## 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 Busch's Grove

and/or common Woodlawn Garden; Claytonville Wine and Beer Saloon and Garden

## 2. Location

Ownership       Status       Present Use         Category       Ownership       Status       Present Use	street & ni	umber	9160 Claytor	Road				_ not for publication
Status       Present Use         Category       Ownership       Status       Present Use	city, town	Ladue	· · ·		vi	cinity of	#2 - Hon. Robert congressional district	A. Young
Category       Ownership       Status       Present Use	state	Misso	uri	code	29	county	St. Louis	<b>code</b> <u>18</u> 9
	3. C	lass	sification					
being considered yes: unrestricted industrial transportation transportation military other:	distric buildi struct site	ct . ng(s) . ture . t	public _X private both Public Acquisitio in process being consider		X occup unocc work i Accessibl yes: re X yes: u	upied n progress e estricted	agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial	park private residence religious scientific transportation

name Paul and Pansy Kammerer, et al

street & number 9160 Clayton Road

city, town Ladue

vicinity of

state Missouri 63124

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds, St. Louis County Government Center

street & number 7900 Forsyth Boulevard

Clayton

city, town

state Missouri 63105

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title 1.	100 Historic Buildin	es in St has this prope	rty been determined el	egible? yes	<u>X no</u>
date	1970	Louis County	federal stat	te _ <u>X</u> county	local
depository	for survey records publis	hed: St. Louis Co. Dept.	of Parks and Rec	reation	
city, town	Clayton		state	Missouri	

### National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form BUSCH'S GROVE



Continuati	on sheet	Item number (	5	Page 1
2. Hist	oric Sites Inventory			
1980	MO-IL metr	opolitan area		
pub1	ished: East-West Gateway Coord	linating Council		-
St.	Louis	Missouri	i	
1981 Depa Hist P.O	souri State Historic Survey l artment of Natural Resources toric Preservation Program . Box 176 ferson City		State Missouri	65102

# 7. Description

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Busch's Grove is a two-story white frame building trimmed in green with one-story additions. It sits near the south edge of Clayton Road, facing and just west of the southern end of Price Road. The building is bounded on the east by the wooded grounds of the Carmelite Monastery and to the west by its own parking lot and that of a small shopping center. When Busch's Grove was built, its front porch was at the level of the road, at the top of a slight rise.<sup>1</sup> Clayton Road has since been lowered about two feet, exposing part of the foundations and requiring stairs to be installed at the ends of the porch. The foundations have been faced with a rock-faced composition stone laid in broken courses.

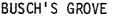
The historic center block of Busch's Grove has a hipped roof surmounted by a balustraded widow's walk. A gabled dormer is centered above the five bays of the second floor, the middle of which is a door opening onto the porch roof. Windows are double-hung, those on the second floor are now one-over-one,<sup>2</sup> while the dormer window is six-over-six and those on the first floor are nine-over-nine. The first floor openings do not line up exactly with those on the upper floor. Shuttered windows occupy the center and west bays with a door between them. A modern double casement window occupies the east bay. One-story parapeted wings extend the first-floor facade two bays in each direction. The west wing has two 6-over-6 windows, while the east wing has a double window and a second door. Both doors have entry shelters, fully glazed with panes the size of those in the windows. The porch has six square posts across the main building and one bay to the east, and in addition the porch roof projects an additional half bay at each end, sheltering the stairs.

Behind their clapboarded street facades, the two wings vary considerably. The east one is a rectangle of concrete-block construction, while the west side is a complex and irregular cluster of frame structures housing the kitchen and related rooms. At the rear of the building are two more one-story wings, a gabled one sheltering one large room and to its east a flat-roofed entrance wing with a glass-brick window. All of the rear as well as the second floor of the main block have recently been covered with white aluminum siding.

In addition to the dining room in the south wing, another large dining room is contained in the east wing, while the main building houses two bars. The west room, by tradition the men's bar, retains many turn-of-the-century features, including a columned back bar, the brass rail with its marble baseboard, and on the opposite wall a large glass-doored storage cabinet. On the second floor six doors open into a central hall. The door lintels are flat but pediment-shaped and may be among the earliest surviving features of the building.

The south yard of Busch's Grove contains a number of closely-spaced rustic pavilions that are used for private dining in the summer. These airy structures are constructed of unpeeled vertical logs with horizontal and x-shaped log braces. They have low pyramidal roofs covered with red asphalt sheeting and concrete floors on concrete blocks. Screens are fitted inside the logs and screen doors are painted green.

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or HCRS use on

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Fifteen pavilions are nine feet square, two are roughly double in length, with two doors on their longer sides, and one has four doors on a side. All these pavilions are set at right angles except for the three along the west edge of the yard. Forming the entrance to the yard from the parking lot is a recent cedar-shingled pergola with a fiberglass roof. The service wing is screened from the parking lot and Clayton Road by a latticework fence of a type that appears in old photos of the restaurant.

#### NOTES

- 1. As seen in an old photo in the possession of the present owners.
- 2. They were formerly six-over-six.

# 8. Significance



Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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Busch's Grove located at 9160 Clayton Road in the City of Ladue is a focal point for the surrounding community and has been so for the past 130 years. Since its construction, it has served as a stage coach stop, grocery store, post office, pleasure resort, hotel, saloon and restaurant. It was probably constructed between 1855 and 1860 but has been best known by the name it has had since 1891, when it was leased by John Busch. Although modified to contemporary restaurant standards, the building retains its old-time appearance externally.

John Philip Litzinger purchased the property from James S. Forsyth in 1855 for \$1,000.<sup>1</sup> In 1869 he sold the property to John T. Harding for \$6,000; this increase in value has led subsequent owners to believe that Litzinger built the original frame structure known as Woodlawn Garden sometime during his ownership.<sup>2</sup> Although the original use remains uncertain, the building's location on Clayton Road, one of the main thoroughfares in the outlying St. Louis area at the time, suggests that it was used as a traveler's stop or pleasure resort.<sup>3</sup> Local legend has it that it served as the ten-mile stage coach stop (ten miles from downtown St. Louis) before the Civil War,<sup>4</sup> which if true further narrows the construction date to the period between 1855 and 1861.

Charles Robyn purchased the property in 1873 from John T. Harding for \$4,500.<sup>5</sup> Robyn, a native of Emmerich on the Rhine, Germany, came to America when he was 16 years old and settled in St. Louis where he worked as a lithographer. He operated his own lithographing establishment at Third and Chestnut Streets from 1858 to 1867 later moving to Clayton, Mo., where he opened a saloon and grocery store and was appointed postmaster of the town.<sup>6</sup> His establishment known as Claytonville Beer and Wine Saloon and Garden soon became the center of local activity for the small community.<sup>7</sup> As postmaster of Clayton he held a prominent position in the yet unincorporated area and took an active role in community development. During the 1870's and 80's, Robyn participated in numerous efforts to promote commerce in Clayton including petitioning the County Court to make road and street improvements and signing a subscription list of the St. Louis Co. R.R. - the first railroad in Clayton. As a businessman with a growing family, he helped to organize a taxpayers meeting for the purpose of building a school in 1880.<sup>8</sup>

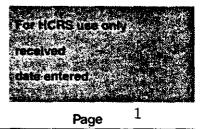
Robyn's combination grocery store, post office, saloon, pleasure resort and hotel thrived under his ownership until he retired. He sold the property to George Buente in 1891 for \$7,500. Buente, a grocer by trade, never operated the establishment but rented or leased it to John Busch who opened a restaurant there in 1891.9

"Busch's Grove" soon became the center of social activity for the newly incorporated community strategically located on one of Clayton's largest thoroughfares, the restaurant Continuation sheet

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

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

BUSCH'S GROVE



drew patrons from St. Louis City to the east and the outlying county to the west.

The St. Louis World's Fair in 1904 brought a flurry of business to Clayton due to the town's proximity to the fairgrounds. Clayton Road carried visitors to the fair and past Busch's Grove which became a welcome rest stop for weary fairgoers. The restaurant also hosted parties for such famous visitors as Theodore Roosevelt<sup>10</sup> and Will Rogers<sup>11</sup>.

Item number

8

The restaurant continued to thrive when John Busch sold the business to his son Henry and Henry's friend Paul Kammerer in 1909 for a sum of \$6,000.<sup>11</sup> The two young men continued in the elder Busch's tradition of providing fine food and service to their patrons. The restaurant earned a reputation for fine dining by the 1910's. It catered to a largely wealthy male clientele and was considered an "annex" of the nearby St. Louis Country Club.<sup>11</sup> As one patron of 30 years remarked, "Some of the biggest early deals in St. Louis County politics and finance were arranged in this restaurant."<sup>12</sup>

The restaurant passed to the children of Paul Kammerer after his death in 1951, following Henry Busch's death in 1941. The restaurant is now owned and operated by Bill Kammerer and Mrs. Lawrence O'Neal.

#### NOTES

- 1. Recorder of Deeds, St. Louis City (formerly County), James S. Forsyth and Elizabeth M. to John P. Litzinger and wife. BK 163 p. 533.
- 2. Recorder of Deeds, St. Louis City (formerly County), John P. Litzinger and wife to John T. Harding, BK 382, p. 111.
- 3. Interview with Mrs. Lawrence O'Neal, co-owner of Busch's Grove, January, 1981.
- 4. Charlene Bry, "Busch's Grove", St. Louis Globe Democrat, February 10-11, 1973.
- 5. Recorder of Deeds, St. Louis City (formerly County), John T. Harding to Charles Robyn, March 17, 1873.
- 6. "Death of Charles Robyn". Obituary in the collection of Mrs. M. L. Herbert, St. Louis, Mo.
- 7. Interview with Mrs. M. L. Herbert, St. Louis, Mo., January 1981.
- 8. Dickson, Terry, Clayton: A History, (Von Hoffman Press, Inc., 1976) pp. 41, 55 and 75.
- 9. Recorder of Deeds, St. Louis County, Charles Robyn to George Buente, Feb. 24, 1891.

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For HCRS use only received date entered

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10. St. Louis Globe Democrat, "Henry Busch of Famed Restaurant Dead", July 8, 1941.

11. Bry, <u>op.cit</u>.

12. St. Louis Globe Democrat, "Busch's Founders Honored," January 31, 1960.

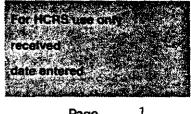
# 9. Major Bibliographical References

- 1. Bry, Charlene. "Busch's Grove," St. Louis Globe Democrat. Feb. 10-11, 1973.
- 2. "Death of Charles Robyn". Obituary in the collection of Mrs. M.L. Herbert, St. Louis, Mc

# **10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property <u>1.62</u> Quadrangle name <u>''Clayton</u> , <u>Mo.''</u>	Quadrangle scale 1:24,000
UMT References	
A 115 721911610 412 810 0110 Zone Easting Northing	B Zone Easting Northing
by Clayton Rd. on the north (248.56 ft.),	Busch's Grove property is a rectangle bounded Summit Tract on the east (300.00 ft.), on the south (250.00 ft.), and property of
List all states and counties for properties overlapp	ing state or county boundaries
state Missouri code 29	county St. Louis code 189
state code	county code
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title].Elizabeth Schmidt, Research Assis	tant and Esley Hamilton
organization St. Louis Co. Dept. of Parks &	Rec. date March 25, 1981
street & number 1723 Mason Road	telephone (314) 822-8475
city or town St. Louis	state Missouri 63131
12. State Historic Preser	vation Officer Certification
The evaluated significance of this property within the state	
665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the N according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the H State Historic Preservation Officer signature	ational Register and certify that it has been evaluated
Director, Départment of Natural Res and State Historic Preservation Off	
For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the h	ational Register date
Keeper of the National Register	date
Chief of Registration	

### National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form BUSCH'S GROVE



Continuation sheet	Item number	9	Page	1

3. St. Louis Globe Democrat, "'Busch's' Founders Honored," Jan. 31, 1960.

4. , "Henry Busch of Famed Restaurant Dead", July 8, 1941.

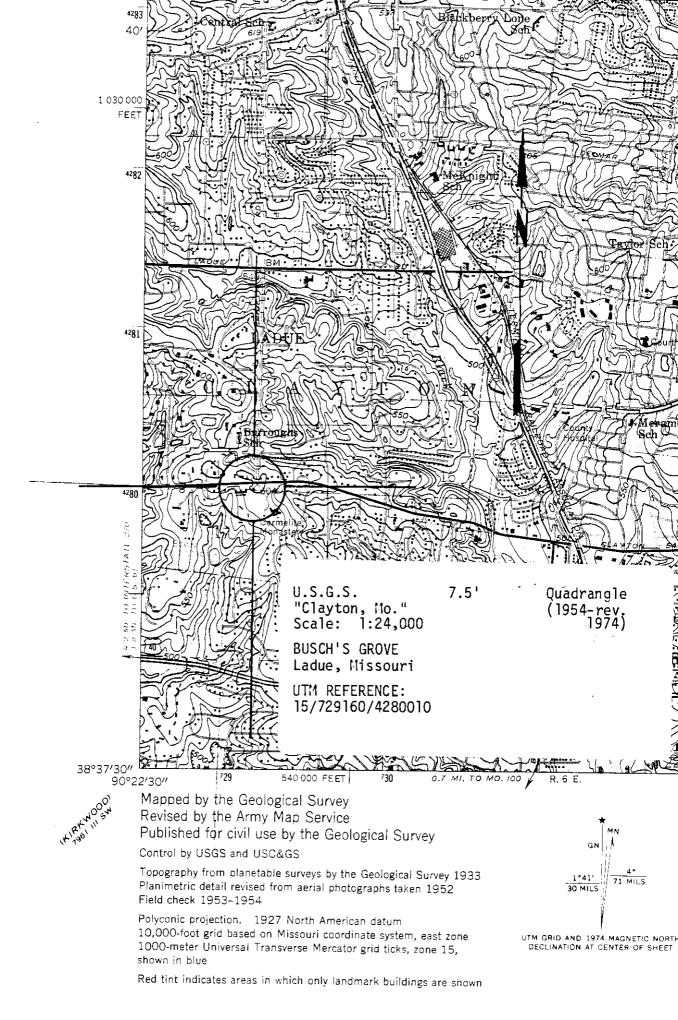
5. Terry, Dickson. Clayton: A History. St. Louis (?), Von Hoffman Press, 1976.

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2.	James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations	-Survey	
	and State Contact Person	May 1982	
	Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Program P.O. Box 176	314-751-4	096
	Jefferson City	Missouri	65102

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Kansas City, Missouri DATE OF RECORD June 25, 1965			18 East 11th		

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#### Photo Log:

Name of Property:	Busch's Grove	
City or Vicinity:	Ladue	
County: <u>St. Louis</u>	County State: MO	
Photographer:	Esley Hamilton	
Date Photographed:	Apr. 1981	

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

- 1 of 5. View from N façade from NE, intersection of Price Rd.
- 2 of 5. View of N façade, from NW.
- 3 of 5. View of S façade from SW, showing W and SW wings.
  4 of 5. View from SW showing rustic pavilions, with main building in rear.
  5 of 5. View of rustic pavilions in S yard of main building.









