

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Greer, Alfred W., House

other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 955 Kinzer Street not for publication N/A

city or town Poplar Bluff vicinity N/A

state Missouri code MO county Butler code 023 zip code 63901

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Claire F. Blackwell 24 Dec 97  
Signature of certifying official Claire F. Blackwell Date  
Deputy SIFPO

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 commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. 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 Keeper Date of Action

Greer, Alfred W., House  
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### 5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)      Category of Property (Check only one box)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure
	<input type="checkbox"/> object

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count).

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Resources of Poplar Bluff, Missouri

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### 6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>Single Dwelling</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>Single Dwelling</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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### 7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY  
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman

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Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>brick</u>
roof	<u>ceramic tile</u>
walls	<u>brick</u>
other	<u>wood</u>
	<u>concrete</u>

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- 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

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions).

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Period of Significance

1915  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Significant Dates

1915  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

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

### Cultural Affiliation

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

### Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

(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: Department of Natural Resources



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Historic Resources of Poplar Bluff, MO

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### Summary

The Alfred W. Greer House is a two-story, residential building constructed in 1915 in the Craftsman style. The dwelling is Poplar Bluff's most representative example of the Craftsman style and it retains much of its original design and detailing. With the exception of some enclosures of second floor and rear porch areas, the dwelling has not been significantly altered on the exterior or interior. The dwelling is of brick construction and features large brick porch piers on the main facade, a gable roof, one-over-one wood sash windows, and wide eaves with exposed rafters. The interior displays ornate woodwork on the first floor and has a particularly notable wood staircase. The original floor plan and the majority of interior detailing have retained throughout the dwelling. Included with the boundaries in a non-contributing garage.

### Narrative Description

The Alfred W. Greer House is located at 955 Kinzer Street in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. The dwelling is located on a residential street to the northwest of the downtown area. Constructed in 1915 as a single-family residence, the building's traditional residential use has continued without interruption to the present. The Alfred W. Greer House is a two-and-one-half-story, four-by-four-bay, Craftsman-style, rectangular-plan dwelling with a two-and-one-half-story side-gable wing. Constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond, building details include a first-floor cast concrete watertable, a low-pitched gable roof clad in clay tile, and wide, unenclosed eaves marked with paired, exposed, decorative roof rafters. Brick piers span the building's first and second floors and are located on all elevations. They are joined on the second floor by horizontal bands of recessed brick spandrels.

One-over-one double hung and single-light, fixed sash windows are located throughout the dwelling. First floor windows have been covered with metal security grilles. Paired, eight-light horizontal fixed windows are located within the half-story of the building's gable fields and are placed above frame window boxes supported by decorative purlins. At the base of the gable fields on the south, north, and east elevations are frame shed roof canopies covered in clay tile and supported by paired exposed rafters. Single-light, leaded, stained glass windows are located on the first floor of the west elevation and flank an exterior, end-wall chimney. The building's second chimney is located below the ridgeline on the north elevation.

The building's primary entrance on the south facade is composed of an original single-light glass and wood door. The entry is located beneath the dwelling's one-story entry porch on the main facade which has a corner brick piers and curved clay tile roof. The dwelling's porch has a brick railing, cast concrete floors, and two-story flanking columns joined on the second floor by a single, horizontal spandrel. A single-bay, side-gable porte-cochere roofed in clay tile adjoins the porch on the west facade. Cast concrete steps connect the porte-cochere and the porch. On the north facade of the dwelling the second story of the porch has original screened panels. On the east facade the second story porch has been enclosed with large fixed and one-over-one, aluminum sash windows. The first and second story porches on the rear (north) facade were also enclosed ca. 1950 with fixed and one-over-one aluminum sash windows.

Solid wood doors are located at the secondary entrances on the north (rear) elevation and lead to the first floor and basement. Over the first floor entrances is a ca. 1950 metal awning. Frame vertical boards enclose the space between the basement brick piers on the rear facade.

On the interior, the dwelling retains its original hardwood floors, plaster walls, beamed/coffered ceilings, and paneled wainscoting. The first floor has a central staircase, large parlor, living room, dining room, and kitchen. The original, built-in cabinetry with leaded and frosted glass remains in the dining room and kitchen. The dwelling's primary entrance opens onto a modest vestibule whose

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detailing consists of plaster walls and a rectangular window containing leaded, lancet-shaped panes of clear glass. An original oak colonnade with square Doric motif columns separates the living room and dining room. Original paired cabinets with leaded glass doors flank the living room fireplace. The fireplace has a brick and stucco surround and above is a bracketed wood mantle.

One of the most notable features of the interior is the central staircase. This staircase has a central landing which is reached by three different runs of stairs. The landing is framed by square Doric motif wood columns with paneled wainscoting and vertical slat grilles. On the parlor side of the staircase is a built-in wood bench. On the second floor are a series of bedrooms which retain their original hardwood floors, plaster walls, and plaster ceilings. The bathrooms on this floor were remodeled in recent decades.

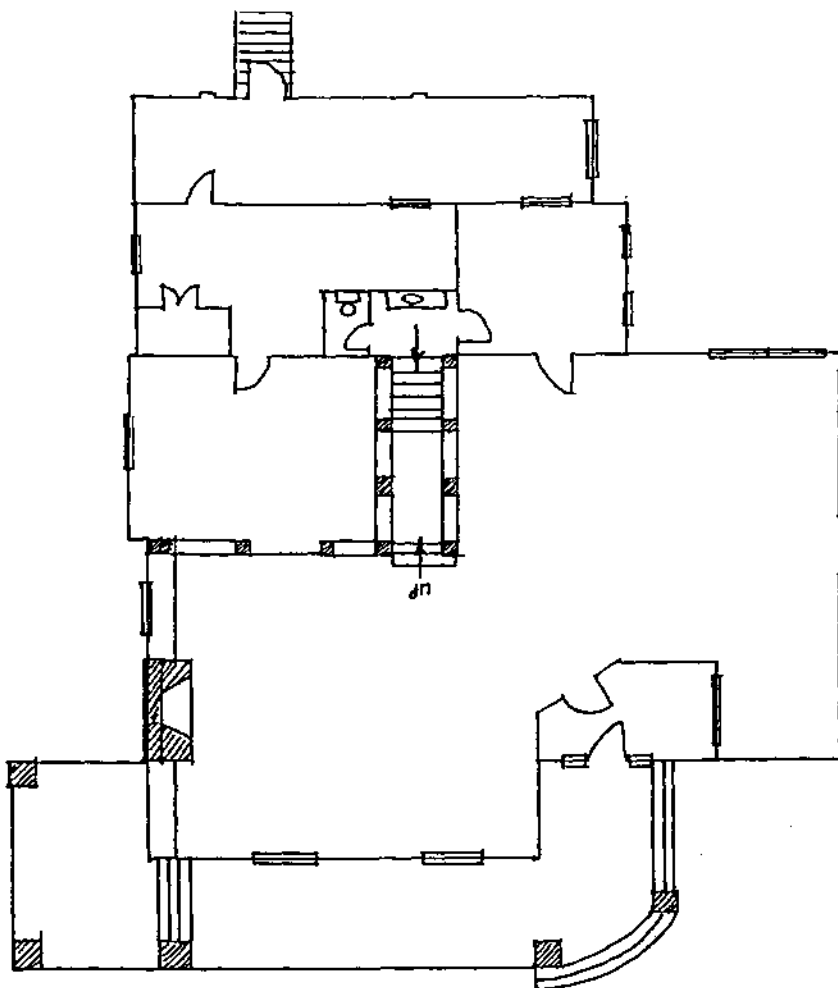
The Alfred W. Greer House rests on a gently sloping grassed lot on the north side of Kinzer Street. The lot is framed by cast concrete sidewalks and a cast concrete retaining wall. A flight of cast concrete steps with a wrought iron railing is located on the lot's southeast corner and connects with the sidewalk. A cast concrete driveway leads from the street through the porte-cochere and connects with a ca. 1925 brick, rectangular-plan garage. This garage has an exterior of brick and stucco and retains an original wood paneled garage bay, overhead track door. The garage has a gable roof of asphalt shingles and at the eavesd are exposed brackets. The garage is included as a non-contributing building to the property.

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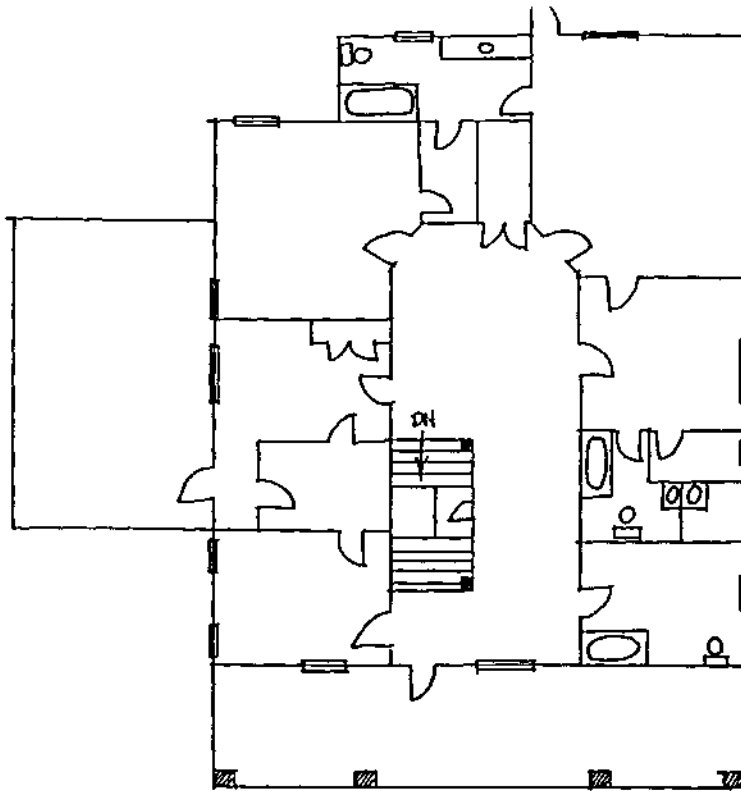
Alfred W. Greer House  
955 Kinzer Street  
Poplar Bluff, MO  
Floor Plan, First Floor  
Not To Scale

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Alfred W. Greer House  
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Floor Plan, Second Floor  
Not To Scale

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SUMMARY

The Alfred W. Greer House is significant under National Register Criterion C for its architectural design. The dwelling is Poplar Bluff's finest example of the Craftsman style from the early 20th century, and its period of significance is its construction date of 1915. The dwelling was designed of brick, wood, and concrete, and retains its original clay tile roof. The dwelling's large porch spaces, horizontal appearance, and wide eaves are reflective of the Craftsman style. The interior of the dwelling also retains its original Craftsman style interior and features an elaborate central staircase, paneled wood wainscoting, wood colonnade, and built-in cabinets. With the exception of the glass enclosures of the porches on the east and rear facades, the Alfred W. Greer House has not been extensively altered and possesses integrity of its original design. The Alfred W. Greer House is associated with the historic context of Late 19th and Early 20th Century Residential Buildings of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, ca. 1880-1943. The dwelling is included within the Residential Buildings property type of the Historic Resources of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, multiple property nomination.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

This dwelling has been owned by only two families since its construction. Alfred W. Greer (1874-1966) came to Poplar Bluff, Missouri from Kentucky in the late 19th century. Greer initially worked as a carpenter, but his business later grew to include contracting and lumber/building supply interests. Greer also came to own and operate the Greer Funeral Home (later the Greer-Croy-Fitch Funeral Home, currently Fitch-Hillis).<sup>1</sup>

Greer constructed his home at 955 Kinzer Street in 1915 and chose the Craftsman architectural style. As a lumberman, Greer utilized extensive amounts of oak and other hardwoods on the interior finishes of his house. Greer was also responsible for constructing three other homes located on the north side of Kinzer Street between his house and 10th Street. These dwellings are modest Bungalows of the period and do not possess notable architectural detailing. Additional homes constructed by Greer and his company are located throughout Poplar Bluff. The Greer family ownership of 955 Kinzer continued until 1922 when Alfred W. Greer sold the property to Joseph Sidney and Nellie Gray. Alfred W. Greer moved to another location in Poplar Bluff after the sale of the house and he died in 1966 at age 92.

Joseph and Nellie Gray moved to Poplar Bluff in January, 1914 where they established the J.S. Gray Wholesale Grocery Company. Gray was a member of the board of directors of the State Bank of Poplar Bluff and was active in the First Christian Church.<sup>2</sup> His wife, Nellie, was also active in civic affairs and was president of the Women's Community Government Club for 18 years. She also was active in organizing the Humane Society and served on the local board of the American Red Cross. They purchased this house in 1922 and at Joseph Gray's death on August 30, 1956, the property was inherited by his wife.<sup>3</sup> Upon Mrs. Gray's death on July 16, 1966, the Alfred W. Greer House was inherited by the Gray's daughter Pauline and her husband Frank Thompson Hearne. Mrs. Pauline Hearne continues to own and reside in the dwelling.

Additional information on the historic contexts and significance of the Alfred W. Greer House is located in the accompanying Multiple Property Cover Document, "Historic Resources of Poplar Bluff, Missouri."

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<sup>1</sup> Butler County Missouri, Vol. 1., p. 91

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Personal interview, Mrs. Pauline Hearne.

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**Bibliography**

Butler County Geneological Society. Butler County, Missouri, Vol. 1. Poplar Bluff, Missouri: Private Printing, 1988.

Hearne, Mrs. Pauline. Personal interview, 25 January, 1997.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary for the Alfred W. Greer House includes all of lot 16 on block 50 of the Butler County tax map 13-2-3-2. This lot measures 110' by 170' and is less than one acre.

**Verbal Boundary Justification**

The boundary for the Alfred W. Greer House includes the entire city lot which is historically associated with the property.

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Alfred W. Greer House  
955 Kinzer Street  
Poplar Bluff, Butler County, Missouri  
Photo by: Thomason and Associates  
Date: January 25, 1997  
Location of Negatives: Department of Natural Resources

- Photograph No. 1: South and west facades, view towards the northeast.
- Photograph No. 2: South and east facades, view towards the northwest.
- Photograph No. 3: West and north facades, view towards the southeast.
- Photograph No. 4: North and east facades, view towards the southwest.
- Photograph No. 5: Interior view of the staircase, view from the parlor.
- Photograph No. 6: Interior view of the fireplace and mantle in the living room.
- Photograph No. 7: Interior view of the colonnade and dining room area, view from the living room.
- Photograph No. 8: View of the garage, towards the north.













