**NAME**

HISTORIC: Archambault House

AND/OR COMMON: Archambault House

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER: 603 rue St. Denis

CITY, TOWN: Florissant

STATE: Missouri 63031

**CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
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<td>DISTRICT</td>
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<td>OCCUPIED</td>
<td>AGRICULTURE</td>
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<td>UNOCCUPIED</td>
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<td>BOTH</td>
<td>WORK IN PROGRESS</td>
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<td>PRIVATE RESIDENCE</td>
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<td>OBJECT</td>
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<td>ENTERTAINMENT</td>
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<td>BEING CONSIDERED</td>
<td>YES: UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td>RELIGIOUS</td>
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**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME: City of Florissant

STREET & NUMBER: 955 rue St. Francois

CITY, TOWN: Florissant

STATE: Missouri 63031

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE: Office of the Recorder of Deeds

REGISTER OF DEEDS, ETC: St. Louis County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER: 7900 Forsyth

CITY, TOWN: Clayton

STATE: Missouri 63105

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE: 1. 100 Historic Buildings in St. Louis County

DATE: 1970

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Historic Buildings Commission

CITY, TOWN: Clayton

STATE: Missouri 63105
DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
GOOD
FAIR

DETERIORATED
RUINS
UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
MOVED
DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Archambault House, 603 rue St. Denis, Florissant, Missouri, is a Federal-style, L-shaped, three-bay, five-room (not including the basement and bath) residence. The one-story rear (northeast) wing is attached to the northeast wall of the two-story main (southwest) portion of the house.

EXTERIOR

Over-all dimensions

The main (southwest) portion measures 24'6" x 32'6"; the rear wing is 15'7" by 20'.

Construction materials and colors

Handmade red brick, laid in common bond, faces all exterior walls. Stone is used for the foundations: coursed rubble limestone on all facades except the primary (southwest) facade which is of smooth-cut blocks. Decorative features are of stone, brick, and painted wood. Roof coverings are tin-coated sheet iron and wood shingles.

Openings

Windows. Double-hung, rectangular-shaped sash windows occur throughout. Most are six-over-six light; exceptions are those of the rear (northeast) wing which are two-over-two light. All first-story windows are trimmed by a smooth-cut stone lintel and lugsill; the upper-story windows have only stone lugsills. Fixed louvered shutters (some probably original) of wood painted dark green complete each window opening.

The three basement windows of the rear wing are rectangular in shape and have three lights. Each is trimmed by a smooth-cut stone lintel.

Doorways. There are five entrances. The main entrance is centered in the southeasternmost bay of the primary (southwest) facade on the first story; secondary entrances (four in number) allow access to the rear wing and basement.

Recessed from the main wall surface, the main (southwest) entrance is filled by a single-leaf, four-panel, wood door flanked by four-light sidelights and topped by a three-light transom. Two bands of voussoirs (brick headers) trim the segmental arch of the wall surface doorway opening. Two steps contained within the entrance recess provide access to the door.

Secondary entrances are located one to each facade of the rear (northeast) wing; the only exception is the basement entrance (an opening at ground level covered by a trap door) which also occurs on the northwest facade. These doorway openings are filled by single-leaf, four-panel, wood doors; each is made accessible by a flight of wooden steps. Entrances on the northwest and southeast facades are trimmed by a smooth-cut stone lintel; the northeast-facade entrance has a band of voussoirs (brick headers) to trim its segmental arched opening.

Roofs

Medium-pitched gable roofs cover both portions of the house. The center ridges run in northwest/southeast and northeast/southwest directions over the main (southwest) portion and the rear wing respectively. Roof coverings are tin-coated sheet iron (rear wing) and wood shingles (main portion).
**SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD**
- PREHISTORIC
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE**
- ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHAEOLOGY HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ART
- COMMERCIAL
- COMMUNICATIONS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW
- LAW
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICAL GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SCULPTURE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- TRANSPORTATION

**CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SCULPTURE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- TRANSPORTATION

**SPECIFIC DATES**

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<th>Built ca. 1850's</th>
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<tr>
<td>Auguste Archambault, Sr. (builder)</td>
<td></td>
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The Archambault House, 603 rue St. Denis, Florissant, Missouri, is significant as an example of Federal-style architecture in its locale. It survives with near original integrity; all dependencies remain intact.

The house represents the degree of elegance sought in many early town houses. Although of late Federal design, the introduction of certain Victorian detailing, particularly that of the cornice, suggests a striving for the latest mode.

While hardly unique, the fact that the house and its accompanying outbuildings survive as a whole make the Archambault House an excellent candidate for preservation.

No precise date is known for the construction of the Archambault House; it is, however, believed that the residence was built prior to 1858. The Survey of 1797 shows Block 12 (location of the house) in the city of St. Ferdinand [Florissant] as part of the Commons. These Commons were disposed of under the charter granted by the city of St. Ferdinand [Florissant] in 1857. No other records are available prior to 1858.

**Chronology of ownership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>owner (or holder of deed)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Auguste Archambault, Sr.</td>
<td>January 16, 1858</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph C. (father-in-law of Auguste Archambault, Jr.) and Virginia Brand</td>
<td>April 24, 1858</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Hume (Deed of Trust)</td>
<td>June 17, 1864</td>
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<tr>
<td>Louis A. and William W. Waters (Warranty Deed)</td>
<td>April 9, 1866</td>
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<td>Richard Bland (Warranty Deed)</td>
<td>October 5, 1867</td>
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<tr>
<td>John and Francis Barr (Warranty Deed)</td>
<td>January 23, 1879</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Barr (Deed of Trust)</td>
<td>February 23, 1882</td>
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<td>John Barr (Deed of Trust)</td>
<td>March 1, 1887</td>
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<td>William Mreen (Warranty Deed)</td>
<td>March 13, 1889</td>
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<td>William Mreen (Deed of Trust)</td>
<td>March 5, 1902</td>
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<td>William Mreen (Deed of Trust)</td>
<td>April 29, 1903</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Wetzel</td>
<td>April 28, 1904</td>
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<td>Edward G. Strecker (Sheriff's Deed)</td>
<td>April 28, 1904</td>
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<td>Edward G. Strecker (Deed of Trust)</td>
<td>November 12, 1908</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bernard H. Keeven (Warranty Deed)</td>
<td>March 10, 1939</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Niehoff (Quit Claim Deed)</td>
<td>May 1, 1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret Keeven (Quit Claim Deed)</td>
<td>October 31, 1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret Keeven (Incept)</td>
<td>October 31, 1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthony H. Diekemper (Guardians Deed)</td>
<td>October 31, 1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret T. Nunes (Quit Claim Deed)</td>
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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 58769 acres
LTM REFERENCES

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

FORM PREPARED BY
NAME / TITLE
1. Nancy B. Breme, Research Associate

ORGANIZATION
Department of Natural Resources, Office of Historic Preservation

DATE
October 31, 1975

STREET & NUMBER
P.O. Box 176

TELEPHONE
314-751-4096

CITY OR TOWN
Jefferson City

STATE
Missouri

65101

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE X 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

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

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

GPO 888-645
### ARCHAMBAULT HOUSE

<table>
<thead>
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<th>ITEM NUMBER</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
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- Published: New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, Inc.

#### 3. History Trail 1973
- Published: St. Louis: Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.

#### 4. Florissant City Survey 1974
- City Hall
- 955 rue St. Francois
- Florissant, Missouri 63031

#### 5. Missouri State Historical Survey 1975
- Department of Natural Resources
- P.O. Box 176
- Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Chimneys

Three chimneys service the Archambault House. Two, single-stack, brick chimneys linked at the base straddle the roof ridge of the main portion, flush with the northwest facade. The third, single-stack, brick chimney, similar in design to those of the main portion, is flush with the northeast wall of the rear (northeast) wing, straddling the roof ridge.

Decorative features

Decorative details include: 1) lintels and lugsills (windows), 2) lintels and voussoirs (entrances), and 3) a cornice.

A boxed cornice with returns spans the upper edge of the primary (southwest) facade; alternating brackets and diamond-shaped panels ornament the frieze. It is of wood painted a buff color.

INTERIOR

Basement

The basement is limited to the northeast wing. Its walls are of stone. Access is by an interior stairway positioned along the southwest wall of the kitchen (in the rear [northeast] wing); an exterior entrance (mentioned above) at the southwest end of the northwest facade provides a second access route. One of the house's two furnaces is housed in this room.

First floor

Three major rooms comprise the first floor: a parlor (15' x 15') and a dining room (15' x 15') which occupy most of the southwest portion and a kitchen (14' x 19') which occupies all of the rear (northeast) wing. A hall (7' x 28') runs the length of the southwest portion along the southeast wall.

Plaster walls and random-width wood flooring occur in all rooms. Ceiling height is 10 feet. Each room retains its original fireplace and Classic-style mantel. Doorway and window frames and baseboards in a Classic style are of wood; a wood dado panel is positioned below each window opening.

A free-standing, U-plan stairway with landing at mid-floor is attached to the southeast wall of the hall in the east corner; it provides access to the second floor.

Second floor

Two bedrooms, a non-original bath, and a hall occupy this floor. The bedrooms, each nearly square in dimension (13' x 15' and 15' x 14'), and bath (8' x 10') open off
the northwest and southwest sides of the hall respectively.

Ceiling height is nine feet. The finishing of this floor is similar to that of the first floor. A closet, positioned either southwest or northeast of the fireplace, completes each bedroom.

Attic
An unfinished attic is over the main (southwest) portion. The only means of access is by a self-placed ladder. A second furnace is housed in this area.

ALTERATIONS
The rear (northeast) wing was added in ca. 1880. Other alterations (dates unknown) include:
1. rebuilding of two sheds
2. addition of a bath on the second floor
3. installation of two furnaces (basement and attic).

The inside basement stairs (which may be original) were probably below a trap door, but are now enclosed by walls and a door that are relatively recent in construction.

CONDITION
The Archambault House is in good structural condition. Restoration of the house is nearing completion.

PRESENT STATUS
The Archambault House restoration program was financed with a $20,000 grant from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and matched by Old Florissant, Inc. Exterior renovations, including a summer kitchen and privy, are complete. Interior work is in progress; one bedroom is complete and furnished with period furniture that belonged to some of Florissant's early families.

The house is currently being used as an Indian Cultural Center.

SITE
The house, which faces southwest onto rue St. Denis, is situated on the east corner of the intersection of rue St. Denis and Jefferson Street. Architecturally insignificant residential structures make up most of the surrounding neighborhood; Hendel's Market (facing rue St. Denis) and Sacred Heart Church and School (facing Jefferson Street) are northwest and west of the Archambault House on the north and west corners
of the intersection respectively.

Other structures on the property include various outbuildings: a wood-frame summer kitchen, a well house, two sheds, and a brick privy. The well house and privy are original. Brick walks lead to the main entrance from rue St. Denis and connect the rear entrances with each other and the summer kitchen. Heavy tree cover blocks clear visibility of the house from the various southerly directions.

FOOTNOTES


2. Data excerpted from a draft National Register Inventory-Nomination Form prepared by Florissant City Survey (a sub-survey of the Office of Historic Preservation).


4. Data excerpted from a draft National Register Inventory-Nomination Form prepared by Florissant City Survey; and Toni Flannery, History Trail (St. Louis: Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc., 1973), p. 21.
ARCHAMBAULT HOUSE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

22. City of Florissant December 23, 1969

Of the above listed owners, the original owner/builder, Auguste Pierre Archambault, Sr., is the most prominent. Although born in Montreal, Canada, on August 16, 1817 (son of Pierre Archambault [a carpenter] and Marie Josephte Faucher), Archambault spent much of his life in Florissant, Missouri, where he died. He was married to Amanda Perry on November 21, 1848 in Florissant. This union produced ten children. Archambault died in 1881.

A fur trader and trapper, Archambault was one of the last of the famed French mountain men. His earliest travels were with hunter and trapper Denis Julien; these early 1830's ventures in the West are, however, not documented. Archambault served as a hunter and butcher for John C. Fremont's third expedition in the West (1845-46) and is also listed as a member of Fremont's California Battalion (Company A) which saw action between 1846 and 1847. In 1849-50, he served as Howard Stansbury's guide for his exploration of the Great Salt Lake Valley. Later, Archambault became a member of the Bissonette and Simoneau [Simoneau] Fur Company, competitors of the American Fur Company; he was in charge of their trading post at Devil's Gate by the Sweetwater River near the Continental Divide in western Wyoming on the Old Oregon Trail.

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

FOOTNOTES


8. Ibid.


5. Data excerpted from a draft National Register Inventory-Nomination Form prepared by Florissant City Survey (a sub-survey of the Office of Historic Preservation).


2. Sheila Andrew, Secretary
Florissant City Survey (sub-survey of the Office of Historic Preservation)
955 rue St. Francois
Florissant, Missouri 63031

Telephone: ---------
Florissant

Scale: 1:24,000
Archambault House

UTM Reference:
15/732340/4297250
ARCHAMBAULT HOUSE
Florissant, Mo.

Indicates camera position &
photo number

NOT TO SCALE
Photo Log:

Name of Property: Archambault House
City or Vicinity: Florissant
County: St. Louis County
State: MO
Photographer: Robert Pettus (unless otherwise stated)
Date Photographed: 1974 (unless otherwise stated)

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 8. Primary (SW) façade; view looking NE.
2 of 8. NW façade; view looking SE. Photo by Frederick J. Breme, Sept. 1975.
3 of 8. N corner; view facing S with the main (SW) portion in the background, the rear (NE) wing at mid ground, and the summer kitchen in the foreground. Photo by Frederick J. Breme, Sept. 1975.
4 of 8. S corner; view facing N with the primary (SW) façade on the left and the SE façade on the right. The rear (NE) wing is just visible to the right of the main portion of the house. Photo by Frederick J. Breme, Sept. 1975.
5 of 8. E corner; view looking W with the SE façade on the left and the NE façade on the right. The summer kitchen is to the extreme right. Photo by Frederick J. Breme, Sept. 1975.
6 of 8. Main (SW) entrance; view looking NE. Photo by Frederick J. Breme, Sept. 1975.
7 of 8. W corner of the original brick privy; view looking E. Photo by Frederick J. Breme, Sept. 1975.
8 of 8. First floor interior view showing the N corners of the main (S-W) portion’s two principle rooms. Classic-style trim occurs in both rooms.