



**City of Columbia Historic Preservation Commission
Application for Most Notable Property**

**Community Development Department, Planning Division
City of Columbia, 701 E. Broadway, Columbia, MO 65201
Planning@CoMo.Gov**

Address Being Nominated: 2105 South Country Club Drive, Columbia Missouri

Date Property Built (if known): Approximately 1924

First Owner/Builder/Architect (if known): Unknown

Current Owner's Name: Gene & Pat Gerke

*(properties may be nominated by non-owners but owners must give permission for photography/
videography of property- see page 2 for release)*

Address: 2105 South Country Club Drive, Columbia Missouri

Phone Number: (573)-356-1049 E-mail: patgerke@gmail.com

Submitter's Name: Randall Kilgore, President, Country Club Estates Neighborhood Association

Submitter's Phone number: (573)-808-5254 E-mail: rfkilgore55@hotmail.com

NOTE: The following information provides a starting point for historic research on the property. However, a lack of information should not be a deterrent for an application. All properties chosen for Most Notable will have a history of the property compiled by a historic preservation professional. This history will be provided to property owners for their own records.

Has anyone of local, regional, or national historic note ever occupied the property? If so, whom?

Mr. David Barton Robnett, undertaker (Parkers), WWI veteran, founding member of the Columbia Country Club and Trustee of Christian College, originally built this home with his wife **Margaret Lohman Robnett** the co-founder of Robnett-Putnam Interiors. D.B. Robnett's brother, Dr. Dudley Robnett, purchased a parcel of land from Dr. A.W. McAlester and when D.B. Robnett was unable to purchase a lot from the McAlesters, Dr. Dudley Robnett divided his lot into two parcels and the brothers then built homes side by side. The attached photo shows their homes under construction around 1924. (Price home, then the two Robnett homes) Mr. Robnett died in 1947 and Margaret lived in the home until her death in 1958.

Former U. S. Congressman from Columbia (1943-1949) **Max Schwabe** and his wife **Georgia May Ashlock Schwabe** purchased the property and Max lived here until his death in 1983. Mrs. Schwabe lived in the

home until around 1994 when, at age 88, she went to live with her daughter in Liberty, Missouri. The Schwabes were friends with Harry and Bess Truman throughout their years residing in Washington DC. Mrs. Schwabe has a recorded interview at the Truman Library in which she and her two daughters describe their time in Washington D.C. and some of their remembrances of the Trumans.

The Schwabes added a carport and cabana on the west side of the home around 1982 and a rear family room and kitchen addition in 1984.

It was after Mrs. Schwabe sold the home to local urologist **Dr. Joseph Montie and Dorothy (Robin) Armbruster** that a complete restoration of the home took place (between 1996-1998). This restoration included new stucco on the entire exterior of the home, Italian plastered walls in several rooms, granite, marble and leather floors, and a complete master bathroom renovation.

Gene and Pat Gerke are the current owners of this almost one-century-old home. (2003-Present).

Does the property have any notable or unusual architectural qualities? If so, please identify.

The home's original design was reminiscent of a French Country Manor house, with stucco exterior, turret, slate roof, and leaded glass windows throughout the home. A portion of the leaded glass windows and doors remain. The sunroom (or music room) has a unique barrel-vaulted ceiling. The home still has the original slate roof. The home's original dining room (currently used as library/office) has built-in bookshelves and leather floors which are not believed to be original.

There is an original 12-foot leaded glass window adjacent to the curved stairway in the entryway. The copper front door was designed and built by local artist Don Asbee in 1998. A carved stone fireplace surround is also original.

Have any recent renovations been performed that have helped restore the property? If so, describe them briefly.

The Gerkes have restored all the original hardwood floors in the home. A new steam boiler was added, and the original steam radiators still provide heat for the home. The 1980's kitchen addition was remodeled in 2009.

Is the property recognized by any other historic preservation organizations? If so, please identify.
No

Please describe any other unusual or interesting attributes or stories about the property.

The two brothers, Dudley, and David Barton Robnett built homes together side-by-side. One was a physician, the other was an undertaker. A flagstone walkway linking the two properties was discovered under some groundcover several years ago. There is an original claw-foot bathtub in the third-floor bathroom. The third floor has a small living space which was believed to be the original "maid's quarters". In the 1930 and 1940 census listed "Maid" living on the third floor of the home.

We do not know the original architect or builder of this home. We do not have any original photos of this home. We look forward to finding out more about this interesting property from the Historic Preservation Commission. Attached is a photo that was taken by the Price family during construction of the three homes and a current photo of the front and rear of the home.

Please attach current and/or early pictures of the property.

Owner's release for city public communications to photograph/video record around exterior property **and** for property information to be included online in an interactive historic map *(required for nomination)*

(signature)

(signature)

Owner's release for city public communications to photograph and video record up to three rooms/elements in the interior of the building *(optional- will require owner's presence)*

Rooms/elements of interest in the building's interior:

1. Sunroom with leaded glass French doors and barrel-vaulted ceiling
2. Curved staircase with 12-foot leaded glass window and curved oak handrail.
3. Leaded glass French doors in Master Bedroom leading to an original Juliette balcony.
4. Third floor "maid's quarters" with original claw foot bathtub

(signature)

(signature)

Home of Gene and Pat Gerke

2105 S Country Club Drive

Front Exterior



Living Room



Family Room



Covered Patio



Front Entry and Staircase



Office

