

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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date entered

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

**1. Name**

historic Aubert Place

and/or common Fountain Park

**2. Location**

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication \_\_\_\_\_

city, town St. Louis \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 1st--William Clay

state Missouri code 29 county St. Louis City code 510

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name See attached.

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Louis City Hall

street & number Market Street and Tucker Boulevard

city, town St. Louis state Missouri 63103

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Architectural Survey of Fountain Park has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date April, 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.

city, town St. Louis state Missouri 63101

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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FOUNTAIN PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

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1. Richard & Anna Holloman  
1019 Walton  
St. Louis, MO 63113
2. Richard M. & Anna R. Holloman  
1019 Walton  
St. Louis, MO 63119
3. Valura M. Clay  
c/o Valura Wright  
211 Lithia Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63119
4. Sam & Barbara Stinson  
4808 Fountain  
St. Louis, MO 63113
5. Carlos DeAnne Evans & Savannah Alexander  
4812 Fountain  
St. Louis, MO 63113
6. Virginia Hill  
4814 Fountain  
St. Louis, MO 63113
7. Daisy Morrow  
4818 Fountain  
St. Louis, MO 63113
8. Edward A., Jr. & Lillian M. Flynn  
4822 Fountain  
St. Louis, MO 63113
9. Irene Taylor  
4824 Fountain  
St. Louis, MO 63113
10. Eddie E. Speller & Marilyn French  
4826 Fountain  
St. Louis, MO 63113
11. Gerald S. & Hattie P. Anderson  
4432 Evans  
St. Louis, MO 63113
12. Church of God in Christ  
4832-34 Fountain  
St. Louis, MO 63113
13. Nathaniel & Mary Smith  
5890 Kennerly  
St. Louis, MO 63112
14. Clarence & Corena Thomas  
924 Bayard  
St. Louis, MO 63108
15. Thomas & Minnie Brown  
922 Bayard  
St. Louis, MO 63108
16. Samuel A. & Edna I. Nicholas  
920 Bayard  
St. Louis, MO 63108
17. James A. & Dorothy Randall  
4844 Fountain  
St. Louis, MO 63113
18. James F. & Lorena McLean  
4846 Fountain  
St. Louis, MO 63113
19. Tureatha Taylor  
4848 Fountain  
St. Louis, MO 63113
20. Tureatha Taylor  
4848 Fountain  
St. Louis, MO 63113
21. Worda Means  
4854 Fountain  
St. Louis, MO 63113
22. Otis & Callie Spencer  
4858 Fountain  
St. Louis, MO 63113

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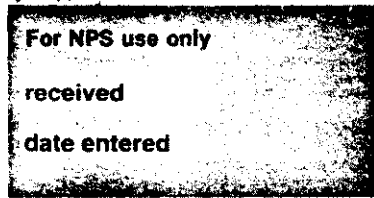
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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 23. Rufus Winfield<br>4860 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                               | 33. Jerry Glenn & Carmelle U. Hall<br>4912 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113              |
| 24. Church of Christ Holiness U.S.A., Inc.<br>4301 Page Boulevard<br>St. Louis, MO 63113 | 34. Annabelle Morgan<br>4916 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                            |
| 25. Houston & Doris Williams<br>4868 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                     | 35. Earl, Sr. & Clara Lee Moore<br>4918 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                 |
| 26. Donald W. & Rosie M. Lee<br>4870 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                     | 36. LRA<br>317 N. 11th Street, 8th Floor<br>St. Louis, MO 63101                         |
| 27. Morton & Zadia B. Taylor<br>4874 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                     | 37. James P. & Ribbon Wells<br>4924 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                     |
| 28. Odessa T. Bush & Eulalia P. Jackson<br>5782 Waterman Avenue<br>St. Louis, MO 63112   | 38. Durious & Azalea Johnson, et al.<br>4928-30 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113         |
| 29. Doris W. Parker<br>4900 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                              | 39. Eugene & Condly Bueneman<br>4945 Washington Avenue<br>St. Louis, MO 63108           |
| 30. Dorothy M. & Harry Dew<br>4904 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                       | 40. Otis C. & Pearl E. Young<br>4936 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                    |
| 31. Harold L. & Katrude D. Palmer<br>4956 Maple<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                   | 41. Centennial Christian Church<br>of St. Louis<br>4950 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113 |
| 32. Lorial & Ruby Penn<br>4910 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                           | 42. James A. & Nellie Smith<br>4954 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                     |

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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>43. Melvin A. &amp; Sadie C. Taylor<br/>4958 Fountain<br/>St. Louis, MO 63113</p> <p>44. Columbus Dean<br/>5215 Ridge Avenue<br/>St. Louis, MO 63113</p> <p>45. Edward F. Wrisberg Realty Co.<br/>4204 Manchester<br/>St. Louis, MO 63110</p> <p>L.R.A., City of St. Louis<br/>317 N. 11th Street, 8th Floor<br/>St. Louis, MO 63101</p> <p>46. John J. Henderson<br/>1324 Westover<br/>St. Louis, MO 63130</p> <p>47. Cornelius Fowler<br/>2017 Vincennes, Apt. 4<br/>St. Louis, MO 63136</p> <p>48. David Investment Co.<br/>6518 Clayton Road<br/>St. Louis, MO 63117</p> <p>49. D.J.K. Investment Co.<br/>12 Westgate<br/>Belleville, IL 62221</p> <p>50. Ruthie M. Ratliff, et al. &amp;<br/>Zadie L. Ratliff<br/>928 N. Kingshighway<br/>St. Louis, MO 63108</p> <p>51. Calvin Investment Co.<br/>1112 North Kingshighway<br/>St. Louis, MO 63113</p> <p>52. William H. Gibson, Jr.<br/>11524 Northbrook Way<br/>St. Louis, MO 63141</p> <p>53. William H. Gibson, Jr.<br/>11524 Northbrook Way<br/>St. Louis, MO 63141</p> | <p>54. Abram McClenney<br/>4607 Evans<br/>St. Louis, MO 63113</p> <p>55. Norman A. &amp; Annetta M. Andrews<br/>4963 Fountain<br/>St. Louis, MO 63113</p> <p>56. Jesse &amp; Ruby L. Shannon<br/>4957 Fountain<br/>St. Louis, MO 63113</p> <p>57. Rosemary Smith<br/>60 North Ewing<br/>St. Louis, MO 63103</p> <p>58. Bernice B. &amp; Norman K. Mason<br/>4951 Fountain<br/>St. Louis, MO 63113</p> <p>59. Lucinda Alexander<br/>4949 Fountain<br/>St. Louis, MO 63113</p> <p>60. Cynthia T., Issiah, &amp; Cheryl A. Bowie<br/>4945 Fountain<br/>St. Louis, MO 63113</p> <p>61. Goldie E. Holly<br/>1113-15 Aubert<br/>St. Louis, MO 63113</p> <p>62. Julia Hamilton, et al.<br/>1118 Aubert<br/>St. Louis, MO 63113</p> <p>63. Beatrice Martin<br/>619 North Lamine<br/>Sedalia, MO 65301</p> |
|--|---|

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- |  |  |
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| 64. Cleo A. Harston, et al.<br>4933 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113              | 74. Lula Belle Jones<br>Kenneth Ray Davis<br>1112 North Euclid Avenue<br>St. Louis, MO 63113 |
| 65. Jo Anna Skinner<br>4931 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                      | 75. Frank Allen<br>4877 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                                      |
| 66. Kirk P., Jr. & Helen S. Gaines<br>7121 Forian<br>St. Louis, MO 63121         | 76. Mary Shaw<br>4873 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113  |
| 67. Thomas H. & Ruschelle Dean<br>4923 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113           | 77. Faye Roland<br>4871 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                                      |
| 68. Joe & Amy Holland<br>4919 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                    | 78. Joseph & Eva Mae Farley<br>4867 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                          |
| 69. James Mitchell<br>5358 Lotus<br>St. Louis, MO 63112                          | 79. LeRoy R. & Jean P. Barnes<br>4865 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                        |
| 70. Ervin M. & Beatrice Burns<br>4426 Garfield<br>St. Louis, MO 63113            | 80. Lela Potts, Ola Mae McElroy, J/T<br>4861 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                 |
| 71. Union-Sarah Investment Corp.<br>4915 Delmar Boulevard<br>St. Louis, MO 63108 | 81. Jesse J. & Dorothy S. Sharp<br>4859 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                      |
| 72. Union-Sarah Investment Corp.<br>4915 Delmar Boulevard<br>St. Louis, MO 63108 | 82. Margaret & George L. Foxwell<br>4857 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                     |
| 73. Ophelia Harper<br>4903 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                       | 83. Lee & Laura McLemore<br>4853 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                             |

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|--|--|
| 84. Helen M. Walker<br>771 North Euclid Avenue<br>St. Louis, MO 63108                    | 94. Theodore & Etta Johnson<br>4825 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                                |
| 85. AuRelle & Malinda J. Parker<br>4847 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                  | 95. Samuel H. Jones, Jr.<br>4420 West Florissant Avenue<br>St. Louis, MO 63115                     |
| 86. Harold Brice<br>4845 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                                 | 96. George A. & Beatrice Johnson<br>4819 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                           |
| 87. Mae Jim Doyle<br>1113 Bayard<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                                  | 97. Regina A. Edwards & Edna E. Pritchett<br>7718 Peach Tree Lane<br>St. Louis, MO 63130           |
| 88. Calvin & LaVaughn E. Jones<br>1115 Bayard<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                     | 98. Sam, Jr. & Barbara Stinson<br>4808 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                             |
| 89. Maxie D. & Persiphine Walker<br>1117 Bayard<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                   | 99. Lee A. & Inez M. Spencer<br>4811 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                               |
| 90. Earnest C. Shaw<br>1119 Bayard<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                                | 100. Pendency & Sophronia Crenshaw, et al.<br>4807 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                 |
| 91. Sara Williams<br>c/o S & E Investment Corp.<br>P. O. Box 8306<br>St. Louis, MO 63132 | 101. Thomas J. Kavanagh, Jr.<br>6200 Nagel<br>St. Louis, MO 63109                                  |
| 92. Sara Williams<br>c/o S & E Investment Corp.<br>P. O. Box 8306<br>St. Louis, MO 63132 | 102. Arthur & Nell Sneed<br>6102 Vetter Place<br>St. Louis, MO 63120                               |
| 93. Arnett P. Scott, Sr.<br>4829 Fountain<br>St. Louis, MO 63113                         | 103. Department of Parks, Recreation<br>and Forestry<br>5600 Clayton Avenue<br>St. Louis, MO 63110 |

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State Historical Survey  
July, 1980  
Historic Preservation Program  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City,

State

Missouri 65102

Continuation Item #10

at the alley of CB 3771; thence, turning westward, continue along the south side of said alley crossing Bayard to the west side of Bayard; thence, turning northward, continue along the west side of Bayard to the southwest corner of Bayard and the alley of CB 3770; thence, turning westward, continue along the south side of said alley crossing North Euclid and continuing along the south side of the alley of CB 3769 to the southeast corner of said alley and Aubert; thence, turning southward continue along the east side of Aubert 50 feet; thence, turning westward, cross Aubert to the southwest corner of Aubert and the alley of CB 3767 continuing along the south side of said alley to the southeast corner of said alley and North Kingshighway; thence, turning southward, continue along the east side of North Kingshighway, crossing Fountain, to the northeast corner of North Kingshighway and the alley of CB 3765; thence, turning eastward, continue along the north side of said alley crossing Aubert and continuing approximately 80 feet along the southern property lines of 4938-28 Fountain; thence, turning southward approximately 55 feet to a point on the northern side of the alley of CB 3764; thence, turning eastward, continue along said alley crossing North Euclid and continuing along the north side of the alley of CB 3763 to its intersection with the eastern property line of 4854 Fountain; thence, turning northward, follow said property line to its intersection with the southern property lines of 4852-44 Fountain; thence, turning eastward, follow said property lines approximately 120 feet to a point of the west side of Bayard, continue across Bayard and along the north side of the alley of CB 3762 to the northwest corner of said alley and Walton; thence, turning northward, continue along the west side of Walton, crossing Fountain, to point of origin.

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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

The building history of Fountain Park is one of St. Louis' most successful expressions of real estate development in the 1890's. Although single lot owners built there from time to time, the district's strong visual unity is the result of similarities in cost, size and style imposed by speculative builders who frequently employed architects to design large parcels of blocks. The one and one-half acre, elliptical center park also contributes significantly to the neighborhood's cohesiveness and provides a spacious, open communal area that is in balance with the continuous wall of housing surrounding it. (See Site Plan and Photo #1.)

### CITY BLOCK 3763

A particularly instructive example of the strengths of the speculative builder can be seen in City Block 3763. Developed entirely by realtor G. W. Davis between 1895 and 1897, the block bears the imprint of the prominent St. Louis architectural firm of Barnett, Haynes & Barnett. Well-known for their important residential work in the city's exclusive private places, the firm's houses of modest cost (\$2,500) and size on the block reveal a little-known facet of their office. Although building permits for the twelve houses were issued in two groups ten months apart, evidence of a unified design for the streetscape is apparent in the use of distinctive, turretted, rock-faced stone houses to punctuate the eastern and western ends of the block. (Photos #2 and #3) The architects' skill in achieving visual cohesiveness without monotony is displayed in common denominators such as two story height and twenty-six foot house width, the variations of hipped and gabled roofs with front dormers, recurrent second story fenestration of transomed bay and paired double sash windows with rough-stone lintels, and facades of fine-grade yellow brick interspersed with those of rock-faced stone. Despite the low budgets, the houses parallel the firm's stylistic practice in larger commissions and thus compactly illustrate their shift in the 1890's from a robust Romanesque Revival style to Georgian refinement. The fine quality of stonework on the Romanesque houses compares favorably with more developed versions elsewhere; noteworthy Georgian/Renaissance details in wood include a second story Palladian motif at 4870, garlanded friezes at 4874, 4864, 4852 and 4846, and several porches and bay windows employing a full Classical order.

Kenneth Investment Co. was a subsidiary of one of St. Louis' most successful real estate developers at the turn of the century, the C. R. H. Davis Real Estate Co. Born in Macomb, Illinois, in 1859, Charles Richard Harding Davis was educated at Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa, before embarking on a business career in Iowa and Colorado. Davis' involvement in real estate began in St. Louis around 1889; by 1904, he was reported to have built twelve hundred houses (including Lenox Place) in the West End. Davis was also president of the Royal Investment Co. and the Federal Investment Co.

### CITY BLOCK 3762

The houses in City Block 3762, built within one year of each other, point out significant differences between houses designed by architects and those by contractors.



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Building permits were issued on March 8, 1893, to G. W. Davis (developer of City Block 3763 discussed above) for eight, two story brick houses each measuring twenty-two by thirty-eight feet and costing a total of \$20,000. Easily identifiable by the repetition of flat roofs with prominent, white, wooden cornices, the eight houses, built by contractor A. J. Shassere, originally formed a continuous sequence from 920 Bayard around to 4824 Fountain before the rhythm was broken by the unfortunate alteration and addition to the corner house now used as a church. (Photo #4) By contrast, Barnett, Haynes & Barnett's four adjacent houses on Fountain designed for Kenneth Investment Co. in 1894 exhibit a style-consciousness which is absent in the straightforward, simply detailed contractor houses. Alternating rock-faced stone facades again with those of yellow brick, the Barnett houses are enriched with many of the historical details featured in City Block 3763. Unusually fine classical detailing appears on 4822, 4818 and 4814 (the latter boasting Giant Order pilasters on the corners); 4814 also introduces a stone, Gothic arch first story window for variety; 4804, constructed around 1878, is the oldest house included in the nomination. (Photo #5)

CITY BLOCK 3771

A complex of stores and flats built by contractors Lay and Trumpfeller in 1896 for Edward Keller effectively conforms to the curve of the corner at Bayard and Fountain. (Photos #6 and #7) Constructed of sedate gray brick trimmed with white stone, the principal entrance is accented by a pediment and classical columns which frame round arch windows above a panel of ornamental brick. Only ghosts of the original festooning below the eaves remain. The six lots directly east of the corner store were developed by G. W. Davis in 1894-95. The earliest four houses (4813-23) were designed by Barnett, Haynes & Barnett whose distinctive overhanging, clipped gable roof and second story oriel window were copied by contractor J. T. Woodling at 4825 and 4829. (Photo #7) A counterpoint of yellow brick and rough-faced stone facades is employed by the Barnett firm along with the recurrent, classically detailed second story oriel window--this time with vibrant art glass transoms.

The three story, red brick apartment house on the corner of Fountain and Walton was built in 1907 by owner and architect F. W. Klusemeyer at a cost of \$18,000. (Photo #8) The building replaced an 1885 two story, frame house owned by Mrs. M. O'Neill who also owned property across the street on the southwest corner of Walton. Georgian Revival detailing in cream-colored terra cotta and alternating rows of dark-header Flemish bond ornament the southern and western elevations. Klusemeyer also built two double, brick flats of two stories at 1115-21 Walton in 1904 (Photo #8) and at 4807 Fountain in 1905.

CITY BLOCK 3770

The eight, flat-roofed, red brick houses on the northwest corner of Bayard and Fountain (Photo #6) were built in 1892 by G. W. Davis and William H. Brothers and are variants of Davis' work a year later on the southwest corner (City Block 3767).

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The remaining houses on the block were built for the most part by individual owners in the early 1890's and survive with few alterations. (Photo #9) 4877 Fountain, built in 1890 by Charles P. Creamer at a cost of \$2,000, illustrates the strengths of the vernacular builder who created quite original effects with a cross-gable roof.

CITY BLOCK 3769

Unusually fine masonry distinguishes a group of 1890's houses in City Block 3769 where red, yellow and gray brick facades are articulated with subtle brick window surrounds, rustication and corbelling. (Photo #10) Roof lines gain piquancy and interest through the introduction of eccentric dormers. Two houses built in 1905 by contractor W. A. Schumacher at 4911 and 4907 are noteworthy as they were speculative investments of St. Louis Mayor Rolla Wells.

CITY BLOCK 3767

The architect of 4949 Fountain, the district's sole example of the Queen Anne mode, is unknown but deeds and city directories indicate the house was built by 1892 when it was occupied by Frank X. Kraft (Photo #11). In 1902, Kraft developed the eastern portion of his lot with houses at 4945 Fountain and 1113 and 1115 Aubert, designed by architect A. Blair Ridington. (Ridington also built three houses across the park in 1903 at 4936-38, 4942 and 4928-30 Fountain.) With the exception of 4951 and 4953 (both constructed in 1892) and 4957 (built in 1904), the remainder of the block was filled in with multi-family housing in the early twentieth century. At 1112-18 Kingshighway, the addition of metal awnings unfortunately detracts from a fine 1903 iron storefront and flats (cast by the St. Louis Architectural Iron Co.) surmounted by a decorative brick parapet. Handsome effects of texture, pattern and color were achieved in the last building erected in Fountain Park, 4969, a two story flat of 1925 designed by architect Charles R. Greene. The facade combines Flemish bond with understated terra cotta and brick trim.

CITY BLOCK 3765

The lot reserved for a university in the 1857 plat was first occupied by a one story, frame Congregational church (built in 1886) which ten years later was replaced by Grable, Weber & Groves' gray brick, Italian Romanesque Revival design for the Third Congregational Church. (Photo #12) Simple masses are picturesquely assembled to take advantage of the corner site while meeting the requirements of the original congregation with a large central auditorium opening through wooden, vertical sliding doors into two spacious rectangular meeting rooms. Ornament is concentrated on the entrance arcade which is enriched with intricate motifs of Byzantine inspiration and framed above with an unusual gable alternating female and amphibian heads on the corbels. (Photo #13) The corbel table motif is repeated on the western and southern gables of the auxiliary rooms. Inside, a dramatic tent-like effect is created in the auditorium by an open truss ceiling with eight hammer beams springing from a center king post to the floor. Four, small, stained glass

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windows surround the king post. Both interior and exterior have been maintained in exceptionally fine condition with no significant alterations.

Albert Bartleton Groves (1866-1925) graduated from Cornell University's School of Architecture in 1888. He worked for Denver architect F. E. Edbrooke and traveled in France and Italy before joining the St. Louis firm of Grable and Weber as a junior partner in 1891. Groves bought out Grable's interest in 1898, practicing with Weber until his death in 1905 and afterwards independently. Groves' St. Louis work includes large residential commissions, numerous commercial and industrial buildings and eighteen churches. He also worked in Denver, Oklahoma, New York and Tampa, Florida.

CITY BLOCK 3764

Excluding the first three houses east of Aubert (designed in 1903 by A. B. Ridington), building permits are without house numbers and account for only six of eight extant houses built in 1893. Although four of these were designed by the young architectural firm of Varney and Woodrych and two by the established office of Barnett, Haynes & Barnett, attribution is uncertain as the houses are similar in style and handling; all were built for the Kenneth Investment Co. (Photo #14) Shingled front gables and second story oriels are predominate forms as are yellow and red brick facades; 4912 stands out with a rock-faced front elevation and a double story front bay.

FOUNTAIN PARK

The one and one-half acres reserved in 1857 for a center park was later landscaped and the fine iron fountain installed by the City. (See Section 8 and Photo #1.) Because of the district's residential quality and racial composition, Fountain Park was selected as the site of a bronze statue of Martin Luther King dedicated May 7, 1978. Designed by prominent St. Louis sculptor Rudolph Torrini, the figure was cast life-size in Italy and bears the inscription "His Dream Our Dream". (Photo #15)

Born in St. Louis in 1923, Torrini attended Accademia de Belle Arti in Florence before receiving a Masters of Fine Arts at University of Notre Dame in 1958. He has exhibited extensively throughout the Midwest, at Wellon Gallery in New York City and at the Vatican Pavillion at the New York World's Fair (1966). His numerous commissions include portraits, religious sculpture, and garden and fountain works. In 1963, Torrini's "Figure of Soldier of Indian Wars" won a National Park Service competition for the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis. Presently, Torrini lives in St. Louis and is Chairman of the Art Department of Fontbonne College.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sculpture
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1890's

Builder/Architect various

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Fountain Park is significant as an early, planned residential development and for the cohesiveness of its architecture, many houses designed by foremost St. Louis architectural firms. Grandly platted in 1857 as a self-contained suburban neighborhood complete with schools, churches and a hotel, Fountain Park (originally Aubert Place) featured a large ornamental center park for the use of lot owners. (Figure #1) Only limited development occurred before the 1890's when the park was landscaped by the city and an elaborate fountain installed--improvements which stimulated a massive surge of speculative building. Rapidly, Fountain Park was transformed into an attractive, middle-class neighborhood with many homes designed by St. Louis architects Barnett, Haynes & Barnett; in 1896, corners fronting the park were enhanced by a splendid Grable, Weber & Groves church and a stately commercial building complex. The heroic statue of Martin Luther King now standing in the park is a cogent symbol of the district's racial composition since the mid-1940's and a source of neighborhood pride and identity.

Shortly before his death on May 26, 1857, John Lay (c. 1795-1857), a Virginia farmer who had acquired considerable land in St. Louis county, made provisions for his wife and children by platting 158 acres of his estate, located about four miles west of the City of St. Louis. (Figure #2) The sophisticated concept and grand promotion of Lay's Aubert Place set it distinctly apart from conventional 1850's subdivisions which were platted during a feverish decade of land speculation in St. Louis. Emulating fashionable eighteenth century London estate developments, Aubert Place was organized with eight blocks of lots around a large ornamental oval park, and featured spaces for a hotel, two churches and two schools fronting on the park. (Figure 1)

Two months in advance of the auction of Aubert Place (June 4, 1857) lengthy advertisements appeared daily in the Missouri Republican extolling the unique advantages of the site "peculiarly adapted for the location of such a Place, being elevated and sloping gradually from the centre" and favorable credit terms. These promotional claims gained credibility through editorial assessments such as the following:

This property, as it well should, is attracting, perhaps, more attention than any other suburban tract ever offered for sale. Anyone who will take the trouble to examine the plat and see the truly magnificent scale of the entire plan, will not wonder at the excitement it creates... ..Nothing can equal nature in beauty, and we can only suggest to those who have not seen this place, to go at once and see for themselves.... The extraordinary terms of credit--ten years--will certainly induce many whose means are limited...It is a rare opportunity to obtain a homestead with a small outlay.<sup>1</sup>

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Item number 8

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Clearly, from all contemporary reports, the special appeal of Aubert Place lay in its ideal balance of the country and the city--offering healthy bucolic open space domesticated with civilization's amenities. The provision in the plans for a "large and commodious Hotel, to accommodate families who are necessarily detained at home during the summer months"<sup>2</sup> (Figure #1) underscored the district's potential as a pastoral retreat from congested urban areas. Indeed only six years earlier, the Mayor of St. Louis had reported a desperate need of "Lungs" for the city--breathing places in the form of parks and wide avenues<sup>3</sup> which Aubert Place provided with its generous streets and acre and one-half park. Deed restrictions prohibiting the erection of slaughter houses, chemical works and various offensive factories further protected Aubert Place lot owners from the blight and pollution of industry that increasingly plagued urban neighborhoods. (Later in the century such undesirable urban conditions would force a massive migration westward toward Aubert Place.)

The 1857 auction found a receptive market and brought sales of at least half of the lots, representing both long-term speculation and small parcels for homesteading. The distance and lack of access to the city center, however, deterred residential development. Despite promotional advertisements that promised rapid transit, it was not until late 1866 that John Lay's heirs were selling land for a narrow gauge tract which would pass through Aubert Place some years later.

Emphasis on easy financing and the simple model house (Figure #1) suggests a neighborhood of moderate-income housing. However, more ambitious houses were also built in the first decade of development: Washington H. Chick, partner in a wholesale grocery firm, for example, was living in a large, three story mansard house by 1867 (demolished). Compton and Dry's Pictorial St. Louis of 1875 shows a scattering of houses of various sizes, but little evidence of the original plat scheme.<sup>4</sup> The only north-south cross street open in Aubert Place by that time was Lay Avenue (now Euclid), although fence lines appear to follow the boundaries of the other platted streets. By 1883, approximately forty houses, for the most part frame,<sup>5</sup> were standing in Aubert Place. A vestige of this early building phase remains at 4804 Fountain Avenue (Photo #5) erected around 1878 by the O'Neil family who owned lots 28 and 29 and later built 4902 Fountain and 1019 Walton.

Unlike St. Louis' private places where numerous deed restrictions stipulated minimum building cost, height, land grade and type of occupancy, Aubert Place was shaped by only one such control: a set-back of at least twenty feet. The ordered homogeneous character of the streets today can be attributed to two principal factors: the remarkable survival of the original plat design and the consistent handling of large groups of houses by a few developers. In fact over half of the houses included in the nomination were built between 1892 and 1897 by two speculators, G. W. Davis and C. R. H. Davis, and many of those were designed by prominent St. Louis architects Barnett, Haynes & Barnett.

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The westward extension of the city limits in 1876 to Skinker Boulevard placed Aubert Place well within the boundaries of St. Louis' West End--a center of intensive building in the 1890's. (Figure #2) On January 9, 1892, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported a large transfer of property for residential development in Aubert Place and commented:

There is a strong demand for houses all through that new section, now so easily accessible to the business center by three lines of rapid transit, the Lindell electric along Delmar Avenue, the Suburban piercing through the center, and the Easton Avenue cable on the north side. Vacant houses are scarce all through that quarter. It is a promising field for builders, who can find no more ground east of Taylor Avenue at less than \$30 a foot.

Although the subdivision was not realized as originally envisioned with a hotel, two schools<sup>6</sup> and two churches, in 1896 it did acquire an impressive Congregational church on the southwest corner of the park designed by Grable, Weber & Groves, and a handsome commercial/flat ensemble on the northeast corner--both sensitively scaled to the residential fabric. The amplitude of the original sixty foot front lots (reduced to nearly half) was exchanged for a more urban context of dense housing which provided an effective foil to the center park space.

Another important stimulus to the growth of Aubert Place (or Fountain Park as it is now called) was the improvement of the one and a half acre park site which had been donated to the City by lot owners in 1889. Before the Park Department appropriated funds to grade and plant the park in 1890-91, Fountain Park was little more than a vacant, muddy open space with no resemblance to the formal park platted in 1857. Over the next few years, the city added trees, shrubbery, flower beds, walkways, ornamental lights and, as a centerpiece, installed a graceful iron fountain which had stood in the Merchants Exchange Building.<sup>7</sup> Evidence of the city's successful cultivation of the land is supplied by a 1902 guidebook to St. Louis which described Fountain Park as:

...a small breathing place in a thickly settled neighborhood, surrounded on all sides by handsome residences, and is an admirable playground for children. It contains but an acre and a half but is artistically laid out with walks, and the flower beds make it a bower of beauty.<sup>8</sup>

At the turn of the century, Fountain Park had the distinction of being one of the city's few small neighborhood parks which in terms of scale, location and facilities was a model advocated for adoption throughout the city. The St. Louis Park Commissioner's report in 1900 compared the number of St. Louis parks unfavorably with other cities and expressed particular interest in the desirability of the small park with playground concept, noting, "when small parks have been established the change in the character of the population is marked" and the incidence of juvenile misdemeanors greatly reduced.

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Page 3

By the time of the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904, Fountain Park was a thriving middle-class neighborhood comprised of salesmen, clerks, proprietors and officers of small businesses, skilled labor and a few professionals. Among the early twentieth century residents whose achievements gained national recognition were Thomas W. Benoist, an early pioneer in aviation<sup>9</sup> who lived at 4930 Fountain Avenue, and Emily Hahn, author of The Soong Sisters and China to Me whose childhood home was 4858 Fountain Avenue.<sup>10</sup> Originally a subdivision of single-family houses, Fountain Park expanded its housing stock between 1903 and 1925. The construction of several multi-family units concentrated at the eastern and western boundaries was a response to the post-Fair demand for housing in the West End, "The residential district par excellence of Metropolitan St. Louis," noted for its "apartments deluxe."<sup>11</sup>

The dramatic increase in St. Louis' black population during the World War II era created an acute housing shortage which transformed Fountain Park from a white to a totally black neighborhood within a short time. Although by 1944 the major white realtors' organizations in St. Louis had recognized Fountain Park as restricted against blacks, a few black families nonetheless had penetrated by that year. According to one of those early residents, blacks had no difficulty purchasing property and within less than two years, only one or two white families remained.<sup>12</sup> In 1945, a clear sign of a stabilizing black community appeared when Centennial Christian Church purchased the 1896 Grable, Weber & Groves' church on the park. Founded as a black congregation in 1904, Centennial Christian hoped for new growth by following the migration of blacks westward.<sup>13</sup>

For nearly twenty-five years Fountain Park remained a secure, attractive, well-maintained neighborhood until a combination of factors began to erode those qualities. As more subdivisions opened to blacks, many of the upwardly mobile professionals moved on to "better addresses" in St. Louis County. Many became absentee landlords who frequently neglected their property. Gradually, too, older residents died off. As the percentage of renters increased, so did the crime rate, forcing small businesses to move from the area.<sup>14</sup>

A reversal of these trends of decay is visible today partially through the involvement of the Union-Sarah Community Corporation which is rehabilitating houses in the area, bringing community services and promoting neighborhood identity and pride. Revitalization of the Fountain Park area may be given a further boost by a Urban Development Action Grant project planned by mid-1982 to bring a shopping mall, supermarket, movie theatre and new housing along Delmar Boulevard between Kingshighway and Walton Avenue.<sup>15</sup> These proposed services along with a growing awareness of the district's residential qualities have stimulated new interest in Fountain Park as one of St. Louis' historic, urbane neighborhoods.

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F O O T N O T E S

<sup>1</sup>Missouri Republican, 17 May 1857.

<sup>2</sup>Daily advertisement, Missouri Republican, April and May, 1857.

<sup>3</sup>C. M. Kennett, Mayor of St. Louis, "Annual Message," Western Journal & Civilian 8 (1852): 194.

<sup>4</sup>Camille N. Dry and Richard J. Compton, Pictorial St. Louis (St. Louis: n.p., 1875; reprint ed., St. Louis: Harry M. Hagen, 1971), plates 102 and 103.

<sup>5</sup>Atlas of the City of St. Louis, Missouri (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1883), plates 39 and 28.

<sup>6</sup>Shurtleff College, Alton, Illinois, and LaGrange Male & Female College, LaGrange, Missouri, held land fronting on the park during the 1870's and 1880's, but never built.

<sup>7</sup>The fountain is first mentioned in the Park Commissioner's Report for the fiscal year ending April 7, 1904. At that time, it was described as a failure as an outdoor fountain: "...it is constructed of such flimsy material that the figures blow down with any ordinary storm, and second, the diameter of the iron ground basin is too small in comparison to the height of the fountain, causing the spray to be carried outside of it by the wind." The 1915 report stated that the fountain and basin were entirely reconstructed. According to a letter to the editor in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 12 May 1971, the fountain was originally at the home of John A. Scudder who gave it to the Merchants' Exchange.

<sup>8</sup>Barney W. Frauenthal, comp., Barney's Information Guide. St. Louis: Barney's Information Guide Publishing Co., 1902, p. 31.

<sup>9</sup>Eugene F. Provenzo, Jr., "Thomas W. Benoist - Early Pioneer - St. Louis Aviator (1871-1917)," Missouri Historical Society Bulletin 32 (January, 1975): 91-104.

<sup>10</sup>Associates of St. Louis University Libraries, Inc. and Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc., Literary St. Louis: Noted Authors and St. Louis Landmarks Associated with Them (St. Louis: Associates of St. Louis University Libraries, Inc. and Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc., 1969; reprint ed., St. Louis: 1974), p. 13.

<sup>11</sup>Lewis F. Thomas, "The Geographic Landscape of Metropolitan St. Louis," (Xerox paper, Carolyn H. Toft collection, St. Louis, MO, 1932), p. 20.

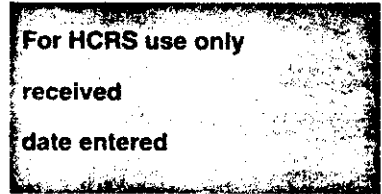
<sup>12</sup>Interview with Mrs. Oneida Reed, Resident of Fountain Park, St. Louis, MO, July, 1980.

<sup>13</sup>Interview with Rev. S. W. Hylton, Jr., Minister, Centennial Christian Church, St. Louis, MO, July, 1980.



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Page 5

<sup>14</sup>Interview with Edward Flynn, Chairman, Fountain Park Neighborhood Association, July, 1980.

<sup>15</sup>Interview with Nesby Moore, Director, Union-Sarah Development Corporation, St. Louis, MO, July, 1980.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 23.8 acres

Quadrangle name Clayton, MO

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

1	5	7	3	8	7	4	5	4	2	8	1	9	2	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

1	5	7	3	8	7	4	0	4	2	8	1	8	2	5
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

1	5	7	3	8	2	2	0	4	2	8	1	8	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

1	5	7	3	8	2	3	0	4	2	8	1	9	8	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

## Verbal boundary description and justification

Fountain Park Historic District consists of portions of City Blocks 3762, 3763, 3764, 3765, 3767, 3769, 3770, and 3771 as well as Fountain Park. Beginning at the northwest corner of Walton and Fountain Avenues, continue north to the southwest corner of Walton

## List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title I. Mary M. Stiritz, Research Associate

organization Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. date July 31, 1980

street & number 611 Olive Street, Suite 2187 telephone (314) 421-6474

city or town St. Louis, state Missouri 63101

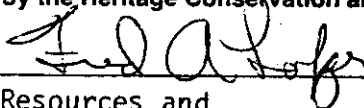
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



Director, Department of Natural Resources and  
title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 8/4/82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet FOUNTAIN PARK, St. Louis Item number 9

Page 1

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- Associates of St. Louis University Libraries, Inc. and Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. Literary St. Louis: Noted Authors and St. Louis Landmarks Associated with Them. St. Louis: Associates of St. Louis University Libraries, Inc. and Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc., 1969; reprint ed., St. Louis: 1974.
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FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOUNTAIN PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 11

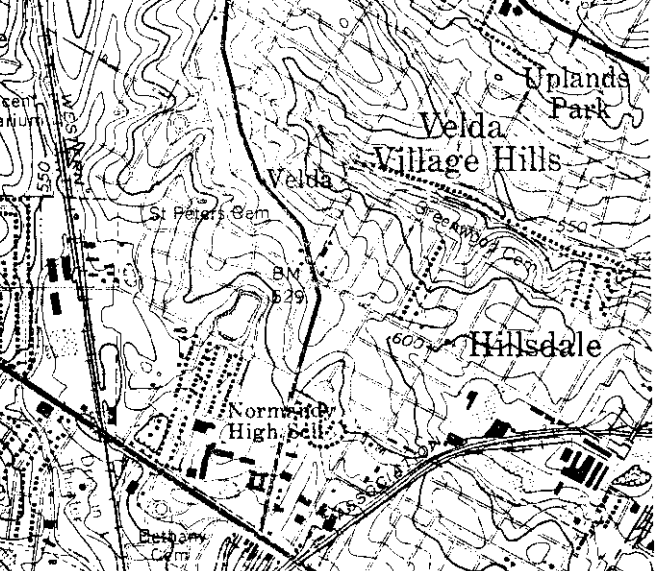
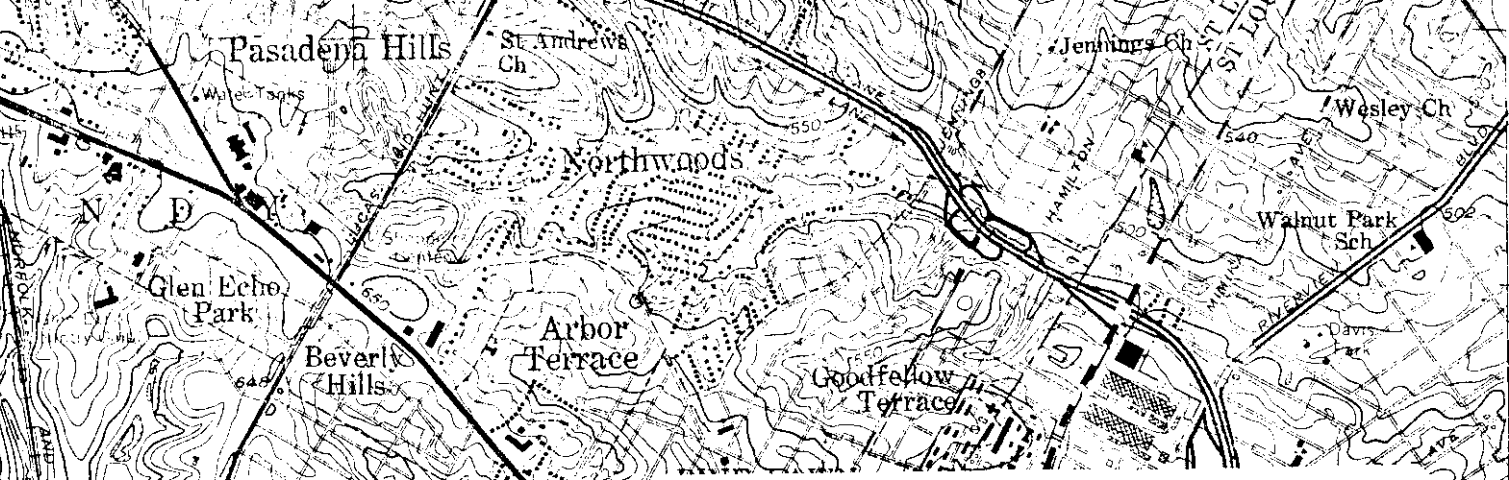
PAGE 1

2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey  
and State Contact Person  
Department of Natural Resources  
Historic Preservation Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City

October 24, 1980

314/751-4096

Missouri 65102

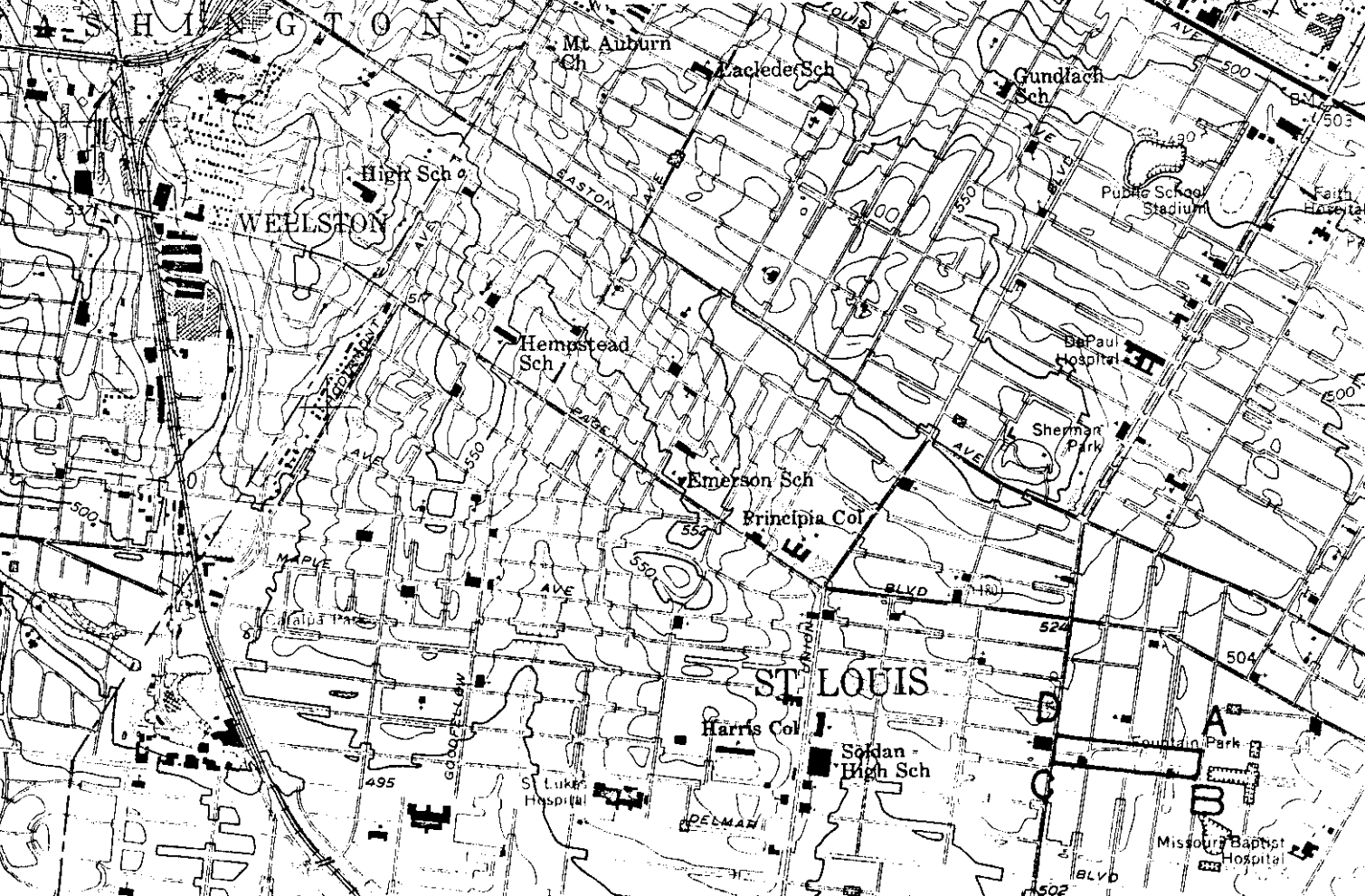


FOUNTAIN PARK, ST. LOUIS, MO

UTM Reference Points

Clayton, MO Quadrangle, 1:24,000 scale

- A-15/738745/4281920
- B-15/738740/4281825
- C-15/738220/4281860
- D-15/738230/4281980



CHANGES IN OWNERS FOR FOUNTAIN PARK NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

3. Valura M. Clay  
c/o Valura Wright  
221 Lithia Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63119
10. Eddie E. Speller &  
Marilyn French  
4826 Fountain  
St. Louis, MO 63113
28. Odessa T. Bush &  
Eulalia P. Jackson  
5782 Waterman Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63112
31. Harold L. & Katrude D. Palmer  
Same
39. Eugene & Condy Bueneman  
Same
45. Edward F. Wrisberg Realty Co.  
4204 Manchester  
St. Louis, MO 63110
- L.R.A., City of St. Louis  
317 N. 11th Street, 8th Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63101
47. Cornelius Fowler  
2017 Vincennes, Apt. 4  
St. Louis, MO 63136
- ~~50.~~  
48. Drop LRA
- Ruthie M. Ratliff, et al. &  
Zadie L. Ratliff  
928 N. Kingshighway  
St. Louis, MO 63108
52. & 53.  
William H. Gibson, Jr.  
11524 Northbrook Way  
St. Louis, MO 63141
61. Goldie E. Holly  
1113-15 Aubert  
St. Louis, MO 63113
96. George A. & Beatrice Johnson  
4819 Fountain  
St. Louis, MO 63113
98. Sam, Jr. & Barbara Stinson  
4808 Fountain  
St. Louis, MO 63113
36. LRA  
317 N. 11th Street, 8th Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63101

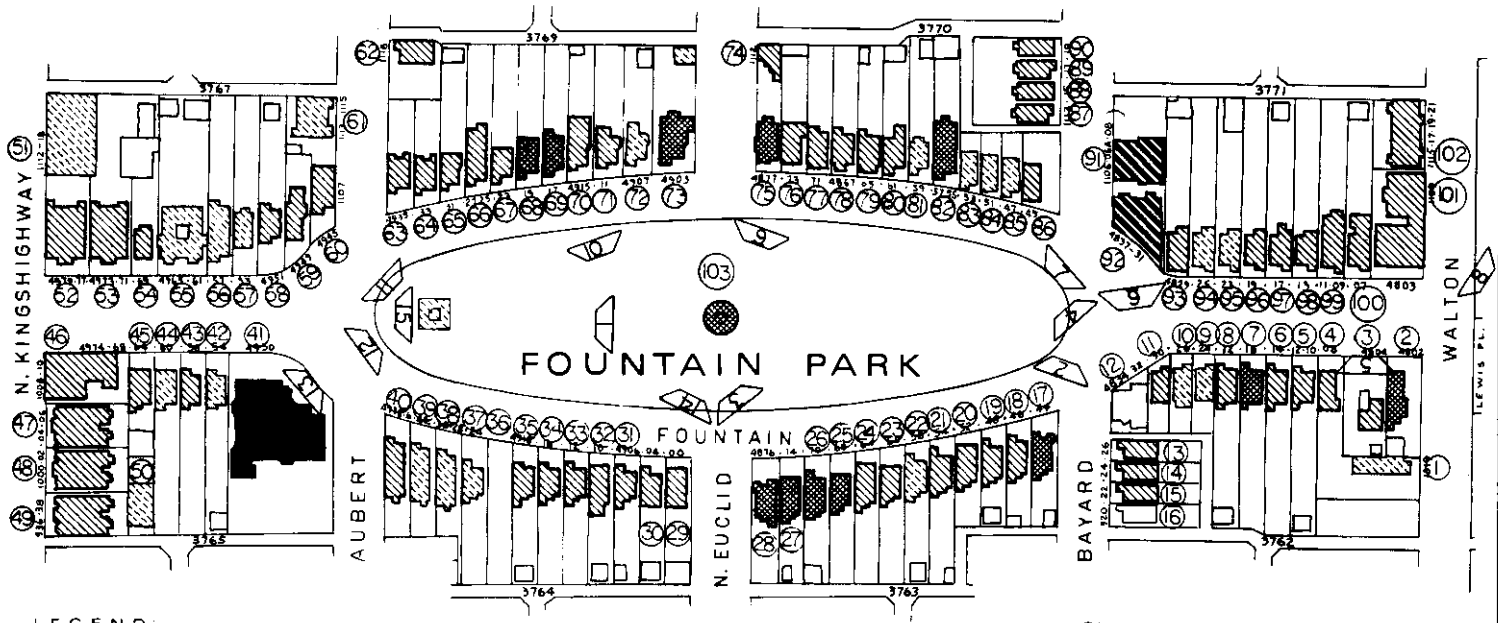
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317 N. 11th Street, 8th Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63101

# ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY OF FOUNTAIN PARK

APRIL 1979 ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

LANDMARKS ASSOCIATION OF ST. LOUIS, INC.  
FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



**LEGEND:**

- NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE
  - ▨ STATE SIGNIFICANCE
  - ▩ CITY SIGNIFICANCE
  - ▧ NEIGHBORHOOD SIGNIFICANCE
  - ▦ ARCHITECTURAL MERIT -  
DEMOLITION WOULD DIMINISH THE INTEGRITY  
OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD
  - LITTLE OR NO ARCHITECTURAL MERIT -  
DEMOLITION WOULD BE INCONSEQUENTIAL  
OR ADVANTAGEOUS
  - OWNER OF RECORD
  - ◀ PHOTO NO. & CAMERA ANGLE
- } DEMOLITION WOULD BE  
A MAJOR CULTURAL LOSS



**SURVEY:**  
CAROLYN HEWES TOFT  
WILLIAM P. WISCHMEYER

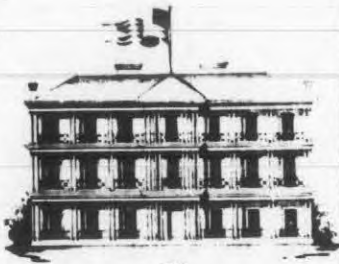
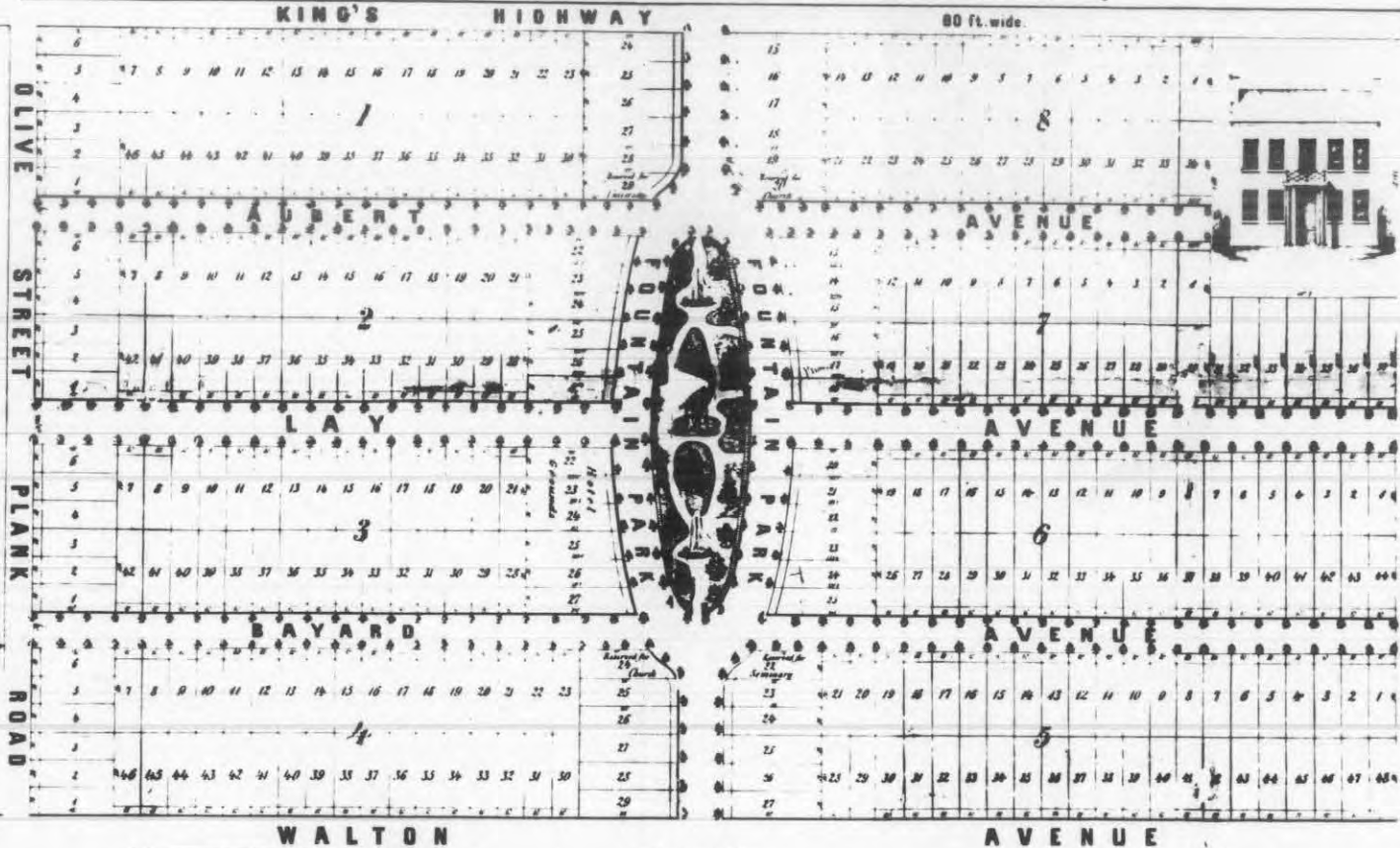
**REVIEW:**  
GERHARDT KRAMER  
KARL O. PETTIT III  
W. DAVIS VAN BAKERGEM

**MAP:**  
PAT HAYS BAER

PREPARATION OF THIS MAP WAS FINANCED WHOLLY THROUGH A GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF ST. LOUIS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE I OF THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1977 (AS AMENDED).



# AUBERT PLACE FOR SALE AT AUCTION THURSDAY JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup> 1857 J. H. OBEAR, Auc.



HOTEL



CHURCH



BOYS UNIVERSITY

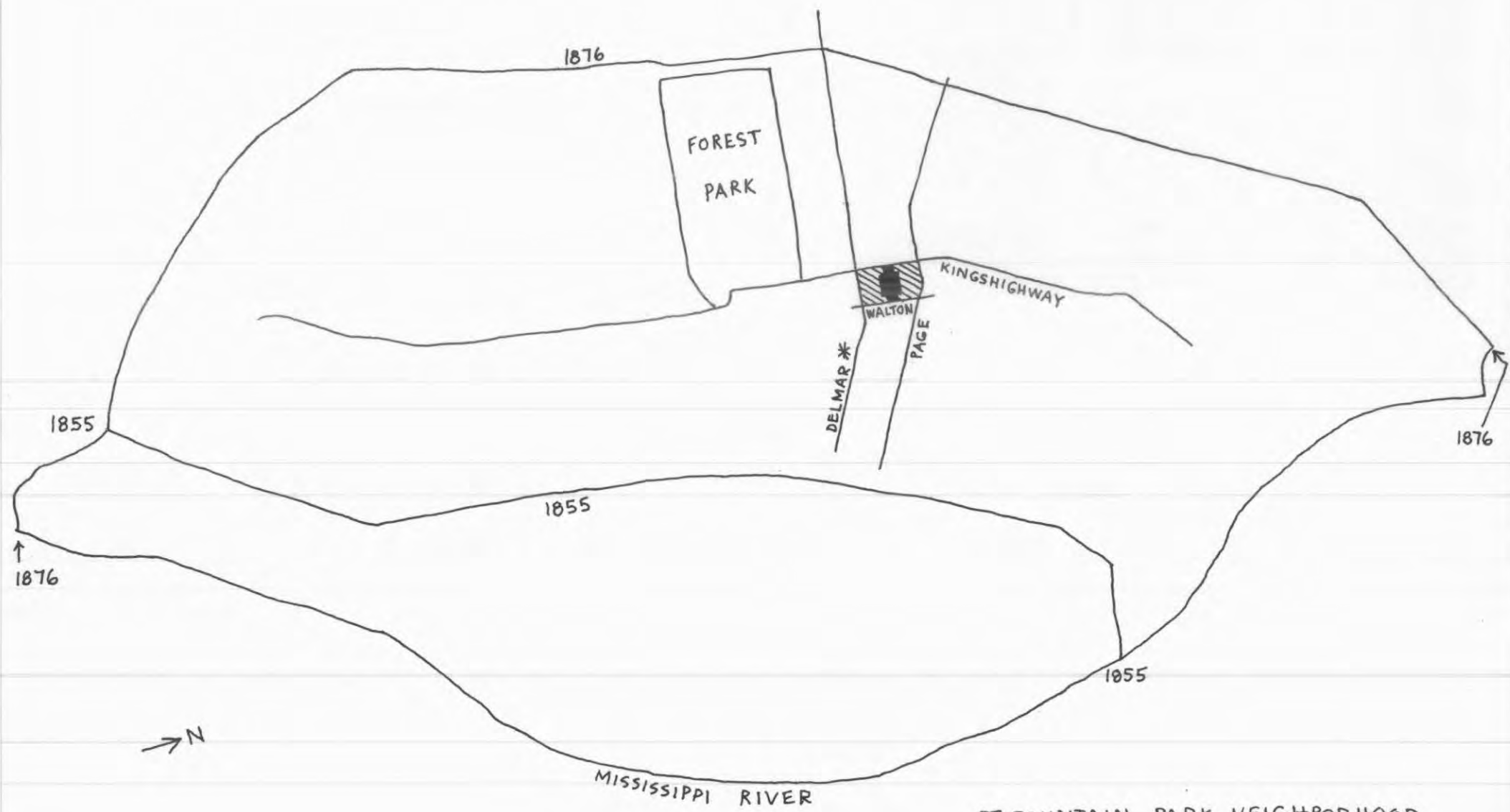


SMALL SEMINARY

*Lit. by Schaff & Bro*

EXPANDING ST. LOUIS CITY LIMITS

FIGURE #2



- ▨ FOUNTAIN PARK NEIGHBORHOOD
- FOUNTAIN PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT
- \* ORIGINALLY OLIVE STREET PLANK ROAD

**Photo Log:**

Name of Property: **Aubert Place**

---

City or Vicinity: **St. Louis [Independent City]**

---

County: **St. Louis [Independent City]** State: **MO**

---

Photographer: **Mary M. Stirtz (unless otherwise noted)**

---

Date

Photographed: **July 1980 (unless otherwise noted)**

---

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

- 1 of 15. View of park and fountain, facing E.
- 2 of 15. Streetscape looking W from 4844 Fountain Ave., facing SW.
- 3 of 15. Streetscape looking E from 4876 Fountain Ave., facing SE. Photo taken by Jill R. Johnson, Nov. 1979.
- 4 of 15. Streetscape looking E from 4834-32 Fountain Ave., facing SE. Photo taken by Jill R. Johnson, Nov. 1979.
- 5 of 15. 4804 Fountain Ave., facing S. Photo taken by Jill R. Johnson, Nov. 1979.
- 6 of 15. Streetscape of N side of Fountain, corner of Bayard, facing NW. Photo taken by Jill R. Johnson, Nov. 1979.
- 7 of 15. Streetscape looking E from 4837-31 Fountain Ave., facing NE. Photo taken by Jill R. Johnson, Nov. 1979.
- 8 of 15. 4803 Fountain & 1109, 1115-21 Walton, principal elevation, facing NW.
- 9 of 15. Streetscape looking E from 4877 Fountain Ave., facing NE.
- 10 of 15. Streetscape looking W from 4915 to 4923 Fountain Ave., facing NW.
- 11 of 15. Streetscape looking W from 4945 Fountain Ave., facing NW. Photo taken by Jill R. Johnson, Nov. 1979.
- 12 of 15. Centennial Christian Church (formerly Third Congregation), facing SW. Photo taken by Jill R. Johnson, Nov. 1979.
- 13 of 15. Centennial Christian Church, detail of entrance, facing SW. Photo taken by Jill R. Johnson, Nov. 1979.
- 14 of 15. Streetscape looking W from 4900 Fountain Ave., facing SW. Photo taken by Jill R. Johnson, Nov. 1979.
- 15 of 15. Statue of Dr. Martin Luther King, facing E. Photo taken by Jill R. Johnson, Nov. 1979.





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