

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL 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 McGarry House

AND/OR COMMON Israelievitch House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 6965 Pershing

CITY, TOWN University City

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF #1 Hon. William Clay

STATE Missouri 63130

CODE 29

COUNTY St. Louis

CODE 189

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Jacques and Gail Israelievitch

STREET & NUMBER 6965 Pershing

CITY, TOWN University City

STATE Missouri 63130

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET & NUMBER 7900 Forsyth Boulevard

CITY, TOWN Clayton

STATE Missouri

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Missouri State Historic Survey

DATE 1980

--- FEDERAL STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program, P.O. Box 176

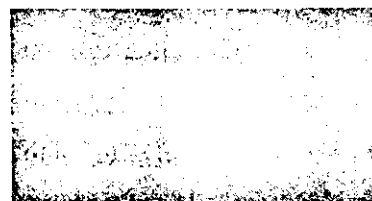
CITY, TOWN Jefferson City

STATE Missouri 65102

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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MCGARRY HOUSE



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On June 27, 1980, proceedings were held in St. Louis County Courthouse during which the owners of this property presented cause why a strip of property adjacent to the west side of their house should not be condemned. The condemnation proceedings have been instituted so that Big Bend Blvd., which runs adjacent to the house, can be widened.

Plans for widening the road are currently in dispute. A related court case is pending in the Missouri Appeals Court on whether or not the people in University City have a right to pass an initiative that would forbid the widening of this road. Widening of the road would place the right-of-way within five feet of the west wall of this building. When the road widening is completed as currently planned, the property frontage would be narrowed to 28 feet and the side frontage to about 5 feet from a major county highway.

All trees and shrubbery on the west side of the building would be removed during the construction process.

7-DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

Located on the northeast corner of Pershing and Big Bend, this property is Lot. 16, Block 10, of Ames Place, a private subdivision. Buildings on the property are a house and garage built in similar style and at the same time as the house.

The house is a 2-1/2 story brick rectangle set so the side facing Big Bend is now 13.43 feet from the sidewalk. The south front of the house faces Pershing. Terraces front and back of the house are six feet deep and run the length of the house. They are of unglazed green ceramic squares set into the concrete base.

The buildings are of red brick. The high hipped roof is of unglazed red tile. A dormer on the south side has a matching hipped and tiled roof, as does a side entry porch on the east side. Both main roof and dormer are supported with white painted brackets. The chimney is flush with the west facade of the house.

The main entry is centrally located, one of 3 bays, on the south front. A paned glass door and double sidelights of five lights each are recessed into an arched entry surrounded by stonework of quoining and capped with a keystone. Matched wall fixtures outside the recess provide lighting along with a ceiling light inside. Within the recess, decorative tile surrounds the walls and side-light framing as a wainscot. The predominantly green color of the surround matches the unglazed tile forming the floor of the front terrace. There is white painted stucco above the tilework. French doors on the north open onto another tiled terrace. On the east side is a side entry on a small porch, which is also tiled with a glazed ceramic surround.

French doors on each side of the front entry are topped by bricks side-set into a brick arch topped with a stone keystone. Above the front door is a square stained and beveled glass window with casements on the sides. Other windows on the front second story are double hung and consist of a six-over-one between four-over-one lights. The dormer has an arched casement with rectangular casements on each side. Stained and beveled glass windows are found in the first floor breakfast room and the second floor hall as well as the master bath already mentioned.

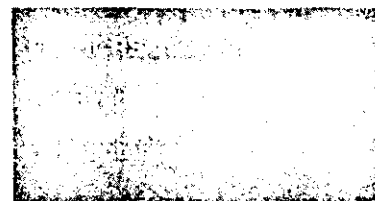
It is the interior of this house that is most unusual. The entire first floor is Moorish in design with elaborate hand laid tile floors and surrounds in each room. The rooms are connected with broad arches and upper walls are finished in Spanish plaster.

The floor patterns of tile work are distinctively different in each room. In general, the floors consist of dull toned glazed squares and rectangles interset with unglazed press mold squares depicting various motifs. Different colors predominate in each room and motifs include borders, so that general effect is almost of carpeting albeit ceramic.

The living room has an elaborate tile fireplace on the west wall with fireguard, surround and mantel done in glazed brown tones to resemble wood carving. The surround has six inset peacocks in the center and an inlaid ridge

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in the floor for a fire resist. The living room also has a large plaster rosette centering the ceiling.

* The kitchen has been modernized, while maintaining as much of the original tile work as possible. The second floor bath is completely tiled with an original jet massage shower containing six nozzles and mixing faucets.

The sunroom opening off the living room in the back (north) has tile work in green shades and pattern. Green marble wall sills match the tilework.

It is anticipated that eventually all of Ames Place will be submitted to the National Register as a Historic District, because of architectural quality of the individual buildings, and because the area was an early planned community. Ames Place is located immediately adjacent to Parkview Place, on the west, and Parkview has already applied as a Historic District. Ames Place is also located about 3 city blocks to the south of University Heights #1 Subdivision in University City, and that area also has applied for Historic District status.

The buildings are currently in excellent condition. The only alterations made were in 1978 when the current owners had the original kitchen modernized, while carefully maintaining the original ceramic work in the kitchen.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Constructed 1924 BUILDER/ARCHITECT T. J. McGarry/Russell Conzelman

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McGarry House is located in Ames Place, a neighborhood of University City, Missouri. Ames Place was planned as an upper-middle-class community protected by restrictions attached to the property titles, including an indenture that established a board of trustees to administer the jointly held streets and parkways. In this respect, it followed a St. Louis tradition that had already been observed in University City by Parkview, adjacent to the east, and University Heights Number One, slightly to the north. The latter neighborhood has now been entered in the National Register of Historic Places, and it is hoped that Ames Place as a whole will be nominated in the near future.

Russell A. Conzelman had begun to practice architecture only a few years before he designed this house, and his career extended for another thirty years.¹ He provided special design for the builder-owner McGarry, a tile contractor, so McGarry could turn this house into a showcase of ceramic tilework. The building permit estimated the cost at \$12,000 in 1924,² making it one of the more expensive homes built here at that time. The exterior design is in keeping with community restrictions and gives no clue to the Moorish interior.

Carl Safe, Assistant Dean of the Washington University School of Architecture, calls the house "a magnificent museum of turn-of-the-century tile work. Any room in the building houses a unique installation of decorative tile. Most of the work is irreplaceable by virtue of the fact that the tile, the craftsmanship ... are no longer available ... that portion of the residence nearest the proposed road construction is ... the most susceptible to damage from any movement, jarring or settling in the building. ... This unique collection of tile work should be protected .. and should not be subjected to any external forces which could compromise the stability of the building ... this collection of ceramic tile cannot be replaced. It should not be placed in ... jeopardy."³

Oral tradition in Ames Place and the Tamarkin family, later owners, says this house was one of two built in Ames Places by Henry Semple Ames, prominent St. Louis realtor and businessman, for his sisters Ada and Anna. Ames was a prominent businessman in early St. Louis. In addition to his Realty Company, he controlled the estate of his father Edgar Ames, a pork packer and grain elevator owner, and had interests in several metal companies.⁴ Born in 1863, he was responsible for the early development of this subdivision, but he died January 17, 1916 before this house was conceived. A further disability of this tradition is that Ames's sisters were named Ada and Mary.⁵

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The house was purchased from the McGarrys in 1941 by Robert Schell. At his death in 1944, it became the property of Schell's son-in-law, Harry Blackmann, who sold it in 1949 to the William B. Harrison Realty Co. In 1958 the property was purchased by Joseph Tamarkin, and his family members lived there until 1978 when it was purchased by the current owners, Mr and Mrs. Jacques Israelievitch. He is an internationally known violinist and conductor, currently Concertmaster of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, and she is a professional harpist.

NOTES

1. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "Russell A. Conzelman Dies," February 23, 1952.
2. Building Permit 2620, University City Building Department.
3. Letter from Carl Safe to Jacques Israelievitch, June, 1980.
4. John W. Leonard, ed. The Book of St. Louisans (St. Louis: The St. Louis Republic, 1906), p. 23.
5. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, January 27, 1916 (obituary of Henry Ames, cousin of Henry Semple Ames).
6. William Hyde and Howard L. Conard, Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis (New York: The Southern History Company, 1899), Vol. I, p. 23.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Hyde, William and Conard, Howard L. Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis. New York: The Southern History Company, 1899, Vol. I, p. 23.
- Leonard, John W., ed. The Book of St. Louisans. St. Louis: The St. Louis Republic, 1906, p. 23.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .24 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Clayton, Missouri

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,5 7,3,3 7,2,0 4,2 8,1 4,8,1

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A tract of land located on the northeast corner of Pershing Avenue and Big Bend Blvd. in Lot 16, Block 10 of Ames Place subdivision in University City, having a front of 76.3 feet on the North line of Pershing Avenue by a depth North between parallel lines

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Missouri	29	St. Louis	189
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

1. Joyce Banaszak, Volunteer

ORGANIZATION

St. Louis Co. Dept. of Parks & Recreation

DATE

June, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

1723 Mason Road

TELEPHONE

(314) 822-8475

CITY OR TOWN

St. Louis

STATE

Missouri 63131

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Fred A. Lopez

TITLE

Director, Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

22 Feb 82

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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3. Safe, Carl. Letter to Jacques Israelievich, June 1980.
4. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "Russell A. Conzelman Dies," February 23, 1952.
5. University City Building Department, Building Permit 2620.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

of 135 feet to a brick-paved alley, being bounded on the West by the East line of Big Bend Boulevard.

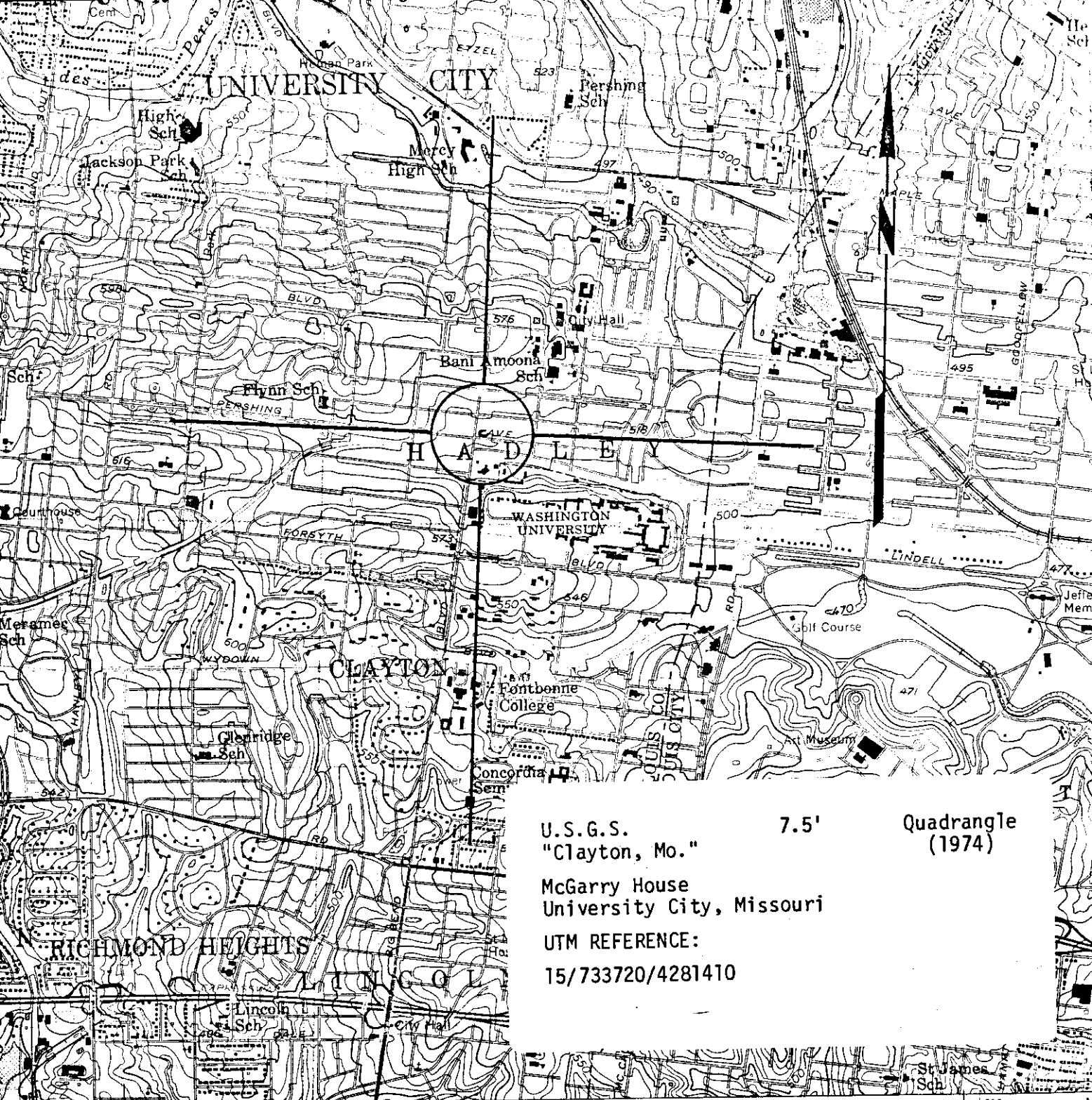
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2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey
and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City

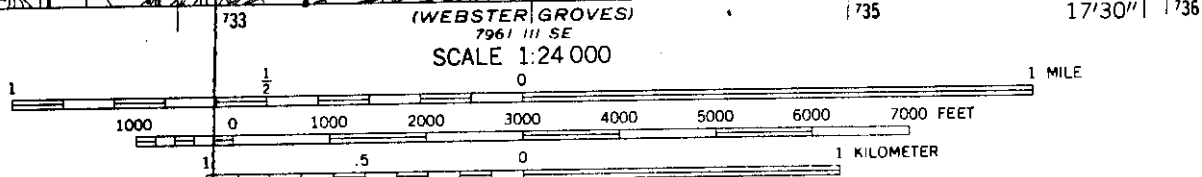
July 25, 1980

314/751-4096

Missouri



U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle (1974)
 "Clayton, Mo."
 McGarry House
 University City, Missouri
 UTM REFERENCE:
 15/733720/4281410



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 AND BY THE DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION
 MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple
 Survey from aerial photo
 This information not from
 Purple tint indicates extent

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **McGarry House**

City or Vicinity: **University City**

County: **St. Louis County** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Joyce Banaszak**

Date

Photographed: **1980**

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

- 1 of 6. View of front façade from Pershing Ave. from S.
- 2 of 6. View of front and W side from SW, showing location of subdivision gates on Big Bend Blvd.
- 3 of 6. View of W side from Big Bend Blvd., showing current proximity of street to house.
- 4 of 6. View of tile work in front entry from S.
- 5 of 6. View of ceramic fireplace surround and floor in living room, S side of first floor.
- 6 of 6. View of art glass window in second floor hallway.







NO
PARKING





