

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Dent, Lester and Norma, House
other names/site number House of Gadgets

2. Location

street & number 225 North Church Street N/A not for publication
city, town La Plata N/A vicinity
state Missouri code MO county Macon code 121 zip code 63549

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	0 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	0	0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0 objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official G. Tracy Mehan III, Director

Date 3/30/96

Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

asbestos

roof asphalt

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY: The Lester and Norma Dent House, a single family, one and one-half story, detached dwelling, is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of north Church and Colburn Streets, in La Plata, Macon County, Missouri. In style and massing, the house resembles the Cape Cod cottage type constructed in large numbers after World War II for mass subdivisions.¹ The facade, or east elevation, faces North Church Street and is covered with skintled bricks; the remaining elevations are covered with asbestos siding. The exterior of the house is painted white, as Lester Dent specified on his original plans. The house rests on a cast concrete foundation over a full basement, and its gable roof is clad with asphalt shingles. An interior chimney serves two fireplaces. Dent designed the interior of the house to represent what he defined as the three phases of his life: Western, modern metropolitan, and nautical. There have been no significant alterations to the exterior or interior. It is the one property most closely associated with the productive life of Lester Dent, one of the most prolific writers of popular literature. The house reflects its period of significance--1941 to 1949--and retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, feeling, and association.

ELABORATION: On the south end of the facade is a double car garage with a roll-up door. The garage is clad with asbestos siding. The remainder of the facade is covered by skintled brick veneer with weeping mortar, which also covers the front gable projection and wraps around the north elevation. Wooden dentils extend beneath the eaves on the brick portion of the house, with the exception of the gable end of the front projection. The large window near the garage is a casement window with six center lights flanked by eight side lights. Beneath the window cantilevered beams protrude and originally supported a flower box. A second, longer, casement window north of the first contains eight center lights flanked by four side lights. The windows open into the kitchen and dining room, respectively. The kitchen and its window were placed at the front of the house so Mrs. Dent could view the comings and goings on North Church Street. The front door to the north of the window is

¹Mary Mix Foley, The American House (New York: Harper and Row, 1980), p. 220.

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recessed. The entry is delineated by a low brick wall constructed with the same brick and mortar treatment utilized on the facade. Centered under the front gable projection is another casement window which opens into the master bedroom.

The north elevation faces Colburn Street and is covered with asbestos siding. The lower story has four symmetrically arranged bays. The center two windows are eight-over-eight double hung and the outer two are ten-over-ten double hung. The upper story window is centered under the gable and is eight-over-eight double hung. The basement is barely visible, with a four light awning window at ground level.

The west elevation of the house has an eight-over-eight double hung window in the corner to light the secretary's work space. A one room wing extends from the north end of this elevation. This wing housed Lester Dent's study. It has identical eight-over-eight, double hung windows on each of its three elevations. South of the study, a picture window flanked by eight lights opens into the living room. A shed dormer extends out of the roof on the west side and includes three bays symmetrically arranged. The center bay is filled by an eight-over-eight, double hung window, and the two on either side are ten-over-ten. In the center of the west elevation, a door opens from the basement recreation room onto a sunken patio. The patio area is surrounded by coral and stones gathered from the various parts of the world traveled by the Dents. There is also a twelve light stationary bay on this exposed side of the basement. The west elevation of the garage is featureless.

The south elevation has a pent roof which projects from the gable end and shelters the recessed entrance. An eight-over-eight, double hung window is centered in the upper floor. In the south elevation of the shed dormer, a octagonal "porthole" window is intact but covered by siding to prevent leaking. On the first floor near the west corner of the ground floor, a casement window of eight center lights is flanked by four side lights. The garage contains a single, centered, eight-over-eight, double hung window.

Dent intended the first floor of his house to represent the modern, metropolitan phase of his life. On the first floor, the kitchen and dining room are to the south of the front entry hall. The dining room has a booth similar to a restaurant booth and the seats were modeled after those in a Packard the Dents once owned. To the right of the entry hall is the master bedroom with its nine feet wide "Hollywood bed." A second hallway parallels the entry hall and permitted Dent to avoid the living room and any possible distractions when he wanted to write. From every entrance to the house Dent could proceed to his study without entering the living room. A bathroom extends to the north off the second hallway, as well as the closet room built

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to store Dent's manuscripts and correspondence. A well-lighted alcove was extended from the closet room for Dent's secretary's work place. At the end of the second hallway is Dent's study. It is still intact and contains a large desk Dent purchased in New York in the early 1930s and which he moved into the house before the walls were completed. The desk is now a permanent fixture and cannot be removed without completely dismantling it or removing a wall. The walls are covered with paintings of the pulps which featured his stories on their covers and with built in book cases filled with his works. The rear of the first floor contains a modern living room with a picture window, fluorescent lighting, and a fireplace.

The upper floor has a nautical motif to memorialize the years spent on his schooner, the Albatross. The stairway walls are covered with his original nautical maps. Ropes serve as handrails going up the stairs. The stairway railings and cutouts for spindles featuring silhouettes of the schooner were designed by Dent. The window coverings of fishnet are held in place with oar curtain rod. The upper floor has one finished bedroom, one unfinished bedroom, and an unfinished bathroom. Several small doors provide access to storage space in the attic.

The basement represents the Western phase of Dent's life. The stairs end at the "corral," or bar area, with the recreation room to the left. The interior walls are of horizontal log panelling, knotty pine panelling, and adobe mud. Some walls of the recreation area have designs of western ranch brands where Dent worked in his early years. A shelf behind the corral bar is in the shape of the "4J" brand of his father's Wyoming ranch. The massive fireplace built by Dent in the large recreation room contains stones and the hearth contains coins collected from the various parts of the world travelled by the Dents. For example, a white stone was retrieved from the nose of the George Washington at the Mount Rushmore Memorial, and fool's gold was gathered from prospecting trips in Death Valley. The basement also contains a darkroom for Dent's photographic developing, a bath, a laundry room, furnace room, and a motion picture projection booth from which he also operated a ham radio.

When the house was built in 1941, Lester Dent called it "The House of Gadgets." In an unpublished 1945 interview with Dent, radio commentator Cal Tinney fancifully described the house:

It is the kind of place that good DOC SAVAGE readers go to when they die. The garage door opens automatically when the Dents' Packard comes up the driveway. A communication system enables Mrs. Dent, should she be in the attic, to talk to Les in the basement, or vice versa, or wherever they happen to be. There is a dark-room for developing film. There is a

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burglar alarm system that challenges anything bigger than a heel fly. There are concealed doors, fluorescent lighting, delayed-action switches, closets that light up when you open the door, and, it is rumored, an electric eye that starts a fire under the coffee pot if you just wave good morning at it. A whole wing of the house is devoted to Dent's five typewriters. There, in the House of Gadgets, he throws his parachute after a plane trip, and there, quite over a thousand miles from New York City and the editors, he observes his eccentricities.²

This is the house that Lester Dent built, a place to keep his engagements with his typewriter and to allow his imagination to thrive.

²Cal Tinney, "The Cowboy with Five Typewriters," (Unpublished article [June 1945] in the possession of Mildred V. Arnold, Kansas City, Missouri), p. 13.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☒ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☒ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

LITERATURE

Period of Significance

1941-1949

Significant Dates

1941-1942

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

Dent, Lester

Architect/Builder

Dent, Lester/Dent, Lester

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SUMMARY: The Lester and Norma Dent House, 225 North Church Street, La Plata, Macon County, is significant under Criterion B in the area of LITERATURE. Built in 1941-1942, the house was designed by Lester Dent, who served as his own contractor and also helped in the construction. Lester Dent was a prolific writer of popular pulp fiction. From 1933 to 1949, Dent wrote or revised 181 novels which featured Doc Savage, eulogized by historian Russel Nye as "the greatest of the [pulp magazine] crime fighters . . ."¹ The period of significance of the Dent House dates from its construction in 1941 to the cancellation of the Doc Savage pulp in 1949. The Dent House is exceptionally significant at a national level because of Dent's importance in the history of popular literature. Dent's Doc Savage served as the literary ancestor of the most pervasive serial heroes of popular culture, including Superman, Batman, and James Bond. The Dent House in La Plata is the only house ever owned by Lester Dent and is the one property most closely associated with Dent's productive life, serving as both his home and the office where he wrote. It is also the one property with the longest association with his literary career, and its design reflects the author's life, interests, and work.

¹Russel Nye, The Unembarrassed Muse: The Popular Arts in America, Two Centuries of American Life: A Bicentennial Series, edited by Harold M. Hyman and Leonard W. Levy (New York: Dial Press, 1970), p. 214.

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ELABORATION: Lester Dent was born on October 12, 1904, in Adair County, Missouri, near La Plata, at the home of his grandfather Norfolk.² Lester's parents, Bernard and Alice Norfolk Dent, had lived in Wyoming for several years, but Alice returned to her father's home as the time of her confinement approached. The house where Lester Dent was born was razed at an unknown date.

When Lester Dent was two years old, the Dent family moved to Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, where Bernard had purchased a farm. Shortly after their arrival, their house was destroyed by a tornado, and the family sold their land and returned to the Norfolk farm near La Plata, Missouri. In 1908, the Dents began a trek intended to return them to Wyoming, but they were forced to stop temporarily in Alliance, Nebraska, in order to earn enough money to reach their destination. The following year the family reached their ranch, the 4J, at Pumpkin Buttes, near Gillette, Wyoming. Lester Dent was taught by his mother, a graduate of Kirksville Normal School, until he reached nine years of age. At that time, the Dents rented a small, three room house in Gillette where Lester and his mother lived during the school year, while they returned to their ranch at the end of each school term. According to Dent, he developed an active imagination on their isolated ranch: "'I had no playmates; I lived a completely distorted youth. . . . [T]hat period of intense imaginative creation which kids generally get over at the age of five or six I carried till I was twelve or thirteen.'"³ Lester also read voraciously and indiscriminately, including such fare as "'sheep-dip catalogues, almanacs and Lydia Pinkham

²The following biographical information is based on a chronology compiled in December 1989 by Norma Gerling Dent, Lester Dent's widow, and Mildred V. Arnold. See Appendix. Additional sources of biographical information include: Philip Jose Farmer, Doc Savage: His Apocalyptic Life (New York: Doubleday, 1973; reprint ed., New York: Bantam Books, 1975), pp. 18-27; Robert Weinberg, "The Man Behind Doc Savage," in Weinberg, ed., The Man Behind Doc Savage (Oak Lawn, Ill.: Robert Weinberg, 1974), pp. 5-8; Hal May, ed., Contemporary Authors, volume 112 (Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1985), p. 129; and John R. Payne, "The Lester Dent Archives: An Appraisal," Joint Collection, University of Missouri, Western Historical Manuscript Collection--Columbia and State Historical Society of Missouri Manuscripts.

³Cal Tinney, "The Cowboy with Five Typewriters," (Unpublished article [June 1945] in the possession of Mildred V. Arnold, Kansas City, Missouri), p. 7.

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pamphlets [sic],⁴ and eventually pulp magazines, which he regarded as
"wonderful literature."⁴

In 1917, the Dents returned to the Norfolk farm near La Plata and built their own house. After this house was destroyed by fire, a second house was constructed. Although this house, where Lester Dent lived until he graduated from high school, is extant, it has been severely altered. In the fall of 1923, following his graduation from La Plata High School, Lester enrolled in the Chillicothe, Missouri, Business College. He intended to study banking, but, when he learned a bank clerk earned less than a telegrapher, Dent selected telegraphy as his major. While he attended college, Dent lived at the house of his telegraphy professor, Roberts.

In 1924, following his graduation from the business college, Dent worked briefly in Macon, Missouri, before he obtained a job with Hutchinson's Western Union Office in Carrollton, Missouri. The following year he moved to Bartlesville, Oklahoma, where he worked as a telegrapher for the Empire Oil Company. Later in the same year he moved to Ponca City, Oklahoma, where, on August 9, he married Norma Gerling, who had been his telegraphy student in Carrollton. They began their married life in a room with kitchen privileges rented in the home of an older couple.

In 1926, Dent studied the International Code and obtained a job with the Associated Press (AP) as a telegrapher. In 1926 and 1927, he worked for the AP in Chickasha and Tulsa, Oklahoma; Kansas City, Missouri; and again in Tulsa. While working in the Tulsa AP office, Dent learned another telegrapher had sold a story to a pulp magazine for \$450. He immediately began writing, as well. His first thirteen stories were rejected by various publishers, but his fourteenth, "Pirate Cay," was accepted for Street and Smith's Top-Notch and published in the July 1929 issue.

The pulp magazine was the direct descendent of the "story papers," nickel thrillers, and dime novels which proliferated from the 1840s to the 1890s. In 1896, Frank Andrew Munsey published the first pulp when he converted his struggling general illustrated monthly magazine, Argosy, into an all-fiction, adult, adventure story magazine. To keep costs low, Argosy was printed on cheap, wood-fiber based pulp paper, or newsprint, rather than the more

⁴Ibid.

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expensive, slick, rag based paper used by publications such as Collier's and Saturday Evening Post. Writers and publishers referred to Argosy and its subsequent flood of imitators as "pulp," as opposed to the more prestigious and lucrative "slicks." In 1906, Munsey also published the first pulp to specialize in one type of fiction, Railroad Man's Magazine.⁵

The pulp magazine fulfilled the primary requirements for a popular art form: adaptability to mass production and a mass audience. Printed in large quantities and widely distributed, the low priced pulps remained profitable even with newsstand returns of up to 50 percent. To assure a mass audience, the pulps strove to confirm "majority experience" and tended to standardize their contents at a median level of expectation.⁶ The pulp magazine enjoyed their greatest popularity in the first half of the twentieth century and served as a transition between the popular fiction of the nineteenth century and the magazine, comic book, and paperback novels of the twentieth century.⁷

The public demand for the disposable fiction of the pulps was apparently insatiable, and virtually every genre of popular fiction was eventually represented by one or more pulp titles. The varied contents of the pulps were clearly conveyed by their titles, which included Ghost Stories, Amazing Stories, Western Story Magazine, Secret Service Stories, Tropical Adventures, War Stories, Love Story Magazine, and Gangster Stories. One of the most successful of the early specialized pulps was Detective Story Magazine, first published by the venerable Street and Smith in 1915. An updated version of the weekly Nick Carter nickel thriller of the 1890s, Detective Story Magazine continued to feature Nick Carter adventures in anticipation of the later character, or hero, pulps. The number of publishers also increased to supply the demand for new titles, and Literary Digest reported that, "Outside of show business, probably no other field of endeavor is so popular with the

⁵Bill Blackbeard, "Pulps and Dime Novels," in M. Thomas Inge, ed., Handbook of American Popular Literature (New York: Greenwood Press, 1988), p. 226.

⁶Nye, pp. 3-7.

⁷Nye, p. 210.

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get-rich-quick boys."⁸ In 1933, sixty pulp titles were published with a total circulation of nearly five million copies. By 1937, the field had expanded to over 200 titles. Monthly sales averaged eight million copies, and pulp publishing had become a \$25,000,000 industry.⁹

Demand for the words to fill the pulp pages was equally insatiable, and writers who could produce an average of 5,000 words per day, such as Lester Dent, were the mainstay of the industry. Dent sold several more stories to Street and Smith, and, in December 1930, submitted a story to Dell Publications' Sky Riders. In reply, he received a telegram offering him a contract with a five hundred dollar a month drawing account if he would come to New York and write exclusively for Dell. For almost a year, Dent wrote most of the contents of two magazines, Sky Riders and Scotland Yard, before they were cancelled in cutbacks forced by the Depression. Following their cancellations, Dent continued to write for a variety of magazines and expanded his range from aviation and sea adventures to include western and detective stories. Dent's output was so prodigious that, in addition to his own name, he wrote under several pseudonyms, including Tim Ryan, Cliff Howe, C.K.M. Scanlon, Robert Wallace, and H.O. Cash.¹⁰

The serial hero or character was a staple of nineteenth century popular literature. The fictionalized exploits of real-life figures such as Buffalo Bill, Frank and Jesse James, and Wild Bill Hickok, as well as the adventures of such fictional characters as Nick Carter and Frank Merriwell, filled hundreds of dime novels. In 1931, Street and Smith revived the serial hero with the introduction of the Shadow. The Shadow was originally the narrator of an early

⁸"Big Business in Pulp Thrillers," Literary Digest, January 23, 1937, p. 30.

⁹"Pulp to Pulp," Business Week, January 18, 1933, pp. 16-17; and "Big Business in Pulp Thrillers," pp. 30-31.

¹⁰Will Murray, "Doc Savage: The Genesis of a Popular Fiction Hero," (Honors thesis, University of Massachusetts at Boston, n.d.; copy in Lester B. Dent Collection, Joint Collection, University of Missouri, Western Historical Manuscript Collection--Columbia and State Historical Society of Missouri Manuscripts), pp. 21-22.

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radio program, "The Detective Story Hour," which featured the contents of the current issue of Street and Smith's Detective Story Magazine. In order to secure the copyright on the character, a one-shot pulp, The Shadow, a Detective Magazine, was published in March 1931. An immediate success, within two years The Shadow Magazine was issued twice a month. Most publishers rushed to introduce their own character pulps, many of which featured such obvious imitations of The Shadow as Phantom Detective and The Spider.

The year after the Shadow appeared, Henry Ralston, Street and Smith circulation manager, and editor John L. Nanovic created a new adventure hero for a companion pulp to their bestselling The Shadow Magazine. Ralston and Nanovic outlined their new creation--Dr. Clark Savage Jr., or Doc Savage--in a twenty-eight page short story, "Doc Savage, Supreme Adventurer." In February 1932, before the outline was completed, Street and Smith editor-in-chief Frank Blackwell contacted Lester Dent "with the idea that [he] might be interested in taking up with me the doing of one or more stories similar to the lead stories of the Shadow . . ."¹¹ Dent agreed and, on December 10, 1932, began revising the outline provided by Ralston and Nanovic. On December 23, Street and Smith accepted the first Doc Savage novel. In March 1933, "The Man of Bronze" was published in the first issue of Doc Savage Magazine. The Doc Savage pulp, under several different titles, was published for 181 issues from March 1933 until Summer 1949. It was an immediate success, with sales of 250,000 per issue at its peak in the mid 1930s.¹²

While the stories of the Shadow relied on elements from the mystery and detective pulps which had been popular since the first decade of the twentieth century, Dent's Doc Savage stories utilized exotic locations, fast paced adventure, and innovative gadgets. In his explanation of the sources for his character, Dent described Doc Savage as combination of Sherlock Holmes, Tarzan, scientific detective Craig Kennedy, and Abraham Lincoln--or Jesus Christ, in some versions. Dent's conception of Doc Savage was the embodiment of the popular traditional hero. Whether real or imaginary, the popular traditional hero "represent[ed] for the members of a culture the ideals of that

¹¹F.E. Blackwell (Editor-in-Chief, Street and Smith Publications) to Lester Dent, February 25, 1932, F3, in Lester B. Dent Collection.

¹²Nye, p. 210.

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culture."¹³ According to the editors of The Popular Culture Reader, the hero must be exceptionally gifted, must possess qualities the culture highly values, and must be the defender of the culture.¹⁴ Dent's "Code of Doc Savage" reflected these ideals:

Let me strive every moment of my life, to make myself better and better, to the best of my ability, that all may profit by it.

Let me think of the right, and lend all my assistance to those who need it, with no regard for anything but justice.

Let me take what comes with a smile, without loss of courage.

Let me be considerate of my country, of my fellow citizens, and my associates in everything I say or do.

Let me do right to all, and wrong no man.¹⁵

The Doc Savage stories were published under a house name, as were most pulp stories which featured a serial character. "Kenneth Roberts" was listed as the author of the first Doc Savage story, but, when it was learned that a real Kenneth Roberts was the author of several historical novels, such as Northwest Passage, the name was changed to "Kenneth Robeson." A house name allowed several authors to write for the same character simultaneously and produce the tremendous amount of copy required to fill a monthly or twice monthly pulp. It also allowed the easy replacement of an author if necessary. Dent's contract with Street and Smith originally specified that he would receive \$500 for each Doc Savage novel he provided. Later he was paid \$700 and, eventually, \$750 for each story. Of the 181 Doc Savage stories published by 1949, Dent wrote 124. He revised or completely rewrote fifty-seven more which were written by ghost

¹³"Popular Heroes: Introduction," in Jack Nachbar, Deborah Weiser, and John L. Wright, eds., The Popular Culture Reader (Bowling Green, Ohio: Bowling Green University Popular Press, 1978), p. 176.

¹⁴Ibid., pp. 176-177.

¹⁵To honor its readers who aspired to the goals reflected in the "Code of Doc Savage," Street and Smith sponsored "THE DOC SAVAGE AWARD . . . for SERVICE, LOYALTY and INTEGRITY," presented to "those who have . . . performed tasks which may not have been heroic in size, but nevertheless, showed that they did their very best in making the most of their opportunities." "Application for the Doc Savage Award," copy in the possession of Mildred Arnold, Kansas City, Missouri.

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writers hired by himself or by Street and Smith. Only one Doc Savage novel, "Derelict of Skull Shoal," published in the March 1944 issue, was credited--accidentally--to Dent.¹⁶ Dent hated the use of the house name. However, he was generally acknowledged as the author of the Doc Savage stories in contemporary newspaper and magazine articles and in Dent's own self-promotions.¹⁷

According to John Nanovic, who edited Doc Savage during its first decade, Dent "was a careful writer, a very strong plotter."¹⁸ Dent also wrote rapidly, in a style which read "as if he had a stopwatch in one hand and a thesaurus in the other."¹⁹ Between 1929 and 1936, Dent, who described himself as "'a word factory,'"²⁰ published an average of one million words per year. Dent dismissed the idea that he wrote literature and asserted his works were "'dime novels, clean stories with plenty of excitement!"²¹ According to Philip Jose Farmer in his study of the Doc Savage series, "The early Savages are splendid examples of pulp writing in all its potential spectrum. They have a great but loose epic sweep . . . Yet, there is a certain thread of realism throughout . . ."²² Dent also confessed he was primarily a formula writer,

¹⁶Farmer, p. 262.

¹⁷See, for example, Scrapbook, volume 3, F2147-2148, in Lester B. Dent Collection.

¹⁸John L. Nanovic, "I Never Called Him Bill," in Maxwell Grant (Walter B. Gibson), The Crime Oracle and The Teeth of the Dragon: Two Adventures of the Shadow (New York: Dover Publications, 1975), p. xxiv.

¹⁹"The Man of Bronze," Newsweek, May 23, 1966, p. 118.

²⁰Macon County, Missouri, Home Press, October 31, 1979, p. 8, in the Lester B. Dent Collection; and "Lester Dent: Some Unusual Facts About This Northeast Missouri Writer," [pamphlet] copy in the possession of Mrs. Mildred V. Arnold, Kansas City, Missouri.

²¹Payne.

²²Farmer, p. 25.

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and he devised and refined a widely reprinted "Pulp Paper Master Plot."²³ According to Dent, "No yarn of mine written to the formula has yet failed to sell."²⁴ Dent also relied on what he referred to as character "'tags,'" or "'peculiarities of appearance, manner, voice, clothing, hobby, etc.'"²⁵ which resulted in an array of stock characters who reoccur in many of Dent's writings.

Although Ralston and Nanovic created Doc Savage, in the first year Dent drastically reworked their concepts and characters. According to Nanovic, Dent added "the flesh, the life, the excitement" to Doc Savage.²⁶ Dent's own earlier stories contained elements and characters which he adapted to expand Ralston's and Nanovic's sketchy outline. For example, in "The Sinister Ray" in the March 1932 issue of Detective-Dragnet Magazine, Dent introduced Lynn Lash, the first of the scientific detectives who reappeared throughout Dent's fiction and the model for Dent's version of Doc Savage. A double for Doc's most popular assistant, Monk Mayfair, also appeared in the same story. A year earlier, in the Curt Flagg series written for Scotland Yard, Dent had developed the character tags he applied to another of Doc's assistants, John Renwick.²⁷ In 1933, Street and Smith affirmed Dent's proprietary interest in the character and granted him motion picture, newspaper strip, and radio broadcast rights to the stories he wrote.²⁸

²³Lester Dent, "The Pulp Paper Master Fiction Plot," in Weinberg, pp. 64-67. Reprinted in the 1938 edition of The Writer's Market and in The Mystery Writer's Handbook (New York: Harper and Row, 1956).

²⁴Dent, "Pulp Paper Master Plot," p. 64.

²⁵Murray, p. 23.

²⁶Nanovic, p. xxiii.

²⁷Murray, pp. 22-38.

²⁸"Agreement between Mrs. Norma Dent and The Conde Nast Publications Inc." July 20, 1971 (copy in the possession of Mildred Arnold, Kansas City, Missouri), p. 3.

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Dent was regarded by his peers as "the best gimmick and gadget writer who ever lived."²⁹ In his notebook for the Savage series, Dent collected articles on recent inventions from Popular Mechanics and other periodicals and newspapers and used these in his stories.³⁰ He also compiled an impressive list of predictions of devices which later became commonplace, such as wire recorders, shark repellent, submarine snorkels, radar, and ultraviolet photography.³¹ Dent vigorously denied that he used his own experiences in his writings: "'Now wouldn't I be crazy to go writing about something I know all about?"³² However, the Doc Savage stories and most of Dent's other writings were filled with his interest in flying, gadgets of all kinds, ships and sailing, prospecting and treasure hunts, and adventure in widely varying locations.

A number of pulp publishers attempted to duplicate the initial success of Doc Savage and, within six months, nineteen imitations appeared. However, no serious rival emerged and few survived the 1930s.³³ In the broader field of popular literature, however, the influence of Dent's character was more pervasive and enduring. Doc Savage was "the natural father of both Superman and James Bond"³⁴ and a host of fictional supermen, detectives, and spies.³⁵ For example, in a 1934 pulp ad, four years before Jerry Siegel's and Joe Shuster's Superman appeared in Action Comics, Doc Savage was advertised

²⁹Frank Gruber, "The Life and Times of the Pulp Story," in Gruber, Brass Knuckles: The Oliver Quade Human Encyclopedia Stories (Los Angeles: Sherbourne Press, 1966), p. 11.

³⁰Lester Dent, "This Thing Started December 10, 1932," [notebook], copy in the possession of Mrs. Norma Gerling Dent, La Plata, Missouri.

³¹Farmer, p. 24; and Tinney, pp. 4-5.

³²Tinney, p. 7.

³³Payne.

³⁴Brad Darrach, "Back to the Gore of Yore," Time, July 5, 1971, p. 70.

³⁵Tinney, p. 6; and Edgar L. Chapman, The Magic Labyrinth of Philip Jose Farmer, The Milford Series Popular Writers of Today, volume 38 (San Bernardino, Calif.: Borgo Press, 1984), pp. 8 and 51-52.

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Dent, Lester and Norma, House

as "SUPERMAN . . . Man of Master Mind and Body . . ." ³⁶; Clark Savage Jr. and Clark Kent shared the same first name; Dent's superman was described as "The Man of Bronze," while Siegel's and Schuster's was "The Man of Steel"; and both characters retired to a Fortress of Solitude for meditation. Bill Finger acknowledged Doc Savage as an influence in his and Bob Kane's creation of Batman in 1939, ³⁷ and Ian Fleming apparently borrowed liberally from "The Fantastic Island," which appeared in the December 1935 of the Doc Savage pulp, for his James Bond novel, Dr. No. ³⁸

From 1931 until 1940, the Dents lived in a succession of hotels and apartments in New York City. They decided that they would never stay more than one year in any apartment so Dent could become acquainted with the city. In 1934, Dent indulged his life-long interest in sailing and bought a boat, the Albatross. For the next three years, he and his wife lived on the boat for much of each summer, although they maintained an apartment in New York. Also in 1934, Dent returned for his first extended visit to La Plata in a decade. He and his wife stayed with Dent's family, and Lester continued to write, completing "Land of Always Night," a Doc Savage novel, in September and October. From 1934 to 1940, the Dents spent part of each year in La Plata, and Lester became involved in community affairs. For example, Dent served as president of the La Plata Commerce Club and persuaded the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad to donate gravel for the first graveled streets in the town. In 1936, he also traveled Missouri with a film, "Hunting Pirate Gold," which recorded a treasure hunting voyage of the Albatross. Proceeds from the film showings and his lectures were used to purchase eyeglasses and school lunches for the children of drought ravaged northeast Missouri. ³⁹

From February to April 1938, the Dents traveled to Europe, accompanied by Dent's secretary, Evelyn Coulson. On this trip, the Dents gathered rocks from each country they visited for the fireplace in the house Dent had begun

³⁶James Steranko, History of Comics, 2 vols. (Reading, Pennsylvania: Supergraphics, 1970-1972), 1:19.

³⁷Ibid., 1:44.

³⁸Darrach, p. 70; and Tinney, p. 6.

³⁹Scrapbook, volume 3, F2147-2148, Lester B. Dent Collection; and "Lester Dent: Some Unusual Facts About This Northeast Missouri Writer."

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Dent, Lester and Norma, House

planning. In 1938, the Dents also moved to the Park Central Hotel in New York City and shipped their furniture to La Plata, where Dent had decided to return. That Dent's thoughts had already returned to Missouri was evidenced by two stories published prior to his move. In the May 1939 issue of Crime Busters, the story which featured Clickell Rush, the Gadget Man, was set in La Plata.⁴⁰ The following year, in the April 1940 issue of Doc Savage, Doc and his aides journeyed to Kirksville, Jefferson City, and Kansas City to solve the murder of the governor of Missouri.⁴¹

Dent always intended to return to live in La Plata. In 1940, when his doctors diagnosed a mild heart ailment and warned him he must slow down the pace of his activities, Dent sold the Albatross and rented a house at Clark and Owensby Streets in La Plata. He drew his own blueprints and, over the next two years, supervised the construction of a house at North Church and Colburn Streets. Dent also helped with portions of the construction. In October 1941, in a letter to his agent, Dent proudly described his new venture:

I am building a house. I'm my own contractor. It accounts for a lack of writing output, that and some traveling. However I have accomplished one prideful thing. Home owner-builders are supposed to become nervous wrecks, due to their carpenters. But not me. Last week my head carpenter went to bed with a nervous breakdown. I think I'll write up the secret of how I did it for Home & Gardens or something.⁴²

In April 1942, following the completion of the house, Dent informed his agent: My house is done, except for the headaches . . . As you know, I built the house myself, that is, I stood by and expectorated on each nail that went into it. This took much time, and the rest of the time I have had to write pulp madly to keep ahead of the wolf.⁴³

⁴⁰Murray, "The Secret Kenneth Robesons,: Duende 1 (1977): 17.

⁴¹Kenneth Robeson [Lester Dent], "The Evil Gnome," Doc Savage, April 1940; reprinted as The Evil Gnome: A Doc Savage Adventure (New York: Bantam Books, 1976).

⁴²Lester Dent to Willis Kingsley Wing (Author's Representative), September 18, 1941, F10, in Lester B. Dent Collection.

⁴³Dent to Wing, April 9, 1942, F11, in Lester B. Dent Collection.

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Dent, Lester and Norma, House

The house at 225 North Church Street was the first house owned by Dent and was planned both as a home and as an office for a writer who was regarded as "one of the most prolific writers of pulp fiction . . ." ⁴⁴ Dent's office occupied a truncated wing which was lighted by windows on three sides. The entrance and hallway of the house were arranged to allow him to go directly to his office without passing through the living room. The upper floor was designed in a nautical motif reminiscent of the Albatross. The basement recreation room and "corral," or bar, recalled Dent's youth on a Wyoming ranch. Also housed in the basement were a dark room and a projection room which doubled as Dent's ham radio station. The basement fireplace was inlaid with rocks the Dents had gathered on their travels in Europe and the United States.

In his design, Dent also indulged his love of gimmicks and gadgets. A garage door opener was a novelty to the residents of La Plata, who gathered to watch its operation when Dent parked his yellow Packard. A concealed switch lighted a hall closet when its door was opened. The intercom, burglar alarm systems, and fluorescent lighting were also novelties when Dent used them in 1941. Because of the wealth of devices, the house was known locally as "The House of Gadgets." ⁴⁵

During World War II, paper shortages and war-time prosperity increased the sales of the remaining newsstand publications, including pulps. Returns dropped to about 3 percent, with half that amount due to spoilage. Following the war, the sales of pulp magazines began a steady decline, immersed in an expanded magazine market and forced to compete with radio, comic books, movies, and television. References to Missouri locales occur frequently in the post-war Doc Savage stories. For example, in "No Light to Die By," published in the May-June 1947 issue of Doc Savage, and "Once Over Lightly," in the November-December 1947 issue, the protagonists were from Kansas City. In "The Monkey Suit" published in July-August 1947, anti-hero Henry Jones grew up in the "middle-sized Missouri town of Kirksville." ⁴⁶ At the request of the

⁴⁴Escanaba, Michigan, Daily Press, August 11, 1940, in Scrapbook, volume 3, F2147-2148, Lester B. Dent Collection.

⁴⁵Tinney, p. 13; and various articles in Scrapbook, volume 3, F2147-2148, Lester B. Dent Collection.

⁴⁶"No Light to Die By," Doc Savage (May-June 1947), chapter 4; "Once Over Lightly," Doc Savage (November-December 1947), chapter 1; and "The Monkey

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Dent, Lester and Norma, House

Missouri governor, Doc Savage returned to Jefferson City in the November 1946 novel, "The Devil Is Jones," to identify an elusive criminal.⁴⁷

In the final years of the Doc Savage pulp, Dent wrote three successful mystery novels which enjoyed several printings each. He also made his first sale to a slick magazine, "River Crossing," a Western, published in the August 21, 1948, issue of Collier's. Dent's style changed after he settled permanently in La Plata, possibly reflecting the more tranquil pace of the small Missouri town. According to Mrs. Dent, "he had more time to refine his work, using fewer stereotypes and developing fuller characterizations."⁴⁸ In his methodical study of the complete Doc Savage series, Farmer confirmed the evolution of Dent's style. From 1941, the year Dent returned to La Plata, Farmer noted that the Doc Savage novels became "progressively shorter, more tightly plotted, more sharply characterized, and began to explore the psychology of the main characters. The dialogue became more realistic and the style was enormously improved."⁴⁹ In 1946, the Missouri Writers' Guild recognized Dent as the most successful Missouri author of the year.

In 1949, Street and Smith cancelled their four remaining pulps, including The Shadow and Doc Savage. Following the cancellation of the Doc Savage pulp, Dent wrote less. He served as La Plata's Civil Defense Director, was a member of the La Plata Rural Fire Association and Adair County Dairy Association, and was active in the local Boy Scouts organization. From 1949 to 1952, he was a partner in Airviews, an aerial photography company. He wrote two more mystery novels and two short stories. One story, "Savage Challenge," was published in the February 22, 1958, issue of the prestigious Saturday Evening Post. Lester Dent died on March 11, 1959. On learning of his death, both the Missouri House of Representatives and Senate approved resolutions of regret.⁵⁰

Suit," Doc Savage (July-August 1947), chapter 1, are reprinted in Doc Savage Omnibus #5 (New York: Bantam Books, 1988).

⁴⁷"The Devil Is Jones," Doc Savage (November 1946), is reprinted in Doc Savage Omnibus #11 (New York: Bantam Books, 1990).

⁴⁸Macon, Missouri, Chronicle-Herald, May 5, 1976, p. 20, in Scrapbook, volume 3, F2147-2148, Lester B. Dent Collection.

⁴⁹Farmer, p. 25.

⁵⁰Quentin Reynolds, The Fiction Factory or From Pulp Row to Quality Street (New York: Random House, 1955), p. 232; House Resolution No. 107,

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Dent, Lester and Norma, House

After the Doc Savage pulp was cancelled, Dent expressed his doubts that the character would ever be revived. The stories, he believed, were too simple in their treatment of good and evil to appeal to modern readers. In 1964, however, Bantam Books began reissuing the Doc Savage stories as paperback novels, the format which had contributed to the decline of the pulp magazine. At least fifteen million copies have been issued, and Lester Dent has become, according to Ron Goulart, "one of the best selling authors of the century."⁵¹ In 1973, Dent's Doc Savage was the subject of the first "serious study of a single pulp magazine issued by a major publisher," Doc Savage: His Apocalyptic Life by Philip Jose Farmer.⁵² In 1975, an indifferent motion picture adaptation of several of Dent's stories, "Doc Savage--The Man of Bronze," was also released. In 1985, Mrs. Dent donated Lester Dent's papers and publications, valued at over \$150,000, to the Joint Collection University of Missouri, Western Historical Manuscript Collection--Columbia and State Historical Society of Missouri. Although the significance of Dent's character in the tenuous area of popular culture is national, Dent is also recognized as a significant Missouri author. According to Dr. Edwin Carpenter, head of the Division of Language and Literature at Northeast Missouri State University in 1979, "'Outside Mark Twain's characters, Dent's Doc Savage is the most widely known of any Missouri author.'"⁵³

From 1933 to 1942, Lester Dent lived in a succession of apartments and hotel rooms, on his boat, and in a rented house in La Plata. The success of the Doc Savage series permitted Dent to return to La Plata and build the house at 225 North Church Street, the only house he ever owned. Designed and built by Dent, the house, which also served as his office, reflects his life and his interests and is the property most closely associated with his productive life.

Journal of the House of the State of Missouri, Seventieth General Assembly, 1959; and Senate Resolution No. 59, Journal of the Senate of the State of Missouri, Seventieth General Assembly, 1959.

⁵¹Ron Goulart, Cheap Thrills: An Informal History of the Pulp Magazine (New Rochelle, N.Y.: Arlington House, 1972), p. 76.

⁵²Blackbeard, p. 242.

⁵³Macon County, Missouri, Home Press, October 31, 1979, p. 8.

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Dent, Lester and Norma, House

APPENDIX:
PARTIAL CHRONOLOGY OF PLACES LESTER DENT LIVED

- October 12, 1904 Lester Dent was born in Adair County, Missouri, at the home of his grandfather, George T. Norfolk, near La Plata, one and one-half miles north of Santa Fe Lake. House razed at an unknown date.
- 1906 Dent's family moved to Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. Shortly after they moved, their house was destroyed by a tornado, and the family moved back to the Norfolk farm near La Plata, Missouri.
- 1908-1909 Family started trek to Wyoming in covered wagon but ran out of money in Alliance, Nebraska, where the men worked at jobs to earn money to pay for the remainder of the trip to Wyoming.
- 1909 Arrived at remote ranch near Gillette, Wyoming. Lester Dent was taught by his mother, Alice Norfolk Dent, until fourth grade. A small house of three rooms was then rented in Gillette Wyoming, and, during the school year, Lester and his mother stayed in Gillette, returning to the ranch at the end of the school year.
- 1917 Family moved back to La Plata and lived in a house built on the family farm. The house later burned. Another house was built on the same spot and Lester lived here while he attended high school. The house is extant, although altered. Norma Dent sold the farm a few years after Lester Dent's death in 1959.
- 1923 In May, Lester Dent graduated from La Plata High School.
- 1923-1924 In the fall of 1923, Lester enrolled in Chillicothe, Missouri, Business College and lived with Professor Roberts and his wife at 1209 Walnut. Roberts taught telegraphy..
- 1924 Graduated from Chillicothe Business College and, for a short time, had a job in Macon, Missouri. Lester then took a job with Hutchinson's Western Union Office in Carrollton, Missouri.

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Dent, Lester and Norma, House

- 1925 On May 7, Dent moved to Bartlesville, Oklahoma, where he worked for Empire Oil Company. In August he moved to Ponca City, Oklahoma, where, on August 9, he married Norma Gerling and rented a room with kitchen privileges in the home of an older couple.
- 1926 During the early part of the year, Dent studied International Code and got a job with the Associated Press. In April, he was sent to Chickasha, Oklahoma, and that fall moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma.
- 1927 During the summer, Dent worked for the Associated Press in Kansas City, Missouri, where he had an apartment, address unknown.
- 1927-1930 In the fall of 1927, Dent, still employed by the Associated Press, moved back to Tulsa. In 1929 and 1930, the Dents lived at 1132 South Quincy, Tulsa; the addresses of other rooms and apartments where he and Norma lived are unknown.
- 1929 After thirteen unsuccessful attempts, Dent sold his first story, "Pirate Cay," to Dell Publications. It was published in the September 1929 issues of Top-Notch Magazine.
- 1931 On January 1, the Dents moved to New York where Lester accepted a position as a house writer for Dell Publications. At first the Dents lived in a hotel. They later moved to an apartment at 224 Brookside, Mt. Vernon, New York.
- 1932 The Dents lived first at 4333 46th Street, Sunnyside, Long Island, New York; and later at 8904 34th Avenue, Jackson Heights, Long Island, New York. In February, Dent was contacted by Street and Smith Publications, which planned a companion magazine to their successful Shadow Magazine. In March, Dent expressed his interest, and, on December 10, began writing the first Doc Savage story.
- 1933-1934 The first issue of Doc Savage Magazine, cover dated March 1933, appeared with the lead story, "The Man of Bronze," written by "Kenneth Roberts," a house pseudonym used by Lester Dent. The Dents lived at 101 West 55th St., New York City. They had decided they would never stay more than one year at any one place since they wanted to become acquainted with the city, where the headquarters of Dr. Clark Savage Jr., Dent's fictional hero, were

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Dent, Lester and Norma, House

located. Every summer the Dents would also travel to different parts of the country.

- 1933-1949 One hundred eighty-one issues of Doc Savage Magazine (retitled Doc Savage with the September 1937 issue and published as Doc Savage, Science Detective for seven issues in 1947-1948) were published by Street and Smith Publications. In the 1930s, it sold an average of 250,000 copies per issue.
- 1934-1937 The Dents primarily lived on the Albatross but maintained an apartment in New York City. In 1936, they lived at 393 West End Avenue, New York City; by December 1936, they had moved to the Knickerbocker Hotel, 120 West 45th Street, New York City. They also made trips to La Plata and traveled extensively during the summers.
- 1938-1939 The Dents returned to the Park Central Hotel in New York City where they occupied a suite of rooms consisting of a living room, bedroom and small kitchen. All their furniture was shipped back to La Plata, Missouri. From February until April 1938, the Dents traveled to Europe with Evelyn Coulson, Dent's secretary and typist. In Europe, they visited England, France, Switzerland, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Holland, and Belgium, remaining approximately two weeks in each country.
- 1940 The Dents sold the Albatross and rented a house at Clark and Owensby Streets in La Plata, where they lived until they moved into their new house at 225 North Church Street. Dent also rented office space in the downtown business district of La Plata, in the building currently occupied by City Hall.
- 1941 The house at 225 North Church Street, La Plata, was completed. Designed by Dent, who also supervised the construction, it is the only house he ever owned. He lived and worked there until his death in 1959.

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Section number 9 Page 1

Dent, Lester and Norma, House

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_____. "The Secret Kenneth Robesons." Duende 1 (1977): 3-27.

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Section number 9 Page 2

Dent, Lester and Norma, House

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 11 Page 1

Dent, Lester and Norma, House

1. Mildred V. Arnold
310 W. 49th Street, #208
Kansas City, Missouri 64112
Date: November 28, 1989
Telephone: 816/531-4044
Original research and draft nomination
2. Mary B. Aue
1228A E. Dunklin
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Date: February 2, 1990
Telephone: 314/636-8931
Revision, Item 7
3. Steven Mitchell
National Register Historian and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Program
P. O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
Date: November 1, 1989
Telephone: 314/751-5368
Editor and revision, Item 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- ☐ 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 # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	5
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5	4	3	1	2	0
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4	4	3	0	4	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C

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--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

D

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 1 through 5, Block 2, McDavitt Addition, La Plata, Macon County, Missouri.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the five city lots that have historically been associated with the property.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title See item 11 continuation sheet.

organization _____

date _____

street & number _____

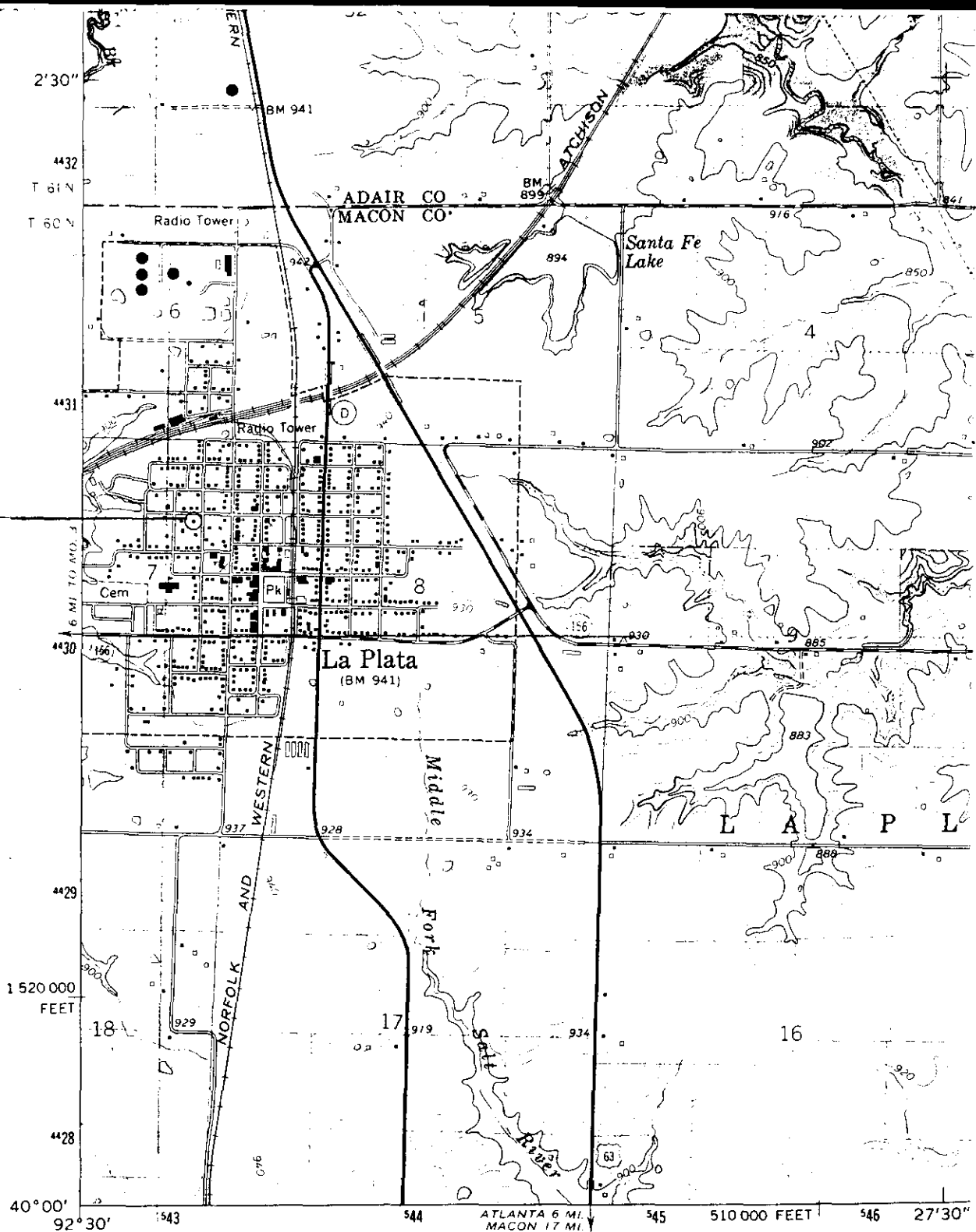
telephone _____

city or town _____

state _____

zip code _____

Dent, Lester and Norma, House
 225 North Church Street
 La Plata, Macon County, Missouri
 Z → 15/543120/4430480



(ELMER 1:62,500)
 74631

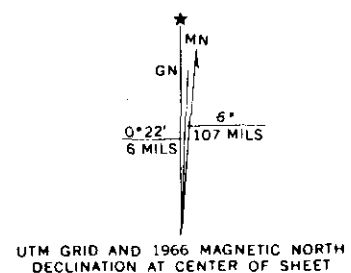
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

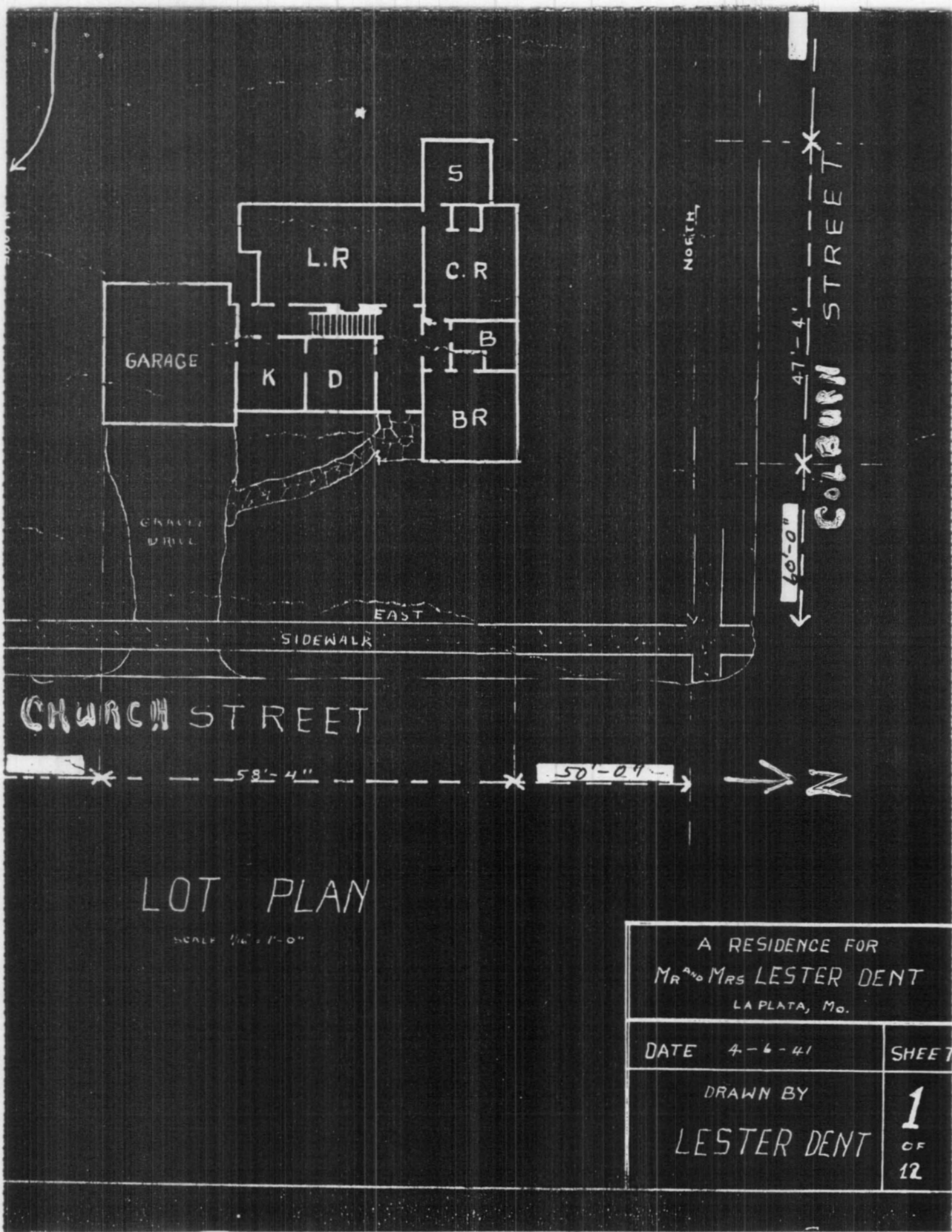
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1966

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Missouri coordinate system, central zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks.
 zone 15, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked





Dent, Lester and Norma, House
225 North Church Street
La Plata, Macon County, Missouri
Ed Green

April 1988

Negative location: Mildred V. Arnold
310 W. 49th St. #208
Kansas City, MO 64112

View from Southeast

1 of 13



Dent, Lester and Norma, House
225 North Church Street

La Plata, Marion County, Missouri

Ed Green

April 1988

Negative location: Mildred V. Arnold

310 W. 49th St. #208

Kansas City, Mo 64112

View from northeast

#2 of 13



Dent, Hester and Norma, House
225 North Church Street
La Plata, Macon County, Missouri
Ed Green
April 1988

Negative location: Mildred V. Arnold

310 W. 49th St. #208
Kansas City, MO 64112

View from Northwest

3 of 13



Dewt, Hester and Noema, House
225 North Church Street
La Plata, Macon County, Missouri;
Ed Green

April 1988

Negative location: Mildred V. Arnold

310 W. 49th St. #208

Kansas City, MO 64112

View from Southwest

#4 of 13



Dent, Lester and Norma, House
225 North Church Street
La Plata, Marion County, Missouri
Mary B. Ave

October 19, 1989

Negative Location: Mary B. Ave

1228A East DuKlin
Jefferson City, Mo 65101

Study, first floor

#5 of 14



Dent, Lester and Norma, House
225 North Church Street
La Plata, Macon County, Missouri

Mary B. Ave

October 19, 1989

Negative location: Mary B. Ave

1228A East Dunklin
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dining Room and Kitchen, first floor

6 of 14



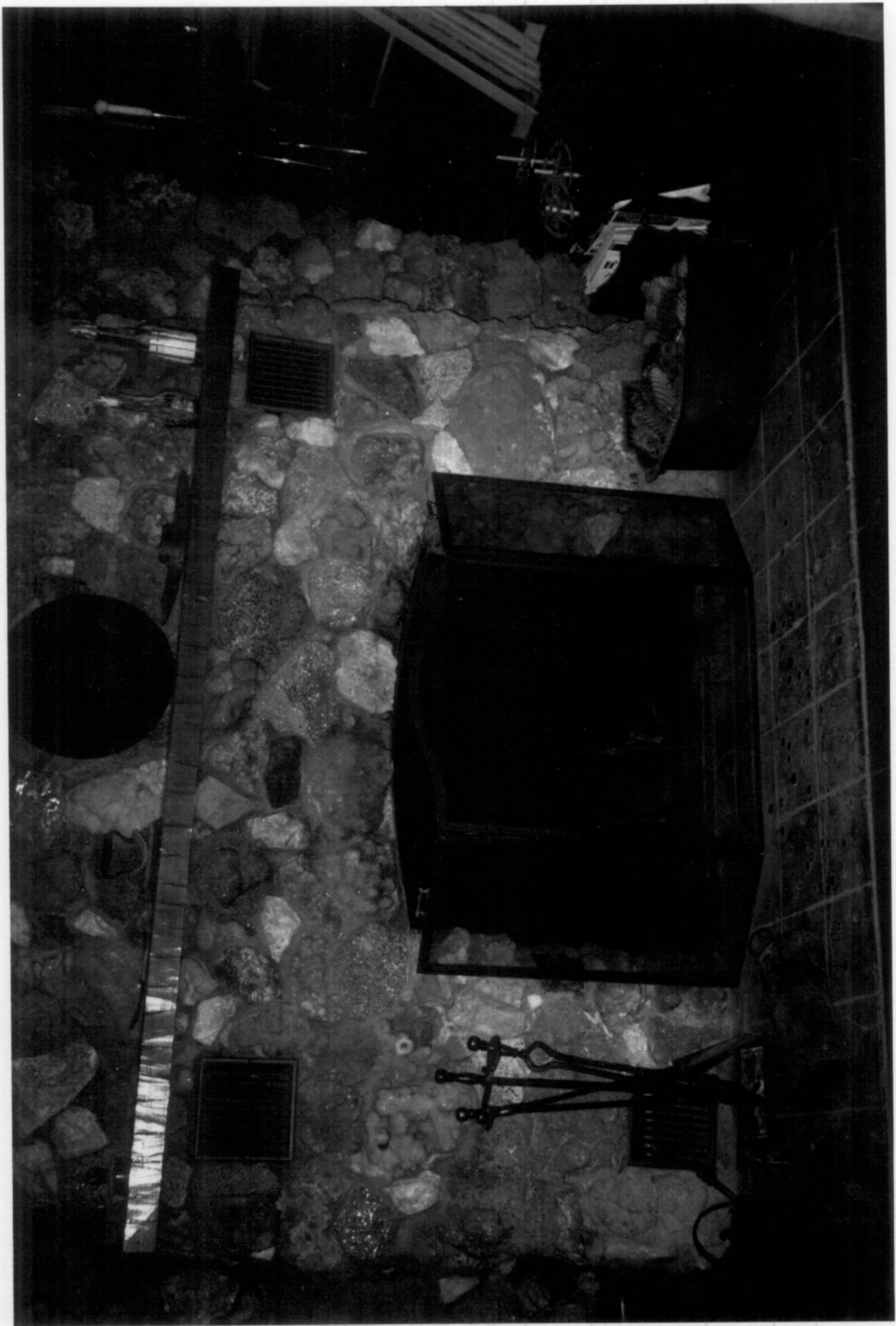
Dent, Lester and Norma, House
225 North Church Street
La Plata, Macon County, Missouri
Marey B. Ave

October 19, 1989

Negative location: Marey B. Ave
1228A East Dunklin

Jefferson City, MO 65101
fireplace, recreation room, basement

7 of 14



Dent, Hester and Norma, House

225 North Church Street

La Plata, Macon County, Missouri

Mary B. Ave

October 19, 1989

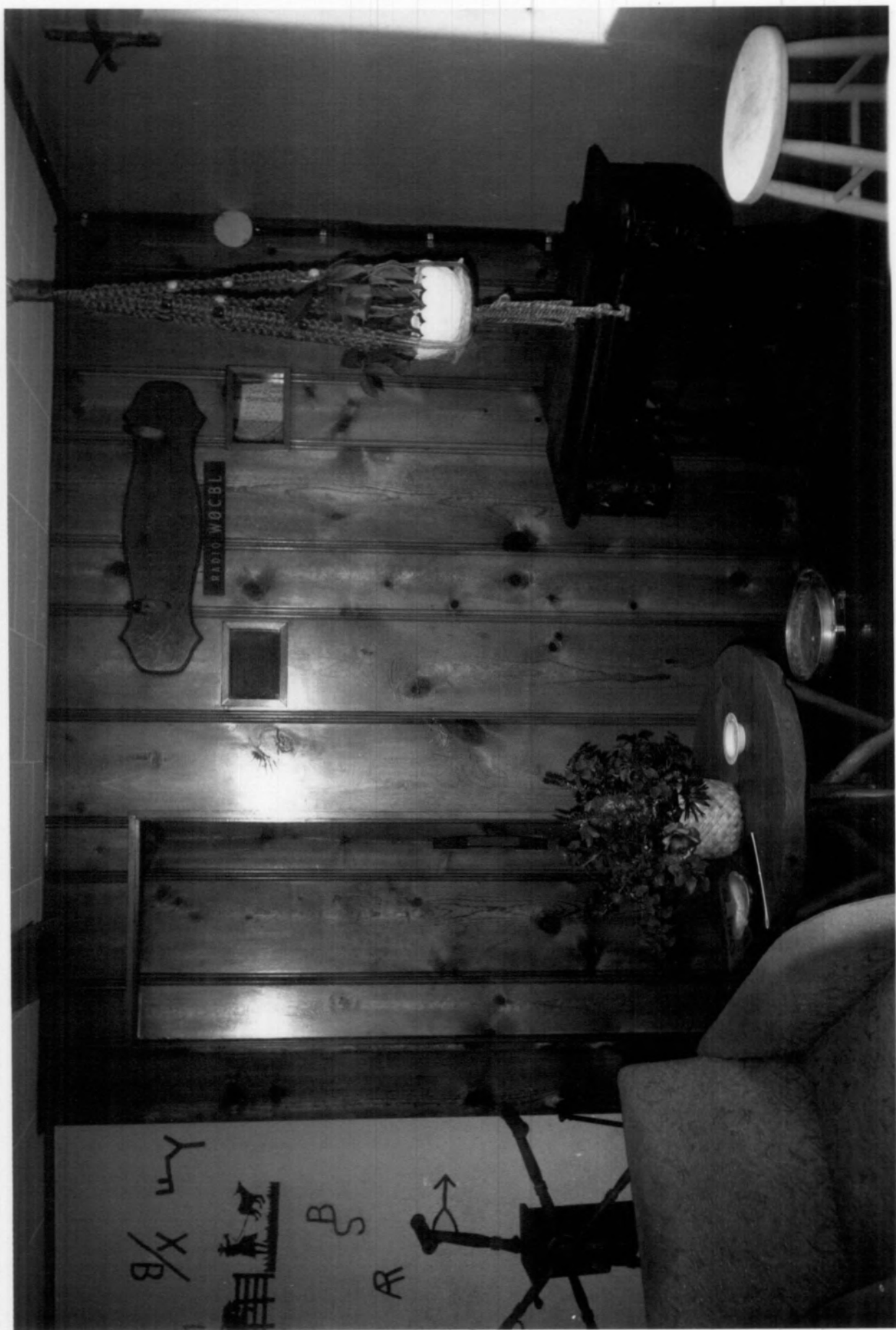
negative location: Mary B. Ave

1228A East Dunklin

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Projection Room, basement

#8 of 14



Dent, Lester and Norma, House
225 North Church Street
La Plata, Macon County, Missouri;
Mary B. Ave

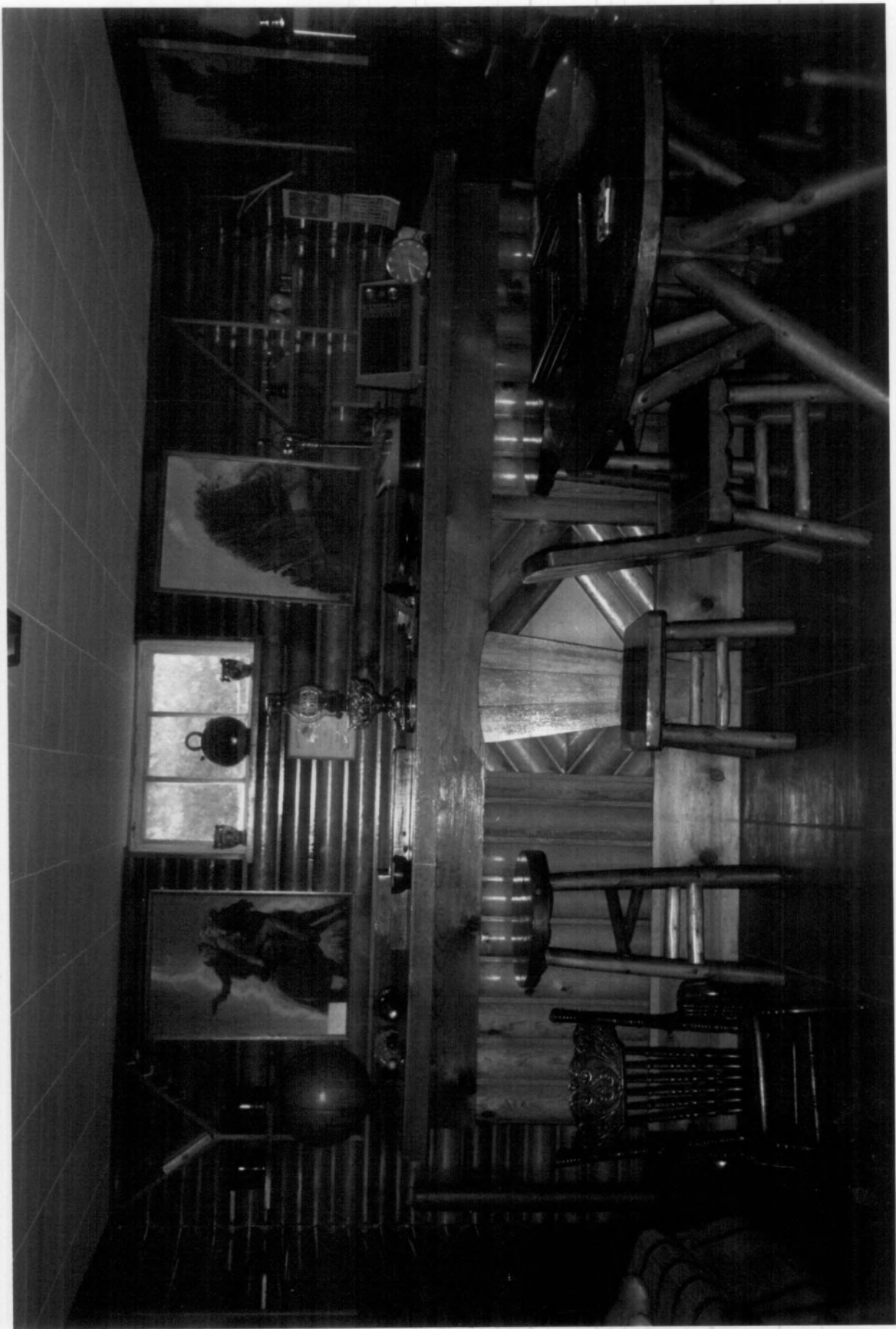
October 19, 1989

negative location: Mary B. Ave

1228A East Dunklin
Jefferson City, MO 65101

"Coreal," basement

9 of 14



Dent, Lester and Norma, House
225 North Church Street
LaPlata, Macon County, Missouri
Mary B. Ave

October 19, 1989

Negative location: Mary B. Ave

1228 A East Dunklin
Jefferson City, Mo 65101
detail of "corner," basement

10 of 14



Dent, Lester and Naema, House
225 North Church Street
La Plata, Macon County, Missouri
Mary B. Ave

October 19, 1989

Negative location: Mary B. Ave

1228 A East Dunklin
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Stairway to second floor

11 of 14



Dent, Lester and Norma, House
225 North Church Street
La Plata, Macon County, Missouri,
Mary B. Ave

October 19, 1989

Negative location: Mary B. Ave

1228A East DuKlin

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Stair railing, second floor

12 of 14



Dent, Lester and Norma, House
225 North Church Street
La Plata, Macon County, Missouri,
Mary B. Ave

October 19, 1989

negative location: Mary B. Ave

1228A East Dunklin

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Second floor window

#13 of 14



Dent, Lester and Norma, House

225 North Church Street
La Plata, Marion County, Missouri

Lester Dent

Circa 1942

Negative location: Mary B. Ave

1228A East Dunklin

Jefferson City, MO 65101

East elevation, historic photograph

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