- Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

HISTORIC

Theodore Link Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER	7100, 7104 and 710	08 Delmar Boulevard		N
CITY, TOWN	University City		CONGRESSIONAL DIS #1 - Hon. William	
STATE	Missouri	CODE 29	COUNTY St. Louis	CODE 189

CLASSIFICATION

	CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE
	X DISTRICT	PUBLIC		AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
•	BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
	STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
	OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
		BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		- -	XNO	MILITARY	-OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

University City

1. F. Howard Rose

STREET & NUMBER

7100 Delmar Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE Missouri 63130

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

STREET & NUMBER

1979 DEPOSITORY FOR

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Recorder of Deeds, St. Louis County Government Center

7900 Forsyth Blvd.

CITY, TOWN

Clayton

•

STATE Missouri 63105

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

Missouri State Historic Survey

FEDERAL	STATE	COUNTY	LOCAL
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SURVEY RECORDS	Department	of	Natural	Resources,	Ρ.	0.	Box	170	5

CITY. TOWN Jefferson City

Mfssouri 65102

DESCRIPTION

(CONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK (ONE
EXCELLENT X_GOOD FAIR	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	LUNALTERED	X ORIGINAL MOVED	SITE DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The three houses at 7100, 7104 and 7108 Delmar Boulevard form a continuous frontage along the south side of the street from Vassar Avenue west. All three were designed by Theodore C. Link and built by Merrill Construction Company beginning in 1911. Although comparable in size, the three houses are of contrasting designs: the Band Mansion at 7100 Delmar is an elaborate example of the Georgian Revival, the Niedringhaus House at 7104 Delmar is Tudor Revival, while the Shinkle House at 7108 Delmar displays design features derived from the French Renaissance. All three fit into the stylistic category of "the period house,"¹ and all have the thoughtful floorplans and careful detailing which were hallmarks of their architect.²

The Rand Mansion is marked by a white two-story portico of six Corinthian columns across the center three bays of its nine-bay facade. These columns (visually) support a (cantilevered) full entablature with an exceptionally wide frieze which continues around the whole house. This is surmounted by a balustrade above the portico and by a brick parapet elsewhere. Above the portico, the hipped roof has three round-headed dormer windows set in pilastered, pedimented surrounds. A similar dormer is at each end of the roof. The red brick body of the house is accented with limestone details in the form of a ground-floor string course and voussoirs above the firstfloor windows. The center door is set in an elaborate wooden bay that projects slightly forward from the brick wall, creating a shallow balcony in front of the second-floor window. A wooden oriel on the east side, second floor, has leaded glass windows, and another leaded window lights the stair landing at the center of the south elevation. Georgian Revival detailing continues on the interior in the staircase and fireplaces. The dining room to the right of the entry is divided by a screen of two columns in the manner of Robert Adam, and the sungoom in the southeast corner (apparently remodeled or enclosed in 1934) has Adamesque details as well. The third or attic floor is finished as a ballroom.

The Niedringhaus House is a two-and-a-half-story structure with a highpitched slate gable roof. It is built of dark reddish brown textured brick laid in black mortar with recessed joints. Both front and back elevations have two large overhanging half-timbered gables, and this black-stained wood and white stucco is continued above the first floor on both ends of the house. A one-and-a-half-story wing at the west end of the main structure is similarly treated, with gable end to the front. Four brick chimneys punctuate the roofline, one at the center of the east end, one near the center rear, one near the front of the west end, and one centered in the front of the wing. Stone surrounds decorate the front windows and door; the door has a basket-handle arch and is sheltered by a hipped hood. The center window above this is topped by a small stone-carved coat of arms. A surprising feature is the elaborately curled wrought iron embellishing the porch on the south face of the wing. A second porch, one story tall with white wood columns, extends from the cast side of the house.

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THEODORE LINK HISTORIC DISTRICT-

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Stylistically, the Shinkle House is the hardest to pin down. It combines stone and brick in a manner reminiscent of French chateaus of the time of Henry IV (1589-1610), and the stone front porch with its two pairs of rusticated Tuscan columns especially recalls the north entrance of the Luxenbourg Palace in Paris (begun 1615). Seen from above, the house forms a front-facing U; the arms have two bays each and the center section five bays. Between the arms is a stone terrace supported in the center three bays by the columns mentioned above, and in the two end bays by enclosed one-story elements, all under a continuous entablature. Windows in these enclosed bays, as well as on the first floor of the arms, are in the form of french doors with top lights; those in the arms have shallow wrought-iron balconies. The house is of brown brick with black mortar. Glazed bricks form quoins at all corners. The windows have stone surrounds, and between floors of the end bays are stone spandrels carved with foliate swags on Michelangelesque panels that end in guttae. Flanking the large center door on the terrace or second-floor level are two similar carved anels. Spandrels on east and west ends omit the swags. A wide frieze and modillioned cornice support the hipped roof. Chimneys rise from the east side of the house and the east side of the west arm. On the west side of the house is a small one-story addition, possibly built in 1917.

All three houses have garages to their southwest, built of the same materials as the houses, and all with separate entrances to their dormered attics. The garage of the Rand Mansion is approached from Vassar Avenue. It was designed for three cars, and is finished on the interior with white ceramic tile. A three-car addition to the east was made in 1928. The garage of the Niedringhaus House has separate spaces for three cars, while the Shinkle one has a large door covering two spaces.

The ground rises on the south side of Delmar Blvd., giving the houses an elevated position. The lawns of the Niedringhaus and Shinkle houses are graded into two continuous terraces, but this continuity is obscured by the high hedge and large conifers in front of the Niedringhaus House.

Footnotes

 John Poppeliers, S. Allen Chambers and Nancy B. Schwartz, "What Style Is It? Part Four," <u>Historic Preservation</u>, Vol. 29, No. 1 (January-March 1977, p. 22. Form No. 10-300a (Kev. 10-74)

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- 2. Mary Patricia Holmes, "A History and Evaluation of the St. Louis Union Station, Constructed 1891-1894" (unpubl. master's thesis, Washington University, June 1970), p. 87.
- 3. Building permit 5910, February 9, 1934.
- 4. For illustrations, see Anthony Blunt, <u>Art and Architecture in France</u> <u>1500 - 1700</u> (Harmondsworth, England: Penguin, 1973), p. 171, etc.
- 5. Building permit 946, September 26, 1917.
- 6. Building permit 4221, April 17, 1928.

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PREHISTORIC 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE ARCHITECTURE ART	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION CONTREERING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC	RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER
1800-1899 X1900-	COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT X_INDUSTRY INVENTION	PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	TRANSPORTATION DTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

Theodore C. Link BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

1911

SIGNIFICANCE

The Rand Mansion at 7100 Delmar Blvd. is popularly recognized as the most imposing, if not the largest, private residence in University City. Itself a monument to the achievements of Frank Rand, it stands in conjunction with the two houses immediately to its west as a reminder of the encouragement given by Jackson Johnson to University City in its early years. The three houses are also some of the finest residential work produced by Theodore Link, who was one of the most outstanding architects in St. Louis at the turn of the century.

Frank Chambless Rand was born in northern Mississippi in 1876.¹ He came to St. Louis in 1898. a few months after his older brother Edgar had joined with their first cousins Jackson and Joseph Oscar Johnson and with John Calvin Roberts to form the Roberts, Johnson & Rand Shoe Co₂ In a city that had already spawned twenty-six shoe and boot factories, the new company rose already spawned twenty-six shoe and boot factories, to be fifth largest in a period of two years. Its continued success led to merger in 1911 with the Peters Shoe Company to form the International Shoe Company. By 1923, it was the largest shoe company in the world, During this period Frank Rand rose from traveling salesman to president (1916); from 1930 until his death in 1949 he served as chairman of the board. A director of many other corporations. Rand also served as president of the board of trustees of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, and director of Washington University in St. Louis for twelve years from 1928. He was nationally recognized for his support of Methodist hospitals and homes and served as trustee of Barnes Hospital in St. Louis for thirty-two years from 1916, the last twenty-six of them as chairman. In 1931 he and the family of Jackson Johnson each contributed \$150,000 to the construction of the Rand-Johnson Memorial Building, a part of Barnes Hospital. The permit for his house on Delmar was issued on July 6, 1911, and there his six children grew up, including Edgar Eugene Rand, who was to succeed his father as president of International Shoe.

Rand was no doubt encouraged in his move by Jackson Johnson (1859-1929), the first president of Roberts, Johnson & Rand, and later president (1911) and board chairson (1916) of International Shoe. Johnson had been an early supporter of Edward Gardner Lewis, the controversial publisher and founder of University City, and had served on the first city council." His own palatial Italian Renaissance residence occupied the whole south side of Delmar between Big Bend Blvd. and Vassar Ave., just east of Rand's property. Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

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Moreover, he was also probably responsible for locating two of his sons-in-law on the properties just to the west of Rand's. Building permits were issued on October 20, 1911 to Lee I. Niedringhaus for 7104 Delmar and to Bradford Shinkle for 7108 Delmar.

Niedringhaus (1881-1933) was a son of William F. Niedringhaus, who with his brother Frederick G. founded the Granite City Steel Company and laid out the town of Granite City, Illinois, on the American Bottoms opposite St. Louis. Lee Niedringhaus worked in the family corporation until the late 1920's, when he divorced the former Helen Johnson and took up farming in west St. Louis County.

Bradford Shinkle (1889-1945) came from his home in Covington, Kentucky, to marry Florence Johnson in 1910. He worked for International Shoe until 1916, when he formed the Johnson-Stephens and Shinkle Shoe Company with his brother-in-law Andrew W. Johnson and old friend Howard V. Stephens (Stephens daughter Eloise later married Frank Rand's son Norfleet). Shinkle served as treasurer and later vice-president of the new firm, and he was also noted as a sportsman and horse fancier.

Jackson Johnson was thus related to all the owners of the new houses on Delmar by blood or marriage. He probably was also influential in their selection of Theodore C. Link as architect. Link had done the booth for Roberts, Johnson & Rand at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in 1904, the house for Oscar Johnson at 38 Portland Place in 1905-07, and the large, strongly Sullivanesque headquarters building for the shoe company at Washington Avenue and 15th Street in 1909-10. He was known to Niedringhaus as well, having done the Niedringhaus Memorial Methodist Church in Granite City in 1907.

By 1911, Link (1850-1923) had a long and distinguished career behind him. Born in Germany and educated in Heidelberg, London, and Paris, he had come to the United States in 1870 and had worked in several places as an engineer before setting up an architectural partnership in St. Louis in 1883. He joined the American Institute of Architects in 1889, the year he began to practice on his own. Today he is best known for his work in a Richardsonian vein, including the monumental Union Station of 1893, a National Historic Landmark, and the Second Presbyterian Church of 1893-99, a close approximation of Richardson's Trinity Church in Boston. By 1900 Link had become proficient in a much wider variety of styles, notably in the Beaux Arts State Civitol in Jackson, Mississippi (1901-03), and the Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

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neo-classical St. John's Methodist Church (1902) in the Holy Corners district of St. Louis. He also did one of the gates and several of the houses in Portland and Westmoreland Places, the exclusive St. Louis residential enclave. All these buildings are now listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The houses on Delmar are comparable to the best work of the period in those West End private streets. Their functional and beautifully detailed plans show Link at his best.

Jackson Johnson moved to Portland Place in 1916, and about the same time his splendid house on Delmar was destroyed by fire. His sons-in-law both followed him to Portland Place by 1920. The Rands remained at 7100 Delmar until after 1950. William and Nancy O'Connor bought the Rand house about 1961. Finding its upkeep increasingly difficult, they twice requested the City Plan Commission of University City to approve a change of use: in 1965 to a women's club, and in 1969 to a provincial residence for a religious order. Both requests were refused, ¹⁵ and today all three houses preserve their original uses as well as, to a large degree, their original appearance.

Footnotes

- Biographical data on Rand is found in John W. Leonard, ed., <u>The Book of St. Louisans</u> (St. Louis: The St. Louis Republic, 1906), p. 477; Walter B. Stevens, <u>St. Louis, the Fourth City</u> (Chicago; S. J. Clarke, 1909), pp. 444-445; Nettie Hale Rand, <u>Rand-Hale Strong and allied families</u> (New York: American Historical Company, 1940), pp. 16-17; obituaries in the <u>St. Louis Globe Democrat</u>, <u>St. Louis Post-Dispatch</u>, and <u>St. Louis Star-Times</u>, December 3, 1949.
- 2. Floyd Calvin Shoemaker, <u>Missouri and Missourians</u> (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1943), Vol. II, p. 557.
- 3. The name of the company was changed to Interco, Inc., in 1966.
- 4. McCune Gill, <u>The St. Louis Story</u> (St. Louis: Library of American Lives, 1952), Vol. III, pp. 988-990.
- 5. Leonard, p. 310.
- 6. Howard McMahan, "An Administrative History of University City" (unpubl. mster's thesis, University of Kansas, 1954), p. 14.

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- 7. His house is illustrated in Sidney Morse, The Siege of University City (St. Louis: University City Publishing Company, 1912), opposite p. 92; and in numerous photographs in the archives of the University City Public Library.
- 8. Doris Rose Henle Beuttenmuller, "The Granite City Steel Company: History of an American Enterprise," Missouri Historical Society. Bulletin, Vol. X, No. 2 (January 1954), pp. 135-282.
- 9. St. Louis Globe Democrat, May 11, 1933 (obituary); undated newspaper clipping in scrapbook of Harry E. Sprague (1877-1934), Missouri Historical Society. p. 152.
- 10. Sprague scrapbook, p. 95.
- 11. Missouri Historical Society. Bulletin, Vol. IX, No. 2 (January 1953), p. 200.
- 12. St. Louis Star-Times, September 21, 1945 (obituary).
- 13. Mary Patricia Holmes, "A History and Evaluation of the St. Louis Union Station, Constructed 1891-1894" (unpubl. master's thesis, Washington University, June 1970), pp. 136-138.
- 14. ibid, p. 73 on. Other sources for Link's life and work include John Albury Bryan, Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture (St. Louis: St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928), pp. 52, 81, 123; Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased) (Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956), pp. 373-374; Henry-Russell Hitchcock and William Seale, Temples of Democracy (New York: Harcourt, Brace Jovanovich, 1976), pp. 236-238.
- 15. St. Louis Globe Democrat, "Decision on Rand Mansion To Be Debated at Hearing," August 27, 1969; <u>ibid</u>, "U. City Planning Commission Opposes Use of Rand Mansion," August 29, 1969.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Beuttenmuller, Doris Rose Henle. "The Granite City Steel Company: History of an American Enterprise," <u>Missouri Historical Society. Bulletin.</u> Vol. X, No. 2 (January 1954), pp. 135-282.
- 2. Bryan, John Albury. <u>Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture</u>. St. Louis: St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928, pp. 52, 81, & 123.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA	
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LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTI	ES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
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NAME / TITLE	
Esley Hamilton	
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ORGANIZATION	DATE
ORGANIZATION University City Historic Preservation	Committee January, 1980
ORGANIZATION University City Historic Preservation STREET & NUMBER 6801 Delmar Blvd.	
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THEODORE LINK HISTORIC DISTRICT

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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE

- 3. Gill, McCune. <u>The St. Louis Story</u>. St. Louis: Library of American Lives, 1952, Vol. III, pp. 988-990.
- 4. Holmes, Mary Patricia. "A History and Evaluation of the St. Louis Union Station, Constructed 1891-1894." Unpubl. master's thesis, Washington University, June 1970.
- 5. Leonard, John W., ed. The Book of St. Louisans. St. Louis, The St. Louis Republic, 1906, pp. 310, 477.
- Missouri Historical Society. Bulletin, Vol. IX, No. 2 (January 1953), p. 200.
- 7. Rand, Nettie Hale. <u>Rand-Hale Strong and allied families</u>. New York: American Historical Company, 1940.
- 8. <u>St. Louis Globe Democrat</u>, "Decision on Rand Mansion To Be Debated at Hearing," August 27, 1969.
- 9. "U. City Planning Commission Opposes Use of Rand Mansion," August 29, 1969.
- 10. _____ May 11, 1933 (obituary of Lee Niedringhaus).
- 11. ____, December 3, 1949 (obituary of Frank Rand).
- 12. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, December 3, 1949 (obituary of Frank Rand).
- 13. St. Louis Star-Times, September 21, 1945 (obituary of Bradford Shinkle).
- 14. ____, December 3, 1949 (obituary of Frank Rand).
- 15. Stevens, Walter B. <u>St. Louis, the Fourth City</u>. Chicago: S. J. Clarke, 1909, pp. 444-445.
- Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn. <u>Biographical Dictionary of</u> <u>American Architects (Deceased</u>). Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Company, 1956, pp. 373-374.

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Domination Form

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and St	M. Denny, Sec ate Contact P ment of Natur		nations-Survey	<u> </u>	March 7, 1980		

Offic of Historic Preservation P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City

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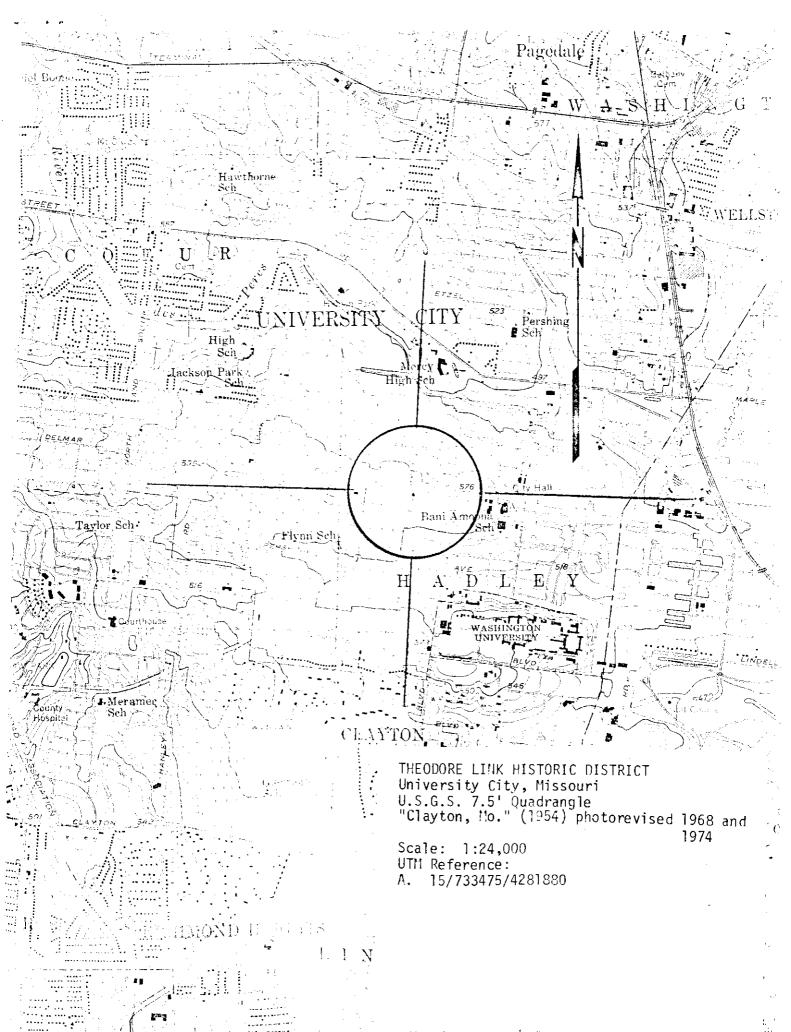


Photo Log:

Name of Property:	Link, Theodore, Historic District				
City or Vicinity:	University City				
County: <u>St. Louis</u>	County	State: MO			
Photographer:	Esley Hamilton				
Date Photographed:	Jan. 1980				

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

- 1 of 5. View of Frank C. Rand Mansion from N (street).
- 2 of 5. View of garage from N (Frank C. Rand Mansion).
- 3 of 5. View of Lee I Niedringhaus House from N.4 of 5. View of Lee I Niedringhaus House from SW, showing rear elevation.
- 5 of 5. View of Bradford Shinkle House from N (street).









