NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Bonnie & Clyde Garage Apartment

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 3347 ½ Oak Ridge Drive [N/A] not for publication

city or town Joplin [N/A] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Newton code 145 zip code 64804

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [X] statewide [ ] locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ].)

Mark A. Miles — MARCH 30, 2009

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ].)

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

[X] entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet [ ].
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register
See continuation sheet [ ].
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register
[ ] other, explain
See continuation sheet [ ].

Signature of the Keeper — Barbara Wyatt — Date 5-15-09

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

[X] private
[ ] public-local
[ ] public-State
[ ] public-Federal

Category of Property

[X] building(s)
[ ] district
[ ] site
[ ] structure
[ ] object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

Domestic/secondary structure

Current Functions

Domestic/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Other: garage apartment
Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials

foundation Stone
walls Stone
roof Asphalt
other Concrete

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

[X] **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

[ ] **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[ ] **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[ ] **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

Property is:

[ ] **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[ ] **B** removed from its original location.

[ ] **C** a birthplace or grave.

[ ] **D** a cemetery.

[ ] **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

[ ] **F** a commemorative property.

[ ] **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
Law
Other: Folklore

Periods of Significance
1933

Significant Dates
1933

Significant Person(s)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

~~Architect/Builder~~
N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

[ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

[ ] previously listed in the National Register

[ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register

[ ] designated a National Historic Landmark

[ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

#_____

[ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

#_____

Primary location of additional data:

[X] State Historic Preservation Office

[ ] Other State Agency

[ ] Federal Agency

[ ] Local Government

[ ] University

[X] Other:

Name of repository: Joplin Museum Complex Archives

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	365160	4101670			

C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roger Maserang/National Register Historian

organization Missouri State Historic Preservation Office date December 31, 2008

street & number P.O. Box 176 telephone (573) 522-4641

city or town Jefferson City state Missouri zip code 65102

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Phillip McClendon

street & number 17 Quail Ridge Drive telephone 417-529-4664

city or town Joplin state MO zip code 64804

Summary:

The Bonnie & Clyde Garage Apartment, a nearly square rock-walled building containing four rooms of living space (plus bath) above a two-car garage, is located at 3347 ½ Oak Ridge Drive in south Joplin, Newton County, Missouri. Constructed ca.1927, this two-story building sits on a poured concrete foundation and has a gently pitched hipped roof covered with gray shingles. Rafter ends are exposed and decoratively notched, a distinctly Craftsman detail. The small, south-facing, wood-framed building measures 29 feet across the front by 26 feet along the side elevations. In the front or south facade, apartment windows overlook a short, gently inclined paved driveway which accesses the property from 34th Street. Below the apartment level, two nonoriginal overhead doors face the street. A separate entrance in the west corner opens onto a stairway to the apartment and an inside entrance to the garage. There have been a few minor interior modifications in addition to replacement exterior doors, but the property substantially reflects its historic appearance.

Setting:

Despite its Oak Ridge Drive address, the Bonnie & Clyde Garage Apartment fronts on 34th Street in what was originally known as Freeman Grove, a small residential subdivision developed in the 1920s. The 3300 block of 34th Street is bracketed by Oak Ridge Drive which runs north-south on the west and Joplin Avenue which runs north-south on the east. The neighborhood around the property consists largely of narrow rectangular lots filled with an assortment of bungalows. Many houses have Craftsman affinities including the one-story, rock-walled bungalow with which the nominated building is associated at 3347 Oak Ridge Drive, just west. The nominated apartment also has Craftsman affinities in its rafter tails and windows. The neighborhood trees tend to be larger today but the immediate built environment remains strongly evocative of the 1930s, when the significant event with which this building is associated occurred. The event, a deadly shootout between local lawmen and members of the so-called "Barrow Gang" led by Clyde Barrow, occurred on April 13, 1933.

One aspect of the setting—the fact that 34th Street slopes steeply downhill toward Joplin Avenue on the east—was telling. Just beyond the neighborhood, there was much more open country in the 1930s than today, as a *Joplin Globe* photograph from April 15, 1933 clearly shows. (Figure 2)

Elaboration:

The garage function of the first floor is apparent from the presence of two overhead doors, painted white. The current vehicle doors, however, are nonoriginal, nonfunctional and temporary. Behind them, the original openings are infilled with wood. West of the vehicle doors is a single-leaf entrance, painted red, leading to the upstairs via a straight flight of stairs. The

garage may also be entered through an inside doorway at the lower landing. This inside door, with a single recessed vertical panel and no window, may be original.

The garage level is visually distinct from the living quarters apart from the presence of vehicle doors. In addition to the doors a wide, beveled stone beltcourse divides the two floors on all four sides of the building, and the stonework on the apartment is different from the stonework on the garage. The garage portion has a veneer of cut, buff colored, rock-faced rectangular limestone blocks of various sizes. Above the beltcourse, the apartment is faced with angular slabs of buff colored stone. The limestone blocks were quarried locally and the angular slabs are of a type widely used in some areas of Missouri.

According to local lore, a chink in the concrete lintel above the single-leaf entrance may be from a police bullet and there may be other gunfire damage as well. This is very possibly true: lawmen reportedly fired a total of 14 shots in a futile attempt to halt the fugitives who were using sawed-off shotguns.1

Apartment windows are typical of the Craftsman/Prairie era. Two window groups are above the vehicle doors. One group contains three 4/1 units and the other contains two 4/1s. These window groups have lintels and lugsills which appear to be dressed limestone. Additional windows within similar stone surrounds are on the other three elevations but fenestration varies from facade to facade. On the east, the apartment has two pairs of 4/1 windows. On the west, a square window with eight small panes is flanked by individual 4/1 windows. On the north is a pair of 4/1 windows, a smaller pair of 3/1 windows and a single 1/1 window. Three-light basement windows in steel frames are in the north, east and west elevations.

Hit by bullets on April 13, 1933, the original garage doors apparently were removed and replaced long ago. The present nonfunctional doors were installed in 2006. The original vehicle entrances had double doors. Each door was wood and contained four lights above two recessed horizontal panels. Each of the present, temporary doors is wood and contains nine lights, grouped in three sets of three, above three recessed vertical panels. Although the existing doors are rollups and the window pattern is somewhat different than on the originals, comparison with a photo published in the *Joplin Globe* two days after the gunfight shows that overall the facade remains sufficiently true to its original design. (Figure 2)

The present single door was installed at about the same time as the vehicle doors. The original single door contained three vertical lights above two recessed vertical panels. The current, red-

1 Interview with the Rev. Phillip McClendon on December 5, 2008. McClendon has owned the Bonnie & Clyde Garage Apartment since 2005. The number of shots fired was compiled from police records and reported in various places including James R. Knight's *Bonnie and Clyde: A Twenty-First-Century Update*, Austin, Texas: Eakin Press, 2003, p. 79.

painted door contains eight recessed panels, each with an incised foliated design. Historic views appear to show a screen door on the single-leaf entrance but none is present today.
The other three elevations contain their original windows and are essentially unchanged.

The slightly inclined driveway has a concrete surface but originally may have been gravel. Sidewalks were replaced in the 1950s. A low concrete retaining wall topped with a cyclone fence stands between the public sidewalk and the southwest side of the garage apartment. At the property line, the wall and fence turn west, away from the building. The bungalow with which the nominated property is associated—sided with angular slabs of buff-colored stone similar to the apartment itself—was not involved in the event that made the resource eligible for listing, and consequently is not included.

Interior:

Accessed by a flight of straight-run wooden stairs (13 steps) in the west end of the primary elevation, the apartment contains five rooms. At the upstairs landing, an entrance leads into a living room measuring 9 ½ feet by 16 feet in the southwest quadrant of the apartment. Directly north of the living room is a kitchen measuring 12 ½ feet by 10 ½ feet. The east half of the apartment contains two bedrooms, a bathroom and a small hallway. The smaller north bedroom measures 9 ½ feet by 10 feet and the larger south bedroom (overlooking the driveway) measures 10 feet by 11 feet. The bathroom (between the two bedrooms) is 7 feet by 6 feet. Interior dimensions of the two-car garage are 21 feet by 26 feet.2 Each bedroom has a small, original closet. (See Figure 1)

A painted wood door with glass panels, said to have been removed from the top of the stairs, is displayed in Joplin's Dorothea B. Hoover Museum.3

Interior walls and ceilings are made of plaster, painted a variety of pastel hues. Floors are original and of oak in the living room and bedrooms. Most of the interior wooden doors and their hardware are original. The original wooden millwork has been painted white.

At some point, a partition wall was removed from the kitchen and this part of the apartment was redesigned to suit modern tastes. Linoleum flooring in the kitchen had become brittle and was replaced with tile.

The bathroom contains the original cast iron tub and a cabinet but the sink, flooring and toilet are modern replacements. The apartment is furnished with period furniture but a large wooden

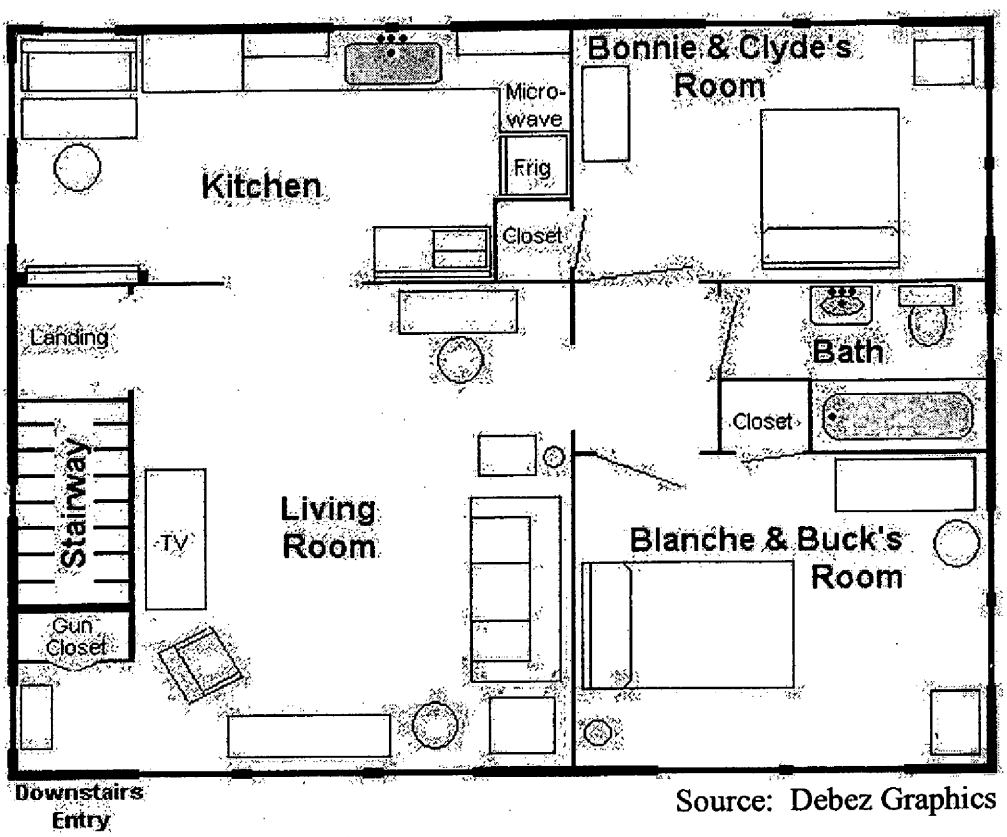
2 Measurements and certain other descriptive details were provided by Brad Belk, director of the Joplin Museum Complex.
3 The door was donated to the museum by former property owner DeWayne Tuttle.

cabinet where firearms reportedly were found after the gang escaped is said to be original. A new heating and cooling system has been installed.

In the garage, interior walls are of rough concrete. The floor is smooth poured concrete. A concrete pillar in the center of the garage provides support for the floor above. The ceiling is unfinished with exposed 2 x 10 sub-floor beams.

Overall, the Joplin property remains strongly evocative of its appearance some 75 years ago when it gained instant notoriety because of the event that occurred there involving its most infamous tenants, gangsters Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker, aka Bonnie & Clyde. The brief gun battle that transpired there on April 13, 1933 took the lives of Joplin detective Harry McGinnis and Newton County constable John Wesley Harryman. At least four other Bonnie & Clyde incidents involving confrontations with police and/or citizens are known to have occurred in Missouri, but no deaths were involved in those and the only other Missouri building associated with the gangsters (a former bank building a few miles north of Joplin in the small town of Oronogo) does not retain integrity.

Figure 1. **Apartment Floor Plan**



Source: Debez Graphics

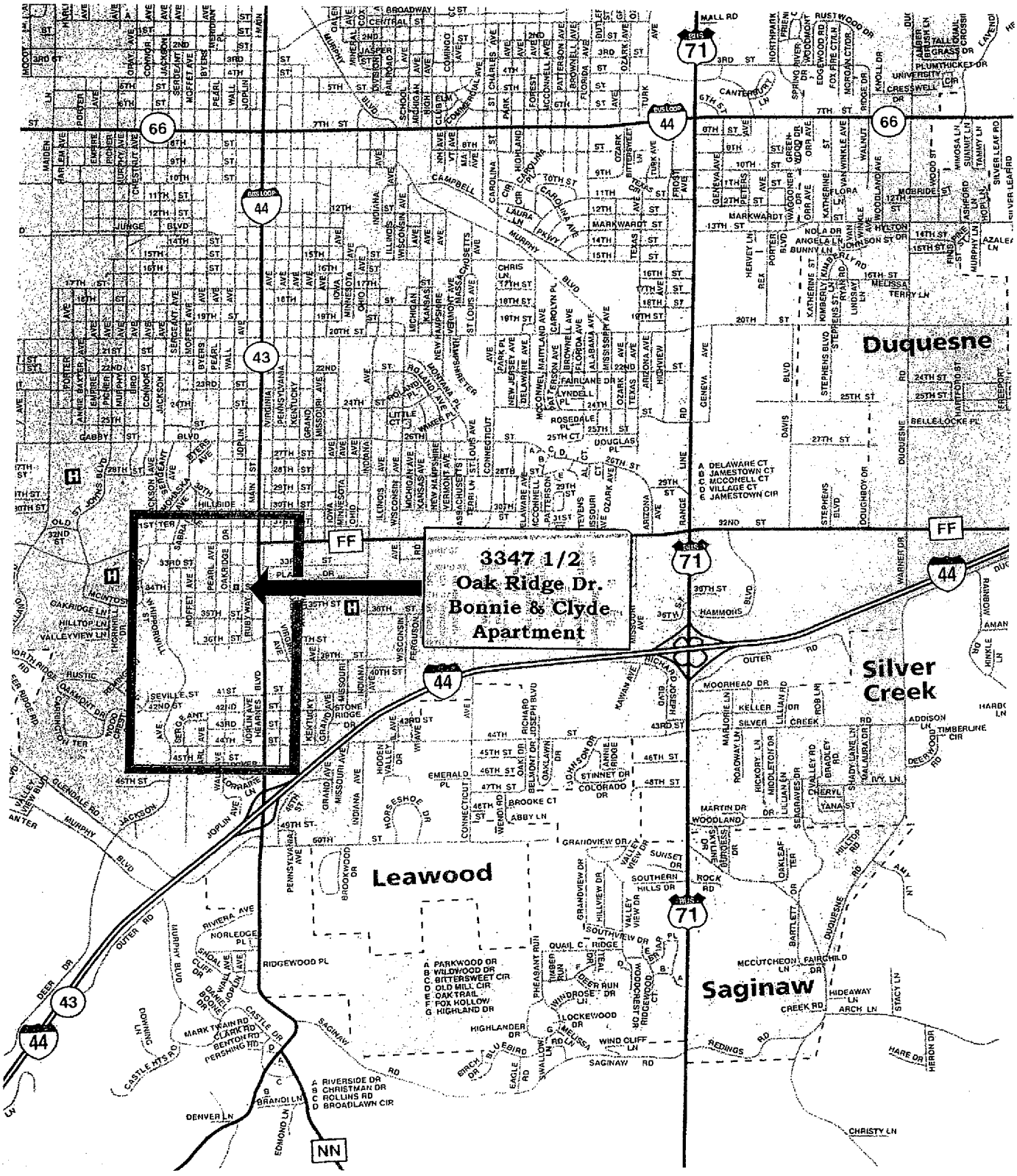
Not to Scale

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Bonnie & Clyde Garage Apartment
Newton County, Missouri



Summary:

The Bonnie & Clyde Garage Apartment at 3347 ½ Oak Ridge Drive in the south end of Joplin, Newton County, Missouri has statewide significance under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Law and Other: Folklore. On Thursday, April 13, 1933, the square stone building was the site of a deadly shootout between local lawmen and members of the notorious "Barrow Gang." Led by Clyde Chestnut Barrow and Bonnie Elizabeth Parker, members of the outlaw band had brazenly carried out a series of robberies and killings in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Missouri during the early years of the Great Depression, capturing the attention of lawmen and the American press. Barrow, Parker and three associates—Clyde's brother Marvin Ivan "Buck" Barrow, Buck's wife Blanche Caldwell Barrow and William Daniel "W.D." Jones—had spent a dozen days in the garage apartment when suspicious neighbors alerted police of activities they mistakenly thought spelled bootleggers. Two of the five officers who arrived at the garage apartment with a search warrant—Newton County constable John Wesley Harryman and Joplin detective Harry McGinnis—were fatally wounded as they approached the building and at least two gangsters—Clyde Barrow and Jones—were slightly injured. The outlaws escaped in a high-powered car, but what happened in Joplin was significant for several reasons. This was the gang's first double killing, and the vicious use of shotguns at close range galvanized authorities to greater efforts at apprehension. Playful, provocative snapshots the gangsters had taken of one another, printed from undeveloped film left behind when they fled, proved invaluable to authorities in bringing about their eventual demise. Diamonds and other incriminating evidence recovered from the apartment linked the gang to the robbery of a milling company during their stay in Joplin. The building is where Buck Barrow reportedly made a final, unsuccessful attempt to persuade his younger brother Clyde to surrender to authorities. And finally, what happened in Joplin seriously tarnished early images of Bonnie & Clyde as folk heroes—although they began reacquiring legendary status not long after their violent deaths little more than a year later. The garage apartment represents a defining moment in the saga of Bonnie & Clyde, and it is Missouri's most intact and best preserved structure with a strong and clear association with the notorious gangster lovers. The minimally altered ca.1927 building remains strongly evocative of its bloody moment in Joplin's past. The period of significance is 1933, the year of the shootout.

Elaboration: The Bonnie & Clyde Phenomenon

The Great Depression reached its nadir in 1933, the first year of President Roosevelt's administration. Unemployment soared to nearly 25 per cent as the gap between rich and poor widened. Although food prices were low, money was scarce and thousands of Americans ended up begging for food. Many people lived in ramshackle communities called Hoovervilles. To some, it seemed that radical economic and political change was needed. Bootlegging had become an occupation of sorts and many Depression-era criminals had gained notoriety for their exploits. This was especially true in big cities where it was not uncommon for rival gangs to

shoot it out with machine guns. The "St. Valentine's Day Massacre" had occurred in Chicago four years earlier, and J. Edgar Hoover's war on crime was well under way. On June 17, 1933, Kansas City's Union Station was the site of a shootout in which four lawmen and a criminal in custody were murdered by men with machine guns. The FBI accused Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd and two associates of the quintuple slaying. Floyd—who denied having anything to do with it—died the next year in a shootout.

But Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow were most definitely not urban gangsters. Instead they operated on the relatively barren landscape of the Midwest and South Central U.S. in a dust bowl atmosphere of bank closings, farm foreclosures and rampant petty crime. Although they robbed a few small banks, their main targets were stores of various kinds and filling stations—wherever they might get quick cash. Barrow and his associates were partial to fast cars with powerful engines—especially Ford V-8s—that enabled them to cover a lot of miles while eluding lawmen in lesser machines. They stole most of their vehicles, ultimately wearing out or wrecking many of them in the days when most roads were gravel and followed the lay of the land. Armed with weapons such as the military's Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) which they stole from National Guard armories, sawed-off shotguns and machine guns, the outlaws easily won duels with anyone unfortunate enough to confront them.4 Occasionally they kidnapped lawmen and even buddied-up a bit before setting them free, unharmed. Although Bonnie & Clyde were considered cold-blooded killers, and Clyde was a cold-blooded killer even if Bonnie (as now seems likely) was not, historian James R. Knight noted that, "Depending on where you fit in their lives, Bonnie and Clyde could be your dearest son or daughter, your idolized brother or sister, your most faithful friend, or your worst enemy."5

Usually they would have been your worst enemy. Over a period of two years between April 1932 and April 1934, Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker, along with various associates were accused of killing at least a dozen persons including nine lawmen in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri. They were most active in Texas, where they had families. Twenty-three Bonnie & Clyde incidents including seven murders involving gunfights occurred in Texas during this two-year spree. Additional Bonnie & Clyde incidents (not involving deaths) were reported in Iowa (six), Missouri (four), Oklahoma (four), Kansas (two), New Mexico, Indiana, Ohio, Minnesota and Louisiana (one each).6 In some cases, they may have been falsely accused but on the other hand they were probably involved in exploits for which others were blamed. At the end, most people probably thought Bonnie & Clyde got what they deserved. They may have operated in too rural of a landscape to attract the FBI's full attention (unlike John Dillinger,

4 The BAR, developed as a light machine gun during World War I, fired a metal-jacketed bullet capable of penetrating half an inch of steel plate. These high velocity rounds would easily go in one side of an automobile and come out the other.

5 James R. Knight, *Bonnie and Clyde: A Twenty-First-Century Update*, Austin, Texas: Eakin Press, 2003, pp. 2-3.

6 Another Bonnie & Clyde incident in Louisiana was of course the infamous May 23, 1934 ambush near Gibsland which ended their lives most gruesomely.

George "Baby Face" Nelson and Floyd who were all gunned down in 1934), but Hoover's crusade against crime had prevailed regardless of who pulled the triggers. Beginning a few months after their deaths, however, the public gradually became more sympathetic.7

In the fall of 1934, a book titled *Fugitives* purported to tell the story of Bonnie & Clyde from a more sympathetic, family point of view; author Jan Fortune had interviewed Nell Barker (Clyde's sister) and Emma Parker (Bonnie's mother). But Fortune was a screenwriter, not a historian, and in any case both of these sources denied making many of the statements attributed to them. Nonetheless *Fugitives* further softened Bonnie & Clyde's image as hard-core criminals, suggesting among other things that they were products of their environment. "Now that they were dead," according to Knight, "it became possible [for Fortune and others] to begin to show them as complex, contradictory human beings instead of cartoon-character gangsters.....The swing of the pendulum to the other extreme of John Steinbeck-type folk heroes took a little longer."8 Certainly after *Bonnie and Clyde*, the romanticized 1967 movie starring Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway as the infamous duo, public perception took a hard turn toward Robin Hood-good. While not the first movie about Bonnie & Clyde, it probably contributed more to the legend than the others combined. And there was, after all, a certain mystique. It is possible that Bonnie never fired a shot. Maybe, under slightly different circumstances, a different time and place, none of it would have happened. And since the killing had stopped, the legend was free to grow.

Today there is a cottage industry built around Bonnie Parker & Clyde Barrow lore, and it goes beyond paraphernalia and visits to their gravesites. The town of Gibsland reenacts the gory ambush at its annual "Authentic Bonnie and Clyde Festival" and there are organized site tours in the area. "Bonnie & Clyde's Joplin Hideout," as the nominated building is called on its official website (http://joplinhideout.com), is available for rent by the day, weekend or week. A video of the 1967 film (nominated for seven Oscars) is provided for the viewing enjoyment of overnight visitors. Visitors are advised that they can easily view the gang's escape route by looking out the front windows toward the left. As for the video, "We do ask that you leave these for future guests to enjoy," the Hideout website admonishes.

Elaboration: A Very Good Hideout Indeed

Technically, the garage apartment at 3347 ½ Oak Ridge Drive made a fine hideout for several reasons. In addition to being relatively private, its location in a brand new subdivision on the outskirts of Joplin was near a likely escape route (Main Street, which runs north-south) only a

7 The incident breakdown was compiled from Winston G. Ramsey's *On the Trail of Bonnie & Clyde: Then and Now*. London: Battle of Britain International LTD, 2003. To be included in the book, incidents apparently had to involve a confrontation rather than a simple theft or break-in. Ramsey's work includes the actual text of many local newspaper accounts of each incident.
8 Knight, op.cit.

couple of hundred yards to the east. Joplin itself is in extreme southwestern Missouri near Kansas and Oklahoma, and is only slightly farther from Arkansas. For escape purposes this was an ideal situation, since in those days pursuing lawmen would abort at state lines. The fact that 34th Street in front of the garage apartment slopes steeply toward the east turned out to be another plus, at least from the perspective of the gang. And the view of 34th street from the second floor windows was unobscured by foliage. It was easy to keep watch.

The nominated building not only included private stalls for two automobiles but its veneer of stone—cut, rock-faced blocks of limestone on the lower elevation and angular slabs of stone wrapping around the apartment portion—must have made it seem relatively impregnable to the gangsters holed up there. Too, an inside stairway made the garage easily accessible from the apartment. If the building had a negative as a hideout, it was probably the lack of a rear entrance. Short of jumping out a window, the only exits were in the primary façade.

The event culminated with the shootout but it began on April 1, 1933 when the five gangsters initially moved into the garage apartment. Reasons for the get-together in Joplin as opposed to some other place are not entirely clear, but Buck apparently initiated it. Actually, on March 31 the group almost rented a furnished house at 2314 Virginia Avenue but discovered the garage apartment the next day and snapped it up instead, for better or worse.9 At the time Bonnie was 23, Clyde was 24, Buck was 30, Blanche was 22 and W. D. Jones was the baby of the group at 17. Bonnie and Clyde had fallen in love but never married after meeting in January 1930.

The five had four cars during their Joplin stay (although only three at a time). Two were Fords stolen before they arrived (one more was stolen, apparently as a replacement, the day before the shootout) so it was desirable to keep them out of sight as much as possible. Buck drove a legally acquired Marmon which he parked in a separate garage on the adjacent property just north, rented from Sam Langford. Actually, Buck and Blanche were both "clean" so far as the law was concerned (Buck had only recently been pardoned from a prison term by Texas Governor Miriam Ferguson) but Clyde, Bonnie and W. D. were all wanted. In fact Clyde, the undisputed leader of the gang, very likely would have faced electrocution if captured alive at this point, much less later. If Buck tried to persuade his brother to surrender as has been suggested, it seems unlikely that he would have succeeded. The brothers had not seen each other for awhile prior to Joplin, so just getting together again as a family was supposed to have been the main point of the rendezvous.10

On April 1, 1933, Blanche, Bonnie and Buck rented the nominated property from Paul Freeman who also owned the primary residence on the site, a bungalow. Freeman indicated that Blanche did most of the talking, used the name Callahan and claimed that her husband Buck was a civil

9 Knight, pp. 74-75.
10 Ibid., p. 76.

engineer from Minnesota. Freeman's father, entrepreneur John W. Freeman, had developed his new Freeman Grove subdivision where the property is located just a few years earlier. By the time the garage apartment was completed in 1927, the development consisted of 15 residences lining a two-block area from 32nd to 34th streets on Oak Ridge Drive.11

Here, in Paul Freeman's garage apartment, and perhaps packing more firepower than local lawmen had ever faced, the five unlikely guests "settled in for what would be one of the longest periods of peace and comfort in Bonnie and Clyde's two years on the run."12 After Joplin, the trail became increasingly bloody as the law closed in.

Elaboration: Fireworks

"DESPERADOS KILL TWO OFFICERS HERE," screamed the black banner headline in the *Joplin Globe* on the morning of April 14, 1933, a Friday. Then there followed a couple of lengthy subheads in the newspaper style of the times: "NEWTON COUNTY CONSTABLE DIES INSTANTLY; DETECTIVE McGINNIS FATALLY WOUNDED; One of the Texas "Bad Men," Who Engaged Officers in Gun Battle at House in South Part of the City, Believed Wounded in Exchange of Shots as They Shoot Their Way to Freedom—Escape in Motor Car, Accompanied by Two Women—J. W. Harryman Killed in First Fusillade—Joplin City Officer's Arm Shot Away."

All of the above happened in a very, very short time. The gun battle probably could have been measured most accurately in seconds, not minutes.

During their brief stay in Joplin prior to the shootout, the gangsters generally kept to themselves and apparently caused no problems. Nonetheless, they managed to arouse suspicions. Neighbors noticed that the renters had late night parties, came and went at odd hours and drove vehicles with various state tags—which they always backed into the garage headed out as if anticipating a hasty exit. Blinds to their apartment were frequently drawn, no visitors were admitted (except for a little girl Bonnie is said to have befriended; Blanche had along a little white dog named Snowball which would have been an attraction) and to top it off, a gunshot was heard (when Clyde accidentally discharged a BAR). To some, at any rate, the mysterious tenants seemed to fit

11For many years before that, the elder Freeman had been a highly successful manufacturer of hoists for propelling ore buckets up and down the vertical shafts of lead and zinc mines throughout the area. In particular, Freeman's company perfected the Freeman Single Engine Geared Steam Hoist which was sold around the world as well as throughout the local Tri-State Mining District. It was of course the mining industry that essentially created Joplin and several other communities in Newton and Jasper counties in Missouri, Cherokee County in Kansas and Ottawa County in Oklahoma. See Brad Belk, *Orley's Legacy: The History of Freeman Health System*, St. Louis: G. Bradley Publishing Co., 1999, pp. 5, 8, and Gail K. Renner, *Joplin From Mining Town to Urban Center*, Northridge, California: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1985, p. 38.
12 Knight, p. 75.

the profile of bootleggers.13 Also, police reportedly received a tip that a car used by the apartment dwellers may have been associated with a recent robbery of a milling company in Neosho, a few miles south of Joplin. The loot included diamonds.14

Upon compiling enough information like the above from nervous neighbors, Sgt. G. B. Kahler of the Missouri State Highway Patrol concluded that a raid was the best way to proceed. He contacted Joplin Chief of Detectives Ed Portley, who assigned local detectives Tom DeGraff and Harry McGinnis to assist. A fourth member of the raiding party was state patrolman W. E. Grammer. The final member was J. W. "Wes" Harryman, constable of Shoal Creek Township in Newton County. Although Joplin was and is primarily in Jasper County, it had been growing southward and the garage apartment was actually two blocks over the Newton County line. Harryman, rather than a counterpart from Jasper County, was along as required by state law in order to serve a liquor search warrant.15 DeGraff, Harryman and McGinness were in one police car and Kahler and Grammer were in another. A contingent of five armed lawmen swooping down in two cars was probably considered more than enough for a daytime raid of possible bootleggers, but they obviously had no idea who they were dealing with.

There may be some disagreement over the details but as reconstructed by Knight, Ramsey and various others, this is the gist of what happened:

Clyde Barrow and W. D. Jones had just returned to the garage apartment from test driving a Ford roadster stolen the day before in Miami, Oklahoma. Whether Barrow had grown restless and was about ready to get back on the road or move to a new hideout is unknown, but it was unlike him to stay in one place so long. In any case they had parked the roadster in the westernmost stall and were pulling the doors shut when the two police cars arrived, traveling up hilly 34th Street west from Main Street. Unknown to the five lawmen, both Barrow and Jones were toting sawed-off shotguns and perhaps other weapons. It was approximately 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 13, 1933.

State troopers Kahler and Grammer, in the lead car, pulled to a halt along the curb just past the double driveway. Moments later the second car, driven by detective DeGraff, turned into the middle of the double driveway, blocking it. "Get in there as quickly as you can before they close that door!" DeGraff shouted as constable Harryman bolted from the front passenger seat and dashed toward the partly open garage door, revolver in hand. Harryman, who managed to fire just one shot, was immediately hit at point blank range in the right shoulder and neck by a blast

13 Missouri legalized the sale of beer on April 7, 1933, and ratified the 21st Amendment repealing Prohibition approximately four months later, on August 29, 1933.
14 Knight, pp. 74-82. Knight's many, many sources range from various Barrow family members to the July 1934 issue of *True Detective* magazine.
15 Ibid.

from a sawed-off shotgun, apparently killing him almost instantly. He fell into the garage through a still-open door, bleeding profusely from severed arteries.

Almost simultaneously detective McGinnis jumped out of the car's left rear door and also ran toward the garage. He fired three revolver shots through a window, possibly wounding Jones in the torso (someone did), before another shotgun blast virtually severed his right arm at the elbow. McGinnis suffered numerous other wounds as well and died that night in Joplin's St. John's Hospital from shock and loss of blood.

Upon stopping the second car and setting the brake, detective McGrath hurled himself out the driver's door. He quickly fired two shots toward the figure or figures in the garage and ran around to the other side of the vehicle just as the mortally wounded McGinnis collapsed in front of him. He fired two more rounds at the garage, picked up McGinnis' weapon and ran around the east side of the building. Patrolman Grammer had climbed out of the passenger seat of the state car as the shooting started and dashed around the west side of the building, ending up in the rear with McGrath. Had there been a rear entrance, perhaps they would have stormed it. Instead Grammer ran to the adjacent residence of Harold N. Full to phone for assistance as he had been instructed by McGrath. McGrath stayed put and reloaded his revolver.

Meanwhile Sergeant Kahler, using his police car as a shield, was emptying his revolver at Barrow who was firing back with buckshot. By this time Buck apparently had joined Clyde at the entrance to the garage. After firing his fifth (next-to-last) round, Kahler started running west toward the adjacent residence in hope of buying time to reload. As Barrow (apparently Clyde) fired again, Kahler tripped and hit the dirt. Believing Kahler to have been wounded, Barrow turned away and concentrated on the other lawmen. Kahler said he heard him say, presumably to Buck, "Where'd that other fellow go?" At this point Kahler thought he had a clear shot and fired his last round, possibly hitting one of the gangsters and certainly driving them back into the garage.

At some point during the exchange a bullet fired by one of the lawmen passed through Jones, apparently without hitting any vital organs (a little more than a month later, Jones was well enough to participate in an auto theft in Ruston, Louisiana). Clyde reportedly suffered a minor flesh wound in Joplin, presumably from a ricocheting round which lodged in his chest just under the skin.16

As the shooting started Bonnie reportedly was upstairs cooking the evening meal of red beans, cabbage and cornbread, Blanche was playing solitaire and Buck was napping.17 In the mad

16 Ramsey attributes the information about Clyde's minor bullet wound to Bonnie as told to Clyde's sister Nell; see *On the Trail,* p. 106.
17 George B. Kahler, in *To Serve and Protect: A Collection of Memories*, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Public Information and Education Division, 2006, p. 21.

scramble that ensued when the shooting started, Buck purportedly grabbed a shotgun and flew down the stairs to join his brother and the wounded, bleeding Jones in the garage. Bonnie and Blanche presumably were right behind him or nearly so, having left virtually all of their possessions in the apartment—purses, loot, film, weapons and other incriminating evidence. What they left behind would prove invaluable to police throughout the Midwest in tracking them down and making charges stick. Even Blanche, perhaps the most innocent of the quintet, was now an accomplice to murder although certainly neither Blanche nor Bonnie fired a weapon in Joplin.

With two lawmen down and bleeding in the driveway, one dead and the other dying, and the stench of gunpowder heavy in the April air, the already surreal scene suddenly became even more so. For as the desperados opened the doors of the easternmost stall and piled into a 1932 Ford B-400 V-8 sedan, two things kept Clyde, behind the wheel, from immediately jamming his foot on the accelerator. DeGraff's police car, parked diagonally, was partially blocking the drive and Snowball was scampering down the street with Blanche in calm pursuit. After failed attempts to release the parking brake, Clyde decided to push the police car aside with his Ford. However, Buck noticed that the still living body of McGinnis would be in their path and, although time was of the essence, his brother waited while he moved the detective to one side. When Clyde finally rammed the police car seconds later, gravity took over and it rolled downhill across the street and into a tree.

They wheeled out of the driveway and roared east to Main Street, snatching up Blanche on the way. Perhaps already hearing sirens, they had to leave Snowball behind along with everything else.

"Several persons, attracted by the shooting, saw the bandit car shoot out of the garage, whirl onto the concrete road and speed south. The fleeing car was traveling at such a high rate of speed by the time it reached the Reding's Mill bridge that a filling station man, who saw it, gasped for fear that it would plunge over the concrete bridge and into the creek below before it could make the sharp turn onto the bridge.....It was righted, however, and shot on south at a terrific rate of speed," reported the *Joplin Globe* on April 14, 1933. The newspaper speculated that they were headed for Oklahoma but apparently they continued to Amarillo, Texas, where they stopped long enough to obtain medicine to treat W.D.'s wound.18

Minutes after the shootout and escape, medical units arrived at the scene. Harryman, about 42, was pronounced dead and McGinnis, 54, was taken to St. John's Hospital, where he died about seven hours later. (See Figure 4)

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18 Knight, p. 80.

Speculation about alternate endings is probably inevitable. For example, what if 34th Street had been level instead of sloping to the east? As it happened, the slope enabled the blocking police car to roll out of the way upon being rammed by the escape vehicle. Without the slope, it has been suggested, perhaps the Bonnie & Clyde saga would have ended in Joplin with the desperados being captured or killed. More likely Clyde would have managed to clear a path by repeated ramming—or they would have simply grabbed a different car from the neighborhood and still escaped, perhaps killing even more in the process. While there is no way to know, it seems more likely that their Joplin layover might have ended differently if they had rented the house on Virginia Avenue instead of the garage apartment. In that case there might have been no inquiring neighbors and hence no shootout at all. Or an even bloodier shootout. No way to know.

If there had been no nosy neighbors and hence no police raid, just a friendly reunion of brothers and their significant others plus the semi-adopted W. D. (and a robbery or two to help make ends meet when the cash ran out), might Buck Barrow have succeeded in persuading his brother to give up his life of crime as suggested by Jan Fortune?19 Possibly but not likely, since Clyde apparently hated captivity so much that he chopped off or persuaded another prisoner to hack off two of his left toes while imprisoned at Eastham Camp No.1 near Weldon, Texas, in 1932. Whether he mutilated himself in order to improve his daily routine or be transferred to an infirmary at Huntsville, Texas, where Buck was imprisoned is unknown; it was probably a combination of the two.20 Already in over his head and wanted for multiple murders before the Joplin shootout, Clyde probably had adopted a fatalistic philosophy that could end only in death—not only his own but, as it turned out, the deaths of Buck and Bonnie as well.

The gangsters surfaced exactly two weeks later in Ruston, Louisiana, where W. D. stole a new Chevrolet on April 27, 1933, wheeled around a poorly designed roadblock and as usual for the gang, outdistanced all pursuers. In the process, Bonnie and Clyde in a trailing car briefly kidnapped two persons including the owner of the stolen car, an undertaker named H. Dillard Darby. Ironically, Darby was called in to help with the embalming of Bonnie & Clyde when they met their demise the next year near Gibsland. "I know we'll get it sooner or later, and you'd probably enjoy embalming us. Promise you will," Bonnie is said to have told Darby as he bounced around in the back seat of their speeding auto.21

Elaboration: Aftermath

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19 Jan Fortune, *Fugitives: The Story of Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker, as Told by Bonnie's Mother (Emma Krause Parker) and Clyde's Sister* (Nell Barrow Cowan), Dallas, TX: The Ranger Press, 1934, p.146. This source is considered unreliable—but not completely so—by many researchers.
20 Knight, pp. 38-39
21 John Neal Phillips, *Running with Bonnie and Clyde*, Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1996, p. 133.

For several reasons the Joplin shootout was a defining moment in the saga of Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow, and the garage apartment associated with the event is significant in Missouri at the statewide level under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Law and Other: Folklore. Under Law, the enforcement of society's legal code, i.e., the bringing to justice of Depression-era gangsters Bonnie & Clyde (& Buck & Blanche & W.D.), took a giant step forward in Joplin.22 This was the gang's first double homicide, and the fact that the victims were lawmen who had been gunned down in the line of duty—at point blank range with shotguns—got the attention of police departments over a wide area. Suddenly their photos were on "most wanted" posters along with the likes of Dillinger, Nelson and Floyd—all of whom would be gunned down during the next year, 1934. Thanks to the quality and quantity of evidence recovered in Joplin, most notably film from which relatively sharp candid photographs were obtained of Bonnie, Clyde and W. D., authorities could circulate substantially better, more recognizable images than previously. (See Figures 5 and 6) Other: Folklore also is an appropriate area of significance because a pervasive image of the outlaw lovers as folk heroes has grown immensely since their deaths, and the garage apartment at 3347 ½ Oak Ridge Drive is Missouri's most intact and best preserved resource associated with that legend. Certainly many more people around the world know about Bonnie & Clyde today than during their exploits.

Four other Bonnie & Clyde incidents involving confrontations with police and/or citizens are known to have occurred in Missouri:

* On November 30, 1932, shots were exchanged but apparently no one was hit in a robbery of the Farmers & Miners Bank at Oronogo north of Joplin (Jasper County). The robbers were identified as Claude Barrow and two associates (neither involved in the Joplin shootout). This was said to be the first instance of Bonnie's direct participation in a job—although apparently her only role was casing the bank. This building does not retain integrity. It has been infilled, added onto and its interior removed to the point where it no longer resembles a bank.

* On January 26, 1933, a Springfield (Greene County) motorcycle policeman was kidnapped at gunpoint within the city when he stopped a suspicious car apparently occupied by Bonnie, Clyde and W. D. Jones. After driving their captive around for several hours, they released him on a country road near Joplin, unharmed but minus his firearm and a pack of cigarettes. No building was associated with this legend-building incident.

* On July 18-19, 1933, a shootout occurred at the Red Crown Tavern and Motel.near Platte City (Platte County) between lawmen and the same five gangsters who were involved in the Joplin shootout. Although the gang escaped, it was not without injury and lawmen were

22 While there were other on again-off again outlaw associates of Bonnie & Clyde (in addition to Buck, Blanche and W.D.), an accounting of these individuals is beyond the scope of this nomination.

wounded as well in this major confrontation. However, fire damage and land clearance for highway construction have essentially obliterated what might have been a significant Missouri site.

* On February 12, 1934, on a highway southwest of Reeds Spring (Stone County), Bonnie & Clyde and two associates exchanged shots with local lawmen in pursuing vehicles before escaping into Arkansas. No injuries were reported and no building was associated with this confrontation.

While the above incidents are of interest in that they help tell the story of Bonnie & Clyde in Missouri, none of them is associated with a building or other property with sufficient potential for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The only building involved in the above four confrontations that is extant is the former bank at Oronogo, and it does not reflect its historic appearance nearly so well as the garage apartment in Joplin. The Joplin building is relatively intact, and what happened there was a pivotal event in the Bonnie & Clyde saga.

In the garage apartment, Joplin authorities recovered five diamonds reported stolen only days earlier from the Neosho Milling Company, Blanche's purse containing such things as her and Buck's marriage license, Buck's pardon papers signed by Texas Governor Ferguson (Barrow had been granted a full pardon on March 23, 1933), legal papers for the Marmon and a money bag of the McDaniel National bank of Springfield which presumably had been part of the haul from a different bank job. With so much evidence pointing to Buck, authorities assumed he was the leader of the Joplin gang until further investigation incriminated Clyde. Seven weapons (and ammunition) also were recovered: four high-powered rifles, a sawed-off shotgun, a BAR and a revolver. Authorities also recovered two vehicles: Buck's Marmon in the neighbor's garage and the recently stolen Ford roadster in the west half of the double garage (a vehicle which almost certainly had bullet-damage).

The latent images left behind in the gang's mad dash for freedom were of Bonnie, Clyde and W. D. Jones. Perhaps a segment of the public found them more endearing than ever when these informal snapshots, hastily printed by the *Joplin Globe,* were widely published. Somewhere along a country road and again in hilly, rocky terrain they had taken turns posing in and around the five-passenger convertible sedan in which they escaped from Joplin. The images included Bonnie being hoisted in the air by Clyde, Bonnie and Clyde kissing, Bonnie playfully pointing what appears to be a sawed-off shotgun at Clyde, and numerous other informal shots of the kind that law-abiding people would be likely to take of one another (minus the weapons) on a family outing. A Joplin Police Department "wanted" poster containing two of the images noted that the photos were "better for identification than regular police photos."23 The complete license plate

23Twenty-nine photos (presumably all of them) are reproduced in *On the Trail of Bonnie & Clyde*, pp. 108-113, and the Joplin PD's wanted poster is reproduced on p. 114. W. D. Jones told interviewers that Bonnie did not really

number is visible in several photos, and this enabled police to trace the Ford to its rightful owner in Texas. And taking a stolen car across a state line was an open invitation for federal involvement, had the FBI wanted to bother.

The fact that Bonnie had literary aspirations—unknown to the public prior to Joplin—was another legend-boosting factor. In addition to the cars, guns, diamonds, exposed film, etc., police recovered a draft of a long poem written by Bonnie and titled "Suicide Sal." She had begun writing it the previous year while serving a two-month sentence on burglary and theft charges in Kaufman, Texas. "Suicide Sal" is a ballad about a moll who takes the rap for the man she loves, gets out of jail and gains revenge—at a price. When police released it to the media, Bonnie's poetic bent contributed in its way to the legend of Bonnie & Clyde.24 Even without poetry, the mere fact of young, cute, relatively stylish Bonnie on the lam with trigger-happy Clyde was probably more than enough to attract sympathetic followers.25

But different people responded to different things. Historian E. R. Milner suggested that, with the nation in the throes of the Great Depression, Bonnie & Clyde appealed to those who considered themselves victims of an uncaring system: "The country's money simply declined by 38 percent. Gaunt, dazed men roamed the city streets seeking jobs...Breadlines and soup kitchens became jammed. [In rural areas] foreclosures forced more than 38 percent of farmers from their lands [while simultaneously] a catastrophic drought struck the Great Plains...By the time Bonnie and Clyde became well known, many had felt the capitalistic system had been abused by big business and government officials...Now here were Bonnie and Clyde striking back."26 But for many, events like the bloody Joplin shootout must have sullied their appeal as folk heroes regardless of how it grew following their deaths.

Although follow-up stories about the shootout dominated the *Joplin Globe* on Friday, April 14, 1933, the paper also ran stories attesting in various ways to the hard times noted by Milner: In Indiana, as much of the nation continued to struggle in the earliest months of the Roosevelt Administration, a farmer armed with a shotgun routed 80 other farmers when they stormed his farm and demanded a rent note he held against one of them; a sheriff had advised him to use force if necessary. At an Oklahoma auction, a second-hand umbrella sold for 45 cents while a

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smoke cigars although she allowed herself to be photographed with one in her mouth and a revolver in her hand, and this is the photo that stuck with the public. The location of the original negatives is unknown.

24This 25-verse poem should not be confused with another of Bonnie's poems titled "The Story of Bonnie and Clyde." The latter was autobiographical but not the former.

25 Bonnie was described as a loader, not a shooter, by W. D. Jones and others.

26 E. R. Milner, *The Life and Times of Bonnie and Clyde*, Carbondale and Edwardsville: Southern Illinois University Press, 1996, p. __. It probably should be pointed out that whatever some people felt personally, in the columns of the *Joplin Globe* there was no hint of anything but horror and sympathy for the slain lawmen and their families.

farm wagon only brought 25 cents (this was reported as an oddity in the news). In Washington, D.C., the Post Office announced an effort to spread employment by barring the hiring of immediate family members of postmasters and other employees as substitutes in the rural delivery service. Wall Street was optimistic about an upcoming world economic conference and the possibility of soon finding a way to stabilize currencies and increase the supply of monetary gold. Meanwhile, the northern panhandle of Texas, northwestern Oklahoma and parts of Kansas was experiencing "one of the worst sandstorms in history." And so it went one day after the shootout, according to the *Joplin Globe*.

Today the Joplin site is periodically visited by tourists, some of whom travel great distances to see exactly where the Barrow Gang shot it out with local lawmen 75 years ago. The bloody event is occasionally recalled in a documentary but probably never has been reenacted like the Louisiana ambush where Bonnie and Clyde were betrayed by former associate Henry Methvin and methodically slaughtered. Another Hollywood remake of the Bonnie & Clyde story is in the works, along with a new Bonnie & Clyde documentary by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) which apparently will include a dramatization of at least some portion of the Joplin shootout, nonfunctional garage doors notwithstanding. When the latest documentary airs this year as part of the BBC's history series *Timewatch,* followed at some time by the Hollywood remake, some fresh and heavy stoking of the legend will undoubtedly result.

Elaboration: Survivors:

W. D. Jones was arrested in November 1933 by Dallas, Texas, authorities and sentenced to 15 years for his role in the January 6, 1933 killing of a deputy sheriff in Fort Worth. He was killed in Houston on August 20, 1974, by three rounds fired from a shotgun at close range by the ex-boyfriend of a woman he had just met and escorted home. Jones had been unarmed.

Blanche Caldwell, who had been an Oklahoma beautician before she married Buck Barrow in July 1931, probably never killed anyone but her presence at robberies and gun battles made her a marked woman. In July 1933, she lost sight in one eye and was captured following a shootout at Platte City, Missouri. Sentenced to 10 years in the Missouri State Penitentiary, she was released early for good behavior, in March 1939. She died in Dallas on December 24, 1988.

Marvin "Buck" Ivan Barrow—six years older than his brother Clyde—died at Kings Daughters Hospital in Perry, Iowa in July 1933 from bullet wounds suffered in the July 1933 shootouts at Dexter, Iowa and Platte City.

Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow were ambushed and killed by a posse of lawmen from Texas and Louisiana on a country road approximately eight miles southwest of Gibsland, Louisiana on May 23,1934. They were buried in separate cemeteries.

Detective Thomas DeGraff was shot in the forehead while making a blackmail drop in 1935. He lost his right eye as a result and retired from the Joplin police force six years later.

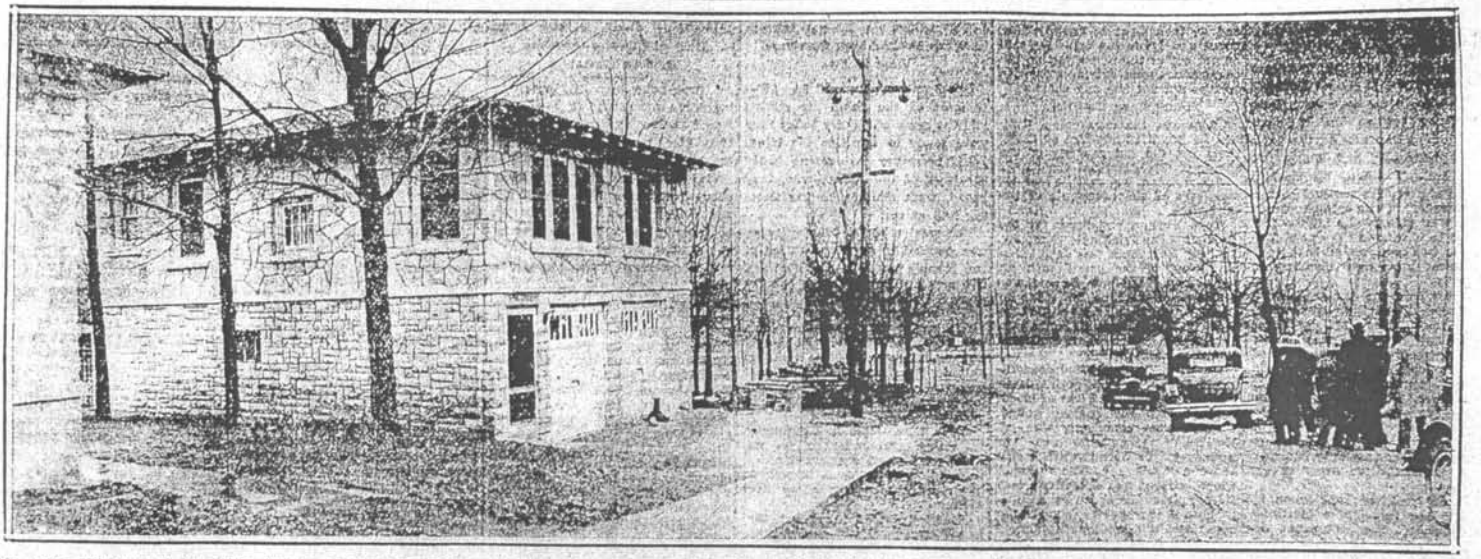
State Trooper Walter E. Grammer, assigned to Troop C, had been a member of the original (1931) class of recruits for the Missouri Highway Patrol. He retired from the department in 1965. In 1996, he died from natural causes at the age of 81.

Sergeant George B. Kahler, of Troop D, was also a member of the Highway Patrol's original class. He retired in 1965. Interviewed in 1980, Kahler's account of the Joplin shootout (see Section 9/Bibliography) is an important primary source. Kahler died from natural causes in 1993.

Figure 2.

JOPLIN GLOBE, SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1933.

House Where Bandits Killed Two Officers and Open Country Which Afforded Escape



This scene, photographed by a Joplin Globe staff photographer, shows the house and premises on Thirty-fourth and Oak Ridge Drive, where two Texas bandits opened fire on a squad of officers late Thursday, instantly killing a Newton county constable and fatally wounding a Joplin detective.

The house is located on the north side of the street and faces south. The bandits and two women occupied the upper floor, the first floor being a garage. Thirty-fourth street runs east and west, and the picture shows the open country extending more than a block east to Main street, and also to the south and southeast of the house. Location of the house, affording this open space, apparently was selected by the bandits because it afforded a wide view of persons approaching and also provided open county, with a good roadway, for a hurried get-away.

The officers approached from the east. A car containing State Highway Patrolmen G. B. Kahler and W. E. Grammer stopped at the west corner of the house and the car with Constable O. W. Harryman, City Detective Tom DeGraff and Motor Car Detective Harry McGinnis stopped in the driveway a few feet from a door of the double-door garage.

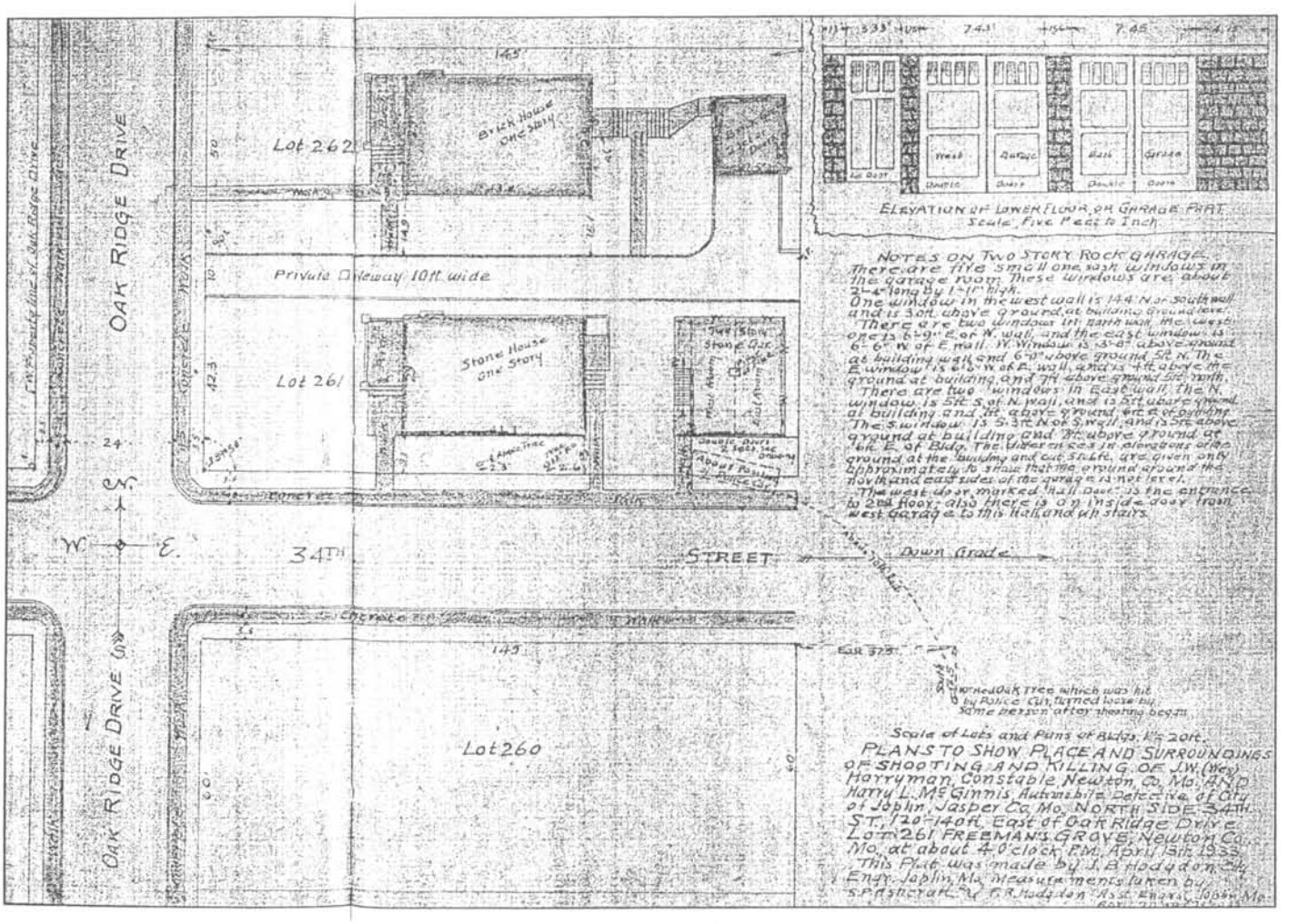
When Harryman and McGinnis got out of their car, one of the bandits was standing in a door of the garage. He immediately opened fire, slaying Harryman and mortally wounding McGinnis. Harryman fell dead inside the garage door. McGinnis fell at the side of the driveway.

One of the desperadoes released the brakes of the police car, and with their own car pushed it off the road. With the two women with whom they had occupied the house, the bandits then fled in their car east to Main street and south on that highway. It was believed at first that one of the bandits was shot before he entered his car, but that fact has not been established.

Doors of the garage and trees in the vicinity were sprayed with bullets. Bullet holes are shown in the panes of glass and in the garage door on the left.

Paramo
A Joplin Institution
10c-25c Any Time

Figure 3.



Shootout site plan showing Bonnie & Clyde Garage Apartment slightly right of center

Drawn by J. B. Hodgdon, Joplin city engineer, April 1933

Figure 4.

DETECTIVE AND CONSTABLE SLAIN BY TEXAS BANDITS

Harry McGinnis, motor car detective of the Joplin police department, and J. W. (Wes) Harryman, a Newton county constable, killed by Texas bandits Thursday when they went to arrest the desperadoes at a residence in Freeman Grove, are shown above. McGinnis, at left, died in St. John's hospital seven hours after wounded. Harryman, who lived at Saginaw, was killed instantly.

Source: *Joplin Globe*, April 14, 1933

Figure 5.

Enlargements from negatives recovered from Bonnie & Clyde Garage Apartment

Left photo: Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow

Right photo: William Daniel "W. D." Jones

Figure 6.

Bonnie Parker apparently did not smoke cigars—except in this photo printed from a negative recovered in the Garage Apartment

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Verbal Boundary Description

The Bonnie & Clyde Garage Apartment occupies the easternmost 30 feet of Lot 261 of the Second Plat of Freeman Grove Subdivision in the City of Joplin, Newton County, Missouri.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses all of the property directly associated with the historic event. A second garage on adjacent Lot 262 (where Buck Barrow's Marmon was stored) was not associated with the all-important culmination of the event and is not included. This building appears to have integrity issues as well.

Photographs

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Bonnie & Clyde Garage Apartment
3347 ½ Oak Ridge Drive
Joplin
Newton County, Missouri
Phillip McClendon (photo #1); Keithly Studio, Macon, MO (photos #2-#8)
February 2009 (photo #1); July 2007 (photos #2-#8)

Photo #1 Facing east on 34th Street, Bonnie & Clyde Garage Apartment on left
Photo #2 Primary (south) elevation of Bonnie & Clyde Garage Apartment, facing north
Photo #3 South and east elevations, facing northwest
Photo #4 West and south elevations, facing northeast
Photo #5 Rear (north) elevation, facing south
Photo #6 Straight-run staircase leads to apartment and garage (off vestibule to right)
Photo #7 Living room, facing south
Photo #8 Southeast bedroom, facing southeast

3347

3347