NPS Form 10-900
Oct. 1990

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED

NOV 28 2007

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Foster, Herman B., House

Other name/site number Gardner Historical Museum 081-1970-0189

2. Location

Street & number 204 W. Main Street ☐ not for publication

City or town Gardner ☐ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Johnson Code 091 Zip code 66030

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patrick Zollner 10/10/07

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of commenting official /Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I herby certify that the property is — Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other, (explain:)

Foster, Herman B., House
Name of Property

Johnson County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] 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	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2		total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Domestic / Single Dwelling
Agriculture/Subsistence-Animal Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Museum
Vacant / Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian / Folk Victorian

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Stone: Limestone; Concrete
Walls: Wood: weatherboard; shingle

Roof: Asphalt

Other:

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

Foster, Herman B., House
Name of Property

Johnson County, Kansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or 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 it 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1893

Significant Dates

1893

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

Foster, Herman B., House
Name of Property

Johnson County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	332350	4297620
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Nancee Rankin/Secretary

Organization Gardner Historical Museum, Inc. Date 4-16-07

Street & number 204 W. Main Street / PO Box 442 Telephone 913-856-4447

City or town Gardner State KS Zip code 66030

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name Gardner Historical Museum, Inc.

Street & number 204 W. Main Street / PO Box 442 Telephone 913-856-4447

City or town Gardner State KS Zip code 66030

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Setting

Built in 1893 for Herman Foster, the south-facing house is located at the northwest corner of Oak and Main Streets two blocks west of downtown Gardner. Main Street (US 56 Highway) is the town's main east-west thoroughfare, and the 200 block of W. Main Street is primarily residential. At the time of the house's construction, it was on the west edge of Gardner. This was considered the "upscale" part of town. Oak Street was added during the mid 20th century, as well as the homes to the north and west. The two buildings remaining on the property are the historic residence and a chicken house on .75 acres of the original 160 acres.

The property once included a number of outbuildings. As the surrounding land was converted into residential lots and the property shrunk to the size of a typical city parcel, most outbuildings were removed. One outbuilding survives, though. The chicken house (contributing) sits just north of the residence. It is a simple gable structure with four walls, two doors and a rolling barn like door on the west side. It also has two windows and is being repaired at the present time. It has been placed on a new concrete pad and should be finished by mid to late 2007. Its construction date is unknown.

Exterior

The two-story wood frame house features a gable-front-and-wing form. The house is clad with clapboard siding on the first story and wood shingles throughout the second story. All windows are 1/1 double-hung wood with aluminum storm windows attached to the exterior. The roof is covered with composition shingles. The stone foundation is visible throughout the unfinished basement, but the exterior foundation surface is covered with concrete slurry. The exterior cellar door is made of metal with a wood overlay to match the house. Exterior wood was repaired and painted in 2005.

The primary entrance is situated within the "wing" of the front elevation. The roofline extends down over the door to create a one-story porch at the building's southeast corner. The front porch was rehabilitated in 2004.

There are two porches located on the north (rear) elevation – one at the northeast corner and another at the northwest corner. The northeast porch had its railing removed and screening was installed after 1947. The northwest porch was covered with latticework until the mid 1940s when it was enclosed to correspond with the house. A wood wheelchair access ramp was recently installed to provide access from the parking area west of the house.

Interior

The house, which includes approximately 1,300 square feet, has its original wood floors, baseboards, windows, doors, hardware, wooden front door with stained glass, and a single stained glass window at the southeast corner of the house where the staircase is located. All the woodwork on the first level has always been stained a rich walnut. Several doors retain their original transoms, including the front door. The front door has blue swans with an etched flower design in the center of the panes. The door itself is carved trim and was red at one time. The floors on the first level are a wide pine board with an oak floor on top that was added later. The second story floors include only the wide pine. The floors are in excellent condition both upstairs and downstairs. The windows are double-hung with operable pulley weights.

One enters the house into a central hallway. Immediately to the right is an L-shaped staircase leading upstairs. Through two impressive wood doors to the left is the parlor – at the southwest corner of the house. Straight down this central hallway leads into the dining room at the center of the home. The dining room includes a door that leads to the basement. The kitchen is located off the dining room to the left (west). There is a small bathroom (added in 2001) off the kitchen where there is also access to the rear northwest porch.

The kitchen retains many historic features including the large porcelain sink and wooden cabinets that reach up to the ceiling. The countertop is lower than today's typical height to accommodate a small-stature person.

On the second floor is a small full bathroom (installed in 1943) on the south and to the north a larger room and corner walk in closet. Further down the hall on the south is another room that faces the front of the house and looks out over Main Street. It contains one narrow closet on the west side of the room. The last room down the hall is again on the north. This room was an apartment during the years the house was rented out. It has a kitchen sink, cabinets, a gas hook-up for a stove and a walk in closet with shelves. At some time in the 1940s or earlier, a barrel was positioned on the north section of the roof that contained water.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Herman Foster House (1893) is located at 204 W. Main Street, Gardner, Kansas, in a two-story Folk Victorian house. The house is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of late 19th century Folk Victorian architecture.

Elaboration

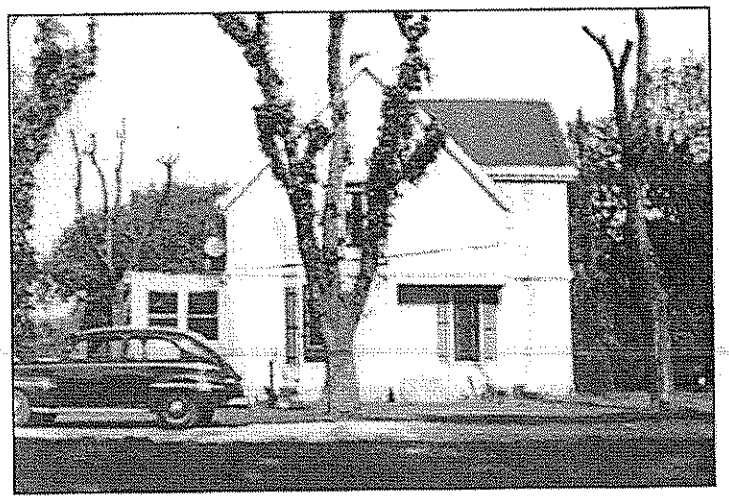
Gardner is located nine miles southwest of Olathe, the county seat, in eastern Kansas. Three major trails converged near Gardner: the Santa Fe, California, and Oregon Trails. The town was surveyed and platted in 1857 by O. B. Gardner, Benjamin B. Francis, A. B. Bartlett, and others who formed the town company. With its location so close to the Kansas-Missouri border, the small developing town did not escape the pre-Civil War Bleeding Kansas conflicts. The town was sacked by a band of guerrillas on October 21, 1861. By 1883, Gardner contained four general stores, one hardware store, two blacksmiths, one agricultural implement dealer, two drug stores, two hotels, and about 250 residents. The number of residents had doubled to 514.[1]

The property on which the Foster House sits is part of 160 acres that was a Mexican-American War Pension Grant to William H. Byne of Captain Crump's Company of Texas Volunteers. The warrant of land was assigned by William H. Byne to John P. Campbell, Judge of Johnson County, located in trust for the several use and benefit of the occupation of the Town Site of Gardner, Kansas.[2]

Foster purchased the land built the house at 204 W. Main Street in 1893. The Fosters lived in the home less than a decade before selling the house in 1902.

Herman Foster House, circa 1940s

[1] Frank Blackmar, *Kansas: A Cyclopedia of State History, vol. 1* (Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912), 709-710; William G. Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas* (Chicago: A.T. Andreas, 1883), available at www.kancoll.org.
[2] Abstract of Title.



Herman Foster House, circa 1940s, west elevation

Clarence Shedden purchased the house from the Foster family in October 1902 for the sum of $2,000 and raised four generations of his family in the home.[3]

Clarence R. Shedden, farmer, P. O. Gardner, was born in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, in 1854, and reared on a farm, and was for two years engaged in farming in Cass County, Michigan. He came to Kansas June 22, 1875, and located in Shawnee Township, Johnson County, where he farmed 160 acres. Early in 1882 he purchased a farm, consisting of 160 acres. He has one of the finest and best-improved farms in the county. He helped to found the Gardner Grange, No. 68, in 1873, which was the first grange organization in Johnson County and the oldest one still in operation in Kansas. Mr. Shedden was married in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania on May 17, 1877, to Jennie M. Tweed. They had two children, William Dean and Tweed R.

Shedden's obituary dated November 23, 1932 said, "He served as an elder of the Presbyterian Church from 1896 to 1922 and as clerk of the session for an unbroken period of 22 years, from 1900 to 1922." It also stated that he was "upright and honorable and always interested in all things which promised to promote the welfare of the community he loved." "He was always cheerful and continued to keep beautiful the home on West Main Street which, for many years, he enjoyed with her (sic. his wife Elizabeth) in loving companionship…Freely he gave according to his means and his heart ever went with the giving."[4]

The third owner Dottie Sutton Secrist used the chicken house located behind the house until the late 20th century. Gardner had remained a small town farming community, still hanging on to its roots, while growing and changing into a busy city located on a US Highway. Dottie Henry grew up in Missouri and then moved to Gardner, a small town farming community, still hanging on to its roots, while growing and changing into a busy city located on a US Highway. Dottie and her husband Bill Secrist purchased the Foster House from the Shedden family in 1943. Her second husband was Paul Sutton who assisted Dottie in her entrepreneur work in Gardner. Dottie was a local businesswoman. She ran the Gardner Café, a liquor store and a bus stop in Gardner. During the 1940s she supplemented her income by

[3] *Gardner Gazette*, 23 October 1902.
[4] *Gardner Gazette*, 23 November 1932.

selling eggs and chickens raised here on the property. With the death of Dottie in 2001, the Foster Home was sold.

The Gardner Historical Museum, Inc., founded in 2002, currently owns the property and operates a community museum within the home. Their goal is to preserve local history and tell the story of nineteenth-century westward movement. They celebrated their grand opening at the Foster House on September 20, 2003.

Herman B. Foster (1859-1911)

Herman Foster was born in Edwardsburg, Michigan, on November 17, 1859. According to Blair's *History of Johnson County, Kansas*, his father A.J. was a veteran of the American Civil War and an early settler of Johnson County. In 1881 Herman formed a business "partnership with Arthur Bigelow under the name of Bigelow & Foster and conducted a mercantile business under that name for almost thirty years."[5] They bought a store from S.J. Wilson, who had purchased it from its original owner J.W. Sponable, a town founder and the first storeowner in Gardner. A new building was built in 1889, but burned in 1895. This resulted in a fire truck and bell being purchased and two wells being dug under Elm and Main and Elm and Park streets. In 1899 the Bigelow-Foster Mercantile installed the first telephone in town.[6]

Aside from his contributions to the community as a businessman for over 30 years, Herman served on the Gardner School Board in 1894, which repaired and doubled the school building at a cost of $2300, and on the city council for eight years. Herman married Anna Cramer on January 22, 1894 and had three daughters. The family moved to Colorado Springs in 1907 where he died from complications of Bright's disease on June 11, 1911. His obituary in the Gardner Gazette remarked: "In the passing away of Herman Foster, Gardner and Johnson County loses one of her best citizens. He was one of the prominent men of the county and will be greatly missed. He was one of Gardner's most prominent business men and was always working hard for the good of the town in which he lived."[7]

Architecture –Criterion C

The Foster House embodies the distinctive architectural characteristics of a Folk Victorian residence. The two-story wood frame house features a typical gable-front-and-wing form. This style was common in the United States from 1870 to 1910, and is "defined by the presence of Victorian detailing on simple

[5] *Gardner Gazette*, 16 June 1911.
[6] Johnson, Virginia, and Margaret Gay. Three Histories From Southwest Johnson County, 1994, 18; 99, 113.
[7] Ibid, 46, 12; *Gardner Gazette*, 16 June 1911.

folk house forms, which are generally much less elaborated than the Victorian styles that they attempt to mimic." The details are usually of either Italianate or Queen Anne inspiration.[8]

The spread of Folk Victorian (and other late 19th century styles) was made possible by railroads expanding into smaller towns and cities. Mass-produced wood features could be transported quickly and cheaply almost anywhere. Homebuilders often simply added Victorian-inspired trim and ornament to traditional folk houses. Similarly, older homes were often updated with new ornamentation available through pattern books.

Folk Victorian houses often reflected a more localized or vernacular interpretation of popular trends because they were usually constructed by an individual or small contracting company that lacked formal training. The Herman Foster house is such a home. Mostly likely built by a local building company and to the taste of the future occupant, as well as what the mid-west community of Gardner dictated.

Despite some alterations, the Foster House retains its architectural integrity and is therefore eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for its significance as a good local example of the late nineteenth century Folk Victorian style.

[8] Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1995), 263-268.

Bibliography

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"Gardner Where the Trails Divide" 1857-1957, Virginia Johnson
"Gardner Where the Trails Divide" 1857-1977, Virginia Johnson
"The History of Four Corners, Mount Pleasant, Johnson County, Kansas", Margaret Gay

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Noble, Allen George. Wood, Brick, and Stone, Vol. 1. Amherst, The University of Massachusetts Press, 1984.

Sutton Family Oral History.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Herman B. Foster House is located in Otts Addition of Gardner, Johnson County, Kansas. Property Description: Beginning 950' W of SE CR SE ¼ N 162' x W 225' EX E 60' and EX TR IN HWY A/K/A OTTS ADD.

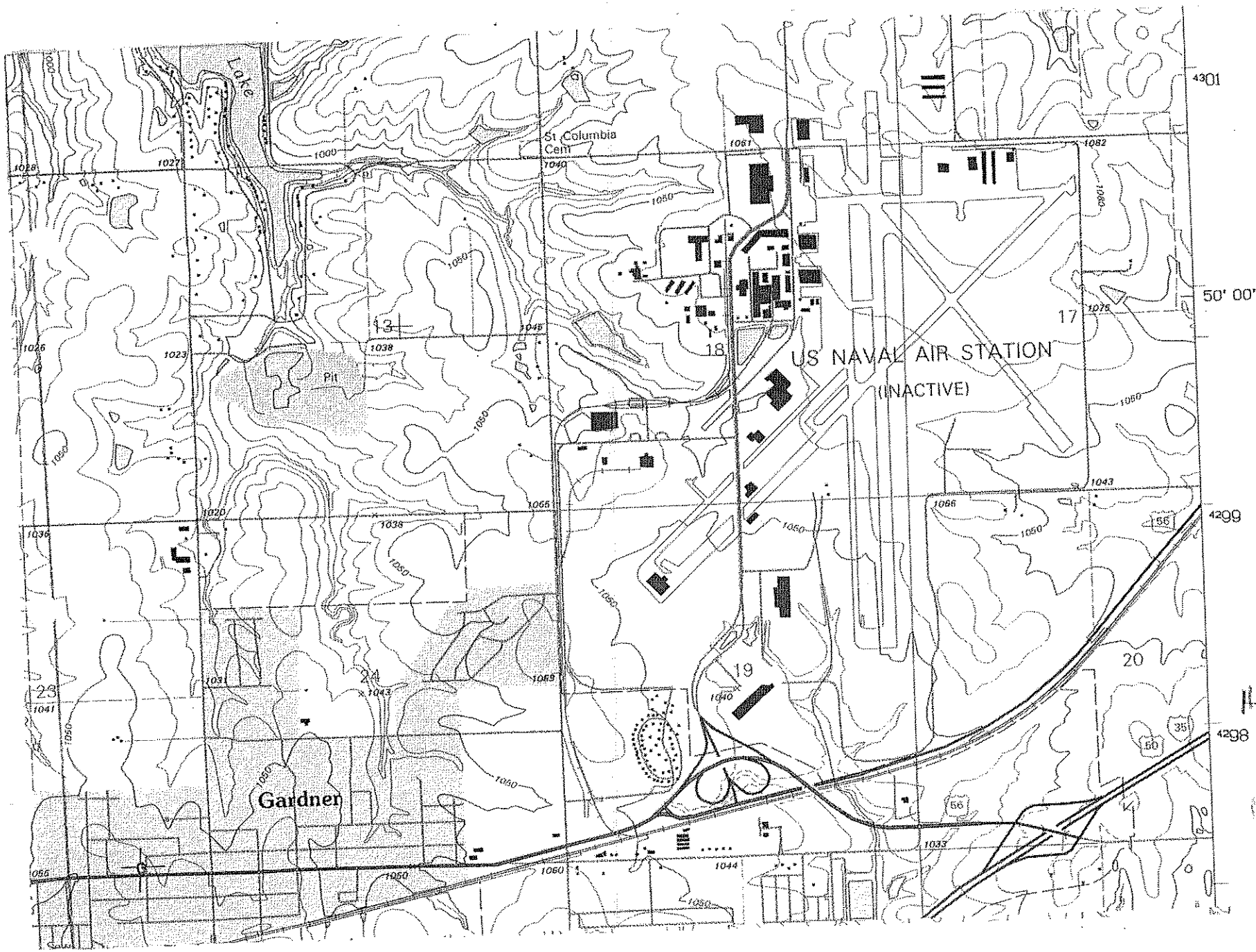
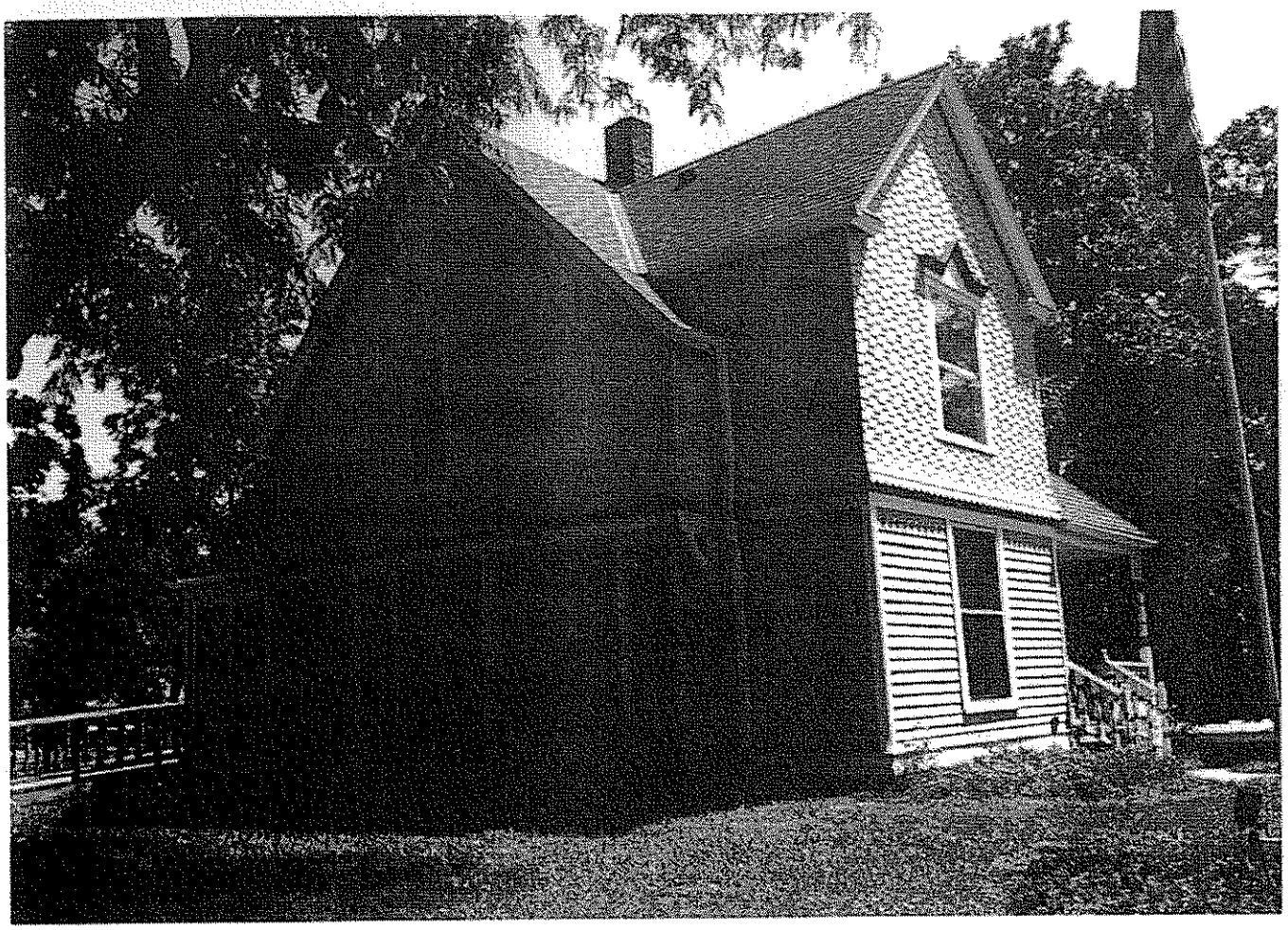
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the house, chicken house, and surrounding land that is currently associated with the parcel.

PHOTOGRAPIC INFORMATION

The following information is applicable to the photographs listed below:
Property Name: Herman B. Foster House
Location: 204 West Main Street
Photographer: Sarah J. Martin
Date: June 19, 2007

Photo 1:	South (front) elevation, facing N
Photo 2:	Southwest corner, facing NE
Photo 3:	North (rear) elevation, facing S
Photo 4:	North (rear) elevation and east (side) elevation, facing SW
Photo 5:	Rear drive and outbuilding, facing NE
Photo 6:	Outbuilding north of house, facing N
Photo 7:	Front door
Photo 8:	Front parlor at the southwest corner of the building, facing SW
Photo 9:	Door between front parlor and front entryway, facing E
Photo 10:	Dining room and built in cupboard, facing N
Photo 11:	Kitchen cabinets, facing W
Photo 12:	Second floor hallway, facing W
Photo 13:	Second floor bedroom, facing SW
Photo 14:	Second floor bedroom, facing SE
Photo 15:	Staircase leading from front door to second floor living space, facing S
Photo 16:	Close-up of door hardware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