

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Thomas, Albert and Wilhelmina, House

other names/site number German Methodist Episcopal Church; Schroeder, Walter A. House

2. Location

street & number 224 West Elm Street [n/a] not for publication

city or town Jefferson City [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Cole code 051 zip code 65109

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
[X] 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 [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered
significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO

25 Sept 02
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

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date

[] entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet [].

[] determined eligible for the
National Register
See continuation sheet [].

[] determined not eligible for the
National Register.

[] removed from the
National Register

[] other, explain
See continuation sheet [].

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)			
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site			
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources
previously listed in the National
Register.

Name of related multiple property listing.

Historic Southside (Munichburg) Multiple Property Submission N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

DOMESTIC/MULTIPLE DWELLING

RELIGION/RELIGIOUS FACILITY

Current Functions

DOMESTIC/MULTIPLE DWELLING

7. Description

Architectural Classification

No Style

Other: Eclectic Revival

Materials

foundation Stone

walls Stucco

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

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

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

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

ETHNIC HERITAGE: EUROPEAN

Periods of Significance

1930-1954

Significant Dates

1930

Significant Person(s)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Thomas, Albert

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State Agency

☐ Federal Agency

☐ Local Government

☐ University

☐ Other:

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

A. Zone Easting Northing
15 571620 4269820

B. Zone Easting Northing

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 Jane Rodes Beetem

organization Historic Preservation Consultant

date February 15, 2002

street & number 1612 Payne Drive

telephone 573/635-0662

city or town Jefferson City

state MO

zip code 65101

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 FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Julianna M. Schroeder and Susan K. Ferber

street & number 224 West Elm Street

telephone 573/636-6930

city or town Jefferson City

state Missouri

zip code 65101

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Thomas, Albert and Wilhelmina House
Cole County, MO
Historic Southside (Munichburg) Multiple Property Submission

Summary: The Albert and Wilhelmina Thomas House is located at 224 West Elm Street in Jefferson City, Missouri. This section of West Elm Street is part of the neighborhood known as the Historic Southside, or Munichburg. Originally constructed as a brick, Missouri-German church in about 1874, the building's original front was the gable end that faces Broadway. In 1930, the building was altered by Albert Thomas, a German immigrant, into a 2 1/2-story, two-family, side-gabled flat facing West Elm Street. The roof is steeply pitched. While Thomas may have had Tudor, English Revival, or another architectural style in mind during the renovations, essential features were not developed. Within the MPS cover document "Historic Southside (Munichburg) Multiple Property Submission, the house exemplifies Property Type 4, Electric Movement Styles, Eclectic Revival subtype. The brick walls, stuccoed as part of the church-to-house conversion, rest on a stone foundation. The house is currently in good condition and is in the process of being rehabilitated. The form, materials, fenestration patterns, and appearance of the home remain largely the same as when the conversion of the former church was completed. The interior has experienced little change since 1930. No outbuildings remain. The Albert and Wilhelmina Thomas House remains relatively intact, both inside and out, and retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and meets the requirements for listing on the National Register under Criterion C, ARCHITECTURE, as described in the MPS cover document "Historic Southside (Munichburg) Multiple Property Submission."

Elaboration: The Albert and Wilhelmina Thomas House is situated on a corner lot on the northeast corner of Broadway and West Elm Streets. The essentially rectangular house is located near the northwest corner of the lot. The Capitol can be viewed from the rear of the uppermost level. The lot slopes steeply to Broadway on the northwest side, and less steeply to West Elm on the southwest. The remainder of the lot is level. Houses remain on both sides of the block and many of them retain their historic integrity. A historic apartment building is located diagonally across the street. Additional historic residential properties remain on both sides of the blocks in either direction on Broadway.

Originally the Thomas House was a large, one-story, brick Missouri-German Vernacular church. The church, which faced Broadway, was constructed in circa 1874. By 1915 the church had vacated the property. Albert Thomas acquired the property and made significant changes in 1929 and 1930,¹ resulting in the current house. Floors were added to create an additional one and a half stories, and a 2-story sleeping porch was also constructed. A short chimney is located at the roof ridge line on the southeast end. Tudor or English Revival elements (primarily the curved entrance hood and flared rooflines) were added at this time, although the style was not fully developed, and the exterior walls were stuccoed. The 3-bay facade has a central double entrance that features three light doors with a patterned stucco, blind transom and soldier segmental arch under the curved entrance hood. The hood has an asphalt shingle "finial" in the center. The house has 4/1 double-hung sash with brick sills, installed mostly in pairs. The gable roof central dormer has cornice returns and a pair of windows flanked by 8-light vertical windows on either side. The northwest wall, facing Broadway, has an exposed basement with a 2-car garage. Exterior concrete stairs provide access to the first story on this elevation. Two single windows light each floor on this wall, with a narrower pair of windows in the upper half-story. In the rear, a shed roof covers the 2-story enclosed sleeping porch, which extends just over halfway across the rear elevation. The porch has sets of three windows on the upper and lower levels. The southeast elevation, like the northwest wall, has two single windows on each of the two main levels, and two narrower windows on the upper half-story.

¹ Urbana Group, "Historic Southside Survey," inventory form for 224 West Elm Street, p. 3.

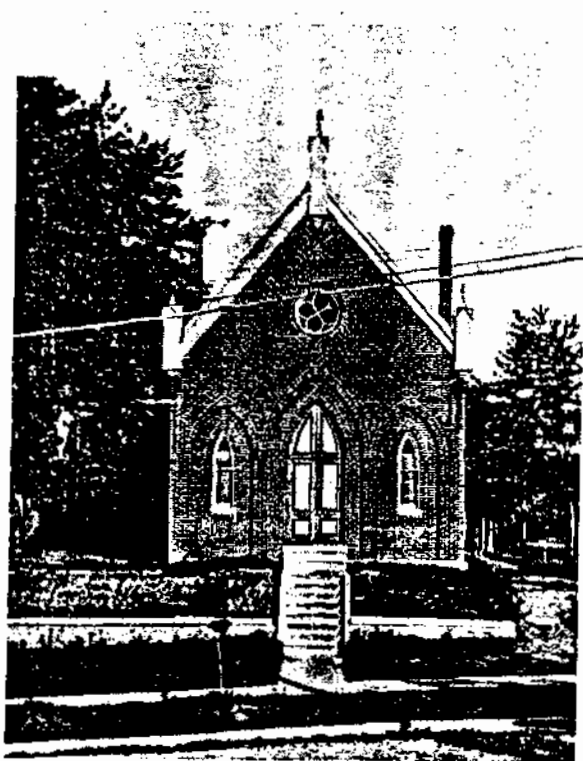
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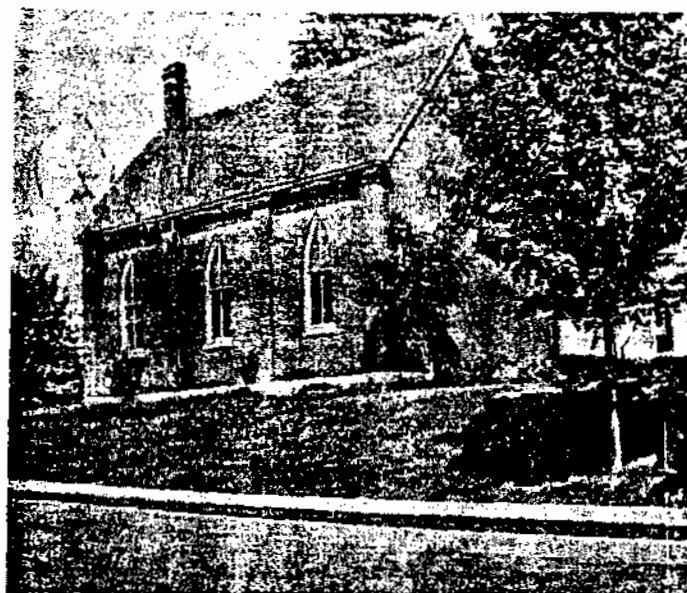
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Thomas, Albert and Wilhelmina House
Cole County, MO
Historic Southside (Munichburg) Multiple Property Submission

Figure 1: Photographs of German Methodist Episcopal Church - Front & Side



Front Facade - facing Broadway



Side Elevation - West Elm Street side

The main changes that appear to have occurred since 1930 on the interior involve the addition of later wallpaper. The original floor plan, stairs, doors, and light fixtures remain throughout the house. A few remnants of the original church remain, incorporated into the 1930 transformation. The most notable is the communion rail, which was used as a stair railing on the top level. The family still has an altar table and two chairs from the former church. An original church pew is in the basement. Outside, one of the original wooden finials evident in the photograph of the church's front facade is retained as a decorative garden element. The house was separated into two separate apartment units or "flats" at the time of its conversion and it remains a two-family dwelling today.

The Albert and Wilhelmina Thomas House has long been a part of the Munichburg neighborhood and its appearance is largely the same as when it was renovated from a church to a duplex in 1929-1930.

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Thomas, Albert and Wilhelmina House
Cole County, MO

Historic Southside (Munichburg) Multiple Property Submission

Figure 2: Photograph of Thomas House, November 28, 1929, Prior to Residential Conversion.



Figure 3: Photograph of Thomas House, June 22, 1930, After Residential Conversion.



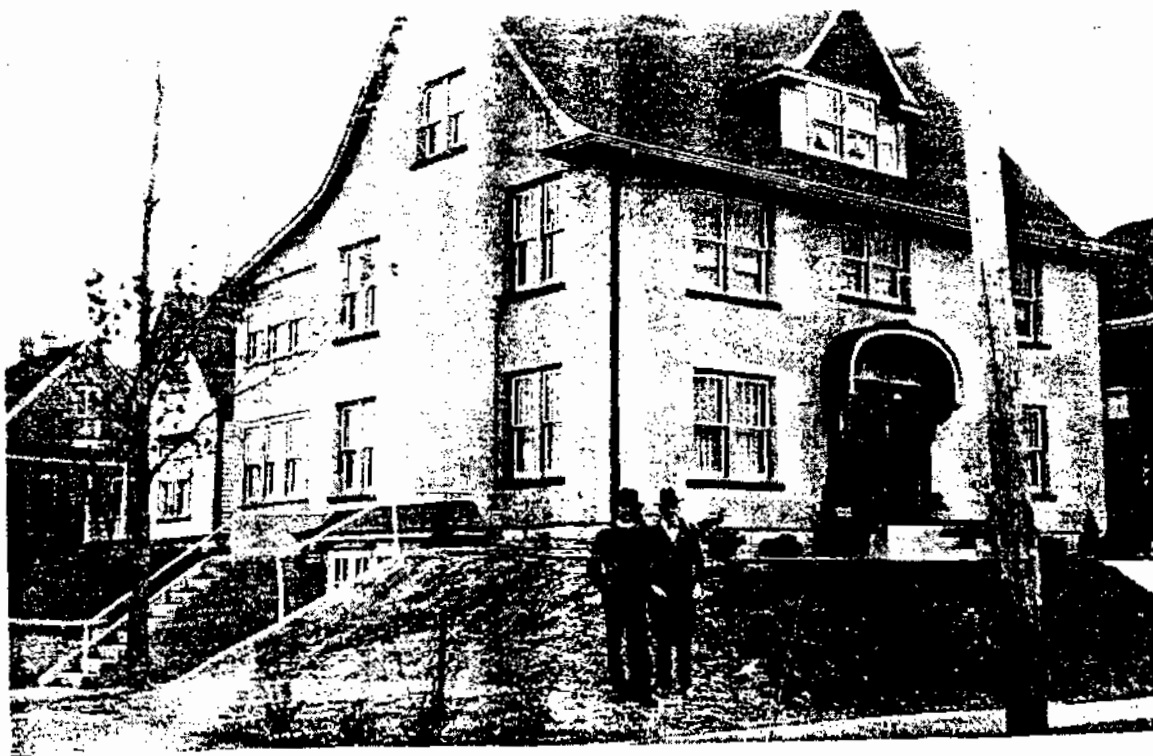
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Thomas, Albert and Wilhelmina House
Cole County, MO
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Figure 4: Photograph of Thomas House, November 12, 1930. (Albert Thomas shown at right.)



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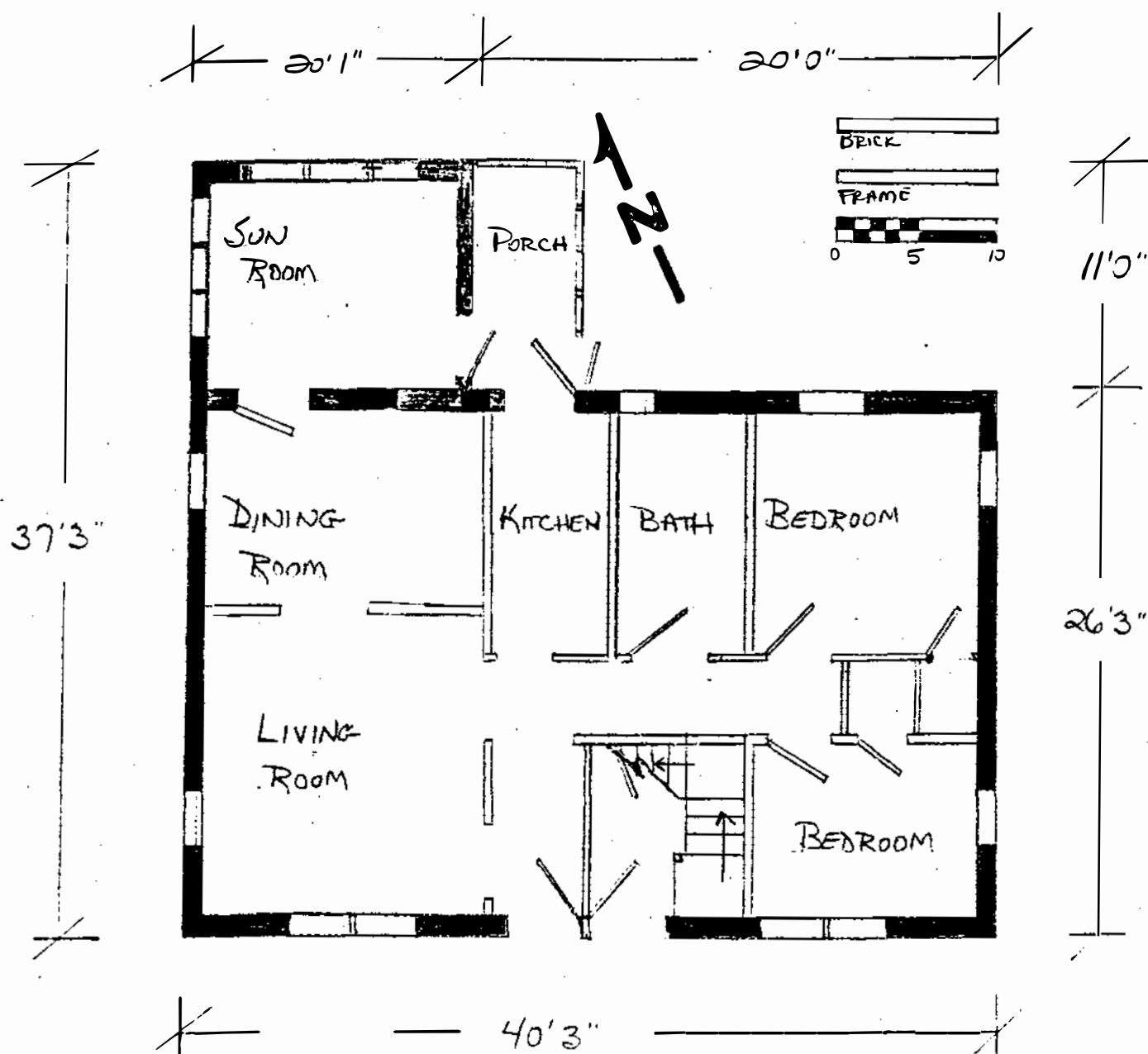
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Thomas, Albert and Wilhelmina House

Cole County, MO

Historic Southside (Munichburg) Multiple Property Submission

Figure 5: Floor Plan - First Floor



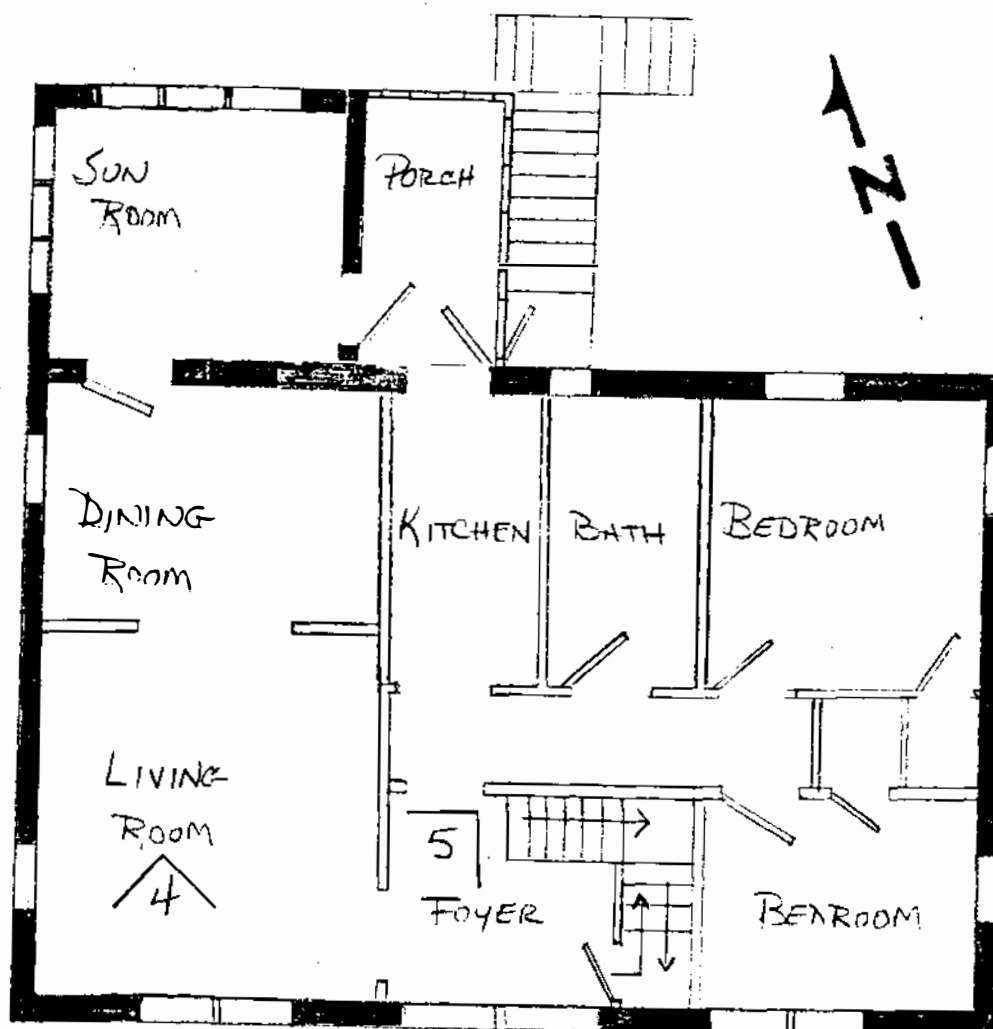
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Thomas, Albert and Wilhelmina House
Cole County, MO
Historic Southside (Munichburg) Multiple Property Submission

Figure 6: Floor Plan - Second Floor



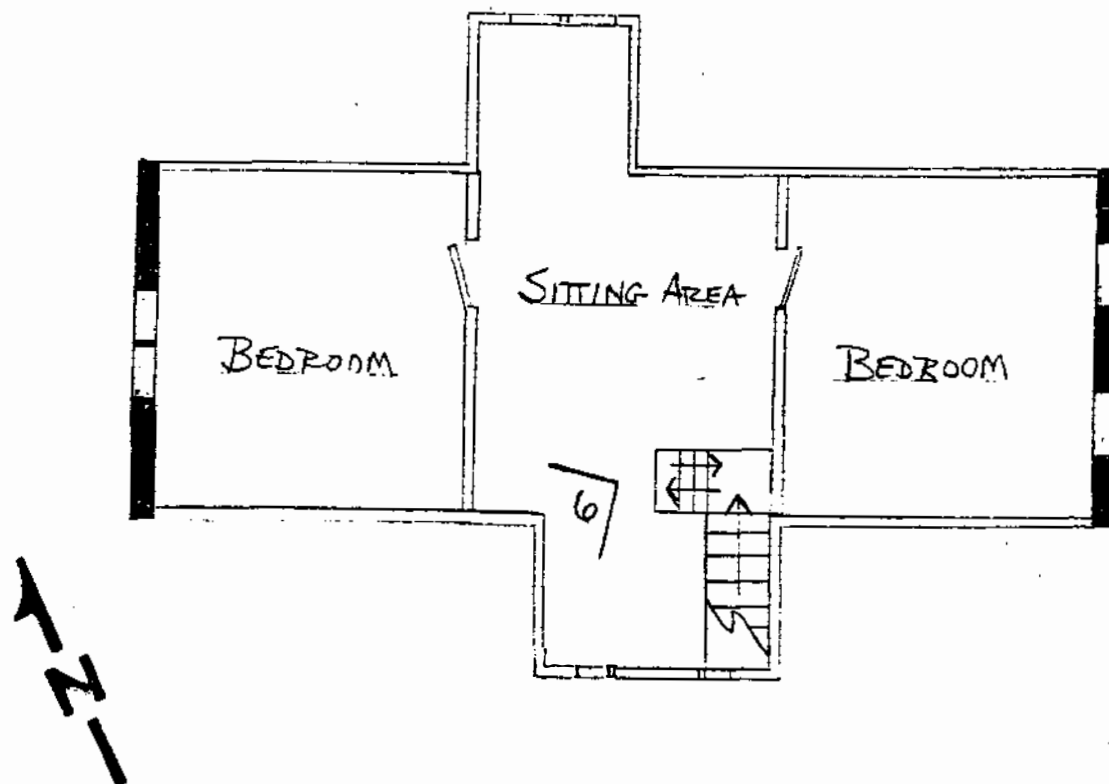
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Thomas, Albert and Wilhelmina House
Cole County, MO
Historic Southside (Munichburg) Multiple Property Submission

Figure 7: Floor Plan - Half Story



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Thomas, Albert and Wilhelmina House
Cole County, MO

Historic Southside (Munichburg) Multiple Property Submission

Summary: Constructed in its original form in circa 1874, the Albert and Wilhelmina Thomas House at 224 West Elm Street in Jefferson City, Missouri, originally served as the German Methodist Episcopal Church. By 1915, the congregation had dissolved and the building had been abandoned as a place of worship. Used as a garage and upholstery shop for a few years, the house was converted to a duplex by Albert Thomas in 1929-1930.² The house meets the requirements for listing on the National Register as described in the MPS cover document "Historic Southside (Munichburg) Multiple Property Submission," and is associated with Context 3: Post-WWI to Beginning of Neighborhood Decline, 1920 to 1954. The house meets the registration requirements of the Eclectic Movement Styles, Eclectic Revival subtype as is therefore locally significant under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. The period of significance for architecture is 1930, the date of its conversion from a church into a two-family flat.³ Due to the long-term relationship of the Missouri-German Albert Thomas family to the property, as well as Thomas' role in the development of this portion of Munichburg, the duplex is eligible for listing under Criterion A, ETHNIC HERITAGE: EUROPEAN, with a period of significance from 1930 to 1954. This timeframe covers the period between renovation from a church to a duplex, completed in 1930, to the relocation of the neighborhood school that coincided with deterioration of the Munichburg neighborhood.

Elaboration: Albert Thomas was a builder who lived next door at 220 W. Elm Street at the time of the church-to-house conversion. Before that Thomas, a member of the church, had lived at 601 Broadway and 215 West Elm Street.⁴ In addition to the renovation of the former church at 224 West Elm Street, Thomas was responsible for construction of at least two other houses on this block.⁵ As a former church, the house is illustrative of neighborhood development in Munichburg, while the duplex renovation itself is now considered historic. Thomas developed the duplex to house both himself and his wife, Wilhelmina, as well as his daughter Edna Thomas Schroeder and her husband, Walter A. Schroeder. The house remains in the Schroeder family, occupied by Albert Thomas's great-granddaughter.

The Missouri-German architecture of the original church has largely been obscured by the 1929-1930 renovation, but the contribution of the church to Munichburg is part of the history of the neighborhood's development pattern. Even though the building's period of significance does not encompass its years as a church, its history as a church is worth recounting. The congregation of the German Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1846 by members in Cole, Cooper, Moniteau, and Osage Counties, located in Jefferson City in 1851, and was incorporated in 1873. Construction of the church began in 1874 and was completed in 1875 under Reverend George Reitz's direction.⁶ In 1891-92, the city directory listed Reverend C. C. Stahmann as pastor of the church, indicating that services were held at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Sundays, with Sunday School starting at 9:00 a.m.⁷ By 1900 however, it was clear that the

² Information provided by Walter A. Schroeder, grandson of Albert Thomas, August, 2002.

³ Dated family photographs show the church on November 28, 1929, and the completed duplexes on June 22, 1930. Photos provided by Julianna Schroeder.

⁴ Julianna Schroeder, interview by Jane Beetem, January 2002.

⁵ Ibid, August, 2002.

⁶ The Illustrated Sketch Book and Directory of Jefferson City and Cole County, 1900. p. 416.

⁷ Jefferson City and Cole County Directory, 1891 - 1892.

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Thomas, Albert and Wilhelmina House
Cole County, MO

Historic Southside (Munichburg) Multiple Property Submission

congregation was dwindling, based on comments such as these in the Sketch Book of 1900: The church "at no time had a large membership;" "almost passed from existence," and "now has.....34 members."⁸

Perhaps these members believed a new church building would boost their numbers, as around this same time they commissioned local architect Charles Opel to design a new church.⁹ This new building must not have been completed, as the 1913 city directory lists the church as remaining at 517 Broadway (the building faced Broadway at that time). The church was still listed at this location in 1915.¹⁰ Records of the St. Louis Synod of the German Methodist Episcopal Church indicate the congregation still was holding services in the church until 1915. Edna Schroeder attended services in the German Methodist Church until she was eight (i.e., 1915). After the German Methodist congregation disbanded, the German-immigrant Thomas and his family joined the German-speaking Central Evangelical Church (now Central United Church of Christ), the institutional focus of Munichburg. The Schroeder family also were active members of the Central Evangelical Church.¹¹

The Schroeder family indicated that the former church building was used as a garage prior to the family's acquisition,¹² and the building may have been rented as a garage or storage space after the church moved out. The property was listed as vacant in 1929,¹³ the year Albert Thomas began the renovations, and according to dated family photographs the work was completed in 1930. By 1933 the directory listed Albert Thomas's son-in-law, Walter A. Schroeder, as living at 224 West Elm Street.¹⁴ At the time of the 1995 survey Edna Schroeder, Albert Thomas' daughter and Walter A. Schroeder's widow, was living in the house. Edna Schroeder lived on this block of West Elm street throughout her life; she died in 2000. Today Edna's granddaughter is rehabilitating the property, preparing it for yet another generation of use as a Schroeder family residence.

The history of this building, beginning as a church and then renovated as a two-family dwelling, is related to the continual development of Munichburg. While the house no longer retains the Missouri-German architecture of the original church, the renovation and reuse of this building illustrates a continuation of the Missouri-German cultural influence. The renovation is a testament to the frugality typical of Missouri Germans, as well as the close family ties that are evident throughout Munichburg. A barber as well as a builder, Albert Thomas was able to provide housing for his daughter and her husband, who were married in the garden and returned from their brief honeymoon to move

⁸ Sketch Book of 1900, p. 416.

⁹ Historic Southside Survey, inventory form.

¹⁰ R. E. Hackman's Jefferson City and Cole County Directory, 1913, 1915.

¹¹ Information provided by Walter A. Schroeder, Albert Thomas's grandson, August, 2002.

¹² Historic Southside Survey, inventory form, 224 West Elm.

¹³ Polk's Jefferson City Directory, 1929.

¹⁴ Polk's Directory of Jefferson City, 1933 & 1935.

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**Thomas, Albert and Wilhelmina House
Cole County, MO**

Historic Southside (Munichburg) Multiple Property Submission

into the newly renovated house in 1930.¹⁵ Close family relationships were typical in Munichburg, but was not always the case for Albert and Wilhelmina Thomas. Albert grew up in Germany as a Protestant peasant, and Wilhelmina was raised as a more well-to-do Catholic. Their mixed marriage was not approved by her family, who did not even come to the train station to say good-bye when the couple immigrated to the United States prior to 1900. The couple moved to Munichburg many years after it was established by German immigrants as they desired to locate in a German enclave. Wilhelmina read German newspapers for the rest of her life, as she may have been more comfortable with German than with English. In another example of the close family ties typical of Munichburg, Albert and Wilhelmina (Julianna Schroeder's great-grandparents on her father's side of the family) were taught English by renters two doors down at 218 W. Elm Street, John C. and Nannie P. Renner. These renters were Julianna Schroeder's great-grandparents on her mother's side of the family. Julianna's mother and father, Walter A. and Pat Schroeder, both grew up on this block of W. Elm Street before they married.¹⁶

Another example of the frugality typical of Missouri Germans was that while Albert and Wilhelmina Thomas initially moved into the first floor unit, everyone moved up a floor during the Great Depression, which allowed the first floor to be rented. Later, parts of the second floor were rented as well. The sacrifices made by the family reflects not only Depression-era necessities, but the frugality of Missouri Germans as well. Other aspects of Missouri-German culture are identified with this property. Edna Schroeder was the youngest of the Thomas' five children, and adopted more of the German culture (language, food, songs, etc.) than her siblings, most likely because she lived with her immigrant parents in Munichburg her entire life.¹⁷ The history of the Thomas/Schroeder family and this property exemplifies the tendency by Missouri Germans to remain in one place over several generations.

The duplex reflects its historic appearance from 1930, and the long-term ownership by the Thomas/Schroeder family is a testament to the attachment felt by such families to Munichburg. The duplex meets the requirements for listing on the National Register as described in the MPS cover document "Historic Southside (Munichburg) Multiple Property Submission," and is locally significant under Criterion C, ARCHITECTURE, and Criterion A, ETHNIC HERITAGE: EUROPEAN.

¹⁵ Edna and Walter Schroeder were married in a gazebo-like structure with a bell-shaped roof referred to as the "Lusthouse" by the Schroeder family. Perhaps this was a family play on words, as the German term for open air house is "Lufthouse." This structure has since been demolished.

¹⁶ Information provided by Julianna Schroeder, September 6, 2002.

¹⁷ Ibid.

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**Thomas, Albert and Wilhelmina House
Cole County, MO**

Historic Southside (Munichburg) Multiple Property Submission

Sources:

Beasley's Jefferson City Directory, 1877-78.

"Bird's Eye View of Jefferson City, the Capitol of Missouri, 1869," Library of Congress website.

Cole County Deed Records. Cole County Recorder's Office, Jefferson City, MO.

Hackman's Jefferson City and Cole County Directory, 1917, 1918.

Hove's Jefferson City and Cole County Directory, 1904.

Jefferson City and Cole County Directory, 1891 - 1892.

Johnston, J. W., ed., The Illustrated Sketch Book and Directory of Jefferson City and Cole County. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Illustrated Sketch Book Company, 1900.

Kallman's Jefferson City and Cole County Directory, 1885-86.

Polk's Directory of Jefferson City, 1933 & 1935.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps, Sanborn-Perris Map Company. Maps of Jefferson City, 1898, 1908, 1923, 1939.

Summers, Joseph S. Pictorial Folk History of Jefferson City, Missouri, 1890 - 1900. 2d ed. Jefferson City, MO: Summers Publishing, 1986.

Urbana Group, "Historic Southside, Architectural/History Survey Summary Report" and Inventory Form for 224 West Elm Street. Jefferson City: Missouri DNR State Historic Preservation Office, 1995.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Located on the northeast corner of Broadway and West Elm Streets, facing West Elm Street, the lot is described as: The southwest part of Inlot No. 692 in the City of Jefferson, Cole County, Missouri.

Boundary Justification:

The current boundaries encompass all of the land currently and historically associated with the property.

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National Park Service**

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Section Photographs Page 12

**Thomas, Albert and Wilhelmina House
Cole County, MO
Historic Southside (Munichburg) Multiple Property Submission**

Photographs:

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Albert and Wilhelmina Thomas House
224 West Elm Street
Cole County, Missouri
Jane Rodes Beeter
February 2002

Negatives on file with the DNR State Historic Preservation Office
101 East High Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

List of Photographs:

1. Southwest (front) and northwest elevations, facing east.
2. Northeast (rear) and southeast elevations, facing southwest.
3. Entry and stairs to upstairs apartment.
4. Interior view from upstairs living room to upstairs dining room.
5. Original light fixture upstairs.
6. Former communion rail used as stair railing in upper level.

United States Department of the Interior
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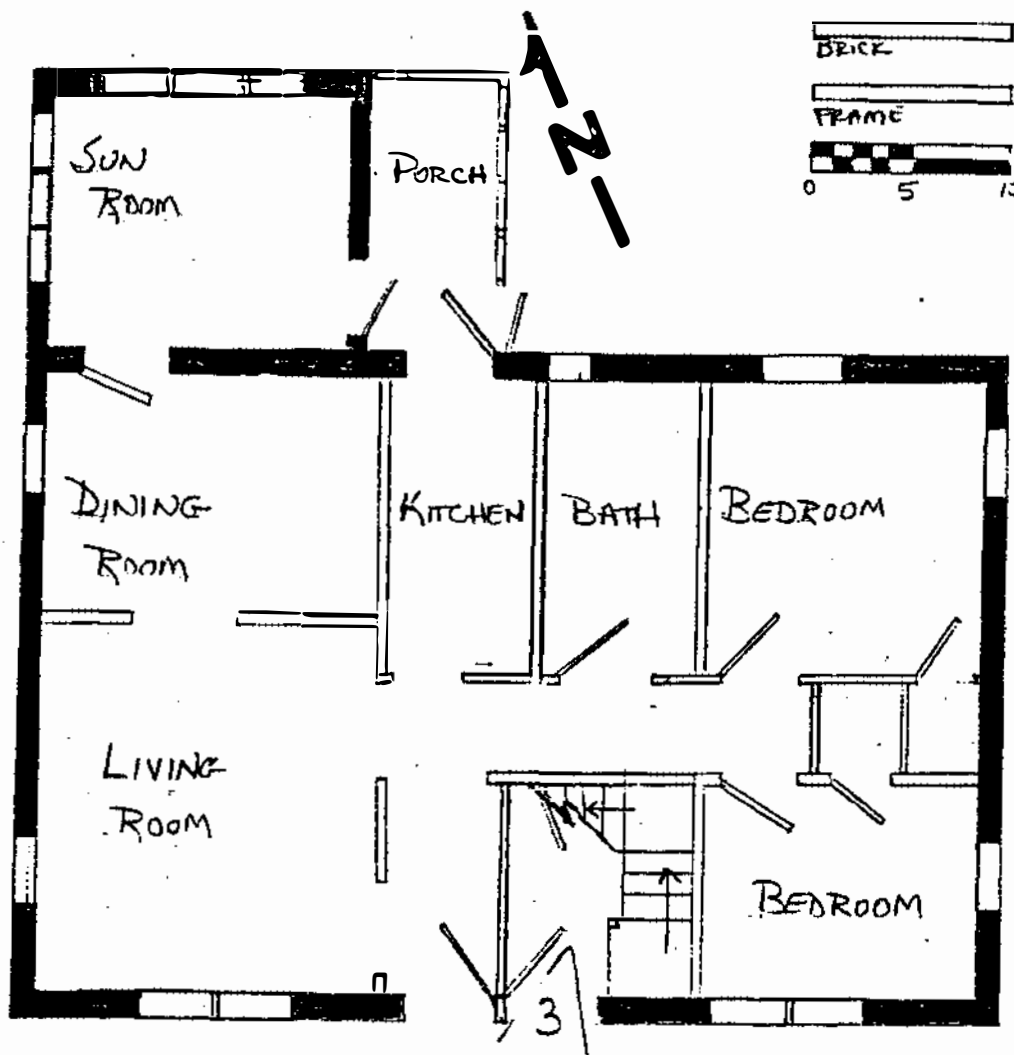
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Thomas, Albert and Wilhelmina House
Cole County, MO

Historic Southside (Munichburg) Multiple Property Submission

Photo Key Map:



(Photo references for upstairs photographs shown on Floor Plans for Second Floor and Half Story.)

1











