

7. 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The John Dickinson Dopf mansion is a two-story, French Second Empire Style building located on the north side of Cass Street facing the Atchison County Courthouse in Rock Port, Missouri. There are residences adjacent to the house on the east and west sides.

The main facade of the house faces south, is 38 feet wide, and is approached by a flight of steps up a terrace in the front yard. The plan is "T" shaped with the original main building running east-west. The wing to the rear (north) was a later addition that was constructed to enlarge the original building. The main facade (south) is two stories, and the rear facade (north) is three stories. The house has a basement, first floor, second floor, and a partial attic in the north wing on the second floor. There is mansard roof around the main block and a gable roof on the north wing. The building is 53'-6" deep with a 26'-6" wide by 7'-6" deep porch on the front of the south facade.

The mansard roof is ornamented with alternating bands of hexagonal and square slate shingles, Victorian segmental dormers, cornices boxed with frieze and brackets, and box gutters. The mansard roof has upper eaves which are lined with wood mouldings. The lower story below the mansard roof is stretcher-bond, red, sand-finish brick decorated with carved limestone lintels and rusticated quoins. Sills and belt-courses are limestone. Low-pitch roofs are sheet metal, painted red lead. The wing to the rear (north) is finished in stucco, and the basement and foundation are of brick construction.

Two brick chimneys, which served heating stoves in the four main rooms, are above the roof. One is offset left, and one is offset right from the south facade. Both chimneys have stone copings. Original copper lightning rods are in place on the chimneys.

The house has two original open porches, with one new matching porch added on the northeast side in 1980. It is undetermined how many other porches the original structure had. The original porch floors were tongue and groove vertical grain fir with wood joists. They have been replaced with the identical type of construction. The porch ceilings are tongue and groove beaded car siding. All exterior wood trim is white pine and is painted buff color. Paired and clustered wood posts are bracketed in the Italianate manner. Some are original with those that were damaged replaced with replicas of the originals. The jigsaw detailing of the cornice brackets and porch eaves is worthy of note. Ornamentation on posts and cornices is intricately jigsawed white pine.

The main entryway is centered in the front (south) facade, and is flanked by rusticated quoins of limestone. The door frame has deep moulded wood jambs and head surmounted by a transom window. The door has four moulded wood panels, and two top panels which are glass. The original glass, which was lost, has been replaced with antique glass.

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The first floor windows are tall, slender, two-over-two light, double-hung sash with curved tops. They are set in the brick facade with floral-carved, decorative limestone lintels and lugsills. The lintels are segmentally arched with keystones.

The mansard-story windows are two-over-two light, double-hung sash, with curved tops of smaller proportions. They have wood framed segmental pediment casings set into Victorian segmental dormers. These dormers are enhanced by decorative jigsaw ornamentation. All glazing that is not original has been replaced with antique window glass.

INTERIOR

Interior non-bearing partition walls are constructed of wood studs. Interior load-bearing walls are solid brick. The wood floor and roof joists span between interior bearing walls.

The house rests on a basement of brick construction divided into 4 rooms and 3 crawl space areas. A narrow wooden staircase provides access from the basement to the first floor Library/Study in the north wing addition.

On the first floor, the front entrance opens onto a hall with a graceful, free-standing, curved "J"-plan staircase, ascending left-center. The treads are stained walnut as is the railing. The spiral-turned balusters and risers are painted. The base wrapping around the stair is beautifully ornamented in painted, carved wood. A card found in the newel post identifies the builder as D. A. McArther and is dated October 27, 1876. The ceiling of the hall is decorated with a plaster ceiling medallion from which is suspended a "Maria Teresa" style brass and crystal chandelier.

To the right of the entrance hall on the southeast side of the building, is the Living Room, which is 14'-3" by 14'-6". The Family Room, 18'-3" by 12'-6", is to the north of the Living Room. The Family Room contains a large bay window. To the west of the Family Room is the Dining Alcove, 12'-6" by 13'-0", and further to the west is the Kitchen, 10'-0" by 13'-0". To the left, on the south side of the building and west of the hall, is the Dining Room, 14'-3" by 14'-9". The north wing, which is an addition to the original building, is accessible through a door on the north wall of the Family Room. This room is the Study, 14'-6" by 13'-3", and to the north is the Powder Room, 11'-3" by 8'-0". All ceiling heights are 12'-0" on the first floor, and heavy moulded cornices flank the wall-to-ceiling joints throughout. The original 6" yellow pine plank flooring is retained and stained a walnut color. Walls and ceilings were originally lath and plaster, and have been overlaid with 3/8" gypsum board. All interior door and window trim is yellow pine, painted.

The stairway opens onto a hall on the second floor which serves the Master Bedroom, 12'-7" by 13'-0", and Bedroom #2, 13'-0" by 12'-9". Ceiling heights are 9'-1" on the second floor. The hall has heavy moulded cornices. Original pine plank flooring is retained in the rooms, but the first and second floor halls and the stairs are now carpeted over the pine

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flooring. All exterior corners are now carpeted over the pine flooring. All exterior corners of the walls are equipped with turned wood protectors. A back hall serves Bedroom #3, 13'-0" by 9'-0", and the Sewing Room, 8'-0" by 8'-0". The Sewing Room has a winding "L" plan wood stair leading down to the Library/Study on the first floor.

Complete measured architectural working drawings are available for inspection from the architect/owner, Ralph E. Kiene, Jr., AIA., 1006 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64106.

ALTERATIONS & ADDITIONS

1. A bedroom addition was added on the east side in the 1930's when the building was turned into apartments.² It has been replaced with a new porch to match the original two porches in 1980.
2. A new two-car garage with brick-paved deck above has been added to the north side adjacent to the north wing addition and the Kitchen. New railings and stairs have been added. New trim and detailing matches the originals. Completed 1980.
3. The north wind addition was constructed about 1900. (Dated by type of construction and brick).
4. In 1979, rotted trim, posts, brackets, jigsawn detailing and doors were replaced with new to match originals. Porches, glass, slate shingles were replaced with new to match originals where needed. Tin roofs were repaired and painted with red lead color elastic roof coating. Metal gutters, downspouts and straps were repaired or replaced where necessary. Brick was washed clean and repointed with mortar that matched the original. Original brick door and transom openings on the north side of the building were restored. Damaged stucco was repaired, and old stucco was painted to match the brick. Keystones were reset over the windows. New exterior lighting fixtures were added on porches.
5. Interior: Major alterations were made in about 1930 when the house was converted into 4 apartments. These alterations were very destructive to the original interior. False ceilings were removed from the first floor rooms during restoration, as were several partitions previously used to section off apartments. The interior was in very poor condition, and it has since been carefully restored to its original plan.

CONDITION

The house is now in excellent physical condition: fully insulated, new heating and air-conditioning system, new plumbing, new electrical wiring, completely redecorated in "Victorian" style.

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 type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1876 **Builder/Architect** J. Menz, Architect; D.A. McArther, Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Dopf mansion is a fine example of French Second Empire Victorian Style. The house was designed by a Chicago architect, J. Manz¹, and built by D. A. McArther. It is significant architecturally because its date (1876) links it to the Governor's Mansion in Jefferson City, which was built in 1872 and was one of the earliest examples of the Second Empire Style to appear in Missouri. It is of similar architectural style. The Dopf mansion is an early example of Victorian style architecture in northwest Missouri, and is the only one of its kind in the Rock Port community. The Frederick Krause house (National Register) in Platte City is a similar northwestern Missouri Second Empire Cottage.

John D. Dopf was born in Platteville, Wisconsin, on July 18, 1839. As a young man, he served as a printer's apprentice. In 1860, he moved to Polo, Illinois, where he published a newspaper for a few months. In the spring of 1862, he moved to St. Louis, where he served as manager of the Missouri State Printing Office. The next year, in 1863, he moved to Rock Port and established The Atchison County Journal. He served as Atchison County Surveyor from 1864 to 1870. He had a real estate business, and he played an active role in promoting emigration to the new lands that were available in Atchison County. He was a partner in the bank which is now The Bank of Atchison County. He and his wife, Mary, bought the land for their new house on May 28, 1866.² They had three surviving children. "He was a person who was foremost in every good cause, and is highly esteemed by all that knew him."³

During the 1930's, the house was converted into four apartments, which destructively altered the original plan of the house.⁴ The apartments were given the name of "The Hillcrest".⁵ Original hardware, light fixtures, and some window glass were lost during this period.

In July, 1979, the house was purchased by Ralph E. Kiene, Jr., architect, and Mr. Robert L. Woodbury, developer, who undertook the task of restoring the building to its original plan. Mr. Kiene, a practicing architect in Kansas City, was schooled in the Beaux-Arts traditions of architecture, and considered it a professional challenge to restore the house to its original splendor. He was able to successfully stimulate the workers to a level of craftsmanship demanded for such an intricate job as this. Every effort was made to insure the authenticity of the restoration, but create a livable residence. Restoration was completed in 1980. The Dopf mansion is currently for sale or rent.

The Dopf mansion is a monument to a "self-made man, through his own exertions."⁶ He is known as "one of the most useful and honored citizens of Rock Port."⁷ His contributions to the early history of Missouri through his newspaper and banking efforts are far reaching.

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FOOTNOTES

1. History of Atchison County, Atchison County Public Library.
2. Abstract of Title to Property.
3. History of Atchison County, Atchison County Public Library.
4. The Atchison County Mail, Newspaper, November 8, 1979.
5. Ibid.
6. History of Atchison County, Atchison County Public Library.
7. Ibid.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Abstract of Title to Property.
2. The Atchison County Mail, Newspaper, November 8, 1979.
3. History of Atchison County, Atchison County Public Library.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name ROCK PORT, MO

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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Verbal boundary description and justification

All of Lot 12 and the East 30 ft. of Lot 11, and West 20 ft. of Lots 4, 5, and 6; except 6 ft. off the North side of Lots 4, 11, and 12 for an alley; in Block 6, Nuckolls & Whites Addition to the City of Rockport, Atchison County, Missouri.

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 1. Ralph E. Kiene, Jr., Architect

organization Ralph E. Kiene & Associates A.I.A.

date February 1, 1982

street & number 1006 Grand Avenue,, #1109

telephone 816/221-2139

city or town Kansas City,

state Missouri 64106

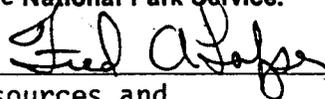
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 Director, Department of Natural Resources and
State Historic Preservation Officer

date

8/26/83

For NPS use only

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

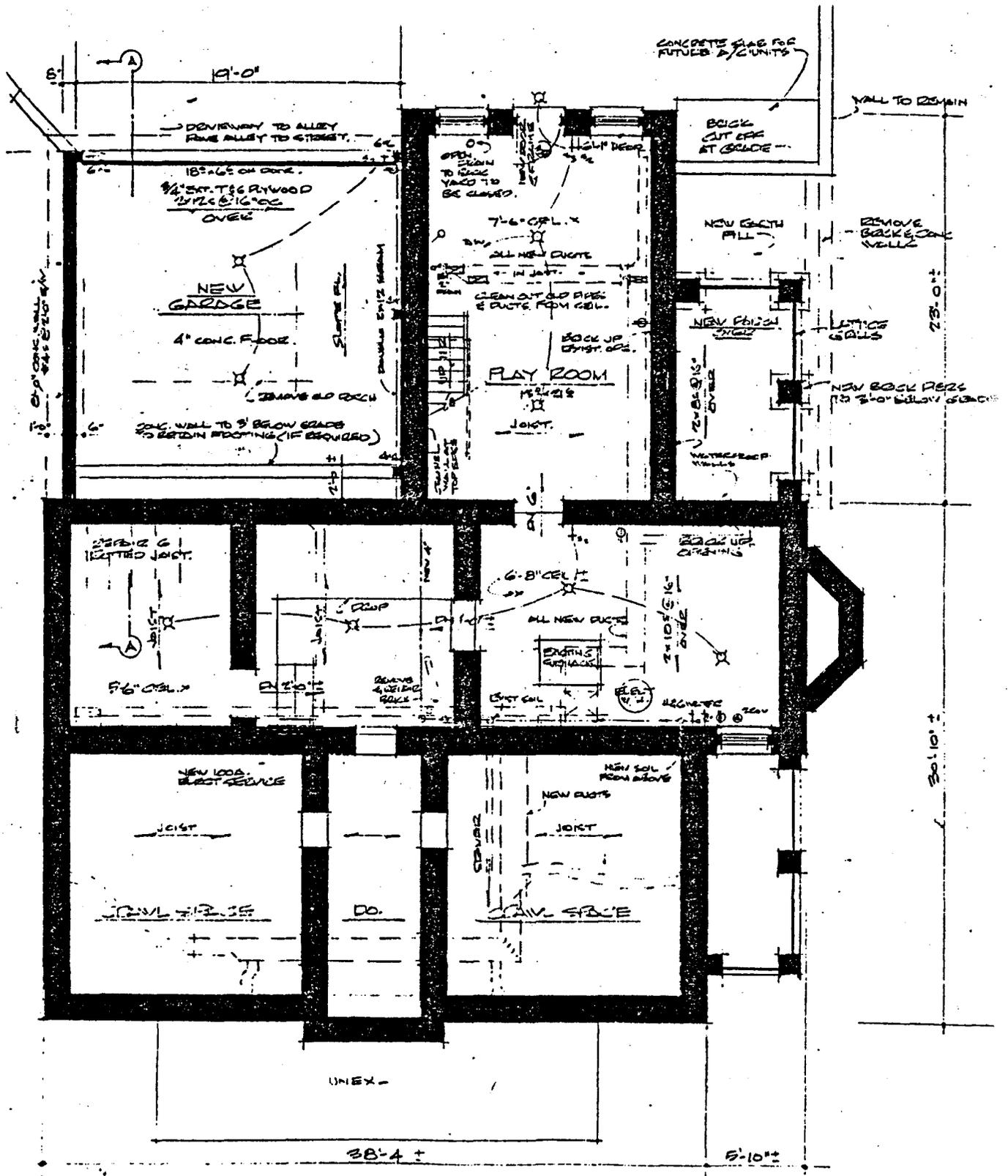
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



BASEMENT PLAN

JOHN DICKINSON DOPF MANSION
407 Cass Street
Rock Port, Atchison Co. Missouri

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle
ROCK PORT, MO. Scale 1:24,000

UTM Reference: 15/286300/4476320

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SITE

The house faces Cass Street, in Rock Port, Atchison County, Missouri, opposite the Atchison County Courthouse. The original courthouse building still stands and has recently been restored. The house is among several others in the neighborhood that have historical interest as 19th century frame buildings. This is the only brick one. No other buildings are on the property. The main facade is approached by a flight of concrete steps up a terrace in the front yard. The grade is at basement level on the north side of the building.

PRESENT STATUS

The property was purchased in July, 1979, by Mr. Ralph E. Kiene, Jr., architect, and Mr. Robert L. Woodbury, developer. Restoration was completed in September, 1980. All responsibilities for the property belong to these two persons. The property is currently being offered for sale or rent.

FOOTNOTES

1. The Atchison County Mail, Newspaper, Rock Port, Missouri, November 8, 1979.
2. Ibid.



