

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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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

 NAME

HISTORIC

Wilson Price Hunt House

AND/OR COMMON

 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

7717 Natural Bridge Road

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Normandy

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#1 Hon. William Clay

STATE

Missouri

CODE

29

COUNTY

St. Louis

CODE

189

 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT

 BUILDING(S)

___ STRUCTURE

___ SITE

___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___ PUBLIC

 PRIVATE

___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS

___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

___ OCCUPIED

___ UNOCCUPIED

 WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED

___ YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE

___ COMMERCIAL

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ GOVERNMENT

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ MILITARY

___ MUSEUM

___ PARK

 PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ RELIGIOUS

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ OTHER:

 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Elmer Drehmann, Drehmann-Harral Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

7733 Natural Bridge Road

CITY, TOWN

Normandy

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri

63121

 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds, St. Louis County Government Center

STREET & NUMBER

7900 Forsyth Blvd.

CITY, TOWN

Clayton,

STATE

Missouri

63105

 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

1. St. Louis Homes 1866-1916 by Elinor Martineau Coyle

DATE

1971

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Published by the Folkestone Press

CITY, TOWN

St. Louis

STATE

Missouri

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Federal Office Building
Washington, D.C.
20540

Continuation sheet 1 WILSON PRICE HUNT HOUSE Item number 6 Page 1

2. Missouri State Historical Survey State
1977
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Wilson Price House is a two and a half story white frame house located at 7717 Natural Bridge Road. It is set back about a hundred feet from the road between an apartment complex to the east and an undertaking establishment to the west, both placed much closer to the road.

Like other houses of the early Colonial Revival, the Hunt House has a number of design features drawn from American architecture of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries but not found in conjunction or at this scale at that time. The house has a gambrel roof with pedimented dormer windows but also a two story portico composed of four attenuated Ionic columns. The front door has wide side lights and an elaborately leaded fan light. Above this composition is a wooden balcony separate from the portico but supported by brackets. The bays flanking this central composition have Palladian windows on the first floor, with curving mullions in their arched portions. A bracketed hood shelters a minor entrance on the west side of the house, while a one-story enclosed porch projects from the east side. The house measures 46 x 44.5 feet.

Inside the ceilings on all floors are about ten feet above the floor. The central entranceway has an imposing staircase that rises to a landing where flights on both sides complete the ascent to the second floor. A large leaded glass window lights this area. According to a recent appraisal, "the marble fireplaces and floor hearths, bath fixtures and decor, lighting fixtures and room sizes are of the ultimate in quality."¹ There are six fireplaces, three on the first floor and three above them. The only significant alteration is on the third floor, where one bedroom has been converted into a dormitory-style bathroom. Both second-floor bathrooms retain their original fixtures, and the house is liberally supplied with closets.

The lot remaining with the house "is well landscaped with large old trees and mature shrubbery."² The house faces property on the south side of Natural Bridge Road that was formerly owned by the Hunt and Lucas families; now occupied by a variety of private and public institutions, it preserves a considerable degree of openness.

FOOTNOTES

1. Miller-Scheer Realtors, residential appraisal report, November 1, 1976, p.4.
2. Ibid.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 Constructed 1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As far as is known, the Wilson Price Hunt house at 7717 Natural Bridge Road is the only remaining residence built by the Lucas and Hunt families, who played an important role in the early development of both downtown St. Louis and the north central portion of St. Louis County. It is also a fine example of the Colonial Revival style, which is rare in this area.

Wilson Price Hunt (1860-1926) was the son of Charles Lucas Hunt (1820-1885) and the grandson of Captain Theodore Hunt (1780-1832) and Anna Lucas Hunt (1796-1879). Anna Lucas was the only daughter of J.B.C. Lucas (1758-1840) who was one of the wealthiest and most influential men in early St. Louis.¹ Born in Normandy, France, he had emigrated to western Pennsylvania in 1784, and in 1803 he represented that district in the U.S. Congress. In 1805 he was appointed to the Board of Commissioners for the Louisiana Territory, and it was this position that led him to St. Louis and to the extensive land acquisitions that he made here. In the city itself he owned a tract extending from Fourth Street to Jefferson Avenue on the west, a distance of twenty-five blocks, and from Market Street to St. Charles St., thus encompassing the present central business district and much more. To the northwest of the city, he and his children assembled the Normandy Park estate of some 800 acres from a cluster of lands grants that had originally been awarded to victims of the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811 and 1812. This tract today includes the municipalities of Greendale, Bel-Nor, Bellerive, Beverly Hills, and Glen Echo Park; the Glen Echo Country Club and Normandie Golf Club; the campus of the University of Missouri in St. Louis; Lake Charles cemetery; and institutions including the former St. Vincent's Hospital, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the German St. Vincent Home, Normandy Osteopathic Hospital North; and St. Anne of Normandy Catholic Church, many of them founded or substantially endowed by his descendants.² Lucas and Hunt Road, a major artery in the north county, is named for proximity to this estate. Of the five sons of J.B.C. Lucas, Robert, the eldest, a major in the U.S. Army died in 1814, and Charles, the second, was killed three years later in a notorious duel with Thomas Hart Benton.³ Only the youngest son, James H. (1800-1873), survived to divide his father's fortune with Anne Lucas Hunt.

Anne Lucas married Theodore Hunt in 1814. "Widely traveled, urbane and well-educated," he had been born in New Jersey and had seen Calcutta, Canton, and Tripoli (where he had been held for ransom), before coming to St. Louis in 1813 as an agent for John Jacob Astor.⁴ After his death, his widow married his cousin Wilson Price Hunt (1783-1842), who figures in Washington Irving's Astoria, an account of Astor's

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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1810 expedition to Oregon, and who was involved in other exploration of the West.⁵ In her later years, Mrs. Hunt devoted much attention to the catholic charities of St. Louis and is said to have given or bequeathed nearly a million dollars to them.⁶

Her only son, Charles Lucas Hunt (1820-1885), was named for her murdered brother. He worked at various times as an apothecary, a farmer, and a publisher (The Leader lost \$150,000 between 1856 and 1858) but was best known as a wing shot and race-horse fancier.⁷

Wilson Price Hunt, the namesake of his step-grandfather, was an insurance broker.⁸ A few years after his marriage to Georgia A. McKinney, he built the house on Natural Bridge Road on land that had been left to his grandmother by Charles Lucas. It is a splendid example of the first phase of the Georgian Revival, freely using motifs from pre- and post-revolutionary American architecture without concern for antiquarian accuracy.⁹ Because of early restrictions against frame construction in most parts of St. Louis, houses of this type are found almost exclusively in the County; within this group the Hunt House is outstanding for its scale and detailing.

The house remained in the Hunt Family until the late 1950's when it was sold to Crawford A. King. Mrs. King called the house "King's Manor" and used it for weddings and receptions.¹⁰ In 1961 it was sold to the Ursuline Sisters of Paola, Kansas, who in turn sold it to the present owner in 1971. The Normandy Historical Association is currently attempting to raise funds to purchase and restore the house, "not only as a symbol of the area's heritage, but also as a community gathering place."¹¹

FOOTNOTES

1. Louis Houck, A History of Missouri (Chicago: R.R. Donnelley, 1908), Vol. III, p.41; Frederick L. Billon, Annals of St. Louis (St. Louis: Author, 1888), Vol. II, pp. 213-215.
2. "The Lucases-Hunts," St. Louis (Missouri) Globe Democrat, September 4, 1934.
3. Thomas J. Scharf, History of Saint Louis City and County (Philadelphia, Louis H. Everts & Co., 1883), pp 1849-1853; Houck, Vol. III, pp 77-79; Billon, p. 215.

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4. Missouri Historical Society, Bulletin, Vol IV, No. 4 (July, 1948), pp. 272-273.
Also Howard L. Conard, ed., Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri (New York, Louisville, and St. Louis: The Southern History Co., 1901), Vol. III, pp.327-328; Billon, Vol. II, p. 260.
5. Billon, Vol. II, p. 193.
6. Conard, Vol. IV, pp 131-132; Scharf, p. 1413.
7. Undated obituary notice, Missouri Historical Society scrapbooks.
8. Undated obituary notice (he died January 12, 1926), Missouri Historical Society scrapbooks.
9. Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1780 (Cambridge, Mass.: M.I.T. Press, 1969), pp. 159-165.
10. Joan Foster, "Her home is open house for weddings," St. Louis (Missouri) Globe Democrat, December 10, 1958.
11. Barbara Briggs, "Group working to restore historic house," St. Louis (Missouri) Globe Democrat, October 10, 1979, p. W-1.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Benz, Doris and Windt, Barbara Ann. History of Normandy. Normandy, Mo: Normandy District School Central Office, 1973
2. Billon, Frederick L. Annals of St. Louis. St. Louis: Author, 1888, Vol. II, pp. 193, 213-16, 260.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .57 Acre

QUADRANGLE NAME "Clayton, Mo."

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 115 734 4215 42187151010

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A tract of land in U.S. Survey 2508, Township 46 North, Range 6 East, having a front of 125 feet on the North line of Natural Bridge Road by a depth North between parallel lines of 200 feet to the South lines of Lots 20, 21 and 22 of Normandy Heights, a

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Missouri	29	St. Louis	189
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

T. Esley Hamilton

ORGANIZATION

St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department

DATE

December 1979

STREET & NUMBER

1723 Mason Road

TELEPHONE

(314) 822-8475

CITY OR TOWN

St. Louis

STATE

Missouri 63131

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL x

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Director, Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FDR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

3. Briggs, Barbara. "Group working to restore historic house," St. Louis (Missouri) Globe Democrat, October 10, 1979, p. W1.
4. Conard, Howard L, ed. Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri. New York, Louisville & St. Louis: The Southern History Company, 1901, Vol. III, pp. 327-328; Vol. IV, pp. 131-132.
5. Foster, Joan "Her home is open house for weddings," St. Louis (Missouri) Globe Democrat, December 10, 1958.
6. Houck, Louis. A History of Missouri. Chicago: R.R. Donnelley, 1980, Vol. III pp. 41, 77-79
7. St. Louis (Missouri) Globe Democrat, "The Lucases-Hunts," September 5, 1934.
8. Scharf, Thomas J. History of Saint Louis City and County. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts & Co, 1883.

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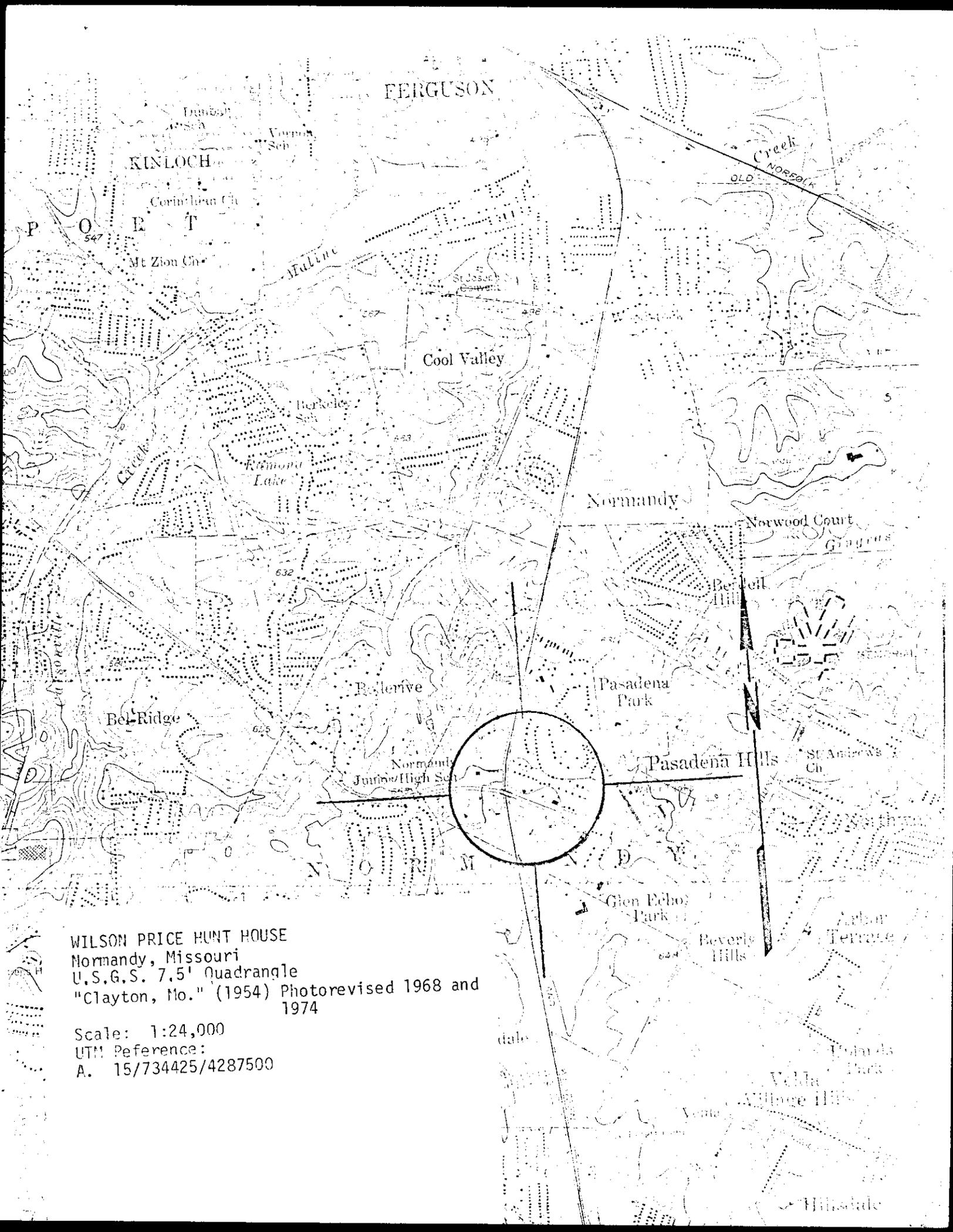
CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Subdivision, recorded in Plat Book 3 page 6 of the St. Louis County Records, said tract being bounded on the West by the East line of Lot 4 of said Normandy Heights.

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations- Survey
and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Office of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City | March 7, 1980
314/751-4096
Missouri 65101 |
|---|---|



WILSON PRICE HUNT HOUSE
Normandy, Missouri
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle
"Clayton, Mo." (1954) Photorevised 1968 and 1974

Scale: 1:24,000
UTM Reference:
A. 15/734425/4287500

Wilson Price Hunt House
7717 Natural Bridge Rd., Normandy, Mo. 63121
Photo credited to Esley Hamilton, Jan. 1980
Negative filed at St. Louis County Parks
and Recreation Dept.
View of house from southwest
Photo Number One of One

