

SITE FILE COPY

Form 10-300
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Missouri	
COUNTY: Jackson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: Vaile Park	
AND/OR HISTORIC: Col. Harvey M. Vaile Mansion	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1500 North Liberty Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Independence			
STATE Missouri	CODE 64050	COUNTY: Jackson	CODE 095

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition:	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes:
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNERS NAME: Mrs. J. Roger DeWitt (owner of property at 1500 North Liberty Street)			
STREET AND NUMBER: 112 North Spring Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Independence	STATE: Missouri	CODE 64050	CODE 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Office of Recorder of Deeds, Jackson County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: 			
CITY OR TOWN: Independence	STATE: Missouri	CODE 64050	CODE
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5.6			

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: University Prints of Boston: Modern Architecture, Series GM (International)			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1930 Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/>			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Conant, Kenneth J. (ed.)			
STREET AND NUMBER: c/o The University Prints			
CITY OR TOWN: Boston	STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 02100	CODE 20

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Missouri	COUNTY: Jackson	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Jackson	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

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COL. HARVEY M. VAILE MANSION

2. 1518 North Osage Street

Independence

Missouri 64050

Code: 24

Jackson

Code: 095

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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Jackson	
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COL. HARVEY M. VAILE MANSION

4. Orion R. Bell, Jr. (owner of property at 1518 North Osage Street)

18408 Hanthorn Drive

Independence

Missouri 64057

Code: 24

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Jackson	
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COL. HARVEY M. VAILE MANSION

6. Missouri State Historical Survey (state)

1968

Missouri State Park Board

P.O. Box 176

1204 Jefferson Building

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Code: 24

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One) Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One) Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>
(Check One) Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>Vaile Park, the Col. Harvey M. Vaile Mansion in Independence, Missouri is an unusually large residential structure designed in the Victorian French Renaissance revival style, constructed of dark red brick and partially trimmed in white limestone. The house has full basement, two full stories and a third story under a mansard roof. A four story tower is at the center of the facade (east side). The house was designed by Kansas City architect Asa Cross in the early 1870's.</p> <p>The present approximate 5.6 acres of land on which the house is located has been reduced from 630 original acres. Outbuildings (see map) located in yard surrounding the house included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Combination horse barn and carriage house to the west of the house. This building is intact and its design is in harmony with that of the large house. It is presently separated from the house by a public roadway, North Osage Street, and is in separate ownership. 2) A wine cellar southwest of the house, at the corner of North Osage Street and Kendall Avenue, reportedly located in a section of the basement of the old Perry Brock grist mill. (<u>Kansas City Journal-Post, March 20, 1927, p. 9c.</u>) The site is currently identifiable by an expanse of concrete which appears to be a cap over the old cellar. 3) The site of a greenhouse formerly located north of the house, is presently occupied by a wooden pergola. <p>The mansion is complex in plan, detail and finish. It exemplifies the High Victorian taste for leaving no surface areas untouched.</p> <p>The basic four walls do not rise in four planes but have two story bays terminating in dormers at the third story level pulled out from their surfaces. Porches, stairways, a broadly overhanging bracketed cornice and pent roofs over some windows contribute to the physical and visual disruption of plain wall surfaces.</p> <p>The roof profile of the house is similarly complex as a result of the inclusion of the facade (east wall) tower with its double mansard roof, heavy bracketed cornices, belfry at the southwest corner of the house, finials, ornamental iron cresting, and chimneys with bulging upper termini.</p> <p>Hand pressed brick for the walls was purchased from contractor William Randall for \$50,000. (<u>Kansas City Journal-Post, March 20, 1927, p. 9c.</u>)</p> <p>A limestone belt course caps the foundation walls.</p> <p>Windows throughout are framed in wood. Sash are double hung with a single plate of glass in each sash. Windows on the facade (east wall)</p>	

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COL. HARVEY M. VAILE MANSION

7.

and on the sections of the south and north sidewalls visible from Liberty Street (east of the house) have stone sills and lintels. Elsewhere brick segment arches were used with keys and termini of limestone.

All windows and doors are narrow in proportion to height, a relationship that accentuates the appearance of extreme verticality of the walls.

The roof is of colored slate arranged in diamond pattern, a motif repeated on the roof of the horse barn-carriage house to the west of the main house.

An especially noteworthy feature of the house is the sheer abundance of detailed finish applied to the exterior. This seems to have been done more in the spirit of achieving maximum utilization of each supporting surface than as an exhibition of artistic sensitivity. A high proportion of this finish is composed of pierced wood sheathing, pendants, quarter circle brackets, stick braces and mouldings.

The interior was originally richly finished with watercolor mural work by imported European artists of the owner-builder's choosing. (Kansas City Journal-Post, March 20, 1927, p. 9c.) One of the original nine marble-faced fireplaces cost \$1500. The front door, spiral staircase and room divider panels are walnut. The remainder of the interior woodwork is of painted white pine. (Kansas City Journal-Post, March 20, 1927, p. 9c.)

The ceilings are 11 feet high throughout the house; three chandeliers, originally intended for the White House in Washington D.C. were purchased by Vaile for \$800. (Kansas City Journal-Post, March 20, 1927, p. 9c.)

The house is in structurally sound condition at present. Some exterior tuckpointing is needed. The interior is reportedly in good condition with few changes in the original form and finish. Because of the present use of the building, interior inspection was not permitted.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐16th Century ☐18th Century ☐20th Century ☐15th Century ☐17th Century ☐19th Century ☒

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) ca. 1871

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal ☐Education ☐Political ☐Urban Planning ☐Prehistoric ☐Engineering ☐

Religion/Phi-

Other (Specify) ☒Historic ☐Industry ☐losophy ☐ArchitectureAgriculture ☐Invention ☐Science ☐Art ☒Landscape ☐Sculpture ☐Commerce ☐Architecture ☐

Social/Human-

Communications ☐Literature ☐itarian ☐Conservation ☐Military ☐Theater ☐Music ☐Transportation ☐

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Vaile Park, the Col. Harvey M. Vaile mansion, Independence, Missouri, is significant primarily as a superb example of French Renaissance revival style architecture in Missouri. Its design and construction was financed by an owner who desired a magnificent residence as an outward expression of his wealth.

Col. Harvey M. Vaile, original owner and builder, began construction ca. 1871. The mansion was completed in 1881 at a cost greater than \$100,000. (Kansas City Journal-Post, March 20, 1927, p. 9c.) The design of the mansion was inspired by a large house in Normandy, France that Vaile and his wife had visited during a trip to Europe. (The Daily News (Independence), article by Louise Hurlbut, "Dignity of Past Lives on in Stately Vaile Mansion," Feb. 13, 1952, pp. 5-6.)

Vaile made a great deal of money in shrewd business ventures, primarily interests in the construction of the Erie Canal. (State Historical Society of Missouri, Historic Sites Files: Jackson County, material from Edward C. Wright, Jr.) He was also part owner and operator of the Old Star Mail Route originating in Independence during the 1860's. He was implicated in the "Star Route Scandals" of 1882 and 1883, and before acquittal in 1883, his trial expenses exceeded \$100,000. (Kansas City Journal-Post, March 20, 1927, p. 9c.)

Vaile made his home the showplace of Jackson County, offering lavish hospitality to notables of the 1880's and 1890's including many U.S. Senators and congressional representatives. After his death in 1895, the estate was contested by nieces and nephews in a suit which lasted five years. (Kansas City Journal-Post, March 20, 1927, p. 9c.)

The mansion has been in use as a sanitarium since 1908.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

I. BOOKS:

- A. Conant, Kenneth J. (ed.). University Prints of Boston: Modern Architecture, Series GM (International). Boston, Mass.: The University Prints, 1930.
- B. The History of Jackson County, Missouri. Kansas City, Missouri: Union Historical Company, Birdsall, Williams & Company, 1881.
- C. Independence, Missouri: In Historic Jackson County. Independence, Missouri: Herald Publishing House, 1964.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
NW	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NE	39°	06'	33"	94°	25'	05"		
SE	39°	06'	25"	94°	24'	59"		
SW	39°	06'	26"	94°	25'	05"		

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:	
M. Patricia Holmes, Research Architectural Historian	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Missouri State Park Board	June 9, 1969
STREET AND NUMBER:	
P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE
Jefferson City	Missouri 65101
	CODE
	051

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name Joseph Jaeger, Jr.

Title Director, Missouri State Park Board, and Missouri State Liaison Officer

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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COL. HARVEY M. VAILE MANSION

9.

II. NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

- A. The Daily News (Independence), Feb. 13, 1952, pp. 5-6.
Good, detailed source, cites long-term owner,
Mrs. Cary May Carrol, later Mrs. Orlando Sprague.
- B. The Independence Examiner, April 13, 1957, pp. 7, 8b.
Mentions influence of French chateau on design.

Feb. 26, 1962, p. 6. Etched glass of mansion
noted.
- C. Kansas City Journal-Post, Mar. 20, 1927, p. 9c.
Competent, well researched news article on home's
history, Col. Vaile's activities.
- D. The Kansas City Times, Nov. 11, 1949, p. 20, cols. 3-5.
Account of one who visited there as a child.

Mar. 31, 1960, p. 8. Mr. J. Roger DeWitt buys
house to prevent razing.

III. DOCUMENTARY

- A. State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia,
Missouri, Historic Sites File. Ref. Jackson
County, material from Edward C. Wright, Jr.

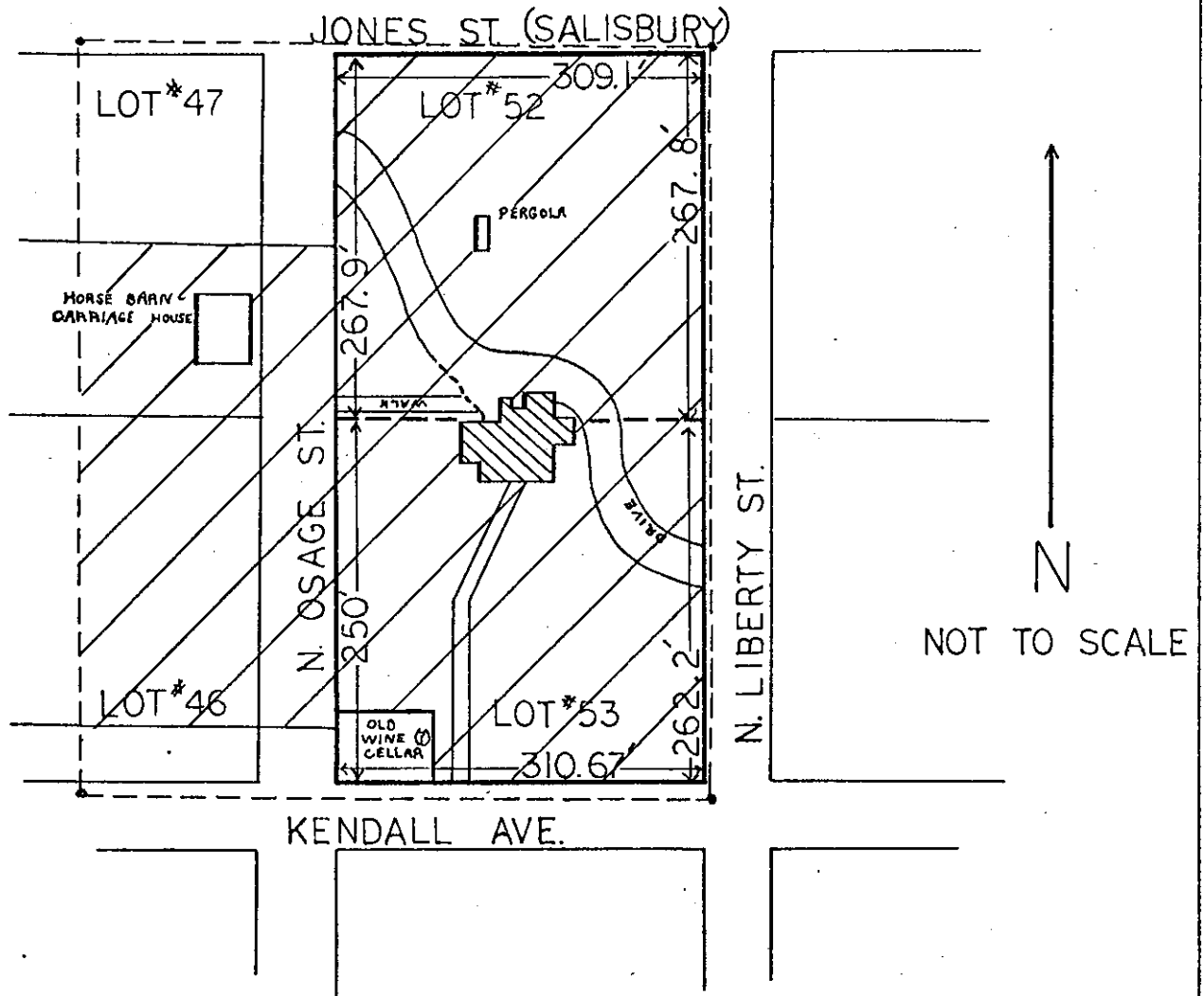
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Missouri	
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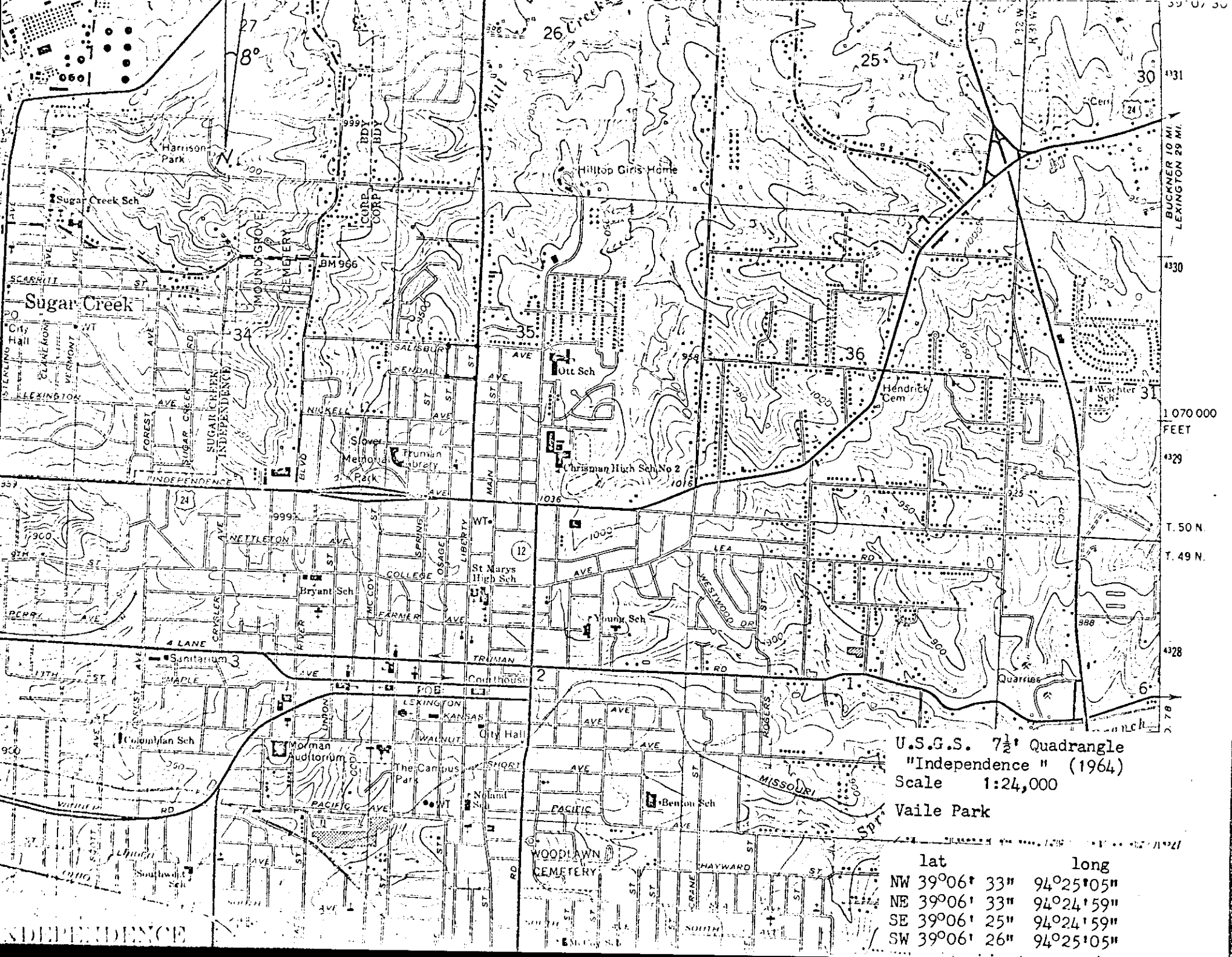
COL. HARVEY M. VAILE MANSION
INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI



--- Property nominated to the National Register

MAP BASED ON SKETCH PLAN,
MO. STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY,
AUG. 1967 AND DIAGRAM OF LOTS
52 AND 53 IN INDEPENDENCE, OFFICE
OF RECORDER OF DEEDS, JACKSON
COUNTY, APRIL, 1969.

MSHS, 4-29-69
STEVEN, TECZAR



U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' Quadrangle
"Independence" (1964)
Scale 1:24,000
Vaile Park

	lat	long
NW	39°06' 33"	94°25'05"
NE	39°06' 33"	94°24'59"
SE	39°06' 25"	94°24'59"
SW	39°06' 26"	94°25'05"

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Vaile Park**
City or Vicinity: **Independence**
County: **Jackson County** State: **MO**
Photographer: **Patricia Holmes**
Date
Photographed: **Aug, 1967**

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

- 1 of 6. Detail of east end of south sidewall. Note complex, double "U" turn of the bracketed cornice, variance of design in frieze paneling, wrought iron roof cresting, and stone window lintel.
- 2 of 6. Looking northwest. View of south wall (at left) and east wall (at right). Although basically a simple square structure, the horse barn/carriage house ornament is similar to that of the mansion to the east. Note especially the diamond pattern in the slate roof, and the bracketed cornice.
- 3 of 6. Looking southeast, view primarily of north sidewall of house. Pergola on former greenhouse site at left.
- 4 of 6. Looking west. Front (east) door of the house exhibiting elaborate carpentry work in the pendants, quarter circle brackets, mouldings and paneling.
- 5 of 6. Looking northwest, view of southeast corner of house. South sidewall at left and façade (east wall) at right. Four story double mansard tower at center of façade.
- 6 of 6. Detail of west end of south sidewall. Note pierced wood sheathing and balusters, brick segment arch window cap with limestone keystone and terminal stones. Photo is missing.









