

**United States Department of the Interior
 National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
 Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
 Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Keet-McElhany House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 435 East Walnut ___ not for publication

city, town Springfield ___ vicinity of

state Missouri code 29 county Greene code 077

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Keet McElhany

street & number 517 Holland Building

city, town Springfield ___ vicinity of state Missouri

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number Courthouse

city, town Springfield state Missouri

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Cultural Resource Survey, University Plaza, 1981
Walnut Street Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Department of Natural Resources
 Historic Preservation Program

city, town P.O. Box state Missouri 65102

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Keet - McElhany House is a two story brick house with a frame attic story. The house was constructed in 1881 as a fairly typical 2 story, T-shaped Italianate house with a shallow hipped roof and a small 2 story service wing at the rear (north end). The house was sold to James E. Keet in 1883. Mr. Keet enlarged the house in 1886, adding the turreted one story wing to the west and adding a brick service building of 1½ stories with basement about 10 feet beyond the service wing. He further remodeled the house prior to his death in 1900 by raising the brick wall and adding a third floor under a multi-gabled and hipped Queen Ann roof. The Italianate porch was enlarged and a projecting pedimented gable constructed over the steps and also a projecting pedimented gable was added at the intersection of the south and east porch roofline. Applied plaster relief ornament was used for porch posts and railings.

The house sits on a rough-faced coursed ashlar limestone foundation. Window and door lintels and sills are of smooth dressed limestone. On the west side of the house is the added one story wing with a round tower at the southwest corner. The tower has a conical roof. At the cornice of the tower roof and along the remainder of the one story wing, one finds the bracketing and paneled frieze associated with a late Italianate house. It is likely that the original cornice was treated in a similar manner on the rest of the house. The wing appears to have a flat shed roof, but on the west elevation there is a false mansarded roof with a metal cresting.

Near the front door there are shadow lines on the brick which reveal the shape and outline of the original Italianate bracketed porch posts (see discussion of out building).

On the east face of the house is an original bay window of one story. It has bracketed corners and paneled frieze, and a belt of panels below the windows.

All of the door and window openings (west, east and south) have the same moulding, which is a heavy raised bead. All windows are double hung with single pane sashes on the main house. Service wing windows are 2 over 2 pane sash units, double hung.

There is an attached service wing on the north elevation with brick relieving arches over the windows and doors. There is a simple porch in the northeast corner which is from the first period of the house. It appears to be much more restrained than what seems indicated by the shadow outlines left on the front elevation of the house.

The one and one half story detached building, also of brick, is connected to the main house by a tunnel which runs from basement to basement. The arched brick roof of the tunnel is visible above ground. The door and window openings have brick relieving arches. There is a wooden panel with a simple jigsaw cut design set into the curved space of the opening below the lintel. On the north elevation of the outbuilding is an exuberant porch which must be like those originally found on the house. The posts are chamfered, the cornice is bracketed, and the porch has the remains of a jigsaw cut balustrade. The entrance to the first floor of the outbuilding with the Italianate porch seems to be more than required for a simple detached kitchen, which leads one to speculate that perhaps the building also served as an office, or that the original front porch of the house was reconstructed here.

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Continuation sheet KEET-MCELHANY HOUSE Item number 7 Page 1

THE REMODELING - As stated, the roof was raised to give its present appearance with the picturesque gables. Each gable is pedimented with a narrow coffered frieze. There is a simple projecting cornice of wood moulding, and there is a dentiled entablature. Triple fixed attic windows center in the pediment with moulded surrounds. At either corner of the pedimented gable is a single fluted bracket. The remainder of the space within the pediment is filled with molded plaster work in floreate design. The eaves of the gable itself are noticeably projecting to protect the plaster work. The eaves project heavily over the walls throughout on the second roof with built-in gutters of carved wood with a simple carved decoration.

The porch dates to the later remodeling. The porch roof is basically of a single pitch except where it is pedimented above the primary entrance and at a projecting porch corner. There is a built-in gutter at the eave line. The cornice is simple wood moulding, though with plaster modillions attached to a wooden entablature. The porch columns are of wood with exuberant plaster capitals with anthropomorphic figures on either face of the capital. There is a short balustrade with panels rather than spindles. Each panel is filled with floreate plaster work. The panels at the entrance steps have a lion's head fielded in the center.

The entrance porch pediment has a plaster work-filled area with the house number picked out. The pediment at the porch corner has a lion's head in the center of the plaster work.

During the last remodeling, the service wing was raised from two stories to two and one half stories with window openings sporting the same brick relieving arches found on the original house. Windows are 2/2 light double hung sash units.

The steps leading onto the porch and the steps leading up from the sidewalk, as well as the walkway to the house itself, are all of smooth dressed limestone.

INTERIOR

A partial cellar under the rear wing (kitchen) with stairs from the kitchen is original. It was expanded to provide a furnace room under the center of the house. From the cellar there is an arched brick passageway to a cellar under the outbuilding to the north. In the brick outbuilding cellar are two rooms originally with wooden partitions, used as coal bunkers. There is no access from the cellar to the upstairs, though in the outbuilding there is an exterior entrance on the north side.

First Floor Interior

The first floor contains a side stair hall on the west side of the original house, a parlor with fireplace east of the hall, dining room with bay window, fireplace and pantry behind the parlor, back parlor with fireplace west of the dining room, and a kitchen with stove flue and rear stairs on the north. A bedroom with closet, turret, fireplace and bathroom was added in 1886 on the west side of the stair hall.

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Double exterior doors open into a large stair hall. The newel post (about 1895) is of walnut with hip cap and shallow "Eastlake" carving. The balustrade is of walnut with turned balusters. There is a wide entrance to the front parlor on the right. A double tier mantle with mirror tile (about 1895) surrounds the hearth. A hanging lamp in the center of the front parlor was partially converted from gas to electric. It contains a brass globe with multi-colored glass inserts.

There is an intricate brass floor heat register. An exuberantly moulded door and window surround survive from the first period of the house. The flooring, of narrow oak tongue and groove dates much later.

Double pocket doors (paneled late Italianate) lead to what was originally a dining room and later used as a library/back parlor. There is a flue with an unusual wood mantle, probably dating to the first period house. To the left is an original built-in bookcase (on north wall) with glazed door. The doors are all inverted cross with heavy mouldings, original to first period house. The dining room has wide (6") pine flooring. There is a closed off pantry access to the butler's pantry.

The room used more recently as a dining room was probably an original back parlor. A gas fixture is affixed to the wall. The hanging ceiling fixture is of the Craftsman era. The mantle has a black marble top and wood grained as black marble base. Flooring is of patterned oak parquetry.

The rear wing is a kitchen with "boxcar" siding wainscot and a cast iron range which has been in the house since new.

The 1886 wing on the west is entered under the stairs in the stair hall. It contains a mantle double-tiered with mirror, about 1895. The bathroom with original fixtures is about 1895. A circular room was used as a closet from the beginning.

Second Floor

The second floor contains 3 bedrooms located over the principal rooms of the first floor. The side hallway is extended and jogs to the north as a center hallway to the service wing. Two large closets are over the pantry. A sun porch has been added over the 1886 bedroom addition. Two bathrooms are located on the east side over the kitchen. There is a rear stairway and hall on the west.

A narrow closet near the stairs was originally cedar lined. A front bedroom, about 1895, has a double tier mirror mantle with polychrome tile surround and hearth.

There are two bathrooms, about 1895, on the second floor with regional cast iron fixtures and tile floors.

Third Floor

The third floor contains four rooms over the principal rooms below and a center hallway

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in the main portion. This floor is reached from the rear stairs only.

The third floor has moulded surrounds, bull's eye corner blocks and inverted cross doors of later vintage (about 1895) all of unfinished clear pine.

The house was occupied by Mr. Keet's daughter, Katherine (who married Claude McElhany) until 1983. At the time of the auction, all furniture and fixtures from the early 1900's were still in place. Early curtains, rugs, shades, drapes and wallpaper remain.

The house sits back on a large lot one block east of the downtown commercial area. The lot extends from Walnut Street through to St. Louis Street - both of which were the finest residential streets in the City. After the turn of the century, development pressure extended quickly out east, first along St. Louis and then Walnut Streets. The Keet-McElhany house alone survives unaltered on this side of the block on Walnut Street. (The north $\frac{1}{2}$ of the lot has been turned into a paved parking lot.) The house is vacant, is on the market and very much in need of maintenance if it is to survive.

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/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1881 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

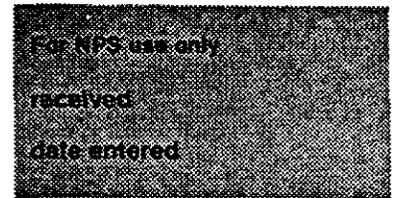
The Keet-McElhany House qualifies as significant in American history, architecture and culture under criteria B and C of the National Register Criteria.

B. The Keet-McElahny House has been the house of a prominent Springfield family for over 100 years. The Keet, the McElahny and the Holland families were all important merchants and bankers in early Springfield history. The Holland Banking Company was founded by C. B. Holland, the uncle of Katherine Holland who married James E. Keet. Josiah T. Keet, James E.'s father, was a partner in the Keet-Roundtree Dry Goods Company. James E. Keet was vice president of the Springfield Grocery Company, president of the Springfield Guarantee Abstract Company, president of the Greene County National Bank and the National Exchange Bank, secretary-treasurer of the Keet-Roundtree Shoe Company and a director of that Springfield company. His daughter married Claude McElhany, who was the grandson of Robert J. McElahny, a merchant and banker in Springfield prior to the Civil War.

C. The Keet-McElhany House embodies the radically different architectural trends that merged so quickly in the last two decades of the 19th century. Starting with the simple dignity of the plain vernacular expression of the Italianate style, already fading out of fashion when it was built in 1881, remodeling enlarged the house with the addition of an eclectic wing with Gothic, Second Empire and some Queen Ann and Eastlake elements and a new service building. Machined decorative carving, cast iron cresting, decorative brick corbeling, creating a false dormer; the turreted room with the Italianate cornice, make this addition an unusual collection of architectural idioms. The final alteration capped the structure with a Queen Ann style multi-gabled roof and added applied plaster embellishments in lieu of older hand-crafted detailing. The final appearance of this house chronicles the rapid changes in architectural tastes and techniques of the end of the Victorian Era. It is unusual also to find an interior that retains so much of the fabric in places - a restorer's dream, but a conservator's nightmare. Deterioration of fiber and cloth is extensive. You can see where furniture was located, see traffic patterns on floors and the location of art work on the walls.

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Page 1

2. James M. Denny, Chief, Survey & Registration
and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City,

November 1, 1983
314/751-4096

Missouri 65102

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Keet-McElhany file of the Springfield Historic Site Board. It includes unpublished, unauthored notes of interview with Mrs. Katherine McElhany. It is on file at the Greene County Recorder's Office.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Springfield, MO

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	4	7	4	3	6	0	4	1	1	7	6	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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E

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

All of Lot D, Block 175 at the SE corner of East Walnut and South Benton Avenue, Springfield, Missouri. The lot is approximately 100' x 300'.

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 1. Patrick H. Steele, Sr., Executive Director, and David Denman

organization Missouri Heritage Trust

date November 1, 1983

street & number Post Office Box 895

telephone (314) 635-6877

city or town Jefferson City

state Missouri

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Fred A. Lapsen

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

date

1/18/84

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

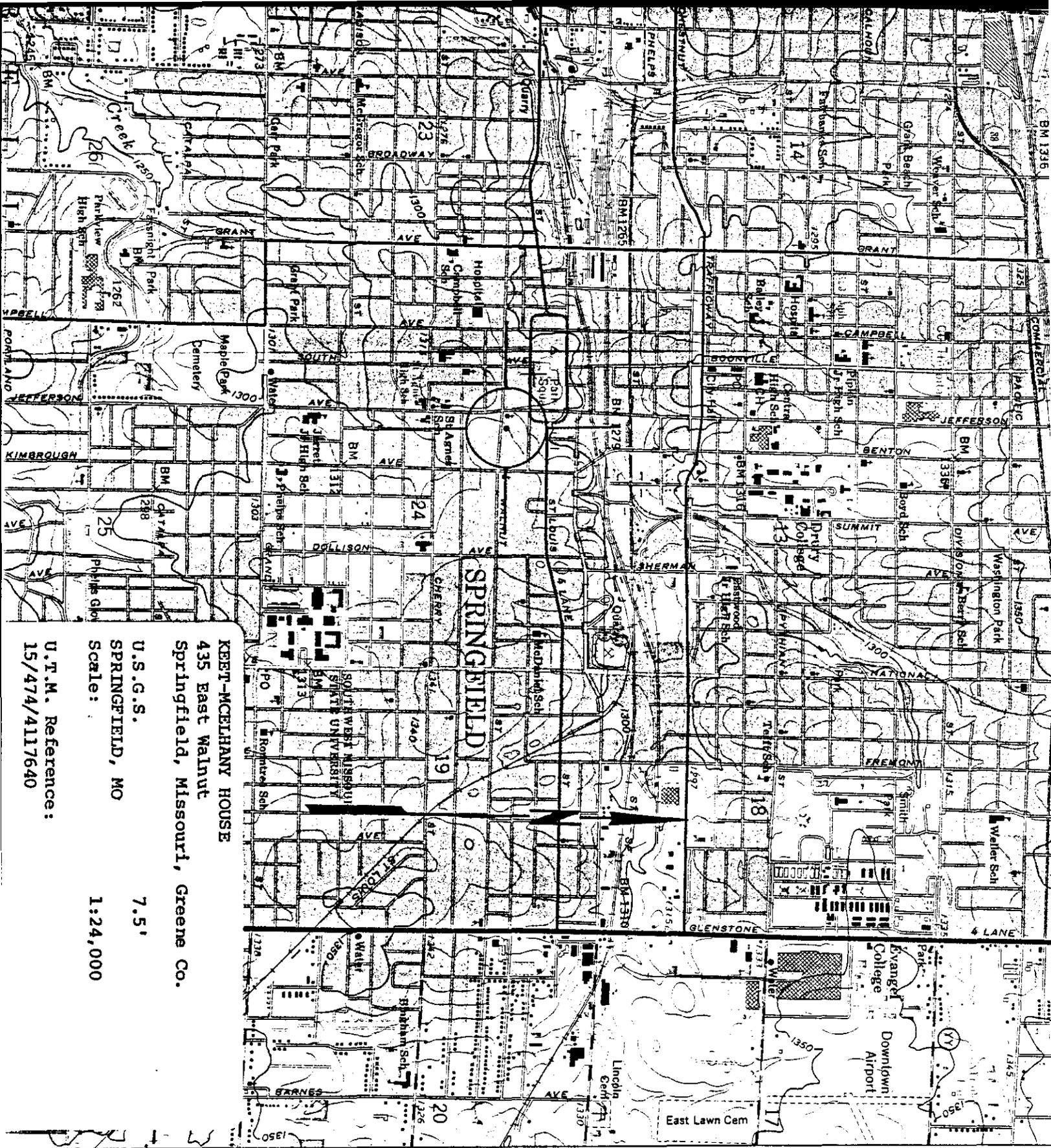
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



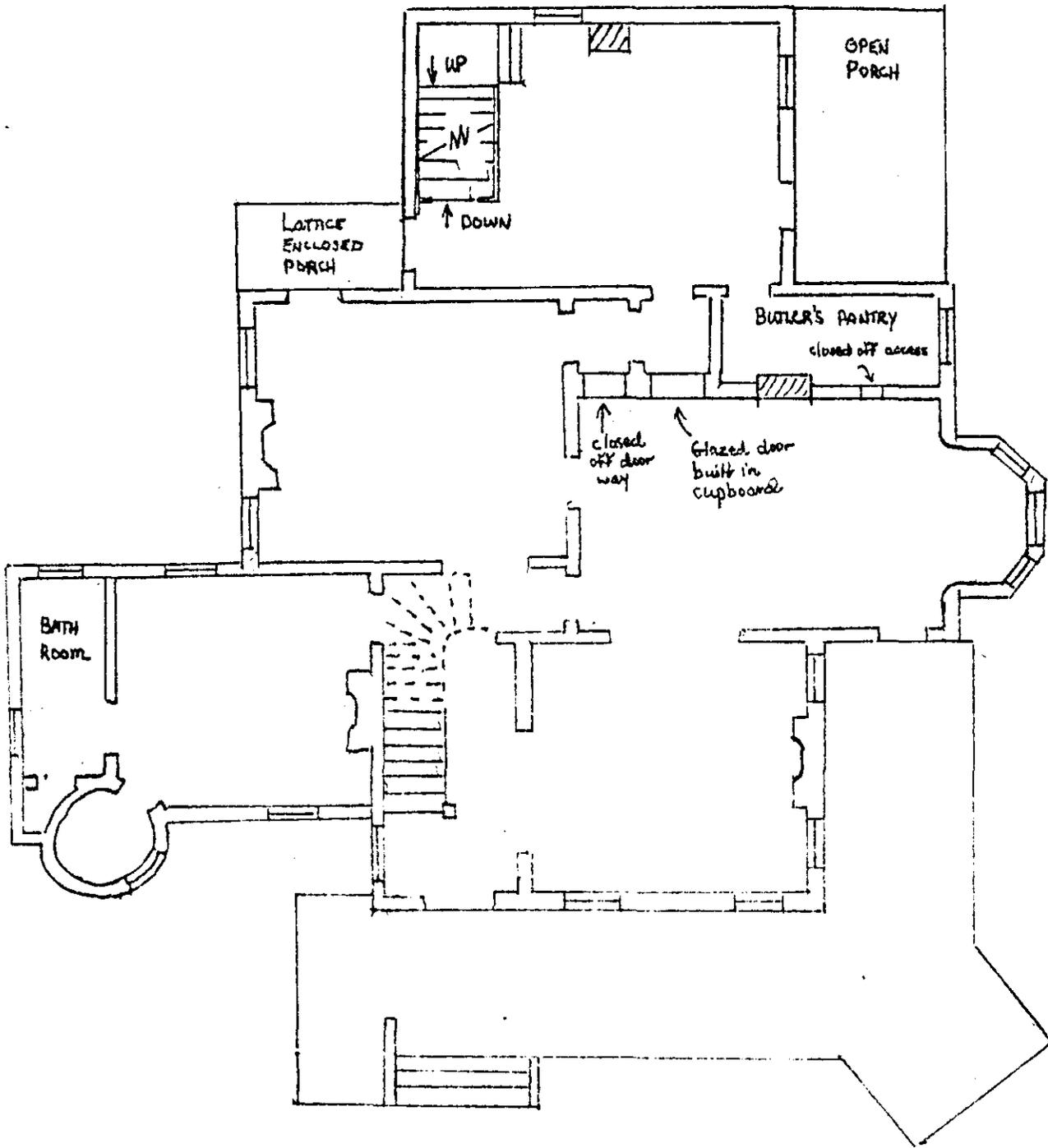
KEET-MCELHANY HOUSE
 435 East Walnut
 Springfield, Missouri, Greene Co.

U.S.G.S.
 SPRINGFIELD, MO
 7.5'

Scale:
 1:24,000

U.T.M. Reference:
 15/474/4117640

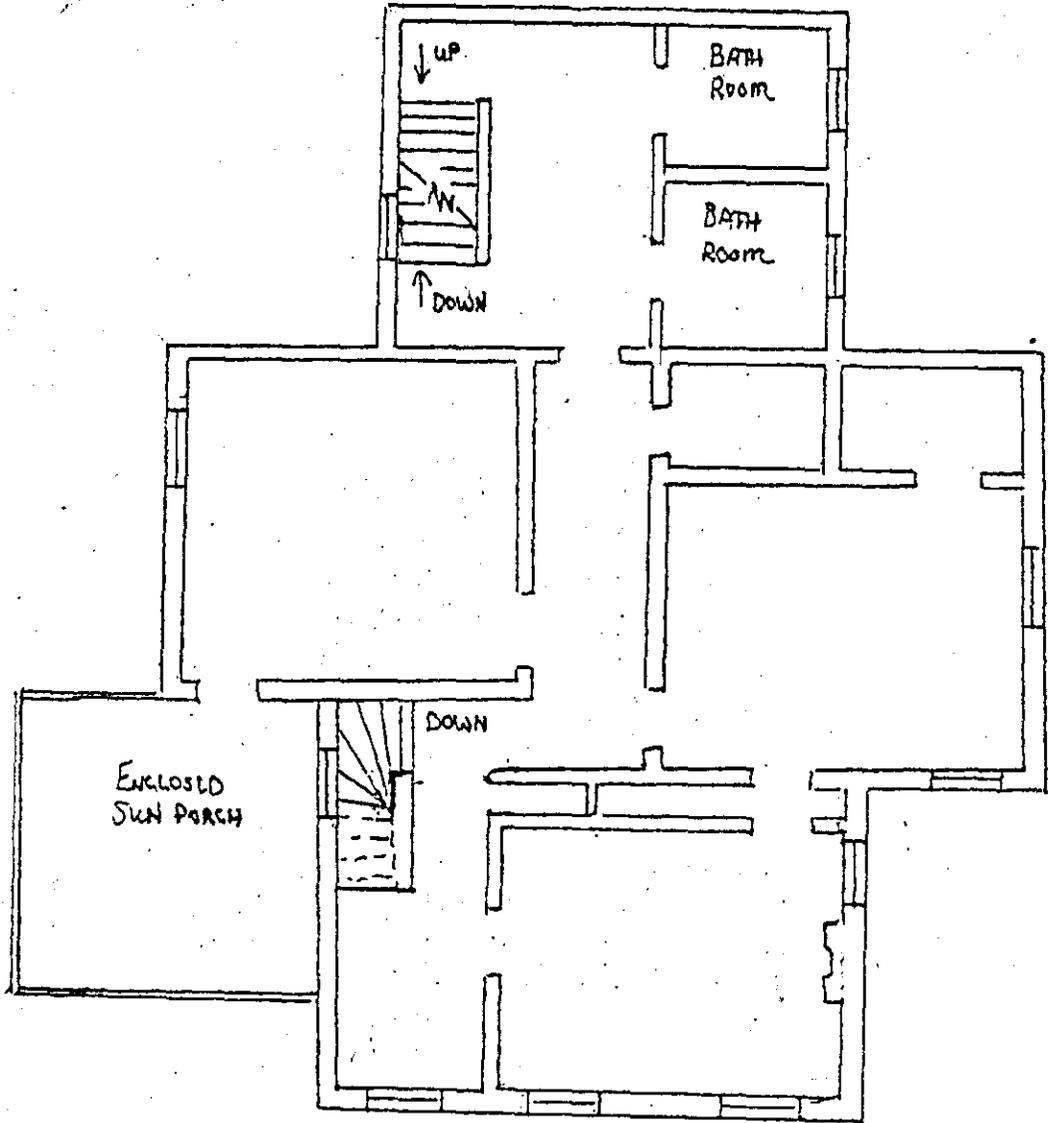
3 ALLOWAY) 4116
 7358 II NW
 1117
 12'30"
 4118
 4119
 4120



FIRST FLOOR
KEET-McELHANEV HOUSE
Springfield, Mo.

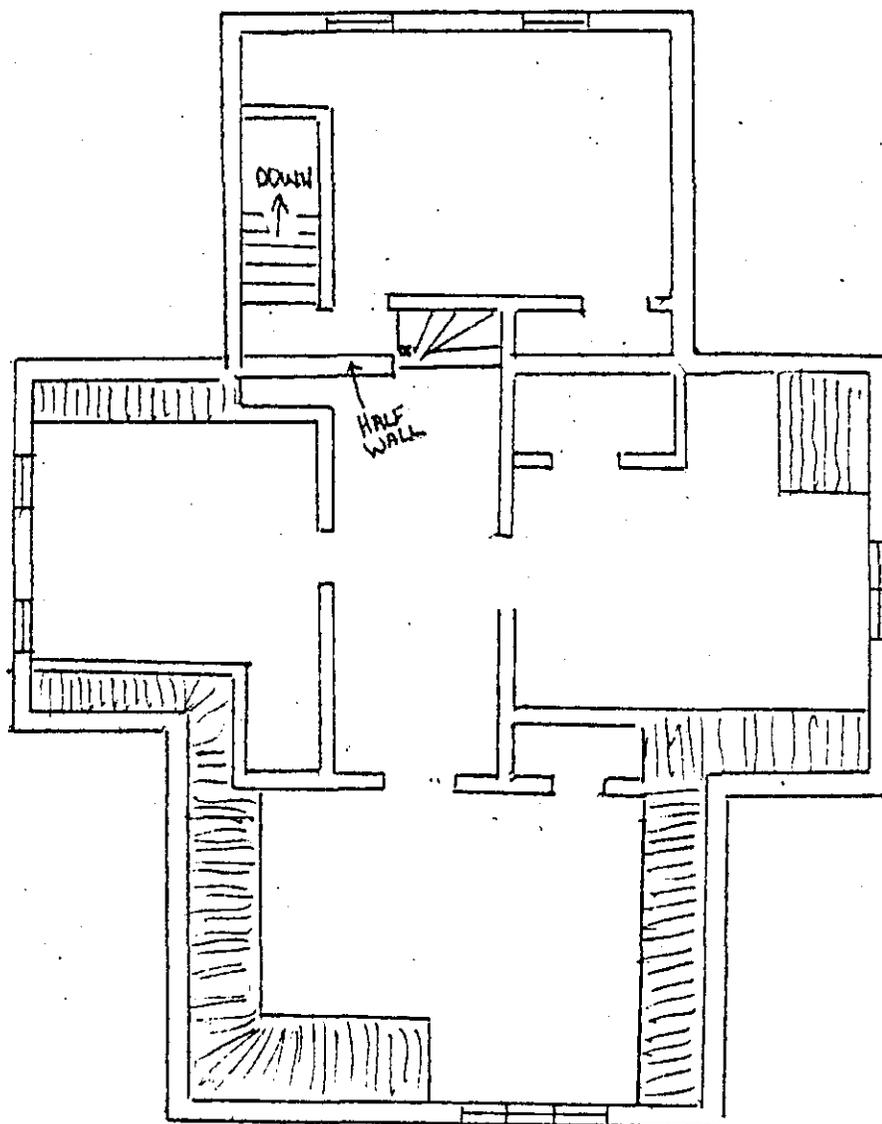
Not to scale

N ↑



SECOND STORY
KEET-MOZLHANY HOUSE

N ↑



THIRD FLOOR
KEET-McELHANEV HOUSE

STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Mel Carnahan, Governor • David A. Shott, Director

DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, 65102-0176 (573) 751-2479

FAX (573) 751-8656

September 5, 1996

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dudley Martin
435 East Walnut Street
Springfield, MO 65806

Re: Keet-McElhany House, Greene County, Missouri

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Martin:

As you know, the Keet-McElhany House, Greene County, Missouri was officially entered in the National Register of Historic Places on March 22, 1984.

We are pleased to provide the enclosed certificate in recognition of this honor and wish to commend you for your efforts toward the preservation of this significant historic house.

Congratulations and best wishes.

Sincerely,

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



Claire F. Blackwell
Director and Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

CFB:cms

Enclosure: as stated



PHOTO

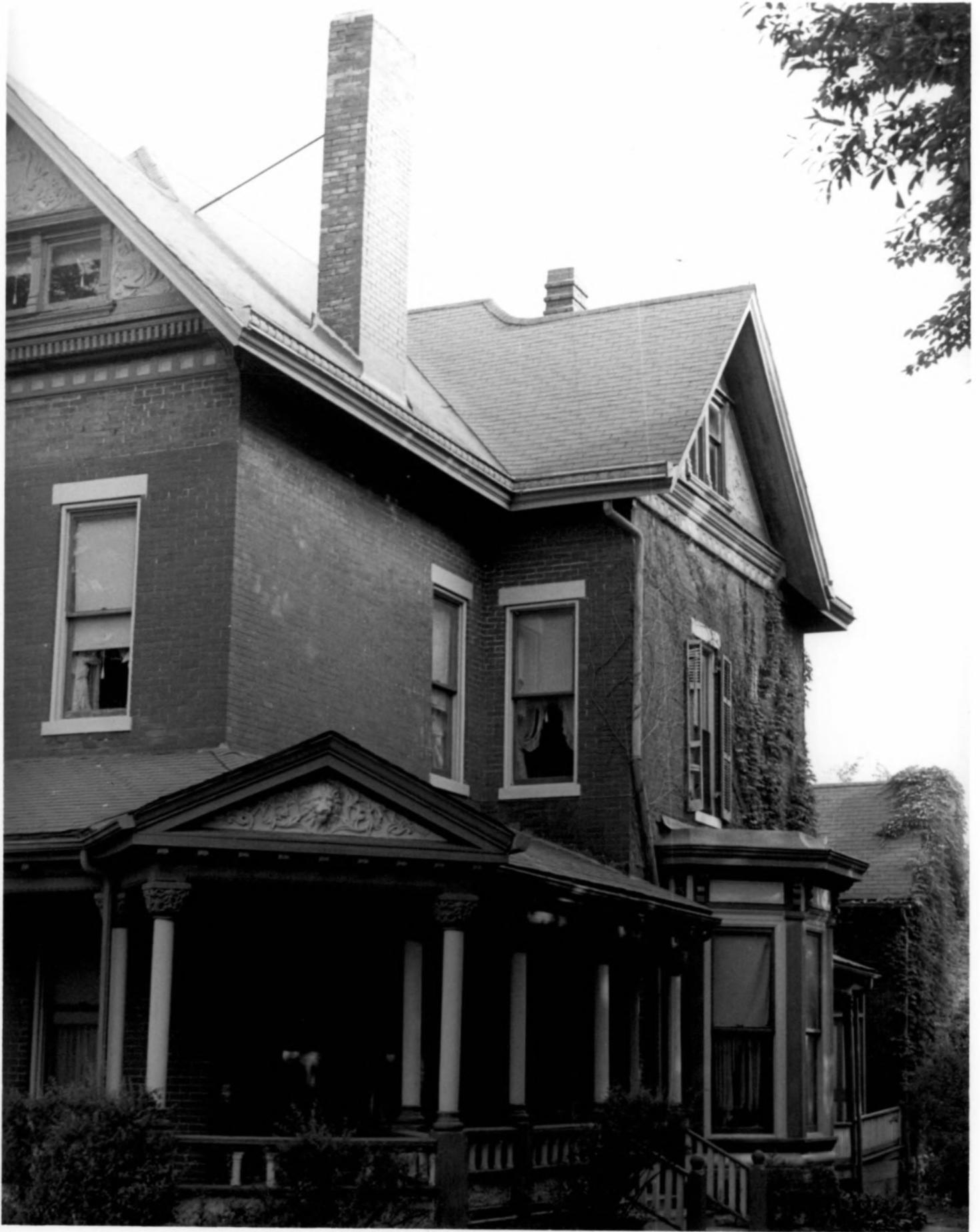
UNAVAILABLE

Keet-McElhanev House
Springfield, MO

2 of 14

Photographer: David Denman
Date : September 15, 1983
Neg. Loc. : Missouri Heritage Trust
P.O. Box 895
Jefferson City, MO 65102

View of east facade.



Keet-McElhaney House
Springfield, MO

3 of 14

Photographer: David Denman
Date : September 15, 1983
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Detail view of bay window.



Keet-McElhanev House 4 of 14
Springfield, MO

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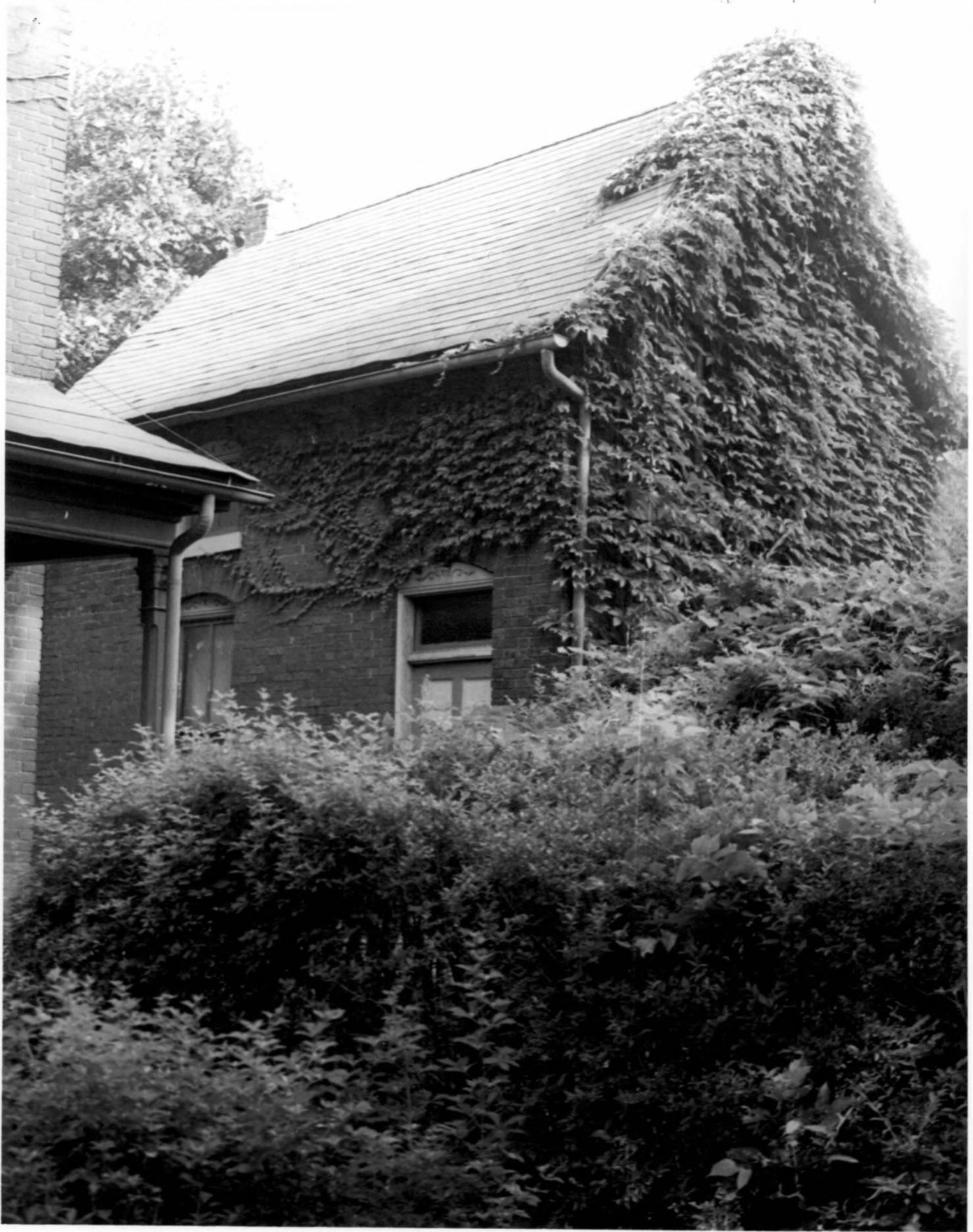
Detail view of service wing.



Keet-McElhaneey House 5 of 14
Springfield, MO

Photographer: David Denman
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View of service building.



Keet-McElhanev House 6 of 14
Springfield, MO

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View of porch detail north facade of
service building.



Keet-McElhanev House 7 of 14
Springfield, MO

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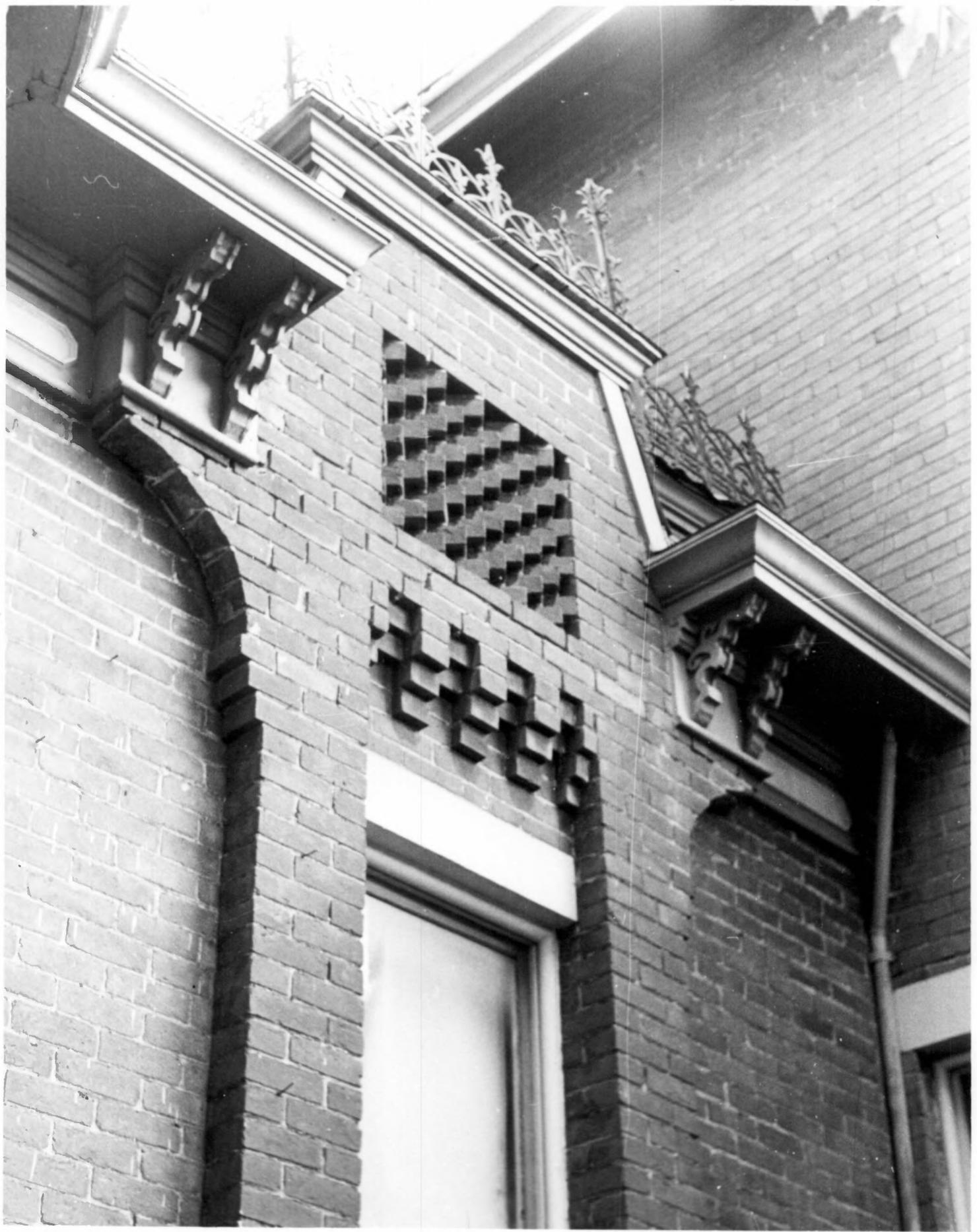
Ornament on porch at front steps.



Keet-McElhanev House - 8 of 14
Springfield, MO

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- Detail view of added wing.



Keet-McElhanev House 9 of 14
Springfield, MO

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View of stairs and front doors.



Keet-McElhaney House 10 of 14
Springfield, MO

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Stairs and niche at 2nd floor.



Keet-McElhaney House 11 of 14
Springfield, MO

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View east wall of first floor.



Keet-McElhaneey House
Springfield, MO

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Dining room mantle and builtin cupboard.



Keet-McElhanev House 13 of 14
Springfield, MO

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Servants' call box, located in kitchen.

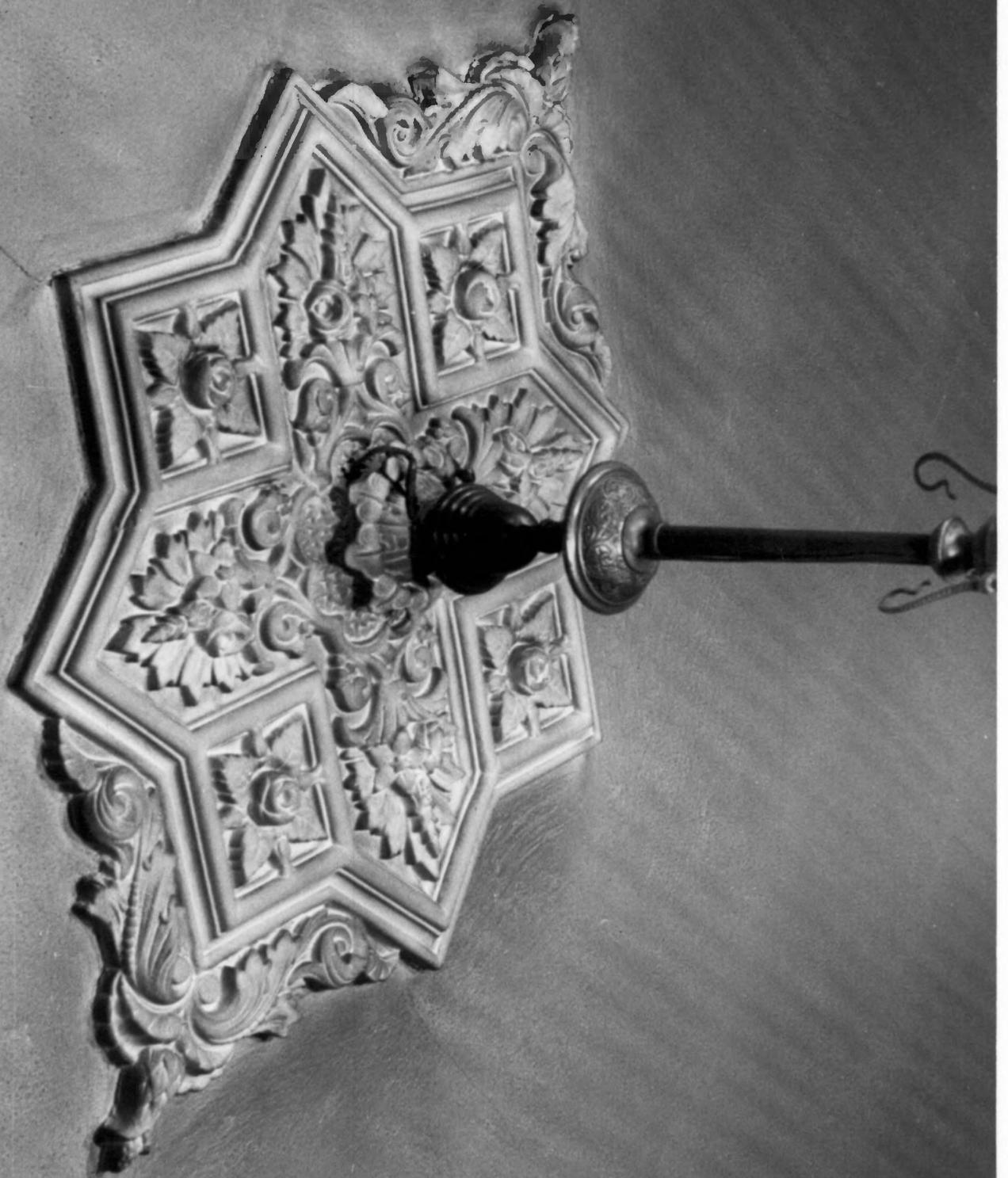


Keet-McElhaneey House
Springfield, MO

14 of 14

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Plaster ceiling medallion sitting room.



EXTRA
PHOTOS





