

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL 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☐ NAME

HISTORIC

Zephaniah Sappington House

AND/OR COMMON

☐ LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

11145 Gravois Road

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Crestwood

☒ VICINITY OF

#3 Hon. Richard A. Gephardt

STATE

Missouri

CODE

29

COUNTY

St. Louis

CODE

189

☐ CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
___ STRUCTURE
___ SITE
___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS
___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
___ UNOCCUPIED
___ WORK IN PROGRESS
___ ACCESSIBLE
___ YES: RESTRICTED
___ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☒ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE
___ COMMERCIAL
___ EDUCATIONAL
___ ENTERTAINMENT
___ GOVERNMENT
___ INDUSTRIAL
___ MILITARY
___ MUSEUM
___ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___ RELIGIOUS
___ SCIENTIFIC
___ TRANSPORTATION
___ OTHER☐ OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

John Martin Dressel

STREET & NUMBER

11145 Gravois Road

CITY, TOWN

St. Louis

☒

VICINITY OF

Crestwood

STATE

Missouri 63126

☐ LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds, St. Louis County Government Center

STREET & NUMBER

7900 Forsyth Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

Clayton,

STATE
Missouri

63105

☐ REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

1. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

February 15, 1966

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ☒ COUNTY ___ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department

CITY, TOWN

1723 Mason Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63131

STATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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ZEPHANIAH SAPPINGTON HOUSE

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

2. Old St. Louis Homes by Elinor Coyle

1979

local

published: St. Louis, The Folkestone Press

3. Missouri State Historical Survey

1977

State

Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City, Missouri

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

___ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
___ FAIR

___ DETERIORATED
___ RUINS
___ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

___ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
___ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Zephaniah Sappington House is located at 11145 Gravois Road, just west of Sumter Drive and about 1/4 mile south of the city limits of Crestwood, Missouri. It is a rectangular two-story weatherboarded log structure with a one-story south wing; the main elevation facing due east, is at a slightly acute angle to the road. A two-story, five-bay gallery extends across this front and continues as a one-story porch across the wing.

A rudimentary knowledge of classical proportions is evident in the simple column - like shapes of the wooden posts, the slightly irregular pattern of inter-columniation and the shorter scale of the second-floor posts. The first floor of the gallery is flagstone, while the second floor is wooden with a simple wooden balustrade. Behind the gallery the pattern of fenestration is irregular; doors are placed in the southernmost bay of the wing and the second bay from the north. Two large squared rubble chimneys mark the ends of the main block.

Inside the house is only one room deep, and circulation was originally primarily by the gallery, which before 1887 was matched by another on the west side of the house.¹ The exterior walls protected by these two galleries were originally plastered. This plaster survives behind the second floor of the remaining gallery. The south wing was built using materials from the old west gallery.

Two board-and-batten outbuildings survive on to the northeast of the house as well as a small log structure with a frame wing. The ground drops rapidly to the east of the house toward a small spring, the source of a branch of the Gravois Creek. According to tradition, this was the site of a mill built by Rezin Sappington, a brother of Zephaniah, and two millstones survive, incorporated into low garden walls.²

The present owner of the property was born in 1887. His property will revert to the owners of the surrounding apartment development on his death.³ An approved plat of this development on file with St. Louis County shows a street crossing the present site of the house. Thus, although the house and outbuildings are in good condition and a source of community pride, the continued existence of this important historic site is seriously threatened.

FOOTNOTES

1. Information provided by owner. The galleries may have been added to the house about 1830, according to William Bodley Lane.
2. John J.S. Dressel, letter to Mrs. Walter Treppler, October 1, 1971.
3. Notes from John J.S. Dressel, November 17, 1971.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW		
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☒ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1815

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Zephaniah Sappington, Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Zephaniah Sappington House is, with nearby "White Haven," one of two important two-story galleried pioneer houses in St. Louis County. It is also significant as one of a cluster of early houses in the Crestwood area that are connected by kinship.

Zephaniah Sappington was born about 1782 in Ohio County, Virginia (now West Virginia), the eldest son of John Sappington (1753-1815) and Jemima Fowler, who had been married February 1, 1781.¹ With his parents and sixteen younger siblings, he came to the Louisiana Territory in 1804 or shortly after. He married Margaret Parke, the sister of his own sister Margaret's husband, Jonah Parke. With other members of his family, he joined the militia at the outbreak of the War of 1812 and served briefly.² He probably built this house shortly after his father's death in 1815, on a grant of nearly two quarters of Section 20, Township 44 North, Range 6 East.³

By this time, his brother Thomas had built the brick house now at 1015 South Sappington Road; William Lindsay Long, the husband of his sister Elizabeth, had built "White Haven," now at 9050 Whitehaven Drive; and Joseph Sappington had built the log house at 10734 Clearwater Drive. These houses were joined in 1820 by William L. Long's second house at 9385 Pardee Road. All these buildings are on or have been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1857 Zephaniah Sappington died, and on a map of about 1870, his property is shown divided among George and Perry, nephew Thomas J., and one Jemima Steinhauer.⁴ She may have been a daughter of Zephaniah and the wife of H.F. Steinhauer, who owned the property in 1878.⁵ The old house on her portion of the property was occupied by tenants, and when it was sold in 1887 to Henry Dressel, it required extensive repairs. Dressel was a son of Caspar Dressel, an immigrant from Bavaria who settled in south St. Louis in 1857.⁶

John M. Dressel, son of Henry, was less than one year old when his family moved into the Zephaniah Sappington House. He returned to the house at the time of his marriage in 1916 and remains there today. He played an important role in the development of the suburban school system, serving as clerk of the Sappington Board of Education from 1927 to 1949 and as chairman of the newly merged Lindbergh School District from 1949 to 1958.⁷

FOOTNOTES

1. William L. Thomas, History of St. Louis County, Missouri (St. Louis: S.J. Clarke, 1911), Vol. I; Natalie Moffitt Griffin, "Sappington genealogy," untitled, undated (c.1963) Typescript in files of St. Louis County Historic Buildings Commission.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

2. Neva Adams Wasson, The Crestwood Story (Crestwood, Mo.: Area American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1976), p4.
3. E. Dupre, Atlas of the City and County of St. Louis (St. Louis: 1838), Township 44 North, Range 6 East.
4. Julius Hutawa, Atlas of St. Louis County (St. Louis, N.D. - between 1867 and 1872).
5. Julius Pitzman, Pitzman's Atlas of St. Louis City and County (Philadelphia: 1878).
6. Wasson, pp. 16-17.
7. ibid, p.18.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Coyle, Elinor. Old St. Louis Homes. St. Louis: The Folkestone Press, 1979.
2. Griffin, Natalie Moffitt. "Sappington Genealogy" untitled undated (c.1963) typescript in files of St. Louis County Historic Buildings Commission.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

1.80 acres

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

QUADRANGLE NAME "Webster Groves, Mo."

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 115 729325 42689610

B

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A triangular parcel, extending 327.25 feet along the north side of Gravois Road, and bounded on the northeast by 410 feet of Fort Sumter Lane and on the west by 416.36 feet of Southwoods Plat 1. (Southwoods Apts.).

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

STATE

Missouri

CODE

29

COUNTY

St. Louis

CODE

189

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

1. Esley Hamilton

ORGANIZATION

St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation

DATE

December, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

1723 Mason Road

TELEPHONE

(314) 822-8475

CITY OR TOWN

St. Louis

STATE

Missouri 63131

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

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

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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3. Thomas, William L. History of St. Louis County, Missouri. St. Louis: S.J. Clarke, 1911, Vol. I.
4. Wasson, Neva. The Crestwood Story. Crestwood: Area American Bicentennial Commission, 1976, p.6.

ITEM NUMBER 11

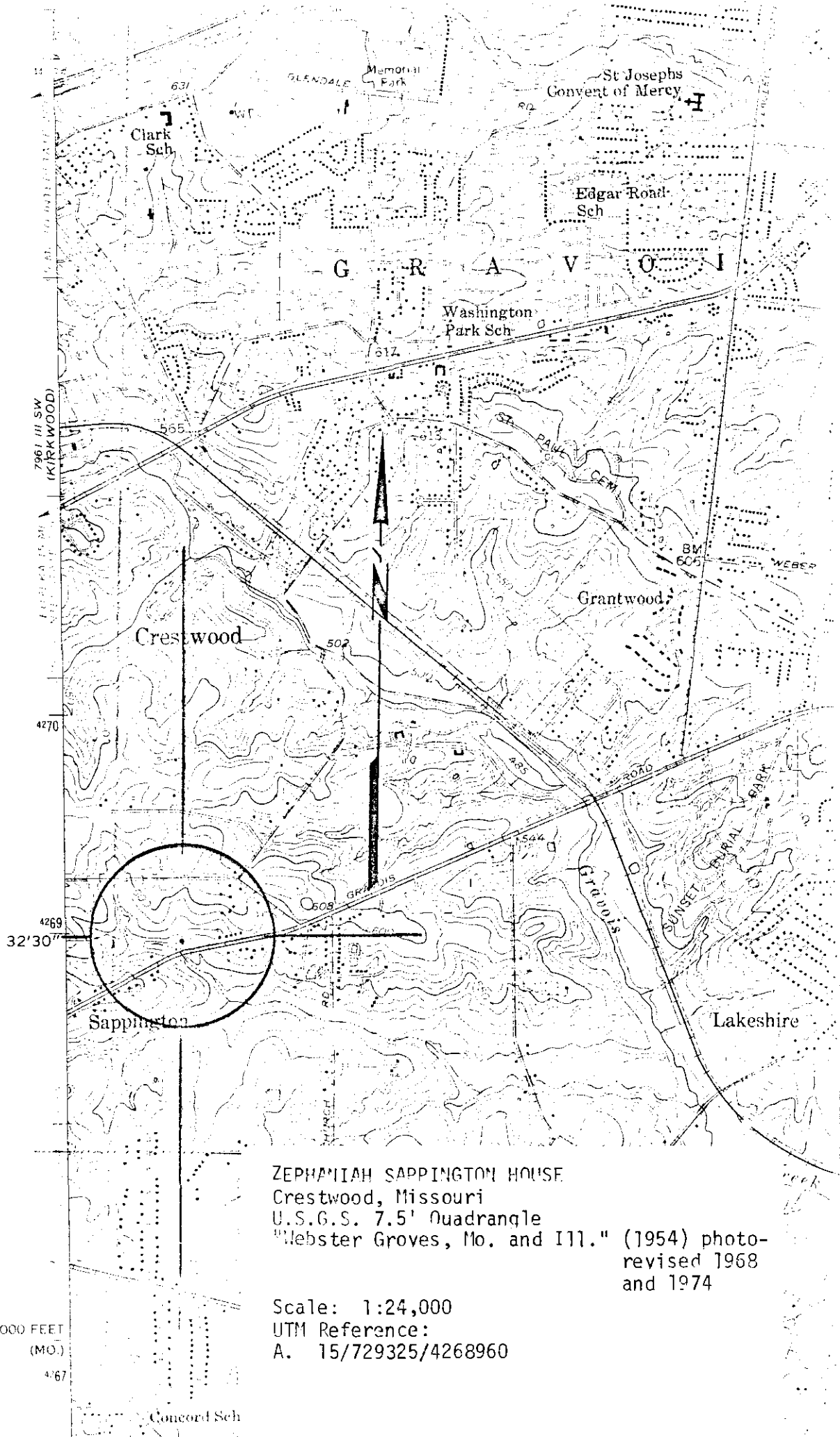
PAGE 1

2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey
and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Office of Historic Preservation
Jefferson City

March 7, 1980

314/751/4096

Missouri 65101



ZEPHANIAH SAPPINGTON HOUSE
 Crestwood, Missouri
 U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle
 "Webster Groves, Mo. and Ill." (1954) photo-
 revised 1968
 and 1974

Scale: 1:24,000
 UTM Reference:
 A. 15/729325/4268960

980 000 FEET
 (MO.)

4/67

Concord Sch

Photo Log:

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

City or Vicinity: **Crestwood**

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

Photographer: **Esley Hamilton**

Date

Photographed: **Dec. 1979**

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

1 of 5. View of house and barn from NE.

2 of 5. View of house from SE.

3 of 5. View of gallery from NE, showing exterior plaster on second floor.

4 of 5. View of outbuildings, from right foreground wood shed, barn-garage, potting shed.

5 of 5. View of garden with millstone and log shed.











