National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

 historic name John, David, House

other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 103 South 23rd Street [n/a] not for publication

city or town Lexington [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Lafayette code 107 zip code 64067

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 [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [X] locally.

See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

[ ] entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet [ ].

[ ] determined eligible for the National Register
See continuation sheet [ ].

[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.

[ ] removed from the National Register

[ ] other, explain
See continuation sheet [ ].

Signature of the Keeper Date
5. Classification

Ownership of Property | Category of Property | Number of Resources within Property |
----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
[ X] private          | [ X] building(s)     | 2 buildings                        |
[ ] public-local      | [ ] district         | 0 sites                            |
[ ] public-State      | [ ] site             | 0 structures                        |
[ ] public-Federal    | [ ] structure        | 0 objects                           |
                        | [ ] object           |                                    |
                        |                      | Total                               |

Name of related multiple property listing.
Historic Resources of Lexington
Lafayette County, MO, MRA

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions
VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
Greek Revival

Materials
foundation brick
walls brick
wood
roof asphalt
other wood
brick

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
A Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

[ ] 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.

[ ] 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

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

Architecture


Periods of Significance

circa 1846

Significant Dates

n/a

Significant Person(s)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

9 Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Primary location of additional data:

[ ] State Historic Preservation Office

[ ] Other State Agency

[ ] Federal Agency

[ ] Local Government

[ ] University

[ ] Other:

Name of repository:
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References

A. Zone 15  
Easting 425040  Northing 4337450

B. Zone  
Easting  Northing

C. Zone  
Easting  Northing

D. Zone  
Easting  Northing

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roger Maserang/Historic Preservation Coordinator
organization Show-Me Regional Planning Commission  
date March 27, 1992
street & number 122 Hout Street, P.O. Box 348  
television 816/747-2294

city or town Warrensburg  
state Missouri  
zip code 64093

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FOP for any additional items)

Property Owner
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FOP)

name__________________________
street & number__________________________ telephone__________________________
city or town__________________________ state__________________________ zip code__________________________
SUMMARY: The David John House, 103 S. 23rd St., Lexington, Lafayette County, is a one-story red brick residence constructed in a traditional, double-pen plan with historic frame additions. The form of the David John House exemplifies vernacular efforts to convey a prevailing style, in this case Greek Revival (see "Historic Resources of Lexington, Missouri (Partial Inventory: Historic and Architectural Properties): Associated Property Types: Greek Revival Buildings"). The David John House was built in circa 1848. Greek Revival styling is minimal but such elements as cornice returns (suggestive of pediments), dentil bands in the porches and formal balance point in that direction, considering the time and place of the house's construction. The house and a circa 1930s privy occupy a corner lot in a residential neighborhood in the oldest part of Lexington.

NARRATIVE: The floor plan of the approximately 32 feet wide by 16 feet deep core structure consists of two essentially identical, side-by-side square rooms with individual front doors. Two and three header courses are found in the lower portions of the walls, but the balance of the soft red brick is laid in stretcher bond. The primary elevation faces east. The house rests on its original foundation of brick.

There are two interior end chimneys in the core structure. On the north end, the chimney has been shortened but the south chimney is of shaped masonry. Behind the front block of the David John House, additions with weatherboard and board-and-batten siding provide four additional small rooms. The oldest addition, on the southwest, probably dates from circa 1900. The other additions are also old but appear to have been constructed after 1900. Primary roofs are gabled.

Two frame porches with distinctive cut-out posts and scrollwork railings provide the property with its main ornamentation. The main porch occupies the central third of the primary elevation. The smaller porch, of similar design, is at the entrance to the oldest frame addition. Porches with pierced posts are a unique type within the Lexington MRA. The porches were probably constructed during the 1870s or 1880s, in most examples including the David John House. The cut-out posts notwithstanding, the conspicuous dentil bands read as Greek Revival.

Fenestration in the main elevation of the core structure consists of two windows flanking two central but separate entrances. The openings have slightly rounded segmental arches of brick which typify construction techniques of German craftsmen. Most windows are double-hung 6/6s, an appropriate Greek Revival form. With the exception of those in the primary elevation, window and door openings have flat arches. Front doors are an old, paneled type.

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1 The year of construction was inferred from the abstract. In October 1848, David John and his wife Ann obtained a $200 mortgage on Lot 17 (containing the house). They had acquired the land earlier that year from William and Rebecca Robinson for $38.
On the interior, enframements are plain flat boards but architraves are pediment shaped. Pilaster mantels in the two rooms in the core structure have wide, arched friezes which accommodate cast iron inserts for burning coal. These rooms are square. Their dimensions are 15 feet by 15 feet. In addition to a doorway between them and doors to the outside, each core structure room also has a doorway at the rear leading into the additions.

The David John House occupies a corner lot in a residential neighborhood in the original platted area of Lexington, subsequently called Old Town. A frame privy is the only outbuilding. It is located west of the residence.

The David John House is #581 in the Lexington MRA.
JOHN, DAVID, HOUSE

103 S. 23rd St., Lexington, Missouri
MRA #581

A - David John House
B - Privy

Seeking the National Register of Historic Places
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

SITE MAP (Not to Scale)
SUMMARY: The David John House, 103 S. 23rd St., Lexington, Lafayette County, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. Built circa 1848, it exemplifies a traditional form of residence (double-pen) within the Greek Revival Buildings property type (see "Historic Resources of Lexington, Missouri: Partial Inventory: Historic and Architectural Properties: Associated Property Types: Greek Revival Buildings"). While Greek Revival detailing was minimal on vernacular examples, it may be inferred in this case from the formal balance of the primary elevation, cornice returns suggestive of pediments and, perhaps, the dentilated bands on the portico and side porch. Segmentally arched door and window headers in the primary elevation are typical of the work of German craftsmen who arrived in Lexington beginning in the 1840s (see "Historic Resources Of Lexington, Missouri: German Immigration in Lexington, 1840s-1900"). The David John House survives with only historic alterations to both the exterior and interior, primarily in the form of rearward additions. A circa 1930s frame privy is a contributing outbuilding. Additional local significance is derived from the property's location in Old Town, the original platted area of Lexington (see "Historic Resources of Lexington, Missouri: Early Settlement and Trading, 1815-1836").

NARRATIVE: David John, a native of Fauquier County, Virginia, acquired the land which includes this house in 1848; the house was apparently built a few months later. Although John died in 1851, the property remained in the John family until 1910. At that time it was sold to John T. Smith, the first of several subsequent owners. Although unoccupied for several years, the form of the David John House remains that of a single family dwelling.

"Abstract and Lafayette County cemetery records."
9. Major Bibliographic References

Abstract of title, 103 S. 23rd Street, Lexington, MO.

Missouri Historic Inventory Survey Form No. 581, "Mike House." Historic Lexington Survey, August 1981. Copy in Missouri Cultural Resources Inventory, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, MO.

[For additional bibliographic information, see "Historic Resources of Lexington, Missouri" (amended) cover document.]

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: Lot 17, Original Town, City of Lexington, Lafayette County, MO.

Boundary Justification: The boundaries encompass all the city lot historically associated with the nominated property.
The following is the same for all photographs:

John, David, House
103 South 23rd Street, Lexington, Lafayette County, MO
Photographer: Roger Maserang
Negative location: Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

#1: View from east
March 1991
1 of 9

#2: View from northeast
March 1991
2 of 9

#3: View from southeast
March 1991
3 of 9

#4: View from southwest
March 1991
4 of 9

#5: Porch detail, view from northeast
March 1991
5 of 9

#6: View of north pen, facing south
May 1991
6 of 9

#7: Mantel in north pen, facing north
May 1991
7 of 9

#8: South rear room, facing east
May 1991
8 of 9

#9: Mantel in south pen, facing south
May 1991
9 of 9
STORIC SITES OF EXCIN-TON,
AFAYETTE COUNTY, MO, I RA

GEORGE
JOHNSON HOUSE
5/426210 ME
5/4337470 N

DAVID JOHN
HOUSE
5/425040 ME
5/4337450 N
EXTRA PHOTOS