

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries -- complete applicable sections)

STATE: Missouri	
COUNTY: St. Louis City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Bissell Street Water Tower or Red Water Tower

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Water Division Standpipe No. 2

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Intersection, Bissell Street and Blair Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Louis

STATE: Missouri	CODE: 24	COUNTY: St. Louis City	CODE: 510
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	None since	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	1913	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Water Division, City of St. Louis

STREET AND NUMBER:
1200 Market Street

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Louis

STATE: Missouri	CODE: 24
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURT CASE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
St. Louis City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
12th and Market Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Louis

STATE: Missouri	CODE: 63103	24
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Building Art in St. Louis (George McCue)

DATE OF SURVEY:
1964

DEPARTMENT FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
St. Louis Chapter, American Institute of Architects

STREET AND NUMBER:
107 North 7th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Louis

STATE: Missouri	CODE: 63101	24
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Missouri
COUNTY: St. Louis City
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bissell Street Water Tower was designed by William S. Barnes and built in 1835-1836 to supplement the nearby Grand Avenue Water Tower of 1871. Like the Grand Avenue Tower, it was constructed to house a standpipe the purpose of which was to maintain constant water pressure in the water mains serving the City of Saint Louis from the Bissell's Point Pumping Station on the nearby Mississippi River. It is a brick, stone and terra-cotta tower, square in cross-section and 194' 8" in height. It is set in a circular plaza 67 feet in diameter and faces east.

EXTERIOR

The exterior of the building may be divided visually into four sections: a base comprised of rusticated stonework rising to a height of 36' 11 5/8", a shaft mainly consisting of red brick with stone string courses rising to a height of 124' 5 5/8", a brick platform with a terra-cotta balustrade corbelled out from the shaft and resting on four engaged stone columns and rusticated stone quoining rising to a height of 147' 10 5/8", and finally a brick lantern with a stone and terra-cotta cornice supporting a pitched, slate-covered iron roof surmounted by a copper finial rising to the full height of the tower.

There are nine doorways in the structure. The main door is at ground level in the east face of the tower. Four more doors, one on each side of the four sides of the shaft, open onto four small balconies at the top of the base, while the remaining four doors pierce each side of the lantern level and open onto the corbelled platform.

Fifteen groups of three staggered windows each, four on the front and on each side, and three on the back, are let into the walls of the shaft at equal intervals to admit light into the interior.

INTERIOR

The interior of the tower consists of a standpipe and a narrow, spiral, wrought-iron stairway that winds around the pipe from the ground to the top platform attaining a height of 145' 8". The standpipe itself is also made of wrought iron varying in thickness from 1/4" at the base to 1/2" at the top. It has an interior diameter of six feet and a total height of 148' 6".

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1889-1886

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itorian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bissell Street Water Tower is significant as one member of a rare multiple survival of a 19th-century marriage of architecture and science. In conjunction with its two companion towers, the Grand Avenue Water Tower, designed c. 1870 by St. Louis architect George I. Barnett, (John Byran Albury. Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture. St. Louis, 1928) and the Compton Heights Water Tower, designed c. 1889, by Harvey Ellis for St. Louis architect George Mann, (Eileen Phyllis Manning Michaels. "The Architectural Designs of Harvey Ellis," unpublished Master's thesis, University of Minnesota, 1953) it comprises a unique set of architecturally sheathed standpipes. Similar water towers combining architecture with engineering still do remain in Chicago, New York and Milwaukee, but nowhere other than in St. Louis is more than one of these structures extant in the same place. (Edward A. Ruesing. Field Report, received March, 1970, and filed at the central office of the Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.)

The towers are of added importance in that they represent the first modern and comprehensive water distribution system in the City of St. Louis, and because of this, they had significant influence on the City's physical expansion. Builders and investors were attracted to a neighborhood that could offer the double amenities of sanitation and fire protection which this system provided.

The Bissell Street and Grand Avenue Towers are also the focal points of circular plazas which were constructed for their purpose. These plazas are urban designs of great distinction. Whereas the Grand Avenue Tower is surrounded by shop buildings, the Bissell Street Tower is surrounded by contemporary residences built in the 1880's and 1890's several of which reveal in their scale and in some of their architectural details the influence of the tower. (Edward A. Ruesing. Field Report, received March 1970, and filed at the central office of the Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Bryan, John Albury. Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture. St. Louis, Missouri: St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928.
2. Manning (Michaels), Eileen Phyllis. "The Architectural Designs of Harvey Ellis." Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Minnesota, 1953.
3. Report of the Board of Water Commissioners, (St. Louis), April 11, 1887.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			Q R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38°	40'	13"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		90°	12'	21"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Sheila Hannah, Research Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: Missouri State Park Board DATE: April 8, 1970
State Historical Survey and Planning Office

STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building

CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson City STATE: Missouri 65101 CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Joseph Jaeger, Jr.

Title: Director, Missouri State Park Board, and Missouri State Liaison Officer

Date: _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
St. Louis City	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number of entries)

7.

BISSELL STREET WATER TOWER

CONDITION

No material alterations have been made on the structure since its construction and its appearance remains essentially the same as when it was completed. The tower was taken out of use June 8, 1913 when new pumping engines rendered both it and its companion, the Grand Avenue Water Tower, obsolete. It has received no substantive maintenance since that date and has fallen into such a state of disrepair that it has been barricaded since 1965 to protect people from falling bricks. Because it has been deemed a danger to public safety, it is now threatened with imminent demolition.

This description of the physical appearance of the building is based on the data included in a field report by Edward A. Ruessing written on February 26, 1970. The report is filed at the central office of the Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.

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8.

BISSELL STREET WATER TOWER

The Bissell Street Tower is also significant as an Architect-designed landmark of the neighborhood. As a tall, vertical element, it has served as an orientation and location reference point for the area.

The structure was designed by William S. Eames who was Deputy Commissioner of Public Buildings in St. Louis from 1883 to 1886. A graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, Eames was one of the founders and the first president of the St. Louis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He was national president of the A.I.A. in 1904-1905.

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BISSELL STREET WATER TOWER

4. Ruesing, Edward A. Field Report, received March 1970, and filed at the central office of the Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.



MAPLEWOOD 3.1 MI.
3.5 MI. TO U.S. 40

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5'
40'

1.2 MI. TO U.S. 40 ALT.
0.7 MI. TO U.S. 67



2.5 MI. TO U.S. CITY 40
0.9 MI. TO U.S. 67

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle
"Granite City, Ill. - No."
Scale 1:24,000

Bissell Street Water Tower

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
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COUNTY	
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1. NAME			
COMMON: Bissell Street Water Tower or Red Water Tower			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Water Division Standpipe No. 2			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Intersection, Bissell Street and Blair Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN:			
St. Louis			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Missouri	24	St. Louis City	510
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' Quadrangle Granite City, Ill.-Mo.			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1954			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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STATE: Missouri	CODE 24	COUNTY: St. Louis City	CODE 510
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Edward A. Ruesing, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor of St. Louis			
DATE OF PHOTO: February 26, 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. View looking west on Bissell Street. Detail of the entrance and base of the Bissell Street Tower, east side.			



Photo by W. F. Jud

3-12-70

AVILA

Office of the Mayor

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View looking west on Bissell Street. Detail of the observation platform and lantern of the Bissell Street Water Tower, east side.



DANGER
KEEP OUT

KEEP
→
RIGHT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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STATE:

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510

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1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View looking south on Blair Avenue. The Bissell Street Water Tower, north side.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

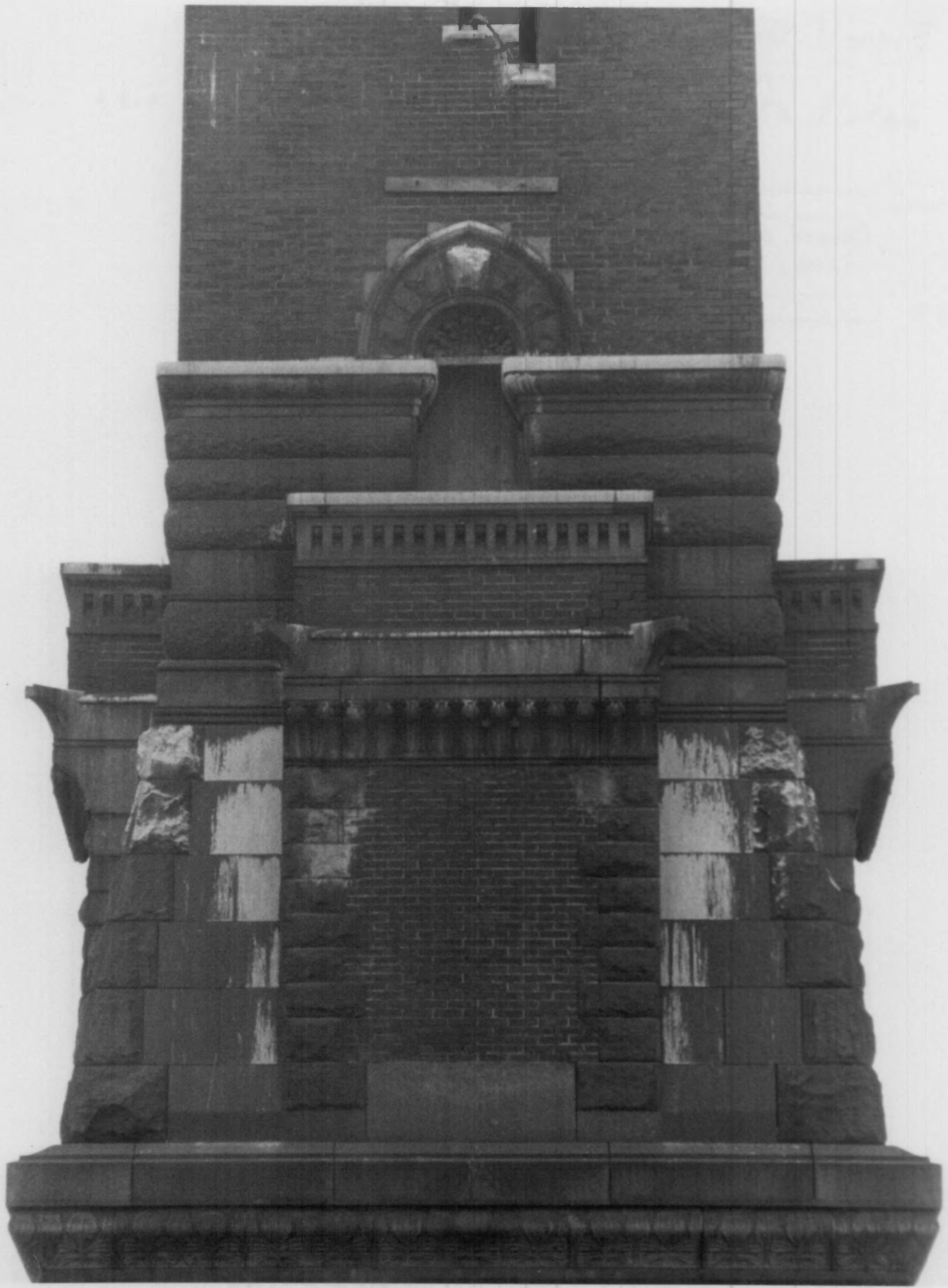
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EXTRA
PHOTOS



Photo by W.F. Jud

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Office of the Mayor
CITY OF SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI