National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

7. Description

The two houses built by Henry C. Haarstick and eventually owned by the Whittemore family are located next to each other at 6420 and 6440 Forsyth Boulevard in Clayton, Missouri. Both houses turn asymmetrical faces to their interconnected semicircular drives and the street to the north, and both open from more formal elevations onto terraces to the south, where jointly landscaped double lots extend through the block to Ellenwood Avenue. In plan the two houses compliment each other with their formal rooms near their mutual property line and their service areas near the outer boundaries. Only in architectural style do the houses differ: 6420 is Georgian Revival while 6440 is Tudor Revival. The original cost for the design and construction of the two houses totaled \$47,049.1

The red-brick, slate-roofed house at 6420 Forsyth, now known as University House, measures about 120 ft by 50 ft. It has twelve bays and five hipped dormers on its north front, in contrast to 15 bays and 7 dormers on the south. The north front has recessions and projections dividing it into six unequal parts. The main entrance is in one of these projections, the fifth bay from the right. The double-leafed front door has two glazed panels and is set in a stone surround of Tuscan pilasters, entablature and pediment. This pediment breaks into the base of a tall double-hung stair window, 12-over-12, with narrow sidelights. At the top—the window is ornamented with projecting volutes. The service entrance, fourth bay from the left, has a fanlight with curving mullions and a brick surround; projecting from the lintel is a hood supported on iron brackets. Unifying features of this facade include the flemish-bond brickwork, the brick watertable molding, the broad modillioned cornice and the 6-over-6 windows with their black shutters and lintels of radiating bricks. First-floor windows are slightly arched and have ashlar sills and ornamental keystones. Basement windows have segmental arches, while dormer windows are double casements.

The south side of University House is composed as a U with a 3-bay eastward extension. The arms of the U flank a brick terrace; they are one-bay deep and three-bays wide, and each bay has paired windows with two-pane transoms, so that these rooms approximate the traditional St. Louis solarium or sleeping porch. The center double doors are glazed and have matching floor-length sidelights and toplights with mullions curving into a diamond pattern. This arrangement of doors and windows is set in a stone framework of Tuscan pilasters, entablature and central arched pediment. On the second-floor wall above the doors a rectangular sundial has been worked into the brickwork.

Inside, the house has four rooms opening into a center hall. The northeast and southwest of these rooms are essentially widened corridors leading to the living room, which occupies the west end of the house and the dining room to the east. The corridors and living room are paneled while the other rooms are painted. Ceilings are decorated with restrained moldings, and the northwest room has a large ceiling medallion. The livingroom fireplace has a limestone surround and beige marble hearth, while the diningroom fireplace has a surround of white marble complimenting the marble floor. Radiators are recessed beneath windows and covered with bronze grates. A dial in the hall registers the direction of a weathervane mounted to the roof. In the kitchen, the cabinets were replaced

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

HAARSTICK-WHITTEMORE HOUSES

Continuation sheet

Item number

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Page

in the 1950's, but the butler's pantry retains its original glass-doored cabinets, while a special alcove contains a large early refrigerator. The basement also retains many of its original features, including a bowling alley running east-west and a large playroom at the west end with leaded glass windows and a large brick fireplace.

A freestanding greenhouse, not original to the house but early, was located south of the service wing until its demolition by the university. Southeast of the house is a hiproofed brick garage. Its narrower end faces the driveway to the north where two double doors open under a hipped dormer. The building measures 56 by 24 feet and has five round-headed double-hung windows and a door on its long side, with three similar windows at the rear. The attic is fitted as an apartment, with four more dormers facing west and one on the south end.

The house at 6440 Forsyth, now known as Whittemore House, is said to have been modeled after Compton Wynyates in Warwickshire, an English manorhouse of the early Tudor period, about 1520.

Whittemore House echoes the older and much larger house in its irregular massing, half-timbered gables with brick nogging, stone window frames and trim, crenellated parapet and polygonal chimneys. The massing of the south or garden front corresponds to that of the Tudor west or entrance front, while the north entrance bay closely follows the face of the old entry tower. 2

While the windows of the six-bay south front are all square-headed, those of the nine-bay north front are more varied, some under pointed arches, some under Tudor labels. Most of them have small rectangular leaded panes set in double-hung frames, although a few are casements. The triple window above the north entry and the casements in the gabled dormers (one above the entry and three on the south side) have diamond-shaped panes.

The north front of the house breaks forward twice toward the roughly centered entry bay. The double doors are set in a pointed arch, which is in turn set in a rectangular stone panel. A stone escutcheon placed over the door and under the triple window of the stair landing overlaps the moldings of both those constructions; it is inscribed A.D. 1912. This bay has stone quoining. Flanking it are bays topped by half-timbered gables, and a smaller gable surmounts the next two bays to the west, where an unemphasized service entrance is located. At the east end of the house is a brick porch with stone-trimmed archways and a crenellated parapet matching those over the north entry and the center section of the garden front. The porch is linked to the garden front by a brick terrace with a stone balustrade. The garden front itself has two slightly projecting gabled bays flanking three second-story windows. Beneath the left two_of these windows since 1969 has been a new wing designed by architect Bernard McMahon. 3 A simple one-story construction of brick laid in flemish bond like the original house, it has a concrete foundation, low shed and hipped roofs and large plate-glass windows. It connects the main house with the former garage to the southwest and encloses the west portion of the terrace and the large stone-framed bay window on axis with the north entrance.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

HAARSTICK-WHITTEMORE HOUSES

Continuation sheet

Item number 7



Page

This stone framework now forms a screen at the south end of the main hall marking the division between the old house and the new diningrooms required by the building's function as a faculty club. On the east side of the hall, a large arch opens into the former livingroom, which has a tall oak-paneled chimneypiece over a stone arched fireplace surround and a ceiling decorated in Jacobean strapwork. On the west side of the hall, the original diningroom still serves in that capacity; it too has a large stone fireplace and strapwork ceiling; its south window now looks into the new wing. Second-floor rooms have been adapted for office use with some alterations, but the original floorplan is intact. A wrought-iron lantern hangs in the U-shaped stairwell.

The house originally measured 128 feet by 48 feet. Its depth has been enlarged to 86 feet by the 1969 addition, and this encompasses the original garage. The garage is one and a half stories tall and has a large east-facing cross gable. All three gable ends are half-timbered, with herringbone-patterned brick nogging. A large polygonal chimney rises above the south gable. Most of the garage's windows are double hung but the north one is a three-part casement with diamond-shaped panes. A shed-roofed greenhouse originally attached to the south end of the garage has been removed.

Both yards once contained ponds, which have since been filled. The relatively simple landscaping emphasizes trees and lawn.

NOTES

- 1. Cancelled checks of Henry C. Haarstick in the possession of Allen W. Whittemore.
- 2. Robin Fedden & John Kenworthy-Browne, <u>The Country House Guide</u> (N.Y. W.W. Norton, 1979), pp. 128-129; Nikolaus Pevsner & Alexandra Wedgwood, <u>Warwickshire</u> (The Buildings of England) (Harmondsworth, Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1966), p. 241 and plate 23.
- 3. Notes from Washington University.
- 4. The garage is illustrated in The Western Architect, June, 1916, p. 70.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art X commerce communications		Iandscape architectur Iaw Iterature Indicary Ind	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The two adjacent houses at 6420 and 6440 Forsyth Boulevard in Clayton, Missouri, are fine examples of early twentieth-century residential architecture of traditional design.

They are among the best houses designed by James P. Jamieson, one of Missouri's most outstanding architects of the period, and they take added significance from their location directly across the street from the Hilltop Campus of Washington University which is already on the National Register of Historic Places; Jamieson was the supervising architect of the earliest of these collegiate gothic buildings and designer of nearly all the later ones.

The two houses were built in 1912 by Henry C. Haarstick as gifts for his daughters. Emma Haarstick and her husband Clinton Whittemore lived at 6420 Forsyth while Ida Haarstick and her husband Oscar Herf lived at 6440. Haarstick and his wife lived with the Herfs until his death in 1919. Through the subsequent chain of owners outlined below, the names attached to the houses have been transposed so that 6440 Forsyth is now known as Whittemore House while 6420 Forsyth is called University House. All three of the early owners, Haarstick, Herf and Whittemore, were notably successful businessmen at a time when St. Louis played a far more prominent role in the national economy than is the case today.

James P. Jamieson (1867-1941) was born in Falkirk, Scotland, and emigrated to Philadelphia at the age of seventeen. There he early became associated with the prominent architectural firm of Cope and Stewardson. At first he was a draftsman, but after a year of study in Europe as the first recipient of the University of Pennsylvania Traveling Scholarship, he assumed increasing responsibilities. When the firm won the competition for the design of Washington University, he took charge of the St. Louis office and supervised construction of the first buildings. After Walter Cope's untimely death in 1902, Jamieson returned to Philadelphia, but he kept up an active practice in St. Louis and in 1912 settled there permanently. The Haarstick Houses were among the earliest he designed under his own name. In 1918 George Spearl became Jamieson's partner. They continued to make additions to Washington University, and they did more than twenty buildings for the University of Missouri in Columbia, including the

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

HAARSTICK-WHITTEMORE HOUSES

Continuation sheet

Item number

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Page

Memorial Tower. Their work for other educational and medical institutions was extensive. In residential architecture they specialized in large and carefully detailed houses in a variety of period styles. Most of these houses were built in the private subdivisions that characterized upper-class neighborhoods then, including fourteen houses on Westmoreland and Portland Places, adjacent private places in St. Louis which are on the National Register of Historic Places. The juxtaposition of Tudor and Georgian styles in the Haarstick commissions, which may now appear inconsistent, was repeated many times in these private streets and in Jamieson's work; the two Davis houses built in 1912 at 3 and 4 Brentmoor Park for father and son contrast in the same way. 5

Henry Christian Haarstick was born in Germany in 1836 and came to St. Louis in 1849 with his parents. As a young man, he worked in a distillery and married Elise Hoppe. By 1862, he had become a partner in the distillery and by 1864 had acquired full ownership. He sold the business in 1867 to buy stock in the Mississippi Valley Transportation Company, which operated barges from St. Louis to New Orleans; by 1869 he was the firm's president. The company was then on the verge of bankruptcy, but due primarily to Haarstick's management skills and flair for business innovations, it soon began to flourish. The Mississippi Valley Transporation Company was the first to transport grain and flour from St. Louis to New Orleans, thus opening up foreign markets to midwest agricultural products. By 1874 it had become the nation's largest barge line and by 1881 had merged with its three competitors to form the St. Louis and Mississippi Valley Transportation Company, the only barge line operating on the Mississippi River south of St. Louis. Haarstick remained president until his retirement in 1904. His son, William, served as vice president of the company until his death of a heart attack in 1909 at the age of 44.

Haarstick led an active retirement. He served as president of the Merchant's Exchange for a period. He also served as a vice president of St. Louis Union Trust and it was from this firm that he purchased the land for these houses. He was a member of the Tower Grove Park Commission from 1889 to 1916. A new variety of water lilly was developed at Tower Grove Park and named in his honor. He also financed and helped direct the Herf and Frerichs Chemical Company which was operated by Oscar Herf, his son-in-law, and Frederick Frerichs, who was married to his niece, Amelia Zeller.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

HAARSTICK-WHITTEMORE HOUSES

Continuation sheet Item number

Page 2

Oscar Herf was born in Germany in 1846, but became a citizen of England in 1870. He moved to St. Louis in 1884 and married Ida Haarstick that same year. The Herf and Frerichs Company he founded in 1886 became a large producer of ammonia products, and during World War I it received a government contract to produce ammonia explosives and expanded to eight plants nationwide. Ida Herf died in 1924 and Oscar died in 1928. The following year Frerichs sold the company to Allied Chemical Company. The Herfs had no children, so they left their house to the children of Emma and Clinton Whittemore. Henry H. Whittemore then purchased the shares of his sister and brother and moved into the former Herf residence. Is

Clinton Levering Whittemore was the son of another notable St. Louis businessman, Robert B. Whittemore, 14 who had came to St. Louis from New York in 1845 and subsequently earned his fortune in the hat and fur business. In 1874, he organized a cotton-processing company which was merged with the Peper Cotton Press Company about 1880. He remained an officer of the Peper Company but sold his interest in 1889 to finance a real estate investment company which his sons were to operate. This company was named the Levering Investment Company after the family name of Kate Levering, whom Whittemore had married in 1860. Robert Whittemore also served as vice president of Lucas Bank and as a director of the Mechanics' Bank. He died in 1910. 15

Clinton Whittemore (1869-1949) was employed as a young man by the Herf and Frerichs Chemical Company. He later became a director of the Levering Investment Company with his brothers and was a primary force behind the continued success of the company in acquiring prime real estate property in the St. Louis area. His son Henry (born 1902) also became a director of the Levering Investment Company and was similarly successful; when he died of pneumonia in 1960 his estate was valued at more than two million dollars. 17

In 1958 after the death of Mrs. Clinton Whittemore, the former Emma Haarstick, her children gave the house at 6420 Forsyth to Washington University. 18 It was first used as the Chancellor's residence and later as "University House", a place for university social functions and a guest house for visiting scholars and dignitaries. In 1966, Henry Whittemore's widow donated the house at 6440 Forsyth to Washington University as well, 19 and it was given the name "Whittemore House" by the University. It was used as the Alumni Club until 1969, when extensive dining and kitchen facilities were added to the rear; since then it has served as the Faculty Conference Center.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet

HAARSTICK-WHITTEMORE HOUSES
Item number

Page 3

NOTES

- 1. Interview with Allan W. Whittemore, grandson of Clinton and Emma Whittemore, November 18, 1980.
- 2. "James P. Jamieson," unpubl. ms., St. Louis Public Library, Art Department.
- 3. <u>ibid</u>; Washington University Dental School, <u>Background Paper on the History of the Whittemore House and the University House</u>, unpubl. ms.; James P. Jamieson, "The Washington University Group Plan," Washington University Record, Vol. XV, No. 5 (April 1920), pp. 4-6.
- 4. Guy Study, "James P. Jamieson", Resolution of St. Louis Chapter of American Institute of Architects, 1941; "James P. Jamieson Funeral Monday", St. Louis Post Dispatch, November 29, 1941.
- 5. The Brickbuilder, Vol. 23, No. 3 (March 1914), plates 32-39.
- 6. Howard Conard and William Hyde, eds., Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis (New York: Southern History Company, 1899) Vol. II, pp. 964-965.
- 7. E.D. Kargau, Mercantile, Industrial and Professional St. Louis (St. Louis: Nixon-Jones Company, 1902), pp. 102, 113, 177, 187, 429.
- 8. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, June 27, 1919.
- 9. Conard and Hyde, op cit; J.R. Dunham, Plat Book of St. Louis County Missouri (Des Moines, Towa: Northwest Publishing Company, 1909), p. 67.
- 10. The Haarstick Water Lilly is still commercially available through the Van Ness Water Gardens of Upland, California, and the Slocum Water Gardens of Winter Haven Florida, and is on display at Shaw's Garden in St. Louis.
- 11. Missouri Historical Society, "Memoirs of Deceased Members of the Society," Missouri Historical Society Collections, Vol. V, No. 3 (June 1928), pp. 350-351; E.D. Kargau, op cit.
- 12. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, May 1, 1939.
- 13. Washington University Dental School, op cit.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet

HAARSTICK-WHITTEMORE HOUSES

Item number

8

Page

4

- 14. James Cox, Old and New St. Louis (St. Louis: Benesch Publishing Company, 1894), p. 382.
- 15. St. Louis Globe-Democrat, July 8, 1910.
- 16. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, September 1, 1949.
- 17. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, July 27, 1960.
- 18. Washington University Dental School, op cit.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

HAARSTICK-WHITTEMORE HOUSES

Page

Continuation sheet

Item number

St. Louis. New York: Southern History Company, 1899, Vol. II, pp. 964-96.

- Cox, James. Notable St. Louisans, 1900. St. Louis: Benesch Art Publishing Company, 1900.
- Cox, James. Old and New St. Louis. St. Louis: Benesch Publishing Co., 4. 1894.
- Kargau, E.D. Mercantile, Industrial and Professional St. Louis. 5. St. Louis: Nixon-Jones, 1902, pp. 102, 113, 177, 187, 429.
- Missouri Historical Society, "Memoirs of Deceased Members of the Society," 6. Missouri Historical Society Collections, Vol. V, No. 3 (June 1928), pp. 350-351.
- St. Louis Post Dispatch, June 27, 1919 (Haarstick); May 1, 1939 (Herf & Frerich Co.); (Jamieson); September 1, 1949 (Clinton Whittemore); 7. July 27, 1960 (Henry Whittemore).
- The Western Architect, June 1916, p.70.

ITEM NUMBER 11

PAGE 1

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

April 1981

(314) 751-4096

Missouri 65201

9. Major Bit	oliographica	l Referenc	es	
The Book of St (2nd ed.), pp.	. Louisans. St. 250-251, 281.	Louis: The St	. Louis R	epublic, 1912
. Conard, Howard	, and Hyde, Will	iam, eds. <u>Enc</u>	yclopedia	of the History of
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12. State Hi	storic Pres	ervation O	fficer C	ertification
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Photo Log:

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City or Vicinity:						
County: St. Louis	County	State:	MO			
Photographer:	Esley Hamilton					
Date Photographed:	Dec. 1980					

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

- 1 of 12. University House, view of N or street front.
- 2 of 12. University House, view of S or garden front.
- 3 of 12. University House, view of main stairway from the S.
- 4 of 12. University House, view of W living room from the NE.
- 5 of 12. University House, view of dining room from the SW.
- 6 of 12. University House, view of garage from the SW.
- 7 of 12. Whittemore House, view of N or street front.
- 8 of 12. Whittemore House, view of N or street front from the NE.
- 9 of 12. Whittemore House, view of S or garden front before addition.
- 10 of 12. Whittemore House, view of S or garden front.
- 11 of 12. Whittemore House, view of center hall from N, showing stone frame of former S windows and 1969 addition.
- 12 of 12. Whittemore House, view of living room from the W.























