

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Compton, Dr. James, Residence

AND/OR COMMON

Sandy's Oak Ridge Manor Tea House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

5410 N.E. Oak Ridge Road

-- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

-- VICINITY OF

#6 Hon. E. Thomas Coleman

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Missouri

CODE

29

COUNTY

Clay

CODE

147

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Louise Sandstrom

STREET & NUMBER

5410 N.E. Oak Ridge Road

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

-- VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri 64119

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Office of the Assessor
City Hall, 2nd Floor

STREET & NUMBER

414 East 12th Street

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

STATE

Missouri 64106

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYSTITLE 1. Preliminary Inventory of Architecture and Historic Sites
of Kansas City, Missouri

DATE

1974

-- FEDERAL -- STATE -- COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

STATE

Missouri

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west. It appears that this wing may have been constructed in two stages. The windows of the east facade have an irregular placement.

West facade

Behind the western addition to the south (main) facade is another addition (Site Plan #1d). This consists of a dining room and kitchen, added around 1952 when the residence was converted into a restaurant. This addition has a flat roof. An entrance to the dining room from the exterior is by a flight of wooden steps. The west facade of the older portion of the house is articulated by four irregularly placed and shaped windows.

North facade

On the east is an older portion of the house, with a centrally placed window. On the west is the newer dining room addition. Projecting back near the center of this facade, is a sheet metal covered kitchen addition, set on concrete blocks.

Roofs

The main portions of the house have asphalt shingled gable roofs. The porch has a hip roof and the dining room addition at the northwest corner has a flat roof.

Chimneys

Two brick chimneys are visible from the south facade, one in the center of the original portion of the residence and one in the eastern addition to the house. The rear wing of the east facade has a centrally placed brick chimney.

Alterations

Major alterations to the residence have been minimal. A carport has been added to the southeast corner of the residence and a dining room and kitchen addition have been added to the northwest corner of the residence.

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Outbuildings

Several outbuildings are located around the house. They include:

- 1) a frame blacksmith shop, painted white (Site Plan #2)
- 2) an imitation log-construction chapel,⁴ painted red, built for the current owner around 1958. (Site Plan #3)
To the northwest of the chapel is a small pond.
- 3) a small frame cottage that was moved to its current location from Winwood Lake by the current owner,⁵ (Site Plan #4)
- 4) a one and one-half story frame guest house, supported on stone piles, that was constructed by the Compton family⁶ (Site Plan #5)
- 5) a smoke house that stood on the grounds recently collapsed.

Present Status

The residence is currently used as a restaurant. A portion of the buildings is used by the owner as a residence.

Condition

The residence is in good condition.

Site

The residence sits in a rather isolated setting, in hilly terrain. It sits well back from the road and the grounds are well maintained. A gravel circle drive is located in front of the residence. In the center of this drive is a large,⁷ metal statue of Justice that once topped the Clay County Courthouse. To the west of the circle drive is a gravel surfaced parking lot.

FOOTNOTES

¹Jane Winn Killam, "The Compton Family in Clay County," Clay County Museum Association, Dec. 1968.

²Interview with Mrs. Louise Sandstrom, 12 April 1978.

³Ibid.

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⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Dorothy J. Caldwell, editor, Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue
(Columbia, Missouri: State Historical Society of Missouri, 1963); p. 30.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 c. 1829

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The James H. Compton Residence, 5410 Northeast Oak Ridge Road, in Kansas City, Missouri's North District, is one of the oldest surviving residential structures in the city and has a lengthy association with a prominent Clay County family. The residence, built around a log cabin of 1829 remained in the Compton family for 110 years, from 1844 until 1954. The residence was a center of social life in Clay County and today serves as a visible reminder of pioneer life.

COMPTON FAMILY HISTORY

Dr. James Howard Compton was born in Prince William County, Virginia, in 1815. He studied to become a dentist, but the call of the frontier triumphed over his dental career. In 1834 he moved to Platte County, Missouri, and for a number of years was engaged in the mercantile business at Platte City. In 1840 he married Mary Anne Wirt. The daughter of George Wirt, she was born in Shelby County, Kentucky, in 1820. The Wirt family had moved to Clay County in 1833. After their marriage, the Comptons resided on the Wirt farm until they moved to this property in 1844. Around 1846 or 1847 Compton hauled government supplies for the United States Army during the Mexican War, across the Santa Fe Trail to Santa Fe, New Mexico. James and Mary Ann Compton had nine children, one of whom died in infancy. The children were all educated at a near-by private school, Sugar Tree Grove Academy.¹

Compton purchased the farm which he named "Oak Ridge", in 1844² from Jonathan Adkins, recipient of the original land grant in 1833. The residence originally consisted of two log cabins, built in 1829, placed close together with a narrow, covered "dog walk" connecting them. A six foot space separated the cabins and a double fireplace was used between them. The³ log construction is still visible on the interior of one of the rooms.

The large family was noted for their hospitality and southern geniality. Christmas, especially, was a big event on the farm. As many as forty-five guests were known to have gathered for the festivities. At times every bed was occupied and feather ticks, kept expressly for this purpose, were spread on the downstairs floors to accommodate guests. The house⁴ would be decorated with wild berries and greenery gathered on the farm.

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The field hands were customarily given a Christmas holiday as long as the yule backlog continued to burn. The hands were careful to choose a big log of slow burning wood and then to soak it in the creek for a week or two, insuring a lengthy vacation. Wild turkey for the Christmas meal could be shot on the property.⁵

Guerrilla skirmishes of the Civil War did not directly affect the Compton residence, but following the Union victory most of the slaves left. The remaining house servants continued⁶ to live on the farm many years as respected members of the household.

Daily life on the farm was organized so that each member of the family had a special responsibility. For example, Mary Ann Compton's special task was knitting stockings and mittens for the family and slaves.⁷

Cotton and wheat were the principal crops raised on the farm. A popular annual event was the sugar camp. After boring holes in the maple trees, spigots were inserted to collect the sap. Visitors⁸ gathered for the camp, which included generous meals and entertainment.

The family owned the first cooking stove in the area. Neighbors traveled for miles to see it operated. A Thanksgiving turkey was burned to a crisp by the Compton women who were accustomed to cooking over an open fireplace.⁹

The family belonged to the Antioch Christian Church. The only time the Antioch Church annual strawberry festival, which dates from 1885, was not held at the church was in 1929. That year road construction blocked access to the church and the festival was held instead at the Compton residence.¹⁰ Entertaining large groups was a continuing Compton tradition. In 1944 Emma Compton, then 84 years old, received five hundred guests at an open house to celebrate one hundred years of the family's residence at the home. This was accomplished without the conveniences of electricity or running water.¹¹

Following the death of James Compton in 1879, the farm was operated by his only son, George Thomas Compton. Mary Ann Compton had died in 1895. The daughters all married and moved away, with the exception of Emma, who continued to live on the farm until 1954.¹² The farm gradually

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changed from a working farm to use as a resort. This was a natural extension of the hospitality of the family. In the 1890's J. W. Jenkins, founder of the Jenkins Music Company in Kansas City, rented the farm every year for a week, to give his family a taste of country life.¹³ Howard Tyng Mervine, also of Kansas City and general manager of the Railway Express Agency, visited the farm annually for 45 years.¹⁴

In 1954 Emma Compton sold the residence to Louise Sandstrom. At that time it still did not have electricity or running water. It was lighted with kerosene lamps and heated with stoves and four fireplaces. Louise Sandstrom modernized the residence, but without changing its authenticity and pioneer flavor, and opened it as a restaurant, Sandy's Oak Ridge Manor. She also made some additions to the original residence. Emma Compton had sold the residence with all furnishings intact. Her bedroom remains just as she left it. Many of the family's furnishings from pioneer days are displayed around the restaurant, including Dr. Compton's dentistry instruments.¹⁵

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history, as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan". The Compton residence is, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture", "Exploration and Settlement", and "Society".

FOOTNOTES

¹W. H. Woodson, History of Clay County (Topeka: Historical Publishing Co., 1920), pp. 447-448 and Jane Winn Killam, "The Compton Family in Clay County", Clay County Museum Association, December, 1968.

²Katherine G. Bushman, Index of the First Plat Book of Clay County, Missouri, 1819-1875 (Staunton, Virginia: n.p., 1967) pp. 67-68.

³Killam, "The Compton Family in Clay County".

⁴Dorothy J. Caldwell, "Christmas in Early Missouri", Missouri Historical Review 65 (Jan. 1971): 135.

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⁵"A Yule Log Burns Out", Kansas City Times, 23 December 1938, pp. 1-2.

⁶Ibid.

⁷Killam, "The Compton Family in Clay County".

⁸Vera Eldridge, Clipping and Photograph Collection, Liberty, Missouri.

⁹"Restaurants - Oak Ridge Manor". Vertical File, Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

¹⁰G. Fred Wickman, "Country Social Epitomized in Strawberry Festival", Kansas City Star, 18 May 1978, p. 3, Sec. North.

¹¹"A Home Lives 100 Years", Kansas City Times, 4 October 1944, p.1.

¹²"A Yule Log Burns Out".

¹³Interview with Mrs. Louise Sandstrom, 12 April 1978.

¹⁴"Compton, Emma - Pioneer - Oakridge Farm Home", Clipping File, Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

¹⁵Interview with Mrs. Louise Sandstrom, 12 April 1978.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. "A Home Lives 100 Years". Kansas City Times, 4 October 1944, p. 1.
2. "A Yule Log Burns Out". Kansas City Times, 23 December 1938, pp. 1-2.

Cont'd

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 7 1/2 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME North Kansas City, Mo-Kan

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A	15	3 69	4, 40	4, 31	39	4, 40	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C							D			
E							F			
G							H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION :

COMPTONS SUB PRT TRACT 3 BEG NW CORN SD TR TH S 163.4 FT TH S68 DEG 46 MIN E 595.49 FT TO WLY R/W LI I35 TH NELY ALG SD R/W LI TO A PT 20 FT

cont'd

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

1. Sherry Piland, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Landmarks Commission

DATE

December 4, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

26th Floor East, City Hall

TELEPHONE

(816) 274-2555

CITY OR TOWN

Kansas City

STATE

Missouri 64106

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

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

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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3. Bushman, Katherine G. Index of the First Plat Book of Clay County, Missouri, 1819-1875, Staunton, Virginia: n.p., 1967.
4. Caldwell, Dorothy J., editor. Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue. Columbia, Missouri: State Historical Society of Missouri, 1963.
5. "Compton, Emma - Pioneer - Oakridge Farm Home". Clipping File, Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.
6. Eldridge, Vera. Clipping and Photograph Collection, Liberty, Missouri.
7. Interview with Mrs. Louise Sandstrom, 12 April, 1978.
8. Killam, Jane Winn. "The Compton Family in Clay County". Clay County Museum Association, December 1978.
9. "Restaurants - Oak Ridge Manor". Vertical File, Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.
10. Wickman, G. Fred. "Country Social Epitomized in Strawberry Festival". Kansas City Star, 18 May, 1978, p. 3., Sec. North.
11. Woodson, W.H. History of Clay County. Topeka: Historical Publishing Co., 1920.

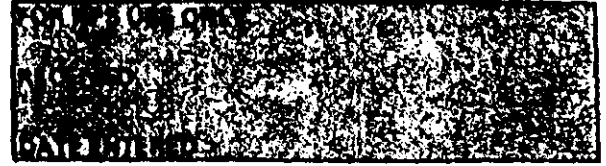
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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NLY OF EAST DESC COURSE SD PRT BEING TRUE PT OF BEG TH N 68 DEG 46
MIN W 430 FT M/L TO INTER OF A LI THAT IS 150 FT E OF W LI SD TR
TH N 240 FT M/L TO NLY LI SD TR TH NELY ALG SD NLY LI TO NE COR SD
TR 3 TH SE ALG NELY LI TO WLY R/W LI I35 TH SLY ALG SD R/W LI TO TPOB

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COMPTON, DR. JAMES, RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

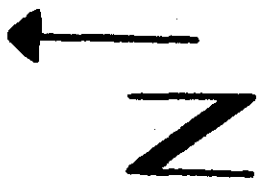
ITEM NUMBER 11

PAGE 1

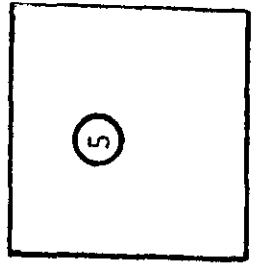
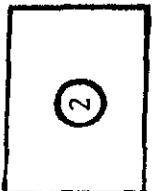
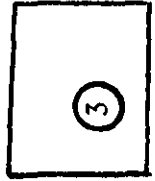
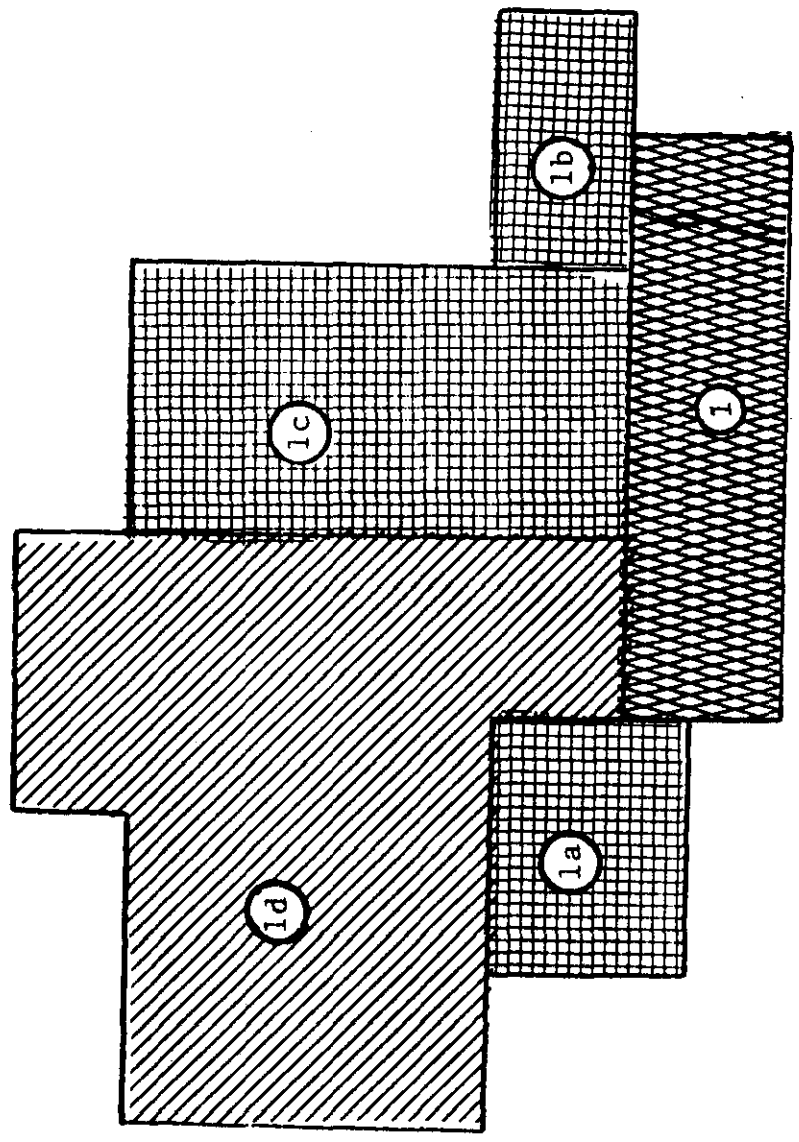
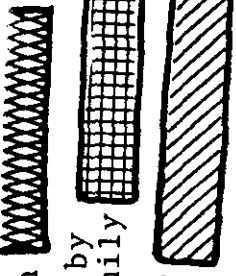
2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey
and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Office of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City

January 23, 1979
314/751-4096

Missouri 65102



Original portion
Later additions by
the Comptom family
Recent additions



, COMPTON RESIDENCE - SITE PLAN

(not to scale)

Compton, Dr. James, Residence
Kansas City, Missouri #1
photographer: Sherry Piland
Sept. 1978

Kansas City Landmarks Commission
City Hall - 26th Floor
414 East 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

South facade; view looking north.
View shows circle drive and statue
of Justice.



Compton, Dr. James, Residence
Kansas City, Missouri #2
photographer: Sherry Piland
Sept. 1978

Kansas City Landmarks Commission
City Hall - 26th Floor
414 East 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

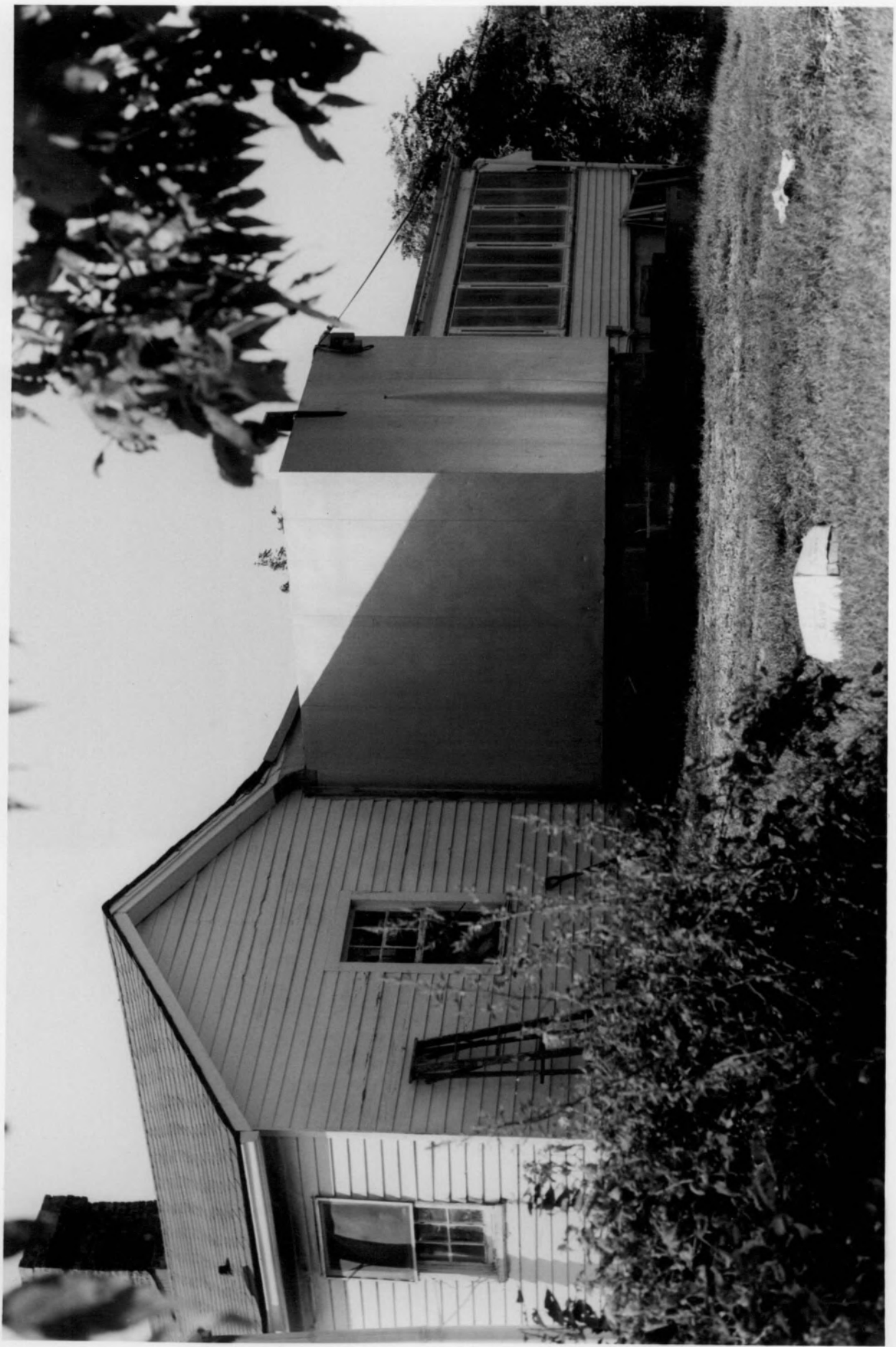
East and north facades; view looking
southwest. View shows north facade
on right and east facade on left.



Compton, Dr. James, Residence
Kansas City, Missouri #3
photographer: Sherry Piland
Sept. 1978

Kansas City Landmarks Commission
City Hall - 26th Floor, East
414 East 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

North facade; view looking southwest.



Compton, Dr. James, Residence
Kansas City, Missouri #4
photographer: Sherry Piland
Sept. 1978

Kansas City Landmarks Commission
City Hall - 26th Floor
414 East 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Chapel; view looking northwest.
View shows south and east facades.



Compton, Dr. James, Residence
Kansas City, Missouri #5
photographer: Sherry Piland
April, 1978

Kansas City Landmarks Commission
City Hall - 26th Floor
414 East 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

South (main) facade. View looking
northeast.



Compton, Dr. James, Residence
Kansas City, Missouri #6
photographer: Sherry Piland
April, 1978

Kansas City Landmarks Commission
City Hall - 26th Floor
414 East 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

South (main) facade. View looking
north.



Compton, Dr. James, Residence
Kansas City, Missouri #7
photographer: Sherry Piland
April, 1978

Kansas City Landmarks Commission
City Hall - 26th Floor
414 East 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

West facade; view looking northeast.



Compton, Dr. James, Residence
Kansas City, Missouri #8
photographer: Sherry Piland
April, 1978

Kansas City Landmarks Commission
City Hall - 26th Floor
414 East 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Guest house; view looking southeast.
View shows north and west facades.

