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Walnut Dollyson Historic District
838 E. Walnut Street
Frank R. Massey House
Springfield
Greene County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1252CC

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

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Historic American Buildings Survey Architectural Data

838 EAST WALNUT STREET

Frank R. Massey House

Location: Springfield, Greene County, Missouri
Cadastral grid : SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S24, T29N, R22W
USGS quadrangle: Springfield Missouri 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '
UTM coordinates: 15.474970.4117625

Present Owner: The Sorosis Club
Present Usage: meeting hall for women's club
Present Condition: very good

Overall Dimensions: approx. 50'x 60'; 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ stories

Orientation : north

Architectural Description : Plan type : rectangular with projecting side porch and corner tower

Foundation: coursed cut stone perimeter walls

Structure : wood frame

Ext. walls: beveled siding with plain corner boards

Roof: asphalt shingled, moderately pitched gable with flared eaves and cornice returns; corner gable in northeast corner with flared eaves and cornice returns; shed roofed rear 2-story wing; hipped roof side porch

Dormers: hipped dormer on east side; octagonal tower in north-west corner (probably originally with a peaked roof, now with a low hipped)

Windows: a variety of window types: 25/1, 20/1, 4/4, 1/1 double-hung, single, paired or tripled; 1-light awnings; lancet awnings; all feature plain board enframements

Porches: front 1-story open portico on north; side open portico and porch; enclosed rear 2-story sleeping porch on south

Details: boxed and moulded cornice with flared eaves and returns with decorative brackets on main roof; three-story corner tower with moulded and dentiled cornice; cut stone and cylindrical porch columns supporting moulded and dentiled porch cornice and roof; paired leaded glass windows in the first floor main entry; bracketed mullions on front first floor tripled windows

Construction Date : 1894-95

Architecture Style: Late Victorian

Statement of

Significance:

Frank Massey came to Springfield in 1870 at the age of 16 and worked as a clerk for J.L. Carson. Several jobs later he was with Massey-Robinson Wholesale Grocers, then manager of the Springfield Grocery Company, then the Massey-Herndon Boot and Shoe store. By the time he built this massive frame house in 1894, he was vice president of the Keet-Rountree Shoe Company. He moved to another house at 758 East Walnut Street before 1903 and in 1916 passed away. This house is one of the largest and most finely detailed in the study area - a Late Victorian mansion of

838 East Walnut Street

Statement of
Significance:
(continued)

note in Springfield. It is presently occupied by the Sorosis Club, reportedly the oldest still-functioning women's club in the city. Having undergone some alterations in recent years, its integrity has been compromised somewhat, but it remains a substantial structure, still displaying its Shingle and Queen Anne stylistic influences.

References:

1910 and 1933 Sanborn Insurance Maps
Springfield City Directories, 1894-1930
"Historic Inventory," Missouri SHPO, prepared by David Quick, SMSU
"Paralysis Fatal to Frank R. Massey: Prominent Merchant and Resident of Springfield for 46 Years, Dies After Long Illness," (obituary), Springfield Leader, 26 June 1916.

Compiler:

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August 1982