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Historical Study

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We are fortunate to have many unique residential buildings and homes in Kansas City. Several streets by Loose Park have stunning examples of Georgian Colonial influence. One house in particular grabbed my attention on 55th street. The residential home looks like it was built during the 18th century when the American colonies were prospering. The brick and wooden exterior complimented with a stately stone front entrance. The Georgian period, named after King George of England, was a design style that had major influences from Great Britain and then later this British style was built throughout the American colonies.

There are many Georgian elements on the exterior. I noticed the structure is on a raised foundation from brick. For example, the design is symmetrical with five windows across the front. All the windows have divided windowpanes and pediments on the top of each one. There is an elaborate decoration over the front door and above the center window under the triangular pediment on the roof. The intricate masonry and horizontal quoins are made of textured bricks running vertically all the way up the house from the ground to the roof. It frames the central front door and window as well. The front entry is in the center with flattened columns on each side of the segmented pediment door.

Upon closer review, I discovered traits of the American Federal architecture style as well. It has multiple levels coupled with a roof that features a balustrade, perfect for scenic views of the Missouri and Kansas landscapes. The construction was mostly with brick and could have been carried over from the existing Georgian style. The roof features a center pediment adorned with a symbol that was unfamiliar to me. The decoration is extremely refined and classical.

An important and famous American Federal architect was Samuel McIntire. Samuel was one of the first prominent designers on the East Coast. His designs had influences during this period as well. He designed hipped roofs and chimneys on opposite sides of the home. This helped the home stay warm and balanced the heat throughout the home. He designed a set number of panes in a window, side lamp fixtures, and used a mix of brick and wood construction. This residence has a hipped roof with side gables and two pedimented dormers.

The multiple styles mesh well together. All three have elements of Neo-Classical. The straight lines and symmetrical design complement one another throughout the home's design. There seems to be an architectural restraint that is less decorative but still feels timeless and formal.

This assignment was quite meaningful to me. It has altered the way I appreciate buildings, particularly residences. Prior to this homework, I would merely admire a home in its visual beauty alone. Now I find myself seeking the intricate details that tell me more about its history. My favorite features of this particular home are the corners and edges of the brick work. It frames the home and gives the brick texture and interest. It results in a dignified yet simple appearance. I wish I could have seen the interior. This balanced and harmonious residence looks like the

stately colonial homes that still populate the northeast and were then built across other regions in the United States.