

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Cave Spring

AND/OR COMMON

Cave Spring

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

7100 Blue Ridge Extension (SW corner of Blue Ridge and Gregory Blvd.)

CITY, TOWN

Raytown and
Kansas City

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
#5 - Hon. Richard Bolling

STATE

Missouri

CODE 29

COUNTY Jackson

CODE 095

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: Vacant**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

1. William M. Klein

STREET & NUMBER

4231 Clary Road

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri 64130

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds, Jackson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

308 W. Kansas

CITY, TOWN

Independence

STATE

Missouri 64050

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

1. Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue

DATE

1963

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Missouri

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

Missouri 65201

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2. Logan Horridge
4545 Wornall Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64112
3. Jackson County, Missouri
Department of Parks and Recreation
Lake Jacomo
Route 2, Box 408
Blue Springs, Missouri 64015

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2. Social and Environmental Inventory
1975
Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District
601 East 12th
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Federal

3. Missouri State Historical Survey
1975
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

State

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☒ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Cave Spring Site is an irregular shaped tract of land (refer to site map) containing approximately 39 acres and located in Jackson County, Missouri. The corporate boundary dividing Kansas City, Mo. and Raytown, Mo. intersects the site's eastern edge along a north-south axis with the majority remaining within Kansas City. The site is bounded on the east by Blue Ridge Boulevard Extension; on the south by Homewood Subdivision, lots 1-6, Franks Subdivision, lots 1-5, and Elmwood Subdivision, lot 1; on the west by Harman Subdivision, lots 7, 8, 20-24; and on the north by Harecliff Subdivision, lots 1, 4-6, 9 and 12, and by Gregory Boulevard.

The site has lain fallow for about 31 years allowing the natural vegetative cover to reestablish itself.

Physiographic features

An intermittent draw occurs in the northwest corner of the site and drains south into the west lake. Vegetation in this draw consists predominately of hackberry, elm and walnut trees varying from 6 to 12 inches in diameter. East of this draw, an approximately 6 acre field constitutes the remainder of the north section of the area being nominated. This field is reverting to natural vegetation with numerous persimmon sprouts occurring throughout.

The east-central portion of the site contains two artificial lakes. An upper lake (east lake) of approximately 3/4 acre captures surface drainage. A northwest-southeast oriented earth and rock dam divides this lake from the lower lake which was once approximately 3 acres in size. The north-south oriented dam on the eastern end of this lake (west lake) has been breached at the southern end and most of the water has drained off. In addition to surface drainage, this lake is also fed by Cave Spring. Sycamore trees occur around the west lake and several stands of cat-tails and young willows are distributed around and within the marshy lake bed. The area east and south of the lakes is upland field reverting to a forest cover.

At the southwest end of the west lake, the intermittent stream again takes up its course, trending west and slightly south as it leaves the area being nominated. In this western spur of the site there is a light forest cover in the small bottom of the draw while field reverting to natural vegetation occurs in the higher elevations. The intermittent stream, meanwhile, continues southwesterly for about a mile, draining into a lake in Swope Park and beyond that, following a winding course and eventually entering Big Blue Creek 2 1/2 miles to the west.

Cave Spring

Cave Spring is located mid-way along the north bank of the west lake. It is positioned about ten feet above, and some 25 feet north of, the lake's shoreline at 1005 elevation. The cave is formed in an outcrop of Argentine limestone which is a member of the Wyandotte formation of the Zarah subgroup. The cave entrance faces southwest and is five feet high and four feet wide. The entrance tunnel is

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9 feet long and trends northeast before connecting with a passageway positioned at a right angle to the entrance tunnel. The southeast passage extends only 6 feet before becoming choked with clay; the northwest passage is 28 feet long and varies from three to five feet in height and two feet in width. It encounters yet another passage also at a right angle. This passage extends northeast for some 85 feet before becoming too narrow to permit further exploration.¹

At the time of personal inspection, November 3, 1976, the flow of the spring emerging from the cave was little more than a trickle. This inspection was made during a period of drought; in wet seasons, the flow increases.

The Division of Health, Missouri Department of Social Services, conducted a bacteriological analysis of the water from Cave Spring on October 17, 1975, and concluded that it was unsafe for drinking purposes.²

Intrusions

An unimproved dirt road enters the area being nominated from Blue Ridge Boulevard Extension at a point approximately 680 feet south of where that thoroughfare intersects Gregory Boulevard. It angles across the site in a southwesterly direction for about 1000 feet, then turns abruptly southeast and crosses the dam separating the east and west lakes. It then bends west and skirts the southern end of the west lake. This road once provided access to eight summer cottages situated between the road and the lake, and terminated at a large clubhouse that overlooked the lake.

All that remains of this complex of buildings are seven standing chimneys and the collapsed charred wood frameworks left after these buildings burned. Of the chimneys, one is constructed entirely of yellow brick (that of the easternmost cottage); the remainder are built of fieldstone, or fieldstone and brick in combination, and all have bricklined fireplaces. They range from twelve to twenty feet in height.

An 8' x 10' rectangular structure is situated just southwest of the Cave Spring entrance. It has 2 1/2' tall walls made of concrete and may have once been the foundation of a springhouse or possibly a retaining well used to cool milk during the time the area was part of a dairy farm.³ Directly west of the spring and at approximately the same elevation is a row of eleven east-west oriented piers constructed of fieldstone and concrete. These piers vary in height from two to five feet and are spaced seven to ten feet apart.

In the upland field directly above (north) of Cave Spring is a standing chimney. Any debris associated with this structure was removed in 1975.⁴ It is approximately twenty feet tall and the upper two-thirds is constructed of fieldstone.

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The lower third of the chimney is brick as is the lining of the westward facing fireplace.

Alterations

? - 1900:

1. A house was located in north field above Cave Spring which burned around 1900⁵
 2. Another house constructed around 1900 to replace one referred to above⁶
- 1911:

1. The two lakes were built⁷
2. The eleven piers were possibly constructed⁸

1925 - 1945:

1. A nine hole golf course was constructed
2. Eight summer cottages and clubhouse were constructed on south end of west lake
3. The house in north field burned around 1926-1928⁹
4. Two cottages built in north field--one replacing house which burned¹⁰

1945 - 1970:

1. Two cottages on north side of west lake removed for unknown causes
2. Eight summer cottages and clubhouse on south side of west lake were burned by vandals in mid-60's.¹¹

Condition

The Cave Spring Site is presently a unique parcel of land reverting back to a natural state in an area otherwise devoted exclusively to suburban and commercial development.

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Present Status

The continued existence of the Cave Spring Site in an undeveloped state is uncertain. The property is currently under multiple private ownership and, because of its strategic location at a busy intersection, carries an expensive price tag. In 1975, a group of citizens concerned with preserving the site banded together and chartered the Cave Spring Park Association. The fund raising drive of that organization received a boost on November 16, 1976 with the awarding of \$100,000.00 of federal assistance to Jackson County towards purchasing the site with the understanding that matching funds be provided through donation, bargain sale of land, and fund raising by the Cave Spring Park Association. The federal grant came from the Land and Water Conservation Fund administered by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation of the Department of Interior. This sum is still far short of the total amount of money necessary to purchase the entire tract of land.

The Cave Spring Park Association's efforts were further enhanced by an 8.2 acre donation made by the Klein Investment Company. The association presented this acreage to the Jackson County Legislature on December 20 to be developed as a county park.¹²

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FOOTNOTES

1. Sara E. Johannes, "Cave Spring: Past, Present and Future" (unpublished paper, University of Missouri--Kansas City, 1975), pp. 2-11.
2. Ibid., pp. 13, 40.
3. Statement by Ola Davenport, personal telephone conversation with Sylvia Mooney, January, 1976.
4. Statement by Sylvia Mooney, personal telephone conversation, December 13, 1976.
5. Statement by Roy Donovan, personal interview by Sylvia Mooney, December 8, 1976.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. Statement by Albert Canaday, personal telephone conversation with Sylvia Mooney, December 12, 1976.
10. Ibid; personal examination of an aerial photograph of "Harecliff" (estate of Sid J. Hare) taken December, 1931. (located in scrapbook in possession of Sylvia Mooney).
11. Statement by Sylvia Mooney, personal interview, October 13, 1976.
12. The News-Tribune [Raytown, Missouri], December 22, 1976.

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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	Historic Trails	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cave Spring is significant as a rare surviving Santa Fe Trail landmark that has escaped the profound alteration, due to urbanization, which characterizes the remainder of the area in Jackson County, Missouri through which the trail passed. In its time, the site possessed no unique significance, being one of several well watered, grassy places near Independence. Nor were noteworthy historical events associated with it. The Cave Spring Site has, nonetheless, persisted in a relatively unaltered state in an area where other associations with the trail have been obliterated.

The Santa Fe trade, originating in 1821 in the Boonslick town of Franklin, Missouri, initiated a lucrative exchange of Mexican silver and mules for American dry goods which proved a significant factor in the economic growth of Missouri and the West.¹

By 1828, the newly founded village of Independence, Missouri, with its landing on the Missouri River at Blue Mills, had become the outfitting headquarters for the Santa Fe trade. This dominance was maintained for a decade before Westport, twelve miles to the west, began to offer strong rivalry. Westport had several advantages over Independence. It was much nearer the great prairies, and extensive camping and grazing grounds south and southwest of Westport were kept open through the purchase of large tracts of land by perceptive traders. The fertile land around Independence, by contrast, was becoming increasingly enclosed by small farms. In addition, the troublesome Big Blue River crossing on the trail's Independence branch could be avoided by departing from Westport.²

Because of these factors, two main branches of the trail developed in Jackson County: one angling southwest from Independence, the other from Westport. These branches joined near the present town of Gardner, Kansas.

Gradually, after the establishment of the Westport Landing (now Kansas City), Blue Mills Landing saw increasingly less use and by 1853 Westport came to dominate the Santa Fe trade. Independence was finally eliminated from the trade around 1856. By then, the area south of there had become so enclosed by farms and the road so crooked that Santa Fe merchants became disheartened with the trouble and expense of travelling it.³

Cave Spring was located on the Independence branch of the Santa Fe Trail, about ten miles south of that town, in Township 48, Range 32. This branch was the original or "old Santa Fe road" that George Sibley traveled when he surveyed the trail in 1825-1826.⁴ The road angled southwest from Fort Osage, and later from

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Blue Mills Landing, passing through Independence following the high ridge separating Little Blue River on the east from Big Blue River on the west. Some 26 miles south-west of Fort Osage, the road left Blue Ridge at a ford on Big Blue River.

A sense of the topography in the Cave Spring vicinity can be gained by examining the earliest known map of Township 48. This map, made in 1843, depicts prairie on top of the ridge and timber lining the watersheds to the east and west.⁵ This conforms with a description provided by a traveler coming down the trail in 1849. He entered in his diary: "8 miles south of Independence the country is beautifully interspersed with prairie and timber. Well watered with fine springs. Limestone soil."⁶

Cave Spring is commonly thought of today as a Santa Fe campground. A mural in the Kansas City Museum depicts covered wagons encircling it, and Dean Earl Wood, in his important study of the trail through Jackson County, mentions the spring, saying that because of it, traders camped thereabouts.⁷ It is variously described in local newspapers as the farthest point reached by most caravans in a day, a stopping place to water cattle and horses, a favorite camping ground.⁸ Sid J. Hare, who lived on the property adjoining Cave Spring, was featured in a 1926 newspaper article. In this article he said that travelers often camped to eat and refresh themselves with cool draughts of spring water. He claimed to have planted verbenas in the great ruts worn by Santa Fe caravans across his land.⁹ These contentions, as will shortly be seen, find no support in documentation of the period.

The first government survey of the area was not made until 1843. Much of the surrounding region had been surveyed in 1826, but for some reason, Township 48 was omitted and became known as the "lost township." Because of this, the land was slow in coming to market, and settlement was retarded for several years.¹⁰ The 1843 survey map shows only a thin scattering of farms. One such settlement is marked "Barn's [sic.] Inclosure." It starts in the southwest corner of Section 8, where it borders on the eastern edge of what is clearly marked the "Road to Santa Fe," and extends southward along the western edge of the northwest quarter of Section 17. Cave Spring, not noted on the map, is north of this farm on the west side of the road in the northeast corner of the southeast quarter of Section 7. There are no farms indicated there, so it is possible that at that time and in preceding years, the area was available as a campground for Santa Fe travelers. After October 1844, Cave Spring became part of Barnes' enclosure¹¹ and its subsequent availability is unclear.

The above mentioned Barnes is Jesse Barnes. He came to Jackson County from Kentucky in 1839 and filed a preemption claim¹² in Township 48 that same year. He has become remembered in local legend for the manner in which he acquired his

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property. Under the existing laws, no one was allowed to enter more than 160 acres of land. Barnes acted on the fact that he had four sons about to come of age, at which time each would be eligible for 160 acres, and plowed strips around a tract of land 800 acres in extent. He then put up several signs proclaiming "Barnes' Enclosure."¹³ When Susan Shelby Magoffin made her famous 1846 wedding journey down the trail, she noted in her diary that the first night's lodging out of Independence was procured at Mr. Barnes'.¹⁴ And J.S. Chick, who came to Westport in 1836, recalled years later that from Blue Mills Landing, trains passed through Independence, then southwesterly by the Barnes and Rice farms.¹⁵

Other references link Jesse Barnes with the Santa Fe Road. Several entries occur in the Jackson County Court minutes where his name is mentioned in connection with the trail. One example from 1842: "From campground with marked line of stakes passing through fencing of A. Brooking, Bennett Nolands, George W. Rhodes to within a line of stakes near the corner of R. Mockbees fence to the old Santa Fe Road, thence with said road passing the farm of A. Rice and through the enclosure of Jesse Barnes and William Montrays..." the court designated a 30 foot wide highway.¹⁶ The repeated mention of the road passing through fencing and by farms is indicative of the problem faced by traders on the Independence branch: increasing restriction of grazing and camping due to the appearance of small farms. On one occasion in 1852, when one of several route changes was under consideration, mention was made that the road was located southwest of Jesse Barnes' house and that it ran through his fields and blue grass pasture. For this, the court assessed [?] him \$100.00 damages.¹⁷ A year later, Jesse was deceased and his son, C.R. Barnes, petitioned the court for a change in the road west of the house because the "...late review cuts off said land I wish to cultivate."¹⁸

These references are too vague to indicate how the Barnes' agricultural activity affected the Cave Springs area or influenced its availability to Santa Fe caravans. Two of Jesse's sons--C.R., already mentioned, and S.S. Barnes--were engaged in the Santa Fe trade;¹⁹ it is not known, however, if they sold provisions to other traders, as did Archibald Rice, a neighbor to the north.²⁰ Nor is it known if they permitted others to camp and graze on their property.

Cave Spring may, or may not, have been a caravan campground; it was, in any case, a landmark along the Santa Fe trail. Half a century later, it was still remembered by surviving plainsmen. W.H. Brady, who journeyed to Santa Fe in 1855, recollected in 1906 that starting from Independence, the first point was "Barnes' Spring."²¹ W.Z. Hickman was not only a veteran of the trail, but also the author of a 1920 history of Jackson County. In this history, while writing of Jesse Barnes, he went on to note: "On his tract was a magnificent spring that burst out from a great ledge of rock in such a way as to leave a cave, and it is known to

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this day as 'The Cave Spring,' and it has never been known to fail from that day to this. When the Daughters of the American Revolution set up markers for the old trail, one was placed there."²²

The marker at Cave Spring that Hickman alluded to was one of approximately 30 Santa Fe Trail markers placed by the Daughters of the American Revolution during the years 1909-1913. A total of \$6,000.00 was appropriated by the Missouri General Assembly to help purchase and inscribe the granite boulders that were to mark the trail's route from the site of Franklin, Missouri through Jackson County.²³ The drive was led by Mrs. John Van Brunt and Miss Elizabeth Butler Gentry and culminated in a tour to view the markers held on May 15, 1913. This effort stirred the memories of former plainsmen and generated much publicity for sites associated with the trail, including Cave Spring.²⁴

The chronology of ownership of the Cave Spring property is as follows:

1. Jesse Barnes acquired the property October 31, 1844
2. Jesse Barnes died in 1852 and the property was divided among his heirs. In 1854, C.R. Barnes acquired title
3. James Chiles, owner from 1859-1861

Col. James Chiles, a native of Kentucky, earned his title while participating in the Seminole Wars in Florida in 1837, where he was severely wounded. He came to Jackson County in 1832 and used slave labor to develop a large estate. Prominent in politics, he served several terms in the state legislature, including one term as speaker of the House of Representatives. He died in 1883.²⁵

4. William H. Hughes, owner from 1861-1868
5. Samuel H. Chiles and wife Martha, and James J. Chiles and wife Sallie, owners 1868-1874. Ownership is confusing during this period as the names of both parties appear on deeds at different times.

Samuel H. Chiles was the son of James Chiles and Martha, his wife, was the daughter of William H. Hughes. When he was seventeen, Samuel enlisted in the Confederate army under General Joe Shelby and participated in numerous engagements in Missouri and Arkansas before becoming wounded and captured in 1864. He returned to Jackson County in 1865 and subsequently became a banker, stock raiser and land speculator.²⁶

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James J. Chiles could possibly be the notorious "Jim Crow" Chiles who, after a career of heavy drinking and striking terror in the local black population, was killed by deputy marshal James Peacock in a shooting incident in 1873. Although Samuel Chiles attended James J. Chiles' funeral, his relationship to him cannot be determined²⁷

6. Solomon Young, owner from 1874-1877, was the father of Sallie Chiles and acquired the property at a trustee sale

Solomon Young is remembered today as the grandfather of President Harry Truman. Born in Kentucky, Young came to Jackson County in 1841 and became a stock raiser. An 1881 county history lists him as the owner of 2,000 acres of unimproved land²⁸

7. Alfred B. Maddox, owner from 1877-1899

A.B. Maddox, born in Tennessee in 1823, came to Jackson County in 1878. His farm is cited in the 1881 Jackson County history as consisting of 400 acres, 240 of which were under cultivation²⁹

8. Theodore O. Cramer, owner from 1899-1902
9. Isaac Arnold, owner 1902
10. L.D. Orwig, owner 1902-1904
11. John Fraser, owner 1904
12. John Fowlie, Vincent R. Andrus and Elmer G. Sutton, owners from 1904-1908
13. Tesnim Springs Land Co., owner 1908-1911
14. During the period 1911-1924, the property passed from Thomas Ridge to his wife Effie to heirs Thomas S., Francis I., Melvina, and William S. Ridge
15. Gertrude F. Harrelson, owner 1924-?
16. Urban and Gladys Kroll, owners ?-1957
17. Milton Petroleum Co., owner 1957-1970
18. Klein Investment Co., owner 1970-present.

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An analysis of this ownership suggests that Cave Spring has been owned by a number of speculators, but by relatively few developers.

After references to the Barnes farming the Cave Spring area, its land use history blurs and does not focus again until the A.B. Maddox ownership period beginning in 1877. Prior to Maddox, the property was owned by the Chiles and by Solomon Young, and probably held for speculative purposes. A.B. Maddox resided on the 400 acre farm that included Cave Spring and cultivated 240 acres. His house was on the opposite side of the former Santa Fe road from the spring.³⁰

The first known structure to be erected in the area being nominated was located in the north field directly above Cave Spring. The date of its construction is not known, but it is shown on an 1887 map.³¹ Beginning in 1892, Luther and Ida Donovan and their family occupied the house for four or five years. Cleda Benjamin, a daughter, felt the house was old when they moved there; her brother Roy, however, did not believe it was as old as two other houses in the neighborhood,³² one of which, the Rice house, dates from 1844.

Memories of this house are vague, but it is described as being 1 1/2 stories, of wood frame construction, with perhaps four downstairs rooms and a large attic room. The entrance door was on the east side and the porch (probably enclosed) was on the west end and also served as a kitchen. The chimney lacked a fireplace, employing instead a wood or coal burning stove. A gable roof capped the house which was painted a buff or yellowish color. It is not known what, if any, agricultural outbuildings were associated with this house, but the Cave Spring area was used, as was much of Jackson County, for the grazing of dairy cattle, and milk was cooled in the cave. The Donovan house burned around 1900. Soon after, another house was constructed in its place.³³

This second house has been described as it was around 1924-1926, when a family named Canaday rented it, and it was, like the one that went before, 1 1/2 stories in height and of wood frame construction. Built on an L-plan, it was sheathed with unpainted clapboards and had a porch that wrapped around the east and north ends. The entrance door was also on the north end. Inside were large rooms--at least three of them were bedrooms. There was no fireplace in the house, and the chimney served a wood or coal burning stove. Associated with this house were at least two outbuildings: a chicken house to the north and a barn to the southeast. This barn had an "understory" to shelter livestock. The Canaday house suffered the same fate as the Donovan house--burning around 1926 or 1927, shortly after the Canadays moved out.³⁴

The effort to convert the Cave Spring area from agricultural to resort use began in 1911 when Thomas Ridge, then owner, had the two lakes constructed. Prior to

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this, the area the lakes were to occupy was pasture, and the north part of the property was in cultivation. The eleven stone piers on the north side of the lake might have also been constructed at this time to support a structure which was never built.³⁵ It was not until several years later, around 1925, that the summer resort came into being. By the late 20's, the southern end of the west lake was lined with four summer cottages and a large rambling clubhouse. A decade later, the number of cottages at the south end had grown to eight. The lakes were encircled by a nine hole golf course, and on the north side of the west lake were two structures. One of these, smaller than the other cottages, was either a small house or a shelter; the other was the Canaday house, and after it burned, still another cottage--the third dwelling to be constructed at that location.³⁶ It is probably the chimney of this third house that is still standing today on the north side of the lake.

The cottages all appeared to be built in the bungalow style with variations from house to house as to floor space, number of porches and rooms. All were of wood frame construction, covered with lap siding, lighted with electricity, heated by stoves and/or fireplaces. None had plumbing and for all, spring water was listed as the water source.³⁷

A description of the clubhouse could not be obtained, but an aerial photograph taken in 1931 shows it to be much larger than the cottages and irregular in plan with a secondary block(s) appended to the southeast end of the larger main block.³⁸

For fifteen or twenty years, this country club was the setting for social events, dances, boating and golf, until it ceased operations around 1944.³⁹

The present flow of Cave Spring does not satisfy W.Z. Hickman's depiction of a "magnificent spring that burst out from a great ledge of rock..." The spring is neither magnificent, nor the ledge of rock great, but its flow was once, it is still possible to believe, greater than at present. The memories of early area residents suggest this to be the case. Ola Davenport recalls that during a drought around 1900, her father and at least one other area farmer had to sell cattle to Theodore Cramer because he was the only one with a dependable water supply--Cave Spring.⁴⁰ During another drought a decade later, Forrest Muir's father, Walter, made daily runs to Cave Spring with three water wagons to sustain his herd. Others apparently used the spring for the same purpose.⁴¹ In 1922-1924 when Richards Field, an army air force base, was located nearby, Luther Donovan was contracted to construct a pumping station that would supply water through a 2" pipe leading from Cave Spring to the water tower that served the base.⁴² The spring, as it is today, could not have fulfilled any of these functions.

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It is difficult to explain a decrease in the spring's flow but it seems connected with the opening of a sinkhole and underground cavern that appeared in 1948 during the construction of Our Lady of Lourdes Church 500 yards northeast of Cave Spring on Blue Ridge Boulevard. Around this same time, a Mrs. Powell, who lived at Cave Spring, reported that the flow from the spring had dropped from eighty or ninety gallons a minute to a mere trickle. Geologists from the University of Kansas, there to investigate the incident, expressed skepticism that the sinkhole and the decrease in flow were related,⁴³ but had no alternative explanation to offer. Nor has any been advanced since that time.

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri History as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." The Cave Spring Site is, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Economics," and "Exploration and Settlement."

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17. County Court Minutes, Jackson County, Missouri, Book 9, #95517, February 4, 1852.
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33. Ibid.
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35. Donavan, personal interview by Mooney, December 8, 12, 1976.
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31. "Tap Opens Lost Cave," Kansas City Times, October 10, 1948.
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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

A

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4	3	1	6	6	4	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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4	3	1	7	0	6	0
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B

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

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4	3	1	6	6	2	0
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Reference: Jackson County, Missouri Map No. 45-440

Bounded on the east by Blue Ridge Boulevard; on the south by Homewood Subdivision lots 1-6, Franks Subdivision lots 1-5 and Elmbrook Subdivision lot 1; on the west by Harmon Subdivision lots 7-8, 20-24; and on the north by Gregory Boulevard and Harecliff Subdivision lots 1, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 12.

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. James M. Denny, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Department of Natural Resources,
Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 176

TELEPHONE

314-751-4096

CITY OR TOWN

Jefferson City

STATE

Missouri 65101

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____

STATE _____

LOCAL _____

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

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

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

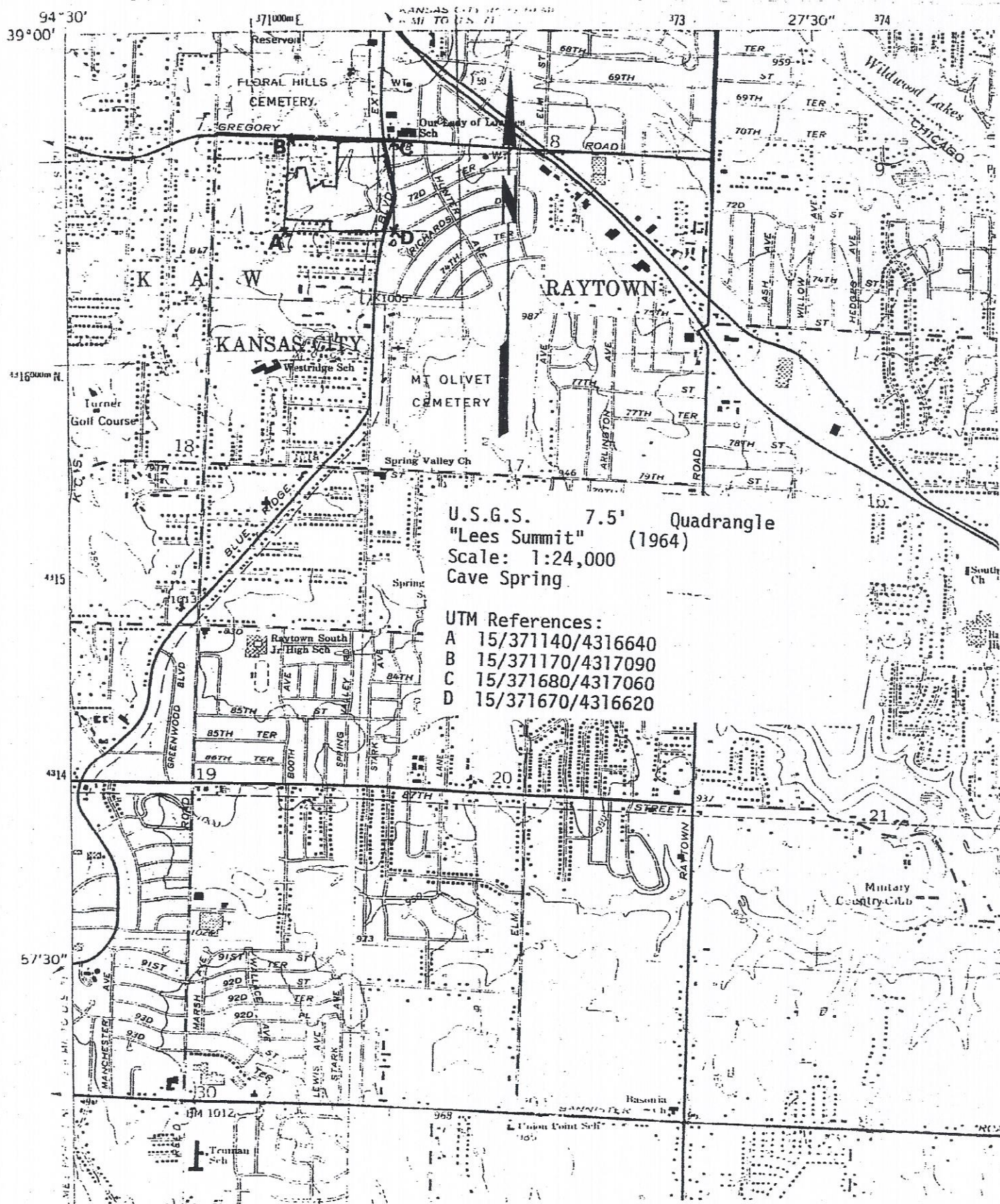
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

62-1155
KANSAS CITY



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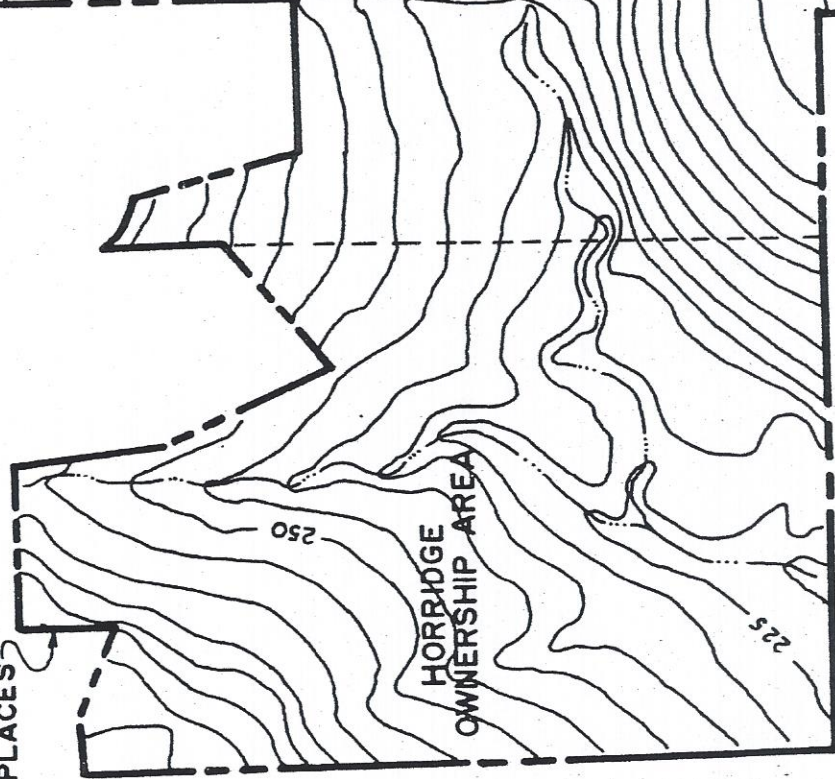
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2. Mrs. Sylvia Mooney
7120 Harecliff Drive
Kansas City, Missouri 64133
3. Mrs. Roberta Bonnewitz
9717 Brook Lane
Raytown, Missouri 64133
4. Mr. Whitson Kirk
7113 Harecliff Drive
Kansas City, Missouri 64133

CAVE SPRING SITE KANSAS CITY / RAYTOWN, MISSOURI

SITE PLAN MAP/PHOTO SKETCH MAP
NOT TO SCALE

 = INDICATES CAMERA POSITION AND PHOTO NUMBER
BOUNDARY OF AREA BEING NOMINATED TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES



BASED ON TOPOGRAPHIC MAP COMPILED
BY FAIRCHILD AERIAL SURVEY, 1955