

Moore-Dunne House Designation Report



**Louisville Metro Historic Landmarks
and
Preservation Districts Commission**

February 3, 2017

Location

The Moore-Dunne House is located at 609 Blankenbaker Lane in Louisville, Kentucky. The property is comprised of one dwelling and a garage building on approximately 6 acres of land within the City of Indian Hills, specifically the Fort Stanwyx Realty Co. subdivision. The subdivision is characterized by larger parcels with historic Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, and Georgian Revival style homes as well as smaller parcels with modern, non-historic homes of eclectic style. The property is accessed from Blankenbaker Lane and is bordered by Poplar Hill Road to the northeast; a single family residence to the west; and a minor subdivision to the southwest on Grove Hill Place. The house faces northwest towards the Ohio River overlooking a wooded lot.

Description

This is a three-story masonry structure, originally constructed circa 1924 in the Colonial Revival style. The structure suffered significant fire damage in 1950 and was reconstructed in 1952. It is a three bay, double pile dwelling with a steeply pitched roof and paired end exterior chimneys on the side elevations. It is constructed of limestone in a regular course ledger pattern.

The front façade, or northwest elevation, is symmetrically balanced with a centered door (**Image 6**). The solid wood panel door is flanked by sidelights. There is a pent roof with hood featured over the entry. There are three sets of ganged six-over-six double hung windows on the second floor and the first floor has picture windows flanked with four-over-four double hung windows. This rectangular portion of the house has paired end porches. The west side of the house features a two-and-a-half-story wing with a cross gable roof. This elevation of the wing also has ganged six-over-six double hung sash windows on the first and second floors.

The northeast elevation has a one-story porch facing the river with a shed roof and tapered stone column (**Image 7**). The porch roof connects to the wing and shelters two recessed double door entries, one to the main structure and one to the wing. The façade of the wing features a small window in the gable, an existing six-over-six double hung window on the second floor and a another window opening that has been blocked in with stone; the first floor has a recessed entrance, a small four-over-four double hung window and a six-over-six double hung window.

The southeast elevation also has a pent roof (**Image 8**). It features a recessed asymmetrical side entrance with a wood panel door flanked by sidelights. This elevation also has a two-and-a-half-story wing with a cross gable roof and return eaves; and a dormer pierces the roof of the side gable portion. Windows range from six-over-six to four-over-four.

The southwest elevation features a one-story porch with a shed roof supported by columns at the corners that meet a stone knee wall (**Image 9**). There is a side entrance on the south side of the chimney. The porch is now enclosed with T-111 and multipane windows. The chimney features a semi-circular stone tablet inscribed with “1924” and is flanked by six-over-six double hung windows (**Image 10**).

Situated northeast of the house is a one-story stone garage that was constructed to replicate the style of the house (**Image 11**). The garage is located outside of the proposed landmark boundary.

History

Louisville Suburban Development

Louisville begins to grow through the late-Anglo-settlement period in the early 19th-century when the population had reached 5000 in the 1820s. The area transforms from an agrarian economy to a more urbanized area once the Falls of the Ohio is tamed with the construction of the Louisville and Portland Canal with its opening in 1830. The Antebellum period of development begins in Louisville as the population grows from approximately 10, 341 inhabitants in 1830 to 61,213 by 1860 (Yater 1979; Neary 1991).

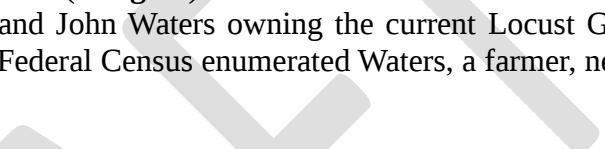
The bluffs of the Ohio River located east of downtown were desirable to the upper classes who wanted to construct country estates outside of the city. These estates afforded privacy as well as tranquility with the natural surroundings. The area was made more desirable when the Louisville, Harrods Creek & Westport Railway, or Interurban, was incorporated in 1870 by “persons who were prominent in the business activities of Louisville and the upper river road region.” The line began at First Street and ended in Prospect, not actually reaching Westport. The train operated four round trips daily with extra runs for parties and special events. The Interurban transitioned from steam powered to electric in 1901 and by the 1920s, there were 32 stops along the line, many of which served private estates. The line continued to run until 1935, when the Great Depression and rise of the automobile made it unsustainable (Blackburn and Gill 2011; Brooks 1999; Keys, et al. 1988).

Country estates in Louisville were most common between 1899 and 1917 when taxes were low and immigration and prosperity were high. However, World War I and post-war inflation slowed the rate at which country estates were built. Furthermore, those that were built were considerably smaller. The rise of the automobile increased suburbanization in Louisville, making large swaths of land for country estates harder to obtain. The automobile also allowed for more people to live outside of the city limits. The booming economy also enticed domestic workers that worked on the large estates into new fields of employment. As the 1920s progressed, wealthy families built impressive, manageable residences on smaller lots within new subdivisions rather than large, impractical country estates. These homes are still high style, two- and two-and-a-half-story architect-designed houses. The architectural styles include Colonial Revival, Georgian Revival, Tudor Revival, Craftsman, and Eclectic. Building materials include brick, stone, and half-timbering as well as slate and tile roofs. During this time period, carriage houses evolved into garages, and by the 1930s, the garages were attached to the houses (Blackburn and Gill 2011; Brooks 1999; Keys, et al. 1988).

The end of World War II saw a frantic housing boom in Louisville and construction near River Road increased again. Beginning in the 1950s, and accelerating through the 1960s and 1970s, previously undeveloped lots were developed. Some of the larger country estates were subdivided for a second and third time to provide new and expensive building lots in an exclusive residential area. Many of the housing styles remained traditional keeping with the earlier predecessors in the area (Blackburn and Gill 2011; Brooks 1999; Keys, et al. 1988), including Mockingbird Valley and the City of Indian Hills.

Development of Moore-Dunne House

1. Waters owned all 369 acres of the property and his wife Lily sold the property to the Fort Stanwix Association in 1906 by John S. Waters, W.R. Waters (1906). All 369 acres were platted for a new subdivision. Lot 11, which contained 7 acres, was sold in 1924 (**Image 1**). The 1913 Atlas of Louisville and John Waters owning the current Locust Grove. The Federal Census enumerated Waters, a farmer, ne



Co.'s Subdivision, Lot 11 (Plat Subdivision B

children. Anton was the president of the Sam Warren & Son Stone Company and lived at 4303 W. Broadway, a large Classical Revival home. His sons took over the business upon his death in 1951 (Ancestry 2017). Olivia's unmarried sisters Ruth and Helen Diebold lived with her at 609 Blankenbaker Lane in the 1990s. The sisters were the last living Diebold siblings. In the 1950s, Helen and Ruth were living in San Francisco, California and by the 1980s, Ruth was living in Reno, Nevada while Helen was living with Olivia (Ancestry 2017). In her 1996 will, Olivia left the home to Ruth Diebold with the stipulation that their sister Helen could live there as long as she wanted and was able. Olivia died two months after writing her will on April 15, 1996. In her 1996 will, Ruth Diebold left the house to her neighbor Janet C. Turner, who took care of her, with the stipulation that her sister Helen could live there as long as she wanted and was able. Helen died on January 20, 1997 and Ruth died on July 3, 1998. In 2000, the estate of Ruth Diebold sold the house to Janet and her husband G. Murray Turner, the current property owners.

Table 1. Chain of Title for the Moore-Dunne House.

Reference	Date Recorded	Grantor	Grantee	Description
Deed Book 221:549	12/28/1878	George Croghan	James Paul	369 acres that were part of Locust Grove
Deed Book 381:232	11/05/1891	P.E. Waters and R.W. Reynolds, administrators of Richard Waters, deceased; Mrs. L.M. Jane Waters, widow; P.E. and Lulie Waters; John S.H. Waters, unmarried; William R. and Kate Waters; Garnett D. and Sarah Waters Ripley	John S.H. Waters	P.E. Waters, John S.H. Waters, and Sarah Waters Ripley are heirs of Richard Waters, deceased, who bought the property from James Paul in 1883 369 acres except 100 acres for dower to Mrs. L.M. Jane Waters
Deed Book 554:104	03/26/1901	P.E. and Lily Waters; William R. Waters and his wife; Sarah Waters Ripley and her husband; Mary Amis and her guardian, Fidelity Trust and Safety Vault Co.; Finley I. Lucas; Columbia Finance and Trust Co., executor and trustee of will of Mrs. L.M. Jane Waters, deceased	John S.H. Waters	Part of Jefferson Circuit Court action 23949 100 acres for dower to Mrs. L.M. Jane Waters
Deed Book 653:504	11/30/1907	John S.H. and Lily Waters	Fort Stanwyx Realty Co.	369 acres
Deed Book 1089:237	04/04/1924	Fort Stanwyx Realty Co.	J.W. and Anna Kent Moore	Lot 11 of Fort Stanwyx Realty Co.'s Subdivision (Plat Subdivision Book 1:159), 7 acres
Deed Book 2729:178	03/14/1951	J.W. and Anna Kent Moore	David P. and Margaret Harrison Reynolds	Lot 11 of Fort Stanwyx Realty Co.'s Subdivision
Deed Book 2776:435	07/24/1951	David P. and Margaret Harrison Reynolds	Dunne Press Inc.	Lot 11 of Fort Stanwyx Realty Co.'s Subdivision
Deed Book 2909:296	08/05/1952	Dunne Press Inc.	Charles D. and Eunice G. Dunne	Lot 11 of Fort Stanwyx Realty Co.'s Subdivision

Reference	Date Recorded	Grantor	Grantee	Description
Deed Book 3356:256	12/06/1955	Charles D. and Eunice G. Dunne	William E. and Olivia M. Summerville	Lot 11 of Fort Stanwix Realty Co.'s Subdivision
Will Book 275:986	07/22/1996	Olivia Summerville	Ruth Diebold	609 Blankenbaker Lane where she and her sisters, Ruth and Helen Diebold, live—Helen allowed to live there as long as she wants and is able to
Will Book 316:308	09/02/1998	Ruth Diebold	Janet C. Turner	609 Blankenbaker Lane where she and her sister, Helen Diebold, live—Helen allowed to live there as long as she wants and is able to
Deed Book 7474:242	07/05/2000	Estate of Ruth Diebold	G. Murray and Janet C. Turner	609 Blankenbaker Lane, 7 acres

Dr. John Walker Moore

According to his obituary from the *Courier-Journal* and the University of Louisville Moore College website, Moore was born on January 29, 1884 to James and Hattie Walker Moore, in McConnellsville, South Carolina. He received a Bachelor's of Science from Davidson College, Davidson, North Carolina, in 1906. The school awarded him an honorary Doctor of Science degree in 1940. His medical training took place at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia, from which he graduated in 1912. After completing an internship in Philadelphia, Dr. Moore became an instructor in pathology and bacteriology at the University of Louisville Medical School in 1915. Dr. Moore served as an Army major and laboratory officer of a hospital center in Nantes, France during World War I. In 1920, he married Anna Stockett Kent of Wyncote, Pennsylvania. Together they had three children: Marjorie Moore Strader, William Kent Moore, and John Walker Moore, Jr. Anna Kent Moore was a Louisville socialite serving many boards and organizations, such as Wellesley College, Frontier Nursing Service Inc., Junior League, West End Child Development Center, and Women's Club of Louisville.

From 1929 to 1949, Dr. Moore was dean of the University of Louisville Medical School. While dean, he also acted as head of the department of medicine and staff executive of General Hospital. In 1945, he was elected president of the Association of American Medical Colleges. He was also president of the Central Society of Clinical Research and a fellow of the American College of Physicians. Dr. Moore is credited with keeping the medical school open during the Great Depression and World War II as well as keeping the school at the forefront of medical colleges. He added a psychiatry department, increased teaching facilities at General Hospital, and organized an Institute for Medical Research. He attempted to get the Veterans Hospital (Mellwood and Zorn) located near General Hospital downtown, but was unsuccessful. Dr. Moore's landmark research contribution was development of the dye/indicator dilution measurement of cardiac output in humans. Based on theories of Adolf Fick, M.D. of Würzburg and animal studies by George Stewart, Ph.D. at Western Reserve University, Moore developed the first accurate human cardiac output measurement.

According to his obituary from the *Courier-Journal*, “Dr. Moore’s retirement in June, 1949, was marred two months later by a fire that destroyed his 12-room, country home on a Blankenbaker Lane hilltop. He then moved to 623 Cochran Hill Road, the present family residence. He had been confined to the sanitarium and hospital about 1 ½ years.” Dr. Moore’s death certificate said he had arteriosclerosis, which is a hardening of the arteries that caused him to have nephrosclerosis, a progressive kidney disease, and giant-cell arteritis, which affected his brain. Dr. Moore and his wife are buried in Cave Hill Cemetery.

Architect Carl Augustus Ziegler

It is unclear if Philadelphia architect Carl Ziegler originally designed the Moore-Dunne House. The only evidence found by staff was in a *Courier-Journal* article written by Grady Clay on November 9, 1952 (**Images 23-24**). However, Ziegler is nationally known for designing Colonial Revival homes like the Moore-Dunne House and working in the area.

Carl A. Ziegler was born in Philadelphia and received his Certificate of Proficiency in Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania in 1895. By 1898, he was established in the successful firm of Duhring, Okie & Ziegler. He became known for expertise in Pennsylvania colonial building. “Ziegler specialized in the forms of colonial revival and vernacular architecture which were primarily associated with regional styles in Pennsylvania. From relatively small residences to the grand, Ziegler often produced dwellings which combined local stone construction with details usually drawn from Pennsylvania colonial architecture. Nor was Ziegler confined to residential design; his Church of the Good Shepherd in Germantown and his small office for the Provident Trust Company on Chestnut Street in Philadelphia testify to the versatility of his work. However, in each case he preferred to insert accurate historical detail into his working design. In fact, he achieved a considerable reputation as an architect who could be trusted to supply an accurate rendition of the Colonial and Georgian Revival styles so favored by Pennsylvania clients in the 1920s.” He also became active in preservation as the president of Philadelphia’s Committee for the Preservation of Historic Landmarks, for which he provided oversight for the restoration of Carpenters Hall, Independence Hall, and Washington’s headquarters at Valley Forge. He traveled the world while serving as representative and delegate of the American Institute of Architects at the Pan American Congress of Architects and the International Congress on Technical Education (Tatman 2017).

Ziegler was commissioned as architect for the First National Bank of Louisville and Kentucky Title Company Building in 1925, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. He was credited for other structures in Louisville including 6 River Hill Road (JF-2049) a Colonial Revival dated to 1927 (Brother, et al. 2010); 2412 Longest Avenue in 1936 to combine two existing residences into a single residence (Allgeier 1983), 3309 Green Hill Lane (Finely Crafted Realty 2015; **Image 3**), and 41 Mockingbird Valley Road.



Image 3. 3309 Green Hill Lane (Finely Crafted Realty 2015).

Charles DeMasters Dunne

According to his obituary from the *Courier-Journal* and his death certificate, Dunne was born on June 20, 1911 to James E. and Ida Lee Dunne, in Louisville. Dunne joined the Army during World War II after obtaining permission from the surgeon general as he only had one kidney. He served for almost four years with a portion of his time in the Pacific. He also acted as a former civilian aide to the secretary of the Army. Dunne was a graduate of the Kentucky Military Institute and active in American Legion affairs. He was also a member of the Louisville Lodge of Elks, Masons, Kosair Shrine, the Scottish Rite, the High 12 Club, and the Pendennis Club.

Most notably Dunne was the president and publisher of the Dunne Press Inc. Dunne's publishing house was located at 900 Baxter Avenue and 915 E. Kentucky Street and specialized in insurance work like the International Insurance Reports. Dunne married Mary Geary and they had a son James E. Dunne II. After their divorce, Dunne married Eunice Dunn in Cook County, Illinois. Charles D. Dunne died of a heart attack on October 25, 1960. The previous year, he and his son, and their attorney Henry J. Stites, were indicted and convicted of fraudulent issuance and sale of bonds.

Architect Stratton O. Hammon

According to the *Encyclopedia of Louisville*, Stratton Owen Hammon was born on March 6, 1904 to John and Emma Miller Hammon. A graduate of Du Pont Manual High School, where he studied art and mechanical drawing, Hammon attended the School of Architecture at the University of Louisville, which was affiliated with the Beaux Arts Institute of Design in New York City. In 1930, Hammon became the 35th architect registered in Kentucky. For the next decade, he published house designs and articles in *Better Homes & Gardens*, *Ladies Home Journal*, *Good Housekeeping*, and *McCall's*.

In 1942, Hammon served as a captain in the US Army Corps of Engineers where he helped build two airfields: one in Columbus, Indiana, and one in Sturgis, Kentucky. He also began construction on Standiford Field and extended the runways at Bowman Field. Hammon participated in the Normandy invasion of France on June 6, 1944 and served as the fine arts and monuments officer at Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces in Versailles. France

awarded him with the Legion of Honor and the Croix de Guerre for his work during World War II. Upon returning home, Hammon established the firm Hammon and Hammon with his son Neal. The firm contained architects, engineers, and vibration damage specialists.

According to the *Encyclopedia of Louisville*, “During his lifetime Hammon was architect (known for his design of Georgian Revival houses), engineer, explosives expert, writer, photographer, canoeist, soldier, genealogist, historian, and was active in architectural and engineering law. Crusty and opinionated, he was an inveterate writer of letters to the editor and to all and sundry.” Hammon was married to Bertha Lee Fieldhouse in 1924 and together they had two sons: Neal Owen and Keath Edwin. In 1933, he married Helen Louise Jones and together they had a daughter, Hellen Stratton. Helen died after 57 years of marriage, and Hammon married Carol Fears Trautwein in 1991. Stratton Hammon died on October 22, 1997 and was buried in Cave Hill Cemetery.

In Louisville, Hammon’s work includes houses for Roland Whitney (in Upland Fields), Major General Dillman A. Rash (in Cherokee Gardens), Melzar G. Lowe’s Houston Heights (in River Hill), George Crittenden Sanders (in Cherokee Gardens), John B. Kingham (in Indian Hills), Edward F. Crady (in Indian Hills), and Arthur Peter, Jr. (in Mockingbird Valley) (Blackburn and Gill 2007).

Hammon v. Dunne

As previously mentioned, famed architect Stratton O. Hammon sued Charles D. Dunne for using his plans to renovate the home without his permission on February 27, 1952 (Case No. 333-675). Hammon claimed that he met with Dunne and showed him the plans for the renovations to the Moore House. He left the plans with Dunne so that he could obtain quotes and determine if he would hire Hammon. According to Hammon, Dunne built everything according to the drawings except for the maid’s wing that would have comprised 10% (700 sq. ft.) of the total square footage (7,776 sq. ft. without maid’s wing). According to Dunne, Hammon had drawn the plans for Reynolds when he owned the house previously. He testified that Hammon told him that he wanted to purchase the house but had already begun construction on his own home across Blankenbaker Lane. He urged Dunne to use his plans because he had to look at the house every day. Dunne told Hammon that his plans were too expensive, but they were left in Dunne’s care anyway.

Dunne’s testimony included detailed information about the property. He said that all exterior walls were intact as well as the pilasters on which the foundation of the house sits, but the interior had been gutted by the fire. The walls were not cracked because “those walls were not put up in the Kentucky fashion, but rather in the fashion of European craftsman, where the stones overlap one another, and I felt the walls were intact.” He stated that they started construction around August 1951 using the same exterior walls and rebuilding the interior. Construction was completed around June or July 1952. Clarence Taylor, who previously worked for Dunne Press and Veterans Housing worked as his main contractor. Other men would also work on the site as needed, such as O.M. Reiser, Sr. (Case No. 333-675).

Dunne also explained the layout of the house, “on the first floor there is a big library and there is a small—I’d call it a parlor rather than a living room, sort of a formal parlor, and there are several big hallways that are almost rooms, and then there is a dining room and a kitchen and a breakfast room, and on the second floor there is one big bedroom and another big bedroom and then there is one fair-sized bedroom and one very small bedroom. Over the whole thing there is an attic. Also on the first floor there is a glassed-in and storm-windowed—would you call it a sun porch or solarium, or something like that. ...There is a powder room on the first floor, and there is four baths on the second floor and one bath in the attic.” Dunne admitted that he had never been in the attic, so he did not know what the rooms looked like. He said the basement contained, “two furnaces and some wash tubs, and I believe there is an automatic electrical fuse box. ...I think there is just one big room, sir” (Case No. 333-675).

There is no information as to how the final agreement was made. However, Hammon and his lawyer, Gavin Cochran of Peter, Hepburn & Marshall, as well as Dunne and his lawyer Henry J. Stites agreed to settle the suit at the defendant’s (Dunne’s) costs on May 25, 1953 (Case No. 333-675).

The Stratton Hammon Photograph Collection at the Filson Historical Society contains five images taken by Hammon of the house after the 1950 fire (**Images 12-16**). The Stratton Hammon Architectural Drawings Collection at the Filson Historical Society contained drawings of the “Remodeling for Mr. & Mrs. David P. Reynolds, Upper River Road.” Historically, Blankenbaker Lane was also called Upper River Road. These drawings dated March 26, 1951 (**Images 17-19**) show the Moore-Dunne House as Hammon believed it should be remodeled. Some of the original window and door openings on the southeast, rear, elevation were modified for new windows. He also added dormers to the third floor and a small stucco addition on the northeast elevation. Hammon added dormers on the northwest, front, elevation as well. However, the dormers and stucco addition were never constructed.

Significance

The Moore-Dunne House

The historic significance of the Moore-Dunne house is associated with the suburbanization along River Road in which residences transitioned from large country estates to smaller, more manageable estates. The 7-acre property was still a large lot by suburban standards and sat on top of a hill with a view of the surrounding countryside much like the larger country estates on River Road. This part of Louisville remained exclusive and desirable well into the 1970s when larger estates were being subdivided to allow for more housing. The house styles remained traditional with influences from Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Georgian Revival, and Craftsman.

The home was constructed circa 1924 for Dr. John Walker Moore and his wife Anna Kent Moore. Architect Carl Ziegler is credited for designing the Colonial Revival home. Dr. Moore acted as Dean of the University of Louisville School of Medicine and played a significant role in the school’s history. When the house burned in 1950, it was sympathetically reconstructed in 1951 by Charles D. Dunne of the Dunne Printing Company. All of the original stone walls of the house remained intact after the fire. The footprint of the house did not change. The interior materials and configuration were altered and new windows, doors, and roofing were added to the

house. some of the window configurations on the front and rear elevations were modified. While the reconstruction did not match the plans exactly, it was designed by local architecture firm Hammon and Hammon (Stratton O. Hammon and Neal Hammon).

Archaeological Significance

The Moore-Dunne house has a low potential for containing archaeological resources. Unlike nineteenth-century farms (plantations, gentleman farms, and middling farms) as well as suburban/urban dwellings, residences built in the 1920s and later are less likely to have associated outbuildings and support structures. While the Moore-Dunne House property is almost 7 acres of mostly undisturbed land, the house sits at the top of a hill with steep sloping sides. Archaeological deposits are typically not found in areas of steep slope. Furthermore, the one outbuilding associated with the house is still standing. The house was originally part of the Croghan's Locust Grove estate. According to an archaeological investigation of Locust Grove, it is possible that some of the historic outbuildings were located on the Moore-Dunne House property but not highly likely (Bader, et al. 2013).

Integrity Assessment

The Moore-Dunne house retains its integrity in location, setting, feeling, and association to support the historic significance of the structure, as it relates to its association with the suburbanization along River Road. The same views and vistas that were present historically are present today with some modifications from further suburbanization. Despite recent vegetation and tree removal, the site has the same feeling and sense of place as it would have historically due to its siting and location.

The Moore-Dunne house retains its integrity in design, materials, and craftsmanship to support the historic significance of the structure, as it relates to its architectural style. Built as a Colonial Revival house, the house caught fire in 1950 and everything but the stone walls and foundation were destroyed. The stone walls survived the fire unscathed because of their unique style of craftsmanship. Looking at photographs after the fire, the Colonial Revival style of the building was still present. Furthermore, the reconstruction of the interior and roof structure remained sympathetic to the style of house, which was still sought-after in new housing construction. Meticulous attention was paid to the craftsmanship to stay true to the design. Furthermore, this neighborhood was highly desirable and exclusive in the 1950s. Many upper class families were continuing the tradition of constructing, or in this case remodeling, large, architect-designed homes.

Boundary Justification

The property proposed for designation is located at 609 Blankenbaker Lane. According to the Jefferson County Property Evaluation Administrator (PVA), the property contains 6.1243 acres of land as well as the dwelling and a detached garage. It is described by parcel number 022000220000. The proposed boundaries for the Moore-Dunne House Individual Local Landmark designation area are represented by the black lines drawn by the petitioner on the LOJIC map below.



Image 4. LOJIC map submitted by petitioner showing proposed Landmark boundaries.



Image 5. LOJIC aerial showing location of 609 Blankenbaker Lane.

Sources of Information

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Designation Criteria

In considering the designation of any neighborhood, area, Property or Structure in the Jefferson County as a Local Landmark, or District, the Commission shall apply the following criteria with respect to such Structure, Property or District:

Local Landmark Designation Criteria	Comments	Meets	Does Not Meet
(a) Its character, interest, or value as part of the development or heritage of Louisville Metro, Jefferson County, the Commonwealth, or the United States.	Representative of the suburbanization of River Road area and transition from large country estates to smaller more manageable ones due to improved transportation and eventually the automobile. The Moore-Dunne house, constructed in circa 1924 and reconstructed in 1951 relates to significant periods in the development of Jefferson County.	X	
(b) Its exemplification of the historic, aesthetic, architectural, archaeological, prehistoric or historic archaeological, educational, economic, or cultural heritage of Louisville Metro, Jefferson County, the Commonwealth, or the nation.	The house represents an example of Colonial Revival style and of the progression of country estates off River Road.	X	
(c) Its location as a site of a significant historic event.			X
(d) Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture and development of Louisville Metro, Jefferson County, the Commonwealth, or the nation.	Throughout its history, the house was associated with persons that contributed to the culture and development of Louisville: Dr. John Walker Moore, Carl Ziegler, and Stratton Hammon.	X	
(e) Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen.	The structure embodies the Colonial Revival style from the visibly remaining 1924 characteristics to the 1951 sympathetic reconstruction.	X	
(f) Its identification as the work of an architect, landscape architect, or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of Louisville Metro, Jefferson County, the Commonwealth, or the nation.	Carl Ziegler, who designed other notable buildings in Louisville, allegedly designed the original structure. Well-known Louisville architect Stratton Hammon designed the reconstruction.	X	
(g) Its embodiment of elements or architectural design, detail, materials,	The method of wall construction was not typical Kentucky technique.	X	

or craftsmanship, which represents a significant architectural innovation.	It consisted of a concrete core then regular stone coursing, no traditional mortar was used.		
(h) Its relationship to other distinctive areas, which are eligible for preservation according to a plan based on an historic, cultural, or architectural motif.	The property was originally a part of the Croghan's Locust Grove estate. The Moore-Dunne House is located near other National Register-listed properties including the Country Estates of River Road, Lincliff, Glenview Historic District, Mockingbird Valley Historic District, and the Duncan Estate.	X	
(i) Its unique location or physical characteristics representing an established and familiar visual feature or which reinforce the physical continuity of a neighborhood, area, or place within Louisville Metro.	The Moore-Dunne House is an example of a smaller estate built on the bluffs of the Ohio River, which is characteristic of the area around River Road. While the house itself is not highly visible, its bluff location is similar to most built along River Road.	X	

Photographs



Image 6. Northwest, front, elevation of 609 Blankenbaker Lane.



Image 7. Northeast elevation of 609 Blankenbaker Lane.



Image 8. Southeast, rear, elevation of 609 Blankenbaker Lane.



Image 9. Southwest and southeast elevation of 609 Blankenbaker Lane.



Image 10. Chimney detail, southwest elevation of 609 Blankenbaker Lane.



Image 11. Garage associated with 609 Blankenbaker Lane (not part of the designation).



Image 12. Southwest and southeast elevation of 609 Blankenbaker Lane, circa 1951 (courtesy Filson Historical Society, Stratton Hammon Photograph Collection).



Image 13. Southeast, rear, elevation of 609 Blankenbaker Lane, circa 1951 (courtesy Filson Historical Society, Stratton Hammon Photograph Collection).



Image 14. Southwest elevation of 609 Blankenbaker Lane, circa 1951 (courtesy Filson Historical Society, Stratton Hammon Photograph Collection).



Image 15. 609 Blankenbaker Lane, looking east, circa 1951 (courtesy Filson Historical Society, Stratton Hammon Photograph Collection).



Image 16. 609 Blankenbaker Lane, looking west, circa 1951 (courtesy Filson Historical Society, Stratton Hammon Photograph Collection).

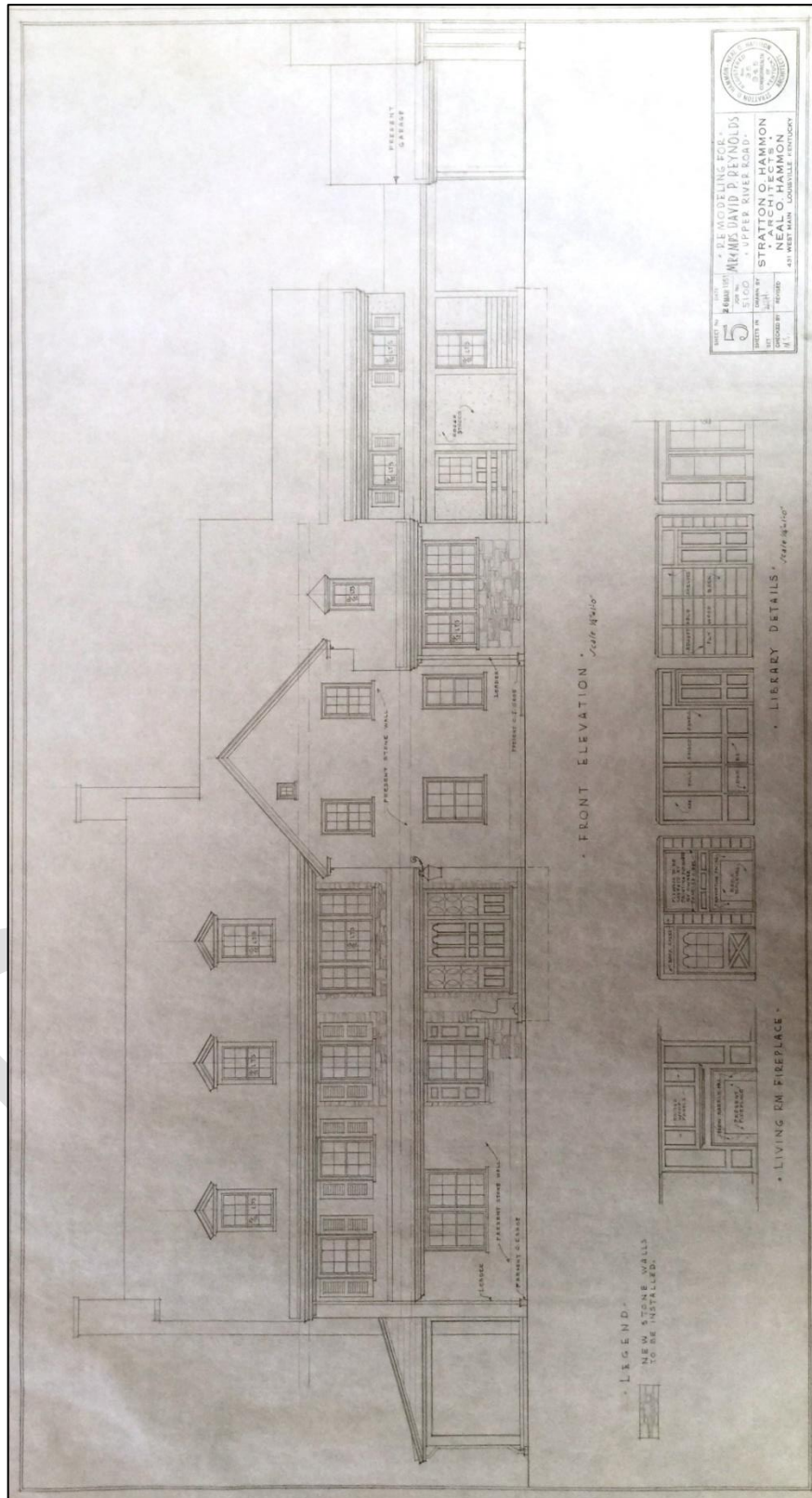


Image 17. Southeast, rear, elevation of 609 Blankenbaker Lane, March 26, 1951 (courtesy Filson Historical Society, Stratton Hammon Architectural Drawings Collection).

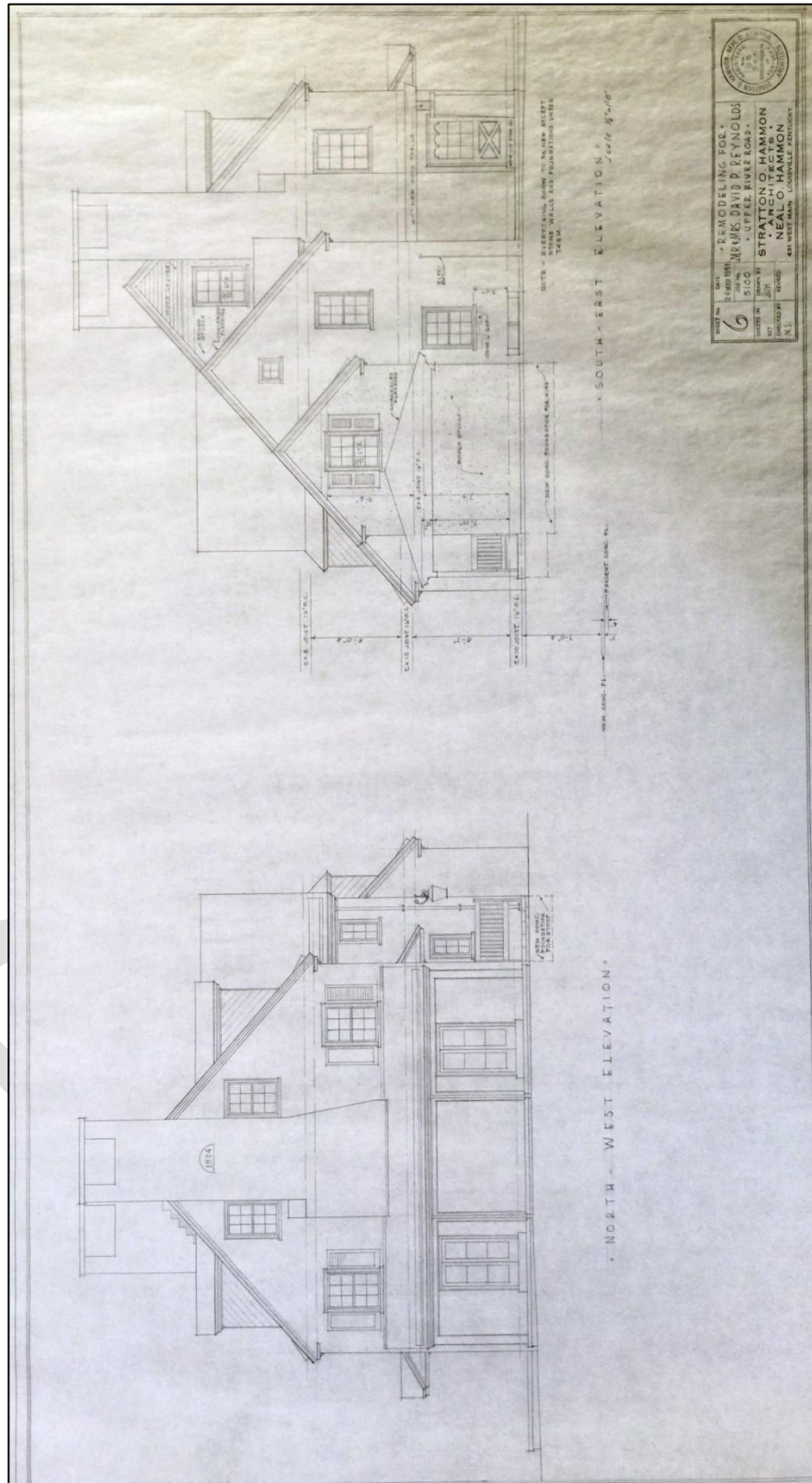


Image 18. Side elevations of 609 Blankenbaker Lane, March 26, 1951 (courtesy Filson Historical Society, Stratton Hammon Architectural Drawings Collection).

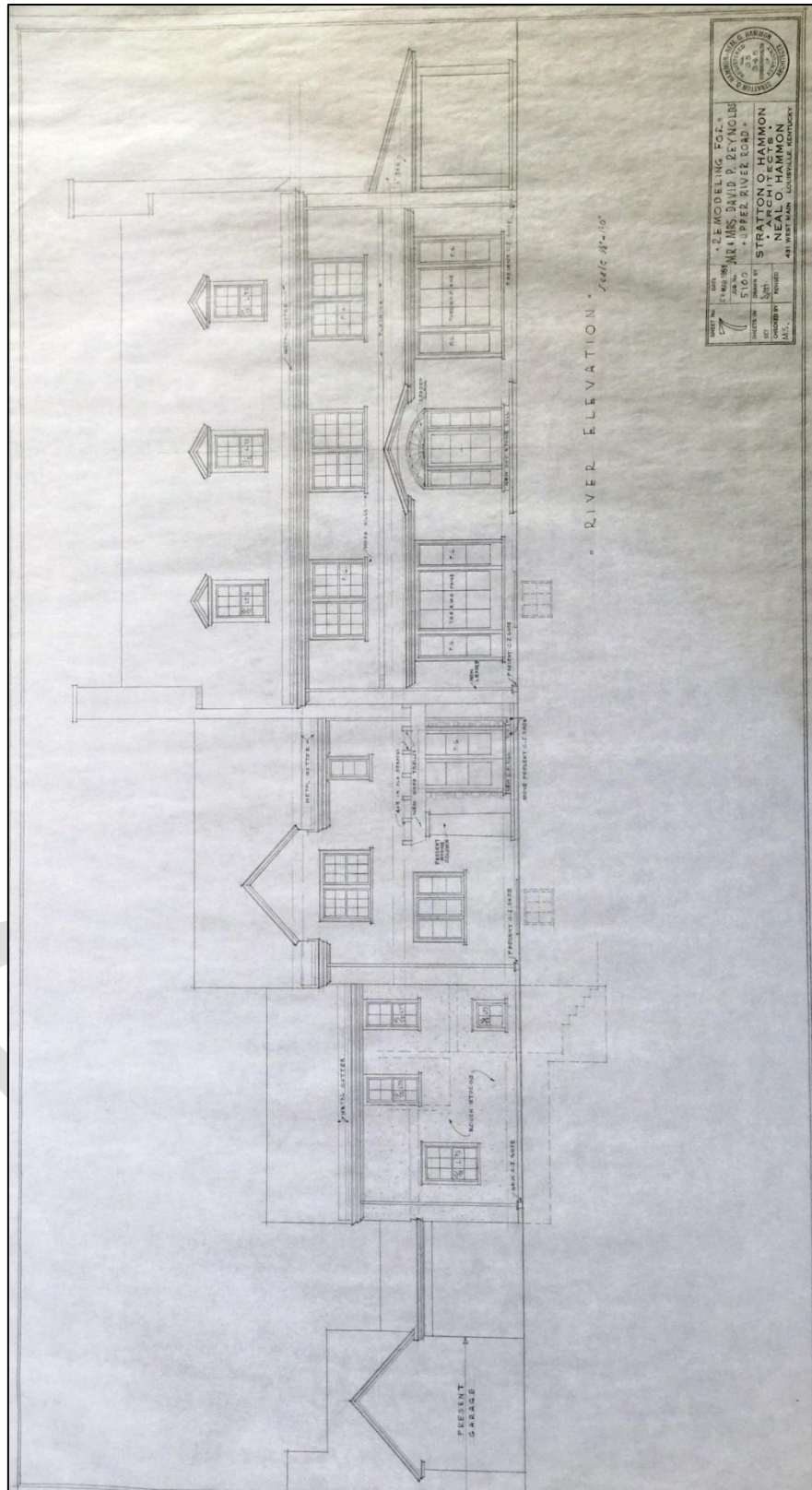


Image 19. Northwest, front, elevation of 609 Blankenbaker Lane, March 26, 1951 (courtesy Filson Historical Society, Stratton Hammon Architectural Drawings Collection).



Image 20. Northwest, front, elevation of 609 Blankenbaker Lane, May 5, 1952 (courtesy University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Royal Photo Company Collection).



Image 21. Southeast, rear, elevation of 609 Blankenbaker Lane, May 5, 1952 (courtesy University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Royal Photo Company Collection).

Water Lacking as Flames Destroy Dr. Moore's Home

Fire destroyed the large country home of Dr. John Walker Moore, retired dean of the University of Louisville Medical School, on a Blankenbaker Lane hilltop yesterday.

Starting in the attic around 3 p.m., the fire slowly consumed the entire 12-room house while firemen and neighbors vainly tried to fight it with an inadequate water supply. Dr. and Mrs. Moore were at home when the fire broke out.

Mrs. Moore said the family was uncertain of the cause. The entire wood-shingled roof was afire before fire-fighting equipment could reach the scene.

House Was Insured

Practically all the furnishings were saved by firemen and scores of neighbors and friends who flocked to the scene — many in bathing suits and tennis clothes — from nearby estates and from private clubs along Upper River Road.

Mrs. Moore was unable to estimate the cost of the damages. The house was insured. One of the fire fighters estimated that the house, solidly built of Kentucky field stone in 1925, would cost more than \$70,000 to build today.

Two engines from the St. Matthews Volunteer Fire Association with tank capacity of 685 gallons, plus a pumper from Louisville Engine Company 21, tried to stop the fire. No fire hydrants or cisterns were available.

The only water besides that in the trucks came from a 1-inch line supplying the house. While three hoses played on the house, it slowly disintegrated, leaving only the walls.

No One Injured

None of the family were injured. They planned to stay temporarily with friends. Fifteen barrels of packed wedding presents, belonging to Mr. and Mrs. John Walker Moore, Jr., were in the attic. They were a total loss.

A loss estimated at \$10,000 by the Reynolds Metals Company was added yesterday to damage caused when fire swept through a Mengel Company timber-storage

yard at 11th and Ormsby Friday afternoon.

The Mengel damage was estimated at \$50,000. The gutted Reynolds building was the company's old plant No. 2 at 1301 S. 12th. It was used for storage of machinery.

housemen's Union pending his appeal from the perjury conviction, was asked by the Government. The United States said Bridges publicly expressed opinions on the Far East situation make him a menace to the internal security of the United States.

In delivering his opinion, Judge Harris assailed the C.I.O. longshore leader as "an agent dedicated to the execution of the Communist program nationally and internationally." The judge declared Bridges "deliberately" forfeited his right to remain free on bail.

"This is not the time for divided loyalty," Judge Harris said. "This is not the time for Communist double talk."

The move to revoke Bridges' Column 5, back page, this section

best natural defense line the Americans have had, is one of the five largest rivers in Korea and looks like the wider stretches of the Missouri or Colorado Rivers. By comparison, the Kum River, where U. S. troops made an unsuccessful stand, is a "two-bit river."

(The Nakdong rises northeast of Andong and flows south in the shape of a huge jagged C, emptying into the sea a few miles from Pusan.)

Foe Kept 'Off Balance'

On the Korean west coast two British cruisers and two destroyers bombarded the Communist-held port of Inchon yesterday for 2 hours with "excellent results." (Story on Page 6.)

Inchon is the port for Seoul, Column 1, back page, this section



NEIGHBORS FLOCKED to rescue practically all the furniture from Dr. John Walker Moore's Blankenbaker Lane home, destroyed by fire yesterday. With an inadequate supply of water, firemen fought the blaze in vain.

Image 22. August 6, 1950 *Courier-Journal* article.

One Shell Plus \$55,000 Equals Home

Charles D. Dunne turns the fire-gutted Dr. John Walker Moore house into a handsome residence, in the face of advice that he not tackle the project.

By GRADY CLAY
Courier-Journal Building Editor

ONE BRIGHT summer afternoon two years ago, fire broke out in the attic of a handsome, three-story country home on Blankenhaker Lane, overlooking the Ohio River Valley.

By night, the entire house of Dr. John Walker Moore, former University of Louisville Medical School dean, was gutted. Only the 22-inch-thick limestone walls remained.

It was a tragic afternoon, not only because a handsome home was destroyed, but because it was so needless; the 2-inch water line just didn't supply enough water for the volunteer firefighters.

Bought By Reynolds

For months, the stark, gray walls stuck up over the 7-acre hilltop, until the place was bought by David P. Reynolds. He planned to remodel the ruins into a house, but finally bought a house on nearby Blankenhaker Hill and sold the Moore property to Charles D. Dunne for \$19,000.

Dunne, his father, James E. Dunne, and mother own the Dunne Press and The Insurance Index.

At this time Charles Dunne lived on Alta Vista Road near Seneca Park.

During World War II, young Dunne (now 41) served in the Chemical Warfare Service, where he studied the effects of incendiary bombs on stone and masonry structures, especially in Italian cities.

"These walls (in the old Moore house) had been put up by Italian craftsmen who knew what they were doing," he said. The house was designed by architect Carl Ziegler, Philadelphia, and built in 1923 at a cost of about \$35,000. Ziegler also has designed a number of other homes and buildings in Louisville.

Concrete Used

The walls have a concrete core. And, instead of mortar, they have concrete between the courses of limestone, said Dunne.

"Pete Waters (a neighbor) used to call me and say don't try to remodel the house," he recalled. "Henry Stites wanted me to knock the walls down. All my



These gaunt stone walls and chimneys were all that was left of the home of Dr. John Walker Moore on a hill overlooking Blankenhaker Lane after fire swept it in 1930.

well-meaning friends said I was making a mistake."

But today, after spending some \$55,000 and many months of planning, Dunne and his family are living in the completely remodeled house, and are delighted with it.

All the exterior walls are just where they stood between the 1930 fire and the 1952 remodeling. Only a few small portions of wall have been added or relaid to accommodate new window or door openings.

Rebuilding a burned-out Pennsylvania Dutch-style farmhouse was no simple matter.

Dunne, who was worried about the weather's effect on the bare walls, hired an 80-year-old Swiss-born contractor, O. M. Reiser, Sr., to "fix the place up," and at least get a roof on it.

"Fixing the place up" soon developed into a complete reconstruction, with Reiser acting as

Continued on Next Page

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Image 23. November 9, 1952 *Courier-Journal* article (1 of 2).

You Would Hardly Recognize The Old Moore Home These Days



Today, after complete reconstruction, the old Moore Home is a handsome mansion. It is the home of the C. D. and J. E. Dunne families.



In the living room, the floor is 18 inches below the level of the original floor, destroyed in the fire. The wall paneling is gum.

Continued From Preceding Page
architect, contractor and cabinet-maker.

(Stratton O. Hammon, an architect who lives on nearby Blankenbaker Hill, has filed a Circuit Court suit against Dunne, seeking \$4,606 in fee plus damages for what he maintains were his own plans "wrongfully appropriated" by Dunne. Dunne denies that Hammon's plans were used in the reconstruction.)

There were hitches, of course. The National Production Authority office here insisted that the house was "new construction" and, under N.P.A. metal-saving regulations, couldn't have more than 1½ baths.

But Dunne, with the aid of attorney Henry J. Stites, successfully maintained that this was remodeling, not original construction. So the second floor has four bathrooms.

As Dunne recalls it now, contractor Reiser had "his own ideas" about what the finished house should look like. Reiser planned for four crystal chandeliers in the 20x17-foot living room, but the Dunes demurred. The living room floor was dropped 18 inches—over Reiser's objections.

But the final product gives the Dunes small cause to complain. They now have a large home, handsomely furnished, with a large living room, western sun-porch, study, dining room, screened porch, breakfast room and kitchen on the first floor; four bedrooms and four baths upstairs, and a large dormitory room and space for bath on the third floor. The garage has been remodeled to include a servant's room and bath.

As far as Charles Dunne is concerned, the living room is the "best room in the house." For the first time since the family

moved back to Louisville from Chicago in 1935, he has all his books out of storage—nearly 200 running feet of books around the living-room walls.

The original tier of three double-hung windows on the living room facing the Indiana Knobs has been replaced with a double-glass picture window, flanked by small double-hung windows.

Another project uppermost in Dunne's mind at the moment is The Insurance Center, which is the old Strand Theater Building at 326 W. Chestnut.

Dunne says he together with Henry J. Stites, Dennis H. Long and Chicago real-estate man A. W. Baker, bought the six-story building recently from Louisville Amusement and Operating Corporation for about \$350,000. They were incorporated as The Insurance Center, Inc.

Dunne envisions the building—after its contemplated million-dollar remodeling—as a sort of local mecca for life insurance firms.

Other Cities Have 'Em

"Every other big city besides Louisville has one," he said. "There's the Source Building in Philadelphia, Eight East Market in Indianapolis—places where insurance men can run down the hall, or upstairs, and 'broker' any particular piece of risk they may have."

The building's tenants will all be insurance firms, he said.

How could he know it would work?

"We made a few test calls to insurance people, and they all said they'd want to rent space," he said.

The only non-Louisvillian in the ownership group, Baker, was for 18 years with the big real-estate firm of Draper and Kramer, Chicago. He was its vice-president and secretary before coming to Louisville recently.

Why did they choose the Strand's location?

Baker says it's a "hot" location, with plenty of parking space

nearby. And Dunne is convinced "the ground alone (105 feet of frontage on Chestnut) is worth what we paid for the building."

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Modeler To Address Architects Monday

A specialist in making scale models for architects and for the construction industry will be the guest of the West Kentucky Chapter, American Institute of Architects, at its meeting here Monday.

Thomas Mitchell, of St. Joseph, Mich., will discuss his specialty at a dinner meeting at Gordon's Restaurant beginning at 6 p.m.

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Image 24. November 9, 1952 Courier-Journal article (2 of 2).