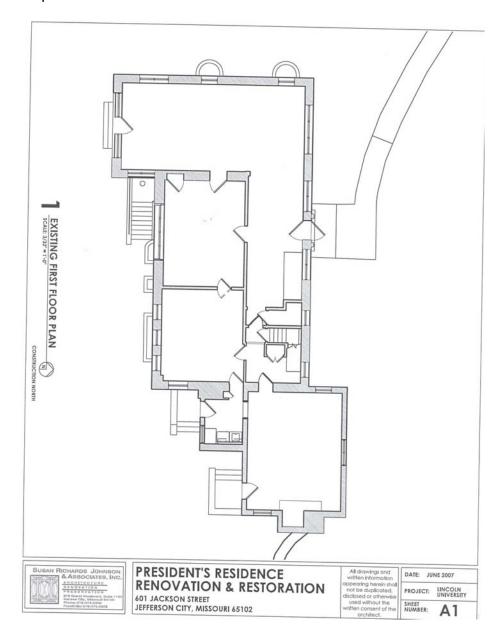
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Figure 1: Floorplan



## **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

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Stephens, Hugh and Bessie, House Cole County, MO

**Figure 2: Hugh Stephens (top) and Ott-Steppleman House (bottom),** the two known examples of the French Eclectic style in Jefferson City





