

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Diggs, Duke and Mary, House  
other names/site number 0-48

### 2. Location

street & number 1217 Rural Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Boonville N/A vicinity  
state Missouri code MO county Cooper code 053 zip code 65233

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of Boonville, Mo.  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Claire F. Blackwell  
Signature of certifying official Claire F. Blackwell Date 3 August 89  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:)

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vernacular brick building

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DUKE AND MARY DIGGS HOUSE

SUMMARY: The Duke and Mary Diggs House, 1217 Rural Street, is a one-story, rectangular, vernacular brick dwelling constructed on a central hall plan with a partial basement. Its load-bearing brick wall are laid in a common bond variant of seven stretcher rows per header row. The Diggs House rests on rough cut stone laid in regular courses, and its gable roof is sheathed with composition shingles. An interior end chimney is set at each gable end. Its lot slopes to the north exposing the basement and foundation on the north, or rear, elevation. Despite minor alterations, the Duke and Mary Diggs House retains sufficient physical characteristics to convey integrity of workmanship, materials, and design, in addition to its integrity of location and setting.

ELABORATION: The simple facade, or south elevation, reflects the equally simple house plan of a hall flanked by two equal-sized rooms. Three symmetrically arranged bays comprise the elevation. The central bay is occupied by a door surmounted by a two pane transom and arched soldier course lintel. The two flanking bays are occupied by two-over-two, double hung windows with arched cutouts above them to duplicate their arched brick lintels. The basement is located beneath the west room and the arched basement windows, which flank the ground floor window above them, are barely visible. A single room originally used for a kitchen, the basement retains its dirt floor.

Both the east and west elevations contain a single bay which houses a two-over-two, double hung sash with arched lintel, identical to those on the facade. Both windows are located to the south of their elevation's respective interior end chimneys.

There is virtually no overhang at the gable eaves. On the east elevation, a wooden woodbox obscures the window, which is intact beneath the box.

The fenestration, arrangement of bays, and detailing of the rear, or north, elevation is identical to the facade. A wooden, uncovered deck raised to the level of the main floor extends from the central door to the east edge of the elevation. A shed roofed frame addition built at ground level covers the basement entrance, gained through a single door on the addition's north elevation.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Diggs, Duke and Mary, House

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Changes to the interior have been minimal. The north half of the central hall has been partitioned and converted to a bathroom. A closet was constructed in the northeast corner of the east room. A free standing frame partition divides the west room along an east-west axis into a living room in the south half and a kitchen in the north half.

A noncontributing frame storage shed, sided with vertical boards, is located to the northeast of the house.

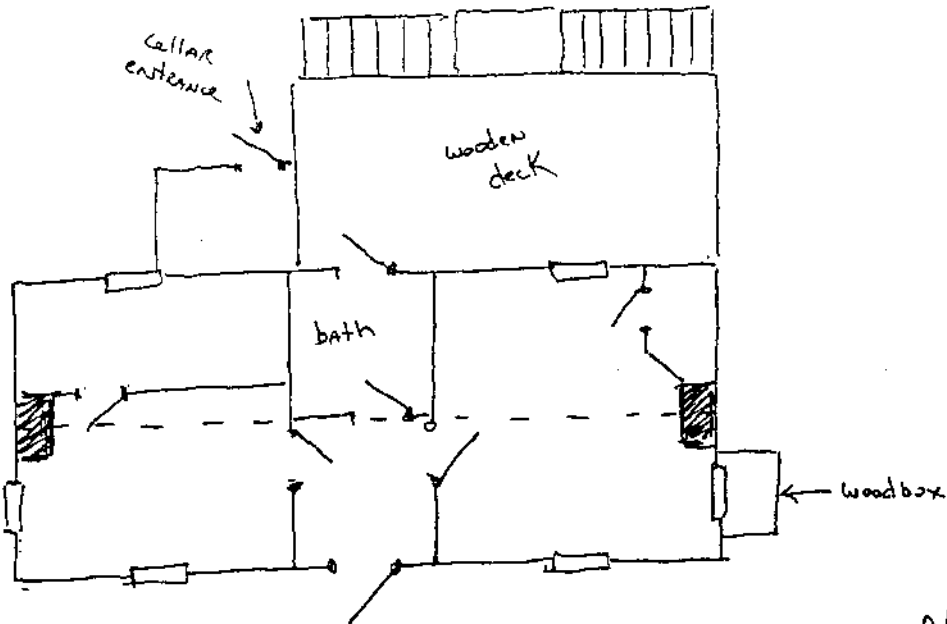
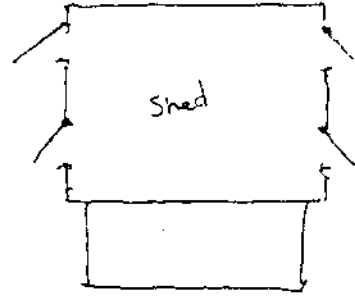
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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Diggs, Duke and Mary, House

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Diggs House  
1217 Rural St.  
Boonville, Cooper Co.



Rural St.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

c. 1869  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

c. 1869  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SUMMARY: The Duke and Mary Diggs House, 1217 Rural Street, is significant under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. Constructed circa 1869, the Diggs House is a substantially unaltered example of the Vernacular Brick Buildings property type (see "Historic Resources of Boonville, Missouri: Additional Architectural Contexts"). Its austere central hall plan, brick construction, and arched window and door headers are characteristic features of the property type.

ELABORATION: In 1857, East Boonville was platted with fifty-three uniform lots, although it was never incorporated as a separate town and was traditionally regarded as a black residential area of Boonville (see "Historic Resources of Boonville: The Steamboat Era, 1826-1870"). The Duke and Mary Diggs House was constructed circa 1869. According to the property abstract, Duke Diggs, a black laborer, and his wife, Mary, were the earliest established owners, although they purchased the lot, and possibly the house, from C.W. Sombart, a Boonville merchant and mill owner. The Diggs family retained the house until 1944. It has remained a single family dwelling with only two additional owners. According to the architectural and historic resources survey conducted in 1979-1980, the Diggs House is also the only surviving brick residence in the area platted as East Boonville. Although the residence may also be significant under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage--Black, insufficient information was uncovered to establish this significance.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Dyer, Robert L. Boonville: An Illustrated History. Boonville, Missouri: Pekitanoui Publications, 1987.

Property Abstract.

Thies, William and LaVern. Interview with Steve Mitchell, Boonville, Missouri. January 27, 1989.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 

1	5
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5	2	3	1	2	0
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4	3	1	4	3	8	0
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Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property lies within Lots #35 and #36 of the East Boonville plat within the city of Boonville, Missouri.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the single parcel of land that is occupied by the property and its immediate surroundings. The legally recorded lot lines that have been historically associated with the property retain integrity and form the limits of the boundary.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	Preservation Planning Section	date	May 5, 1989
organization	Missouri Historic Preservation Program	telephone	314/751-5365
street & number	P. O. Box 176	state	Missouri
city or town	Jefferson City	zip code	65102

**Photo Log:**

Name of Property: **Diggs, Duke and Mary, House**

City or Vicinity: **Boonville**

County: **Cooper County** State: **MO**

Photographer: **S. Mitchell**

Date

Photographed: **January 1989**

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

- 1 of 6. View from S
- 2 of 6. View from SE
- 3 of 6. View from SW
- 4 of 6. View from SE
- 5 of 6. View from NW
- 6 of 6. Detail of façade, view from S













RURAL ST

1217

