

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Vitt. William T. House

other names/site number Schaefer. Louis. House

2. Location

street & number 2 River Pilot Point [N/A] not for publication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
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet <input type="checkbox"/> .	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet <input type="checkbox"/> .	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:) See continuation sheet <input type="checkbox"/> .	_____	_____

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

Historic Resources of Washington, MissouriNumber of contributing resources
previously listed in the National
Register.N/A**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions

Domestic: Single Family

Current Functions

Domestic: Single Family

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Other: Missouri-German

Materials

foundation stone

walls brick

roof shake

other _____

See continuation sheet [].

See continuation sheet [].

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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

See continuation sheet [x].

9. Major Bibliographic References**Bibliography**

See continuation sheet [x].

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1888

Significant Dates

ca. 1888

Significant Person(s)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State Agency

☐ Federal Agency

☐ Local Government

☐ University

☒ Other:

Name of repository:

Washington Historical Society, Washington, MO

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10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property less than one acre**UTM References**

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	674540	4268880			

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 Jo Ann Radetic
street & number 2 River Pilot Point telephone (636) 239-5075
city or town Washington state MO zip code 63090

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7. Description, continued.

Summary:

The William T. Vitt house is located at 2 River Pilot Point in Washington, Franklin County, Missouri. Built circa 1888, it is a two and one-half story brick side entry house with a stone foundation, a side-facing gable roof, and a dentiled cornice. It has a symmetrical three-bay facade with segmental arched door and window openings and a Victorian style front porch. The Vitt house is representative of Property TypeD: Victorian Buildings, Subtype Victorian Missouri-German, and meets the registration requirements set forth in the Multiple Property Submission cover document "Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri." The period of significance of circa 1888 is based on the construction date of the house.

The Vitt house is very much intact and in excellent condition. The original form and patterns of fenestration are little changed, and the house appears today much as it has throughout its 112 year history. The one-over-one wood windows, while probably not original, are early; the front door, however, appears to be original. The interior is also little changed. The original door and window trim, four panel doors, and wood floors are in place and in excellent condition. The Vitt house is the only resource on the property and it is a contributing building. It is one of the more intact Side Entry houses in the study group, and it is a fine example of the blending of Victorian styling and Missouri-German building traditions.

Elaboration:

The Vitt house is located on a private drive just a short distance from Washington Street. The house, which faces north, sits on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River. The houses surrounding the Vitt house all date to the mid-to-late twentieth century.

The Vitt house is a two story three bay Side Entry house with Missouri-German and Victorian detailing. It sits on a stone foundation and has brick bearing walls, and a side facing gable roof sheathed with cedar shakes. It has a one bay one story porch on the facade and a full width porch across the rear elevation. The three-bay facade of the Vitt house features a side bay entrance and two equally spaced double hung windows. (See Photo No. 1) The front entrance is recessed into the west bay. Each of the doors in the double entry has a tall window on the top and a single panel on the bottom. The entrance is topped by a single light rectangular transom. (See Photo No. 3)

The one story porch is one bay wide and has Victorian detailing. It has square chamfered wood posts, a wooden railing with turned balusters, carved wooden spandrels and a wide cornice. The cornice is decorated with sawtooth detailing. A second floor balcony is

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surrounded by a wooden railing with turned balusters which is supported by square posts. (See Photo No. 2)

The one-over-one windows, which are early, but probably not original, have segmental arched tops and louvered wooden shutters. The architrave of each window is decorated with a bullseye and inscribed scrollwork. The second floor of the facade is almost identical to the first. However, the doorway is not recessed, and it has a single door. Above the second floor windows, a dentiled brick cornice spans the width of the facade. A single temple front dormer is centered on the facade. It has a sunburst pattern in the pedimented gable end and carved roof brackets.

The first floor of the rear elevation is completely covered by a shed-roofed porch. The west side of the porch is supported by a brick wall; the rest of it rests on square wooden posts. Two doors, one on each side of the elevation, and a double hung window are sheltered by the porch. The bulkhead entrance to the basement is also located under the porch. On the second floor, there are two double-hung windows and a small two light arched window. A brick dentiled cornice, identical to the one on the facade, runs the width of the rear elevation.

The west elevation is basically unadorned; it has three double hung windows which have wood sash and are topped with segmental arches. The two on the first and second floors are placed in line towards the back of the house; the third window is centered in the gable end. The paired chimneys are integral in the gable end walls. With the exception of an iron balcony on the second floor, the east elevation is also unadorned. The pair of double hung windows centered on the first floor is repeated on the second floor. However, one of the second floor windows has a moveable apron to permit access to the balcony. There is also a window centered in the gable end. All of the windows on the side and rear elevations, except the small window on the rear elevation, are early, but probably not original, one-over-one wood windows with segmental arched tops. Those on the first and second floors have louvered wooden shutters.

The interior of the Vitt house is very much intact and in excellent condition. Throughout the house, the doors and windows retain their original grooved trim, and the original wood floors and four panel doors are in place. The front door opens to a hallway containing the stairs to the upper floors. The staircase, railing, turned balusters, and newel post are all original. A door in the side of this hallway leads to the living room; a door at the back leads to the kitchen. The stairs to the basement are located beneath the stair to the second floor and are accessed via a door in the spandrel of the stairs. The dining room is located in the rear corner of the house opposite the entrance hall. Tall paneled pocket doors separate the living room and dining room.

The second floor of the Vitt house has three bedrooms and one bath. A door in the small bedroom above the front door opens out onto the balcony of the front porch. The two larger

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bedrooms, which are equal in size, are divided by tall pocket doors similar to those on the first floor. The bathroom, which is located at the top of the stairs, appears to be an addition dating to the early twentieth century. The staircase to the third floor is located directly above the main staircase, but it is narrower than the lower one. At the top of the stairs, a narrow landing and hallway leads to a large bedroom and bath; the bath is a modern addition.

Overall, the Vitt house appears today much as it did when William Vitt owned it. It is very much intact, both inside and out, and continues to function, as it has since it was constructed, as a single family dwelling.

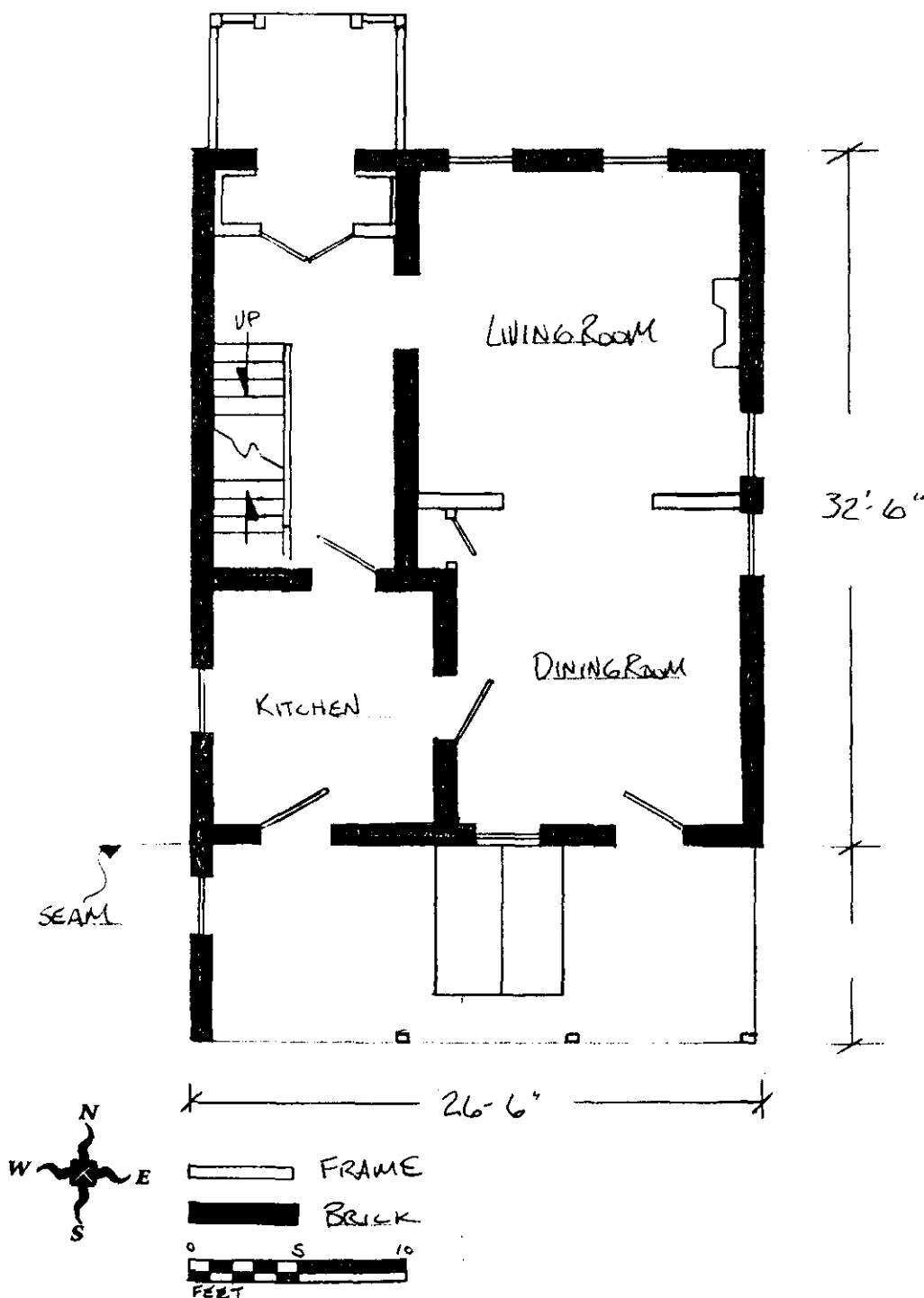
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Figure One: First Floor Plan. Drawn by Becky Snider.



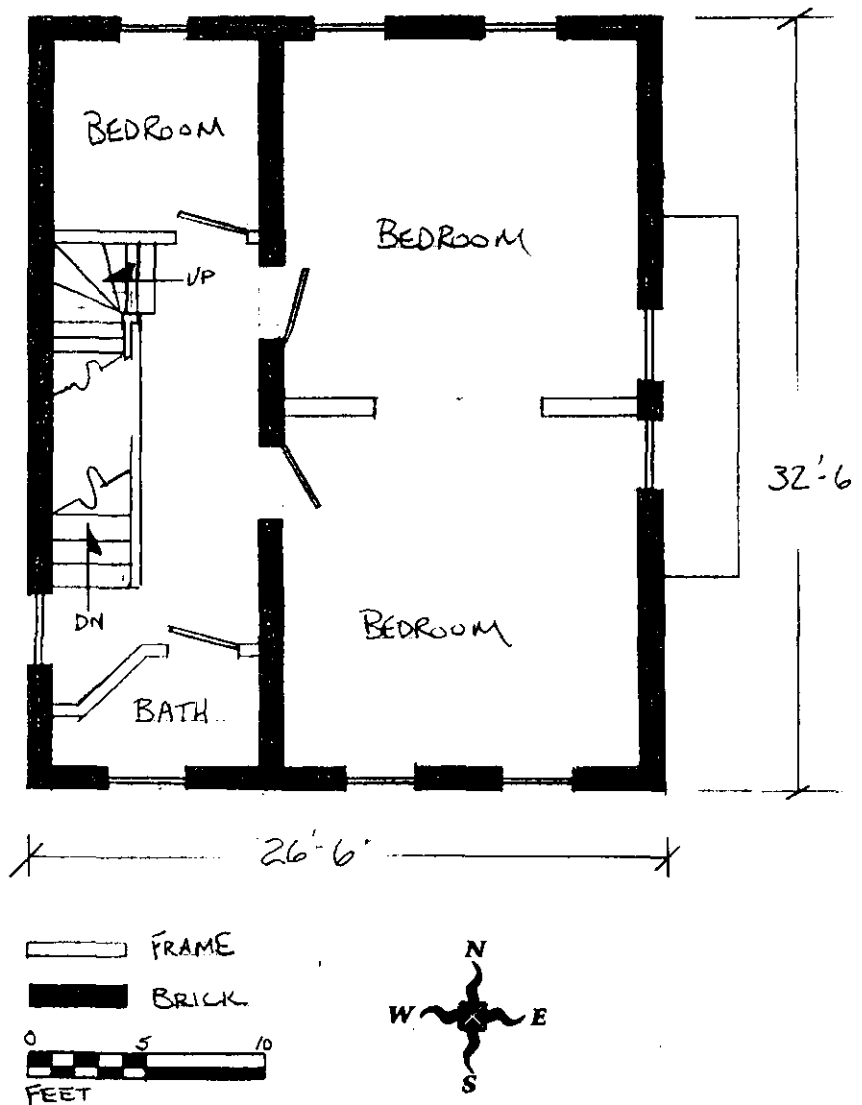
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Figure Two: Second Floor Plan. Drawn by Becky Snider.



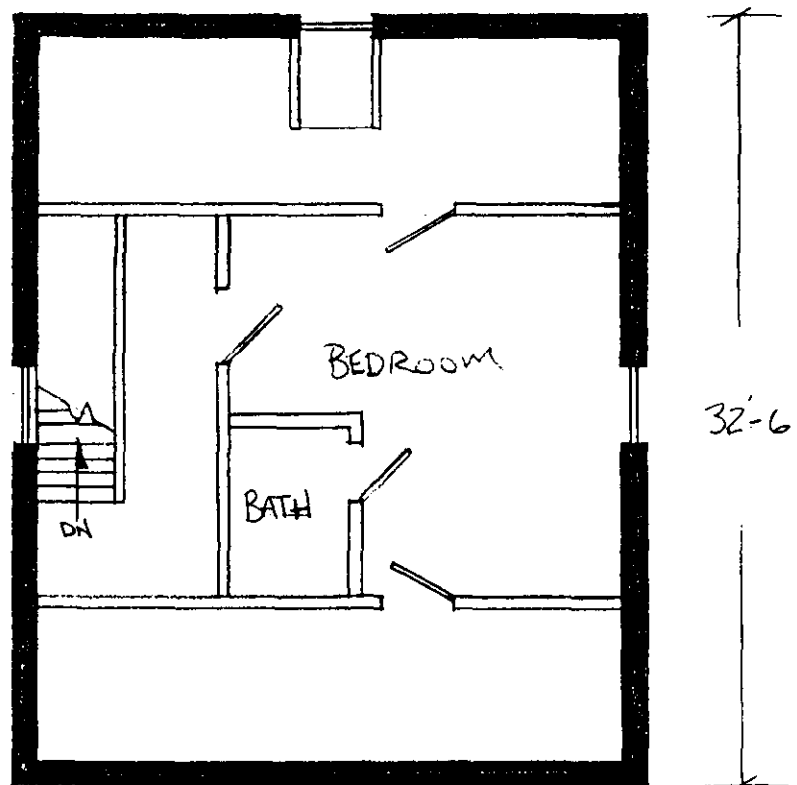
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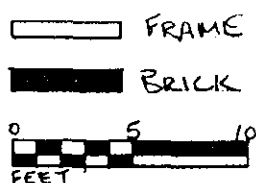
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Figure Three: Third Floor Plan. Drawn by Becky Snider.



26'-6"

32'-6"



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Summary:

The William T. Vitt house, at 2 River Pilot Point, in Washington, Missouri, is fine example of the blending of Victorian styling and Missouri-German building traditions. The compact massing, brick construction, dentiled cornice, and segmental arched windows are all typical of Missouri-German architecture of the last half of the nineteenth century. Furthermore, the Vitt house has a porch and a gable-roofed dormer, which both have Victorian detailing. The house is a highly intact example of Property Type D: Victorian Buildings, Subtype: Victorian Missouri-German. It meets the registration requirements set forth in the MPS cover document "Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri" and it falls under the historic context "Architectural Development: 1839-1950." As such, it is significant under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE.

The house was built ca. 1889, by or for German immigrant William T. Vitt. Vitt only owned the house a few years, but from 1912 until the mid-twentieth century, the house stayed in the family of local steamboat captain, Louis Schaefer. The period of significance of circa 1888 is based on the construction date of the house. The house is the only resource on the property and is a contributing building. The Vitt house is highly intact, both inside and out, and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Elaboration:

The Vitt house shares many characteristics with other late-nineteenth houses Missouri-German houses in Washington. Its design combines the basic form and fenestration of a Missouri-German side entry house with Victorian ornamentation. The red brick walls, dentiled cornice and segmental arched windows are all hallmarks of vernacular Missouri-German architecture.¹ Brick construction and dentiled cornices are nearly ubiquitous among the surviving 19th century houses in the community and the two almost always are employed together; few early brick houses in Washington lack a dentiled cornice. The side gabled roof and overall compact massing are also typical of Missouri-German construction in many areas of the state.

The Vitt house employs the common vernacular Missouri-German form of a side passage house. It is two and one-half stories tall, has a recessed front entrance located in the one of the side bays, and is three bays wide. The front door opens onto a wide hall, which

¹ See MPS cover document "Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri: Architectural Development: 1839-1950" for a full discussion of Missouri-German characteristics.

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contains the stairs to the second floor. The kitchen is to the rear and the living spaces to the side of the hall.

The house is not, however, a completely vernacular dwelling. There are several stylistic elements which reflect the Victorian style of architecture which became popular in Washington and nationwide in the late nineteenth century. The size of the house reflects the influence of Victorian sensibilities. Most vernacular Missouri-German side entry houses were one to one and one-half stories tall while Victorian houses tended to be one and one-half to two and one-half stories tall. The Victorian styling of the porch is expressed in the scrollwork balustrade and spandrels and in the sawtooth pattern on the cornice. Victorian ornamentation is also found on the front dormer and the iron balcony. The dormer has scrolled roof brackets and a sunburst pattern in the pediment. The interior ornamentation of the house is also Victorian in design. The window and door trim is wide and molded; and the staircase has turned balusters and a turned, carved newel post.

Little is known about William T. Vitt other than the fact that he was born in Prussia. The Franklin County Census of 1860 lists a William T. Vitt living in Boeuf Township; the 1870 census shows a person of the same name, also a native of Prussia, living in St. Johns Township.² However, the 1903 obituary for William T. Vitt lists his date of birth as 1860.³

William T. Vitt purchased Block Two of Bassora for \$550 from J. E. Vitt; the same year William T. Vitt offered for sale his property on St. Johns Street in Washington.⁴ After William Vitt's death in 1903, the house was sold to George Spreckelmeyer, who owned it less than ten years. In 1911, Louis Schaefer purchased the Washington Ferry. A year later, he purchased the Vitt house. Schaefer "continued in the ferry business until the construction of the Washington

² Franklin County Census Records, 1860, 1870. (Listed in Kiel, Herman Gottlieb. The Centennial Biographical Directory. Washington, MO: Missourian Publishing Co., 1986, p. 38-40.

³ Obituary for William T. Vitt, exact source unknown (Kiel Files, p. 45960, Washington Historical Society, Washington, Missouri.)

⁴ Deed Records (in the possession of the current owner, Jo Ann Radetic) and Die Washingtoner Post, August 23, 1888. (Kiel Files, p. 45955, Washington Historical Society, Washington, Missouri)

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bridge" in 1936.⁵ After his death in 1948, the property passed to Schaefer's daughter, Meta Wingfield.

The Vitt house is in excellent condition and is very much intact, both inside and out. It is immediately recognizable as an early Missouri-German building, and provides a significant two and one-half story example of the Side Entry subtype.

⁵ "Louis Schaefer, Former Ferry Boat Operator Dies, Funeral Sunday."
Washington Citizen. February 6, 1948.

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Chronology: From Land Tax Assessment Books, Deed Records, Washington Historical Society Collections and local histories noted in the bibliography.

- 1860 Census - William T. Vitt, a native of Prussia, living in Boeuf Township, property valuation \$7000.
- 1870 Census - William T. Vitt, a native of Prussia, living in St. Johns Township, property valuation \$17,000.
- 1888 William T. Vitt purchases Block 2 of Bassora from J. E. Vitt for \$550.
- 1890 Tax Assessment, Block 2, \$1200.
- 1903 William T. Vitt dies.
- 1904 George H. Spreckelmeyer and wife, Mary Anne purchase the property for \$3,300 from William T. Vitt's widow.
- 1911 Louis Schaefer purchases the Washington Ferry.
- 1912 Louis Schaefer purchases the property from George Spreckelmeyer
- ca. 1936 The Washington Ferry ceased operation after the Washington Bridge was constructed.
- 1948 Louis Schaefer dies; the property passes to his daughter, Meta Wingfield.

Note: no Sanborn or Directory Coverage.

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SOURCES:

Die Washingtoner Post. August 23, 1888. (Kiel Files, p. 45955, Washington Historical Society, Washington, Missouri)

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

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

Kiel, Herman Gottlieb. The Centennial Biographical Directory. Washington, MO: Washington Citizen, 1926; reprint Washington, MO: Missouriian Publishing Co., 1986.

"Louis Schaefer, Former Ferry Boat Operator Dies, Funeral Sunday." Washington Citizen. February 6, 1948.

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: Lot 2 of River Pilot Point Subdivision in the city of Washington, Missouri.

Boundary Justification: The boundaries represent all of the property currently associated with the house.

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**Vitt, William T., House
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Photographs

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Vitt, William T., 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 (north) elevation, facing south.
2. Front porch, facing southeast.
3. Front entrance
4. North and east elevations, facing southwest.
5. South and east elevations, facing northwest.
6. South and west elevations, facing northeast.
7. North and west elevations, facing southeast.
8. Pocket doors between living and dining rooms.
9. Living room
10. Newel post
11. Second floor hallway and stairs to the third floor.

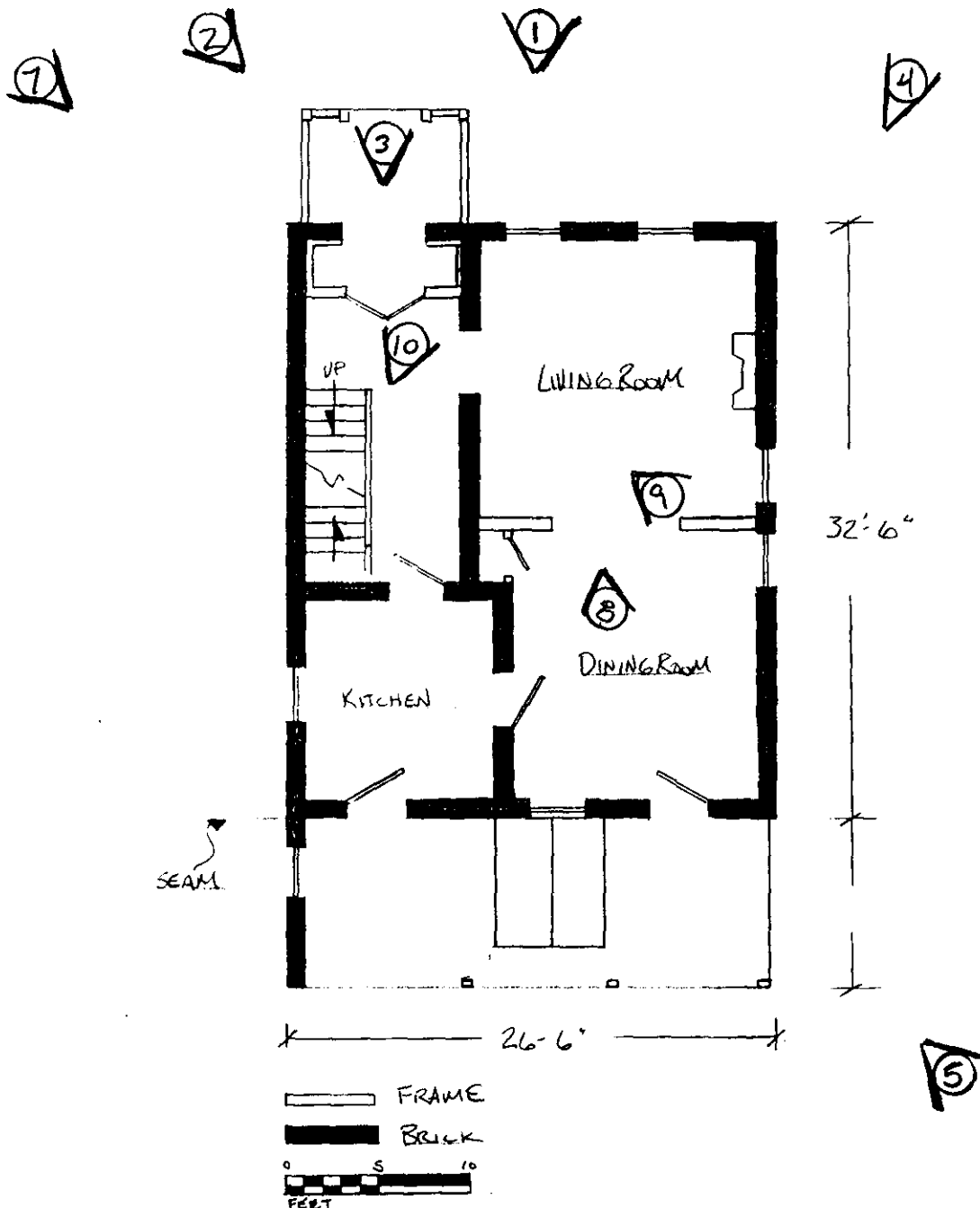
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Figure Four. Photo Key Map - First Floor. Drawn by Becky Snider.



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

