

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

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received
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Walker-Woodward-Schaffer House

and/or common Jane Darwell Birthplace

2. Location

street & number 1425 South Main Street not for publication

city, town Palmyra vicinity of

state Missouri code 29 county Marion code 127

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name William N. and Hazel R. Schaffer

street & number 224 West Church Street

city, town Palmyra vicinity of state Missouri 63461

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number Marion County Courthouse

city, town Palmyra state Missouri 63461

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Mo. Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176

city, town Jefferson City state Missouri 65102

Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Walker-Woodward-Schaffer House is an Italianate style two-story brick house which faces west from the rear of a deep yard planted with maple trees. Situated on the southern outskirts of Palmyra, Missouri, the house has a two-room deep two story rear wing with a double gallery porch on its south side which has been partially enclosed on the ground level. The three bay primary facade features a shallow projecting central pavilion terminated by a pediment of constricted proportions. A course of brackets lines the eaves of cornice of the main block and continue around the cornice of the ell as well. The brackets of the ell are smaller in size. The main block and ell have hipped roofs and the house rests on a cutstone foundation and has a basement under the rear ell. In addition to the rear gallery, a veranda spans the front of the house. This porch is executed in a simple carpenter's rendition of the Italianate style with sets of attenuated paired posts above which are paired incised brackets. First floor windows of the primary facade are floor length; remaining windows are 2/2 double hung and all windows and doors have stone lintels.

Inside, on the first floor, doors and windows have "dog-eared" pedimented architraves, transomed doorways have four panel doors, and panelling occurs under the secondary windows of both parlors. Four surviving mantels are of a simple pilaster design typical of the vernacular Greek Revival. In the center hallway the stair is announced by a tapered turned newell post.

The house has received several modifications. At some point the living room was enlarged by extending its walls to the hall staircase, at which time the balusters were removed. The mantel in the living room was replaced by a contemporary design brick fireplace. Sandgrained plasterwork occurs in rooms not paneled by wood grained paneling. The first floor rear room of the rear ell was partitioned to make a modern bathroom and kitchen and, above, the rear room was partitioned and a bathroom added. The white paint on the exterior was removed by sandblasting.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Ca. 1868

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Walker-Woodward-Schaffer House is significant according to the criteria of eligibility under definitions B and C to wit: It is associated with prominent citizens of Palmyra, Missouri, and is locally important as the birthplace of actress Jane Darwell; it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Italianate architectural style, a style of considerable importance to the architectural development of northeast Missouri. The areas of significance are as follows: Architecture: The Walker-Woodward Schaffer House is one of a number of surviving Italianate houses in the Hannibal-Palmyra area which constitute one of the richest concentrations of this style to be found in Missouri. The particular house in question is a good example of a modest middle class house combining conservatism in form with a traditional Greek Revival interior and an Italianate exterior. It's single-pile central passage front block with a two story rear wing supporting a two story gallery porch is a building type that had been common in southern houses of that region and throughout the "Little Dixie" regions of Missouri for two or three preceeding decades. Likewise, the interior Greek Revival woodwork--the pilaster mantels and "dog-eared" surrounds of the door and window openings--lingered from previous decades. But the exterior clearly reveals the transitional quality of this house as it takes a cautious step into the Victorian era. As is typical of provincial vernacular architecture, this transformation legged decades behind the cosmopolitan prototypes of the east coast source areas. The balanced facade with a projecting (however modestly) pedimented central pavilion lingers from the vernacular Greek Revival of pre-civil decades, but with enough attenuation to distort the original classical intent. The brackets of the cornice had been a common feature of vernacular Missouri houses since the 1850's. The two most telling departures from past practice were the simple carpenter's Italianate vernada and the slender first story front windows reaching all the way to the floor. The veranda in particular plays the key role in weaning this house away from earlier classicism. The significance of the appearance of this porch on an otherwise traditional house should not be underestimated in Missouri where the picturesque styles gained little foothold in out-state Missouri until precisely this period--the Civil War and post-Civil War years. Prior to this time, classicism held tight reign. This porch, for all its modesty, is a belated harbinger of the age of eclecticism in Missouri that would bury the preceeding southern culture with its regional architectural forms beneath the bric-a-brac of National trends and would transform the character of Missouri's built environment. Social/Humanitarian: The Walker-Woodward-Schaffer House is the material embodiment of the modestly upwardly mobile citizenry of Palmyra, Missouri, county seat of Marion County, who created between 1840 and 1880 a built environment of unusual distinctiveness for a small Missouri town. Its builder was William H. Walker, a local dry goods merchant. Scraps of information suggest that he was a model citizen and promoter of the community progress. In 1847 he became a charter member and first officer of the Palmyra Division of the Sons of Temperance. In that same year, he was appointed to a committee of three to raise funds to survey a Railroad from Palmyra to the Mississippi River and

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WALKER-WOODWARD-SCHAFFER HOUSE

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thereby beat out rival Hannibal for the lucrative river trade. While this venture failed, it does give indication of Walker's local prominence. The next occupants of the house were Col. W. R. Woodward and his family of two boys and one girl. He was the superintendent of the Hannibal and St. Joe Railroad during his residence in Palmyra and he later moved to other superintendent positions in Quincy and Chicago. It was during his Palmyra stay that the town's most famous citizen was born in the house under consideration. As Patti Woodward, this child was evidently raised in small town southern luxury with a negro nurse and clothing that was "the last minute in laces, buttons, muslins and velvets." It was after she left Palmyra that she forged a career as the actress Jane Darwell, a career that included roles in several movies including "Gone With The Wind" and culminated in 1940 in an Academy Award performance as Ma Joad in "Grapes of Wrath". While her small town Missouri origins may be incidental from a National Register point of view, such is hardly the case in Palmyra where her birthplace has over the years been the subject of numerous newspaper articles, Chamber of Commerce brochures, markers and the like.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"'Grapes of Wrath' Star as Remembered Here," Palmyra Spectator, May 8, 1940

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .35 acres *.35 acres*

Quadrangle name "Palmyra, MO."

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	175	62164810	44049410	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Walker-Woodward-Schaffer House is bounded by a rectangle oriented on the house whose center point is the above referenced UTM coordinate. The west line

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James M. Denny, Section Chief, & State Contact Person
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
organization Division of Parks & Historic Preservation date September 6, 1983
street & number P.O. Box 176 telephone 314/751-4096
city or town Jefferson City state Missouri 65102

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Fred A. Lafser, Director, Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer

date

12/29/83

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

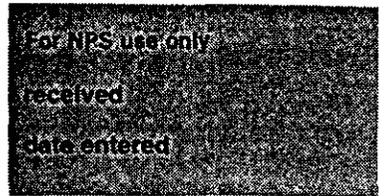
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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WALKER-WOODWARD-SCHAFFER HOUSE

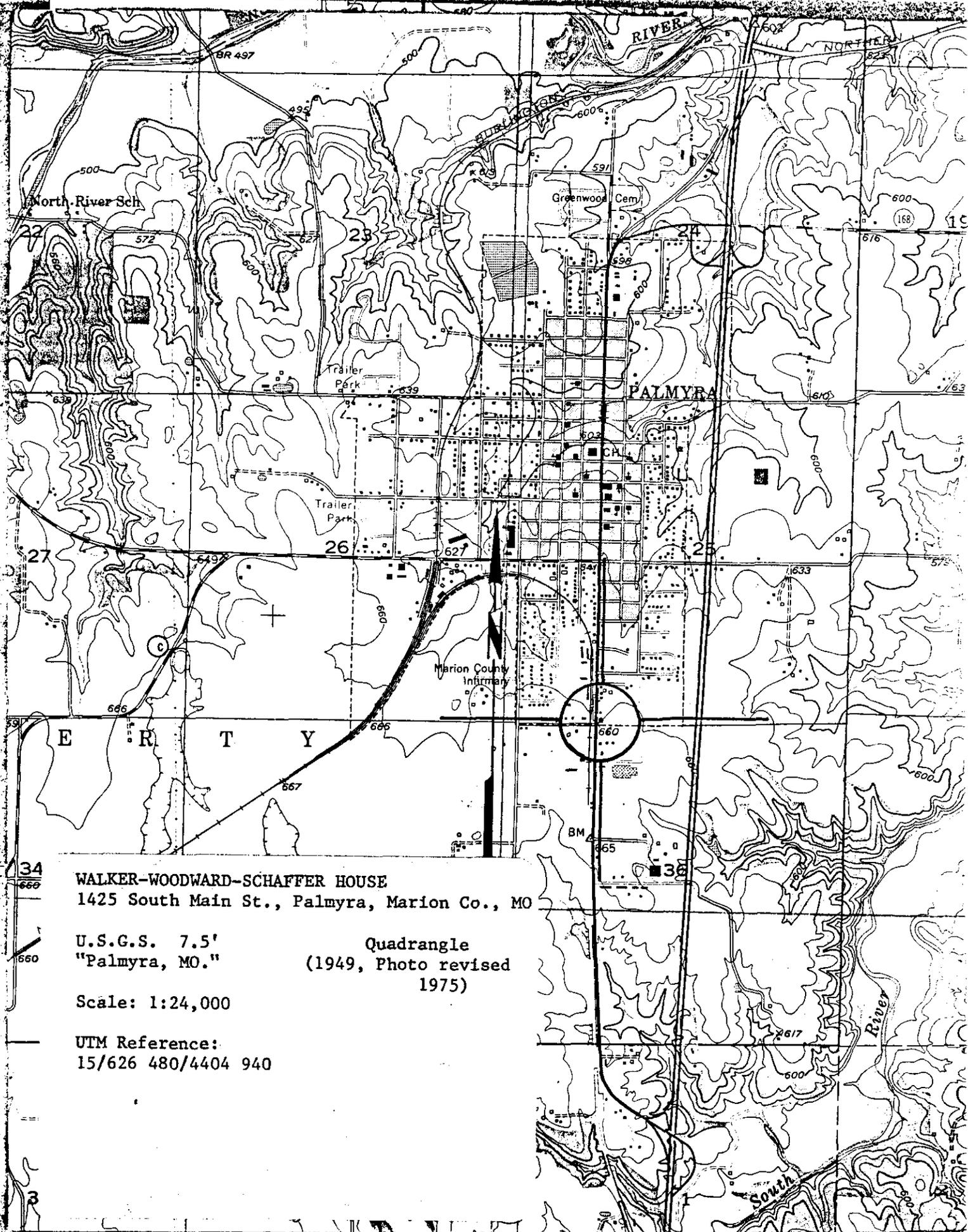
Continuation sheet

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runs parallel to and 60 feet from the west wall at the house; the south line runs parallel to and thirty feet from the south wall of the main block of the house; the north line runs parallel to and 25 feet from the north wall at the main block on the house; the east line runs parallel to and forty feet from the east wall of the rear ell of the house. The resulting rectangle whose dimensions are 105 feet north-south by 145 feet east-west coincides with the yard of the house and forms a compact and convenient boundary for the property.



WALKER-WOODWARD-SCHAFFER HOUSE
1425 South Main St., Palmyra, Marion Co., MO

U.S.G.S. 7.5'
"Palmyra, MO."

Quadrangle
(1949, Photo revised
1975)

Scale: 1:24,000

UTM Reference:
15/626 480/4404 940

WALKER-WOODWARD-SCHAFFER HOUSE 1 of 7
1425 South Main Street
Palmyra Marion County, Mo.

Photographer: James M. Denny
Date : August 3, 1983
Neg. Loc. : Dept. of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Primary (west) facade; looking east.



WALKER-WOODWARD-SCHAFFER HOUSE 2 of 7
1425 South Main Street
Palmyra

Marion County, Mo.

Photographer: James M. Denny

Date : August 3, 1983

Neg. Loc. : Dept. of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

West and South facades; Looking Northeast.



WALKER-WOODWARD-SCHAFFER HOUSE 3 of 7
1425 South Main Street
Palmyra

Marion County, Mo.

Photographer: James M. Denny

Date : August 3, 1983

Neg. Loc. : Dept. of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
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North and West facades; Looking Southeast.



WALKER-WOODWARD-SCHAFFER HOUSE 4 of 7
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Palmyra Marion County, Mo.

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Detail of front veranda and cornice.



WALKER-WOODWARD-SCHAFFER HOUSE 5 of 7
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East (rear) facade; looking West slightly
North.



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Interior view of south first floor room,
main block; looking Northwest.



WALKER-WOODWARD-SCHAFFER HOUSE 7 of 7
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Interior view of north first floor room,
main block; looking Northeast.



Photo taken Nov. 8, 1921 by W. M. Schaffer



This photo shows the window
shutters that were recently placed
at Jane Barwell birthplace and girlhood
home - 1425 So Main, Calmar, Mo.

Picture taken from N. W. of home.



Jane Darwell birthplace and child-hood home, 1425 South Main St., Palmyra, Mo. on U. S. Business #61 and U. S. #24.

Front of Some Faces West



Jane Darwell birth place and child-hood
home, 1425 South Main St., Palmyra, Mo.,
on U. S. Business #61 and U. S. #24.

Picture taken from S.W. of home



Jane Barwell birthplace and child-hood
home, 1425 South Main St., Palmyra, Mo.,
on U.S. Business #61 and U.S. #24

Picture taken from S. W. of home.



Jane Darwell birthplace and child-hood
home, 1425 So. Main St., Palmyra, Mo.
on U. S. Business #61 and U. S. #24.

Front of Home Faces West



Jane Darwell birthplace and childhood home, 1425 South Main St., Selmyra, Mo., on U. S. Business #61 and U. S. #24.