

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National 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 LARIMORE, WILSON, HOUSE
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 11510 Larimore Road b/not for publication
city, town Bellefontaine Neighbors b/nvicinity
state Missouri code MO county St. Louis code 189 zip code 63138

3. Classification

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

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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.

Frederick A. Brunner
Signature of certifying official Frederick A. Brunner, Ph.D., P.E., Director, Date 12/15/88
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)

Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

walls brick

roof asphalt

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Set among the wooded uplands overlooking the Missouri-Mississippi River the Wilson Larimore House (ca. 1850) is one of the finest early Italianate residences found in the greater St. Louis area. The house is a detached compound plan house of two stories. It retains a substantial amount of its original interior elements, architectural detail and integrity of location, setting, design, materials and workmanship. This farmstead main residence is an example of the transition from traditional modes of mid-19th century building to the newer Italianate expression then emerging in the area.

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)

Architecture

Agriculture

Period of Significance

c. 1850

1866

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wilson Larimore

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

The Wilson Larimore House is eligible for inclusion to the National Register under criteria A and C through its association with the 19th century development of architecturally distinctive farm housing in the St. Louis area and by its signification by a prominent and influential agricultural fair in 1866. The house embodies significant historic associations in the areas of ARCHITECTURE and AGRICULTURE at the local level of significance. From its construction in the early 1850s it was an integral component in what was once a highly touted farm property set forward as worthy of emulation by the agricultural elite; despite the diminution of the farm's size and prominence the house retains the ability to convey important associative qualities. The transition from a traditional mode of agriculture to "progressive" mid-19th century practices and the effect this had on what could be perceived as the model dwelling-place is made explicit within this vernacular expression of early Italianate architecture.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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:

St. Louis County Parks and Recreation
Department

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property 0.66 acres

UTM References

A

1	5	7	4	3	1	4	0	4	2	9	5	1	9	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

B

1	5	7	4	3	1	0	0	4	2	9	5	2	0	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

C

1	5	7	4	3	1	1	0	4	2	9	5	2	7	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

D

1	5	7	4	3	1	4	5	4	2	9	5	2	6	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1. Preservation Planning Section
organization Historic Preservation Program date November, 1988
street & number P. O. Box 176 telephone 314/751-5377
city or town Jefferson City state Missouri zip code 65102

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The Wilson Larimore House is presently within a tract of slightly more than ten acres in north St. Louis County. The property is bounded on the west by Larimore Road, which takes its name from the builder of this house, on the north by Coal Bank Road, and on the east by Lilac Avenue (formerly known as Bellefontaine Church Road). On the south Penningroth Avenue was laid out in 1923 to run between Larimore and Lilac, but so far has been developed only from Larimore Road to the circular drive in front of the house. On the grounds in addition to the house are a large barn measuring approximately 65' by 52', a shed 16' by 32', and a brick outhouse, 10' by 12'.

The house itself consists of a large two-story front block 43' wide by 33' deep, and a somewhat lower rear wing 16' wide extending 40' to the north. The imposing height of the front block results from the high ceilings inside, approximately 16' high. The house sits on a foundation of rough-faced, squared, limestone block, with an ashlar water table underlining the common bond red brick above. The windows are four-over-four double-hung sash fitted with green louvered shutters. The front elevation has five bays, the sides, because of the four balancing chimneys, only two. The low hipped roof is crowned by a bracketed cupola (originally called an observatory) and underlined by a bracketed frieze. Across the center three bays of the front is a bracketed two-story shed-roof porch 26'. Porch, cornice and cupola brackets vary in design, those at the top being most elaborate. The porch has paired posts topped by cornice-like capitals. The first-floor frieze forms flat basket arches between pairs of posts, while the second-floor frieze forms ogee arches supported by scrolled brackets of their own. Both floors have balustrades composed of traditional vase-shaped balusters. The central first-floor windows and their shutters have been extended to the floor level. The main entry has double doors under a bracketed entablature. The central window of the second floor is also a double door set in an Italianate framework of one arch inscribing two smaller ones. The windows of the cupola, three on each side, are also arched.

To the west side of the house is a one-story two-bay porch, a smaller version of the front porch, retaining the latticework underneath, while the front porch has a newer concrete base. Upstairs on this side is an extra window, which appears to be original but which, unlike the others, is round-headed with radiating voussoirs. The west side of the rear wing has five bays below and four above, with six-over-six windows and two first-floor doors, glazed, each approached by four wooden steps and sheltered by a bracketed hood. These hoods resemble those seen on Craftsman or Tudor-style houses of the early twentieth century and are probably replacements for earlier Italianate ones.

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The east side of the rear wing has a four-bay two-story gallery under the line of the roof. A stair runs transversely from the first floor to the second. The gallery bay nearest the front block of the house was enclosed with clapboard in the early twentieth century, creating a rear entryway on the first floor and a bathroom on the second. All the detailing of this gallery is very plain, the posts have unobtrusive bases and capital moldings. Steps rise to it across the second bay and the north end.

The scale of the interior is imposing. The broad central hall ends in a curving staircase, which rises to a similar second-floor hall and an opening to the cupola above. The opening is finished as a richly molded coffer. To the right of the entry are two parlors connected by a broad arched opening with pocket doors. This wall is entirely paneled, and other panels occur under the windows in both rooms. The matching fireplace surroundings are white Italian marble with projecting scrolled keystones bracketing the shelves. These and other fireplaces on the first floor have been rebuilt for gas logs, while the second-floor fireplaces have been removed. The southwest first-floor room, which was originally called a family room, has glass-doored shelving to the left of the fireplace, apparently a twentieth-century addition. The northwest main room, at first the dining room, was converted to a kitchen when the north wing was made into a separate apartment. The only other change to the front part of the house necessary to achieve the separation was the closing of a door on the second floor. As mentioned above, a bathroom has been created on part of the porch, with a second bathroom in the north wing. Below the interior rear staircase is a horizontal door concealing the stairs to the basement, which is stone-lined and concrete-floored and was considered one of the finest features of the house as built.

The house's setting includes flanking evergreens and deciduous trees on the east and west elevations, a circular driveway that leads up to the house from the avenue fronting the facade and a small group of outbuildings found behind the main house. As the current USGS map illustrates the house is sited upon a locally prominent ridgetop providing an expansive field of view from the house.

The nearby, transverse frame, three portal barn is not contemporaneous with the house's period of significance. Based on its mode of construction an unverified date of construction of ca. 1900 could be forwarded on typological grounds. It is of board and frame construction and sits upon a rubble foundation. A louvered cupola crowns the roof and the main (south) elevation is pierced by three portals. Two of the portals possess sliding doors, the third features a gable roof projecting entranceway. Other outbuildings found in proximity to the house, and currently undated, include a small frame

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outbuilding and a brick two-door outhouse: both buildings have not been conclusively shown to be related to the house's role as significant historic resource, though new information could establish this possibility in the future. Other extant historic resources directly related to the operations of the farmstead during the period of significance have not been identified at this time.

The nomination is limited to the portion of the land tract the house sits upon; this restricts the nomination acreage (.66 acre) to the historically significant house and its immediate environs; the adjacent fields and outbuildings are excluded as elements differing in character and association from the house (see item #10: verbal boundary description and justification).

Note:

A detailed description of the Larimore House, still accurate in most respects, was published in the Second Annual Report of the Missouri State Board of Agriculture...to the General Assembly of Missouri for the Year 1866. (Jefferson City: Emory S. Foster, Public Printer, 1867). pp. 635-640.

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LARIMORE, WILSON, HOUSE

Section number 8 Page 1ARCHITECTURE & AGRICULTURE

As the centerpiece of the farm the main house of the Larimore property has the ability to convey important historic associations in architecture and agriculture. Despite the loss or alteration of the accompanying outbuildings and the loss of a substantial amount of acreage from the original farmstead, the house itself reflects the mid-19th century values of a proper farm construction, especially the values inherent in the ideal of the model farm dwelling. It is not an accident that the detailed description found in the St. Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Association's Annual Report¹ or subsequent Missouri Board of Agriculture Report of 1866² provide an in-depth analysis of the main house's attributes in siting, construction, workmanship and design. The authors of the description were conscious of the edifying nature of their designating this farmstead house as a model worthy of emulation.

To understand the role of this farmhouse as an epitome of the proper farm dwelling it is critical to focus upon the role played by agriculture fairs in the early to mid-19th century farm life of Missouri. After all, the ability of this house to exemplify the proper farm home sprang from its signification by an agricultural fair committee. As will be illustrated, the influence of these fairs was profound; these institutions played a critical role in the transition from small scale subsistence farming to commercial farming. The significance lent to the Larimore House by its designation as a model home by an important agricultural fair could not have been lost to the agricultural community as a whole. It is important to understand why a fair would set a property apart from its contemporaries by signifying it as an exemplar.

What has been called the agitation for farm improvement in the 1800s has been systematically analyzed³ and the role of the agricultural fair in this movement was significant. The agitation for use of better, or nominally scientific methods of agricultural development, began in Missouri newspapers in the 1830s.⁴ The availability of cheap farmland and scarcity of labor blocked the development of progressive agriculture in the state at this time. As late as 1849, James Hammond reported on the deplorable condition of most Missouri farming "...conducted on the regular skinning system-taking everything and returning nothing" and "scratch" farming of ever increasing acreage at the expense of careful cultivation.⁵

The first third of the 19th century was the heyday of the pioneer American farmer employing these primitive techniques. From 1830-1860 a transition occurred within which subsistence farming yielded to more established farming practices⁶; in the words of historian F.B. Mumford, farming became a business. The farming practices detailed by James Hammond did not disappear

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overnight but a pronounced change was taking place. New implements and practices promoted expansion beyond the level of simple subsistence. The burgeoning population and growth of transportation networks made it practicable to distribute the products of farm labor. Efficient farm management, adaptation of better cultivation methods and use of new plowing equipment were promulgated in the rural press.⁷ A corollary to these developments was the establishment of a popular feature of agricultural life, the agricultural fair.

In the thirty years before the Civil War agricultural fairs were held throughout settled Missouri.⁸ This followed a pattern of holding public fairs advocating agricultural improvements dating from at least the mid-late 18th century and probably enjoying antecedents of much greater time depth.⁹ The first Missouri fair was held in St. Louis County in the Fall of 1824 and subsequent fair growth throughout the Missouri River Valley has been well documented.¹⁰ Agricultural societies of this time were constantly improving their fair facilities to draw large crowds. The societies also awarded prizes or premiums to top winners among a wide array of categories. Foremost among the numerous fairs in the ante-bellum period was the St. Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Association Fair. This fair, called the most extensive agricultural show in Missouri, boasted the finest fairground in America after 1856.¹¹ Its growth was unparalleled with cash receipts in 1860 totaling over \$37,000 and attendance estimated at 10,000 per day. The impact of the fair on agricultural life in Missouri was profound and period newspapers constantly regaled subscribers with reports filled with superlatives on the premium stock, cultivation techniques and machinery found at the exposition. These fairs were often the only opportunity for the widely dispersed farm population to observe firsthand the latest in agricultural related innovations; according to historian George Lemmer the fairs provided a great impetus to agricultural improvement in the state and they also provided the rural Missourian with a taste of urban excitement.¹²

The advent of the Civil War closed the St. Louis fair for the duration. In the "History of the St. Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Association", published in the 1866 fair report,¹³ it is reported the grounds served as an encampment for troops. They were returned to the association with the end of sanctioned hostilities. The dilapidated grounds and buildings were refurbished under the directorship of Arthur B. Barrett and to him the fair officials gave major credit for "nobly, faithfully and successfully performed the task" of bringing the facility back up to pre-war standards for the exposition of 1866.

The fair of 1866 recaptured the spirit of agricultural modernization that had manifested itself in the years immediately before the war. The "unparalleled

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success" of the fair was touted in the agricultural press with descriptions of the premiums awarded.¹⁴ One of the major premiums to be awarded in the 1866 St. Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Association Fair was a premium "...for the best improved and most highly cultivated farm, not less than five hundred acres," the ostensible purpose being to encourage farmers to emulate the owner's example and strive to excel in agricultural pursuits.¹⁵ The award in 1866 was given to the farm and improvements of W.L. Larimore of St. Ferdinand Township.¹⁶

The award for the best improved farm for a single fair, while interesting, is not truly significant. What gives this particular award significance is the fact that it was seen as sufficiently important to the agricultural community to publish the results of the award committee's findings in not only the widely disseminated Annual Fair Report, as might be expected, but also in the Annual Report of the newly created State Board of Agriculture. No other premium farm property was accorded this distinction either before or after the 1866 fair. In addition, the farm garnered the distinction of being known in the ensuing years as "The Model Farm" and was still referred to by this name over seventeen years later when the first comprehensive history of the St. Louis area was compiled by J. Thomas Scharf.¹⁷ The widespread nature of the appellation, its being presented in literature enjoying widespread distribution and the essay's detailed analysis of the property all suggest this designation touched upon something much deeper than a transitory annual event would suggest. This farm was being put forward as an emblematic type worthy of emulation; it is important to see it as the objectification of certain characteristics which the agricultural community saw as important.

When the farm was founded by Kentucky emigrant Wilson L. Larimore in the late 1840s he was able to purchase the acreage for about \$10-12 per acre. In the subsequent years he was eventually able to assemble a large tract totalling approximately 1,000 acres centered on the rich forested meadowlands above the Missouri-Mississippi Rivers confluence. The fact that Larimore and his family were able to traverse the two week trek from Bourbon County, Kentucky by carriage, and possessed a train of wagons carrying household goods, suggests he can be ascribed to the class of capitalized farmers who settled well behind the farther reaches of the cutting edge of the frontier. His ownership of 14 slaves in 1850 underscores his relative wealth. The proximity of a burgeoning city of 35,000 was certain to provide some measure of assurance for securing markets for his farm products. Befitting his status of a prominent agriculturalist Larimore constructed his home in the 1850s, the exact date of construction presently being unknown.

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In its early years the Larimore Farm was fairly diversified. Five hundred of its then 800 acres (1850) yielded 4,000 bushels of corn as well as substantial amounts of meadow hay, rye, sweet potatoes, orchard products, grass seed and beeswax and honey. Farm stock included sheep (300) for wool production and swine (150). Commensurate with the general trend towards increasing specialization in the business oriented climate of farm operations emerging in the mid-19th century¹⁸, Larimore had focused his efforts by 1860 on cutting back on diversity and marketing a greater amount of meadow products, especially hay, which provided gross receipts of \$24,000 in one year. Cash valuation of the farm increased from \$40,000 to \$80,000 between 1850-60. Sixteen slaves, including four male hands, worked on the farm and Larimore's holdings, which were exceeded only by that of St. Louis County farmer James Bissell, and possessed the highest total valuation of land per acre in the area.

As Civil War racked Missouri the Larimore Farm continued operations. When emancipation freed the farm's blacks is unknown, general emancipation for Missouri's blacks was granted January 11, 1865; certainly the Larimore Farm's proximity to St. Louis led to freedom for the black farm workers at or before this date. It is interesting to speculate how much of an effect the war had on the farm operations; apparently it had insufficient effect to dramatically alter the farm's increasing status as a model property. Within the nineteen months between the end of the Civil War and the farm's being signified as "The Model Farm" little enough had changed to seriously compromise its position as one of St. Louis County's premier farm operations.

The premium granted by the St. Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Association for large farms can be interpreted as an objectification of values; the granting of this award was, in the committee's own words, striving to set a standard of excellence. In the essay submitted by the award committee no single attribute of the farm was as rigorously detailed in description than the main house. It is important to review the committee's findings carefully to understand the purposefulness of this action. It bears witness to the changing nature of Missouri farm house preference as well as changes in agriculture that would transform farm life across the state in the subsequent decades.

"A more desirable location could hardly be found presenting so many beautiful commanding building sites....In the subdivision of the farm commendable taste has been displayed in the location of the dwelling upon a commanding elevation..."

The opening portion of the committee's report on "The Model Farm" thus opens with a reference to siting. The properly sited country house was to have a

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well defined aspect which made the operations of the farmstead observable, though not to the extent of sacrificing the proper placement of kitchen or other rear sections.¹⁹ Practicality was certainly as important as aesthetic judgments in site placement.

The general appearance of the house, its qualities of design, workmanship and materials were not lost on the committee:

"The dwelling is a neat, substantial brick, two stories high, 32' by 42', with a wing extending north 44'. The house fronts the south, and being upon an elevated site, presents from the handsome two-story porch in front (26' long), or from the roomy observatory above the center of the house, a beautiful landscape view of the surrounding countryside.."

"The dwelling-house, while it has been erected of the best materials, and in the most substantial manner, with a view to making it most convenient and pleasant, as a farmer's home, will, in point of architectural design and exterior and interior finish, rank equal to many of our best city residences."

The committee report also focused on several of the interior features that made the house a significant, and useful, farm house. The commodious cellar and closet spaces, wide double doors and large windows, the parlor space (easily doubled through opening wide sliding doors) and airy, spacious rooms impressed the committee.²⁰ The interior wood finishes, curving staircase and white Italian marble fireplace surrounds were viewed as "rich and costly" elements executed in "good taste." To the committee the house successfully objectified what the substantial yet tasteful farmhouse should be. Its attributes featured prominently in their report and were set forward as worthy of emulation. It is interesting to note that the house did not represent a striking contrast to earlier modes of construction favored in farm dwellings of comparable age.

The Italianate style of this residence is to be distinguished from the Italian Villa, an asymmetrical, even rambling composition characterized by a tower. The foursquare Italianate house derived more directly in plan and overall shape from its Greek Revival and Federal predecessors and was thus more readily adopted by vernacular builders. St. Louis, which had been a center of the Greek Revival style, turned to the Italianate in the 1850s by way of a long period of transitional building. St. Louis County, then predominantly rural, still retains a number of transitional and Italianate houses, many of the best illustrated in Historic Buildings in St. Louis County (1983). The Larimore House is the only one of these to retain its elaborately detailed cupola or

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observatory, and it is also outstanding for its other detailing and for its scale.

James Denny has noted the transitional states in Missouri's antebellum architecture. Among Denny's more interesting discoveries is the transition occurring in the early-mid 1850s among homes of Missouri's landed elite. The double-pile house of this era begins to be more commonly covered with a sloping hip roof, featured deeper halls providing a dramatic setting for the central hall staircases and contained dividing parlors with sliding doors opening to create double parlors.²¹ Denny makes an interesting note:

"The succession of styles theory would dictate by the overwhelming power of its own logic that these double pile houses be labeled either Greek Revival, or Italianate, depending on how swayed one is with the ubiquitous brackets or the low pitched overhanging hip roofs...What we are witnessing is something far more subtle....in a state like Missouri where the pull of tradition was so strong and architects so far away. These double pile mansions are nothing new....In many ways they simply bring us full circle in an almost ritual re-enactment of the first two centuries of architectural development in the upper South --a process that began like ours with hall-and-parlor houses which culminated, like ours seems to, in the double-pile Georgian form."

Once the observer looks past the bracketing and low pitched cupola the Larimore House references the conservative nature of Missouri building traditions. This farm dwelling, touted as a model farm residence of the progressive agriculturalist, was not a dramatic departure from the past. It sits securely enmeshed in the building precedents set in the antebellum period, it reassuringly mixes a measure of innovation with the characteristic pattern of design preference found in the middle two quarters of the 19th century.

It is interesting, and significant, to note that no other premium farm property of the era was accorded the notoriety the Larimore property was given. The motivations behind this designation seem clear, it was to recognize the quality of the property and use it as an example for the wider agricultural community. There is no small irony in the fact that even as the premium was given Larimore was beginning to systematically disassemble his holdings to realize dramatic profits from his initial investment.²² The various structures and buildings associated with the property have not withstood time and increasing urban encroachment.²³ The house and its immediate environs remain the only tangible link to the lofty status once signified by the Midwest's premier agricultural showcase.

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In the decade after the award the Larimore property was continually reduced. By the turn of the century the Penningroth family came into possession of the property. A few efforts were made to form a municipality (1910) or major subdivision (1923) in the area, neither effort was successful. In the post-World War II era the area has become substantially urbanized and the pressures of development have increasingly imperiled this important property which retains the ability to convey important architectural values as well as significant associations in agricultural history.

- ¹ Sixth Annual Report of the St. Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Association (St. Louis, MO: George Knapp & Company, 1868) 143-8.
- ² Second Annual Report of the Missouri Board of Agriculture...to the General Assembly of Missouri, for the year 1866 (Jefferson City: E.S. Foster, Public Printer, 1867) 638.
- ³ The work of historian George F. Lemmer is particularly noteworthy in this area, see, "Agitation for Agricultural Improvement in Central Missouri Newspapers Prior to the Civil War," Missouri Historical Review 37.4 (July, 1943): 371-385. Also see: "Agricultural Improvement in Missouri: 1830 to the Civil War," Unpublished M.A. Thesis, University of Missouri-Columbia, 1941.
- ⁴ Lemmer, "Agitation" 372.
- ⁵ "Farming in Missouri, 1849," Letter printed in Lemmer, G.F., "Missouri Agriculture as Revealed in the Eastern Agricultural Press, 1923-1869, Part I," Missouri Historical Review 42.3 (Oct. 1942): 233-236.
- ⁶ Mumford, F.B., "A Century of Missouri Agriculture," Missouri Historical Review 15: 284-5.
- ⁷ Lemmer, "Agitation" 372-3.
- ⁸ Lemmer, G.F., "The Early Agricultural Fairs of Missouri," Agricultural History 17.3 (July 1943): 145-152.
- ⁹ True, R.H., "The Early Development of Agricultural Societies in the United States," Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the Year 1920, (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1925) 300. The first American agricultural fair was organized by Elkanah Watson and held in Pittsfield, Massachusetts in 1809; see Stilgoe, J.R., Common Landscape of America, 1580-1845 (New Haven, CT: Yale U P, 1982) 251.

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- 10 Lemmer, "Fairs," 145-154.
 - 11 Lemmer, "Fairs," 150.
 - 12 Lemmer, "Fairs," 151; Stilgoe details some of the important aspects of farmer attendance at these large exhibitions, see Landscape 255-6.
 - 13 As reported in Sixth Annual Report of the St. Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Association (St. Louis: G. Knapp & Co., 1868) 12-16.
 - 14 See "Agricultural Fairs in Missouri: Letter of J.S.H., Callaway County, Missouri, October 23, 1866" in Lemmer, G.F., "Missouri Agriculture as Revealed in the Eastern Agricultural Press, 1823-1869, Part II," Missouri Historical Review 42.4 (Oct. 1942):330-1.
 - 15 Sigerson, W., N.H. Parker, and J. F. Long, Committee, "Appendix: The Model Farm of W. L. Larimore." Sixth Annual Report of the St. Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Association (St. Louis: George Knapp & Co., 1868) 143-148.
 - 16 J.T. Scharf's History of Saint Louis City and County (Philadelphia: L. H. Everts, 1883) incorrectly states the premium award as having been given to the Larimore property in 1864 (p. 1230). A fair report in the agricultural press, however, states the fair was suspended through the Civil War (see endnote #14) as does the official history of the fair found in the 1866 Fair Report (see endnote #13).
 - 17 Scharf, "History", p. 1230.
 - 18 Mumford, "Missouri Agriculture", p. 285.
 - 19 See, for instance, A.J. Downing's discussion, The Architecture of Country Houses, 1850. (New York: Dover Publications, 1969), p. 271, 273-4.
 - 20 Sigerson et al, "Model Farm", 144-6.
 - 21 Denny, M. M. "Form and Style in Missouri's Ante Bellum Domestic Architecture," Paper presented to the Missouri Conference on History, April, 1981, pp. 15-6.
 - 22 St. Louis County Land Records of the Larimore holdings show him systematically disposing of his property in the post-Civil War years. Small parcels, originally bought for \$10-12 per acre, by this time commanded prices between \$125-200. Several tracts, including the house, were retained

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LARIMORE, WILSON, HOUSE

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by Larimore in 1870, but by 1878 the entire property had passed into other hands. Larimore retired and moved into the city where his sons had established a successful warehousing and elevator business. Larimore died on July 27, 1887.

- 23 The Larimore property accorded distinction by the fact it possessed five very large hay barns, lumber and poultry yards, five tenant houses, carriage houses, seed house, implement house, icehouse and blacksmith and carpenter shops. See the description of the property in Sigerson et al, "Model Farm", 146-8. The barn presently located behind the Larimore House is an, as yet, undated Midwest three-portal barn of later construction (c. 1900?) and is not listed as a contributing building for this nomination.

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LARIMORE, WILSON, HOUSE

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LARIMORE, WILSON, HOUSE

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The Larimore House lies within a tract of land in U.S. Survey Unit #112, #389 and #2007, T47N, R7E. The acreage of this tract exceeds that necessary to maintain the historic character of the Larimore House and its setting. For the purposes of this registration effort the boundary begins at the point approximately 800' east of the north side of the intersection of Penningroth Avenue and Larimore Road (marked point "a" on the site sketch map). From this point the boundary trends 120' west to the edge of the circle drive-Penningroth Avenue intersection (point b). The boundary then passes 240' north to the rear of the house yard (point c) and then 120' to the east to a point directly south of the southernmost outbuilding of the property (point d). The boundary then parallels the driveway fronting the east elevation of the house to intersect with point a, 240' south of point d. Total acreage within the boundary is .66 acres.

Justification

The area encompassed in the boundary includes only the house, its immediate environs (including the circular drive leading up to the house), and excludes outbuildings that currently have not been established to be directly related to the house's period of significance established for the purposes of this registration effort. The bounded acreage included for the nomination is limited to that area necessary to retain the house's integrity of setting and location in a rapidly developing suburban area.

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LARIMORE, WILSON, HOUSE

Section number 11 Page 1

2. Esley Hamilton
Administrative Assistant
St. Louis County Parks and Recreation
41 S. Central
Clayton, Missouri 63105
Date: November, 1988
Telephone: 314/889-3357

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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WILSON LARIMORE HOUSE

Section number Photos Page 1

Photographic labels for Wilson Larimore House, 11510 Larimore Road, St. Louis, Missouri. Photographs field checked for accuracy in December, 1988. No discernable change in property observed.

WILSON LARIMORE HOUSE

11510 Larimore Road

St. Louis, Missouri 63138

Esley Hamilton

December, 1985

Negative location: St. Louis County Dept. of
Parks & Recreation
41 S. Central
Clayton, Missouri 63105

Front elevation from south

#1

WILSON LARIMORE HOUSE

11510 Larimore Road

St. Louis, Missouri 63138

Esley Hamilton

December, 1985

Negative location: St. Louis County Dept. of
Parks & Recreation
41 S. Central
Clayton, Missouri 63105

Front and east side from southeast

#2

WILSON LARIMORE HOUSE

11510 Larimore Road

St. Louis, Missouri 63138

Esley Hamilton

December, 1985

Negative location: St. Louis County Dept. of
Parks & Recreation
41 S. Central
Clayton, Missouri 63105

Back and west side from northwest

#3

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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WILSON LARIMORE HOUSE

Section number Photos Page 2

WILSON LARIMORE HOUSE

11510 Larimore Road

St. Louis, Missouri 63138

Esley Hamilton

December, 1985

Negative location: St. Louis County Dept. of
Parks & Recreation
41 S. Central
Clayton, Missouri 63105

East side of rear wing from east

#4

WILSON LARIMORE HOUSE

11510 Larimore Road

St. Louis, Missouri 63138

Esley Hamilton

December, 1985

Negative location: St. Louis County Dept. of
Parks & Recreation
41 S. Central
Clayton, Missouri 63105

Southeast parlor from northwest

#5

WILSON LARIMORE HOUSE

11510 Larimore Road

St. Louis, Missouri 63138

Esley Hamilton

December, 1985

Negative location: St. Louis County Dept. of
Parks & Recreation
41 S. Central
Clayton, Missouri 63105

Northeast parlor from southwest,
showing arch between parlors

#6

**United States Department of the Interior
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WILSON LARIMORE HOUSE

Section number Photos Page 3

WILSON LARIMORE HOUSE

11510 Larimore Road

St. Louis, Missouri 63138

Esley Hamilton

December, 1985

Negative location: St. Louis County Dept. of
Parks & Recreation
41 S. Central
Clayton, Missouri 63105

Southwest room (library) from east

#7

WILSON LARIMORE HOUSE

11510 Larimore Road

St. Louis, Missouri 63138

Esley Hamilton

December, 1985

Negative location: St. Louis County Dept. of
Parks & Recreation
41 S. Central
Clayton, Missouri 63105

Barn from southeast

#8

WILSON LARIMORE HOUSE

11510 Larimore Road

St. Louis, Missouri 63138

Esley Hamilton

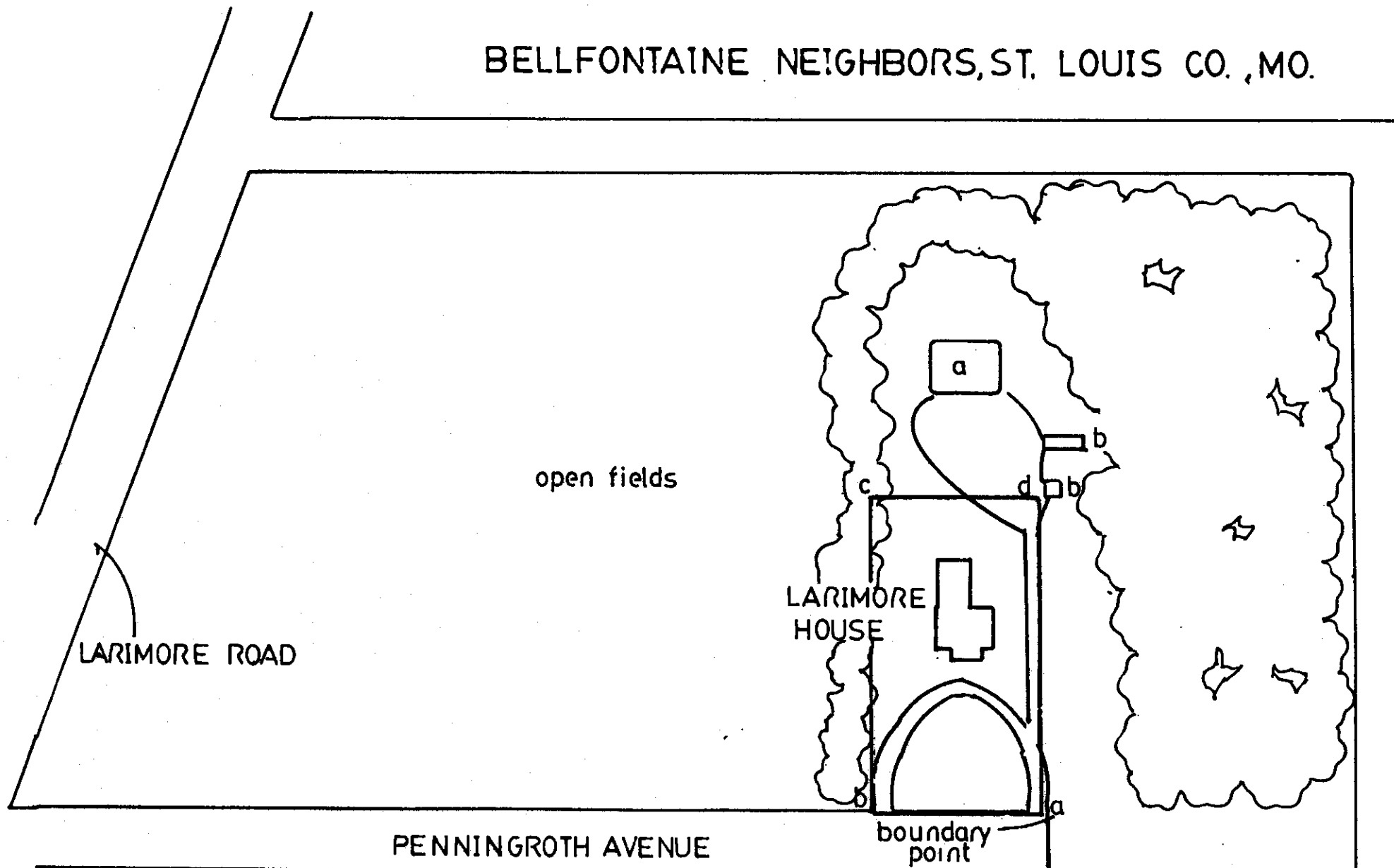
December, 1985

Negative location: St. Louis County Dept. of
Parks & Recreation
41 S. Central
Clayton, Missouri 63105

Outbuildings from northeast

#9

BELFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, ST. LOUIS CO., MO.



LARIMORE ROAD

open fields

LARIMORE HOUSE

PENNINGROTH AVENUE

boundary point

North

0 120
ft.

a noncontributing traverse frame
three portal barn

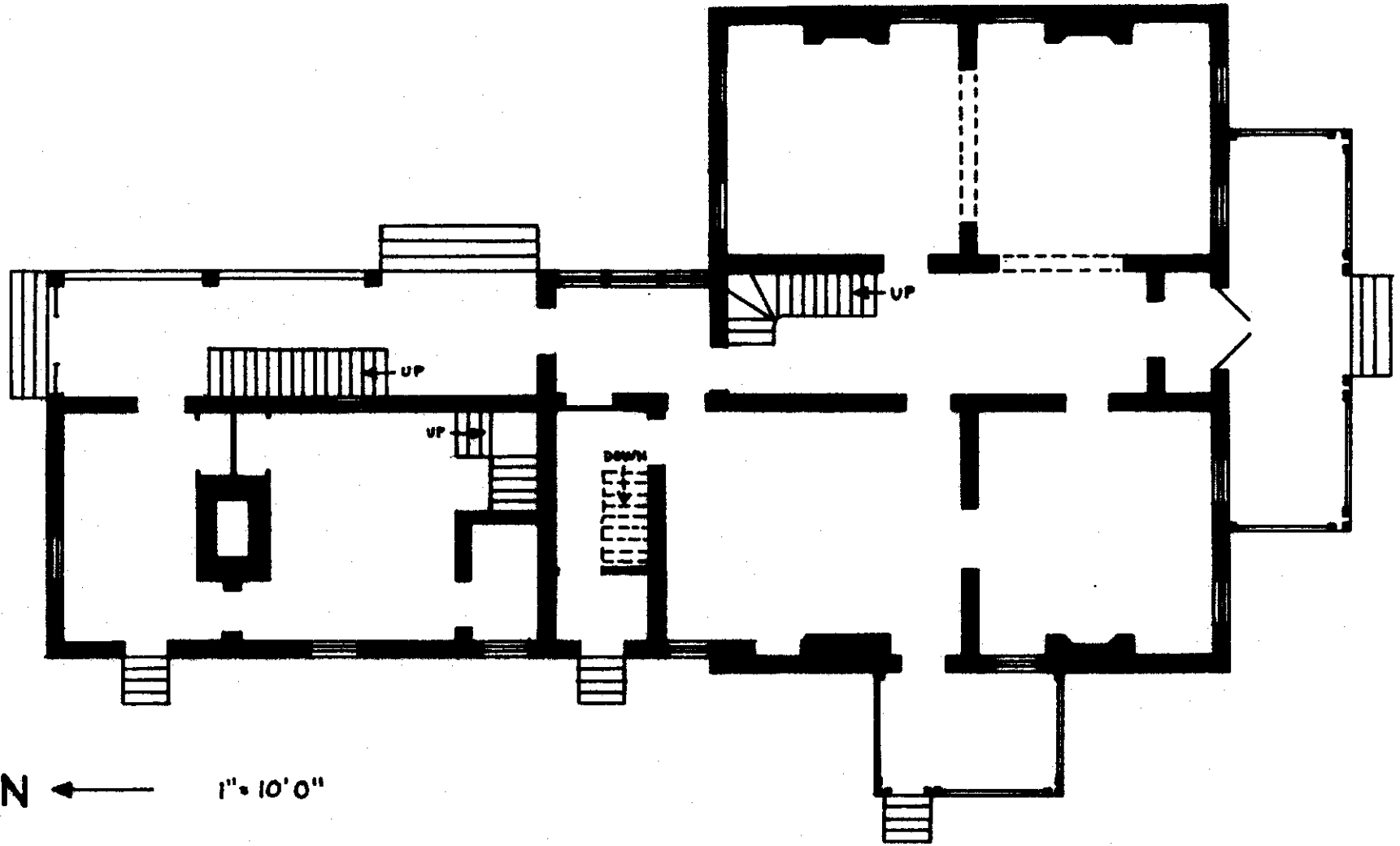
b noncontrib. outbuildings

WILSON LARIMORE HOUSE

after P BAER 1986

WILSON LARIMORE HOUSE

ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI



a
743140mE
4295190mN

b
743100mE
4295200mN

c
743110mE
4295270mN

d
743145mE
4295260mN

496
T. 47 N.
1670 000 FEET
(MO.)
32
13 MI. TO INTERSTATE 70
6 MI. TO MO. 140
4293
T. 46 N.
38°45'
90°15'

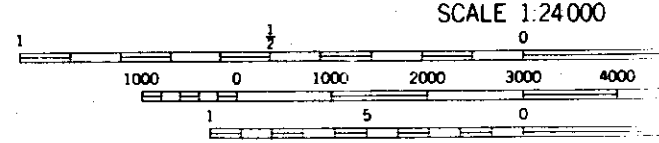
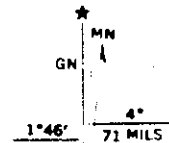


(CLAYTON)
761 III NE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE

Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs taken 1941. Topography by plane-table surveys 1924 and 1951, and in part by U. S. Corps of Engineers. Field check 1951



SCALE 1:24 000

744 (GRANITE CITY)
2961 11 NW

















