

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name Employment Security Building

Other names/site number n/a

Name of related Multiple Property Listing n/a

2. Location

Street & number 505 Washington Ave. (also addressed as 601 N. Broadway) n/a not for publication

City or town St. Louis n/a vicinity

State Missouri Code MO County St. Louis (Independent City) Code 510 Zip code 63101

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D


Signature of certifying official/Title JP

Date 03/26/18

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

Employment Security Building
Name of Property

St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/business

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT/New-Formalism

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: CONCRETE

BRICK

roof: METAL

other: GLASS

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Employment Security Building
Name of Property

St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1959

Significant Dates

1959

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum, Inc.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Employment Security Building
Name of Property

St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than 1 acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 38.630376 -90.188383 3 _____
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

2 _____ 4 _____
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

_____ NAD 1927 or _____ NAD 1983

1 _____ 3 _____
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

2 _____ 4 _____
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Karen Bode Baxter and Timothy P. Maloney

organization Karen Bode Baxter, Preservation Specialist date March 8, 2018

street & number 5811 Delor St. telephone 314-353-0593

city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63109

e-mail karen@bodebaxter.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:**
 - A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
 - A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Employment Security Building

Name of Property

St. Louis (Independent City), MO

County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Employment Security Building**

City or Vicinity: **St. Louis**

County: **St. Louis (Independent City)** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Sheila Findall**

Date

Photographed: **January 27, 2017 (Photos accurately reflect the building as of December 2017)**

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 12: Exterior, looking northwest at south and east elevations
- 2 of 12: Exterior, looking southwest at north and east elevations
- 3 of 12: Exterior, looking northeast at south elevation
- 4 of 12: Interior, first floor, vestibule, from mid west wall looking east
- 5 of 12: Interior, first floor, lobby, from northwest corner looking southeast
- 6 of 12: Interior, first floor, mid open office area, from southeast corner looking northwest
- 7 of 12: Interior, first floor, mid open office area, from northeast corner looking south
- 8 of 12: Interior, second floor, southeast stairs, from southeast corner looking northwest
- 9 of 12: Interior, second floor, mid open office area, from mid north wall looking southeast
- 10 of 12: Interior, second floor, north stairs, from southwest elevation looking northeast
- 11 of 12: Interior, third floor, open office area, mid south end looking southwest
- 12 of 12: Interior, third floor, south elevator lobby, from mid east wall looking west

Figure Log:

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

- Figure 1: Historic Elevation Drawings courtesy of Dan Cook
- Figure 2: Historic First Floor Plan courtesy of Dan Cook
- Figure 3: Basement Floor Plan courtesy of Chacon Construction, Inc.
- Figure 4: First Floor Plan with Photo Log courtesy of Chacon Construction, Inc.
- Figure 5: Second Floor Plan with Photo Log courtesy of Chacon Construction, Inc.
- Figure 6: Third Floor Plan with Photo Log courtesy of Chacon Construction, Inc.
- Figure 7: Contextual Map from Google
- Figure 8: Site Map from Google
- Figure 9: Photo of Lambert International Airport
- Figure 10: Photo of New Delhi American Embassy
- Figure 11: Photo of Monastery Building at St. Anselm's Abbey
- Figure 12: Photo of Johnson Building at the Boston Public Library
- Figure 13: Photo of Lashly Branch Library
- Figure 14: Photo of Juvenile Division Circuit Court
- Figure 15: Photo of AAA Building

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Description of Physical Appearance

Summary

Completed in 1959, Employment Security Building at 505 Washington Avenue, St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri is a flat roofed, three-story (plus full basement) office building located on the northwest corner of the intersection and abutting the public sidewalks of Washington Avenue and Broadway facing south onto Washington Ave (Photo 1). The New Formalism design of this reinforced concrete building is banded by the three projecting canopies that appear to be folded by the undulation of the expressed angled slabs that cap the square concrete columns. The horizontal banding is continuous on both street elevations, with the projecting canopies above, triangular arched, aluminum framed, plate glass windows between each column and the travertine marble spandrel panels below these windows. The main entry faces Washington (Photo 3), recessed behind the second and third columns with large tinted plate glass panels, aluminum framed doors, and vestibule (Photo 4). The interior originally had open floor plates on all three levels with folded ceiling panels (Figure 1) continuous with the expressed structural frame on the exterior. Renovations in recent years added some partitions and dropped an acoustical tile ceiling over the folded concrete ceiling but work is already in process to remove these partitions and dropped ceilings, restoring the original grandeur of the open office floor plates (Photo 11 shows the recently uncovered ceiling on the third floor). Elevator lobbies and enclosed stairwells are positioned along the west and north sides migrating to all four levels of the building. Paralleling the façade is a staircase next to the entry vestibule (that originally housed an escalator) opening up onto the second floor (Photo 8) where it is surrounded by a railing of aluminum framed, travertine marble panels that match those below the windows outside. Behind the building, the small surface parking area that extends to Lucas Avenue is only partially owned as part of the nominated property (basically just the four spaces abutting Broadway (Photo 2).

Setting

This is near the northeastern edge of St. Louis' historic central business district (Figures 7 and 8). Both Broadway and Washington Avenue are major commercial corridors downtown dominated with large office buildings, often with ground-floor retail, and large wholesale buildings that have been converted to residential lofts and hotels, as well as some the nearby Dome and Convention Center complex. The surrounding buildings are predominantly a mixture of late nineteenth and early twentieth century construction dotted with post World War II construction, including the Employment Security Building. The remainder of the block to the west of the Employment Security Building is comprised of the 1875-1905, five-story, May Co. Department Store Building (NR listed, 23 June 1983). Across Lucas Avenue (the street paralleling Washington to the north), is the historic Union Market (now a Drury Inn) built in 1924-25 (NR listed January 16 1984) and across the street to the east is the large surface parking lot and the ten-story, Missouri Athletic Club (NR listed 16 April 2007). Both sides of the south side of

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Washington at this intersection have tall skyscrapers completed in the late twentieth century. Like most buildings in the central business district, the Employment Security Building abuts the public sidewalks (on both the south and east sides as a corner lot at Broadway and Washington Avenue) and to the north of the building is a narrow surface level parking lot that extends to Lucas Avenue.

Exterior Features

Both the east (Broadway) and south (Washington) elevations (Photos 1, 2, and 3) are treated continuously with the exposed concrete columns forming fourteen bays along Broadway and nine bays facing Washington. The New Formalism style of this three-story building utilizes the rhythm of the columns and connection of sloped slabs of the column capitals to form the projecting canopies over each floor level. The column shafts are clad with a light grey granite veneer and between the columns are shallow peaked, triangular arched aluminum framed, tinted plate glass windows with vertical mullions splitting the arched openings (Photo 3). At the base of the windows are travertine marble spandrel panels with a polished black granite base at the sidewalks. The canopies and rhythmic fenestration pattern wrap the southeast corner where the two street facades meet (Photo 1). The canopy system stops near the far end of each of the street elevations where there is a simple dark grey brick wall (Photos 2 and 3), the same brick used on the rear (north) wall, which does not have any penetrations since it originally abutted another building (Photo 2).

The recessed front entrance is positioned behind the second and third columns on the south elevation (spanning to the peak, or mid-point, between the first and fourth columns and at the back peak of the column capital) (Photo 3). It has a series of four aluminum framed sliding doors with swinging aluminum framed doors to either sides of the sliding doors (with narrow sidelights beyond these doors) (Photos 4 and 5) but it appears these replace the original hinged doors in the same rhythm and also having aluminum frames (See Figure 2). The large aluminum framed plate glass "transoms" above the doors are as tall as the doors and the second and third bays' square columns are freestanding columns in the recessed entry. There is a secondary entry at the north end of the building along Broadway that has a metal fire door and coiled overhead freight door (Photo 2).

The rear (north) wall (Photo 2) is longer than the façade since the rectangular building has a small ell that wraps the back of the adjacent building. The ell houses the fresh air shaft. This north wall is faced with the same dark grey brick as is used on the two street elevations.

The flat roof is now covered with a very shallowly pitched, hipped, standing seam metal roofing that extends with the gutter system slightly beyond the wall parapets. On the roof top are two concrete walled, flat roofed penthouse structures (Photo 2). The one nearly centered along the north wall is the stair penthouse that provides access to the rooftop. The other, at the northwest corner, is the top of the fresh air ventilation shaft (an integral part of the original, innovative air handling system with the ducts built into the poured concrete floor/ceiling plates and connected with the air shaft along the north wall on each floor).

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Interior Features

The interior layout¹ (See Figures 2-6) still retains its basically open floorplates (Photos 6, 8, 9, and 11) with the restrooms, elevators and enclosed egress stairwells (with simple concrete stairs and paired continuous tube railings) (Photo 10) clustered along the south end of the west wall and at the middle of the north wall. Originally, these were the only fully enclosed rooms on the first floor (See Figure 2), except for the internal receiving dock at the northeast corner and an adjacent office along the south wall. When occupied by the Employment Security Division, the escalator paralleled the south façade wall and the entry doors opened directly into the large open floorplate, which had a series of movable small office cubicles with short partition walls (8 feet high) (simple panels of wood framed by aluminum frames). Similarly, the second floor (See Figure 5) originally had a large open floorplate beyond the restrooms, stairs and elevator lobbies clustered along the west and north wall. While it still retains this configuration, the original plans showed some small 4 feet high partitions around interview cubicles along the south wall west of the escalator and a partial height (6 feet high) partition creating a room at the northeast corner for processing “special applicants.” In addition to the clusters of rooms for the restrooms, stairs and elevator lobbies along the north and west walls on the third floor (See Figure 6), private offices and small meeting rooms originally lined the remainder of those walls. Along the south wall there were a series of private office cubicles with a glass clerestory above the 6 and 7 feet high wood partition walls and doors in a corridor that separated these offices from the remainder of the open floor plan that utilized similar partial height, movable office cubicles as found on the other floors.

Although the original partitions and cubicles have been removed on all floors, most of these were designed as movable, not permanent walls, and the original walls around the stairs, elevator lobbies, and restrooms on the west and north walls remain in place on all floors, as does the original opening and walls where the escalator connected the first and second floor (now with a staircase in its place) (See Figures 4, 5 and 6). In 1998, full height partition walls were installed to subdivide the first floor (See Figure 4), creating an interior lobby because of modern fire code requirements, and making some private offices in the center surrounded by large open floor space. On the upper levels, the 1998 renovations retained the generally open floor plan but did install some private office partitions in the middle of each floor and the third floor retained the original meeting rooms along the west wall (See Figures 5 and 6).

¹ The following description of the original interior layouts are based upon the examination of the set of HOK plans found in the building and now in the possession of Dan Cook, the current owner. While the comparison of these plans with the physical evidence in the building indicates that some details were changed with actual construction, the layout was kept to these layouts. Figure 1 and 2 reproduce a building section plan and the first floor plan, respectively from these original plans.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

On the first floor (See Figure 4), the entry doors (Photos 4 and 5) open into a vestibule with a sliding aluminum framed door system mirroring the exterior doors and enclosed by aluminum framed, plate glass walls. To the east of the glass enclosed vestibule is the straight flight, broad staircase (Photo 4) enclosed on the first floor with metal railings that replaced the escalator in the same location, but it opens up on the second floor (See Figure 5 and Photo 8) and still retains the original polished aluminum framed railing (with travertine marble spandrels in the lower half) surrounding the opening as well as the original terrazzo floor.

Other original design details remain as well. Some of the elevator lobbies on the upper levels retain the original decorative terrazzo flooring (Photo 12). While most floor are currently covered with carpeting, exploratory removal of carpeting reveals that the original terrazzo floor finishes still extends throughout most of floors one through three, although the first floor lobby currently has ceramic tile overlaid on top of the terrazzo. On all three levels, the aluminum framed windows recessed into the plaster wall returns and below the windows the walls cover the built-in ventilation ducts with aluminum grills in the interior marble window sills (Photo 7). On the first floor many of the columns retain what appear to be original aluminum bowl-shaped wall sconces.

While the 1998 renovations dropped the ceilings with acoustical tile grid ceilings installed (along with massive metal ductwork), the original coffered ceilings created by the column folded plates/capitals (mimicking the triangular arches in the windows), are still extant above the dropped ceiling tiles, although the column spacing is twice that of the exterior walls. The current historic renovation work that is just starting has recently removed that dropped ceiling from the third floor, exposing the original column capitals with their painted, smooth concrete finish contrasting to the original textured ceilings with its rhythmic circular, aluminum framed, small ventilation ducts that connect to the original ducts for the air conditioning system that are embedded into the concrete floor/ceiling plates (Photo 11). These ducts connect to the large air shaft along the north wall that extends on all three levels (Figure 2--see the slender room marked on the original floorplan along the west wall). While the original heating system for the building was the steam generated by the city and piped into the building, these ducts provided both fresh air ventilation and connected to the heating and cooling system.

Alteration and Integrity Issues

The exterior of the Employment Security Building is remarkably unchanged, retaining its original exterior fenestration pattern and canopy system, including the original aluminum framed, tinted glass window, with only minor damage to the columns at the main entry where some of the granite veneer has been lost exposing the bottom of the square concrete columns. The main entry doors appear to have been replaced (to the sliding door system) but retain the rhythm and proportions of the original hinged aluminum framed doors and surrounding glazing. There are a few windows that have damaged glazing but the frames are still intact.

The interior was remodeled in 1998, with dropped ceilings, new ductwork, carpet and new partition walls but the original coffered ceilings remain although hidden above the dropped

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

ceiling grids—the current renovation, which is already underway, has started removing these dropped ceilings, new partition walls and the carpet, exposing the original coffered ceilings, terrazzo floors and open floorplates; while most of this work has not been executed yet, discovery work and early demolition has exposed some of the coffered ceilings and revealed terrazzo flooring still intact below the carpet. While floor finishes have changed in most areas, the terrazzo is currently still intact at the public entry points—elevator lobbies on the upper levels and at the top of the grand staircase. The grand staircase was originally an escalator, but the mechanical room for the escalator is still intact under the stairs, confirming that the stairs actually are positioned in the original walls and opening for the escalator. Despite the extensive renovation in 1998, the building actually retains the original mechanical ducting and piping imbedded in the poured concrete structural frame and the 1998 renovation seems to have been more additive, not removing original features and details, just covering them up, making it much easier to reverse to return the interior to its original grandeur with the coffered ceilings created by the sloped column capitals and the bands of triangular arched windows that tied the open interior floorplates directly to the exterior canopy system. Despite the changes, the general layout and feel of the public spaces remains similar to the historic layout on all three levels.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Statement of Significance

Summary

The Employment Security Building, located at 505 Washington Ave., St. Louis [Independent City], MO is locally eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C: Architecture as an excellent example (and the first in the city of St. Louis) of New Formalism design, a style that is very rare in St. Louis.² The building, constructed in 1959, which is the period of significance, was designed by the renowned St. Louis based architectural firm of Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum, Inc. (known now as HOK) for use by the State of Missouri's Division of Employment Security. The Employment Security Building was identified as individually eligible and even listed as one of forty buildings on the "Expanded Properties List" in the 2013 *Thematic Survey of the Modern Movement Non-Residential Architecture, 1945-1975 in St. Louis City: St. Louis Modern*.³ The building is defined by its projecting reinforced concrete canopies that span both elevations of this corner building on each of its three levels. These canopies are created by the expression of the folded, petal-like capitals of the concrete structural columns that frame the series of triangular arched plate glass windows. The strong horizontal banding with the resulting undulation on the underside of the canopies is accentuated by the travertine marble spandrel panels at the base of the windows. This creates a "screen-like" façade and highlights the symmetry of the design. The use of reinforced concrete combined with the expansive windows creates a smooth wall surface that further emphasizes the projecting floors and roof while adding weight to a building dominated by the fenestration pattern, giving the building a monumental feel, while the arched windows separated by the concrete columns creates a temple-like effect.

Building History

The construction permit for the Employment Security Building was taken out in 1958 and the building was completed by the Murch-Jarvis Construction Company in 1959.⁴ The Missouri State Division of Employment Security occupied the building from the time it opened until at least 1977 and by 1980 the building was occupied by Job Service, an employment service company.⁵ The state continued to own the building until 2006 when it was purchased by Greater

² City of St. Louis Cultural Resources Office, *Thematic Survey of Modern Movement Non-Residential Architecture, 1945-1975, in St. Louis City, St. Louis Modern*, (St. Louis: City of St. Louis, 2013), 16.

³ *Ibid*, 15, 22.

⁴ St. Louis, Missouri, City of St. Louis, Division of Building and Inspection, Microfilm Room, Inactive and Active Building Permits; "Building News," *St. Louis Daily Record*, 20 December, 1958 8; "Blair Dedicates New State Building," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 22 January 1960 24.

⁵ *Polk's St. Louis (Missouri) City Directory*, (St. Louis: Polk-Gould Directory Company, 1960) 110, 687; *Polk's St. Louis (Missouri) City Directory*, (St. Louis: Polk-Gould Directory Company, 1965) 105, 683; *Polk's St. Louis (Missouri) City Directory*, (St. Louis: Polk-Gould Directory Company, 1971) 81, 542; *Polk's St. Louis*

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Missouri Builders Inc., but it appears it was purchased as an investment property and not occupied by Greater Missouri Builders.⁶

The Employment Security Building is located immediately northwest of the area that was cleared in the 1930s and into the 1940s to prepare the area for what would become the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, better known as the Arch grounds. The project was first proposed in the 1930s and a bond issue was passed in 1935 to acquire and clear the land.⁷ Because of the Great Depression and World War II, the area remained undeveloped so in 1947 the St. Louis City adopted a comprehensive plan that recommended establishing zoning ordinances, parking regulations, and improvements to downtown traffic.⁸ Although the plan was adopted, including passing a comprehensive zoning ordinance in 1950, little development occurred over the next decade.⁹ A 1956 *Land Use Plan* and two 1958 studies, the *Central Business District Space Study* and the *Downtown Land Use Study* all pointed to a number of locations for renewal projects, including the Arch grounds, that were ideal for redevelopment, including sites along Broadway.¹⁰ The studies, the adoption of the zoning ordinances, and the completion of the Interstates 44 and 70 and highway 40/Interstate 64 spurred the announcement of a number of large construction projects in the area, including the Mansion House (200-444 N. 4th St., NR listed 23 August 2016) and the Gateway Tower (200 S. 4th Street).¹¹ Even as these projects were being announced, the state began development of the Employment Security Building near the edge of the area cleared for redevelopment. The Employment Security Building was one of the earliest completed structures in a downtown building boom that would continue into the mid-1980s.¹²

(*Missouri*) *City Directory*, (St. Louis: Polk-Gould Directory Company, 1975) 463; *Polk's St. Louis (Missouri) City Directory*, (St. Louis: Polk-Gould Directory Company, 1976-77) 458; *Polk's St. Louis (Missouri) City Directory*, (St. Louis: Polk-Gould Directory Company, 1980) 439.

⁶ Geo-St. Louis, [Website] Available at: <http://stlcin.missouri.org/citydata/newdesign/parcelhist.cfm>, Accessed 11 December 2017.

⁷ *Thematic Survey of Modern Movement Non-Residential Architecture, 1945-1975*, in *St. Louis City, St. Louis Modern*, 9.

⁸ City of St. Louis, 1947 Comprehensive City Plan. (St. Louis: City of ST. Louis, 1947), [Website] Available at <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/archive/1947-comprehensive-plan/introduction.shtml>, Accessed 11 December 2017.

⁹ Matt Bivens and Lynn Josse, *Mansion House Center Historic District*, (Washington D.C.: Department of the Interior, 1 May 2009) Section 8, Page 18.

¹⁰ *Ibid*, Section 8, Page 18-19.

¹¹ City of St. Louis, *St. Louis History* [Website] Available at: <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/visit-play/stlouis-history.cfm>, Accessed 13 December 2017; George McCue, "Sidewalk View of the New Downtown: Thrills and Chills in the St. Louis Cityscape," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, [Online Archives], 16 January 1966, 37, Accessed 3 March 2017. Available at <https://stltoday.newspapers.com/image/142239906>. Accessed 3 March 2017.

¹² *Thematic Survey of Modern Movement Non-Residential Architecture, 1945-1975*, in *St. Louis City, St. Louis Modern*, 9.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Modern Architecture

The architectural styles that fall under the rubric of Modern, including Art Deco, the International style, New-Formalism (like the Employment Security Building), Neo-Expressionist, and Brutalism, are under-represented in the city of St. Louis. All of these styles are influenced by the rejection of applied ornamentation or specific references to the past, the use of technological advances in materials and a design meant to express the use and structure of the building. Buildings in the Modern styles also often have light colored stone or concrete facades, although in St. Louis, many of the Modern style buildings are often made with light color bricks.¹³

The Modern styles share many characteristics and can all ultimately be traced back to the influence of the Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Modernes held in Paris in 1925. Art Deco was richly ornamental, with stylized animal and plant motifs and geometric patterns like chevrons, and zigzags and is typically divided into three substyles: ZigZag Modern, Streamline Modern, and PWA Modern.¹⁴ In contrast, the International style is marked by its use of “industrial” materials such as concrete, steel and glass; modular or rational grid systems; and smooth finishes. The rectilinear forms of the International style often have elements of the structural components visible on the surface with curtain wall construction.¹⁵ Neo-Expressionist style can consist of either large-scale, thin shelled concrete structures with curving elements and organic shapes as well as smaller scale structures with exaggerated structural elements and futuristic shapes.¹⁶ Brutalism is defined by its massive appearance, rough concrete materials (although brick is often used in St. Louis examples of the style), broad walls and deeply recessed windows.¹⁷

New Formalism

New-Formalism (also called New Formalist, Neo-Formalist, Neo-Formalism, and Neo-Palladianism) emerged in the mid-1950s and remained a popular style into the 1970s. The style was developed as a reaction to the rigid design requirements of the International style by using elements of Classical design combined with new materials and technology used in the International style. The style was the hallmark of Minoru Yamasaki, who designed Lambert International Airport (northwest of the city of St. Louis)(see figure 9). He was a mentor to Gyo Obata (the lead designer on the Employment Security Building) and a principal in Hellmuth,

¹³ *Ibid.*, 15.

¹⁴ Esley Hamilton *Historic Building Survey Art Deco and the International Style, St. Louis and St. Louis County, Missouri*, (Jefferson City: State Historic Preservation Office, 1987), 2

¹⁵ *Thematic Survey of Modern Movement Non-Residential Architecture, 1945-1975, in St. Louis City, St. Louis Modern*, 15.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 16.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Yamasaki and Leinweber, which became Hellmuth Obata and Kassabaum when Yamasaki closed his St. Louis office.¹⁸ The style was also promoted by Edward Durrell Stone, who's New Delhi American Embassy (see figure 10), constructed in 1954 is considered the first building constructed in the New Formalism style and it was further popularized by Philip Johnson, who designed the Monastery Building at St. Anselm's Abbey (see figure 11) and the Johnson Building at the Boston Public Library (see figure 12).¹⁹

The style exhibits strict symmetry, usually with emphasis on the structure of the building (seen in the expressed concrete structural columns and the arcade of shallow peaked triangular windows on the Employment Security Building) with classical elements such as columnar supports and arches also used on the Employment Security Building. The style also has flat projecting rooflines that use concrete to highlight the structure of the building and smooth wall surfaces using high-quality materials (usually white or light colored) like the travertine marble and concrete used on the Employment Security Building.²⁰ New Formalism architecture often has a single volume structure and though the Employment Security Building is an office building, its relatively open floor plan creates a sense of a single space on each level within the building.²¹

Modern Architecture in St. Louis

In 2013 the city of St. Louis conducted a city wide survey of non-residential Midcentury Modern buildings that used a tiered approach to identifying the significance of the properties surveyed. The resulting *Thematic Survey of the Modern Movement Non-Residential Architecture, 1945-1975 in St. Louis City: St. Louis Modern* started with a windshield survey identifying properties worthy of more intensive research, resulting in a list of 2,278 properties.²² The list was subsequently cut down to 200 properties for a further research to identify buildings that could potentially listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These 200 properties were then culled to create an "Expanded Properties List" of forty properties that were re-examined and identified as buildings worthy of further research, a list that included the Employment Security Building.²³

¹⁸ Eric Mumford, ed., *Modern Architecture in St. Louis: Washington University and Postwar American Architecture, 1948-1973*, (St. Louis Washington University School of Architecture, 2004) 85.

¹⁹ DOCOMOMO, "New Formalism," [Website] Available at http://www.docomomo-wewa.org/styles_detail.php?id=27, Accessed 12 December 2017; Fullerton Heritage, "New Formalism," [Website] Available at <http://www.fullertonheritage.org/Resources/archstyles/formalism.htm>, Accessed 12 December 2017.

²⁰ Ibid; *Thematic Survey of Modern Movement Non-Residential Architecture, 1945-1975, in St. Louis City, St. Louis Modern*, 16

²¹ DOCOMOMO, "New Formalism."

²² *Thematic Survey of Modern Movement Non-Residential Architecture, 1945-1975, in St. Louis City, St. Louis Modern*, 15.

²³ Ibid, 12, 22.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

The Modern style buildings in St. Louis were largely constructed after World War II. Some were constructed downtown in the 1920s but the Great Depression and World War II curtailed most construction in the 1930s and 1940s. After the war, as the city's economy was in a downturn, most downtown property owners opted to remodel existing buildings rather than construct new buildings as the demand for office and retail space downtown was declining. Some central business district buildings were given "slip covers," new facades that were often based on Modern architectural styles, but an extensive survey of Modern architecture in St. Louis only identified twenty buildings downtown that were designed in a Modern style, including the Employment Security Building.²⁴ The combination of a depressed construction economy and the lack of available sites in the central business district meant that most Modern architecture in St. Louis ended up clustered in areas that still had room for development or where the existing buildings were smaller and more affordable to demolish. As a result of these development patterns, most Modern architecture styles in St. Louis are located in the central industrial corridor (west of downtown north of Interstate 64 roughly from Jefferson Ave. to Grand Blvd.), the Central West End (especially along Lindell Blvd. East and north of Forest Park) and the southwest corner of the city.²⁵ This development outside of downtown was also aided by urban renewal projects, the largest of which was the Mill Creek Valley Urban Renewal Area, which included the area of the central industrial corridor and created more land for new development.²⁶

Although the years immediately following World War II saw a decline in downtown St. Louis, in 1947 the city of St. Louis adopted a Comprehensive Plan that was expected to guide development in the city for the next twenty five years. The plan included new zoning and minimum housing standard ordinances, development of the street systems and traffic congestion relief, and promoting more recreational facilities, housing and the construction of an airport.²⁷ The Comprehensive Plan and urban renewal projects were bolstered by the formation of Civic Progress. Civic Progress was a group of civic and corporate leaders who, with support from the firms of the executives, formed a loose coalition that chose projects and plans to support. This support included funding initiatives for the earnings tax, the 1955 bond issue for the Plaza Square Apartments (bounded by 15th, Olive, 17th and Chestnut Streets, NR listed 12 July 2007), the Metropolitan Sewer District bond, the St. Louis Community College District and the bonds to fund the initial three campuses. The members' companies also formed the Civic Center Redevelopment Corporation, which built and owned (until 1981) Busch Memorial Stadium (non-extant).²⁸

²⁴ Karen Bode Baxter, Timothy P. Maloney, Michael Allen, *Bel Air Motel*, Washington D.C.: US Department of the Interior/National Park Service, 1 May 2009, Sec. 8 p 20; *St. Louis Modern*, 18.

²⁵ *St. Louis Modern*, 19.

²⁶ *Ibid*, 40.

²⁷ *Ibid*, 43.

²⁸ *Ibid*, 44-45.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

The combined effects of urban renewal projects, the Comprehensive Plan and the influence of Civic Progress along with projects conducted by city, state and federal government entities at the helped create a building boom in downtown St. Louis in the late 1950s and early 1960s, a time when Modern styles were coming into the forefront of architectural design.²⁹ The most visible project during this time period is the Gateway Arch and its grounds. The federal government also built the Federal Building at 1520 Market St. (and paid for the Mark Twain Expressway [now Interstate 70] and Lambert International Airport, which made access to downtown easier). At the same time, the City of St. Louis, through Civic Progress, was working with private developers to construct the Plaza Square Apartments (bounded by 15th, Olive, 17th and Chestnut Streets, NR listed 12 July 2007), which showed the feasibility of public-private partnerships that would be the basis for much of the new construction and was also one of the most visible examples of Modern architecture in downtown St. Louis with a design by the newly formed St. Louis architectural firm HOK (who also designed the Employment Security Building).³⁰ The state also contributed to the development of Modern architectural styles and the new development occurring in downtown St. Louis through the construction of the Employment Security Building. At the time of the construction of the Employment Security Building, the post-war Modern styles were still uncommon in St. Louis. It was constructed in 1959, while the Plaza Square Apartments were still being constructed and before many of the other Modern style buildings were even designed for downtown St. Louis, making the Employment Security Building a sign of the growing development downtown and the importance of Modern architectural styles to the subsequent development.

Art Deco was the first of the Modern styles constructed in St. Louis and one of the most well-represented styles downtown because there were still some downtown sites available when the style was developed. In 1923 a bond issue was passed for construction of Memorial Plaza. In 1930, the Municipal Courts Building (located at 1320 Market St., NR listed 14 November, 2012) (with its Art Deco details and a temple with a pyramid on top) was the first building completed after the bonds were passed. This was followed by the U.S. Court and Custom House (located at 1114 Market St.), the Soldiers Memorial (located at 1315 Chestnut St.) and the Municipal Auditorium (located at 1400 Market, NR listed 2 November, 2000 and later known as Kiel Auditorium), all of which have temple like fronts designed in the Art Deco style.³¹ In addition to the civic buildings constructed in the Art Deco style, there were also a number of office buildings constructed in the style downtown, most notably the multi-leveled, light colored stone Bell Telephone Building (located at 920 Olive St., NR listed 5 August, 1999), the white stone, pilastered Missouri Pacific Building (located at 210 N. 13th St., NR listed 27 November, 2002) and the Shell Building (located at 1221 Locust St., NR listed 9 June, 2015), which curves to

²⁹ *Thematic Survey of Modern Movement Non-Residential Architecture, 1945-1975, in St. Louis City, St. Louis Modern*, 16.

³⁰ *St. Louis Modern*, 44-45.

³¹ Hamilton, 13

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

match the corner of 13th and Locust Streets.³² There are also numerous Art Deco building throughout the rest of the city, including the brick and cut stone Chase-Park Plaza Hotel complex (located at 212 N. Kingshighway) in the Central West End and the L-shaped courtyard apartment building, the Vedder (located at 5845 Nottingham Ave.), in St. Louis Hills.³³

The first example of the International style in St. Louis was the Post-Dispatch Printing Plant (NR listed 29 August, 1984) at 1111 Olive St., completed in 1943, is a sheer limestone building with a dark red stone first floor only interrupted by dentils at the roofline and defined by its horizontal lines.³⁴ The three story, red brick, S. Pfeiffer Manufacturing Company Headquarters, located in the western end of the central industrial corridor at 3965 Laclede Ave. (NR listed 30 August, 2000), has blue tinted windows that highlight the structural framing of the building, demonstrating one of the hallmarks of the style, as do the boxy shapes and horizontal length of the Mark C. Steinberg Memorial Skating Rink located at 400 Jefferson Drive in Forest Park.³⁵ These buildings are some of the few International style buildings in St. Louis, but there are more examples in St. Louis County, including the Shanley Building located at 7800 Maryland Ave. (NR listed 9/20/1982) in Clayton, constructed in 1935 and believed to be the first example of the International style in the St. Louis metropolitan area.³⁶

The Neo-Expressionist style is represented in St. Louis in part by the St. Louis Gateway Arch at 11 N. 4th (NR listed 15 October, 1966, NHL listed 28 May, 1987), with its steel skin and straightforward parabolic design. Other notable examples of the style include the James S. McDonnell Planetarium in Forest Park (located at 5100 Clayton Ave. in Forest Park) with its white concrete shell and sweeping roof. The style is also seen in Lambert International Airport (Located at 10701 Lambert International Blvd.) with its copper and concrete roofs, sweeping curves and large glass windows.³⁷

The Pet Plaza (located at 400 S. 4th, NR listed 19 October, 2004), constructed for Pet, Inc. and located just south of downtown is an excellent example of St. Louis Brutalism with its concrete tower capped by crowning top floor. The Pet Plaza is one of the few Brutalist designs in St. Louis that is concrete instead of brick, unlike The St. Louis Community College-Forest Park campus (located at 5200-5240 Oakland Ave.), which is dominated by massive, solid buildings in the Brutalist style but in red brick.³⁸ Likewise, the St. Louis Comprehensive Neighborhood

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid, 14.

³⁴ Ibid, 24.

³⁵ *Thematic Survey of Modern Movement Non-Residential Architecture, 1945-1975, in St. Louis City, St. Louis Modern*, 91.

³⁶ Ibid, 23.

³⁷ Ibid, 92.

³⁸ Ibid, 93.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Health Center (located at 5501 Wabada Ave.) uses surface patterns and texture of the brick to alleviate the sheer mass of its brick walls.³⁹

Of all the Modern style buildings identified in St. Louis, New Formalism is the least represented. In the *Thematic Survey of Modern Movement Non-Residential Architecture, 1945-1975, in St. Louis City*, 200 properties were surveyed the vast majority (116 buildings) were defined only as “Modern” but they did not have enough characteristics of any one sub-style to be more specifically defined as one of the Modern styles (Art Deco was excluded from the survey).⁴⁰ Of the remaining buildings:

- 33 were identified as in the International style with two building constructed in the 1940s, eight in the 1950s, 20 in the 1960s and only two in the 1970s.⁴¹
- 26 buildings were identified as Neo-Expressionist, with one such building constructed in the 1940s, six in the 1950s, 15 in the 1960s and three in the 1970s.⁴²
- 19 buildings were identified as Brutalist with three buildings constructed in the 1950s, eight in the 1960s and nine in the 1970s.⁴³
- Only 4 buildings were identified as New Formalism, including the Employment Security Building constructed in the 1950s, the Lashly Branch Library and Juvenile Division Circuit Court Building in the 1960s and the AAA Building in the 1970s.⁴⁴

New Formalism in St. Louis

The New Formalism style is a very rare architectural style in St. Louis. The Employment Security Building was the first building constructed in the style and one of only four throughout the city.⁴⁵ The New Formalism of the Employment Security Building is defined by its large overhanging roof and floor divisions, the expressed structural columns with their folded cap plates, its triangular arched windows, and its symmetrical screen-like façade. These elements combine with its use of light colored concrete and travertine marble to enhance the defining features as the lighter colors contrast with the dark windows to make the Employment Security Building an ideal example of the style. The Employment Security Building’s columns attest to

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid, 14, 16.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ *Thematic Survey of Modern Movement Non-Residential Architecture, 1945-1975, in St. Louis City, St. Louis Modern*, 91.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

the influence of classical forms while the triangular windows create the impression of arches, further emphasizing the classical influences on New Formalism design.

Besides the Employment Security Building, there were only three other New Formalism buildings identified in St. Louis. The former Lashly Branch Library (now used by the Society of Sacred Heart, see figure 13), at 4537 W. Pine in the Central West End and designed by William Ittner in 1965 has a series of smooth, white verticals with deep set windows along its curving facade creating a temple like feel.⁴⁶ The Juvenile Division Circuit Court Building (see figure 14) at 3665 W. Pine, with its curved symmetrical form and repeating arches was completed in 1967 and, like the Lashly Branch Library, was also designed by William Ittner.⁴⁷ The only other identified New Formalism design in St. Louis is the monumental W. A Sarmiento designed AAA Building (see figure 15) completed in 1976 and located at 910-930 N. Vandeventer Ave. with its white curving columns and symmetrical design.⁴⁸ New Formalism is the only one of the Modern styles represented in St. Louis in which there are no known brick examples.⁴⁹

Although all three of these buildings have the sweeping curves and light colored materials of the New Formalism, the Employment Security Building achieves the same effects through more dramatic roof and floor projections of its construction to better indicate the underlying construction. The Employment Security Building also uses a combination of materials to further highlight the different structural elements and emphasize the columns and triangular windows that create the sense of monumental design and classical temple-like feel characteristic of the New Formalism.

Architectural Significance of the Employment Security Building

New Formalism is the smallest subtype represented in the survey, making the Employment Security Building an even more important example of Modern architecture and specifically for its design as the first and one of only four New Formalist designs in St. Louis identified in the city-wide survey of mid-century Modern architecture. The Employment Security Building is an excellent example of the style with its columns and projecting roof and floor lines as well as its use of concrete and travertine marble. The building's location on a major intersection allows the pattern to continue onto the side elevation, further creating the symmetry of the building while also emphasizing the structure of the building.

The Employment Security Building is located in the heart of downtown St. Louis, at the intersection of two major commercial corridors downtown, Washington Avenue and Broadway. The building was one of the first post-war Modern designs constructed during the post-World War II construction boom taking place downtown and was soon followed in the immediate

⁴⁶ Hamilton, 23.

⁴⁷ Ibid, 91.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

vicinity by other architecturally significant Modern designs, including the Mansion House Apartments (just one block east of the Employment Security Building on 4th St., NR listed 23 August 2016), the Plaza Square Apartments (ten blocks west, NR listed 12 July 2007) and the Millennium Hotel (eight blocks south).

The Employment Security Building's location at major intersection is an important part of the architectural landscape in downtown St. Louis. Even though it is only three stories, the New Formalism design of the Employment Security Building helps it stand out while surrounded by taller buildings. Many of the neighboring buildings around the Employment Security Building are turn of the century designs allowing the clean lines and projecting canopies of the Employment Security Building to become a visual focal point at the intersection it occupies. At the same time, the other Modern architectural style buildings around the Employment Security Building have the flatter facades of the International style or earlier Modern styles like Art Deco or Streamline Modern, making the Employment Security Building even more architecturally distinct.⁵⁰

Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum, Inc. -- HOK

The Employment Security Building was designed by the renowned St. Louis architectural firm of HOK, which was formed in 1955 when George F. Hellmuth recruited Gyo Obata, and George E. Kassabaum to create a collaborative architectural practice under the name Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum, Inc., soon known by the acronym HOK.

Hellmuth handled most of the firm's business planning, financing, client relationships and negotiations. He graduated from Washington University in St. Louis and was the Diplomat of the Ecole des Beaux Arts at Fontainebleau before entering his father's architectural firm. He went on to be a longtime president of the St. Louis Municipal Art Commission and was an advocate for better architecture in the United States.⁵¹

Gyo Obata was the partner in charge of design. He also graduated from Washington University in St. Louis, having been recruited during World War II after having started his education at the University of California, Berkeley and being forced to go to an internment camp during World War II. He first worked in Chicago for Skidmore, Owings and Merrill before moving back to St. Louis to join Hellmuth, Yamasaki and Leinweber, the firm that preceded HOK. He won numerous exhibitions and competitions in addition to serving on architectural juries.⁵²

George E. Kassabaum oversaw the preparation of architectural documents and architectural services during construction. He was the national vice president of the AIA, was twice elected

⁵⁰ Ibid, 90.

⁵¹ *Hellmuth Obata and Kassabaum, Inc/Architects*, (St. Louis: Hellmuth Obata and Kassabaum, ND) NP.

⁵² Ibid.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 16

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

president of the St. Louis chapter of the AIA and served on numerous committees and advisory groups on housing for the aging.⁵³

The firm started with twenty-six employees and the three founders in 1955. Many of their first designs were schools in the St. Louis area.⁵⁴ In the firm's first year of existence, it won an award from the American Association of School Administrators for the design of Bristol Primary School in Webster Groves (a suburb just a few miles southwest of St. Louis); the next year the building won one of five top awards in the "School Executive" in a nationwide competition for school design. Also in 1956 the firm won the first honor award from the American Institute of Architects for their design of the Lambert-St. Louis Municipal Airport Terminal Building.⁵⁵ The firm continued to earn awards for its designs and its work expanded to include everything from office buildings like the Employment Security Building, to schools, university campuses, prisons, institutional buildings, airports, hospitals, religious institutions, and stadiums. The firm has grown into one of the largest architectural firms in the world, with buildings designed on six continents and offices around the globe, but the Employment Security Building was one of its earliest designs as well as one of the firm's earliest office buildings at a time when it was just starting to make its name nationally.⁵⁶

Conclusion

The Employment Security Building is an excellent example of New Formalism design, a very rare and underrepresented style in St. Louis.⁵⁷ The Employment Security Building typifies New Formalism design with its projecting reinforced concrete canopies that span both elevations of this corner building on each of its three levels. These canopies are created by the expression of the folded, petal-like capitals of the concrete structural columns that frame the series of triangular arched plate glass windows. The columns separating the windows act with the canopies to create a grid pattern and symmetry typical of New Formalism architecture. In addition, the strong horizontal banding with the resulting undulation on the underside of the canopies is accentuated by the travertine marble spandrel panels at the base of the windows. This creates a "screen-like"

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid; HOK, *HOK: A Global Design Portfolio*, (Mulgrave Australia: The Image Publishing Group, Revised and Reprinted 2002) N.P.

⁵⁵ Ibid; George McCue "Studies of Architecture and Design: New Books Include Primer on Planning to Build a School," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, [Online Archives], 5 October 1958, 33, Available at: <https://stltoday.newspapers.com/image/140438068>. Accessed 3 March 2017.

⁵⁶ Ibid; HOK, *The Master Architect Series Revisited: HOK: Selected and Current Works* (Mulgrave Australia: The Image Publishing Group, Revised and Reprinted 2002) 8, 9; George McCue, "Youthful St. Louis Form-Giver: Gyo Obata, 36, is Designedr of Gateway Riverfront Proposal," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, [Online Archives], 6 March 1966, 28, Available at <https://stltoday.newspapers.com/image/142239906>. Accessed 3 March 2017.

⁵⁷ City of St. Louis Cultural Resources Office, *Thematic Survey of Modern Movement Non-Residential Architecture, 1945-1975, in St. Louis City, St. Louis Modern*, (St. Louis: City of St. Louis, 2013), 16.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 17

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

façade further highlighting the symmetry of the design. The use of reinforced concrete combined with the expansive windows creates a smooth wall surface to emphasize the projecting floors and roof while adding weight to a building dominated by the fenestration pattern. This gives the building a monumental feel that is increased by the arched windows and concrete columns, creating the temple-like effect that epitomizes this style and as such the Employment Security Building is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C: Architecture

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 18

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Bibliography

Baxter, Karen Bode, Timothy P. Maloney, and Michael Allen. *Bel Air Motel National Register of Historic Places Nomination*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior/National Park Service, 1 May 2009.

Bing [website]. "Photo of New Delhi American Embassy." Available at: https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=ZYv%2fBmDD&id=5BD1F93F58D86C57205779F19EC9184FE5438E22&thid=OIP.ZYv_BmDDi6_A8ZUiInn0qgEsCv&mediurl=http%3a%2f%2fimages.huffingtonpost.com%2f2012-01-09-NewDelhiFacade.jpg&exph=876&expw=1500&q=photos+of+new+delhi+american+embassy&simid=608014899761906013&selectedIndex=0&qpv=photos+of+new+delhi+american+embassy&ajaxhist=0. Accessed 15 December, 2017.

Bivens, Matt and Lynn Josse. *Mansion House Center Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination*. Washington D.C.: U. S. Department of the Interior/National Park Service, 23 August 2016.

"Blair Dedicates New State Building." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* [Online Archives]. 22 January 1960 24. Available at <https://stltoday.newspapers.com/image/139113214>. Accessed 3 March 2017.

Bradley, Betsy H. *Historic Context Statement St. Louis: The Gateway Years, 1940-1975*. St. Louis: City of St. Louis Cultural Resources Office, N.D.

"Building News." *St. Louis Daily Record*, 20 December 1958, 8.

City of St. Louis Cultural Resources Office. *Thematic Survey of Modern Movement Non-Residential Architecture, 1945-1975, in St. Louis City, St. Louis Modern*. St. Louis: City of St. Louis, 2013.

City of St. Louis. 1947 Comprehensive City Plan. St. Louis: City of ST. Louis, 1947. [Website] Available at <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/archive/1947-comprehensive-plan/introduction.shtml>, Accessed 11 December 2017.

DOCOMOMO. "New Formalism." [Website] .Available at http://www.docomomo-wewa.org/styles_detail.php?id=27. Accessed 12 December 2017;

"Fire Insurance Map of St. Louis, Missouri." Volume 1. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1909 corrected to 1951.

[Fullerton Heritage](http://www.fullertonheritage.org/Resources/archstyles/formalism.htm). "New Formalism." [Website]. Available at <http://www.fullertonheritage.org/Resources/archstyles/formalism.htm>. Accessed 12 December 2017.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 19

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Geo-St. Louis. [Website], Available at:

<http://stlc.in.missouri.org/citydata/newdesign/parcelhist.cfm>. Accessed 11 December 2017.

Hamilton, Esley. *Historic Building Survey Art Deco and the International Style, St. Louis and St. Louis County, Missouri*. Jefferson City: State Historic Preservation Office, 1987.

HOK. *Hellmuth Obata and Kassabaum, Inc/Architects*. St. Louis: Hellmuth Obata and Kassabaum, N.D.

_____. *"HOK: A Global Design Portfolio*. Mulgrave, Australia: The Images Publishing Group, 2009.

_____. *"The Master Architect Series Revisited: HOK Selected and Current Works*. Mulgrave, Australia: The Images Publishing Group, Revised and Reprinted 2002.

McCue, George. "Youthful St. Louis Form-Giver: Gyo Obata, 36, is Designer of 'Gateway' Riverfront Proposal." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* [Online Archives], 6 March 1966, 28. Available at: <https://stltoday.newspapers.com/image/140573673>. Accessed 3 March 2017.

_____. "Sidewalk View of the New Downtown: Thrills and Chills in the St. Louis Cityscape." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* [Online Archives], 16 January 1966, 37. Available at: <https://stltoday.newspapers.com/image/142239906>. Accessed 3 March 2017.

_____. "Studies of Architecture and Design: New Books Include Primer on Planning to Build a School." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, [Online Archives], 5 October 1958, 33. Available at: <https://stltoday.newspapers.com/image/140438068>. Accessed 3 March 2017.

Mumford, Eric, ed. *Modern Architecture in St. Louis: Washington University and Postwar American Architecture, 1948-1973*, St. Louis Washington University School of Architecture, 2004.

Polk's St. Louis (Missouri) City Directory. St. Louis: Polk-Gould Directory Company, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1976-77, 1980.

St. Louis, Missouri. City of St. Louis Division of Building and Inspection. Microfilm Room, Inactive and Active Building Permits.

Toft, Carolyn and Michel Allen. *Plaza Square Apartments Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior/National Park Service, 12 July 2007.

Wikipedia. [website] Philip Johnson. Available at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_Johnson. Accessed 15 December 2017.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 20

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point marking the intersection of the Western right-of-way line of Broadway Boulevard (80' wide) with the Northern right-of-way line of Washington Avenue (50' wide), said point also being the Southeast corner of City Block 120 of the City of St. Louis, Missouri; thence leaving the Western right-of-way line of Broadway Boulevard along the Northern right-of-way line of Washington Avenue North 75 degrees 24 minutes 45 seconds West, a distance of 105.38 feet to a point; thence leaving said northern right-of-way line through City Block 120 along the Eastern line of property now or formerly of Greater Missouri Builders, Inc., as recorded in Book 1611 page 1506 of the St. Louis City, Missouri Records the following courses; North 14 degrees 28 minutes 13 seconds East a distance of 150.77 feet to a point; thence North 75 degrees 30 minutes 23 seconds West a distance of 30.16 feet to a point; thence North 14 degrees 54 minutes 48 seconds East a distance of 25.55 feet to a point; thence South 75 degrees 30 minutes 23 seconds East a distance of 135.33 feet to a point on the aforementioned Western right-of-way line Broadway Boulevard; thence along said right-of-way line South 14 degrees 28 minutes 15 seconds West a distance of 176.48 feet back to the Point of Beginning.

Verbal Boundary Justification

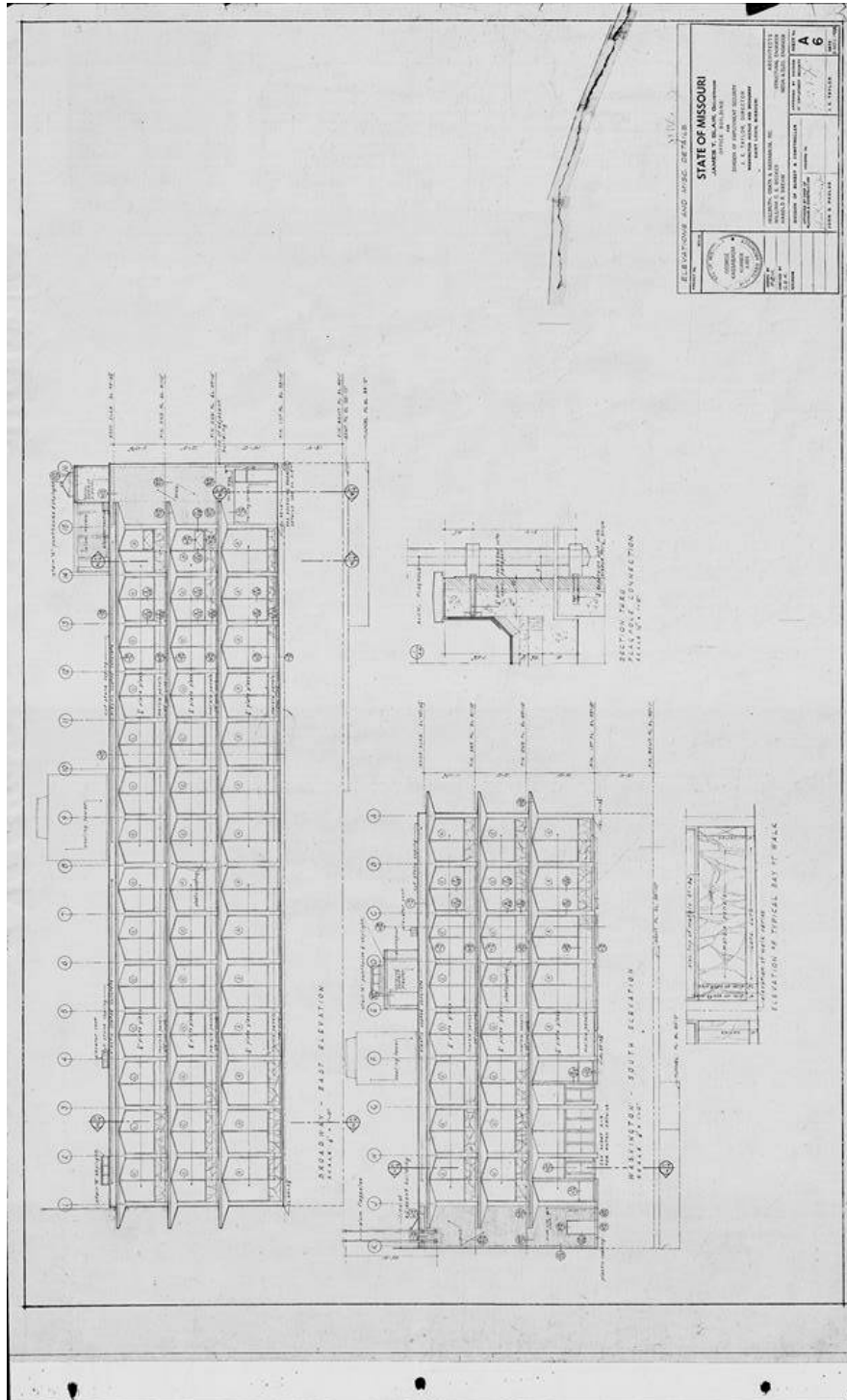
These boundaries incorporate all the property that has been historically associated with this building and the property's legal description. This includes the small section of a surface parking lot north of the building along the eastern edge which is currently used for 4 parking spaces.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 21

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 1: Historic Elevation Drawings courtesy of Dan Cook

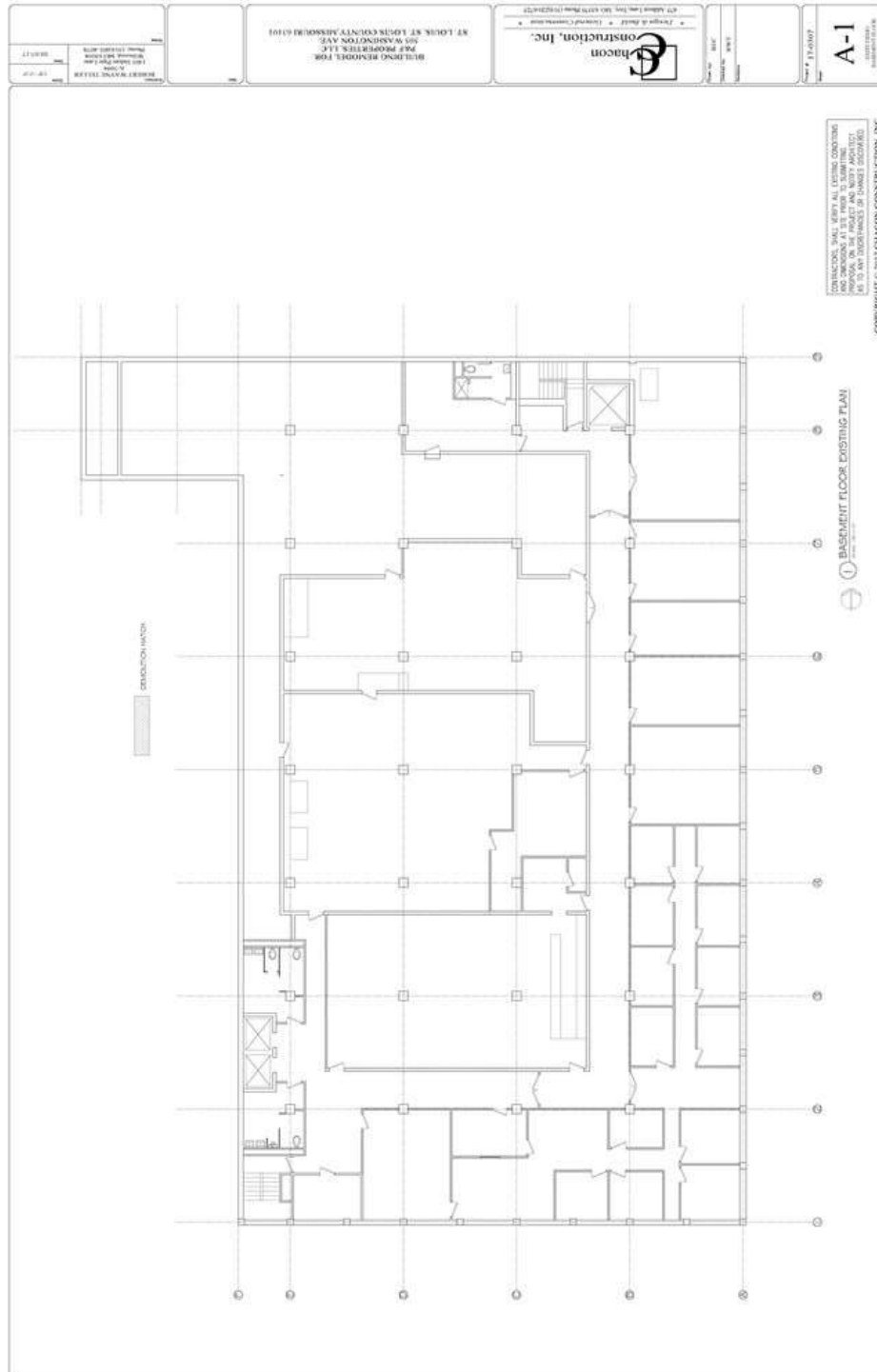


National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 23

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 3: Basement Floor Plan courtesy of Chacon Construction, Inc.

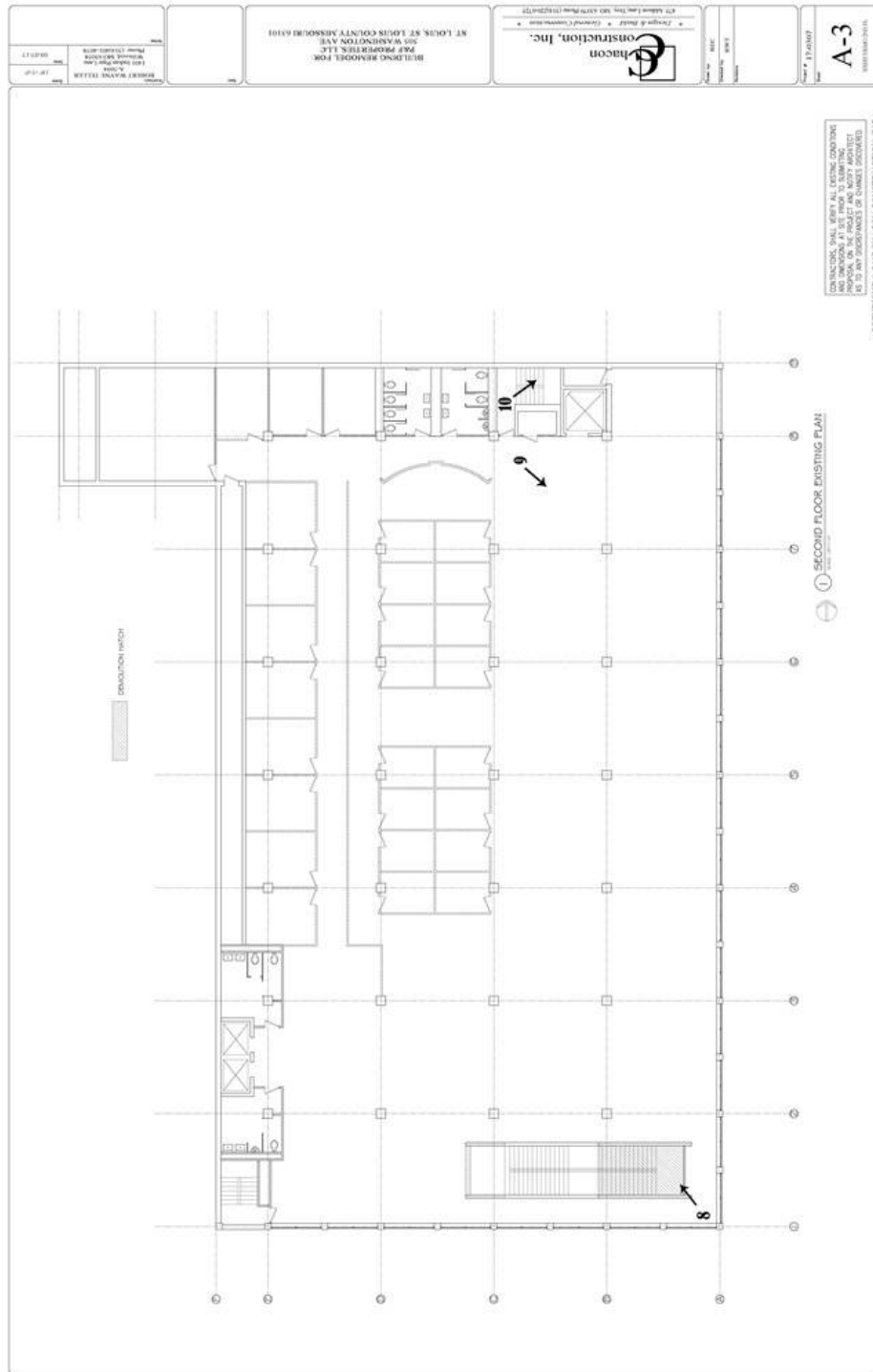


National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 25

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 5: Second Floor Plan with Photo Log courtesy of Chacon Construction, Inc.

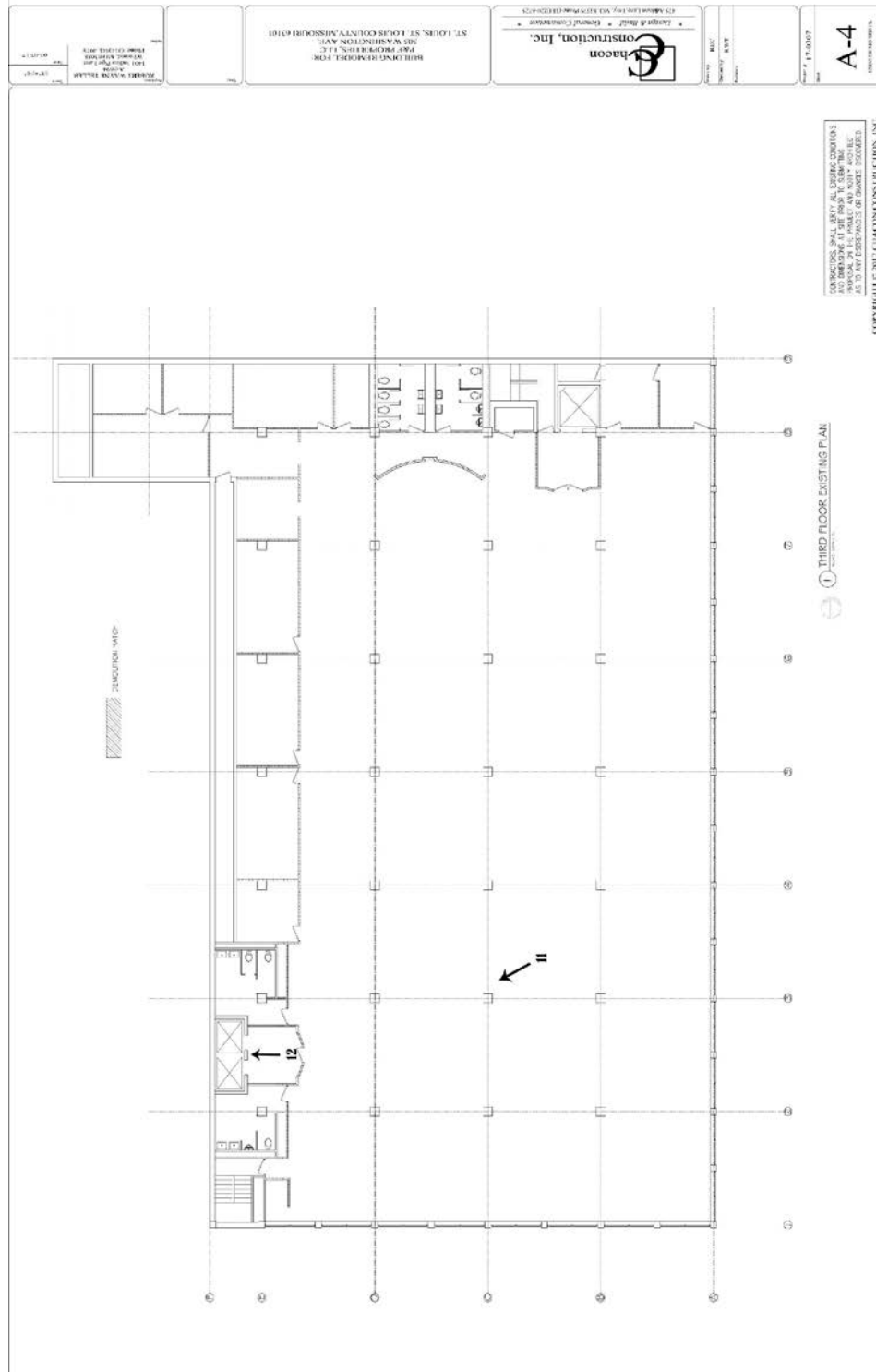


National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 26

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 6: Third Floor Plan with Photo Log courtesy of Chacon Construction, Inc.

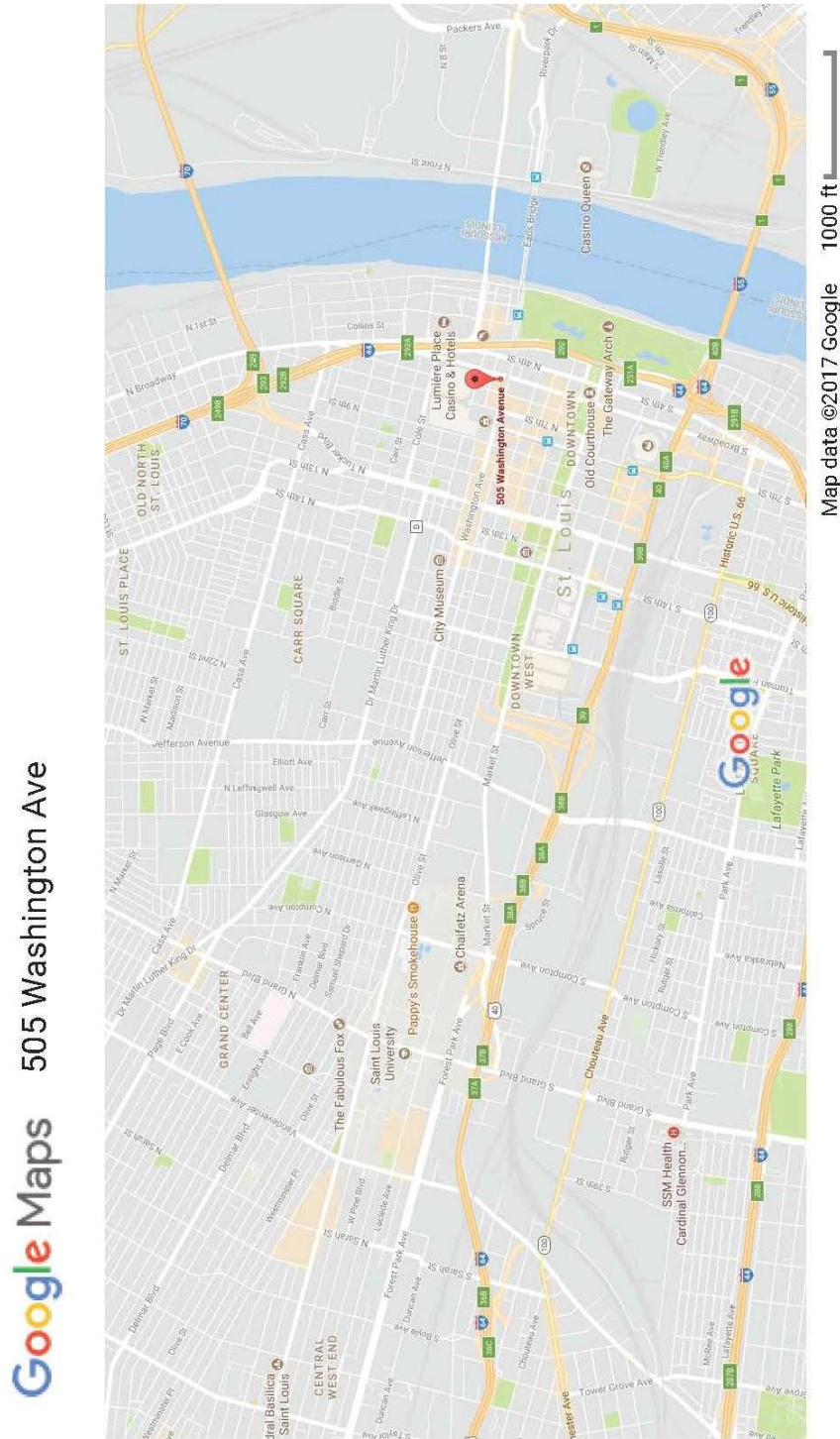


National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 27

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 7: Contextual Map from Google



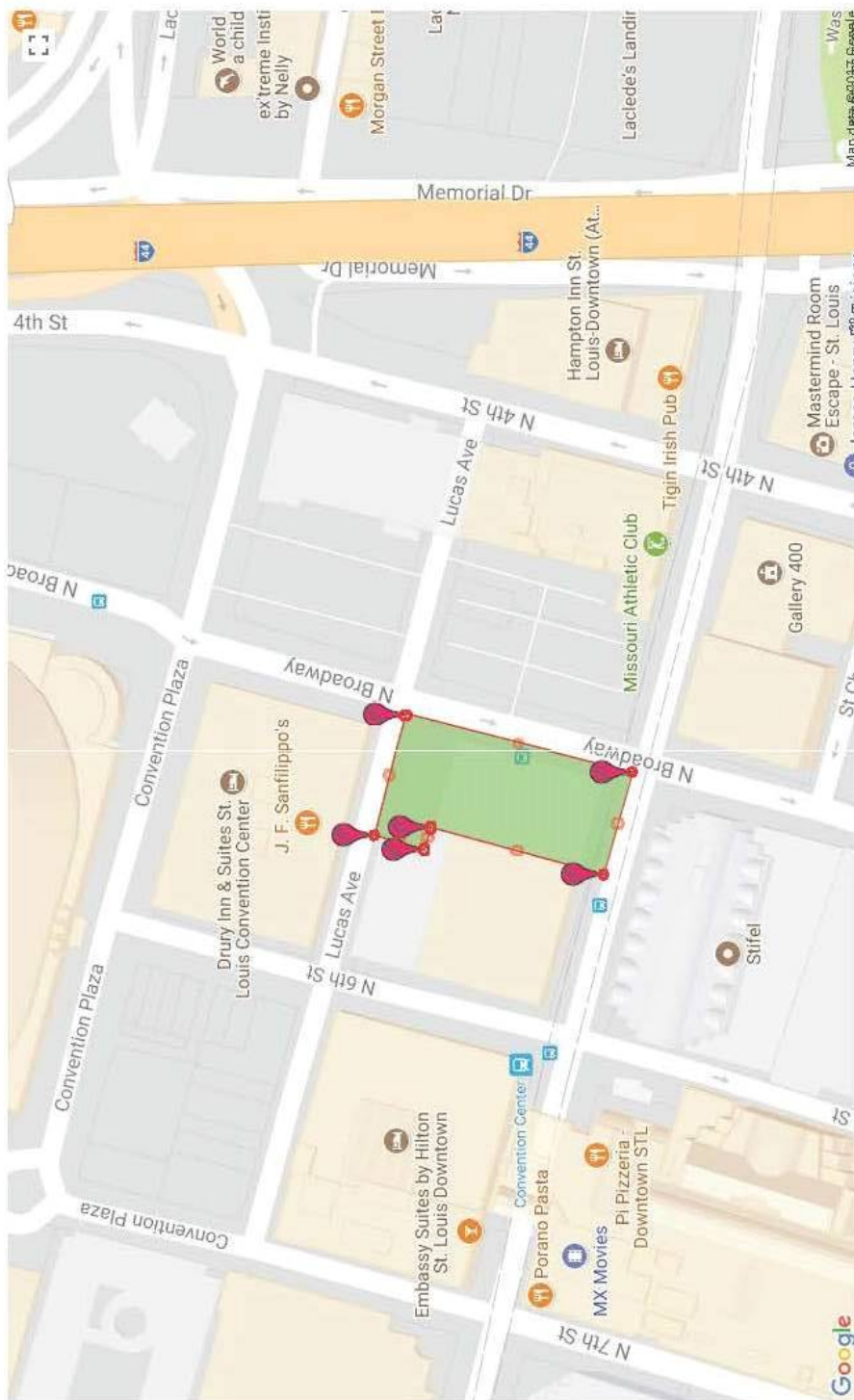
Google Maps 505 Washington Ave

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 28

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 8: Site Map from Google showing proposed boundary. Latitude 38.630376 and Longitude -90.188323 location is at the center of the nominated property.



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 29

Employment Security Building

Name of Property

St. Louis (Independent City), MO

County and State

n/a

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 9: Photo of Lambert International Airport⁵⁸



⁵⁸ *Thematic Survey of Modern Movement Non-Residential Architecture, 1945-1975, in St. Louis City, St. Louis Modern*, 12.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 30

Employment Security Building

Name of Property

St. Louis (Independent City), MO

County and State

n/a

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 10: Photo Of New Delhi American Embassy⁵⁹



⁵⁹ Bing [website], Photo of New Delhi American Embassy,” Available at:
https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=ZYv%2fBmDD&id=5BD1F93F58D86C57205779F19EC9184FE5438E22&thid=OIP.ZYv_BmDDi6_A8ZUiInn0qgEsCv&mediaur1=http%3a%2f%2fimages.huffingtonpost.com%2f2012-01-09-NewDelhiFacade.jpg&exph=876&expw=1500&q=photos+of+new+delhi+american+embassy&simid=608014899761906013&selectedIndex=0&qpv1=photos+of+new+delhi+american+embassy&ajaxhist=0, Accessed 15 December, 2017.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 31

Employment Security Building

Name of Property

St. Louis (Independent City), MO

County and State

n/a

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 11: Photo of Monastery Building at St. Anselm's Abbey⁶⁰



⁶⁰ Wikipedia, [website] Philip Johnson, "Available at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_Johnson, Accessed 15 December, 2017.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 32

Employment Security Building

Name of Property

St. Louis (Independent City), MO

County and State

n/a

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 12: Johnson Building at the Boston Public Library⁶¹



⁶¹ Ibid.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 33

Employment Security Building

Name of Property

St. Louis (Independent City), MO

County and State

n/a

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 13: Photo of Lashly Branch Library⁶²



⁶² *Thematic Survey of Modern Movement Non-Residential Architecture, 1945-1975, in St. Louis City, St. Louis Modern, 1.*

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 34

Employment Security Building
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 14: Photo of Juvenile Division Circuit Court Building ⁶³



⁶³ Ibid, 15

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 35

Employment Security Building

Name of Property

St. Louis (Independent City), MO

County and State

n/a

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 15: Photo of AAA Building⁶⁴



⁶⁴ Ibid, 11.



DRURY
INN

Broadway

LEFT TURN
YIELD
ON GREEN





STEELE

THOMPSON
COBURN

America's Center
The M2
Walter Center

44
55
64
70
46
40

BROADWAY

MANHOLE



505

welcome
505

















