FORM NO. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME
HISTORIC
Wiese House

AND/OR COMMON
Brockrath-Wiese House

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
St. Ferdinand Park

CITY, TOWN
Florissant

STATE
Missouri

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
X DISTRICT
X BUILDING(S)
X STRUCTURE
X SITE
X OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
X PUBLIC
PRIVATE
BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION
IN PROCESS
BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
X OCCUPIED
UNOCCUPIED
WORK IN PROGRESS

X ACCESSIBLE
YES: RESTRICTED
YES UNRESTRICTED
X NO

PRESENT USE
X AGRICULTURE
MUSEUM
COMMERCIAL
PARK

EDUCATIONAL
PRIVATE RESIDENCE
ENTERTAINMENT
RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT
SCIENTIFIC
INDUSTRIAL
TRANSPORTATION
X MILITARY
X OTHER: Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
City of Florissant

STREET & NUMBER
955 rue St. Francois

CITY, TOWN
Florissant

STATE
Missouri

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
Recorder of Deeds, St. Louis County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
7900 Forsyth Boulevard

CITY, TOWN
Clayton

STATE
Missouri

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
1. Florissant City Survey

DATE
1976

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
City Hall, 955 rue St. Francois

CITY, TOWN
Florissant

STATE
Missouri

63031
WIESE HOUSE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

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

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

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

CONDITION

__EXCELLENT  __DETERIORATED
XGOOD  ____RUINS
__FAIR  __UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

XUNALTERED
XALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

UNALTERED

MOVED

DATE:

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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

EXTERIOR

Overall dimensions

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

Construction materials and colors

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

Additional features

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ALTERATIONS

These include:

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

CONDITION

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

SITE

The Wiese House is located on the eastern side of St. Ferdinand Park. Although it borders a residential area to the east, the Wiese House and its property remain relatively secluded and retain the atmosphere of a farm. This atmosphere is enhanced by the many large trees which surround the building and by the gently sloping terrain. The smoke house with adjoining shed were demolished and a cistern was filled in in 1978.
On December 19, 1976 the Wiese House was purchased by the City of Florissant to become a part of St. Ferdinand Park. It is currently being restored to its original condition and form by the City of Florissant in cooperation with Historic Florissant, Inc.

Footnotes

1. For comparative designs see Charles van Ravenswaay, The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1977), fig. 9-8.

2. Data excerpted from the draft National Register Inventory-Nomination Form for the Wiese House, completed by Susan Francis of the Florissant Survey Office, November 16, 1976.

3. Rosemary Davison, telephone conversation with the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, April 27, 1978. The house is being restored historically, but the interior utilities will be retained. The City of Florissant is providing the funding from its Community Development Fund. On April 1, 1978 Historic Florissant, Inc. signed a twenty-year lease on the property and will be responsible for the maintenance of the building. Later, the house will be leased to an individual or group with the proviso that it be open to the public at certain specified times.
SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

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

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- Architects
- COMMUNITY PLANNING
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SCULPTURE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES  
circa 1870

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

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

The Wiese House was built prior to 1870 by Henry Bockrath, a German immigrant who became a prominent, local landowner and businessman. In 1873 he built and began operating Hendel's Market in Florissant, and in 1878 he moved to Jefferson City, Missouri.

The Wiese House was purchased by Henry Kirschburg in 1878 and was in turn sold by him to Elizabeth and George Wiese in 1904. It remained in the Wiese family until December 29, 1976 when it was sold to the City of Florissant.

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

FOOTNOTES


3. Marsha Kyle, correspondence with the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, April 19, 1978. Hendel's Market is one of the historic buildings located within the boundaries of Florissant Old Town, a historic district created by local ordinance in 1966 (Ord. No. 1625, Section 3.5). See Old Town Development Plan (Florissant: Team Four, Inc., 1970), p. 3.


### Major Bibliographical References


### Geographical Data

**Acreage of Nominated Property**: 5 acres

**Quadrangle Name**: Florissant, Mo.

**UTM References**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

### Form Prepared By

**Name / Title**

1. Susan H. Francis

**Organization**

Florissant Survey Office, City Hall

**Street & Number**

955 rue St. Francois

**City or Town**

Florissant

**State**

Missouri

**Code**

63031

**Telephone**

314/921-5700

**Date**

November 16, 1976

### State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

**The Evaluated Significance of This Property Within the State Is:**

- National: ___
- State: ___
- Local: X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

**State Historic Preservation Officer Signature**

**Title**

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

**Date**


FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

**Date**

**Attest:**

**Keeper of the National Register**

**Date**

**Chief of Registration**

**Date**


Photo Log:

Name of Property: Bockwrath-Wiese House
City or Vicinity: Florissant
County: St. Louis County  State: MO
Photographer: Olin Matson
Date Photographed: 1976

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

1 of 2. S and main façade. This photo shows the house without dormers and prior to its restoration.
2 of 2. W façade.