

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Wiese House

AND/OR COMMON

Rockrath-Wiese House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

St. Ferdinand Park

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Florissant

VICINITY OF

#9 - Hon. Harold L. Volkmer

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Missouri

29

St. Louis

189

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 MUSEUM COMMERCIAL PARK EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION MILITARY OTHER: Vacant**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Florissant

STREET & NUMBER

955 rue St. Francois

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Florissant

VICINITY OF

Missouri 63031

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds, St. Louis County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

7900 Forsyth Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Clayton

Missouri 63105

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

1. Florissant City Survey

DATE

1976

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

City Hall, 955 rue St. Francois

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Florissant

Missouri 63031

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WIESE HOUSE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

-
2. Missouri State Historical Survey
1976, 1978 state
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
-

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. Noelle Soren, Architectural Historian and State Contact Person
Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Natural Resources 314/751-4096
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Wiese House, which is located in St. Ferdinand Park, Florissant, Missouri is a one and one-half storied rectangular, high gabled farmhouse of Germanic inspiration.

EXTERIOR

Overall dimensions

The house measures 38' along its east and west sides and 49' along the north and south.

Construction materials and colors

The house is constructed of soft, red brick, laid in common bond on a random rubble, stone foundation. In addition, all lugsills are of wood. On the south facade an entrance porch is formed by four wooden posts, painted white, which rest on a cement base while supporting a low pitched shed roof. A frame addition for use as a bathroom was added into the original large porch on the northeast corner of the house. This porch is painted white.

Additional features

All windows on the Wiese House, except for those on the frame addition to the north, are topped by segmental arches which are composed of one or two rows of radiating, brick voussoirs. Window styles range from one-over-one light, double-hung sash on the frame addition on the north side of the house to two-over-two light, double-hung sash on the west and north sides, to four-over-four, double-hung sash on the south facade, to six-over-six, double-hung sash on the north, east and west sides.

The main entrance to the house is located in the center of the five-bayed south facade. Its single leaf, four paneled door is topped by a two light, recessed transom. A second, single leaf door is built into the frame addition to the rear.

The roof is high pitched with parapet gables at its east and west sides. Each of these supports two single stack chimneys which are ornamented with brick corbelling at its top. The roof is of wood shingles similar to the original roof.

An additional decorative feature of the Wiese House can be seen in the denticulated, brick frieze which runs along the south facade comprising the cornice just below the gutter.

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INTERIOR

The basement does not include the area beneath the wooden porch or rear brick room. This basement has a dirt floor, and is the location of the furnace and a fruit cellar. It can be entered from either the main floor of the house or the back porch.

The first floor of the Wiese House has four rooms grouped around a central hallway. Each of these rooms is furnished with a false fireplace with a plain wooden mantel. Other interior features include molded woodwork around the windows and doors, pine floors and wood-faced ceilings in three rooms. Beyond the central hallway is a masonry wing and formerly a generous open porch which squared off the building.

One large room, which is finished in pine on ceiling and floor, forms the attic of the house.

ALTERATIONS

These include:

1. The frame addition on the north side which includes a bath and an enclosed entrance (1922).
2. The introduction of plumbing and heating (1922).
3. The removal of two, broken-pedimented dormers in 1960 which faced south and which were replaced in 1977.
4. The replacement of the original wooden shingle roof with a new wood shingle roof in 1977.

CONDITION

The fabric of the Wiese House is strong and in good condition.

SITE

The Wiese House is located on the eastern side of St. Ferdinand Park. Although it borders a residential area to the east, the Wiese House and its property remain relatively secluded and retain the atmosphere of a farm. This atmosphere is enhanced by the many large trees which surround the building and by the gently sloping terrain. The smoke house with adjoining shed were demolished and a cistern was filled in in 1978.

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PRESENT STATUS

On December 19, 1976 the Wiese House was purchased by the City of Florissant to become a part of St. Ferdinand Park. It is currently being restored to its original condition and form by the City of Florissant in cooperation with Historic Florissant, Inc.³

FOOTNOTES

1. For comparative designs see Charles van Ravenswaay, The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1977), fig. 9-8.
2. Data excerpted from the draft National Register Inventory-Nomination Form for the Wiese House, completed by Susan Francis of the Florissant Survey Office, November 16, 1976.
3. Rosemary Davison, telephone conversation with the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, April 27, 1978. The house is being restored historically, but the interior utilities will be retained. The City of Florissant is providing the funding from its Community Development Fund. On April 1, 1978 Historic Florissant, Inc. signed a twenty-year lease on the property and will be responsible for the maintenance of the building. Later, the house will be leased to an individual or group with the proviso that it be open to the public at certain specified times.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES

circa 1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wiese House, St. Ferdinand Park, Florissant, Missouri is locally significant as an example of a Missouri-German Vernacular farmhouse which retains much of its original charm due to its location within a wooded and gently sloping park area.

The Missouri-German Vernacular style of architecture, as defined by Charles van Ravenswaay, is exemplified by a rectangular or "L" shaped brick building, three to seven bays in width, which has a gabled roof. Dormers may or may not be present, and common bond brick patterning is used almost exclusively. In addition, brick is often used to form voussoirs, in the arches which generally cap the windows and doors, and decorative cornices. Windows are seldom ornamented beyond their brick arches or stone or wooden lintels. Doorways are generally capped with glazed transoms, and chimneys are commonly paired and linked by a brick parapet.¹ All of these features are found in the design of the Wiese House.

The Wiese House was built prior to 1870² by Henry Bockrath, a German immigrant who became a prominent, local landowner and businessman. In 1873 he built and began operating Hendel's Market in Florissant³, and in 1878 he moved to Jefferson City, Missouri.⁴

The Wiese House was purchased by Henry Kirschburg in 1878⁵ and was in turn sold by him to Elizabeth and George Wiese in 1904.⁶ It remained in the Wiese family until December 29, 1976 when it was sold to the City of Florissant.⁷

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in "Missouri's Historic Preservation Plan". The Wiese House, therefore, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the theme of "Architecture".

FOOTNOTES

1. Charles van Ravenswaay, The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1977), pp. 225-234.
2. Data excerpted from the draft National Register Nomination Form for the Wiese House, prepared by Susan Francis, Florissant Survey Office, November 16, 1976.

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3. Marsha Kyle, correspondence with the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, April 19, 1978. Hendel's Market is one of the historic buildings located within the boundaries of Florissant Old Town, a historic district created by local ordinance in 1966 (Ord. No. 1625, Section 3.5). See Old Town Development Plan (Florissant: Team Four, Inc., 1970), p. 3.
4. Lee Mercer, "Calico Jam," Florissant Valley [Missouri] Reporter (February 19, 1970), p. 8.
5. Book of Deeds, #5 (St. Louis County: 1878), p. 109.
6. Book of Deeds, #150 (St. Louis County: 1904), p. 83. The Wiese family were prominent plant nursery owners in Florissant. See Rosemary Davison, telephone conversation with Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, April 24, 1978.
7. Book of Deeds, #6423 (St. Louis County: 1976), p. 325.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Book of Deeds, #5. St. Louis County, 1878.
2. Book of Deeds, #150. St. Louis County, 1904.
3. Book of Deeds, #6423. St. Louis County, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME "Florissant, Mo."

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 732339 4298160

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The west 1/2 of lot #37 of St. Ferdinand Commons in St. Louis County, Missouri.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

I. Susan H. Francis

ORGANIZATION

Florissant Survey Office, City Hall

DATE

November 16, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

955 rue St. Francois

TELEPHONE

314/921-5700

CITY OR TOWN

Florissant

STATE

Missouri 63031

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE [Signature]

TITLE Director, Department of Natural Resources, and State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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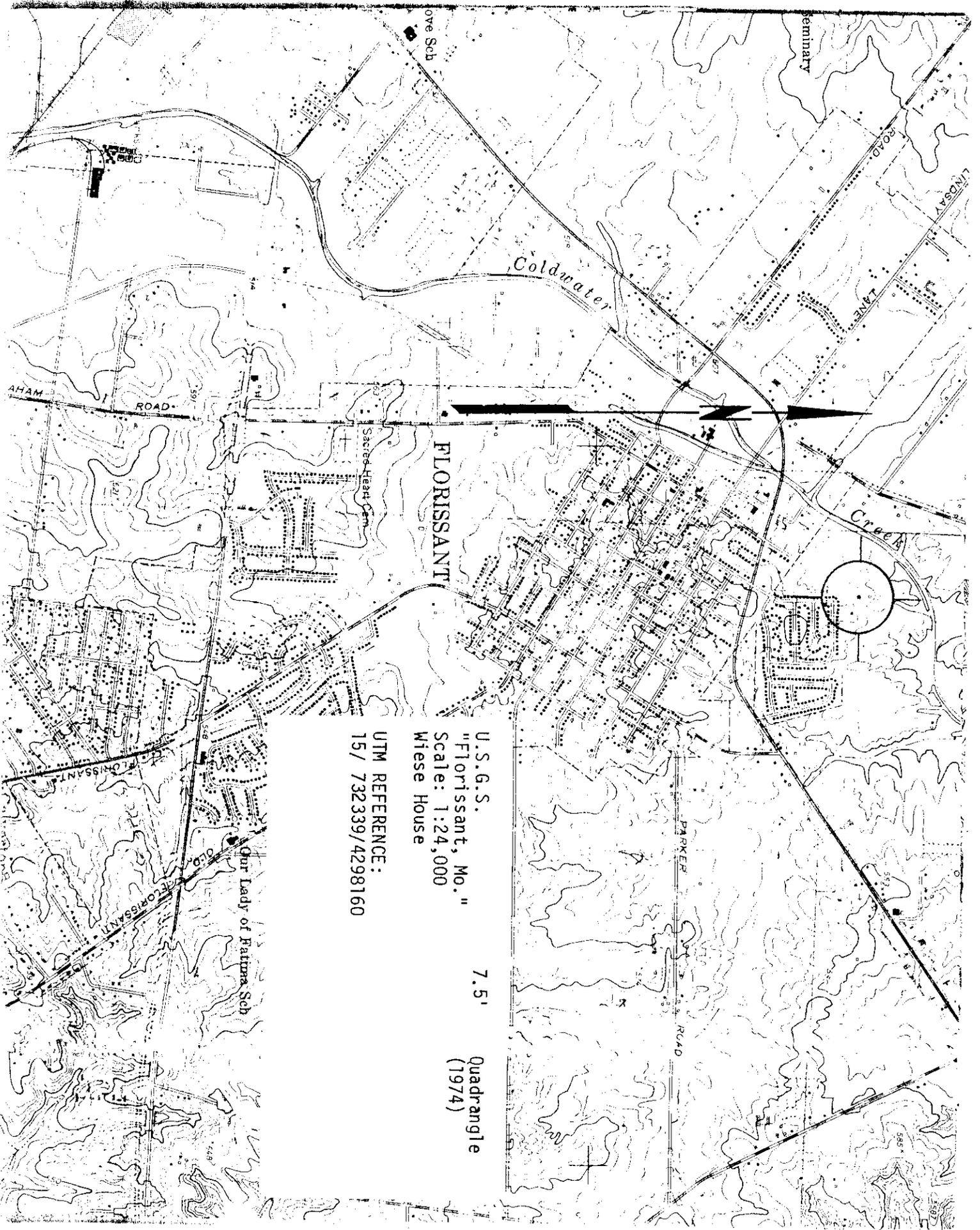
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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WIESE HOUSE

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4. Davison, Rosemary. Telephone conversation with the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, April 24, 1978.
5. Davison, Rosemary. Telephone conversation with the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, April 28, 1978.
6. Kyle, Marsha. Personal correspondence with the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, April 19, 1978.
7. Mercer, Lee. "Calico Jam." Florissant Valley [Missouri] Reporter (February 19, 1970), 8.
8. Old Town Development Plan. Florissant: Team Four, Inc., 1970.
9. van Ravenswaay, Charles. The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1977.



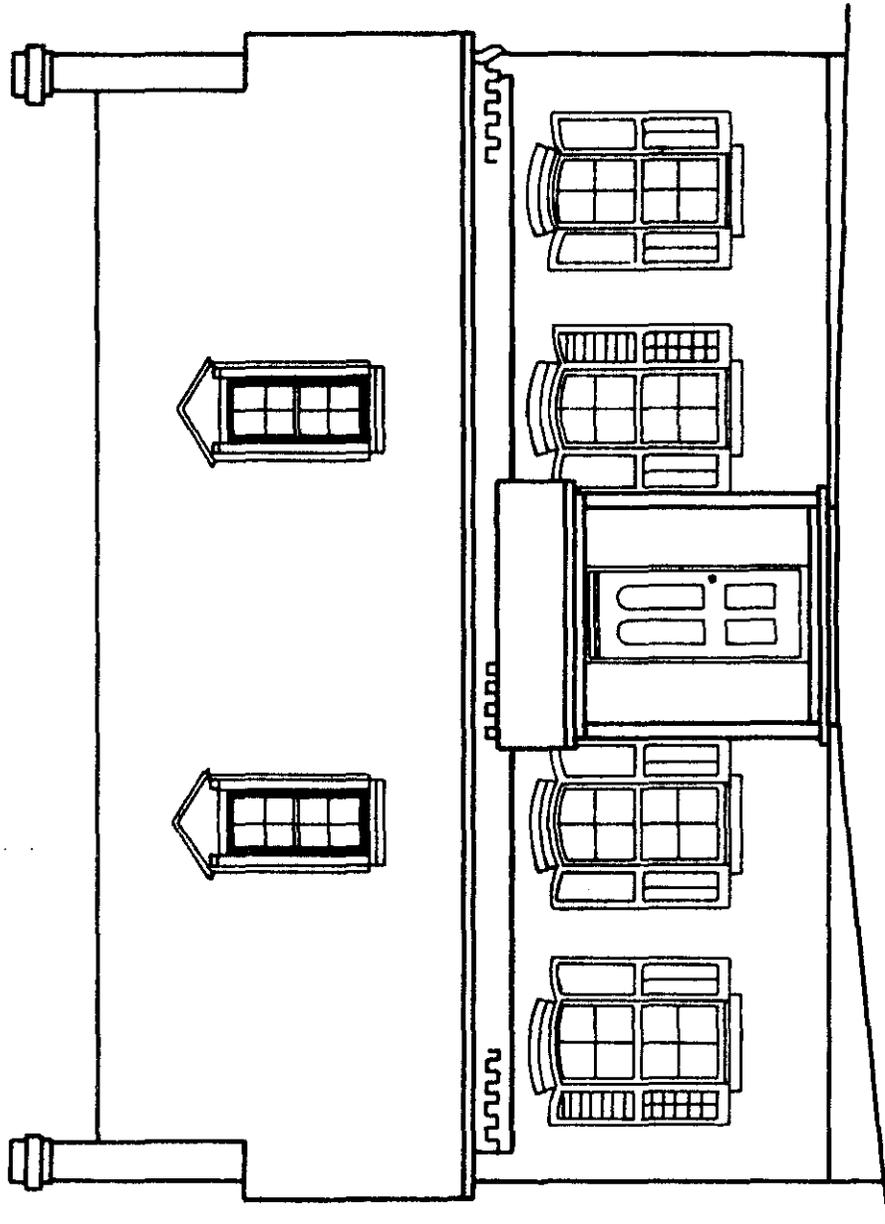
FLORISSANT

U.S.G.S.
"Florissant, Mo."
Scale: 1:24,000
Wiese House

UTM REFERENCE:
15 / 732339/4298160

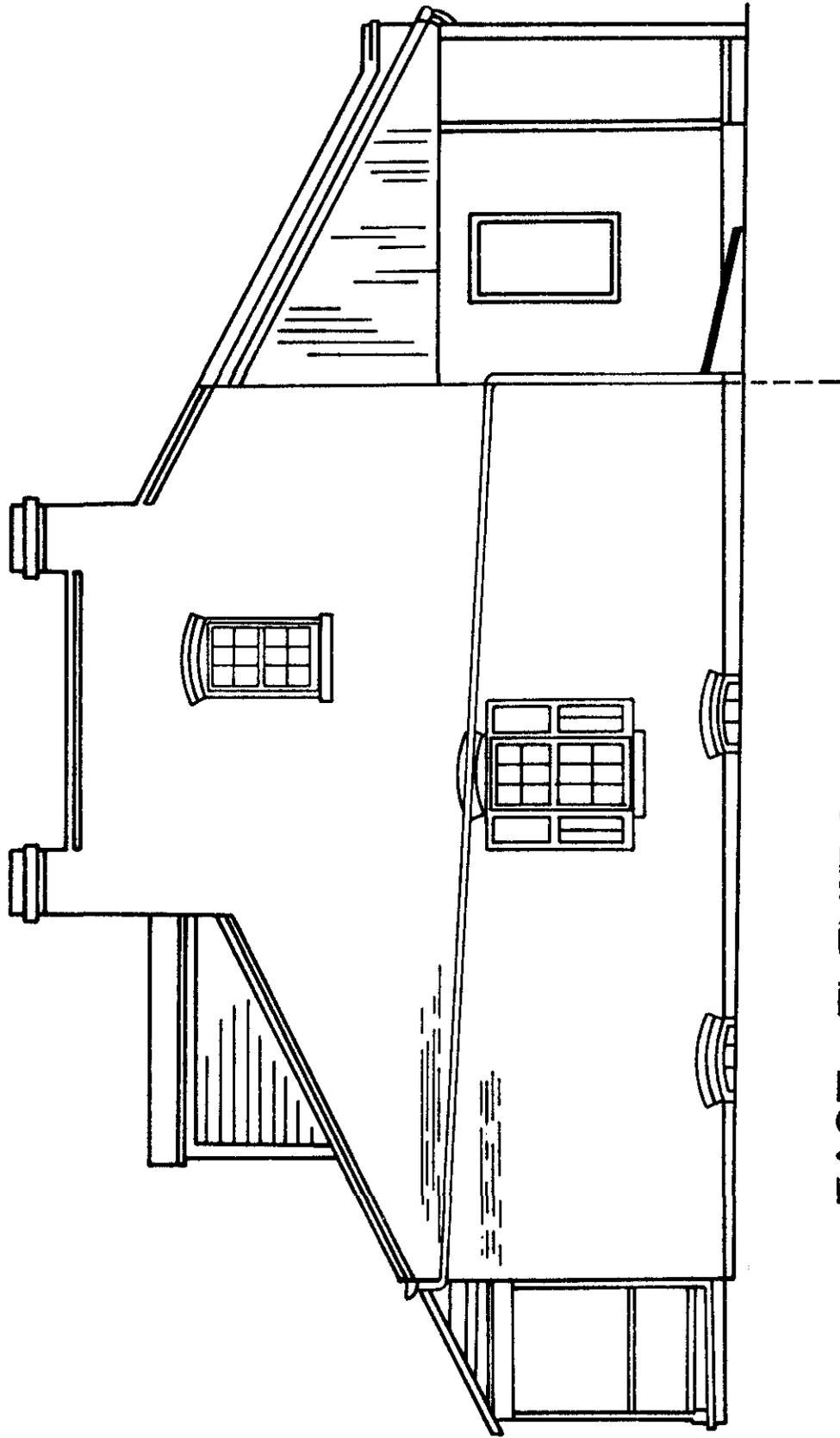
7.5'
Quadrangle
(1974)

WIESE HOUSE

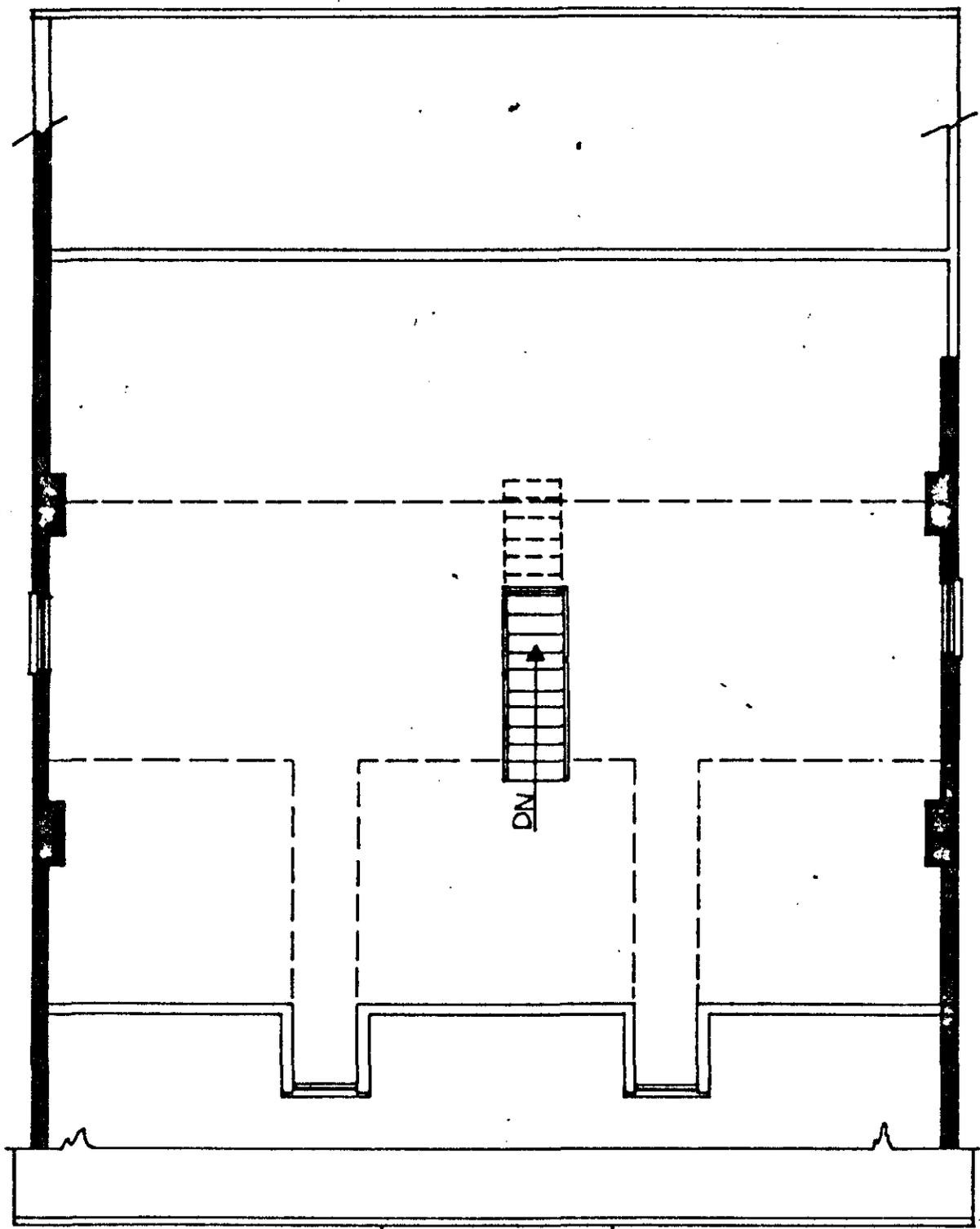


SOUTH
ELEVATION

WIESE HOUSE



EAST ELEVATION



ATTIC FLOOR PLAN

WIESE HOUSE

#1

WIESE HOUSE
Florissant, Missouri
Photographer: Olin Matson
1976

Neg. Loc.: Florissant Survey Office, City
Hall, Florissant, Mo. 63031
South and main facade. This photo shows the
house without dormers and prior to its
restoration.



#2

WIESE HOUSE
Florissant, Missouri
Photographer: Olin Matson
1976

Neg. Loc.: Florissant Survey Office, City
Hall, Florissant, Mo. 63031
West facade.

