

2024-0013
EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Lister Building
and/or common

2. Location

street & number 4500 Olive Street not for publication
city, town St. Louis vicinity of Congressional district
state Missouri code 29 county City of St. Louis code 510

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant office

4. Owner of Property

name Pantheon Corporation
street & number 409 DeBaliviere Boulevard
city, town St. Louis vicinity of _____ state MO 63112

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Louis City Hall
street & number Market Street at Tucker Boulevard
city, town St. Louis state MO 63103

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date February 1982 federal state county local
depository for survey records Historic Preservation Program
Missouri Department of Natural Resources, P. O. Box 176
city, town Jefferson City, state MO 65102

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7. Description

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good (exterior) ruins
 fair (interior) unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Lister Medical Building of 1904-05 and its 1914 addition form an impressive complex at the southwest corner of Olive Street and Taylor Avenue. Distinguished by the skillful use of Bedford stone trim, the main building of red brick was designed by architect John L. Wees in the Renaissance derived style and reflects both the professional success of client Tuholske and the upper-middle-class tone of the surrounding Central West End neighborhood.

A current photograph looking west on Olive Street shows the original building at the corner and the streetscape rhythm of the addition. (Photo #1) (The storefront of the original building has been marred by a slipcover of stucco applied in 1974.) (Photos #1 and #2) The main entrance (Photo #3), centered on the Olive Street elevation, is marked by an arch springing from squared jambs flanked by paired pilasters with egg and dart caps topped by a frieze of triglyphs and guttae. Above a stone panel bearing the words "Lister Building", the second story window treatment includes Ionic pilasters, a frieze with a cartouche and a pediment. At the third story the stone surround which enframes the grouping of windows is ornamented with discs. Scrolls appear between the windows. Below the central bay on the second floor of the Taylor Avenue elevation, one of the storefront cast iron pilasters from Gerst Brothers is still visible. (Photo #4)

The Wees building was given strong horizontal elements by the string courses which wrap the Taylor and Olive elevations between the first and second story and between the third and fourth story. At the second and third stories, windows are paired except for central triads on each elevation. These window groupings are tied together vertically by stone Gibbs surrounds and recessed stone panels. Above, a crisp dentilled cornice with egg and dart bed molding leads to a simple brick parapet. Original interior finish included marble floors and wainscot on the first floor, some of which remain. Stair treads and risers are also of marble; most of the wooden balustrades have been stolen. Upstairs, window and door trim is stained poplar. The offices--each with reception room, examining room and doctor's office--were organized as suites on either side of an axial corridor. Connecting doors permitted flexibility in expanding or decreasing the groups of rooms.

Architect John Ludwig Wees (1861-1942) was born in Alsace-Lorraine and educated at Heidelberg. At eighteen he went to Paris for a year of architectural study before emigrating to the United States in 1879. Wees worked first in a sewing machine factory in Bridgeport, Connecticut, while studying art at night school before gaining employment as an architectural draftsman in Bridgeport and then New York City. He arrived in St. Louis around 1882 and became draftsman for August M. Beinke, a former carpenter who opened an architectural office in 1873. Wees was Beinke's partner from 1890 to 1894 when he set up his own practice. That same year he became a member of the St. Louis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Wees' work in St. Louis ranged from prestigious commissions for houses, commercial and institutional buildings to modest residences, flats and stores.¹ Of his major works still standing, the seventy-five thousand dollar French Renaissance palazzo designed for L. D. Dozier at #10 Westmoreland Place (c. 1896), the eight story Wohl Building at 1224-26 Washington Avenue (1902) and the handsome Romanesque

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Temple B'Nai-El at Spring and Flad Avenues (1905) are particularly noteworthy. (Literally hundreds of Wees' drawings on linen met a unique fate. According to his grandson the linens were "washed until white and suitable for making pillow-cases, etc." during the Depression.)²

In 1914, an addition planned to "conform in design"³ to that of the earlier building was built at an estimated cost of sixty thousand dollars. The two buildings, both approximately 60 by 100 feet, were joined at the first story and by ten foot, enclosed corridors above. Although the same Bedford stone facing on the first floor was continued on the Olive Street elevation of the addition, the three-story, 1914 design by Clymer & Drischler lacks the harmony of the original building's proportions. (Compressed air and both alternating and direct current were provided for dentist tenants in the "up-to-date" interiors.)⁴ In contrast to the decorated walls of the two primary elevations, the west and south addition walls and south wall of the original building (Photo #5) are plain expanses of brick broken up by window openings.

Harry G. Clymer and Francis Drischler, both at one time members of the St. Louis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, were partners from 1909 to 1915. The only other known designs by the firm are residential including four houses built 1909-12 in the Parkview subdivision.⁵

Footnotes

¹Designs for a new building for the Missouri Medical College (c. 1895) a block south of Dr. Tuholske's hospital on Jefferson and an office for Dr. Horatio N. Spencer (another founder of the St. Louis Polyclinic) at 2733 Washington (c. 1896), plus building permits for a homeopathic medical college at Jefferson and Mullanphy (1899) and for the Deaconess Hospital at 4125 West Belle (1905), suggest a following in the medical profession.

²Charles A. Wees, Manuscript, 17 August 1977, St. Louis, Missouri.

³St. Louis Globe-Democrat, 5 April 1914.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Clymer (c. 1874-1958) began his career in St. Louis in 1890 as a clerk for architect Alfred F. Rosenheim and set up his own office in 1900. Drischler first appeared as an architect in St. Louis in 1902 and worked for at least one year (1904) for Eames & Young. He was in partnership with Adolph A. Elsner in 1907 and 1908. Information about their work as partners is sketchy. Drischler disappeared from City Directory listings during World War I, Clymer in the early 1930s--he eventually became a member of the Michigan Society of Architects (AIA).

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1905; 1914 **Builder/Architect** John L. Wees, architect; Clymer & Drischler, architects, respectively

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lister Building, a four story medical building completed in 1905, is significant for its association with Dr. Herman Tuholske, a noted surgeon who played an important role in the improvement of medicine in St. Louis as a public health officer, hospital administrator and medical educator/reformer. Designed by John L. Wees with a 1914 annex designed by Clymer & Drischler, the red brick and Bedford stone structures in Renaissance derived style are also of architectural significance. (See Section 7.)

The construction of the Lister Building--probably among the earliest of the major buildings planned especially for doctors' offices in St. Louis¹--coincided with the emergence of new professional and ethical medical standards in Missouri following the unregulated chaos of the nineteenth century. Symptomatic of the state of medicine was an 1882 report published by the State Medical Association which estimated that of the 4,380 medical practitioners, only 2,500 had graduated from reputable medical schools. Diploma mills turned out "doctors" with barely a year of instruction and no clinical experience.² In addition various branches of the healing arts described as "irregular" by the State Association--homeopathy, "eclectic" medicine, Weltmerism, osteopathy, and Christian Science--proliferated in the 1870s, '80s and '90s and developed large followings and their own institutions for training of practitioners and for treatment.³

Dr. Herman Tuholske (1848-1922) was born in Meseritz, Prussia, and graduated from the Berlin Gymnasium before emigrating to St. Louis with his family at the age of fifteen. His father, Newman Tuholske, became the first rabbi of Shaare Emeth founded in 1867 as the first Reform Jewish congregation in St. Louis. Tuholske graduated from the Missouri Medical College in 1869 and spent the following year for research and study in Berlin, Vienna, Paris and London. (He may have been exposed at this time to the recent work of Joseph Lister who was later knighted for his pioneering introduction of antiseptis and other surgical procedures.)

When he returned to St. Louis, Dr. Tuholske was appointed Chief Physican of the City Dispensary. During the five years in this post, he more than tripled the number of patients given free treatment annually by the City and initiated municipal around-the-clock ambulance service.⁴ His nearly forty years as a medical educator began with an 1873 appointment as Professor and Demonstrator of Anatomy at Missouri Medical College. Though he continued as a consultant to municipal medical facilities, in 1875 Tuholske began to concentrate on the development of what became an immensely successful private practice. Dr. Tuholske built his own surgical and gynecological hospital in 1890 at the northwest corner of Jefferson and Locust Avenues where the operating room was "a marvel of beauty and complete in its surgical appointments," and nurses were "required to be affable, gentle, and attentive." (Room rates ranged from twenty-five dollars to thirty-five dollars per week.)⁵ The impressive hospital designed by the

(11/78)

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firm of Beinke & Wees in fashionable Richardsonian style attracted patients "from all over the country."⁶

In 1882, Tuholske was one of eight physicians to establish the first post-graduate medical institution in the United States--the St. Louis Polyclinic and Post-Graduate School which "offered an unprecedented amount of clinical material for the instruction of prospective physicians as well as the many practitioners who came to 'brush up.'"⁷ The St. Louis Polyclinic, the Missouri Medical College and the St. Louis Medical College (through a sequence of mergers) had become the now prestigious Washington University Medical School by 1900.

Dr. Tuholske continued his own education through travel to European Meccas of medical research and innovation and through memberships in numerous local, national and international societies. At the turn of the century, he was described as a major force in the "movement which resulted in the Missouri State Board of Health demanding a higher educational standard and three years' attendance at medical lectures from those licensed to practice medicine or surgery in the State."⁸ A measure of Tuholske's financial success was a full-page spread in the St. Louis Republic in 1902, "Bijou Home for Bride is Doctor Tuholske's Gift to His Only Daughter," describing the complete, professional interior redecoration of millionaire Robert S. Brookings' Eames & Young-designed house on Locust Street.⁹

In 1902, Tuholske was appointed the first Chief of Staff and Head of Surgery of the new Jewish Hospital on Delmar Boulevard at the north edge of the Central West End. This position was an unparalleled opportunity to develop and oversee the staff and procedures of an important new hospital, called at the dedication "the most complete hospital, in the matter of equipment, in the western country."¹⁰ Though the hospital was non-sectarian in both its staffing and admission policies, its affiliation with the Jewish community was important to Tuholske. At the dedication ceremony (attended by former Governor Francis and Mayor Rolla Wells) he spoke of the relationship between ethics and medicine:

. . .medicine developed most where the ethical nature of man received most care. Hence it flourished in classical Greece, while in stern, cruel wolfish Rome it received but little attention.

He went on to note the improvements in medicine generated by the long Jewish ethical tradition of care for the sick.

In 1904, Dr. Tuholske sold his hospital at Locust and Jefferson and hired John L. Wees, junior partner for that building's design, as architect for both a one-story office on Taylor and the Lister Building immediately north at the corner with Olive. Wees was hired the following year to design a new house (demolished) for Dr. Tuholske one block south at 4487 Westminster Place. (Among Tuholske's new neighbors on Fullerton's Westminster Place were dry goods merchants David Eiseman and Elias Michael, major benefactors and fund raisers for Jewish Hospital.)

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The Lister Building, named for either Sir Joseph Lister or Tuholske's son, was completed at an estimated cost of sixty thousand dollars in 1905.¹² First tenants included Dr. William A. Hardaway--a pioneer dermatologist and one of the original nine physicians Dr. Tuholske appointed to his Jewish Hospital staff¹³ and Dr. William C. Glasgow--grandson of early St. Louis physician, Mayor William Carr Lane. Glasgow helped form the American Laryngological Association in 1878 and both he and Hardaway were among the founders of the St. Louis Polyclinic.¹⁴ Only two of the first tenants were not members of the St. Louis Medical Society. One was Dr. Charles Goodman, graduate of Yale and a medical school in Pennsylvania espousing homeopathy--a branch of medicine frowned upon by the St. Louis Medical Society. Dr. Goodman was a founder of the St. Louis Children's Hospital which began with a staff composed primarily of homeopathic physicians. The other non-member of the Society was Dr. Elizabeth Reed, an 1890 graduate of the Women's Medical College in Philadelphia, who was refused membership in the Society in 1904. Dr. Tuholske co-sponsored her successful re-application in 1907 and in 1908, Tuholske became President of the Society.¹⁵

Awarded an honorary LLD by Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, in recognition of his contributions to medicine, Tuholske continued his private practice from the little building on Taylor along with his son-in-law Dr. Ernst Jonas and later his son, Dr. Lister Tuholske, until about a year before his death in 1922. (The Lister Building had been sold to the Landay Real Estate Company in 1911 and a three story annex designed by the firm of Clymer & Drischler was built in 1914 to accommodate the increasing demand for doctor's and dentists' offices in the Central West End.)

Major hospitals followed Jewish Hospital to the north and south edges of the Central West End; St. Luke's relocated just east of Jewish in 1904. Beginning in 1912, Barnes Hospital (the teaching hospital of Washington University Medical School), St. Louis Children's Hospital and finally in 1926, Jewish Hospital (which had outgrown its Delmar facilities) in succession constructed new buildings seven blocks to the south at Forest Park Boulevard and Kingshighway comprising what is now known as a medical center of national importance.

The Lister Building continued to attract respected physicians as tenants through the 1950s. They were known as the "Happy Renters" because of the "spick and span maintenance," early air conditioning, parking lot and timely repainting of offices provided by the Landays. During World War II offices were held rent-free until the return of doctors who were drafted.¹⁶ Gradually, changes in the Central West End caused by the continued westward movement of the middle-class population (including doctors), the overuse and deterioration of residential stock which began during the housing shortage of the 1940's and the relocation of the poor following post-war slum clearance projects contributed to an occupancy rate in the Lister Building which declined to 40 percent by 1967. While some of the doctors and dentists purchased the building following the death of Mr. Landay's widow, their attempts to counter the reputation for violence and vandalism in the neighborhood

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were futile.¹⁷ In 1976, a lone doctor occupied the building. Following his death it became vacant.

Though the evidence of Dr. Tuholske's contributions to medicine in St. Louis survives in less tangible ways, the other buildings he constructed in St. Louis--the Surgical and Gynecological Hospital, his house on Fullerton's Westminster Place and his one-story office on Taylor--have all been demolished leaving only the Lister Building still standing. Purchased in 1979 by Pantheon Corporation, whose rehabilitation of quantities of residential stock has contributed to the rebirth of the Central West End, the Lister Building is now securely boarded awaiting renovation.

Footnotes

¹An extensive search was not made; however, City Directory listing for the year before the construction of the Lister Building showed most doctors in offices connected to their houses, or in general office buildings, with a few cases of two or three doctors sharing a small building.

²H. W. Eickhoff, "The Organization and Regulation of Medicine in Missouri, 1883-1901" (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Missouri, Columbia, 1965), p. 35.

³Ibid., p. 26 passim.

⁴Biographical information about Dr. Tuholske is contained in the following: E. J. Goodwin, A History of Medicine in Missouri (St. Louis: W. L. Smith, 1905), p. 270; William Hyde and Howard L. Conard, eds., Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis, 4 vols. (New York: The Southern History Co., 1889), 4: 2311; Journal of the Missouri Medical Association 19 (1922): 409-410; One Hundred Years of Medicine and Surgery in Missouri (St. Louis: St. Louis Star, 1900), pp. 346-347; W. M. Reedy, Makers of St. Louis (St. Louis: The Mirror Publishing Co., 1906), p. 95; St. Louis Globe-Democrat, 13 June 1922; and Weekly Bulletin of the St. Louis Medical Society 17 (14 September 1922): 12.

⁵Physician's Directory (St. Louis: R. L. Polk and Co., 1894), p. 15.

⁶Hyde and Conard, 4 :2311.

⁷St. Louis Medical Society Centennial Volume (St. Louis: St. Louis Medical Society, 1939), p. 26.

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Hyde and Conard, 4: 2311.

⁹St. Louis Republic, 11 May 1902, Magazine Section, p. 3.

¹⁰St. Louis Globe-Democrat, 19 May 1902, p. 13.

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¹¹Ibid.

¹²St. Louis Globe-Democrat, 12 June 1902, Section 2, p. 16.

¹³David A. Gee, 216 S. K.: A History of The Jewish Hospital of St. Louis
(St. Louis: The Jewish Hospital of St. Louis, 1981), p. 117.

¹⁴St. Louis Medical Society Centennial Volume, p. 26.

¹⁵Weekly Bulletin of the St. Louis Medical Society, p. 12.

¹⁶St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 15 October 1967, p. 26A.

¹⁷Ibid.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Clayton, MO

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	5	7	3	8	8	7	5	4	2	8	2	0	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The Lister Building is located in City Block 4576 and is comprised of lots 19, 20, 21 and 22 of Horton's Washington Avenue Addition. The building fronts Taylor Avenue 60 feet and Olive Street 200 feet.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By © Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc., 1982.

name/title Jane M. Porter, Researcher

organization Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. date 11 February 1982

street & number 706 Chestnut Street, Room 1217 telephone (314) 421-6474

city or town St. Louis, state MO 63101

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

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

date

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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- Hyde, William, and Conard, Howard L., eds. Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis. 4 Vols. New York: The Southern History Co., 1899, Vol. 4.
- Journal of the Missouri State Medical Association 19 (1922).
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- Reedy, William N. Makers of St. Louis. St. Louis: The Mirror Publishing Co., 1906.
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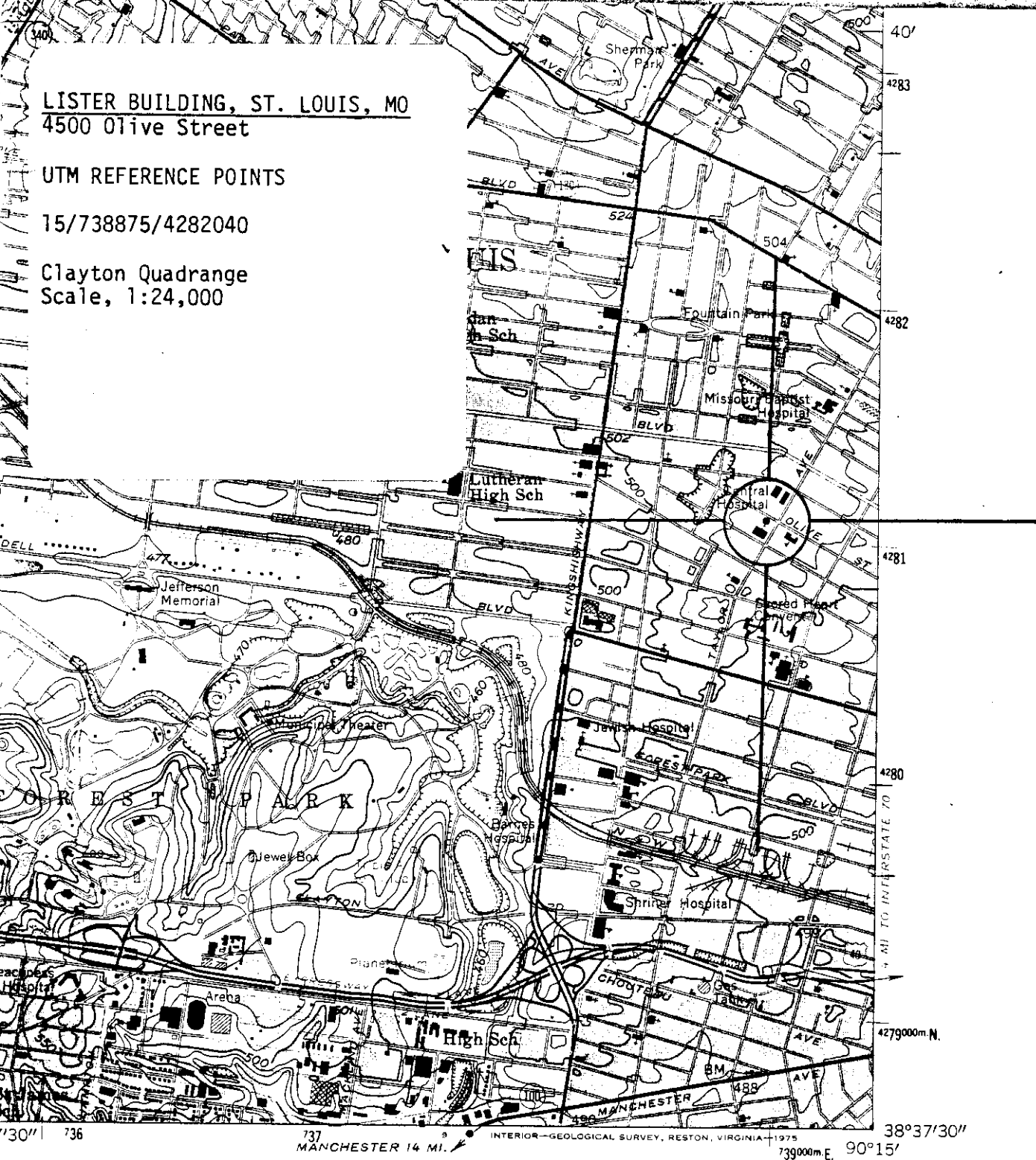
2. James M. Denny, Chief, Survey & Registration
and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City
- October 13, 1982
314/751-4096
Missouri 65102

LISTER BUILDING, ST. LOUIS, MO
 4500 Olive Street

UTM REFERENCE POINTS

15/738875/4282040

Clayton Quadrangle
 Scale, 1:24,000



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty
- Light-duty
- Medium-duty
- Unimproved dirt
- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

CLAYTON, MO.

N3837.5—W9015/7.5

1954

PHOTOREPRODUCED 1968 AND 1971

AMS 7961 III NE—SERIES V879

CAHOKIA
 25611 SW

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Lister Building**

City or Vicinity: **St. Louis [Independent City]**

County: **St. Louis [Independent City]** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Jane M. Porter (unless otherwise noted)**

Date

Photographed: **Jan. 1982 (unless otherwise noted)**

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

- 1 of 5. E and N (principal) elevations, facing SW.
- 2 of 5. N (principal) elevation, facing SE.
- 3 of 5. Main entrance on Olive St., facing S.
- 4 of 5. Detail on Taylor Ave., E elevation, facing W.
- 5 of 5. S (rear) elevation, facing NW.







LISTER BUILDING

FOR
REHAB
231-9500

NEED





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BUILDING**

ALLIED BUSINESS SERVICES
CONTACT YOUR SALES MANAGER
COMMUNITY CENTER
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER