

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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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 Longview, The Col. George C. Thilenius ^{House} Home (Longview)

and/or common Thilenius House

2. Location

street & number 100 Longview Place not for publication

city, town Cape Girardeau vicinity of

state Missouri code 029 county Cape Girardeau code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Marjorie H. M. Thompson

street & number 100 Longview Place

city, town Cape Girardeau vicinity of state Missouri

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cape Girardeau County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Jackson, state Missouri

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date April 1, 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Department of Natural Resources

Office of Historic Preservation
city, town P.O. Box 176 state Missouri 65102
Jefferson City,

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

Longview, the Col. George C. Thilenius Home, is a rectangular shaped house with front and rear porches located at Number 100 Longview Place, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

EXTERIOR:

Longview is two and one half stories tall with the first or basement level of the house partially underground at the front (south) elevation and fully exposed at the rear (north). Exterior dimensions are 40' x 53'4" on the first level, 39'4" x 52'8" on the second level, and 48'7" x 52'8" on the third level. The open front (south) porch measures 9'2" x 34'2". The back (north) porch is enclosed and measures 7'6" x 50'2" (see alterations).

The house is constructed of red brick, exterior and interior walls, laid in stretcher bond with a foundation of rock-faced, broken course sandstone and double cut sandstone water tables. The foundation has been covered with stucco on the south, east and west sides. A brick pilaster occurs on each corner of the house and on either side of the front (south) door. The brickwork and foundation of the house was originally painted a light grey color as it is today.

The windows are arranged symmetrically. All are rectangular, and although their size varies, each is a two-over-two light, double-hung sash trimmed with a plain stone lugsill and double brick radiating arch voussair. All windows are fitted with exterior, louvered, wood shutters. These were originally painted green and are now painted dark grey.

The doors on the main (second) level of the house are double (each is 34" wide) and are centered in the north and south face of the house. Each door has one panel in the lower half and a semi-circular arched window in the upper half. Both double doors are capped by an unusually large segmental arched glass transom window trimmed with a single brick radiating arch voussoir. The basement (first) level door at the rear (north) of the house is the same type as those described above except that it is a single door 36" wide.

The roof is a cross gable type with a classic triangular pediment extending to the front and rear of the house to form the porch roof. On the front (south) elevation the roof line and pediment is trimmed with a boxed cornice with frieze and brackets. On the north, east and west elevations a plain boxed cornice with return trims the roof line. Roof material is red tile (see alterations).

Five corbelled red tile and grey painted brick chimneys cap the roof. All chimneys are of the interior type. Two chimneys extend from the roof on either side of and close to the peak of the roof on the east and west side of the house. The fifth chimney is near the center of the roof.

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INTERIOR:

First Level

The basement (first) level of the house is divided by a wide, 12'10", center hallway. The rooms are arranged symmetrically with two rooms of equal size (18' x 17'10") on either side of the hallway. A winding stairway begins its ascent in the northwest corner of the hall. The stairway, with small, delicate appearing spindles, extends from the first to the third level with a continuous railing. All portions of the wooden stairway (steps, risers, bannister, etc.) have been painted with a simulated oak finish with feather graining. The painted oak finish is original to the construction date of the house. The steps on all three levels of the house have recently been covered with gold carpeting. The hall walls and ceiling are white painted plaster. All woodwork is painted to simulate oak and is original to the house. Floors are asbestos tile over concrete.

The northwest corner of the first level is the original kitchen of the house and is still used for that purpose. An original glass doored built-in wooden cabinet remains in the northwest corner of the modernized kitchen. The original plastered walls have recently been covered with wallpaper. The ceiling is plaster. The floor is asbestos tile over concrete. All woodwork, including wooden kitchen cabinets, is painted white.

The southeast corner room is the original washroom and is still in use as a laundry/utility room. The southeast corner of the this room was partitioned off in 1917 to make a bathroom. Walls and ceiling in both areas are white painted plaster. Floors are asbestos tile over concrete. All woodwork is painted white.

The northeast corner room was originally, and is today, the formal dining room. Original plastered walls in this room have been covered with wood paneling and the ceiling lowered with acoustical tile. An ornate coal-burning iron front fireplace is centered on the east wall. The floor is covered with gold wall-to-wall carpeting over asbestos tile over concrete. Most of the furniture in this room is original to the house including a maple dining table, two oak china cabinets and a hanging kerosene lamp (now converted to electricity) with a handpainted shade. All woodwork is original -- painted to simulate oak.

The southeast corner room was originally a fruit cellar and storage room. It is used as a family room by the present occupants. The original brick and cut stone walls have recently been covered with wood paneling from the floor to a height of six feet. The exposed brick walls above the paneling have been painted white. The floor is the original red brick set in sand in a herringbone pattern. The ceiling is acoustical tile.

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Centered in the south end of the hallway is a door which leads down four cut sandstone steps to a wine cellar under the front porch of the house. The wine cellar measures 14'4" x 11'6" with a vaulted ceiling 10'3" at the highest point. The south wall of this room is constructed of sandstone laid in broken course, rock faced. Other walls and vaulted ceiling are red brick laid in stretcher bond. Floors are flagstone set in earth. The wine cellar is presently used as a storage area.

Second Level

The second (main) level of the house is equally divided by a wide, 12'10", hallway. Double doorways centered at either end (north and south) open onto the rear and front porches. A winding staircase is located in the northwest corner of the hall (see above description). Walls and ceiling are plaster, painted white. The hall floor is of alternating planks of walnut and ash and is visually very interesting. All of the woodwork in the hall is original -- painted to simulate oak. The rooms on the second level are arranged symmetrically with two rooms of equal size (18' x 17'10") on either side of the hallway.

The northwest corner chamber was originally and is today the master bedroom. An ornate coal-burning iron front fireplace is centered on the west wall. The finish on the fireplace is original -- feather painted to simulate marble. Walls and ceiling are plaster painted white. The original floors in this room were wood plank painted to simulate oak. They have recently been covered with gold wall-to-wall carpeting. All woodwork is original -- painted to simulate oak.

The southwest corner chamber was originally and is today used as a second bedroom. An ornate coal-burning iron front fireplace was originally centered in the west wall. It is now off-center due to the addition of a bathroom and two closets on the north end of the room (see alterations). The fireplace finish is original -- feather painted to simulate marble. Walls and ceiling are plaster painted white. The original painted wood plank floors have recently been sanded and finished with clear varnish. They appear to be made of ash wood. Furnishings in this room, including the oak bed, dresser and washstand, are original to the house.

The northeast corner room was originally used as a parlor. It is now in use as a library. An ornate coal-burning iron front fireplace is centered in the east wall. The fireplace finish is original -- feather painted to simulate marble. Walls are plaster painted white. Original 12'5" ceiling has been lowered with acoustical tile. Wood plank floor and all other woodwork is original -- painted to simulate oak. A large, ornately carved secretary in this room belonged to G. C. Thilenius.

The colonnade separates the northeast corner room from the southeast corner room (see alterations). The southeast corner room was originally used as a bedroom. It has been used as a front parlor/music room since 1917 (see alter-

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ations). An ornate coal-burning iron front fireplace is centered in the east wall. The fireplace finish is original -- feather painted to simulate marble. Walls are plaster painted white. Wood plank floor and all other woodwork is original -- painted to simulate oak. The original 12'5" ceiling has been lowered with acoustical tile. A collection of musical instruments in this room reflects the family's continuing interest in music. A walnut square grand piano on the south wall belonged to the original owner of the house.

Double doors centered in the north end of the second level hall open onto an enclosed back porch (see alterations) which extends nearly the full width of the house. The south wall is brick, painted white. The north, east and west walls are wood paneled and contain jalosie type windows (see alterations). The floor is covered in green wall-to-wall carpet. The porch is used as a sewing room by the present owner.

Third Level

The third level stairwell has been enclosed (see alterations). A door at the top of the stairs opens onto the third level hall. The stairwell enclosure is beaverboard, painted white. All other hall walls are plaster, painted white as is the ceiling. The hall floor is painted wood plank and has recently been covered with gold wall-to-wall carpeting. Woodwork is painted white. The rooms on the third level are arranged symmetrically with two rooms of equal size (12'9" x 18') on either side of the hallway.

The northeast corner room is used for storage by the present owner, and this was probably also its original use. Walls and ceiling in this room are painted plaster. The floor is painted wood plank. Woodwork is painted white.

The southwest corner room was originally a bedroom. It has recently been divided by the present owner to make a bathroom and dressing room (see alterations and floor plans). Bathroom partition walls are white painted wallboard. All other walls and ceiling are plaster, painted white. Floors are painted wood plank recently covered with wall-to-wall carpeting. All woodwork is painted white.

The northeast corner room was originally and is today used as a bedroom. Walls and ceiling are white plaster. Floor is painted wood plank. All woodwork is painted white. The furnishings in this room, including two oak high-backed twin beds and an oak dresser, are original to the house.

The southeast corner room was originally and is today used as a bedroom. Walls and ceiling are white painted plaster. Floors are painted wood plank recently covered with wall-to-wall carpeting. All woodwork is painted white. The furnishings in this room, including two hand carved walnut "French" beds and a matching dresser, are original to the house.

A doorway centered in the south hall leads to a bedroom which is located in the

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triangular pediment on the front of the house. The walls and ceiling of this room are white painted plaster. The floor is painted wood plank recently covered with wall-to-wall carpeting. All woodwork is painted white.

ATTIC

A small wooden trap door centered (approximately) in the third level hall ceiling leads to an unfinished attic.

Note: all Interior doors at Longview are the single four panel type.

ALTERATIONS:

The earliest known alterations occurred in 1917 when Mrs. L. T. Keller (a daughter of the original owners) purchased the house. Mrs. Keller made several major changes to modernize the house. These included wiring the house for electricity, the addition of ceiling light fixtures, and indoor plumbing¹ (see enclosed itemized bills). Two bathrooms were added at this time. The southeast corner of the utility room on the basement (first) level was partitioned off to make a half bath. A full bathroom was added between the northwest and southwest corner rooms on the second level using space (6') from the southwest corner room. Two closets, opening from the northwest and southwest corner rooms, were also added at this time. Sinks with running water were also added to the kitchen and utility room in 1917.

Prior to 1917, on the second level, a wall containing a large double doorway with double wooden sliding doors separated the northeast and southeast corner rooms, and divided the central hall in half from east to west. All three of these walls and doorways were removed by Mrs. Keller. The first, as noted above, was replaced by a bathroom and two closets. The second, between the northeast corner room and the southwest corner room, was replaced by a Mission Style colonnade, and the southeast bedroom became the "front parlor." The third wall and doorway which divide the hall was removed to form the long open hallway which now exists.

The front porch was also removed in 1917 and a new porch in the Mission Style was added.

In the renovation of the front porch the following changes appear to have been made to the porch shown in the 1905 photograph:² slender round or square columns were changed to larger square columns that are stuccoed; a soffit was added just above the present columns which appear to be shorter than the originals; the balustrade was changed from one with balusters or spindles to the present one with crossed timbers; the original stairs also appear to be narrower, as the balustrade extends into the middle area between the two central columns, leaving a smaller break as access to the stairs.

The third level stairwell was probably also enclosed around 1917 as the bea-

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verboard construction material was commonly used during that period.

A fire in 1926 destroyed the original wood shingle roof which was replaced with red tile. Some charred timbers are still visible in the attic, others appear to have been replaced at this time. A few of the original wood shingles were saved by the family and remain at Longview.

The back (north) porch, extending nearly the full width of the house, was originally open. It was enclosed with wood paneling and jalosie windows in the mid-1950's. The exterior portions of the porch were covered with asbestos shingles at the same time.

Other recent changes (1977-1980) made by the present owner have been noted above. These include the addition of a full bathroom and dressing room on the third level. The house interior and exterior brickwork and trim was painted in 1977.

CONDITION:

Longview is in excellent structural condition. The present owner and her children are fourth and fifth generation descendants of the original owner, George C. Thilenius, and are dedicated to maintaining and preserving the house as a family heritage.

SITE:

Longview, the Col. George C. Thilenius Home, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, faces south from its elevated site 1.3 miles west of the Mississippi River. The house occupies the second highest elevation in Cape Girardeau, and was named Longview for the commanding view of the city its site offered the early inhabitants.

Much of the original 9.56 acre site purchased by G. D. Thilenius in 1867³ was sold to a real estate developer in the 1950's. Today the house sits on a spacious 1.4 acre lot which is surrounded on all sides by a residential area of modern homes.

The remains of the old Thilenius Winery are located on the property to the west of the house. The subterranean cellar portion of the winery is all that remains today, and, except for an entrance on the extreme west end, has been covered over with earth. A semi-circular arched entryway leads into the cellar which has a vaulted ceiling and is constructed of squared sandstone rubble. The cellar floor is packed earth. The upper two floors of the winery, constructed of brick, were demolished in 1964.

A modern two-car garage was built in 1965 is located at the north edge of the site. The garage is constructed of pre-cast concrete panels with a concrete floor and wood and asbestos shingle roof.

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Between the rear (north) of the house and the garage is a large formal garden which was planned, planted and maintained by Mrs. George C. Thlenius, the wife of the original owner. The garden has been maintained in approximately its original state by the present owner.

The site is attractively landscaped with both new plantings and a number of large old trees and shrubs.

PRESENT STATUS:

Longview is a private residence occupied by the W. R. Thompson family. No major alterations are planned for the near future.

¹Itemized bills for plumbing and electrical supplies totalling \$598.63 and dated 1917 are in the possession of Mrs. W. R. Thompson, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

²The photo referred to appeared in a commemorative publication, Drummer's Association: Ninth Annual Meeting. May 25-27, 1905. This is the earliest known photograph of the house. An original copy of the Drummer's Association publication is in the possession of Thomas H. Gerhardt, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

³Information from the original deed to the property. Recorded in Deed Book Z, February 12, 1867 (date filed: March 22, 1867). The original deed is in the possession of Mrs. W. R. Thompson, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Immigration

Specific dates 1870-1873 **Builder/Architect** George C. Thilenius

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Longview is being proposed for listing in the National Register under Criteria A, B, and C to wit: its builder, George C. Thilenius, is representative of German immigration patterns, is a person significant to southeast Missouri history, and his house embodies the distinctive characteristics of transitional Neo-classical-Victorian residential architecture in Missouri.

Longview, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, due to its association with George C. Thilenius its original owner and builder, is especially significant to the history of German immigration patterns in Missouri, the Civil War in Missouri, early industry and commerce in Cape Girardeau, and politics and government in Missouri. George C. Thilenius was one of a number of German liberals who fled Germany following the 1848 revolution there. The settlement of large numbers of German liberals in Missouri had a drastic effect on political life in the state. A relentless foe of slavery, Mr. Thilenius volunteered his services to the Union at the outbreak of the Civil War and rose to the rank of Colonel in the Militia, commanding the Third Missouri District. As a delegate to the Drake Convention in 1865, Thilenius signed the historic ordinance abolishing slavery, in Missouri. His industrial and commercial accomplishments included ownership of a mercantile store, a flour mill which produced prize-winning flour, and a winery and soda water factory at Longview. Mr. Thinenius served as mayor of Cape Girardeau from 1867 to 1873, and during his term of office he was instrumental in establishing the first public elementary school, and in bringing the State Normal School to Cape. He also helped to secure appropriations for college improvements during his term as representative to the General Assembly of Missouri, 1898-1901. Longview has further importance as a late example of Greek Revival architecture in southeast Missouri. It is believed to be the only house of its type and period surviving in Cape Girardeau.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Douglas, Robert S. History of Southeast Missouri. New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1912.

Snider, Felix C. Cape Girardeau: Biography of A City. Cape Girardeau: Ramfire Press, 1956.

Thilenius, Jess E., ed. Biography of Historic Cape Girardeau County. Cape Girardeau: The

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.4 acres

Quadrangle name Cape Girardeau

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	6	2	7	4	3	4	5	4	1	3	1	7	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 3, 4, and 5, Block 1, Longview Place, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

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) Karen J. Grace

organization None date April 1, 1980

street & number 1402 Bessie telephone 334-7873

city or town Cape Girardeau state Missouri

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 

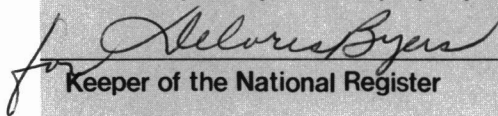
title Director, Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer date 3-7-83

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 4/14/83


Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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George Christian Thinenius was born in the kingdom of Hanover, Germany, August 10, 1829. As the eldest son of a prosperous merchant--also named George Christian -- he was provided with all the advantages his family could afford. He completed his formal education at a private school in Hanover, and at the age of fifteen he was apprenticed for a term of four years in the city of Göttingen, Hanover to learn the merchandise business.¹

In the spring of 1848, the Thilenius family participated with other German liberals in a series of revolutionary outbursts which they hoped would result in a united Germany under a liberal, democratic constitution. By December of the same year, the revolution had collapsed and the Thilenius family joined a large number of other democratic liberals who fled to America. Many of these German immigrants settled in Missouri--especially in St. Louis and along the Mississippi River southward. The Thilenius family made their home in St. Louis where young George and his father soon opened a store.²

The Thilenius father and son continued their partnership until 1853 when George Jr. was hired by W. H. Belcher, sugar refiners of St. Louis, to go to Matanzas, Cuba to assist at their branch refinery. Young George spent three years in Cuba, and shortly after his return to America he moved to Cape Girardeau, Missouri where he entered into partnership with William Bierwith in the general mercantile business.³

On March 8, 1857, George Thilenius married Margaret Fromann.⁴ The couple eventually had four children -- Anna, Bertha, Emma, and Emil. In less than one year after his marriage, Thilenius bought out the interests of his partner Bierwith. He then expanded the store, "put in a larger line of goods and did a flourishing business until 1863."⁵

As the Civil War approached in 1861, George Thilenius took a pro-Union, anti-slavery position. It was not a popular position to take in southeast Missouri where the population was made up of 3/4 old stock Americans, mostly from the southern states, and 1/4 recent German immigrants.

A number of German immigrants arrived in St. Louis, in the spring of 1861, to volunteer their services to Capt. Nathaniel Lyon who had been sent to secure the city for the Union.⁶ George Thilenius was one of a large group of German Americans who made up the bulk of Lyon's forces,⁷ and was present at the subsequent Battle of Camp Jackson.⁸ The surrender of Camp Jackson by the pro-Confederate supporters of Missouri Governor Claiborne Jackson was the first Union triumph of the Civil War. George Thilenius helped to save St. Louis for the Union.⁹

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Thilenius returned to Cape Girardeau following the capture of Camp Jackson with orders to help organize a local militia unit to be known as the Cape Home Guard. It was a largely German group that met, on June 18, 1861, at Turner's Hall in Cape Girardeau. Four companies, A, B, C, and D were formed at this meeting and officers for each elected. George Thilenius was elected 1st Lieutenant of Company A.¹⁰ He eventually rose to the rank of colonel in the Enrolled Missouri Militia.¹¹

Thilenius led his company on many scouting expeditions throughout Cape and Bollinger Counties -- where a number of Rebel strongholds existed.¹² His orders were to investigate persons suspected of guerrilla activity, and to "subsist his men...by contributions upon the wealthy disloyalists in the country around."¹³

On August 30, 1861, during a brief stay in Cape Girardeau, General Ulysses S. Grant ordered the construction of four heavily fortified land forts as a measure of security against an expected Confederate onslaught. Thilenius recruited 110 local civilians to construct Forts A, B, C and D in Cape Girardeau at a cost of nearly \$2,200.¹⁴ On October 14, 1862, Lt. Col. George C. Thilenius was placed in charge of all four forts,¹⁵ and he retained this command throughout the remainder of the war.

Missouri was the first state, during the Civil War, to call a constitutional convention to abolish slavery. Col. Thilenius was elected as the delegate from the Cape Girardeau district. The Drake Convention met on January 6, 1865, in the hall of the old Mercantile Library in St. Louis, and on January 11, 1865, George Thilenius was one of 61 men who signed the historic ordinance abolishing slavery in Missouri.¹⁶

Following the war, in 1866, Col. Thilenius constructed a 160 barrel flour mill at 430 Broadway.¹⁷ The Cape City Roller Mill became famous for the quality of flour it produced, carrying off first premiums at almost all competitive exhibits. In 1873 the Colonel's flour won the Medal of Merit at the World's Fair in Vienna, Austria, and in 1876 it was awarded first prize at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia.^{18,19}

In addition to his successful mill operation, the Colonel also served as the Republican Mayor of Cape Girardeau from 1867 to 1873.²⁰ During his term of office he was instrumental in establishing the first public elementary school in 1867²¹ and in bringing the state college (Southeast Missouri State Normal School) to Cape Girardeau.²²

In February of 1867, Thilenius purchased, for the sum of \$1,000, a 9.56 acre hilltop site on the western edge of the city.²³ It was his intention to build a new home here for his family. The site occupied the second highest elevation in Cape Girardeau, and was named Longview for its magnificent view of the surrounding area.²⁴

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Before building his home, the Colonel constructed a winery²⁵ on the western slope of his hilltop. The winery was an impressive three story brick structure.²⁶ The first level, which was partly underground, contained the wine cellar; steam power mills and presses were located on the second floor; and the third was used for packing and shipping. In addition to producing wine -- his specialty was a "Sparkling Champagne Cider"²⁷ -- the winery was also used to produce non-alcoholic carbonated beverages,²⁸ making George Thilenius the first to produce "soda pop" in Cape Girardeau.²⁸

In 1898, at the age of 69, Thilenius was elected the district representative to the Missouri General Assembly.²⁹ He supported proposed educational appropriations, and was able, during his term of office, to secure a Practice School and Science Hall for the State Normal School in Cape Girardeau.³⁰ His retirement, in 1901, ended his political career.

George Christian Thilenius died on July 7, 1910. Margaret, his wife of 52 years, had passed away 16 months earlier. Both bodies were cremated and the remains buried in the Old Lorimier Cemetary in Cape Girardeau.³¹

LONGVIEW

Once his winery at Longview was in full production, Col. Thilenius turned his attention to building his house. The Colonel's sister and her husband had built a new house in St. Louis several years previously (around 1865), and Thilenius, admired this house so much he decided to build an exact replica at Longview.³²

Construction of the house was begun in 1870.³³ Built in the story-and-a-half Greek Revival style so popular in many areas of the midwest, the "plain"³⁴ Thilenius house was an oddity in Cape Girardeau where contemporary homes, in more modern designs, were being built. Today, no other houses of this particular combination of style and period are known to exist in Cape Girardeau.

The most notable Greek Revival feature of the house is its imposing facade, with a classic triangular pediment which extends to form the porch roof and four brick pilasters. The brick exterior painted grey, create the impression of stone, is another interesting Greek feature. The Greek preoccupation with symmetry is well illustrated at Longview which has two of everything -- parlors, bedrooms, doors -- arranged on either side of a long central hallway. A non-functioning door was even built in the north end of the second level hallway to keep a symmetrical appearance. The painted floors and woodwork at Longview, which are grained in imitation of oak, were recommended for houses decorated in the Grecian style by experts of the period.³⁵ Despite some alterations over the years, Lonview retains much of its original architectural fabric and character.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet LONGVIEW

Item number 8

Page 4

Footnotes

¹A short biography of George C. Thilenius may be found in Robert S. Douglas, History of Southeast Missouri. (New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1912), pp. 902-903.

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴Information from marriage certificate in the possession of Mrs. Wayman R. Thompson, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

⁵Douglas, op. cit., p. 902.

⁶Thomas C. Fletcher, "A Voice from the Grave: To the Loyal the Laurel," The American German Review. May 1899, p. 294.

⁷A letter from Philip C. Cooter to Mrs. Louis Miller (the daughter of G. C. Thilenius) states that Thilenius was at the capture of Camp Jackson. The letter further states that "General Lyons was the only native American there" -- the others were all German immigrants. Dated September 8, 1919, the letter is in the possession of Mrs. Wayman R. Thompson, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

⁸Ibid., See also Fletcher, "A Voice from the Grave," p. 298.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰From the minutes of a meeting held to organize the Cape Home Guard, dated June 18, 1861. Original document in the possession of Mrs. Wayman R. Thompson, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

¹¹From official service records in the possession of Mrs. Wayman R. Thompson, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and promotion certificates in the possession of Arthur Thilenius, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

¹²From official military orders in the possession of Mrs. Wayman R. Thompson, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴From original fortification claims in the possession of Mrs. Wayman R. Thompson, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

¹⁵From official military orders in the possession of Mrs. Wayman R. Thompson, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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¹⁶An official State of Missouri copy of this historic document is in the possession of Arthur Thilenius, Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The original document may be found in the State Archives.

¹⁷Felix C. Snider, Cape Girardeau: Biography of a City (Cape Girardeau: Ramfire Press, 1956), p. 213.

¹⁸Ibid., p. 213.

¹⁹The original prize medals won at both the Vienna World's Fair and the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition are in the possession of Arthur Thilenius, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

²⁰Jess E. Thilenius, ed. Biography of Historic Cape Girardeau County (Cape Girardeau: The Bicentennial Commission of Cape Girardeau, 1975). (Kent Library, Cape Girardeau, Missouri), p.26.

²¹Douglas, op. cit., pp. 902-903.

²²Snider, op. cit., pp. 77-78.

²³From the original warranty deed. Recorded in Deed Book Z, p. 332. Dated February 12, 1867 (Date filed: March 22, 1867). The original deed is the possession of Mrs. Wayman R. Thompson, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

²⁴Thilenius, op. cit., p. 26.

²⁵Snider, op. cit., p. 204.

²⁶Ibid., p. 203.

²⁷Clairlee Stage. An unpublished manuscript based on oral interviews with the Thilenius family. Updated. (Cape Girardeau Historical Association Library) pp. 5-6.

²⁸Cape Girardeau News, September 1, 1949, p. 1, col. 2.

²⁹Thilenius, op. cit., p. 26.

³⁰Based on correspondence between G. C. Thillenius and J. S. McGhee of the State Normal School. Dated February 28, 1899. Original letter in the possession of Mrs. Wayman R. Thompson, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

³¹State, op. cit., p.9.

³²Information from a photograph of the Meister house at 3013 Meramec, St. Louis, Missouri. Photograph is in the possession of Mrs. Wayman R. Thompson, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet LONGVIEW Item number 8 Page 6

³³The Thilenius family today claim the house was constructed in 1870. They base their claim on the family's recollection that Mrs. G. C. Thillenius took her children on a trip to Germany while the house was being constructed. Mementoes from this trip, dated 1870, remain at Longview. However, a newspaper article from 1873 indicates that the house was still under construction at that time. (Jackson) Missouri Cash-Book, August 27, 1873, p. 2, col. 6.

³⁴Ibid., p. 2, col. 6.

³⁵Carolyn Flaherty, "Greek Revival Decoration," The Old House Journal, III (May, 1975), 10.

LONGVIEW Item # 9 Page 1

Bicentennial Commission, 1975.

LONGVIEW Item # 11 Page 1

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

April 1, 1980
314/751-4096

Missouri 65102

THEMIS ST.

PROPERTY
LINE

REMAINS OF OLD WINERY

PROPERTY
LINE

WHITNER ST.

HOUSE

WHITNER ST.

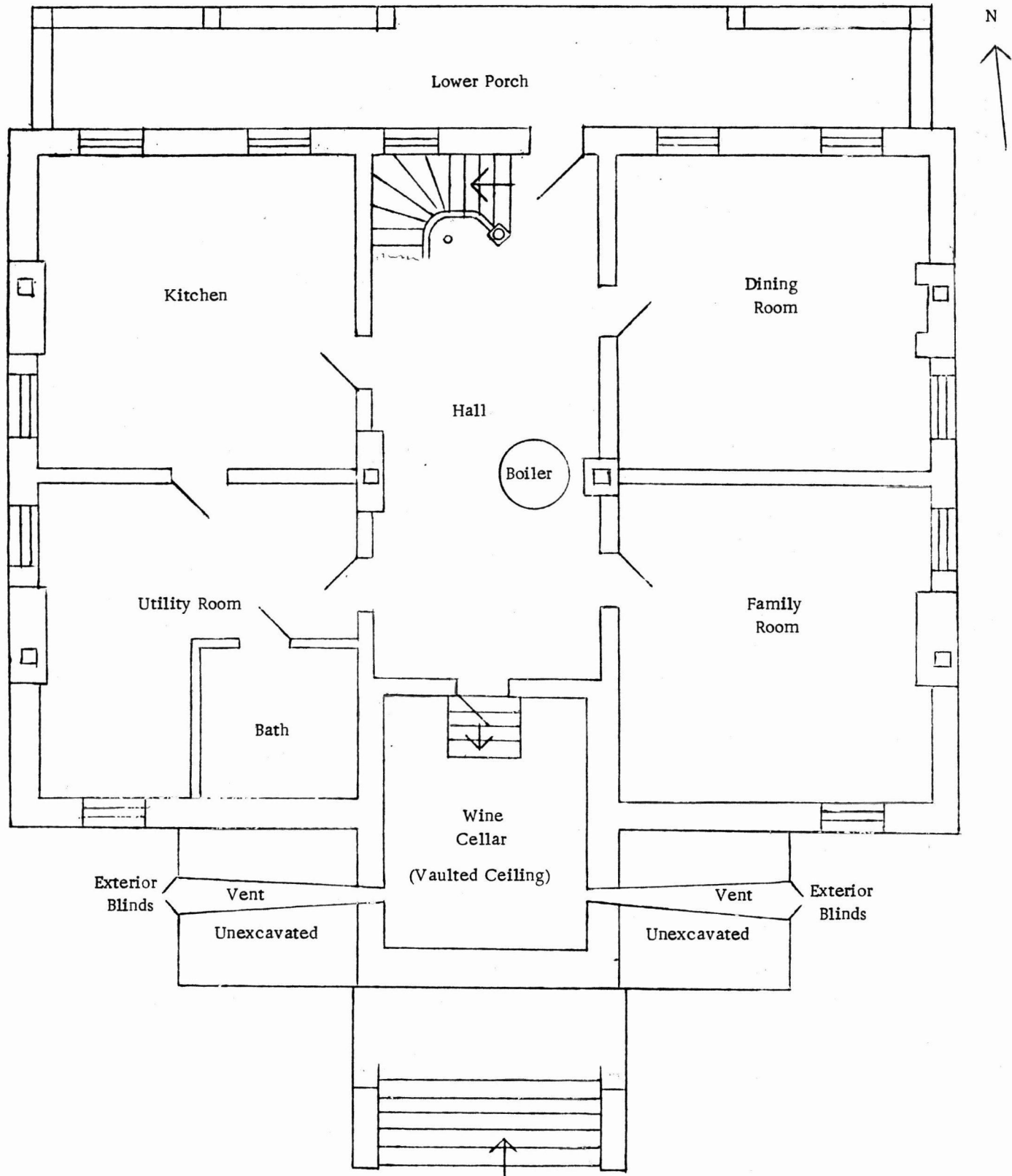
LONGVIEW

SUNSET BLVD.

KELLER AVE.

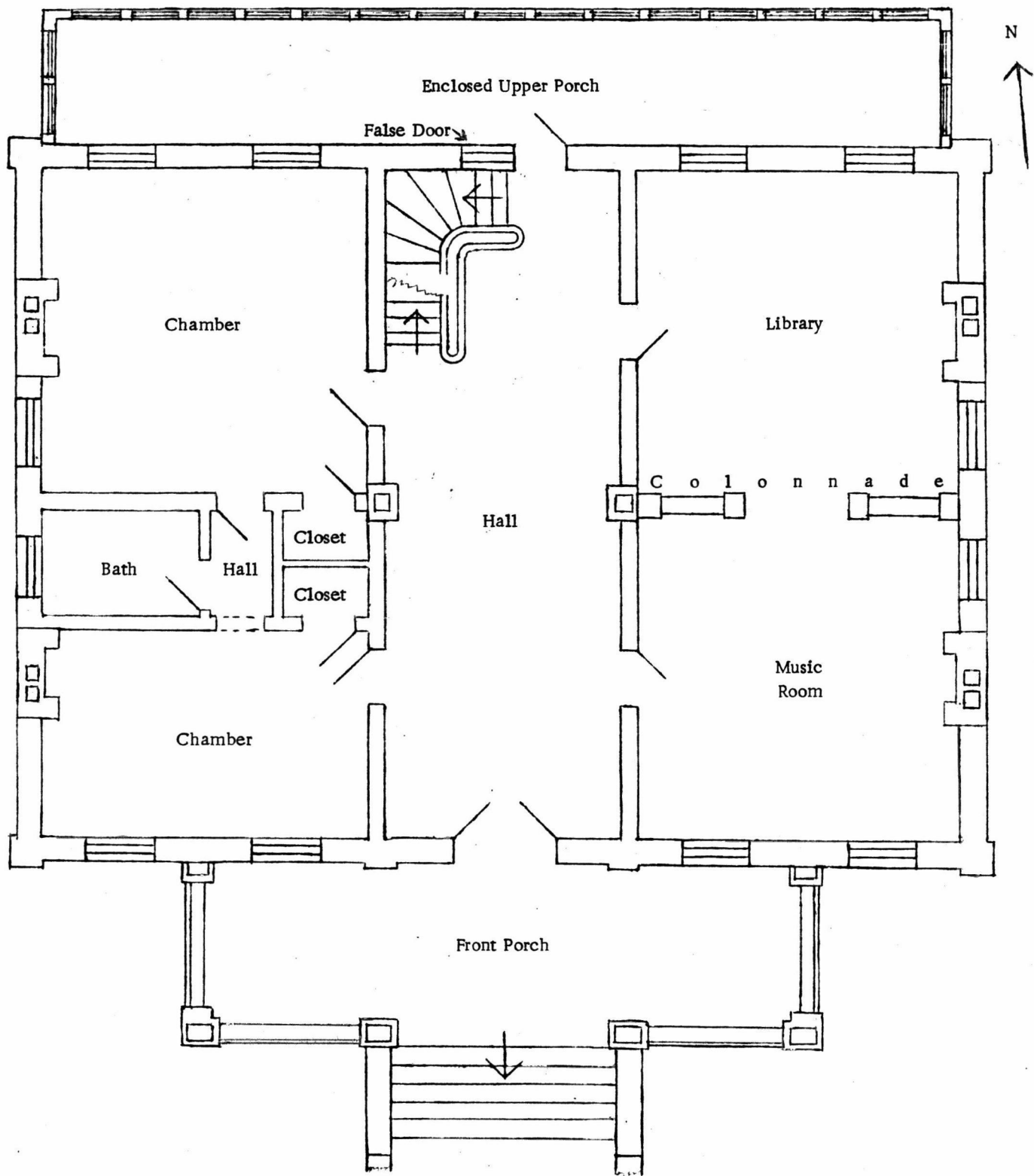
INDEPENDENCE ST.

LONGVIEW - THILENIUS HOUSE
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI



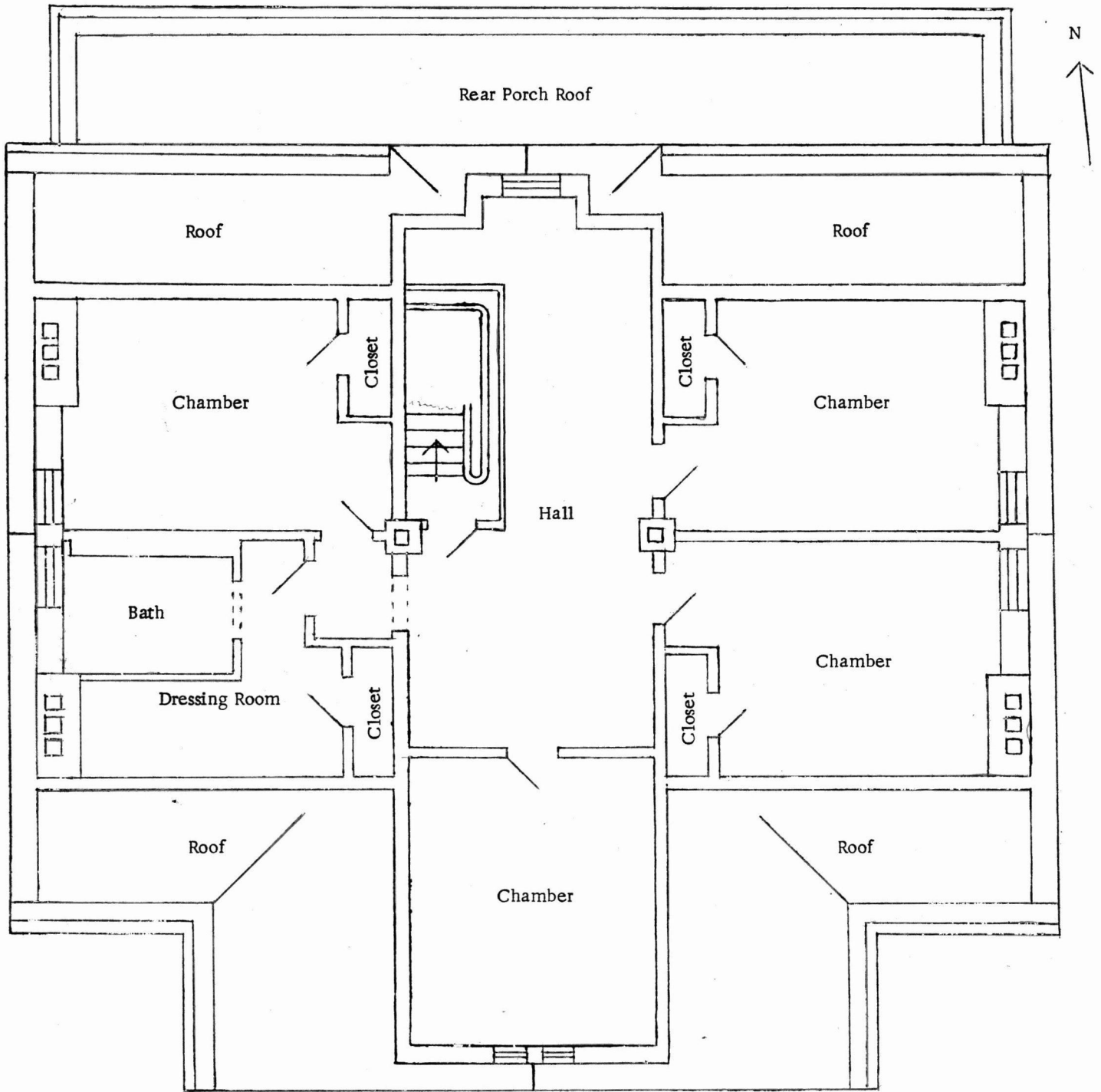
COLONEL GEORGE C. THILENIUS HOME
 CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI
 March, 1980

FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 1/8" = 1' 0"
 Prepared by Arthur W. Thilenius



COLONEL GEORGE C. THILENIUS HOME
 CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI
 March, 1980

SECOND FLOOR PLAN
 1/8" = 1' 0"
 Prepared by Arthur W. Thilenius



COLONEL GEORGE C. THILENIUS HOME
 CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI
 March, 1980

THIRD FLOOR PLAN
 1/8"=1' 0"
 Prepared by Arthur W. Thilenius

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Thilenius, Col. George C., House (Longview)
Cape Girardeau County
MISSOURI

Working No. MAR 15 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 4/14/83 - 4/29/83
Action: ACCEPT 4/14/83
 RETURN
Entered in the National Register REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category _____ Ownership _____ Status _____ Present Use _____
Public Acquisition _____ Accessible _____

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

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

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection



#1
LONGVIEW: #1 of 16
The Colonel George C. Thilenius Home
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Photographer: Karen J. Grace
Date: April, 1980
Neg. Loc.: Karen J. Grace
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

View of front elevation, facing north.



2

LONGVIEW: #2 of 16
The Colonel George C. Thilenius Home
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Photographer: Karen J. Grace
Date: April, 1980
Neg. Loc.: Karen J. Grace
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

View of front and west elevation, facing
northeast.



3

LONGVIEW:

#3 of 16

The Colonel George C. Thilenius Home
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Photographer: Karen J. Grace

Date: April, 1980

Neg. Loc.: Karen J. Grace
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

View of front and east elevation, facing
northwest.



4

#4 of 16

LONGVIEW:
The Colonel George C. Thilenius Home
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Photographer: Karen J. Grace
Date: April, 1980
Neg. Loc.: Karen J. Grace
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

View of east elevation facing west.



5

LONGVIEW: #5 of 16
The Colonel George C. Thilenius Home
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Photographer: Karen J. Grace
Date: April, 1980
Neg. Loc.: Karen J. Grace
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

View of west elevation facing east.



6

LONGVIEW: #6 of 16
The Colonel George C. Thilenius Home
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Photographer: Karen J. Grace
Date: April, 1980
Neg. Loc.: Karen J. Grace
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Rear (north) elevation facing south.



1
LONGVIEW:

#7 of 16

The Colonel George C. Thilenius Home
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Photographer: Karen J. Grace

Date: April, 1980

Neg. Loc.: Karen J. Grace
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Double windows on second level east
elevation facing west.



8
LONGVIEW:

#8 of 16

The Colonel George C. Thilenius Home
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Photographer: Karen J. Grace

Date: April, 1980

Neg. Loc.: Karen J. Grace
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Windows and bracket detail above front
(south) porch.



9
LONGVIEW:

#9 of 16

The Colonel George C. Thilenius Home
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Photographer: Karen J. Grace

Date: April, 1980

Neg. Loc.: Karen J. Grace
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Chimney on southeast slope of roof
facing northwest.



10

LONGVIEW: #10 of 16
The Colonel George C. Thilenius Home
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Photographer: Karen J. Grace
Date: April, 1980
Neg. Loc.: Karen J. Grace
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

First (basement) level facing southeast.



11
LONGVIEW:

#11 of 16

The Colonel George C. Thilenius Home
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Photographer: Karen J. Grace

Date: April, 1980

Neg. Loc.: Karen J. Grace
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

East half of colonnade separating the
northeast corner room from the southeast
corner room-facing southeast.

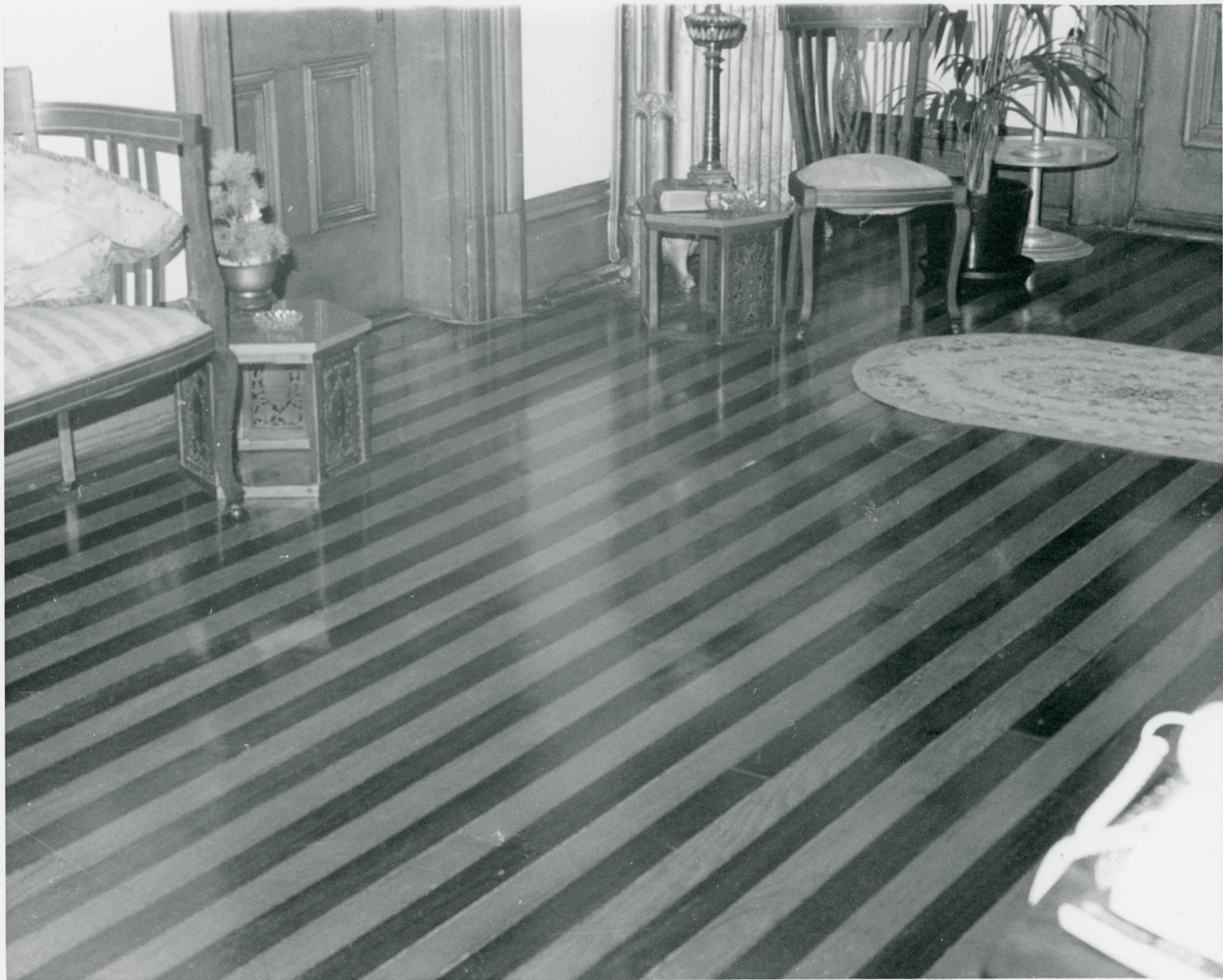


12

LONGVIEW: #12 of 16
The Colonel Goerge C. Thilenius Home
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Photographer: Karen J. Grace
Date: April, 1980
Neg. Loc.: Karen J. Grace
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Second level, southwest corner room,
facing west.



13

LONGVIEW: #13 of 16
The Colonel George C. Thilenius Home
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Photographer: Karen J. Grace
Date: April, 1980
Neg. Loc.: Karen J. Grace
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Second level hall facing southeast.



14

LONGVIEW: #14 of 16
The Colonel George C. Thilenius Home
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Photographer: Karen J. Grace
Date: April, 1980
Neg. Loc.: Karen J. Grace
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Third level, southeast corner room,
facing southeast.



THE OLD THILENIUS WINERY

southeast missourian

15

LONGVIEW: #15 of 16
The Colonel George C. Thilenius Home
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Photographer: The Southeast Missourian
Date: unknown
Neg. Loc.: The Southeast Missourian
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

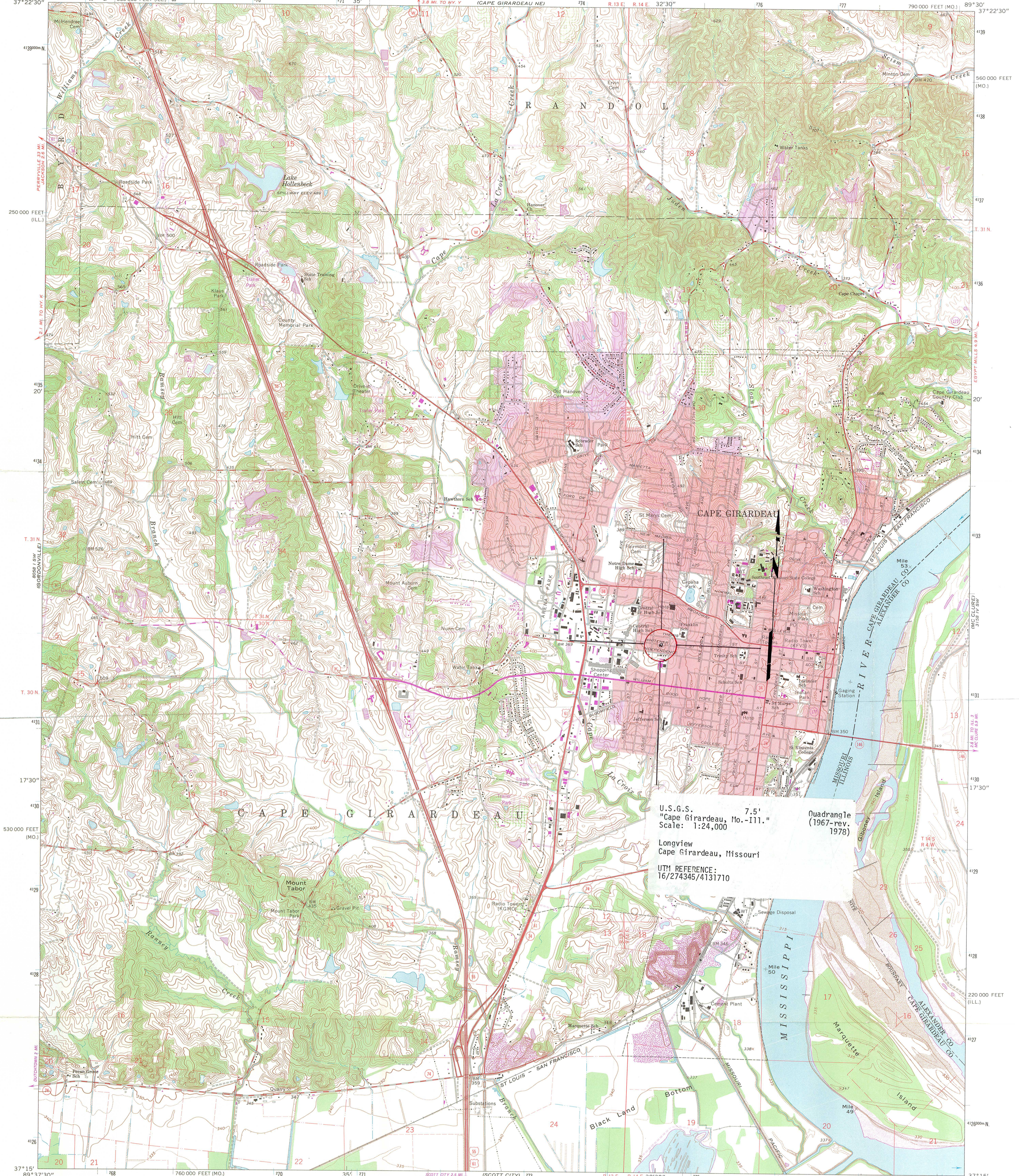
Facing northeast.



LONGVIEW: #16 of 16
The Colonel George C. Thilenius Home
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

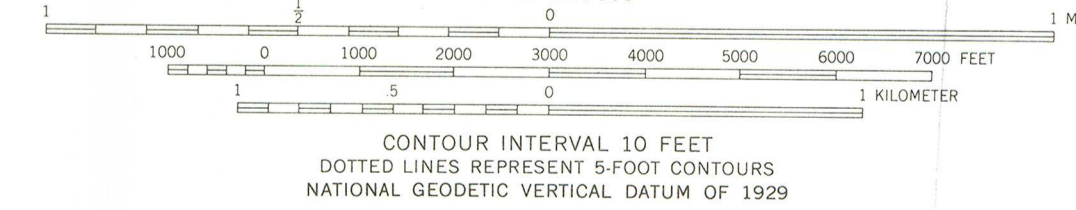
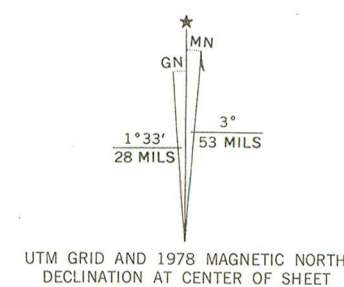
Photographer: Karen J. Grace
Date: April, 1980
Neg. Loc.: Karen J. Grace
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Second level, facing northwest.



U.S.G.S. 7.5' "Cape Girardeau, Mo.-Ill." Scale: 1:24,000
 Quadrangle (1967-rev. 1978)
 Longview Cape Girardeau, Missouri
 UTM REFERENCE: 16/274345/4131710

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1965 and planetable surveys 1967
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grids based on Missouri coordinate system, east zone, and Illinois coordinate system, west zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue
 Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
 Revision shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1976 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1978



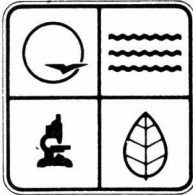
ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 MISSOURI GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401
 AND STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO.-ILL.
 N3715-W8930/7.5
 1967
 PHOTOREVISED 1978
 AMS 8058 1 SE-SERIES V879

March 9, 1983



Ms. Carol Shull
Chief of Registration
Department of Interior
National Park Service
19th & C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Carol:

Enclosed please find the following submission from Missouri for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:

1. LONGVIEW, THE COL. GEORGE C. THILENIUS HOME,
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

This nomination was approved by our State Review Board, the Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, on November 19-20, 1982 and has been signed by Missouri's State Historic Preservation Officer, Fred A. Lafser. All owners and appropriate elected public officials were notified and provided forty-five (45) days to comment on the above proposed nominations in accordance with Section 60.6(c) 36CFR60, interim regulations, using the exact notification format recommended by the National Register. No objections, notarized or otherwise, were received for the above referenced nomination.

If there are any questions concerning these submissions, please contact James M. Denny of my staff at 314/751-4096.

Sincerely,

DIVISION OF PARKS AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

B.H. Rucker
Assistant Director

BHR:jdc

Enclosure: as stated



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 (314) 751-2479

Christopher S. Bond Governor
Fred A. Lafser Director

Division of Parks and Historic Preservation
John Karel Director