

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Bronson, Dr. George Ashe, Residence
Name of Property

St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State

NA
Name of multiple property listing

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 15000305
Property Name: Bronson, Dr. George Ashe, Residence
County: St. Louis (Independent City) State: MO
Multiple Name: NA

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

by Barbara Wyatt 6-1-15
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Amended Item in Nomination: Number of Resources within Property

The purpose of this Supplementary Listing Record is to correct the count of the number of resources contributing to the nominated property. In addition to one contributing building, the property includes one contributing site. The site is the lot, particularly the back yard, which contains portions of a stone wall that contributed to the locally known Japanese garden that existed at the site for an unknown number of years. The garden was created by Dr. Shiro Miyake, a dentist of Japanese origin, for Dr. Bronson beginning in 1909. It existed at least until his death in 1932. His obituary called it "one of the Beauty spots of St. Louis," according to the nomination (p. 32). The wall remnants, as part of the site, are not counted separately, but the nomination notes that it "historic and relative to the property" (p. 1). Although not noted in the nomination, other garden components may remain hidden or buried.

The final count in Section 5 is one contributing building and one contributing site.

The State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

Distribution List

National Register files
Nominating Authority, without nomination attached

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name Bronson, Dr. George Ashe, Residence

Other names/site number N/A

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

2. Location

Street & number 3201 Washington Avenue

N/A not for publication

City or town St. Louis

N/A vicinity

State Missouri Code MO County Independent City

Code 510

Zip code 63103

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Toni M. Prawl

04/10/15 (see continuation sheet)

Signature of certifying official/Title Toni M. Prawl, Ph.D., Deputy SHPO

Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

by Barbara Wyatt

6-1-15

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Bronson, Dr. George Ashe, Residence
Name of Property

St. Louis (Independent City), MO.
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Single Family Residential

LANDSCAPE/Garden

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/Romanesque

LATE VICTORIAN/Eastlake

LATE VICTORIAN/Chateausque

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Limestone

walls: Brick

Sandstone

roof: Asphalt

other: Slate

Glass

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Bronson, Dr. George Ashe, Residence
Name of Property

St. Louis (Independent City), MO.
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- 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.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1885

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Peabody, Stearns & Furber/Architects

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Landmarks Association

Bronson, Dr. George Ashe, Residence
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10. Geographical Data

Acree of Property Under 1 acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 38.637630 -90.225036 3 _____
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

2 _____ 4 _____
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

_____ NAD 1927 or _____ NAD 1983

1 _____ 3 _____
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

2 _____ 4 _____
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Matt Bivens/Historic Preservation Director
organization Lafser & Associates, Inc. date 1-24-14; rev 3-1-14; fin 2.25.15
street & number 1215 Fern Ridge Pkwy., Suite 110 telephone 314-560-9903
city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63141
e-mail msbivens@lafser.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:**
 - A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
 - A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Bronson, Dr. George Ashe, Residence
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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log:

Name of Property: Dr. George Ashe Bronson Residence

City or Vicinity: St. Louis

County: (Independent City) State: Missouri

Photographer: Matt Bivens

Date

Photographed: 4.15.2014

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

- 1 of 11: Primary elevation facing south; camera facing north.
- 2 of 11: Primary elevation (left) and east elevation (right); camera facing northwest.
- 3 of 11: Detail of porch; camera facing southwest.
- 4 of 11: East side elevation; camera facing west.
- 5 of 11: East Side elevation (left) and rear, north elevation; camera facing southwest.
- 6 of 11: Rear elevation and lot; camera facing south.
- 7 of 11: West elevation; camera facing east.
- 8 of 11: Detail of rear yard and rock walls; camera facing north.
- 9 of 11: Interior vestibule and primary door to residence; camera facing north.
- 10 of 11: Interior primary stair, 1st floor; camera facing southwest.
- 11 of 11: Interior formal room with fireplace; camera facing west.

Figure 28, page x includes the photo key.

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Figure Log

Figure 1 (page 4): First floor plan. Source: owner's collection.

Figure 2 (page 8): Residential character by 1892. Source: *Whipple Fire Insurance Map*, Vol. 2-3, plate 88, 1892.

Figure 3 (page 9): Residential character replaced mostly by large commercial buildings. Source: *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map*, Vol. 2, 1932, plate 27; subject lot dotted outline.

Figure 4 (page 12): The Church as completed (far right). Source: Commercial & Architectural St. Louis. (St. Louis: Jones & Orear, 1888), p. 158. Period photograph (right). Source: *L'Architecture Americaine*. (Paris: Andre, Daly fils Cie., 1886).

Figure 5 (page 13): Museum of Fine Arts, Peabody, Stearns & Furber, photo circa 1888. Source: Missouri Historical Society Photograph Archives.

Figure 6 (page 14): George Ashe Bronson Residence, 1885, Peabody & Stearns with Furber. Source: Sanitary Engineer 1886 p 266-67 August 26, Vol. 14, N 11, pgs. 266-67.

Figure 7 (page 15): Arthur P. Emmons, Esq., Newport Residence, 1882, Peabody & Stearns. Source: Sanitary Engineer 1886 p. 266-67 August 26, Vol. 14, N 11, pages 266-67.

Figure 8 (page 16): George Ashe Bronson Residence, 1885, Peabody & Stearns with Furber. Source: *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. "Artistic Homes..." September 4, 1886, p. 9.

Figure 9 (page 18): Howard House, 1887. Source: MOHIS, William Swekosky collection, 1946.

Figure 10 (page 19): Dyer House, date unknown. Source: *The Inland Architect & News Record*. March 1894, Vol. 23.

Figure 11 (page 20): Newman House, 1881. Source: MOHIS, William Swekosky collection, 1946.

Figure 12 (page 20): Morton House, 1887. Source: MOHIS, William Swekosky collection, 1946.

Figure 13 (page 21): Simmons House, date unknown, top left. Maverick house, date unknown, top right. Wolfe House, date unknown, bottom. Source: MOHIS, photograph collection, various dates.

Figure 14 (page 22): Nelson Estate, date unknown. Along Natural Bridge Road, east of Glen Echo Park and Lucas & Hunt Road. Source: MOHIS, photograph collection.

Figure 15 (page 23): Davis Residence, 1893. Source: MOHIS, Boehl & Koenig photograph collection, 1893.

Figure 16 (page 24): Brookline, Massachusetts residence c. 1885. Source: Albert Levy (photographer), Rverson and Burnham Libraries Book Collection, archives.

Figure 17 (page 24): Hans T. Lambert residence c. 1883-1884 at 94 Cass Street (later 620 N. Wabash Avenue), Chicago, Illinois. Source: J. W. Taylor (photographer), Chicago Public Library, archives.

Figure 18 (page 25): Charles W. and Mary P Bingham residence built 1883 at 2445 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. Source: Albert Levy (photographer), Rverson and Burnham Libraries Book Collection, archives.

Figure 19 (page 25): C. F. Morse residence built 1887 Kansas City, Missouri. Source: *Inland Architect*, volume XIX, number 4, Rverson and Burnham Libraries Book Collection, archives.

Figure 20 (page 26): Catherine Lorillard Wolfe residence (top) & gatehouse (bottom) built 1882 on Ochre Point, Newport, Rhode Island. Source: Albert Levy (photographer), Rverson & Burnham Libraries Book Collection.

Figure 21 (page 27): Dr. George A. Bronson residence, 3201 Washington Ave., St. Louis built 1885. Source: Matt Bivens photograph 2014.

Figure 22 (page 28): Bronson house as constructed 1885, left side; as modified, middle; as extant, right side. Source: Left side is *Whipple Fire Insurance Map*, Vol. 2-3, plate 88, 1892; middle is *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map*, Vol. 2, plate 27, 1909; right side is Matt Bivens photograph, 10-2014.

Figure 23 (page 30): *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. "A Japanese Garden in the Heart of the City." August 29, 1909, p. B1.

Figure 24 (page 31): Photographs of yard and dentist patient room. Source: "A Dentist's Recreation." *Dental Brief: An American Journal of Dental Science*. (Philadelphia: L. D. Caulk Co., January 1911, v 16, p. 6).

Figure 25 (page 32): Image of Bronson prior to death. Source: *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, October 18, 1932.

Figure 26 (page 36): "Dr. George Ashe Bronson Residence Boundary Map." Source: Property Survey.

Figure 27 (page 37): Additional details of Dr. George Ashe Bronson Residence. Source: Google Earth with Lafser & Associates details.

Figure 28 (page 38): Photo Key. Source: Building drawing of 1st floor.

Appendix 1 (page 39): Wheaton A. Holden partial list of Peabody and Stearns projects. Source: "The Peabody Touch: Peabody and Stearns of Boston, 1870-1917." Northwestern University. Bronson's house is on page 129.

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Continuation Sheet

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Bronson, Dr. George Ashe, Residence

Name of Property

3201 Washington Avenue

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Summary

The Dr. George Ashe Bronson Residence at 3201 Washington Avenue in St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri, is a two-and-one-half-story red brick, irregular shaped building accented with gauged and rubbed brick, sandstone, and limestone. Featuring a complex roofline now clad with asphalt shingles, this Late Victorian era building features design elements of the Queen Anne and Romanesque periods with Chateausque influences and retains its multiple eyebrow windows and small dormers in addition to chimneys with flared tops. Essentially original in design, this building was completed in 1885 and retains a very high degree of both its interior and exterior design elements. At the exterior, original leaded glass and wood windows, doors, in addition to transoms, roof overhangs, and porch details are extant; a section of the original rear yard rock wall is also extant. The interior is virtually unaltered since original construction and extant elements include multiple fireplaces (including mantels, hearth, and tiles), extensive wainscoting, millwork (including door and window casing), a coffered ceiling, plaster walls, wood floors, stair parts (including newels, balusters, rails, and landings), original floor layout, and other details. The building has very high integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Site

The city block containing the subject building is bound by Washington Avenue to the south, Leonard Avenue to the west, Samuel Sheppard Drive to the north, and Compton Avenue to the east. Although originally a residential street, the block is occupied by the former Central States Life Insurance Company at 3207 (NRHP listed 7-25-2012) and the former Royal Tire Service Building at 3229 (NRHP listed 6-22-2007)—both to the west of the subject building. An alley separates the portion of city block from two commercial buildings and parking lots which face Samuel Sheppard Drive to the north. The subject building is on the southeast corner of the city block with a lot that extends to the alley. A section of a rock wall that is historic and relative to the property is at the rear west edge of the lot. The surrounding neighborhood is mixed-use including religious properties, residential buildings, commercial and light manufacturing concerns, and restaurants.

Exterior

The primary elevation faces south along Washington Avenue and is comprised of two main bays framed by a steep, hip roof (photo 1). A raised limestone foundation is penetrated by a pair of segmental arched windows with brick headers at the left bay. A sandstone sill course above supports a tripartite window assembly composed of

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Bronson, Dr. George Ashe, Residence
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

double-hung, single light sash with a segmental arch transom above; wood framing is original. The window is framed with bullnose brick. Above at the second story is a paired, double-hung window in similar frame with sandstone sill and six-over-one-light sash. The raised, first story, right bay contains the entrance which faces east along Compton Avenue. Reached by concrete then by sandstone steps framed by sandstone and red brick, a shed roof porch with hip roof corner set upon ornamental, carved sandstone columns shelters the primary entrance. Contained within a slightly projecting, brick enclosure (a condition dating before 1918) under the porch roof is a paired double-hung window with sandstone sill and flat header. Set back on the return walls is a pair of multi-light, vertical, windows framed with bullnose brick and sandstone sills. Recessed slightly behind the left side bay is the second floor which contains a paired, double-hung window in a segmental arch frame with sandstone sill and six-over-one-light sash. Above is a projecting roofline that contains a high-hipped, asphalt-shingled roof, capped in copper. An eyebrow window penetrates the roofline just behind the corner hip portion (photos 1-4).

The east elevation contains a projecting porch set on three massive sandstone columns with rounded and squared bases and Romanesque capitals (photo 3). An ornamental sandstone bracket adjacent the entrance supports the porch at the building wall. A wood entablature under the roof is painted white. Under the porch is a full-light wood door set within a bullnose brick frame with segmental arch head. The porch roof is capped with terra cotta cresting. Above a continuous sandstone sill course (and water table) is a six-over-two-light window and a four-part, wood frame window with transoms at the first story. A pair of six-over-two-light windows is at the second story. All of the window openings are framed with bullnose brick, set within segmental arch openings, have sandstone sills, and either plain or ornamental wood inset panels under the arches. Above at the roof is a large hip roof dormer with boarded window opening. A pair of corbelled chimneys rises at either side. On the return wall which projects slightly at the rear of the structure is a smaller, single-light window similarly framed. A wide tripartite window at the first floor and a six-over-two-light window at the second floor are also similarly framed. The roofline above is also projecting and has a cross hip with small conical-shaped dormer with metal roof over a semi-circular shaped, boarded window opening. The basement story contains four small, segmental arch window openings (photos 2-5).

The north-facing building rear contains a projecting bay about the center of the elevation; a chimney wall which penetrates the roof is flanked at either side by a multi-light, segmental arch window on stone sill. Windows closer to the east-facing, left side

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wall have bullnose brick frames while the opposite side has regular cut brick with flat edges. The stone sillcourse from the east side elevation continues around the building and separates the basement from the first floor. A tripartite window with leaded glass transom at the first floor and a paired, four-over-one-light, double-hung window at the second floor have bullnose, segmental brick arch frames. A pair of basement windows is cut in the foundation; window wells allow a source of natural light into the basement. On the right side of the bay is a pair of four-over-one-light, double-hung windows at the first and a single matching window at the second—each with segmental brick head comprised of flat edge brick profile. A small eyebrow window is set behind the conical roof of the projecting bay. A basement entrance reached by steps is at the rear (photos 5-6).

The west side elevation has three basement windows similar to the east elevation, an entrance door situated towards the rear, and seven segmental arch windows with limestone sills. The sandstone sill course which is present on the south elevation terminates about midway on this facade but is flush with the brick walls. A tall, narrow, vertical, multi-light wood window corresponds to the servant's staircase. An additional hip roof dormer window penetrates the roofline. The main roof of the entire structure projects from the brick walls around the structure (photo 7).

The rear yard portion of the property contains a mostly intact ornamental rock wall at the western edge of the lot; the wall terminates at the alley in a vertical shaft which contains the building address "3201" in ornamental rock. This pumice-like rock is decorative and contains multiple arches, undulating lines, pockets, grottoes, and other details reminiscent of the former Japanese garden that was on site. (photo 8).

Interior

The interior is reached via the main entrance facing Compton. The first floor is comprised of seven primary rooms with a number of smaller antechambers allowing separation of one space from another (Figure 1, next page). Through a clay tile entry foyer clad completely with wood wainscoting is a secondary, leaded glass door (photo 9) which allows access into a formal space ornamented by wood wainscoting, spindle-work, newel posts, and a grand staircase (photo 10)—all original. Carpet on the floor of this room has been removed to reveal a wood subfloor but no finish floor; it is currently unknown if another floor is below. A fireplace with mirror and mantel is in the corner of this formal room. Nearer the front of the building is a small room which corresponds to the enlargement of the front porch prior to 1918. Evidence of where the wall was cut to achieve this treatment can be seen. Adjacent this space is a grand room with

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The basement is reached via the secondary staircase situated along the western edge of the building. The basement is partially unfinished space with a portion under the south-facing primary elevation that has been finished; this space likely corresponds to Dr. Bronson's old sculpture studio based on the layout of the room and location of gas heating elements along the walls. The floor is dirt with wood joists set on the ground for a finish floor. Additional rooms are partly finished spaces with deteriorated wall treatments and no integrity; the boiler room is raw space with exposed brick.

The second floor is reached via the grand and the secondary stair and is highly original. It retains the floor plan comprised of six primary rooms and a number of smaller antechambers. Three additional fireplaces are included on the second floor as well as a built-in window seat and bookcase area. The attic is reached by the secondary stair and is partially finished space with three primary rooms.

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Bronson, Dr. George Ashe, Residence
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County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Dr. George Ashe Bronson Residence at 3201 Washington Avenue in St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri, is eligible for local listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion C in ARCHITECTURE. An exceptional local example of the residential work of the prominent Boston architectural firm of Peabody & Stearns with Pierce Furber in St. Louis, the building stands today as one of three private mansions in the proximity extant from an earlier period when both sides of Washington Avenue east of Grand Boulevard was a prominent residential section of St. Louis; further, the building stands as the firm's earliest extant, intact residence in St. Louis rendered in the eclectic style which was indicative of the firm's nationally-known work. Designed and completed in 1885, this red brick and sandstone, Late Victorian style building contains design elements of the Queen Anne, Chateausque, Eastlake, and the Romanesque. Built for prominent local dentist Dr. George Ashe Bronson as both an office and as a residence for him and his widowed mother, Bronson remained in the house until his death in 1932. Representative of the varied body of work of Peabody & Stearns, both the interior and exterior are essentially unchanged since construction. The interior features such original details as window and door casings, doors, windows, wainscoting, millwork, fireplaces, coffered ceilings, wood floors, plaster walls and ceilings, and the original or early floor plans from the basement through the 3rd floor—an attic space that was finished—are also intact. The period of significance is the design and construction date of 1885. The building retains excellent integrity and is a good representative example of the architectural firm's ability to successfully intermingle a variety of building styles in one structure.

Background – Washington Avenue as a Residential Enclave

Building permits on file at the City of St. Louis illustrate a variety of residential building specifications for Washington Avenue along at least an eight-block stretch between North Grand Boulevard (to the West) and North Beaumont Street (to the East) beginning in 1876.¹ Historic maps² and period photographs depict physical elements and appearances such as building footprints, construction materials, and stylistic

¹ The author has been conducting extensive research along Washington Avenue and surrounding area over the past decade and physical records number in the hundreds, thus this citation is a general note on the source of files/records/archives. This source: City of St. Louis. Building Permits, Deed Abstracts, and Data Engineering Building Cards on file at the St. Louis Comptroller's Office. 1200 Market Street, Suite 1, St. Louis, Missouri, 63103.

² The author, *op. cit.* This second major source includes: *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps* of St. Louis (Sanborn Fire Insurance Company) and *A. Whipple Insurance Maps*, various dates.

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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

details. Historic residences along Washington Avenue reflected period styles ranging from the Italianate and Queen Anne to the Romanesque and Second Empire and were constructed of brick and stone with terra cotta details. The bulk of these houses featured stone fronts. What has been gleaned from this study is that this section remained a strong residential area at least until 1900; it was after this time that residential structures were rapidly being replaced with offices and businesses.³ This trend would continue and the street would illustrate a near complete transformation from domestic to commercial uses after 1930. Only a handful of residences are extant today along this stretch of Washington which illustrates the earliest occupied history of the street.

The earliest recorded building permit on city block 1039 of Washington Avenue (between North Compton Avenue to the East and North Leonard Avenue to the West) dates to December of 1881 for a two-story brick dwelling to cost \$8,000—this permit was followed by four brick dwellings for a single owner in 1883.⁴ The owner of the 1881 building, B. Weber and Company, was a major builder and contractor highly active in St. Louis and particularly along Washington Avenue.⁵ Research conducted indicates that Weber often worked with architect Francis D. Lee; Lee in turn worked extensively with the Gratz Moses family, designing their residences and offices in St. Louis.⁶ Moses owned other buildings along Washington Avenue (designed by Lee) and in fact would commission Lee to design a building for him on land he owned at the southeast corner of the aforementioned city block in May of 1881.⁷ This house never materialized and ultimately Moses sold the property—still a vacant lot—to a one George Ashe Bronson before 1885.⁸

Another early permit for the construction of four, two-story brick dwellings was issued on June 1, 1883 for a Mrs. C. Marmaduke.⁹ These houses, corresponding to numbers 3205-3207-3209-3211 Washington Avenue, all had stone fronts with Mansard roofs and most likely were rendered in the formal Italianate style based on map review; the 1892

³ The author, *op. cit.* This third major source includes: St. Louis city directories including *Gould's Blue Book*, *Gould's Commercial Directory*, *Gould-Polk*, and *Gould's Red-Blue Books*, various dates.

⁴ City of St. Louis *op. cit.*

⁵ The author, *op. cit.* including extensive review of files as identified under City of St. Louis *op. cit.*

⁶ Landmarks Association of St. Louis, unpublished architect's files of Francis D. Lee and Peabody & Stearns. Permanent Collection, various dates.

⁷ City of St. Louis, *op. cit.*

⁸ *Ibid.* No assessor records exist to indicate the exact transfer of land from Moses to Bronson.

⁹ *Ibid.*

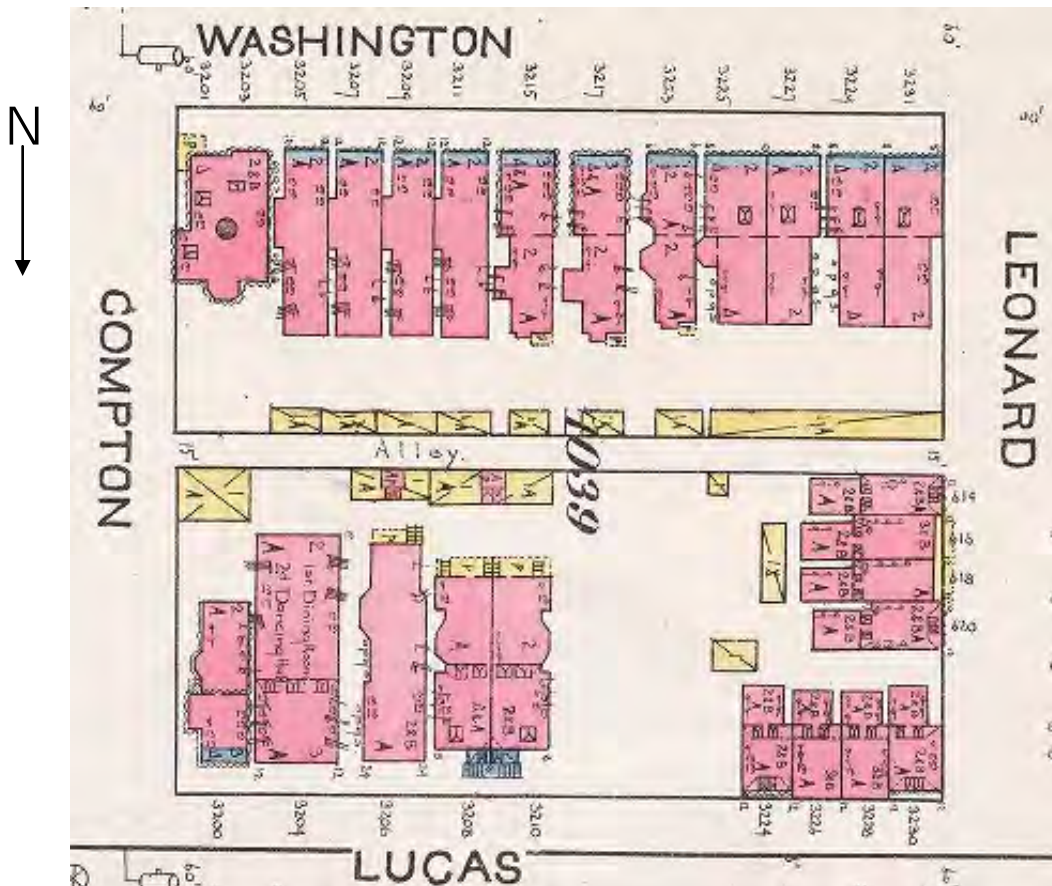
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Bronson, Dr. George Ashe, Residence
Name of Property
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County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Whipple Fire Insurance Map indicates that this city block face was completely built out and wholly residential in nature at this time (Figure 2).¹⁰

Figure 2: Residential character by 1892. Source: *Whipple Fire Insurance Map*, Vol. 2-3, plate 88, 1892.



The *Whipple* map above also shows a dance hall and additional residences on the other half of the city block facing then Lucas (now Samuel Sheppard) to the north (bottom) and thus indicating some commercial use at adjacent streets (Figure 2). A series of wood frame outbuildings line the alley in between (Figure 2, middle structures along alley). The residential character of the city block was basically preserved until the later 1910s.¹¹ In October of 1919, a permit was issued by the city to the owner to demolish four residential addresses including 3205-3207-3209-3211 Washington Avenue in order to make room for the Central States Life Insurance Company—a National

¹⁰ *Whipple Fire Insurance Map*, Vol. 2-3, plate 88, 1892.

¹¹ St. Louis city directories, *op. cit.*

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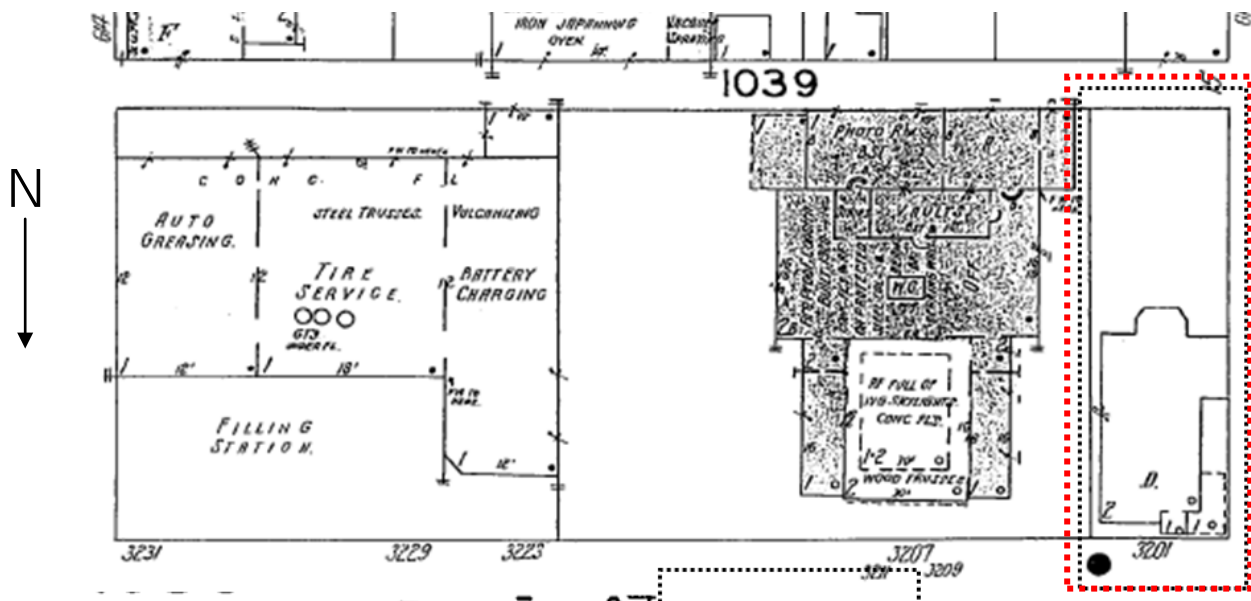
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Register listed Mission Revival style commercial building designed by architect Tom P. Barnett and completed in 1921.¹²

Before 1932, all of the residences except for one were demolished and replaced by an automotive company (the National Register-listed Royal Tire Service Building) at 3229 and Barnett's work of art at 3207 Washington. The sole-survivor of the former era, a two-and-half-story, eclectic brick mansion remained at the corner of the city block (Figure 3). This residence was designed and constructed for well-known and respected local dentist, Dr. George Ashe Bronson in 1885.

Figure 3: Residential character replaced mostly by large commercial buildings. Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Vol. 2, 1932, plate 27; subject lot dotted outline.



Background – George Ashe Bronson

Very little is known about the early life of George Ashe Bronson, and what has been gleaned from his history for this nomination is comprised of documentation obtained from city directories, newspaper articles, industry announcements and publications, and finally Bronson's obituary. George Bronson was born about 1853 and came from Omaha, Nebraska, where his parents were pioneer settlers.¹³ The family moved to St. Louis where his father George was listed as a book-keeper throughout his active life here.¹⁴ Young George Bronson was also listed as a book-keeper as early as 1873 and

¹² City of St. Louis, *op. cit.*

¹³ *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*. Oct. 18, 1932. "Dr. Geo. A. Bronson, Rich Philanthropist, Dies Suddenly at 79."

¹⁴ *Gould's St. Louis Directory*, (St. Louis: David B. Gould Publishers, 1873-1881). His father died in 1881.

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then a clerk for the Chicago and Alton Illinois Railroad in 1876.¹⁵ Accounting was not his only interest as Bronson would become a graduate of the Missouri Dental College in 1879 where he received his D.D.S. along with seven other men.¹⁶ Residing with his widowed mother Marion in 1881, the Bronson's occupied a building located at 2203 Olive—several blocks west of their former apartment at 1412 Olive (both since demolished).¹⁷ The city directory of 1881 listed sixty practicing dentists within the city limits and Bronson worked from an office located at 1401 Washington Avenue—several blocks east of the nominated property.¹⁸

A likely combination of the death of his father in 1881 and personal success in business ultimately culminated in 1885 when Bronson settled on plans for his large corner lot on a “fashionable” street to build a grand home for himself and his widowed mother.¹⁹ The site was 3201 Washington, just four blocks east of Grand Boulevard and just southeast of the private residential enclave Vandeventer Place. This new residence, an eclectic red brick building, was no doubt distinct from the white stone-front Second-Empire houses adjacent it on the block although it was completed just two years after the majority of buildings there. The architectural designs came from a prominent national firm—none other than Boston's Peabody & Stearns.

There are no known records of correspondence between Dr. Bronson and local architectural firms and the ultimate choice to engage Boston's Peabody & Stearns may be as simple as local exposure to the firm's buildings in proximity to the nominated property. Archives have yet to yield the religious preference of Bronson, but Peabody & Stearns's Unitarian Church of the Messiah (completed in 1880 and since demolished) at Locust Street and North Garrison Avenue was less than a two-block walk just southeast from his lot. A man of his stature among the social elite of St. Louis would have guaranteed that he had at least visited Peabody & Stearns's Museum of Fine Arts nearby in Lucas Place (designed 1879 and since demolished). The firm had also completed a number of private residences including those for H. L. Newman in

¹⁵ *Ibid.* 1873 and 1876 editions.

¹⁶ J. D. White, Editor. “The Dental Cosmos.” (Philadelphia: Samuel S. White, 1879), volume 21. Bronson's class was the 13th to graduate.

¹⁷ *Gould's St. Louis Directory*, 1880-1881.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ *City of St. Louis, op cit.* In 1886, Dr. Bronson and his mother were included in the prominent *St. Louis Blue Book*, a formal directory for upper class St. Louisans.

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Vandeventer Place in 1882, S. H. Leathe at 2700 Lucas in 1883 and I. W. Morton in Vandeventer Place in 1884 (all since demolished).²⁰

Elaboration – Peabody & Stearns come to St. Louis, enter Pierce Furber

Peabody & Stearns, a Boston, Massachusetts architectural firm of national prominence, was organized in 1870 and lasted over forty years until both partners died a month apart in 1917—the firm produced over 1,000 designs for buildings throughout the United States.²¹ Archives indicate that design partner Robert Swain Peabody was born in 1845 and had trained at Harvard and at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in France; John Goddard Stearns, Jr., born in 1843, had also trained at Harvard and acted as the construction and field superintendent.²² Peabody worked in the office of the Boston architect Gridley J. F. Bryant after graduating from Harvard in 1866.²³ He then became a student of Henry Van Brunt. (A partial list of the firm's work is included in Appendix A, page 39).

Until the death of Henry H. Richardson, Peabody & Stearns, although widely patronized and admired, were clearly eclipsed by Richardson among Boston's architects.²⁴ But after 1886, Peabody & Stearns rose to ascendancy in Boston and ultimately was the chosen firm to represent Boston at the Columbian Exposition in 1893.²⁵

The St. Louis Connection

Peabody & Stearns were eventually brought to St. Louis via a church connection and a request by the minister of the Unitarian Church of the Messiah (UCM), William Greenleaf Eliot. Eliot (1811-1887) had come to St. Louis from Boston, Massachusetts in 1834 and was acquainted with Ephriam Peabody—father of architect Robert Swain Peabody and pastor at Boston's King's Chapel.²⁶ Further, Ephriam received major financial support from local Bostonian, Nathaniel Thayer in order to establish Washington University in St. Louis—Thayer's residence on Commonwealth Avenue in Boston was designed by Peabody & Stearns.²⁷ The exact year that Peabody & Stearns came to St. Louis is unknown but their very first known commission here was a private residence

²⁰ *Ibid* and Landmarks Association of St. Louis, *op cit*.

²¹ *Ibid*. And Wheaton A. Holden. "The Peabody Touch: Peabody and Stearns of Boston, 1870-1917." Northwestern University.

²² *Ibid*.

²³ Wheaton A. Holden, *op. cit.*, page 114.

²⁴ *Ibid*. Page 115.

²⁵ *Ibid*.

²⁶ Charles C. Savage. "Architecture of the Private Streets of St. Louis: The Architects and the Houses They Designed." (Columbia, Missouri: The University of Missouri Press, 1987), page 132.

²⁷ *Ibid*.

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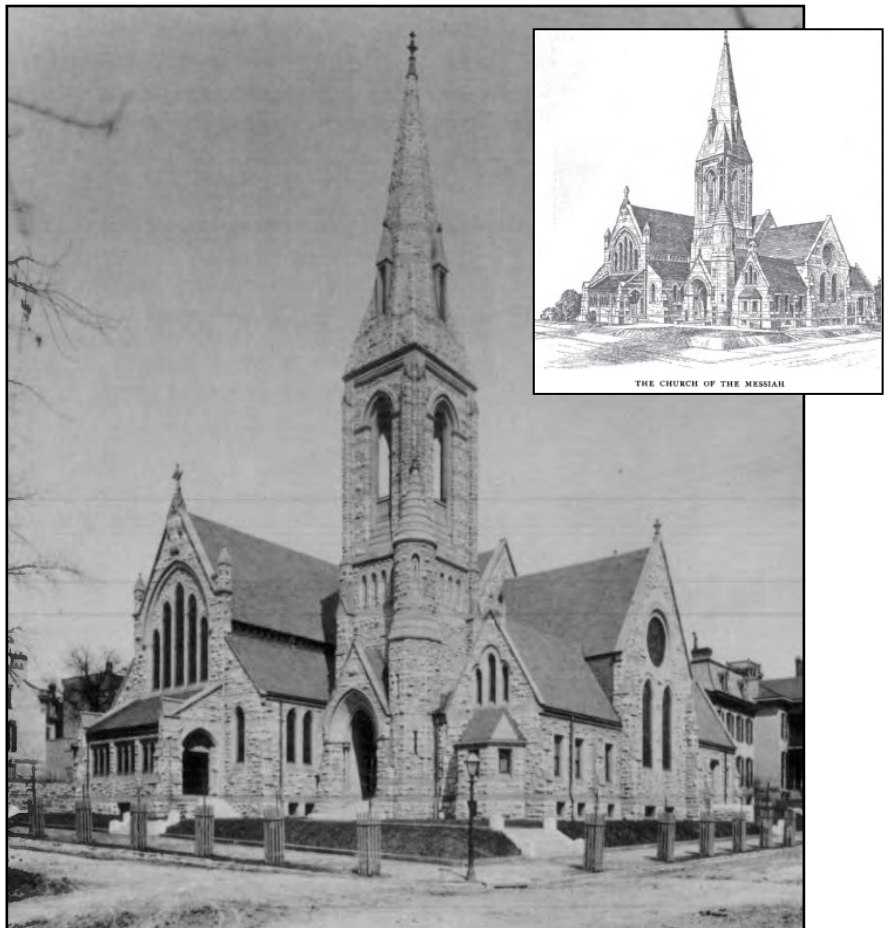
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designed for C. P. Burdick in 1878 (sources indicate the structure was near 2028 Chestnut Street- since demolished).²⁸ The first major commission on the other hand was for the Museum of Fine Arts in Lucas Place the following year in 1879.

The firm appeared on the St. Louis scene with prominent commissions at least two years prior to Henry H. Richardson, Fuller & Wheeler, and the partnership of Burnham & Root.²⁹ Elliot engaged the firm to design a new church edifice for the UCM on the northwest corner of Locust and Garrison in 1879 (Figure 4) which would eventually be completed in 1881. The Museum of Fine Arts (AKA Crow Memorial Art Gallery, Figure 5, next page) in 1881 followed (both since demolished).³⁰ Touted as “a worthy task” where no recognized style was followed, the Museum of Fine Arts in St. Louis was a masterpiece of its time.³¹ Credit to the success in St. Louis was due to the presence of Pierce T. Furber who represented the local office.

Figure 4: The Church as completed showing etching (far right). Source: Commercial & Architectural St. Louis. (St. Louis: Jones & Orear, 1888), page 158. Period photograph (right). Source: *L'Architecture Americaine*. (Paris: Andre, Daly fils Cie., 1886).

During the 1880s, Furber (born 1853) supervised local construction of the firm’s projects including the Turner Building on 8th Street between



²⁸ Landmarks Association of St. Louis, *op cit*.

²⁹ Charles C. Savage, *op. cit.*, page 132.

³⁰ Wheaton A. Holden, *op. cit*.

³¹ Russell Sturgis. “A Critique of Peabody and Stearns.” July 1896, number 3 in *The Architectural Record*. Great American Architects Series.

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Olive and Locust which began in 1881 and the St. Louis Club at Locust and Ewing Streets in 1884 (both demolished). Furber also supervised construction of the varied residential commissions in St. Louis city.

Figure 5: Museum of Fine Arts, Peabody, Stearns & Furber, photo circa 1888. Source: Missouri Historical Society Photograph Archives.



Known residential work of the firm in St. Louis includes private residences for banker H. L. Newman in 1882 at #21 Vandeventer Place (demolished), S. H. Leathe in 1883 at 2700 Lucas (demolished), I. W. Morton in 1884 at #49 Vandeventer Place (demolished), Dr. G. A. Bronson in 1885 at 3201 Washington (building being nominated), A. Mansur in 1885 at 3700 Lindell (stone building to be verified), J. E. Erhardt in 1886 at 928 North Grand (demolished), G. S. Meyers in 1886 at 914 North Grand (demolished), Robert Moore in 1886 at #61 Vandeventer Place (demolished), and T. Howard in 1887 likely at 303 Garrison (demolished). Furber died in 1893 but the firm still completed local residences for L. C. Nelson in 1893-95 in the city of Normandy (currently unknown), Col. E. S. Rowse in 1893-95 at #30 Benton Place (extant), T. S. McPheeters in 1894 at 3824 Delmar (demolished), J. T. Davis in 1895 at #17 Westmoreland Place (extant), and a residence for J. and C. Dyer in 1895 at #38 Westmoreland Place (extant).³²

³² Landmarks Association of St. Louis, *op cit*.

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Of all the known residential work completed in St. Louis by the firm, the nominated building is the earliest identified structure as well as one of a few that are extant today; the building is also one which retains very high integrity both inside and outside.

Design and Construction of the Bronson Residence

Although no physical building permit record has been found, Peabody, Stearns & Furber designed a two-and-one-half-story, red brick and stone residence for dentist George Bronson in 1885. The August 1886 edition of the *Sanitary Engineer* featured an elaborate etching of the Bronson residence (Figure 6) in addition to one which they designed earlier in 1882 in Newport, Rhode Island for Arthur Brewster Emmons, Esq. (Figure 7, next page). The source indicated that Bronson's residence was constructed of brick with trimmings of Springfield, Massachusetts brown stone with a red slate roof.³³ In comparison, the Newport residence was part red brick and part wood frame with stained shingles. The St. Louis project drew no design similarities to the earlier Newport project except for the use of three massive brick chimneys.

Figure 6: George Ashe Bronson Residence, 1885, Peabody & Stearns with Furber. Source: *Sanitary Engineer* 1886 p 266-67 August 26, V 14, N 11, pages 266-67.



³³ *The Sanitary Engineer*. August 26, 1886, volume 14, number 11, pages 266-67, "Special Illustration."

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Figure 7: Arthur P. Emmons, Esq., Newport Residence, 1882, Peabody & Stearns. Source: Sanitary Engineer 1886 p 266-67 August 26, V 14, N 11, pages 266-67.



In September of 1886, local newspaper, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* included an entire section written by an author simply known as "G. T." on "Artistic Homes...Some Beautiful Residences which Adorn the Streets of the City" touting "Improvements in Architecture Introduced During Recent Years—The Picturesque Style as Compared with Square, Harsh Walls—The New and the Old—Illustrations of Taste and Art in Dwellings." The section also featured an illustration, however crude, of Bronson's residence (Figure 8, next page) with the following description:

The home of Dr. Bronson on Washington Avenue is another model, massive, simple and full of beauty. It is a building that elicits a remark of approval from all who see it, and yet it is utterly devoid of all the filigree that until recently the architects of St. Louis thought a requisite attachment to an expensive home. The designers of the Bronson house are Messrs. Peabody and Stearns. The house in its treatment is very like the Ives house (*A Lucas Avenue residence designed by Eames and Young, since demolished*). The windows are finished in the same manner and there is a similar impression of stability conveyed by the stone porch. There is also the same true feeling of simplicity about the dormers,

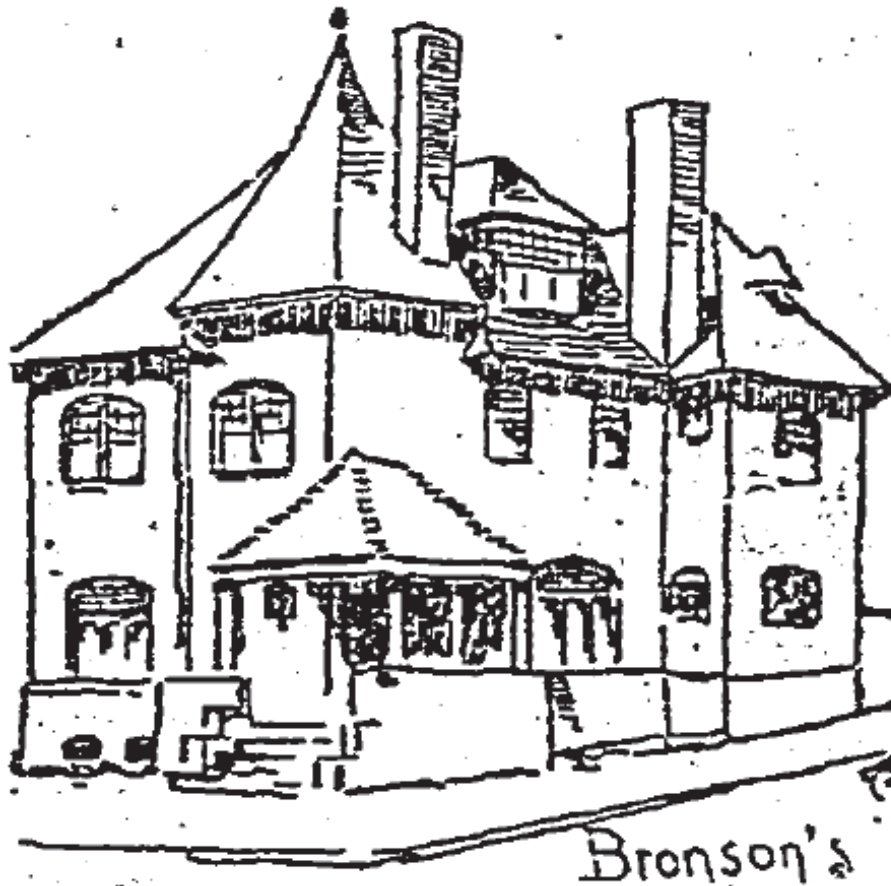
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chimneys, etc. The house is built of red stock brick and red sandstone. The roof is shingled as is also that of the charming little balcony at the front door. This balcony and its steps are also of red stone. The windows are lower casements of large panes with transoms of stained glass and inside blinds.³⁴

Figure 8: George Ashe Bronson Residence, 1885, Peabody & Stearns with Furber. Source: *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. September 4, 1886, page 9. "Artistic Homes..."



In the article, the author lashed out at the earlier architectural character of St. Louis's residences pre-dating Bronson's, referring to them as "square-topped, bald-front blocks of stone and granite" comparing them to the character of barns and thus less picturesque.³⁵ Bronson's residence, on the other hand, was measured as very pleasing to the eye, especially adjacent the row of "flat," stone-fronted houses to the west on

³⁴ *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. "Artistic Homes: Some Beautiful Residences which Adorn the Streets of the City." September 4, 1886, page 9.

³⁵ *Ibid.*

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the same city block of Washington Avenue. In an effort to explain the “mistakes” of earlier house architecture in the city, the author pronounced that the local architect generally attempted to beautify his buildings by attaching ornamental details to otherwise “unattractive” outlines of houses and concluded that St. Louis had a “wilderness of examples of this folly.”³⁶

However, on a positive note, author G. T. noted a deviation in design during the early 1880s which could be classified as a “tendency in the right direction.” Blaming the “carpenter architect” for the “average” designs of old, the author referred to the new architects as artists and claimed that there were “perhaps three dozen first-class dwelling houses in the city”—one being Bronson’s.³⁷ He also claimed that one of the earliest “departures from the stereotyped block houses” was one then occupied by James Richardson at 5632 Cabanne. This building featured a main two-story block with high pitch roof, multiple projecting gables, roof dormers, ornamental chimneys, a porte cochere, and arcaded porches.³⁸ Another residence on Lucas Avenue then occupied by one Professor Ives, was designed by Eames & Young and had a corner tower, crowstep gable ends, and varied fenestration. A house designed by E. A. P. Newcomb on West Pine was touted by the author as the “first house in the city where the glaring white-stone trimmings were abandoned and a uniformity of color secured by the introduction of terra-cotta.”³⁹ Perhaps the epitome of the picturesque in the article was Henry H. Richardson’s Potter House in Cabanne Place which was entirely clad in wood shingles that conformed to every curve and projection of the structure. Each of these highlighted “innovative” buildings has since been demolished with the exception of the Bronson house at 3201 Washington.

The Residence as a Work of Peabody & Stearns (with Furber)

Massachusetts native, Robert Swain Peabody was the firm’s design specialist and business head. His varied architectural education at Harvard, in England and France, and especially at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, as well as his study with prominent architect Henry Van Brunt, a job with Boston architect Gridley J. F. Bryant, and ultimately a partnership with John Goddard Stearns⁴⁰ provided him with a varied repertoire and an ability to design successfully in any style and at any time. Although proficient in the execution of churches, schools, and commercial buildings it was in the field of

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰ Landmarks Association of St. Louis, *op. cit.*

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residential architecture that Peabody found himself most at home and his fascination with eclecticism realized its fullest expression.⁴¹ Between the 1870s and into the 1910s, Peabody executed a diversity of styles and designed residences of nearly every known type. In fact, as historian Wheaton Holden stated, “a peculiar aspect of Peabody and Stearns’s residential work is the apparent absence of clear-cut patterns in its chronological development.”⁴²

It was this multiplicity of styles that set the firm’s work apart not only in St. Louis but nationwide as well. A study of the known St. Louis dwellings (Figures 9-15) alone illustrates the seemingly boundless range of design. Photographs within the Missouri Historical Society collections (MOHIS), architectural journals, and miscellaneous archives demonstrate this collection in detail. Some of the designs which followed Bronson’s include an early residence



dating to 1887 for Thomas Howard at #33 Vandeventer Place, since demolished. This residence was comprised of heavy cut stone, a front gable roof, Romanesque arches, a massive stone chimney, and multiple roof dormers. Here, the firm used stone similar to their 1880s houses in Cleveland and Chicago.

Figure 9: Howard House, 1887. Source: MOHIS, William Swekosky collection, 1946.

⁴¹ Wheaton A. Holden. “The Peabody Touch: Peabody and Stearns of Boston, 1870-1917.” Efforts made by historians such as Wheaton Holden on the works of the firm have provided valuable information including building lists and photographs which help to compare and contrast the Bronson residence to other built works in St. Louis and primarily in Boston and Newport, standing and since demolished. The few extant (and past locations of all demolished) buildings in St. Louis were field identified by the author of this nomination and then studied and compared to the Bronson house. In summary, it was found that each residential design that appeared here was unique in its own right. This is also the case of the firm’s work in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and other locations.

⁴² *Ibid*, page 120.

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An unaddressed and undated residence designed by the firm for J. N. Dyer illustrated in the 1894 *Inland Architect* (Figure 10) shows a more traditional red brick house with roof dormers, cross gables, and tall chimneys in the Tudor Revival style; brick quoins further define fenestration and wall planes.

Figure 10: Dyer House, date unknown. Source: *The Inland Architect & News Record*. March 1894, v. 23.



An earlier house built for Henry L. Newman at #21 Vandeventer Place in 1881 (razed) was designed by the firm as a generally symmetrical, two-and-one-half-story, red brick mass but with a side projection containing a one-story chamber and two-story bay (Figure 11, next page). The centrally-located entrance was deeply recessed behind a semi-circular arch opening framed with stone and bearing a heavy keystone. A white limestone foundation provided a stark contrast between the grey slate roof and red brick. An asymmetrical red brick and stone residence built for Isaac W. Morton at #49 Vandeventer Place in 1887 (razed) featured a high-pitch, hip roof intersected by a corner tower, a cross gable, and a number of roof and wall dormers (Figure 12, next page). Again the entrance is deeply recessed but this time it was set under a wide, Romanesque arch. This building also contained a corbelled and dentilled cornice which did not appear on other buildings of the era designed by the firm.

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Figure 11:
Newman
House, 1881.
Source:
MOHIS,
William
Swekosky
collection,
1946.



Figure 12: Morton
House, 1887. Source:
MOHIS, William
Swekosky collection,
1946.



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Houses designed for Edward H. Simmons (#21 Westmoreland Place-razed in the 1930s), George M. Maverick (unidentified location and date), and the D. R. Wolfe house on the 4400 block of Washington Avenue (extant today but modified) illustrate the wide range of styles and details indicative of the firm's local work (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Simmons House, date unknown, top left. Maverick house, date unknown, top right. Wolfe House, date unknown, bottom. Source: MOHIS, photograph collection, various dates.



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Perhaps more reminiscent of Peabody & Stearns’s prominent east coast works, the firm designed a country estate in Normandy, St. Louis County, for Lewis C. Nelson (since demolished). “Nelsonia”⁴³ as it was known locally and statewide, was a shingled residence with expanses of porches intersected by gable roof porticoes (Figure 14).

Figure 14: Nelson Estate, date unknown. Along Natural Bridge Road, east of Glen Echo Park and Lucas & Hunt Road. Source: MOHIS, photograph collection.



By the 1890s, Peabody, Stearns & Furber had designed over 15 buildings locally with more to follow. Their influence on St. Louis residential design had continued for almost two decades up to the death of Pierce Furber in 1893. One of the more traditional designs of this final period—likely a preference of its owner—was a traditional Italian Renaissance dwelling designed for John T. and Maria Davis in 1892 within one of St. Louis’ most prominent private enclaves at #17 Westmoreland Place (Figure 15, next page). This edifice was a formal, symmetrically-planned, three-story villa comprised of

⁴³ W. L. Nelson. “Farm Names.” Missouri State Board of Agriculture Monthly Bulletin. Volume 14, number 10, October 1916, page 9. The author referred to the property as a “beautiful country estate” bearing the family name.

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ashlar-cut Missouri red granite. Traditional stone arches springing from free-standing columns and pilasters as well as stone balustrades accented the facades.

Figure 15: Davis Residence, 1893. Source: MOHIS, Boehl & Koenig photograph collection, 1893.



Peabody & Stearns Back in the East and About

The firm left the St. Louis commissions in the able hands of partner Pierce Furber until his untimely death in 1893; after this time the last of the firm's residential projects were completed in 1895. The firm would finally return to St. Louis to design the American Telephone and Telegraph exhibition building for the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair but otherwise had focused on their eastern commissions. So the firm continued to design numerous types of buildings catering to the wealthy of Boston, Newport (Rhode Island), Manchester-by-the-Sea (Massachusetts), and New York, designing for them personal residences as well as vacation homes and summer cottages. Additional houses were designed in Chicago, Colorado Springs, Cleveland, and other major cities. Houses completed close to the time of the Bronson residence include one in Brookline, Massachusetts (Figure 16, next page), the Hans T. Lambert residence at 94 Cass Street in Chicago (Figure 17, next page), the Charles W. and Mary P Bingham residence at

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2445 Euclid Avenue in Cleveland (Figure 18, page 25), and the C. F. Morse residence built in Kansas City, Missouri (Figure 19, page 25).

Figure 16: Brookline, Massachusetts residence c. 1885. Source: Albert Levy (photographer), Rverson and Burnham Libraries Book Collection, archives.



Figure 17: Hans T. Lambert residence c. 1883-1884 at 94 Cass Street (later 620 N. Wabash Avenue), Chicago, Illinois. Source: J. W. Taylor (photographer), Chicago Public Library, archives.



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Figure 18: Charles W. and Mary P Bingham residence built 1883 at 2445 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. Source: Albert Levy (photographer), Rverson and Burnham Libraries Book Collection, archives.



Figure 19: C. F. Morse residence built 1887 Kansas City, Missouri. Source: *Inland Architect*, volume XIX, number 4, Rverson and Burnham Libraries Book Collection, archives.



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These four examples share some basic arrangements of form and massing but fenestration, dormer projections, cresting, gable ends, lintels, and material textures have varied treatments. One somewhat common characteristic (with the exception of the Brookline residence) is the use of a trio of soaring chimney stacks which are treated as prominent features. Most of the St. Louis houses, including Bronson's, also have these three protuberances. On a grander scale, Peabody and Stearns' Catherine Lorillard Wolfe residence on Ochre Point in Newport, Rhode Island (Figure 20) contained three primary chimney stacks which project from a massive stone block defined by multiple projecting bays, porches, gable ends, and roof overhangs. Even the gatehouse (Figure 20) was executed with a distinct design containing the trio (the third is not visible here).

Figure 20: Catherine Lorillard Wolfe residence (top) & gatehouse (bottom) built 1882 on Ochre Point, Newport, Rhode Island. Source: Albert Levy (photographer), Rverson & Burnham Libraries Book Collection.



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In comparison to these varied examples, the Dr. Bronson residence at 3201 Washington (Figure 21) was designed within the general Late Victorian era but, in the tradition of Peabody and Stearns, it does not follow that particular architectural style. In fact, it is comprised of varied characteristics from the Queen Anne, Eastlake, Romanesque, and Chateausque types. While the Queen Anne was the more dominant style for residential construction at its time of design, Peabody and Stearns challenged the style by composing an inimitable structure.

Figure 21: Dr. George A. Bronson residence, 3201 Washington Ave., St. Louis built 1885. Source: Matt Bivens photograph 2014.



Queen Anne characteristics of the Bronson residence include the steep, irregular-shaped complex roof line but the small roof dormers and tall, elaborate chimneys are more indicative of the Chateausque as was the original ceramic tile roof cresting (partially intact). The partial wrap-around porch at the corner, multi-light and leaded

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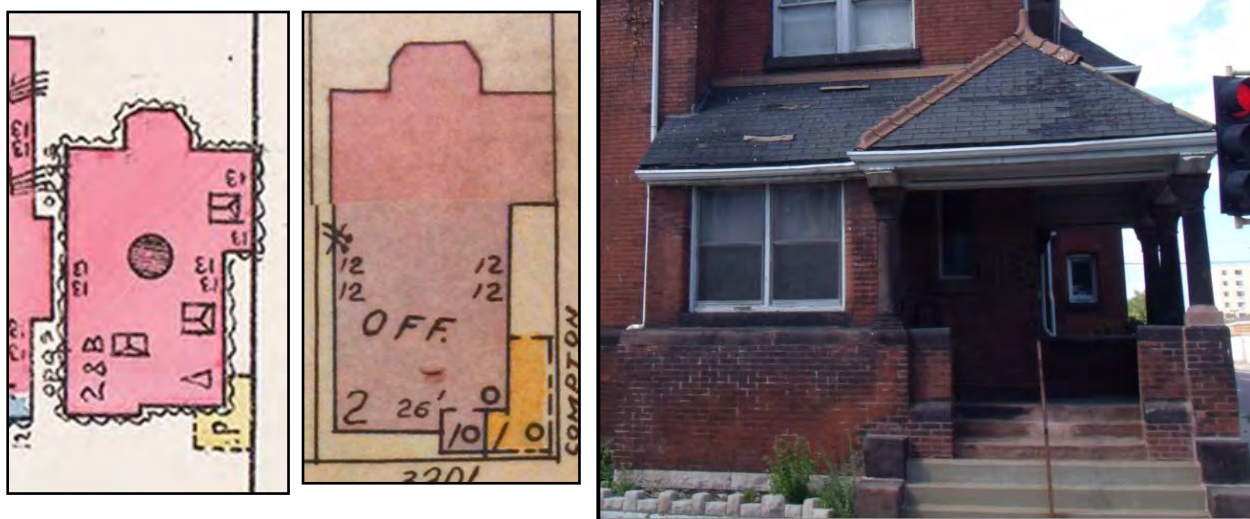
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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

glass wood windows, and an overhanging main roof are typical of the Queen Anne. Romanesque features include the asymmetrical footprint, curved arch window headers and sandstone columns with richly carved cushion capitals; the eyebrow window is also associated with the style.

Windows and doors are framed with bull nose brick and topped with segmental arched headers; fenestration patterns at each elevation correspond to specific rooms within. The interior is complete and intact with Queen Anne and Eastlake ornamentation in the form of extensive millwork, wainscoting, elaborate fireplaces (with English ceramic tile manufactured by Minton, Hollins & Company), intricate spindle work, and a grand stair comprised of carved balusters and newels. Instead of being built primarily of heavy limestone like the majority of the traditional Romanesque buildings in St. Louis, Peabody and Stearns used stone instead to accent the facades via belt courses and as ornamentation at the porch columns and brackets. The firm abandoned the heavy limestone used in several of their buildings of the same period for different clients in other cities, and although St. Louis had an abundant source of limestone for building, Peabody and Stearns specified red brick and sandstone. This effect resulted in a "lighter" building.

The only change to the building was a small porch closure which occurred likely around 1908 and may have been built by the same builder who completed the house (Figure 22). Identical molded brick frames period windows which match those in the house. This historic change has gained significance as it was completed by Bronson during his active career within the house.

Figure 22: Bronson house as constructed 1885, left side; as modified, middle; as extant, right side. Source: Left side is *Whipple* Fire Insurance Map, volume 2-3, plate 88, 1892; middle is *Sanborn* Fire Insurance Map, volume 2, plate 27, 1909; right side is Matt Bivens photograph, 10-2014.



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Dr. Bronson Later in Life

Dr. Bronson continued to work from his home office at 3201 Washington Avenue maintaining his social status as well as his role in the field of local dentistry where he had procured two early patents for a dental napkin and a holder in the later 1890s.⁴⁴ Investing over 40 years in dentistry, Dr. Bronson retired about 1896 to pursue his hobbies in landscaping and sculpture. Enjoying the arts, Dr. Bronson took up painting at age 72. Being quite successful as a painter, Bronson boasted that if he could have found a reliable channel for distribution that he could have made more money as an artist than as a dentist.⁴⁵ Bronson also found himself in his basement studio creating sculptures for his home and garden. Retirement did not mean that Bronson actually stopped dentistry; several life-long patients continued to stop by for check-ups and to see what Bronson was keeping himself busy with.⁴⁶ By 1905, the *St. Louis City Directory* lists the Bronson's in addition to Miss Jessie Smith and Dr. Stephen Voyles; all four were also included in the *St. Louis Blue Book*.⁴⁷

Bronson's work in landscaping took an interesting turn for in 1909 and in 1912 Bronson's garden was touted in local newspapers (Figure 23, next page). The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* featured a full page spread dedicated solely to Bronson entitled "A Japanese Garden in the Heart of St. Louis."⁴⁸ Complete with drawings and actual photographs showing the landscape; portions of the residence were also visible. The 1909 article explained how Bronson enlisted the help of a Japanese man named Dr. Shiro Miyake, a dentist who resided with Bronson since the 1904 World's Fair. Miyake had attended dentistry school while living with Bronson and the two made an important bond which would be realized through their efforts in the garden behind the house. The writer explained how Bronson's house was a beautiful one and when it was built it was one of the great mansions of St. Louis, Dr. Bronson being a "fashionable" dentist of the city.⁴⁹

By 1909, the wealthy residential and commercial neighborhood had eventually given way to boarding houses and people "of lesser means;" thus, the garden was an effort on behalf of the good doctor "to bring all the beauty that he could into this section."⁵⁰

⁴⁴ The 1895 Bulletin of Pharmacy (Detroit: George S. Davis, 1895), volume 9, page 44. *Dental Register*. (volume 49). Patent 531,093 and 531,094 "Dental napkin-holder"

⁴⁵ *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*. Oct. 18, 1932. "Dr. Geo. A. Bronson, Rich Philanthropist, Dies Suddenly at 79."

⁴⁶ *Ibid*.

⁴⁷ *St. Louis city directories, op. cit.*

⁴⁸ *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. "A Japanese Garden in the Heart of the City." August 29, 1909, page B10.

⁴⁹ *Ibid*.

⁵⁰ *Ibid*.

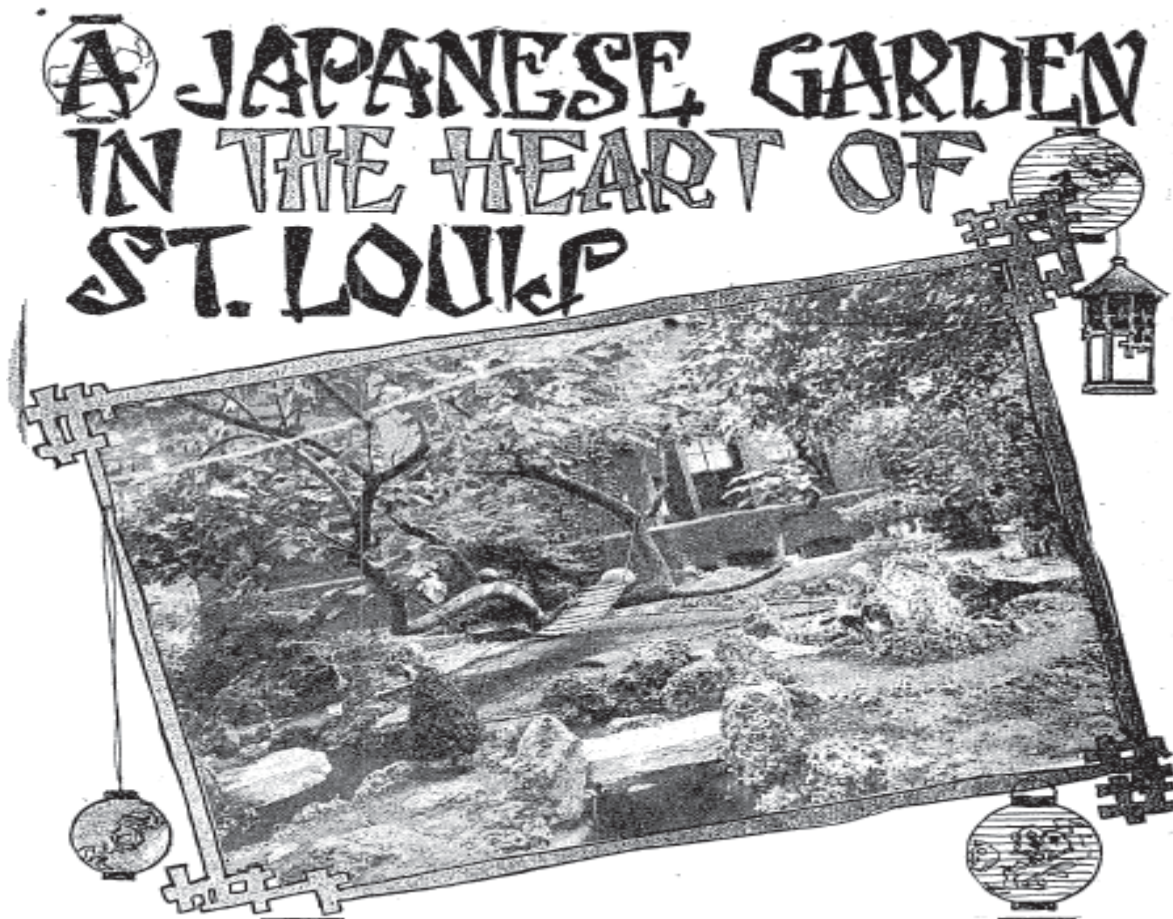
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Again in 1912, this time in the *St. Louis Republic*, the garden was featured under the title "Fortunes Invested in Quaint and Curious Gardens of Shrubs and Blossoms."⁵¹ Bronson credited Miyaki with the garden design⁵² saying: Miyaki transformed the rear yard of maimed landscape in less than a year into a "beautiful miniature park" of which was sculpted by the pair from rocks gathered from the country (mostly lead and zinc ore). Bronson claimed that the work was always pleasant and never allowed to become oppressive.⁵³ The garden allowed Bronson's patients a distraction from their sometimes painful appointments (Figure 24, next page). Unfortunately the garden has long since eroded and all of the rock sculptures destroyed with the exception of a portion of a wall at the west property line in the rear of the back yard.

Figure 23: *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. "A Japanese Garden in the Heart of the City." August 29, 1909, page B1



⁵¹ *St. Louis Republic*. June 30, 1912, special feature section.

⁵² Wilbur F. Litch, editor. "A Dentist's Recreation." *Dental Brief: An American Journal of Dental Science*. (Philadelphia: L. D. Caulk Co., January 1911, v 16, page 13).

⁵³ *Ibid*.

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Figure 24: Photographs of yard and dentist patient room. Source: "A Dentist's Recreation." Dental Brief: An American Journal of Dental Science. (Philadelphia: L. D. Caulk Co., January 1911, v 16, page 16)



A GENERAL VIEW OF THE GARDEN.



WITH THIS VIEW BEFORE HIM THE PATIENT FORGETS THAT HE IS IN THE OFFICE.

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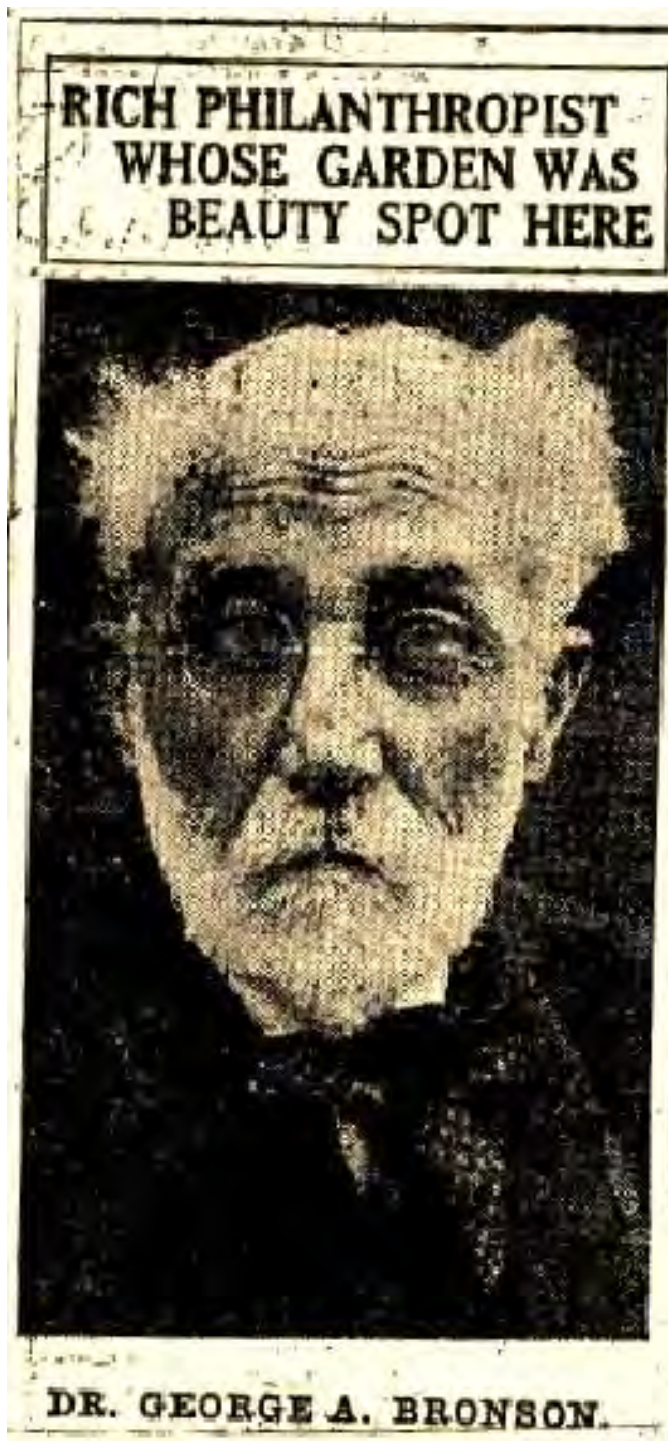
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Dr. Bronson's Death

Dr. Bronson died suddenly of a heart attack at age 79 in October of 1932 (Figure 25). His obituary read "His Japanese Garden was one of the Beauty Spots of St. Louis."⁵⁴ Also touted as having "one of the most lucrative dental practices in the city," he was acknowledged as "one of the oldest graduate dentists in St. Louis."⁵⁵ A noted philanthropist, artist, and hobbyist, Bronson had lived in increased seclusion since his retirement.

Figure 25: Image of Bronson prior to death.
Source: *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, October 18, 1932.



⁵⁴ *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*. Oct. 18, 1932. "Dr. Geo. A. Bronson, Rich Philanthropist, dies suddenly at 79."

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

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The Residence Later

Dr. Bronson died in 1932 but the property was transferred much later by Bronson's estate to husband and wife Dr. Fred W. and Euphemia Teiber in December of 1939.⁵⁶ Euphemia died in 1940 and Fred Teiber, later remarried, sold the property to Ester R. Frazier; Frazier retained the property until selling to Dorian Amon in 1974.⁵⁷ Ending up in a trust, the building was recently sold to a new owner who is going to preserve the original architectural design and rehabilitate the structure for office use.

Conclusion

The Dr. George Ashe Bronson Residence is a completely intact Peabody, Stearns & Furber residential design dating to 1885 in St. Louis city. It is also one of three and the most intact of the original residential structures left standing along a ten block stretch of Washington Avenue between Jefferson Avenue and North Grand Boulevard—a former residential corridor in St. Louis. This building helps to tell a special story about the history of Washington Avenue and the city as it transformed during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Despite multiple attempts to classify the firm's architectural style within national trends, scholars alike have concluded that the firm's eclecticism coupled with its overall ability to design in any style at any time, set them apart from other practicing firms of their era. Although the firm had a large portfolio of local buildings, each one—with the exception of a known handful—have since been demolished. Extant projects including the 1892 Security Building (319 N 4th St), the Wolfe Residence (date unknown and since altered on the 4400 block of Washington Ave.), the 1885 Bronson Residence (3207 Washington Ave.), and the 1893 Davis Residence (#17 Westmoreland Place), as well as photographs of the lost buildings, represent the varied design eclecticism of the firm. Succeeding H. H. Richardson in Boston after his death in 1885 and achieving equal importance to that of McKim, Mead & White in New York City, designs for the Bronson residence were drafted at this pivotal time. Ultimately, Boston would select Peabody & Stearns to represent them at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. The firm's popularity in St. Louis only grew. The Bronson Residence is intact from its period of construction, retains high integrity, stands as an excellent example of its morph of architectural styles—the epitome of Peabody and Stearns' design philosophy, and is a representative local example of the work of this nationally-known, preeminent architectural firm.

⁵⁶ St. Louis City Assessor. Deed documents; book 5876, page 194, December 9, 1939.

⁵⁷ *Ibid*; book 1746, page 198, August 13, 1974.

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1. Medical Scrapbook. Volume I, page 81.
2. Necrologies Scrapbook. Volume XVI, Pages 86-87.
3. Vertical File on Dr. Bronson.

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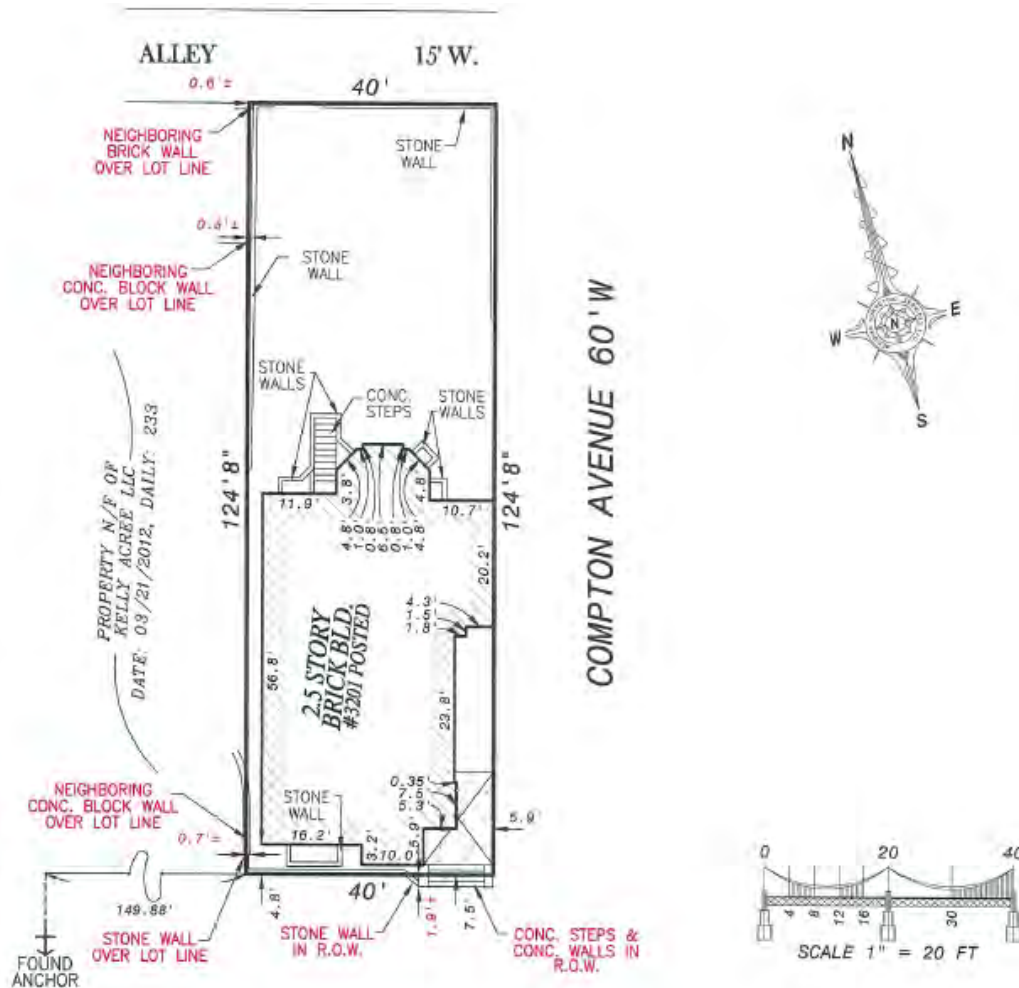
Verbal Boundary Description

The Dr. George Ashe Bronson Residence at 3201 Washington Avenue in St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri, is located on city block 1039, including 40 feet by 124 feet and 8 inches in Section 16 of the School Addition on Block 10. The nominated property is legally known by the St. Louis City Assessor's Office as parcel ID 103900080. A solid black line on the accompanying map entitled "Dr. George Ashe Bronson Residence Boundary Map" indicates the boundary of the nominated property (Figure 26). Figure 27, next page, shows the property (within dotted line) with additional details.

Boundary Justification

The nominated parcel includes the full parcel and building historically associated with the Bronson residence.

Figure 26: "Dr. George Ashe Bronson Residence Boundary Map." Source: Property Survey.



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Figure 27: Additional details of Dr. George Ashe Bronson Residence. Source: Google Earth with Lafser & Associates details.

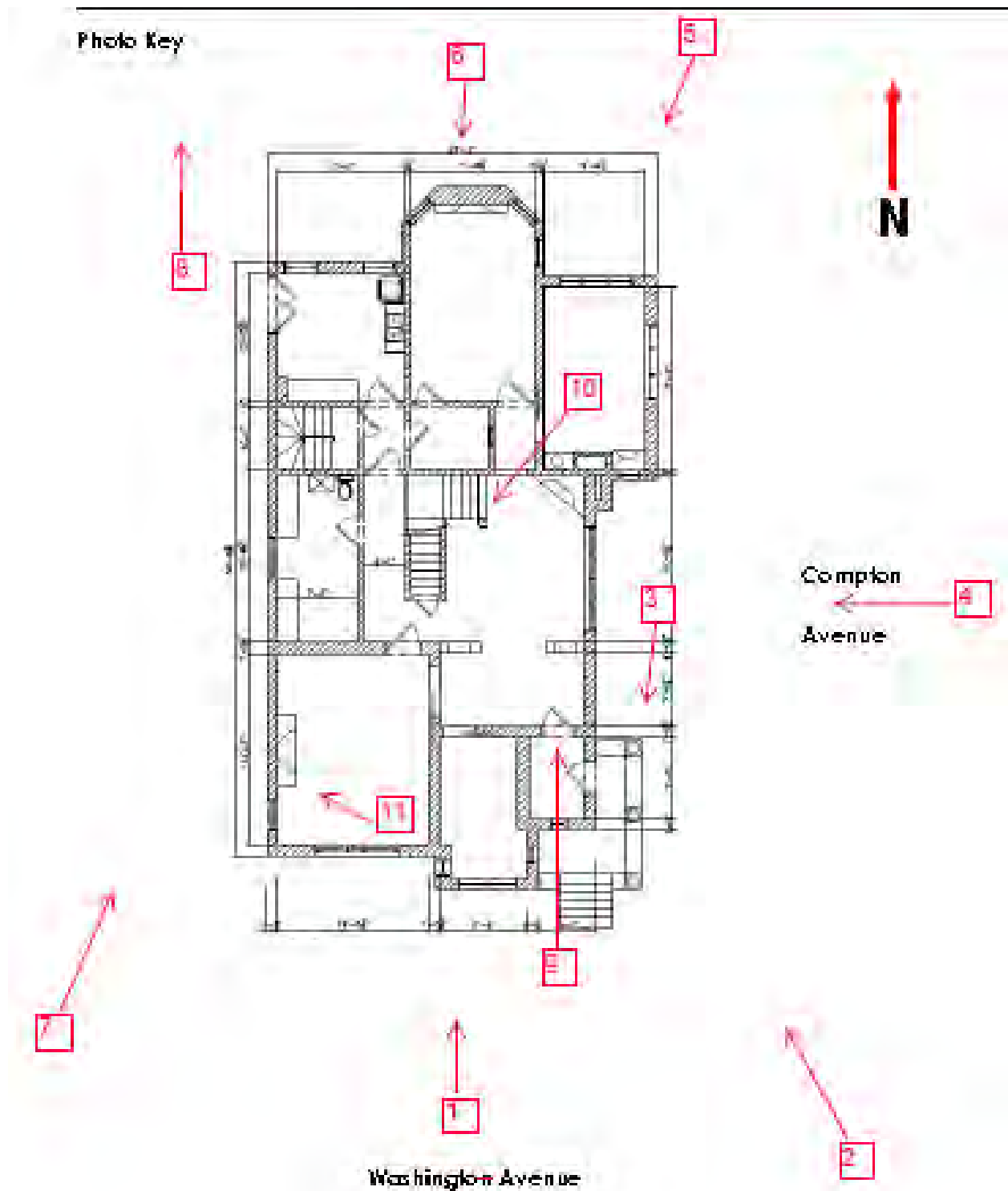


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Figure 28: Photo Key. Source: Building drawing of 1st floor.



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Appendix 1: Wheaton A. Holden partial list of Peabody and Stearns projects. Source: "The Peabody Touch: Peabody and Stearns of Boston, 1870-1917." (Northwestern University). Bronson's house is highlighted on Holden's page 129 (page 40 of this document). Additional St. Louis buildings are also highlighted.

CHECKLIST OF SELECTED BUILDINGS BY PEABODY AND STEARNS

Banks and Post Offices

Great Falls National Bank, Somersworth, N.H., 1872
Howard National Bank, Boston, 1878-1879
United Bank Building, Wall St. and Broadway, New York, 1880-1881
U.S. Post Office, Salem, Mass., 1882-1883
National Bank of Commerce, New Bedford, Mass., 1883
Old Colony National Bank, Plymouth, Mass., 1888
First National Bank, New Bedford, 1889
Society for Savings, Hartford, Conn., 1893
National City Bank, Lynn, Mass., 1893
Institution for Savings, Roxbury, Mass., 1901-1903
Union Trust Co., Springfield, Mass., 1907

Bathhouses

Easton Beach, Newport, R.I., 1886-1887
Dover St., Boston, 1897-1898
Sea Cliff Inn, Nantucket Island, Mass., 1904

Boathouses

Newell Boat Club, Cambridge, Mass., 1899-1900
Weid Boat Club, Cambridge, Mass., 1905-1907
Yale Boat Club, New Haven, Conn., 1909-1911

Casinos and Club Houses

Boston Turnverein Club, Boston, 1876-1877
Union League Club, New York, 1879-1880
Elberon Casino, Elberon, N.J., 1883
St. Louis Club, St. Louis, 1884-1885
Hasting Pudding Club, Cambridge, Mass., 1888

Churches

Front Street Baptist Church, Exeter, N.H., 1875-1876
First Congregational Church, Northampton, Mass., 1877-1878
St. Mary of the Assumption, Brookline, Mass., 1878-1886
Church of the Messiah, St. Louis, 1880-1881

St. Peter in Galilee, Monument Beach, Mass., 1881
First Parish Church, Weston, Mass., 1886-1888
St. Stephen, Pittsfield, Mass., 1889-1890
Church of the Messiah, Olneyville, R.I., 1889-1890
Lawrenceville Academy Chapel, Lawrenceville, N.J., 1894
Union Church, Northeast Harbor, Me., 1894
First Congregational Church Chapel, New Bedford, Mass., 1896
Christ Church, Waltham, Mass., 1897-1898

Houses in New England

Nathan Matthews, Newport, R.I., 1870-1871
F. G. D'Hauteville, Newport, R.I., 1871
J. J. Bowditch, Jamaica Plain, Mass., 1872-1873
William S. Appleton, Newton, Mass., 1875
Roger Wolcott, Milton, Mass., 1875
T. B. Mackay, Cambridge, Mass., 1875
R. S. Peabody, Brookline, Mass., 1876-1877
Moorfield Storey, Brookline, Mass., 1876-1877
W. C. Rives, Newport, R.I., 1876-1877
H. D. Hall, Pittsfield, Mass., 1877
Dudley Bradlee, Medford, Mass., 1877
Pierre Lorillard, Newport, R.I., 1877-1878
John W. Denny, Milton, Mass., 1877-1878
John C. Phillips, Boston, 1877-1879
E. S. Barrett, Concord, Mass., 1879
C. W. Clifford, New Bedford, Mass., 1881
C. E. Perkins, Milton, Mass., 1881
Joseph H. White, Brookline, Mass., 1881
A. L. Williston, Northampton, Mass., 1881-1882
Mrs. E. G. Leonard, New Bedford, Mass., 1881-1882
Joseph Fay, Woods Hole, Mass., 1882
Mrs. S. E. Guild, Nahant, Mass., 1881-1882
Arthur B. Emmons, Newport, R.I., 1882-1883
Miss C. L. Wolfe, Newport, R.I., 1882-1884
George Nixon Black, Manchester, Mass., 1883-1884
Great Barrington Parsonage, Great Barrington, Mass., 1883
James C. Bayley, Newton, Mass., 1883

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Joseph E. Davis, Brookline, Mass., 1884
W. L. Vennard, Portsmouth, N.H., 1884
Jelson Bartlett, Manchester, Mass., 1884
Mrs. Nathan Thayer, Boston, 1884-1886
William Sloane, Lenox, Mass., 1886-1887
Francis H. Appleton, Boston, 1886-1887
J. P. Morgan, Cranston, R.I., 1886-1888
Charles F. Adams, Boston, 1887-1888
James Murray Kay, Brookline, Mass., 1888
T. M. Stetson, New Bedford, Mass., 1888
H. M. Whitney, Nantasket, Mass., 1888
William Gammel, Newport, R.I., 1888-1889
C. R. Cross, Brookline, Mass., 1889
Roger Wolcott, Milton, Mass., 1889
Frederick W. Vanderbilt, Newport, R.I., 1889-1890
John White, Brookline, Mass., 1890
H. O. Havemeyer, Greenwich, Conn., 1890
Mrs. H. M. Brooks, Newport, R.I., 1891
H. F. Tapley, Lynn, Mass., 1891
William F. Burden, Newport, R.I., 1893
Ross Winan, Newport, R.I., 1893
Mrs. E. G. Rice, Jamaica Plain, Mass., 1893
H. H. Cook, Lenox, Mass., 1894
S. C. Heald, Jamaica Plain, Mass., 1894
John Sloane, Lenox, Mass., 1894
E. W. Perkins, Hartford, Conn., 1895
Gawn M. Hutton, Newport, R.I., 1894-1896
W. D. Sewall, Bath, Me., 1896-1898
W. E. C. Eustis, Cataumet, Mass., 1896-1898
W. F. Sears, Beverly, Mass., 1897-1898
Ludolphe Agassiz, Hamilton, Mass., 1897-1899
E. G. H. Slater, Newport, R.I., 1899
C. H. W. Foster, Brookline, Mass., 1900
Hugh Cochrane, Manchester, Mass., 1901
Mrs. Jessie P. Draper, Boston, 1901
R. S. Peabody, Boston, 1901
Moorfield Storey, Boston, 1901
Henry F. Sears, Topsfield, Mass., 1901
Mrs. A. C. Rhodes, Seal Harbor, Me., 1902-1903
Henry S. Howe, Brookline, Mass., 1902
Mrs. W. T. Blodgett, Northeast Harbor, Me., 1903
G. W. C. Drexel, Islesboro, Me., 1903
Dr. R. H. Fitz, Manchester, Mass., 1903
Edward Boit, Brookline, Mass., 1903
Andrew Carnegie II, Magnolia, Mass., 1905-1906
L. E. Stoddard, New Haven, Conn., 1905-1907
Victor M. Tyler, New Haven, Conn., 1906-1907
H. Darlington, New Haven, Conn., 1907
H. Q. Trowbridge, New Haven, Conn., 1907-1908
E. W. Clark, Marblehead, Mass., 1910-1911
L. W. Keeler, Whitinsville, Mass., 1914

Houses outside New England

C. P. Burdick, St. Louis, 1878
Edgar Ension, Colorado Springs, Col., 1879
W. G. Elliott, Portland, Ore., 1882
J. Leiter, Chicago, 1881
Alden Eyre Lodge, Colorado Springs, Col., 1881-1882 [sic]
S. C. Bartlett, Peoria, Ill., 1882

H. L. Newman, St. Louis, 1882
Charles W. Brigham, Cleveland, 1883
S. H. Leath, St. Louis, 1883
Lambert Tree, Chicago, 1883-1884
J. W. Morton, St. Louis, 1884
James S. Gariand, New York, 1884
G. A. Bronson, St. Louis, 1885
A. Mansur, St. Louis, 1885
J. E. Erhardt, St. Louis, 1886
G. S. Meyers, St. Louis, 1886
Robert Moore, St. Louis, 1886
Mrs. W. P. Ogden, New York, 1886
Thomas Howard, St. Louis, 1887
C. F. Morse, Kansas City, Mo., 1887
James J. Hill, St. Paul, Minn., 1887-1888
George F. Baker, New York, 1891
L. C. Nelson, St. Louis, 1893-1895
Col. E. S. Rowse, St. Louis, 1893-1895
C. L. Colby, New York, 1894
Dr. DaCosta, Villa Nova, Pa., 1894
Mrs. E. Gammel, Duluth, Minn., 1894
T. S. McPheeters, St. Louis, 1894
John T. Davis, St. Louis, 1895
Mrs. Corrine Dyer, St. Louis, 1895
L. C. Karens, Elkins, W. Va., 1895
John G. Holmes, Pittsburgh, 1895-1897
G. W. C. Drexel, Philadelphia, 1896
E. M. Ferguson, Pittsburgh, 1896
J. J. Emery, New York, 1896
Durbin Horne, Pittsburgh, 1897
George L. Carnegie, Dungeness, Fla., 1898
Harvey Childs, Pittsburgh, 1898
G. W. C. Drexel, Bryn Mawr, Pa., 1898
Mrs. J. R. Fell, Philadelphia, 1898
Walter L. Rost, Wistahickon Heights, Pa., 1899-1900
Dr. George Woodward, Philadelphia, 1900, 1910-1912
Craig Biddle, Radnor, Pa., 1901
Henry G. Brown, Pittsburgh, 1902
Remsen Messler, Pittsburgh, 1902
Percival Roberts, Narberth, Pa., 1902-1904
Mrs. H. R. Miller, Tarrytown, N.Y., 1906
Livingston Biddle, Bryn Mawr, Pa., 1917

Exposition Buildings

Machinery Hall, Massachusetts State Building, Columbian
Exposition, Chicago, 1892-1893
Horticultural, Mining, and Graphic Arts Building, Walter
Baker and Co., Limited Pavilion, Pan-American Exposition,
Buffalo, N.Y., 1901-1902
American Telephone and Telegraph Co., Louisiana Purchase
Exposition, St. Louis, 1903-1904

Gymnasiums

Smith College, Northampton, Mass., 1879
Hemenway, Cambridge, Mass., 1878-1879
Groton, Groton, Mass., (Old) 1886; (New) 1902
Phillips Andover, Andover, Mass., 1902
Lawrenceville, Lawrenceville, N.J., 1902-1903
Worcester Academy, Worcester, Mass., 1915-1916

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Hotels

Brunswick, Boston, 1874-1875
Aurifer, Colorado Springs, Col., 1882-1883
Ballou, Boston, 1899-1900

Libraries

Yarmouth, Yarmouthport, Mass., 1871
Easthampton, Easthampton, Mass., 1880-1881
Divinity Hall, Cambridge, Mass., 1886
Manfield, Manfield, Mass., 1899-1900
Marlboro, Marlboro, Mass., 1903-1904
Bangor, Bangor, Me., 1911-1914

Monuments

Dorchester Heights, Dorchester, Mass., 1900

Museums

Museum of Fine Arts, St. Louis, 1879-1881
Hillyer Art Museum, Northampton, Mass., 1882

Office Buildings

Liberty Square Building, Boston, 1873
Federal St. Store, Boston, 1873
Devonshire St. Store, Boston, 1874
Boston Post Building, Boston, 1874
Mutual Life Insurance Co. of New York, Boston, 1874-1875
R. H. White Store, Boston, 1877
United Bank Building, New York, 1880-1881
Turner Building, St. Louis, 1882-1883
R. H. White Warehouse Store, Boston, 1882-1883
Grew Building, Boston, 1884
American Unitarian Association Building, Boston, 1884-1886
Exchange Building, Boston, 1887-1891
Fiske Building, Boston, 1888-1889
Central Railroad of New Jersey Building, New York, 1890-1891
Security Building, St. Louis, 1890-1891
Ludlow Manufacturing Co. Buildings, Boston, 1890, 1894
Pope Building, Boston, 1891, 1897
Lambert Building, St. Louis, 1893-1894
Masonic Building, New Bedford, Mass., 1893
State Mutual Building, Worcester, Mass., 1894-1897
New Bedford Standard Building, New Bedford, Mass., 1894
Storaz Warehouse, Cambridge, Mass., 1895, 1898, 1903, 1911-1912
Concord Building, Frammingham, Mass., 1897-1898
Russia Building, Boston, 1897-1898
Charter of Commerce Building, Cleveland, 1897-1899
Curtis Publishing Co. Building, Philadelphia, 1899-1900
Albany Building, Boston, 1901-1902
Rhode Island Hospital Trust Co. Building, Providence, 1901-1903
Merchants Real Estate Trust Building, Boston, 1901-1902
Central Building, Boston, 1901
India Building, Boston, 1902-1904
Cunard Building, Boston, 1902-1903
Liberty Market Building, Pittsburgh, 1898-1900
Massachusetts Building extension, Boston, 1903-1904
Monks Building, Boston, 1903-1904
Norfolk County Registry of Deeds, Dedham, Mass., 1906-1907

Springfield Fire and Marine Insurance Co. Building, Springfield, Mass., 1903-1905
Providence Journal Building, Providence, 1904-1906
U. S. Custom House extension, Boston, 1909-1910
New England Telephone and Telegraph Co. Building, Boston, 1910-1911
Boston Insurance Co. Building, Boston, 1913-1914

Railroad Stations

Providence (Park Square), Boston, 1872-1874
Central Railroad of New Jersey, Jersey City, N.J., 1886-1890
Union, Duluth, Minn., 1890-1891
Lakewood, Lakewood, N.J., 1892
Springfield (St. Louis & San Francisco R. R.), Springfield, Mo., 1894

Schools and Colleges

Bussey Institute, Jamaica Plain, Mass., 1870-1871
Third Academy Building, Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N.H., 1871-1872
Smith Academy, Hatfield, Mass., 1872
Great Falls Academy, Somersworth, N.H., 1873-1875
College Hall, Smith College, Northampton, Mass., 1873-1875
Newtonville School, Newton, Mass., 1874
Longwood School, Brookline, Mass., 1874
Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Col., 1876-1882
Harvard School, Brookline, Mass., 1877-1878
Dickinson School, Deerfield, Mass., 1877-1879
Washington University, St. Louis, ca. 1879
Walker Hall, Amherst College, Amherst, Mass., 1882
William H. Lincoln School, Brookline, Mass., ca. 1884
Memorial Hall, Lawrenceville School, Lawrenceville, N.J., 1884-1885
Robert Winthrop School, Brookline, Mass., ca. 1888
Marion St. School, Brookline, Mass., 1888
Boylston St. School, Brookline, Mass., 1888
Paul Revere School, Boston, 1897-1898
The School, Groton School, Groton, Mass., 1900
Runkle School, Brookline, Mass., 1901-1903
Heath School, Brookline, Mass., 1903-1904
Industrial School for Crippled Children, Boston, 1903-1905
Simmons College, Boston, 1903-1905; 1908
Whitinsville High School, Whitinsville, Mass., 1903-1907
Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Mass., 1906-1907
Normal and Latin School Group, Boston, 1906-1908
Parental School, West Roxbury, Mass., 1909-1910
Wentworth Institute, Boston, 1910-1916
Middlesex School, Concord, Mass., 1911-1912
Bangor High School, Bangor, Me., 1912-1914
Southbridge High School, Southbridge, Mass., 1916-1917

Town and City Halls

Taunton, Mass., 1882
Worcester, Mass., 1896-1899
Clinton, Mass., 1908-1909
Chelsea, Mass., 1909-1910
New Hampshire State Capitol (Major Addition), Concord, 1909-1910

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 42

Bronson, Dr. George Ashe, Residence
Name of Property 3201 Washington Avenue
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

131

Selected Competitions

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 1870
Providence Railroad Station, Park Square, Boston, 1872
Trinity Church, Boston, 1872
Turner Library, Randolph, Mass., 1873
New York Mutual Life Insurance Co. Building, Boston, 1873
College Hall, Smith College, Northampton, Mass., 1873
Thayer Memorial School, Braintree, Mass., 1875
Winn Memorial Library, Woburn, Mass., 1876
Union League Club, New York, 1879
Exchange Building, Boston, 1887
Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York, 1889
Newport Country Club Clubhouse, Newport, R.I., 1894
Christ Church, Waltham, Mass., 1896
Jacob Tome Institute, Port Deposit, Md., 1900
U.S. West Point Academy Competition, 1903
Peace Palace, The Hague, The Netherlands, 1906

Y.M.C.A. Association Building, Philadelphia, 1906
Wisconsin State Capitol, Madison, 1906
Brookline Public Library, Brookline, Mass., 1907
International Bureau of American Republics,
Washington, D.C., 1907
Allegheny County Soldiers Memorial, Pittsburgh, 1907
Springfield Library, Springfield, Mass., 1907
Springfield City Hall, Springfield, Mass., 1908
Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, 1908
Boston College, Newton, Mass., 1909
Hotel on Art Museum Site, Copley Square, Boston, 1910
Forsyth Dental Infirmary, Boston, 1910
Oakland City Hall, Oakland, Cal., 1910
U. S. Government Post Office, Orange, N.J., 1911
Hartford Municipal Building, Hartford, Conn., 1911
Allston Armory, Boston, 1913
George Washington Memorial Association Monument, 1914

PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE OFFICE STAFF (1870-1917)

Will S. Aldrich
W. Cornell Appleton
William E. Barry
Robert P. Bellows
Clarence H. Blackall
Dwight Blaney
Warren R. Briggs
John Cady
Walter Campbell
Francis W. Chandler
Theophilus P. Chandler
Henry Ives Cobb -

Charles C. Collins
George P. Fernald
Charles S. Frost
George A. Fuller
Pierce P. Furber
Edward T. Graham
David A. Gregg
Llewellyn Herford
Joseph D. Leland
Edwin J. Lewis, Jr.
Ion Lewis
Arthur Little -

Colbert A. MacClure
George F. Newton
Hubert G. Ripley
Albert C. Schweinfurth
Henry Schweinfurth
Julius A. Schweinfurth
Albert H. Spahr
J. F. Spaulding
Frank E. Wallis
Timothy F. Walsh
Joseph M. Wells
Edmund M. Wheelwright

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 43

Bronson, Dr. George Ashe, Residence
Name of Property
3201 Washington Avenue
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

SHPO Comments: 4/6/2015

This nomination was approved by the MOACHP on May 9th, 2014. A final revision was not submitted until September 19th, 2014. Staff felt the nomination had many of the same issues as previous drafts. Thus, the SHPO provided the preparer another opportunity to revise the nomination but did not receive another draft until we provided a final deadline (4-6-15) for nominations that were over 90 days post-MOACHP meeting. This latest draft was submitted in March 2015. The current nomination (draft 4) has made improvements; however, we feel the Bronson House nomination does not provide enough information to adequately make case for work of a master. We feel the house may be eligible but there is not a lot of information about why Peabody and Sterns are masters. This has been a concern of ours since the first draft was submitted (see draft I comments and the email with comments for draft IV on disc). Since it has been almost a year since the MOACHP approved the nomination, we are submitting it with a request for substantive review from the NPS.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 44

Bronson, Dr. George Ashe, Residence
Name of Property
3201 Washington Avenue
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Ownership:
Jeff Kelley, 3207 Washington Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, 63103.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 43

Bronson, Dr. George Ashe, Residence
Name of Property
3201 Washington Avenue
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

SHPO Comments: 4/6/2015

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3201 Washington Ave.



3201 Washington Ave.

38.637630 -90.225036

Easting: 741530.8 Northing: 4280218.9 Zone 15



A

38.637875 -90.224911



B

38.637548 -90.225011



⊙ C
38.637571 -90.225121



⊙ D
38.637897 -90.225022







SLU Midtown
Est. 1863
COMPTON

WASHINGTON ST



















National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Bronson, Dr. George Ashe, House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MISSOURI, St. Louis

DATE RECEIVED: 4/17/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/08/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/26/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/02/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000305

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Please see the attached
Supplementary Listing Record**

The Dr. George Ashe Bronson House is listed in the National Register under Criterion C as a significant local example of the Boston-based firm Peabody and Stearns. The period of significance is 1885, reflecting the date of its construction. The house is an eclectic example of the firm's work, with otherwise good integrity minimally impacted by the partial enclosure of the front porch. A significant Japanese garden existed in the back yard for many years; the only evident reminder today is a portion of a stone wall that contributes to the property.

RECOM./CRITERIA C
REVIEWER Barbara Wyatt DISCIPLINE Historian
TELEPHONE 202-354-2252 DATE 6-1-15

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, Governor • Sara Parker Pauley, Director

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



www.dnr.mo.gov

Memorandum

Date: April 10, 2015

To: Stephanie Toothman, Keeper, National Register of Historic Places

From: Toni M. Prawl, Ph.D., Deputy SHPO and Director, Missouri SHPO *JMP*

Subject: **Bronson House, St. Louis (Independent City), MO, National Register Nomination**

Our state review board, the Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, approved the above nomination on May 9, 2014. All owners and appropriate elected public officials were notified and provided at least thirty (30) days to comment on the above proposed nomination in accordance with Section 36CFR60.6, interim regulations, using the exact notification format recommended by the National Register. **The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.**

Please find enclosed the following documentation:

 1 CD with original National Register of Historic Places registration form, MOACHP minutes, and SHPO comments

 Multiple Property Documentation Form

 Photographs

 1 CD with electronic images

 Original USGS map(s)

 3 Piece(s) of correspondence (cover letter, signature page, SHPO Comments)

 Other: _____

Comments:

 X **Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed**

 The enclosed owner objection(s) do do not constitute a majority of property owners.

 Other: _____

**Minutes
of the
MISSOURI ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION
May 9, 2014**

The Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation met at the Lewis and Clark State Office Building, 1101 Riverside Drive, Jefferson City, Missouri from 9:02 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. on May 9, 2014.

The following Council members were present: Dr. Bonnie Stepenoff, Mr. Tom Kuypers, Ms. Mimi Stiritz, Dr. Bob Wieggers, Dr. Tony Holland, Ms. Cindy McDaniel, Mr. Daniel Statler, Ms. Kacky Garner, and Mr. Dwight Wyatt. Present from DNR and the State Historic Preservation Office: Sara Pauley, Mark Miles, Michelle Diedrich, Amanda Burke, Jonathan Harwood, Cathy Sala, Chris Tellman, and Susan Bloomer. Guests: Ruth Keenoy, Terri Foley, Rhonda Chalfant, Lauren Rieke, Allen Tatman, Lindsay Derrington, Matt Bivens, Deb Sheals, Nancy Yluisaker, Michael Allen and Audrey Kinsler.

Dr. George Ashe Bronson Residence, 3201 Washington Ave., St. Louis [Independent City]

Preparer & Agency: Matt Bivens, Lafser & Associates

Staff Comments: This nomination draft has met some of the SHPO's previous comments, but we feel that the argument for significance could be made a bit clearer and stronger, including providing a more substantial discussion on the architectural firm's larger body of work. Additionally, other staff members have recommended that the architectural style be slightly changed in the narrative to mention "Chateausque influence" as a more accurate description. Along with any additional council comments, the preparer will need to boost his argument a bit before it will be ready to send to the NPS pending MOACHP approval.

Additional Comments: Council suggested the preparer add a footnote into the appendix to explain the list.

Mr. Bivens gave a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions. Dr. Stepenoff requested a motion for the Dr. George Ashe Bronson Residence. Ms. Garner made a motion to approve and submit to the Keeper of the National Register provided staff and Council comments are addressed in the final submission. Dr. Holland seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Done



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

June 2, 2015

Toni M. Prawl, Deputy SHPO and Director
Missouri State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Dr. Prawl:

We reviewed three National Register nominations you submitted for substantive review: the Dr. George Ashe Bronson Residence, the Biddle Street Market, and Stouffer's Riverfront Inn. In each case, the Review Board approved the nomination and the State Historic Preservation Officer did not sign the nomination because the documentation was considered insufficient to demonstrate eligibility. A determination by the Keeper of the National Register was requested. In all cases, well over 90 days had passed since the meeting of the Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

The minutes of the meetings of the Council were submitted with the nominations, and in each case the Council's comments were minimal, indicating its general acceptance of these nominations. Based on our review, the documentation in the nominations for the Bronson Residence and the Biddle Street Market is sufficient to make the case for eligibility. These nominations were signed for the Keeper on June 1, 2015. The case for the eligibility of Stouffer's Riverfront Inn under Criterion C and Criterion Consideration G has not been made. The Council approved this nomination, although it agreed with SHPO staff that certain areas need further development. We agree with the SHPO's identification of deficiencies, and the nomination will be returned by the National Register.

Sincerely,

Barbara Wyatt, Historian
National Register of Historic Places/
National Historic Landmark Program



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF ST. LOUIS
MISSOURI**

**FRANCIS G. SLAY
MAYOR**

**CITY HALL - ROOM 200
1200 MARKET STREET
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-2877
(314) 622-3201
FAX: (314) 622-4061**

May 7, 2014

Mr. Mark Miles
Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State Historic Preservation Office
Department Of Natural Resources
Post Office Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

RE: Nominations to the National Register of Historic Places:
Bellefontaine Cemetery
Woodward & Tiernan Printing Company Building
General Electric Supply Corporation Building
Dr. George Ashe Bronson Residence

Dear Mr. Miles:

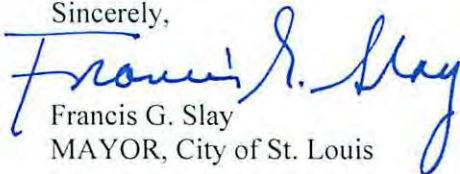
In accordance with the Certified Local Government requirements, I am writing to advise you that the Preservation Board of the City of St. Louis has reviewed the above-referenced single property nominations. The Board determined that they meet the eligibility requirements for the National Register of Historic Places in terms of historic significance and integrity. Further, the Preservation Board recommends that they be placed on the National Register.

As the Chief Executive Officer of the City of St. Louis, I support the Preservation Board's decisions. A copy of the Preservation Board's report for each nomination is attached.

The placement of these properties on the National Register will aid in the redevelopment of the city and, in particular, the neighborhoods in which they are located.

Please feel free to contact me or Patrick Brown of my staff if you have any questions. Thank you for everything you do for our city and for our state.

Sincerely,


Francis G. Slay
MAYOR, City of St. Louis

ATTACHMENT

C: Rebecca Rost, Certified Local Government Coordinator
Betsy Bradley, Cultural Resources Office Director

To: The Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Subject: Report of the Decision of City of St. Louis Preservation Board regarding Bellefontaine Cemetery
From: Cultural Resources Office at City of St. Louis Planning & Urban Design Agency
Date: April 28, 2014

As a Certified Local Government, the City of St. Louis, based on the action of the City Preservation Board, has reviewed this proposed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

At its meeting of April 28, 2014, the City of St. Louis Preservation Board considered the nomination of Bellefontaine Cemetery at 4947 West Florissant Avenue through written comments on the property prepared by the staff of the Cultural Resources Office and testimony of the nomination preparer, Ruth Keenoy.

Decision

The Board members agreed that the property retains sufficient integrity and meets the requirements of Criterion C: Landscape Architecture, and is significant at the National Level. Bellefontaine Cemetery, established in 1849, was a product of both the American Rural Cemetery movement that achieved nationwide popularity in the early to mid-19th century and the landscape-lawn movement of the 1850s. Bellefontaine Cemetery is nationally significant for its distinctive design features representative of each movement, and for the quality of its tombs, monuments and mausoleums, many the products of significant architects and sculptors. In a unanimous vote, the Board directed the Cultural Resources Office to prepare a report that indicates this determination and that recommends that the property be placed on the National Register.

To: The Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Subject: Report of the Decision of City of St. Louis Preservation Board regarding the Woodward & Tiernan Printing Company Building
From: Cultural Resources Office at City of St. Louis Planning & Urban Design Agency
Date: April 28, 2014

As a Certified Local Government, the City of St. Louis, based on the action of the City Preservation Board, has reviewed this proposed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and considered the eligibility of the property.

At its meeting of April 28, 2014, the City of St. Louis Preservation Board considered the nomination of Woodward & Tiernan Printing Company Building, 1519 Tower Grove Avenue, though written comments on the property prepared by the staff of the Cultural Resources Office and testimony of the nomination preparer, Lindsey Derrington.

Decision

The Board members agreed the three-story brick office/warehouse building at 1517 Tower Grove Avenue is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C: Architecture, as an excellent example of a Classical Revival industrial building. Designed by Klipstein & Rathman in 1925, the building is an excellent example of a transitional multi-use building with an office wing along Tower Grove. In a unanimous vote, the Board directed the Cultural Resources Office to prepare a report that indicates this determination and that recommends that the property be placed on the National Register.

To: The Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Subject: Report of the Decision of City of St. Louis Preservation Board regarding the General Electric Supply Corporation Building
From: Cultural Resources Office at City of St. Louis Planning & Urban Design Agency
Date: April 28, 2014

As a Certified Local Government, the City of St. Louis, based on the action of the City Preservation Board, has reviewed this proposed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and considered the eligibility of the property.

At its meeting of April 28, 2014 the City of St. Louis Preservation Board considered the nomination of the General Electric Supply Corporation Building, 2653 Locust Street, through written comments on the property prepared by the staff of the Cultural Resources Office and testimony of the nomination preparer, Michael Allen.

Decision

The Board members agreed that the two-story, brick warehouse building completed in 1939 is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C: Architecture, as an excellent example of the work of a local master, St. Louis architect Preston J. Bradshaw. In a vote with six Board members voting in favor of the recommendation and one abstention, the Board directed the Cultural Resources Office to prepare a report that indicates this determination and that recommends that the property be placed on the National Register.

To: The Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Subject: Report of the Decision of City of St. Louis Preservation Board regarding the Dr. George Ashe Bronson Residence
From: Cultural Resources Office at City of St. Louis Planning & Urban Design Agency
Date: April 28, 2014

As a Certified Local Government, the City of St. Louis, based on the action of the City Preservation Board, has reviewed this proposed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and considered the eligibility of this district.

At its meeting of April 24, 2014 the City of St. Louis Preservation Board considered the nomination of Dr. George Ashe Bronson Residence, 3201 Washington Avenue, through written comments on the property prepared by the staff of the Cultural Resources Office and testimony of the nomination preparer, Matt Bivens.

Decision

The Board members agreed this two-and-a-half story brick residence is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C: Architecture, as an excellent example of the work of prominent Boston architects, Peabody & Stearns. Designed in 1885, it is the earliest known extant example of their residential work in St. Louis and retains excellent integrity. Built for successful local dentist, Dr. George Ashe Bronson and his widowed mother, it uses utilizes both Queen Anne and Romanesque design elements. In a unanimous vote, the Board directed the Cultural Resources Office to prepare a report that indicates this determination and that recommends that this property be placed on the National Register.

SHPO COMMENTS (Draft I): Bronson, Dr. George Ashe, Residence, 3201 Washington Ave. St. Louis (Independent City), MO

Date: February 6, 2014

Preparer: Matt Bivens, Lafser & Associates

Reviewer: Jonathan Harwood

This nomination is tentatively scheduled for the May 9th MOACHP meeting at the Lewis and Clark Building in Jefferson City Missouri. Please submit the second draft no later than 3/21/2014.

General: This nomination is well written and doesn't have many typos or other technical issues. I'll also be sending a marked copy of the nomination via post.

Contributing site: SHPO would prefer that this nomination was just for the contributing building and removing the contributing site from the jacket. I think the discussion of the site/garden remnants can still be left in section 8, but it's small enough that it really doesn't need to be counted as a contributing resource.

Site Map: The site map needs a bit of work. First, it should be contained on a continuation page of the nomination instead of a standalone piece. Google Earth is fine to use, but we need a larger and clearer map that indicates the house, street names, and lat/long/geographical information all in one.

Photo Map: We must have a map indicating each photograph and the direction at which it was taken. Include a north arrow and some directional arrows for each photo.

Floor Plan: The floor plan should also be contained in a continuation page. Then, make sure the map and floor plan have a caption and are listed in the figure log earlier in the nomination.

Section 7: You wrote a solid architectural description, so there really aren't many changes necessary here. See the marked copy for the few specific (minor) changes.

Section 8: Section 8 needs a bit of work regarding the context and the argument for significance. In the summary, it isn't clear if the argument is for "Work of a Master" or "High Artistic Value." If the significance surrounds high artistic value, which features visible in the building's architecture reflect these values? Are these features common or unique to the type of architecture in general?

For significance as the work of a master, the following is needed (taken from NR Bulletin 15):
The property must express a particular phase in the development of the master's career, an aspect of his or her work, or a particular idea or theme in his or her craft. Not every building built by a master architect is eligible for that reason alone; it must be significant. The nomination states that

this building is early example of the firm's work in St. Louis since many others were demolished; however, this doesn't really indicate significance. The firm designed numerous other residences prior to the Bronson Residence, and the fact that this is a rare survivor doesn't mean it's National Register eligible for that reason alone.

With that said, I think page 9 is on the right track as setting the Bronson place in the context of Peabody and Stearns' local body of work. However, I think more can be done in terms of context and elaboration. A bit more information is needed on the history of the homes architectural style(s), including the main features associated with each. Then, more elaboration is needed on what sets the Bronson Residence apart—what features are common and which are variations or evolutions of the styles? The second to last paragraph on page 9 has some of this information. Although, the last sentence of that paragraph is a bit misleading; the page beforehand lists other earlier residences designed by the firm in St. Louis.

Regardless, it would best serve the argument to shift away from the home as a rare surviving example of the firm's work and move toward better placing it in the architect's larger body of work and expressing what makes it a significant example. Of all the extant local examples of the firm's work, is the Bronson residence the best example of their architecture? If so, why? Examples of their work outside of St. Louis can also be used to help drive home the point. For instance, if the firm is known for their dual chimneys on houses (or some other prominent feature), then a comparison like that could be made.

From: Diedriech, Michelle
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 5:03 PM
To: Matt Bivens (msbivens@lafser.com)
Cc: stacey@jeffdayllc.com
Subject: Bronson House revision

Good afternoon, Matt,

Thank you for submitting the revision for the Bronson House. We appreciate the extra effort that went into researching other historic homes associated with Peabody and Sterns in St. Louis. However, in our opinion, the nomination still lacks adequate evidence to support a Work of a Master argument. As mentioned in other review comments, Work of a Master under Criterion C: Architecture is one of the more difficult areas of significance to support. The nomination must first make a case the builder/architect/design firm is a "master" and then it must also make a case the property is a significant example. We're certain you're aware of NPS guidance on this subject but it bears mentioning again: according to NR Bulletin 15 *Applying Criteria* (p. 20), a property is not eligible "simply because it was designed by a prominent architect" but "The property must express a particular phase in the development of the master's career, an aspect of his or her work, or a particular idea or theme in his or her craft." The nomination provides a basis for local comparisons and the extra images to highlight similar examples are helpful but the nomination lacks evidence to support the claim Peabody and Sterns qualify as "master" architects. Without more information it's difficult to discern how the property is significant amongst their body of work. An appendix cannot substitute a discussion, evidence, and argument for significance in a nomination. In general, appendixes in National Register nominations are not recommended.

Technically, the citations are inadequate or misused: "Op. cit" does not appear to be used correctly, moreover it's not used any longer (See Turabian's *A Manual for Writers Eighth Edition* 16.4.2 pg 161 for more information). I did not do a full technical review but I did note the photo log has an "x" for the page number for the photo map. Likewise the TIFF files are not labeled correctly.

We plan to mark this for substantive review and mail it to the NPS on April the 6th. Should we receive any further drafts the strongest will be chosen for submission. We will inform the preparer(s) of any change in the decision for substantive review and/or provide a copy of the comments provided to the NPS.

Sincerely,

Michelle

Michelle Diedriech
Historic Survey and Registration Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: direct line (573) 526-1680, toll free 800-361-4827
FAX: (573) 522-6262
E-Mail: michelle.diedriech@dnr.mo.gov

Promoting, Protecting and Enjoying our Natural Resources. Learn more at dnr.mo.gov.

**Minutes
of the
MISSOURI ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION
May 9, 2014**

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Dr. George Ashe Bronson Residence, 3201 Washington Ave., St. Louis [Independent City]

Preparer & Agency: Matt Bivens, Lafser & Associates

Staff Comments: This nomination draft has met some of the SHPO's previous comments, but we feel that the argument for significance could be made a bit clearer and stronger, including providing a more substantial discussion on the architectural firm's larger body of work. Additionally, other staff members have recommended that the architectural style be slightly changed in the narrative to mention "Chateausque influence" as a more accurate description. Along with any additional council comments, the preparer will need to boost his argument a bit before it will be ready to send to the NPS pending MOACHP approval.

Additional Comments: Council suggested the preparer add a footnote into the appendix to explain the list.

Mr. Bivens gave a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions. Dr. Stepenoff requested a motion for the Dr. George Ashe Bronson Residence. Ms. Garner made a motion to approve and submit to the Keeper of the National Register provided staff and Council comments are addressed in the final submission. Dr. Holland seconded. The motion carried unanimously.