

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL 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

Disney, Walt, Residence and Garage

AND/OR COMMON

Youngel, Booker T., Residence and Garage

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

3028 Bellefontaine Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#5 Hon. Richard Bolling

STATE

Missouri 64128 29

CODE

COUNTY

Jackson

CODE

095

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Booker T. Youngel

STREET & NUMBER

3028 Bellefontaine Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri 64128

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jackson County Courthouse, Kansas City Annex

STREET & NUMBER

415 East 12th Street

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

STATE

Missouri 64106

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

1. Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri Survey

DATE

1976-77

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☒ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

STATE

Missouri 64106

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2. Missouri State Historical Survey
1977
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

state

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Walt Disney Residence and Garage, 3028 Bellefontaine Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, is a one and one-half story rectangular-plan, wood frame cottage. Erected in 1905,¹ the house is designed in the "Builder's Vernacular" style. The main facade of the residence faces east onto Bellefontaine Avenue. To the west of the residence is a single story, rectangular-shaped concrete cinder block garage, erected in 1916-1917.²

WALT DISNEY RESIDENCE

Dimensions

The residence measures 54 feet east-west and 22 feet north-south. The house contains approximately 3,564 square feet of living space.

Construction materials and colors

The residence is of wood frame construction atop rubble limestone foundations. Exterior facades are painted white. Asbestos clapboard siding of reddish-brown color covers the east facade and north and south facade attic gables.

EXTERIORS

Openings

The main or east facade contains a single-leaf screened door and two irregularly spaced one-over-one light, double-hung sash windows of differing widths. The east attic gable contains a small triple-light unit, the center light dominating in size.

Fenestration on the north facade contains four rectangular one-over-one light, double-hung sash windows and one square one-over-one light, double-hung sash window. To the east of this window is one narrow single-light window. The westernmost window on this facade is barred. The north attic gable contains a single one-over-one light, double-hung sash window.

The rear or west facade contains a single one-over-one light, double-hung sash window, barred; one single-leaf door, and one small rectangular single-light window.

The south facade contains six window openings. From left to right are two single, one-over-one light, double-hung sash windows spaced at unequal intervals; a projected bay window arrangement featuring a central, one-over-one light, double-hung sash window flanked by very narrow one-over-one light windows; and a single, one-over-one light, double-hung sash window. The south facade attic gable holds a non-original aluminum single-leaf screen door providing an "attic entrance."

Roofs

Multiple roofs of medium pitch with broad gable ends are surfaced with asphalt

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composition shingles and cover the house proper. A medium-pitched hip roof covers the east facade porch. A truncated hip roof covers the section of the house placed between the house proper and the west addition. A flat, tar-papered roof covers the rear portion, an addition to the residence.

Chimneys

There are two engaged red brick chimneys, one rising from the central portion of the roof, the second rising near the west facade just east of the rear addition.

Porches

The residence has three porches. The east facade front porch runs the width of the residence and provides a main entrance to the residence. The non-original ornamental wrought iron balustrade and end posts support a hipped roof. The porch floor is cemented.

The non-original second floor entrance on the south facade attic gable opens on to a wooden, single-run staircase and suspended entrance porch. The staircase faces east.

The west or rear facade porch consists only of a cement three step staircase directly below the rear entrance. The area is protected by a flat, tar-papered roof hinged to the exterior of the facade just below the roof line and is approximately five feet in length.

INTERIORS

Access into interiors of the residence was unavailable.

ALTERATIONS

Alterations to the Walt Disney Residence include:

1915:

1. Construction of rear addition with flat tar-papered roof³

1976:

1. Front porch floor cemented⁴

Unknown dates:

1. Front porch wooden balustrades and columns removed, replaced by wrought iron balustrades and posts.
2. Addition of south facade attic gable, single-leaf aluminum door.
3. Addition of wooden platform porch and single-run stairway, south facade.
4. Addition of asbestos clapboard, east facade, and north and south attic gables.

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CONDITION

The Walt Disney Residence is presently in good condition and receives regular maintenance.

WALT DISNEY GARAGE

The garage measures 30 feet north-south and 19 feet east-west at its widest points. The garage contains approximately 570 square feet.

Construction materials and colors

The exterior walls of the garage are principally constructed of concrete cinder blocks, partially painted white. Metal sheeting surfaces gable-ends. Brick pattern asphalt composition sheeting surfaces east and some north facade sections.

Openings

The main or east facade of the garage contains two wooden doors and one single-light rectangular window.

The north facade has no openings.

The west facade contains a single non-original hinged vehicular-size garage door with a lateral triple-light window configuration. To the right of this is one boarded rectangular window opening.

The south facade contains one boarded window opening. Directly above this is what appears to be a window opening covered with asphalt composition.

Roofs

A non-original, tar-papered, low pitched gable roof covers the garage.

Chimneys

A single iron stovepipe flue projects from the north facade and rises above the roof line.

INTERIORS

Access into the interior of the garage was unavailable.

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ALTERATIONS

Alterations to the Walt Disney Garage include:

1958:

1. Replacement of shed roof with low-pitched gable roof.
2. Addition of vehicular-size hinged garage door and projection along the west facade.

Unknown dates:

1. Replacement of original wood frame walls with concrete cinder blocks.

CONDITION

The Walt Disney Garage is presently in fair condition.

SITE

The Walt Disney Residence and Garage are located in the mid-eastern residential area of Kansas City, Missouri. Facing east onto Bellefontaine Avenue, the residence and garage occupy the second lot north of Thirty-First Street and Bellefontaine Avenue. To the north is a residence, to the west lies an alleyway, and to the south is a corner residence. A chain link fence outlines the property. Walkways include the concrete sidewalks, perpendicular to the residence along the curbs parallel to Bellefontaine Street and up to the primary entrance of the residence. A narrow concrete walkway to the immediate south runs the length of the residence and terminates at the rear entrance. Landscaping features a front lawn and narrow strip of hedging enclosing the property.

FOOTNOTES

1. Water Service Permit, 5th Floor, City Hall, 414 East 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106.
2. Building Permit No. 61601, Building Permit Office, 18th Floor, City Hall, 414 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106.
3. Building Permit No. 58522, Building Permit Office, 18th Floor, City Hall, 414 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106.
4. Personal interview with Mrs. Booker T. Youngel, present owner and occupant of residence, 3028 Bellefontaine Avenue, Kansas City, MO., 64128, April 28, 1977.
5. Building Permit No. 57051, Building Permit Office, 18th Floor, City Hall, 414 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106.

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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Prominent resident

SPECIFIC DATES 1905 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Walt Disney Residence and Garage in Kansas City, Missouri is significant for its association as the adolescent home and studio of internationally renowned motion picture producer and film animator Walt Disney, during his residence in Kansas City from ca. 1914-1917, 1919-1921.¹ The Disney residence, erected in 1905 and designed in the "Builder's Vernacular" style, was acquired by Walt Disney's parents, Elias and Flora Disney, in ca. 1914.² It served as home for various members of the Disney family until November, 1921.³

The garage, erected in 1917 by Elias Disney, served as a makeshift studio for Walt Disney from 1919-1921. Within this studio, Disney "experimented with incandescent lights called 'inkies' until he achieved the best exposures for his drawings,"⁴ and it is strongly believed that it was here Disney was inspired to create one of the greatest characters in film animation, Mickey Mouse.⁵ These early cartoon efforts by Disney would contribute to the refinement in subject matter and technological advances of his later award-winning films and animations.

HISTORICAL DATA

Walter Elias Disney was born on Sunday, December 5, 1901, in northwestern Chicago, Illinois. In April of 1906, the Disney family moved to Marceline, Missouri. The Disney family left Marceline for Kansas City during the spring of 1910.⁶ In Kansas City, the Disneys resided at 2706 East 31st Street. Walt attended Benton School (presently the D. A. Holmes School), southwest corner, 30th and Benton Boulevard. His earliest efforts in art work began with duplicating political cartoons whereby he developed an ease for caricature. Although his interest in art was never encouraged by his parents, he was allowed to attend childrens' Saturday art classes at the Fine Arts Institute of Kansas City, Missouri (presently the Kansas City Art Institute), then housed in the offices of the Y.W.C.A. Building, 1018-1024 McGee Street.⁷

In about 1914, the Disney family moved to 3028 Beltefontaine Avenue. In 1917 when an interest in the O-Zell Jelly Factory in Chicago became available, Disney's parents and sister, Ruth, embarked on this new enterprise. Disney graduated from Benton School on June 8, 1917, and remained in Kansas City for the summer working as a candy and news butcher for the Van Noyes Interstate News Company. That fall, Walt Disney joined his parents in Chicago to attend McKinley High School. Three nights a week, he studied anatomy, pen technique, and cartooning at the Chicago Institute of Art.⁸

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When the United States entered World War I, Disney, at sixteen years of age, left school to join the American Red Cross. He was sent overseas and was stationed in France for a year.⁹

After the war, Disney returned to Kansas City in the fall of 1919 in search of employment. Disney was hired as an apprentice at the Pesmen-Rubin Commercial Art Studio in the Gray Advertising Building, 1331 Oak Street. It was a short-term job experience, however, as he began the latter part of October thru December, 1919, and was terminated that December. A co-worker, Ubbe Iwerks, was terminated at the same time. The two young men formed a partnership called Iwerks-Disney Commercial Artists. The business venture lasted only a month. On January 29, 1920, Disney answered a cartoonist ad for the Kansas City Slide Company, 1015 Central Street, a firm which projected animated advertising films. Disney was accepted for the position by A. Vern Cauger, head of the company. After several months, Disney was able to convince the firm to hire his friend, Ub Iwerks. During this interim, the firm's name and address was changed to the Kansas City Film Ad Company, 2449 Charlotte Street. It was during this time that Disney gained experience in animated cartooning, converting the garage behind his 3028 Bellefontaine Avenue residence into a studio. Meanwhile, the Disney family's investment in the jelly factory in Chicago failed and they claimed bankruptcy. The Disney family returned to Kansas City. Later in November, 1922, they moved to Portland, Oregon. Walt Disney remained in Kansas City.¹⁰

Disney left his position with Kansas City Film Ad Company and on May 23, 1922, he incorporated Laugh-O-Grams Films. He was joined by Ub Iwerks and five other film animators. In the early months of incorporation, Laugh-O-Grams was commissioned by a non-theatrical distribution company, Pictorial Clubs, to produce several cartoons within their offices on the second floor of the McConahay Building. Laugh-O-Grams produced for Pictorial Clubs: The Four Musicians of Bremen (Bremen Town Musicians), Jack and the Beanstalk, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Puss and Boots, and Cinderella.¹¹

By mid-year of 1922, Laugh-O-Grams were contracted by the Jenkins Music Company to make a film illustrating the song, "Martha." In December, 1922, Disney created the film, Tommy Tucker's Tooth, for dentist Thomas B. McCrum, to promote dental health. The last major enterprise by Laugh-O-Grams, Inc. was Alice's Wonderland which was never completed. By July, 1923, debts were increasing and becoming difficult to pay. Disney was forced to take up lodging in the Laugh-O-Grams offices. Resigned to bankruptcy with no future prospects in Kansas City, Disney left Kansas City in July, 1923, with a one-way ticket to California and 40 dollars in cash.¹²

In California, Disney and his enterprise flourished. Before his death in 1966, Disney had entertained and educated three generations of Americans. In the animated film, he developed and popularized a whole new medium of art and entertainment

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As entertainment's most successful practitioner, he pioneered feature length color cartoons, popularized nature films, and expanded into adventure, comedy, and musical films. His legendary success of his vast amusement park, Disneyland, not only set a pattern for additional park projects, but also a precedent for a new approach to "systems" architecture, laying a heavy influence on city planning and design. From organizations and governments around the world, Disney was honored and awarded for significant contributions to the art of visual communications. Disney's impact on American society, its culture and architecture, has resulted from a most successful combination of a multitude of ideas and industry on art, music, technology, and the better qualities of human nature.

Various major works and productions included:

1. Mickey Mouse (Special Academy Award Winner) and Silly Symphonies since 1928
2. Three Little Pigs, 1933 (Academy Award Winner)
3. Snow White and Seven Dwarfs, 1938 (Academy Award Winner)
4. Fantasia, 1940 (New York Film Critics Award Winner, Special Academy Award Winner)
5. Pinocchio, 1940 (Academy Award Winner)
6. Dumbo, 1941 (Academy Award Winner)
7. Bambi, 1942
8. Song of the South, 1946 (Academy Award Winner)
9. Cinderella, 1950
10. Treasure Island, 1950
11. Alice in Wonderland, 1951
12. Peter Pan, 1953
13. 20,000 Leagues Under The Sea, 1954 (Academy Award Winner)
14. Founder of Disneyland as base for television productions, 1954
15. Producer Disneyland television and "Mickey Mouse Club" television programs over ABC-Television, 1954
16. "Walt Disney Presents", 1958-1961
17. "Walt Disney's Wonderful World of Color", NBC-Television, 1961-present
18. Kidnapped, 1960
19. Swiss Family Robinson, 1960
20. Pollyanna, 1960 (Special Academy Award Winner)
21. Babes In Toyland, 1961
22. Mary Poppins, 1964 (Academy Award Winner).¹³

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 Walt Disney Residence and Garage are, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as examples of the themes of "Fine Arts and Humanities," "Society," and "Technology."

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FOOTNOTES

1. Bob Thomas, Walt Disney, An American Original, (New York: Simon and Schuster Publishing Co., 1976), pp. 38-61. Correspondence with David R. Smith, Archivist, Walt Disney Archives, Burbank, California, 16 March 1977.
2. Ibid.
3. Thomas, Walt Disney, An American Original, pp. 38-61.
4. Ibid., p. 59
5. "Films, Views, and Interviews," Kansas City, (Missouri) Star, 25 December 1966, sec. E, p. 2; "Mickey Mouse - Inspiration From Mickey Mouse in K. C. Studio," Kansas City Journal-Post, 8 September 1935, n.pp.; "Disney, Walter - Biographical Sketch, Kansas City Journal, 14 June 1941, n.pp.
6. Thomas, Walt Disney, An American Original, pp. 24-32.
7. Ibid., pp. 33-39; 1915 Kansas City, Missouri City Directory, (Kansas City, Missouri: Gate City Directory Company, 1915), p. 737.
8. Thomas, Walt Disney, An American Original, pp. 33-45.
9. Ibid., pp. 46-52.
10. Ibid., pp. 53-61.
11. Ibid., p. 62.
12. Ibid., pp. 63-66
13. Leonard Multin, The Disney Films (New York, N.Y.: Crown Publishing Inc., c. 1973), n.pp.; Marquis-Who's Who Inc. (Chicago Marquis Publications, 1964-1965), p. 523.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Building Permit No. 57051, dated 3 October 1958, Building Permit Office, 18th floor, City Hall, 414 East 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106.
2. Building Permit No. 58533, dated 26 May 1915, Building Permit Office, 18th floor, City Hall 414 East 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one (1)

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 366160 4325480

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LOT 20 EAST MORELAND

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. Victoria C. Karel, Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri

DATE

May 10, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall, 26th Floor - E., 414 East 12th Street

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 X

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

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

DATE

9-23-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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3. Building Permit No. 61601, dated 18 December 1916, Building Permit Office, 18th floor, City Hall, 414 East 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106.
4. "Disney, Walter - Biographical Sketch." Kansas City (Missouri) Journal, 14 June 1941, n.pp.
5. "Films, Views, and Interviews," Kansas City (Missouri) Star, 25 December 1966, p. 2E.
6. Maltin, Leonard. The Disney Films. New York, N.Y.: Crown Publishing Company, n.pp.
7. "Mickey Mouse - Inspiration From Mickey Mouse in Kansas City Studio." Kansas City (Missouri) Journal-Post, 8 September 1935. n.pp.
8. Smith, Mr. David R., Archivist, Walt Disney Archives, 500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, California. Correspondence, 16 March 1977.
9. Thomas, Bob. Walt Disney, An American Original. New York: Simon and Schuster Publishing Company, 1976. pp. 38-61.
10. Water Service Permit. 5th floor, City Hall, 414 East 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106.
11. Who's Who in America. Vol. 33. Chicago, Illinois: Marquis-Who's Who Inc. 1964-1965, p. 523.
12. Youngel, Mrs. Booker T., 3028 Bellefontaine Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, 64128. Interview, 28 April 1977.

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2. Edward J. Miszczuk, Chief Research Historian
Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri
City Hall, 26th Floor - E., 414 East 12th Street (816) 274-2555
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Disney, Walt, Residence and Garage**

City or Vicinity: **Kansas City**

County: **Jackson County** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Victoria Karel**

Date

Photographed: **Mar. 1977**

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

1 of 6. NE corner of main residence, view looking W-SW, showing E façade on the left and N façade on the right.

2 of 6. SE corner of main residence view looking W-NW, showing S façade on the left and the E façade on the right.

3 of 6. W façade of main residence, view looking E.

4 of 6. SW corner of main residence view looking E-NE, showing W façade on the left and the S façade on the right.

5 of 6. E façade of garage, view looking W.

6 of 6. NW corner of garage, view looking E-SE, showing N façade on the left and the W façade on the right. The Disney residence on background.











