

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91000216

Date Listed: 3/14/91

Frenchtown Historic District
Property Name

St. Charles
County

MO
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland
Signature of the Keeper

3/14/91
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Item #8, Significance:

This nomination is amended to add criteria exception "A" because a convent and academy is a major contributing resource, and the district is significant in the area of religious history.

This information was confirmed by Lee Gilleard of the MO SHPO staff, 3/14/91.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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**National Register of Historic Places
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Frenchtown Historic District

Name of Property
St. Charles County, MO
County and State

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91000216

Property Name: Frenchtown Historic District

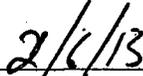
County: St. Charles County

State: MO

Multiple Name:

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper


Date of Action

Amended Item in Nomination

This SLR is issued to make the following substantive correction:

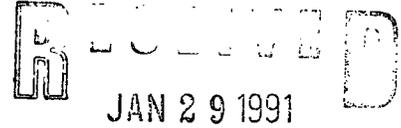
Section 7

There is no comprehensive building inventory for this historic district. However, the historic district map provides building outlines and notations for those that contribute to the district, indicating also what architectural style is most appropriate. Buildings that do not contribute are also indicated. In the case of the Meyer Mercantile Building at 1107-1109 North Second Street, the map indicates it as "non-contributing" to the historic district. This is clearly an error. The Meyer Mercantile building was constructed in circa 1868 and it's a locally exceptional example of Second Empire style architecture with a high degree of integrity, especially in the original storefront and the Mansard roof with dormers. This amendment certifies that the Meyer Mercantile Building contributes to the Frenchtown Historic District.

Distribution

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Frenchtown Historic District other names/site number

2. Location Roughly bounded by N.Fifth, Clark, and French

street & number Streets, and the Missouri River N/A not for publication city, town St. Charles N/A vicinity state Missouri code MO county St. Charles code MO 183 zip code 63301

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes sub-rows for Contributing and Noncontributing resources.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official Claire F. Blackwell Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer State or Federal agency and bureau Date 25 January 1991

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling
INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility
EDUCATION/educ.-rel, housing; school
COMMERCE/specialty store

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility
EDUCATION/school
COMMERCE/specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

French Colonial
Greek Revival
Late Victorian

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestone
walls brick
weatherboard
roof asphalt
other wood
cast iron

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Frenchtown Historic District is located on the northside of St. Charles, Missouri (population 40,927), which is situated on the Missouri River about twenty miles north of St. Louis. The District encompasses a neighborhood with a historic mix of residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial buildings (a total of 206 contributing; 54 noncontributing) constructed between circa 1830 and 1944. The majority are detached, one-and-a-half-story houses of brick or frame construction, set back from the sidewalk with small front yards. Commercial buildings are concentrated along North Second Street, and the plant buildings of the American Car and Foundry Company occupy riverfront blocks.

Frenchtown developed historically as an ethnic working-class neighborhood whose economic life became closely tied to the railroad car manufacturing industry on its eastern edge. The residential core of the neighborhood has remained stable with a mix of owners and renters despite the 1950s phase-out of rail car production. However, over the years the character of the commercial strip has changed somewhat with antique shops replacing former groceries, bakeries, drug and dry goods stores, although other buildings house bars, restaurants, and repair shops. Sacred Heart Academy and St. Charles Borromeo Church are both flourishing institutions, and a black congregation still worships at St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

Structural density has remained high as the result of continuous occupancy over many decades. Railroad tracks which cut a diagonal swathe through the north end of the District in the 19th century (Photo #33), deterred improvement in several blocks which now exhibit low density or non-contributing buildings. The majority of buildings have been well-maintained, and exhibit a high degree of integrity; a few buildings (designated non-contributing) along North Second Street have been sheathed or received new facades, yet retain historic dormers, roof forms and cornice lines (Photo #8, left).

In 1987, the National Register nomination process was initiated in St. Charles with a matching survey grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources which covered all of the historic fabric of the 19th century town from the river west to Fifth Street and from Olive Street

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south past Boonslick Road. The proposed Frenchtown Historic District is the city's second National Register district; the first, the St. Charles Historic District, was listed in 1970 and is located along South Main Street.

All non-contributing buildings are designated by an asterisk on the Architectural Survey Map. They include buildings which are less than fifty years old, the majority of which are small, one-story houses and commercial buildings, Photos #4, right foreground; #20 left foreground; There is also one large industrial building (Photo #29, right foreground), and one structure, a trailer. Historic properties which have lost integrity through radical facade alteration (Photo #8, left) are also represented. An undetermined number of sheds and car ports have not been evaluated or included in the building count.

Contributing buildings are coded by alphabet letter on the Survey map under five stylistic classifications and a Miscellaneous category, and under one historic function, Commercial, which is coded with a black bar at the front of the property.

French Colonial, circa 1830-1895. Coded A (Photos #1 - 6; # 11; #18, left; #24, right background). This group of houses is a vernacular continuum of a Mississippi Valley house design which is variously referred to as the French Creole cottage, the Cajun house, Acadian house, grenier house, Quebec cottage, or simply as the French Colonial house as Virginia and Lee McAlester describe it in A Field Guide To American Houses where they note that it occurred as late as circa 1860 in New Orleans. Almost all of the Frenchtown houses in this group date to the mid-19th century and exhibit French Colonial characteristics described by the McAlesters, as well as characteristics of the grenier house discussed by Allen Noble in volume 1 of Wood, Brick, And Stone. Representing about 15 % of all contributing buildings, this group consists of 33 one-and-a-half-story houses (including six transitional, double-coded houses) which exhibit one or both of two primary characteristics: a) a "built-in" front or rear porch/galerie formed by an extension of the main roof; the overhang is supported by wood or brick piers; and b) a high basement which raises the main living floor a half-story above ground, requiring a flight of several steps to gain entry. Twenty-two houses are brick masonry construction; nine are frame; one is frame with brick nogging; and one is log (non-masonry houses are covered with clapboarding or shingles). All houses rise from stone foundations, and have side-gabled roofs except one which features a low hipped roof (Photo #3), and another which has a later

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mansard roof addition (Photo #2, 1st on right); all have interior stairs leading to an attic or loft space. They vary from three to six bays wide; one house extends nine bays. Primary elevations of three- and six-bay houses feature a fenestration pattern of window-door-window (doubled for six-bay buildings); most brick examples exhibit segmentally arched openings, but a few employ jack arches or stone lintels. Houses raised on high stone basements usually feature flat wood lintels on basement level openings and sometimes display window-door arrangements different than the first story above; basement exterior walls are often stuccoed following a typical French Colonial practice. The six houses that are double-coded, A/B or A/C, exhibit the characteristic galerie and/or high basement feature but also show influence of American national styles or plans as seen, for example, in the side-hall design of 1003 N. Fourth (Photo #4, 1st on left), the center-hall of 723 N. Third, or in the separately roofed Victorian front porch of 706 N. Third (Photo #13, 1st on right) which however, features a typical high basement and galerie on the rear elevation. In the more conservative District examples, hallways are absent, and rooms have their own exterior doorways.

Federal/Greek Revival, 1835-1890, Coded B. (Photos #1, 1st on left; #7-11; #15; #26). 32 buildings (approximately 15 % of the total) are included in this group, six of which are frame houses and the remainder brick residential, commercial, and institutional buildings. Exhibiting sparsely detailed, planar facades, the majority represent a simplification and adaptation of high-style Federal and/or Greek Revival designs which lingered on as a vernacular classicism into the 1890s. The earliest example is the brick 1835 two-story, five-bay center block of the Sacred Heart Academy (Photo #26) which received a mansard roof addition in 1876; it features a center-bay original entrance with elliptical fanlight, and windows headed with jack arches. The 1838 two-story, five-bay addition to the north, and the mid-1850s three-bay addition on the south also feature regular fenestration with jack arched openings; the complex rests on a stone basement. Also on the Academy campus (near Decatur and N. Third) is a two-story rectangular brick building erected circa 1890 as a parish school but never used as such; it employs segmentally arched openings and a corbelled brick cornice.

Eleven of the properties, located in the commercial strip along North Second Street, were designed with first story storefronts and upper story residential units (Photos #7-10). Dating from the late 1850s to early 1870s, the majority are two stories high, three bays wide, and

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feature side-gabled roofs, brick dentilled cornices, and windows headed with shaped stone lintels or brick segmental arches. Sanborn maps indicate that most of the storefront buildings had frame porches projecting over the sidewalk; some still retain this feature. A few buildings exhibit cast iron storefronts which may represent later additions. One circa 1857 property, 925-27 N. Second (Photo #8, 1st on right), features original cast iron lintels on the side elevation, but displays a later, Craftsman second story facade, probably the result of tornado damage.

The brick houses (Photos #1, 1st on left; #11, 2nd on left) range from one to two stories high, and three to five bays wide. They include hall-and-parlor, side-hall and central-hall plans. Most feature segmentally arched windows, dormered side-gabled roofs, and simple brick dentil cornices. The hipped roof on 228 Morgan (Photo #11, 2nd on left) may have replaced a gabled roof destroyed by tornado. A few houses exhibit classically-detailed front entrances articulated with sidelights and transom light. Many of the projecting porches are later Victorian or Craftsman/Bungalow additions or replacements (Photo #15, 2nd on right).

The frame houses are unembellished small, one-and-a-half-story buildings, three to five bays wide with dormered side-gabled roofs. All rest on stone foundations, and are covered with clapboarding or shingles. 1220 North Third, built circa 1895 (Photo #15, foreground) exhibits paired front doors, indicating double-family use.

Late Victorian, circa 1865-1905. Coded C (Photos #7, #10-12, #16-21, #25-28). Represented in this chronological period are 62 buildings (about 30% of the total) whose forms and detailing frequently mix various related Picturesque styles, including Italianate, Mansard, Gothic Revival, and Queen Anne. Eighteen of the total are frame and the remainder are brick. The majority of these buildings express stylistic influence primarily in ornamental detailing, new roof forms and in irregular plan shapes in houses. Italianate examples are limited to two, 1860s large brick houses featuring prominent bracketed cornices (Photos #11, right foreground; and Photo #12, left foreground); and to a couple of commercial/residential buildings (Photo #7, 3rd from left) which employ bracketed cornices, and in one case, an ornamental cast iron storefront. New picturesque roof profiles are found in houses exhibiting dormered mansard roofs (and Italianate bracketed cornices), or prominent gable-front facades; separately roofed, spindlework wood porches are also typically found, sometimes on

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more conservative side-gabled houses (Photos # 10, middleground; #17,18,19). Gable-front-and-wing designs as well as cross-gable extensions from hipped roofs (Photo #16) create irregular plans on several small houses and also on a few two-story Queen Anne houses which feature decorative surface patterning on gables. One two-story commercial building at 900 N.Second employs a mansard roof.

The circa 1890 additions to Sacred Heart Academy (Photos #26-28) display mansard roofs and Italianate corbeled brick cornices, although a mansard was earlier introduced to the complex in 1876 in the center block (erected in 1835). The 1883 Gothic Revival red brick chapel at the north end (Photos #26, #28, far right) features a steep front-gabled roof; slender off-set buttresses mark six bays of tall lancet windows on the north elevation. The front gable is edged with corbelled brick banding and enriched with a copper cross and carved stone emblem of the Sacred Heart. The 1869 church at 201 N.Third is a more modest, Gothic style brick building articulated with off-set buttresses and pointed-arch openings on the three-bay, front-gabled primary elevation and the four-bay side elevations.

Late 19th and 20th Century Revival Styles, circa 1895-1940. Coded D. (Photos #12, #20, #21, #25) Revival styles are employed in less than 10 % of District buildings, making this collection of 21 buildings the smallest stylistic group. Except for one church and two commercial properties all examples are residential, four of which are frame and the remainder, brick. Colonial Revival-influenced houses are most numerous. A concentration of circa 1905-15 brick Classic Boxes (foursquares with Colonial Revival porches) are located in the southwest corner of the District (Photo #21). A few more modest one-and-a-half story houses exhibit Colonial-detailed porches, and one turn-of-the-century flat at 719-21 N.Second Street is embellished with quasi-Colonial/Renaissance Revival ornament. Late Colonial Revival one-story Cape Cod cottages are represented by two frame District houses built circa 1935-40. From the same period are three brick one-and-a-half story Tudor Revival houses exhibiting the characteristic dominant front gable motif (Photo #12, 2nd from left). A profusion of Revival style ornament is displayed in the cast iron storefront and pressed metal second story of 804-06 N.Second (Photo #20, left foreground) and in the elaborated pressed metal cornice of 923 N.Second. The 1916 stone Romanesque Revival St.Charles Borromeo Church (Photo #25), designed by St.Louis architects Wessbecher & Hillebrand, features a barrel-vaulted nave and low side-aisles.

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Early Modern: Craftsman, Bungalow, Moderne, circa 1905-1940. Coded E (Photos #9, 13, 15, 18, 20, 22-24). Forty-six District buildings (approximately 25 % of the total) show influence of progressive design traditions associated with the Early Modern Movement. The majority are modest one-story houses, usually frame (but sometimes brick) on concrete block or brick foundations, exhibiting Craftsman front gables with wide eave overhangs trimmed with simple brackets. A sizable concentration (Photo #22) is found in City Blocks 119 and 120 which were largely unimproved before the first decade of the 20th century, although examples are scattered throughout the District (Photos #23, 24). In addition, there are a few brick (often textured and of variegated color) or frame bungalows on concrete foundations which employ side-gabled roofs with oversized front dormers; shed-roof, full-width porches, supported by large brick or wood end-piers, are common. During the teens and twenties commercial buildings abandoned the highly ornamental Revival style cornice for a sleek, shaped parapet, minimally trimmed with geometric brickwork (Photo #20). The new parapet treatment is also illustrated in one multi-family flat (Photo #23), and in the 1914-25 facade of Franklin School; the adjoining 1938 school gymnasium features Craftsman brickwork motifs and a lamella roof (Photo #13, 2nd and 3rd from right). By the World War II era, a few facades were further streamlined, exhibiting unornamented, smooth brick wall planes, or the barest minimum of Moderne horizontal brick banding (Photo #24, 1st on right).

American Car and Foundry Complex, 1888-1944 (Photos #29-32).

This group of seven buildings was constructed for the manufacture of passenger and freight railway cars. The buildings are all red brick bearing wall or curtain wall construction, and are articulated in a simple, utilitarian mode that employs generic historical motifs such as brick pilasters, segmentally arched openings, corbelled brick banding, and shaped parapets. Multi-paned double- or triple-hung sash is also commonly found. Production of rail cars ceased in 1959, and most of the buildings are now leased to McDonnell Douglas Corporation. The names assigned to various buildings refer to their former historic functions:

Coach Shop No.3, 1888-1901. (Photo #30, foreground). Two stories; 154 front feet on N. Second Street X 303 feet deep; stone foundation, brick bearing walls/ mill construction. Original two-story 1888 section comprises the pilastered center four bays, flanked on each side by two, one-story bays which gained a second story in 1901; the rear elevation is similarly articulated with eight pilastered bays.

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Coach Shop No.2, 1901. (Photo #30, 2nd from left). Two stories; 91 front feet on N.Second Street X 259 feet deep; brick bearing walls/mill construction. Five bays of segmentally arched windows marked off by pilastered and corbelled brick grid on Second Street; 13 bays on side elevations; small, two story addition of recent construction at west end of north elevation.

Coach Shop No.1, 1904-1920; ACF Office Building, 1944. (Photo #29, showing south elevations). Coach Shop: one and two stories; 210 front feet on N.Second X 220 feet on Clark Street; brick bearing walls/mill construction. N.Second Street one-story elevation is partially below grade, with 12 bays of segmentally arched windows raised approximately eight feet above the sidewalk; Clark Street (south) elevation consists (west to east) of four, one-story bays of arched windows followed by six, two-story bays. Joining the east wall of the Coach Shop is a 1944 three-story brick addition designed for use as the ACF corporate headquarters; measuring approximately 90 X 140 feet, it extends 12 bays along Clark Street, and 16 bays on the primary, east elevation which features a shaped parapet similar to those found in other plant buildings.

Steel Car Shops No.1 and No.2, 1908; 1912. (Photos #31, 32). Both of these one-story, linear buildings feature concrete floors, steel truss roofs, and structural steel frames with pilastered brick curtain walls. The only notable design variation between them is size: Shop No.1 measures 125 X 475 feet (plus a 1954 addition of approximately 150 feet) while Shop No.2's dimensions are 125 X 825 feet.

Power House, 1916. 70 X 95 feet; brick walls; concrete floors and roof; exposed steel truss; five-bay west (primary) facade with shaped parapet, and corbelled brick trim.

Store House, 1916; 70 X 120 feet; steel truss roof and steel structural frame with brick curtain walls; four-bay south (primary) elevation with shaped parapet; eight-bay side elevations.

Coach Shop No.4, 1944 (Photo #20, left middleground). Thirteen sawtooths fronting 340 feet on N.Second Street X 280 feet. Brick-faced, coped with terra cotta; multi-paned clerestories face north; 11 garage bays with soldier course brick lintels on north (side) elevation.

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Miscellaneous, Coded M.

This group includes a few historic outbuildings and one shrine which do not clearly reflect a specific style. The circa 1855 octagonal brick shrine (Photo #26, right foreground) on the Sacred Heart Academy grounds housed the remains of Mother Duchesne until 1940 when she was beatified. Although articulated with pointed-arched openings, the significance of the structure derives from its polygonal form which is associated with a long tradition of early Christian tomb types whose shapes were invested with a special symbolic meaning.

The outbuildings include two small brick smoke houses or summer kitchens, and two frame rectangular stables, one covered with clapboarding and featuring a hipped roof and copper cupola; and the other side-gabled, sheathed with old corrugated metal.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Architecture
Ethnic Heritage - European
Religion
Industry
Education

Period of Significance

c. 1830-1940

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Duchesne, Rose Philippine

Architect/Builder

Platte, John Joseph

Wessbecher, Louis

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

The Frenchtown Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A, B, and C, and is significant in the following areas: ARCHITECTURE (c.1830 -1940): District building types and styles illustrate the evolution of a sparsely-settled mid-19th century immigrant neighborhood into a 20th century working-class community with churches, schools, a commercial street and industry. Although the majority of buildings are vernacular designs influenced by American national styles including, Federal/Greek Revival, Late Victorian, Revival idioms and Early Modern, a group of houses reflecting French Colonial design forms a distinctive component of the neighborhood, setting it apart from other residential areas. District buildings display an unusual homogeneity, achieved by a preponderance of small one-and-a-half-story buildings of local brick or frame construction which exhibit similar scale, proportions and elements of design. The District also includes a large industrial complex of buildings that are unified by their simply articulated pilastered brick walls which also harmonize with the District's brick fabric. ETHNIC HERITAGE (c.1830 - 1900): Influence of early French settlement in the District is evident in a group of houses which exhibit salient elements of French Colonial house design. German District residents contributed skilled labor to the building trades and to the work force of the American Car & Foundry Company. Germans also developed the commercial strip on North Second Street which served the Frenchtown neighborhood and the rural hinterlands. INDUSTRY (1888 -1940): The St.Charles Car Company, founded in 1873, became part of a national merger which formed the American Car & Foundry Company in 1899. During its more than a century-long existence along the District's riverfront, the company was the major contributor to the city's economy, early giving employment to St.Charles' largest work force, and drawing new immigrants and other residents to the city. During both World Wars I and II, the St.Charles complex played an important role in wartime industry, adapting the plant to production of military equipment. EDUCATION (1835 - 1940):

See continuation sheet

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Sacred Heart Academy, founded in St. Charles in 1818 as North America's first Convent and Academy of the Sacred Heart, was a regional pioneer in the field of education, offering day and boarding school opportunities to girls long before public schools were first established in St. Charles in 1846, or open in other frontier towns. By the late 19th century, the Academy had developed a full curriculum, and expanded facilities which permitted increased enrollment and continued service to the area. Franklin School, opened in 1902 for black students, became in 1914 St. Charles' only public school offering education to blacks. Beginning as a Grade School, the institution by 1932 had established a four year High School program which also served outlying communities in St. Charles County. RELIGION (1842-1852) (Criterion B): The last decade of her life, Rose Philippine Duchesne (1769-1852), one of only four Roman Catholic saints in North America, resided at the Sacred Heart Academy, an institution she had founded and one of only two properties in the nation directly associated with her life. During this period she exemplified the Christian virtues and sanctity which contributed to her canonization, while lending support to convent matters when needed.

At the turn of the 18th century Upper Louisiana (which included Missouri) was remote and thinly populated except for the fringe of river settlements of which St. Louis (founded by a New Orleans French fur company) was the metropolis. The lucrative fur trade along the Missouri River quickly made St. Louis a flourishing center of commerce and soon drew other Frenchmen to the area. In 1769, just five years after St. Louis was founded, French-Canadian fur trader and hunter Louis Blanchette established a military outpost at the site of St. Charles. It was located on the west bank of the Missouri River near its confluence with the Mississippi, about twenty miles from St. Louis. Known first as Les Petites Cotes (the little hills) because of its topographical features, the village was later named St. Charles in honor of patron Saint Charles Borromeo, and Spanish King Charles IV, whose government controlled the Mississippi Valley from 1762 to 1800. St. Charles was the first permanent white settlement on the Missouri River.

Like all Missouri-French villages founded during Spanish rule, St. Charles was laid out in a regular grid following Spanish Colonial town designs. The original town consisted of two long streets of

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blocks paralleling the river, a linear plan no doubt intended to give inhabitants easy access to the river water supply as was the case in St. Louis. (1) Third Street was the western limits in 1791, beyond which were the Commons. City blocks or squares in St. Charles were measured out into the customary size of 240 X 300 French feet; main streets (Grande Rues) paralleling the river were laid out 38 feet wide and cross streets 32 feet wide. Typical also of early practice in St. Louis, District blocks were never subdivided as private Additions, but generally were conveyed in parcels of block halves (120 X 300 feet), quarters (120 X 150 feet) or occasionally eighths (60 X 150), maintaining the parcel sizes of the original land grants. Not until the second half of the 19th century were smaller parcels in demand for building lots in some Frenchtown blocks.

Blanchette's trading post, the public square (Place Publique), and the first Catholic church buildings were located on South Main Street some distance south of the Frenchtown District. Consequently, South Main early developed as the town center of commerce, industry, finance, worship and government. It was here that Americans who began pouring into St. Charles during the first two decades of the 19th century mainly settled and made their strongest imprint on the old French village. Between 1821-1826, the brick building at 208-14 South Main served as Missouri's first state capitol. Although not as heavily settled as the south part of town, deed records reveal that by the late 18th and early 19th centuries, many Frenchtown blocks were under cultivation and inhabited. The area, however, long-retained a low density, rural aspect. Well into the mid-19th century, some whole or half-blocks were reserved as estates or small farms with fences, barns and other outbuildings. That the neighborhood had acquired a distinct identity is clear from at least one source: an early 20th century deed which described a property as, "known as the Frenchtown house".

The early landholders in Frenchtown were a mix of native French Canadians and families of French Canadian descent who either had moved to St. Charles directly from, or who had been born in earlier French settlements in Upper Louisiana including Cahokia, Kaskaskia, Fort de Chartres (all in Illinois), Vincennes (Indiana), St. Louis, and Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. An examination of marriage and baptismal records for some fifteen District families indicated that by mid-19th century, intermarriage of these large French families had generated a community of closely-related people. A few more, not related by blood or marriage, were godparents or marriage witnesses. Frenchtown real estate passed freely and frequently between these extended families,

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although often with vague lot descriptions or without official recording. (These lapses of recorded deeds present formidable obstacles in researching building histories).

Signatures on deeds and marriage documents along with census records reveal that only a very few of the French could read or write, leaving the historian without contemporary literary sources to draw upon. Although English most certainly was the language of commerce, marriage documents which were written in the French language by Catholic priests into the late 1840s suggest that the mother tongue was still used among Frenchtown families in the mid-19th century; presumably other French family traditions were alive. The strong pattern of intermarriage between families of French descent also persisted into the middle decades of the 19th century, broken from time to time by cross-marriage with native Americans but rarely with German-Americans. It is noteworthy, too, that mid-19th century St. Charles continued to attract a few, new, young natives of French Canada and of France who were listed in the Federal censuses of 1850, 1860, and 1870.

Little documentary evidence has been uncovered which sheds light on the design of St. Charles' 18th and early 19th century buildings, although early French deeds and travel journals confirm the use of materials and methods of construction characteristic of the Upper Mississippi French: vertical log (poteaux en terre and poteaux sur solle) as well as pieces sur pieces, and stone. Fortunately, more information is available on one pivotal Frenchtown house which once stood near Decatur and Third Streets on estate grounds covering four city squares (now the site of Sacred Heart Academy). The house was built in 1794 by Francois Duquette (1774-1816), a native of Quebec who first settled and married in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, before moving to St. Charles where he prospered in the fur trade and real estate.(2)

Measuring 38 feet wide by 27 feet deep, the vertical log house was still considered one of St. Charles' largest homes as late as 1818 when it was rented to Mother Rose Philippine Duchesne (1769-1852), a French-born and -educated nun, who opened the first Convent and Academy of the Sacred Heart in North America, and established the first free school in the trans-Mississippian frontier. A galerie five feet wide surrounded the house which was raised on a basement or storage cellar apparently having a ground level entry. The plan featured one large, central room flanked on either side by three smaller rooms, each of which opened both to a galerie and to the central room. A loft over the principal room was reached by a ladder.(3)

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St. Charles, MO

Despite the scant pictorial record of early St. Charles houses, the few images available suggest that the galerie, loft, and high basement were features at an early date. The galerie, especially on the front and/or rear of a house, was also a standard feature in other Upper Mississippi Valley French settlements, prevalent in St. Louis (where all trace of French construction has long disappeared), and still highly visible in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri's late 18th and early 19th century houses. The high basement and attic/loft (grenier), on the other hand, were seldom found in St. Louis except in the mansion-size homes of prominent Creoles such as August and Pierre Chouteau whose houses followed Louisiana plantation types.(4) Ste. Genevieve also shows little evidence of the full basement story. Although both French Canada and French Louisiana developed high basement, galieried houses with lofts or greniers, Canada seems to be a more likely influence on St. Charles owing to its French Canadian background. Houses of 18th and early 19th century Quebec Province, in fact, exhibit a remarkable similarity to those standing in St. Charles today.(5)

The strongest evidence of the District's French heritage is found in a group of mid-19th century houses which reflect the galerie/high basement/loft design traditions associated with the French in the New World. Perhaps because of Frenchtown's relative isolation from the major early thrust of American influence in the south part of town, together with the sustained clustering of French families in the north end, among other things, vernacular French Colonial house design flourished in Frenchtown as it did no where else in the city so late in time. More surprising is the fact that the majority of these houses were built for German immigrants who by 1850 already were outnumbering the French in Frenchtown.

Most of these houses are concentrated along North Third and North Fourth Streets. A few were clearly built by French families as early as the 1830s and possibly before. Third Street frontage of Block 96 (between Decatur and Franklin Streets), for example, includes four houses erected by families of French descent. Tree-ring dating (6) indicated that 705 N. Third (Photo # 1, 2nd from left), was constructed by Joseph Iott (or Jott and various other spellings) who with his wife Marie DeRoi, both of French-Canadian families, owned the parcel between 1837-50. Originally three bays wide with an early two-bay addition on the north, (See plan, Sec. 8, p. 5) the house rests on a high stone basement with a street-front door (now masked by the porch lattice). Its half-timbered wall fabric of oak and brick nogging is one of only a

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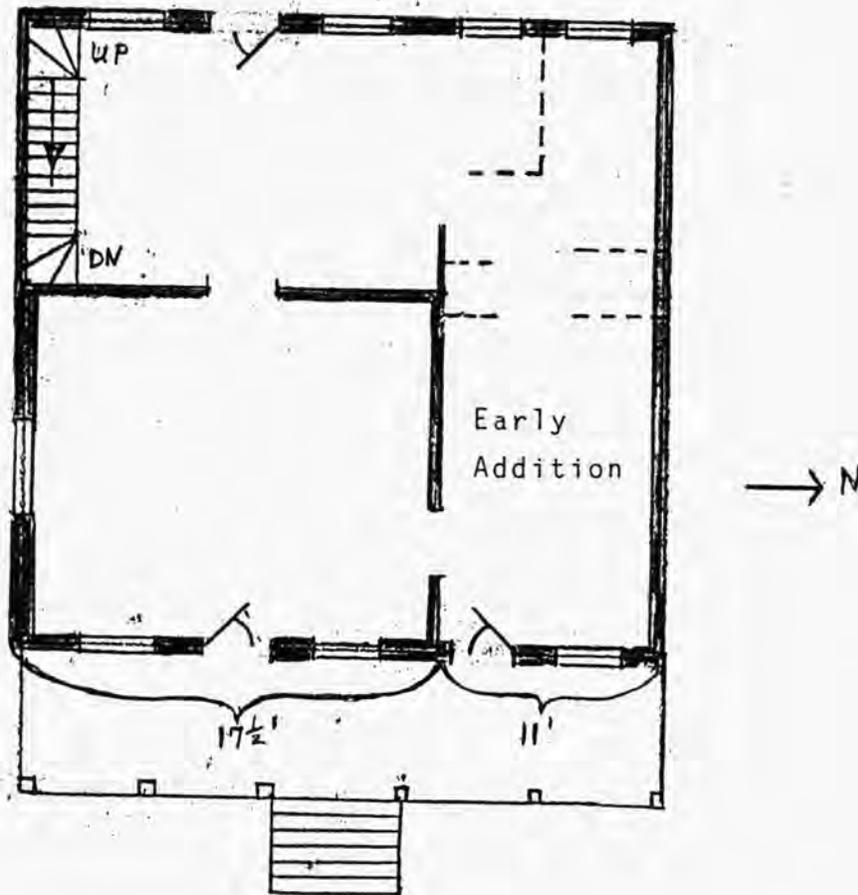
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Frenchtown Historic District
St. Charles, MO

705 North Third

Exterior: $29\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide X 26 feet deep

First Floor Plan



Not to scale

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St. Charles, MO

few in St. Charles known to exhibit a method of construction associated with French (and later, German), building traditions in Missouri. In the same block, 733 North Third, a six-bay, red brick house with double entries on the first story and on the basement level, was built circa 1838, the year Marie Iott's parents sold the north half of the block to Jean Baptiste and Ursula Desnoyers Bordeau (a.k.a. Junia) whose families had been in St. Charles since the late 1790s, although Jean Baptiste was not born there. The 1840 census indicates both the Bordeau and Beauchemin families (who were intermarried) were living there.

Two other houses in Block 96 dating to the mid-1850s were built by French river pilots but show influence of Anglo-American design. 713 North Third (Photo # 1, 4th from left) features a side-hall plan with front stairs leading to a second story. Ornamental iron lintels embellish the second story facade windows. Before the present brick porch was installed circa 1930, the basement with front entry flanked by windows was exposed under a two-story frame galerie. The house was constructed by Joseph Edward Tebeau, whose sister lived down the street at 723 N. Third, married to Captain Etienne La Barge. The 2 1/2 story, five-bay La Barge house rises from a high, single-entry basement and originally featured a two-story galerie on both the front and rear of the house. One of the largest houses in the District, it exhibits American influence in the double-pile, central hall plan. Etienne La Barge was born around 1810 in Canada, probably in Chateaugay (near Montreal), the place of origin of a family of prosperous Missouri river pilots to whom he was related. Both the La Barge and Tebeau properties were assessed for slaves in the late 1850s; other French families were also slave-holders.

More conservative designs are found in two houses built by the Dorlac family, earlier members of whom moved to St. Charles from Ste. Genevieve in the late 18th century. 1015 North Fourth (Photo #4, 2nd on left; Plan, Sec. 8, pp. 7, 8), built circa 1870 by Francois X. Dorlac (probably as a rental duplex) and 233 Montgomery, (Photo #2, left) exhibit similar plans and elevations. The latter house was likely built in the 1850s by one of Francois Dorlac's siblings who inherited the north half of Block 61 where they were raised. Both houses exhibit front-galeried, six-bay, double-entry first floors raised on double-entry basement levels. Although both are two rooms wide and two rooms deep, there is physical evidence which suggests that 233 Montgomery originally was two rooms wide but only one room deep, following the plan of some other District houses which later were enlarged by adding to the rear.

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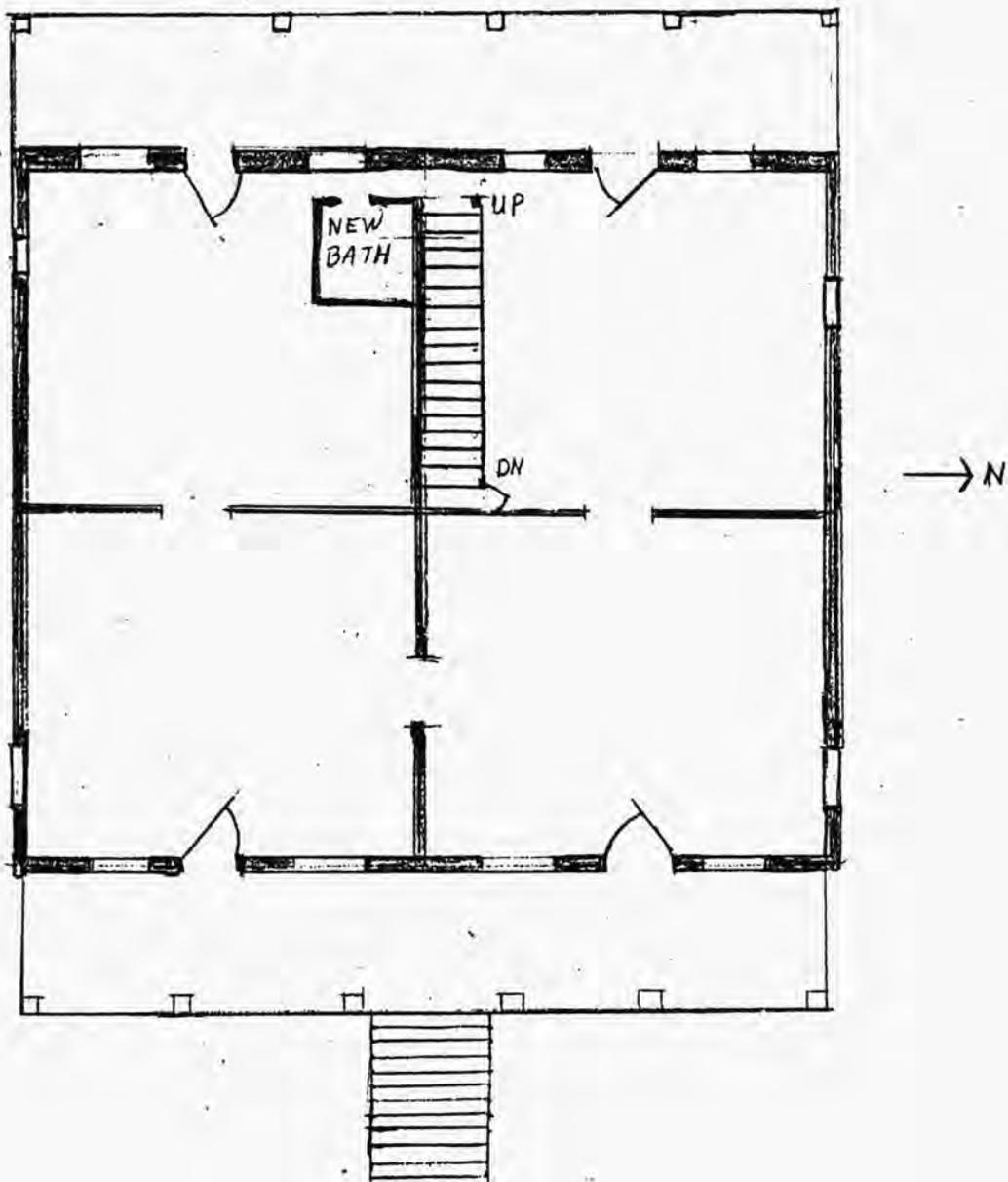
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Frenchtown Historic District
St. Charles, MO

1015 North Fourth Street

Exterior: 35 feet wide X 30 feet deep

First Floor Plan



Not to scale

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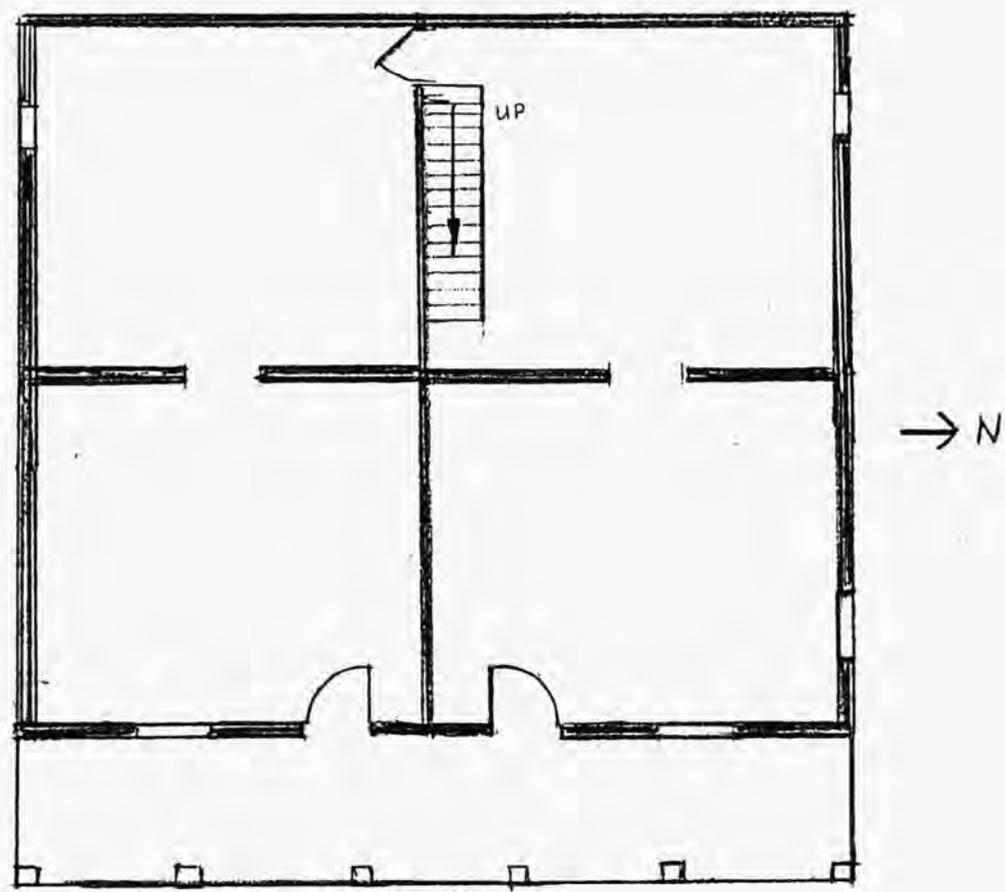
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Frenchtown Historic District
St. Charles, MO

1015 North Fourth Street
Exterior: 35 feet wide X 30 feet deep

Basement Plan



Not to scale

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Frenchtown Historic District
St. Charles, MO

Francois Xavier Dorlac was one of six children of August and Melanie Barada Dorlac who were married in St. Charles in 1818. Records indicate that both August and Francois maintained prosperous farms in St. Charles County and owned houses in town as well, a pattern of landholding found in other District French families and among German families too. At his death in 1874, Francois left a sizable estate, including houses in three District blocks.

Strong institutional forces began gathering in Frenchtown when, under Jesuit leadership, the Duquette estate was purchased and a fine Neo-classical stone church was completed on the grounds for St. Charles Borromeo parish in 1827. A year later, Mother Duchesne returned to St. Charles to reestablish Sacred Heart Academy in the old Duquette house. With encouragement and support of the Jesuits who donated part of the Duquette tract, the Academy, in 1835, was able to erect a two-story brick convent and school, built by a Mr. O'Neil of St. Louis (Photo #26, center building with steps). Three years later, the Federal style building was enlarged to the north where it joined the stone parish church which later was replaced with the present 1883 chapel. (7) Another addition to the south in the mid-1850s completed the present central main block, and provided dormitory space for boarders, a classroom and a refectory. (8) Set back high on a hill, this complex of buildings presented an impressive architectural and institutional image which was unmatched anywhere in the city (Photo #33).

Mother Philippine Duchesne's more than three decades of religious service in Missouri (1818-1852) were divided between the three schools and convents she established in St. Charles (1818), Florissant (1819), and St. Louis (1827). Since none of the St. Louis school buildings survive, Mother Duchesne's active years of achievement as pioneer educator and administrator are best represented by the National Register-listed buildings at Florissant where she was in residence from late 1819 through 1826, and again from 1834 to 1840, although throughout her residency in St. Louis and Florissant she made intermittent visits to St. Charles and continued to advise and support the struggling academy there.

Equally significant and representative of high achievement, however, are her personal attributes of christian virtue and sanctity which, in fact, led to her canonization. These qualities were manifested during her entire tenure in Missouri, but as a biographer summarized, "they yielded a hundredfold of harvest in the last decade of her life at St. Charles", (9) when she sustained lengthy periods of devotion and

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prayer, and continued to be an exemplar of mortification, "allowing herself no retrenchment of her ordinary way of living, no little comforts." (10) Directly associated with this last period of her life are the 1835 and 1838 sections of the St. Charles academy, including the small room with spare furnishings (described by a 19th century visitor as "a veritable sanctuary" of the virtue of poverty) which has been preserved in the 1838 section of the Academy.

Despite her advanced age, Mother Duchesne's remaining years in St. Charles were never idle. Her counsel was sought on important convent matters, and on two different occasions she successfully intervened with authorities in France to keep the financially-distressed school in St. Charles open, sparing it the fate of the Florissant school which was permanently closed in 1846. Shortly before her 82nd birthday in 1851, Philippine wrote to Mother Barat, founder of the Society of the Sacred Heart. Typical of her cogent, moving letters, she earnestly pleaded for "safeguarding the existence of this, our first dwelling place in America"; she carefully argued the advantages of the St. Charles site, noting its healthful climate (distant from cholera-ridden St. Louis), the "beautifully situated property" (much admired by Bishop DuBourg), and its potential for growth due to the "great influx of settlers ... peopling the rural districts, and ours is the only place for Catholic education in the territory north of the Missouri River." (11) Notwithstanding her contributions in these areas of convent life as well as her extensive needlework of altar linens and clothing for church missions on the western frontier, chroniclers of the day most often remarked on her rigorous religious observances, and on her saintly virtues manifested in habits of mind as well as conduct.

Indeed, many of Mother Duchesne's contemporaries, both lay and cleric, sensed she was destined for sainthood, although it was not until 1895 that Archbishop Peter Kenrick began gathering depositions regarding her character and sanctity to initiate the process of canonization. As William B. Faherty, S.J., noted historian of the St. Louis archdiocese observed at the time of her canonization July 3, 1988, "Mother Duchesne's public efforts set her apart as a woman of achievement. Something more made her a saint..." (12) The "something more", according to canon law of the Roman Catholic Church, was her cumulative life devoted to the practice of "Christian virtues to a heroic degree" and her "reputation for sanctity", along with evidence of three miracles attributed to her intercession. (13) The virtues which informed her sanctity were revealed by testimony of persons who knew

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her, as well as by her own letters, both of which were sent to the Vatican for review. Among the virtues deemed most prominent by her contemporaries were "her devotion to the Sacred Heart in the Blessed Sacrament, her love of poverty, her deep humility, her self-denial and penance, her zeal for the salvation of souls, and her charity." (14)

Peter Verhaegen, a founder and first president of St. Louis University, and Mother Duchesne's parish priest in St. Charles, stated that "She was a perfect religious, and as far as I can judge, she never lost her baptismal innocence." (15) A similar assessment was recorded from Archbishop Kenrick, who found her to be the "noblest and most virtuous soul he had ever known". (16) Father Peter DeSmet, who visited Philippine in St. Charles various times during her last years spoke of the "increase in edification" he experienced with each visit, always leaving "with a higher opinion of her virtues and sanctified life, and always with the full conviction that I had conversed with a truly living saint." (17) Three weeks after her burial in St. Charles on the Sacred Heart grounds in November, 1852, Father DeSmet concluded, "No greater saint ever lived in Missouri, nor perhaps in the whole Union" (18).

The lengthy review and evaluation process for canonization were marked by a Vatican panel declaring Mother Duchesne "Venerable" in 1909, and a woman of "heroic virtue" in 1935. In 1940, she was beatified by Pope Pius XII, and assigned a feast day on which a Mass could be celebrated in her honor in the local diocese. Upon canonization, the veneration of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne was extended to the whole Church and made mandatory. (19) As her beatification required burial above ground, her remains were removed from the circa 1855 octagonal shrine still standing on the Academy front lawn (Photo #26, right foreground); in 1951 she was reinterred in a new stone shrine (See Architectural Survey Map).

The pace of German immigration to St. Charles dramatically quickened in the 1850s and 1860s. The heavy settlement was reflected in the city's population increase of 116 percent from 1850 to 1860, and a 72 percent increase in the following decade. Outside of St. Louis, St. Charles was the largest town of German-settled Missouri, a part of the "German-belt" extending up both sides of the Missouri River from St. Louis. In 1870, St. Charles' population was 5,570, making it Missouri's fifth largest city. That year it was estimated that three-fourths of the community were either German-born or first generation German-American. A recent study of St. Charles and adjacent Warren counties revealed that

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the regional origins of immigrants were concentrated in northwest Germany. Hannoverians were five times more numerous than expected, followed by Germans from Oldenberg and Brunswick. Two-thirds of Germans in St. Charles City came from either Prussia (which usually meant Westfalia) or Hannover. Alsatians, who usually reported their place of birth as France, were also represented in St. Charles. (20)

As in other Missouri-German settlements, Germans in St. Charles established their own institutions. By 1848, they had organized separate Catholic and Protestant churches in the south part of town; Frenchtown German Catholics, however, attended St. Charles Borromeo parish. Beer brewing, viticulture, and brickmaking were characteristic Missouri-German activities early taken up by St. Charles immigrants. In the post-Civil War era, three German language newspapers were published in St. Charles; a Turnverein and other German cultural institutions were organized.

The Germans who began purchasing land in Frenchtown in the late 1840s and 1850s adopted what must have been the prevailing house type there. Undoubtedly topographical and climatic aspects of the French house also appealed to Frenchtown Germans who found the high basement well-suited to the sloping land of many District blocks, and the galerie a welcome shelter from Missouri extremes of heat and cold. A topographical pattern of influence can be observed in houses which feature rear galleries and high basements and in those designed with front galleries and high basements. The former are located on the east sides of N. Third and N. Fourth Streets on land which slopes downward, while the latter are sited on the upward sloping west sides of N. Third and N. Fourth. Some hillside houses, however, feature galleries but not high basements. It is interesting to see that in the south end of town, which has similar topography and also experienced significant early German settlement, only a few houses there display French features.

Because of the lack of early records and difficulties in establishing land values, it is virtually impossible to know whether or not some of the blocks purchased by Germans included small one or two room houses built by French families and then enlarged by German owners. Several houses clearly began as two-room linear structures having either two rooms side-by-side with each room accessed by front and rear doors, and communicating by an interior door; or a plan one room wide and two rooms deep with single front and rear entrances. Two houses, for example, at 1209 and 1219 N. Fourth Street (Photo #5, right) began as one or two frame rooms (laterally aligned), and later received brick

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additions to the rear making each house two rooms deep. The block was leased in 1832 to Canadian-born stonemason Toussaint Brunelle and subsequently was purchased in 1852 by Hannoverians Caspar and Henry Dallmeyer, each acquiring a half block which they held until the early 20th century.

Similar uncertainty surrounds the construction of houses in the 1000 block of N.Third (City Block 99) which today exhibits a unified streetscape of four, raised-basement, front-galieried houses (Photos # 3, left foreground; and #2, right foreground). While two houses, 1013 and 1027 N.Third, (originally built two rooms wide and one room deep), may predate 1852, the other two houses illustrate late 19th century permutations exhibited in the circa 1890 mansard roof addition to 1001 N. Third (Photo #2, right foreground) and the increased height of 1017-19 (Photo #3, 2nd from left; Sec. 8, p. 14, Plan), which was constructed around 1890.

Block 99 was confirmed to Charles Tayon, a land grant which eventually passed to descendant Nelson Millington in 1852. That year Nelson and his wife Marguerite Dorlac sold the block to John David Borgmeier, a 30 year old immigrant from Hannover, Germany, whose only reported occupation was "retired farmer" in the 1870 and 1880 censuses. Within a year, the block was subdivided into three lots. John David Borgmeier reserved the north half of the block (which remained in the family until the early 20th century), but immediately sold the south half to John Balthasar Borgmeier, a Hannoverian carpenter who built 1001 N. Third on the corner of Lawrence Street (Photo #2, right foreground). In 1853, John Balthasar sold the north half of his parcel to Henry Thoerner, a 28 year old painter born in Hannover. Thoerner's house, 1013 N.Third (Photo #3, 1st on left; Sec. 8 pp. 16, 17, Plan) is distinguished as the only District residence exhibiting a hipped roof (original to the house), and the only one having a nine-bay primary facade, the southern three bays representing an addition to the original six-bay house.

In general, one can only speculate as to the uses of the basement rooms in the French house type (possible kitchens, or storage areas and/or workshops). There is, however, more substantial evidence which indicates that the high basement rooms of 1017-19 N.Third (Photo #3, 2nd from left; Sec. 8 p. 15, Plan) were used as a small cigar manufactory. In 1893, John David Borgmeier conveyed the house and lot to his son-in-law, John Moeller, first listed as a cigar maker in the 1880 census. From the 1890s to 1910, Moeller was issued fire insurance

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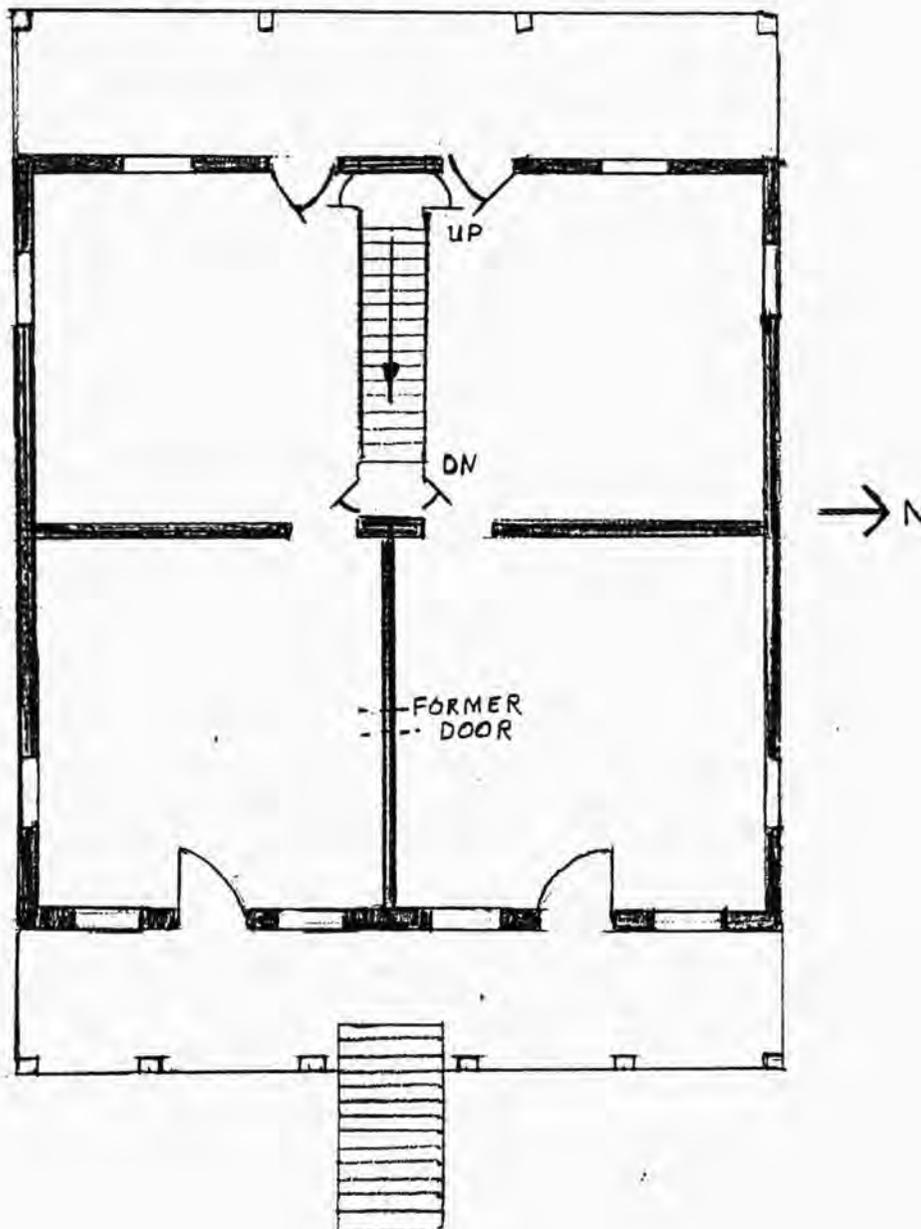
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Frenchtown Historic District
St. Charles, MO

1017-19 North Third Street

Exterior: 33 feet wide X 30 feet deep

First Floor Plan



Not to scale

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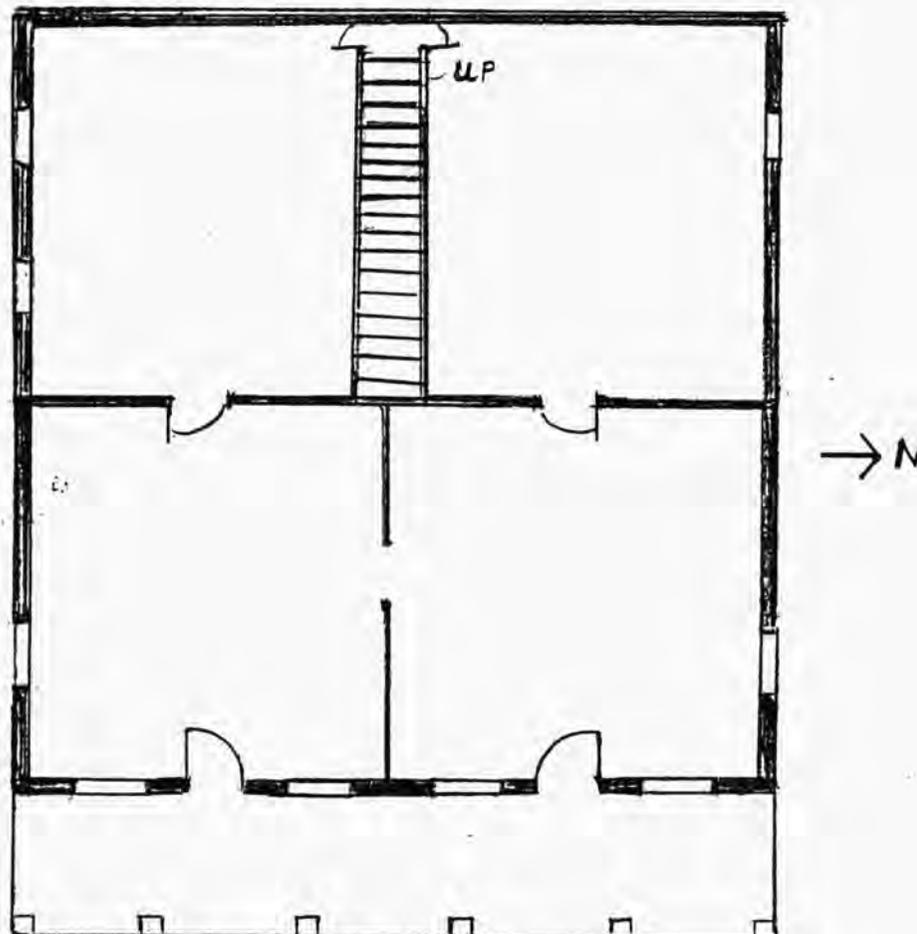
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Frenchtown Historic District
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1017-19 North Third Street

Exterior: 33 feet wide X 30 feet deep

Basement Plan



Not to scale

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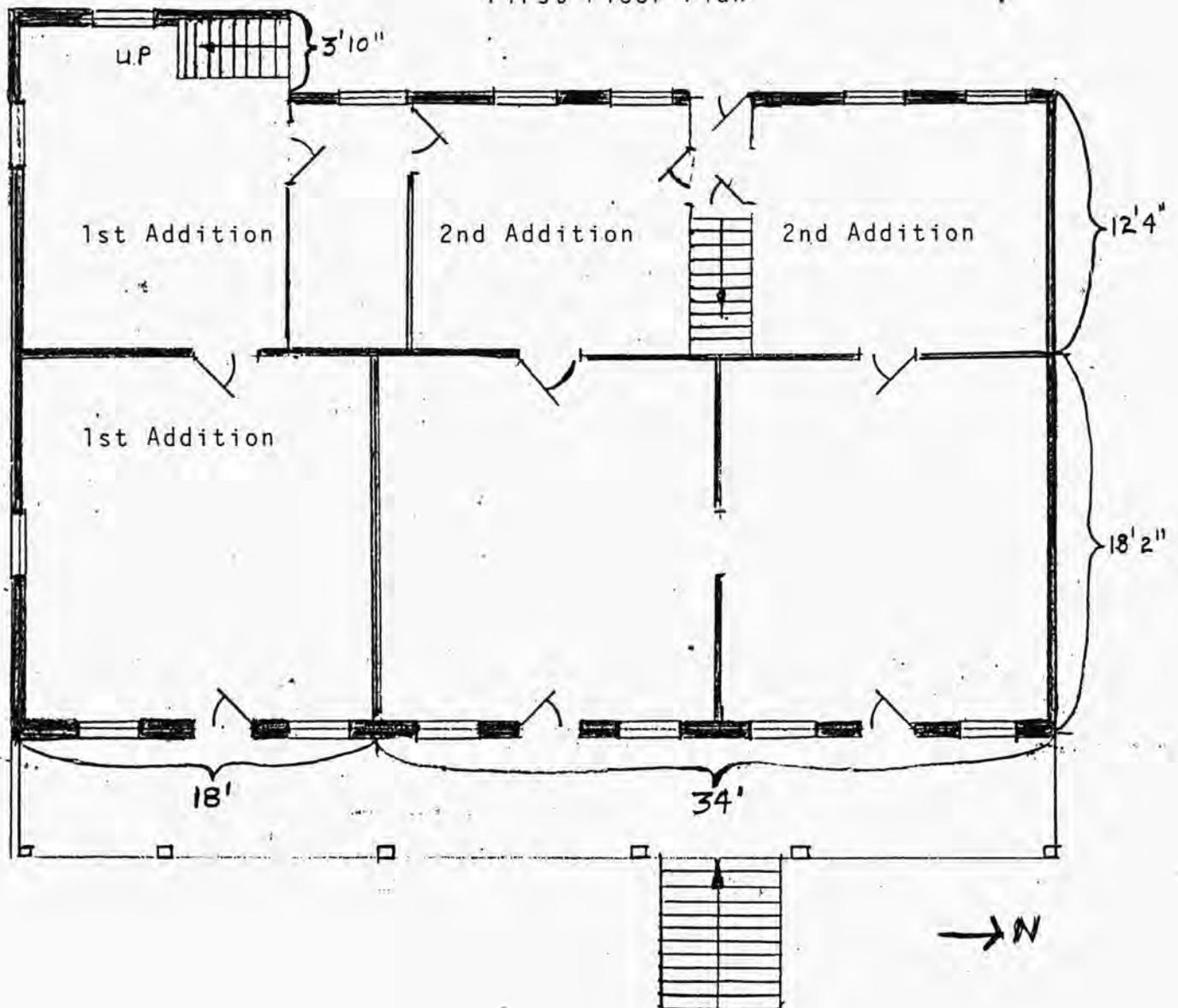
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Frenchtown Historic District
St. Charles, MO

1013 North Third Street

Exterior: $52\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide X $30\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep.

First Floor Plan



Not to scale

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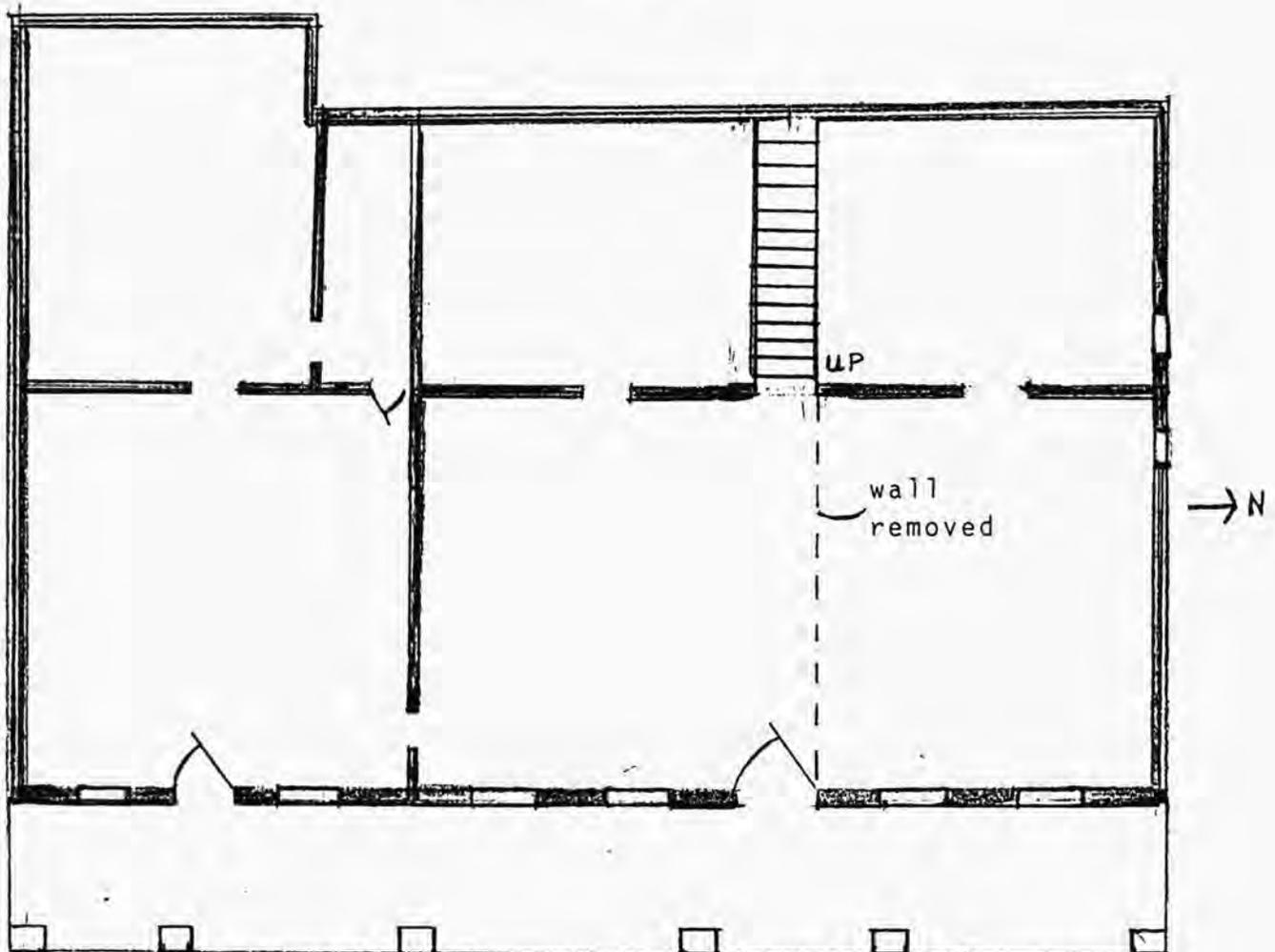
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Frenchtown Historic District
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1013 North Third Street

Exterior: $52\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide X $30\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep

Basement Plan



Not to scale

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policies on the house and furnishings, which included a stock of cigars, tobacco, molds, press, and drying box.

In many ways the impact of the German presence in Frenchtown during the second half of the 19th century was not unlike the transformation wrought by Americans in the south end of town earlier in the century. In addition to bringing a significant increase in residential density, Germans developed commerce and industry in Frenchtown where it scarcely had existed before. Largely through their efforts, North Second Street became a thriving commercial strip serving the Frenchtown neighborhood, but also offering competition to Main Street's prosperous trade with the rich agricultural countryside. Conditions were ripe for development when the introduction of rails, which gradually usurped the river's importance, brought important gains in the local economy, expanding markets and creating new jobs.

In 1859, the North Missouri Railroad connected St. Charles to the Hannibal and St. Joseph line, the first railroad to traverse the state east to west; ten years later, rails extended from St. Charles north to the Iowa border. The completion in 1871 of a rail bridge across the Missouri River which met the west bank near Olive Street in Frenchtown (Photo #33) facilitated access to St. Louis markets, previously reached by ferry service. Between 1856-1867, the North Missouri Railroad gave employment to a sizable work force in its maintenance and building shops once located along the Frenchtown riverfront where the American Car and Foundry complex now stands.(21) The railroad also drew mechanics to the neighborhood for the construction of the bridge. During this period Frenchtown hosted numerous boarders, particularly Irish laborers, although neighborhood Germans such as the Dallmeyer brothers at 1209 and 1219 N. Fourth were employed by the railroad as well.

Before the influx of Germans, North Second Street was a sparsely-built thoroughfare of small structures, primarily residential, but also home to an occasional tavern, inn, blacksmith shop, and probably trading post. By the late 1850s, substantial two-story brick buildings combining first story commercial with upper story residential use were beginning to rise along the street, along with new one-and-a-half-story houses. Frenchtown benefited by attracting immigrants with capital to build, and a good supply of resident Germans (together with a few Irish and French) who were skilled in building trades, including carpenters, contractors, brick masons, plasterers and painters. In 1860, Germans (including Frenchtown's Christopher Weeke) chartered the St. Charles Mutual Fire Insurance Co., and later in the decade, the St. Charles House Building Co.; both organizations were active in Frenchtown.

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The 800 and 900 blocks of N. Second were early improved with brick buildings whose storefronts were reserved for butchers, bakers, shoemakers, tanners, tavern and hotel keepers, grocers, and dry goods merchants. Most of the early buildings were designed in a sparsely detailed, vernacular Federal/Greek Revival style. A few were further distinguished with ornamental detailing or by size. For example, 925-27 N. Second (Photo #8, right foreground), built circa 1857 by Henry Brummelmeyer, boasted cast iron lintels; and Prussian tinner Ernst Nolle's building at 901, rose three full stories, capped with a wood modillioned cornice (Photo #7, 4th on left).

More typical were buildings such as Hannoverian Henry Meyer's saloon/grocery/boarding house at 824-26 N. Second (Photo #7, right foreground), constructed in three stages between circa 1865-1871. Similar to Meyer's building are 819 and 825 N. Second across the street (Photo #7, left foreground). Erected circa 1868 by Joseph Iott, 825 is the only two-story storefront known to have been constructed by an owner of French descent. Adjoining on the south, 819 is the work of the St. Charles House Building Co. for Herman H. Schamberg, a Prussian retail grocer who agreed by deed in 1872 to pay off the \$2000 cost of the building in monthly installments of \$10, in addition to \$16.33 monthly rent for the premises. Further north on Second Street are two other projects of the Building Company: 1100 (Photo #9, left foreground), a six-bay, double building put up in 1871 for Herman Koeller, a Prussian brickyard worker who conveyed the south half to Brunswick tinner Frederick Ebeling (by the 1880s, tinshops such as Ebelings had evolved into a general line of hardware); and 1425-27 N. Second (Photo #10, right foreground), which was built in 1871 for James Short, a 28 year old Irish-born cooper in the 1870 census who later became a successful stone contractor.

By 1875, Frenchtown was owned almost entirely by Germans. Only a few native American, Irish and French family names were scattered among lot owners published in the St. Charles County Atlas in 1875. Of the six or so French families still holding land, only the Dorlacs and Tebeaus owned more than one parcel. Baptiste Dorlac probably held out the longest, finally selling his north half of Block 98 (with rental property on the south parcel) in 1889-90 when he was a resident of the

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state of California. However, in the 1870 and 1880 censuses, a number of other French families were found living in District blocks, apparently renting from German landlords. Not surprisingly, the Pallardie family was well-represented, owing to the 21 children fathered by patriarch Pierre Pallardie from three wives.(22)

During the late 1860s and early 1870s, St. Charles, and Frenchtown especially, experienced an economic set-back when the North Missouri Railroad closed its shops and withdrew the labor force, (reportedly in retaliation to the city's veto of its request to locate the railroad bridge near the center of town). The gravity of the situation, a pressing need for new industry and jobs, prompted a group of local citizens to organize the St. Charles Manufacturing Company in 1873. The majority of the corporate stock, offered to the community at \$100 per share, was purchased in small lots of one or two shares by average citizens, including Frenchtown German residents. While the original intention was to manufacture farm implements, failure to secure proper patent rights caused a change in plans. A decision was soon made to manufacture railroad freight cars based on the fast growth of rails in Missouri. The site of the former railroad shops was leased, buildings were constructed, and the first order of cars was produced by May, 1874.(23)

Over the next twenty-five years the St. Charles Car Company became the city's greatest asset. The industry gained a national and international market for its cars in the 1890s when employment reached as high as 1800 men. In 1899, the local company became part of a national merger of thirteen leading manufacturers of freight and passenger cars that formed the American Car and Foundry Company (ACF). A new building program was undertaken, replacing and expanding earlier, largely frame, manufacturing facilities.(24) The 1888 design of the oldest brick building (Photo #30, foreground) served as a model for subsequent new buildings and additions erected into the 1940s, resulting in an industrial complex exhibiting a high degree of architectural unity. All of the buildings featured shaped parapets at the roofline, along with arched windows (occasionally rectangular) set in pilastered and corbelled brick recessed bays (Photos #29-32) With the loss of the St. Louis ACF plant, an extensive site currently under demolition, the St. Charles complex remains Missouri's only property associated with ACF's significant contributions to the state's economy. (In 1909, car works employed the largest number of male workers in the state and ranked seventh in the value of annual product).(25)

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St. Charles, MO

In the early 20th century, the heyday of American railroading, the St. Charles plant was devoted almost exclusively to the manufacture of passenger cars, earning a highly respected place within the industry for the quality of construction. The plant, in fact, had made important contributions to the change in design from wood to steel cars, considered a milestone in car manufacturing. The company filled orders from major rail lines as well as for luxury private cars. One notable example of the latter group was the 1932 "Curleyhut", custom-made for Barbara Hutton, in which all exposed hardware was gold-plated, including locks, hinges and screws.(26)

The effects of the car works in Frenchtown were profound. A study of the 1880, 1900, and 1910 censuses reveals a steadily increasing rate of neighborhood employment, such that by 1910, Frenchtown was essentially a company town. With very few exceptions, some member of every District household was employed at ACF in 1910, and not infrequently both father and sons worked there. The neighborhood's wealth of skilled immigrant labor filled industry's requirements for widely diversified jobs including cabinet makers, car builders, joiners, trimmers, carpenters, mill workers, tanners, riveters, blacksmiths, template makers, pipe fitters, machinists, moulders, finishers, timekeepers, foremen, inspectors, stenographers and clerks. Frenchtown was also home to the District Manager, James G. Lawler who lived at 305 Morgan. Joining the company in 1879 as a blacksmith, Lawler worked his way up to manager in 1899, a position he held until his death in 1922 when he was succeeded by his son, John W. Lawler.

The ACF Frenchtown work force was drawn in part from members of established German families, some of whom, like cigarmaker John Moeller, changed line of work late in life. Also represented were more recent immigrants such as the Opitz family, homeowners at 1101 N. Third, who emigrated from Germany in 1891; and several groups of renters or boarders from Eastern Europe (Hungary, Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, and Russia), who entered the country between 1900 - 1910. Notwithstanding the enormity of the boost to Frenchtown's economy, ACF's prosperity and growth could also be viewed as the proverbial machine in the garden, gradually taking over the Frenchtown riverfront, and claiming blocks of former residential fabric east of Second Street.

At the turn of the century, two black institutions, St. Paul's Methodist Church and Franklin Public School, located in Frenchtown across the street from each other in buildings which had been erected earlier by white institutions. Although a few 19th century Frenchtown French

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Frenchtown Historic District
St. Charles, MO

families were racially mixed, and a few other owned slaves, there is no evidence which suggests any concentration of blacks living in Frenchtown. The 1910 census showed about thirty scattered black families (most employed at ACF); a few lived in the 400 block of Morgan, close to the church and school, and the remainder occupied houses further north along N.Third and Fourth Streets.

The south half of the Franklin School building at 716 N.Third (Photo #13, right middleground) originally was constructed circa 1865 by St.Charles Borromeo Church as a parish school; in 1870 the building was purchased by the St.Charles School Board for use as a white grade school. To relieve overcrowding in black Lincoln School located in the south end of town, the School Board, in 1902, turned Franklin School over to black students living north of Clark Street. Then, in 1914, the Board closed Lincoln School to blacks and consolidated black education at Franklin School, making it St.Charles' only black school. That year the N.Fourth Street building received a north addition, nearly doubling its size, to accomodate the increased student body. Although the new addition displayed a facade of modern design with Craftsman brickwork, it was not until 1925 that the facade on the south half was modified to harmonize. A brick gymnasium constructed in 1938 was reported to be one of the few gyms in the state at that time which was built for black students.(27)

By 1922, Franklin School offered a two year High School program; a decade later, a four year High School was established which also served non-resident black students who were bussed in from outlying towns in St.Charles County. The lower grades were racially integrated in 1954. Five years later the last High School class was graduated.(28)

The small brick Gothic Revival church on the northwest corner of Franklin and N.Third Streets was erected in 1869 on land donated to the Methodist Church of St.Charles by Henry F.Copes, who had inherited the parcel from a relative, Marie Louise Duquette, Francois' widow. Known as the "Working Men's Chapel", the church was intended to serve the numerous laborers who had settled in Frenchtown for the construction of the railroad bridge. Upon completion of the bridge, declining membership forced the sale of the building in 1871 to the Franklin Street Baptist Church. However, since 1891, (and perhaps earlier) a black congregation has been worshipping in the church.(29)

Residential design during the last third of the 19th century reflected influence, in varying degrees, of American national styles popular in

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St.Charles, MO

Missouri at the time. The vast majority of Frenchtown houses, however, maintained the materials, scale, and one-and-a-half-story cottage size found in the earlier buildings. Charles van Ravenswaay, an authority on Missouri-German architecture observed some time ago that the small cottage, in fact, gave St.Charles its distinctive architectural character and identity.(30) Among the few houses which rose two full stories or more are two atypical Italianate villa mansions, situated on spacious grounds. One of these, 305 Morgan (Photo #11, right foreground) was constructed circa 1865 by Prussian-born Christopher Weeke, who operated a mill in the 900 block of N.Second Street. 709 N.Fourth (Photo #12, left foreground) was the home of William Alexander, a Virginia-born lawyer who built the house circa 1869, just before becoming mayor of St.Charles in 1870.

Many of the cottages of the 1880s and 90s extended four or six bays wide and were built for two families, although three-bay, single-family houses were also built. Conservative in form and plan, the houses differed little from the French house type, except for the treatment of the front porch, the absence of a streetfront high basement, and new Victorian detailing. For example, 706 N.Third (Photo #13, right foreground), built circa 1895 as a duplex by Frank Dauve, features a separately roofed front porch instead of the galerie type formed by an extension of the main roof. The rear of the house, however, is raised on a double-entry high basement sheltered by a two-story galerie. The paired center doors instead of the earlier window-door-window arrangement are also typical of this transitional house type. Numerous other 1890s houses exhibit decorative Victorian wood porches which cover only the center door-bays (Photos # 14 - 17). A plan variant in rear porch design appeared in 1890s houses which placed the porch on a side ell (Sec.8, p.24), affording more privacy in the double-family examples. Some porches are raised on walk-in high basements.

The strongest new stylistic influence came from the Picturesque movement which introduced variant roof forms (or new orientation), and also ushered in irregular plans and asymmetrical facades. Modified Gothic Revival houses with centered front gables began to break the horizontal cornice lines of many streetscapes, along with a smaller number of houses displaying dormered mansard roofs (Photos #16-19). Frenchtown's first mansard roof no doubt was the one added in 1876 to the middle (1835) section of Sacred Heart Academy, whose original gable roof was destroyed by fire and tornado. Early 1890s additions to the Academy complex also featured dormered mansards and decorative corbelled brick cornices (Photos #26, 27). As the Queen Anne style

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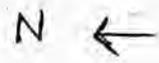
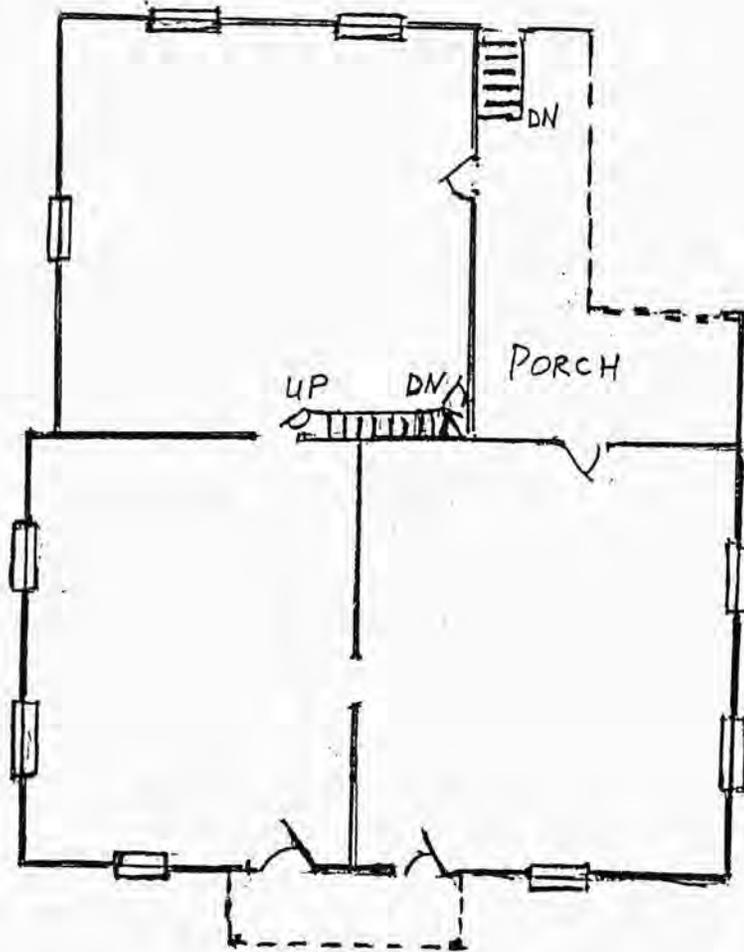
Section number 8 Page 24

Frenchtown Historic District
St. Charles, MO

928 North Fourth Street

Exterior: 29 1/2 feet wide X 35 feet deep

First Floor Plan



Not to scale

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St. Charles, MO

gained favor, hipped roofs with cross-gable extensions brought irregular plans (Photo #16) although only a few rose two stories. The District's best example of a large Queen Anne house stands at 1010 N.Third. Built in 1894 for Henry Vossenkemper, its stylish profile with cross-gables and set-backs, together with art glass windows, is a striking contrast to the conservative French Colonial forms of the circa 1890 Borgmeyer/Moeller house across the street at 1017 N. Third.

Along North Second Street, an updated commercial image was evident in a few new buildings which exhibited greater facade enrichment, particularly at the cornice and in cast iron storefronts both of which mixed Italianate and Revival style ornament (Photos #7, 3rd from left; #8, 2nd on right; # 20, left). Several of the older Greek Revival buildings were modernized with ornamental cast iron fronts which permitted larger expanses of window display space. 804-06 N.Second (Photo #20, left), (built around 1905 for Julius Kohl's meat market), boasted a first story iron front topped by a richly embellished pressed metal second story, both fabricated by the Mesker Bros.Iron Works in St.Louis. Among the 1890s Late Italianate structures was the Hotel Brown at 729 N.Second, a new building type for Frenchtown which offered restaurant dining in addition to lodging.

For the most part, the Revival styles never took root in Frenchtown domestic architecture. Colonial Revival was used sometimes for porch design, and flourished briefly in a row of two-story brick foursquares built circa 1905-1915 in the 700 and 800 blocks of N.Fifth Street (Photo #21), a street which had begun to develop as a fashionable location in the late 19th century. At least one of the Colonial Revival designs, 800 N.Fifth, was built by local contractor/architect John J. Platte (c.1869-1937). The son of a Frenchtown Prussian brickyard owner, Platte apprenticed to neighborhood carpenter John Borgmeyer, and then received technical training at a trade school in Chicago. At the turn of the century he became interested in concrete block construction, and began manufacturing his own block in a shop near his home.(31) Other examples of Platte's work in the District include the modified Queen Anne design of his own frame house at 927 N. Fourth, some bungalows, and a concrete block house at 1125 N.Third Street.

The 1916 stone Romanesque Revival design of St.Charles Borromeo Church on Decatur near Fifth (Photo #25) had one foot on the side of tradition and the other in the vanguard of fashionable high style church design. The building was the third church to be erected by the parish in

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Frenchtown. The 1827 first church, which stood on the grounds of Sacred Heart Academy, was replaced in 1869 by a sizable Early Romanesque Revival building, located on the same site as the present church. The 1869 church was still in use in 1915 when a tornado destroyed the building. Plans were soon drawn up for a new church by St. Louis architects Wessbecher & Hillebrand, prominent church builders.

Louis Wessbecher (c.1856-1940) was trained at universities in his native Germany before moving to St. Louis in 1881. He received commissions for numerous large ethnic churches in St. Louis and also for religious buildings outside of the city including Sacred Heart Academy and St. Stanislaus Seminary, both in Florissant, Missouri.(32) While paying homage to the round-arched motif of the second church, Wessbecher's finely executed Romanesque elevations were part of a new Catholic design tradition in the St. Louis Archdiocese, fostered by the recently-completed Byzantine-Romanesque St. Louis Cathedral. Memorial stained glass windows in the church display names of Frenchtown German family members along with native Americans such as ACF District Manager, James G. Lawler. Many of the windows were manufactured by the Emil Frei Co., whose St. Louis and Munich studios manufactured art glass for churches across the country.

During the teens and through the World War I and II periods Frenchtown grew and prospered, stimulated in the war years by high employment at the ACF shops. On Second Street, new one-and two-story Craftsman-detailed commercial buildings, followed by a few Moderne designs, filled in vacant lots or took the place of older 19th century structures. Similarly, the new modern Bungalow and Craftsman styles overtook design preference for the picturesque Victorian cottage. One of the earliest commercial buildings to show influence of the Early Modern Movement was the Peoples Bank at 820 N. Second. Constructed circa 1915, its sleek facade of white glazed brick accented with green glazed brick reflected an Arts and Crafts aesthetic. Just a few years later, Bank president Henry Dallmeyer adopted the same materials and a similar design when he renovated his undertaking establishment at 800 N. Second (Photo #20, 3rd from left), adding a second story and a new facade. Raised at 1209 N. Fourth, the son of Hannoverian Henry Dallmeyer, Sr., Dallmeyer also owned a successful furniture business located across the street at 801 N. Second.

A number of typical Craftsman cottages and Bungalows are concentrated in Blocks 119 and 120 which had remained largely unimproved before the early 20th century. Frame gables, differing slightly in design, are

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Frenchtown Historic District
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rowed up on both sides of the 400 block of Morgan creating a rhythmic pattern (Photo # 22). Similar gable-front houses, some built for two families are found in various other District blocks (Photos #23, 24). One four-family flat at 1420-22 N.Third (Photo #23) features Craftsman brickwork and a parapeted roof line. The two-story flat is an uncommon building type in St.Charles, in contrast to similar working-class neighborhoods in St.Louis where it is one of the most common types of housing.

In both the World War I and War II eras the St.Charles ACF plant made substantial contributions to the war effort, adapting its production to the manufacture of military equipment. During the first World War, more than 50,000 Army escort wagons were produced there, along with all of the woodwork and chests for artillery wagons built at the Detroit plant. St.Charles also manufactured large numbers of other items, including army cots, ambulance water tanks and cast iron stoves needed to heat army buildings in France and in the United States.(33)

Again, in World War II the Frenchtown plant played a significant wartime role. Part of the tank-building program organized in 1939, local ACF workers (whose numbers peaked at an all-time high of 3000) turned out 1,180 tanks in addition to other military items. In September, 1944, the first of 200 custom-designed railroad hospital cars were delivered to transport the wounded to government hospitals. Earlier in the war, St.Charles had converted old cars into hospital units.(34)

After the close of the war, the plant resumed commercial activity. In 1951, the Aircraft Division of ACF was formed which began production of the U.S. Air Force B-47 bomber. With rail passenger traffic declining, the St.Charles plant phased out car production in 1959, but a new Technical Center building was dedicated in 1963 which is still in use today for research and testing of cars built in other ACF factories.

In 1980, when Frenchtown's demographic and economic trends were profiled in the U.S.Commerce Department's Neighborhood Statistics Program, the community was composed of a nearly-equal mix of renters and home-owners, more than 50 per cent of whom were engaged in professional services, approximately one-third in manufacturing, and the remainder were involved in retail trade. Although only 1.7 percent reported were foreign-born, a large number were of German ancestry. Within the past ten years, Frenchtown has benefited from the influx of

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St.Charles, MO

new homeowners and retail merchants who were attracted to the neighborhood's historic architectural character. The Frenchtown Community Corporation, organized by this group of residents, is actively promoting Frenchtown's rich heritage and taking steps to preserve its historic fabric.

FOOTNOTES

- 1) For descriptions of French St.Louis see Charles Peterson, "Colonial St.Louis", Bulletin of the Missouri Historical Society, April 1947. pp. 99-101.
- 2) William S. Bryan and Robert Rose, A History of the Pioneer Families of Missouri (St.Louis: n.p., 1876), pp.435-37.
- 3) Louise Callan, Philippine Duchesne: Frontier Missionary of the Sacred Heart, 1769-1852, (Westminster, MD: The Newman Press, 1957), pp.270-71.
- 4) Charles Peterson, "The Houses of French St.Louis", in J.F.McDermott, The French in The Mississippi Valley, (Urbana,IL: University of Illinois Press, 1965), pp.17-40.
- 5) See illustrations and descriptions in Michel Lessard and Marquis Hugette, Encyclopedie De La Maison Quebecoise, (Montreal: Les Editions De L'Homme, 1972).
- 6) Richard Guyette, "Tree-Ring Dating Report on the House at 705 N. Third St., St.Charles, MO", 17 July 1990.
- 7) Louise Callan, The Society of the Sacred Heart in North America, (London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1937), pp. 234-35; 656-7.
- 8) Bryan and Rose, Pioneer Families, p.439.
- 9) Callan, Philippine, p.704.

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Section number 8 Page 29 Frenchtown Historic District
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- 10) Ibid., p.680.
- 11) Ibid., pp.709-10.
- 12) William B. Faherty, "Pioneer Saint is Patron For All", St.Louis Review 1 July 1988, p.5.
- 13) Sacramentum Mundi, vol.5, "Canonization", pp. 401-402.
- 14) Callan, Philippine, p.704.
- 15) Ibid. p.721.
- 16) Quoted in St.Louis Review, 1 July 1988.
- 17) Callan, Philippine, p.686.
- 18) Faherty, "Pioneer Saint", p.6.
- 19) St.Louis Review, pp.8-9.
- 20) Walter D. Kamphoefner, The Westfalians: From Germany to Missouri, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1987), pp.86-88; Ann Larimore, "The Cultural Geography of St.Charles, Missouri: Housetypes", M.A. Thesis, University of Chicago, 1955; pp 21-27; 46.
- 21) American Car & Foundry Company Archives, St.Charles, Missouri, typescript of Corporate History, n.d.
- 22) Bryan and Rose, Pioneer Families, p.181.
- 23) ACF Archives, Corporate History, n.p.
- 24) Ibid.
- 25) Thirty-First Annual Report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the State of Missouri, (Jefferson City: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1909), pp.302-303.
- 26) ACF Archives, Corporate History.

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- 27) St. Charles Journal, 6 February 1983, "109 Years of Black Education in St. Charles".
- 28) Ibid.
- 29) Recorder of Deeds, St. Charles County, Deed Book 8, p. 121.
- 30) Charles van Ravenswaay, The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri, (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1977), p. 241.
- 31) Richard Vinson, "John Joseph Platte, Frenchtown Contractor and Architect", St. Charles Journal 15 November 1984.
- 32) Historical & Descriptive Review of St. Louis, (St. Louis: John Lethem, 1894), p. 8.
- 33) The American Car and Foundry Company in Khaki: Its Production and Achievement In The Great War, (New York: American Car & Foundry Co., 1919).
- 34) The Armed Forces of A.C.F., (New York: Geffen, Dunn & Co., c. 1945).

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Frenchtown Historic District
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UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	15	718460	4295860
B	15	718750	4296560
C	15	718930	4296630
D	15	719240	4296510
E	15	719020	4295550

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2. Historic Preservation Program
Division of Parks, Recreation, and
Historic Preservation
Department of Natural Resources
P. O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
Date:
Telephone: 314/751-5365

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The following information is the same for all photographs:

Photographer: Mary M. Stiritz
Silver Image LTD (Photocopy, #33, #34)

Location of neg. City Hall, St. Charles, MO

Date of Photo: April, 1990



1
STREETSCAPE, W.S. 700 BLOCK N. THIRD
701, LEFT
CAMERA FACING NORTHWEST

FRENCH TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



2

STREETSCAPE, N. THIRD AT MONTGOMERY
233 MONTGOMERY, LEFT
1001 N. THIRD, RIGHT FOREGROUND
CAMERA FACING SOUTH

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



3

STREETSCAPE, W.S. 1000 BLOCK N. THIRD
1013, LEFT FOREGROUND
CAMERA FACING NORTHWEST

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



STREETScape, W.S. 1000 BLOCK N. FOURTH
1003, LEFT FOREGROUND
CAMERA FACING NORTH WEST

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



5
STREETScape, 1200 BLOCK N. FOURTH
1219, RIGHT FOREGROUND
CAMERA FACING SOUTH

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



6

STREETScape, 1200 BLOCK N. FOURTH
1208, RIGHT FOREGROUND
CAMERA FACING NORTH

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



7

STREETScape, 800-900 BLOCKS N. SECOND
819, LEFT FOREGROUND
CAMERA FACING NORTH

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



8
STREETScape, 900 BLOCK N. SECOND
925-27, RIGHT
CAMERA FACING SOUTH

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



9
STREETSCAPE, 1100 BLOCK N. SECOND
1100-06 LEFT FOREGROUND
CAMERA FACING SOUTHEAST

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



STREETScape, W.S. 1400 BLOCK N. SECOND
1925-27, RIGHT FOREGROUND
CAMERA FACING SOUTHWEST

FRENCH TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MD



11

STREETSCAPE, 300 BLOCK MORGAN
305, RIGHT FOREGROUND
CAMERA FACING EAST

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



12

STREETScape, W.S. 700 BLOCK N. FOURTH
709, LEFT FOREGROUND
CAMERA FACING NORTHWEST

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



13

STREETSCAPE, E.S. 700 BLOCK N. THIRD
706, FOREGROUND
CAMERA FACING NORTHEAST

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO

87126

13



14

STREETScape, E.S. 900 BLOCK N. **FOURTH**
928, FOREGROUND
CAMERA FACING SOUTHEAST

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



15

STREETScape, E.S. 1200 BLOCK N. THIRD
1200, RIGHT
CAMERA FACING NORTHEAST

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



16

STREETScape, E.S. 1400 BLOCK N. SECOND
1416, LEFT FOREGROUND
CAMERA FACING SOUTHEAST

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



17

STREETScape, E.S. 1400 BLOCK N. SECOND
1416, LEFT FOREGROUND
CAMERA FACING SOUTHEAST

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



18

STREETSCAPE, 1300 BLOCK N. THIRD
1320, LEFT FOREGROUND
CAMERA FACING SOUTH

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



19

STREETScape, E.S. 1200 BLOCK N. FIFTH
1216 N. FIFTH, FOREGROUND
CAMERA FACING NORTHEAST

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



20

STREETScape, E.S. 800 BLOCK N. SECOND
804-06, 2nd FROM LEFT
CAMERA FACING SOUTHEAST

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



21

STREETScape, e.s. 700 BLOCK N. FIFTH
700, RIGHT FOREGROUND
CAMERA FACING NORTHEAST

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



22

STREETScape, S.S. MORGAN AT N. FOURTH
CAMERA FACING SOUTHWEST
329 MORGAN, LEFT FOREGROUND

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



23

STREETScape, E.S. 1400 BLOCK N. THIRD
1428, LEFT
CAMERA FACING SOUTH WEST



24

STREETScape, E.S. 1200 BLOCK N. 5 SECOND
1200, RIGHT FOREGROUND
CAMERA FACING NORTHEAST

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



25

ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO CHURCH
DECATUR AT N. FIFTH
CAMERA FACING SOUTHEAST

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



26

SACRED HEART ACADEMY
600 BLOCK N. SECOND
CAMERA FACING NORTHWEST

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



27

SACRED HEART ACADEMY (REAR ELEVATIONS)
600 BLOCK N. SECOND
CAMERA FACING NORTHEAST

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



28

SACRED HEART ACADEMY, 600 BLOCK N. SECOND
HISTORIC PHOTO, CIRCA 1900
CAMERA FACING WEST

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



29

AMERICAN CAR AND FOUNDRY CO. COMPLEX
OVERVIEW
CAMERA FACING NORTH

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



30

AMERICAN CAR AND FOUNDRY CO.
600 BLOCK N. SECOND
CAMERA FACING SOUTHEAST

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO

87A26

17



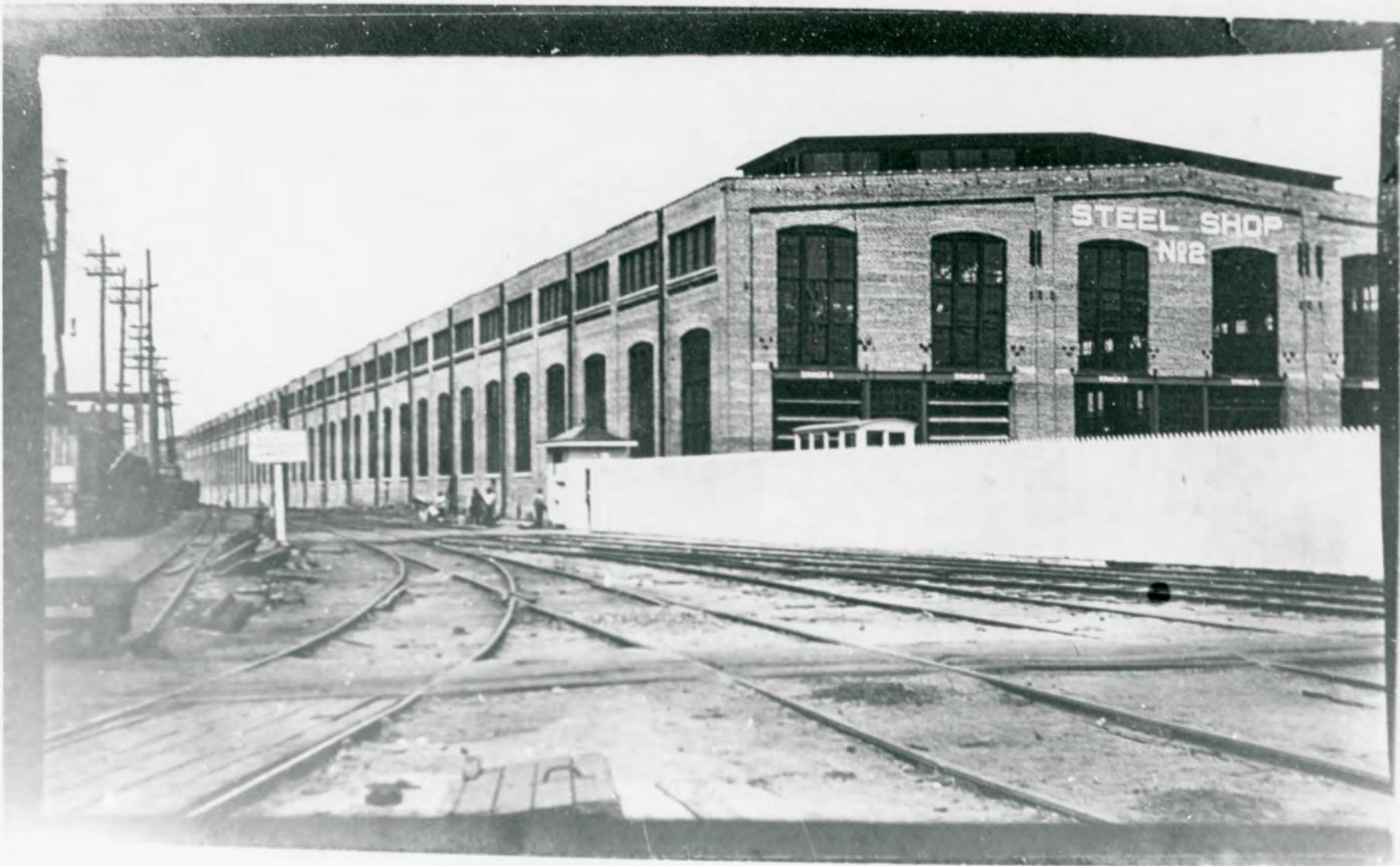
31

AMERICAN CAR AND FOUNDRY CO.

CAMERA FACING NORTHEAST

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO

87/26
19



32

AMERICAN CAR AND FOUNDRY CO.
HISTORIC PHOTO, CIRCA 1912

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO

CAMERA FACING NORTHEAST



MAP OF THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES, 1869, FOUND AMONG THE DISCARDED PAPERS IN THE KOLWEY HOME WHEN PURCHASED BY ANDREW PALLARDY, GIVEN TO THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES BY MR. PALLARDY.

33

BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI, 1869
FACING WEST

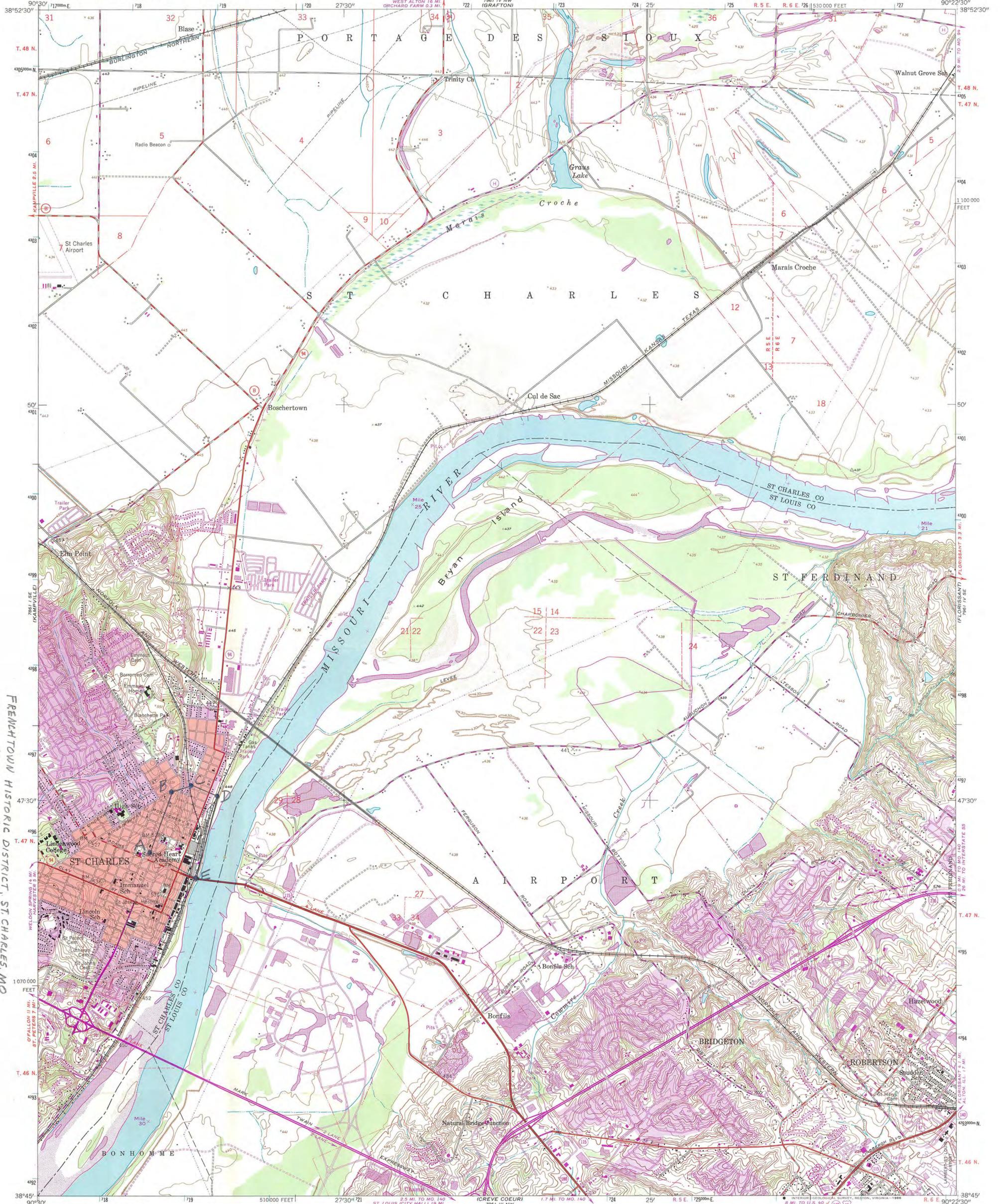
FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



34

NORTH SECOND STREET, LOOKING SOUTH FROM FRENCH ST.
C. 1875 STEREOSCOPIC VIEW BY RUDOLF GOEBEL
CAMERA FACING SOUTH

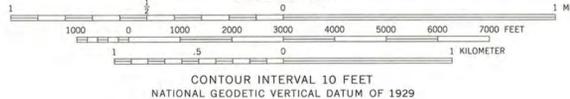
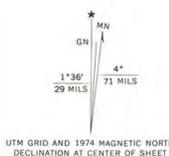
FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, MO



FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT, ST. CHARLES, MO

	EASTING	NORTHING
(A)	15 718 460	4295 860
(B)	15 718 750	4296 560
(C)	15 718 930	4296 630
(D)	15 719 240	4296 510
(E)	15 719 020	4295 550

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1954
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Missouri coordinate system, east zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15,
shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological
Survey from aerial photographs taken 1968 and 1974
This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND BY THE DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

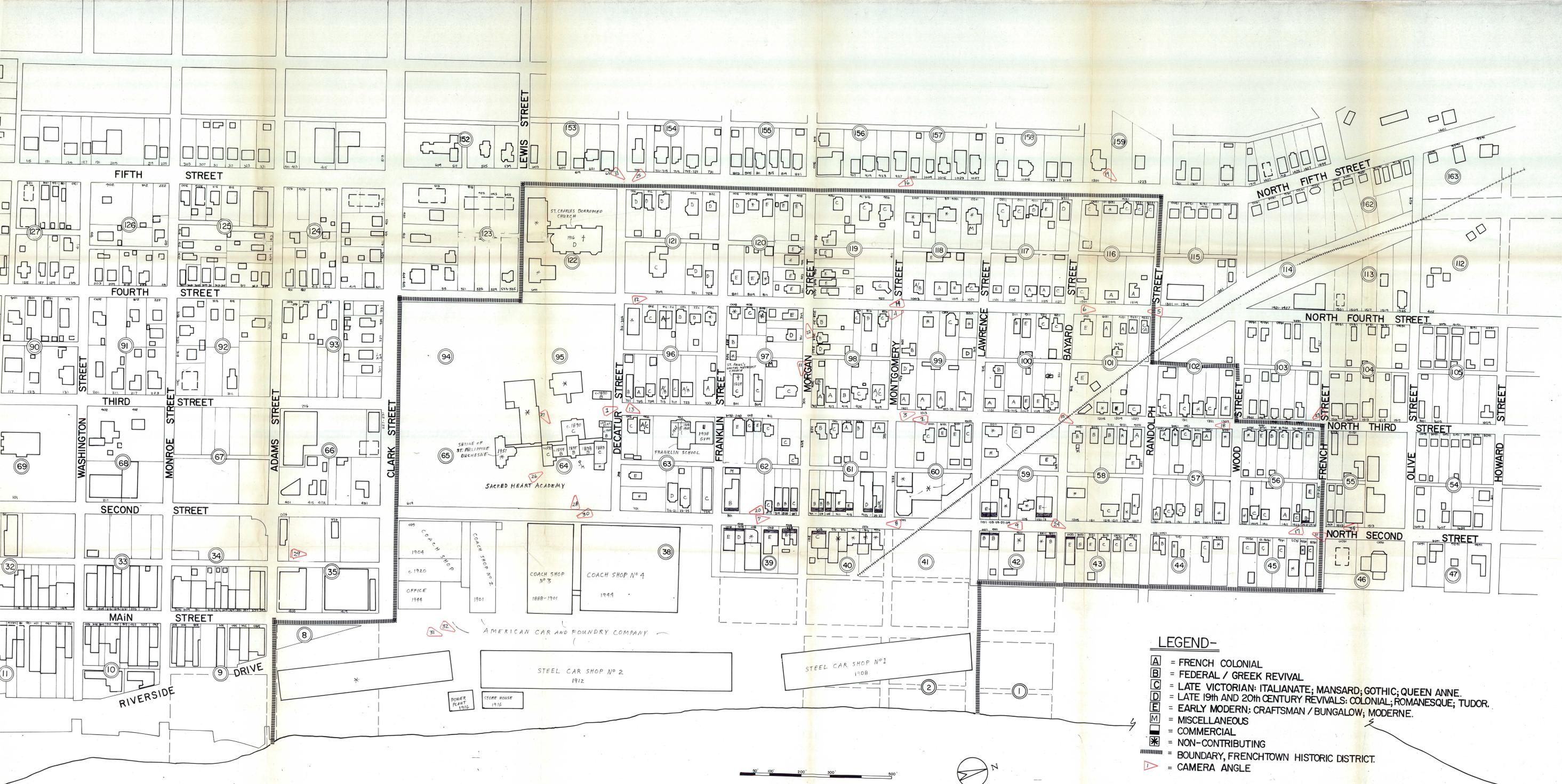
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 2 meters south and
9 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

ST. CHARLES, MO.
SW 1/4 ST. CHARLES 15' QUADRANGLE
38090-G4-TF-024

1954
PHOTOREVISED 1968 AND 1974
DMA 7961 IV SW-SERIES V879



ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI

ARCHITECTURAL / HISTORICAL SURVEY

MISSOURI RIVER

MISSOURI RIVER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Frenchtown Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MISSOURI, St. Charles

DATE RECEIVED: 1/29/91 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/12/91
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/28/91 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/15/91
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 91000216

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3/14/91 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept - A, B, C
REVIEWER Boland
DISCIPLINE Historic
DATE 3/14/91

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR (Y)/N

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph
 completeness
 clarity
 applicable criteria
 justification of areas checked
 relating significance to the resource
 context
 relationship of integrity to significance
 justification of exception
 other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____

JOHN ASHCROFT
Governor



G. TRACY MEHAN III
Director

Division of Energy
Division of Environmental Quality
Division of Geology and Land Survey
Division of Management Services
Division of Parks, Recreation,
and Historic Preservation

STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102
314-751-2479

JAN 29 1991

NATIONAL
REGISTER

January 25, 1991

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register Branch
Interagency Resources Division
National Park Service
1100 L Street, Room 6209
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following submission from Missouri for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

FRENCHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
St. Charles, Missouri

This nomination was approved by our state review board, the Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, on November 9, 1990. I have signed it in my capacity as Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. All owners and appropriate elected public officials were notified and provided at least thirty (30) days to comment on the above proposed nominations in accordance with Section 60.6 (c) 36CFR60, interim regulations, using the exact notification format recommended by the National Register. No objections, notarized or otherwise, were received for the above referenced nomination.

The staff and the Advisory Council engaged in considerable debate over the use of the stylistic category "French Colonial" in this nomination. Although many of the earlier structures in this historic district clearly reflect French influence, they were not constructed in the colonial period and do not exhibit the typical form and detail associated with true French Colonial buildings. We believe the buildings would fit more logically in a category of French vernacular; however, as we have not completed a comprehensive stylistic analysis of French-influenced vernacular buildings in Missouri, we are reluctant to create a new stylistic category at this



Ms. Carol Shull
January 25, 1991
Page 2

point. As this very well-prepared nomination clearly defines the chronological limits and stylistic characteristics of the French-influenced buildings grouped under the category "French Colonial," we are accepting the use of that category as a necessary convenience.

If you have any questions concerning this submission, please contact our office at 314/751-5365.

Sincerely,

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



Claire F. Blackwell
Director and Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

CFB:meb

Enclosure: as stated

cc: The Honorable Grace M. Nichols
Ms. Mary M. Stiritz