

PH0663441

RECEIVED SURVEY OFFICE AUG 3 1977

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY RECEIVED FEB 21 1978 DATE ENTERED NOV 21 1978

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 Bixby, Walter E., Residence

AND/OR COMMON Willits, Robert W., Residence

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 6505 State Line Road

CITY, TOWN Kansas City VICINITY OF #5 Hon. Richard L. Bolling STATE Missouri 64113 CODE 29 COUNTY Jackson CODE 095

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Robert W. Willits

STREET & NUMBER 6505 State Line Road

CITY, TOWN Kansas City VICINITY OF STATE Missouri 64113

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the Recorder of Deeds Jackson County Courthouse, Kansas City Annex

STREET & NUMBER 415 East 12th Street

CITY, TOWN Kansas City STATE Missouri 64106

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE 1) Landmarks Catalogue - Buildings and Spaces of Metropolitan Kansas City

DATE 1971 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Kansas City Chapter, American Institute of Architects, 917 West 43rd Street

CITY, TOWN Kansas City STATE Missouri 64111

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 21 1978

DATE ENTERED NOV 21 1978

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

BIXBY, WALTER E., RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

2) Preliminary Inventory of Architecture and Historic Sites of Kansas City, Missouri

1974

Local

Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri
City Hall - 26th Floor East
414 East 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

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 Walter E. Bixby Residence, 6505 State Line Road, Kansas City, Missouri, is a two story (plus basement), reinforced concrete and stucco house designed in the International style. Constructed in 1935-1937, the primary facade of the structure faces west.

EXTERIOR

Over-all dimensions

Asymmetrical in design and plan, the Bixby Residence is principally constructed in three sections: a two and one-half story (on the east facade) central core, with an adjoining two-story northeast wing and a two-story southwest wing (built one-half story below the floor alignment of the central section). The structure has projecting extensions from various facades and cantilevered balconies and terraces. The maximum dimensions of the Bixby Residence, including exterior terraces and retaining walls, measure approximately 158 feet north-south and approximately 74 feet east-west. The maximum height from the southeast area of the house to the chimney apex is approximately 37 feet. The total area of interior living space is approximately 15,250 square feet.

Construction Materials and Colors

The foundations of the Bixby Residence are constructed atop a natural limestone ledge. Reinforced concrete used as the principal construction material, supports concrete cinder blocks. Exterior walls are surfaced with metal lathing and stucco, painted white. Retaining walls are of similar wall construction as the house. Terrace flooring is of poured concrete surfaced with paretta. Most windows and entrance doors are of plate glass with aluminum alloy frames. Some window areas extensively use translucent glass bricks. Steel is used for the cantilevered balconies. Tubular steel columns are used to support cantilevered balconies. 1

Openings

Windows. Windows consist of elongated rectangular to nearly square, single light casement windows alternating in certain areas of the facades with double sash windows placed in aluminum alloy frames. The windows are slightly recessed within the walls. Sills consist of slanted runoffs. The windows punctuate the facades in horizontal bands of multiple groups. All plate glass windows are shielded by single or double light, hinged storm windows. The curved walls on the first story projections of the west and east facades, have translucent glass bricks.

Doorways. Most doors are constructed of similar materials and designs as the plate glass windows. The doors are composed of the following:

1. a recessed, main entrance door, located near the northwest corner of the central section of the house. It consists of a single-leaf door flanked by side lights and surmounted by a



1001
1002
1003

1004
1005
1006
1007
1008
1009
1010
1011
1012

1013
1014
1015
1016
1017
1018
1019
1020

1021
1022
1023
1024
1025
1026
1027
1028
1029
1030

1031
1032
1033

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 21 1978

DATE ENTERED NOV 21 1978

BIXBY, WALTER E., RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

- transom. The main entrance, sheltered by portions of the second story balcony is approached by a single step, cut stone and paretta porch.
2. on the north face of the southwest wing is a single-leaf, metal door approached from the west by a single-run stairway with a solid, reinforced concrete balustrade.
 3. along the second story directly above the main entrance on the west facade is a single-leaf, glazed door flanked by windows, allowing access to a second story balcony.
 4. on the west face of the northeast wing is a single-leaf glazed door
 5. a pair of double width, overhead garage doors are located on the south face of the southwest wing. Each door has a horizontal band of single light windows.
 6. a single-leaf, metal door on the south face of the central section which is aligned to the roof terrace of the southeast wing.
 7. a single-leaf, metal door located on the east face of the basement level of the southwest wing. The entrance, approached by a single-run staircase is sheltered by a small, cantilevered overhang.
 8. a single-leaf, metal door placed along the basement level of the south face of the northeast wing extension and approached by a single-run, curved stairway from the upper east facade terraces.
 9. along the first floor level of the east face of the northeast wing is a series of four, single-leaf, glazed doors allowing access to a terrace.
 10. along the second story level of the east face of the central section is a single-leaf, glazed door sheltered by a modest cantilevered door hood.
 11. facing south along the second story level of the northeast wing are paired, single-leaf glazed doors sheltered by a modest cantilevered door hood.
 12. along the second story level of the east face of the northeast wing is a single-leaf, glazed door allowing access to a second story balcony.
 13. a single-leaf, metal door placed along the north face of the second story of the northeast wing.
 14. a single-leaf, glazed door located along the second story of the west face of the northeast wing allowing access to a balcony.

Porches

Ground story terraces are of poured concrete with paretta flooring, outlined by either reinforced concrete retaining walls or stone slabs. Due to the sloping topography along the east areas of the house, the exterior terraces are stepped

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

FEB 21 1978

DATE ENTERED

NOV 21 1978

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

BIXBY, WALTER E., RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

and approached by single-run staircases. Second story balconies, particularly those along the northwest and northeast areas of the house are cantilevered with portions containing curved, solid balustrades. As with the ground story terraces, the floors are of poured concrete surfaced with paretta (placement of the porches on the facades are mentioned above in the category: Openings-Doors).

Chimneys

Three, reinforced concrete chimneys surfaced with stucco, project above the roof line. They are placed along the south wall of the central section and along the north and west walls of the northeast wing of the house.

Roof

Tar and gravel covers the flat, concrete slab roof on the central and northeast sections.

Decorative details

The Bixby Residence, devoid of excessive ornamentation, is decorated with a series of three incised bands extending with few interruptions along the roofline, around all three sections of the house. Around the main entrance on the west facade are a series of recessed vertical bands. Placement of windows and doors as well as cantilevered balconies on the facades are used as overall design elements.

INTERIOR

Access into the interiors was unobtainable.

ALTERATIONS

There are no visible or structural changes to the Bixby Residence.

CONDITION

The condition and maintenance of the house are excellent.

PRESENT STATUS

At present there is no threat of demolition to the house or planned redevelopment of the surrounding neighborhood.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 21 1978

DATE ENTERED NOV 21 1978

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

BIXBY, WALTER E., RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

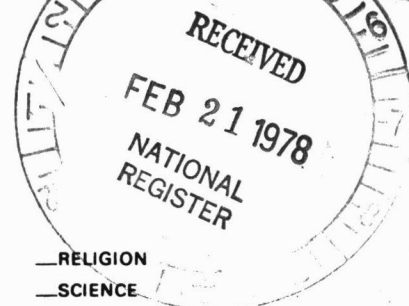
SITE

The Bixby Residence located in the Country Club District of Kansas City is surrounded in all directions by single-family residential structures. The structure, located near the Missouri-Kansas state line, is constructed on the highest point of elevation on the estate. The topography slopes from west to east in a medium decline. A semi-circular, asphalt-surfaced driveway extends from State Line Road. An additional, asphalt-surfaced driveway connects the main drive with the garage entrances. The extreme eastern property line features a creek ravine. The property is richly landscaped with indigenous flora, coniferous and deciduous trees and shrubbery.

Located southeast of the house is an outdoor kitchen/patio with a swimming pool, constructed in 1971-1972. Measuring approximately 44 feet by 22 feet, the patio has large, irregular marble slab flooring. An outdoor kitchen, placed at the northeast corner of the patio, has reinforced concrete walls with a red wood, shed roof sheltering various appliances. A linear design, wrought iron fence with reinforced concrete newel posts encircles the patio and pool. A concrete and paretta walkway connects the patio with the terraces along the east walls of the house.

FOOTNOTES

1. "This State Line House Exemplifies Modern Residential Design in Kansas City," Kansas City (Missouri) Star, 10 January 1937, sec. D, p. 6.; Architectural Plans and Elevations (In the possession of the J.C. Nichols Company, 310 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Missouri 64112).
2. Building Permit No. A 53971, dated 11 November 1971, Building Permit Office, City Hall - 18th Floor South, 414 East 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106.



8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Prominent Owner
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1935 - 1937 **BUILDER/ARCHITECT** Edward W. Tanner

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Walter E. Bixby Residence in Kansas City, Missouri is significant as being one of the earliest planned and one of the most refined and elaborate examples of International style architecture in Kansas City. The Bixby Residence, constructed 1935-37,¹ is an unusual and major work of the Kansas City architect, Edward W. Tanner.² The J. C. Nichols Company were builders of the residence.³ The prominent landscape architectural firm of Hare and Hare was responsible for the landscaping of the original 4.5 acre estate.⁴

The Bixby Residence exhibits the technological advancements in engineering and function, with a keen understanding of the International style, as developed in the 1920s and 1930s by such twentieth century European architects as Le Corbusier (Charles Edouard Jeanneret - Gris), Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Walter Gropius, J.J.P. Oud and Peter Behrens. The International style was less dependent on stylistic principles of past centuries, but placed more emphasis on contemporary technological innovations. The International style recognized engineers as invaluable designers. Function supplanted aesthetic theory as principle architectural idioms. Elaborate stylistic concerns were replaced by mass produced, standardized parts, combined to create a whole entity being comprised of individual parts. The Bixby Residence, with exteriors and grounds relatively intact, is progressive and original for the time and place where it was built and remains unique in Kansas City architecture.⁵

HISTORICAL DATA

ARCHITECT

Edward W. Tanner (1896-1974) is recognized⁶ as one of Kansas City's foremost architects and city planners. Tanner, born in Cottonwood Falls, Kansas in 1896, was raised and educated in Lawrence, Kansas. Tanner enrolled at the University of Kansas, graduating in 1916. There, he was one of the recipients of a degree from the newly organized School of Engineering and Architecture. Tanner moved to Kansas City, joining the prominent architectural firm of Shepard, Farrar and Wiser and later, he joined with the Concrete Engineering Company. During World War I, Tanner was enlisted as an artillery instructor stationed at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. In 1918, he left the service with the rank of captain and was employed by the J. C. Nichols Company. He soon formed Edward W. Tanner and Associates as an independent but closely allied organization with the Nichols Company.⁶

In 1927, Tanner travelled abroad in England and France, where he most probably saw examples of and publications written about developments in modern architecture and engineering by Le Corbusier and other European architects.⁷ By 1932, a major exhibition was held at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, entitled "The First International Exhibition of Modern Architecture". Distinguished European architects, such as, Mies van der Rohe, Gropius, Oud, Breuer, Aalto, Neutra, Howe, Lescaze, as well as Le Corbusier,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 21 1978

DATE ENTERED

NOV 21 1978

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

BIXBY, WALTER E., RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

were exhibitors.⁸ Their works and innovations received wide acclaim and were highly influential to many American architects, among those, Tanner. These contemporary architectural developments were strong enough to have influenced Tanner to incorporate them for the first time, within the house plans he drew for Walter E. Bixby in 1935.⁹

During the Second World War, Tanner served as architectural engineer under the firm of Tanner and Mitchell, where they executed plans for many regional hospitals and air fields for the U. S. Government. Among those, were the O'Reilly Hospital in Springfield, Missouri, and the Hays-Walker and Great Bend airfields in Kansas.¹⁰

In his later years, Tanner joined with Mayo H. Linscott in 1961 to form Tanner, Linscott, and Associates. Tanner served as the firm's principle designer until 1964 when he retired from the staff as vice-president. He maintained association with the firm as an advisory director for several years. He was responsible throughout his architectural career for much of the appearance and supervised construction of the nationally famous Country Club Plaza in Kansas City. Tanner designed numerous other shopping centers in neighboring districts. In addition, Tanner drafted plans for more than 2,000 homes in the Country Club District of Kansas City, Missouri and Johnson County, Kansas.¹¹

Apart from his activities in architectural designing, Tanner served in various civic and business enterprises. He was a member of the American Institute of Architects, the Kansas City Art Institute and the Municipal Arts Commission. Tanner was a founder and president of the Midwest Concrete Industries Board, formed in 1960. Tanner was chairman of the building committee for Children's Mercy Hospital. He was director to both the R. J. Delano School and the Plaza Bank of Commerce and he served as a member of the Johnson County Society for Crippled Children. Edward W. Tanner died April 26, 1974 in Kansas City, Missouri.¹²

Various major commissions included:

1. Township Plan, Fort Peck, Montana, architect, 1933, surviving
2. Walter E. Bixby Residence, Kansas City, Missouri, architect, 1935-37, surviving
3. "Five Star Home Plan," Prairie Village, Kansas, architect, 1941, present status unknown
4. Sears, Roebuck and Company Retail Store, Kansas City, Missouri, architect, 1946, surviving
5. Danforth Chapel, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, architect, 1946, surviving
6. Plaza time Building, Kansas City, Missouri, architect, 1946-47, surviving

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 21 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 21 1978

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

BIXBY, WALTER E., RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

7. Prairie Village Shopping Center, Prairie Village, Kansas, architect, 1948, surviving
8. "Blanding's Dream House," Kansas City, Missouri, architect, 1949, present status unknown
9. Linda Hall Memorial Library, Kansas City, Missouri, architect, 1953, surviving
10. "The Landing" Shopping Center, Kansas City, Missouri, architect, 1957-58, surviving
11. Kansas City Public Library Building (Main Branch), Kansas City, Missouri, architect, 1959-60, surviving
12. Barstow School, Kansas City, Missouri, co-architect, 1961, surviving
13. John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company Building, Kansas City, Missouri, co-architect, 1961-62, surviving
14. Commercial Building, Madison Avenue, near 46th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, architect, 1964, surviving.¹³

ORIGINAL OWNER

Walter E. Bixby, Sr. (1896-1972), was born in Champaign, Illinois, in 1896. His early education included attendance at Drury College in Springfield, Missouri and the University of Missouri - Columbia. Initially interested in petroleum engineering, Bixby joined with the Kansas City Life Insurance Company as a clerk. In 1923, after his marriage to Angeline Reynolds, daughter of J. B. Reynolds, chairman of the company, Bixby rose in various positions with the life insurance company and he was instrumental in developing Kansas City Life into one of the largest and most prestigious insurance companies in the country. Bixby served in these positions with the life insurance company: Assistant Secretary (1924-34), Board member (1934-37), Executive Vice-President (1937-39), President (1939-64) and Chairman of the Board (1964-72). Walter E. Bixby Sr. died in Kansas City, Missouri August 16, 1972.¹⁴

Apart from his affiliation with the Kansas City Life Insurance Company, Bixby was active in various civic and business affairs in Kansas City:

1. director of the Commerce Trust Company of Kansas City, Missouri
2. member of the Kansas City Police Commissioners and Police Retirement Board
3. charter member and honorary director of the Kansas City Crime Commission, serving as vice-president of the organization 1950-55
4. president and trustee of the Midwest Research Institute
5. chairman and life member of the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the American Red Cross
6. member of the Board of Governors of the American Royal, 1937-72
7. trustee of the University of the Missouri-Kansas City
8. vice-president of the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 21 1978
DATE ENTERED NOV 21 1978

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

BIXBY, WALTER E., RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 3

9. president and member of the American Life Convention Executive Committee
10. member of the Board of Directors of the Institute of Life Insurance
11. director of the Life Insurance Medical Research Fund.¹⁵

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri's history as outlined in "Missouri State Historic Preservation Plan." Walter E. Bixby Residence is therefore being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of: "Architecture," "Economics," "Society," "Technology" and "Urban Planning."

FOOTNOTES

1. Building Permit No.15785, dated 15. November 1935, Building Permit Office, City Hall - 18th Floor South, 414 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; "This State Line House Exemplifies Modern Residential Design In Kansas City," Kansas City (Missouri) Star, 10 January 1937, sec. D, p. 6.
2. "This State Line House Exemplifies Modern Residential Design In Kansas City," Kansas City (Missouri) Star, 10 January 1937, sec. D, p.6.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Henry-Russell Hitchcock and Phillip Johnson, The International Style (New York, N.Y.: W. W. Norton & Company, 1966), pp. 17-34; Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide To The Styles (Cambridge, Massachusetts: M.I.T. Press, 1969), pp. 241-46.
6. Dick Fowler, Leaders In Our Town (Kansas City, Missouri: Burd & Fletcher Company, 1952), pp. 425-428.
7. Interview between Mrs. Edward W. Tanner, widow, 121 West 48th Street, Kansas City, Missouri and Patricia Ann Brown, researcher, 27 October 1976.
8. Whiffen, op. cit., p. 456.
9. "This State Line House Exemplifies Modern Residential Design in Kansas City", Kansas City (Missouri) Star, 10 January 1937, sec. D, p.6.
10. Fowler, op. cit., p. 456.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 21 1978

DATE ENTERED

NOV 21 1978

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

BIXBY, WALTER E., RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 4

11. Ibid.; "E. W. Tanner, Plaza Architect Dies," Kansas City (Missouri) Times, 26 April 1974, p. 3.
12. Ibid.; "Critical Eye Leads to the Ideal," Kansas City (Missouri) Star, 14 July 1961, sec. C, p. 1.
13. Fowler, op. cit. pp. 425-428; Interview between Mrs. E. W. Tanner and Patricia Ann Brown, 27 October 1976; "This State Line House Exemplifies Residential Design in Kansas City," Kansas City (Missouri) Star, 10 January 1937, sec. D, p. 6; "Sears is Set," Kansas City (Missouri) Star, 16 November 1947, sec. D, p. 9; "Barstow Plan Wins Approval," Kansas City (Missouri) Times, 13 January 1960, p. 3; "E. W. Tanner, Plaza Architect, Dies," Kansas City (Missouri) Times, 26 April 1974, p.3; "Critical Eye Leads To The Ideal," Kansas City (Missouri) Star, 14 July 1961, sec. C, p.1.
14. Fowler, op. cit. pp. 32-36; "Walter Bixby, Sr. Dies at Age 75," Kansas City (Missouri) Times, 17 August 1972, sec. A, p.3.
15. Ibid.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 21 1978

DATE ENTERED NOV 21 1978

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

BIXBY, WALTER E., RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

3. "Critical Eye Leads to the Ideal." Kansas City (Missouri) Star, 14 July 1961, sec. C, p. 1.
4. "E. W. Tanner, Plaza Architects, Dies." Kansas City (Missouri) Times, 26 April 1974, p. 3.
5. Fowler, Dick. Leaders In Our Town. Kansas City, Missouri: Burd & Fletcher Company, 1952.
6. Hitchcock, Henry - Russell, and Johnson, Phillip. The International Style. New York, N.Y.: W. W. Norton & Company, 1966.
7. Kansas City, Missouri. Building Permits Office - City Hall. Building Permits.
8. "Sears Is Set." Kansas City (Missouri) Star, 16 November 1960, p. 3.
9. Tanner, Mrs. Edward W. widow. Kansas City, Missouri. Interview with Patricia Ann Brown, researcher. 27 October 1976.
10. "This State Line House Exemplifies Modern Residential Design In Kansas City." Kansas City (Missouri) Star, 10 January 1937, sec. D, p. 6.
11. "Walter Bixby, Sr. Dies at age 75." Kansas City (Missouri) Times, 17 August 1972, sec. A, p. 3.
12. Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide To The Styles. Cambridge, Massachusetts: M.I.T. Press, 1969.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 21 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 21 1978

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

BIXBY, WALTER E., RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

-
- 2) Patricia Ann Brown, Researcher
Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri
City Hall - 26th Floor East, 414 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64111

Property Bixby, Walter E., Residence
State Mo. Working Number 2.21.78.2542

78001651

TECHNICAL

Photos 10
Maps 1

~~Signature?~~

CONTROL

pl
OK - 2.22.78

HISTORIAN

"... remains unique in Kansas city architecture." They make a strong case for the quality of the design and the area significance. They do not address the age problem directly.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Bravman
4.10.78

ARCHEOLOGIST

AN ARCHITECTURAL LANDMARK IN THE AREA. c. 1935

THE HOUSE REPRESENTS THE INFLUENCE THAT THE M.O.M.A. EXHIBIT HAD ON AMERICAN ARCHITECTS. IT WAS THIS EXHIBIT ALONG W/ THE BOOK BY JOHNSON AND HITCHCOCK THAT CAUSED MANY LARGE HOUSES, ESPECIALLY ON WOODED SITES, TO BE EXECUTED IN THIS NEW STYLE. THE BIXBY HOUSE'S FORM & DECORATION, AS WELL AS THE SITING, ARE VERY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL STYLE.

OTHER

ACCEPT
Brif
4/11/78

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

Xerox is stable - but I will call letting them to stop using it.

BUILT IN 1935

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

exceptional significance, at local level, is justified as ^{better} good example of International School/streamlined moderne in K.C. area nomination even repeats architectural language and clichés of period.

Accept
Lebovich
5/13/78

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Accepted
11/21/78

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 2-6-79 Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered NOV 21 1978

INT:2106-74



NOV 21 1978

Bixby, Walter E., Residence 1
Kansas City, Missouri
Photographer: Victoria C. Karel

FEB 21 1978 March, 1977

Neg. Loc.: Landmarks Commission of
Kansas City, Missouri, City Hall,
26th Floor East, 414 E. 12th St.,
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

West facade; view looking northeast,
showing west facade of central section
of the house on the left and the
southwest wing on the right.



NOV 21 1978

Bixby, Walter E., Residence 2
Kansas City, Missouri
Photographer: Victoria C. Karel
March, 1977

FEB 21 1978

Neg. Loc.: Landmarks Commission of
Kansas City, Missouri, City Hall,
26th Floor East, 414 E. 12th St.,
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

West facade; view looking east. State
Line Road is in the foreground.

TT



NOV 21 1978

Bixby, Walter E., Residence
Kansas City, Missouri
Photographer: Victoria C. Karel
FEB 21 1978 March, 1977

JACKSON Co
3

Neg. Loc.: Landmarks Commission of
Kansas City, Missouri, City Hall,
26th Floor East, 414 E. 12th St.,
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Northwest corner; view looking south-
east showing the northeast wing on the
left and the central and southwest
sections of the house on the right.



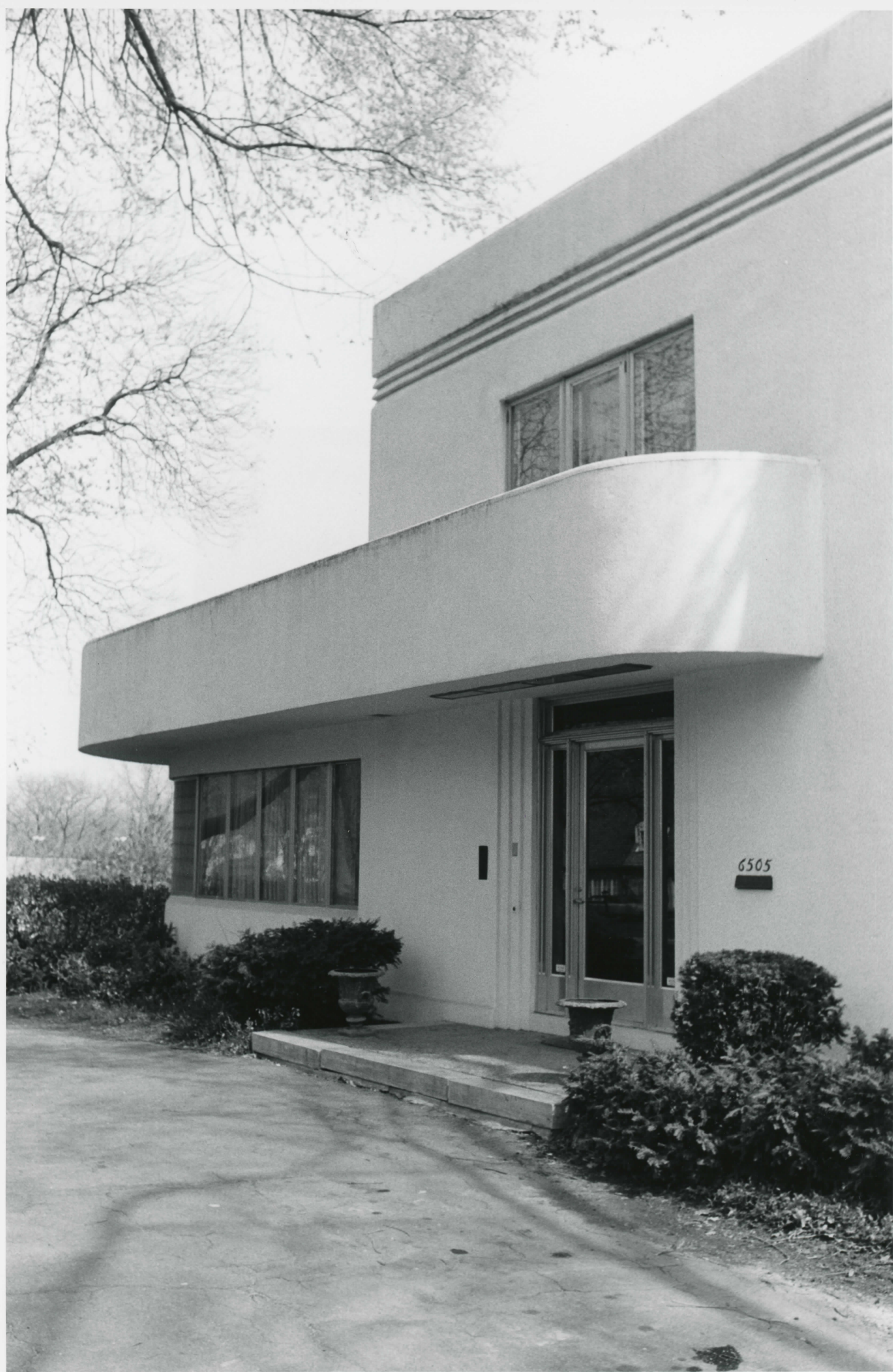
NOV 21 1978

Bixby, Walter E., Residence 4
Kansas City, Missouri
Photographer: Victoria C. Karel
March, 1977

Neg. Loc.: Landmarks Commission of
Kansas City, Missouri, City Hall,
26th Floor East, 414 E. 12th St.,
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

North facade of northeast wing;
view looking south.

FEB 21 1978



6505

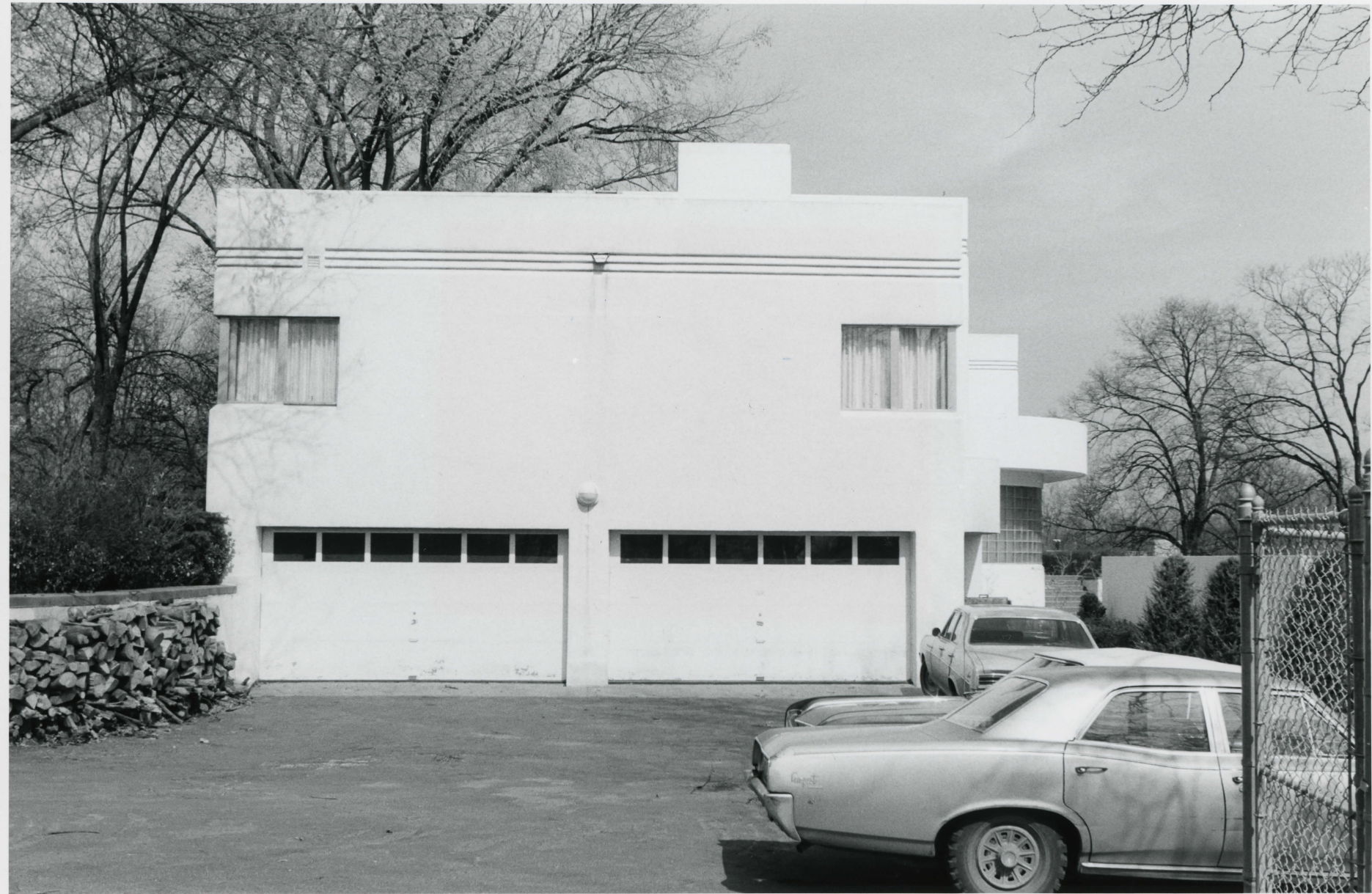
Bixby, Walter E., Residence 5
Kansas City, Missouri
Photographer: Victoria C. Karel
March, 1977

Neg. Loc.: Landmarks Commission of
Kansas City, Missouri, City Hall,
26th Floor East, 414 E. 12th St.,
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

NOV 21 1978

Detail of main entrance;
view looking northeast.

FEB 21 1978



Bixby, Walter E., Residence 6
Kansas City, Missouri
Photographer: Victoria C. Karel
March, 1977

NOV 21 1978

Neg. Loc.: Landmarks Commission of
Kansas City, Missouri, City Hall,
26th Floor East, 414 E. 12th St.,
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

South facade of southwest wing;
view looking north.

FEB 21 1978



Bixby, Walter E., Residence 7
Kansas City, Missouri
Photographer: Victoria C. Karel
March, 1977

NOV 21 1978

Neg. Loc.: Landmarks Commission of
Kansas City, Missouri, City Hall,
26th Floor East, 414 E. 12th St.,
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Southeast corner; view looking
northwest, showing the southwest
wing on the left, the central section
of the Bixby Residence in the center
and the northeast wing on the right.

The outdoor kitchen/patio/swimming
pool is in the foreground.

FEB 21 1978



Bixby, Walter E., Residence 8
Kansas City, Missouri
Photographer: Victoria C. Karel
March, 1977

NOV 21 1978

Neg. Loc.: Landmarks Commission of
Kansas City, Missouri, City Hall,
26th Floor East, 414 E. 12th St.,
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

East facade of northeast wing;
view looking west.

FEB 21 1978



Bixby, Walter E., Residence 9
Kansas City, Missouri
Photographer: Victoria C. Karel
March, 1977

NOV 21 1978

Neg. Loc.: Landmarks Commission of
Kansas City, Missouri, City Hall,
26th Floor East, 414 E. 12th St.,
Kansas City, Missouri 65106

FEB 21 1978

Detail of east facade of Bixby
Residence; view looking northeast.



Bixby, Walter E., Residence 10
Kansas City, Missouri
Photographer: Victoria C. Karel
NOV 21 1978 March, 1977

Neg. Loc.: Landmarks Commission of
Kansas City, Missouri, City Hall,
26th Floor East, 414 E. 12th St.,
Kansas City, Missouri 65106

Outdoor kitchen/patio/swimming pool;
view looking southeast.

FEB 21 1978

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 1970
DATE ENTERED	

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Bixby, Walter E., Residence

AND/OR COMMON Willitts, Robert W., Residence

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Kansas City VICINITY OF COUNTY Jackson STATE Missouri

3 MAP REFERENCE

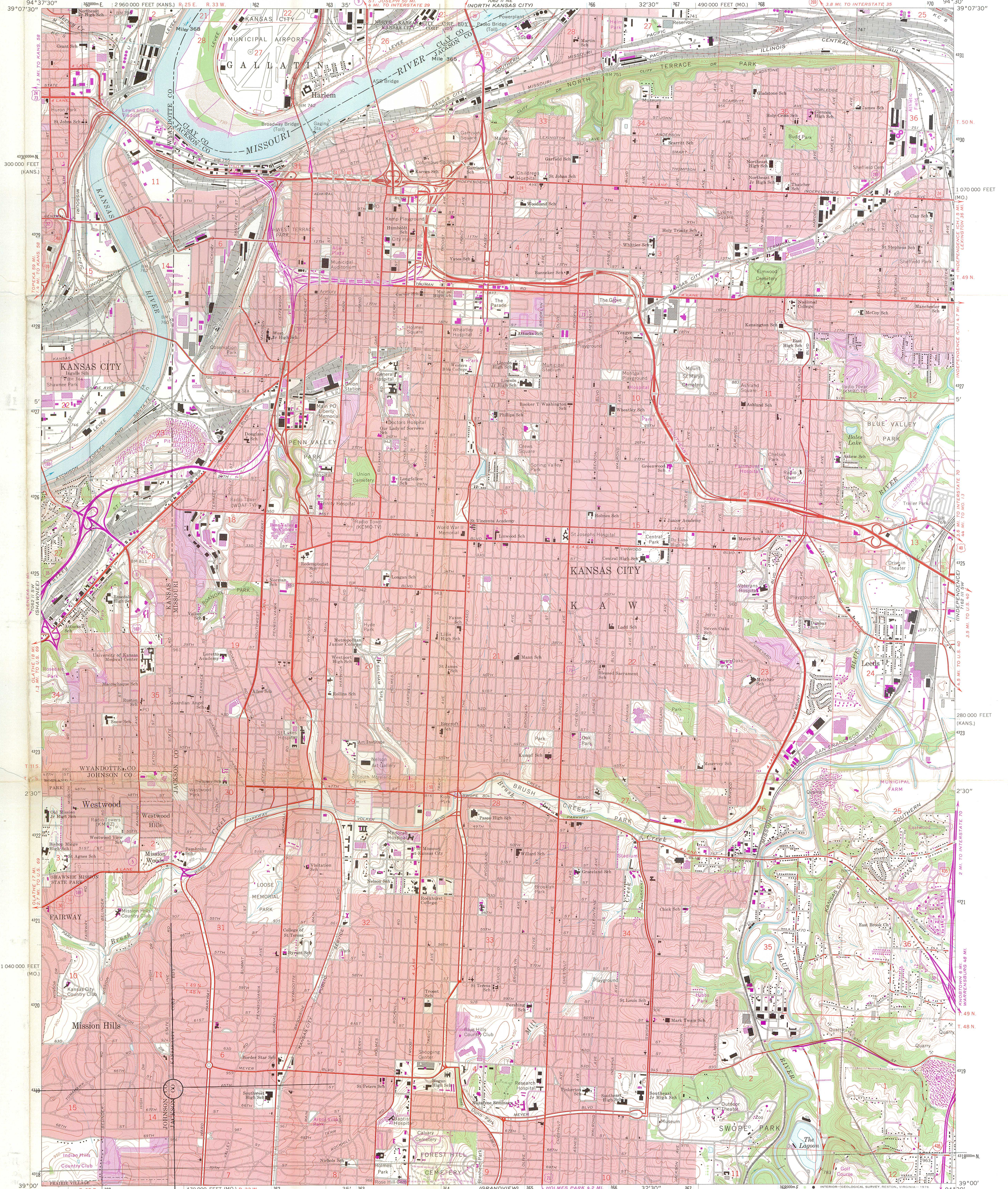
SOURCE U.S.G.S. 7.5' "Kansas City Mo-Kans" Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24,000 DATE 1970

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

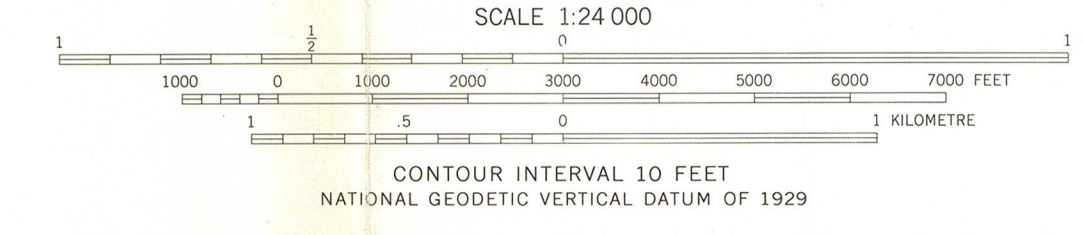
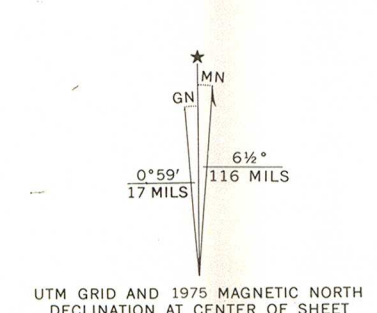
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle
"Kansas City, Mo. - Kansas" (1970)
Scale: 1:24,000
Bixby, Walter E., Residence

UTM Reference:
15/360860/4318960

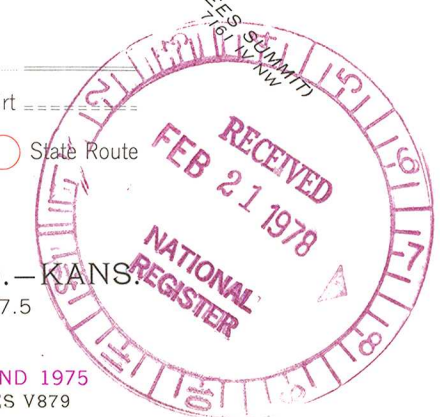


KANSAS CITY, MO. - KANSAS
N3900-W9430/7.5

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092,
AND THE DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401
AND STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

NOV 21 1978

PHOTOREVISED 1970 AND 1975
AMS 7062 II SE-SERIES V879



DATE 5/11/78

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL

10:15

AM
PM

1. CALL TO: FROM (Name)

JAMES DENNY

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

MISSOURI SHPO'S OFFICE

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

BIXBY ~~RD~~ HOUSE.

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

JAMES INFORMED ME THAT THE STATE FEELS THAT ENOUGH TIME HAS ELAPSED AS TO MAKE THIS STYLE SIGNIFICANT IN THE HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE. THE INTERNATIONAL STYLE HAS SECURED ITS PLACE IN TIME ~~THE~~ THE BIXBY HOUSE IS THE MOST REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE IN THE AREA.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

H. Z. [Signature]

TITLE

ARCH. HISTORIAN

OFFICE

N.R.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MISSOURI

Date Entered NOV 21 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Concordia Log Cabin College	Altenburg Perry County
Bixby, Walter E., House	Kansas City Jackson County

Also Notified

Honorable John C. Danforth
Honorable Thomas F. Eagleton
Honorable Bill D. Burlison
Honorable Richard Bolling

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Fred A. Lafser
State Department of Natural Resources
1001 SW. Blvd.
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Bixby, Walter E., House		② OTHER NAMES: Willits, Robert W., House		③ date of entry: NOV 21 1978	④ county code: 95
⑤ LOCATION street & number 6505 State Line Rd.		city / town Kansas City	vicinity of	state MO	county Jackson
⑦ OWNER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <input type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> MUNICIPAL <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL (agency name)				⑧ ADMINISTRATOR:	
⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS <input type="checkbox"/> HABS <input type="checkbox"/> HAER <input type="checkbox"/> NHL		⑩ FUNDED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT 5th	⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL	
⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES, NAME <input type="checkbox"/> NO		⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? <input type="checkbox"/> YES, NAME <input type="checkbox"/> NO		⑮ ACREAGE Edward J. Miszczuk <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE ORGANIZATION	
⑯ CONDITION		⑰ features:		⑱ ADAPTIVE USE <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> altered <input type="checkbox"/> original site <input type="checkbox"/> excellent <input type="checkbox"/> ruins <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> moved <input type="checkbox"/> good <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed <input type="checkbox"/> reconstructed <input type="checkbox"/> unknown <input type="checkbox"/> fair <input type="checkbox"/> unexcavated <input type="checkbox"/> excavated		INTERIOR <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-4 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-5 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-7 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-8		ENVIRONS <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-6 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-9	
⑲ ACCESS <input type="checkbox"/> YES-Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> YES-Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No Access <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		⑳ ADAPTIVE USE <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		㉑ SAVED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
㉒ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE :		㉓ CLAIMS: explain		IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE-6 <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS-7 <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE-3 <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION-8 <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE-4 <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS-9 <input type="checkbox"/> ART-5 <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION-10		<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING-11 <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT-26 <input type="checkbox"/> LAW-16 <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION-12 <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE-17 <input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH-27 <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY-18 <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY-13 <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC-19 <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION-14 <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY-20		<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVT.-21 <input type="checkbox"/> RECREATION-28 <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION-22 <input type="checkbox"/> SETTLEMENT-29 <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE-23 <input type="checkbox"/> URBAN PLANNING-31 <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION-25	
㉔ functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:		㉕ dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:		㉖ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION	
㉗ architectural style(s):		㉘ architect:		㉙ master builder:	
㉚ landscape architect / garden designer:		㉛ interior decorator:		㉜ artist:	
㉝ names give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:		㉞ artisan:		㉟ builder/contractor:	

㊳ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP