

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# 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 St. Ferdinand Avenue in The Ville Historic District

other names/site number n/a

### 2. Location

street & number 4200 W. Block of St. Ferdinand Avenue (South Side) n/a not for publication

city or town St. Louis n/a Vicinity

state Missouri code MO county St. Louis City code 510 zip code 63113

### 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

Mark A. Miles Nov 21, 2011  
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles, 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

St. Ferdinand Avenue in The Ville Historic District  
Name of Property

St. Louis (Ind. City), Missouri  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
15	2	buildings
0	0	district
0	0	site
0	0	structure
0	0	object
15	2	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

Historic and Architectural Resources of The Ville, St. Louis, Missouri

\_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

VACANT

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals

foundation: Stone

Late 19th Century and 20th Century Revivals

walls: Brick

Second Empire

Stucco

Italianate

roof: \_\_\_\_\_

Renaissance Revival

other: Terra cotta

Wood

St. Ferdinand Avenue in The Ville Historic District  
Name of Property

St. Louis (Ind. City), Missouri  
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.

**Areas of Significance**

ETHNIC HERITAGE/Black

**Period of Significance**

1907-1954

**Significant Dates**

n/a

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation**

n/a

**Architect/Builder**

Gordon-Horen Real Estate Company, builder

Guarantee Construction Company, arch./builder

(Continued)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

St. Ferdinand Avenue in The Ville Historic District  
Name of Property

St. Louis (Ind. City), Missouri  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 1.84 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>740 150</u> Easting	<u>4282 670</u> Northing	3	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>740 300</u> Easting	<u>4282 440</u> Northing
2	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>740 330</u> Easting	<u>4282 560</u> Northing	4	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>740 080</u> Easting	<u>4282 550</u> Northing

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Lynn Josse and Michael R. Allen/Architectural Historians

organization Preservation Research Office date July 29, 2011

street & number 3517 Connecticut Street telephone 314-229-0793

city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63118

e-mail lynn@preservationresearch.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.**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name See attached.

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

St. Ferdinand Avenue in The Ville Historic District  
Historic and Architectural Resources of The Ville, St. Louis, Missouri  
St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

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### Summary

The St. Ferdinand Avenue in The Ville Historic District consists of most of the southern side of the 4200 West block of St. Ferdinand Avenue in The Ville neighborhood of St. Louis, Missouri. Included within the District are 14 contributing primary buildings, all residential, and one contributing shed, as well as one non-contributing primary building and one non-contributing garage. Across the street from the District is the south elevation of historic Sumner High School (NR 4/19/1988). All primary buildings in the district were built between 1884 and 1928. The majority of contributing buildings, nine, are one-story, flat-roofed residences built between 1884 and 1887. Several of these buildings have high basement stories, stone faces and ornamental wooden cornices, and most of these nine are in the Italianate style. Other buildings include single-family dwellings, two-family dwellings and one four-family dwelling. The buildings are all flat-roofed, have stone foundations and masonry walls. Historically, not every lot on this block was built upon. Within the District, the buildings at 4224 and 4236 W. St. Ferdinand sit on larger lots with side yards created on double-sized parcels within the period of significance.

### Setting

The St. Ferdinand Avenue in The Ville Historic District is at the northern end of a largely residential part of The Ville neighborhood of north St. Louis city, located approximately five miles northwest of the Mississippi River at downtown. This area is laid out on a grid of streets and alleys oriented slightly northwest, with the long sides of blocks on the east-west axis. To the north is the institutional grouping around Tandy Park. This area of The Ville has suffered many demolitions, and some blocks contain only isolated buildings while others have larger and more intact groups. There is much vacant land in this part of the neighborhood.

The south side of this block has a continuous sidewalk that forms a tree lawn between it and the curb; there are several trees planted in that lawn. The buildings share a setback line, and in front have sloped lawns planted with trees, shrubs and ornamental plantings. Historic side yards break up the building line with landscaped spaces. An alley runs continuously at the south end of the parcels.

### Integrity

The District meets standards for integrity established in the MPDF for districts eligible under the registration requirements for Property Type 4: Groups of Residences/Districts. The St. Ferdinand Historic District retains integrity of location, setting, materials, feeling, workmanship and association and reflects its historic appearance. The location of four empty lots within the district does not detract from the overall streetscape because these lots are isolated from each other and historically the block face included side yards. There are only two non-contributing buildings: The house at 4228 W. St. Ferdinand Avenue, clad in simulated stone masonry that could potentially be removed, and a garage at 4276 W. St. Ferdinand Avenue. Overall, the streetscape retains the historic character that it possessed during its period of significance when it was a block inhabited by working and middle-class African-Americans in the 20th century.

### Inventory

4214 W. ST. FERDINAND AVENUE (Photograph 5)  
1911

Architect: Scholl, Jas. D.  
Style: Late 19th/Early 20th Century American Movements  
Historic function: Multiple dwelling                      MPDF property type: Multi-Family Dwelling

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St. Ferdinand Avenue in The Ville Historic District  
Historic and Architectural Resources of The Ville, St. Louis, Missouri  
St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

Stories: 2 Roof shape: Flat  
Porch: Open porch Roof material:  
Wall material: Brick Foundation: Stone

The front wall of this two-story, flat-roofed building is clad in brown brick. There is a stone retaining wall along the alley in ashlar bond where it joins the foundation wall. A concrete stoop with wooden columns supports a low gabled roof. Entrances have wooden multi-light doors. The window openings on each side of the entrance bay have white terra cotta surrounds. Decorative terra cotta pieces are laid in the wall over the entrance and in the parapet. The front parapet has terra cotta coping.

*1 Contributing*

4218 W. ST. FERDINAND AVENUE (Photograph 5)  
1884

Architect: Unknown Builder: Unknown  
Style: Late 19th/20th Century Revivals  
Historic function: Single dwelling MPDF property type: Single Family Dwelling  
Stories: 2 Roof shape: Flat  
Porch: Stoop Roof material:  
Wall material: Brick Foundation: Stone

The front elevation is painted while the other three elevations are red brick. The entrance is in the right bay. The window openings have stone sills with consoles and segmental arches. The windows are wooden one-over-ones. Stone steps lead to the entrance, which has a wooden surround and metal security door with a wooden replacement door and wooden transom window behind. The cornice is missing and the area where it was is parged.

*1 Contributing*

4224 W. ST. FERDINAND AVENUE (Photograph 4)  
1928

Architect: Standish, J. Builder: Gordon-Horen Realty Co  
Style: Renaissance Revival  
Historic function: Multiple dwelling MPDF property type: Multi-Family Dwellings  
Stories: 2 Roof shape: Flat  
Porch: Full/balcony Roof material:  
Wall material: Brick Foundation: Stone

This two-story, flat-roofed building has a front wall of brown brick with contrasting buff brick. At the top of the front elevation, large wooden brackets support a false mansard roof clad in green clay tile. Concrete steps lead up to the porch, which has a brick skirt. Round arched entrances at each side contain wooden doors. Shed-roof hoods with green clay tile join the central porch structure and have wooden brackets at the ends. The central porch structure consists of an arcade under a metal-railed balcony above. French doors in the arched opening are flanked by a smaller arched window opening at the first floor. A jack-arch door opening is flanked by smaller window openings at the second floor trimmed in contrasting brick. The door is a replacement with multi-light wooden windows.

*1 Contributing*

4226 W. ST. FERDINAND AVENUE (Photograph 4)  
c. 1885

Architect: Unknown Builder: Unknown  
Style: Late 19th/Early 20th Century American Movements  
Historic function: Single dwelling MPDF property type: Single Family Dwelling  
Stories: 1 Roof shape: Flat  
Porch: Recessed 1-story Roof material:

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St. Ferdinand Avenue in The Ville Historic District  
Historic and Architectural Resources of The Ville, St. Louis, Missouri  
St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

Wall material: Synthetics Foundation: Stone

The entire three-bay façade of this single-story house is clad in imitation stone veneer. A Roman arch sits over a recessed entrance at the right. A small sloped roof is at the top of the façade instead of a front parapet.

*1 Non-Contributing*

4236 W. ST. FERDINAND AVENUE (Photograph 3)  
c. 1885

Architect: Unknown Builder: Unknown  
Style: Second Empire  
Historic function: Single dwelling MPDF property type: Single Family Dwelling  
Stories: 2 Roof shape: Flat  
Porch: Recessed 1-story Roof material:  
Wall material: Brick Foundation: Stone

This two-story, flat-roofed building has a painted brick façade. Concrete steps lead up to a Roman arch entrance. There is a wooden door and casement in recess. Flat fascia above the first floor suggests a wooden cornice was removed. Wooden gabled dormers on the second floor mansard have window openings containing wooden two-over-two windows. The mansard roof is clad in hexagonal asphalt shingles.

*1 Contributing*

4240 W. ST. FERDINAND AVENUE (Photograph 3)  
c. 1885

Architect: Unknown Builder: Unknown  
Style: Late 19th/20th Century Revivals  
Historic function: Single dwelling MPDF property type: Multi-Family Dwelling  
Stories: 2 Roof shape: Flat  
Porch: Recessed 1-story Roof material:  
Wall material: Brick Foundation: Stone

This two-story, flat-roofed building has a red brick front elevation above a painted stone foundation. The entrance is in the slightly projecting right bay. Window openings have brackets, stone sills, and carved patternwork in wooden eyebrows. Paired one-over-one windows are at the left bay openings, and a single one-over-one window is over the jack-arch recessed entrance in the right bay. The cornice is missing and the area is sided in vinyl.

*1 Contributing*

4244 W. ST. FERDINAND AVENUE (Photograph 3)  
1926

Architect/Builder: Guarantee Const. Co.  
Style: Late 19th/Early 20th Century American Movements  
Historic function: Multiple dwelling MPDF property type: Multi-Family Dwelling  
Stories: 2 Roof shape: Flat  
Porch: Open Porch Roof material:  
Wall material: Brick Foundation: Stone

This two-story, flat-roofed building is clad in brown brick. Concrete steps lead up to the porch at right; the brick porch piers have tapered bases. The porch has a low gabled roof with wooden fascia and a gable end. On the porch, entrances with wooden doors are separated by a window opening. There is a bracketed overhang with a hipped roof at top. Paired one-over-one windows are at the openings at the left bay and over the porch.

*1 Contributing*

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St. Ferdinand Avenue in The Ville Historic District  
Historic and Architectural Resources of The Ville, St. Louis, Missouri  
St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

4246 W. ST. FERDINAND AVENUE (Photograph 3)  
c. 1885

Architect: Unknown Builder: Unknown  
Style: Late 19th/Early 20th Century American Movements  
Historic function: Single dwelling MPDF property type: Single Family Dwelling  
Stories: 1 Roof shape: Flat  
Porch: Stoop and Hood Roof material:  
Wall material: Brick Foundation: Stone

This one-story, flat-roofed house has a raised basement. Concrete steps rise to a stoop at the right (west) bay that is open underneath. Stone-silled window openings have segmental arches and contain wooden two-over-two windows. The entrance has a segmental arch and a metal-framed plastic awning. Instead of a full parapet wall, there is a false mansard between two ends of a parapet wall. The brick façade is painted.

*1 Contributing*

4254 W. ST. FERDINAND AVENUE (Photograph 3)  
1885

Architect: Unknown Builder: Unknown  
Style: Italianate  
Historic function: Single dwelling MPDF property type: Single Family Dwelling  
Stories: 1 Roof shape: Flat  
Porch: Deck Roof material:  
Wall material: Stone Foundation: Stone

This one-story, flat-roofed building has a raised basement with entrances and full window openings at the basement and first floor levels. The entrances are in the rightmost (west) bay. Wooden steps and a deck lead to the first floor. Stone cladding is present on the front elevation, and the sides are brick. First floor openings have carved patternwork on flat earmolds; the window openings have bracketed stone sills. The entrance has a wooden casement at the front and a wooden door in the inset opening. A bracketed wooden cornice with decorated fascia wraps the corners.

Shed: There is a one-story gabled frame shed clad in wooden siding.

*2 Contributing*

4258 W. ST. FERDINAND AVENUE  
1886

Architect: Unknown Builder: Unknown  
Style: Late 19th/Early 20th Century American Movements  
Historic function: Single dwelling MPDF property type: Single Family Dwelling  
Stories: 1 Roof shape: Flat  
Porch: Stoop Roof material:  
Wall material: Stone Foundation: Stone

This one-story, flat-roofed building has a raised basement with full window openings and entrances at the basement and first floors. All openings are boarded. There are stone sills with consoles at the first floor windows and carved patternwork in flat earmolds over the first floor openings. The cornice is missing.

*1 Contributing*

4260 W. ST. FERDINAND AVENUE  
1910

Architect/Builder: Miller, John  
Style: Late 19th/Early 20th Century American Movements

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St. Ferdinand Avenue in The Ville Historic District  
Historic and Architectural Resources of The Ville, St. Louis, Missouri  
St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

Historic function: Single dwelling MPDF property type: Single Family Dwelling  
Stories: 1 Roof shape: Flat  
Porch: Recessed 1-story Roof material:  
Wall material: Brick Foundation: Stone

This one-story, flat-roofed brick building has stone steps to a Roman arch entrance at its right (west) bay. The entrance sides and ceiling are clad in beadboard; a wooden door is in the casement. The window opening has a segmental arch, stone sill, and a wooden one-over-one window. The stepped parapet is topped by clay coping tile. The façade is painted.

*1 Contributing*

4262 W. ST. FERDINAND AVENUE  
1885

Architect: Unknown Builder: Unknown  
Style: Italianate  
Historic function: Single dwelling MPDF property type: Single Family Dwelling  
Stories: 1 Roof shape: Flat  
Porch: Side: Stoop and Hood Roof material:  
Wall material: Brick Foundation: Stone

This one-story, flat-roofed house has a painted brick front elevation and a rusticated stone foundation. A bracketed wooden cornice sits above two centered window bays. The openings on the first floor have segmental arches and iron sills with undersized replacement windows. The basement openings have jack-arches and replacement windows. The entrance is at the side on the east elevation between two full-sized window openings.

*1 Contributing*

4270 W. ST. FERDINAND AVENUE (Photograph 2)  
1887

Architect: Unknown Builder: Unknown  
Style: Italianate  
Historic function: Single dwelling MPDF property type: Single Family Dwelling  
Stories: 1 Roof shape: Flat  
Porch: Roof material:  
Wall material: Stone Foundation: Stone

This one-story, flat-roofed building has a painted front elevation. The sides walls are red brick, with broken parapet sections that rise toward the front, perhaps as part of a removed false mansard. Wooden brackets support a cornice that has been altered with plywood cladding. The front elevation is stone, with a high basement and full openings on each level. The openings have flat carved earmolds that rise to form keystones. Bracketed stone sills on window openings. The recessed entrance has the original wooden casement. All openings are boarded. Concrete steps lead to the porch with metal railing.

*1 Contributing*

4272 W. ST. FERDINAND AVENUE (Photograph 2)  
1887

Architect: Unknown Builder: Unknown  
Style: Late 19th/Early 20th Century American Movements  
Historic function: Single dwelling MPDF property type: Single Family Dwelling  
Stories: 1 Roof shape: Flat  
Porch: Stoop and Hood Roof material:  
Wall material: Stone Foundation: Stone

National Register of Historic Places  
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St. Ferdinand Avenue in The Ville Historic District  
Historic and Architectural Resources of The Ville, St. Louis, Missouri  
St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

This one-story, flat-roofed house has a high basement. The entrance bay is recessed at left. Concrete steps and stoop lead to a metal awning over the entrance. Window bays are clad in stone with carved, shaped lintels. There are stone sills with brackets. The parapet has relays of brown brick with bakery brick accents and stone coping. The home has replacement windows and door.

*1 Contributing*

4276 W. ST. FERDINAND AVENUE (Photograph 2)  
1887

Architect:	Unknown	Builder:	Unknown
Style:	Italianate		
Historic function:	Single dwelling	MPDF property type:	Single Family Dwelling
Stories:	1	Roof shape:	Flat
Porch:	Open Porch	Roof material:	
Wall material:	Stone	Foundation:	Stone

This one-story, flat-roofed building has a painted stone front elevation and red brick sides. The building has a high basement, with window openings and entrances at each level. Wooden steps lead to a wooden porch with a gabled roof and a decorated pediment in the gable end. The entrance is recessed, with a wooden casement and door. The openings have ornamental stone lintels, and first floor window openings have bracketed stone sills. A bracketed wooden cornice has decorative fascia; the top of the cornice is partly wrapped in metal. Concrete piers support a small frame addition with a low hipped roof on the east elevation.

Garage: There is a one-story, flat-roofed concrete masonry unit garage.

*1 Contributing*

*1 Non-Contributing*

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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St. Ferdinand Avenue in The Ville Historic District  
Historic and Architectural Resources of The Ville, St. Louis, Missouri  
St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

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### Architects and Builders Continued

Miller, John, architect/builder  
Scholl, Jas. D., architect  
Standish, J., architect

### Summary

The St. Ferdinand Avenue in The Ville Historic District is significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK for its association with the history of St. Louis, as described in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) "Historic and Architectural Resources of The Ville, St. Louis, Missouri." The historic resources within the District housed, during the period of significance, an economically diverse population which is representative of the composition of the larger community. These population trends and their significance are described in Context III: The Ville as the Product of Residential Segregation Policies, 1910-1950. The 14 primary contributing resources are all single or multiple dwellings. The District's period of significance begins in 1907, when the first African-American household moved into the District, and ends in 1954 when significant changes at Sumner High School resulted in the block's current appearance.

### Background

In 2009 and 2010, the City of St. Louis commissioned an HPF-funded survey of 370 resources in The Ville in an attempt to identify which buildings and groups of buildings were potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The survey boundaries were Kennerly Avenue on the north, the alley east of Belle Glade Avenue on the east, the alley south of Dr. Martin Luther King drive on the south and Newstead Avenue on the west. This area of The Ville, located between the commercial district on Martin Luther King (formerly Easton) and the institutions around Tandy Park, was once the densely populated core of the neighborhood. Due to extensive disinvestment and demolition, only a few blocks retain their ability to convey the significance of the Ville as the cultural center of black St. Louis. Nomination of these remaining groups of buildings is intended to facilitate preservation of The Ville's most intact blocks and individual resources.

### St. Ferdinand Avenue and African-American Settlement in The Ville (Context III: The Ville as the Product of Residential Segregation Policies, 1910-1950)

This small district of only 15 primary buildings is an intact streetscape with examples of several 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century property types common in The Ville, including a higher than average concentration of 19<sup>th</sup> century single story houses (nine out of 15). By 1890, eleven of the district's primary buildings were already extant, most on double lots. The first African American residents on the block, according to City Directory research, appear to have been the Robert Story family at 4269 W. St. Ferdinand. The family's first listing at this address occurred in 1897. In the 1900 census, four black families were noted on the north side of this block, across the street from the proposed district. (None of the houses on the north, or odd, side of the street are extant.)

Condemnation of the Sumner High School site just one half-block to the north resulted in major controversy among neighborhood white property owners in 1907-1909, although no specific link to

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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St. Ferdinand Avenue in The Ville Historic District  
Historic and Architectural Resources of The Ville, St. Louis, Missouri  
St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

residents on St. Ferdinand has been noted. The number of African American residents on the block increased in the years leading up to 1910. Within the district, Frederick and Mary McDonald were in their house at 4246 W. St., Ferdinand by 1907. At least two other households in the district were occupied by black renters in 1910. This increase corresponds with the pattern of black settlement around Sumner High School described in the MPDF. White neighbors noted the increase as well. Michael Mullen, who as president of the Northwestern Protective Association was a key figure in the failed attempt to block the school, stated in 1908 that many black families had already moved nearby in anticipation.<sup>i</sup>

In contrast to the later pattern of strict segregation by block, the 4200 W. block of St. Ferdinand remained integrated from the late 1890s into the 1910s. While the block was still mixed in 1909, it was clearly considered a safe place for African Americans to move. This is illustrated in the story of the Spann family, who moved here that summer after intimidation and threats from whites at their previous home on the 4500 block of Cottage (just a few blocks to the northwest).<sup>ii</sup>

As outlined in the MPDF, the African American population of St. Louis increased between 1910 and 1920 even as housing restrictions became more formalized. Later building types reflected the enforced density of the neighborhood. All three of the district's multi-family buildings were constructed after 1910 (in 1911, 1926 and 1928). One particularly dense household in 1930 (occupying both of the then-new flats at 4224 W. St. Ferdinand) included 15 family members and four generations. The older buildings also accommodated a heavier load. Split into two units, the building next door at 4218 housed even more people: a nine-member family in one unit took in a roomer, and a six-member extended family occupied the other unit. A total of seven households in 1930 took in roomers.

In the same year, seven of the buildings in the district were owned by their occupants, including five of the single story houses. Four of the houses on the block offered one of the rarest of all land uses in The Ville: large side yards. Family size in that year varied from two to 15. As discussed in the MPDF, the scarcity of housing options for African Americans encouraged residents of The Ville from varied occupations and classes to live together in a tight-knit community. The St. Ferdinand district demonstrates this pattern. Residents who owned restaurants, managed garages and taught in the public schools lived side by side with janitors and laundresses. Illustrating many of the other jobs available to African Americans in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, residents operated elevators, pumped gas, worked on Pullman cars (as porters, cabinetmakers and electricians), and were chauffeurs and domestics. Teachers, the voice of educational and moral authority within the schools as well as in the neighborhood, were well represented: the 1943 Negro Directory listed four teachers living in the district.<sup>iii</sup>

The 4200 W. block of St. Ferdinand Avenue changed significantly when the Board of Education expanded Sumner High School. Before breaking ground on a large Modern Movement addition (dated 1954), the Board of Education acquired all parcels on the north side of the street and demolished the entirety of the densely built block face. This final addition to the city's premiere black high school prior to the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision is a significant feature of the school, and its construction had such

<sup>i</sup> "Negro School Site Depends on Park Vote," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* November 1, 1908. p. 4S.

<sup>ii</sup> "Negroes' Home Smashed after They Leave It," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, August 20 1909, p. 4. In the face of increasing intimidation, Mrs. Spann moved to St. Ferdinand while her husband, a Pullman porter, was out of town. That night "a crowd" broke in and vandalized the home on Cottage, posting notices to "take warning" and not return.

<sup>iii</sup> As explained in the associated MPDF page E21, derived from Grace and Herman Morgan Interview, Oral History interview conducted by Priscilla Dowden and Athinia Frazier, September 7, 1997. Transcript, City of St. Louis Cultural Resources Office, The Ville files.

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St. Ferdinand Avenue in The Ville Historic District  
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St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

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an effect on the historic district that it defines the end of the period of significance. Today, the district retains substantially its 1954 appearance.

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District

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St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

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Historic and Architectural Resources of The Ville, St. Louis, Missouri  
St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

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**Boundary Description**

The boundary of the St. Ferdinand Avenue in The Ville Historic District is indicated by a heavy black line on the accompanying scaled map entitled "St. Ferdinand Avenue Historic District" (attached).

**Boundary Justification**

The St. Ferdinand Avenue in The Ville Historic District includes as many resources on its block as can be included in a district eligible under the registration requirements for Property Type 4: Groups of Residences/Districts under the *Historic and Architectural Resources of The Ville* MPDF. The boundary excludes vacant land and adjacent groups of buildings whose density levels render them ineligible for listing as part of this building group under the MPDF.

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Historic and Architectural Resources of The Ville, St. Louis, Missouri  
St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

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**Photographs**

Unless otherwise indicated, the following is true for all photographs submitted with this nomination:

St. Ferdinand Avenue in The Ville Historic District  
St. Louis City, Missouri  
Photographer: Michael R. Allen  
Digital source files in the collection of the Preservation Research Office.

The date that the photographs were taken:  
May 2011

The descriptions of the photographs are as follow:

1. View looking southeast toward the south face of St. Ferdinand Avenue.
2. View looking southwest toward (from left) 4270, 4272 and 4276 W. St. Ferdinand Avenue.
3. View looking southwest showing (from left) 4236, 4240, 4244, 4246 and 4254 W. St. Ferdinand Avenue.
4. View looking southeast showing (from left) 4224 and 4226 W. St. Ferdinand Avenue.
5. View looking southwest toward the district showing (from left) 4214 and 4218 W. St. Ferdinand Avenue.

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St. Ferdinand Avenue in The Ville Historic District  
Historic and Architectural Resources of The Ville, St. Louis, Missouri  
St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

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4214  
Julia McLeod c/o  
Mildred Norful  
4214 W. St. Ferdinand Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63113

4218  
B.J. & Mildred Miles  
4218 W. St. Ferdinand Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63113

4224  
Wendy McPherson  
4224 W. St. Ferdinand Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63113

4226  
Kathleen E. Carter  
4226 W. St. Ferdinand Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63113

4236  
Angela Tutt  
4101 Oregon Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63121

4240  
Jerry M. Carter, Arthur M. Carter & Russell B.  
Carter  
4240 W. St. Ferdinand Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63113

4244  
Ruby Hope  
4221 W. Evans Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63113

4246  
Vivian L. Brown  
PO Box 7903  
St. Louis, MO 63106

4254  
Verna D. Wallace  
4254 W. St. Ferdinand Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63113

4258  
Urban Assets LLC  
515 Olive Street #1608  
St. Louis, MO 63101

4260  
Raymond B. Center  
4137 Labadie 1FL  
St. Louis, MO 63115

4262  
Candace White  
4262 W. St. Ferdinand Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63113

4270  
Vivian L. Brown & Carol J. Carter  
PO Box 7903  
St. Louis, MO 63106

4272  
Ethelyn M. Anderson et al  
4272 W. St. Ferdinand Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63113

4276  
Ethelyn M. Anderson et al  
4272 W. St. Ferdinand Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63113

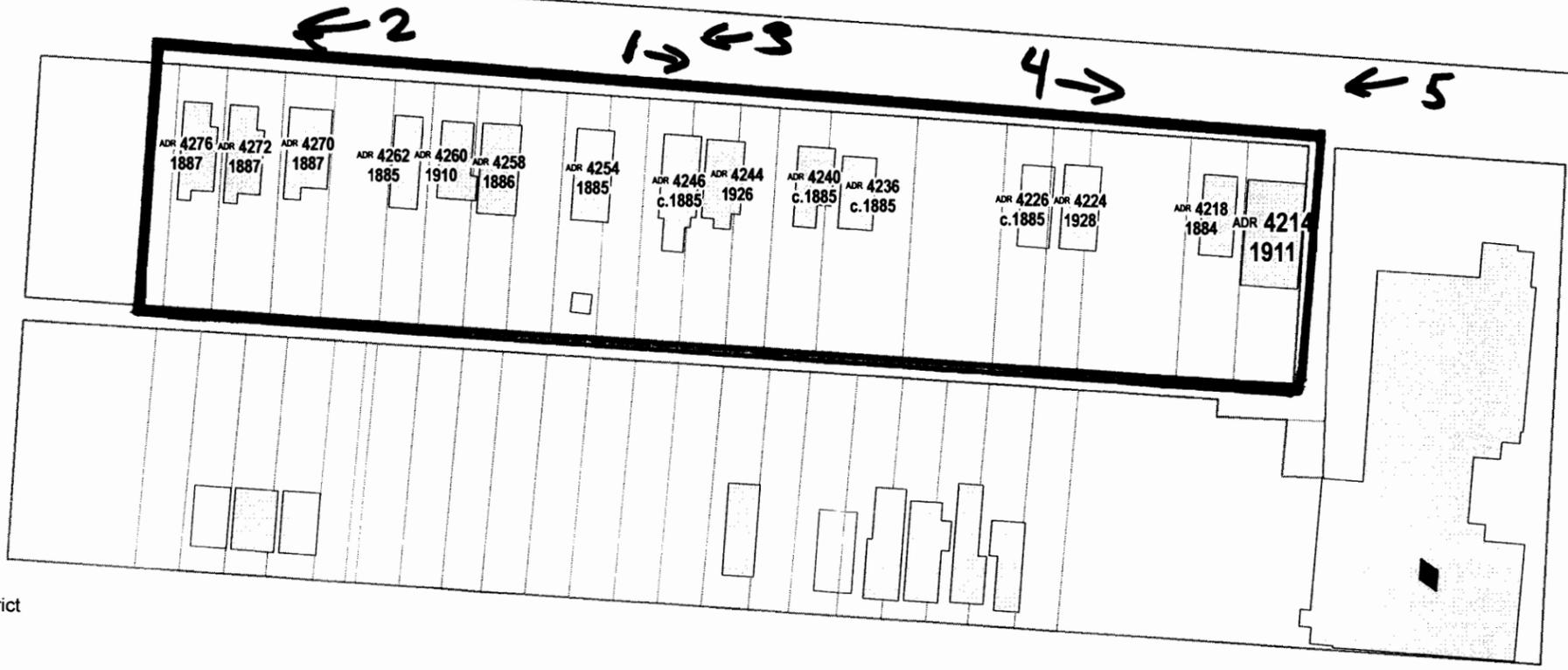
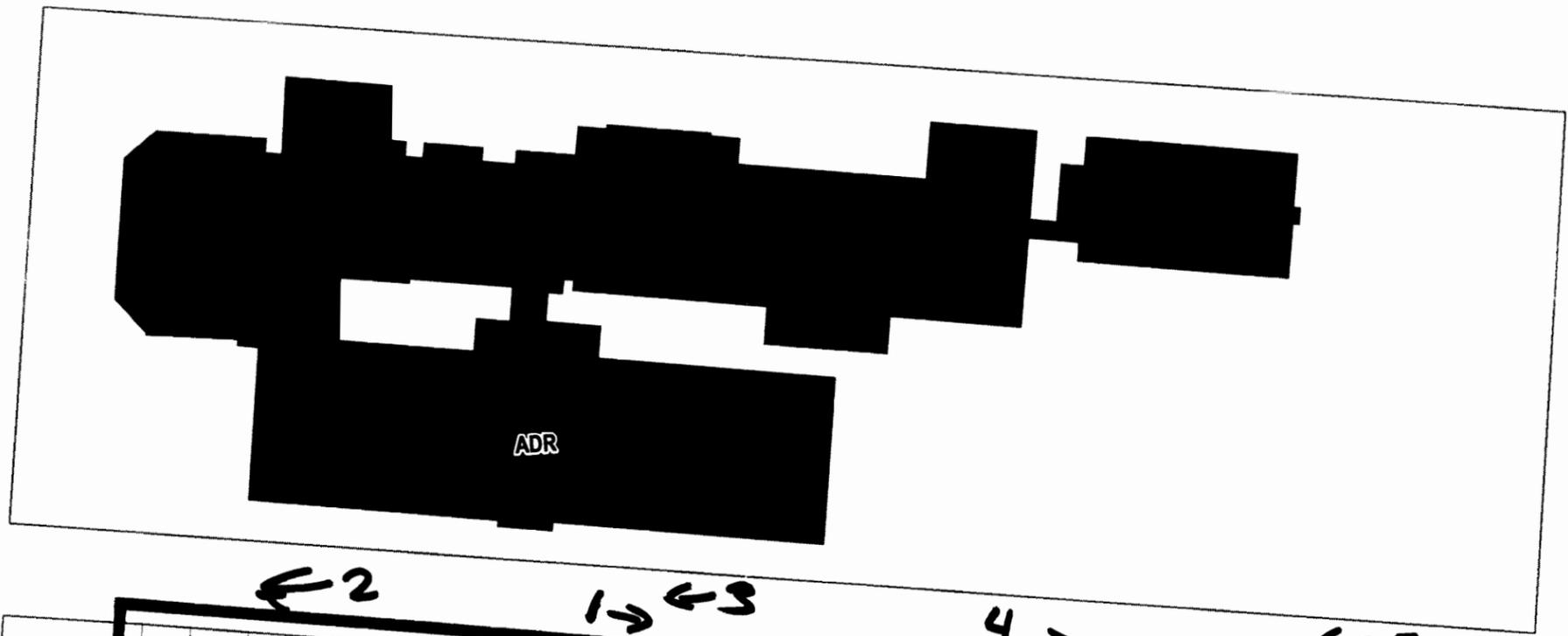


**A** St. Ferdinand Avenue Historic District  
 St. Louis City, MO / Zone 15  
 1: 740 150 / 4282 230    3: 740 200 / 4282 440  
 2: 740 330 / 4282 510    4: 740 040 / 4282 510

**B** Cote Brillante Avenue Historic District  
 St. Louis City, MO / Zone 15  
 1: 740 080 / 4282 330    3: 740 200 / 4282 120  
 2: 740 350 / 4282 260    4: 740 040 / 4282 300

**C** Marshall School Historic District  
 St. Louis City, MO / Zone 15  
 1: 739 800 / 4282 450    3: 739 890 / 4282 150  
 2: 740 000 / 4282 410    4: 739 740 / 4282 260

720 000 FEET  
 (1:1 WEST)



**Legend**

- ◆ Previously Listed
- BLDG**
- Eligibility to Historic District**
- Contributing to Historic District
- Non-Contributing to Historic District
- Not Part of Survey
- ▭ St. Ferdinand Historic District
- # PHOTO LOG

# St. Ferdinand Avenue in the Ville Historic District

## St. Louis, MO

