

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

For HCPS use only
received _____
date entered _____

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

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

**1. Name**

historic Shaw Avenue Place

and/or common Shaw Place

**2. Location**

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication \_\_\_\_\_

city, town St. Louis \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district #3--Hon. Richard Gephardt

state Missouri code 029 county St. Louis City code 510

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name See attached.

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Louis City Hall

street & number Tucker Boulevard at Market Street

city, town St. Louis state MO 63103

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Landmark of the City of St. Louis has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 26 May 1969  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Department of Public Safety; St. Louis City Hall

city, town St. Louis state MO 63103

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

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date entered

Continuation sheet Shaw Place, St. Louis, MO Item number 4

Page 1

OWNER OF RECORD

1. Terry I. & Christelle A. Adelman  
#1 Shaw Place  
St. Louis, MO 63110
2. Leta M. & John B. Corn, Jr. Et al.  
#2 Shaw Place  
St. Louis, MO 63110
3. Martha C. Fox  
#3 Shaw Place  
St. Louis, MO 63110
4. William J. and Dorothy H. Day  
#4 Shaw Place  
St. Louis, MO 63110
5. Robert W. and Barbara Walters Suberi  
#5 Shaw Place  
St. Louis, MO 63110
6. S. Lewis Elmer, Jr.  
#6 Shaw Place  
St. Louis, MO 63110
7. Robert L., Jr. and Marian Mephram  
#7 Shaw Place  
St. Louis, MO 63110
8. Glennon H. & Teresa C. Dummerth  
#8 Shaw Place  
St. Louis, MO 63110
9. Gary W. Adolph G. Abermeyer  
#9 Shaw Place  
St. Louis, MO 63110
10. Michael & Ann V. M. Landt  
#10 Shaw Place  
St. Louis, MO 63110

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

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

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Shaw Place, St. Louis, MO Item number 6

Page 1

Architectural Survey of Shaw Place & Vicinity  
November, 1979  
Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.  
611 Olive Street, Suite 2187  
St. Louis,

Local

MO 63101

State Historical Survey  
Historic Preservation Program  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City,

State

MO 65102

-- Item #10 continued.

the west line of Grace Street; thence southwardly along the said line of Grace Street to its intersection with the north side of Shaw Avenue; thence westwardly along said side of Shaw Avenue, crossing Shaw Place, to its intersection with the east side of South Spring Avenue; thence northwardly along said side of South Spring to its intersection with the south side of DeTonty; thence eastwardly along said side of DeTonty to its intersection with the west side of Grace, the point of beginning.

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

On December 21, 1878, building permits were issued to owner Henry Shaw for the first four houses in Shaw Place, estimated to cost a total of \$10,000. Vouchers signed by architects Barnett & Taylor for materials and labor indicate construction was in progress by March, 1879 and was completed in January, 1880.<sup>1</sup>

Identical in plan and elevation, these houses (#1, 2, 3 and 4, see Site Plan.) are constructed of red brick with limestone trim. They are roofed with abbreviated mansards (originally shingled) and employ a two-story projecting bay on the facade. The porch roof is carried on curved wooden brackets, and draped with a decorative metal fringe. A low wooden balustrade encloses the porch. Unusually fine brickwork is exhibited at the cornice on all elevations and on the chimneys. (Photos #1, 2 & 3) Firms under contract for the houses included: Jacob Kempf, foundations; Richard Langwith, cut stonework; Mockler & Doyle, brickwork; Philibert & Johanning, shingles and millwork; Hull & Cozzens, galvanized iron and ventilators; St. Louis Mantel & Granite Co., mantels; Walter Murray, graining. In mid-January, 1880, modest rental advertisements began to appear for: "Those fine new double houses in Shaw Avenue Place; all conveniences, nine rooms and large lots combining all advantages of city and country; gas and water, rent \$450 per annum."<sup>2</sup> Shaw's account books indicate the first house (#2) was rented in February, 1880, to William J. Magginis for \$37.50 per month. By the end of April, the other three houses (#1, 3 & 4) were occupied.

Although there are no building permits for the remaining six houses, dated receipts for construction costs provide a valuable record of their building history. Bids ranging from \$21,796 to \$19,878 for four houses were received from seven contractors August 7, 1880; contracts were awarded to the two lowest bidders: A. Rogers for one house and William L. Balson for three houses.

These houses (#5, 6, 8, and 10, see Site Plan.) are larger and introduce a second stylistic group featuring gabled flat projecting bays, pointed arches and wooden columnated porches, but maintain the plan of the first four. (Photos #3 & 4) Numbers 8 and 10 are variants. The mansard roof of the first group is combined in #10 with the columned porch and flat two story bay of the second type. (Photo #7) Number 8 is without ornamental brick or stone, employs the bracketed porch of the first houses, but innovates with a one story, sharply projecting bay below a gabled roof. (Photo #5) Originally the play of gables was heightened by a smaller gable over the porch (Photo #7) which has been removed. Vouchers from Barnett & Taylor indicate construction was completed by the end of April, 1881, for Balson's three houses and a final payment made to Rogers in June. Barnett & Taylor received \$500 from Shaw May 18, 1881, for architectural services.

The last two houses (#7 & #9) were built in late Fall, 1882, although apparently not finished until Summer, 1883, as bills for interior work appear as late as June. (Photo #6) Since payments for these houses were made directly from Shaw to the workmen, more detailed measurements and expenses exist. (Mockler & Doyle were the brickmasons and Langwith & Ryan furnished the cut stone.) The houses follow the plan and exterior style of #5 and #6; however, their somewhat more richly detailed interiors may account for the fact that they rented slightly higher, (\$55 per month) than houses #5, 6, 8 and 10 at \$50 per month.

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only

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Continuation sheet Shaw Place, St. Louis, MO

Item number 7

Page 1

A comparison of early photographs of the ten houses (Photos #7 & 8), circa 1898, with current ones reveals that only minor alterations have occurred: the removal of the small gable in #8, discussed above, and the replacement of a few deteriorated wooden porch balustrades. The Shaw Place houses, street, alley and center park have been maintained in remarkably good condition over the years. In the 1960's, the park was enhanced with a cast iron fountain that once ornamented the entrance to Vandeventer Place. Leda and the Swan is the theme developed in the sculpture. (Photo #5)

The firm of Barnett & Taylor was one of several partnerships formed by architect George I. Barnett (1815-1898) during his long career in St. Louis. Born in Nottingham, England, Barnett received his architectural training in the London office of Sir Thomas Hine. In 1839, Barnett settled in St. Louis to become "the leading professional architect in Missouri for more than fifty years."<sup>3</sup> In addition to his own achievements, Barnett trained three sons and a son-in-law who became prominent architects in St. Louis and San Francisco. Barnett's friendship with fellow Englishman Henry Shaw resulted in commissions for almost all of Shaw's building projects. In 1869, Barnett brought young Isaac S. Taylor (1850-1917) into his office and practiced jointly with him from 1874 to around 1881 when Taylor opened his own office. (Therefore, the Shaw Place houses are among the last works of the partnership.) Taylor earned a high professional reputation in his own right for commercial and residential designs in St. Louis and other states, and for his contribution as Architect-in-Chief for the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904.

F O O T N O T E S

<sup>1</sup>All information concerning the building history of the houses was obtained from the Henry Shaw Papers, Missouri Botanical Garden Archives, St. Louis, Missouri.

<sup>2</sup>Missouri Republican, January, 1880.

<sup>3</sup>Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased) (Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956; facsimile ed., Los Angeles: Hennersey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970), p. 38.

## 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 checked="" 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 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 1879-83

Builder/Architect

Barnett & Taylor, architects

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The ten houses in Shaw Avenue Place represent a unique development in St. Louis architecture and subdivision planning. Designed by a leading St. Louis architectural firm, Barnett & Taylor, the houses were built between 1879 and 1883 for businessman/philanthropist Henry Shaw as a small, suburban development on his country estate, Tower Grove. The houses were planned and carefully maintained by Shaw as rental property to provide endowment for the Missouri Botanical Garden which Shaw had founded and developed over the last three decades of this life. The homogeneous Victorian houses are today rare vestiges of a picturesque suburban style enriched with unusually fine ornamental brickwork and porches.

Born in Sheffield, England, Henry Shaw (1800-1889) first arrived in North America in 1818 on a business trip to Canada with his father, a hardware merchant. After traveling to New Orleans on business, the younger Shaw settled in St. Louis in 1819 and devoted the next two decades of his life to developing a prosperous hardware business which was a leading supplier to fur traders for the Indian trade. By 1839, Shaw had acquired sufficient fortune to sell his business and retire from the mercantile world. During the 1840's, he began purchasing land west of the city limits whose special qualities had held an attraction for him since his early years in St. Louis, and about which he later reminisced:

When I first visited these grounds, Tower Grove, I was in my nineteenth year. From the village of St. Louis I came through the rushes by a narrow path winding among the sink holes or natural depressions of the commons to the elevated ground now called Grand Avenue, where opened to view a beautiful prairie extending westward, uncultivated, without trees or fences, but covered with tall, luxuriant prairie grass, undulating in the gentle breezes of spring, not a tuft of which can now be found.<sup>1</sup>

Shaw dedicated the rest of his life to this tract of land (originally the French common fields, Prairie des Noyers) cultivating and improving it with the help of his architect-friend, George I. Barnett, as his country estate and botanical garden, and as Shaw Avenue Place. Also included in this parcel was Tower Grove Park which he donated to the City in 1867. (Figure #1)

In preparation for these undertakings, Shaw made three extensive study-trips to England and Europe between 1840 and 1851, visiting gardens, estates and gathering information. Barnett also toured Europe and his native England in 1850, making at least one architectural sketch in Sheffield for Shaw.<sup>2</sup> Fruits of these travels and influence of theories of landscape architecture were first manifested in two houses Barnett designed for Shaw: in 1849-51 a picturesque Italianate villa for his country estate--Tower Grove--and a symmetrical formal city house.

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Continuation sheet Shaw Place, St. Louis, MO Item number 8

Page 1

Evidence of Shaw's interest in further developing his land appeared in 1857 when he and Mary S. Tyler, owner of land adjacent to his, agreed by deed to promote the "general improvement and salubrity of their lands" by laying out and opening for their common benefit Shaw, Flora and Tower Grove Avenues, and imposing restrictions that prohibited the construction of offensive factories and other "nuisances".

Barnett continued to work closely with Shaw designing buildings in his botanical garden and in Tower Grove Park, both now listed in the National Register. Shaw's commitment and planning that shaped the Missouri Botanical Garden into a professional, world-famous institution included provisions for the financial support of the Garden. In 1859, the Missouri General Assembly passed an act enabling Shaw to establish a permanent maintenance fund derived from lease of his Prairie des Noyers land held in trust by Trustees of the Garden. Twenty years later (1879-1883) Shaw laid out and built ten houses in Shaw Avenue Place for rental property which by his will in 1885 were bequeathed to the Trustees of the Botanical Garden.

The concept that inspired Shaw Avenue Place could have been suggested to Shaw by a residential phenomenon peculiar to St. Louis--the private street or "place" in which lot owners were subject to deed restrictions that provided building guidelines and closed the streets to public thoroughfare by placing ownership and maintenance in the hands of lot owners. (By the time Shaw Place was being built, three private places had already been laid out in the city.) However as an Englishman and student of architecture and landscaping, Shaw also could have found a model in the eighteenth century English practice of subdividing private estates into urban residential squares. The fact that, unlike other St. Louis places, Shaw Place was planned by Shaw and Barnett as an architecturally consistent, complete unit maintained as rental property suggests an English prototype.

The style selected for the Shaw Place houses is unique in the city today and not easily classified. While the fine ornamental brickwork appearing at the cornices is indigenous to St. Louis vernacular architecture, the sophisticated handling of the chimneys in particular recalls Boston's Panel Brick Style of the 1870's.<sup>3</sup> Porch forms, pointed arches and the picturesque profile of gables and chimneys evoke something of the Eastlake manner and are also related in spirit to Downing and Davis' country house types which Barnett had built earlier in the century. Certainly a suburban image was appropriate for Shaw Place, located on the eastern fringe of Shaw's nearly undisturbed prairie in 1880 and a half mile from his country villa and garden. The generous lots (averaging eighty front feet) also contributed to an airy "country" feeling while the orderly grouping of houses around a center park lent an urban tone.

Shaw's objectives (as expressed by his will) in leasing his Prairie des Noyers property were twofold: to provide an endowment for the Botanical Garden and to maintain control of the surrounding area so that it would remain an attractive adjunct to the Garden. After Shaw's death in 1889, the Trustees of the Garden continued to rent the Shaw Place Houses<sup>4</sup> for twenty-five years until they sold them to the Welfare Realty Co. for \$55,000 in 1915. One year later Welfare established deed restrictions for their grantees to preserve the residential quality of the sub-

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**Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**  
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**Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Shaw Place, St. Louis, MO Item number 8

Page 2

division. Through this instrument they limited each lot to one private house which never was to be used for trade or business nor occupied as flat or apartment. The park, roads, walks and driveways were reserved for the exclusive use of owners who were assessed annually for maintenance. A Board of three Trustees was designated to manage Shaw Place, empowered to make repairs and improvements such as planting trees and shrubbery. These deed restrictions, valid for forty years, were extended in 1952 by Shaw Place owners for another forty years. Because of the protection given Shaw Place, first through ownership by Shaw and the Garden Trustees and later through deed restrictions, the street has survived virtually intact as originally laid out and built.

Henry Shaw's contributions to horticulture and landscape architecture in St. Louis place him among the city's most generous and important benefactors. The philanthropist's Shaw Place houses rightfully belong to the planning concepts behind his other legacies: Tower Grove Park and the internationally reknown Missouri Botanical Garden.

F O O T N O T E S

<sup>1</sup>Henry Shaw as quoted in, Jean Marie DeKen and James R. Reed, Henry Shaw: His Life and Legacy ([St. Louis: Missouri Botanical Garden, c. 1978]), p. 9.

<sup>2</sup>Laure Oelsen, "George I. Barnett, 1815-1898" (M.A. Thesis, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, 1973), p. 28.

<sup>3</sup>Bainbridge Bunting, "The Panel Brick Style," Houses of Boston's Back Bay Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1967), pp. 188-95.

<sup>4</sup>In his will Shaw stipulated that his sister, Caroline Morisse, an English relative, Frank Bradbury and his housekeeper, Rebecca Edom were to be granted the use of three Shaw Place houses (#5, 7 and 9) during their lifetimes, ownership to revert to the Botanical Garden upon their deaths. City Directories indicate that only Mrs. Edom actually occupied one of the bequeathed houses.



# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.80 acres

Quadrangle name Cahokia, IL/MO

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

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

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Shaw Place is comprised of part of City Block 2119. The district shall consist of the following area: Beginning at the intersection of the south side of DeTonty and

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Mary M. Stiritz, Research Associate

organization Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. date 9/23/80

street & number 611 Olive Street, Suite 2187 telephone (314) 421-6474

city or town St. Louis state MO 63101

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature S. J. [Signature]

title Director, Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer date 16 Feb 82

For HCRS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register date

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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

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

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Shaw Place, St. Louis, MO Item number 9

Page 1

B I B L I O G R A P H Y

- Bryan, John Albury. Henry Shaw and George Ingham Barnett: Co-workers in American Culture. Chillicothe, MO: By the Author, 1975.
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- Deken, Jean Marie, and Reed, James R. Henry Shaw: His Life and Legacy. [St. Louis: Missouri Botanical Garden, c. 1978].
- Jensen, Mrs. Dana O. "The Enigma of Mr. Shaw." Bulletin of the Missouri Historical Society 15 (July, 1959): 311-318.
- Missouri Republican, January, 1880.
- Oelsen, Laure. "George I. Barnett, 1815-1898" M.A. Thesis, University of Missouri, Columbia, 1973.
- Pierson, William H. Jr. American Buildings and Their Architects. Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1978.
- St. Louis, Missouri. Missouri Botanical Garden Archives. Henry Shaw Papers.
- Withey, Henry F., and Withey, Elsie Rathburn. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956; facsimile ed., Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, 1970.

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

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Shaw Place, St. Louis, MO Item number 11

Page 1

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

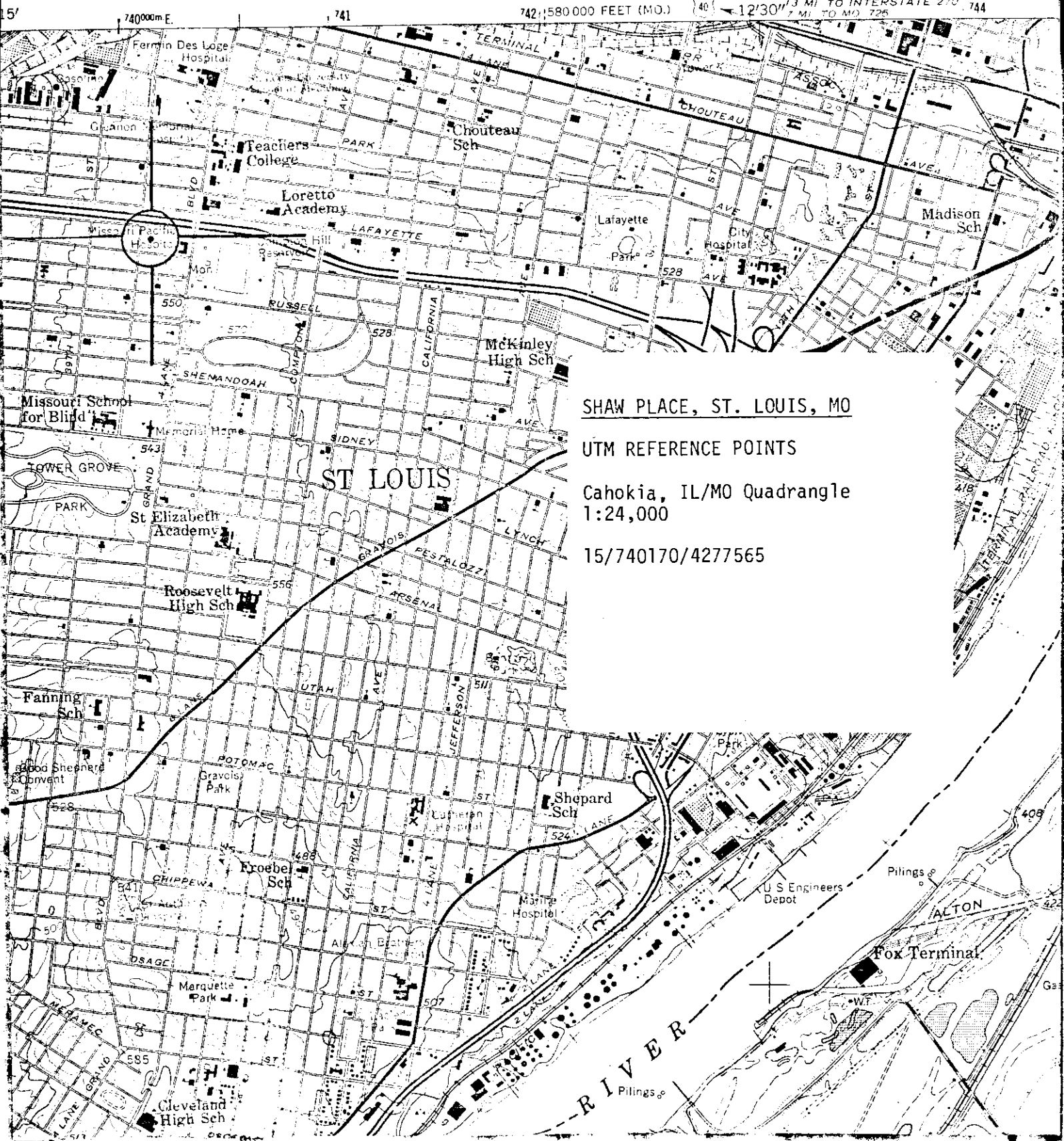
October 7, 1980

314/751-4096

Missouri 65102

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF MISSOURI  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND WATER RESOURCES



# ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY OF SHAW PLACE & VICINITY

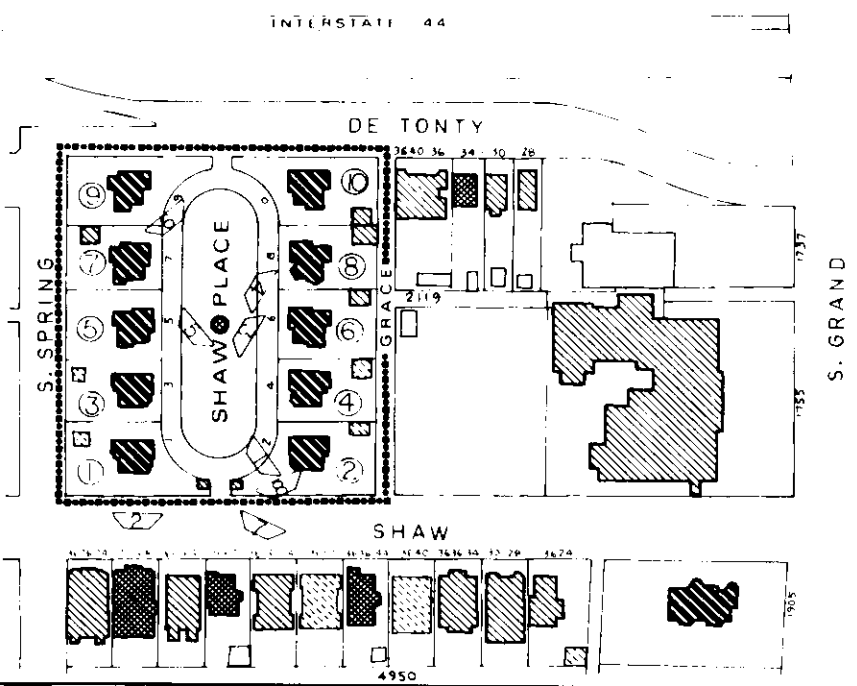
NOVEMBER 1979 ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

LANDMARKS ASSOCIATION OF ST. LOUIS, INC.

SURVEY:  
CAROLYN HEWES TOFT  
WILLIAM P. WISCHMEYER

REVIEW:  
GERHARDT KRAMER  
KARL D. PETTIT III

MAP:  
PAT HAYS BAEH



**LEGEND**

- NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE
- ▨ STATE SIGNIFICANCE
- ▩ CITY SIGNIFICANCE
- ▧ NEIGHBORHOOD SIGNIFICANCE
- ▦ ARCHITECTURAL MERIT - DEMOLITION WOULD DIMINISH THE INTEGRITY OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD
- LITTLE OR NO ARCHITECTURAL MERIT - DEMOLITION WOULD BE INCONSEQUENTIAL OR ADVANTAGEOUS

——— NOMINATED TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 ◡ CAMERA ANGLE & PHOTO NUMBER  
 ○ OWNER OF RECORD

} DEMOLITION WOULD BE  
 } A MAJOR CULTURAL LOSS

PREPARATION OF THIS MAP WAS FORWARDED BY  
 MATCHING FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE HERITAGE  
 CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE THROUGH  
 THE STATE OF MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
 RESOURCES.

0' 100' 300'

# HENRY SHAW'S DEVELOPMENT OF PRAIRIE DES NOYERS

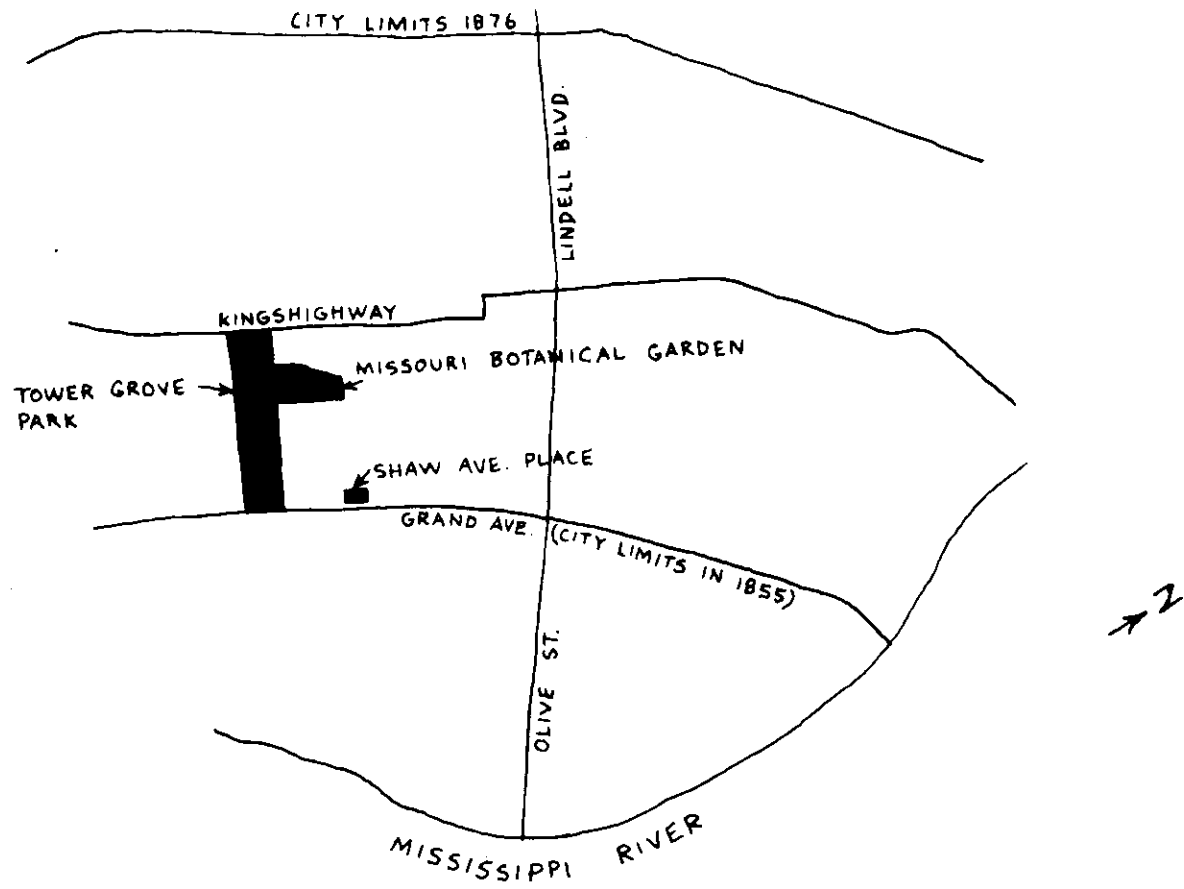


FIGURE 1

**Photo Log:**

Name of Property: Shaw Avenue Place

City or Vicinity: St. Louis [Independent City]

County: St. Louis [Independent City] State: MO

Photographer: Janice Broderick (unless otherwise noted)

Date

Photographed: Nov. 1978 (unless otherwise noted)

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

- 1 of 8. #2 Shaw Place, W (principal) elevation, facing E.
- 2 of 8. #1 Shaw Place, S elevation, facing N.
- 3 of 8. Streetscape showing #2, #4, and #6 Shaw Place, facing SE.
- 4 of 8. E (principal) elevation, facing SE.
- 5 of 8. Center park with fountain and #8 Shaw Place, facing NE. Photo taken by Mary M. Stirtz, Sept. 1980.
- 6 of 8. #9 Shaw Place, E (principal) elevation, facing NW.
- 7 of 8. Streetscape, E side of Shaw Place (#2 - #10), facing NE. Photo taken by unknown, circa 1898. Photocopy by Shaw Camera Shop, 1980.
- 8 of 8. Streetscape, W side of Shaw Place (#1 - #7), facing NW. Photo taken by unknown, circa 1898. Photocopy by Shaw Camera Shop, 1980.

















