

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

Sappington, Joseph house

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

10734 Clearwater Drive

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Affton

 VICINITY OF Crestwood

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#3 Hon. Richard A. Gephardt

STATE

MO

CODE

29

COUNTY

St. Louis

CODE

189

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED N/A

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE MUSEUM COMMERCIAL PARK EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION MILITARY OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

James Lubbock

STREET &amp; NUMBER

10734 Clearwater Dr.

CITY, TOWN

Affton

 VICINITY OF Crestwood

STATE

Missouri

63123

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds, St. Louis County Government Center

STREET &amp; NUMBER

7900 Forsyth Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

Clayton

STATE

Missouri

63105

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

1. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

August 10, 1965

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department

CITY, TOWN

1723 Mason Road St. Louis

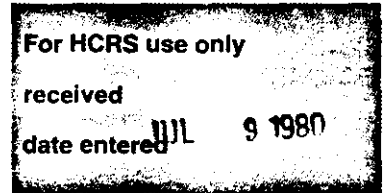
STATE

Missouri

63131

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Joseph Sappington House

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 6

Page 1

2. Missouri State Historical Survey  
1977  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

State

## 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

As seen from the north, the Joseph Sappington House at 10734 Clearwater Drive retains a measure of its original setting at the wooded edge of a minor tributary of the Gravois Creek. To the north of the property is a post-war suburban subdivision; the house is roughly opposite the south end of Chantenay Drive and about one mile southeast of the Crestwood city limits.

The house itself is a two-story structure facing east, with large squared rubble chimneys at the ends and a one-story wing to the south with a third chimney on its south end. The house is built of logs, but like most such pioneer structures it was weatherboarded as soon as prosperity and availability permitted. The many coats of paint on the present boards suggest that they are the originals. A one-story shed-roof porch of five bays extends across the east front of the house; the north bay was enclosed at some early time. A similarly proportioned one-story porch running across the west side of the house was also enclosed in 1953, as was a shorter porch on the east side of the south wing.<sup>1</sup>

At the same time a second floor window was installed on the east side next to and copying the southern of the two windows already there; ventilating louvers were installed at the attic ends and some late-Victorian brackets were removed from the porch posts.

Internal evidence suggests that the house was built in three or more phases and that the center room, heated by the chimney at the south end of the main block, is oldest. The logs in this room terminate at the corners rather than tying into the adjacent rooms. An offset in the northeast corner of the ceiling beams suggests that the boxed staircase, now located in the north room, was originally located here. The center and north rooms also differ in their ceilings and floors. The ceiling boards (which are the floor of the room above) are wider and beaded on one edge in the center room, narrower and unbeaded in the north room. The floors of the first floor are supported by log joists, but those under the center room have been stripped of bark, while those under the north room are still bark-covered.

The north room is one step lower than the center room. The south wing is several steps lower than the center room. Its west wall is the only main one in the house that is frame rather than log construction, perhaps a replacement for a door used when this room was a shed. This hypothesis was supported by the condition of the logs, stained and streaked by smoke and water before their cleaning.

Renovations to the interior beginning in 1953 were intended to remove finishes dating from the late nineteenth century or later and to return the interior to something approximating its early appearance while remaining suitable for modern living. Log walls and stone fireplaces had been covered in all three rooms. The south room was paneled with narrow beaded "porch-roof" lumber typical of the turn of the century and its ceiling was faced with wallboard. The center room's walls had been plastered,

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partly on wood lathe, partly on wire, and an elaborate false front of grey and pink stones obscured the original outline of the fireplace, the only one then exposed. The north room had more modern sand plastering over wire lathe. All these surfaces were removed, revealing that the logs beneath had been whitewashed many times before being covered. These logs were cleaned and finished with a light coat of Minwax. The north and south fireplaces had lost their hearths, their fireboxes and had been filled with rubble, and holes had been knocked in their chimneys, presumably to accomodate stovepipes. These holes were filled and the hearths rebuilt with stone from the creek immediately to the south, which was evidently the source of the original stone. Previous crude patching of the masonry of the fireplaces was corrected and the fireboxes were tuckpointed with fireclay.

Ceilings and floors in the north and central rooms were retained as found; evidently these ceiling beams had never been covered. The floors appeared to be earlier replacements for the originals; the one in the south room had to be replaced again due to termite damage. Removal of the wallboard ceiling in the south room revealed the rafters and pitched roof of this wing. The kitchen was installed in the former east porch.

On the second floor, plasterwork was replaced leaving the fireplaces closed. A partition was built along the stairway to create a corridor, and a half-bath was installed. Removable partitions later divided the center room into three. Log rafters above this floor were removed because of deterioration.

Even with necessary modernization, the interior of the Joseph Sappington now looks much more like its early self than it did in 1953.

NOTE

1. Letter from James E. Lubbock to Esley Hamilton, Feb. 28, 1981.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input 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

c. 1816

### BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Joseph Sappington, builder

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joseph Sappington House is one of a group of five pioneer houses in Crestwood and its vicinity that are related by their early date, 1820 or earlier, and the kinship of their builders. As a group they are notable, if not unique in this part of the state, not only for these reasons but because of their exceptional state of preservation. The Joseph Sappington House is the last of these houses to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Like most early log houses, the Joseph Sappington House underwent a series of additions and "improvements" as tastes changed and its owners became more affluent. It was expanded from its original center section first by a two-story addition to the north, then by a one-story addition to the south and last by partially enclosed porches along the east and west fronts. Its logs were covered outside by weatherboarding. After many coats of whitewash had been applied over the years, the visible logs were covered by plaster and paneling.

Fireplaces were replaced by stoves and later covered over altogether. Over the past thirty years, the fireplaces and log walls have again been revealed inside, but outside the weatherboarding has been retained. This contrasts with most twentieth-century restorations, such as the nearby John Lindsay Long House,<sup>1</sup> in which the logs have been exposed inside and out. In this respect the Joseph Sappington is probably a more accurate representation than is usually seen of a pioneer log house at a certain point in its development.

The Sappington family was one of the largest in early St. Louis, as John Sappington (1753-1815) had seventeen children.<sup>2</sup> The homes of his sons Thomas at 1015 South Sappington Road and Zephaniah at 11145 Gravois Road are already on the National Register of Historic Places, as are two homes of his daughter Elizabeth (Mrs. William Lindsay Long) at 9385 Pardee Lane and 9060 Whitehaven Drive ("White Haven"). Joseph Sappington was not one of these children but he may have been a cousin or a nephew of John Sappington; he was definitely a friend, because he was one of the witnesses to John's will of May 1, 1815. His name appears in other documents of the period, and he was probably the father of Sebastian Sappington, whose stone house of about 1842 at 10740 Gravois Road was recently demolished.<sup>3</sup>

Joseph Sappington acquired 312.75 acres including the present property on May 9, 1821, under Certificate of Entry 259, at the homestead price of \$1.25 per acre. Under the Homestead Act, he had to have cleared the land, built a dwelling and occupied it for at least five years before becoming eligible to purchase it. Thus the house must date at the latest from 1816. Other Sappingtons are known to have come into this area by about 1804, which is the date that is purportedly carved into a base log at

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the south end of the house, now inaccessible because of later construction.<sup>4</sup>

In the middle of the nineteenth century, the property passed to the Rott family, and then to the Hertel family in 1915.<sup>5</sup> The present owners acquired the house in 1953 after the original farm had been subdivided for residential development, and they restored it, removing interior plaster, in three phases: 1953, 1958 and 1972.

NOTES

1. 9385 Pardee Lane, built c. 1820 and restored in the 1930's.
2. Natalie Moffitt Griffin, "Sappington Genealogy" untitled, undated (c1963) typescript in files of St. Louis County Historic Buildings Commission; William L. Thomas, History of St. Louis County, Missouri (St. Louis: S.J. Clarke, 1911), Vol. I.
3. Illustrated in 100 Historic Buildings in St. Louis County (Clayton, Mo: St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation, 1970), p. 35.
4. Notes provided by James E. Lubbock, June 28, 1976.
5. Neva Wasson, The Crestwood Story (Crestwood, Mo:, Area American Bicentennial Commission, 1976), p. 6.
6. James E. Lubbock.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Wasson, Neva. The Crestwood Story. Crestwood: Area American Bicentennial Commission, 1976, p. 6.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .63 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME "Webster Groves, Mo."

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 730470 42681580  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A tract of land in Section 21, Township 44 North, Range 6 East described as: Beginning at a point in the North line of New Highway #66, distant South 68 degrees 03 minutes East 494.74 feet from the East line of Brook Haven Subdivision, as per plat thereof

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

I. Esley Hamilton

ORGANIZATION

St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Dept.

STREET & NUMBER

1723 Mason Road

CITY OR TOWN

St. Louis

DATE

March 1981

TELEPHONE

(314) 822-8475

STATE

Missouri 63131

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

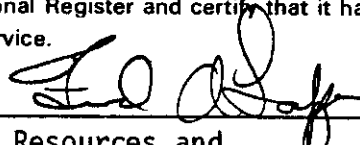
NATIONAL   

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



TITLE Director, Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 19 Aug 82

FDR 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

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

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Continuation sheet Sappington, Joseph House Item number 10

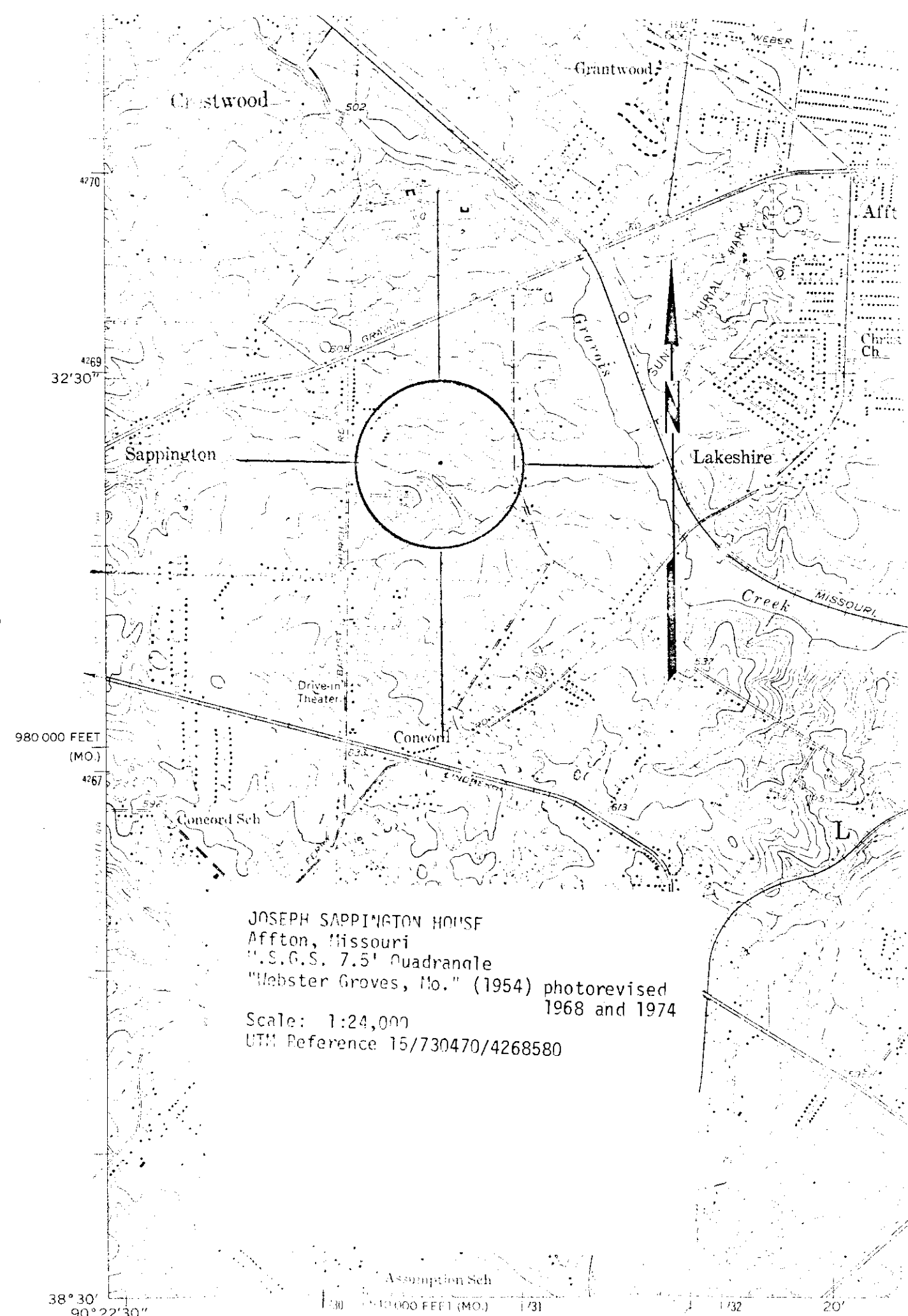
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recorded in Plat Book 54 page 43 of the St. Louis County Records, thence North 0 degrees East 148.61 feet to a stake; thence along a curve to the left having a radius of 300 feet, a distance of 19.52 feet to the point of reverse curve, thence along a curve to the right having a radius of 300 feet, a distance of 164.23 feet to a stake, thence South 0 degrees 21 minutes West 170.89 feet to the North line of New Highway #66 and thence North 68 degrees 03 minutes West 188.22 feet to the point of beginning, according to survey by George W. Kropp & Associates executed August 26, 1955.

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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2. James M. Denny, Chief, Survey-Registration<br>and State Contact Person<br>Department of Natural Resources<br>Office of Historic Preservation<br>P.O. Box 176<br>Jefferson City | March 7, 1980<br>314/751-4096<br><br>Missouri 65102 |
|---|---|





JOSEPH SAPPINGTON HOUSE  
 Affton, Missouri  
 "U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle  
 "Webster Groves, Mo." (1954) photorevised  
 1968 and 1974  
 Scale: 1:24,000  
 UTM Reference 15/730470/4268580

38° 30'  
90° 22' 30"

1:30 10,000 FEET (MO.) 1:31

1:32 20'

**Photo Log:**

Name of Property: **Sappington, Joseph, House**

City or Vicinity: **Affton**

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

Photographer: **James Lubbock**

Date

Photographed: **1978**

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

- 1 of 5. View of house from NE. Exterior looking SW.
- 2 of 5. View of house from SE. Photo by Esley Hamilton, Dec. 1979.
- 3 of 5. View of S room looking SE, dining room (S room), looking SE. Kitchen visible through "pass through".
- 4 of 5. View from the dining room (S room) looking NW. Rock work is exterior of living room chimney.
- 5 of 5. View of center room looking S.









