United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

I. Nam	ıe						
istoric	Vallet-Danuser House						
nd/or common							
2. Loca	ation						
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Condition  excellent deteriorated  yellow yellow yellow deteriorated  ruins  fair unexposed	Check one unaltered _X_ altered	Check one  X original site moved date

#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

7. Description

The Vallet-Danuser House is an ell-shaped red brick dwelling with subterranean vaulted wine cellar. Nestled in the hills of a 7.8 acre site just east of the German community of Hermann, the house is part of an intact German farmstead, including tenant house, smokehouse and barn. The ensemble typifies the distinctive characteristics of Missouri German craftsmanship, design and construction. Anglo-American building traditions are evidenced in the form and plan of the house, a central passage I house, and in the simple interior woodwork of distilled Classical Revival inspiration. Typical Missouri German features of the house include the fine masonry work, the brick dentil cornice, the segmental-arched openings and the vaulted cellar of stone and brick.

The house is ell-shaped in plan, consisting of a two-story main block adjoined by a one-story rear ell. Differences in construction and detailing suggest that the one-story section predates the main block. Termini for construction of the building can be established as 1843, when Adam Vallet purchased the land, and 1913, when the building is pictured in a county atlas. However stylistic comparisons with other Hermann buildings suggest that the one-story section was built in the 1850's and that the two-story building was built in the 1860's.

The house is constructed of red brick, laid in common bond on a substantial stone foundation. The brick was manufactured in the Vallet family brickyards, located in a ravine north of the nominated acreage. The foundation of the main block is of roughly cut and coursed stone, a local dolomitic variety known as "cotton rock."

The nominal west elevation of the two-story block forms the building's primary elevation, overlooking Highway 100. The five-bay facade is punctuated by regularly-spaced, segmental-arched windows and a central, segmental-arched doorway. A corbelled dentate brick cornice delineates the front and rear rooflines. The gable roof, pierced by two gabled dormers, is framed by end chimneys with corbelled caps. The flaring ends of the gables are supported by carved stone kneelers. An open, hip-roofed porch, with square wooden columns and a simple balustrade, marks the main entrance in the central bay. The entrance features a four panel door framed by sidelights and a six-light, segmental-arched transom.

All windows of the first and second stories of the main block retain original segmental—arched double—hung wood sash with 6/6 lights. Attic windows have segmental—arched, hinged sash with six lights; attic windows form the sole fenestration on the north elevation. Original louvered wood shutters for all windows are stored in the cellar.

A distinctive and particularly Germanic feature of the building is its vaulted subterranean cellar, which runs the length and width of the two-story block. The cellar is approached from the east, via a rock-lined path cut through the

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hillside. An arch with brick voussoirs caps the entrance through the full-height stone foundation wall. The stone foundation forms the walls of the cellar, supporting the vaulted brick ceiling. Barred windows, with rock-faced stone lintels on the exterior, penetrate the foundation, providing light and ventilation for the cellar.

Adjoining the two-story block on the east is a one-story, gable-roofed ell. Rectangular windows, with 6/6 double-hung wood sash, are capped by cut stone lintels. A partially open porch is sheltered under the western slope of the gable; a single dormer is positioned on the opposite slope. A root cellar is located under this section of the house; access is gained via hatch doors on the north.

The interior of the house is of a central hall plan, one room deep. A 17'x20' room is located on either side of the 8'x20' central hall. A door in the south room leads to the rear ell, the floor of which is two steps higher than the front block. The rear ell contains two rooms. Access to the second floor is gained via the original walnut staircase located in the central hall. The second floor contains three bedrooms, two on the north side of the hall and one on the south.

Very simple original woodwork remains throughout the house. The wood lintels of doors and windows are slightly shaped, reflecting Classical pediments. Painstaking German craftsmanship is evidenced in the construction of the 7" wood baseboards which are attached to quarter-round mouldings by a tongue and groove system. Original four-panel doors remain throughout, as do 90% of the original iron rim locks. Several hand carved pegboards, early substitutes for closet space, remain intact. The parlor on the north has a shallow fireplace with simple pine mantel. Except for the walnut staircase, all interior woodwork is of pine, and floors are of random width pine boards. Interior walls are plastered throughout.

To the east of the house are located three appurtenances of historic interest: tenant house, smokehouse and barn. All structures are constructed of brick on foundations of local limestone. The tenant house, measuring 14'x16', is a one room building; its gabled roof is now covered with corrugated metal. Its windows and doors are segmental arched, with 6/6 rectangular wood sash and wood blocks filling the arches. The simple interior features plastered walls, a pine floor and a ceiling finished with tongue and groove sheathing between exposed joists. The smokehouse has a gable roof covered with corrugated metal; ventilation slits form a triangular pattern in the gable of the west end. Located further up the hitl to the east of the house is the barn, a rectangular brick structure of pole and beam interior construction.

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When acquired by the present owners in 1980, the house and outbuilding were in good condition and remained virtually unaltered. Phymbing had never been installed in the house, and the electrical system consisted of little more than a bare light bulb in each room. The fireplace and stoves formed the sole heating sytem. No more than two coats of paint were found in any of the rooms; the dining room had one coat of wallpaper.

In order to accomposate the amenities of modern living, certain alterations were made by the present owners between 1980 and 1982. A new wiring system was installed; plumbing was added and bathrooms constructed adjacent to the bedrooms on the second floor; and a kitchen was added in the rear ell. The northeast corner of the porch on the north side of the rear ell was enclosed. This addition of brick construction blends with the design, material and scale of the house. The owners plan to live in the house, using the cellar and outbuildings in their antique business.

#### 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—C			
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	• • • •	landscape architectur	
1400–1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500–1599	X_ agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600–1699	X_ architecture	education	military	X social/
1700–1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
<u>X</u> 1800–1899	commerce	exploration/settlement	philosophy	theater
1900	communications	industry	politics/government	transportation
		invention		other (specify)
Specific dates	rear ell, ca. 1850's I house, ca. 1860's	Builder/Architect	Unknown	

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Vallet-Danuser House is significant according to criteria of eligibility A, B and C, to wit: (A) it is closely associated with the German settlement of Hermann, an event significant in the early history of Missouri; (B) it is associated with brickmaker, farmer and vintner Frederick Vallet, a figure of importance in the growth and development of Hermann; and (C) it embodies the distinctive characteristics of Missouri German building traditions and craftsmanship. The Vallet-Danuser House is significant in the category of ARCHITECTURE as a salient and well-preserved example of Missouri German architecture, exemplifying the fusion of Anglo-American building traditions with German design and eraftsmanship that are hallmarks of the Missouri German style. The property is significant in the category of AGRICULTURE, as it is a distinctive, intact ensemble of related structures, including dwelling, tenant house, smokehouse and barn, that typifies Missouri German farmsteads of the mid to late nineteenth century. The house is significant in the SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN category, as it occupies land originally acquired by the German Settlement Society of Missouri for establishment of the German colony of Hermann, and as it is associated with the Vallet family, who contributed substantially to the growth and development of Hermann through their brickmaking operation.

The history of the Vallet-Danuser House is closely associated with the settlement and growth of the city of Hermann, a German colony established in 1838. Establishment of the community was an idea conceived by a group of German immigrants in Philadelphia, the Deutsch Ansiedlung Geschellschaft zu Philadelphia (German Settlement Society of Phildelphia). The Society envisioned the founding of a German colony in a remote part of the United States, where settlers could enjoy life in America while retaining their German language, customs and heritage.

Following a tour of several midwestern states in search of a suitable location for such a colony, members of the Society proposed selection of a site along the Missouri River in northern Gasconade County, Missouri, an area whose bluffs and valley bore resemblance to the Rhineland. Baden schoolteacher George Bayer was soon dispatched to Missouri to acquire land for the Society. Bayer acquired over 11,000 acres of land in that vicinity by October 5, 1837. That land was transferred in turn from Bayer to the Society to the newly incorporated town, named Hermann after Germany's hero of the 4th century A.D. The town offered lots to settlers at a nominal cost; Society members were eligible to select the lot of their choice. By spring of 1839, Hermann had a population of 450 and boasted 90 houses, 5 stores, two hotels and a post office.

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One of the signers of the constitution of the German Settlement Society on August 27, 1836 was Adam Vallet (Valet, Valett), a native of Würtemmburg, Germany. He was one of Hermann's first settlers, arriving in Gasconade County with his wife Margareta and his son Frederick in 1838. A brickmaker by vocation, Adam Vallet began to operate a brick kiln in 1839, soon after arriving in Hermann, supplying the building material for many of Hermann's early structures.

According to Deed Book D:264, it was not until February 6, 1843 that Adam and Margareta purchased the land on which the Vallet house was later built. At that time, land was being sold for \$2.25 an acre; Vallet's purchase price of \$120.00 brought him 53.52 acres in the S.W. 1/4 of the S.E. 1/4 of Section 30, Township 46, Range 4 West. Although records show that Adam was operating a brick kiln as early as 1838, he apparently did not purchase the land on which the brickyard stood until November 1, 1844. (Deed Book E:211; consideration, \$375.00.)

Adam's son Frederick (born Würtemmburg, 1827) continued the family trade of brickmaking, establishing a brickyard at Chamois, along the Missouri River in nearby Osage County, in 1851. By the mid-1850's, however, he refocused his attention on Gasconade County. Marrying Menga (or Minka) Isley on April 18, 1854, he soon thereafter acquired land adjoining his father's brickyards in Hermann.

Frederick apparently succeeded in the business, for by the 1860's he was listed as the chief competitor of George Klinge, an immigrant from Hesse-Cassel who had been operating a brickyard in Hermann as early as 1850. An 1860 census that credited 32-year old Frederick with a wife and three children (Mary, 5 years; Frederick, 3 years; and Louise, 8 months), also listed six German males as members of the household: Henry Limburg (21), Conrad Groeber (26), Christop Seiners (31), Henry Simmers (23), Jacob Wuffle (10) and August Bretthorst (15).

On April 20, 1861 Frederick purchased all of his father's property, including the brickyards, for the consideration of \$2,547.00 (Deed Book 0:184). A mortgage deed for the property signed on the same date contained a covenant stating that Frederick Vallet would keep and maintain Adam Vallet free of charge during his lifetime or as long as Adam chose to stay with Frederick (Deed Book 0:293). The amount of the purchase price suggests that the two-story brick farmhouse could have been constructed prior to Frederick's acquisition of the land. It is also possible, due to the presence of six non-related males in his household in 1860, that Frederick was operating the brickyard prior to its purchase.

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Fig. 5024 - Leading

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Simultaneously while running the brickyard, Vallet also engaged in the activities of farming and grape growing. Archaeological investigations of former Vallet property outside the nominated area have yielded evidence of viticulture and livestock raising. In the Hermanner Volksblatt of October 27, 1905, the name Vallet was listed among the pioneers of Hermann's wine industry.

Frederick continued to operate the brickyards until his death in 1913, at which time the Vallet brickmaking industry ended. Likewise, the vineyard was allowed to deteriorate; it was in ruins by the 1920's, when prohibition brought about the forcible destruction of existing vineyards. In 1925, after more than 80 years in the Vallet family, the land, amounting to 241.86 acres, was sold to Walter J. Danuser for the sum of \$8,400.00 (Deed Book 55:297). Danuser subsequently rented the property to the Kuntz family. In 1980, Elmer Danuser, who had inherited the property from his father, sold the property to the City of Hermann for development as an industrial park. Fortunately, the house and 7.8 acres were omitted from the industrial park and sold to Mr. and Mrs. William G. Beard of Kansas City. The Beards have since moved to Hermann and are in the process of restoring the buildings.

9.	Major	Bibl	iogra	phica	l Refe	rence	<b>S</b>			<del></del>
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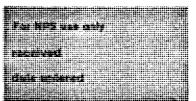
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- 3. Deed Books. Record of Deeds, Gasconade County Courthouse, Hermann, Mo.
- 4. History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford and Gasconade Counties, Missouri. 1988. Reprint, Cape Girardeau, Mo.: The Ramfire Press, 1958.
- 5. Hodges, Nadine and Mrs. H. W. Woodruff, Missouri Pioneers 24. Independence, Mo.: Hodges and Woodruff, 1974.
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- 9. Schmidts, Larry J., ed., Prehistory and History of the Hermann Site (23GA142) Gasconade County, Missouri. Overland Park, Ks.: Environmental Systems Analysis, Inc., 1982.
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VALLET-DANUSER HOUSE

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2. Claire F. Blackwell Architectural Historian Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Program P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City

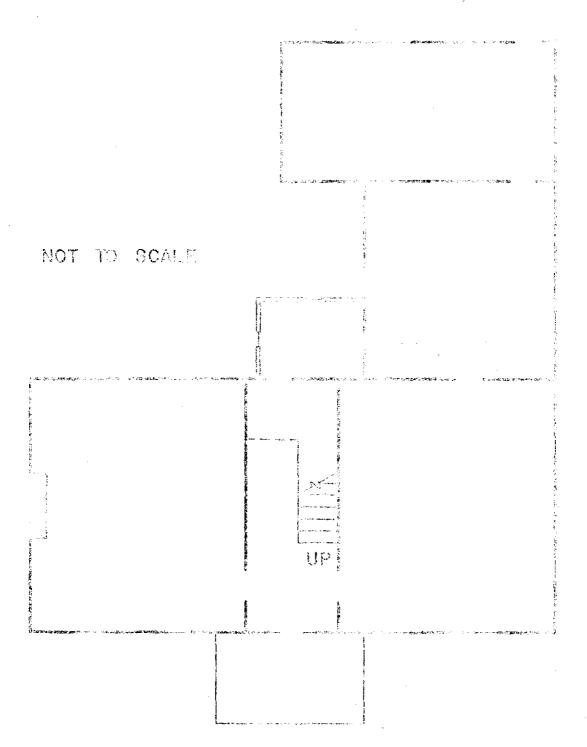
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Missouri 65102

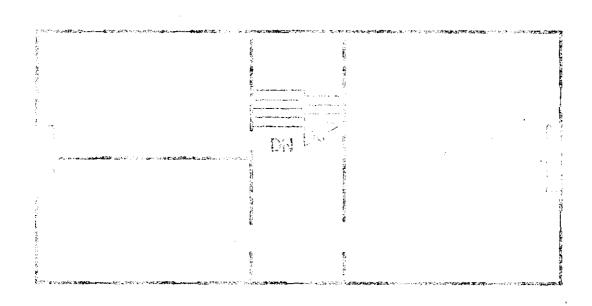
PHOT FLOOR PLAN

#### · VALLET - DAIRUSER HOUSE

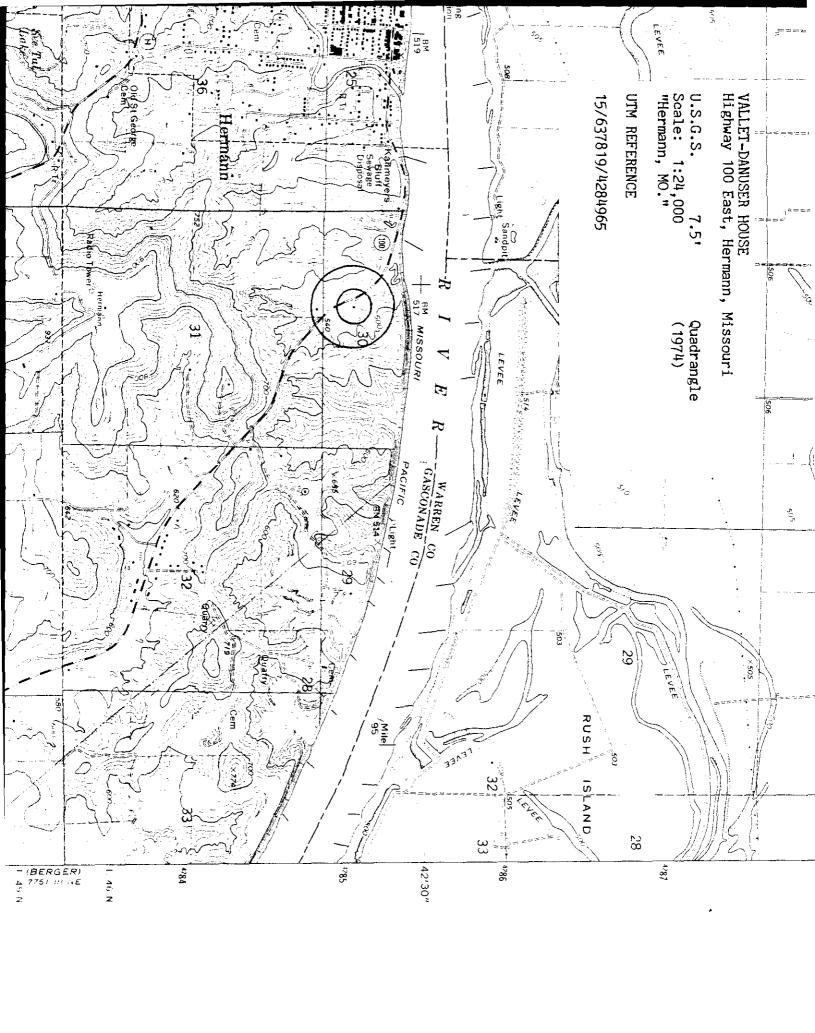
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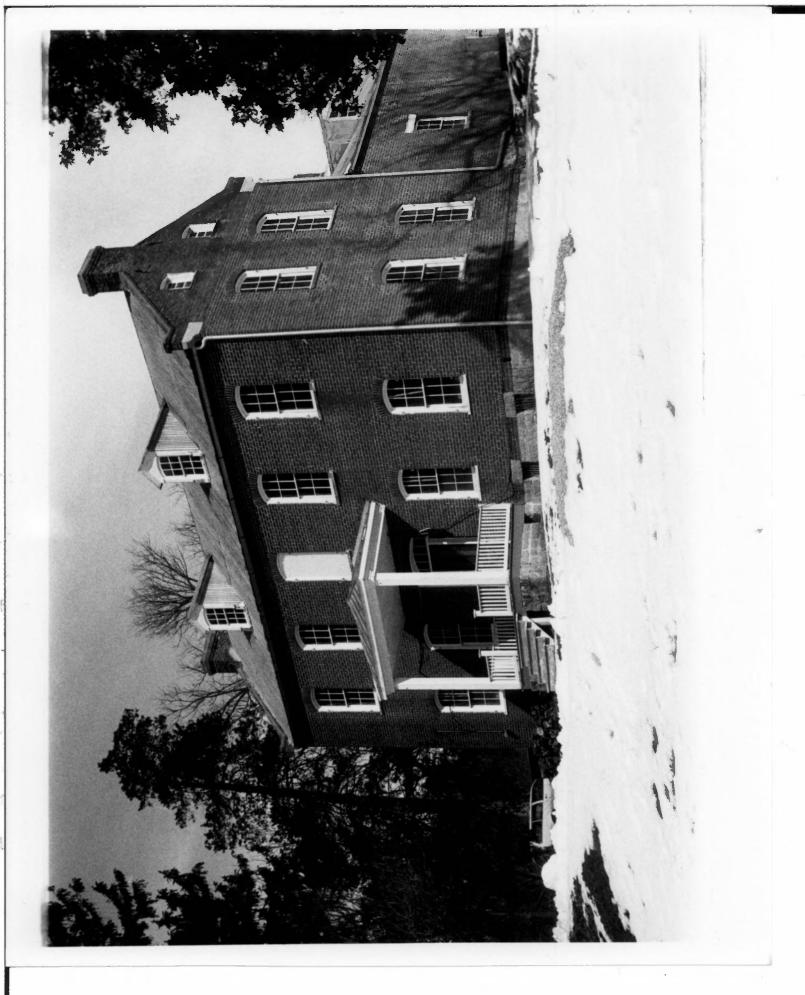
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Vallet-Danuser House
Highway 100 East, Hermann, Gasconade Co., Mo.
photographer: C.F. Blackwell
date: February 14, 1982
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P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

View from southwest.

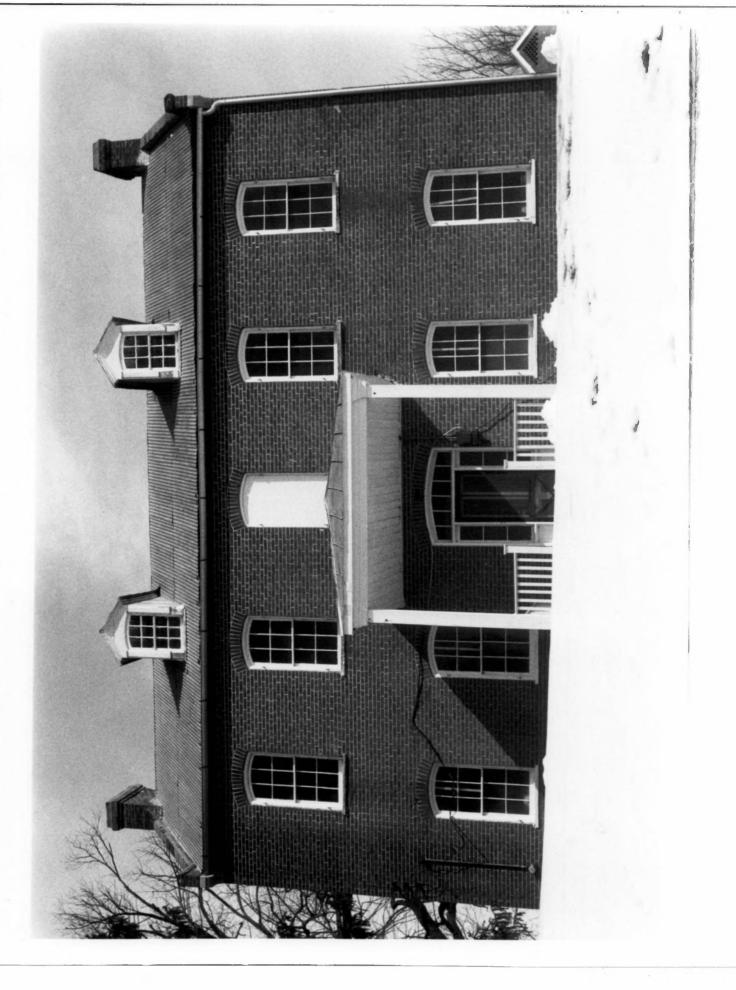
# 1 of 12



Vallet-Danuser House Highway 100 East, Hermann, Gasconade Co. Mo. Photographer: C.F. Blackwell Date: February 14, 1982 Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Primary facade, view from west.

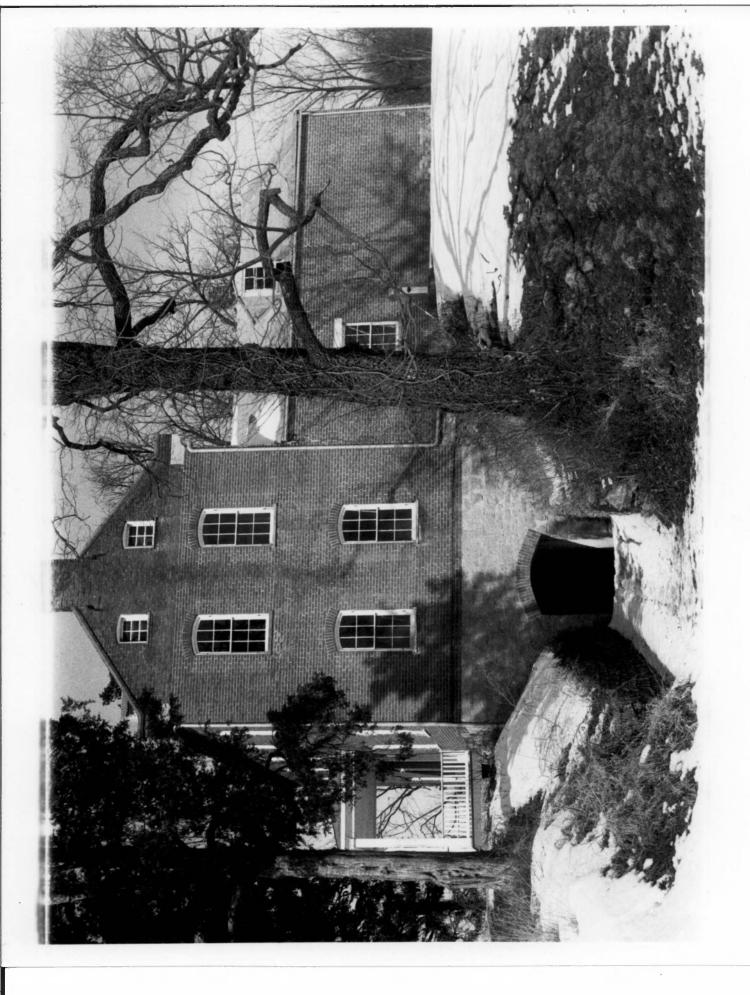
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Vallet-Danuser House
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View from south, showing entrance to wine cellar.

#3 of 12



Vallet-Danuser House Highway 100 East, Hermann, Gasconade Co. Mo. Ph¢tographer: C.F. Blackwell Date: February 14, 1982 Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

View from south, detail of entrance to wine cellar.

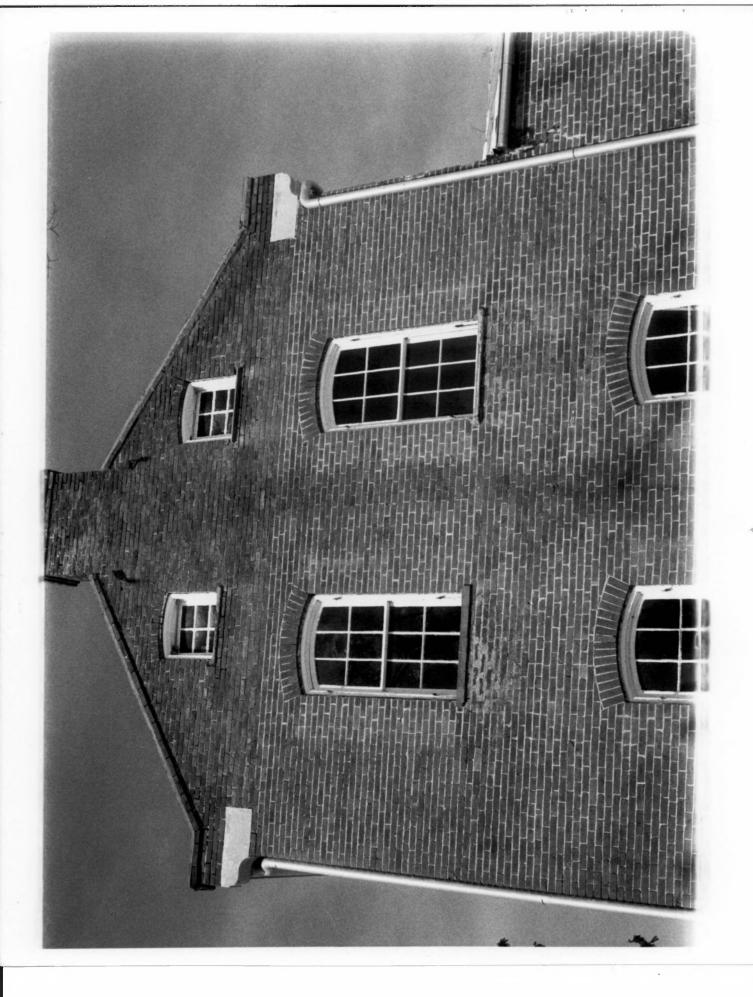
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View from south, detail of gable end showing carved stone kneelers.

#5 of 12

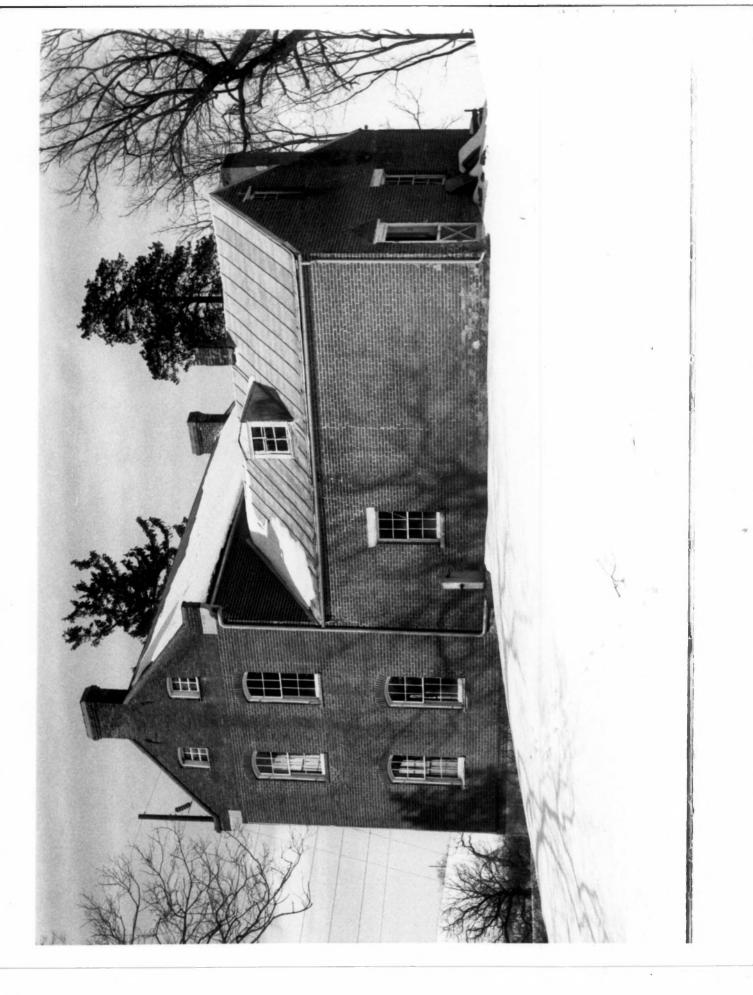


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View from southeast.

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Vallet-Danuser House

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P.O. Box 176

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Interior view, showing walnut staircase.

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Interior view, showing typical millwork.

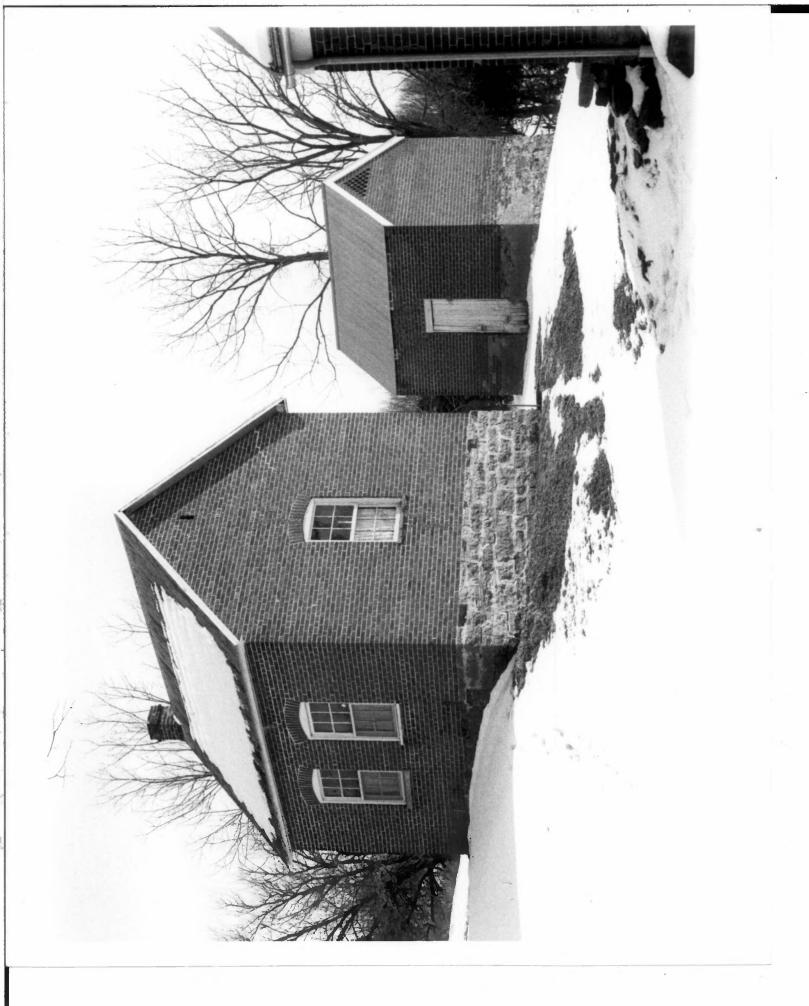
#8 of 12



Vallet-Danuser House Highway 100 East, Hermann, Gasconade Co., Mo. Photographer: C.F. Blackwell Date: February 14, 1982 Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources PCO. Box 176 Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

View from Northwest, showing tenant house and smokehouse.

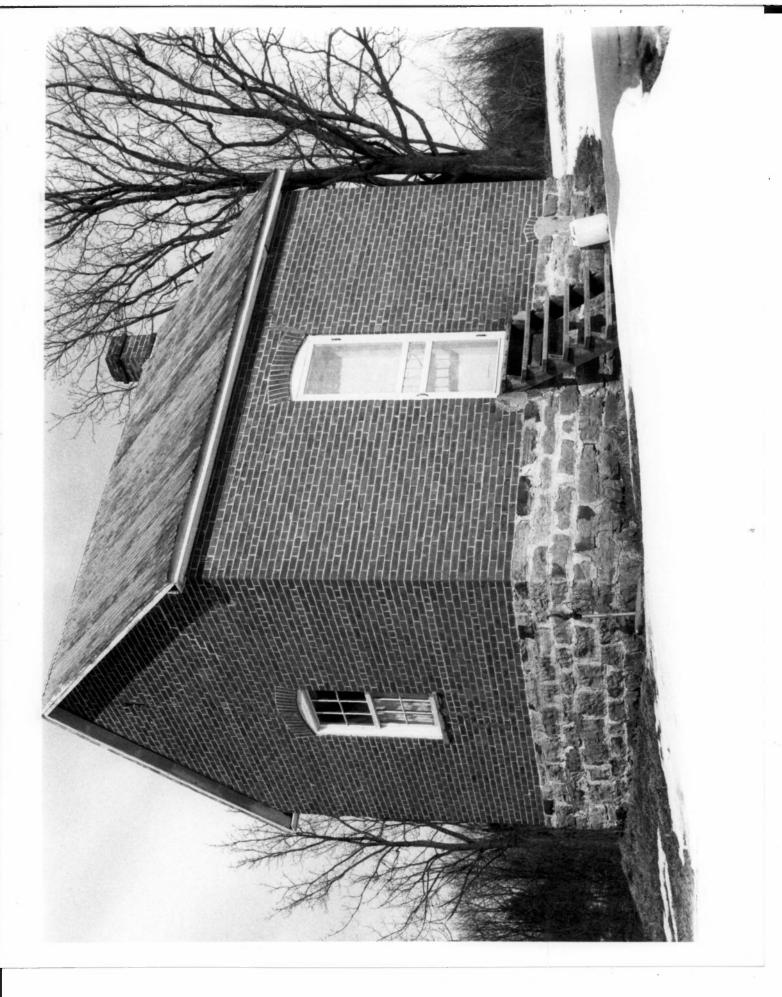
#9 of 12



Vallet-Danuser House
Highway 100 East, Hermann, Gasconade Co., Mo.
Photographer: C.F. Blackwell
Date: February 14, 1982
Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
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View from southwest, showing tenant house.

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Vallet-Danuser House
Highway 100 East, Hermann, Gasconade Co., Mo.
Photographer: C.F. Blackwell
Date: February 14, 1982
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Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

View from northwest, showing smokehouse.

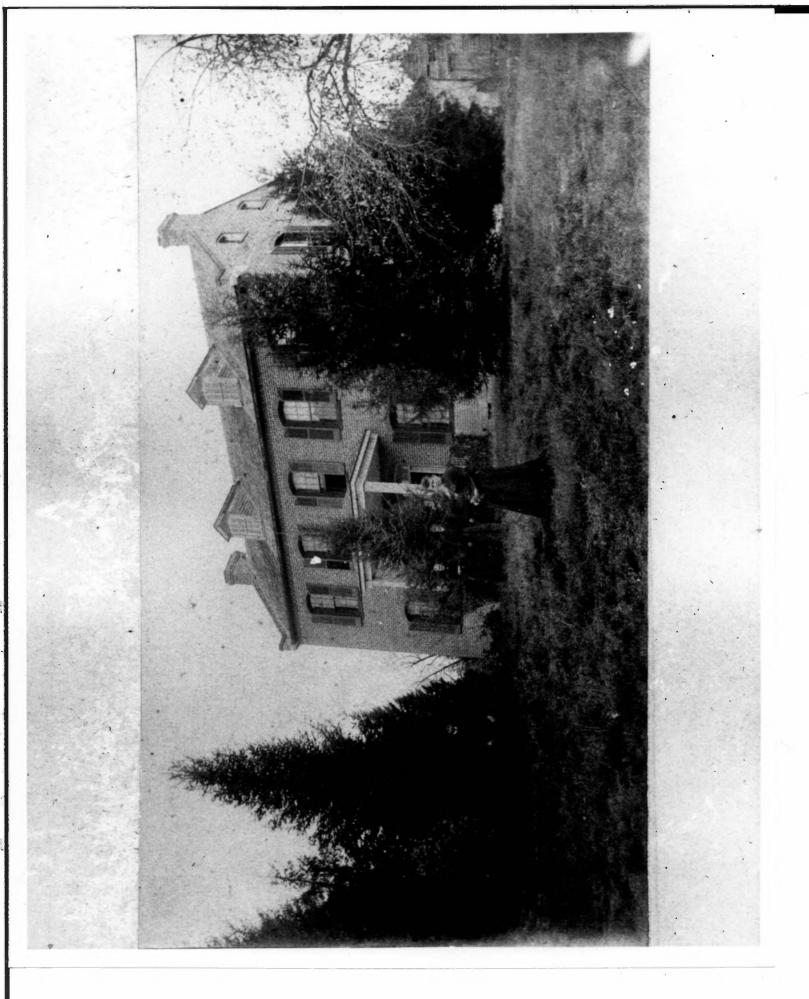
#11 of 12



Vallet-House
Highway 100 East, Hermann, Gasconade Co., Mo.
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Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Historic photograph



# A SHOW



