

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC General John J. Pershing Boyhood Home

AND/OR COMMON

General John J. Pershing Boyhood Home

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Corner of Worlow and State Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Laclede

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Missouri

CODE

29

COUNTY

Linn

CODE

115

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☒ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

State of Missouri, Missouri State Park Board

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building

CITY, TOWN

Jefferson City

STATE

Missouri

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Linn County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Linneus

STATE

Missouri

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue; Missouri State Historical Survey; NR

DATE

1963; 1968; 1969

☒ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Missouri; Mo. State Park Board; NR

CITY, TOWN

Columbia; Jefferson City; Washington

STATE

Missouri; D.C.

93

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☒ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built around 1857-58, this residence became John J. Pershing's home in 1866. He lived here for about 11 years, or until he was about 17, and his family remained here until after he had entered West Point. Other than military quarters that he occupied on a temporary basis, this is the only known extant structure associated with Pershing.

Prior to 1952, the property belonged to various families. In that year it was acquired by the State. Now the Missouri State Park Board has restored the house and opened it to the public as a museum with a small admission fee. In the rear, renovated out-structures include a shed, a privy, and a cellar. To the north, a small park surrounds Carl Mose's bronze statue of General Pershing.

The property is well maintained. A brick sidewalk runs along State and Worlow Streets, and the area is residential.

The House. The two-story, gable-roofed, basically T-shaped residence sits on a low stone foundation. After the Pershing occupancy, a partial basement was created to accommodate a furnace; the Pershings had relied on stoves and two fireplaces for heat. Stoutly built, the house walls are pine lath with oak studs and brick interfill that extends to the second floor. Gray-painted weatherboards cover the exterior, although originally the building may have been all white. White-painted wood quoins and porch trim decorate, along with bargeboard trim and ridge-end finials and pendants at the south and east gable ends. A roof with a north-south ridge tops the main section, and a roof with a east-west ridge surmounts the north wing. Sloping roofs cover one-story rear extensions of uncertain date.

Many of the house's six-over-six and four-over-four sash windows have exterior label molding ornamentation, but not those beneath the one-story, hip-roofed front porch. This three-bay-wide wooden porch extends across the house front to the north wing, and the wing has a first-story, front-facing bay window. A large, gray-painted brick central chimney stands near the intersection of the main and wing roofs. Another central gray-painted brick chimney serves the main block, and a third stack tops one rear extension, the kitchen.

(continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☐ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☒ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1866-ca. 1880 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to historian Dixon Wecter, John J. Pershing is representative of a new type of military hero created by the exigencies of modern war--a type which has made "teamwork rather than individual brilliance the new order of the day."¹ Pershing's reputation, says military scholar Russell F. Weigley, "is less that of a battle captain than of an architect of the Army. His A. E. F. was not only the first modern American combat army but the nursery of much good to follow."² Pershing not only organized the largest army in American history, but by resisting French and British demands for integration with their troops during World War I, he provided the manpower necessary to turn the tide in 1918 in favor of the Allies and effect the November armistice which ended the war. In addition, as Chief of Staff from 1921-1924, Pershing helped lay the groundwork for improved military organization during World War II. His own prestige upgraded the position of Chief of Staff, and his War Plans Board enabled the General Staff to play a larger role in operations planning.

Pershing's character developed in large measure as he grew up in this house between 1866 and about 1877, and for that reason and because it is the only known permanent residence associated with him, this house museum represents him well. The restored, two-story, T-shaped dwelling has weatherboard siding and gingerbread trim. The house, along with a shed, a privy, and a cellar, and a small park and bronze statue of General Pershing, is well maintained by the Missouri State Park Board.

¹ Dixon Wecter, The Hero In America (New York, 1941), 407.

² Russell F. Weigley, History of the United States Army (New York, 1967), 422.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clendenen, Clarence C., Blood on the Border: The United States Army and the Mexican Irregulars (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1969).

DeWeerd, Harvey A., President Wilson Fights His War: World War I and the American Intervention (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1968).

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

No UTM ticks on indicated U.S.G.S. map

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

Lat. 39° 47' 16"	Long. 93° 10' 9"		
B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The landmark consists of the city lot(s) at the corner of Worlow and State Streets as owned by the State of Missouri and contains the outbuildings and features specified in section 7 (Description) and the accompanying sketch map.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Cathy A. Alexander and
Ralph Christian, Assistant Editors

ORGANIZATION

American Association for State and Local History

DATE

October 1975

STREET & NUMBER

1400 Eighth Avenue South

TELEPHONE

(615) 242-5583

CITY OR TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee 37203

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ____

STATE ____

LOCAL ____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

105

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CONTINUATION SHEET Pershing Home ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE One

The single, wooden front door has four molded panels, a two-pane rectangular transom, and four-pane side lights. Beyond the door is a wide center hall. Reasonably suitable period items furnish six of the dwelling's nine rooms plus the hall. Interior walls and ceilings are plaster, and most are covered with period-type papers. Pine and fir create baseboards and ceiling cornices. The 5-inch-wide pine floor boards remain upstairs but on the first story, 1-inch-wide boards replace the original. The graceful, walnut-railed, rounded stairs in the front hall are original. The house's two fireplaces and mantels have been reconstructed, and the stoves are not original to the dwelling.

North of the front hall is the parlor, which contains a reconstructed fireplace on the west wall and period furniture. Behind the parlor stands the suitably furnished dining room with a period stove and ceiling fixture. Beyond the dining room is the kitchen which may be a later addition. The kitchen has an exterior rear door. South of the front hall lies a first-floor bedroom with a period stove, and west of the hall, two rooms, possibly additions, make up the museum administrator's private office. Upstairs, the two front bedrooms have period furnishings, and the north one contains the second reconstructed fireplace. Behind it is a third bedroom, now the museum room. It contains items associated with the general's life. Other alterations may include the removal of a veranda from around the whole house and the addition of screen doors over entrances. A furnace, fire sprinklers, and indirect lighting have also been added.

None of the small restored outstructures behind the house is open to visitors.

The Shed. Like the house, the one-story, gable-roofed shed is constructed of pine lath, oak studs, and brick interfill. It has gray-painted weatherboard siding, white-painted wood quoins, one gray-painted brick chimney, a door in the east side, and no windows. It is known variously as the smokehouse, the summer kitchen, and the shed.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Pershing Home ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE TWO

The Privy. This one-story, gable-roofed structure stands at the edge of the property rear of a reconstructed garden. The gray-painted, weatherboard-covered building has a single door and one window.

The Cellar. With wooden bulkhead entrance, the cellar lies beside the rear (kitchen) door. It may have served as a fruit, root, or storm cellar. Between the cellar and the shed stands a pump for a living well that may date from the Pershings' day. A pump and cistern nearer to the house probably dates from a later period.

Continuation Sheet Pershing Home Item Number 9 Page one

Smythe, Donald, "The Early Years of John J. Pershing, 1860-1882," Missouri Historical Review, LVIII (October, 1963), 1-20.

Smythe, Donald, Guerrilla Warrior: The Early Life of John J. Pershing (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1973).

Vandiver, Frank E., John J. Pershing and the Anatomy of Leadership, The Harmon Memorial Lectures in Military History, Number Five (Colorado Springs: United States Air Force Academy, 1963).

Wecter, Dixon, The Hero In America (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1941).

Weigley, Russell F., History of the United States Army (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1967).

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CONTINUATION SHEET Pershing Home ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

Biography

Born January 13, 1860, in Laclede, Mo., John Joseph Pershing witnessed the hardships of war early in his life. In 1863 Confederate raiders attacked Laclede, a stronghold of Unionist sentiment, and at the age of 3, Pershing "was introduced to fear and to the realities of the adult world."³ This incident, however, was an anomaly, and his childhood, for the most part, passed uneventfully. Neighbors later recalled him as a quiet boy who was dependable and serious.

In 1873 young John found himself faced with adult responsibilities when his father, one of Laclede's most prosperous citizens, lost most of his holdings in the Panic of 1873. The elder Pershing accepted a position as traveling salesman, and 13-year-old John took complete control of the nearby family farm and operated it for the next 6 years. Farming, however, was not his vocational choice. Harboring a desire to attend college and become a lawyer, Pershing eventually turned to teaching as a means of financing his education. Between 1879 and 1881 he taught in Prairie Mound, Mo., and in a Negro school in Laclede and completed a course in teaching at Kirksville Normal School (now Northeast Missouri State College).

In 1881 Pershing sought and obtained an appointment to the United States Military Academy, not out of any great desire for a military career but because it offered a free education and excellent preparation for law school. He entered West Point in June 1882, at the age of 22. Although not a brilliant student, Pershing demonstrated a great capacity for leadership during his 4 years at the Academy. He earned the highest possible cadet rank, and each year he served as president of his class.

Upon graduation in 1886, Pershing was assigned to the Cavalry, and for the next 5 years, he served at a number of forts in the West. His first assignment was Fort Bayard in New Mexico

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³ Donald Smythe, "The Early Years of John J. Pershing, 1860-1882," Missouri Historical Review, LVIII (October, 1963), 3.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Pershing Home ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE two

Territory where he chased the last followers of the recently captured Geronimo. For the most part, Pershing's duties over the next few years consisted of checking on Indian scares and catching cattle thieves, but in 1890, he took part in the expedition that helped put down the Ghost Dance Rebellion in South Dakota.

In 1891 Pershing took on a new assignment as Professor of Military Science at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Here he had an excellent opportunity to demonstrate his ability as an organizer by taking a moribund department and transforming it into one of the university's strongest. He organized a crack drill team which later took the name of Pershing Rifles, the first of many to use this title. Also, during his 4 years at the university, Pershing studied law, receiving his degree in 1893. He briefly considered leaving the Army to practice law, but a close friend, Charles G. Dawes--later Vice President under Calvin Coolidge, dissuaded him from this course.

Pershing returned to **cavalry** duty in 1895 and went to Montana, where he served in the Negro 10th Cavalry and earned the nickname, "Black Jack." A short stint on the staff of Commanding General Nelson A. Miles followed, and in 1897 Pershing returned to West Point to teach tactics and enforce cadet discipline. His homecoming to the Academy proved unhappy, however. Because of his unbending strictness, he found himself extremely unpopular with the cadets.

When war broke out with Spain in 1898, Pershing, still a lieutenant at the age of 38, rejoined the 10th Cavalry as quartermaster and took part in the invasion of Cuba. Commended for his coolness under fire at San Juan Hill and his ability to keep his men supplied, he was promoted to captain and brevetted a major before the war ended.

In 1899, Pershing sought and received assignment to the Philippine Islands. There, during three tours of duty in the next 15 years, he earned a reputation as one of the Nation's ablest officers. Because of his pacification of the warlike Moros with little bloodshed, he was recommended for promotion to brigadier general. Finally, in 1906 President Theodore Roosevelt advanced

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CONTINUATION SHEET Pershing Home ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE three

him to the rank over 862 senior officers who stood ahead of the Missourian on the promotion list. In 1907, Pershing, who had recently married, returned with his family to the Philipines where he commanded the largest concentration of American troops outside the continental United States. From 1909 to 1913, he served as Governor of Moro Province, amply demonstrating his ability as an administrator.

Because of poor health, Pershing left the Philipines in 1914 and assumed command of the San Francisco Presidio. As tensions with Mexico increased and border incidents multiplied in 1915, he and part of his command were placed on border duty in El Paso, Tex. While he was away on this assignment, fire broke out in his quarters at the Presidio, and his wife and three of their four children died. Pershing had little time to grieve, however, for in March 1916, Pancho Villa conducted a raid on Columbus, N. Mex., killing several civilians. President Woodrow Wilson retaliated by sending Pershing and several thousand troops into Mexico to capture Villa. Pershing, "in charge of the most modern expedition ever put in the field by the United States," chased Villa deep into Mexico.⁴ The Americans did not capture him but dealt his army heavy blows from which it never recovered. This incursion, says military historian Clarence C. Clendenen, revealed Pershing as "an experienced field commander who could handle large organizations scattered over a vast region and who was bold without being rash and ruthlessly determined--a combination of qualities that made him the logical choice when President Wilson had to decide upon a commander-in-chief for the American Expeditionary Force in Europe."⁵

When war broke out with Germany in April 1917, Pershing commanded the Army's Southern Department. He was the Wilson administration's choice to command American forces in Europe not only because of his experience in Mexico but because he had

(continued)

⁴ Frank E. Vandiver, John J. Pershing and the Anatomy of Leadership, The Harmon Memorial Lectures in Military History, Number Five (Colorado Springs, 1963), 16.

⁵ Clarence G. Clendenen, Blood on the Border: The United States Army and the Mexican Irregulars (New York, 1969), 359.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Pershing Home ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE four

remained free from political entanglements unlike his nearest rival Leonard Wood. In May 1917, Pershing and his staff sailed to France and, after a spirited welcome, established their headquarters at Chaumont. Here, exercising the greatest authority of any American general since Ulysses S. Grant, he organized the largest army in the **history of the United States.**

Despite French and British demands for the use of American troops, Pershing took time to make sure that they were properly trained before they were committed to battle. He especially angered the Allies by refusing to integrate American troops into their armies. According to historian Harvey A. DeWeerd, he "foresaw that the American Army would play an important role in the final defeat of Germany. For this reason he wanted it to be strong, independent, and operating in its own theater."⁶ Events in 1918 proved Pershing correct because fresh American troops gave the Allies the impetus to crack the German lines. This resulted in the armistice which ended the war.

In 1919 Congress made Pershing General of the Armies, a title held previously only by George Washington. Although Pershing harbored ambitions for the 1920 Republican Presidential nomination, the desire for normalcy caused the party to nominate Warren G. Harding instead. In 1921 President Harding appointed Pershing Chief of Staff, and during the next 3 years he "laid the groundwork for the reorganization and modernization of the Army which would prepare it for World War II."⁷ His own prestige served to upgrade the position of Chief of Staff, and the War Plans Board that he organized enabled the General Staff to play a larger and more important role in World War II.

Pershing retired from the Army in 1924, and for the next few years he served on a number of diplomatic missions. Much of his time was devoted to the American Battle Monuments Commission, and

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⁶ Harvey DeWeerd, President Wilson Fights His War: World War I and the American Intervention (New York, 1968), 211.

⁷ Vandiver, John J. Pershing and the Anatomy of Leadership, 20.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Pershing Home ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE five

he made frequent trips to the battlefields in France. In 1931 he published his memoirs, My Experience in the World War. During World War I, Pershing had recognized George C. Marshall's potential and in the late 1930's worked tirelessly to get him promoted, first to brigadier general and later to Chief of Staff. By 1941 Pershing's health had begun to decline, and he was admitted to Walter Reed Hospital where he lived in a special suite until his death in 1948 at the age of 88. He died one of the greatest military heroes in American history.



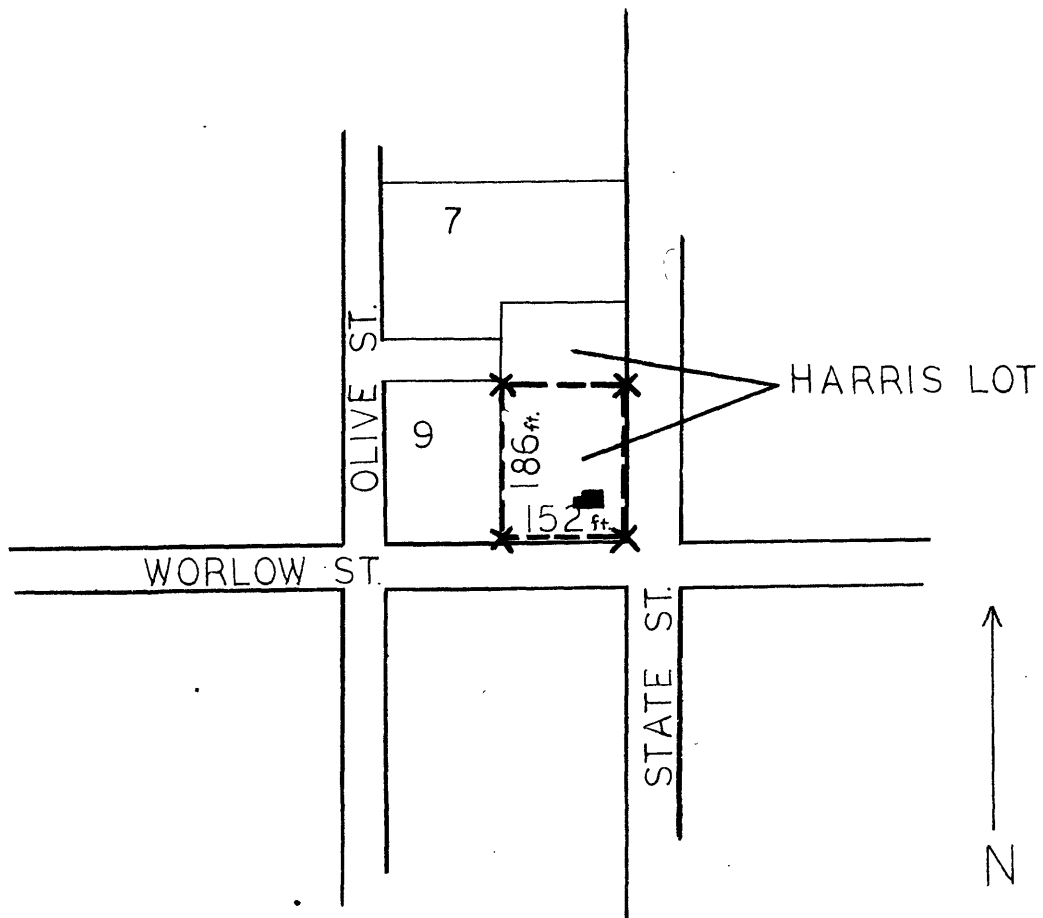
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE <u>Missouri</u>	
COUNTY <u>Linn</u>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

JOHN J. PERSHING BOYHOOD HOME
LACLEDE, MO.



----- HISTORIC DISTRICT

MSPB PROPERTY MAP
F. PHELPS, 9-14-64

MSHS, 4-7-69
Steven Teczar