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6. #1 PARRISH PLACE
(HARRIS, CAPT. THOMAS C., - PARRISH, DR. A.W., HOME)

2. Missouri State Historical Survey

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1973

Missouri State Park Board

P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (II known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Parrish Place is a modified "T"-plan, Victorian, residential structure. Italianate detailing emphasizes the cubical mass of the main, south, two-story portion of the house. A lower, two-story, north wing is centrally attached to the main portion's north wall; while a one-story addition is connected at the northwest corner, replacing an original porch. Attached to the north wall of the rear wing is a double-width, single-car garage of relatively recent construction. A small shed is joined to this garage on its east facade, northeast end.

EXTERIOR

Over-all dimensions

The main, south portion of the Parrish Place is square in plan with three bays (30 feet) on the north and south facades and two bays (30 feet) on the east and west facades. The north wing is rectangular in shape and has two bays on the north (13'9") and three bays (26'6") on the east and west facades. The rear addition (26'6" x 17'6") is also rectangular, but has no bay divisions. The garage is 24' x 20'5".

Construction materials and colors

The Parrish Place is constructed of brick, stone, and wood. The red brick walls are painted beige in contrast to the stone quoins, painted chocolate brown, on the southeast and southwest corners of the main portion. The chimneys are also of brick, but are maintained in their natural color. Stone is used for the shallow foundations and concrete for the front steps. Wood painted to match the walls' color scheme is used for the elaborate cornice; the east facade, three-sided bay window; the window frames and mullions; and the main entrance surround and flanking facings. The four roofs are covered by fire resistant shingles.

Openings

Windows. The fenestration of the main portion of the Parrish Place is regular, one window per bay. Unusually-tall, round-arched, two-over-two light, double-hung sash windows are used throughout. Stone lugsills and radiating brick voussoirs with keystone lintels trim each window. The two southernmost, west facade windows are blind. Chocolate brown, louvered, wood shutters, which allow light to filter into the interior rooms, are on all windows except the east facade, northernmost windows. A three-sided, wood frame, bay window is on the east facade, first story, southernmost bay. Each individual window is identical to others on the south section. There are no shutters.

There are four windows in the north wing: two on the first story, east facade and two on the second story, north facade. The east windows, located in the two southernmost bays, are identical to the south section's windows and are shuttered. The north facade windows are shorter in height and have one-over-one light, double-hung sash. They flank the centrally-located north chimney.

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PARRISH PLACE
(HARRIS, CAPT. THOMAS C., - PARRISH, DR. A.W., HOME)

The rear addition has five, one-over-one light, double-hung sash, modern-style windows. These windows are positioned high on the walls. Four flank the southwest and northwest corners. The fifth is at the eastern end of the north facade. All these windows have brick slipsills and no lintels.

Doorways. Access into the Parrish Place, other than through the garage, is by the main entrance on the south facade, westernmost bay. This entrance is flanked by wooden pilasters and topped by an entablature-style head supported by paired brackets. The doorway is filled by two-panel, double, wood and glass doors topped by a horizontal, one-light transom. Wood filagree work trims all inner corners of the glass panes of the transom and the upper corners of the doors. All features are painted the same beige and chocolate brown color scheme as used for the walls. A stone slab serves as the threshold. The garage entrance is on the west facade. It has a glass and wood, single-width door and a screen/storm door.

There are also two secondary entrances: a basement entrance along the east facade and a second-story, west facade entrance into the north wing. This second-story entrance is placed in a gable-shaped, wood frame dormer. The doorway opening is rectangular in shape and shuttered.

Roofs

The main, south portion of the Parrish Place is covered by a hip roof. Both the north wing and the garage have gable roofs, high- and low-pitched respectively. A flat roof covers the rear addition.

Chimneys

There are six chimneys servicing the Parrish Place: five on the south portion (two on each of the east and west facades and one on the north wall) and one on the north wing's north facade.

Decorative details

Decorative details are mainly limited to the main (south) portion of the Parrish Place. The Italianate-styled details are emphasized by the beige and chocolate brown color scheme.

Quoins trim the southeast and southwest corners of the main portion of the house. They are alternately decorated with pebble or diagonally-grained textures. All have a beveled edge.

A heavy, wood entablature trims the upper edge of the walls. Its deep cornice is edged by dentils along its underside. The wide freize is relatively simple, its plain surface broken only by elongated, oval-shaped

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7. #2 PARRISH PLACE (HARRIS, CAPT. THOMAS C., - PARRISH, DR. A.W., HOME)

moldings ("oval panels") between brackets (paired on the east, west, and south facades and singular on the north) which support the cornice above. A molding trims the bottom edge of this freize, accentuating the division between the entablature and the brick walls below.

The head of the south entrance repeats the wall entablature in its details, except there are no "oval panels."

The bay window on the east facade is also modeled after the wall entablature and entrance surround. The "oval panels" are used on this feature. Pendants have been added to the brackets.

Flanking pilasters emphasize the doorway opening of the north wing dormer. An ogee-shaped facing is attached to the dormer's west wall, immediately under the eaves of its gable roof. Other pilasters are to the east of the exterior corners of the dormer.

INTERIOR

Occupancy of the Parrish Place is limited to the north wing and rear addition. Presently there is no heat in the south portion of the house.

Basement

A gas furnace is located in the partial basement.

First floor, south portion

Access to the first floor is by an entrance hall along the west wall of the house. A double-room parlor, with bay window in the southern half, opens off the hall. A small room, located directly behind the hallway, is reached from the north room of the parlor. Interesting features include the unusual window treatment and the transoms over the interior doorways. The framing around the windows is repeated on the doorways.

First floor, north wing

The north wing houses the kitchen and the bathroom and provides access to the rear addition, which is one, large room. A small room is to the rear of the kitchen.

Second floor, south portion

The southern portion's second floor is reached by a straight flight of stairs located along the west wall of the entrance hall. There are three bedrooms: two across the front of the house and one in the northeast

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PARRISH PLACE
(HARRIS, CAPT. THOMAS C., - PARRISH, DR. A.W., HOME)

corner. The hall runs along the northern two-thirds of the west wall. A bathroom is located between the northeast and southern bedrooms with access from the southeast bedroom and the hall. An enclosed, "U"-shaped, central stairway leads to the roof where the cupola was originally located.

Second floor, north wing

Access to the north wing's second floor is by a separate, narrow, "L"-shaped stairway in the northeast corner of the north wing. The second floor has one bedroom.

Attic, south portion

Access to the attic is by an opening in the south wall of the cupola stairway.

ALTERATIONS

The basic integrity of the Parrish Place remains intact, even though some alterations have been completed. The original "T"-plan structure (the south portion and the north wing) exists today minus its original, north-west porch which has been replaced by the rear addition. The present garage is a 1950's addition and replaces the summer kitchen, coal room, and wood house which were destroyed in a 1958 fire. A cupola which adorned the top of the south portion was removed in the fall of 1965. The barn with its brick courtyard no longer exists.

Alterations to the interior have been relatively minor. On the second floor, south portion, the original "L"-shaped hall was partially partitioned off for a bathroom. The ceiling in the northeast bedroom has been lowered. Alterations on the first floor have been limited mainly to the north wing. Here, an archway opening along the north wall of the kitchen was removed and a solid wall built (1940). A bathroom, located in the room directly behind the south portion's stairhall, was removed to its present location in the north wing in 1941.

CONDITION

The Parrish Place is in relatively good condition. The foundations and walls appear to be stable at present. Some possible threats to this condition do, however, exist. Without attention in the near future the condition will most certainly deteriorate rapidly. A previous program of maintenance was conducted in the 1950's, but the results are somewhat questionable. Many of the problems to be corrected at that time still are posing threats to the house's future existence. Currently, the major problems are water leakage on the interior around the flues of the chimneys

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7. #4

PARRISH PLACE
(HARRIS, CAPT. THOMAS C., - PARRISH, DR. A.W., HOME)

and flaking paint on the exterior.

SITE

The Parrish Place is situated on a slight rise on the northeast corner of the intersection of North Franklin and Burton streets, near the northern limits of Kirksville. The house faces south towards Burton Street, though the street address is North Franklin. Pines and several other types of trees are randomly planted around the yard. Small shrubs obscure the south facade foundations. Lilac bushes line the western boundary of the property; while a concrete sidewalk runs along the southern boundary. A gravel driveway running perpendicualr to the western boundary of the lot provides access to the garage off of North Franklin Street. Other residential structures surrounding the Parrish Place are not of the same age or quality of style. Most of these houses appear to be of twentieth century construction.

The description of the physical appearance of the structure and its alterations is based on a personal interview of the owner and field observations by a member of the staff of the State Historical Survey and Planning Office on January 26, 1973. Details of the interview and field work are on file with the Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.

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The Parrish Place, 1308 North Franklin Street, Kirksville, Missouri, is significant as a rare example of an Italianate residential structure in Adair County and Kirksville. (A similar structure did exist, but it has since been torn down). The house is also noteworthy for the prominent men who resided there.

The Italianate was an important style for several decades.² Its characteristic details and easy adaptability to many varying environments made it an extremely popular and versatile architectural style. For those of means and the desire, a variety of bold towers, verandas, and conservatories could be included in the design of their house. Where space or funds were a consideration, as is true of the Parrish Place, a few brackets along the eaves and perhaps a cupola on the roof ("a jaunty feature used as architecture for the fun of it")³ were all that were required to identify a simple cube as belonging to the Italian style.⁴

Previous owners

The original owner and builder of the Parrish Place was Captain Thomas C. Harris. (It is doubtful, however, that Harris ever resided in the house). Harris, a native New Yorker, settled in Kirksville in 1865. He had been a Union officer during the Civil War. For two years in the 1880's Harris headed the Corporal Dix Post of the G. A. R. When an organization of the Sons of Veterans was formed, it was named the T. C. Harris Camp. 6

Captain Harris is listed as the owner-operator of the Kirksville Woolen Mills in 1873, the first woolen mill in Kirksville. He may, however, have been part owner of a woolen mill as early as 1869. "The woolen mill of Harris and Tinsman Brothers, north of the town [Kirksville], near the brick flouring mill, was a very important industry in 1869." By 1883, Edgar Bigsby was the proprietor of a woolen mill in the northern part of Kirksville. It is not certain whether this mill is the same as the one Harris owned and operated ten years before. By 1893, however, Kirksville was without a woolen mill due to a scarcity of raw materials. 10

Around 1890, the house was bought by a Dr. John Burton. 11 Burton was

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8. #1

PARRISH PLACE
(HARRIS, CAPT. THOMAS C., - PARRISH, DR. A.W., HOME)

born in Sullivan County, Indiana, in 1843. He attended New Lebanon Academy, located in Indiana, and Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. His education was interrupted by military service in the Sixth Indiana Cavalry from 1862 to the close of the Civil War. Immediately following his 1867 graduation from medical school, Burton settled in Kirksville and began a successful medical practice. Burton served as President of the United States Pension Board and Post Commander of the G. A. R. 12

In 1900, the house became known as the Parrish House after is was acquired by Dr. A. Washington Parrish, a native of Scotland County, Missouri. The Parrish attended Keokuk Medical College, Keokuk, Iowa, where he graduated in 1875. He began his medical practice in Queen City, Missouri. In 1895, Parrish moved to Kirksville, where he continued his general practice of medicine and surgery. 14

Dr. Bert Parrish, one of Dr. A. W. Parrish's three children, was the fourth owner. Bert Parrish, a native of Queen City, Missouri, practiced medicine for a short period of time with his father and a Dr. Martin after his graduation from Barnes University in St. Louis. He later took a course in surgical clinics in New York City, returning to Kirksville and opening an office in the Miller Building. His practice was mainly that of a general practitioner with special attention being given to surgery. Upon his and his wife's deaths, the house passed to their housekeeper, Mrs. Everrella Murdock, who has since deeded the house and property to her daughter, Mrs. Mary Childers Slone.

COMPARISON WITH OTHER ITALIANATE RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES

The mid-nineteenth century use of the Italianate style for residential structures in Missouri seems to be limited in quantity, but not quality. Most of these examples are concentrated in the metropolitan areas around St. Louis and Independence, Missouri. Very few examples are found outside these areas, and these seem to be limited to the northern half of the state, particularly in the northeast corner.

Geography also plays a part in the particular variation of the Italianate used. The more pretentious, larger, and flamboyant examples are clustered in the metropolitan areas. Here the true "Italian villa" design, complete with verandas and asymetrical tower, is the most common variant. Outside these areas, where economic factors play an important role in the determination of the style, grandness, and size of the structure, a much simplier variation of the Italianate is employed. It is in this outstate group that the Parrish Place belongs.

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8. #2 PARRISH PLACE
(HARRIS, CAPT. THOMAS C., - PARRISH, DR. A.W., HOME)

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in Missouri's "Comprehensive Statewide Preliminary Preservation Plan." The Parrish Place is therefore being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places because 1) it is a rare example of an Italianate residential structure in Adair County and Kirksville and 2) it served as the residence of several prominent men in Kirksville.

FOOTNOTES

- 1. Statement by Mrs. Mary Childers Slone, personal interview, January 26, 1973.
- 2. C. L. V. Meeks, "Henry Austin and the Italian Villa," The Art Bulletin (College Art Association of America, June, 1948), Vol. XXX, No. 2, p. 145.
- 3. John Maass, The Gingerbread Age: A View of Victorian America (New York: Rinehart and Company, Inc., 1957), p. 98.
- 4. George B. Tatum, <u>Penn's Great Town</u> (Philadelphia: University of Penn-sylvania Press, 1961), p. 93.
- 5. Statement by Mrs. Mary Childers Slone, personal interview, January 26, 1973.
- 6. P. O. Selby letter to Mr. Daniel Spies, State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, December 5, 1961.
- 7. Information from the State Historical Society of Missouri Historic Sites File; Dorothy J. Caldwell, ed., <u>Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue</u> (Columbia, Missouri: State Historical Society of Missouri, 1963), pp. 1-2; and <u>Illustrated History Atlas of Adair County, Missouri</u> (Philadelphia: Harrison and Warner, 1876), p. 56.
- 8. <u>History of Adair, Sullivan, Putman, and Schuyler Counties, Missouri</u> (Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1888), p. 337.
- 9. E. M. Violette, <u>History of Adair County</u>, <u>Missouri</u> (Kirksville, Missouri: The Denslow History Company, 1911), p. 296.
- 10. Ibid.
- 11. P. O. Selby letter to Mr. Daniel Spies, State Historical Society of

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PARRISH PLACE
(HARRIS, CAPT. THOMAS C., - PARRISH, DR. A.W., HOME)

Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, December 5, 1961.

- 12. Jonathan Lethem, <u>Historical and Descriptive Review of Missouri</u> (Kansas City, Missouri: N. Pub., 1892), Vol. II, p. 35; and <u>History of Adair</u>, Sullivan, Putman, and Schuyler Counties, Missouri, p. 951.
- 13. P. O. Selby letter to Mr. Daniel Spies, State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, December 5, 1961; and Violette, <u>History of Adair County</u>, Missouri, p. 967.
- 14. Violette, History of Adair County, Missouri, p. 967.
- 15. <u>Ibid.</u>, p. 524.

GPO 931-894

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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- 3. Illustrated History Atlas of Adair County, Missouri. Philadelphia: Harrison and Warner, 1876, pp. 56, 66.

10. GEOG	RAPHICAL	DATA		•				••	-		
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- UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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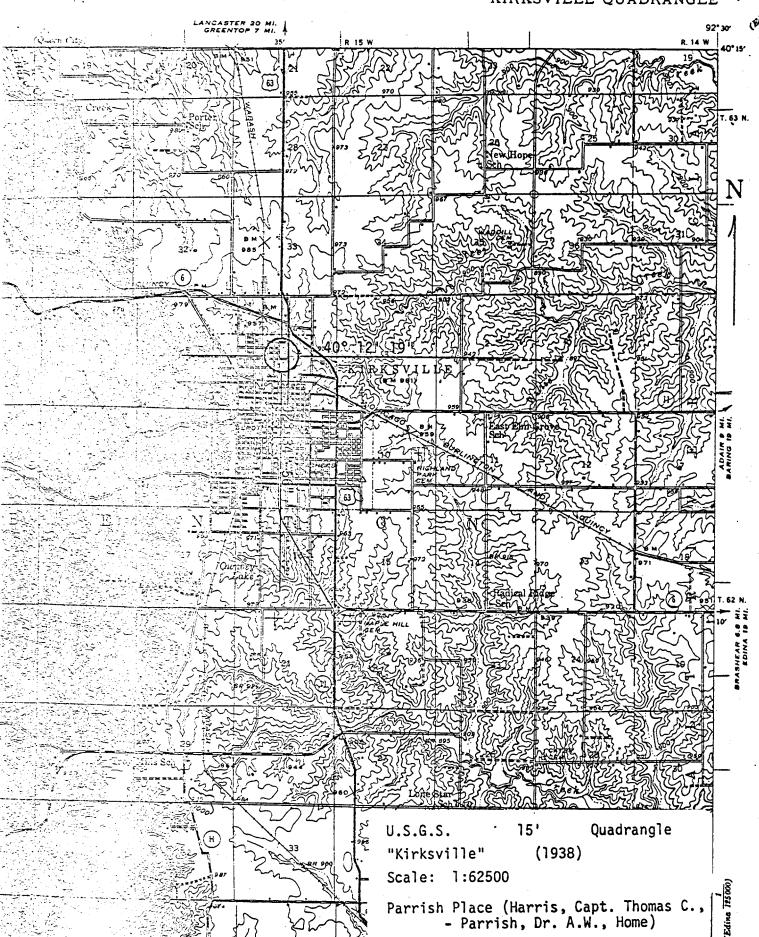
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- 9. #1 PARRISH PLACE
 (HARRIS, CAPT. THOMAS C., PARRISH, DR. A.W., HOME)
- 4. Lethem, Jonathan. <u>Historical and Descriptive Review of Missouri</u>. Kansas City, Missouri: N. Pub., Vol. II, p. 35.
- 5. Maass, John. <u>The Gingerbread Age: A View of Victorian America</u>. New York: Rinehart & Company, Inc., 1957, pp. 97-113.
- 6. Meeks, C. L. V. "Henry Austin and the Italian Villa," The Art Bulletin, Vol. XXX, No. 2, June, 1948, pp. 145-149.
- 7. Selby, P. O. Correspondance between Mr. Daniel Spies, State Historical Society of Missouri, and Mr. P. O. Selby, Northeast Missouri State Teachers College, Kirksville, Missouri, December 5, 1961.
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- 9. State Historical Society of Missouri Historic Sites File, State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, n.d.
- 10. Tatum, George B. <u>Penn's Great Town</u>. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1961, pp. 91-93.
- 11. Violette, E. M. <u>History of Adair County, Missouri</u>. Kirksville, Missouri: The Denslow History Company, 1911, pp. 296, 524, 967.

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- 1. Bryan, John Albury. <u>Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture</u>. St. Louis: St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928.
- 2. Hackman and Wallin's Kirksville and Adair County Directory. N. Pub., 1904, p. 173.
- 3. Kirksville, Missouri. Kirksville, Missouri: 0. M. Means, n.d.
- 4. Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles. Cambridge, Massachusetts: M. I. T. Press, 1969, pp. 69-82, 93-101.

GPO 921-724



Harris, Capt. Thomas, House Adair County, Missouri

The following is true for all photographs unless otherwise noted:

Harris, Capt. Thomas, House 1308 N. Franklin Kirksville, Adair County National Register listed: 10/15/1973

The following photographs were taken by Philip Born, 11/25/1968:

- 1. South façade, looking north.
- 2. South façade, looking northeast.
- 3. South façade, looking northeast.
- 4. North and west facades, looking southeast.

The following photographs were taken by Frederick J. Breme, 1/26/1973

- 5. Southwest corner, looking northeast.
- 6. South entrance, facing northeast.
- 7. East façade, looking northwest.
- 8. Northwest corner, looking southeast.
- 9. East façade bay window, looking northwest.
- 10. Entrance hall stairway detail-walnut newel post.
- 11. Interior view of south parlor room, first floor. Note unusual woodwork trim around windows. View facing south.



