

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC **Sutter-Meyer House**

~~AND/OR COMMON~~

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
6826 Chamberlain Court

CITY, TOWN
University City

___ VICINITY OF

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#1 Hon. William L. Clay

STATE
Missouri

CODE
29

COUNTY
St. Louis

CODE
189

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Lola L. Lucas

STREET & NUMBER
6826 Chamberlain Court

CITY, TOWN
University City

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri 63130

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **St. Louis County Courthouse**

STREET & NUMBER
7900 Forsyth

CITY, TOWN
Clayton

STATE

Missouri 63105

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Missouri State Historical Survey

DATE
1980

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS **Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program**

CITY, TOWN
**P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City**

STATE

Missouri 65201

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sutter-Meyer House at 6826 Chamberlain Court first betrays its age by its placement in relation to the street: not facing it but at right angles. It consists of a three-bay, one-and-a-half-story gable-roofed main block with a one-story brick wing to the rear and a later two-car brick garage attached to the northwest corner. The brick of the older portion is laid in common bond, while the garage has stretcher bond, but these differences are obscured by white paint, as are the radiating stretchers over the segmental-arched windows and the diamond-shaped ends of the tie rods.

Across the east front of the main block is a verandah, whose roof is supported by curved slat-like brackets and square posts on square pedestals. The floor of the verandah is now concrete. The front door has a transom, while the windows are two-over-two, double-hung. Twin chimneys pierce the rear slope of the main roof; they have elaborately corbelled tops. The rear wing has a narrow asbestos-shingled enclosed porch along its south side. Similar shingles can be seen on the gable end of the garage, which faces the street.

Original woodwork remains throughout the interior, including shaped lintels over doors and windows, and a fireplace in the south room. The staircase descends away from the front door and turns into the north room; it once had a second flight into the kitchen. Basement stairs descend from the back porch, which was enclosed in 1951.¹ At that time a bathroom was installed at one end of the porch but at the level of and opening onto the stair landing. The kitchen has been modernized.

The lot on which the house now sits, the remnant of 8.33 acres, measures 88 feet by 150 feet. It has several old trees and many large shrubs. Although the next lot to the east and a larger stretch of land to the south (fronting Olive Street Road) are no longer in the same ownership, they have not yet been built on, thus preserving something of the original rural setting.

Footnote

1. Interview with present owner, June, 1980.

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"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES built circa 1873 BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Sutter

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sutter-Meyer House is significant as the oldest known residence in University City, Missouri. It is also the last building to recall the settlement known as Sutter, Missouri. The land on which the Sutter-Meyer House rests was part of the farm of John Sutter, which was bounded by the present city streets of Sutter, Etzel, and Pennsylvania Avenues and Olive Street Road. Sutter (1815-1867) had come from Germany with his father, also John Sutter (1793-1859) and family in 1831.² He married Ursula Anselm in 1839 and in 1850 built "The Homestead" just off Sutter Avenue, which connected the house with Cook Avenue (now Page) to the north and the Olive Plank Road to the south. Sutter was a dairyman in partnership with Lucien Dutilhe Cabanne (1814-1875), a descendant of Pierre Laclède, the founder of St. Louis. Cabanne's farm was in what is now the West End of St. Louis, and the firm also had property in Madison County, Illinois. From their depot in downtown St. Louis they supplied some of the major hotels.³

John and Ursula Sutter had eleven children, of whom only five reached maturity. John (1840-1911), the eldest of these, became a contractor in stone quarrying and a road overseer; he was the grandfather of Orval C. Sutter (b. 1901), University City Alderman, and Dr. Richard A. Sutter (b. 1909), whose family has also been active in University City affairs. Ursula Sutter died in 1856 giving birth to the last of these children, and the following year John married Catherine Killian Hartnagel, a widow with two children. They had five more children, of whom the youngest, Otto (1863-1937), became a well-known surgeon and superintendant of the City Hospital from 1895 to 1899.⁴ When John Sutter died in 1867 only John and William (b. 1846) had reached their majority. In 1871, as part of the settlement of his estate, John Sutter's executors subdivided the farm, giving the widow and each of the children a portion.⁵ William Sutter received 8.33 acres bounded on the east by Ferguson Avenue, the north by Bartmer Avenue, and the south by Olive Street Road. As this was somewhat smaller than some of the other plots, he was also given a city lot on the south side of Cherokee Street just west of Compton.

William Sutter had been married on September 8, 1869, to Julia Broking, and it is possible that the present house was built at that time, before he had acquired separate title to the property. It is more likely, however, that it was built in 1873, when William and Julia mortgaged the property to his stepmother's trustees, making repayment the following year.⁷ Then on July 5, 1875, they sold the whole tract, "Lot number 6 in the subdivision of John Sutter's estate" to Roman Meyer for \$7,500.⁸

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Based on stylistic attributes alone, the house could have been built at any time in the latter part of the nineteenth century. It has the front verandah of the French colonial tradition, raised in height to the proportions of the Greek Revival. Much of the woodwork inside is Greek Revival vernacular, but the square bracketed porch posts and the segmental-arched window openings belong to the vernacular of the Victorian era. Our best evidence that the house was built prior to 1875 is the tradition in the Meyer family that it was built by William Sutter.

Roman Meyer, born 1847,⁹ was a German immigrant who was listed in city directories of the time as a gardener, that is, a truck farmer. Two weeks after he bought this land he married Maria Jocks.¹⁰ She is said to have been married previously to another Meyer, and in Roman Meyer's will¹¹ he gave a bequest of five hundred dollars to his stepson Albert Meyer. Roman and Maria had three children: Frederick Roman (d. 1963), Catherine (wife of Herman L. Lammering, d. 1941), and Louisa (wife of Joseph R. Ritter). After the death of his first wife, Roman Meyer married Barbara Ebner (b. 1861), by whom he had another son and three daughters. He died in 1913¹² leaving "my real estate at the North West corner of Olive Street and Ferguson Avenue" to his wife; she in turn bequeathed it to her four children in 1936. Son Edward E. Meyer, who had been born in the house in 1883, continued to reside there until his death in 1969.¹³ The continuous ownership of the property by the Meyer family for nearly a century can be thanked for the preservation of the house.

The neighborhood around the Sutter-Meyer House has gradually evolved from rural to suburban over the past century. John Sutter's dairy business had been facilitated by the incorporation of the Central Plank Road (now Olive Street Road) in 1851,¹⁴ and by the sixties a small community had grown up in the vicinity of Sutter's farm. By 1887 a Sutter post office was established,¹⁵ and Sutter was still "a location on Olive Street Road in Central Township, seven miles from St. Louis City Hall" in 1911.¹⁶ By 1904, however, Edward G. Lewis had launched his new suburb, University Heights, and the post office was moved closer to the developments he was promoting on Delmar Boulevard to the south. In 1906, the former Sutter lands as far north as Bartmer¹⁷ were included in Lewis's newly incorporated municipality of University City.

By that time, houses fairly well dotted the Sutter Subdivision, but the Meyer family continued their gardening; even in his later years Edward Meyer kept an extensive flower garden between his house and Olive Street Road, one that was especially noted for its roses.¹⁸ In 1951 most of the undeveloped part of Lot 6 of the Sutter Estate was replatted as Keating Subdivision;¹⁹ Chamberlain Avenue was extended west to form a cul-de-sac, and the address of the old house changed from 6801 Olive Street Road (later 6805) to 6826 Chamberlain Court.

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Edward Meyer's widow Bertha sold the old family property in 1970, and it changed hands eight times in the following eight years.²⁸ It is hoped that this nomination will help to assure the old house's preservation as a reminder of the early history of the area.

Footnotes

1. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "House in Chamberlain Court Called Oldest in University City," May 11, 1966.
2. Mrs. Arthus Paul Konzelman, The Sutter Family in University City, Missouri (unpubl., 1980). A copy of this paper was kindly provided by Mrs. Richard Sutter.
3. St. Louis City Probate Records. The year after Sutter's death, Cabanne's nephew Joseph C. Cabanne (1846-1922) reorganized the business, later to be the St. Louis Dairy. Mary Blythe Cunningham and Jeanne C. Blythe, The Founding Family of St. Louis (St. Louis: Midwest Technical Publications, 1977), p. 308; William Hyde and Howard L. Conard, Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis (New York: Southern History Company, 1889), Vol. I, p. 290.
4. Walter B. Stevens, St. Louis History of the Fourth City 1763-1909 (St. Louis: S. J. Clarke, 1909), Vol. II, pp. 766-767.
5. Book 428, page 127 of St. Louis City (formerly County) Records.
6. Ibid; lot 28 of City Block 1584.
7. Book 465, page 286 of St. Louis City (formerly County) Records.
8. Book 528, pages 105-106 of St. Louis City (formerly County) Records; name spelled "Maier." Pitzman's Atlas of 1878 marks the site as belonging to Edward Sutter, but this must be an error.
9. Calvary Cemetery, Section 20, lot no. 1786.
10. St. Louis marriage records, book 17, page 310; name spelled "Meier."
11. St. Louis County Probate Records.
12. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, June 2, 1913.
13. St. Louis Globe Democrat, January 3, 1969.

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14. Konzelman, op. cit.
15. Letter from Bernard F. Dickman, Postmaster of St. Louis, to Dr. Richard A. Sutter, July 17, 1958.
16. William L. Thomas, History of St. Louis County, Missouri (St. Louis: S. J. Clarke, 1911), Vol. I, p. 226.
17. For more on E. G. Lewis, see National Register nominations for University City City Hall Plaza Historic District and University Heights Number One.
18. Interview with City Councilwoman Elsie Glickert, granddaughter of Roman Meyer, June 1980.
19. Book 51, page 59, St. Louis County Plats.
20. Bertha Meyer to Lyle A. Harris and wife, 5/29/1970 (Book 6459, page 960); to Jimmie L. Dixon and wife, 8/25/1970 (6473, 1072); to Pulaski Savings and Loan 6/20/1972 (6594, 0031); to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 7/12/1972 (6598, 2320); to George Davis and wife 4/12/1973 (6656, 1089); to Garnita Fugger 10/31/1975 (6827, 1439); to Rose Block (later Rose Block Feldman and Henry Feldman) 4/19/1976 (6859, 1699); to Lola Lucas 7/20/1978.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "House in Chamberlain Court Called Oldest in University City," May 11, 1966.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one-third acre

QUADRANGLE NAME "Clayton, Mo."

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 733940 4282710

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point on the South line of Chamberlain Ct., 262 ft. West of the West line of Ferguson Ave., then West 88 ft. along Chamberlain Ct., South 150 ft., East 88 ft., and North 150 ft.

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

STATE
Missouri

CODE
29

COUNTY
St. Louis

CODE
189

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

I. Esley Hamilton

ORGANIZATION

University City Historic Preservation Committee

DATE

June, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

6701 Delmar Blvd.

TELEPHONE

(314) 862-0770

CITY OR TOWN

University City

STATE

Missouri 63130

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

Signed

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

DATE 16 Feb 82

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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

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

SUTTER-MEYER HOUSE

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 11

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2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey
and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City

September 30, 1980

314/751-4096

Missouri 65201



SUTTER-MEYER HOUSE
University City, Missouri

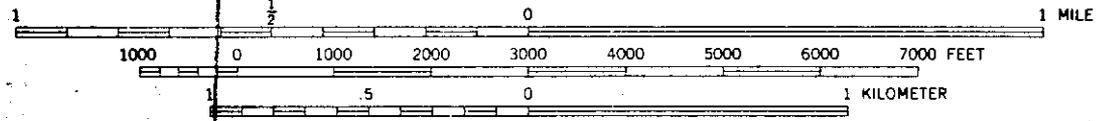
U.S.G.S. 7.5'
"Clayton, Mo."

Quadrangle
(1954-rev.
1974)

UTM REFERENCE:
15/733940/4282710

732 20' 733 (WEBSTER GROVES) 735 17'30" 736

(WEBSTER GROVES)
7961 III SE
SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

MAGNETIC NORTH
CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND BY THE DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple
Survey from aerial photography
This information not to be used for navigation
Purple tint indicates

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Sutter-Myer House**

City or Vicinity: **University City**

County: **St. Louis County** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Esley Hamilton**

Date

Photographed: **June 1980**

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

1 of 2. View of house from E.

2 of 2. View of house from NE.





6826