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

Type all entries	-complete applicable se	ctions		
1. Nam	е			
	el Plant House		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
and/or common				
2. Loca	ition			
street & number	800 Cella Road			not for publication
city, town	Ladue	vicinity of	-	
state	Missouri code	29 county	St. Louis	code 189
3. Clas	sification	·		
Category district _X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public _X_ private both Public Acquisition in process being considered X N/A	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted X no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Proper	ty		
name Tom G	lassberg			
street & number	800 Cella Road	•	•	
city, town	Ladue	vicinity of	state ^M	lissouri 63124
5. Loca	ation of Lega	l Descripti	on	
courthouse regis	stry of deeds, etc. Record	er of Deeds. St. L	ouls County Governm	ent Center
street & number	7900 Forsyth		•	•
city, town	Clayton		state ^M	lissouri 63105
	resentation i	in Existing	Survevs	
~: :: ~ }'				•
title Missouri	i State Historical S	ociety has this pro	pperty been determined el	lgible? yes X no
date 1983				le county local
depository for su	Missouri larvey records P.O. Box	Department of Natu 176	ral Resources	
			state	Missouri 65102
Jei	ferson City			

7. Description

Condition X excellent good fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check oneX unaltered altered	Check one _X_ original s moved	ite date	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Samuel Plant House at 800 Cella Road was built in 1912 and is an outstanding example of the Georgian Revival style of that era. It is a red-brick structure of two-and-ahalf stories, Flemish-bond with end quoins and a molded water table, with a high hipped slate-covered roof and end chimneys. It consists of a seven-bay center block and a three-bay east wing. Three dormers on both north and south fronts of the center block have round-topped windows rising into pedimented gables. Single dormers north and south on the wing are segmental-arched. Second-floor windows are double-hung, twelveover-twelve, with wooden sills and black-painted louvered shutters. The first-floor windows of the south front are French doors (seven-by-two panes) topped by fanlights under arches of radiating bricks with limestone keystones and end stones. The paneled first-floor shutters, once white, are now painted black. The cornice of the center section of the house is modillioned. Chimneys bracket the center block inside the roofline, and a third one rises at the east end of the east wing. A large terrace along the south and west sides of the house is of concrete construction faced and paved with brick and has an arcaded brick balustrade with stone coping. A metal framework allows a canopy to be drawn over the center part of the terrace. Under this terrace are two rooms, one with a concrete floor and a large tank intended to contain fish from the pond during the winter. Above the west terrace is a second-story porch on square brick piers, with a wooden cornice and brick balustrade matching that of the terrace itself.

The north side of the house, the entrance front, extends unbroken for ninety-five feet and eleven bays. It is asymmetrical and has three entrances, each approached by two massive monolithic granite steps. The westernmost one is the most formal, a single glazed door under a fanlight which rises into a modillioned pediment supported by Tuscan half-columns and entablature blocks. One bay east of this is a larger canopied entrance designed as a modified porte-cochere. Its French doors have a flat lintel of radiating bricks with a stone ornamental keystone. The canopy is iron and glass, arched in imitation of canvas, with iron-framed glass pendants in place of cloth flaps. The canopy is supported by elaborately scrolled iron brackets which include an oval calligram of the name Plant. (A calligram is a design in which the letters of a word are rearranged to form a decorative pattern.) The third entrance, in the service wing, is a glazed door with side and toplights under a segmental arch, giving access to a recessed porch, beyond which are the kitchen and the basement and service stairs. The downspouts, all original, have headpieces embossed with the number 12 and the letter P for the year and builder of the house.

The interior of the house retains nearly all its original features, the exception being the first floor of the east wing, which housed the kitchen and butler's pantry. The basement, first and second floors, and even the attic floors are concrete; plaster is applied on metal mesh hung from a pipe grid. Many of the ninety-four interior doors are mahogany; secondary ones are mahogany-stained pine. A few of these doors have been removed but are stored in the basement. The entry is paved in squares of white marble. The staircase rising from the northwest corner of the entry has balusters alternating three patterns: vase-shaped, fluted, and spiral; the side of each tread is carved with a scroll. The living room occupying the whole west end of the house centers on a large fireplace with a limestone mantel in the Jacobean style; paired Tuscan columns with

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Item number

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lonic fluting support a mantle with a strapwork frieze, while the overmantle has three paneled sections. At the center of the south side is an enclosed loggia of white-painted brick, opening on all sides through fanlighted doors.

The dining room at the east end of the main block is architecturally the most detailed room. It has a marble mosaic floor, predominantly Siena-colored, with dark red-brown patterns and a Greek key border. The doors have cornices with a pulvinated frieze; high paneled wainscotting is linked to the doors by volutes. The ceiling has coving set off by moldings on wall and ceiling. The fireplace has scrolled consoles supporting the mantle, beneath which is a central panel of swags centering on the face of a girl. The brass sconces now lighting the dining room were originally in the living room. The wooden sconces they replaced and their matching chandelier are stored in the basement.

Beyond the dining room, the kitchen and butler's pantry have been combined by the present owners following an earlier remodeling of the original kitchen space. Cabinets from the butler's pantry are still in place on the west and north walls, while some of the cabinets from the removed partition have been placed against the north wall of the kitchen, closing one of two doors of the service entry (this door remains unchanged as seen from the other side). A smaller door on the east side of the service entry once facilitated delivery of ice to the cold room at the northeast corner of the house.

Upstairs, the staircase landing is large enough to be used as a sitting room. Rooms in the main part of the house open from this landing, while a central corridor runs to the east wing. The ceiling of this corridor becomes lower in two intervals, exaggerating the perspective. Doors link all the second-floor rooms. Most of the closets are walk-in, with separate inner cabinetry, doors and drawers. The small bedroom next to the master bedroom at the west end of the house is lined with floor-to-ceiling cabinets on two walls, complete with built-in dressing table. This installation probably dates from the late 1920's, the time of the second owners. Bathrooms have marble door frames, window sills, and toilet bases and hexagonal tiled floors; an upstairs cleaning closet has a marble baseboard and tile floor. The third floor is fully finished, with access doors to eave areas in each room. One third-floor room is paneled in cedar.

East of the house are four subsidiary buildings, a playhouse, a garage, a barn and a shed. The playhouse is immediately east of the house and on the north side of the drive. It is said to have been built by the Salomons (who bought the property in 1924) for their daughter. It is a grey clapboard structure, a miniature bungalow two bays wide, with a segmental-arched porch under a low front gable.

The Flemish-bond brick garage has a high hipped slate roof with large south and west dormers probably added when the attic was converted into an apartment. A segmental-arched dormer on the east side matches those on the east wing of the main house. Like the main house, the garage has a thicker brick base joined to the main walls by molded

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bricks. The main garage space is approached by doors in the west and south walls at the southwest corner, so placed to permit up to six cars to be stored within, four facing north and two east. The garage is equipped with a workbench and a pit to facilitate repairs. The original callbox from the house is still in place on the west wall. A one-room frame shed-roof addition at the east end of the garage gives access to two first-floor rooms from which a staircase leads to four additional rooms upstairs.

A frame gable-roofed barn stands at the east end of the property. It has two stories, the upper approached by a concrete ramp from the west. The ground floor has four stalls for cows, with the original feed box and wood-block floor. The upper level has a box stall for a house and a loft above. The south end of the roof projects out over the loft door, and a square cupola ornaments the center. The ground to the south of the barn is fenced as a paddock, with a small frame shed-roofed storage building at its south edge.

Cella Road is lined along this stretch with regularly spaced oak trees, probably contemporary with the house. The long drive ascending from the Road to the house is flanked by gum trees planted a few years later. The lawn sloping to the south of the house is somewhat overgrown with large shrubs, but the trees and shrubs around the edges of the property approximate the appearance of the original 5-acre lot.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 _X 1900-	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agricultureX architecture artX commerce communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	landscape architecture law literature military music philosophy politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	constructed 1912	Builder/Architect J.H.	Wise/Norman Vegely	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Samuel Plant House at 800 Cella Road is an exceptionally well constructed and well preserved example of the Georgian Revival style, as built during "America's most professionally informed revival period." It is associated with the Plant family, who played a leading role in the flour-milling industry, once a mainstay of the St. Louis economy. As such, the Samuel Plant House is qualified for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria B and C. Its areas of significance are architecture and commerce. The Georgian Revival style is generally said to have begun in this country with the design by McKim, Mead and White for the H.A.C. Taylor House, built in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1886. Nationally the style is said to have reached its zenith between 1890 and $1915, \frac{2}{5}$ but in the Midwest, the peak was closer to the date of this house, 1912; the style continued to be realized at a high level of competence here until the Depression. The architect of the Samuel Plant House was Norman Vegely, who had been associated with Cope and Stewardson, the firm producing the most refined Georgian houses in the St. Louis area during the first part of this period. Several of them are already listed in the National Register. 3 Samuel Plant was typical of the patrons of this style, the scion of a Wrich and knowledgable" family whose milling interests went back to 1840. The Plants were the only family to provide three presidents of the St. Louis Merchant's Exchange.

Samuel Plant was the nephew of George P. Plant (1814-1875), who had come to this region in 1837 as surveyor and engineer for the construction of a railroad from Naples, !llinois, east to Meredosia, the first in the midwest. He then removed to St. Louis, where in 1840, he built the Franklin flour mill at Franklin Avenue and Broadway (then called Fifth Street) and organized the George P. Plant Milling Company to operate it. By mid-century, St. Louis, with twenty-two mills, could claim to be the milling capital of the country. The Franklin Mill was not the largest but it was known for its fine product, and it had the good fortune to escape fire, which over the years destroyed all but a handful of the others. In 1884 the mill was moved to Chouteau Avenue and Main Street, near the river, where capacity was increased from 400 to 2,000 barrels per day. After two additional mills were built in 1904 and 1906, capacity reached 3,500 barrels per day. Annual production was about 400,000 barrels, which were shipped to all parts of the United States, Europe, and particularly the West Indies, where Plant's flour was especially popular.

George P. Plant's younger brother Samuel joined him in St. Louis in the early 1840's and was associated with the mill until his death in 1866. Samuel Plant's son, George H. Plant (1848-1929) joined the firm at the age of 18 and was active in its management for more than sixty years. He turned over direction to his son Samuel (1872-1953) in

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1918 but remained as president until 1926, when the company was sold to Texas and Oklahoma interests.. On this occasion the Northwestern Miller said, "No name stands higher in the annals of American milling than that of Plant." 6

As most of the wheat for the mill was purchased on the Merchant's Exchange, the Plants naturally took an active interest in that pre-eminent St. Louis institution, and they were the only family to supply it with three presidents; George P. Plant served in 1869, George H. in 1907, and Sanuel in 1924. The family was also well-connected in St. Louis society. George P. Plant's first wife was Matilda January, the sister of Thomas T. and Derick A. January, who became very wealthy in the railroad industry. George H. Plant married Alby Easton, the daughter of Col. Alton R. Easton, who was a friend and military colleague of Ulysses S. Grant. She was the grandaughter of Rufus Easton, the first postmaster of St. Louis (1804-1815), delegate to the U. S. Congress (1814-1818), and first attorney general of Missouri (1821-1825). Alton, Illinois, was founded in 1818 by Rufus Easton and named for his son. Mrs. Sanuel Plant was Clara Ewing (1877-1971), a direct descendant of Pierre Laclede, the founder of St. Louis.

Samuel Plant, who had been president of the Millers' National Federation during World War I, took no further active part in the industry after the firm was sold. He became a member of the Board of Directors of the Neighborhood Association, which sponsored two inner-city settlement houses. In 1831, he presented the association with a 40-acre camp site near Hillsboro, Missouri. He was also one of the organizers of the municipality of Ladue, incorporated in 1936. 10

Norman Oscar Vegely was born in St. Joseph, Missouri in 1877. 11 studying architecture at Washington University for three years, he joined the firm of Cope & Stewardson, probably soon after their St. Louis office opened. This Philadelphia firm had won the 1899 competition for the design of the Washington University Hilltop Campus, a job which extended over a decade, and through this connection with the leadership of St. Louis, the firm had developed a substantial practice here. ¹² The head of the St. Louis office, almost independent after the death of Walter Cope in 1902, was James P. Jamieson (1867-1941). The firm was known for designs in Tudor and Georgian styles, impressively scaled and richly finished, and for meticulous attention to materials and craftsmanship. 13 The very close similarity of Vegely's independent designs to buildings credited to Cope & Stewardson and to Jamieson suggests that he must have been responsible for much of the detail work in the office. In 1906, he designed a house for himself at 115 Mason in the Webster Park section of Webster Groves. After Cope & Stewardson dissolved in 1912, Jamieson and Vegely both opened their own offices, but Vegely found little work coming his way. The Samuel Plant house, listed on the blueprints as Commission 100 may have been his first independent project. He had already designed a house in 1908 for Plant's sister Martha, Mrs. Harry J. McCormich, at 471 Hawthorne, also in Webster Park; George H. Plant also lived in Webster Groves in his later years. The only other house Vegely is (so far) known to

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have designed is 36 Brentmoor in Clayton, one for William Sipple in 1913. 14 In 1917, he joined the construction department of Monsanto Chemical Company, and after World War I, he became for a time vice-president of the Thermo-Chemical Products Co. He died in 1940. Louis J. Cella, a prominent St. Louis businessman, filed a plat of a subdivision of his Ladue property on October 11, 1910, and the next August he sold lot 5 to Samuel Plant and his wife. The Daily Record of February 20, 1912, reported that Plant was building a brick dwelling and garage there to measure 26 by 80 feet and to cost \$30,000.

The Plants sold their property on June 27, 1924, to Fred Z. Salomon and his wife Helen A. 10 Mr. Salomon had been born in Greeley, Colorado, in 1872 and had been associated with his father in the department store business in Denver. 17 In 1901 he followed another Colorado Retailer, Morton J. May, to the Famous Shoe and Clothing Co. in St. Louis. This business became Famous-Barr in 1911, once the largest department store west of the Mississippi River. 18 Salomon rose to become president of the May Company, the parent company which controlled stores from coast to coast. 19 He died March 22, 1961, 20 and two years later Mrs. Salomon sold the property to James M. Croak. 21 The following spring, Croak divided the six-acres into three lots. 22 Lot 3, which included the original house, passed at the beginning of 1965 to Louis F. Kauffman, Jr., in 1971 to John J. Hamilton, Jr., and his wife Susan W. Hamilton, and in 1982 to the present owner. 23

NOTES

- 1. Mary Mix Foley, The American House (New York: Harper & Row, 1980), p. 213.
- 2. Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1969), pp 159-165.
- 3. These include one of the Haarstick-Whittemore Houses and #4 Brentmoor Park, both in Clayton, Missouri, and #16 Portland Place in St. Louis.
- 4. Carole Rifkind, A Field Guide to American Architecture (New York: New American Library, 1980), p. 65.
- 5. Sources for the history of the Plant family and the milling industry in St. Louis are J. Thomas Scharf, History of St. Louis City and County (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts & Co., 1883), pp. 1231-1233; St. Louis Globe-Democrat, "The Plants Who Have Been in the Milling Business in St. Louis for 86 Years," March 6, 1927 (Magazine & Story Sections); Ibid, "Son and daughter get Plant estate," January 22, 1929.
- 6. "The Plants Who Have Been in the Milling Business," op. cit.
- 7. Scharf, p. 1351.

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- 8. Ibid, pp. 1454-1457; Glen E. Holt, "The Postmaster of St. Louis: A Visual Legacy." Gateway Heritage, Vol. 3, No. 2 (Fall 1982), p. 15; Janice M. Peters, "The History of Alton," <u>Bluff City Landmarks</u> (Alton, 111.: Alton Area Landmarks Association, Inc., 1974), p. 4.
- 9. Mary B. Cunningham and Jeanne C. Blythe, <u>The Founding Family of St. Louis</u> (St. Louis: Midwest Technical Publications, 1977), p. 95.
- 10. An early biography of Samuel Plant is in Book of St. Louisans, second edition (St. Louis: The St. Louis Republic, 1912). For his later life, see St. Louis Globe-Democrat, "Samuel Plant, Retired Milller, Dies at 81," December 30, 1953; St. Louis Post-Dispatch "Samuel Plant Dies at 81, Ex-Miller," December 30, 1953.
- 11. Information on Norman Vegely's life was provided to Tom Glassberg by Carol Hartman, Mineola, Texas, Vegely's granddaughter. Included was a letter of Application for Examintion for Commission In Engineer Reserve Corps, dated July 2, 1918. Other information comes from St. Louis County Directories; the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, November 11, 1940, p. 78; St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation survey of historic buildings.
- 12. On Cope & Stewardson see Ralph Adams Cram, "The Work of Messrs. Cope & Stewardson," Architectural Record, Vol. XVI, No. 5 (Nov. 1904), pp 407-438; Buford Pickens and Margaretta J. Darnall, Washington University in St. Louis: Its Design and Architecture (St. Louis: Washington University, 1978). The Hilltop Campus is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- 13. On Jamieson see St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "James P. Jamieson" (unpubl. typescript said to be by a daughter, found in St. Louis Public Library and Missouri Historical Society); Clayton Magazine, "At Home in a Work of Art," Vol. 2, No. 3 (Fall 1981), pp. 2-3.
- 14. The Sipple house is part of the Brentmoor Park, Brentmoor and Forest Ridge National Register district.
- 15. St. Louis County Plat Book 10, page 12; St. Louis County Recorder of Deeds (Deed) Book 280, page 548. Louis J. Cella, not to be confused with Louis A. Cella, died in 1922; see Missouri Historical Society, Necrology Notebook X, page 11.
- 16. St. Louis County Recorder of Deeds, Book 639, page 584.
- 17. The Book of St. Louisans op.cit.

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- 18. St. Louis Globe-Democrat, "Morton J. May: A Full Life Well Lived," May 18-19, 1968; Walter J. Stevens, A Centennial History of Missouri (St. Louis, 1921), Vol. III, pp. 135-136.
- 19. County directories.
- 20. St. Louis Globe-Democrat, March 23, 1961, p. 7A.
- 21. December 10, 1963, Book 5261, page 54.
- 22. St. Louis County Plat Book 110, page 95.
- 23. Book 5590, page 362 (January 26, 1965) Book 6530, page 269 (July 15, 1971); Book 7385, page 649 (January 2, 1982).

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- 3. St. Louis Globe-Democrat, "Samuel Plant,
- 4. St. Louis Globe-Democrate, "Son and Daughter get Plant estate." January 22, 1929.
- 5. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "Samuel Plant Dies at 81, Ex-Miller," December 30, 1954.
- 6. Scharf, J. Thomas, History of St. Louis City and County. Philadelphia:

9. M	ajor Bibliog	raphical	Referer	nces	
1. <u>Boo</u>	ok of St. Louisans,	second edition	. St. Louis:	The St. Loui	s Republic, 1912.
2. <u>St.</u>	Louis Globe-Democr	at, "The Plant	s Who Have Bo	een in the Mi	lling Business in
	Louis for 86 Years Geographic		z/, magazine	G Story Seet	
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Verbal be	oundary description and Subdivision.	d justification Lot	3, James M.	Croak's Seco	and Subdivision of Lot 5
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state		code	county		code
11.	Form Prepa	red By			
name/title	Esley Hamilton, A	dministrative A	Assistant		
organizati	on St. Louis Co. P.	arks & Recreati	on Dept.	late September	1983
street & ni	umber 41 South Cent	ral Avenue	t	elephone 889-	3357
city or tow	n Clayton		s	state Missouri	63105.
12.	State Histor	ric Prese	rvation	Officer (Certification
The evalua	ated significance of this pr		ite is: <u>X</u> local		
665), I here according		servation Officer for for inclusion in the ures set forth by the	the National Hist National Register	r and certify that it	Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– t has been evaluated
Diı	rector, Department of	of Natural Reso	urces and D	date	3/13/84
	S use only reby certify that this prope	ty is included in the	National Register	r date	
Keeper	r of the National Register				
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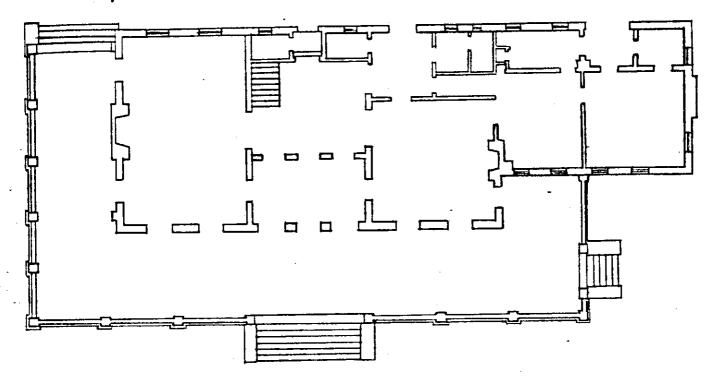
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2. James M. Denny, Chief, Survey & Registration and State Contact Person Missouri Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Program P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City,

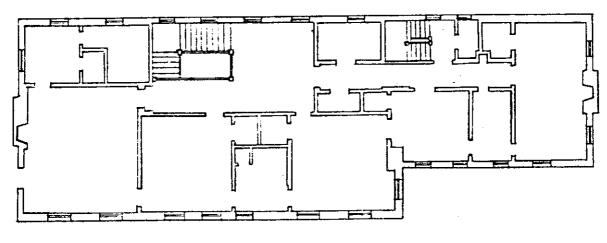
September, 1983 314/751-4096

Missouri 65102

SAMUEL PLANT HOUSE 800 CELLA ROAD LADUE, MISSOURI



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

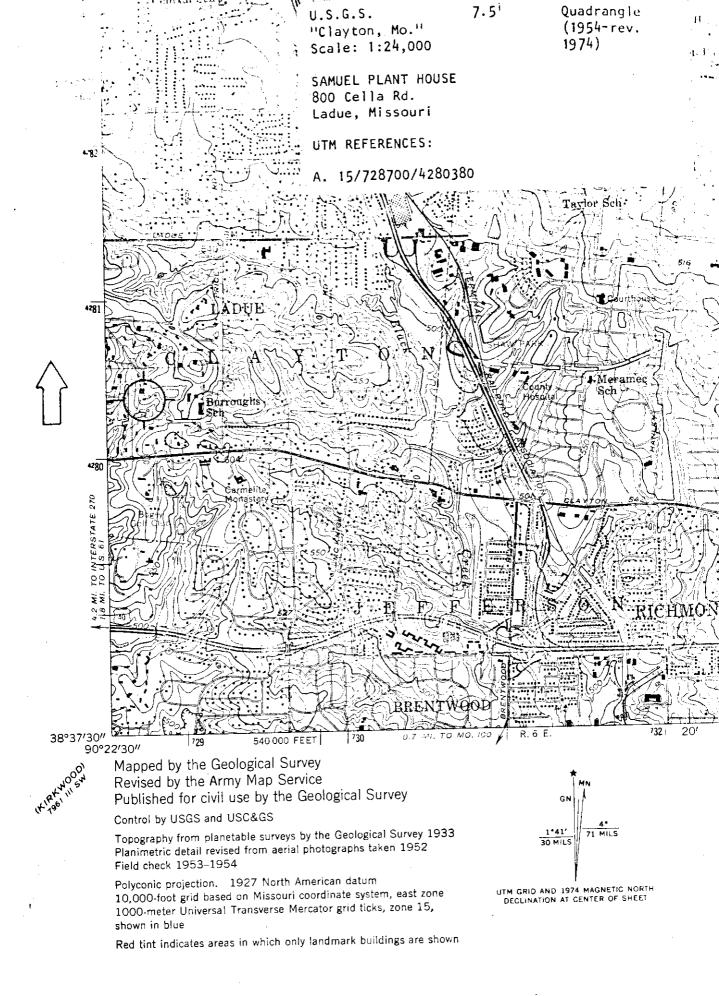


Photo Log:

Name of Property:	Plant, Samuel, House	
City or Vicinity:	Ladue	
County: St. Louis	County	State: MO
Photographer:	Esley Hamilton	
Date Photographed:	Oct. 1983	

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

- 1 of 11. View from SW.
- 2 of 11. View from S.
- 3 of 11. View from SE.
- 4 of 11. View from NW.
- 5 of 11. Dining room, looking E.
- 6 of 11. Calligram of the name Plant, detail of support of iron canopy on N side of house, compare photo #4.
- 7 of 11. Playhouse, view from S.
- 8 of 11. Garage, view from SW.
- 9 of 11. Barn, view from SW.
- 10 of 11. View from SW.
- 11 of 11. Main entrances on N side of house, seen from NE.



















