

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

General Daniel Bissell House

AND/OR COMMON

"Franklinville Farm", "Bissell Manor"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

10225 Bellefontaine Road

CITY, TOWN

Bellefontaine Neighbors

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2-Hon. Robert A. Young

STATE

Missouri

63137

VICINITY OF

29

COUNTY

St. Louis

CODE

189

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

___ STRUCTURE

___ SITE

___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

___ PRIVATE

___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS

___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

___ YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE

___ COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ GOVERNMENT

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ MILITARY

MUSEUM

___ PARK

___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ RELIGIOUS

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

St. Louis County

STREET & NUMBER

7900 Forsyth Blvd.

CITY, TOWN

Clayton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri 63105

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds, St. Louis County Government Center

STREET & NUMBER

7900 Forsyth Blvd.

CITY, TOWN

Clayton

STATE

Missouri 63105

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

1. 100 Historic Buildings in St. Louis County

DATE

1970

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

published: St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation

CITY, TOWN

Clayton

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3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

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 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
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CITY, TOWN

Clayton

STATE

Missouri 63105

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The General Daniel Bissell House is located at 10225 Bellefontaine Road in the town of Bellefontaine Neighbors in north St. Louis County. It is a two-story "L" shaped brick building in the Federal style, facing south and east, with a later two-story frame wing to the northwest. A one-story corridor and shed connects the frame wing with the brick wing to its south.

EXTERIOR

Over-all dimensions

The east (front) brick wing measures 54' 1" in length and 21' 11" across its north end. The south brick wing measures 52' 4½" in length and 20' 3 ½" across its west end. The northwest frame wing is 40' 2 ½" long and 20' 3" wide. The one-story connecting corridor is the same length as the frame wing. It is 4' 8" wide, expanding to 7' 5" where it extends beyond the south brick wing, overlapping that wing's western face by 2' 8".¹

Construction materials and colors

The main part of the house is brick, laid in common bond, while the later wing is frame with 4½" clapboard siding. Both brick and frame portions of the house are painted white and are trimmed with black painted shutters. The stone foundation of the brick portions of the building includes a full basement. Beneath the level of the basement floor, the stone foundation rests on brick footings, now covered internally with concrete.

Windows in the older, brick portions of the house have wood lintels and sills, now painted white like the rest of the building. Each wing of the house has its own wooden porch. Porch railings are painted black with white bannisters. Porch ceilings are light blue, and porch floors are grey. The south and east doors are white, while the later north doors are black.

Openings

Windows. Both south and east facades of the brick portion of the house consist of five bays and two stories, with a door in the center of each level. The characteristic window is a six-over-six-light, double-hung sash, with stone lintels and sills and exterior shutters. The one window on the north elevation, located on the east side of the ground floor, is also of this type. Windows of the frame wing are a variety of shapes and sizes, irregularly spaced. The largest, a triple window near the center of the ground floor of the north facade, is composed of three double-hung sash of nine-over-nine lights. To its west is a small double-hung sash window of four-over-four lights, and at the west end of the ground floor of the north facade is a double-hung sash window similar in size to the characteristic windows of the east facade, but consisting of two-over-two lights. The two windows centered one above and one below on the west facade of the frame wing match this description. Three identical windows are irregularly spaced along the second floor of the north facade. They are double-hung sash windows of two-over-two lights.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1819, 1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The General Daniel Bissell House, 10225 Bellefontaine Road, in the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, St. Louis County, is significant as the home of General Daniel Bissell, early commanding officer of Fort Bellefontaine. The older portion of the house is a rare and relatively unchanged example of the Federal style of architecture as it was brought to Missouri by settlers from the eastern United States in the years immediately following the Louisiana Purchase. The newer portion of the house reflects its continuous occupancy through five generations of the Bissell family.

Cantonment or Fort Bellefontaine was established in 1805 at which time it was the westernmost post of the U.S. Army.¹ It was located in the bottom lands of the Missouri River about five miles west of its junction with the Mississippi River. Daniel Bissell's elder brother, Russell, was serving as commandant of the cantonment at the time of his death in December 1807. (The house of Russell's son, Captain Lewis Bissell, still stands on Randall Place in St. Louis.)² The younger Bissell assumed command of the cantonment in 1809. He found the site unhealthy and ill-chosen from a strategic point of view, and the buildings in poor repair. The following year, he received authorization to rebuild on higher ground,³ which effort he completed in 1811. In 1826, the facilities of Fort Bellefontaine were moved to Jefferson Barracks, a site overlooking the Mississippi River south of the City of St. Louis. The one remaining building at the site of Fort Bellefontaine is presently owned by the City of St. Louis.⁴

An Outline of General Daniel Bissell's Life:⁵

- 1768 or 1769 - Born in Windsor, Connecticut, one of seven sons of Ozias & Mabel Bissell.
- 1780 or 1781 - Served two months in Revolution as fifer in regiment of Col. Willis, militia of state of Connecticut
- May 19, 1788 - Enlisted in army as Private
- Nov. 4, 1791 - At Arthur St. Clair's defeat near Fort Hayne, Northwest Territory
- 1802 - 1808 - In command of Fort Massac, near Cairo, Illinois, where also served as Inspector and Collector for port of entry and was witness to events cited in the alleged conspiracy of Aaron Burr.
- March 18, 1804 - Received official transfer to U.S. at the fort at New Madrid, Mo.
- May 1809 - Took command of Fort Bellefontaine
- 1810 - 1811 - Rebuilt Fort Bellefontaine on higher ground
- June 13, 1812 - Joined invasion of upper Canada in War of 1812
- October, 1814 - Participated in Battle of Lyon's Creek
- May 20, 1815 - Commissioned Brevet Brigadier General
- 1816 - Courtmartialed in Nashville and subsequently given reprimand
- April-June, 1818 - In command of Eighth Military Division, New Orleans
- and
- 1819-1821

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. An American Heritage Guide: Historic Houses of America.
New York: American Heritage Publishing Co., Inc. 1971, p. 158.
2. Brockhoff, Dorothy Adele. "The Bissell Saga." Unpublished typescript, 1962.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9.30

QUADRANGLE NAME Columbia Bottom, Mo.-III. QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1,5</u>	<u>7,4,1</u>	<u>2,8,0</u>	<u>4,2</u>	<u>9,3</u>	<u>1,4,0</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C							D			
E							F			
G							H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The General Daniel Bissell House property is Lot 5 of the James R. Bissell Estate, a subdivision in St. Louis County, Missouri, as per plat thereof recorded in Plat

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

1. Esley Hamilton

ORGANIZATION

St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation

DATE

October 1977

STREET & NUMBER

7900 Forsyth

TELEPHONE

(314) 889-3196

CITY OR TOWN

Clayton

STATE

Missouri 63105

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

2. The Building Art in St. Louis: Two Centuries
1967 local
published: St. Louis: American Institute of Architects, St. Louis Chapter.
3. A St. Louis Heritage: Six Historic Homes
1967 local
published: Southwestern Bell Telephone Co.
4. American Heritage Guide: Historic Houses of America
1971 federal
published: New York: American Heritage Publishing Co. Inc.
5. History Trail
1973 local
published: St. Louis: Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.
6. Historic Sites Inventory for the Saint Louis Metropolitan Area
1976 local
East-West Gateway Coordinating Council
112 North Fourth Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63102
7. Historic American Buildings Survey
(MO - 1175) federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C. 20540
8. Old St. Louis Homes
1964 local
published: St. Louis: The Folkstone Press
9. Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue
1963 state
State Historical Society of Missouri
Corner, Hitt and Lowry Streets
Columbia, Missouri 65201
10. Advisory List to the National Register of Historic Places
1969 (1970) federal
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20242
11. Illustrated Guide to the Treasures of America
1974 federal
published: Pleasantville, New York: The Reader's Digest Association Inc.

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PAGE 2

-
12. Mounds to Mansion: Historical Sites of the St. Louis Region
1976 local
Frances I. Flavin,
published: St. Louis Regional Commerce and Growth Association
13. Volume I, Survey of Missouri's Comprehensive Statewide Preliminary
Historic Preservation Plan
1971 state
State Historical Survey and Planning Office
now Department of Natural Resources,
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

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The one-story connecting link between the brick and frame wings has one small window of four panes at its western end. On its southern elevation, two windows of nine panes are placed side by side within the same frame. All window frames in the frame wing and link are wooden. The west end of the southern brick wing has one window centered in the north half of the ground floor. It is a six-over-six-light, double-hung sash, but its frame, which is different from all the others, is a flat stucco surround of uniform width on all sides.

Doorways. As mentioned above, each of the two major brick facades has a central doorway. The most elaborate of these is on the east side. The paneled door is flanked by four-pane sidelights and a rectangular six-pane top light, all set within a pilastered wooden frame. The south central door has simply a rectangular, three-pane top light. Above the east door, a door opens onto the roof of the east porch. Its frame is similar in appearance to the flanking windows.

A total of six doors lead from the frame wing. Two open from the ground floor onto the north porch; these have glassed transoms set within the door frame. Directly above the more easterly of these two, a door opens onto the upstairs porch. A second upstairs door is not in line with the westerly door below. Each of these doorways is fitted with an inner and outer door. To the south, an upstairs door opens onto the roof of the one-story connecting link. The door on the south front of the connecting link has a three-pane toplight and forms a unit with the two closely set windows next to it. One entrance leads directly to the basement. It is on the north end of the east brick wing. A small gabled brick shed covers the staircase and is entered through a plain wooden door in the north side. This feature is a recent reconstruction of an original feature seen in old photographs.²

Vent. In the gable of the west end of the frame wing is a square louvered opening, not original to the wing.

Roofs. The L-shaped brick portion of the house has a hipped roof now covered with imitation cedar shingles. The rear frame wing has a gable roof, similarly covered. The one story link between the south and north portions of the house has a skylight measuring 6' 4" x 2' 4". Its remaining surface is tarred.

Chimneys. The Bissell House has five chimneys. Three of them serve fireplaces in the brick portion of the house and are flush with the exterior walls. Those in the west and north ends of the brick "L" are centered on their respective elevations; the third chimney is located against the south wall so as to be symmetrical with the north one as seen from the east elevation, thus creating an imbalance in the south elevation. These chimneys are in working order. A fourth chimney stack, rising from the approximate center of the frame wing was intended to vent the stoves used to heat these rooms, but it now lacks any connection. A fifth chimney, actually a flue from the furnace in the basement, protrudes eight inches from the brick wall that was originally the west wall

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of the east wing and that now can be seen at the rear of the one story link. All the chimneys are brick, with simple concrete capstones.

Decorative features

Decorative features include:

- 1) flat stone lintels over windows of the brick "L", each with two concentric circles carved within a square division at each end.
- 2) stone lugsills at windows of brick "L".
- 3) frame of east door including wooden pilasters and top and side lights.
- 4) a one-story flat roofed wooden porch across central three bays of east front, with wooden railings at entrance level and at balcony level.
- 5) a one-story gabled wooden porch in front of central door of south front.
- 6) a two-story wooden porch across entire length of north (frame) wing. The twelve porch posts (6 up and 6 down) are each decorated with turned spheres and a central group of turned bandings. A wooden railing is installed across the second floor. The railing across the first floor lacks balusters.
- 7) simple wooden cornices.
- 8) metal wall lamps flanking the south door.
- 9) wrought iron boot scrapers installed at both ends of the stone step leading to the east porch. One of these two is original.³
- 10) shed roof over door in second floor of frame wing leading to roof of link.

INTERIOR

Basement. The basement corresponds to the eastern block of the brick "L". Other portions of the house are unexcavated. The basement contains three rooms, including the central stairhall, all of which are stone walled and cement floored. Additional access is provided to the north room by means of a staircase leading directly outside through a small brick shed at the north of the brick "L".

First Floor

Both the east and south legs of the brick "L" have center halls. The east hall has a wide U-shaped, staircase to the second floor with a rosewood and newel post, and a narrower straight staircase leads to the basement. The south hall has a narrow corner staircase to the second floor. The north end of the "L" is occupied by the parlor or library. The angle room was originally the dining room and, after the construction of the frame wing, a drawing room. The south-west room was traditionally Gen. Bissell's bedroom.⁴

The frame wing has two rooms separated by a passage and a small pantry, now used as a

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china closet. The kitchen, the more westerly of the rooms, has a staircase in its southwest corner. A long cabinet is built into the second room, originally the dining room.⁵ The link consists of a long corridor with a shed-cum-entrance (now converted into an office) at its west end and a closet (now lavatory) at its east end. The walls are painted plaster except for the kitchen which is papered. The kitchen and the General's bedroom have wooden wainscoting. Fireplace mantels are wooden and have been painted white. Other interior woodwork is painted white. All floors are pine. The southwest room was refloored in 1933-1934 and the kitchen in the 1960's, but all other floors are original.⁶ In the brick sections uniform grooves are cut between the boards.

Second floor

The second floor of the brick "L" corresponds exactly with the first floor with the exception that the south hall has been converted into a bath. In the north and west rooms, clothes cupboards have been installed on either side of the fireplace, thus eliminating the projection of the fireplace into the room. The fireplace in the angle room is flanked by windows. Second-floor fireplace mantels are painted black.

The second floor of the frame wing is entered from the landing of the east, U-shaped, staircase or from the corner staircase in the kitchen. It is presently used as an apartment for the caretaker and consists of three rooms and a bath. Opening to the north of the corridor that leads from the hall is a bedroom; to the west of the first bedroom opens a second, smaller bedroom. The bath is at the west end of the corridor. To the west of the bath and the smaller bedroom, and directly over the first floor kitchen is the second floor kitchen. It has a closet along the north half of its east wall. Otherwise there are no closets or fireplaces in the second floor of the frame wing.

Attic

A crawl space extends over the whole house, including a connection between brick and frame wings.

ALTERATIONS

Part of the historic significance of the Bissell House lies in the fact that it was occupied by the same family for nearly one hundred and fifty years. Changes in the house during that time are a reflection of this historic continuity. The brick portion of the house, as it stands now, was built just before 1819. The north window and the west window were inserted in the brick "L" sometime before 1875. The frame wing was added about 1890 to replace a detached stone kitchen dating back to 1812. In 1933 and 1934, the house received a major overhaul which removed many of the alterations made over the years.⁷ At this time, the roof was rebuilt, plumbing was replaced and the small lavatory built in the closet of the link and the bathroom in the second floor south hallway enlarged to its present size. A new furnace was installed as was new

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electrical wiring throughout the house. Flagstone hearths were replaced by eight-by-eight paving brick. The floors in brick "L" were reinforced to correct sagging. The small covering to the exterior basement door was reconstructed from old photographs, with some alterations. All this work was done with the intention of returning the house to its earlier appearance.

Beginning in 1964, St. Louis County has undertaken other repairs and restorations. The south and east porches have been reconstructed and the second-story door leading to the east porch has been reopened. The roof has been resingled and shutters have been replaced. In 1977, a steel beam was installed across the dining room in the frame wing to provide extra support to the second floor. This beam and supporting posts were boxed in and the resulting construction was painted white. A new supplemental furnace has been installed in the attic of the frame wing.⁸

Numerous outbuildings once dotted the grounds. Some of these are documented in photographs and others have been revealed by archaeological investigation, but none is standing now.⁹

CONDITION

The Bissell House is in good condition. It was restored in 1933-1934 and again between 1964 and 1970.

SITE

The Bissell House sits well back from Bellefontaine Road at the top of a rise on its property of nine and three-tenths acres, the remnant of the original farm. To the south, west, and north, the property abuts smaller residential lots occupied by detached, single-family houses.

In 1969-1970, a frame "barn" was erected to the west of the main building to provide space for social activities. To the west of the "barn" is a recent frame garage and maintenance building with enclosed yard. A landscaped parking lot for visitors occupies the southeast corner of the property. A drive entering the property on the northeast extends past the north side of the house to the barn and garage.

New walkways were installed at the time of the more recent restoration, as part of a comprehensive relandscaping.

PRESENT STATUS

As an important property of St. Louis County's Park and Recreation Department, the General Bissell House is well cared for. It serves as a museum of life in the first half of the 19th century. It is open Wednesday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. A group of volunteer docents assists the professional staff in interpreting the house to the public.

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NOTES

1. Historic American Buildings Survey: Franklinville Farms (1961), Sheet 2 (drawn by Frank R. Leslie).
2. Gerhardt Kramer, "The Bissell House," The Bulletin, Vol. XXII, No. 4, Pt. 1 (July 1966) pp. 453-454.
3. Statement by William McFarland, caretaker of Bissell House, 1977.
4. Kramer, p. 454
5. St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation, "General Daniel Bissell House Historic Restoration" (brochure - no date)
6. Kramer, p. 453; William McFarland.
7. Kramer, pp. 448, 450, 452-454.
8. St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation, Bissell House files.
9. Donald P. Heldman, "Archaeological Excavations of the Bissell Estate (typescript, 1962, St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department).

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1821 - Retired from active command

1824 - 1825 - Chairman of Committee for official visit of Lafayette to St. Louis⁶

Nov. 1825 - Visited Washington, D.C. to seek reinstatement⁷

A charge made, but dropped at the time of General Bissell's court martial, in 1816, was that he had employed soldiers in the construction of his own house, which was described as "a large house, two stories high, containing at least 14 rooms".⁸ Actually, the only house that Bissell had completed by this date was a modest stone structure on the site of the present frame wing. This must have been completed by 1812, while the L-shaped brick house was probably not completed until 1819.⁹ The placement of the brick house at the top of a rise, the fine proportions and the restrained but effective detailing combined to make the house a prominent landmark in the sparsely populated area north of the city of St. Louis and east of the village of Florissant.

Owners¹⁰

1. General Daniel Bissell - d 1833
2. Mrs. Daniel Bissell (Deborah Sebor) d 1843
3. Bissell estate - to 1846
4. James Russell Bissell - d 1887
5. Mrs. James Russell Bissell (Anna Christopher) - d 1905
6. Bissell estate - to ca. 1924
7. French Rayburn Bissell - d 1933
8. Frs. French Rayburn Bissell (Emily Watson) - d 1945
9. Mrs. Renwick Dimond (Janet Bissell) - to 1960
10. St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation

As the list above indicates, ownership of the Bissell House passed through four generations of the same family. French Rayburn Bissell, who was named for French Rayburn, a neighbor of the Bissells and early state representative,¹¹ became a successful businessman in New York City, where he was residing at the time of his death. His younger brother Daniel Russell Bissell continued to reside at what was then called Bissell Manor. He was succeeded after his death in 1934 by his son Daniel Russell, Jr.¹² At the time of the property's transfer to St. Louis County, the house was occupied by his widow, the former Winter Trader, and their son Daniel Bissell, the fourth of that name. So, the house was actually occupied by five generations of the same family.

The house built by Daniel Bissell was successively altered by each occupant. Remaining evidence of these alterations includes the Classic Revival front doorway and ground floor mantels from ca. 1849, the Victorian frame wing of ca. 1890, which replaced the old stone kitchen, and the "restorations" of 1934, which included the reconstructed outside basement entrance, and the plumbing, heating, and electrical systems.¹³ These ex-

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amples of changing taste and technology, as well as remaining pieces of Bissell family furniture and personal possessions from all these periods of occupation, make the General Daniel Bissell House exceptionally valuable as a document of St. Louis history.

Beginning in 1960, Mrs. Renwick Dimond, the daughter of French Rayburn Bissell, deeded the remaining 9.30 acres of property, together with the house, to St. Louis County. This was done in increments of one fifth over a five-year period, with the understanding that the property would be used for museum purposes.⁴ The house opened as a museum in 1964, after the last occupants, cousins of Mrs. Dimond, had moved and some refurbishing had taken place.⁵ Between 1964 and 1970, more extensive restoration and landscaping were undertaken and the collection enlarged and improved, all under the direction of the Historic Buildings Commission of St. Louis County and the Parks and Recreation Department.⁶ The property continues to be maintained as the responsibility of these two agencies.

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." The General Daniel Bissell House is, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture," "Exploration and Settlement," and "Military Affairs."

FOOTNOTES

1. Dorothy J. Caldwell (ed.), Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue (Columbia, Missouri: State Historical Society of Missouri, 1963) p. 167.
2. Dorothy Adele Brockhoff, "The Bissell Saga" (typescript, July 1962, St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department) p. 15.
3. Ibid., p. 21
4. Caldwell, p. 167.
5. Brockhoff, passim; Harold W. Ryan, "Daniel Bissell - His Story," The Bulletin, Vol. XII, No. 1, pp. 32-44.
6. Harold W. Ryan, "Daniel Bissell - 'Late General'," The Bulletin, Vol. XV, No. 1, p. 22.
7. Ibid., p. 23.
8. Brockhoff, p. 30, quoting anonymous statement filed in the Adjutant General's Records, National Archives.

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9. Gerhardt Kramer, "The Bissell House," The Bulletin, Vol. XXII, No. 4, pt. 1 (July 1966), p. 448.
10. Ibid., pp. 449-454.
11. Caldwell, p. 167.
12. Brockhoff, p. 90
13. Kramer, pp. 449, 450, and 452
14. St. Louis County Recorder of Deeds, Book 4469, page 547, Book 4732, page 366, Book 4996, page 115, Book 5572, page 201.
15. St. Louis [Missouri] Post-Dispatch, "Historic Home Becoming Museum," July 1, 1964.
16. St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department, Bissell House files.

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3. Caldwell, Dorothy J. (ed.). Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue.
Columbia, Missouri: State Historical Society of Missouri, 1963, p. 167.
4. Constantine, Don. "Bissell Home Purveys 'Lived In' Feeling," Auto Club News,
January, 1966.
5. Flannery, Toni. History Trail. St. Louis Landmarks Association of St. Louis
Inc., 1973, p. 9.
6. Heldman, Donald P. "Archaeological Excavations of the Bissell Estate." Unpub-
lished typescript, 1962.
7. Herron, Lucinda. "Time Stands Still in Bissell House," St. Louis [Missouri]
Globe Democrat, May 9, 1965.
8. Illustrated Guide to the Treasures of America.
Pleasantville, New York: The Reader's Digest Association, Inc., 1974, p. 438.
9. Kramer, Gerhardt. "The Bissell House," The Bulletin, Vol. XXII, No. 4, Pt. 1
(July 1966), pp. 446-456.
10. La Coss, Louis. "A Grandson of General Daniel Bissell Occupies House Ancestors
Built 119 Years Ago," St. Louis [Missouri] Globe Democrat, February 2, 1931.
11. McCue, George, The Building Art in St. Louis; Two Centuries. St. Louis, Amer-
ican Institute of Architects, St. Louis Chapter, 1967, p. 88.
12. Mathias, Karl. "House the General Built," The Saint Louis Magazine
Vol. IV, No. 6 (December, 1966), pp. 24-25 & 42.
13. Ryan, Harold W. "Daniel Bissell - His Story," The Bulletin, Vol. XII, No. 1,
pp. 32-44.
14. _____. "Daniel Bissell - 'Late General'," The Bulletin, Vol. XV, No. 1,
pp. 20-28.
15. St. Louis [Missouri] County Journal. July 21, 1965.
16. St. Louis [Missouri] Globe Democrat. "General Bissell's Home offered County,"
December 29, 1960.
17. _____. "Archaeological Research Planned at Bissell Estate." June 8,
1962.

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18. St. Louis [Missouri] Post Dispatch. "Bissell Manor." August 28, 1934.
19. _____. "County Historic Buildings Society will Check Legends, Seek to Discover Forgotten Sites." June 9, 1957.
20. _____. "County Council Accepts Gift of Old Bissell Home as Museum." December 29, 1960.
21. _____. Pictures (Magazine), pp. 10-12. January 1, 1969.
22. _____. "Saving of Bissell Home Gives County a Museum and Play Area." January 1, 1961.
23. _____. "20 Youngsters to Start Digging for Artifacts at Bissell Home." May 16, 1962.
24. _____. "150-Year Old Bissell Home to Become Museum; High School Students Find Artifacts on Grounds." July 5, 1962.
25. _____. "Historic Home Becoming Museum." July 1, 1964.
26. _____. "Bissell House Becomes Museum." July 26, 1964.
27. _____. "Christmas Display for Bissell House." December 9, 1964.
28. _____. "Bissell Museum; Family Home for 150 Years." June 21, 1966.
29. _____. "Bissell Barn Dedication Brings Back Memories." May 17, 1970.
30. St. Louis Watchman - Advocate, May 14, 1962.
31. Scharf, Thomas J. History of Saint Louis City and County, Vol. I. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts & Co., 1883, p. 1856.

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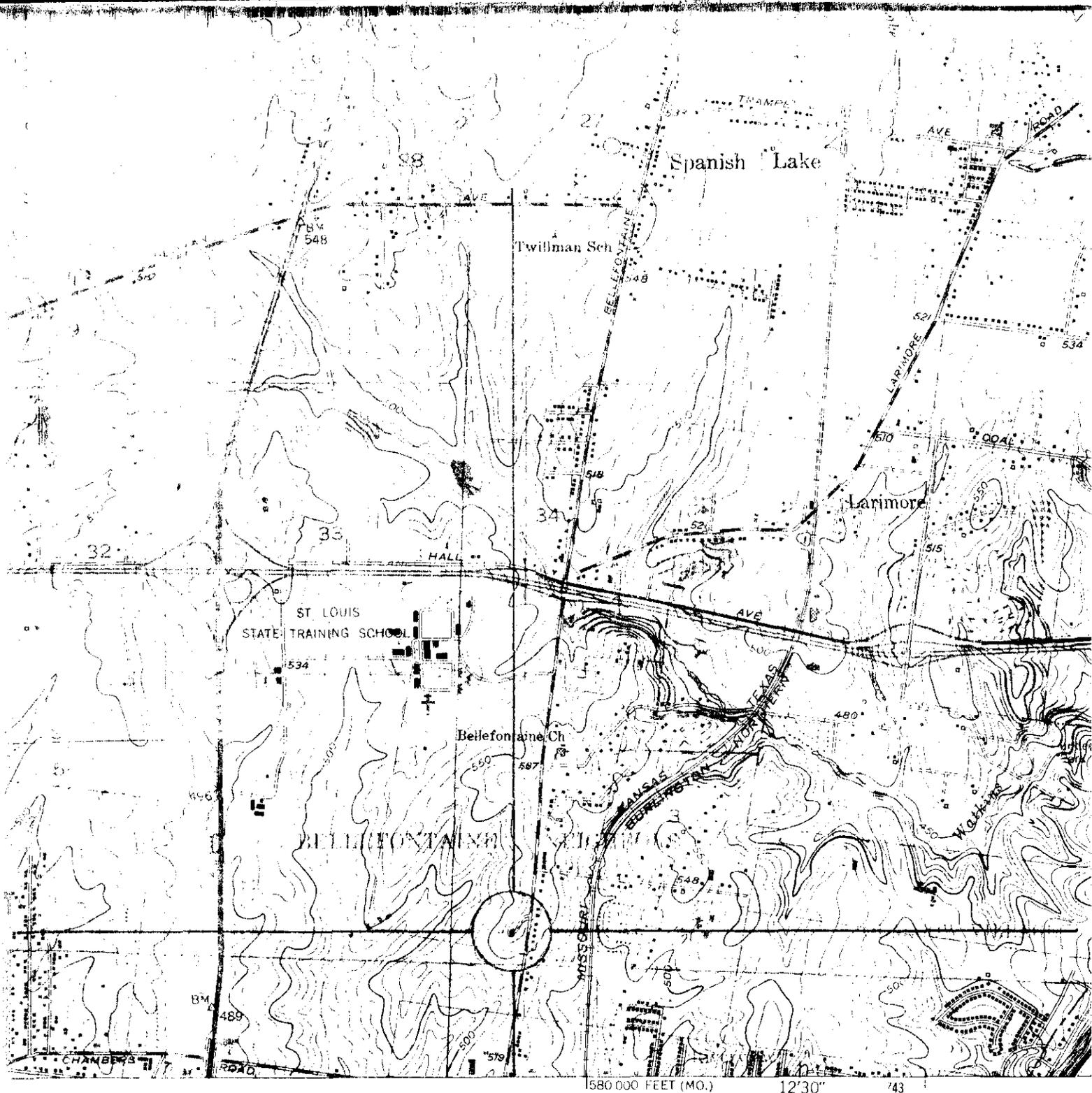
1

Book 3, page 21, of the St. Louis County records. It is a rectangular parcel bounded as follows:

Starting at the point where Bellefontaine Road meets the northern edge of property having the address 10201 Bellefontaine Road, proceed west along northern or rear edge of properties facing Gabriel Drive, then north along continuous rear (east) edge of properties facing Cabot, Addison, and Avant Drives, then east along rear (south) edge of properties facing Bakewell Drive to the southern edge of 10301 Bellefontaine Road and continuing east along this line to the point where it meets Bellefontaine Road; thence south along the western edge of Bellefontaine Road to the starting point.

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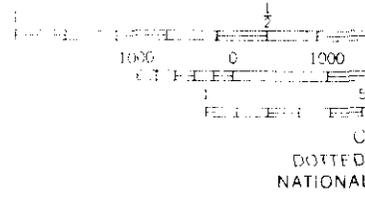
2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey (State Contact Person)
Department of Natural Resources
Office of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City
- 314/751-4096
Missouri 65102



GENERAL DANIEL BISSELL HOUSE
 Bellefontaine Neighbors, Missouri
 U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle
 "Columbia Bottom, Mo.-111." (1951; photo-revised 1968 and 1974)
 Scale: 1:24,000

UTM Reference: 15/741280/4293140

MN
 GN
 4"
 1°46' 71 MILS
 31 MILS



1M GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLI
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SU
 THE DIVISION O
 MISSOURI DEPARTMENT
 AND BY THE STATE
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOP

GENERAL DANIEL BISSELL HOUSE #1

Bellefontaine Neighbors, Missouri

photographer: Gretta Kraft

ca. November, 1977

Neg. Loc.: St. Louis County Department of
Parks and Recreation, 7900 Forsyth, Clayton,
Missouri 63105

Southeast corner, view looking northwest,
with south facade on the left and the east
facade on the right.



GENERAL DANIEL BISSELL HOUSE' #2
Bellevue Neighbors, Missouri
photographer: Gretta Kraft
ca. November, 1977

Neg. Loc.: St. Louis County Department
of Parks and Recreation, 7900 Forsyth,
Clayton, Missouri 63105

Northeast corner; view looking southwest,
with the east facade on the left and the
north facade on the right



GENERAL DANIEL BISSELL HOUSE #3
Bellevue Neighbors, Missouri
photographer: Gretta Kraft
January, 1978
Neg. Loc.: St. Louis County Department
of Parks and Recreation, 7900 Forsyth,
Clayton, Missouri 63105
Northwest corner; view looking southeast
with north facade on the left and west
facade on the right.



GENERAL DANIEL BISSELL HOUSE #4
Bellevue Neighbors, Missouri
photographer: Gretta Kraft
January, 1978

Neg. Loc.: St. Louis County Department
of Parks and Recreation, 7900 Forsyth, Clay-
ton, Missouri 63105

West facade, view looking east, with original
south wing to the right, circa 1890 addition
to the left, and the one story connecting
link in the middle.



GENERAL DANIEL BISSELL HOUSE #5
Bellevue Neighbors, Missouri
photographer: Gretta Kraft
January, 1978

Neg. Loc.: St. Louis County Department
of Parks and Recreation, 7900 Forsyth,
Clayton, Missouri 63105

Main (east) entrance; view looking west.
Boot-scrapers visible at bottom foreground of
photo, original one to the left, copy to
the right.



THE GENERAL DANIEL BISSELL HOUSE
HISTORIC RESTORATION
Administered by
THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY PARK DEPARTMENT

GENERAL DANIEL BISSELL HOUSE #6
Bellevue Neighbors, Missouri
photographer: Gretta Kraft
January, 1978

Neg. Loc.: St. Louis County Department
of Parks and Recreation, 7900 Forsyth,
Clayton, Missouri 63105

First-floor interior view, showing south
wall of southeast parlor. A copy of a
portrait of General Daniel Bissell hangs
over the fireplace mantel.



GENERAL DANIEL BISSELL HOUSE #7
Bellevue Neighbors, Missouri
photographer: Gretta Kraft
January, 1978

Neg. Loc.: St. Louis County Department
of Parks and Recreation, 7900 Forsyth,
Clayton, Missouri 63105

First-floor interior view, showing north-
east corner of south hall, with corner
staircase.



GENERAL DANIEL BISSELL HOUSE
Bellevue Neighbors, Missouri
photographer: Gretta Kraft
January, 1978

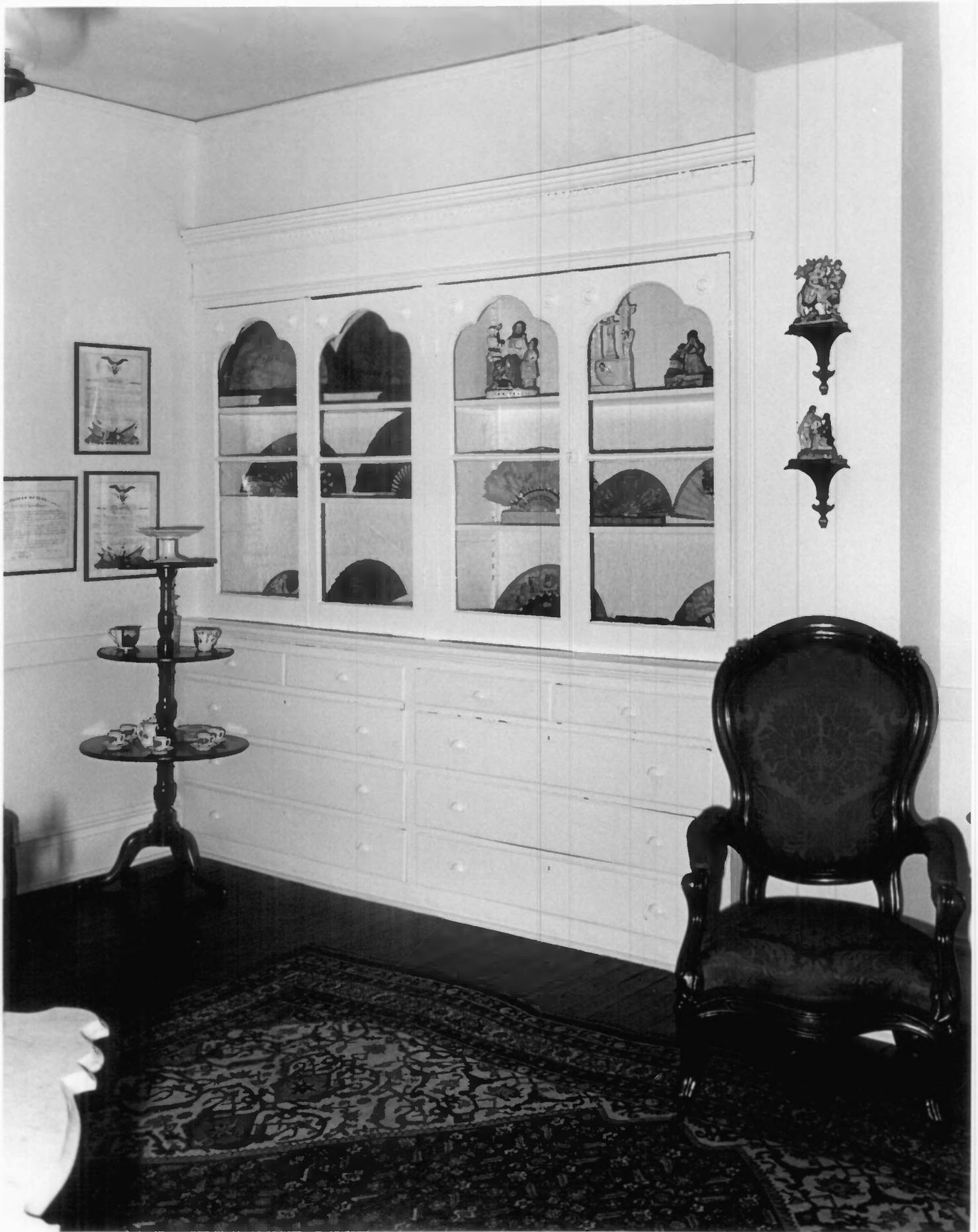
#8

Neg. Loc.: St. Louis County Department
of Parks and Recreation, 7900 Forsyth,
Clayton, Missouri 63105
First-floor interior view showing northwest
corner of south-west room, traditionally
General Bissell's bedroom, now furnished as
a dining room.



GENERAL DANIEL BISSELL HOUSE #9
Bellevue Neighbors, Missouri
photographer: Gretta Kraft
January, 1978

Neg. Loc.: St. Louis County Department
of Parks and Recreation, 7900 Forsyth,
Clayton, Missouri 63105
First-floor interior view showing southwest
corner of the main room in the frame wing,
originally used as a dining room, now arrang-
ed as a museum, with built-in cabinet.



GENERAL DANIEL BISSELL HOUSE #10

Bellefontaine Neighbors, Missouri

photographer: Gretta Kraft

January, 1978

Neg. Loc.: St. Louis County Department
of Parks and recreation, 7900 Forsyth,
Clayton, Missouri 63105

Second-floor interior view looking west from
top of main (east) staircase, showing stair-
case leading to second floor of frame wing.



GENERAL DANIEL BISSELL HOUSE #11
Bellevue Neighbors, Missouri
photographer: Gretta Kraft
January, 1978

Neg. Loc: St. Louis County Department
of Parks and Recreation, 7900 Forsyth,
Clayton, Missouri 63105

Second floor interior view showing south wall
of south-east bedroom, with unpainted fire-
place mantel.



GENERAL DANIEL BISSELL HOUSE #12
Bellevue Neighbors, Missouri
photographer: Gretta Kraft
January, 1978

Neg. Loc.: St. Louis County Department
of Parks and Recreation, 7900 Forsyth, Clay-
ton, Missouri 63105

Second-floor interior view showing north wall
of northeast bedroom with unpainted fireplace
mantel flanked by clothes cupboards.





