

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY  
PHASE I  
CITY OF FREDERICKTOWN, MISSOURI



Prepared by

Dr. Jane Stephens

for

The Heritage and Landmarks Commission  
and  
The State of Missouri

## Phase I

### Fredericktown Survey and Inventory Project

Phase I of the Fredericktown Survey and Inventory (Project Number 29-87-2002-074A) was begun in June 1987 and completed in July 1988. The survey was funded by the City of Fredericktown with a matching grant through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Department, which receives allocations from the Historic Preservation Fund of the Department of Interior, National Park Service, under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and subsequent amendments.

Much of the survey was conducted by trained volunteers: Kathleen Broussard, Beulah DeLand, Judie Dillow, Ginnie Gray, Denis Moore, Bascom Revelle, Paula Shetley, John Paul Skaggs.

The Project coordinator was chairperson of the Heritage and Landmark Commission, Paula Shetley. The consultant for the project was Dr. Jane Stephens, Professor of Social and Applied History at Southeast Missouri State University.

This survey provided an inventory of historic and/or architecturally significant buildings within the survey boundaries. The resulting data can be used by the Heritage and Landmarks Commission (HLC) and the City of Fredericktown to establish priorities in local preservation efforts. Individually significant properties as well as districts may be designated nationally or locally as a result of this effort.

### Survey Overview

#### **Boundaries**

The survey boundaries were selected by representatives of the HLC and the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office. (See Appendix 1.) From within the area bounded by Saline Creek on the north, Marvin Avenue on the south, South Wood on the west and Marlowe on the East, the Project Consultant and Coordinator selected 352 (the grant specifies 300) from the approximately 1000 buildings. All of the downtown commercial buildings were included within the selected 352.

Sanborn maps dated 1886, 1893, 1900, 1908, 1914 and 1927 along with a windshield survey conducted by the Consultant and Project Director were the bases for the selection of the 352 buildings. With the exception of one block, buildings bounded by Saline, East College, Marlowe and Marvin were excluded in the eastern half of the city and those bounded by South Wood, Cahoon, Maple and Marvin were excluded to the west. (See Appendix 2.) These areas offered the fewest possibilities for historic structures according to the Sanborn maps and the windshield survey.

The one exception was the block fronted on Franklin and Newberry Streets in the eastern area because of the obvious integrity of these 1943 buildings and their relationship to the preliminary historic context.

#### **Methodology**

Eight volunteers attended three workshops taught by Stephens. The workshop introduced the surveyors to architectural terminology, style and historic resources. Virginia and Lee McAlester's A Field Guide to American Houses (1984) and Howe,

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#### **Research Problems**

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### **History of Fredericktown**

#### **Eighteenth Century - French and Spanish Periods**

The history of Fredericktown revolves around the history of lead mining. The earliest beginnings of Fredericktown occurred around 1715 when local Indians guided French explorers to the area which was then a part of French Louisiana to show them primitive lead mines which the French hoped would prove to be more lucrative silver mines.

The French Governor of Louisiana Sieur Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, failed to find silver, but succeeded in recruiting other French investors in The Company of the West, organized in 1717, to exploit the mineral resources of Louisiana.

Mine La Motte was eventually settled by about 200 French settlers with accompanying slaves, under the leadership of Philip Francis Renault. The Company of the West failed in spite of the lead mined between 1719 and 1763 when France lost control of the territory and Spain took control of Louisiana. Ironically this area provided the lead for the French and Indian War (1754-1763) which doomed French control in North America.

In 1799 thirteen French families requested grants of land from the Lt. Governor of Upper Louisiana. The Spanish government granted each of the families 400 arpents of land "extending from the Little St. Francis River to Saline Creek." The settlement became known as St. Michaels and was described in the early 1800s as "A French village of about 50 houses ... located in the richest farming district in Madison County." St. Michaels was located just north of Saline Creek. It is believed the houses were built in the French vertical log style.

A flood virtually destroyed this village in the spring of 1814 and most residents moved their homes in what was called New Village one mile north. Today Fredericktown encompasses both these older villages. Although descendants of these early settlers still live within the local area--the LaChances and DeGuires, for example, no known buildings from this early period exists. However, the site of St. Michaels was not included in this survey area, and further investigation is needed. The only French architectural influence recognized in the survey area can be seen with the Dollinger House located at 304 West College. Although the craftsman style porch and dormers tend to dominate the structure, the French influence can be detected on the early 20th century structure in the steeply pitched hipped roof and stuccoed walls.

No Spanish architectural influence remains other than with the 1920s mission style former gas station located on the southeastern corner of the square.

Although neither of these two buildings date earlier than 1900, both are significant to Fredericktown's history because of their representative value to the French and Spanish periods.

### **Nineteenth Century**

When Louisiana became American territory in 1803, American settlers were drawn to the area. One of the more colorful and famous was Moses Austin, founder of the American settlement in Texas, who mined for lead between 1800 and 1820 before going on to Texas. Madison County was organized from Ste. Genevieve and Cape Girardeau Counties in 1818 and named after President James Madison. Fredericktown was chosen county seat and was so named possibly after George Frederick Bollinger, a local hero of the War of 1812 or after Frederick Bates, who was in charge of land grants, or possible after Frederick the Great of Germany.

Just as lead mining gave birth to Fredericktown, it continued as the major economic activity and the history of Fredericktown has always been closely aligned to the successes and failures of the mining industry. Interestingly the successes and failures of the lead mining industry have always been aligned to the occurrence of or expectation of war. Fredericktown mines supplied lead for the French and Indian War, Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War, Spanish-American War, the two World Wars, and the conflict in Korea and Vietnam. Invariably, building spurts in Fredericktown coincide with periods of great international, or in the case of the Civil War, of national tensions.

### Pre-Civil War

Although Fredericktown grew slowly with about 300 inhabitants in 1836, the 1840s and 1850s witnessed growth because of the continuing need for lead as the Mexican War ensued and tensions then worsened between the North and South as the status of slavery had to be determined in the new territories acquired from Mexico. On October 21, 1861 a two hour battle of the Civil War engaging approximately 8000 soldiers was fought just south of the city.

Extant buildings from this era have been difficult to document because of a scarcity of pre-Civil War public records. However, local accounts along with building materials and style indicate evidence of some pre-Civil War structures within the survey area. Perhaps the most significant of these and certainly the building with the most association with local folklore is the "livery stable" located just north of the Court Square. (See Figure 1.) Although no "caverns large enough for wagons to pass through," which local lore insists was once true of the building, have been found connected to the building, the rubble stone building appears to be at least as old as the 1840s date which most local residents associate with the structure.

At least three two-story structures are considered locally to be pre-Civil War. These are the Andrews-Welker House, 205 South Main; the Chilton-Dequirc-Deland House, 401 S Main; and the log structure (now covered with clapboard) at 305 South Main.

Three one-story buildings of log construction possibly preceding the Civil War are located at 107 West College, 113 Saline and 221 South Main.

The Cooper House, located on 133 North Main, which is a German style Hall and Parlor house (referred to as "side gable folk" house in the survey sheets for more easy identification) may be closer to the 1860s (judging by the window design) than 1850s but the house is considered locally as a pre-Civil War building. It is the older of only two German style cottages in the survey area. The other at 188 East College may be about twenty years older.

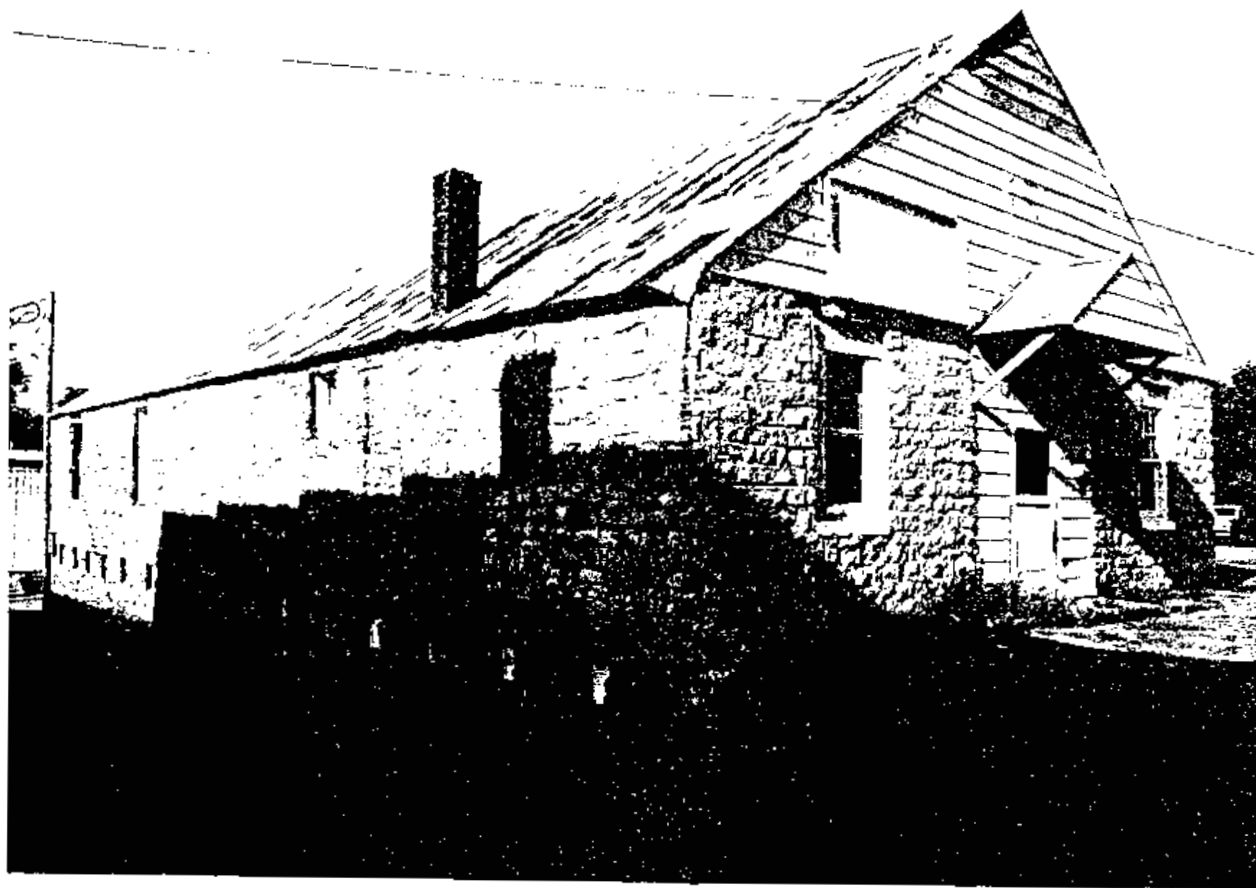
Other pre-Civil War houses no doubt stand in Fredericktown possibly some on East College Street and South Maple but for lack of documentation are not being so claimed at this time.

### Post-Civil War

After the war Fredericktown became the division point of the St. Louis Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad. The first train arrived in 1869. Fredericktown became a trading and shipping point for the area with mining, however, continuing to dominate the economy, but certainly being subsidized with agriculture and lumber. As additional prospecting occurred, iron, nickel, copper and cobalt competed with lead for importance.

Several downtown buildings were constructed during this post war period when not only Fredericktown but the entire nation was experiencing an economic revolution. At least two downtown hotels, for example, were built shortly after the arrival of the railroad. However, most of this downtown building was of wood construction and was destroyed by fire. John Skaggs, a local resident and historian states, in fact, "at one time or another, all the buildings around the square were burned at least once, and some two or more times."

FIGURE 1



The wood frame Courthouse, for example, was demolished and the present one was built in 1900. Because of the proximity to the turn of the century and the association with twentieth century events, the downtown structures will be placed within that transitional context rather than with the post-Civil War era.

In addition to the commercial buildings downtown, however, between 1860 and 1890 folk houses were constructed--most of them T or L shape or hall and parlor types. Some of these still stand on South Maple and College. But the real boom in houses in Fredericktown occurred closer to the turn of the century in the 1890s when the martial spirit fed by such individuals as Theodore Roosevelt and Alfred Thayer Mahan led the United States into a war with Spain by 1898. The threat of this war dominated the decade as the United States sought to establish itself among the more powerful nations of the world, and, therefore, lead mining underwent a boom period.

The purest example of extant stick style architecture was built during this decade at 608 South Main Street. A vernacular Gothic house relying on two front facing gables for its style was built at 612 South Main. Several Queen Annes were built, one of the earliest at 218 East College, and this style was undoubtedly the most popular of the "high style" building just before the turn of the century. Other brick examples located at 211 West College, 200 West Main, 415 South Main are excellent examples. (See Figure 2.) More modest vernacular type "high styles" were frame with a few sporting East Lake trim. Those at 107 Marshall, 307 West College, 111 West College, 225 East Main, 129 Mine La Motte, 119 Mine La Motte and the much altered Hansmann Funeral Home at 207 West Main fit into this category. The house at 133 South Mine La Motte, which almost defies category and is unique in Fredericktown, was also built during this post-Civil War era. The popular Queen Anne style continued on into the next century.

#### **Commercial Style Architecture**

As already stated Fredericktown's business district was originally mostly frame structures and nature havoc with the early nineteenth century town. The courthouse is itself the best example of this dilemma. The original frame courthouse constructed in 1821 was demolished and, therefore, replaced in 1900 with the present Theodore Link designed brick Romanesque structure, described as "the pride of the people of Madison County."

The town square was replaced with brick buildings just as was the frame courthouse. The large majority of those buildings still standing along the axis of the courthouse were constructed between 1880 and 1910. There are only two exceptions: a modern gas station presently stands at the northwest corner of the square and one building on the south side of East Main has lost its integrity through modernization. Although store fronts have been modified in others, the decorative brick cornices - some with heavy machicolation such as the Jones Brothers building on East Main, and others with more modest dentilation like that decorating the Ben Franklin store on the same street - have been retained and the arched windows with radiating voussoirs are still intact. Very little alteration has been done to the upper stories of Fredericktown's commercial buildings.

Buildings constructed later in the 1920s and 1930s are also well represented in the business district. Excellent examples of art deco architecture survive such as that housing Sears and Miller Insurance on the square. Sheets Motor Company on South Mine La Motte is another example of the style (See Figure 3.) as well as the Sonderman Theatre. The Post Office is perhaps the most unique of the art deco

PHOTO 1



FIGURE 3



buildings. It is "art deco" only with its decorative element. The fast moving pace of the machine age is symbolized on Fredericktown's Post Office by airplane propeller designs molded into the concrete of the front facade. (See Figure 4.)

### Twentieth Century

Attempts at mining copper, nickel, tin and cobalt continued into the new century but lead mining continued reigning supreme. In 1903 the Catherine, Mine La Motte and North American Lead Companies produced more than \$300,000 worth of lead with nickel, cobalt and copper valued at \$226,000. By 1954 total production of the Mine La Motte Corporation was valued at more than \$2,000,000 under the joint control of the St. Joseph and National Lead Companies. (Shoemaker, p. 6)

### World War I Era

As the new century emerged amid international tensions, the arms race soared and Fredericktown's economy boomed. Madison County's population was greater in 1900 than at any other time. As already discussed many commercial buildings in the business district sprang from this era.

Local housing also increased by large numbers. In the first two decades, about 100 (92 survey sheets to be exact) houses were constructed in the survey area. Many were simple L or T or Hall and Parlor floor plans. However glimpses of prosperity even for blue collar working people can be seen when these folk houses begin sporting fancy wood trim. Houses at 210 Maple, 304 South Mine La Motte, 306 South Mine La Motte 112 Saline, 402 East College and 109 Saline are good examples of folk housing experiencing modern technology.

Queen Annes and I houses with East Lake trim continued to be built, but two new styles were introduced to Fredericktown during these decades that survive in rather large numbers. L or T shape buildings with their front gables chamfered at the corners so as to mimic large bay windows, usually with decorative trim on the gable and eaves, began appearing in the survey area, especially on Saline and College. (This style is called Princess Anne on survey sheets.) There are ten of these, with one brick example at 110 Saline. (See Figure 5.)

The other style, certainly not unique to Fredericktown, was the craftsman style of design. The smaller front facing gable style with a porch having columns on pillars proliferated, along with the side gable Bungalows usually with large front porches. (These are labeled craftsman and bungalow on survey sheets.) They appeared in the teens and continued to be popular styles throughout the 1930s. Representative examples of the craftsman design are: 106 Marshal, 107 Maple, 301 South Main, 310 Saline and 305 South Mine La Motte. The larger bungalows are also plentiful with good examples located at 219 South Main, 304 South Main, 310 South Main, 204 West Main and 208 East College. A granite variation of the bungalow is located on 210 East College. An excellent "pattern book" example of a prairie style bungalow is located at 210 West Main. (See cover page.)

Fredericktown's World War I boom time lapsed during the 1930s as did building throughout the nation. Other than the commercial art deco already referred to, the only new style of building introduced to Fredericktown between World War I and World War II was a vernacular style of Tudor architecture. Beginning in 1928 and spanning the next decade, the craftsman style gave way to multiple front facing gables with curved doors and often with a flair on one side of the porch roof. Examples are located at 217 South Main, 407 South Main, 308 South Main, 207 West Main, 300 Saline, 200 Newberry and 312 High.

FIGURE 4





### **World War II Era**

The 1940s was a war decade, and true to Fredericktown's historic pattern, increased building once again occurred. The modern ranch style began to dominate with both frame and brick used for construction. About fifty houses were constructed in the survey area during this decade.

One group of these are especially linked to Fredericktown's mining interest. Fifteen identical houses, except for shutter designs, were built in 1943 by a three member St. Louis Corporation known as Fredericktown Homes, Inc. on what was known as College Hill. Although it was assumed locally that these houses were built for miners housing by the National Lead Mining Co., research does not substantiate that the Corporation was a part of the mining company. The buildings were constructed with brick veneer over clay tile building blocks.

This is the most recognizable intact neighborhood of miners houses in the survey area and is greatly symbolic of the World War II era. (See Figure 6.)

### **Post World War II**

About 19% of the survey houses were post World War II buildings. Most of these are clustered along Hazel Drive, Westside Drive and West College, were built in the 1960s and are ranch style in design. These will no doubt be considered historic Vietnam era housing to future generations.

### **Ecclesiastical Architecture**

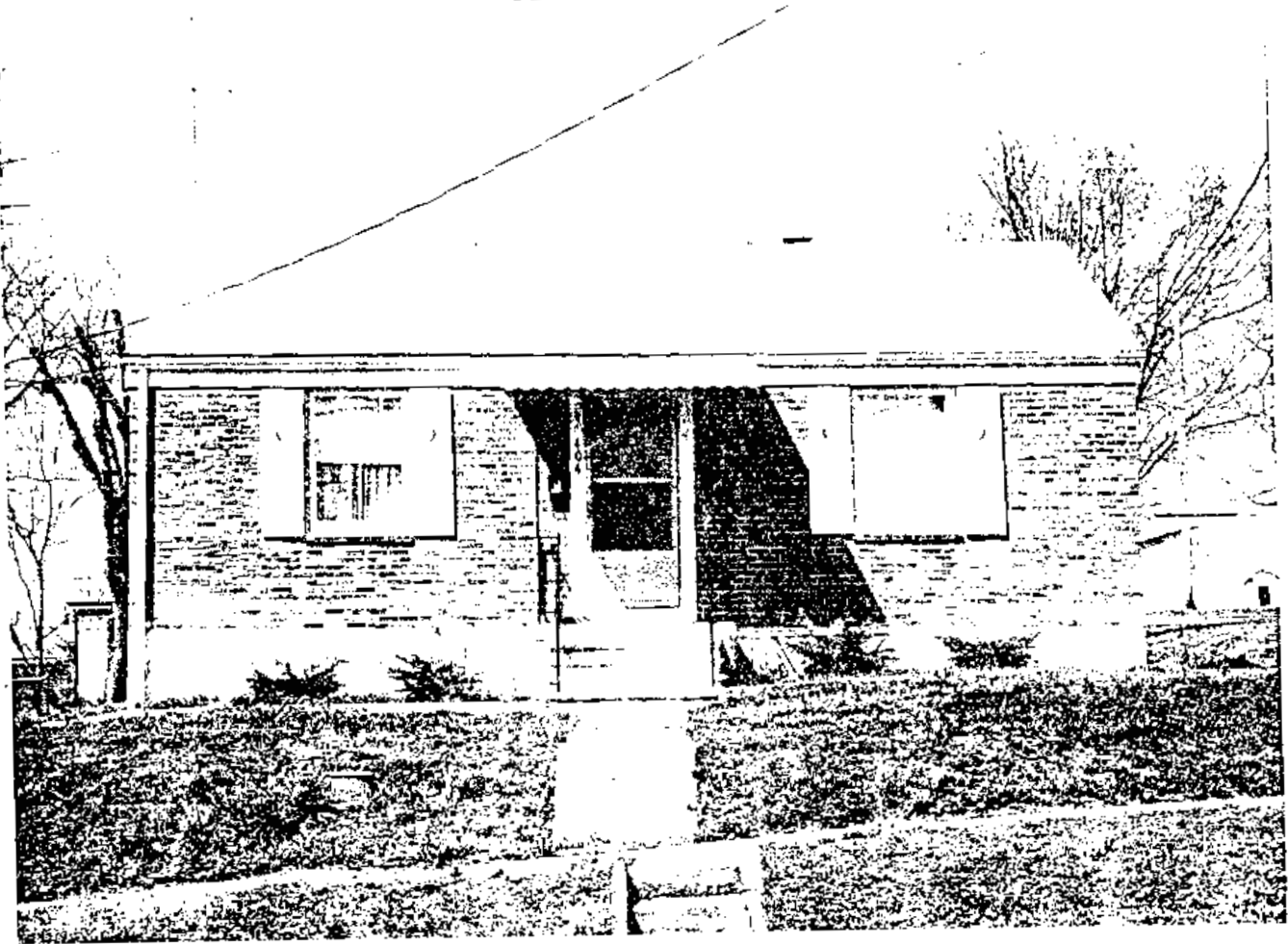
The survey area included 10 functioning churches ranging in date of construction from 1879 to 1968. Ecclesiastical Romanesque appears most often with beautiful brick examples being the Methodist Church (1879, 1903), the First Baptist Church (1895), and the First Christian Church (1909). St. Michael's (1927), constructed of granite, is the more traditional James Gibbs English style of church architecture with a central square tower flanked by hexagonal towers. More modest versions of this traditional style are the Lutheran Church (1924) and the Church of the Nazarene (1930). Three churches take on an A frame design. Those are the Seven Day Adventist Church (1900), the Church of God (1946) which is also built of granite and the more recent Church of Christ (1968). The only example of a post modern style of architecture in the survey area is the First Presbyterian Church (1957).

These churches span nearly one hundred years of construction dates and include almost all examples of traditional American ecclesiastical styles of architecture.

### **Summary and Recommendations**

Of the 352 buildings surveyed (52 more were surveyed than required by the grant so as to sweep entire neighborhoods) 290 were historic and basically maintain their architectural integrity although the use of asbestos and aluminum siding is the most common alteration. Only eighteen structures (5%) within the survey area were considered intrusions. These are most often modern metal buildings or gas stations.

Of the residential buildings in the survey area, seventy were constructed before 1900. Forty-six were built between 1900 and 1910, and thirty-five in the 1920s while only six were built during the depression decade of the thirties. The war decade of the 1940s was comparable in Fredericktown to the growth experienced at the turn of the century with forty-nine new homes built during this decade. The Cold War with



its Korean and Vietnam conflicts allowed for considerable growth (22 homes in the 1950s and 30 in the 1960s) but little residential building has occurred in the last two decades within the survey area.

Most of the commercial architectural growth occurred in a spurt around the turn of the century and in the twenties and thirties. The business district is located on an axis of the courthouse and is still intact except for alteration to some of the store fronts. There is very little modern intrusion in the downtown area.

Church architecture spans from 1879 to 1968 and encompasses Romanesque, English classical, post modern and American vernacular styles.

Folk housing is the most common architectural style for residential housing including T shape, L shape, hall and parlor, craftsman, Tudor and ranch types. "High style" in Fredericktown is Queen Anne, I houses or German Victorian.

There are no cohesive neighborhoods of single styles in the survey area other than the 1940s, side gable brick bungalows on Franklin and Newberry. A variety of house styles are intermixed in all other neighborhoods.

The potential for National Register listing is great for several buildings--the Courthouse, the Cooper house at 133 North Main, the Schulte Shop on North Main, the Livery Stable just off the Court Square, and the Andrews-Welker House on South Main. The mission style former gas station on the southeast corner of the square may also qualify for national listing because of its architectural integrity and uniqueness of style in Madison County. The Stephens House at 133 South Mine La Motte and the Deland House at 401 South Main and the German Cottage at 118 East College may also qualify but more documentation on their dates of construction and history than is presently available will be required.

Two potential National Register districts emerged from the survey. The courthouse sits in a Lancaster Square Plan which Howard T. Price describes as unique to Missouri and rare in America in "The Central Courthouse Square in the American County Seat" in Common Places Readings in American Vernacular Architecture. The court square and axis of this courthouse provides a district of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial architecture which is basically intact. National register potential is strengthened by the livery stable and mission style corner building which is also on the square. The district could include the square, extending east to South Mine La Motte and west to Maple. The south boundary could include the east side of South Main to College. (See Appendix 4.)

Another district potential is bounded by Franklin, High, Newberry and Henry. Although this area is presently only 45 years old, its importance to the historic context as well as its architectural uniqueness and integrity make it highly significant. Plans should be made to register this district at the earliest possible date.

Local designation is recommended immediately for these potential National Register sites and districts for protection during the interim period.

Locally, other possibilities exist for districts. One could extend along both sides of South Main between College and Virginia as indicated on the map in Appendix 4. There are a variety of locally significant sites and two nationally significant buildings within this block.

Another district of locally significant folk houses is located on the south side of East College between Marshall and South Wood streets.

Two thematic nominations for local listing which would include several individual sites are recommended for Princess Anne style (see above for explanation of term) and bungalow style housing.

It is also recommended that Fredericktown continue with its interest and research in the town's history by proceeding with additional phases of the Survey and Inventory Project. Selected buildings in the remainder of the City and within a three mile limit should be surveyed.

Historic and archaeological surveys should be conducted in the oldest sections of town including St. Michaels and New Village as well as the mines of Fredericktown.

After additional surveys are completed, a multiple resource nomination is recommended for national listing.

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Lillian Lacy  
Nettie Perringer  
Mrs. Troy Pirtle  
Bascom Revelle  
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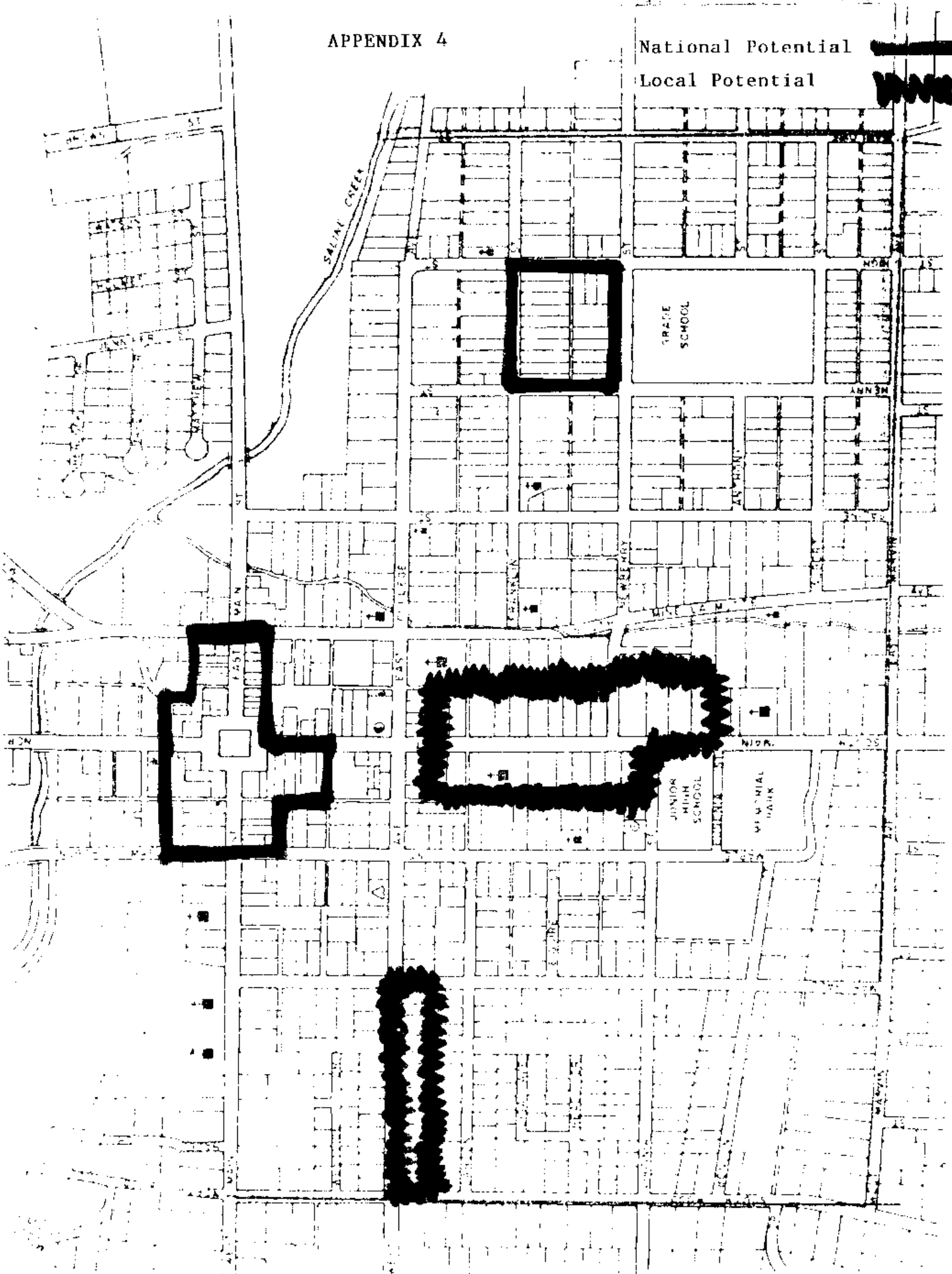
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Mine La Motte was eventually settled by about 200 French settlers with accompanying slaves, under the leadership of Philip Francis Renault. The Company of the West failed in spite of the lead mined between 1719 and 1763 when France lost control of the territory and Spain took control of Louisiana. Ironically this area provided the lead for the French and Indian War (1754-1763) which doomed French control in North America.

In 1799 thirteen French families requested grants of land from the Lt. Governor of Upper Louisiana. The Spanish government granted each of the families 400 arpents of land "extending from the Little St. Francis River to Saline Creek." The settlement became known as St. Michaels and was described in the early 1800s as "A French village of about 50 houses ... located in the richest farming district in Madison County." St. Michaels was located just north of Saline Creek. It is believed the houses were built in the French vertical log style.

A flood virtually destroyed this village in the spring of 1814 and most residents moved their homes in what was called New Village one mile north. Today Fredericktown encompasses both these older villages. Although descendants of these early settlers still live within the local area--the LaChances and DeGuires, for example, no known buildings from this early period exists. However, the site of St. Michaels was not included in this survey area, and further investigation is needed. The only French architectural influence recognized in the survey area can be seen with the Dollinger House located at 304 West College. Although the craftsman style porch and dormers tend to dominate the structure, the French influence can be detected on the early 20th century structure in the steeply pitched hipped roof and stuccoed walls.

No Spanish architectural influence remains other than with the 1920s mission style former gas station located on the southeastern corner of the square.

Although neither of these two buildings date earlier than 1900, both are significant to Fredericktown's history because of their representative value to the French and Spanish periods.

### **Nineteenth Century**

When Louisiana became American territory in 1803, American settlers were drawn to the area. One of the more colorful and famous was Moses Austin, founder of the American settlement in Texas, who mined for lead between 1800 and 1820 before going on to Texas. Madison County was organized from Ste. Genevieve and Cape Girardeau Counties in 1818 and named after President James Madison. Fredericktown was chosen county seat and was so named possibly after George Frederick Bollinger, a local hero of the War of 1812 or after Frederick Bates, who was in charge of land grants, or possible after Frederick the Great of Germany.

Just as lead mining gave birth to Fredericktown, it continued as the major economic activity and the history of Fredericktown has always been closely aligned to the successes and failures of the mining industry. Interestingly the successes and failures of the lead mining industry have always been aligned to the occurrence of or expectation of war. Fredericktown mines supplied lead for the French and Indian War, Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War, Spanish-American War, the two World Wars, and the conflict in Korea and Vietnam. Invariably, building spurts in Fredericktown coincide with periods of great international, or in the case of the Civil War, of national tensions.

### **Pre-Civil War**

Although Fredericktown grew slowly with about 300 inhabitants in 1836, the 1840s and 1850s witnessed growth because of the continuing need for lead as the Mexican War ensued and tensions then worsened between the North and South as the status of slavery had to be determined in the new territories acquired from Mexico. On October 21, 1861 a two hour battle of the Civil War engaging approximately 8000 soldiers was fought just south of the city.

Extant buildings from this era have been difficult to document because of a scarcity of pre-Civil War public records. However, local accounts along with building materials and style indicate evidence of some pre-Civil War structures within the survey area. Perhaps the most significant of these and certainly the building with the most association with local folklore is the "livery stable" located just north of the Court Square. (See Figure 1.) Although no "caverns large enough for wagons to pass through," which local lore insists was once true of the building, have been found connected to the building, the rubble stone building appears to be at least as old as the 1840s date which most local residents associate with the structure.

At least three two-story structures are considered locally to be pre-Civil War. These are the Andrews-Welker House, 205 South Main; the Chilton-Dequire-Deland House, 401 S Main; and the log structure (now covered with clapboard) at 305 South Main.

Three one-story buildings of log construction possibly preceding the Civil War are located at 107 West College, 113 Saline and 221 South Main.

The Cooper House, located on 133 North Main, which is a German style Hall and Parlor house (referred to as "side gable folk" house in the survey sheets for more easy identification) may be closer to the 1860s (judging by the window design) than 1850s but the house is considered locally as a pre-Civil War building. It is the older of only two German style cottages in the survey area. The other at 188 East College may be about twenty years older.

Other pre-Civil War houses no doubt stand in Fredericktown possibly some on East College Street and South Maple but for lack of documentation are not being so claimed at this time.

### **Post-Civil War**

After the war Fredericktown became the division point of the St. Louis Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad. The first train arrived in 1869. Fredericktown became a trading and shipping point for the area with mining, however, continuing to dominate the economy, but certainly being subsidized with agriculture and lumber. As additional prospecting occurred, iron, nickel, copper and cobalt competed with lead for importance.

Several downtown buildings were constructed during this post war period when not only Fredericktown but the entire nation was experiencing an economic revolution. At least two downtown hotels, for example, were built shortly after the arrival of the railroad. However, most of this downtown building was of wood construction and was destroyed by fire. John Skaggs, a local resident and historian states, in fact, "at one time or another, all the buildings around the square were burned at least once, and some two or more times."

FIGURE 1



The wood frame Courthouse, for example, was demolished and the present one was built in 1900. Because of the proximity to the turn of the century and the association with twentieth century events, the downtown structures will be placed within that transitional context rather than with the post-Civil War era.

In addition to the commercial buildings downtown, however, between 1860 and 1890 folk houses were constructed--most of them T or L shape or hall and parlor types. Some of these still stand on South Maple and College. But the real boom in houses in Fredericktown occurred closer to the turn of the century in the 1890s when the martial spirit fed by such individuals as Theodore Roosevelt and Alfred Thayer Mahan led the United States into a war with Spain by 1898. The threat of this war dominated the decade as the United States sought to establish itself among the more powerful nations of the world, and, therefore, lead mining underwent a boom period.

The purest example of extant stick style architecture was built during this decade at 608 South Main Street. A vernacular Gothic house relying on two front facing gables for its style was built at 612 South Main. Several Queen Annes were built, one of the earliest at 218 East College, and this style was undoubtedly the most popular of the "high style" building just before the turn of the century. Other brick examples located at 211 West College, 200 West Main, 415 South Main are excellent examples. (See Figure 2.) More modest vernacular type "high styles" were frame with a few sporting East Lake trim. Those at 107 Marshall, 307 West College, 111 West College, 225 East Main, 129 Mine La Motte, 119 Mine La Motte and the much altered Hansmann Funeral Home at 207 West Main fit into this category. The house at 133 South Mine La Motte, which almost defies category and is unique in Fredericktown, was also built during this post-Civil War era. The popular Queen Anne style continued on into the next century.

### **Commercial Style Architecture**

As already stated Fredericktown's business district was originally mostly frame structures and nature havoc with the early nineteenth century town. The courthouse is itself the best example of this dilemma. The original frame courthouse constructed in 1821 was demolished and, therefore, replaced in 1900 with the present Theodore Link designed brick Romanesque structure, described as "the pride of the people of Madison County."

The town square was replaced with brick buildings just as was the frame courthouse. The large majority of those buildings still standing along the axis of the courthouse were constructed between 1880 and 1910. There are only two exceptions: a modern gas station presently stands at the northwest corner of the square and one building on the south side of East Main has lost its integrity through modernization. Although store fronts have been modified in others, the decorative brick cornices - some with heavy machicolation such as the Jones Brothers building on East Main, and others with more modest dentilation like that decorating the Ben Franklin store on the same street - have been retained and the arched windows with radiating voussoirs are still intact. Very little alteration has been done to the upper stories of Fredericktown's commercial buildings.

Buildings constructed later in the 1920s and 1930s are also well represented in the business district. Excellent examples of art deco architecture survive such as that housing Sears and Miller Insurance on the square. Sheets Motor Company on South Mine La Motte is another example of the style (See Figure 3.) as well as the Sonderman Theatre. The Post Office is perhaps the most unique of the art deco



FIGURE 3



buildings. It is "art deco" only with its decorative element. The fast moving pace of the machine age is symbolized on Fredericktown's Post Office by airplane propeller designs molded into the concrete of the front facade. (See Figure 4.)

### Twentieth Century

Attempts at mining copper, nickel, tin and cobalt continued into the new century but lead mining continued reigning supreme. In 1903 the Catherine, Mine La Motte and North American Lead Companies produced more than \$300,000 worth of lead with nickel, cobalt and copper valued at \$226,000. By 1954 total production of the Mine La Motte Corporation was valued at more than \$2,000,000 under the joint control of the St. Joseph and National Lead Companies. (Shoemaker, p. 6)

### World War I Era

As the new century emerged amid international tensions, the arms race soared and Fredericktown's economy boomed. Madison County's population was greater in 1900 than at any other time. As already discussed many commercial buildings in the business district sprang from this era.

Local housing also increased by large numbers. In the first two decades, about 100 (92 survey sheets to be exact) houses were constructed in the survey area. Many were simple L or T or Hall and Parlor floor plans. However glimpses of prosperity even for blue collar working people can be seen when these folk houses begin sporting fancy wood trim. Houses at 210 Maple, 304 South Mine La Motte, 306 South Mine La Motte 112 Saline, 402 East College and 109 Saline are good examples of folk housing experiencing modern technology.

Queen Annes and I houses with East Lake trim continued to be built, but two new styles were introduced to Fredericktown during these decades that survive in rather large numbers. L or T shape buildings with their front gables chamfered at the corners so as to mimic large bay windows, usually with decorative trim on the gable and eaves, began appearing in the survey area, especially on Saline and College. (This style is called Princess Anne on survey sheets.) There are ten of these, with one brick example at 110 Saline. (See Figure 5.)

The other style, certainly not unique to Fredericktown, was the craftsman style of design. The smaller front facing gable style with a porch having columns on pillars proliferated, along with the side gable Bungalows usually with large front porches. (These are labeled craftsman and bungalow on survey sheets.) They appeared in the teens and continued to be popular styles throughout the 1930s. Representative examples of the craftsman design are: 106 Marshal, 107 Maple, 301 South Main, 310 Saline and 305 South Mine La Motte. The larger bungalows are also plentiful with good examples located at 219 South Main, 304 South Main, 310 South Main, 204 West Main and 208 East College. A granite variation of the bungalow is located on 210 East College. An excellent "pattern book" example of a prairie style bungalow is located at 210 West Main. (See cover page.)

Fredericktown's World War I boom time lapsed during the 1930s as did building throughout the nation. Other than the commercial art deco already referred to, the only new style of building introduced to Fredericktown between World War I and World War II was a vernacular style of Tudor architecture. Beginning in 1928 and spanning the next decade, the craftsman style gave way to multiple front facing gables with curved doors and often with a flair on one side of the porch roof. Examples are located at 217 South Main, 407 South Main, 308 South Main, 207 West Main, 300 Saline, 200 Newberry and 312 High.

FIGURE 4





### **World War II Era**

The 1940s was a war decade, and true to Fredericktown's historic pattern, increased building once again occurred. The modern ranch style began to dominate with both frame and brick used for construction. About fifty houses were constructed in the survey area during this decade.

One group of these are especially linked to Fredericktown's mining interest. Fifteen identical houses, except for shutter designs, were built in 1943 by a three member St. Louis Corporation known as Fredericktown Homes, Inc. on what was known as College Hill. Although it was assumed locally that these houses were built for miners housing by the National Lead Mining Co., research does not substantiate that the Corporation was a part of the mining company. The buildings were constructed with brick veneer over clay tile building blocks.

This is the most recognizable intact neighborhood of miners houses in the survey area and is greatly symbolic of the World War II era. (See Figure 6.)

### **Post World War II**

About 19% of the survey houses were post World War II buildings. Most of these are clustered along Hazel Drive, Westside Drive and West College, were built in the 1960s and are ranch style in design. These will no doubt be considered historic Vietnam era housing to future generations.

### **Ecclesiastical Architecture**

The survey area included 10 functioning churches ranging in date of construction from 1879 to 1968. Ecclesiastical Romanesque appears most often with beautiful brick examples being the Methodist Church (1879, 1903), the First Baptist Church (1895), and the First Christian Church (1909). St. Michael's (1927), constructed of granite, is the more traditional James Gibbs English style of church architecture with a central square tower flanked by hexagonal towers. More modest versions of this traditional style are the Lutheran Church (1924) and the Church of the Nazarene (1930). Three churches take on an A frame design. Those are the Seven Day Adventist Church (1900), the Church of God (1946) which is also built of granite and the more recent Church of Christ (1968). The only example of a post modern style of architecture in the survey area is the First Presbyterian Church (1957).

These churches span nearly one hundred years of construction dates and include almost all examples of traditional American ecclesiastical styles of architecture.

### **Summary and Recommendations**

Of the 352 buildings surveyed (52 more were surveyed than required by the grant so as to sweep entire neighborhoods) 290 were historic and basically maintain their architectural integrity although the use of asbestos and aluminum siding is the most common alteration. Only eighteen structures (5%) within the survey area were considered intrusions. These are most often modern metal buildings or gas stations.

Of the residential buildings in the survey area, seventy were constructed before 1900. Forty-six were built between 1900 and 1910, and thirty-five in the 1920s while only six were built during the depression decade of the thirties. The war decade of the 1940s was comparable in Fredericktown to the growth experienced at the turn of the century with forty-nine new homes built during this decade. The Cold War with



its Korean and Vietnam conflicts allowed for considerable growth (22 homes in the 1950s and 30 in the 1960s) but little residential building has occurred in the last two decades within the survey area.

Most of the commercial architectural growth occurred in a spurt around the turn of the century and in the twenties and thirties. The business district is located on an axis of the courthouse and is still intact except for alteration to some of the store fronts. There is very little modern intrusion in the downtown area.

Church architecture spans from 1879 to 1968 and encompasses Romanesque, English classical, post modern and American vernacular styles.

Folk housing is the most common architectural style for residential housing including T shape, L shape, hall and parlor, craftsman, Tudor and ranch types. "High style" in Fredericktown is Queen Anne, I houses or German Victorian.

There are no cohesive neighborhoods of single styles in the survey area other than the 1940s, side gable brick bungalows on Franklin and Newberry. A variety of house styles are intermixed in all other neighborhoods.

The potential for National Register listing is great for several buildings--the Courthouse, the Cooper house at 133 North Main, the Schulte Shop on North Main, the Livery Stable just off the Court Square, and the Andrews-Welker House on South Main. The mission style former gas station on the southeast corner of the square may also qualify for national listing because of its architectural integrity and uniqueness of style in Madison County. The Stephens House at 133 South Mine La Motte and the Deland House at 401 South Main and the German Cottage at 118 East College may also qualify but more documentation on their dates of construction and history than is presently available will be required.

Two potential National Register districts emerged from the survey. The courthouse sits in a Lancaster Square Plan which Howard T. Price describes as unique to Missouri and rare in America in "The Central Courthouse Square in the American County Seat" in Common Places Readings in American Vernacular Architecture. The court square and axis of this courthouse provides a district of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial architecture which is basically intact. National register potential is strengthened by the livery stable and mission style corner building which is also on the square. The district could include the square, extending east to South Mine La Motte and west to Maple. The south boundary could include the east side of South Main to College. (See Appendix 4.)

Another district potential is bounded by Franklin, High, Newberry and Henry. Although this area is presently only 45 years old, its importance to the historic context as well as its architectural uniqueness and integrity make it highly significant. Plans should be made to register this district at the earliest possible date.

Local designation is recommended immediately for these potential National Register sites and districts for protection during the interim period.

Locally, other possibilities exist for districts. One could extend along both sides of South Main between College and Virginia as indicated on the map in Appendix 4. There are a variety of locally significant sites and two nationally significant buildings within this block.

Another district of locally significant folk houses is located on the south side of East College between Marshall and South Wood streets.

Two thematic nominations for local listing which would include several individual sites are recommended for Princess Anne style (see above for explanation of term) and bungalow style housing.

It is also recommended that Fredericktown continue with its interest and research in the town's history by proceeding with additional phases of the Survey and Inventory Project. Selected buildings in the remainder of the City and within a three mile limit should be surveyed.

Historic and archaeological surveys should be conducted in the oldest sections of town including St. Michaels and New Village as well as the mines of Fredericktown.

After additional surveys are completed, a multiple resource nomination is recommended for national listing.

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