

# 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

Samuel Cupples House

AND/OR COMMON

Cupples, Samuel, House of St. Louis University, Inc.

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

3673 West Pine Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

St. Louis

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#3 - Hon. Leonor K. Sullivan

STATE

Missouri 63108

CODE

29

COUNTY

St. Louis City

CODE

510

## 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 University

STREET & NUMBER

221 North Grand Avenue

CITY, TOWN

St. Louis

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri 63103

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of Recorder of Deeds, St. Louis City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

Twelfth and Market Streets

CITY, TOWN

St. Louis

STATE

Missouri 63103

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Significant Historic Buildings and Sites of the City of St. Louis

DATE

1964

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

St. Louis Chapter, American Institute of Architects

CITY, TOWN

107 North Seventh Street, St. Louis

STATE

Missouri 63101

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SAMUEL CUPPLES HOUSE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

2. Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture  
John A. Bryan, Editor  
1928  
Published: St. Louis, Missouri: St. Louis Architectural Club (state)  
Code: 29
3. The Building Art in St. Louis: Two Centuries  
George McCue, Editor  
1964  
Published: St. Louis, Missouri: American Institute of Architects, St.  
Louis Chapter (local)  
Code: 29
4. Heritage/St. Louis  
1969-present  
722 Chestnut Street, Room 221  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101 (local)  
Code: 29
5. St. Louis Homes 1886-1916, The Golden Age  
1971  
Published: St. Louis, Missouri: The Folkestone Press (local)  
Code: 29
6. State Historical Survey  
1975  
Office of Historic Preservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P. O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101  
3172  
(local)  
Code: 29

**CONDITION**

EXCELLENT                       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                                 RUINS  
 FAIR                                  UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

**SITE**

The Cupples House is situated on a lot on the campus of St. Louis University on West Pine Boulevard half way between Grand Avenue and Spring. It faces south. The lot on which it stands is 153' by 224' and has a stone wall along the western side. The lot is in grass and minimally landscaped. The lot is bordered on the south by West Pine Street, a private street between Grand and Spring accessible only from Spring; by the Pius XII Memorial Library on the east; by Davis-Shaughnessy Hall of St. Louis University on the north; and by Koska Hall, the residence of the Resurrectionist Seminarians on the west. There is a driveway along the west side of the building which gives access to the rear of the building through the porte cochere.

**PRESENT STATUS**

The house's continued existence is assured. It is being maintained as an Art Center and Museum by St. Louis University. A legal foundation has been set up to insure its future and direct its complete restoration entitled The Samuel Cupples House Foundation of St. Louis University. The Foundation was approved by the State of Missouri on June 5, 1974.

**OVER-ALL DIMENSIONS**

The house measures 72' on the south facade; 100' on the west facade; 121' on the east facade. The north facade has an extension measuring 30' by 21'; the rest of the north facade stretching west measures 37'.

**CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND COLORS**

The foundations are of pink Colorado granite. The rest of the building is of purple Landmeadow limestone. All window-sills, frames, and sash, and doorway frames, are of wood painted purple. The doors are all of massive varnished oak. The high pitched roof is purple slate.

**ALTERATIONS**

The only alterations to the house were the addition of the round room and the filling in of the back porch, both on the north side of the house; and both alterations were made by the Cupples family.

**CONDITION**

The house is in remarkably good condition.

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ADDENDUM STATEMENT\*

The round room at the northwest corner of the house was added ca. 1896 replacing an original stoop porch. According to members of the family this room served initially as a nursery for the children of a widowed sister-in-law of the Cupples. Later the children entertained their friends and beaux there. Because of the abundance of windows house plants flourished in this area of the house.

\*This statement on the use of the round room was solicited by National Register Office staff member, Steve Livengood, June 15, 1976. Father McNamee supplied the necessary information by telephone on June 29, 1976.

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EXTERIOR

South Facade

Half of the basement projects 5 feet above ground and is constructed of massive pink granite masonry in rough finish.

The first story southeast corner contains a large porch indented into the building and framed on both the south and east sides by two massive romanesque arches supported by three monolithic granite columns capped by elaborately carved romanesque capitals. Oak double doors decorated in iron work topped by a transom and surrounded by elaborate romanesque sculpture give entrance to the house from the porch. The entire exterior of the building above the foundation level is constructed of rough hewn Land Meadow purple limestone. Next to the porch moving westbound is a large projecting bay window with three large double-paned windows. Beyond it to the west is a small romanesque stained glass window. The southwest corner of the house is dominated by an almost circular tower penetrated by three curved glass windows with stained glass transoms. Above them the first story of the tower terminates in an elaborate carved frieze. The second story of the south facade features a round turret which overhangs the southeast porch. It is elaborately carved in undercut romanesque pattern. The turret is penetrated by three curved glass windows. Next to the turret is a single window double-paned. The bay window extends from the first floor and is penetrated by three double-paned windows. There is an elaborate checker-board pattern on the stone between the bay windows of the first and second stories. The four corners of the bay window are accented by corbelled pinnacles and a carved stone frieze. A small square window penetrates the flat wall between the bay window and the extension of the round tower from the first story. The tower is penetrated on the second story by three curved glass double-paned windows. A projecting course of smooth-finished masonry forms a continuous sill for these windows.

The southeast corner of the third story has a continuation of the turret from the second story but here sheathed in copper in an elaborate romanesque design. It is penetrated by three double-paned windows, and is topped by a conical roof covered with purple slate, and topped by a copper finial. The rest of the third story facade is made up of a very steep gabled receding roof in purple slate. The bay window is surmounted on this story by an open balcony surrounded by an open square pattern stone railing. The facade of the section above this balcony is flat and penetrated by a central French door between two double-paned windows. It terminates in a high peaked gable decorated at the top in the same checker-board stone pattern as that which terminates the first story of the bay window. There are corbelled pinnacles at the two edges of the gable. One very high stone chimney is visible from the front facade. It serves fireplaces in the first, second and third floor reception rooms. At the third story level the round tower is penetrated by six narrow romanesque double-paned windows with romanesque engaged pillars separating them. A fine carved

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frieze terminates this story of the tower and it is topped by a conical, purple slate-covered roof with a copper finial at its peak. Two copper down-spouts on the south facade are held in place by carved stones.

West Facade

The west facade is made up of the southwest round tower, already described; a slightly projecting central wing; a porte-cochere; and a flat bay window. The pink granite foundation extends across the whole facade and is penetrated by seven half windows covered by heavy ornamental iron bars.

First Story

Between the round tower and the projecting wing is a small romanesque stained glass window identical to that on the south facade. The projecting wing has narrow, one-paned windows with transoms penetrating the north and south sides and three one-paned windows with transoms penetrating the west sides. The port-cochere is square and flat-roofed, and is made up of three large romanesque arches, with elaborate stone carving. Beneath it a side entrance, with a massive granite step, gives access to the house through a glazed oak door with a large oblong and semi-circular transom. There are two down-spouts on this facade, one having elaborately carved stone retainers. Beyond the porte-cochere is a square bay window with double-paned windows on the north and south sides and two double-paned windows on the west side.

The northern portion of the west facade has a large, circular room which was added to the building by the original owners after the original structure was built.

Second Story

The southern end of the second story features the round tower, already described. Immediately to the north is a small square window like the one on the south facade. North of the window is the small wing which has windows placed on all sides exactly like those on the first story. A small-paned window penetrates the wall above the porte-cochere. The bay window north of the porte-cochere has two double-paned windows on the west wall--none on the north and south walls.

Third Story

The third story continues the round tower already described. The roof is a very high pitched, receding gable covered with purple slate. A high chimney in carved stone rises above the level of the gabled roof behind the round tower. The extended wing on the third story terminates in a stone railed balcony. Opening on to it are three double-paned windows. The corners of this part of the wing are decorated with corbelled pinnacles. There is a single square window above the porte-cochere on the third floor flanked on each side by square engaged romanesque pillars. The high-paned window between the windows is constructed in a chevron design in stone. The

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rear bay window extension terminates on the third floor with a balcony surrounded by a fine wrought iron railing. There are three windows opening out of this balcony and the high-pitched pediment above them is constructed in a stone checker-board pattern.

North Facade

First Story

Moving from east to west, this facade is made up of a lean-to addition (which is actually a large back porch closed in by the Cupples). It contains nine double-paned windows facing north, three facing east, and two, and a small door facing west. Wooden steps with a wrought iron railing lead up to this door. West of this extension the original building juts in about 10 feet to the apse-like termination of the main hall. A two-paneled window opens on both the north and west corner of the main building. Leading up to a doorway into this semi-circular apse are stone steps. To the west, wide granite steps give access to the full basement. Projecting in a circular form above and beyond these steps westward is the large circular room added by the Cupples after the main structure was built. Its outer walls are entirely constituted of double-paned windows. It extends to the west line of the main building. It is covered by a conical roof finished with asbestos shingles.

Second Story

The facade of the projecting wing is plain, rough-hewn stonework relieved only by a double-paned window at each corner and the projecting chimney. On the west facade of this projection there is one double-paned window on the level of those on the north end, and a double-paned and single-paned window above the door entering into the closed-in porch. The north wall of the main structure is plain, rough-hewn stone-work relieved only by a small, double-paned window and a protruding stone chimney.

Third Story

The north end of the extended wing is constituted of the high-pitched, receding, gabled roof covered with purple slate and penetrated from east to west by a small dormer window with a double pane, a tall dormer window with a double pane, a tall stone chimney and a third smaller dormer window with a double pane higher up on the gabled roof opening into the attic. The west side of the third floor of the rear wing is made up of the gabled roof penetrated by two double-paned dormer windows, one at gutter level and the other higher up opening into the attic. The rear apse of the main hall thrusts up into this third level and terminates in a conical roof. It contains two very large double-paned, stained glass windows with transoms. A high, stone chimney emerges from the northern roof slope.

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East Facade

First Story

The pink granite foundation is penetrated by an entrance to the basement and eight half windows covered by elaborate iron bars. The romanesque arched porch cut into the northeast space of the building forms the south extremity of the east facade. Between it and the large, apsidal bay window is a small romanesque window glazed in amber and white chunk glass. There are copper down-spouts on either side of the bay window with elaborately carved stone holders. The large, semi-circular bay window has three, large, single-paned curved glass windows with transoms. Beyond the bay window to the north there is a massive masonry indentation in the building containing a single, double-paned romanesque window. Beyond that there are three double-paned windows on the otherwise heavy masonry wall. The east end of the lean-to porch addition in buff brick is visible at the north end of the east facade.

Second Story

North of the southeast turret, already described, is a narrow, romanesque, double-paned slit window. The large semi-circular bay window has three single-paned curved glass windows with transoms. Three double-paned windows are distributed across the rest of the facade. A chimney projection originates on this story toward the rear of the building.

Third Story

The main part of the third story is made up of the purple slate roof creating the receding steep gable. It is broken by the stone railed balcony terminating the apsidal bay. The wall surface at the rear of the balcony is flat, penetrated by two French doors in the center flanked by two single-paned windows. Above the French door is a semi-circular random stone mosaic. The entire wall terminates in a steep stone gable the upper surface of which is carved in an elaborate foliated design. Two dormer windows break the gabled roof to the north--one containing three double-paned windows and the other two. There are three, tall stone chimneys visible above this facade, each constructed in a different stone design and strengthened by elaborate, iron braces.

INTERIOR

There are 53 rooms in the house including 13 in the basement plus a steep, gabled attic that extends over the entire house. There are 20 operable fireplaces--all original, and all but one untampered with. Original heating was by fireplaces alone. A hot air system was later added by the Cupples family. The vents are still intact.

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Later a steam heat system was installed by the Cupples family, the radiators of which are still in use. (Source of present heating is the University heating plant.)

First Floor

The large porch and front entrance open into a loggia (112 square feet) paneled from floor to ceiling. The paneling is of imported English oak. The floor is covered with a marble mosaic pattern imported from Italy and laid in the typical circular Roman Pattern. The small, romanesque window is glazed in amber and white chunk glass. The hall contains a curved-top, elaborately carved, oak, English settle made for the house. (The ample wood carving throughout the house was executed by two English wood carvers brought to this country for the purpose.) There is an oak sliding door to shut off the loggia from the main hallway.

The main hall is immense (1337 square feet). It is paneled in imported English Oak, has a fine parquet floor in a chevron design, a heavy beamed ceiling with carved bosses at the end of each beam, and a massive fireplace and oak carved mantel facing the great staircase. The hallway terminates on the south in an elaborately carved wood oak screen which separates the hall from the reception room. The hallway terminates on the north in a semi-circular form under the projecting minstrel gallery. It is penetrated by a large door flanked on either side by stained glass panels glazed in amber glass in an abstract geometric pattern.

In the reception room (2440 square feet) all the woodwork is of white mahogany, delicately hand carved. The fireplace is finished in rose marble and fine iron work. The walls of the entire room are covered with the original heavy embossed wallpaper in a damasked design in cream and gold. The south side of the room terminates in a bay window with three double-paned windows. These windows (as windows throughout the house) have wooden shutters which fold into the window jambs. On the west side of the room is a built-in settee with a mirror above it.

Library. A large sliding carved oak door opens into the library (447 square feet) on the southwest corner of the building. The entire east wall and a large part of the west wall are taken up by built-in bookcases with glass doors. Carved oak benches are built into the south and part of the west wall. On the north wall is a mammoth carved oak mantel and fireplace flanked by built-in oak cabinets with oak paneled doors and a large oak niche above them. The ceiling is oak-beamed and the floor is parquet. The room contains the large oak double desk made for the room.

Music Room. Immediately north of the library is the music room (411 square feet). Access to it is by large sliding doors which need to be retracked. On the north wall of the room is a large mantel and fireplace. The mantel and all the woodwork in the room is done in a painted Florentine design. The fireplace is finished in

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onyx and iron work. This is the only room in the house in which the woodwork was painted--white with gold leaf highlights. It needs to be repainted. There is an Italian plaster molded frieze and the ceiling is also finished in an Italian plaster molding. (The latter needs to be restored). The floor is oak. The furniture includes a kidney-shaped mahogany desk which was originally in the house.

Dining Room. Across the wide hallway from the music room is the dining room (612 square feet.) Access to it is through two wide, oak-carved sliding doors which also need to be retracked. The room is paneled head high in imported English oak and has an oak-beamed ceiling with a gold-leafed central section, and an oak parqueted floor. A swinging door on the north wall gives access to the butler's pantry. Almost the entire remaining north wall is taken up with an elaborate built-in sideboard. Across from it on the south wall is a large oak-carved mantel and fireplace finished with imported Italian marble mosaic and some of the most elaborate St. Louis iron work in the house.

Billiard Room. Through a wide oak sliding door leading off the north side of the west side hall there is the billiard room (316 square feet). It is wood-paneled in oak to eye level and has an oak-beamed ceiling. On the west side is a large, rectangular bay window with double paned, narrow, slit windows on the south and north ends, and two large, double-paned windows on the west side. There is a medium-sized mantel and fireplace on the north wall.

Grand Stairwell. The wide grand stairwell leads up on the west side of the great hallway with one landing and a semi-circular gallery half way up the flight to the second floor. At the rear of this gallery are two large stained glass windows representing Apollo, Venus, Mars and Saturn and the signs of the Zodiac. The grand stairwell goes to the third floor. It has hand-carved oak spindle railing and an oak-paneled wainscoting.

Back Rooms. Behind the major, formal rooms of the first floor is an array of service rooms including the butler's pantry (242 square feet) with built-in paneled oak cabinets and sink and a silver safe; a linen and supply closet (86 square feet) with floor-to-ceiling built-in cabinets; a kitchen (340 square feet) from which the original equipment has been removed; the former rear porch (336 square feet) converted to a room by the Cupples family; the servants' dining room (212 square feet); a rear, basement-to-third floor stair hall; a round room (628 square feet) and a side hall (175 square feet).

Upper Floors

The second and third floors contain essentially the same floor plan as the first. The quality of interior finish continues on these floors in the major rooms. Important features are the survival of some original bedroom sets and the existence of built-in closets and cabinets. Bathroom fixtures have been modernized.

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Attic. A steep, gabled attic extends over the entire house. Access to it is by a stairs leading off the top of the rear stairwell. It is lighted by two dormer windows. The attic space is not finished in plaster.

Basement. There is a full basement with 10 foot ceilings. Access to it is by the rear stairs, by an outside entrance on the southeast corner (added recently), and by a rear entrance from the outside. The entire basement is finished in plaster and floored in cement and is now used as an Art Gallery.

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his father established at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania." "He came to St. Louis" in 1851 and "established a woodenware" business. He was extraordinarily successful because of the central position of St. Louis, eventually establishing an immense warehouse and rail center of over 28 units for the distribution of his merchandise. It was known as the "Cupples Station," and several of the units are still in operation immediately west of the stadium in downtown St. Louis.

"While the work accomplished in commercial fields would alone entitle him to distinction, [Cupples was outstanding in the promotion of ] public welfare and the general interests of the city" including educational, religious and charitable concern. He was "deeply interested in education" and took the lead in the establishment of the Manual Training School as a sub-department of Washington University and in 1879 became thus "officially associated with Washington University." In 1884 he secured a special endowment for the school "to promote attendance of bright boys in straitened circumstances."

After providing for an increasing attendance in the Manual Training School, Mr. Cupples became active in providing "higher technical education" for the graduates. He was an intimate acquaintance of Professor Woodward, Dean of the School of Engineering and Architecture at that time and through him embarked along with Robert S. Brookings upon the development of Washington University. (Cupples was business partner of Brookings, generous patron of the University). Cupples is credited with the gift of three "splendid" halls to Washington University: "Cupples I," for Civil Engineering and Architecture; "Cupples II" for Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, and the Engineering Laboratory.

Cupples was also a benefactor of numerous other institutions: Central College at Fayette, Missouri; Vanderbilt University of Nashville, Tennessee; the St. Louis Manual Training School, among others.

# 8 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"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Interior Design
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1889-1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Thomas B. Annan

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cupples House, 3673 West Pine Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri, is one of the most impressive residences in the city. Designed by architect Thomas B. Annan and built in 1889-90 for \$500,000, it is a rare local example of Richardsonian Romanesque residential architecture. Its significance is enhanced by its almost unaltered condition, by the survival of original furnishings and built-ins still in the house, and from a technological standpoint, by the partial survival of a succession of three heating systems. The original owner/builder, Samuel Cupples, was an outstanding St. Louis businessman and philanthropist.

The surviving, original interior design elements and furnishings (including woodwork, wallpaper, built-ins, fireplaces etc.) described in Item 7, comprise an unusual rarity. Together with such elements as the silver safe in the butler's pantry, for example, they constitute an extraordinary assemblage tangibly reflecting the Cupples family's social order and mode of life.

Generally as new heating systems are installed, all elements of previous, outmoded systems are removed. As this house retains all of its fireplaces, the first heating system, and portions of its later hot air and steam heat systems, it offers a valuable demonstration of heating technology development.

Thomas B. Annan, the architect of Cupples House, was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1839. He lived and worked in St. Louis and died there in 1906. In 1874 he was admitted to the American Institute of Architects. The following year he entered into partnership with the architect, Major F. D. Lee and that year completed the Merchants Exchange Building in St. Louis, "a remarkable building for its day."<sup>1</sup>

### Previous owners

1. Samuel Cupples family 1889 - 1919
2. Railroad/Telegrapher's Union 1919 - 1946

Samuel Cupples<sup>2</sup> "was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, September 13, 1831." His parents were James and Elizabeth (Bigham) Cupples, "both of whom were natives of County Down Ireland, [emigrating] to the United States in 1814. The father was an educator, of considerable note and the son was qualified for a business career in a school which

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The philanthropic work of the Cupples family was widespread. "For many years Cupples was officer and [then] head of the St. Louis Provident Association" to assist the city's needy citizens.

He "was married in 1860 to Miss Martha S. Kells of St. Louis...for a considerable portion of her married life Mrs. Cupples gave almost her entire time to philanthropic work. She devoted herself especially to the Girls Industrial Home...and to the Methodist Orphans Home...Cupples shared the interest of his wife during her lifetime in this work."

The Cupples House was purchased from the Cupples family in 1919 by the Order of Railroad Telegraphers (now incorporated into the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks). Until its purchase in 1946 by St. Louis University the house was used as the international headquarters for the Order of Railroad Telegraphers.<sup>3</sup> This organization maintained the building in excellent condition during their years of occupancy.

The university initially used the mansion as a student center, an ROTC headquarters and a Continuing Education Office as well as classroom and offices for the Art and Art History Department.

Because of the artistic and historic significance of Cupples House the mansion was made a function of the Fine Arts program of St. Louis University in 1967, and a program was developed for its preservation. Cupples House is now being used as a Cultural Center for St. Louis University. It houses the offices of the Art and Art History Department. The lower level of the building has been converted into an art gallery which contains one of the city's outstanding collections of contemporary graphics in addition to its collection of pre-Columbian and African art, some old masters and the Colonial art of Mexico and Guatemala. The house is open to the public and since its opening is gradually developing considerable interest city-wide. The new use of the Cupples House is considered by many to be a significant impetus to the revitalization of its neighborhood in St. Louis.

FOOTNOTES

1. John A. Bryan, Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture (St. Louis, Missouri: St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928), pp. 51 and 79.
2. The information on Cupples is largely quoted from Walter B. Stevens, St. Louis, The Fourth City, 1764-1909 (St. Louis, Missouri: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1909), Vol 2, pp. 18-22.
3. Statement by Bill Rodman, Brotherhood of Railway Clerks member, personal interview 1975.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Bryan, John A. Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture. St. Louis, Missouri: St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928.
2. Rodman, Bill. Personal interview. 1975.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	7 4 0 6 1, 5	4 2 7, 9 8 7, 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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. Father M. B. McNamee, S. J.

ORGANIZATION

Director, Cupples House, St. Louis University <sup>DATE</sup> December 2, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE  
314-535-3300

CITY OR TOWN

St. Louis

STATE  
Missouri 63103

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL      STATE X LOCAL 7

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

James L. Wilson, Director, Department  
TITLE of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer <sup>DATE</sup>

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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SAMUEL CUPPLES HOUSE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

- 
3. Stevens, Walter B. St. Louis, The Fourth City, 1764-1909. 3 vols. St. Louis, Missouri: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1909.

---

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. M. Patricia Holmes, Research Associate  
Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Historic Preservation  
P. O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Telephone: 314-751-4096

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Samuel Cupples House

AND/OR COMMON

Cupples, Samuel, House of St. Louis University, Inc.

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

St. Louis

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

St. Louis City

STATE

Missouri

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE

U.S.G.S. 7.5'

Granite City, Ill. - Mo. Quadrangle

SCALE

1:24,000

DATE

1954 (Photorevised 1968)

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

SAMUEL CUPPLES HOUSE  
 St. Louis, Missouri  
 UTM REFERENCES  
 15/740615/4279875

USGS 7.5' Quadrangle  
 "Granite City, Ill.-Mo."  
 1954 (Photorevised 1968)  
 Scale: 1:24000



38° 37' 30" 90° 15' 460 000 FEET (ILL.) 1741 1742 12° 30"

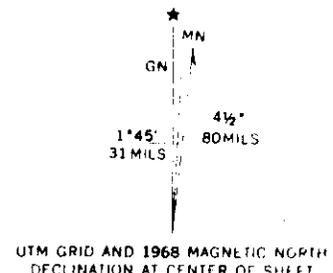
(WEBSTER GROVES)  
 7961 III SE

Mapped by the Geological Survey  
 Revised by the Army Map Service  
 Published for civil use by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from planetable surveys by the Geological Survey 1930 and 1933. Planimetric detail revised from aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1954

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grids based on Illinois coordinate system, west zone and Missouri coordinate system, east zone  
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
 Revision shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1968. This information not field checked



FOR SALE

Cupples Mansion 1973  
Formerly Chouteau House

Cupples Mansion 1973  
Formerly Chouteau House



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**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

St. Louis University

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

St. Louis University, Art and Art History Department, St. Louis,  
Missouri 63103

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO 1

South facade from the east southeast.



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PHOTO NO. 2

East facade from the east southeast.



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PHOTO NO. 3

North facade from the northwest.



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COUNTY

St. Louis City<sup>STATE</sup> Missouri

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

St. Louis University

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

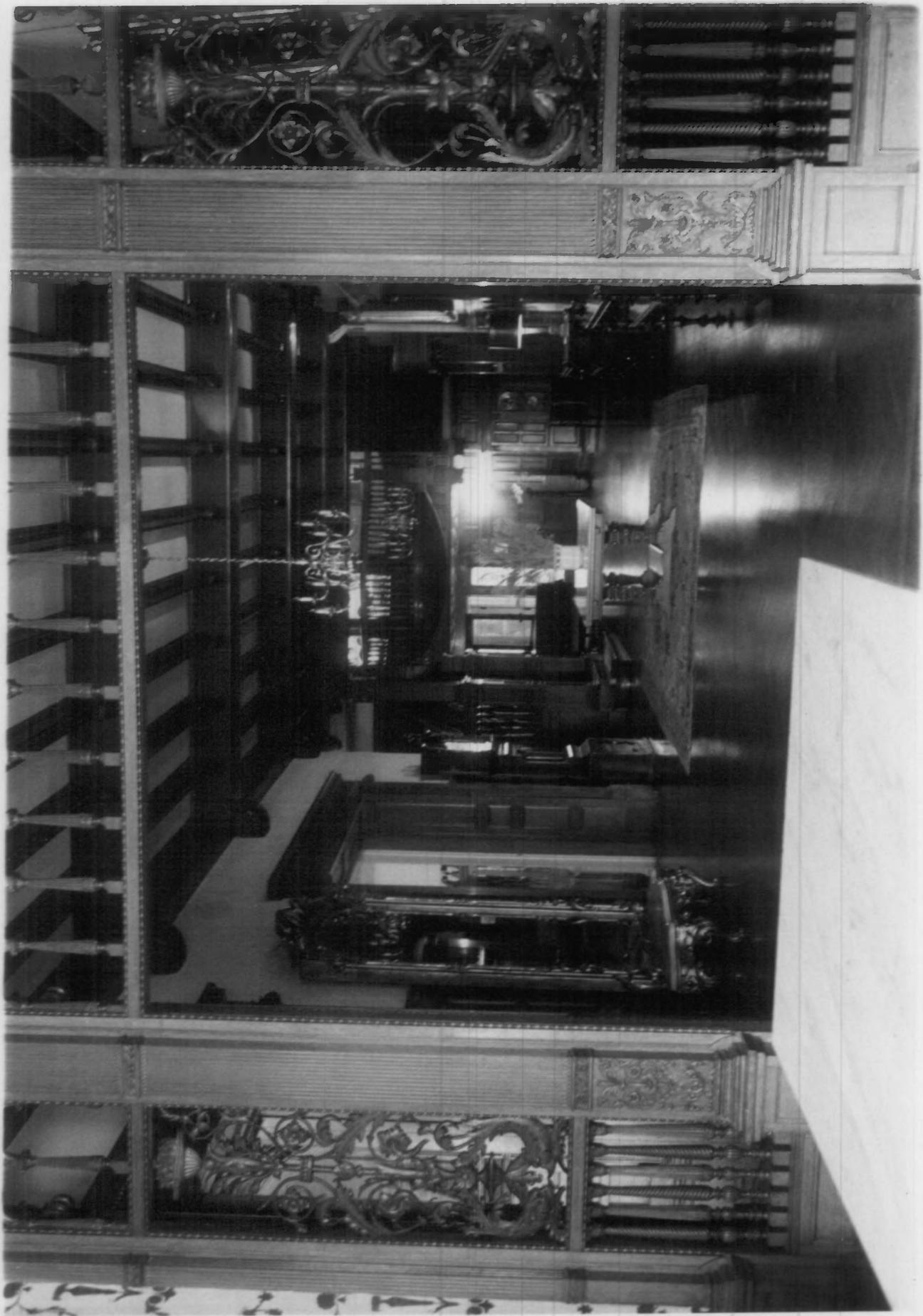
St. Louis University, Art and Art History Department, St. Louis,  
Missouri 63103

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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 4

Interior view of main hallway on first floor.



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Missouri 63103

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

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Interior view of dining room with built-in sideboard.



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DATE OF PHOTO 1975

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Missouri 63103

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

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PHOTO NO 6

Interior view of front reception room on first floor with  
built-in settee and original wall covering.



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Missouri 63103

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

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PHOTO NO 7

Interior view of library with built-in bookcases and original oak desk.



VITA HOMINIS QUAE RESERVA

EXTRA  
PHOTOS





