United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Williams-Gierth House (preferred)

other names/site number The Castle House

2. Location

street & number 848 Vine Street N/A not for publication

city or town Poplar Bluff N/A vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Butler code 023 zip code 63901

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide x local

Mark A. Miles Sept 17, 2012

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles, Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

x	private
	public - Local
	public - State
	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

x	building(s)
	district
	site
	structure
	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Historic Resources of Poplar Bluff, Missouri (amendment)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant/ Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian/ Shingle Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete
walls: Shingle
Weatherboard
roof: Asphalt
other: Brick

Wiiliams-Gierth House
Name of Property

Butler County, Missouri
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [ ] 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.
- [x] 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
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
Architecture

Period of Significance
1892

Significant Dates
1892

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
N/A

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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 # _____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

_X_State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
_X_Local government
_X_University
_X_Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Williams-Gierth House
Name of Property

Butler County, Missouri
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than an acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	731913	4071103	3			
2				4			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Darren Bell and Stephanie Chapman (revisions by Tiffany Patterson, MO SHPO)

organization Historic Preservation Program, Southeast Missouri State University date 4/2/12

street & number One University Plaza telephone 573-651-2808

city or town Cape Girardeau state MO zip code 63701

e-mail Dmbell1s@semo.edu; Sachapman1s@semo.edu

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs.**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner:

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

name Mark Long

street & number 1752 Spring Street telephone (870)-371-2366

city or town Poplar Bluff state MO zip code 63901

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Summary

The Williams-Gierth House, 848 Vine Street, Poplar Bluff, Butler County Missouri, is a two and one-half story (plus a full basement) Shingle Style house constructed in 1892. The large dwelling has an irregular footprint, with an irregular hipped roof and sits on a concrete foundation. The front façade of the house contains a reconstructed wraparound porch on the first story, two turrets on the second story, and a polygonal dormer on the third. Characteristic of the Shingle Style, the first story is clad in clapboard siding while the second is covered in shingles. The house is oriented northeastward on a small knoll that overlooks the corner of Ninth and Vine Streets. The interior exhibits detailing and craftsmanship typical of the Victorian era. The first story contains original wood paneling, flooring, and decorative woodwork to the ceiling. The Williams-Gierth House is discussed in the Historic Resources of Poplar Bluff Multiple Property Document Form (MPDF) because its construction date, 1892, represents a property type associated within the historical context of "Late 19th and Early 20th Century Residential Buildings of Poplar Bluff." Though the house has deteriorated with age, the Williams-Gierth house still reflects many architectural characteristics that characterized the Shingle Style, thereby effectively conveying its significance for architecture.

Elaboration

Setting:

The Williams-Gierth house 848 Vine Street is located approximately 4 ½ blocks west of the Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District (NR listed 12/01/1994) in Poplar Bluff, Butler County, Missouri. The house sits on a small knoll and is approached by a short flight of steps from the street. The property has a matured hardwood tree located in the front yard along a walkway leading from the steps from the street to the porch. The house also has a concrete retaining wall located on the north and west edges of the property. The setting is residential with early 20th century homes located to the north, south, and east of the property. To the west is Kinyon Elementary School built in the early twentieth century. Adjacent north of the property is a section of Vine Street constructed from bricks that runs through downtown Poplar Bluff. This section is not listed on the National Register of Historic Places, but sections of the street located within nearby historic district boundaries are considered contributing element for their engineering and aesthetic contributions.[1]

Exterior:

The Wiliams-Geirth House was built in 1892, it is two and one-half stories, and has an irregular footprint. The house has two chimneys; a central chimney toward the front of the house and one in the rear. The house also has an irregular hipped, cross-gabled roof that is clad in asphalt shingles.

The house underwent significant remodeling in the 1930s that made minor changes to fenestration, updated the porch, and clad the entire building in stucco, obscuring its Shingle

[1] Terri Foley, "North Main Historic District, Poplar Bluff, MO," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2011.

Style details such as the wood clapboards on the first floor and the shingle cladding of the second story. In more recent years the house has suffered from deferred maintenance that has caused the failure of the stucco cladding. This failure of the stucco revealed the original wood siding and shingle cladding intact beneath. The current owners have removed most of the remaining stucco revealing the original wall materials typical of the Shingle Style; the first floor is clad in clapboard siding and the second story has a simple wood shingle siding. The only stucco that remains is located on the third story central polygonal dormer.

Primary (North) Elevation: (photo 1)

The features of the north elevation, the façade, give the building its local moniker, “The Castle House” with its dominant tower, large turret, and the central polygonal dormer that is of similar design of the turret. The façade is dominated by a two-tiered tower, with a projecting base on the southwest corner and a large turret on the southeast; both of which are five sided and topped by seven sided conical roofs. Three sides of each turret contain original sixteen-over-one sash wooden windows. The dormer of similar design to the turrets is centered on the steeply pitched hipped roof between the turrets. This central dormer contains an eight-over-eight wood window flanked by eight-light casements on each side. Spanning the first floor between the corner turrets is the footprint of a wrap around porch that the current owner is reconstructing according to a historical photograph of the house (see figure 1). The porch shelters the front entrance door and contains a broad six-panel door with fixed light (photo 6).

West Elevation: (photo 2)

The west elevation consists of a portion of the two tiered tower on the south corner of the west elevation and a slight projection in the rear. Three sides of the two-tiered tower are visible on the south end of the west elevation. Three sixteen-over-one paned wooden windows are placed asymmetrically along the first story, with one being placed within one of the visible sides of the tower. A small sixteen light window is located within a smaller visible portion of the tower. All the windows on the first floor have been replaced, but have been replaced with replicas of the original (sixteen-over-one windows). The second story is composed of three sixteen-over-one windows, also placed asymmetrically along the elevation. The north end of the west elevation there is a slight projection. There is a horizontal band of four single paned windows on the first floor of the projection. The second floor only has two eight-light windows that are side-by-side. Like the north elevation, the first floor of the west elevation is clad in clapboard, except for the cornice line of the tower being clad with shingles along with the second floor being clad with simple wooden shingles.

East Elevation: (photo 3)

The east elevation, like the rest of the house, is clad in wooden clapboard on the first story with the second story being clad with simple wooden shingles. The front porch wraps the corner of the east elevation. The first floor of this elevation has two sixteen-over-one windows. Further south on the first floor is a tripartite window topped by a horizontal band of three paned stained glass windows. The first floor also has a single casement window. The second floor also has three sixteen-over-one windows all asymmetrically placed along the east elevation.

Rear (South) Elevation: (photo 4)

The rear elevation contained a three story addition to the house constructed in 1932. Over the years the addition fell into disrepair and presented a safety hazard; because of its condition, the city demolished the addition in 2011. Evidence of the original Shingle Style architectural features still remains on the second story with the shingle cladding and two visible sixteen-over-one windows. There is also evidence of clapboard on the first story along with a sixteen-over-one window located in a recessed section of the rear elevation. The recessed section has come about from the demolition and reveals the structure of the rear chimney along with a simple wooden door that was used when the house was divided into apartments. Likewise the first floor has two doors exposed, one of which has already been removed and covered, and the other is a pressed metal door with a four by four pane light. This door is no longer functional as it as been covered from the interior. Three two-over-one paned basement windows are visible in the concrete slab foundation from the rear elevation.

Interior:

The interior of the building retains most of its original layout and many of its interior features. In recent years the house was divided into apartments. The house is currently undergoing rehabilitation to return it to a single family residence. Within the house its three fireplaces remain intact though enclosed because of Poplar Bluff fire code restrictions.

First Floor: (see figure 2, first floor plan)

The massive wooden front door with recessed panel opens into a large entrance hall containing the staircase to the second story. (photo 5) Next to the staircase is a hidden staircase that opens from the floor and leads into the basement. The ceiling of the room is coffered. West of the front door is an octagon shaped parlor that contains a fireplace. The fireplace is adorned with a skirted baseboard and paneled wainscot. (photo 7) The pine floor design in the parlor room features multi-directional boards and an interweaving design that follows the exterior of the room. (photo 8) The parlor room opens into the dining room. The dining room is accessible to the side hall and entrance hall. The dining room floor features a pine floor design similar to that in the parlor room. The dining room opens up into a room that features a barrel-vaulted ceiling with ribbed detailing. (photo 10) This room with an undefined function features horizontal wood paneling at the bottom; it also features a built-in wood cabinet. Accessible through a swinging door on the east wall is a large pillar room, which is also accessible through the main hall. This room contains several features: walls with a baseboard, paneled wainscot, and a cornice line, several Tuscan columns, a fire place, and a coffered ceiling made from English oak (photo 9). The first floor also contains a small bathroom located off the hall and underneath the stairs.

Second Floor: (see floor plan)

The second floor features four bedrooms and one bathroom. These rooms are accessible off a hall from the stairs. Two bedrooms face the front façade occupying the interior of the two turrets. A third bedroom on the western side of the house shares an area that, prior to current rehabilitation, was a half bathroom with the bedroom located in the southwest turret. The third bedroom opens up to a shared unidentified room with the large master bedroom that features a third fireplace. (photo 11)

Third Floor: (see floor plan)
The third floor is a space that may have originally been an attic, accessible by a small staircase. A brick chimney from the fireplace in the parlor is centrally located on the third floor and continues through the roof. A recessed dormer not visible from the rear is present and facing south. The recessed dormer features a small bay window. The polygonal dormer visible from the front elevation features two eight by eight small casement windows.

Basement:
The Williams-Gierth house features a full basement accessible from the rear. The rear addition torn down by the city provided access to the basement. Basement is now accessible through two open doorways from the rear. The basement is divided into a large area and a small room on the west side of the house. Included in the basement are built-in wood cabinets in both rooms.

Integrity

The Williams-Gierth house is deteriorated, but retains many of its original character defining features. Stucco was applied to the house for maintenance reasons in c. 1937. The application of stucco preserved the clapboard and shingles; this was evident when the current owner removed the stucco in 2012. Along with restoring the house to its original materials, the current owner has also reconstructed the front porch to match historic photographs. The shingles and clapboard are important characteristics of the Shingle Style and the preservation of these materials helped the house maintain its architectural integrity. The woodwork and detailing of the interior is also preserved and contributes to the architectural integrity of the house. The Williams-Gierth house retains important aspects of its original workmanship, materials, feeling, association, and original location help to ensure its integrity and ability to represent the period of significance of 1892.

Summary

The Williams-Gierth House, 848 Vine Street, Poplar Bluff, Butler County Missouri is locally significant under the National Register of Historic Places Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. The Williams- Gierth House was constructed in 1892 as a residence for Horace Dickinson (H.D.) Williams, President of the H.D. Williams Cooperage Factory. It later became the home of entrepreneur Charles Gierth, who was responsible for the subdivision of the home's large lot. The large house is one of only three examples of the Shingle Style in Poplar Bluff and the town's most eclectic in form. The house's whimsical conical turrets and dormers, large massing and shingled second story are characteristic of the style. The interior also features significant examples of Late Victorian interior design including parquet floors, decorative fireplaces and mantels and a formal room with coffered ceilings of English Oak and large classical columns. The Williams-Gierth House is nominated under the *Historical Resources of Poplar Bluff Multiple Property Documentation Form* (as amended) and is associated with the historical context "Late 19th and Early 20th Century Residential Buildings of Poplar Bluff, Missouri ca. 1880-1943." The period of significance is 1892, the date of construction.

Elaboration:

Architectural History

The Shingle Style is a Late Victorian era style of architecture used primarily for single family dwellings. Most examples were constructed between c. 1880 and c. 1900. Like other Late Victorian architecture styles, the Shingle style was influenced by the ideals of English philosopher John Ruskin who believed that the Industrial Revolution in England was producing bad architecture that reflected an immoral society that ignored God and nature. He argued for a return to Gothic architectural principles from Medieval Europe, the last moral society of Europe.[2] Ruskin's philosophy was echoed in the United States by transcendentalists such as Ralph Waldo Emerson who questioned societal evils such as slavery and materialism resulting from the Industrial Revolution occurring in the United States.[3] Late Victorian era architectural styles such as High Victorian Gothic, Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne, Stick, Eastlake, Romanesque Revival, and Renaissance Revival reflect Ruskin's ideals of good architecture. These styles emphasize the use natural materials and craftsmanship over methods used in industrialization. Characteristics of these styles include round and pointed arches, classical columns, polychromatic façades, large dormers, mansard roofs, handcrafted wood detailing. Each style also emphasized verticality over horizontality.

[2] Marc Gelernter, *A History of American Architecture: Buildings in Their Culture and Technological Context* (Hanover, NH: University of New England Press, 1999), 145; Fred S. Kleiner, Christin J. Mamiya, Richard G. Tansey, *Gardner's Art Through the Ages* 11th ed. (New York: Hardcourt College Publishers, 2001), 931.
[3] Gary B. Nash, Julie Roy Jeffery, John R. Howe, et al, *The American People: Creating a Nation and a Society* Brief 4th ed. (New York: Longman, 2003), 343.

The Shingle Style is unique from other Late Victorian era architectural styles because it is restrained in the use of ornamentation and classical detailing; it also emphasizes horizontality over verticality. Characteristics of the Shingle Style include wall cladding and roofing of continuous wood shingles that continue onto shingled walls without interruption. Façades of Shingle style homes are typically asymmetrical with irregular, steeply pitched roofs that usually have intersecting cross gables and multi-leveled eaves. Some examples have extensive porches.[4] The Shingle Style is considered Late Victorian era architecture because of natural materials and craftsmanship used to construct them. Wood is used for the shingles and clapboard, and the hand application of shingles is an example of the craftsmanship and attention advocated by Ruskin.

Examples of the Shingle Style are commonly found in resort towns popular with the wealthy in the late 19th and early 20th centuries located on the Atlantic Coast of the United States such as Newport, Rhode Island. In the 1840s Newport became a vacation area for wealthy Southern planters; following the Civil War it became a resort town for the wealthy from Boston and New York City, and by the 1870s it was the social capital of the United States.[5] While examples can be found throughout the country, the style was never as popular as its cousin the Queen Anne style. In Missouri most examples of the Shingle Style are found in suburban areas around Kansas City and St. Louis.

Late Victorian Era Architecture and the Shingle Style in Poplar Bluff, Missouri

Late Victorian era architecture became popular in Poplar Bluff with the construction of the railroads that provided markets for Poplar Bluff's timber industry. According to *Historic and Architectural Resources of Poplar Bluff*, *Missouri,* an architectural survey update conducted in 2006, the majority of historic residential architecture in Poplar Bluff dates between 1880 and 1910, coinciding with the economic and industrial growth in the city. Houses constructed during this time period reflect the popularity of architectural styles nationally such as the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival. A tornado in 1927 destroyed a number of these homes leaving only a few examples of high style, Late Victorian era architecture. From this era of architecture several examples of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival architecture remain, but the Shingle Style is rare in Poplar Bluff with only three examples remaining, one of which is the Williams-Gierth House.[6]

Poplar Bluff's two other examples of the Shingle Style include the Leuer House, a one and one-half story residence located at 437 North Main Street, and a one and one-half story house located at 422 North Main. Both of these properties are located in the North Main Street Historic District (NR listed 7/14/2011). The two Main Street examples are smaller shingle-style cottages of the side-gabled roof subtype. Both have asymmetrical tower-like projects, side gable roofs and partial width porches. Like the Williams-Gierth House, both houses upper

[4] Virginia and Lee McAlister, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006), 288.
[5] Jeffery Karl Ochsner and Thomas Hubka, "H.H. Richardson: The Design of the William Watts Sherman House," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians 51*, no. 2 (1992): 123.
[6] Thompson and Associates Preservation Planers, *Historic and Architectural Resources of Poplar Bluff, Missouri*, Nashville, TN: April 2006.

stories and gable ends were historically clad in shingles and first floors with horizontal siding. The house at 422 N. Main, however, has been clad in Masonite siding. Its massing is typical of Shingle Style, but it no longer displays the characteristic shingled siding. The Leurer House is a relatively pristine example of the style, though smaller in scale and less whimsical in its design that the Williams-Gierth House.

The Williams-Gierth House is the largest of the three houses, reflecting the relative wealth of its original owner. Though its once very large lot was subdivided in the early 20th Century, the house still sits on a large and prominent lot. The Shingle style was essentially a suburban house type associated with resort towns so in some respects this prominent and open setting is an important characteristic of the type. Unlike the two smaller Shingle-style cottages in town, the Williams-Gierth house does not easily fit into a Shingle style subcategory identified by Virginia and Lee McAlester in their *A Field Guide to American Houses.* As the McAlesters note, however, "the Shingle style was an unusually free-form and variable style," borrowing details from the Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Romanesque styles. The bulging towers, conical roofs and ubiquitous shingle cladding, however, identify this residence as an example of the style.

The Williams-House is noted in the *Historic Resources of Poplar Bluff Multiple Property Document Form* (MPDF) under the historical context of Late 19th and early 20th Century Residential Buildings of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, ca. 1880-1943. The MPDF (and architectural survey) identifies the house as an example of Queen Anne architecture with Gothic forms. When the MPDF and survey were being prepared, the house did not represent a Shingle Style home because of an application of stucco to the exterior circa 1937 that hid both its shingles and clapboard.[7] Its 1930s era Tudoresque porch also obscured its original design. In late 2011, new owners began an extensive restoration of the house. The stucco failed due to moisture infiltration and its subsequent removal revealed the original clapboard and shingle siding, remarkably intact. Inspection of the house also showed that the 1930s era brick porch was poorly designed, causing the structure to fail and to impact the structural integrity of the original house. This porch was removed in the spring of 2012 and a porch matching the original is being constructed.

The Williams-Gierth House meets the registration requirements for the "Residential Buildings" property type as described in the "Historic Resources of Poplar Bluff, Missouri" Multiple Property Documentation Form, and is closely associated with the historic context "Late 19th and Early 20th Century Residential Buildings of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, ca. 1880-1943." The property type registration requirements have two essential criteria. The first is that a house must be a fine example of a particular style or house form, or possess unusual design elements and detailing. Though the architectural style of house was incorrectly identified as Queen Anne in the survey and MPDF, the Williams-Gierth House meets this criterion as it is an excellent local example of a Shingle Style home exhibiting the overall size, footprint, and architectural elements that are characteristic of the style. These architectural elements include lack of ornamentation, the use

[7] Phillip Thomason, *Multiple Property Documentation Form: Historic Resources of Poplar Bluff, Missouri,* Washington D.C.: National Park Service, 1994; amended 1997, E-19; Thompson and Associates, 15.

of shingles on the second and third stories and clapboard on the first story. The house also includes a hipped roof with lower cross gables and two turrets with a polygonal dormer on the front (north) façade and a recessed dormer on the rear (south) façade.

The second criterion of the registration requirement is that the house must also possess integrity of setting and location, design, workmanship, and materials. Elements that are included in this criterion are original materials, original porches, or porches added prior to 1945, and the majority of decorative detailing. The Williams-Gierth House meets this criterion as it includes the original setting of a residential neighborhood, original footprint, and original materials including shingles, clapboard, and windows. The porch is not original, but is being reconstructed to match the design and footprint shown in historic photographs of the building (see figure 1).[8]

History and Background

The Williams-Gierth house was constructed in 1892 for H.D. Williams as his family residence. The house is located in one of the city's oldest neighborhoods on the 800 block of Vine Street known as Miller's Addition. David Miller was a Captain in the United States Army from Tennessee during the Mexican-American War. Miller was deeded a section of land near Poplar Bluff by the United States government in 1855 for his service in the war. Following Miller's death in 1871, the land was divided into smaller lots and sold to satisfy outstanding debts. H.D. Williams bought Lot 7 of Miller's Addition to Poplar Bluff in 1889.[9]

A two and one-half story house was constructed for Williams in the Shingle Style in 1892. Shingle Style characteristics of the house included cedar shingles on the upper stories. The original porch of the Williams house was constructed as a plain wraparound wooden porch, and is being reconstructed to match the original very simple design. Clapboard siding covers the façade of the first floor. The house was constructed with an irregular hipped roof, originally with wood shingles (now asphalt). Windows to the house are an assortment of casement and multiple over single pane windows.

The interior of the house constructed for Williams included decorative wall paneling and pine flooring. The ceilings of the first floor in the living hall and pillar room feature a ribbed pattern constructed from cherry in the living hall and English oak in the pillar room. A room adjacent west of the pillar room features a ribbed barrel vaulted ceiling and built-in cabinet. There are three fireplaces in the house; one in the parlor, one in the pillar room, and one in the master bedroom on the second floor.

Williams was the president of the H.D. Williams Cooperage Company that claimed to be the largest cooperage factory in the world. He was born in Phelps, New York in 1859 and apprenticed with the Standard Oil Company in Cleveland in 1879. Williams was employed in

[8] Ibid, F-7
[9] Williams-Gierth House Abstract

several different positions with the company including Superintendent of the Philadelphia cooperage facility that made barrels for Standard Oil. From Philadelphia Williams moved to Poplar Bluff becoming Treasurer for the F. G. Oxley Stave Company. Williams purchased the company renaming it the H.D. Williams Cooperage Factory. The Williams Cooperage's largest client was the Standard Oil Company.[10]

Williams lived at the house with his wife Carra Lavera Williams, son Arthur Cogswell Williams, and daughter Carra Cogswell Williams. Also residing at the house were his servants, William and Jesse Pearce. In 1894, as a show of love, H.D. deeded the house to his wife. Carra died in 1900 and because she had no will, the property was divided between her two children. Because she was a minor, H.D. controlled his daughter's interest in the house and purchased his son's interest in the property as well.[11]

At the time of his wife's death H.D. was in the process of relocating the cooperage company to Leslie, Arkansas. Timber supply in Butler County began to dwindle and transporting timber from outside the county was not economical. When Williams relocated the company, he gave local real estate developer power of attorney for the house, with the understanding that when the property sold half the proceeds would go into a trust for his daughter. Williams then relocated his office to St. Louis where he married the widow of his servant, Jesse Pearce.

A shoemaker from Desoto, Missouri named Charles Alvin (C.A.) Gierth purchased the house in 1909 and resided there until 1936. After his move to Poplar Bluff, Gierth became well-known as a real estate developer and owned land throughout Butler County. The 1917 Sanborn map of Poplar Bluff shows that Lot 7 where the Williams-Gierth house is located is referenced as "Gierth's Re-subdivision." The map shows that on the lot were eight homes. From a period of 1909 to 1930 the Williams-Gierth house was mortgaged six times by Gierth possibly to finance his business and make alterations to the home.[12]

Gierth lived at the house with wife Emma and their seven children, five daughters and two sons. In June of 1914 his daughter Edith Emma was married to local doctor William Spaulding at the house. Gierth's wife died in 1930. Because of his age and health Gierth moved out of the house in 1936 and moved in with his daughter Flora Taylor and her family. Gierth deeded to property to local contractor Dewitt Greer for the amount of one dollar, plus taxes. This was possibly done as an investment in another property. When Gierth died in 1945 Greer bought Gierth's share of the house for $5,360. The money was divided among Gierth's children.[13]

Dewitt Greer was a local contractor in Poplar Bluff who built Kinyon Elementary School, west of the Williams-Gierth House across 9th Street. The house was vacant from 1936 to 1945 and to

[10] Howard Louis Conrad, *Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri: A Compendium of History and Biography for Ready Reference*, Vol. 6 (New York: The Southern History Company,1901), 474.
[11] Ibid.; Abstract.
[12] Sanborn Map, 1917.
[13] Abstract; "Charles Gierth Died Yesterday," *Poplar Bluff Daily American Republic*, January 18, 1945, 3; Probate Record For C. A. Gierth, File 3526, Butler County, MO, accessed on April,19,2011.

preserve the condition of the façade and reduce the amount of maintenance, Greer applied stucco to the house in c. 1937. Greer sold the house to his daughter Elizabeth and her new husband, Ezra Cox in 1946. The house remained in the Cox family until 1988.

Cox was a respected insurance agent in the city; his office was also located in the house.[14] The Coxes members of the Assembly of God Church in Poplar Bluff, and allowed the use of the room on the third floor of the house for an Elisha Room. Referencing King Elisha in the Old Testament of the Bible, this was to be a room where travelers could stay, pray, and meditate. This room was used by various churches in the city to host traveling evangelists. Children attending Kinyon Elementary School across the street from the house, often visited the house after school where they would receive free food, usually a sandwich, from Elizabeth Cox. Elizabeth operated a day nursery from the house as well. The visiting children gave the house its locally popular name, “The Castle”. With the multiple uses of the house, a residence, an office, a boarding house, a day nursery, local residents and visitors would identify the house by its architectural features that resemble an English castle (with stucco and large porch). Over time “The Castle” has remained the preferred name of the property in the community.

Conclusion

The Williams-Gierth House in Poplar Bluff, Butler County Missouri is an excellent local example of Shingle Style architecture. Its period of significance 1892, is the date of construction. The exterior of the house with uninterrupted, continuous shingling on the upper stories and clapboard siding are characteristics of the Shingle Style. The wood paneling, ribbed ceilings, and fireplaces are examples of interior design in Victorian America. The history of the house also shows that respected men of the community such as H.D. Williams, C.A. Gierth, and Ezra Cox all lived in the house, and used the house as symbol of the community. Such history reflects the importance of High Style Victorian Architecture in the United States and helps establish the Williams-Gierth House as a significant house under Criterion C for ARCHITECTURE for the National Register of Historic Places.

[14] Abstract.

Bibliography:

"Charles Gierth Died Yesterday." *Poplar Bluff Daily American Republic*, January 18, 1945.

Conrad, Howard Louis. *Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri: A Compendium of History and Biography for Ready Reference*, Vol.6. New York: The Southern History Company,1901.

Foley, Terri. *National Register Nomination: North Main Historic District Poplar Bluff, MO*. 2011

Gelernter, Marc. *A History of American Architecture: Buildings in Their Culture and Technological Context.* Hanover, NH: University of New England Press, 1999.

Kleiner, Fred S., Christin J. Mamiya, Richard G. Tansey. *Gardner's Art Through the Ages* 11th ed. New York: Hardcourt College Publishers, 2001.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Gide to American Houses.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006.

Nash, Gary B., Julie Roy Jeffery, John R. Howe, et al *The American People: Creating a Nation and a Society* Brief 4th ed. New York: Longman, 2003.

Ochsner, Jeffery Karl and Thomas Hubka. "H.H. Richardson: The Design of the William Watts Sherman House," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians 51*, no. 2 (1992): 119-134

Poplar Bluff Land and Abstract Company. *Abstract of Title to Lot Seven of Miller's Addition to Poplar Bluff, MO*. Poplar Bluff, MO: The Company, N.D.

Probate Record For C. A. Gierth. File 3526, Butler County, MO.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. *Poplar Bluff, MO, July 1917.* New York: the company, 1917.

Thomason and Associates Preservation Planners. *The Historic and Architectural Resources of Poplar Bluff, Missouri.* Nashville, TN: The Company, 2006.

Thomason, Phillip. *Multiple Property Documentation Form: Historic Resources of Poplar Bluff, Missouri.* Washington D.C.: National Park Service, 1994. Amended 1997.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Parcel number: 13- 02-03.0-003-011-010.000
Miller's Add: Beginning NW Corner: E 100; S 179; W 100; N 179; Block 7

Verbal Boundary Justification:

The Williams-Gierth House includes the entire parcel associated with a 1937 resurveying of the property. The original parcel was divided several times between 1909 and 1937 and several newer homes constructed.

The following is true for all photographs:

Williams-Gierth House (preferred)
Poplar Bluff, Butler County
Photographer: Darren Bell
Date: May 2012

1. North elevation, looking south
2. West elevation, looking east.
3. East elevation, looking southwest.
4. South and west elevations, looking northeast.
5. First floor, entrance and stair hall, looking south southeast.
6. Original entrance door, north elevation, looking south.
7. Parlor fireplace, first floor, looking southeast.
8. Detail, parlor flooring.
9. Pillar room, first floor, looking southeast.
10. Barrel room, looking south.
11. Second floor, master bedroom fireplace.

Figure Log:

1. Undated Historic Photo, Williams-Gierth House.
2. Sketch Floor plan, first floor
3. Sketch floor plan, second floor
4. Sketch floor plan, third floor.
5. Photo of house prior to restoration.

Figure 1: Williams-Gierth House, undated photo. Photo Source: Donna Stodt, 2282 CR 423, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901

Figure 2: Sketch Floor Plan, first floor, not to scale.

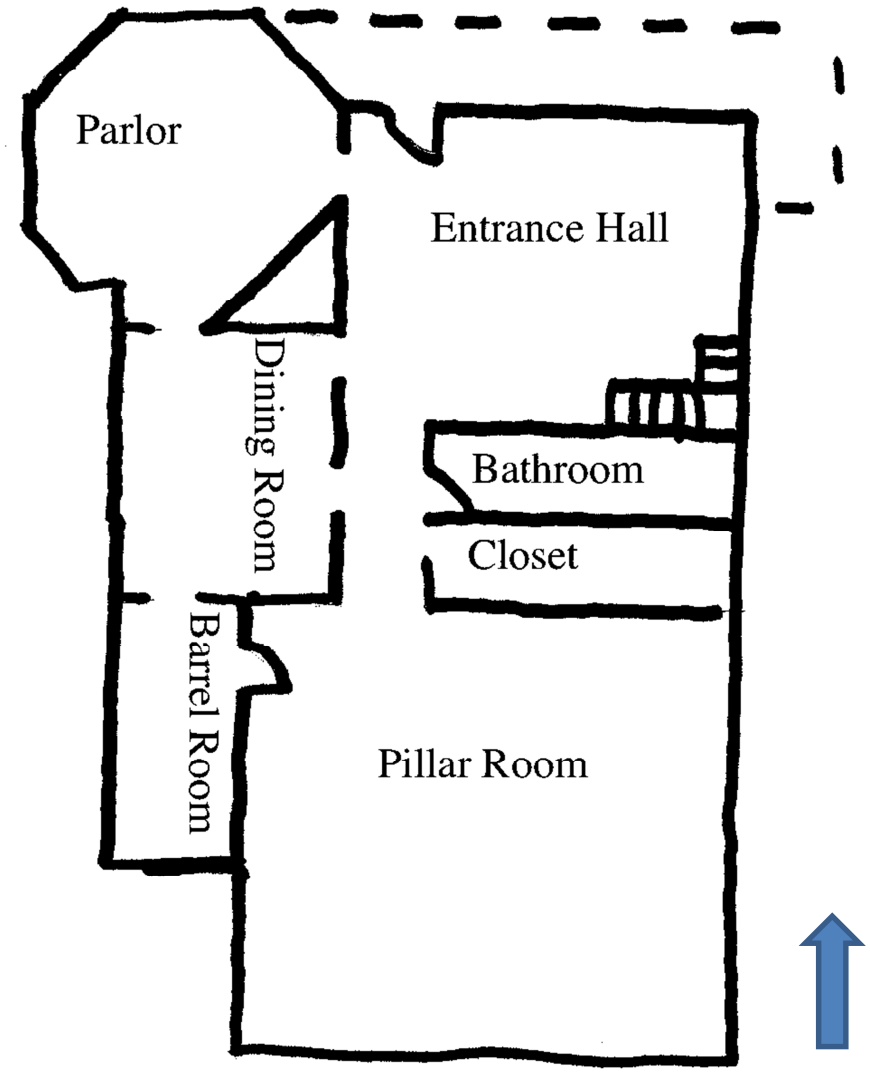


Figure 3: Sketch Floor Plan, second floor, not to scale.

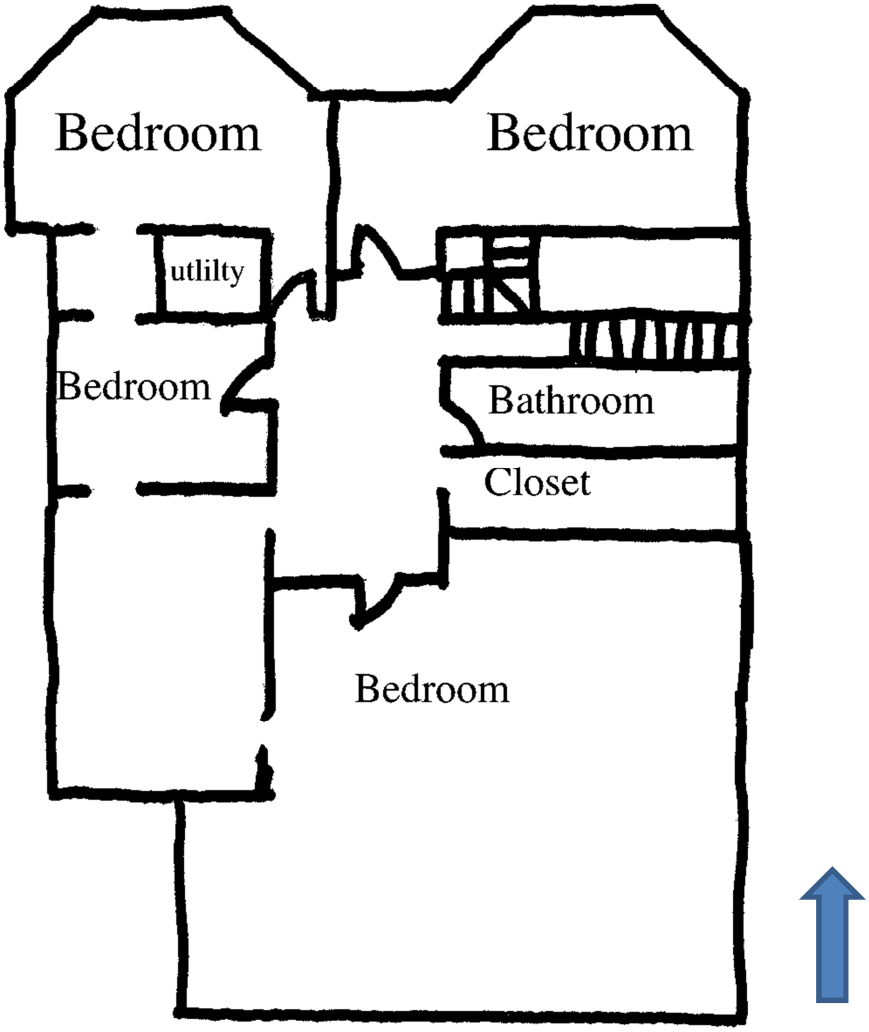


Figure 4: Sketch Floor Plan, Third floor, not to scale.

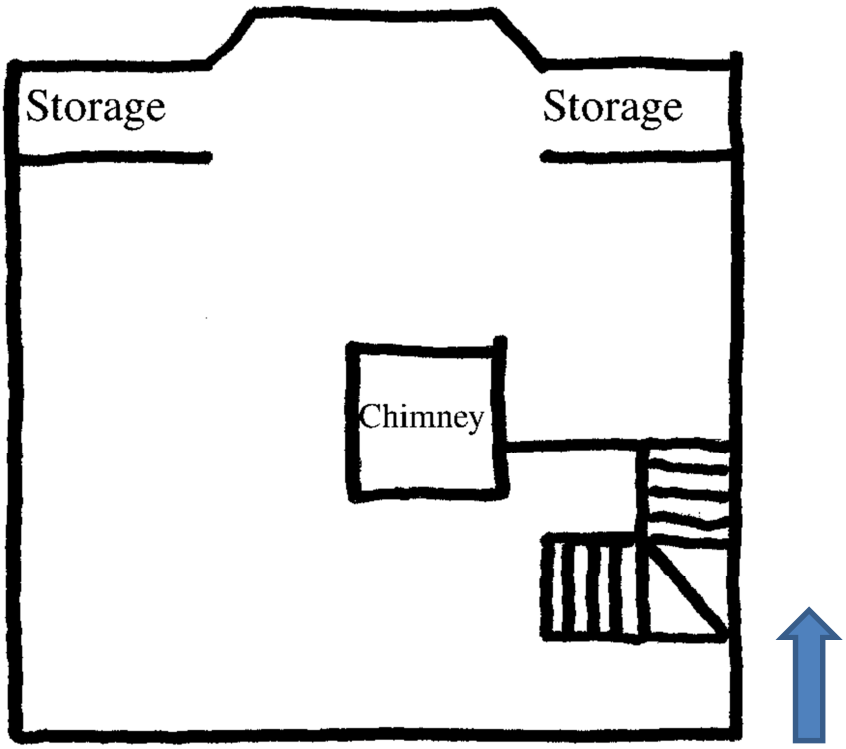
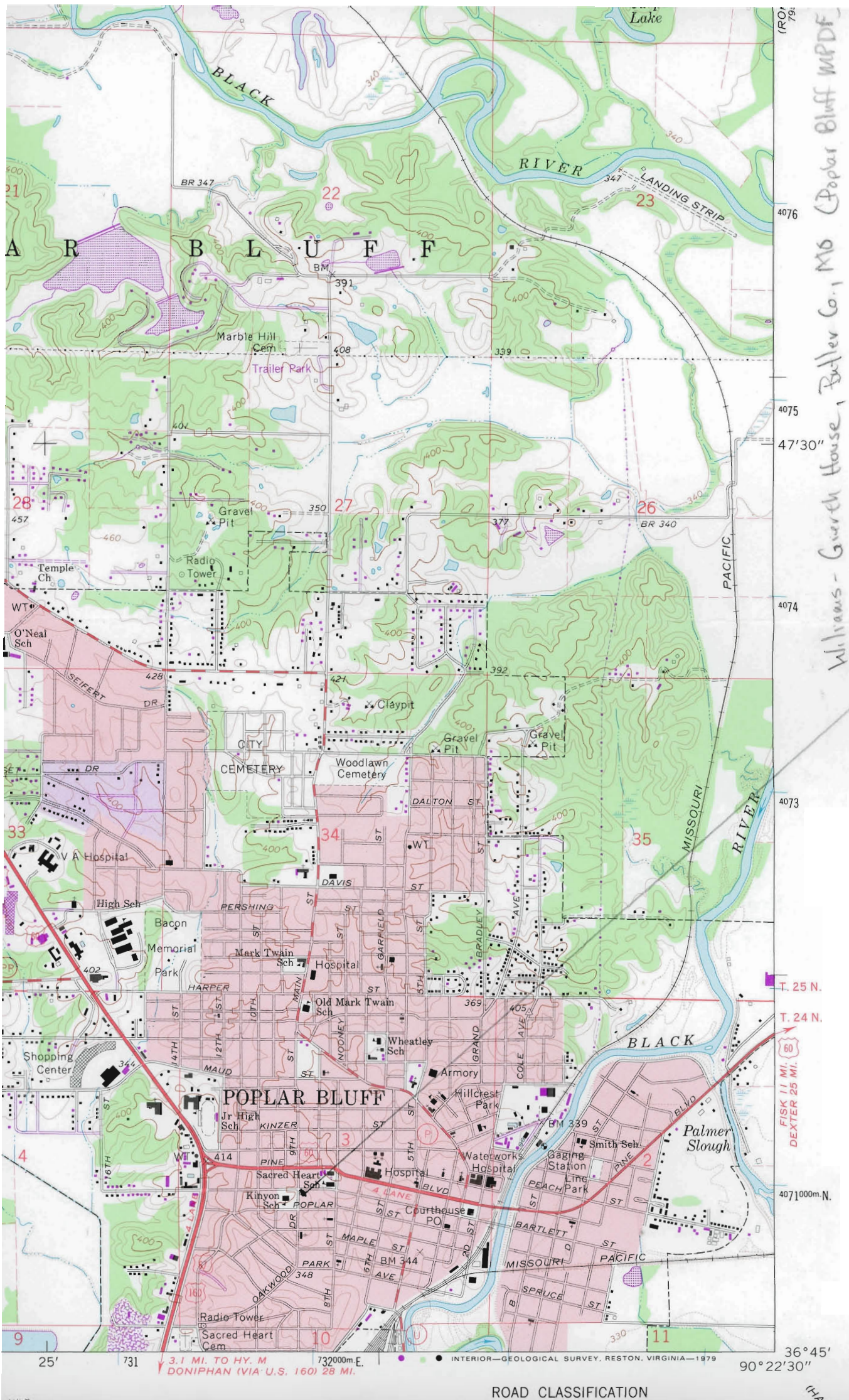


Figure 5: Photo of house prior to restoration.



Williams - Gareth House, Butler Co., MO (Poplar Bluff MPDF)
ZONE 15 / EASTING 731913 / NORTHING 4071103

DANGER
CONSTRUCTION AREA
KEEP OUT
NO
TRESPASSING
Violators Will Be Prosecuted

ANHEUSER-BUSCH