NPS Form 10-900
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-0018

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

Historic name **Laughlin, Drs. George and Blanche, House**

Other names/site number **N/A**

Name of related Multiple Property Listing **N/A**

2. Location

Street & number **706 South Halliburton Street** | **N/A** not for publication

City or town **Kirksville** | **N/A** vicinity

State **Missouri** Code **MO** County **Adair** Code **001** Zip code **63501**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this **X** nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property **X** meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide **X** local

Applicable National Register Criteria: ___ A ___ B **X** C ___ D

Mark A. Miles — January 15, 2014

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles, Deputy SHPO — Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official — Date

Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

Jan Edson N. Beall — 3.11.14

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

	private
	public - Local
X	public - State
	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

X	building(s)
	district
	site
	structure
	object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	**Total**

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

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.)

LATE 19TH – EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS

Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Brick

roof: Slate

other: Limestone

X NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUTATION PAGES

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.
- [x] 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.)

Property is:

- [ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Architecture

Period of Significance

1937

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect: Bonsack & Pearce

Contractor: Poehlman, Leonard

[x] **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUTATION PAGES**

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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 # _____
- ____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- ____ Other State agency
- ____ Federal agency
- ____ Local government
- X University
- X Other

Name of repository: **Truman State University, Pickler Memorial Library; A.T. Still University Museum**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property **1.63 acres**

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	Latitude:	Longitude:	3	Latitude:	Longitude:
2	Latitude:	Longitude:	4	Latitude:	Longitude:

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)
__X__ NAD 1927 or _____ NAD 1983

1	**15** Zone	**536005** Easting	**4448876** Northing	3	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	Zone	Easting	Northing	4	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title **Cole Woodcox**
organization **Truman State University** date **24 July 2013**
street & number **616 East Harrison Street** telephone **660.785.4437**
city or town **Kirksville** state **MO** zip code **63501**
e-mail **cwoodcox@truman.edu**

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:**
  - A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
  - A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Laughlin, Drs. George and Blanche, House**

City or Vicinity: **Kirksville**

County: **Adair** State: **Missouri**

Photographer: **Cole Woodcox**

Date Photographed: **October 2008 and October 2009**

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

Photograph 1 of 9: East Elevation, Halliburton Street façade, looking West.
Photograph 2 of 9: South (left) and East (right) Elevation, Halliburton Street façade, looking Northwest.
Photograph 3 of 9: West Elevation, looking East.
Photograph 4 of 9: North and East Elevations, looking Southwest.
Photograph 5 of 9: Entrance Hall, First Floor, looking West.
Photograph 6 of 9: Living Room, First Floor, looking East.
Photograph 7 of 9: Dining Room, First Floor, looking Southwest.
Photograph 8 of 9: South Elevation, looking North.
Photograph 9 of 9: Garden Shed, East and North façades, looking Northwest.

See Photo Key below (Sanborn Map Company, *Fire Insurance Maps for Kirksville, Missouri, 1942*) for direction of camera.

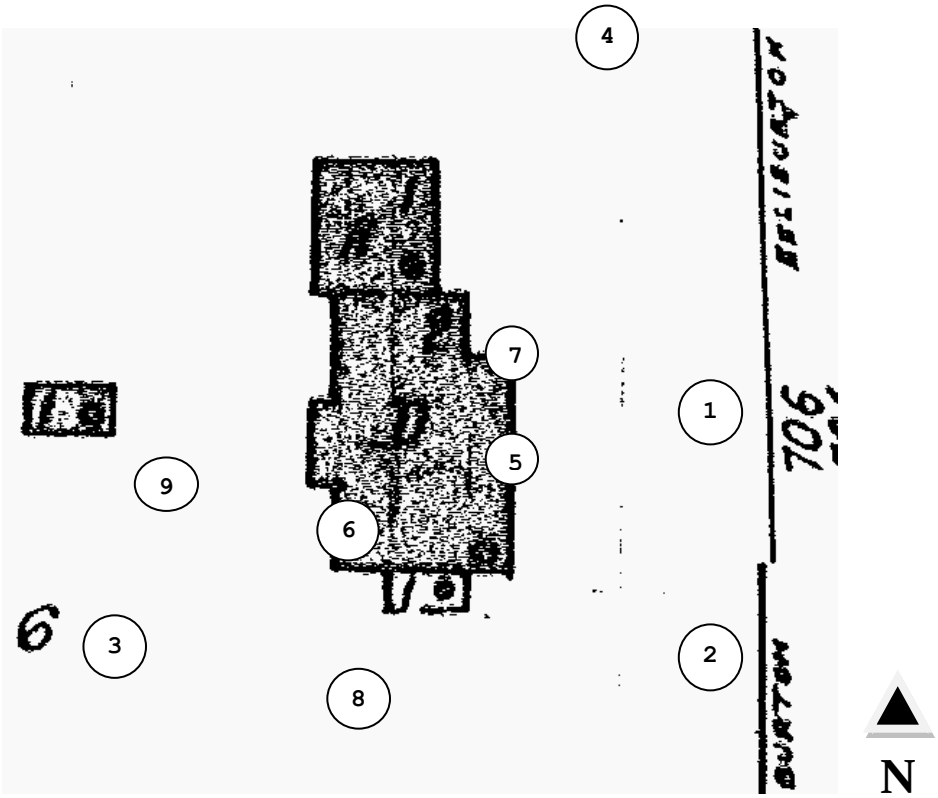

Figure Log:

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

Image A Site Map. *Insurance Maps of Kirksville, Missouri,* New York City: Sanborn Map Company, 1932 with 1942 overlays, 11. The Laughlin House and garden shed are in the center of the map at 706 South Halliburton Street.
Image B Bonsack & Pearce (1937), Laughlin House, South and North Elevations, Page 2, Campus Planner's Office, Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri.
Image C Bonsack & Pearce (1937), Laughlin House, West Elevation, Page 3, Campus Planner's Office, Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri.
Image D Bonsack & Pearce (1937), Laughlin House, Section and Interior Details, Page 4, Campus Planner's Office, Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri.
Image E Bonsack & Pearce (1937), Laughlin House, Basement Plan, Page 5, Campus Planner's Office, Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri.
Image F Bonsack & Pearce (1937), Laughlin House, First Floor Plan, Page 6, Campus Planner's Office, Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri.
Image G Laughlin House, First Floor Plan, 2013. Not to scale. Altered areas are shaded gray.
Image H Bonsack & Pearce (1937), Laughlin House, Second Floor Plan, Page 7, Campus Planner's Office, Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri.
Image I Bonsack & Pearce (1937), Laughlin House, Attic Plan and Interior Details, Page 8, Campus Planner's Office, Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri.
Image J Entrance Portico.
Image K Detail of Main Entrance.
Image L Detail of Capital on Entrance Portico and Corinthian Capital from James Stuart and Nicholas Revett, Tower of the Winds, *The Antiquities of Athens.*
Image M Basement, South and West walls of Recreation Room.
Image N Den looking north.
Image O Details of Fireplace in Living Room (left) and in Den (right).
Image P Palladian window on staircase landing.
Image Q Second bathroom, second floor.
Image R A.T. Still House.
Image S Dr. Charles & Anna Still House.
Image T Dr. Warren Hamilton House.
Image U Dr. E. Sanborn Smith House.
Image V David & Ella Stephenson House.
Image W C.C. Thompson House.
Image X Dr. Harry & Pansy Laughlin House.
Image Y Laughlin Hospital.
Image Z KCOS Administration Building.
Image AA KCOS Memorial Hall.
Image BB Drs. Laughlin House and Greenwood Elementary School.

SUMMARY

The Drs. George and Blanche Laughlin House at 706 South Halliburton Street, Kirksville, Adair County, Missouri is a Colonial Revival styled, two-story brick house designed by Bonsack & Pearce of St. Louis and built by local contractor Leonard Poehlman. Erected in 1937, the Laughlin House demonstrates integrity and easily conveys its original, formal architectural design and purpose. The house is locally significant under Criterion C: ARCHITECTURE.

The house and its contributing garden shed occupy a corner lot. The house's two primary façades face Halliburton Street (east) and Normal Avenue (north).[1] The secondary façade (south) is visible from Halliburton Street and the tertiary façade (west) is screened from public view by a wooden lattice privacy fence.[2]

The house mixes two styles: the Colonial Revival and its late variation, the Georgian Revival. The latter is most apparent in a few design elements: namely, the east façade's main feature -- a refined portico, whose curved steps establish a rhythm of curves playing off cubes across the main elevation; light iron railings; widely spaced attenuated columns, which generate an airy effect; floor levels indicated by slightly projecting courses of brick that continue to the ends of the building; jack arched window openings with articulated keystones and skewbacks; and a Palladian window.[3] The former, the Colonial Revival, appears in the house's modest scale; asymmetrical plan produced by a rectangular main block, kitchen ell and garage wing; moderately pitched roof; eaves set close to the top of the second-story windows; symmetrical fenestration in the main block; underscaled shutters; and sun porch off the living room.

The Laughlin House retains integrity and clearly communicates its high-style, formal design and original purpose as a single family residence during 1937, the period of significance and date of its construction.

ELABORATION

SITE

Dr. George Laughlin purchased the six lots on the southwest corner of Halliburton Street and Normal Avenue in January 1937 from Martha Craig, et al.[4] The three northernmost lots were used for the Laughlin House, whose footprint measures approximately ninety-one by thirty-two feet. Located in a residential district, the site is level and the house is set back from Halliburton Street approximately fifty feet and seventy feet from Normal Avenue. The neighborhood features houses that are somewhat smaller and less stylistically sophisticated than the Laughlin House. In addition, there is a two-story Georgian Revival elementary school directly across Normal Street also designed by Bonsack & Pearce in 1935. The Laughlin House is surrounded by mature trees.

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[1] See Photographs 1, 2, 4 and 9 and Image A.
[2] See Photographs 2, 3, 4 and 8.
[3] For a fuller description of the Georgian (aka Adamesque) and Colonial Revival styles and their histories see Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1780*, Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1969; 1999, 23-29 and 159-165 and Carole Rifkind, *A Field Guide to American Architecture*, New York City: New American Library, 1980, 18-28.
[4] See Image A. The purchase is recorded in the *Adair County Deed Record*, Vol. 127, 88-89.

Most of the landscaping dates to the 1950s, when the second owners planted a number of the trees.[5]

HOUSE EXTERIOR

East Façade[6] Both the east and west elevations consist of a two-story, rectangular, five-bay main block (approximately 32 by 47 feet), a two-story one-bay kitchen block (approximately 7 by 14 feet) to the north, and a one-story three-bay garage wing (approximately 29 by 24 feet) which extends north from the kitchen ell. Because of this tightly massed arrangement there are three parallel east and west elevations. This section will describe the primary elevation (east) in that order – main block, kitchen and garage wings.

The two-story side-gabled main block stresses strict symmetry. It is organized into an evenly spaced five-bay arrangement. The foundation is brick laid in common bond with a course of Flemish headers set atop a concrete substructure. A course of soldier bricks separates the basement from the ground floor and a course of slightly projecting bricks at the level of the window sills on the first and again on the second floors establish an understated sill course. The windows are original double hung, wooden sash windows with 12/12 lights on the first floor and 8/12 lights on the second floor. All of the first floor windows on this façade feature bonded jack arches with limestone keystones and limestone skewbacks. The second-story sash windows sit on limestone sills and have bonded jack arches. Both windows on the first- and second-story feature historic shutters, originally painted white and currently painted olive green. The central element of the east elevation is the treatment of the entrance.[7] It consists of four limestone semicircular steps and an original wrought iron balustrade with drop waist balusters serving as newel posts. The balustrade and stairs lead to a semicircular portico that displays two engaged half Corinthian columns and two Corinthian columns, which support a complete entablature.[8] The portico is surmounted by an original wrought iron balustrade whose main feature is a rhomboid set in a circle. The front door is a single leaf, six panel wooden door flanked by original leaded glass, sidelights, and capped with an intricate segmental fanlight.[9] The façade terminates in a shallow projecting cornice with returns on the gabled side. The gutters are built-in with down spouts and well heads at each end of the main block. Short brick chimneys with string courses and flared caps are at either end of the roof ridge line. A one-story veranda (infra) with wooden pillars extends out approximately 11 feet from the southern end of the main elevation.

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[5] See David Hurst, Transcript of interview with Mrs. Elizabeth P. Laughlin, 29 April 1993, 12 and Private Correspondence, Mrs. Elizabeth P. Laughlin to Dr. Jack Magruder, 10 November 1992.

[6] See photographs 1, 2 and 4.

[7] Typical of the Colonial and Georgian Revival styles, the entry is a major design element. See Photographs 1, 2 and Image J.

[8] See Images J and L. The capitals are distinctive. Rather than typical variations on the standard Corinthian order, they are copies of the Corinthian order found on the Tower of the Winds (50. B.C.E.) in Athens. This building appeared in both Julien-David LeRoy and Stuart and Revett's books on Athens during the eighteenth-century; this particular Corinthian order with one row of acanthus leaves, a second row of palms and no volutes was often used by the Adam Brothers in their designs. These thin columns and refined capitals are the primary Georgian Revival features on this largely Colonial Revival styled residence.

[9] See Image K.

The east façade of the recessed kitchen bay corresponds with the kitchen on the first floor and bathroom on the second floor. It repeats the same fenestration components already noted in the description of the main block. It too has a side gabled roof, a down spout and well head.

The east elevation of the recessed garage wing prominently displays segmental arched openings for three cars. Brick piers separate three openings with limestone blocks at the springing point of the three arches. It too is side gabled.

South Façade[10] The south façade of the main block consists of two stories and features strict symmetry in the fenestration. Its chief focal points are a wide one-story three-bay veranda that extends the length of the south façade. An original, diamond patterned wrought iron balustrade encloses the porch. Four paneled pillars of indeterminate order and two pilasters support the sun porch's roof. The entablature is complete and crowned with a wrought iron balustrade. The second focal point on this elevation is the vertical emphasis provided by the chimney breast, which breaks forward slightly from the façade's main plane. The chimney rises through the two and one half stories and interrupts the raking cornice. Two coping stones facilitate the chimney breast's narrowing at the attic level; a metal amortizement has been placed on top of each stone. The chimney cap features a series of courses of brick that extend slightly from the main plane established by the chimney breast. There is a metal cap on top. The fenestration is regular and consists on the ground floor of fifteen-light French door and transom and a double hung sash window with 9/12 lights. These two openings flank the chimney. The lintels for both openings on the first floor are composed of bonded jack arches, stone keystones and stone skewbacks. On the second floor, the fenestration has a fifteen-light French door and five light transom on the west and a double hung sash window of 9/9 lights on the east. Original louvered wooden shutters are paired with this window. Both openings have bonded jack arches. The attic story is illuminated by two demi-lunette windows composed of three lights. These two windows are set on stone sills and they flank the chimney breast. The gable end of the roof has returns and a full raking wooden cornice. A non-historic feature is visible on this façade—a handicap access ramp, added in 1996, parallels the veranda and leads up from the side yard to this porch.

West Façade[11] The west façade is the most complicated of the building's elevations. It consists of four main components, the projecting sun porch and three-bay main block; a two-bay two-story side gabled wing that breaks forward from the house's main block a few feet; the one bay kitchen wing and the three bay garage wing.

The main block is two stories and exhibits many of the design elements already noted on the other façades. It too has a brick foundation with six awning windows.[12] A course of soldier bricks forms both the lintel for these basement windows as well as a water table separating the basement from the first floor. The fenestration is irregular. On the ground floor, moving from south to north, it has two 12/12 sash windows on stone lintels with the same stone keystones and bonded jack arches featured on the south and east elevations. Continuing northward is a small

[10] See Photographs 2, 3 and 8 and Image B.
[11] See Photograph 3 and Image C.
[12] Five of these are four-light windows and one, set under the main interior staircase, is a three-light window.

6/6 sash window set on a stone sill and finished with a bonded jack arch with a stone keystone. Unlike the other windows on the first floor, this one does not have stone skewbacks. The center of the basement, first floor and second floor features a two-story front-gabled projection. The ground floor features a tripartite 9/9 sash window on a long stone sill surmounted by a soldier brick relieving arch. The final window on the main block is a squat tripartite arrangement of three, six light casement windows on a stone sill with the same bonded jack arch, stone keystone and stone skewbacks featured elsewhere on the house.

The fenestration on the second floor corresponds vertically with window placement on the first floor and the basement. Moving from south to north, these windows are two 12/8 double hung sash windows on stone sills with bonded jack arches. The most arresting feature on the second floor is the window illuminating the staircase landing.[13] This is a Palladian window set inside a brick relieving arch. The center window is a sash window, the upper light of which features an unconventional configuration of muntins in the arched portion. The side lights consist of 2/2 vertically stacked sash windows. All of this is set on a stone sill. The next two windows are located in the wing. They are paired 12/8 sash windows on stone sills with bonded jack arches. These two windows are located directly above the tripartite window on the first floor. The final window in the main block is another 12/8 sash window with the same sill and jack arch featured elsewhere on the house. The same cornice treatment appears on the western façade as elsewhere on the house, including the same returns and raking cornice on the shallow wing that appear on the north and south gable ends of the main block. There is also a chimney located on the north side of the shallow wing.

The final elements on the west elevation are located on the one-story garage wing, which extends northward from the main block. This wing partially intersects the main block at the northwest corner to accommodate a doorway with a transom and sidelight that leads into the kitchen. The chief features on this segment of the garage wing are, on the south, paired twelve light windows separated by a mullion and, on the west, a single twelve light window next to the doorway leading to the kitchen. This doorway is approached by a three step, straight run cement stair case. An eight light transom is above the door.

The garage wing proper has two 12/8 double hung sash windows with stone sills, bonded jack arches, stone keystones and stone skewbacks. Both of these windows have historic louvered shutters, which continue the complete design elements and ornamentation of the first floor all the way around the garage wing, even on this tertiary façade. The final feature on the garage wing is a single leaf door with a single window set above two panels in its lower portion. The door surround is simple and made of wood.

North Façade[14] The north façade has three principle planes: the main block, the kitchen wing, and the garage wing.

The north elevation of the main block has a sash window on the first floor that is vertically aligned with another on the second floor. The detailing for both windows corresponds exactly with the windows on the east façade including the louvered shutters. The gable end has returns and a raking cornice. A lunette is set in the middle of the gable end of the main block.

[13] See Image P.
[14] See Photograph 4 and Image B.

The north end of the kitchen wing has an awning window at the basement level. A single sash window is on the first floor; there is no window above it on the second floor. Instead, the sole window on this façade's second floor is at the west end: a short, eight light window. Overall, the fenestration details repeat the design elements found elsewhere on the house, except restricted space permits only one shutter for the window on the first floor. A chimney, the symmetrical counterpart of the southern façade's chimney except this one does not narrow at the attic level, dominates this elevation and divides the raking cornice of the gable end. Two three-light demi-lunettes flank the chimney at the attic level.

The garage wing is the most developed of the three northern façades. It exhibits two 8/12 double hung sash windows that repeat the stone sill, bonded jack arch, stone keystone and stone skewbacks seen on the other façades. This handling of the windows for the garage unites a functional wing with the rest of the house. The gable end of the garage features an oculus highlighted with four keystones.[15] Two final aspects of this façade are 1) a fifteen by four inch buttress on the east end of the wall. The buttress is capped with an inverted cyma reversa molding made of limestone. And 2) a course of soldier bricks set at grade level. To adjust to a minor slope in the grade, this feature has two breaks, dropping in height one course at each break so that the western end of this detailing is two courses lower than the eastern end.

HOUSE INTERIOR

Basement[16] The basement contains a collection of large utilitarian spaces and a few small rooms. The recreation room, laundry, furnace room and fuel room are sizeable, indeed the recreation room corresponds in size with the living room above it on the first floor. A wide hallway connects the recreation room and laundry. Two small rooms (a maid's room and bathroom) also open onto this hallway. The remains of the original staircase between the kitchen and basement are still visible at the basement level near the entrance to the furnace room, this space has steel beams in its ceiling as a fire-preventative measure in a domestic design. Finishes elsewhere in the basement are three-quarter block yellow tile walls on the lower half of the walls with white plaster on the upper half. All rooms are lit by four light awning windows with opaque glazing. The windows are set on glazed tile brick sills. Ceiling joists are exposed throughout the basement.

First Floor[17] Instead of the traditional eighteenth-century Georgian plan with four equally sized rooms lining a central hall that extends through the depth of the house, the Laughlin House offers a typical modern variation.[18] The central stair hall is retained, but the living room fills one half of the plan and is paralleled by a wide veranda. Two rooms of unequal

[15] This circular opening echoes the oval windows in the gables of Greenwood Elementary School immediately north of the Laughlin House (across Normal Avenue) and built in 1935 by the same architects, Bonsack & Pearce. Use of the Colonial Revival style for these two brick buildings and repeated design elements in them, make the streetscape of this intersection among the most unified in Kirksville. See Images A and BB.
[16] See Images E and M.
[17] See Images F and G.
[18] Rifkind, 19.

size are on the opposite side of the stair hall. This part of the plan is recognizable as typical of roomy, but modestly scaled, early-twentieth century homes and has been unaltered in the Laughlin House since its construction.

The entrance hall features two arched entrances into the living room on the left and the dining room on the right.[19] Both entrances are encased in original walnut paneling and the intrados of the arch has recessed walnut paneling. The floor material is replacement black and white tile (added in the late 1960s). Other original features include an open string, open well staircase with walnut treads and risers, balusters, handrail, and newel posts. A small closet is tucked under the stairs. The walls and ceiling of the entrance hall are white plaster. An original cornice with acanthus leaves and bead and reel molding separates the wall surfaces from the ceiling. A crystal drop chandelier illuminates the room. The final pieces of the hallway are two single leaf six paneled doors on the North side. One opens into a closet; the second leads into the den.

Returning to the arched openings at the front of the entrance hall, the left opens into the living room.[20] This a large room intended for equally large social functions that could expand outside onto the side porch or inside into the dining room across the entrance hall. Amply lit by six openings, the living room's main features are original oak floors, an original walnut mantelpiece with Tuscan columns, two branched chandeliers and original plaster decoration that includes an ornate cornice around the room and paterae in the ceiling.

The dining room opens off the north side of the entrance hall.[21] Lit by three windows and a large branch chandelier, the room continues the ornamental use of plaster in the cornice and on the ceiling found in the hall and living room. As in the living room, the floors are oak.

As mentioned above, the second full-sized door in the entrance hall opens into the den.[22] Original walnut paneling lines this intimate room, whose walls also display three floor to ceiling bookcases on the east and two more cases flanking the fireplace on the north. The west wall is dominated by a large tripartite sash window. The ceiling features two large walnut beams and a brass chandelier. A door in the south walls leads to a small, half-bathroom, remodeled in the late 1960s.

The third doorway in the den opens onto small passage whose various functions indicate an importance well beyond its size: 1) the main staircase to the basement begins in this space; 2) it serves as a passage between the public (dining room), private (den) and functional (kitchen) areas of the house; 3) it contains an opening into the laundry chute, the functional vertical axis for three floors of the house. The next main room on this floor is the kitchen. This room has been modernized to contemporary standards since the house's construction in the thirties. The most significant of these alterations is the removal of a staircase that lead from the mud room down through the kitchen into the basement. This was replaced by a laundry room in the 1950s. The walls between the breakfast nook and the kitchen were removed at the same time, thereby creating a larger, more functional space.

[19] See Photograph 5 and Image D.
[20] See Photograph 6 and Image O.
[21] See Photograph 7.
[22] See Images I, N and O.

The garage wing finishes the first floor spaces. Built to contain three cars and a third staircase to the basement, this room holds, by far, the most open square footage in the house. This distinction points to the extent to which a car-based culture was a design element for a middle-class patron, even in a rural area, by the 1930s.

Second Floor[23] The second floor contains the private living spaces for the Laughlin House. Two staircases, four bedrooms and service rooms open onto a hallway which runs north-south on the second floor. The hall overlooks the main staircase with its distinctive Palladian window.[24] One of the four bedrooms is set in each of the main block's cardinal points – east, west, north, south. The master bedroom, a dressing room and modernized bathroom occupy the southern portion of the main block. A door in the southwest corner of this room opens onto a terrace that forms the roof of the veranda on the first floor. The remaining three bedrooms are set in the east, west and north parts of the main block. Each of these bedrooms has two sash windows and an en suite closet. A small linen room is also located in the eastern part of this floor. A door opening onto a narrow staircase and a second bathroom, with original cupboard, tiled walls and tiled floor complete the chief spaces on this floor.[25] The spatial arrangement is compact and functional while still guaranteeing privacy for the original as well as subsequent owners.

Attic[26] The attic is finished with three defined areas, two of which are accessible. A single room extends across the third floor of the main block. Because of the low pitch of the gable roof, the room's function has been restricted.[27] Windows are its sole decorative feature: two demi-lunettes at the south end of the space and a lunette in the gable end of the northern part of the main block. Two more demi-lunettes are in the gable end of a small, square room atop the kitchen bay. This room's ceiling is even lower that the main block's because of the drop in the exterior roof line between these two units of the house.[28] The attic area over the den wing is sealed off from the rest of this floor but has a four-light oculus set in the gable end.

GARDEN SHED[29]

The second contributing building is the small brick garden shed located immediately behind the garage. Although the plans for it are not extant, it appears on the first Sanborn map showing the Laughlin House (1942) and given its stylistic similarities with the house can be assumed to be contemporary with it.

The shed is approximately thirteen by seventeen feet, front gabled with returns on the gable ends, boxed eaves and stands on a concrete slab foundation. With the exception of soldier

[23] See Image H.
[24] See Image P.
[25] See Image Q.
[26] See Images D and I.
[27] The second owners of the Laughlin House used the third floor as a playroom for their three children. Other owners have used it as storage space. See Hurst interview with Mrs. Elizabeth P. Laughlin, 5.
[28] See the roofline on the west and north elevations in Images B and C.
[29] See Photographs 4, 9 and Image A.

bricks set just above the foundation, the brick walls are laid in common bond (with a course of Flemish headers). The lintels over the door and two windows repeat fenestration treatments seen on the house – jack arch with stone keystone above the door and jack arch with no keystone above the windows.[30] Both windows are set on brick sills, another design element that does not appear on the house itself where all windows are set on stone sills. The east elevation of the garden shed features a single leaf door which has a window with nine lights set in the upper half. A single, original, double-hung, 6/6 sash wooden window occupies the center of the south façade and another is in the center of the north façade.

INTEGRITY AND CONCLUSION

The Drs. George and Blanche Laughlin House retains the majority of its character defining Colonial Revival features on both the exterior and interior. The house has had a series of minor alterations. These began shortly after its construction. The Laughlins had an air conditioning system built into the house but it was so expensive and cost inefficient that they had the vents sealed and the pipes cut out, probably in the 1940s.[31] Three major renovations have happened since the house's erection: 1) In 1951 the stairway to between the kitchen and the basement was removed and the space reconfigured for a laundry on the first floor; a staircase between the first floor and basement was inserted in the original pantry.[32] 2) From 1967 to 1970, the hallway floor tiles were replaced; the walnut woodwork in the den was painted; stone was set around the fireplace in the den; the first-floor bathroom was remodeled; the laundry was relocated to the basement; and the wooden kitchen cabinets were replaced with metal ones.[33] 3) And from 1989 to 1996, the paint was stripped from the woodwork in the den (thereby returning the room to its original appearance); foundation and other structural walls were repaired; a handicap access ramp was built to the veranda on the south façade.[34]

On the exterior, this ramp (1996) is the sole alteration of note. It has a low profile and does not intrude on the principal view of this historic house from Halliburton Street, the primary elevation. On the interior, private spaces have been modernized to accommodate contemporary living standards, but these bathroom, laundry room and kitchen remodels do not compromise the building's visible Colonial Revival characteristics.

None of the alterations mentioned diminish the historical importance of this house or its integrity or the architectural design and qualities for which it is being nominated. All four façades remain distinctly identifiable, the interior and exterior have most of their original materials and possess all of their distinctive features. Truman State University, the current owner, is aware of the historic importance of the building and has proved itself an able steward of

[30] This treatment does not occur on the house itself. In addition, the jack arches on the house all have split voussoirs. Those on the garden shed are single soldier bricks.
[31] Hurst interview with Mrs. Elizabeth P. Laughlin, 12.
[32] Hurst interview with Mrs. Elizabeth P. Laughlin, 2-3. Cf. Images F and G.
[33] David Hurst, Transcript of interview with Dr. Charles McClain, 1-2 and "President's House to Undergo Changes", *Index*, 7 July 1968, 1.
[34] David Hurst, Transcript of interview with Dr. Russell Warren, 6; David Hurst, Draft of "History of the President's House", 2-4; and "University Renovates House," *Index*, 18 January 1990, 1.

the house's historic fabric. The Laughlin House is well-proportioned in its scale, restrained in its ornamentation and composed in plan and elevation for a balanced, formal effect. This building remains a key, local example 1) of Colonial Revival domestic architecture and 2) of the high-style residences built in Kirksville before World War II.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Drs. George and Blanche Laughlin House is a Colonial Revival styled residence in Kirksville, Adair County, Missouri. This building at 706 South Halliburton Street has housed doctors, college presidents and their families in addition to serving as the setting for official entertainments. The coherency of design by Bonsack & Pearce and quality of craftsmanship make this one of the most graceful residences in Kirksville. Compared with other early-twentieth century Colonial Revival styled residences in Kirksville, the Laughlin House represents one of the most accurate interpretations of that style. Moreover, the nominated property is one of the last large, high-style houses erected in this rural town before World War II. The period of significance is 1937, the date of the house's construction by Leonard Poehlman, a local contractor. The Laughlin House preserves its prime historical features. Its exterior and interior are largely unaltered since their creation over seventy years ago and they easily convey the building's function as a high-style, single family residence. This nominated property is eligible for listing under National Register Criterion C for the area of ARHCITECTURE and is locally significant as an outstanding example of the Colonial Revival, a major style in American domestic architecture during the late nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.

ELABORATION

The Colonial Revival Style and the Laughlin House With its scale, asymmetrical plan, and classical detailing, the Laughlin House capably demonstrates the Colonial Revival style which was fashionable in American domestic design during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.[35] The Centennial International Exhibition held in Philadelphia in 1876 included a display of recreated colonial interiors. National pride and the Exhibition reawakened Americans' interest in their colonial heritage and, beginning in the early 1880s, the Colonial Revival style became an admired architectural alternative to lavish, ornamented late-Victorian styles.[36] It also offered a romanticized portrayal of America's pre-Industrial Revolution past. The style reused elements of eighteenth-century design. When applied to residential architecture, a Colonial Revival styled house often featured a clapboard or red brick clad two-story exterior; symmetrical façades except for a long one-story porch frequently set along one side of the house; multi-pane, double-hung sash windows with louvered shutters; and a side-gabled roof. The interior was commonly organized around a central hall plan. Both exterior and interior displayed classical detailing, such as a formal main entrance with a fanlight, sidelights and a portico or a pilastered entrance with a pediment. Other characteristic features included a grand staircase, paneled

[35] See John Milnes Baker, *American House Styles,* New York City: Norton, 1994, 117 and Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses,* New York City: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984, 324.

[36] Vincent Scully notes that the house designed by McKim, Mead and White for the Misses Appleton in Lenox, Massachusetts (1883-1884) began a return to colonial classicism, but that design is a fairly picturesque rendering of eighteenth-century architecture. See Vincent Scully, *The Shingle Style*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1953, 142-143. The same firm's house for H.A.C. Taylor in Newport, Rhode Island (1885-1886) is a more historically based Colonial Revival design and manifests many of the stylistic traits mentioned at the end of this paragraph.

wainscoting and simple decorative plasterwork with calyxes, rosettes, paterae, palmettes, bands, etc., on walls or ceilings.[37]

By the 1890s, many homes inspired by eighteenth-century architectural precedents had been constructed across the county. Most early Colonial Revival houses were transitional – more over-scaled interpretations than historically correct.[38] During the first decade of the twentieth century, however, Colonial Revival architecture in America changed its plans, proportions and detailing to become more faithful to those found in genuine eighteenth-century buildings.[39] This move was encouraged by research-based historic preservation as well as by photographs, measured drawings, books and trade periodicals.[40] Particularly by the 1920s, a strong public understanding had developed about the prototypes that shaped the Colonial Revival. By 1937, when the Laughlin House was erected, Colonial Revival houses in America were less ostentatious, more historically precise and more closely resembled eighteenth-century designs than did the Colonial Revival houses erected in the late-nineteenth century.[41]

Local Colonial Revival Houses and the Laughlin House Before commissioning their house at 706 South Halliburton Street, Drs. George and Blanche Still Laughlin spent most of their married life in a high-style Queen Anne house set on the western edge of Kirksville.[42] This twenty-six room house was the residence of A.T. Still, Blanche's father and the founder of Osteopathy. It was located directly across the street from the medical school and clinic he created, the American School of Osteopathy (A.S.O.). It was also situated immediately south of the house built by Blanche's brother, Charles Still.[43] Blanche lived in the house for much of her life, taking care of her parents as they aged and serving as hostess for innumerable social functions. After her mother's death in 1910 and her father's death in 1917, Blanche and George Laughlin continued living in the Still House for another twenty years. In 1937, George Laughlin purchased six lots on South Halliburton Street, on which he intended to erect what a 1937 newspaper article described as "a small modern home."[44] It seems Blanche Laughlin considered the A.T. Still House "too much of a burden to look after and she desired a smaller home."[45]

The Tudor Revival and Colonial Revival styles reigned over American domestic design during the first third of the twentieth century. Hence, it is not surprising that the Laughlin House

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[37] See Whiffen, 23-29 and 159-165; Rifkind, 18-28; McAlester 320-342 and Baker, 120..
[38] McAlester, 326.
[39] Baker, 120.
[40] America's first statewide preservation organization was created in Virginia in 1889 and focused its early efforts on Fredricksburg, Jamestown and Williamsburg. The construction of the Laughlin House in 1937 happened eleven years after "restoration" work began in Williamsburg, Virginia and five years after the opening of Colonial Williamsburg to the public. The promotion of the Colonial Revival in print began in 1898 when *The American Architect and Building News* featured a series called "The Georgian Period". These were joined in 1915 by the *White Pine Series*, a collection of architectural monographs that emphasized colonial buildings. Together, these restoration projects, publications and the photographs of antiquarian Wallace Nutting were influential.
[41] McAlester, 326.
[42] See Image R.
[43] See Image S.
[44] See "Dr. George Laughlin to build new home", *Kirksville Daily Express*, 22 January 1937, 3. and Hurst, Interview with Mrs. Elizabeth P. Laughlin, 3. The total cost for the lots was $8,000.
[45] See "Dr. George Laughlin to build new home", *Kirksville Daily Express*, 22 January 1937, 3. and Hurst, Interview with Laughlin, 4. At the time of the house's construction, the Laughlins were both in their sixties.

used one of these two styles for their new house. 706 South Halliburton Street is, however, the most polished use of that style in Kirksville.

Early-twentieth century, high-style houses in Kirksville were often interpretative when they used classical details.[46] Because of their large scale and rich ornamentation, such local houses resembled Classical Revival buildings more than any genuine colonial era structure. After World War I, many residential examples in Kirksville, however, reflected a nationwide trend: houses that incorporated eighteenth-century American features tended to be more modest in scale and more historically precise in their plans, proportions and detailing.

Although approximately a dozen Colonial Revival houses remain standing in Kirksville, four comparably sized homes erected by patrons from a similar social class can be used to create a context for the architectural significance of the Laughlin House.[47] All four show the principal characteristics of the Colonial Revival as well as some of its possible variations.

Built in 1925, the Dr. E. Sanborn Smith House stands at 111 East Paterson Street (NR listed 01/30/09).[48] This two-story brick and stucco building combines uncommon half-timber framing on the second story and attic dormers with more customary Colonial Revival elements like a central hall plan, side-gabled roof, symmetrical fenestration of multi-paned double-hung-sash windows on the main façade and a one-story sunroom off the living room.[49] In addition, the Smith House offered what was then a novel feature: an attached garage. Housing two cars, it was set in the rear ell, unlike the nominated property's three-car garage which forms part of the primary façade and fills an entire wing.

Constructed a decade before the Laughlin House, the David and Ella Stephenson House (1926) at 704 East Harrison Street is a textbook Colonial Revival house: white clapboard with corner boards, side-gabled roof decorated with classical brackets, two stories, central hall plan, symmetrical fenestration with shutters, portico with curved underside supported by thin columns, fanlight and sidelights.[50] The Stephenson House also manifests some of the immediate, anachronistic markers of a Revival house: squat windows and narrow shutters, paired windows in the center of the second story (a feature no actual Colonial house used), wide eaves and sunroom off the living room. Despite its combination of modern and historical elements, the Stephenson House indicates a trend in Kirksville for more accurate expressions of the Colonial Revival style.

The second house was built a decade later. The C.C. Thompson House (902 East Patterson Street) possesses the anticipated stylistic features: side-gabled roof; central door framed by pilasters; overlight; single-story porch off the living room.[51] The white-clapboard Thompson House, however, is a mail-order version of the Colonial Revival – it suggests rather than mirrors the Colonial. The elevations and plans for the Thompson House appeared in *Good Housekeeping* in June 1936, just months before the construction of the Laughlin House being nominated.

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[46] Two local examples display this proclivity: the house erected for Dr. Warren Hamilton in 1908 at 614 West Pierce Street (see Image T) and the house for Anna and Dr. Charles Still in 1914 at 218 South Osteopathy Street (see Image S).
[47] For a developed discussion of Kirksville' domestic architecture in the early-twentieth century see the National Register of Historic Places nomination of the Dr. E. Sanborn Smith House by Cole Woodcox, 2008, NR listed 1/30/09.
[48] See Image U.
[49] The McAlesters note that a one-story wing, either opened or enclosed, with a flat roof seemed compulsory for the main elevation of Colonial Revival houses. See McAlester, 324.
[50] See Image V. The architect for the Stephenson House is unknown.
[51] See Image W.

Dubbed the "New American" House by the magazine, the plans for this model house could only be sold to "registered architects".[52] Mrs. C.C. Thompson of Kirksville entered into correspondence with *Good Housekeeping* in November 1936, had local architect A.L. Bartlett purchase the plans (complete with its detached garage balancing a tea pavilion at the other end of the rear terrace), and constructed the home with some modifications to its mass produced design.[53]

The Dr. Harry and Pansy Laughlin House at 201 West Normal Avenue is the last residence on this spectrum.[54] Erected in 1940, it showcases the elements associated with the Colonial Revival by then, viz., a combination of historical and modern elements – central hall plan; three bay façade; side-gabled roof of moderate pitch; a side wing (which, for this residence, housed a small garage at the basement level); full two-story porch; front entrance with a flat pediment; overlight and sidelights; small, paired windows in the center bay of the second story (as seen in the Stephenson House above). In this compact example, the relation of the house to its setting is an important design element – the setback is deep and emphasizes the lawn as a buffer between the public street and the private, Colonial Revival dwelling. Next to the building's siting, its other chief feature is the Mount Vernon-esque porch.

These four iterations show that the local context had a clear, stylistic center but was flexible enough to take in a number of adaptations. While the Laughlin House shares traits with these Colonial Revival houses in Kirksville, it is both a less restricted interpretation of the style and a more academically modeled one. A large house, the Laughlin House accommodated people, cars and generous social functions. And while the Laughlin House is similar to the Stephenson, Thompson and Laughlin Houses it is more refined than these three contemporary examples. Its massing makes it appear more substantial than the Stephenson House. Historically precise detailing like the portico's columns, fine brickwork, delicate fanlight over the main entrance and Palladian window on the landing make the nominated property look less mass produced than the Thompson House and more urbane than the Dr. Harry and Pansy Laughlin House.

Within its local context, the nominated building demonstrates both expected and at least one uncommon stylistic elements: the prominent three-car garage on a primary elevation makes this a motorcentric Colonial Revival house. Nonetheless, in elevation and plan, in materials and harmony of design, the Laughlin House faithfully captures the essence of the Colonial Revival and exhibits one of Kirksville's best applications of that style to a residential project.

The Laughlin House in the Context of Its Architects Bonsack & Pearce were prolific designers and their work has already been recognized by the National Register of Historic Places.[55] Frederick C. Bonsack III, worked at the St. Louis architectural firm founded by his father (Frederick C. Bonsack, Jr., 1859 - 1917) before serving in the U.S. Navy during World War I. In

[52] Helen Koues. "Good Housekeeping New American House". *Good Housekeeping*, June 1936, 52-55. Better known for estates in Florida and New York, Dwight James Baum (1886-1939) drew up this set of designs for *Good Housekeeping*.
[53] Personal Correspondence. Helen Koues to Mrs. C.C. Thompson, 12 November 1936.
[54] See Image X.
[55] E.g., the Masonic Temple in Kirksville, Adair County (NR listed 1/07/10) and the Washington School in Monroe City, Monroe County (NR listed 12/29/94) and the J. Milton Turner School, Kirkwood, St Louis County (NR listed 8/22/02).

1921, he formed a partnership with Harvey J. Pearce (formerly a draftsman with Eames & Young and Harry Hohenschild). The practice of Bonsack & Pearce designed two county courthouses (Audrain and Dade Counties) and numerous houses, schools, churches, PWA projects and other institutional buildings across Missouri from 1921 to 1956, when Bonsack died and the firm became Pearce & Pearce.

Most of the firm's work focused on educational and institutional designs.[56] However, they created residential designs as well; most of these are located in the Central West End in St Louis City and Clayton in St Louis County.[57] By the time they received the commission for the Laughlin House in 1937, Bonsack & Pearce had a well-established reputation in Kirksville. In total, these architects designed eight buildings in Kirksville between 1930 and 1940; all eight manifest their sensitivity to massing and detailing as well as their skill in working with popular architectural styles of the time. Their first two designs in Kirksville date from 1930. The Egyptian Revival Masonic Temple (NR listed 01/07/10) was their first design built in Kirksville and probably helped them obtain continued commissions in town for the rest of the decade. That same year, the firm used an Art Deco design for the offices of a local newspaper, *The Kirksville Daily Express* (110 East McPherson Street). Subsequent buildings in Kirksville designed by the firm are: Greenwood Elementary School, 606 South Halliburton Street (1935), directly across the street from the nominated property;[58] Memorial Hall, 216 West Jefferson Street (1936); the Laughlin House, 706 South Halliburton Street (1937); and three buildings on Truman State University's campus: Baldwin Hall (1939), Ophelia Parrish Hall (north wing, 1939) and Kirk Memorial Building (1940). These last six structures employ a variety of Colonial Revival elements.

As a patron, Dr. George Laughlin employed a range of architects. The first building he erected in Kirksville was the hospital he established in 1919 to challenge the for-profit A.S.O. Hospital.[59] The two hospitals faced each other across West Jefferson Street -- The Laughlin Hospital stood at 711 West Jefferson Street and the rival A.S.O. at 716 West Jefferson Street. For that building, he used Ludwig Abt, an architect from Moberly, Randolph County, Missouri. Having consolidated Kirksville's two competing medical schools in 1922, Laughlin turned to the Kansas City practice of Sanneman & Van Trump to create an administration building for his new, unified medical school.[60] Then, in 1936, Laughlin selected Bonsack & Pearce to create a second building for the school; it stands next door to the earlier 1922 Administration Building.[61] A year later, 1937, he again turned to Bonsack & Pearce, this time to draw up plans for the house at 706 South Halliburton. Dr. Laughlin, a Mason, may have been impressed with the firm's work on the Masonic Temple and thus turned to them for the last two buildings he commissioned in Kirksville.

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[56] Viz., the Dade County and Audrain County Courthouses in Missouri. Like their St. Louis colleague William B. Ittner, Bonsack & Pearce were well known for their school designs. Among those built during the 1930s in Missouri were Lee Elementary School (Columbia); Ste. Genevieve High School (Ste. Genevieve); School of the Osage (Lake Ozark); Washington School (Monroe City); Monroe City High School (Monroe City); Turner School (Kirkwood); Osage Hills School (Kirkwood).

[57] Some representative examples of their residential designs in St Louis are 317 Taylor (1922); 21 Wydown Terrace (1923); and 7214 Maryland Avenue (1926).

[58] See Image BB.

[59] See Image Y.

[60] See Image Z.

[61] See Image AA.

Bonsack & Pearce offered their clients efficient, well-crafted designs and their buildings helped to connect this small northeast Missouri town with three architectural styles popular during the 1930s – Egyptian Revival, Art Deco and Colonial Revival. In addition, the Laughlin House is part of a series of architectural commissions that brought Bonsack & Pearce together with important local patrons associated with a public university, a private medical college and the print media in Kirksville.

Residents and Owners of the Laughlin House Although the Laughlin House is nominated under Criterion C: ARCHITECTURE, it also has strong connections with important local people and institutions. The house has had three owners:

1) Drs. George M. and Blanche S. Laughlin, who commissioned the house;
2) Dr. George A. and Elizabeth Laughlin, their son and his wife who assumed ownership in 1951 from Dr. Blanche Laughlin and who lived there until 1967; and
3) Truman State University which bought the house from the Laughlins in 1967.

Dr. George Mark Laughlin (1872 - 1948) was the founder and president of the Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery. The fifth of ten children, he was born in New London, Ralls County, Missouri. Laughlin graduated in 1894 from the First District Normal School (now Truman State University) and taught for four years in Adair County before entering the American School of Osteopathy in 1898. After his graduation in 1900 he married Dr. Blanche Still. They had two children – Dr. George Andrew Laughlin and Mary Jane Laughlin Denslow. Laughlin remained with the A.S.O., becoming successively a teacher of anatomy, head of the A.S.O. Hospital, and dean of the college in 1911. In the power struggle after the death of A.T. Still in 1917, Laughlin withdrew from the for-profit A.S.O. and built the rival Laughlin Hospital and Clinic in 1919 on West Jefferson Street.[62]

In 1922, he started the Andrew T. Still College of Osteopathy and Surgery (a progressive alternative to the A.S.O.). Two years later he bought all the stock of the A.S.O. (for $200,000) and consolidated the two competing colleges under the name of Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery (K.C.O.S.).[63] He remained its president until 1943, after which he devoted himself to family interests and to Laughlin Hospital where he continued as chief surgeon until his death in 1948.

In addition to his work as a physician and president of K.C.O.S., Dr. Laughlin was active in several community organizations – he served a number of terms on the Kirksville Board of Education, was a Mason and a member of the Kiwanis Club and the First Christian Church. Laughlin was also a livestock farmer. He and his brother-in-law, Dr. Charles E. Still, owned farms

[62] *A Book of Adair County History*, Kirksville, Missouri: Simpson Printing Co., 1976, 211 and P.O. Selby, *Biographies of Men and Women of Whom Adair County is Proud*, n.p., 1977.

[63] The A.S.O. operated on a commercial basis with stockholders. It succeeded so well that the 1910 Flexner Report showed it to be the most prosperous medical college in Missouri but with "inadequate facilities" and that the "teaching furnished is of the cheapest kind. Its huge income is...largely profit." See Abraham Flexner, *Medical Education in the United States and Canada*, Boston: Merrymount Press, 1910, 253-254 and Appendix. Laughlin advocated a more scientific curriculum to train D.O.s and insisted that the Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery, the new consolidated medical college, be a non-profit institution.

where they raised and sold cattle and hogs. Dr. Laughlin also established a herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle on his 2,000 acre Thousand Hills Farm southwest of Kirksville. Also in Kirksville he helped to establish the Producers Creamery Company.

Dr. Laughlin made many gifts to the Kirksville community. Among the most notable was a gift of over 1,000 acres from his Thousand Hills Farm for a lake and a state park. That land was the nucleus for what is now Thousand Hills State Park and Forest Lake, located two miles west of Kirksville and part of the city's water supply.

Dr. Blanche Still Laughlin (1876 – 1959) was the youngest child of Andrew Taylor and Mary Elvira Still. She was born in Kirksville and attended both the Normal School (now Truman State University) and the American School of Osteopathy, which she entered at the age of 16. She graduated from the A.S.O. in 1895. Dr. Blanche Laughlin served as editor for the *Journal of Osteopathy* and wrote a column for female osteopaths. While living with her parents after graduation and throughout her marriage to Dr. George M. Laughlin, she served as official hostess for innumerable osteopathic functions in Kirksville, many of them in the house being nominated. In 1925, she and her husband arranged to have the log cabin in which A.T. Still was born brought from Virginia to Kirksville. Located now on the A.T. Still University campus, the cabin serves as a memorial to her father and to Kirksville as the birthplace of osteopathy. Throughout her life, she worked to preserve the history of her father and of osteopathy. In addition to raising the couple's two children, Laughlin was active with the D.A.R. and was a charter member of the Sojourners Club, a local women's literary and social organization.[64]

Dr. George Andrew Laughlin (1918 – 1981) was born in Kirksville and graduated with a B.S. degree from Northeast Missouri State Teachers College (now Truman State University) in 1939 and with a D.O. degree in June 1942 before entering the U.S. Navy and marrying Elizabeth Peterson that month. They had three children together. Laughlin served in England and in the South Pacific during World War II and participated in the D-Day invasion. Later he served as a partner at the Laughlin Hospital (which his father established) as a general practitioner and a specialist in osteopathic manipulation. Laughlin was also President of the Osteopathic Cranial Association and was active in community affairs, namely the Kirksville School Board, Kirksville Planning and Zoning Commission, Adair County Nursing Home Board, and the Chamber of Commerce.[65]

Elizabeth Peterson Laughlin (1921 - 2007) was born in Estherville, Iowa and raised in Boone, Iowa. She attended the Laughlin Hospital School of Nursing in Kirksville for two years before marrying George Andrew Laughlin in June 1942, just before he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. In the 1960s she took her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Northeast Missouri State Teachers

[64] "The Children of A.T. Still", *Now & Then*, Still National Osteopathic Museum, Spring 2007, 4-5; Charles E. Still, Jr. *Frontier Doctor, Medical Pioneer: The Life and Times of A.T. Still and his Family,* Kirksville, Missouri: Thomas Jefferson University Press, 1991, 114-115; 178; 188; Carol Trowbridge, *Andrew Taylor Still, 1828-1917*. Kirksville, Missouri: Thomas Jefferson University Press, 1991, 213-214.

[65] *A Book of Adair County History,* 388 and "George Andrew Laughlin, D.O. Dies Sunday," *Kirksville Daily Express,* 26 October 1981, 1-2.

College (now Truman State University). Elizabeth Laughlin focused much of her time on a range of community affairs – from Girl Scouts to serving on Kirksville's planning and zoning commission to environmental work and developing a local recycling plan. In April 1974, she became the first woman elected to the Kirksville City Council and in 1975 became Mayor Pro Tem.[66]

Truman State University Having decided that 706 South Halliburton was too large for them as they grew older and their children left the house, Dr. and Mrs. George A. Laughlin approached the Board of Governors for Truman State University in 1967 to see if they were interested in purchasing the house.[67] The University was and after three months of negotiations bought the property for $61,000.[68] With that purchase in November 1967 Truman ceased to be the last public university in Missouri not to have an official President's House.[69] Almost all of Truman's presidents since then have occupied this house. Those presidents who have been in residence are:

Dr. F. Clark Elkins	1968 - 1969
Dr. Charles McClain	1970 - 1989
Dr. Russell Warren	1990 - 1994
Dr. Jack Magruder	1994 - 2003
Dr. Barbara Dixon	2003 - 2008
Dr. Daryl Krueger	2008 - 2010
Dr. Troy Paino	2010 - present

CONCLUSION

The Laughlin House is in excellent condition. Compared with other Colonial Revival residences in this small rural town, the nominated building is an outstanding example and accurate portrayal of the style. Because it possesses key Colonial Revival features in its plan, elevations, materials and detailing, the Laughlin House easily conveys the traits associated with of one of America's most popular domestic styles. The residence's design, craftsmanship, integrity, and solid connections to important local people and institutions make this a locally significant building.

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[66] *A Book of Adair County History*, 388-389.
[67] Hurst, Interview with Elizabeth P. Laughlin, 6.
[68] See *Kirksville Daily Express*, 19 November 1967, 1; Board of Regents Minutes (November 1967) and Deed of Sale (1967), both at Special Collections Department, Pickler Memorial Library, Kirksville, Missouri.
[69] See *Kirksville Daily Express*, 19 November 1967, 1. As had his predecessors, Dr. Walter Ryle (President from 1937 to 1967) lived in his own home at 820 East Patterson Street, Kirksville, just south of the Laughlin House.

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Verbal Boundary Description

All commencing the Northeast corner of the Northwest fourth (NW ¼) of the Southeast Quarter (SE ¼) of Section Nine (9), Township Sixty Two (62) of Range Fifteen (15), running thence south Two Hundred Thirty Seven (237) Feet, thence West One Hundred Ninety (190) Feet, Thence North Two Hundred Thirty Seven (237) Feet, Thence East One Hundred Ninety (190) Feet to the place of beginning, except that part of said tract contained in Normal Avenue on the north side and Halliburton Street on the east side thereof.

Boundary Justification

This nomination includes three of the six lots purchased by Dr. George Laughlin on 9 January 1937. The three northernmost lots are those historically associated with the Drs. George and Blanche Laughlin House, 706 South Halliburton Street. The three southernmost lots are associated with the house next door, 800 South Halliburton Street.

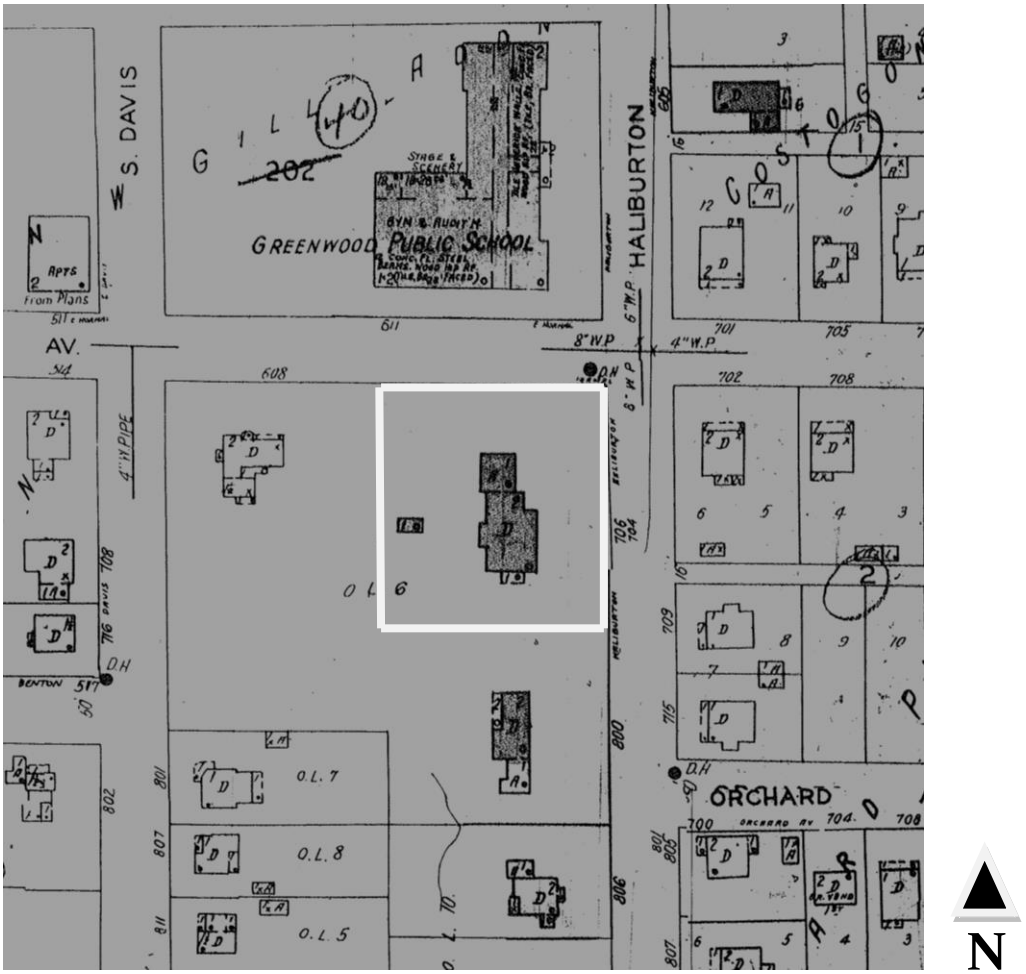

Image A *Insurance Maps of Kirksville, Missouri,* New York City: Sanborn Map Company, 1932 with 1942 overlays, 11. The Laughlin House and garden shed are in the center of the map, outlined in white, at 706 South Halliburton Street.

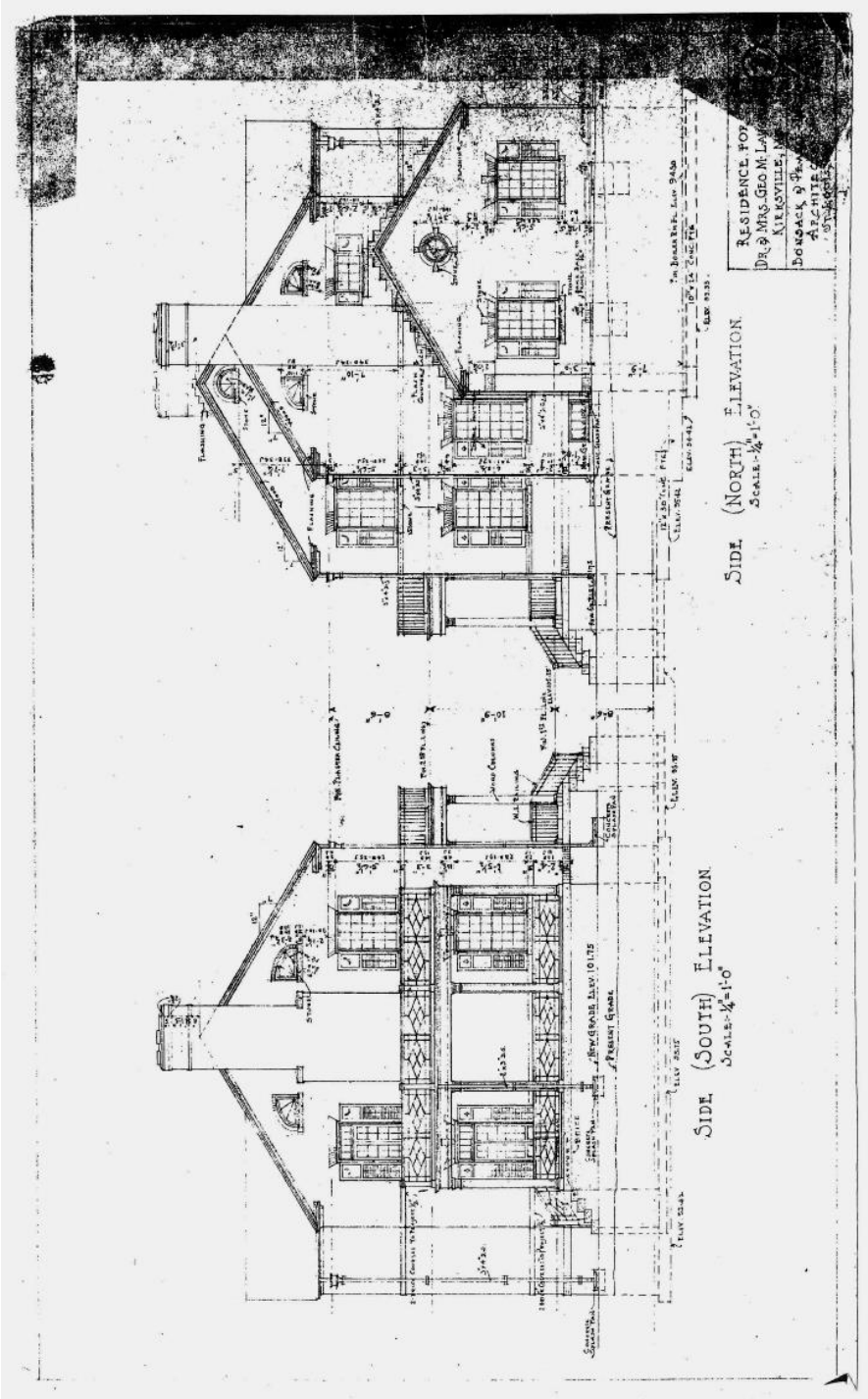

Image B Bonsack & Pearce (1937), Laughlin House, South and North Elevations, Page 2, Campus Planner's Office, Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri. Constructed house corresponds to elevations.

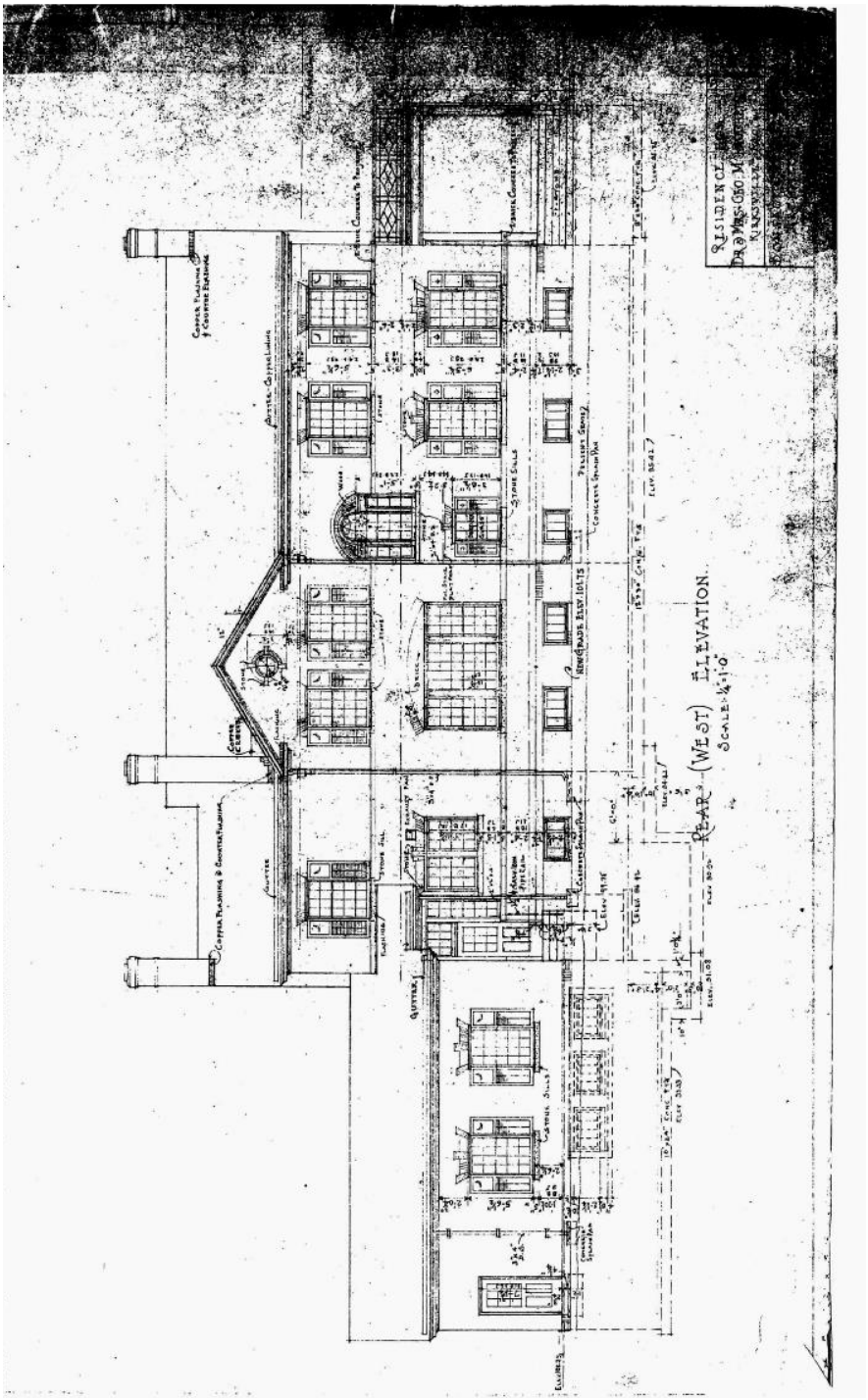

Image C Bonsack & Pearce (1937), Laughlin House,West Elevation, Page 3, Campus Planner's Office, Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri. Constructed house corresponds to elevations.

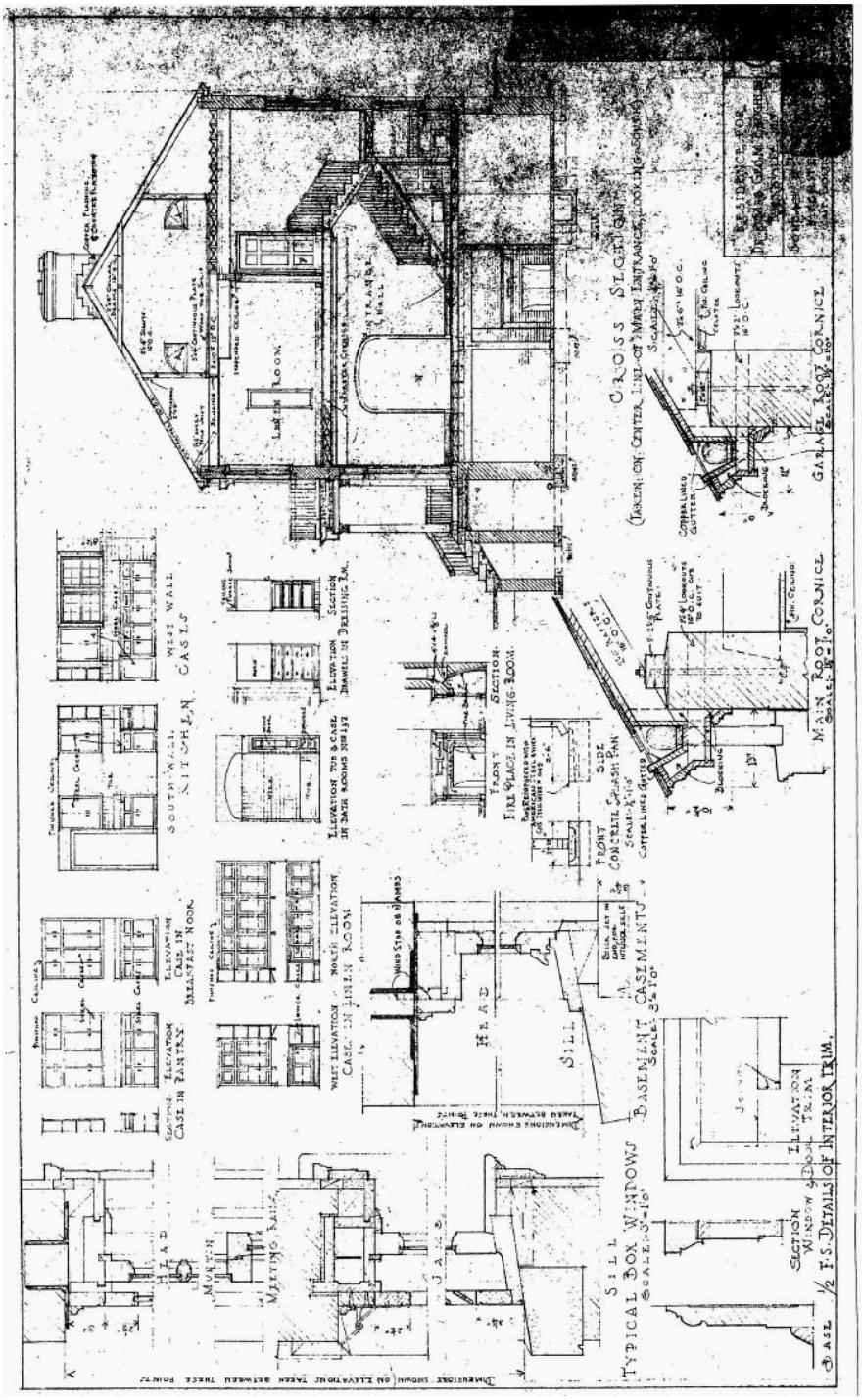

Image D Bonsack & Pearce (1937), Laughlin House, Section and Interior Details, Page 4, Campus Planner's Office, Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri. Constructed house corresponds to elevations.

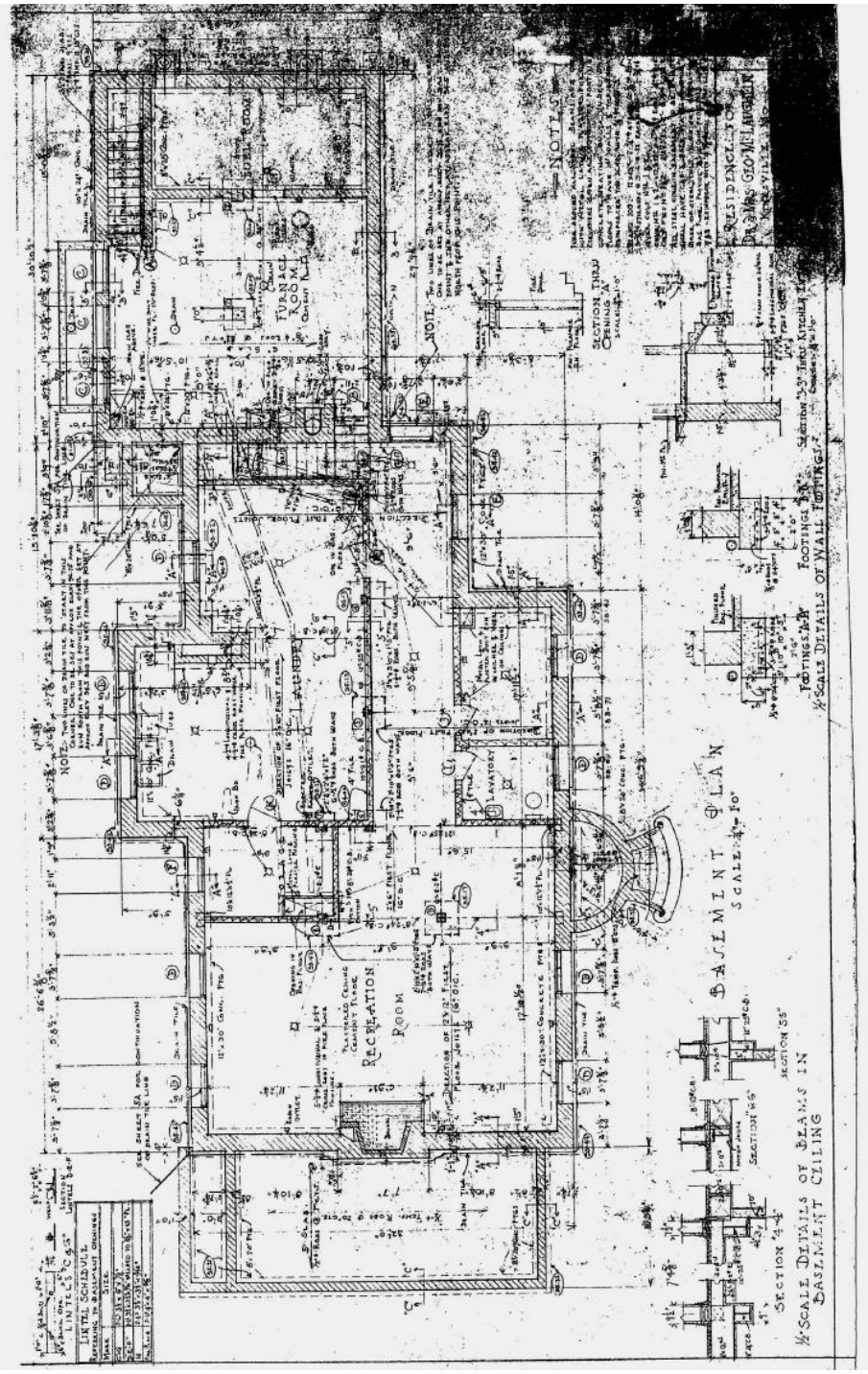

Image E Bonsack & Pearce (1937), Laughlin House, Basement Plan, Page 5, Campus Planner's Office, Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri.

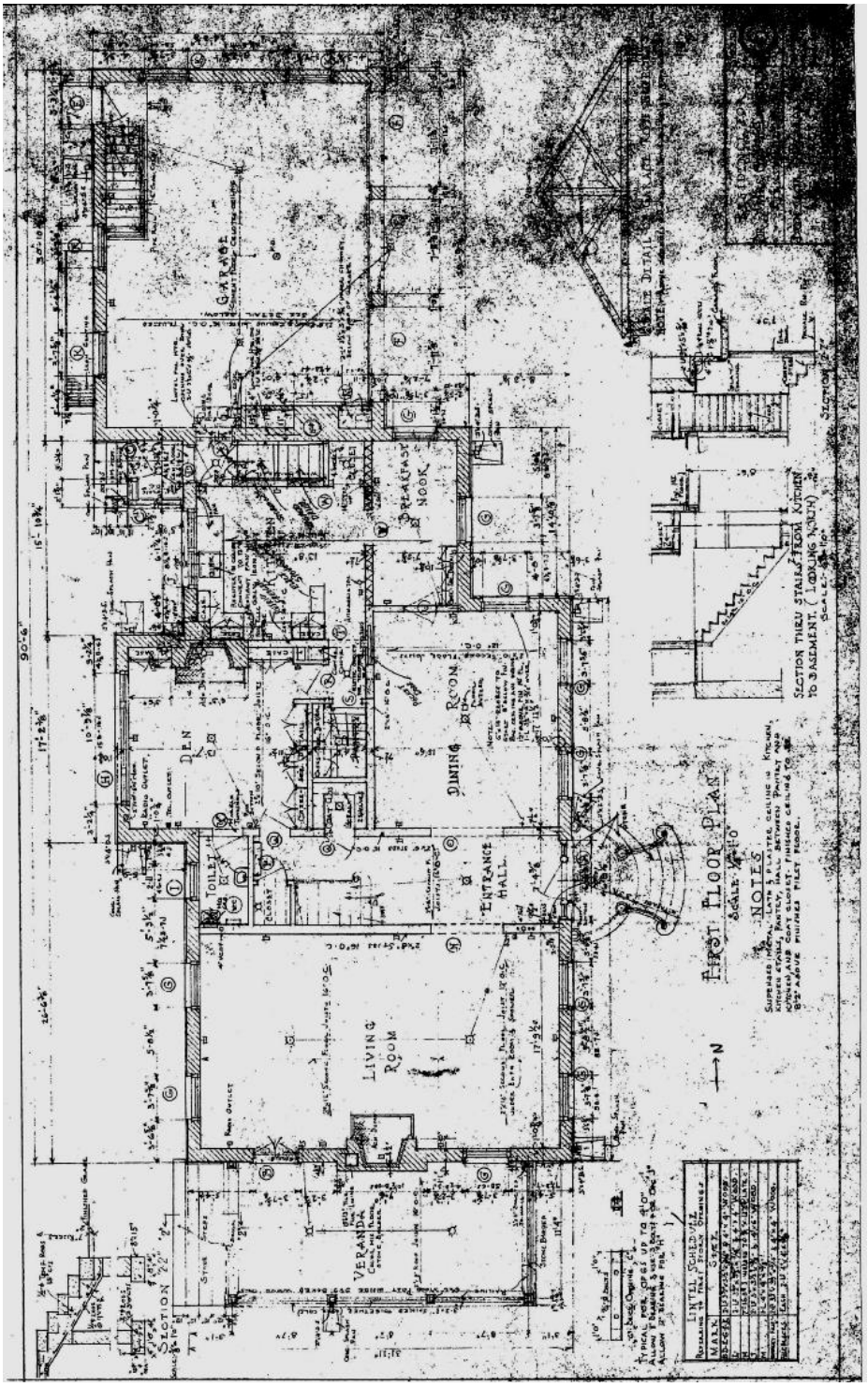

Image F Bonsack & Pearce (1937), Laughlin House, First Floor Plan, Page 6, Campus Planner's Office, Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri. Constructed house corresponds to plans.

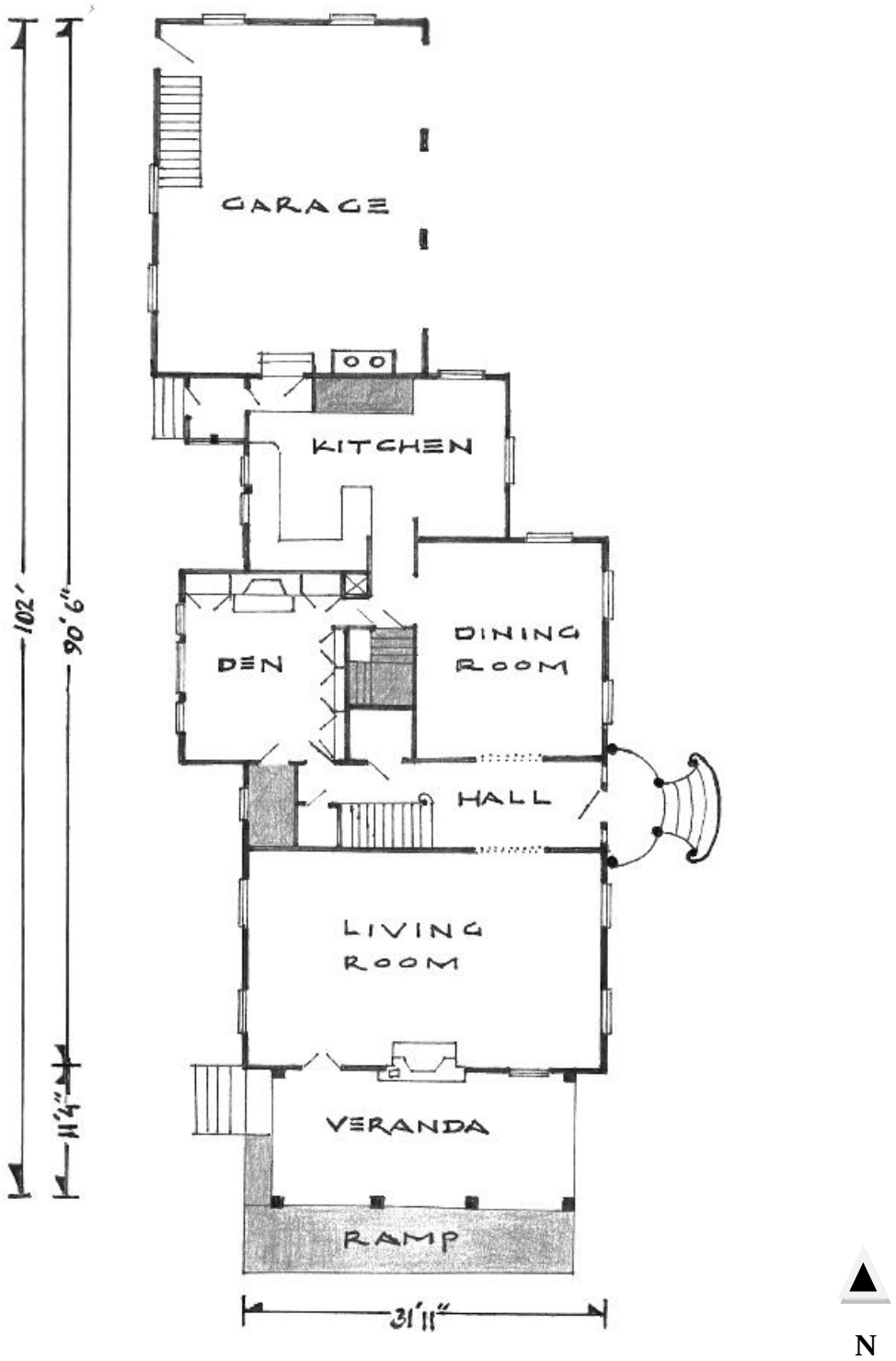

Image G Laughlin House, First Floor Plan, 2013. Not to scale. Areas altered from the 1937 plan are shaded gray (ramp, bathroom off the den, staircase to basement set in pantry, staircase to basement removed from kitchen).

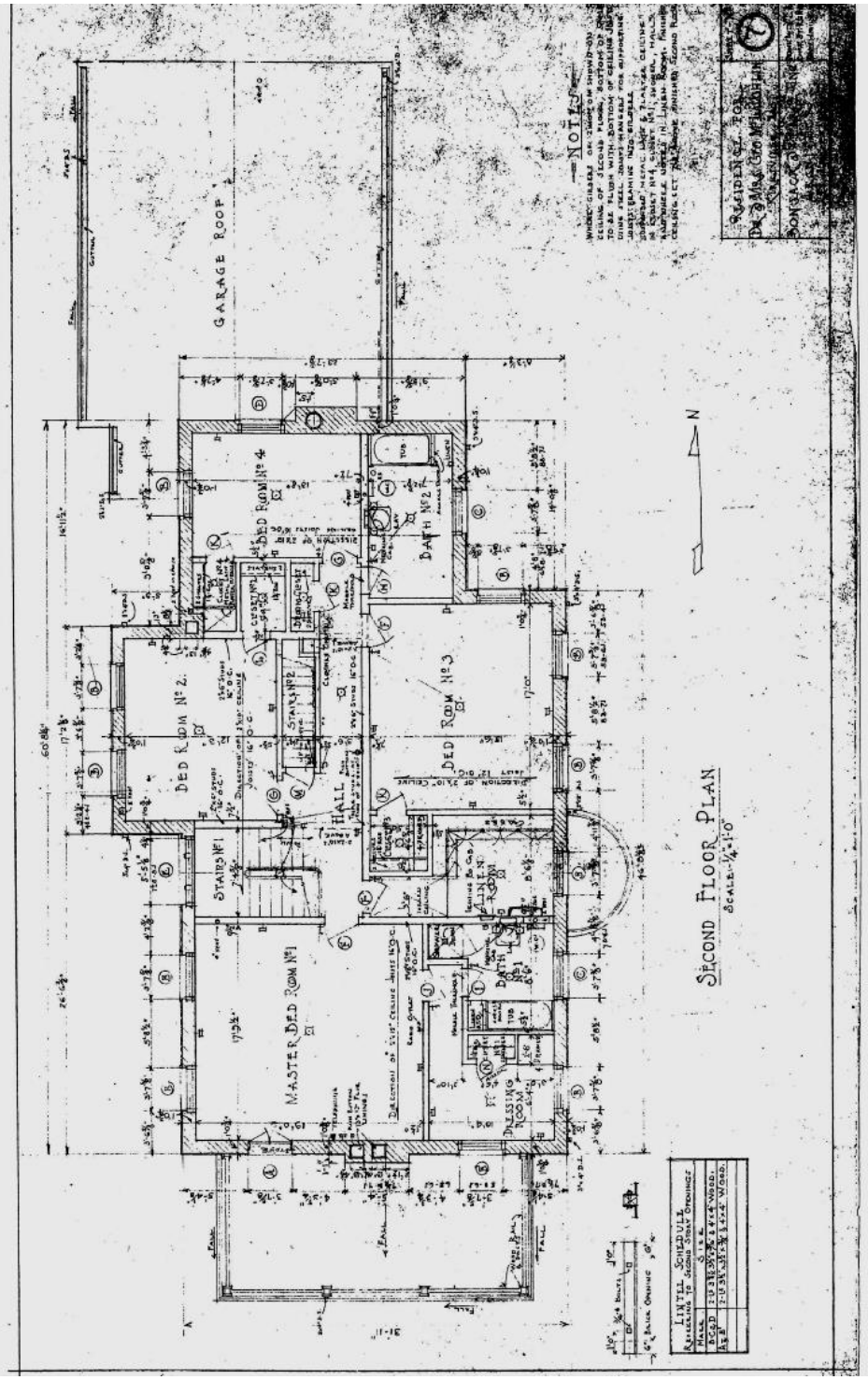

Image H Bonsack & Pearce (1937), Laughlin House, Second Floor Plan, Page 7, Campus Planner's Office, Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri. Constructed house corresponds to plans.

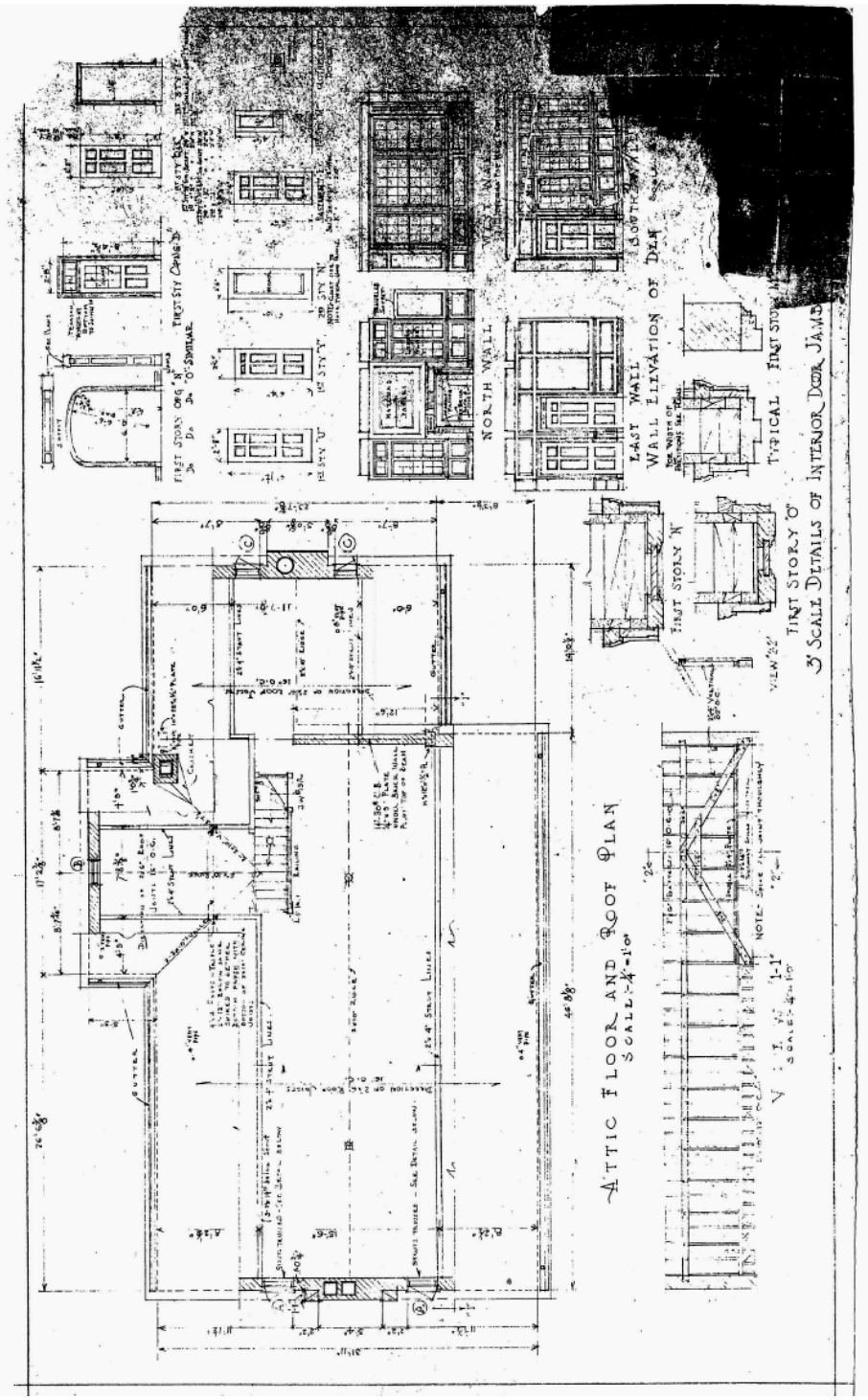

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Image I Bonsack & Pearce (1937), Laughlin House, Attic Plan and Interior Details, Page 8, Campus Planner's Office, Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri. Constructed house corresponds to plans.

Image J Entrance Portico.

Image K Detail of Main Entrance.

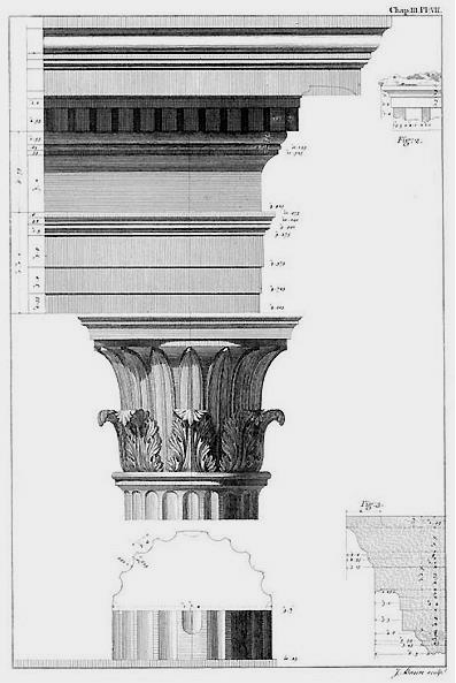

Image L Detail of Capital on Entrance Portico and Corinthian Capital from James Stuart and Nicholas Revett, Tower of the Winds, *The Antiquities of Athens*, Vol. I, Chapter 3, Plate 7, London: John Haberkorn, 1762.

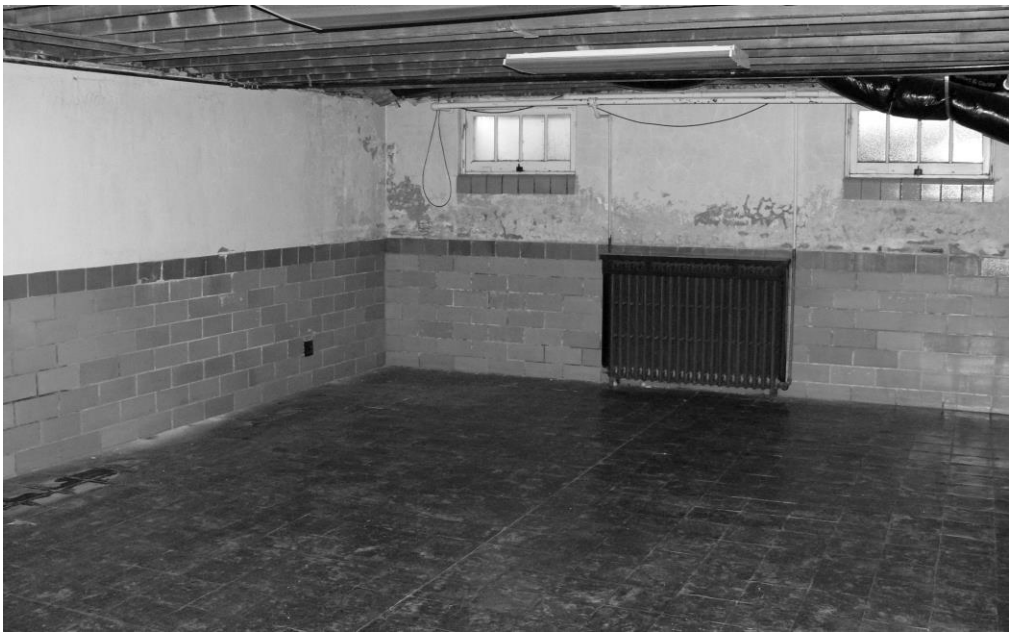

Image M Basement, South and West walls of Recreation Room.

Image N Den looking north.

Image O Details of Fireplace in Living Room (left) and in Den (right).

Image P Palladian window on staircase landing.

Image Q Second bathroom, second floor.

Image R A.T. Still House (Special Collections, Pickler Memorial Library). Razed.

Image S Dr. Charles Still House (built 1914. Special Collections, Pickler Memorial Library). Razed.

Image T Dr. Warren Hamilton House (built 1908. E.M. Violette, *History of Adair County*, 730). Razed.

Image U Dr. E. Sanborn Smith House (built 1925). Extant. 111 E. Patterson St. NR Listed 01/30/09.

Image V David & Ella Stephenson House (built 1926). Extant. 704 E. Harrison St.

Image W C.C. Thompson House (built 1936). Extant. 902 E. Patterson St.

Image X Dr. Harry & Pansy Laughlin House (built 1940). Extant. 201 W. Normal Ave.

Image Y Laughlin Hospital (built 1919. Special Collections, Pickler Memorial Library). Razed.

Image Z KCOS Administration Building (built 1922. Special Collections, Pickler Memorial Library). Extant. 204 W. Jefferson St.

Image AA KCOS Memorial Hall (built 1936). Extant. 216 W. Jefferson St.

Image BB Laughlin House and Greenwood Elementary School (built 1934-1935. Extant), intersection of Halliburton St. and Normal Ave., circa 1938. (Adair County Historical Society).

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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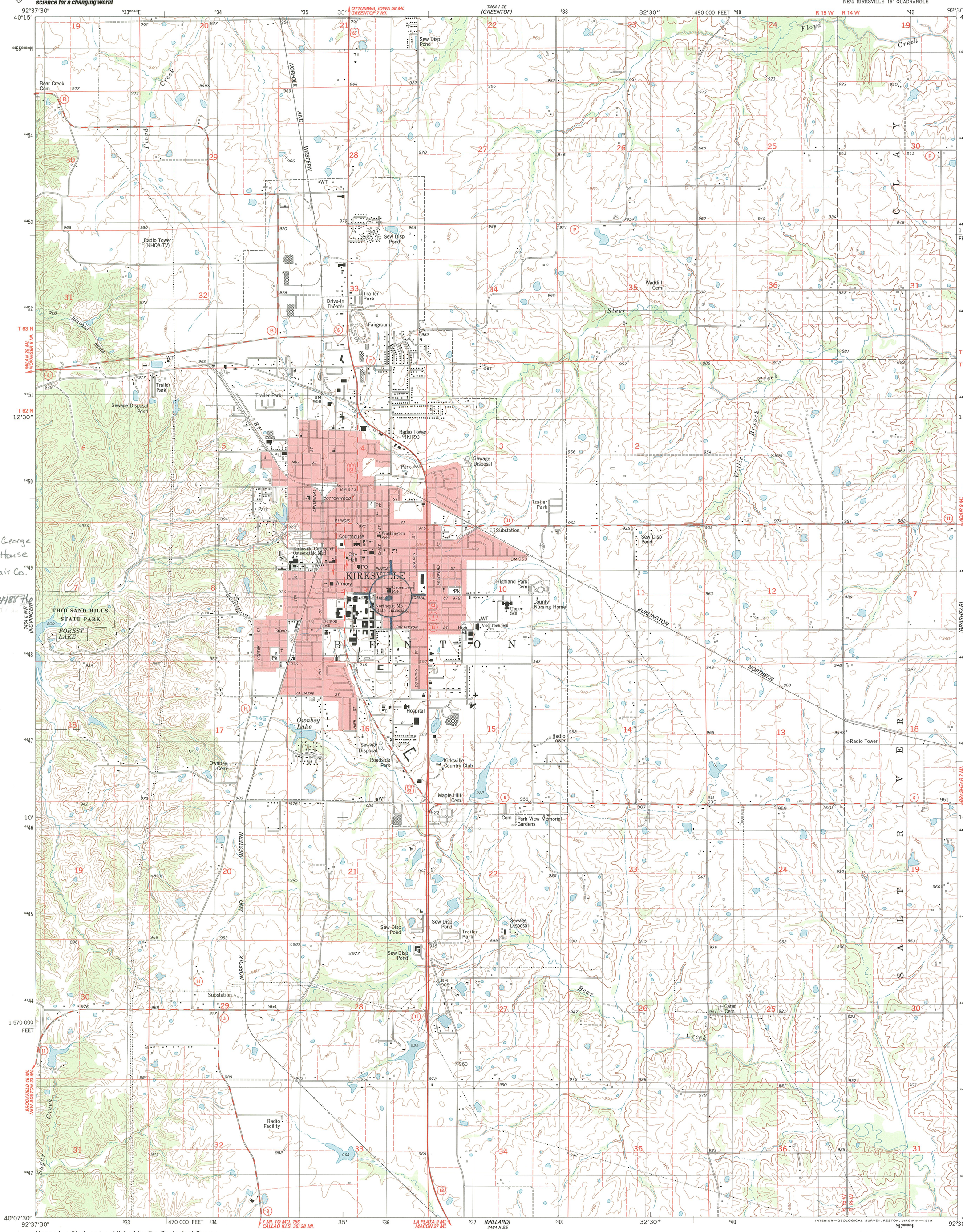

Laughlin, Drs. George and Blanche, House
Kirksville, Adair Co.
MO
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Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1974. Field checked 1975. Map edited 1979

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Missouri coordinate system, central zone (transverse Mercator)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15
1927 North American datum

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown

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