

# City of Columbia – Historic / Notable Property Application

## Property Identification

- **Property Name:** Residence at 203 Bingham Road
  - **Historic Address:** #7 Bingham Road, Columbia, Missouri (c. 1934)
  - **Current Address:** 203 Bingham Road, Columbia, Missouri
  - **Date of Construction:** 1933–1934
  - **Architect:** Harry Satterlee Bill
  - **Original Owner(s):** Dr. and Mrs. Dudley S. Conley
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## 1. Association with a Notable Person

The property was constructed for **Dr. Dudley S. Conley** and his wife. Dr. Conley was born in Columbia, Missouri, and was a prominent physician, surgeon, and academic leader. He served as the **first Dean of the University of Missouri School of Medicine** and played a significant role in the development of medical education at the University of Missouri during the early twentieth century.

An oil-painted portrait of Dr. Conley hangs at **Conley House** on the University of Missouri campus, which currently houses the Honors College. This enduring institutional recognition reflects Dr. Conley's lasting local significance and establishes a strong historical association between the original owner and the property.

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## 2. Notable or Unusual Architectural Qualities

The residence is a documented work of architect **Harry Satterlee Bill**, supported by original architectural blueprints dated June 1933. The home incorporates notable and unusual original construction features that reflect a high level of craftsmanship and durability uncommon in residential construction of the period.

These features include **steel joists supporting a poured concrete floor system, with wide oak plank flooring mechanically fastened directly into the concrete and finished with walnut plugs concealing the fasteners.**

The residence also retains its **original wooden front door**, which was **designed specifically for this home and documented in the original architectural blueprints.** The door incorporates **three pieces of Irish bullet glass**, presented to the original owners as a house gift from **Harry Satterlee Bill**, adding a rare personal and artistic element directly attributable to the architect.

Additional original site features contribute to the property's architectural integrity, including a **standing, hand-laid stone garden wall with an iron gate** extending along the **north and west property lines.** The

property also retains an **original sidewalk architectural symbol**, interpreted as a protective motif intended to signify keeping those within the home safe and evil outside. Together, these elements further contribute to the architectural character, craftsmanship, and integrity of the home.

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### 3. Recent Renovations and Restoration (2009–2010)

The residence underwent a comprehensive refurbishment and update in **2009–2010** under the direction of architect **Linda Phillips**. This work was primarily restorative in nature and focused on preservation, with carefully considered remodeling and updating of the **study, kitchen–family room, and bathrooms**.

As part of this work, one **upstairs northwest rear bedroom** was sensitively reconfigured to create a **master bathroom and walk-in closet** serving the front master bedroom. These changes were undertaken in a manner consistent with the original architectural intent and did not alter the exterior appearance or historic character of the home.

Original design intent and character were reinforced through historically appropriate materials and details, including **fresh walnut trim, thick baseboards, and walnut cabinetry throughout the home**. In addition, modern mechanical improvements were introduced discreetly to enhance livability, including systems that maintain a **stable interior humidity range and high-efficiency air filtration**, supporting allergy control and reducing mold and dust-mite exposure. The work respected the original Bill design and preserved the architectural character of the residence. These environmental controls have also contributed to the long-term preservation of interior materials and finishes, resulting in notably low levels of interior dust and supporting the durability of woodwork and historic fabric.

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### 4. Relationship to Other Recognized Historic Properties

Although the property has not yet been formally recognized by other historic preservation organizations, it occupies a significant architectural context. The residence sits **next door to and across the street from three other homes designed by Harry Satterlee Bill that are recognized by the City of Columbia**, specifically **206 Bingham Road, 211 Bingham Road, and 212 Bingham Road**. This location places the property within a concentrated cluster of Bill-designed residences and strengthens its contextual and architectural significance within the Bingham Road corridor.

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### 5. Unusual or Interesting Attributes or Stories

In addition to its architectural and historical significance, the property is associated with long-standing neighborhood lore connected to its original owner. An **oral history of the Grasslands neighborhood, transcribed by Maria Sloan**, records that Dr. Conley was known locally for driving his automobile exclusively in **first gear**, making his arrival and departure unmistakable to neighbors. This anecdote reflects the personal history of the property's original occupant and contributes to the documented social and cultural memory of the neighborhood.

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## **Supporting Documentation / Attachments**

- Original architectural blueprints dated June 1933
- Current exterior photographs of the residence
- Photograph of original blueprint (documentation)
- Historic address documentation showing use of #7 Bingham Road by 1934
- Reference documentation regarding Dr. Dudley S. Conley and Conley House