### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property						
historic name_Tower, George F. Jr. and Carrie, House						
other names/site number Manley, John David an	d Matilda, House, Rec	ruitment Building.				
2. Location			·			
street & number 1520 South Grand Avenue		[n/a] not for p	ublication			
city or town St. Louis		[n/a] vicin	ity			
state Missouri code MO county St. Louis (Inc	dependent City) code	510 zip code <u>63104</u>				
3. State/Federal Agency Certification						
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservat for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standard meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be ( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ].)	s for registering properties in the B6 CFR Part 60. In my opinion,	ne National Register of Histor , the property [ x ] meets [ ] o	ic Places and loes not meet			
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO  Date						
Missouri Department of Natural Resources State or Federal agency and bureau						
In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the ( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ].)	National Register criteria.					
Signature of certifying official/Title			-			
State or Federal agency and bureau						
4. National Park Service Certification						
I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date				
[ ] entered in the National Register See continuation sheet [ ]. [ ] determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet [ ]. [ ] determined not eligible for the National Register. [ ] removed from the National Register [ ] other, explain See continuation sheet [ ].						

### Tower, George F. Jr. and Carrie, House

St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

F Classification				
5. Classification				
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Re Contributing	esources w Noncont	ithin Property ributing
[ x ] private [ ] public-local [ ] public-State [ ] public-Federal	[ x ] building(s) [ ] district [ ] site [ ] structure [ ] object			buildings sites structures
				structures objects
		_1	0	Total
Name of related multiple p	property listing.	Number of cont previously liste Register.		
		0		
			·	
6. Function or Use				
Historic Function DOMESTIC/single dwelling EDUCATION/education-rela		Current Functions VACANT/not in use		
7. Description  Architectural Classificatio LATE VICTORIAN/ Shingle		Materials foundation_limeston	ne	
		roof asphalt other		

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

# Tower, George F. Jr. and Carrie, House

St. Louis (Independent City), Missou	ıri

8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria	Areas of Significance Architecture
[] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history	rucincolore
[ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
[x]C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Periods of Significance 1889
[ ] <b>D</b> Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates n/a
Criteria Considerations	
Property is:	Significant Person(s)
[ ] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	n/ā
[ ] B removed from its original location.	
[ ] C a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation
[ ] D a cemetery.	n/a
[ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder
[ ] F a commemorative property.	Newcomb, Edgar Allan Poe, architect
[ ] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	
Narrative Statement of Significance	
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation	n sheets.)
9. Major Bibliographic References	
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this fo	rm on one or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
[ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested	[x] State Historic Preservation Office
[ ] previously listed in the National Register	[ ] Other State Agency
[ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register	[ ] Federal Agency
[ ] designated a National Historic Landmark	[ ] Local Government
[ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	[ ] University
#	[x] Other:
[ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record	Name of repository: Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.
#	

### Tower, George F. Jr. and Carrie, House

St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

St. Louis (II	ndependent C	ity), Missouri				Page 4
10. Geogra	ohical Data					
Acreage of	Property les	s than one				
UTM Refere	nces					
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C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing	
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11. Form Pr	epared By	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		· · · · ·
name/title	Susan Shepp	ard/ Researcher				
organization	Landmarks /	Association of St. Lo	ouis	date_ <u>Jar</u>	uary 24, 2005	
street & number 917 Locust St., 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor telephone 314-421-6474						
city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63101						
	Ocumentation	on with the completed	form:			
Continuatio	n Sheets					
Maps						
A USGS ma	ap (7.5 or 15 minu	te series) indicating the pr	operty's location.			
A Sketch m	nap for historic dis	tricts and properties having	g large acreage or numer	ous resources.		
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street & num	ber <u>4746 M</u>	Pherson Ave.		telephone	e <u>314-361-7117</u>	

city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63108

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section	<u>7</u>	Page	1
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Tower, George F. Jr. and Carrie, House St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

### Summary

The George F. Jr. and Carrie Tower House is located at 1520 South Grand Avenue in St. Louis, Missouri. This red brick, two and a half story Shingle Style dwelling was 'completed in 1889 from a design by architect Edgar Allan Poe Newcomb. Its shape is typically complex, with an irregular floor plan and massing. Features of this cross-gabled subtype include a large, rounded front porch at the southwest corner and asphalt shingles in its broad gables. The original floor plan and walls remain intact. Many original features remain, including fireplaces, windows, woodwork, and wood floors. Although the original setting has changed, with most of the other elegant nineteenth century houses that once lined South Grand having been removed, the Tower House otherwise retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

### Exterior

The Tower House is constructed of red brick and has a rough cut limestone foundation. It has a cross gabled roof with an irregular floor plan and asymmetrical facades. The large windows on the front facade of the house have sandstone sills, and brick segmental arched lintels, four headers high. The side gable which faces Grand Avenue is of medium pitch, and has a sweep down its ridge which becomes the roof of a veranda on the right side of the front facade, at the first floor. The front entrance of the house is beneath this veranda and is in its original location, although the front door has been replaced.

Attached immediately to the right of the veranda is a large curvilinear porch, which wraps around the southwest corner of the house to extend to the south or side facade, and shelter a side door. This porch is one of the most unique features of the house, and it has received little to no alterations. Its original wood plank ceiling is still intact. It has classical porch banisters and supports with Doric columns all of which are original to the house. The wooden floor of the porch is also original.

A defining characteristic of the house is its shingle pediments at the gable ends. There is a large gable end on the front facade, with a medium pitched roof. Within the pediment, at the half story level, is a grouping of three one-over-one windows. Above the windows,

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7_	Page	2	Tower, George F. Jr. and Carrie, House
			St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

a shingled "eyelid" fills the top portion of the gable. The original wooden shingles of this pediment have been replaced with asphalt shingles.

This gable end on the front facade shelters a small second story balcony, at its southwest corner, supported by a squat Doric column. The floor of this balcony is the roof of the first floor front porch. To the left of this balcony is a large square second floor window with the characteristic sandstone sill and segmental arched lintel. Immediately below this window at the first floor is a window of similar size and shape, although the first floor window appears to have a decorative wooden surround.

The south side facade, visible from Grand Avenue, features a gable end with west ridge which extends to the first floor, serving to unify this complicated facade. At the first floor is the large round porch, with curved roof, which extends from the front facade. At the rear of the porch are wooden stairs, covered by an extended gable roof. Supported by wooden Doric columns resting on rough cut limestone slabs, these stairs lead to the side entrance of the house.

Immediately above the porch is a brick bay window with a polygonal roof. A square brick chimney extends from this roof. Copper capping is located where the roof of the porch meets the bay, and the roof of the bay meets the chimney. To the right of the bay is a one-over-one window with brick segmental arched lintel. Above this window at the half-story level is a variation on the Palladian window, which is typical of a Shingle Style house. It has a central multi-paned window with two small sidelights with six panes each. Above the windows is a wooden lintel below a half circular wooden decorative element. Historical photos show these features to be original to the house. Within this gable are asphalt shingles, originally wooden shingles.

To the right of this half story window is another gable end and pediment, which protrudes only slightly from the main base of the house. Its pediment is covered in shingles and has a small centrally located rectangular window. Below, at both the first and second floors, are single one-over-one windows with sandstone sills and segmental arched windows. This entire gable end of the south facade is framed within the ridge of the main gable roof.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7_	Page	3	Tower, George F. Jr. and Carrie, House
			St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

The rear facade of the house is less decorative, although just as complicated, as the two main facades. The south section of the rear facade features a two story brick bay. Within the bay are several one-over-one windows with sandstone sills and segmental arches. At the roof of the bay is a square brick chimney, with copper capping at its base along the roof. Attached to the north side of this bay is a second story balcony. To the north of the balcony is another gable end. Within this gable end is the altered first floor entrance to the kitchen. To the right of the entrance is a small one-over-one window. At the second floor is a single rectangular two-over-two window. A wooden stringcourse separates the second floor from the half story level above. At this half story level, centrally located beneath the gable roof, are two small two-over-two windows.

Along the north side facade of the house is a limestone wall, which appears to have been built at the same time the house was constructed. On the left side of this facade a fire escape has been added, which terminates at a door at the half story level. Basement windows with segmental arch lintels are visible, although they have been covered with metal bars. This side of the house has four bays, the second bay being where the interior staircase is located, visibly showing this on the exterior by the asymmetrical placement of the windows. All windows have segmental arch lintels with sandstone sills. At the first floor the east bay is a single two-over-two window. The two center bays are both small windows with two panes. The western most bay is a single one-over-one window. At the second floor this pattern repeats itself, although there is a bay window at the third bay. The bay window is supported by wooden brackets, has three separate windows, and is covered in shingles. Immediately above this bay is a large pediment extending over the third and fourth bay and supported by a brick bracket at its western corner. Within this pediment is a central window beneath an eyebrow dormer. This entire pediment is covered in asphalt shingles. This smaller pediment is located within a larger pediment formed by the gable end of this side of the roof. A wooden string course separates the second floor from the gable end pediment at the half story level. This pediment is also decorated with asphalt shingles. A square brick chimney is located at the cross section of this gable end of the roof.

### Interior

The house retains its original floor plan throughout its two and a half floors. There is a small front entrance hall which enters into a large central corridor. Two parlors, the

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section	7	Page	4
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Tower, George F. Jr. and Carrie, House St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

kitchen and dining room can be accessed from this corridor. The dominant feature of this central hall is the large wooden staircase, with original oak wainscoting and banisters, and built in seat at the first floor. The newel post features an elaborately carved leaf motif.

Original fireplaces are found throughout the house, including the dining room and front parlor. The dining room fireplace has the original brick surround with a large oak mantel with built in shelves and dentil molding. To the sides of the mantle are large windows with unpainted oak woodwork. Radiators remain in place as well.

In many rooms the wood floors have been covered with tile, and dropped ceilings have been added. This can easily be removed, and the original floors remain beneath the tiles. Plaster walls remain, and decorative plaster molding is still intact in the front parlor and central hall.

### Integrity

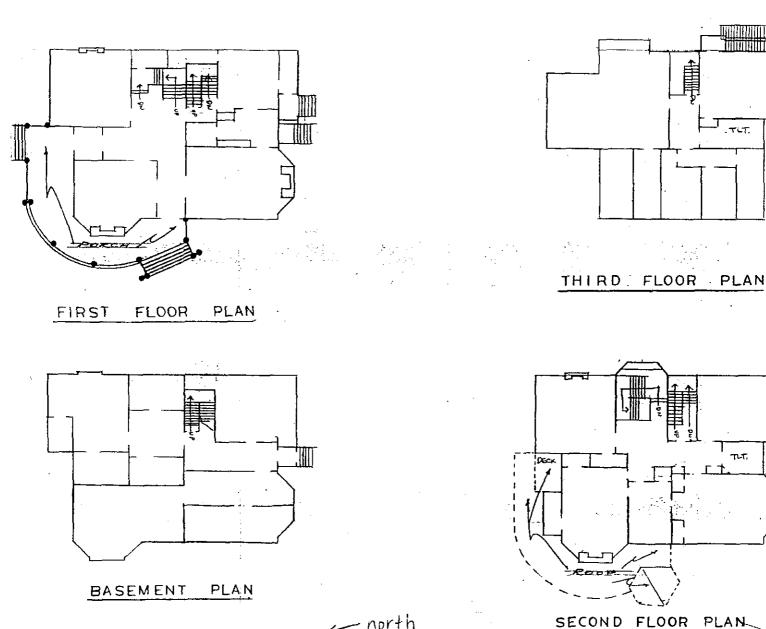
The Tower House has had minor alterations. The asphalt shingles which replaced the original wooden cladding can be returned to wood; minor interior alterations, such as drop ceilings and carpet, can be removed as well. The Tower House at 1520 South Grand Avenue is in excellent condition and retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **CONTINUATION SHEET**

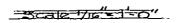
Section 7 Page

Tower, George F. Jr. and Carrie, House St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

Figure 1: Floor Plan of Tower House at 1520 South Grand Avenue.



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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 6\_\_\_

Tower, George F. Jr. and Carrie, House St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

### Summary

The George F. Jr. and Carrie Tower House at 1520 South Grand Avenue in St. Louis, Missouri is locally significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion C for Architecture. Designed in 1889 by Boston architect Edgar Allan Poe (E.A.P.) Newcomb, it is the only known St. Louis example of his work that is extant. It is also a good and relatively intact example of a Shingle Style dwelling, a rare St. Louis property type. The house was built for the George Franklin Tower Jr. family, who resided at the house until 1897. It was occupied by the John David Manley family from 1897 until 1909, when the Manley's sold the house to the St. Louis School Board. The school board owned the house from 1909 until 2005. Although it has been used as school board offices for several decades, the house remains remarkably unaltered. In addition, the building is important as one of only two extant elegant nineteenth century residences that once lined South Grand, the other being the 1888 Warner House at 1905 South Grand designed by Theodore Link. Its period of significance is 1889, the year which it was constructed.

### Architecture

The Tower House was designed by architect Edgar Allan Poe Newcomb in 1889. E. A. P. Newcomb was born in Boston in 1846, son of another Boston architect Levi Newcomb. He was a partner in the architectural firm of Levi Newcomb from 1866 to 1876, and headed the firm from 1876 until 1901, when he moved to Honolulu, Hawaii. In Hawaii he entered into a partnership with C. W. Dickey for three years, then opened his own office.

In 1889 when George Franklin Tower Sr. wanted to hire an architect to design his son's new home, he looked to his hometown of Boston. According to David Simmons, the use of Boston architects by transplanted New Englanders was often seen in St. Louis at this time.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Simmons, David J. "George F. Tower Junior and His Grand Avenue House." SAH Missouri Valley Chapter Newsletter. Vol IX, No. 4 (Winter 2003).

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 7

Tower, George F. Jr. and Carrie, House St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

Peabody & Sterns, for instance, designed Eliot's Church of the Messiah, and Hurd & Rice designed the First Congregational Church (now Grandel Square Theater), the church the Towers attended.<sup>2</sup>

E.A.P. Newcomb previously designed two Queen Anne style homes in St. Louis, the George O. Carpenter house on the southwest corner of Compton and Russell in 1883; and the Carlos Greeley house on the northwest corner of West Pine and Spring in 1884.<sup>3</sup> Both the Carpenter and the Greeley homes have been demolished, making the Tower-Manley house extremely significant as the only known surviving representative of Newcomb's work in St. Louis.

In addition, the Tower House is important as one of only two extant residences which once lined this area of South Grand, the other being the Warner House at 1905 South Grand, which was designed in 1888 by Theodore Link. In the years following the 1909 sale of the Tower House to the St. Louis School Board, the area became increasingly more commercial and institutional. But at one time this stretch of South Grand was an elegant residential neighborhood, with many architect-designed houses, all of which have been demolished. David Simmons references five architect-designed houses in the vicinity of the Tower House:

E. W. Gould House at 1620 S. Grand, 1888 by Charles K. Ramsey C. P. Burr House at 1609 S. Grand, 1891 by W. A. Swasey Edward Stamm House at 1519 S. Grand, 1891 by Link & Cameron August Priesmeyer House at 1537 S. Grand, 1892 by E. Jungenfeld Herman Temme House at 1533 S. Grand, 1893 by Adoph Wagner<sup>4</sup>

Of course there were many other houses on South Grand, but these five plus the Tower House and the Warner House are the only houses which the name of the architect can be established.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Simmons.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 8

Tower, George F. Jr. and Carrie, House St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

### Shingle Style

The Shingle Style evolved from the Queen Anne style in New England in the early 1880s. With its irregular massing and complicated rooflines, it is quite similar to the Queen Anne style, but unlike its predecessor, the Shingle Style tends to be much simpler in design, with less variety of color and texture, and an emphasis on the horizontal.<sup>5</sup> The monochromatic surfaces of the Shingle Style was a shift from the polychrome textures, and what some were beginning to view as a general fussiness, that characterized the Queen Anne style.

The most identifying feature of the Shingle Style is its shingled exterior wall surfaces, which serves to unify the exterior of the building through the use of surface texture. Shingles can be used in varying degrees of frequency. While some Shingle Style buildings are covered entirely in shingles, often the first floor of the house is stone, with the second floor and above decorated with shingles. The Tower House is brick, with shingles visible at the second floor and at the half story pediments.

The relative simplicity of the Shingle Style made it popular with resort "cottages" in Newport and Maine in the 1880s. Vincent Scully calls Henry Hobson Richardson's Watts Sherman House in Newport, Rhode Island, designed in 1884, the first monument of the Shingle Style. Richardson and other New England architects were leaders in the development of the style. One of Richardson's last works in the style was the Potter House at 5814 Cabanne Avenue in St. Louis in 1886 (demolished). Other New England architects continued to work in the style well into the 1890s, most notably McKim, Mead and White. The style was used much less frequently in the Midwest, although L. Lyman Sislbee and John Wellborn Root were experimenting with the Shingle Style in Chicago in the 1880s. 8

Newcomb's use of the Shingle Style was unusual for St. Louis, and it shows the influence that other Boston architects such as Richardson were having on his work. Like much of Richardson's Shingle Style domestic architecture of the 1880s, Newcomb's Tower House

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780. (Cambridge: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1969), p. 127.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Scully, Vincent. Shingle Style Today. (New York: George Braziller, 1974), p. 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Whiffen, p. 128.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Whiffen, p. 131.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 9

Tower, George F. Jr. and Carrie, House St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

features asymmetrical massing, which is at the same time ordered and contained. In addition, it has broad low-pitched gables with sweeping ridges, seen on McKim, Mead and White's William Low House (demolished) which was constructed in Bristol, Rhode Island in 1887, two years earlier than the Tower House.

St. Louis' restrictions on frame construction within the city limits following the fire of 1849 contributed to the very few examples of the Queen Anne or Shingle Style, which were characteristically, although certainly not always, constructed of frame. In addition, they are styles that never gained local popularity. Those Queen Anne and Shingle Style houses that were built are constructed of less frequently employed materials such as brick or stone, like the brick Tower House.

A small concentration of Shingle Style houses were built in the West Cabanne Place Historic District (NR 1980) in the late 1880s and 1890s, although a few of those have been lost, including the Theodore Link-designed Lippincott House at 5944 West Cabanne Place. The demolition of Richardson's Potter House was the most unfortunate loss of the Shingle Style in the city. The Tower House is most stylistically similar to the Lippincott House, which was two and a half stories, with brick construction at its lower level and shingles above. It also had a cross gabled roof, although its front porch was much more modest, with a simple gable roof with a pediment end. The Potter House, which had less ornament than the Lippincott or Tower House, was much more horizontal, with a high-pitched hip roof and a long low porch. Its primary ornamentations came from its surface shingles, one octagonal turret, and an eyebrow dormer window at its roof. The loss of the Lippincott and the Potter Houses increases the rarity of the Shingle Style in St. Louis, and makes the preservation of the Tower House of added importance.

### **Tower Family**

George Franklin Tower Sr. was born in Boston in 1825 and arrived in St. Louis in 1849. Upon his arrival in St. Louis he began working in the wholesale grocery and liquor trade. In time he advanced his position in different companies, and eventually became a partner in several different firms, including Livermore & Company; Cooley, Tower & Company;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Scully, Vincent. The Shingle Style: Architectural Theory and Design from Richardson to the Origins of Wright. (New Have: Yale University Press, 1955), p.92.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 10

Tower, George F. Jr. and Carrie, House St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

and the George F. Tower Company. In 1867 George Franklin Tower Sr. built a Second Empire mansion at 1540 South Grand (demolished). Twelve years later, in 1879, he bought the Goodwin Manufacturing Company, where his son, George F. Tower Jr., began working as a clerk in 1880. George Jr. later became plant manager, vice president, and following George Franklin Tower Senior's death in 1893 he became president.

In 1886 George F. Tower Jr. married Carrie Kehlor. Three years later George Senior advanced his son \$18,000 to finance the E.A.P. Newcomb-designed-house at 1520 South Grand. When his father died in 1896 George F. Tower and his family moved into his father's house next door at 1540 South Grand (demolished). The Tower family sold the house at 1520 to Frank S. Hawken, who was a bookkeeper for the Cote Brillante Pressed Brick Company, in July of 1896. Hawken most likely bought the house for speculative purposes, <sup>12</sup> as it appears he never resided in the home. In February of 1897 Hawken sold the house to John D. and Matilda Manley for \$20,000.

The George F. Tower Junior family remained at 1540 South Grand until they sold the house to the St. Louis Public School Board in 1906. They then moved to 4969 Berlin (now Pershing Place), followed by a move to 5151 Washington Avenue in 1908. In 1910 they moved to 27 Vandeventer Place, otherwise known as the Lionberger House, which was designed by H. H. Richardson for John R. Lionberger in 1885.

### **Manley Family**

John David Manley was born in St. Louis in 1859, and grew up in Litchfield, Illinois. He worked as a traveling salesman for Moline Plow and Kingman of Peoria. He returned to St. Louis, and in 1888 started his own company with Thomas V. Thompson, the Manley & Thompson Implement Company, which in 1902 became the John D. Manley Implement Company. The company was located on the near north side of St. Louis at

13 Hamilton.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Simmons, David J. "George F. Tower Junior and His Grand Avenue House." SAH Missouri Valley Chapter Newsletter. Vol IX, No. 4 (Winter 2003).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Hamilton, Esley. "More Memories of 1520 South Grand." *SAH Missouri Valley Chapter Newsletter*. Vol. X, No. 3A (Fall 2004).

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

	Section	8	Page	11
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Tower, George F. Jr. and Carrie, House St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

709 Cass. In addition, he operated the John D. Manley Carriage Company, which manufactured buggies and carriages at 1317–1321 North Ninth Street.<sup>14</sup>

John Manley married Matilda Klugman in 1884. They resided at 2723 Russell until their home was damaged in the tornado of May 27, 1896. In February of 1897 they purchased the former Tower House at 1520 South Grand for \$20,000 from Frank S. Hawken. The Wyman School (NR 1992) was built behind the Tower House in 1901. The Board of Education's holdings in the area grew, and they eventually purchased the home for \$21,000 in 1909. 15

Since 1909 the Tower House has been owned by the St. Louis Board of Education and has served as various offices or has been vacant. Its use as an office building has probably permitted its survival. It has been purchased by Rothschild Development and awaits renovation.

<sup>14</sup> Hamilton.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 12

Tower, George F. Jr. and Carrie, House St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

Figure 2: The Manley children in front of the house, c. 1900.



# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 13

Tower, George F. Jr. and Carrie, House St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 14

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 15

Tower, George F. Jr. and Carrie, House St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

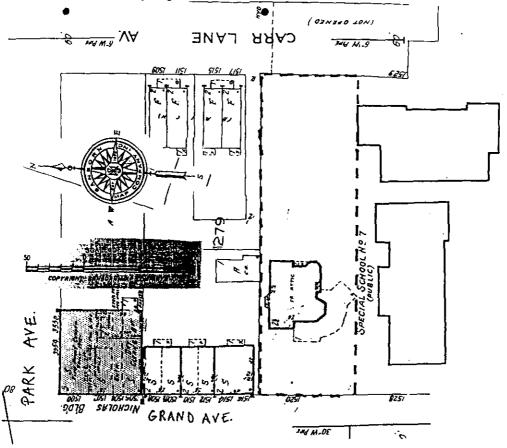
### **Boundary Description**

The Tower House is located at 1520 South Grand Avenue in St. Louis, Missouri. The building is on city block 1279; it is a parcel of the L. Thomas Compton Hill Subdivision. It measures approximately 75' by 260' and is bound by Grand Avenue on the west, Carr Lane Ave. on the east, a rock wall on the north, and school buildings on the south. The property is legally known by the Assessor's office as parcel number 12900001350. The nominated parcel is indicated by a dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Tower House Boundary Map."

### **Boundary Justification**

The nominated parcel includes all of the property historically associated with the Tower House.

Tower House Boundary Map. Source: Sanborn Map Company, vol. 2, plate 65, circa 1968.





# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



