

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

For NPS use only

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

received JAN 17 1985

date entered FEB 14 1985

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

**1. Name**

historic Speigle House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 406 South Dickerson not for publication

city, town Palmyra vicinity of

state Missouri code 29 county Marion code 127

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Drs. Patricio C. & Estrella Z. Avila

street & number 70 Pioneer Trail

city, town Hannibal vicinity of state Missouri 63401

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number Marion County Courthouse

city, town Palmyra state Missouri 63401

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date 1984 federal  state  county  local

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

city, town Jefferson City, state Missouri 65102

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 Speigle house is a two story brick house situated on the northeast corner of a double lot at the intersection of Dickerson and Church Streets in Palmyra, Missouri. The Style embodies transitional trends in vernacular architecture with Italianate and Greek Revival detailing.

A nearly square main block is accentuated by a broad modillioned cornice with architraved frieze. The three bay primary facade faces east with a side passage to the south. A two story, two room wing is attached in a flush manner to the north facade forming an L. The side walls of the wing are at the same elevation of the main block enabling the cornice to continue in an uninterrupted manner until the wing truncates into a gable end wall.

A simple hipped roof covering the main block, a gabled roof of a lower pitch covering the wing, and a truncated shed roof of a two story gallery porch (facing south) retain original standing seam tin roof.

Painted masonry walls of the main block are laid in unusually exacting fashion with header courses every seven courses on the south facade. (No headers appear on the north and east facades.) Rubble foundation has ashlar facing and water table above grade. Brick walls of rear wing were laid in less exacting fashion. Irregular header courses alternating between five and nine courses are found on the north and south facade. However, the header courses on the north facade alternate with stretchers and headers similar to Flemish bond. The actual header courses are nineteen courses apart. All walls are twelve inches thick (triple brick).

The two story gallery porch (now enclosed on second floor) retains bracketed cornice and has been truncated even with the rear gable wall. The gallery formerly ran even with the two story brick appendage that has since been removed from the gable end of the wing. Scored masonry under the porch at ground level indicates earlier plaster walls and an enclosure (photo documentation/oral interview).

Flat stone lintels and sills decorate 4/4 double hung sash, while first floor windows of the primary facade project to the floor. One light, casement windows on the gable end wall are in the locations of earlier openings to the removed appendage.

One set of shutters remain in place. All others have been removed to accommodate aluminum storms.

The Greek Revival front entry of primary facade has broken transom and sidelights flanked by flat columns. Flat stone lintel forms ears. Small stoop has replaced the front porch. Profile of the porch columns and the roof line on masonry indicate a full width porch of simple Italianate detailing with bracket profile matching gallery porch. (Photo 5)

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Continuation sheet Speigle House

Item number 7

Page 1

Side entry on the six bay north facade has been bricked in with glass block infill.

Corbelled chimney on north facade and the central chimney on the rear wing remain.

The interior floor plan remains intact with the formal foyer separated from the parlor in the main block by a broad opening and round Ionic columns in antis. Greek Revival detailing continues with shouldered architraved molding rising to the pediment in the main block and flattening in the rear wing. The second floor molding is simpler. The original first floor mantle has been removed. A simpler version of a pilastered mantle remains in the second floor bedroom. A turned walnut newel and oak balustrade form the balustrade of the stairwell. The four panel doors and panels at the base of the first floor windows remain intact. The lower sash of the first floor windows extending to the floor slide up into the wall providing a five foot walkout.

## 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/
<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** 1850's **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Speigle House is significant as a transitional style of vernacular architecture associated with the most prosperous period of Palmyra's early development. Throughout its history the house has served as a residence for many prominent and influential citizens including; physicians, a miller/judge, retailers, a minister, and a mayor.

The Speigle House is architecturally significant for the following reasons: it remains a well preserved example of residential architecture in a grouping of antebellum structures of unusually fine quality for a town its size and reflects important transitional trends in the vernacular style of the 1850's in the area.

Standing by 1854, the Speigle House meshes with a flourish of growth in Palmyra. From 1850 to 1856, "the population doubled, new and substantial business houses were built, and many of the spacious brick residences yet to be seen were constructed during that time."

The Greek Revival detailing of the entries and the richly appointed millwork of the interior combine with early Italianate features (broad eaves with modillioned cornice, first floor windows of the primary facade that provide access to a veranda with simple detailing) to form a conservative version of a restrained urban town house set in a "country" atmosphere.

Similar houses exist that are contemporary with the Speigle House. The Granville Keller House located at 606 S. Dickerson (ca. 1855) in Palmyra expresses strikingly similar features on the primary facade, save for 6/6 windows. In an urban setting, the Robert Campbell House in Saint Louis, Mo., (ca. 1855) expresses similar transitional tendencies to the Italianate while retaining characteristics of a Greek Revival townhouse.

During the decade of the 1850's, Palmyra, an academic hub, with an upper middle class of style conscious citizenry, left a wealth of architecture in the vernacular style.

The craftsmen/builder/owner method of designing, building, and redesigning, provides an interesting study in the incongruities of construction techniques.

The evolution of style, function, and use of the Speigle House, manifest these tendencies in several ways, and through the interesting and confusing techniques used to arrive at the present version of the house, we find an interesting puzzle that hopefully can be answered with some

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Holcombe, R.I. History of Marion County Missouri. St. Louis: E. F. Perkins, 1884.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .63 acre

Quadrangle name "Palmyra, Mo."

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	5	6	2	6	3	4	0	4	4	0	6	0	2	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The northeast quarter of Block 44, being Lots 1 and 2 of Dickerson Addition, measuring 135 feet on South Dickerson by 204 feet on Church.

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

state Missouri code 29 county Marion code 127

state \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1. River City Restorations by Kristy Trevathan

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date October, 1984

street & number 200 South Seventh Street telephone (314) 248-0733

city or town Hannibal state Missouri

## 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 John Karel

title John Karel, Director & Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Parks and Historic Preservation date 12/20/84

### For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date 2-14-85

Melores Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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National Park Service**

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Item number 8

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accuracy as the present rehabilitation/restoration, being undertaken by the owners, proceeds.

The stone foundation of the main block follows conventional locations until an offset appears in the area of the side entry. At this point, the stone foundation runs directly under the ballustrade. Since conventional bearing walls carry the normal weight, this is an oddity that is further compounded by the fact that the foundation of the wing is entirely brick. The common/party wall between the main block and the wing is bearing and also brick. An unusual feature occurs on the exterior of the juncture where the main block and wing join on the north facade. The finely laid masonry of the main block cantilevers over the more commonly laid masonry of the wing approximately nine feet above grade. In addition; the masonry is butted above and below this area and is not tied in.

The middle room of the wing, originally a crawl space, leads to a room of full size with brick walls. This room has two bricked up openings the size of doors, one leading to the south, the other to the west. An earlier two story, one room deep, brick appendage to the west of the wing and of narrower width has since been removed.

Recent site excavations reveal a stone foundation under this former appendage while comparisons of similar detached structures in the area indicate a former kitchen and cellar of smoke house.

The rarity of a brick foundation leads one to infer infill between two foundations of stone. However, incongruities, as mentioned above, end up refuting even the most educated guess as to timing and reasons behind the evolutions of such structures.

Early transactions indicate structures existing on lots 1 and 2 by 1838. However, the house being nominated was standing by 1854 at which time Dr. Christian Speigle sold the property. Speigle owner of record by 1850 was born in Germany in 1801, was graduated from one of the best universities in Germany and had practiced medicine for several years in Europe before immigrating to the United States. At the time of his arrival in Palmyra, he had practiced in the states for sixteen years. Speigle, his wife, Sarah, of Ohio, and their three year old daughter, Ordellia, arrived in Palmyra in 1849 and announced the establishment of his practice in the local paper.<sup>2</sup>

One of Palmyra's first Baptist ministers, William H. Boulware and his wife, Marie (Redd) Boulward, both from Kentucky, occupied the house from 1854-58. William's father, Rev. Mordecai Boulware, also a baptist minister, settled in the Fabuis Township in 1825. He was the first pastor of the South River Church, the very oldest church organization in Northeast Missouri and the first formed in Marion County. His sons, William M. and John W. were educated at Bethel College and St. Paul's College in Palmyra, both practicing law in town for many years.<sup>3</sup>

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An inlaid cross in the millwork over the entry to the wing from the side hall may have been left by the Boulwares.

During the Civil War years, a very spirited citizen of Palmyra, Darius Wilcox, lived in the house and had two noteworthy encounters with Southern troops. On Friday, August 16, 1861, ten to fifteen armed secessionist, "came into town, and a serious affray came near taking place between them and Mr. Wilcox. Several of them surrounded him, and demanded a surrender of his arms. He threatened to shoot the first who should approach him. Citizens, however, interfered, and what might otherwise have been a fearful tragedy, was averted." Spared of any injury this time, Darius made history again during the 1862 campaign of Col. Joseph C. Porter of the Confederate army.

"There were frequent alarms in Palmyra and the garrison was often under arms. Saturday night, August 23, three soldiers of the 23d. Mo. Infantry, happening to be in town went over into Mr. D.P. Wilcox's orchard and began stealing his peaches.<sup>4</sup> Asking them to desist and inquiring who and what they were and receiving no satisfaction, and finding that neither words or grass had any effect, Mr. Wilcox, a strong Union man, opened on the pilferers with his revolver, and brought one of them down with a serious wound. The long roll sounded and the militia turned out expecting an attack."<sup>5</sup>

Wilcox and family moved to Palmyra from Ohio. Darius was a local miller, landowner, and, at one time a judge. His middle daughter, Elizabeth A., and her husband, John C.B. Thomas, resided in the house until 1903.<sup>6</sup>

Thomas was born at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, September 20, 1839, and moved to Palmyra at the age of seven. Educated at St. Paul's College, Thomas, an entrepreneur in the manufacture of agricultural implements, founded several successful local businesses. In 1892, Thomas served as mayor of Palmyra.<sup>7</sup>

In 1903, John B. Best and his nephew, John E. Best, owners of the Best Brothers Hardware, purchased the house. The Speigle House remained in the hands of Best descendants until 1981. Included are Dr. Forrest Carlstead and his son, both dentists, who were responsible for many alterations, as mentioned, in the 1940's and 50's.

Drs. Patricio C. and Estrella Z. Avila, present owners, are in the process of adapting the house for medical offices while restoring and reconstructing exterior features.

River City Restorations, local restoration contractors, have undertaken the project.

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date entered

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NOTES

1. R. I. Holcombe, History of Marion County, Missouri (St. Louis: E. F. Perkins, 1884), Chapter XXIX, "The City of Palmyra," pp. 840.
2. Information on Christian Speigle compiled from the following:  
Title abstract held by Palmyra State Bank.  
U.S. Census of 1850.  
Advertisement from The Missouri Whig, Vol. X. December 12, 1849.
3. R. I. Holcombe, pp. 665, 856.
4. Peach orchard documented pictorally in the Bird's Eye View of Palmyra, 1869.
5. R. I. Holcombe, pp. 400, 473.
6. U.S. Census of 1860.
7. Simon's & McConnell's, Hannibal City Directory (Hannibal Printing Co., 1881-82 ed.).

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet Speigle House

Item number 11

Page 1

2. James M. Denny, Chief, Survey & Registration  
and State Contact Person

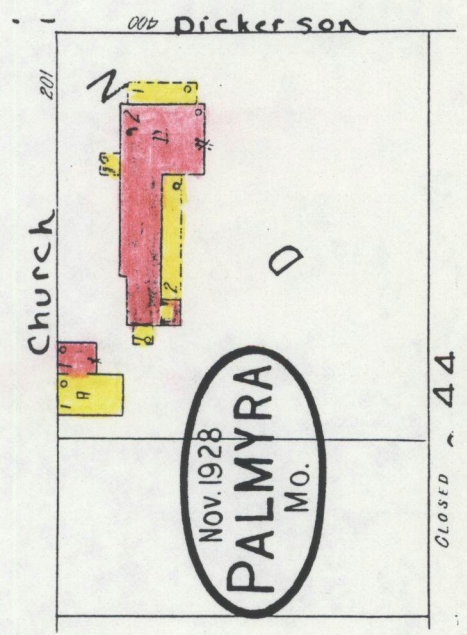
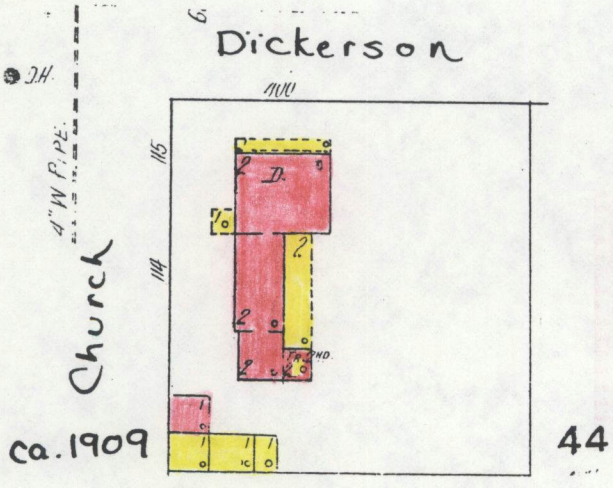
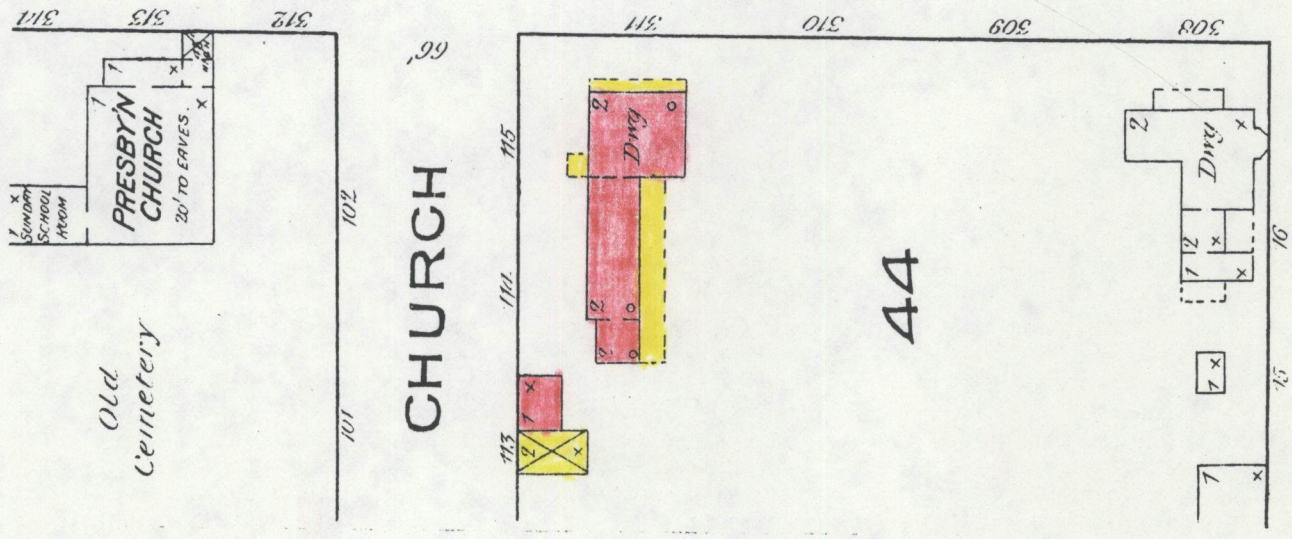
Department of Natural Resources  
1915 Southridge Drive  
Jefferson City

November 15, 1984  
(314) 751-4096  
Missouri 65102

SANBORN MAP & PUBLISHING CO. LIMITED  
 1170119 BROADWAY  
 NEW YORK

ca. 1886

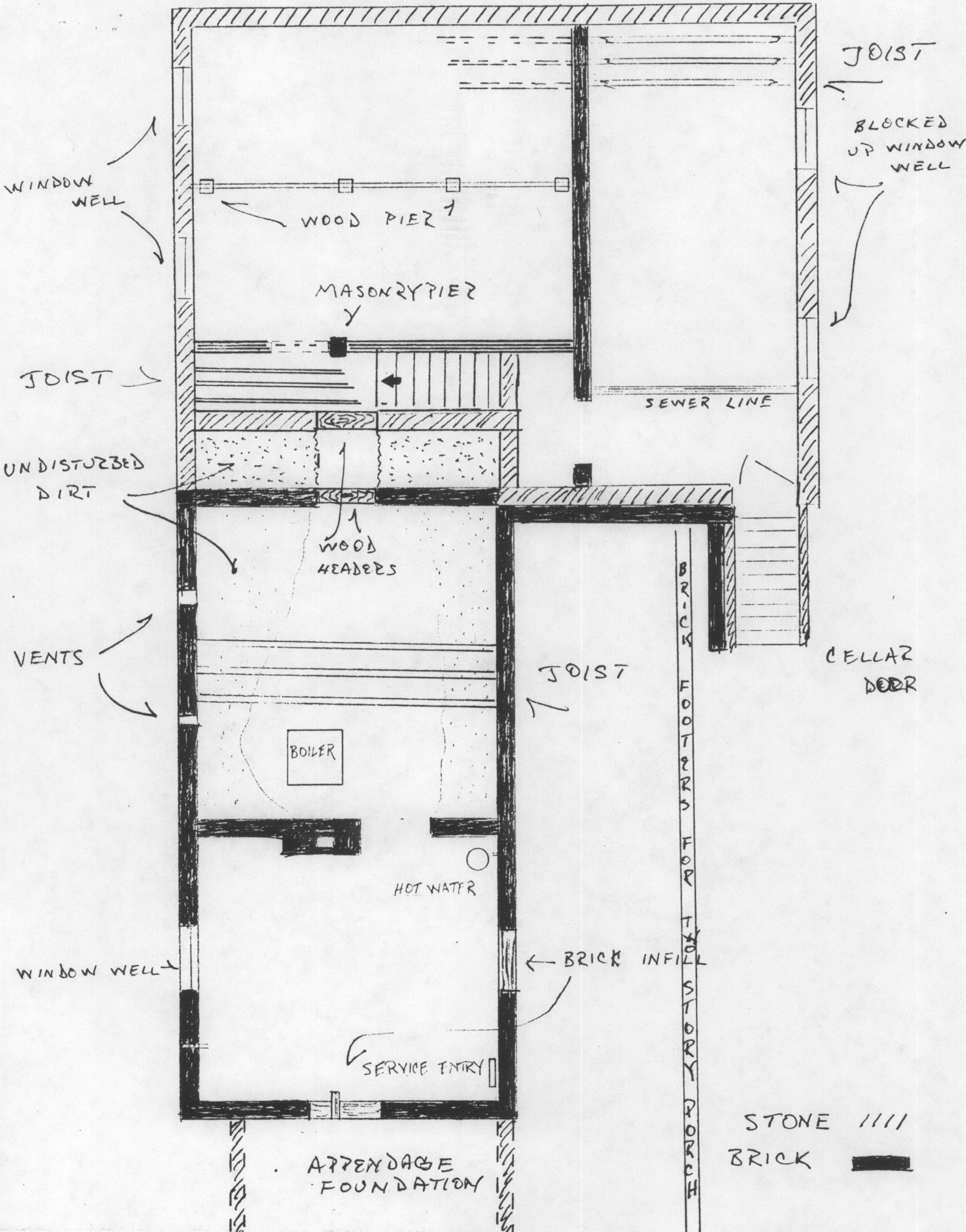
DICKINSON



■ Brick  
 ■ Frame

N ↑

BASEMENT / STRUCTURAL



JOIST

BLOCKED UP WINDOW WELL

WINDOW WELL

WOOD PIER 1

MASONRY PIER

JOIST

SEWER LINE

UNDISTURBED DIRT

WOOD HEADERS

VENTS

JOIST

CELLAR DOOR

BOILER

HOT WATER



WINDOW WELL

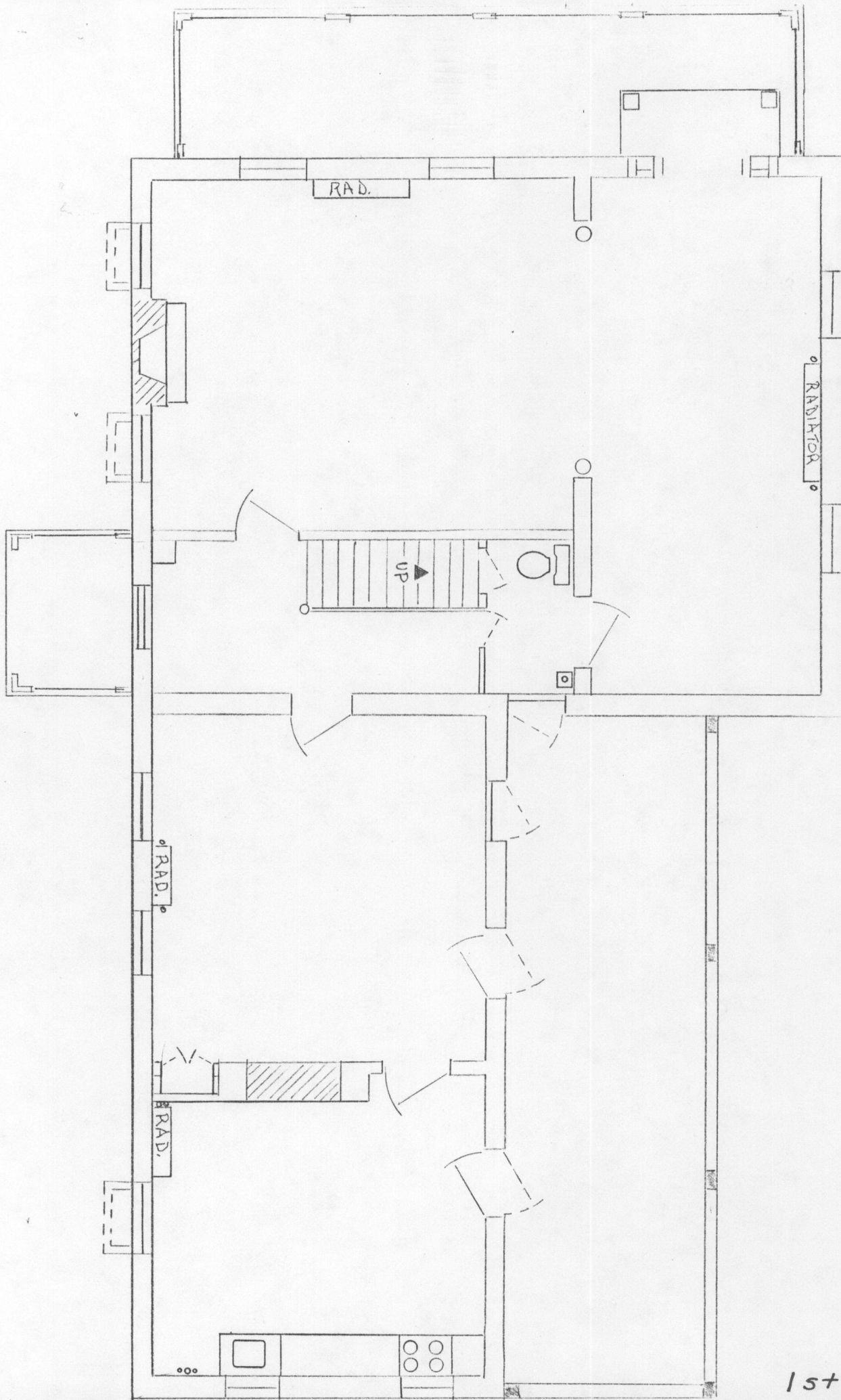
BRICK INFILL

SERVICE ENTRY

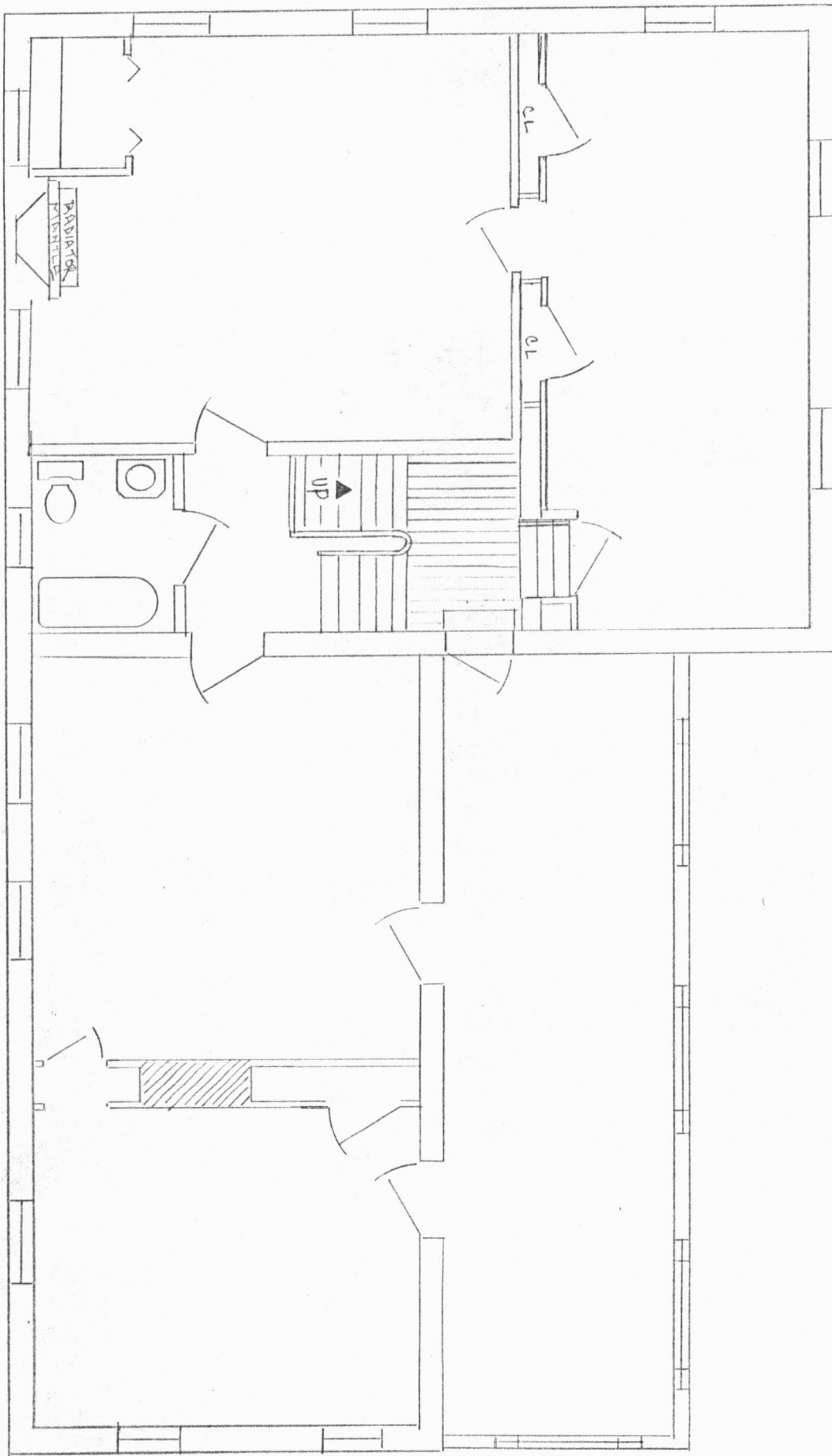
APPENDAGE FOUNDATION

BRICK FOOTERS FOR 1ST FLOOR PORCH

STONE   
BRICK 



1st Floor



2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Speigle House  
Marion County  
MISSOURI

Working No. JAN 17 1985  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/4/86  
Date Due: 2/14/85 - 3/3/85  
Action:  ACCEPT 2-14-85  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. 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

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

---

**8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_  
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*) \_\_\_\_\_

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

---

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_  
Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

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Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



CHURCH ST

CROSS ST

FOR SALE  
WEBBER  
REAL ESTATE BROKER  
224 N. HILL 369-4530

MCA381

SPEIGLE HOUSE 1 of 9  
406 S. Dickerson, Palmyra, Missouri

Photog: Kristy Trevathan, Sept.1984  
Neg. Loc.: River City Restorations  
200 S. 7th  
Hannibal, Mo. 63401

Streetscape looking southwest;  
East and south facade.



SPEIGLE HOUSE 2 of 9  
406 S. Dickerson, Palmyra, Missouri

Photog: Kristy Trevathan, Sept. 1984  
Neg. Loc.: River City Restorations  
200 S. 7th  
Hannibal, Mo. 63401

Primary (east) facade; looking west.



SPEIGLE HOUSE 3 of 9  
406 S. Dickerson, Palmyra, Missouri

Photog: Kristy Trevathan, Sept.1984  
Neg. Loc.: River City Restorations  
200 S. 7th  
Hannibal, Mo. 63401

North facade; looking south.



SPEIGLE HOUSE 4 of 9  
406 S. Dickerson, Palmyra, Missouri

Photog: Kristy Trevathan, Sept. 1984  
Neg. Loc.: River City Restorations  
200 S. 7th  
Hannibal, Mo. 63401

West and south facade; looking  
northeast.



SPEIGLE HOUSE 5 of 9  
406 S. Dickerson, Palmyra, Missouri

Photog: ?

Neg. Loc.: River City Restorations  
200 S. 7th  
Hannibal, Missouri 63401

Historic view of house looking  
north, showing front porch detail.



SPEIGLE HOUSE 6 of 9  
406 S. Dickerson, Palmyra, Missouri

Photog: ? (1940's)  
Neg. Loc.: River City Restorations  
200 S. 7th  
Hannibal, Missouri 63401

Historic view of balustrade of two  
story gallery porch, 1st floor  
altered for carport in 1940's.



SPEIGLE HOUSE 7 of 9  
406 S. Dickerson, Palmyra, Missouri

Photog: Kristy Trevathan, Sept.1984  
Neg. Loc.: River City Restorations  
200 S. 7th  
Hannibal, Missouri 63401

Formal foyer looking east.



SPEIGLE HOUSE 8 of 9  
406 S. Dickerson, Palmyra, Missouri

Photog: Kristy Trevathan, Sept.1984  
Neg. Loc.: River City Restorations  
200 S. 7th  
Hannibal, Missouri 63401

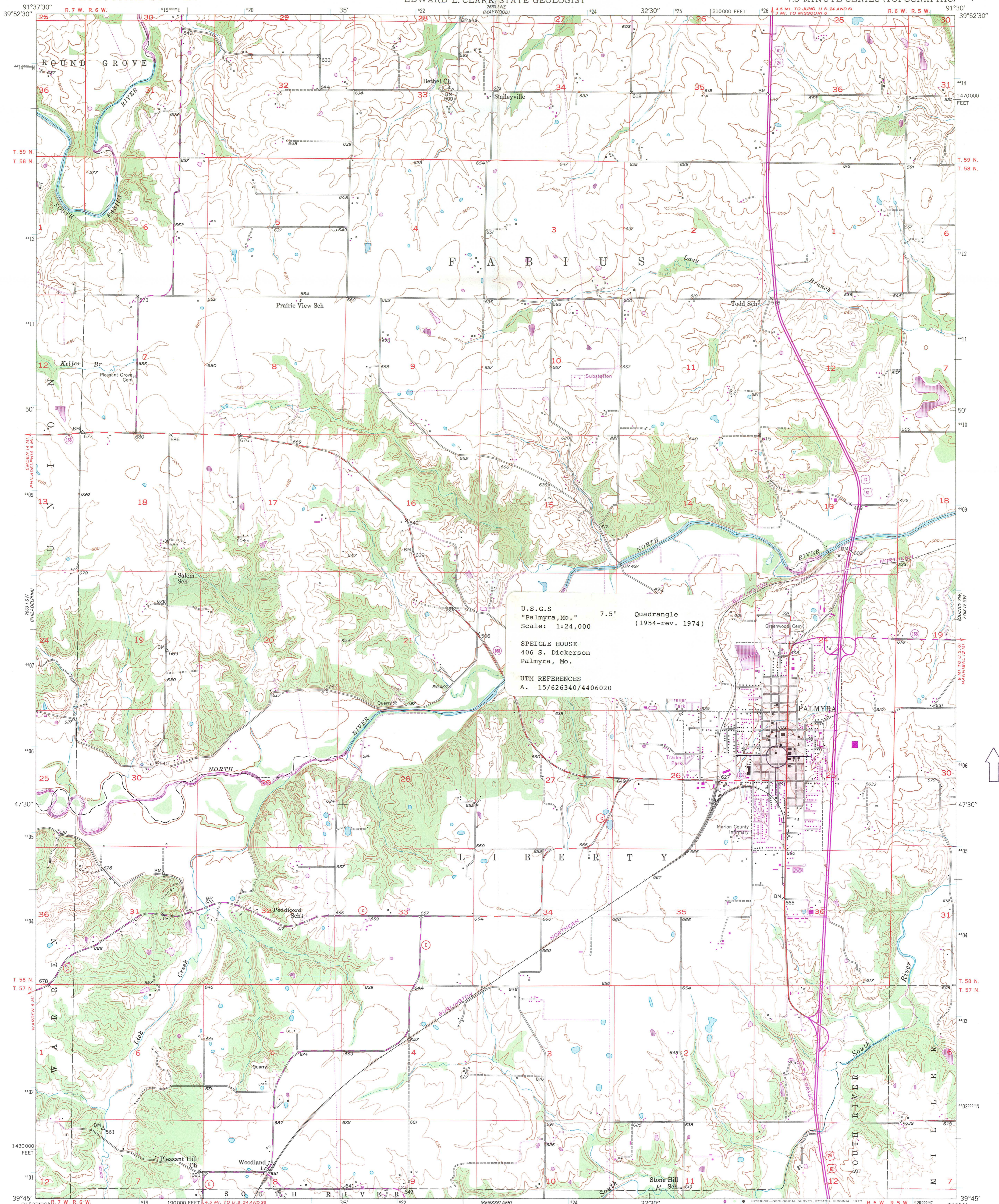
Main parlor looking south into the  
formal foyer.



SPEIGLE HOUSE 9 of 9  
406 S. Dickerson, Palmyra, Missouri

Photog: Kristy Trevathan, Sept.1984  
Neg. Loc.: River City Restorations  
200 S. 7th  
Hannibal, Missouri 63401

Main stairway, side entry looking  
south.



U.S.G.S 7.5' Quadrangle  
"Palmyra, Mo." Scale: 1:24,000 (1954-rev. 1974)  
SPEIGLE HOUSE  
406 S. Dickerson  
Palmyra, Mo.  
UTM REFERENCES  
A. 15/626340/440620



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

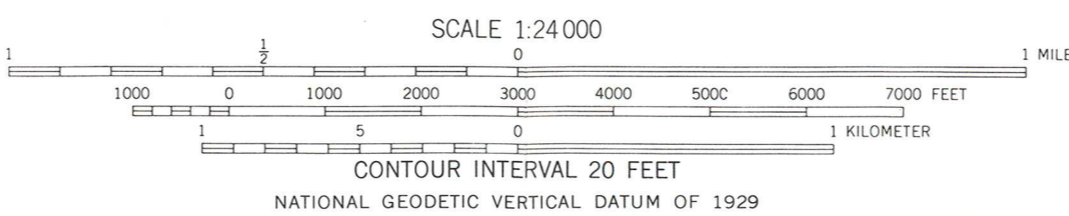
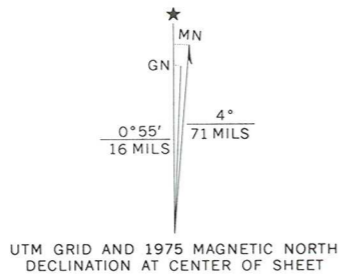
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1947. Field check 1949.

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Missouri coordinate system,  
east zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue

Red tint indicates area in which only  
landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1975. This information not field checked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route

PALMYRA, MO.  
N3945-W9130/7.5

1949  
PHOTOREVISED 1975  
AMS 7663 | SE-SERIES V879

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
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