

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Beaumont Medical Building

and/or common Beaumont Medical Building

2. Location

street & number 3714-26 Washington Avenue _____ not for publication

city, town St. Louis _____ vicinity of

state Missouri code 29 county City of St. Louis code 510

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant office; to be converted to housing

4. Owner of Property

name George and Ernest Stern

street & number c/o Cinnemette Corporation
The Fulton Building, 10th Floor, 107 Sixth Street

city, town Pittsburgh _____ vicinity of state PA 15222

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City of St. Louis City Hall

street & number Market Street at Tucker Boulevard

city, town St. Louis, state MO 63103

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title 1. Architectural Survey of Midtown-West has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date March 1983 _____ federal _____ state _____ county local

depository for survey records Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.
721 Olive Street, Room 1113

city, town St. Louis state MO 63101

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2. Missouri State Historical Survey
September 1983
Historic Preservation Program
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P. O. Box 176
Jefferson City,

State

MO 65102

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Constructed in 1926-27, the Beaumont Medical Building is a ten story, reinforced concrete commercial structure with steel frame floors and roof and twelve-inch variegated buff brick curtain walls. Fronting approximately 140 feet on Washington Avenue in the heart of St. Louis' Midtown district, the building includes a ten-story addition constructed at the rear in 1946. Both the original structure and addition are in good condition with only minor alterations to the exterior.

The building rises from a two-story base faced with smooth dressed stone which extends two bays on either side of the eleven-bay central shaft. Five metal-framed storefronts and a former driveway entrance open at the ground level and are headed with broad ornamental stone lintels. The arched central entrance is framed with decorative cut-stone roping, colonnettes, capitals and Medieval figures (Photo #2); a brass grill with the street address 3720 is reported to be installed in the tympanum (now boarded). The eight-story shaft of double-hung, rectangular windows terminates at the top story with round-arched windows; east and west bays of the front facade are accented with thin pilasters and project forward slightly creating a pavillion effect. A stone cavetto cornice featuring pointed arches, escutcheons and animal heads wraps around three elevations. A comparison of a drawing of the building published circa 1927 (Photo #3) with the building today (Photo #1) indicates that alterations to the exterior have been confined to bricking-in of the driveway entrance and some storefronts, and the removal of a balustrade which ran above the second story on the front facade.

The interior lobby is installed with a mock timber ceiling ornamented with painted geometric designs and a decorative plaster frieze -- both presumed to be original features which are now in fair condition. A wooden transom panel above the entrance to the addition is carved with Moorish geometric designs.

The ten-story addition constructed at the rear in 1946 measures approximately 56 feet (east-west) by 50 feet (north-south). Partially visible in the foreground of Photo #1, the addition maintains the materials and essential design features of the original structure, employing similar buff brick curtain walls, fenestration terminating in round-arched windows at the top story and a simple, white terra cotta cornice on all elevations.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1926-27; 1946 **Builder/Architect** LaBeaume & Klein, architects; LaBeaume, Abbitt & Unland, architects.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Beaumont Medical Building qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places according to Criteria A, B, and C, and is eligible under the following areas of significance: **ARCHITECTURE:** Constructed in 1926-27 from plans of architects LaBeaume & Klein, the building is a well-preserved example of St. Louis' best commercial design of the 1920s. Inspired by the architecture of Spain, finely detailed ornament at the cornice, main entrance and inside lobby adds a distinctive note. A ten-story addition to the rear designed in 1946 by LaBeaume, Abbitt & Unland carefully maintained the integrity of design and materials of the original structure. **COMMERCE:** Owned co-operatively by doctor/tenants, the building was for several decades St. Louis' largest and finest medical office building and one of the most financially successful commercial buildings in the Midtown area. **SCIENCE:** Numerous prominent St. Louis physicians who made contributions to the city and state occupied the building among the most notable of whom was principal stockholder Dr. Edwin C. Ernst whose pioneering work in the field of radiology was nationally and internationally recognized during his tenancy.

During the last quarter of the nineteenth century, St. Louis' Midtown district (located about three miles west of the riverfront) developed from unimproved open prairie land into one of the city's finest residential sections. The opening in 1870 of Vandventer Place, the grandest of St. Louis' private residential streets, brought designs from the country's leading architects and spurred development in neighboring streets. By the turn of the century, however, the prestige of Midtown's residential enclave was waning as a new phase of commercial development was in its ascendancy. Among the earliest buildings constructed entirely for commercial occupancy were two built between 1905 and 1908 principally for use as doctor's offices. The location of several major hospitals nearby along with convenient streetcar access made the Midtown area an attractive site for medical buildings, particularly as the population continued to shift west of the inner city. By the mid-1920s, the St. Louis Medical Society had erected a handsome new building in the heart of Midtown and the area was well established as St. Louis' foremost center for doctors' offices and related laboratory facilities.

In 1926, construction was underway for the ten-story, \$425,000 Beaumont Medical Building, the city's largest and most prestigious building reserved exclusively for medical offices. Located on Washington Avenue one block west of Grand Avenue, Midtown's primary north/south artery, the building was named in honor of Dr. William Beaumont (1785-1853) -- a St. Louis resident for twenty years whose experiments on the digestive system won him international recognition. Designed by architects LaBeaume & Klein, the new building was constructed by the Beaumont Medical Building Co., incorporated February 2, 1926, by seven local physicians who formed the first Board of Directors: Edwin C. Ernst, Martin F. Engman, Ellis Fischel, John Kimbrough,

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William H. Mook, Albert Taussig and Fred J. Taussig. The largest investor at the time of the incorporation, Edwin Ernst held 997 of the 2,000 shares with each of the other men owning one share. Designed with first-story pharmacy and medical supply stores, the building was also equipped on the second floor with a forty-bed hospital incorporated in 1927 under the name, Beaumont Hospital Co. It was reported that eleven different office suite plans were available, although the number of suites were to be determined by the number of doctors who purchased stock in the building. A special feature of the building noted by the press was the provision of a car entrance on the Washington Avenue facade leading through the building to parking space for 100 automobiles.²

When the building was completed in 1927, architects LaBeaume & Klein had worked together in St. Louis for some fifteen years designing private residences, churches and major civic and institutional buildings such as the downtown YMCA, central YWCA, St. Louis Maternity Hospital, additions to St. Luke's Hospital, buildings for Lindenwood College and later, Kiel Auditorium. St. Louisan Eugene S. Klein, FAIA (1876-1944) graduated from Harvard in 1899 and the Lawrence Scientific School in 1901; he worked for the St. Louis firm of Mauran, Russell & Garden before forming a partnership with Louis LaBeaume in 1912. Born in St. Louis, Louis LaBeaume (1873-1961) studied at Columbia University and abroad; he first established practice in Boston before returning to St. Louis in 1902 to work on designs for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Following the Fair he opened the office of Mariner & LaBeaume which was succeeded by LaBeaume & Klein. He served as a member of the City Plan Commission (1914-1916), the Plaza Commission (1925-1940) and the Board of Control of the City Art Museum (1916-1941).

An outspoken critic and author on various architectural topics, LaBeaume published a series of four articles in the Journal of the American Institute of Architects in 1924-25 which have relevance to design elements in the Beaumont Building. Drawn from sensitive observations and a study of architecture while touring Spain, the articles reveal LaBeaume's fascination with the exotic and unfamiliar character of Spain's Medieval and Renaissance heritage -- a blend of Moorish, Mudejar and European traditions. Testimony to his appreciation of the rich ornamental effects found in Spanish architecture are the Beaumont Building's lobby featuring a mock timber ceiling painted with geometric designs and ornament at the cornice and main entrance on the exterior. (Photos #1 and #2) In other ways the building expressed ideals of 1920s St. Louis commercial design in its streamlined, simply articulated facades with the front elevation subtly broken by slightly stepping forward the shafts of the east and west bays.

The building immediately attracted a high occupancy rate of prominent St. Louis physicians including the original incorporators of the Beaumont Medical Building Co. Among the most distinguished was stockholder Dr. Edwin Ernst (1885-1969), one of the country's pioneer radiologists whose achievements in the field won him national and international honors. A native St. Louisan, Ernst graduated from Washington University's School of Medicine in 1912 and became Director of its radiology department in 1915.³ He was a founder of the Radiology Society of North America (RSNA).

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(established in 1915 by Midwestern radiologists who were gaining national stature) and served as national president of that organization as well as two other leading professional groups.⁴ In 1936, Dr. Ernst was awarded a gold metal by the RSNA for his work in obtaining world-wide acceptance of the roentgen unit as a standard measurement of X-ray applications.⁵ With offices in the Beaumont Building from 1927 to the mid-1960s, Ernst's treatment of cancer patients there furthered his research on a uterine radium applicator which he perfected during the 1940s.⁶ He received the highest award of the International Congress of Radiology in 1959 for development of the applicator bearing his name.⁷ Dr. Ernst contributed to numerous scientific journals and his involvement with the Gas Tube Gang (a group of pioneer radiologists organized around 1955) led to efforts to collect and preserve material relating to the history of radiology in America.⁸

After two decades of service and impressive financial success, the demand for space in the building justified construction in 1946 of a ten-story addition to the rear (designed by LaBeaume, Abbitt & Unland) which closely imitated the materials, proportions and design of the original building. Three decades later, however, occupancy had plummeted to thirty-four percent and only five doctors remained -- a result of the general decline of the Midtown area and the relocation of doctors closer to new hospital facilities further west.⁹

Recognizing the importance of Midtown, the St. Louis Board of Aldermen declared the New-Town-in-Town area (of which Midtown is a significant portion) eligible for property tax relief under Missouri's "353" Redevelopment Law in March 1974. More recently, the City Center Redevelopment Corporation was established to plan and coordinate efforts focused on Grand Avenue north of Lindell. The \$2 million renovation of the 4,500 seat Fox Theatre, completed in 1982, has attracted thousands of people back to Midtown and set the stage for renovation of Midtown's other historic buildings. The proposed conversion of the Beaumont Building to housing will help bring new residents and twenty-four-hour life to the burgeoning cultural center on Grand Avenue.

FOOTNOTES

¹For the historical development of Midtown, see Jean Fahey Eberle, Midtown: A Grand Place to Be (St. Louis: Mercantile Trust Company, 1980).

²St. Louis Globe-Democrat, 7 February 1926.

³St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 15 March 1969.

⁴For detailed background on radiological organizations and Dr. Ernst's involvement, see Ruth and Edward Brecher, The Rays: A History of Radiology in the United States and Canada (Baltimore: The Williams & Wilkins Co., 1969); and

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and E. R. N. Grigg, M.D., The Trail of the Invisible Light: From X-Strahlen to Radio(Bio)logy (Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas, 1965),

⁵St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 4 December 1936.

⁶Grigg, pp. 228, 633.

⁷St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 23 August 1959; 15 March 1969.

⁸Grigg, p. 631.

⁹St. Louis Globe-Democrat, 1 December 1976.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Granite City, IL/MO

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	7	4	0	7	0	0	4	2	8	0	2	5	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Beaumont Medical Building is located on a parcel in City Block 2287 which includes the western 23'6" of lot 5, all of lots 6 through 9 and the eastern 16'6" of lot 10 for a total of 140 feet on the south line of Washington Avenue and a southwardly depth of 233 feet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By © 1983, Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.

name/title Mary M. Stiritz, Research Associate

organization Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. date 19 September 1983

street & number 721 Olive Street, Room 1113

telephone (314) 421-6474

city or town St. Louis,

state MO 63101

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



Director, Department of Natural Resources and
title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

12/12/83

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Item #9 Bibliography

Brecher, Ruth and Edward. The Rays: A History of Radiology in the United States and Canada. Baltimore: The Williams & Wilkins Co., 1969.

Eberle, Jean Fahey. Midtown: A Grand Place to Be. St. Louis: Mercantile Trust Co., 1980.

Grigg, E. R. N., M.D. The Trail of the Invisible Light: From X-Strahlen to Radio(Bio)logy. Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas, 1965.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat, 7 February 1926; 1 December 1976.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 4 December 1936; 23 August 1959; 15 March 1969.

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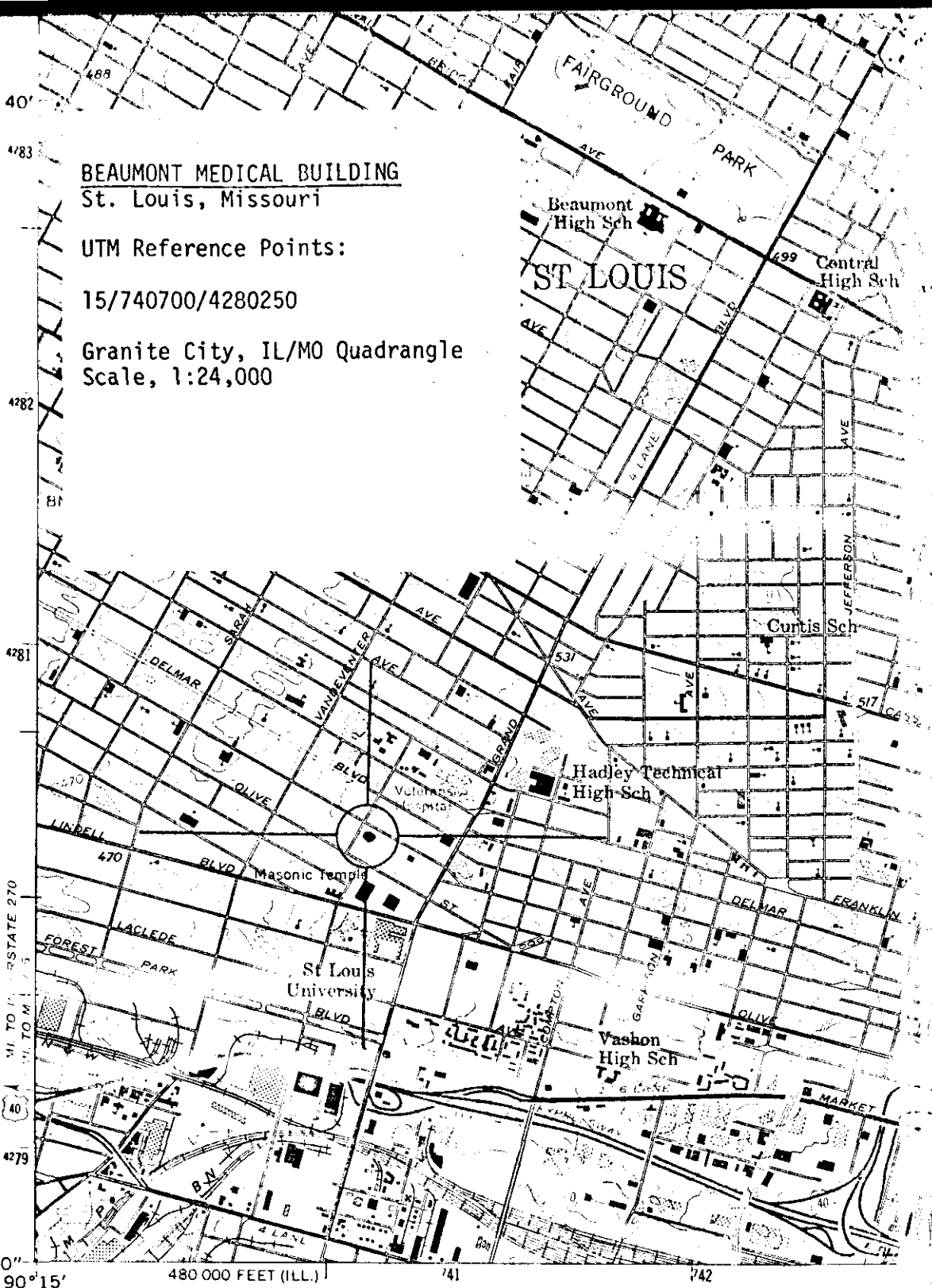
Item number 11

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2. James M. Denny, Section Chief,
Survey and Registration
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City

December 5, 1983
314/751-4096

Missouri 65102



BEAUMONT MEDICAL BUILDING
St. Louis, Missouri

UTM Reference Points:
15/740700/4280250

Granite City, IL/MO Quadrangle
Scale, 1:24,000

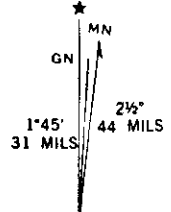
(WEBSTER GROVES)
1961 III SE

Mapped by the Geological Survey
Revised by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from planetable surveys by the Geological Survey 1930 and 1933. Planimetric detail revised from aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1954

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Illinois coordinate system, west zone and Missouri coordinate system, east zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 2 meters south and
convert easting to show back to the datum



UTM GRID AND 1982 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

BEAUMONT MEDICAL BUILDING
St. Louis, Missouri

#1 of 3 North (principal) and
east elevations.

Photographer: Mary M. Stiritz
Date: September 1983
Negative: Landmarks Association
of St. Louis, Inc.

Camera facing southwest.



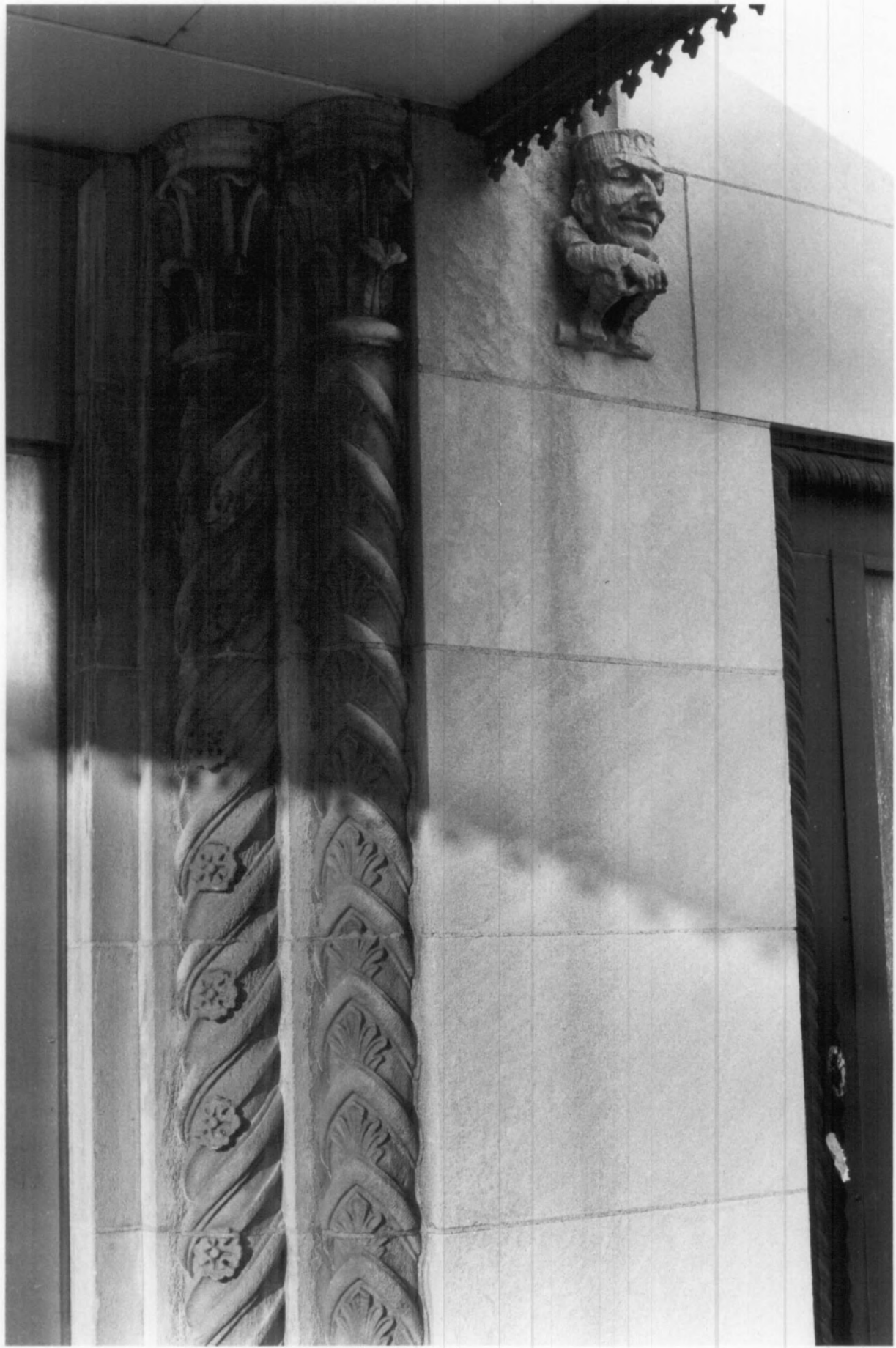
BEAUMONT MEDICAL BUILDING
St. Louis, Missouri

#2 of 3 Detail of entrance, north
(principal) elevation.

Photographer: Mary M. Stiritz

Date: September 1983

Negative: Landmarks Association
of St. Louis, Inc.



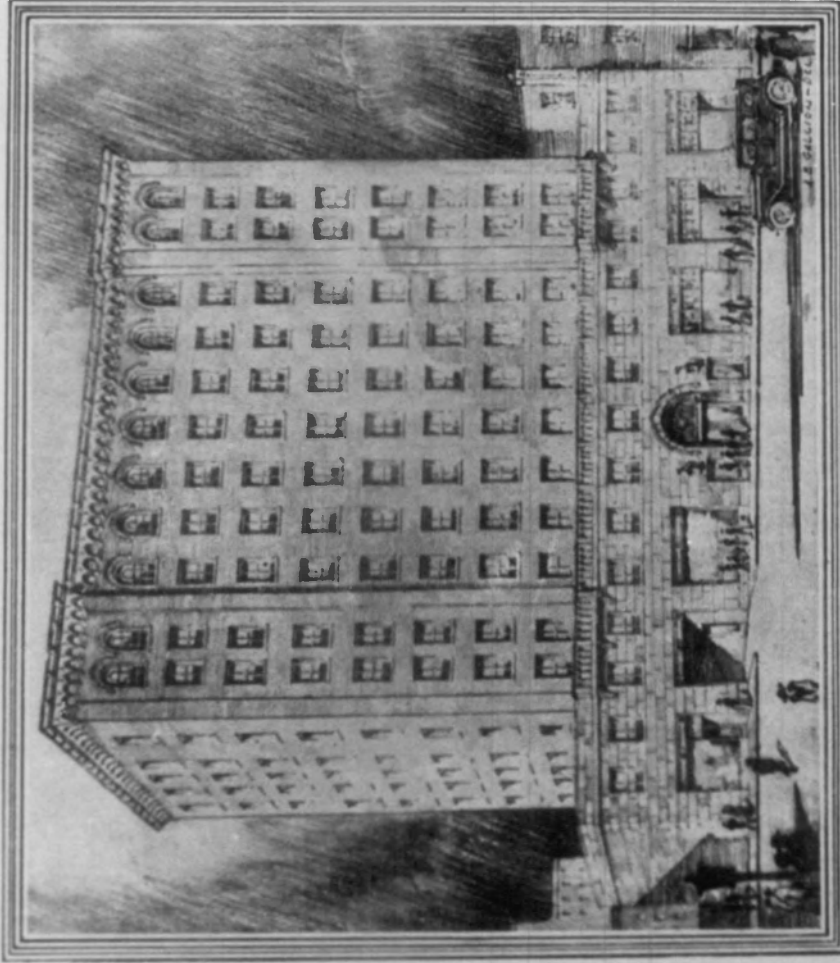
BEAUMONT MEDICAL BUILDING
St. Louis, Missouri

#3 of 3 North (principal) and
east elevations.

Photocopy: Mary M. Stiritz, 1983

Original drawing: St. Louis
Public Library, c. 1927

Negative: Landmarks Association
of St. Louis, Inc.



BEAUMONT MEDICAL OFFICE BUILDING
St. Louis, Missouri

Architects—LA BEAUME & KLEIN
Contractors—JAMES BLACK MASONRY & CONTRACTING CO.

Carney Cement was used for all the
brick and tile mortar in this project.

REPRODUCED FROM THE ORIGINAL RENDERING, THROUGH
THE COURTESY OF MESSRS. LA BEAUME & KLEIN.