

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Blake, John P. and Dora, House  
other names/site number N/A

## 2. Location

street & number 549 North Taylor [N/A] not for publication  
city or town Kirkwood [N/A] vicinity  
state Missouri code MO county St. Louis code 189 zip code 63122

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments  )

*Claire F. Blackwell* 2 August 02

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

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments  )

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet <input type="checkbox"/> .	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet <input type="checkbox"/> .	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**Blake, John P. and Dora, House  
St. Louis County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri**

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources Within Property		
		Contributing	Non-contributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	2	0	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	0	0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0	objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	2	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing.**

Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/ secondary structure  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/ secondary structure  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Movement/ Craftsman  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

foundation Concrete  
walls Stucco  
roof Asphalt  
other Wood  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description** See continuation sheet [ x].

See continuation sheet [ ]

**Blake, John P. and Dora, House  
St. Louis County, Missouri  
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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

**A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

**B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

**C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

**D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

Property is:

**A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

**B** removed from its original location.

**C** a birthplace or grave.

**D** a cemetery.

**E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

**F** a commemorative property.

**G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

See continuation sheet [x].

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography**

See continuation sheet [x].

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

# \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

# \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1925

**Significant Dates**

ca. 1925

**Significant Person(s)**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository:

Kirkwood Department of Planning and Development

**Blake, John P. and Dora, House  
St. Louis County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri**

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 1.251

**UTM References**

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	726040	4274120			
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[ ] See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title See Continuation Sheet  
 organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional Items**

(Check with the SHPO or FOP for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

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

name Lawrence A. Ennis Trust, c/o Lawrence and Claudia Ennis  
 street & number 549 N. Taylor telephone (314) 965-2556  
 city or town Kirkwood state MO zip code 63122

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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Blake, John P. and Dora, House  
St. Louis County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri

**Summary:** The John P. Blake House, 549 N. Taylor, is a two and one-half story Craftsman style house with a low-pitched gable roof and stucco walls. It is a large, highly intact example of Property type E. Twentieth Century Styled Residence, Subtype: Craftsman/Prairie. It meets the registration requirements for that property type set forth in the MPS Cover document "Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri." Constructed ca. 1922, this house exhibits several character-defining features of the Craftsman style. The horizontal massing, heavy square porch supports, and exposed rafter ends are all typical of the Craftsman style. The simple clean lines of the house, and the absence of historically based ornamentation are also common to Craftsman style houses. The house has seen no changes of note, inside or out, and occupies all of its original large suburban lot. It sits well back from the street, and there is a detached garage near one back corner of the lot. The garage appears to be approximately the same age as the house, and is a contributing building. The house is immediately recognizable to its period of significance, which corresponds to the construction date of ca. 1925.

**Elaboration:** This house exhibits a high level of styling, and appears to have been professionally designed. In keeping with the Craftsman style, the building has wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafters and decorative bargeboards. It has a large, gabled front dormer with flared walls. It also features several porches. There is a long screened-in porch on the facade. Behind and attached to the porch is a sunroom with a second-story porch above it. There is also a second-story sleeping porch which projects from the rear. This porch was added in 1942. The various porches contribute to a multi-leveled roofline.

The facade also features a bay window on its north end. This window contains single-leaf wood casement windows with leaded glass. Each leaf contains several small squares of glass. In addition, the facade features a projecting bay with a gabled roof which intersects with the main-house roof. The central front doorway is set beneath a cross gable on the front porch. It features a single-leaf wood door with a large pane of glass. It is topped by a beveled glass transom and flanked by sidelights. It is accented by an elliptical arch opening of the entry to the porch at that location. The porch is accessed by a concrete stoop and stairs, with a wrought iron railing. To the south of the front door are two double-leaf wood, French-style doors with multiple lights.

The majority of the windows are double-hung wood sash with multi-lights in both sash. They have plain wood surrounds and wide wood lugsills. Many of the windows are flanked by working wood shutters. The windows in the gable of the projecting facade bay are single-leaf casement windows. The center window has six lights; the side windows each contain two lights. Above the entrance is a band of single-leaf wood casement windows containing leaded glass.

There is a covered drive-through entry on the north elevation, which features a gabled roof and wide, stuccoed posts. It has the dimensions and impression of a *porte-cochere*. A circular driveway leads from the side street, which is East Essex Street, through this entry. A detached 3-car frame garage at the back of the lot appears to be relatively early; it has stucco walls and a hipped roof. The

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**Blake, John P. and Dora, House  
St. Louis County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri**

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garage is a contributing building. An in-ground pool occupies the southwest corner of the property.

The interior of the house is also highly intact. (See photos 5-7.) The wide formal staircase has simple square balusters in a balustrade which is scrolled at the base of the L-shaped staircase. Most rooms retain their original hardwood floors, and almost all interior millwork is intact and in excellent condition. Most rooms have high, simple, molded baseboards and wide crown moldings at the ceiling lines. Interior door and window trim are typical of the Craftsman era, with simple straight lines, and a minimum of ornamental detailing. Pocket doors separate the stair hall from the formal dining room; they have five horizontal panels each.

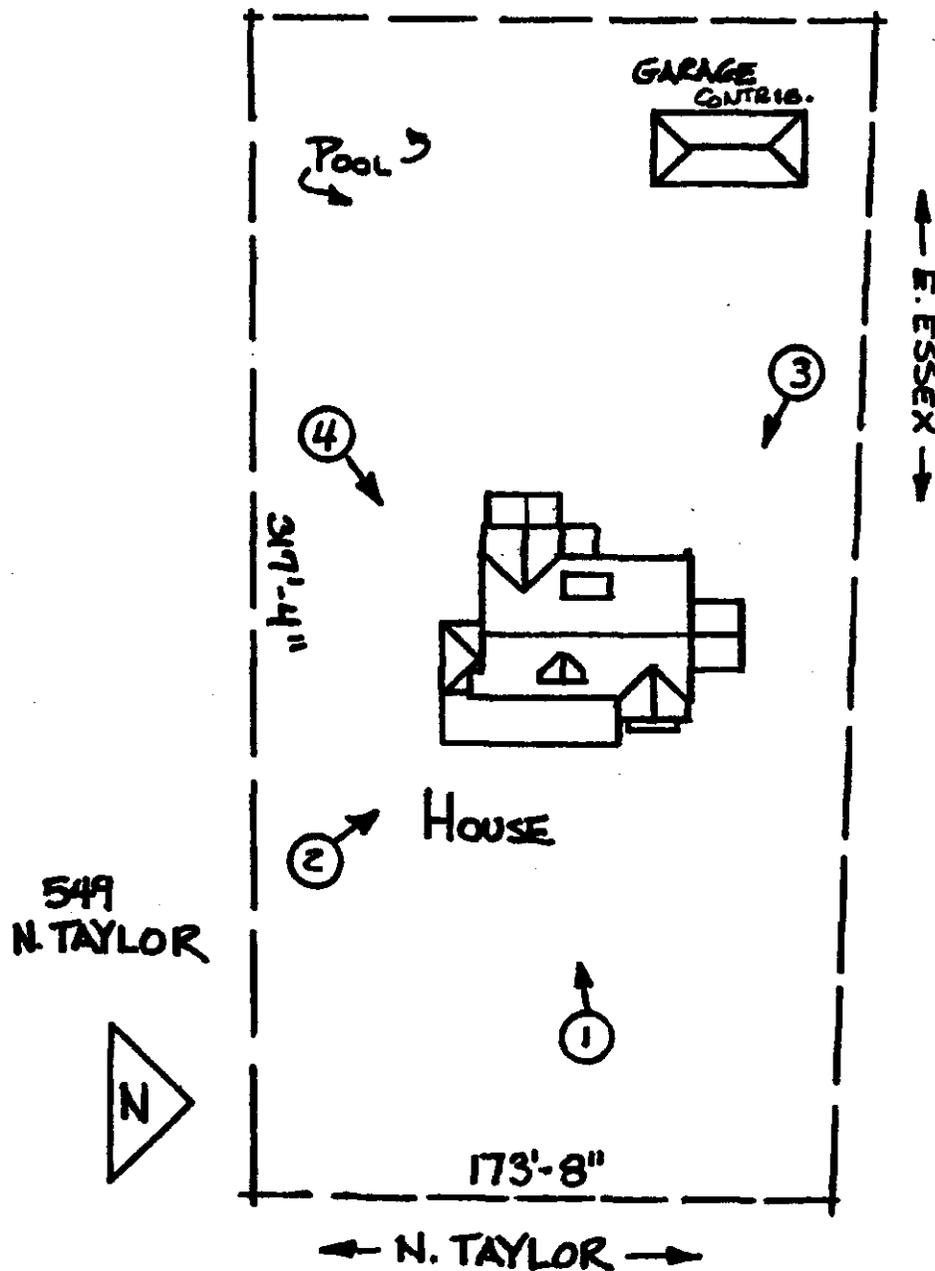
The Blake house today looks very much as it did in the 1920s. It is located a few blocks north of the downtown area, in a residential neighborhood which began developing just after the turn of the twentieth century. The neighborhood is characterized by large single family houses which occupy generous lots; architectural styles and construction dates vary. The Blake house is a virtually unchanged example of a high-style Craftsman house, and it strongly evokes its period of significance. △

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Blake, John P. and Dora, House  
St. Louis County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri

Figure One. Site plan and photo key.



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Blake, John P. and Dora, House  
St. Louis County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri

**Summary:** The John P. and Dora Blake House, 549 N. Taylor, is significant under Criterion C, in the area of ARCHITECTURE, as a large, highly intact example of a Twentieth Century Styled Residence. The horizontal emphasis, heavy square porch supports, exposed rafter ends and stuccoed exterior walls are all typical of the Craftsman/Prairie Subtype. The house meets the registration requirements for that property type and subtype set forth in the MPS Cover document "Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri," and falls under the context "The City of Kirkwood: Transition to An Automobile Suburb--1899-1952." Although in Kirkwood, Craftsman style elements are most often found in the form of secondary ornamentation on more modest subtypes such as the American Foursquare and the Bungalow, here, the style is used as a type itself. The house is significant as a full-blown example of this influential twentieth century style. It gains further significance from the high level of integrity and craftsmanship exhibited by its individual architectural components. The house was built at the height of popularity of the Craftsman style, ca. 1925, probably for John P. and Dora Blake, and the period of significance corresponds with that construction date. It is in excellent condition and retains integrity in all critical areas: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

**Elaboration:** The clean lines and low-key styling of this house mark it as a product of the Craftsman movement in architecture. The large size and refined design indicate a likelihood that it was designed by a professional architect. Followers of the Craftsman movement in architecture rejected the use of historical models for the ornamentation of architecture, and chose instead to let the structure of the building itself serve in an ornamental fashion. Things like the bracketed cornices commonly found on Victorian era houses gave way to exposed rafter ends and simpler triangular or flat brackets. The busy wall surfaces of Victorian houses were replaced with much simpler wall treatments; stucco, as is used for the Blake house, was a favored wall material. The low profile and horizontal massing of the Blake house are also typical of Craftsman style houses. The style is significant as an American style created for the suburbs. The size and setting also reflect the early owners' upper-middle-class standing; this house type was favored by the community's upper middle-class citizens in the early decades of the twentieth century.

Probably built for publisher, John P. Blake and his wife Dora, the house reflects Kirkwood's continued existence as a St. Louis County "bedroom community," which was home to many middle and upper-income professionals and commuters. Its covered drive-through entry on the north elevation heralds the age of the automobile, and yet by design, is reminiscent of the days of carriages. The refined stylistic qualities of this substantial house, the generous lot size, and the professional status of its owner are indicative of the type of citizen which continued to be interested in making a suburb such as Kirkwood home.

The title search for this house did not provide conclusive evidence as to its actual building date or its original owners. The 1909 county atlas map of Kirkwood shows no house on this lot. The

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**Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri**

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staggered publishing of the St. Louis County directories was only somewhat helpful. The directory for 1926 lists John P. Blake, his wife Dora and their son, John P. Blake, Jr. at this address. The occupation given for Mr. Blake is that of publisher. The next earlier available directory was published in 1922. The Blakes are listed as living in University City at that time. That directory does not list by street address. Therefore, the actual resident of 549 N. Taylor, if there was one in 1922, cannot be obtained through that source. Kirkwood did not begin issuing building permits until after 1921, and there were few noted prior to 1926. There is no permit notation for this house.

Based on the style, plan, materials and directory listings, this house was probably built between the late 1910s and 1925. It was definitely finished by 1926, when mapped by the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Company. The construction date, and period of significance, have thus been set at ca. 1925. The 1928 directory for St. Louis County lists Henry E. Heckman and his wife, Elizabeth, at this address, and in 1932 the house is listed as vacant.

This substantial home and its commodious setting on a large corner lot make a striking statement. Even though the population of Kirkwood was diversifying as the new century progressed, many parts of town, including North Taylor Avenue, continued to be the type of upper middle class enclaves envisioned by the Kirkwood Association a half century earlier. The fashionable design and spacious lot of the Blake house reflect the refinement and upper level income of its early owners, and the house today appears very much as it did then. △

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**Blake, John P. and Dora, House**  
**St. Louis County, Missouri**  
**Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri**

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**Sources**

- Dahl, June Wilkinson. A History of Kirkwood, Missouri: 1861-1965. Kirkwood, MO.: The Kirkwood Historical Society, 1965.
- Edward's Annual Directory of St. Louis. 1865-1867.
- Northwest Publishing Company. Plat Book of St. Louis County. Des Moines: IA, Northwest Publishing Company, 1909.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, Map of Kirkwood, 1926.
- St. Louis County Deed Records. Recorder of Deeds Office, Clayton, MO.
- United States Census Bureau. Census Schedules. 1910.

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Section number 10, photographs Page 7

**Blake, John P. and Dora, House**  
**St. Louis County, Missouri**  
**Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri**

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**Verbal Boundary Description:** The North 20 feet of Lot 1 and all of Lot 2 of Mrs. A. W. Mills Subdivision, a subdivision in St. Louis County, Missouri according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 1 page 95 of the St. Louis County Records, having a total acreage of 1.251 acres.

**Boundary Justification:** The boundaries are based on the current legal description of this parcel which includes all of the land historically associated with the property.

**Photographs**

The following information is the same for all photographs:

549 North Taylor  
Kirkwood, St. Louis County, MO

1-2, taken by Debbie Sheals, 406 West Broadway, Columbia, MO 65203; date: 2002  
3-7, taken by Linda Stockmann, 139 South Kirkwood Rd, Kirkwood, MO, 63122; date: 1990  
(The house was field checked in 2002 to ensure the 1990 photos are still accurate.)

Negatives are on file with the City of Kirkwood Dept of Planning and Development, 139 South Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122, 314-822-5808.

**List of Photographs**

See photo key for indication of camera angles.

1. Facade, east elevation.
2. Southeast corner.
3. Northwest corner.
4. Southwest corner.
5. Interior, front hall.
6. Dining Room.
7. Stair Hall.

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Section number 11 Page 8

**Blake, John P. and Dora, House**  
**St. Louis County, Missouri**  
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**11. Form Prepared By**

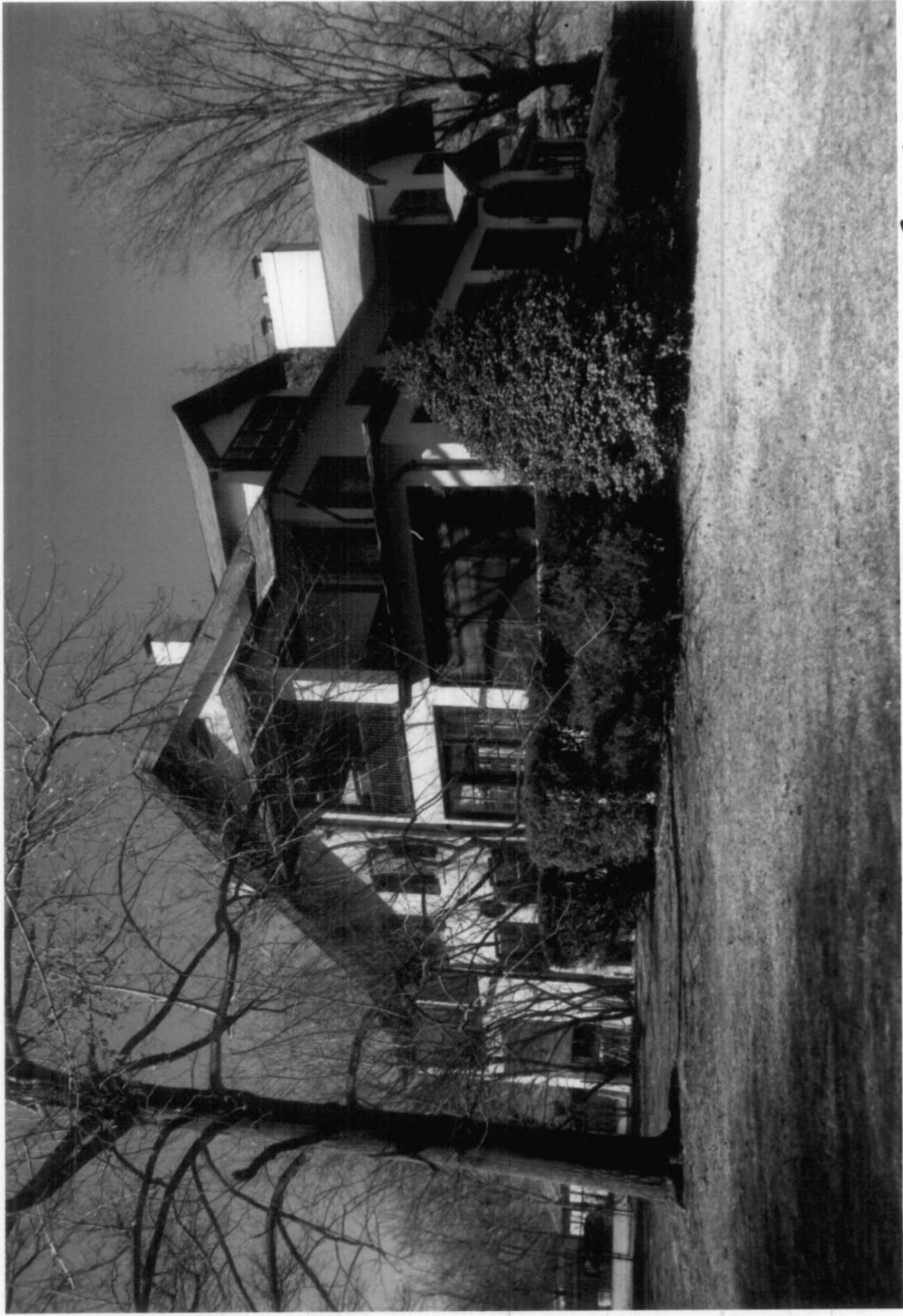
Name Linda Stockman  
organization Kirkwood Landmark Commission date 1990  
street & number 139 South Kirkwood Road telephone (314) 822-5808  
city or town Kirkwood state Missouri zip code 63122

Name Deon K. Wolfenbarger  
organization Three Gables Preservation date 1992  
street & number 9550 N.E. Cookingham Drive telephone (816) 792-1275  
city or town Kansas City state Missouri zip code 64157

Name Debbie Sheals  
organization Independent Contractor date May, 2002  
street & number 406 West Broadway telephone 573-874-3779  
city or town Columbia state Missouri zip code 65203



Blake, John P., House, 549 N. Taylor, Kirkwood, St. Louis County, Mo. 4.



Blake, John P., House, 549 N. Taylor, Kirkwood, St. Louis County, Mo. 2.



Blake, John P., House, 549 N. Taylor, KirKwood, St. Louis County, Mo. 3.



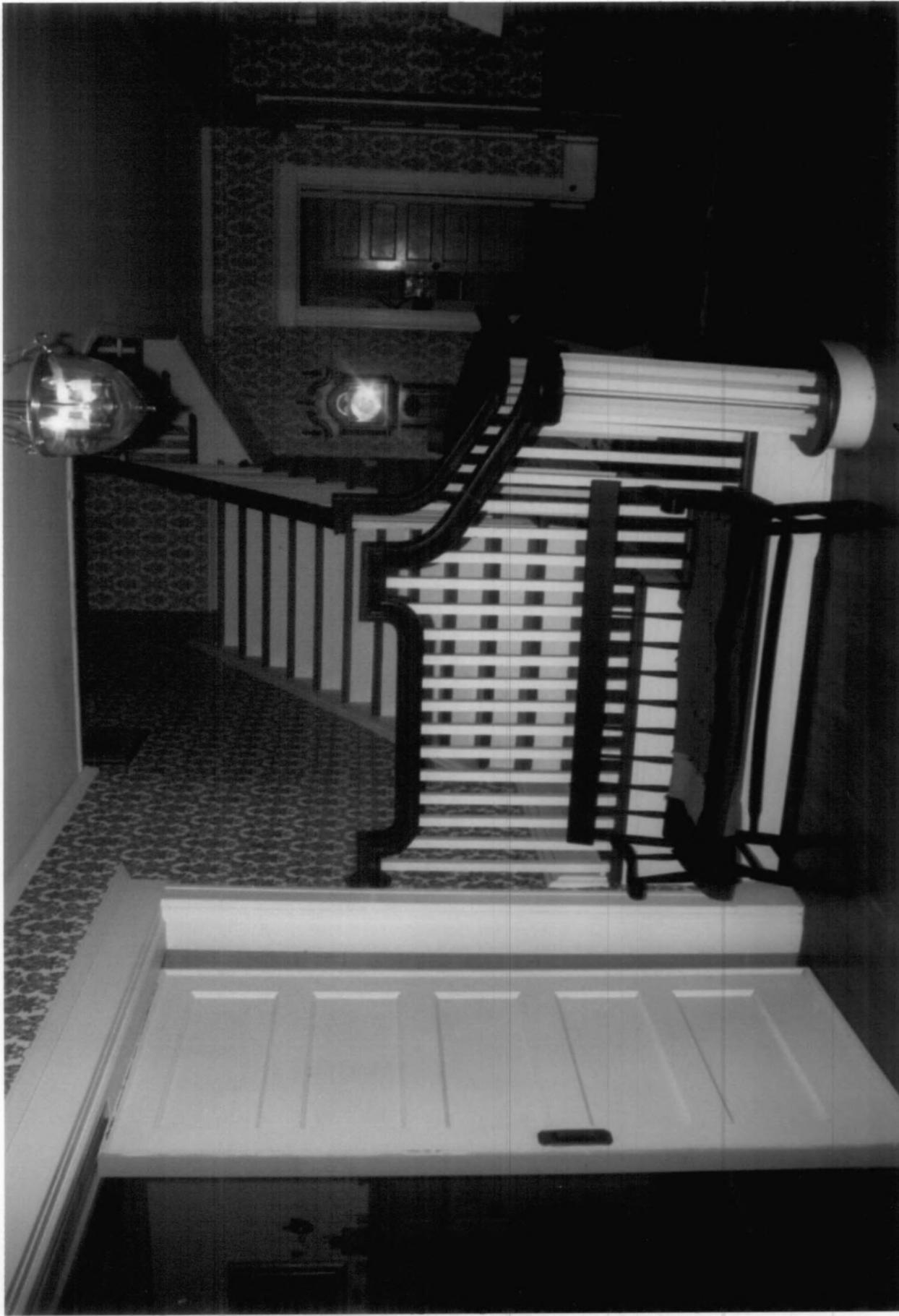
Blake, John P., House, 549 N. Taylor, Kirkwood, St. Louis County, Mo  
4.



Blake, John P., House, 579 N. Taylor, Kirkwood, St. Louis County, Mo. 5.



Blake, John P., Howe, 549 N. Taylor, Kirkwood, St. Louis County, Mo. 6.



Blake, John P., House, 549 N. Taylor, Kirkwood, St. Louis County, MO. 7.