

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Sommerer, John M. and Lillian House

other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 2023 West Main Street [n/a] not for publication

city or town Jefferson City [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Cole code 051 zip code 65109

**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 [ ]. )

*Mark A. Miles*

*April 30, 2007*

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles /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

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date

entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet [ ].

determined eligible for the  
National Register  
See continuation sheet [ ].

determined not eligible for the  
National Register.

removed from the  
National Register

other, explain  
See continuation sheet [ ].

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

Name of related multiple property listing.

N/A

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**  
 DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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**Current Functions**  
 DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
 Late 19<sup>th</sup> & Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century American  
 Movements -Italian Renaissance

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**Materials**  
 foundation Stone  
 walls Brick  
 roof Terra Cotta  
 other

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**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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### 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

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### 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

### Periods of Significance

ca. 1929

### Significant Dates

1929

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre

**UTM References**

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	569280	4271419			
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.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Jane Rodes Beetem

organization Historic Preservation Consultant date January 29, 2007

street & number 1612 Payne Drive telephone 573/635-0662

city or town Jefferson City state MO zip code 65101

**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 FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

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

name Jeffery M. Christian

street & number 2023 W. Main St. telephone 573/893-9456

city or town Jefferson City state Missouri zip code 65109

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John M. and Lillian Sommerer House  
Cole County, MO

**Summary:** The John M. and Lillian Sommerer House, located at 2023 West Main Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, is a 2 and ½ story brick house built in 1929 with an asymmetrical plan, hipped roof, and a front porch. The period of significance for ARCHITECTURE, circa 1929, is based on the construction date of the house, determined by examination of recorded documents and family history. The form, materials, fenestration patterns and appearance of the house remain largely the same as when construction was completed. The house was influenced by the Italianate Renaissance style of architecture, expressed in the house's low hipped clay tile roof, yellow brick walls, overhanging eaves and horizontal rows of multiple windows. The stone foundation is covered on the exterior with concrete. The front facade is asymmetrical, the 1-story front porch centered on the front entry. Raised terraces with brick walls extend to either side of the porch. On the west side, a porte cochere shelters the side entry. The interior reflects the period of construction, with crown molding and hardwood floors throughout much of the house. The house faces West Main Street near West Elementary School on a corner lot, with Donald Drive marking the east property boundary. The large corner lot gently slopes towards West Main Street. The middle-class neighborhood has lots and houses in varying sizes, all in good condition. The Sommerer House is one of the older houses in the neighborhood, yet all were constructed prior to circa 1945. In the southwest corner of the lot is a two-car garage, built to compliment the house with its yellow brick walls and red tile roof. The driveway curves from West Main Street to the porte cochere, and extends to the garage in the rear. The house is in excellent condition, having recently been rehabilitated.

**Elaboration:** The John M. and Lillian Sommerer House was built circa 1929 on a large lot on the southwest side of what was then known as Ten Mile Drive (now West Main Street), with West Elementary School less than a block to the southeast.<sup>1</sup> In the 1950s the land surrounding the house was subdivided,<sup>2</sup> so that Donald Drive now forms the southeast boundary of the lot, resulting in a highly visible corner location for the Sommerer House. The front of the lot slopes gently toward West Main Street, while the rear yard is level. The Sommerer House is one of the earliest houses built in this area, its builders influenced by the Italianate Renaissance architectural style popular prior to and during its period of construction.

The main block of the house is asymmetrical, largely rectangular in form. The Italianate Renaissance influence is visible in the 2 and ½ story asymmetrical shape, low hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves, horizontal orientation of the windows, 1-story porch and front terraces, and the porte cochere.<sup>3</sup> Many of the windows are in multiple sets of 2, 3 or 4 units, which vary in size, larger windows being located on the front facade. Some of the windows on the upper level are smaller than the windows on the first level, a feature typical of the Italianate Renaissance style. The original double hung windows have upper sashes divided into vertical panes dependent on the size of the individual sash, with 3, 4 or 5 panes per sash, typical of the period of construction. Lower sash are one single pane of glass.

The front facade is asymmetrical, with four bays. The horizontal rows of windows on both the first and second floors are one of the dominant features. The front entry is flanked by matching sets of triple windows to either side, the center windows in each set being wider than the two outer windows. The center windows have five vertical panes, while the outer windows have only three. A fourth set of windows on both floors are located to the

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<sup>1</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps, Sanborn-Perris Map Company, Maps of Jefferson City, 1939.

<sup>2</sup> Mary Jane (Sommerer) Bremmerkamp, phone interview by Jane Beetem, February 21, 2004.

<sup>3</sup> Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000), 396-7; 402-3.

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**John M. and Lillian Sommerer House**  
**Cole County, MO**

southeast, with the upper level windows being shorter than any of the others, but retaining the same horizontal alignment at the top. All of these windows in the fourth set have four vertical panes in the upper sash and one pane below. Decorative square concrete elements are used below the concrete window sills, at each corner and beneath each division between window units. Concrete lintels cap each window, extending beyond the window at the sides and featuring similar concrete decorations beneath each end. These decorations are slightly more rectangular than the decorations below the windows, snugly capping each window. The window above the front entry is the only single window on the front facade, having four panes in the upper sash and one pane in the lower sash.

The front entry porch is 1-story, supported by yellow brick square columns exhibiting a rather short square concrete capital, with decorative concrete squares centered just below the capital on all four sides. The columns are attached to low brick walls raised above a concrete foundation, separated from the foundation by a simple raised concrete band. A concrete cap on top of the walls reinforces the horizontal emphasis of the architecture. These walls surround concrete terraces on either side of the front entry. These terraces extend only to the outside of the windows to each side of the entry. The terraces are accessed by a set of concrete steps centered on the entry, flanked by two tiers of yellow brick side walls with concrete caps. Raised plinths at the outer corners of the terraces have square concrete caps similar to the porch's column capitals, topped by concrete planters on the corners adjacent to the yard. A wide white frieze separates the porch columns from the red tile hipped roof, capped by a tile knob, or finial. The front entry is flanked by side lights, each having 10 panes of glass in two vertical rows. The original wooden entry door remains, protected by a bronze storm door.

The eaves are highlighted by widely spaced dentils decorating the wide overhang. The red tile hipped roof is decorated with tile ridge caps and tile knobs, or finials, at the junction of the hipped roof sections. Dormer windows extend to the front and the back, with the front dormer having four matching double-hung windows. Each of these windows has three vertical panes in the upper sash, and one pane in the lower sash. The rear dormer has only two windows, and thus is smaller. Both dormers exhibit the same tile finial at the point of their hipped roofs as the main roof. One brick chimney extends above center of the southwest wall of the house.

The southeast elevation features a set of four 4/1 double hung windows on both the first and second floors of the front block, and a single window on each level facing southwest, the first floor windows being taller than the second floor windows. The secondary block has a pair of windows on each level, with the taller windows on the second floor. The enclosed 1-story porch at the rear has a window and a door, with concrete caps and sills to match the rest of the windows on this elevation. The side of the sun-porch on the second floor is visible above the enclosed porch, showing a pair of windows. The sun-porch has a stucco wall finish, painted a light beige to blend with the surrounding yellow brick walls of the main house. The northwest elevation is dominated by the 1-story porte cochere, with its square brick columns and red tile roof. Low brick walls separate the columns. Decorative details on the columns, low walls, frieze and roof match those on the front entry porch. Original beadboard ceiling remains in the porte cochere. Two doors provide access to the house from this area, and two single windows provide light to the interior of the house on the second floor. To the rear, a 1-story covered concrete patio features two arched openings supported by white round columns, with a keystone and decorative edge banding highlighting each archway. The walls and arches above the patio are painted the same beige as the sun-porch on the upper level. The rear elevation features two windows on the second floor, with the sun-porch extending beyond this wall. Two windows on the first floor are located beneath the roof over the covered patio. A door on the upper level provides access from the northwest wall of the sun-porch onto a patio, on top of the flat roofed 1-story enclosed porch and covered patio below. Windows beside this door and two pairs of windows on the rear wall of the sun-porch flood this room with light. The 1-story enclosed porch features double doors opening to the back yard, flanked by exterior wall lights and small single windows. These windows have

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**John M. and Lillian Sommerer House**  
**Cole County, MO**

the same concrete caps and sills as the other windows on the house. The rear wall of the covered patio has two arches, with the same decorative treatment as those on the northwest elevation.

The garage was built at the same time as the house, and in the same architectural style. This yellow brick structure is almost square in shape, with a pyramidal red tile roof terminating in a decorative finial with a ball at the top. Two original wooden garage doors are painted a soft green, with six panes at the top of each door and three rows of six panels each below. A yellow brick column separates these doors. The wide overhanging eaves are painted white, to match the trim on the main house. Two windows on the rear of the garage provide interior light during the day. Some original plantings remain in the southeast side yard from the historic rose garden. In the rear yard, a below grade pool has recently been installed.

Inside, the house retains much of the original trim and hardwood floors from the time of construction. Recent rehabilitation removed remnants of a 1950s vintage remodeling of the kitchen and downstairs bathroom. Other than changes to the kitchen area in the 1950s and again more recently, the floor plan remains much the same as when the house was built. The front entrance opens onto a central foyer, with the original stairway to the second floor. To the right, or west, is the living room. This large rectangular room features a central fireplace, flanked by single french doors to the porte cochere. Original hardwood floors were exposed during rehabilitation, while the crown molding and baseboards were stripped of many coats of paint. The windows retain their original trim and dark stain. A triple window on the front wall and two single windows on the rear wall provide plenty of light to this sizeable room. To the left, or east of the entry hall, is a pair of original french doors leading to the former dining room, now an office. The rear of the first floor can be accessed either through this room or the living room. The former kitchen was expanded by extending into an enclosed porch and removing an unusable bathroom. Rearrangement of this space allowed the relocation of the bathroom, addition of a first floor laundry, and a dining room between the kitchen and the office. One flight of the rear stairs remained, and with replacement of the lower flight of stairs, easy access to the second floor was restored.

The second floor retains the original stair railing, as well as hardwood floors and trim. Bedrooms are located to either side of the central hallway, with a sun-porch connecting to the master bedroom on the southeast. The original tiled bathroom remains to the rear of the central hallway, with a bedroom to the southwest. Southeast of the bathroom, an awkward room was reconfigured as a master bathroom, hallway and second floor laundry. This secondary hallway connects to the rear sun-porch, where a small kitchen has been installed, just off the rooftop patio.

Above the main stairway, a second set of stairs leads to the finished attic. This space remains largely as it was originally, except finished with modern wall finishes. A row of cabinets and a refrigerator on the southeast wall provide storage for refreshments and supplies for guests. A bath with shower has been added opposite the stairs, with enclosed walls, the only change in the attic's floorplan. The original plain stair railing remains in place. Sloping ceilings and dormer windows help retain the character of the original attic.

Most of the alterations that have been made to the house over time have been limited to the kitchen area on the first floor. Changes made to the kitchen in the 1950s resulted in a long, narrow, dark room across approximately two thirds of the rear of the first floor. A small half bath off the kitchen included a tub which was so unusable it had been paneled over, and was only discovered during rehabilitation. During the recent rehabilitation, previous alterations dating to the 1950s were removed. The kitchen was relocated to a former rear porch, the bathroom was relocated to the side of the kitchen, and a first floor laundry room was added. Despite the change in the use of the spaces, the floor plan of the original spaces was largely unchanged. Removal of the small bathroom allowed the addition of a lower flight of stairs to the remaining upper flight, rendering the rear stairs to the second

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**John M. and Lillian Sommerer House**  
**Cole County, MO**

floor serviceable once again. This change returned historic character to a portion of the house where historic character had been lacking. The area next to the stairs had been part of the 1950s kitchen, so no changes to the floor plan were made. The modern kitchen is clearly separated from the area of the former kitchen by a partial wall, so the tradition of separated spaces is retained. An original wide arched opening between the living room and the former kitchen defines the separation of public and private spaces. Wood floors in the current kitchen match both the originals and those in the former kitchen that had to be replaced due to water damage. Cornice details and a transom window above the french doors in the kitchen reflect the original character of the house. Wooden kitchen cabinets and glass doors in some of the upper cabinets in the remodeled kitchen helps the room retain a connection with the period of the house, while providing modern convenience for the owners. Next to the newly completed rear stairs a doorway was relocated to its original position between the former dining room and kitchen areas. The ceiling in the relocated dining area was raised approximately 20" to its former height. The exterior of the kitchen was covered with yellow brick to blend with the brick on the rest of the house. A 1-story roof was added to the adjacent concrete patio, with archways on both sides providing a sense of enclosure and support. These archways were covered with synthetic stucco and painted to blend with the surrounding yellow brick walls of the original house and the enclosed porch, and reflect the Italianate Renaissance architecture of the house. The result of these changes is a much more functional and aesthetically pleasing area, which connects indoor and outdoor dining areas to the kitchen.

The surrounding neighborhood has grown up around the Sommerer House. The house was originally constructed on a twelve acre "gentleman's farm." Other buildings on the farm included shelters for the sheep and chickens, a tenant house and two large equipment sheds.<sup>4</sup> On the farm's southeastern boundary is West School, constructed in 1938.<sup>5</sup> The farm extended to the southwest all the way to Industrial Drive, which was constructed circa 1949<sup>6</sup> in an effort by the Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce to recruit businesses and jobs on the west side of town. In the 1950s the farm was subdivided, leaving only the house and garage on a large lot as they exist today. Donald Drive was constructed to the east, with mostly ranch style houses on either side of the street. Their low profile emphasizes the prominence of the 2-story Sommerer House on its large corner lot. Houses across the street and to the west on West Main Street include a variety of styles typical of the 1930s and 1940s, with red brick being the dominant construction material. The yellow brick of the Sommerer House is therefore another feature that distinguishes it from surrounding houses.

The John M. and Lillian Sommerer House is an example of an Italian Renaissance influenced house from the late 1920s. Its appearance from the front is relatively unchanged from when it was constructed 75 years ago. Alterations over time are limited to the rear elevation and a few areas of the interior, and are not highly visible, so they do not detract from the house's integrity. The garage is a contributing building, constructed to match the architecture of the house in 1929. The house retains its original function as a single family residence, retains a significant number of original interior features and materials, and continues to reflect its original architectural style. The exterior remains largely intact, and retains its integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C: ARCHITECTURE.

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<sup>4</sup> Bremmerkamp phone interview, February 21, 2004.

<sup>5</sup> Sanborn Map, 1939 and Jerena East Giffen, The House on Hobo Hill: The History of the Jefferson City Public Schools, (Jefferson City: Jefferson City Public Schools, 1964), 144.

<sup>6</sup> Jane Beetem, "Historic Southside (Munichburg) Multiple Property Submission" National Register Nomination, E 5. (Nomination on file with Missouri DNR State Historic Preservation Office.)

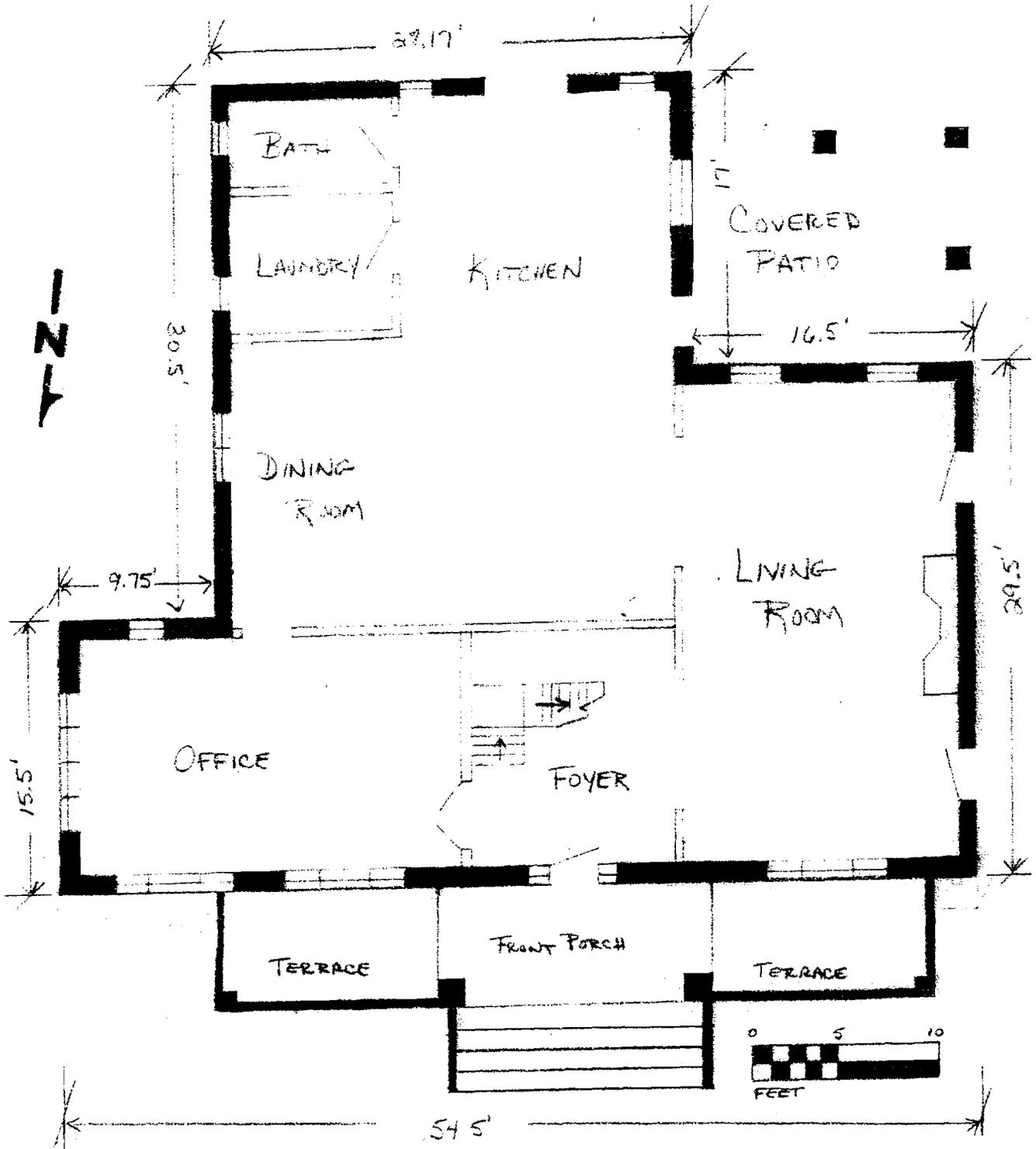
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John M. and Lillian Sommerer House  
Cole County, MO

Figure 1: Floor Plan - First Floor



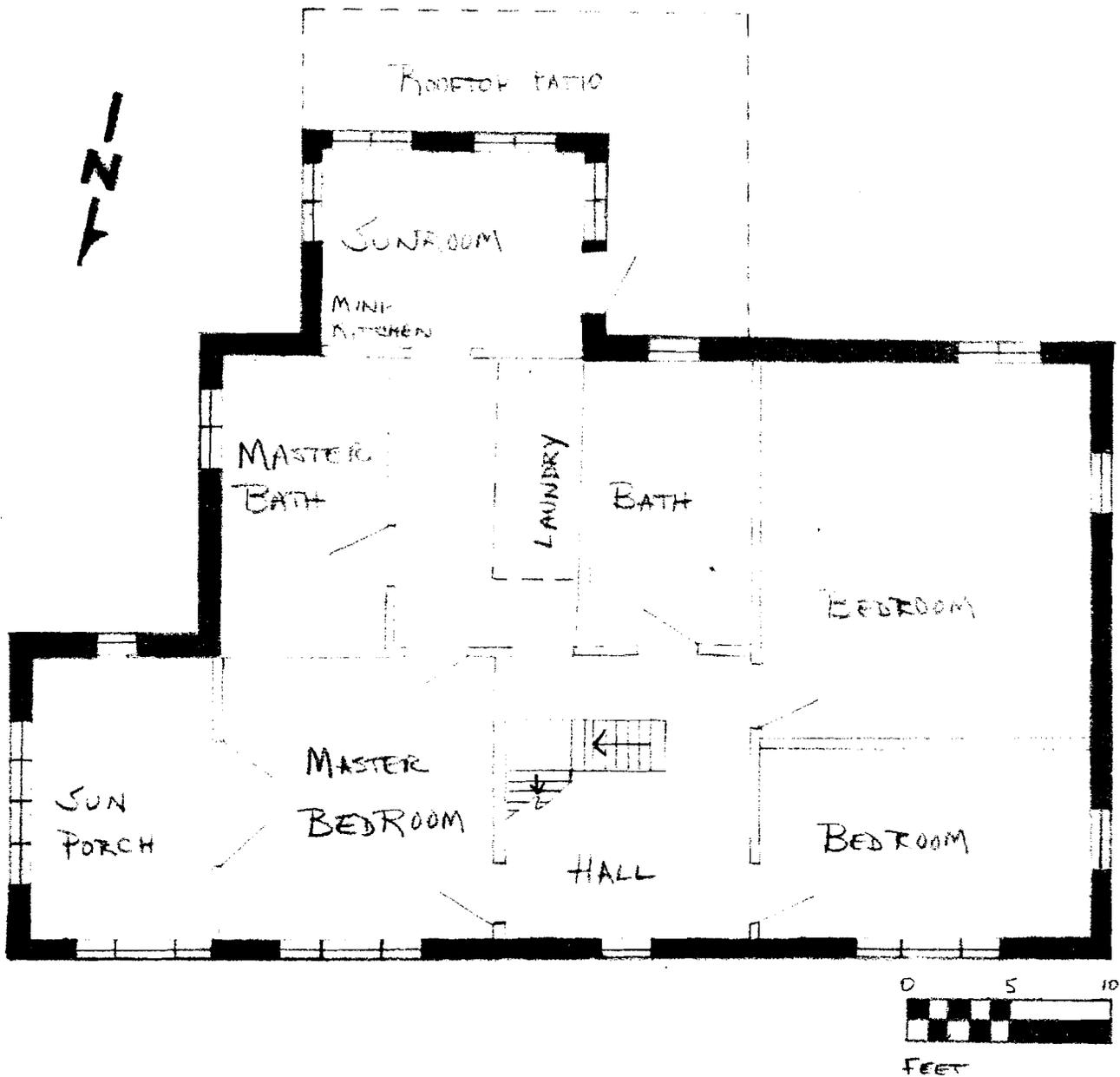
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Figure 2: Floor Plan - Second Floor



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John M. and Lillian Sommerer House  
Cole County, MO

Figure 3: Floor Plan - Third Floor / Attic

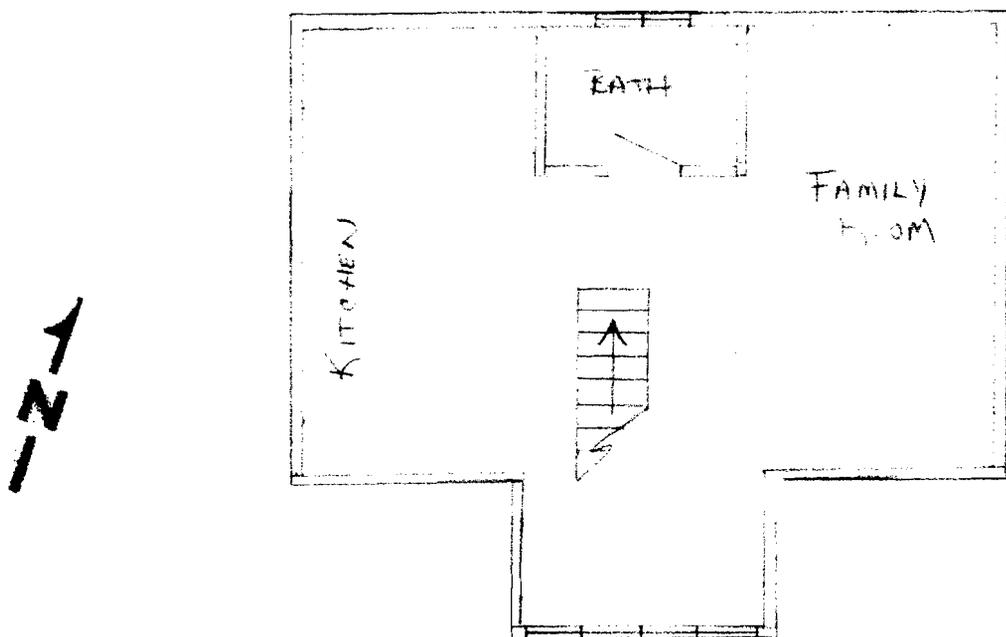
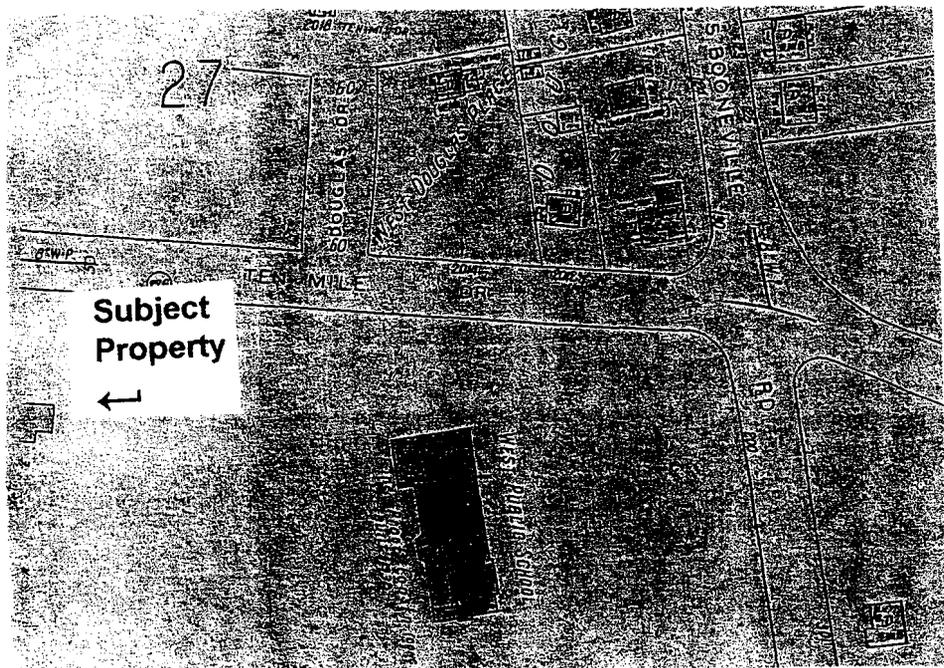
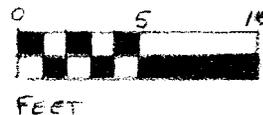


Figure 4: Sanborn Map, 1939



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John M. and Lillian Sommerer House  
Cole County, MO

**Summary:** The John M. and Lillian Sommerer House, located at 2023 West Main Street, Jefferson City, is locally significant under Criterion C in the Area of Architecture. Constructed in 1929, it is an example of an asymmetrical Italianate Renaissance influenced house, a relatively rare style in Cole County, Missouri. The house reflects typical characteristics of the style with low-pitched, tile covered roof, buff masonry exterior, and accented entrance. The house was one of the earliest homes constructed in its neighborhood and was built for the Sommerer family, descendants of early Missouri-German immigrants to Cole County. Though son of a prominent farmer, John Sommerer moved to Jefferson City and opened the Jefferson City Banking Company in 1901, a business that supported John and his family into the late 1960s. The house remained in the Sommerer family until 2000. The period of significance of the house is 1929, the date of construction.

**Elaboration:** The John M. and Lillian Sommerer House is one of the oldest residences in the neighborhood, as it was built in 1929, shortly before West School was completed nearby at the intersection of West Main and Dix Road in 1938.<sup>7</sup> The exterior of the Sommerer House remains much the same as when it was constructed, and exhibits the Italianate Renaissance influence in its architectural design. This style was used in construction of houses throughout the country during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Considerably less common than other styles popular during the same period, such as Craftsman, Tudor or Colonial Revival style houses, the Italianate Renaissance style was used mostly for architect-designed homes in metropolitan areas prior to World War I. Vernacular interpretations of the style became popular once brick veneer came into common use, and most of these houses date to the 1920s. During the 1930s and 1940s the style declined in popularity.<sup>8</sup>

During the first third of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a number of revival styles were used in suburban residential architecture. The specific style was suggested through the use of massing appropriate to the style, proportions, materials and a few carefully selected details. In What Style Is It?, these revival style houses are all referred to as "Period Houses."<sup>9</sup> Some of the styles popular during this period utilized many of the same features, such as tile roofs, stucco walls, hipped roofs and overhanging eaves. The Italianate Renaissance house used the low, elongated form that was characteristic of so many styles popular during the 1920s. This revival style was more simplified than either the original Italianate Style (circa 1840s) or the Italianate Renaissance Palace of the 1890s, often with smooth stucco exterior walls. Stucco was popular on houses of many styles during this era, but was particularly useful in providing the Mediterranean appearance appropriate to the Italianate Renaissance house.<sup>10</sup> The Spanish Colonial Revival,<sup>11</sup> Mission,<sup>12</sup> and Spanish Eclectic<sup>13</sup> styles all utilized features similar to Italianate Renaissance architecture. At the time these styles were being constructed, a wide variety of features would have been mixed and matched by makers of pattern books more interested in marketing building plans than in staying true to any particular architectural style. However, elements represented in the Italianate Renaissance style set the style apart from other styles, and a number of these are utilized in the design of the Sommerer House.

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<sup>7</sup> Sanborn Map, 1939 and Giffen, The House on Hobo Hill, 144.

<sup>8</sup> McAlester, 398.

<sup>9</sup> John C. Poppeliers, S. Allen Chambers, Jr. and Nancy B. Schwartz, What Style Is It? A Guide to American Architecture, (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.), 84.

<sup>10</sup> Mary Mix Foley, The American House, (New York: Harper & Row, 1980), 218.

<sup>11</sup> Lester Walker, American Shelter: An Illustrated Encyclopedia of the American Home (Woodstock, NY: Overlook Press, 1997), 210-11.

<sup>12</sup> McAlester, 409.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, 417.

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Asymmetrical Italianate Renaissance houses are not common, and typically are rather rectangular buildings with an asymmetrical presentation of doors and windows on the front facade. The low hipped roof is usually clad in clay or ceramic tiles. Masonry walls are the rule in the Italianate Renaissance style, as architects journeyed to Italy in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and discovered that wooden walls were almost never used in the original prototypes of the style. The tile roof, buff brick walls and low, elongated asymmetrical orientation of the front facade are some of the most striking features of the Sommerer House, all typical of the Italianate Renaissance style. Other notable features of the style found on the Sommerer House are upper story windows that are smaller and less elaborate than the windows below, main entry accentuated by columns, and wide overhanging eaves with decorative brackets. Houses built in this style often had a 1-story wing to one or both sides, such as the portecochere at the Sommerer House. Windows oriented with a wider window flanked by a narrower window on each side were reminiscent of the Palladian style windows used on the original Italianate houses, and this type of window arrangement is a main feature of the front facade of the Sommerer House.<sup>14</sup> Houses of this period related to their landscape, and a distinctly formal front yard and informal back yard was developed. Usually a rear terrace, porch or patio was created,<sup>15</sup> as with the covered patio at the rear of the Sommerer House. This relationship to the landscape is also evident in the house's front yard, with raised terraces on either side of the front entrance providing a view of the front lawn. Flower urns cap the pedestals at the outer ends of the terraces, further enhancing the Mediterranean appearance.

The house exhibits the Italianate Renaissance influence in plan, overall massing, materials and detailing. The house retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship and association, and is therefore eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, ARCHITECTURE.

**Development and Subdivision of the Property**

John Sommerer purchased the property as a twelve acre "gentleman's farm" in 1928 from Mrs. Jessie Erhart and Gus A. Erhart, with a restriction that it would not be used for business purposes for 25 years. Fronting on Ten Mile Drive, with the future site of West School to the southeast, the property extended south to what is now Industrial Drive and west to the former Bagnell Branch Railroad.<sup>16</sup> As his primary business was operation of the Jefferson City Baking Company at 830 East High Street, the farm was never intended as a serious income-producing venture. A tenant lived on the farm to tend to the sheep, chickens, hay fields, apple orchards and grape vines. Outbuildings included chicken houses and sheep barns, two large equipment barns, several smaller storage sheds and a tenant house.<sup>17</sup>

In constructing a fashionable yet simple home for his family, John M. Sommerer built this house as an expression of his stature in the community after 28 years as a successful businessman. As shown on the Sanborn Map of 1939, the main house was located at approximately the western edge of development in Jefferson City when constructed. Even with the restriction placed on the property at the time of purchase, development of this area was inevitable. Completion of West School in 1938 increased demand for residential

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<sup>14</sup> Ibid., 397 - 405.

<sup>15</sup> Poppeliers, 84.

<sup>16</sup> Cole County Deed Records, Book 68, 62.

<sup>17</sup> Bremmerkamp phone interview, February 21, 2004.

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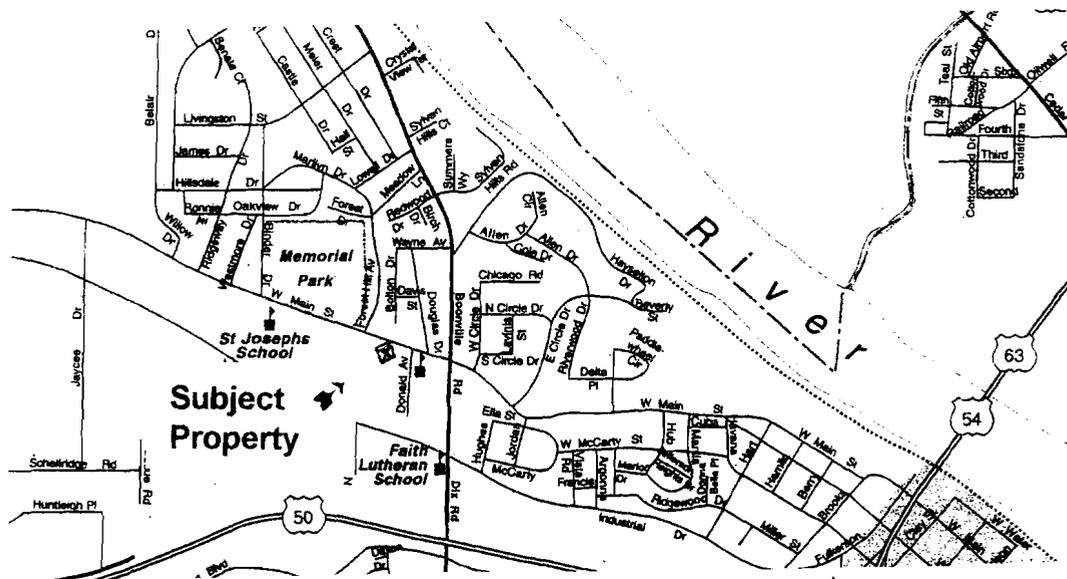
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John M. and Lillian Sommerer House  
Cole County, MO

housing in the area. Judging by the architectural styles of adjacent houses on West Main Street, a number of lots west of the Sommerer House facing West Main were sold by John M. Sommerer between 1930 and 1950. These houses are typical of those constructed on the north side of West Main Street and along Douglas Drive, near Memorial Park.

Figure 5: Map of Subdivided Property



In 1950, John M. Sommerer transferred a portion of the property to John M. Sommerer, Jr.<sup>18</sup> In April of 1952, the remainder of the property was sold to developer Roy Scheperle.<sup>19</sup> One of the most noticeable results of this exchange was the development of Donald Drive southeast of the Sommerer house. The southeast side of the house's lot now faces Donald Drive, with houses extending on the opposite side of the street and to the rear of the house to a cul-de-sac at the end of the street. Fortunately, these houses were built in the low, horizontally oriented ranch house style popular at the time, and have a minimal visual impact on the Sommerer house. Much of the land facing Industrial Drive remains undeveloped. About a block to the west is the modern St. Joseph's Cathedral, between the church's much older convent and parochial school.

While no longer a "gentleman's farm," the Sommerer House was built in what was a modern architectural style at the time of construction. The house was definitely built in a style typical for an urban setting rather than for a farm house, as future development of the area was on the horizon. Therefore the house appears as a large house fully integrated into its surroundings, rather than a farm house that has been surrounded by subsequent development.

<sup>18</sup> Cole County Deed Records, Book 125, 547.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., Book 116, 263; Bremmerkamp phone interview, February 21, 2004.

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**John M. and Lillian Sommerer House**  
**Cole County, MO**

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The John M. and Lillian Sommerer House was associated with the family for 71 years beginning in 1929, housed four generations of the family, and retains its original function as a single family residence. The house remains largely intact, and retains its integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The house is therefore eligible for the National Register under Criterion C:ARCHITECTURE, with the period of significance being 1929.

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**John M. and Lillian Sommerer House**  
**Cole County, MO**

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**John M. and Lillian Sommerer House**  
Cole County, MO

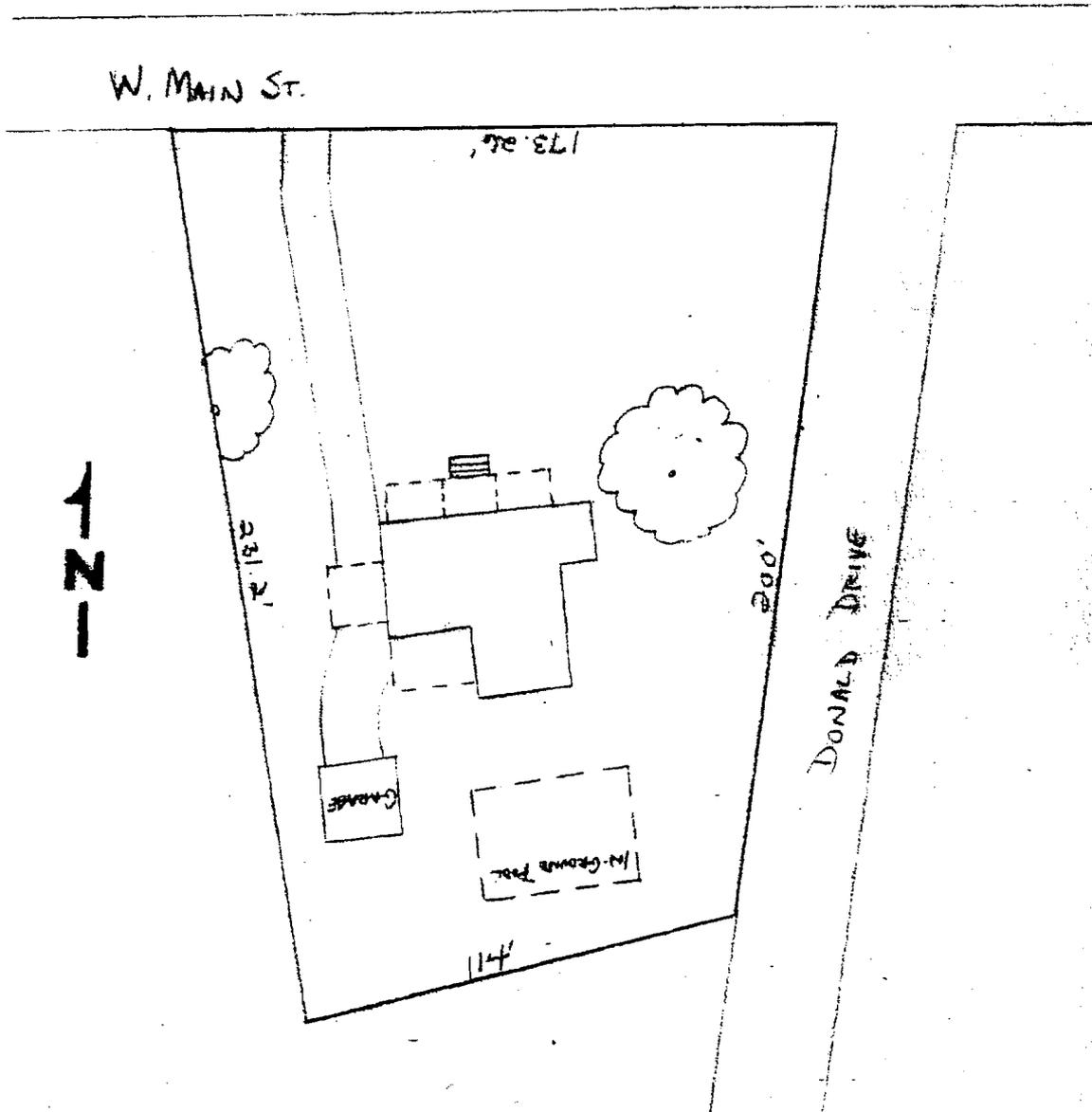
**Verbal Boundary Description:**

Located on the corner of West Main and Donald Streets, the lot is described as Part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 2, Township 44, Range 12, in the City of Jefferson, Cole County, Missouri.

**Boundary Justification:**

The current boundaries encompass all of the land currently and historically associated with the property since the original twelve acre parcel was subdivided in the early 1950s.

**Site Map:**



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**John M. and Lillian Sommerer House**  
**Cole County, MO**

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**Photographs:**

The following information is the same for all photographs:

John M. and Lillian Sommerer House  
2023 W. Main Street  
Cole County, Missouri  
Zeal Wright, Wright Studio  
2004

Negatives on file with Wright Studio, 2407 Hillsdale Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65109

List of Photographs:

1. Front (northwest) elevation, facing southwest.
2. Front (northwest) elevation, facing southeast.
3. Rear (southeast ) elevation, facing northwest.
4. Garage (northeast) elevation, from side yard, facing southwest.
5. Interior, first floor entry hall (facing southeast).

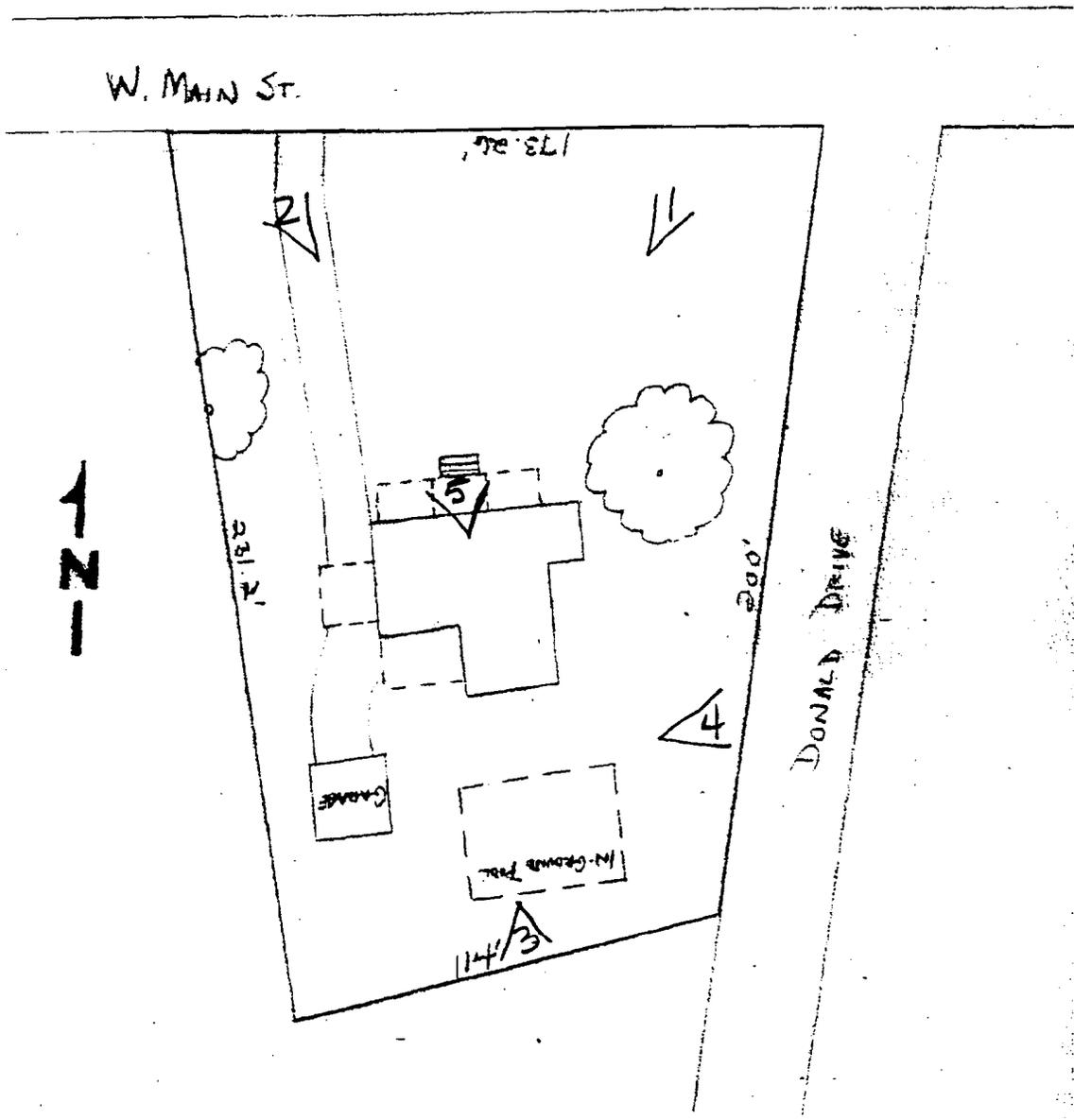
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John M. and Lillian Sommerer House  
Cole County, MO

Photo Key Map:



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF MISSOURI  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

7561 11 NE  
(HARTSBURG)

38°37'30" 92°15' 566000m.E. R. 12 W. 567 568 12'30" COLUMBIA 28 MI. ASHLAND 13 MI. (JEFFERSON)

JOHN M AND  
Lillian  
Sommerer  
HOUSE,  
COLE COUNTY, MO

ZONE 15  
EASTING 569280  
NORTHING 4271419

