

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational 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 Lowe & Campbell Sporting Goods Buildingother names/site number Hoover Brothers Building; Hanna Rubber Company Building**2. Location**street & number 1509-13 Baltimore Avenue N/A not for publicationcity or town Kansas City N/A vicinitystate Missouri code MO county Jackson code 095 zip code 64108**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X 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 X local

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles, Deputy SHPO

Date

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

Lowe and Campbell Sporting Goods Building  
Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri  
County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	buildings
	district
	site
	structure
	object
1	<b>Total</b>

### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE: Specialty Store/Business

INDUSTRY: Manufacturing Facility

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE: Specialty Store/Business

INDUSTRY: Manufacturing Facility

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Classical Revival

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: BRICK

roof: ASPHALT

other: TERRA COTTA

Lowe and Campbell Sporting Goods Building  
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## 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.

### 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.

### Areas of Significance

COMMERCE

INDUSTRY

ARCHITECTURE

### Period of Significance

1925-1961

### Significant Dates

1925

### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Shepard & Wiser (architects)

Manhattan Construction Company (builder)

## 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: Missouri Valley Special Collections, KCPL  
Western Historical Manuscript Coll., UMKC

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

Lowe and Campbell Sporting Goods Building  
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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>362988</u> Easting	<u>328576</u> Northing	3	<u></u> Zone	<u></u> Easting	<u></u> Northing
2	<u></u> Zone	<u></u> Easting	<u></u> Northing	4	<u></u> Zone	<u></u> Easting	<u></u> Northing

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Rosin, Principal and Kristen Ottesen, Associate  
organization Rosin Preservation, LLC date September 2011  
street & number 215 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. 150 telephone 816-472-4950  
city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64108  
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## 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.**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

### Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Connie Wodlinger, Trustee for the James B. Vandergrift Trust  
street & number 428 Chilean Avenue telephone 561-329-1770  
city or town Palm Beach state Florida zip code 33480

**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.

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Lowe and Campbell Sporting Goods Building  
Jackson County, Missouri

### SUMMARY

The Lowe and Campbell Sporting Goods Building ("Lowe and Campbell Building") at 1509-13 Baltimore Avenue, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri, is a six-story concrete-frame, brick and terra cotta-clad commercial building located just south of the central business district. Built in 1925, the two-part vertical commercial block sits on the east side of Baltimore Avenue just south of Truman Road. Surface parking lots that directly abut the Lowe and Campbell building were historically vacant. Designed for a combination of retail, office, and light manufacturing/warehouse, elements of Classical Revival styling are executed in white glazed terra cotta on the lower two stories of the front (west) elevation to convey the significance of the company that built the building. Abundant fenestration on the south, east, and north elevations admits ample natural illumination and ventilation to the interior spaces on floors two through six, facilitating the manufacturing activities inside. The original windows fill most window openings on every elevation. Minimal finishes on the interior reflect the building's utilitarian use. Decorative finishes are confined to the office area on the second floor. The Lowe and Campbell Building communicates its feelings about and associations with its period of significance (1925-1961).

### ELABORATION

#### SETTING

The Lowe and Campbell Building is in a commercial/light industrial area just south of Kansas City's downtown central business district. It stands at the north end of the block, facing Baltimore Avenue, and is surrounded by surface parking lots. Truman Road runs east-west past the north side of the building. Just beyond Truman Road to the north, Interstate I-670 carves a deep canyon in the ground, separating Kansas City's central business district from the Lowe and Campbell Building's neighborhood. A mixture of surface parking lots and commercial and light industrial buildings dot the blocks surrounding the Lowe and Campbell Building. A concrete sidewalk abuts the front (west) side of the building, separating it from the street. The grade falls from the front of the building to the rear, allowing for basement-level loading bays on the east and north elevations. A paved surface parking lot abutting the south elevation is level with the ground at the first story. Across Baltimore Avenue to the west, a surface parking lot stretches the length of the block. It abuts a cliff on the west that rises approximately three stories above the ground level.

#### EXTERIOR

The six-story Lowe and Campbell Building is rectangular in plan. The primary elevation of the brick-clad, concrete-frame building faces west toward Baltimore Avenue. The commercial building has a typical two-part vertical block form with a two-story terra cotta-clad base that

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anchors the four brick-clad stories above. Engaged pilasters rise from the ground to the top of the sixth story to define three bays. Non-historic display windows fill the historic storefront openings on the first story. Original windows fill the window openings that pierce the wall between the pilasters on stories two through six.

On the front elevation, decorative elements executed mostly in terra cotta lend the two-part vertical block a Classical Revival style. The ornament includes paired fluted pilasters between the bays; arched window heads with decorative cartouches; modillions between the tops of the windows inscribed with the letters "LC" for Lowe and Campbell; a projecting cornice between the second and third stories that spans the width of the building; and terra cotta blocks embellished with festooned urns above garlands on each pilaster at the third story. Engaged pilasters of brick have a recessed course that occurs every fifth course, creating an articulated appearance. At the sixth story parapet, a patterned brick spandrel dotted with floral terra cotta medallions spans the width of the building above the sixth story windows. Above that, a band of patterned terra cotta spans the width of each bay of three windows. Between these, rectangles of patterned brick ornament the wall. Terra cotta coping caps the wall. Ornamental iron railings span the window openings in the north and south bays of the second story. Smaller iron railings span each third story window opening. Metal flagpole sockets are mounted to the second story walls between each window in the north and south bays.

The secondary (north, east, and south) elevations are unornamented. Exposed concrete framing is visible on the north and east elevations. On the north elevation, there are five regular bays of exposed framing. The east elevation has two irregularly-sized bays of exposed framing. Red brick fills the framing on both elevations. The south elevation does not have exposed concrete framing but is clad with both buff and red brick. The buff brick clads the east and west pilasters, and the width of the building atop the sixth story windows and between the second and third floor windows. Red brick fills in between the buff brick.

Most of the historic windows remain on every elevation. A variety of fenestration pierces the front (west) elevation. Non-historic display windows and doors fill the storefront openings on the first floor. While the three-bay configuration of the storefronts is original, the materials are not. They were altered during a renovation in 1961 by replacing the central recessed entries in each bay with display windows that spanned straight across the opening in the north and south bays and a recessed doorway in the center bay. Display windows in the north and south bays of the first floor storefront openings consist of large expanses of glass set within aluminum framing that rest on a mottled green terra cotta bulkhead. The north bay display window has one central vertical muntin. The south bay display window is divided into equal parts by four

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vertical muntins. The central bay contains a pair of non-historic aluminum-framed glazed entry doors recessed from the flanking display windows that rest on the ground.

At the second story of the front (west) elevation, historic windows fill the seven window openings. The north and south bays have two window openings each. These windows are Chicago-style with two tall and narrow one-over-one double-hung sashes flanking one tall and slightly wider fixed single-light window. The center bay has one Chicago-style window and two flanking windows with simple one-over-one double-hung sashes. All of these are wood windows. Windows on stories three through six are two-over-two double-hung steel sashes in individual openings.

Fenestration on the secondary elevations (north, east, and south) consists of window openings filled with industrial multi-light steel windows with operable pivot sashes. On the north elevation there is generally one single twelve-light window per bay. In most of the bays these are aligned in the center. However, a few bays have off-center windows, or two windows. In the east bay on floors two through six, smaller six-light windows fill the two window openings per bay. Non-historic openings have been punched through the wall in the west bay on the first and second floors. On the first floor, a display window fills the opening. On the second floor, a floor to ceiling display window fills the opening, allowing a view of downtown from the executive office on the interior.

The east elevation has sixteen-light, twelve-light, and six-light industrial metal windows with pivot sashes. The third floor has four two-over-two double-hung steel sashes at the south end of the elevation.

The south elevation is heavily fenestrated with rows of multi-light windows in each of the bays on floors two through six. On floors three through six, rows of four individual windows pierce each bay. The twelve-light steel windows have center pivot sashes. On the second floor, two-over-two steel double-hung windows fill the openings. In the center three bays they are grouped together in a row of six sashes within one large opening. In the west and east bays, individual window openings pierce the wall.

Besides the main entry door on the west elevation, there are several other pedestrian and loading bay doors. On the first story of the north elevation, a pedestrian door pierces the center bay. It is unclear whether or not the doorway is historic. It is filled with a non-historic wood slab door with a glazed sidelight. A non-historic loading bay door pierces the basement level in the second bay from the east. On the rear (east) elevation, a metal slab door fills a pedestrian doorway in the north bay that opens into the stairwell. Two historic loading bay doors pierce the

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south end of the east elevation. Four-panel wood overhead doors fill these openings. On the south elevation, a non-historic doorway pierces the west bay. The wide doorway has the proportions of a loading bay. Paired large metal slab doors fill the doorway.

**INTERIOR**

The building retains its historic functional layout and patterns of use. Historically, the first floor contained the retail operation. The second floor housed offices. Manufacturing and warehousing occupied floors three through six. The basement was used for shipping operations. Today, the current tenant utilizes the building in exactly the same way.

The first floor has retail space at the west end of the building and office space at the east end. The second floor has offices and a conference room at the west end of the building and storage space and a break room at the east end. Floors three through six have open floor plans to allow for manufacturing activities. These floors have a clear span that is only interrupted by the elevator/stair service shafts and small restrooms. Non-historic partitions form offices along the west end of the third floor.

Two service blocks rise through the building. In the center of the building a block with a stair hall and passenger elevator rises from the first to the sixth floor. In the northeast corner of the building a block containing a stair hall and freight elevator rises from the basement to the roof (the elevator does not provide roof access). Bathrooms are generally situated toward the northeast corner on each floor. A single-user toilet room is located within the southeast corner of the conference room at the southwest corner of the second floor.

Finishes throughout the building are very simple. The first floor has been updated over the years. Suspended ceilings cover the ceiling. Composition tile and carpet cover the floor. Painted plaster covers the walls. A few non-historic partitions are constructed of painted drywall.

The second floor contains the most decorative finishes in the building. Historically (according to the historic plans), offices ringed the east, south, and west sides of the floor. A few have been retained. These include the break room in the southeast corner, three offices along the south wall at the west end, the conference room in the southwest corner, and two offices in the center of the west wall. The historic safe and restrooms remain in place along the north wall. The historic office partitions are constructed of exposed wood framing filled with glazing and opaque panels. Ornamental wood base, cornice, and chair rail trim the office areas. In the west half of the second floor, non-historic suspended ceilings or tile affixed to the ceiling conceal the historic



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finish. Carpet covers the floors. In the east half of the second floor, the concrete structure is exposed. Composition tile covers the floor.

Floors three through six have utilitarian finishes. Walls are painted exposed clay tile masonry units. Ceilings have exposed concrete beams that are painted. Floors are painted concrete. There is no decorative trim on these floors. Lighting throughout the building is utilitarian. No historic light fixtures remain.

The stair halls generally retain their historic finishes. The stair in the center of the building is simple but more decorative than the northeast stair. On floors one through three, metal railings with spindle balusters, a wood railing cap, and simple squared metal newel posts line the concrete stairs. The balusters alternate between squared and twisted. The railings on floors three through six are painted metal pipes. On the first and second floors, non-historic rubber tiles cover the floor. Floors on three through six are concrete. Walls and ceilings are painted plaster. The stair hall in the northeast corner of the building is utilitarian. It has painted pipe railings, concrete stairs, and exposed masonry walls.

**INTEGRITY**

The Lowe and Campbell Building clearly conveys its historic function as an early twentieth century commercial building. It retains its historic location and setting (the lots flanking the building have been vacant since the building was constructed). The building retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling to communicate associations with its period of significance. The only change to the exterior has been the replacement of the storefront display windows and the new openings punched into the west bay on the first and second floors. Changes to street level storefronts were made regularly to commercial buildings to aid the economic viability of the businesses they housed. No changes have been made to the upper stories.

The interior retains its historic use of retail, office, and warehouse/manufacturing. It also retains most of its historic fabric. Minor changes on the first and second floors accommodated changing ideas about aesthetics and function.

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Lowe and Campbell Sporting Goods Building  
Jackson County, Missouri

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**SUMMARY**

The Lowe and Campbell Sporting Goods Building ("Lowe and Campbell Building") at 1509-13 Baltimore Avenue, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri is locally significant under Criterion A for the area of COMMERCE and INDUSTRY and Criterion C for the area of ARCHITECTURE. Erected in 1925 to house retail sales, office, and light manufacturing functions, the building illustrates the commercial property type constructed throughout the United States during the early twentieth century. Classical Revival detailing creates visual interest and conveys an air of importance to the otherwise utilitarian two-part vertical block. This was the third location for the Lowe and Campbell Sporting Goods Company, a local business that merged with a larger company, Wilson Sporting Goods, in 1931 to gain a national presence. The period of significance, 1925-1961, begins with the building's construction and ends with the fifty-year closing date for periods of significance where activities begun historically continue to have importance but no more-specific date can be defined. The year 1961 also happens to be the date Lowe and Campbell and Wilson Sporting Goods moved out.

**ELABORATION**

**THE SPORTING GOODS INDUSTRY IN AMERICA**

Before the Civil War, sporting in America consisted primarily of field sports (hunting and fishing) and events brought from England, such as horse racing and fox hunting. After the Civil War, America entered an era of peace and relative prosperity. Public space developed within urban areas and America's awareness of fitness increased.<sup>1</sup> Industrialization and urbanization increased rapidly in the United States, influencing interest in and development of sports and recreation. With an increase in more sedentary office-type jobs, and with more leisure time, interest in sports and activity developed.

As Americans' (especially wealthy Americans) leisure time increased, sports and outdoor recreation became important pastimes. Commercialized spectator sports also became more popular as more people moved to urban areas.<sup>2</sup> Sporting goods manufacturers made sports and games more accessible to Americans. Specialized equipment (all types of balls, racquets, golf clubs, bows and arrows, apparel, shoes, etc.) was required to participate in most sports, whether group or individual, competitive or leisure. In 1888 the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU)

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<sup>1</sup> Stephen Hardy, "Adopted by All the Leading Clubs: Sporting Goods and the Shaping of Leisure," in *Sport in America: From Wicked Amuse to National Obsession*, David K. Wiggins, editor, (Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics, 1985), 140.  
[www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com). (accessed July 19, 2011).

<sup>2</sup> John Rickards Betts, "The Technological Revolution and the Rise of Sport, 1850-1900," in *The American Sporting Experience: A Historical Anthology of Sport in America*, Steven A. Riess, Ph.D, (Champaign, IL: Leisure Press 1984).

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was formed to establish standards and uniformity in amateur competitive sports.<sup>3</sup> The multi-sport organization became the training ground for America's Olympic athletes. By 1900 sports had gained prominence in the lives of millions of Americans and baseball, in particular, had become an American obsession.

The rise of the sporting goods industry is related to the development of the meatpacking industry, as byproducts of meatpacking were used to manufacture sporting goods equipment. Prior to the late nineteenth century, byproducts (bones, hides, blood, and entrails) were discarded. By 1900 chemists discovered ways to turn these parts into glue, fertilizer, glycerin, ammonia, gelatin, and other products.<sup>4</sup> For sporting goods equipment, hides were used to make balls and entrails were used to make strong thread and fibers (tennis rackets). Wilson Sporting Goods Company, one of the world's leading sporting goods companies began in 1913 as the Ashland Manufacturing Company, a company founded as an outlet for meat-packing byproducts of the Sulzberger and Schwarzschild meat-packing company in Chicago.<sup>5</sup> In 1914 the sporting goods arm of the company was so successful that company president, Thomas E. Wilson, shifted the focus solely to sporting goods and changed the name of the company to Wilson Sporting Goods Company.<sup>6</sup> Other sporting goods companies such as Spalding and Rawlings utilized hides for their balls as well.

Generally, the early sporting goods companies (prior to 1900) specialized in one area. Wright and Ditson, Bancroft (Rhode Island), and D.W. Granbery (New York) promoted and dealt in goods for tennis. Lester C. Dole (New Haven) supplied college football teams with English rugby balls. Rawlings Brothers (St. Louis) specialized in baseball uniforms and gloves, although they dealt in other goods as well. C. & W. McClean (St. Louis) specialized in field sports equipment. Meachan Arms Company (St. Louis) dealt in guns and powder but later expanded into baseballs and bicycles.<sup>7</sup> By the turn of the twentieth century numerous sporting goods manufacturers, from giant corporations to small local stores, were in business. In 1906 six sporting goods manufacturers formed the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA) in New York City.<sup>8</sup> Consequently the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) was founded the same year. In the 1920s regional sporting goods stores formed associations to represent their interests. In 1929 East Coast distributors formed the Athletic Goods

<sup>3</sup> "About AAU," AAU website, <http://www.aausports.org/AboutAAU.aspx> (accessed August 2, 2011).

<sup>4</sup> Louise Carroll Wade, "Meatpacking," Encyclopedia of Chicago website, <http://encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/804.html> (accessed July 22, 2011).

<sup>5</sup> "Wilson Sporting Goods Company," Funding Universe website, <http://www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Wilson-Sporting-Goods-Company-Company-History.html> (accessed July 8, 2011).

<sup>6</sup> Jeremy T. Chrabaszcz, "Sporting Goods Manufacturers," in *The American Midwest: an interpretive encyclopedia*, by Richard Sisson, Christian K. Zacher, and Andrew Robert Lee Cayton, (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2007), 885, [www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com) (accessed July 26, 2011).

<sup>7</sup> Wiggins, *Sport in America*, 140.

<sup>8</sup> Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association website, <http://www.sgma.com/about/> (accessed July 26, 2011).

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Wholesalers Association while Midwestern and southern sporting goods dealers formed the Sporting Goods Distributors Association. The two merged in 1929 and settled on the name National Sporting Goods Association in 1936.<sup>9</sup>

As the twentieth century progressed, giants in the sporting goods industry, such as Wilson Sporting Goods, A.G. Spalding, and Rawlings began merging with and acquiring smaller local stores to increase and diversify their operations. These companies also created innovative equipment that revolutionized sports and games. Each had their own line of specialized products (tennis racquets, golf clubs, baseball gloves, uniforms, football equipment, etc.) that was technologically advanced and impacted the game by improving the athlete's performance. Sporting goods companies increased American awareness of sports by sponsoring sporting contests and tours.<sup>10</sup>

The sporting goods industry continued to grow throughout the Great Depression. It boomed after the close of World War II. The rise of inter-collegiate athletics and professional sports clubs again spurred American's interest in sports. Technological advances and synthetic materials were incorporated into the manufacture of sporting goods, reducing the need for animal byproducts from meatpacking plants. Changing social habits of the Western world resulted in an increased interest in fashion, commercialized entertainment, and journalism, all of which impacted sporting and sporting goods in America.<sup>11</sup> The landscape of sporting goods manufacture and retail has changed dramatically from its emergence as a viable industry. Only a few of the oldest names in American sporting goods remain, including Wilson, Rawlings, and Spalding. Online and big-box retailing has eliminated many small, independent and brand-specific sporting goods stores. But Americans remain enthralled with sports, whether competitive or leisure, advancing the sporting goods industry.

### **SPORTING GOODS STORES IN KANSAS CITY**

"Sporting Goods" first appeared as a category in the city directory in 1895. Two companies were listed – R.S. Elliot and Company and J.F. Schmelzer and Sons Arms Company. By 1900, Kansas City had six sporting goods companies. In 1912, the year that Lowe and Campbell opened, the number of sporting goods companies in Kansas City doubled to twelve. Sporting goods were sold at both specialized sporting goods stores and hardware stores. Wengert-Bishop Hardware and Richards and Conover Hardware were early hardware stores that dealt in sporting goods.

<sup>9</sup> National Sporting Goods Association website, <http://www.nsga.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3277> (accessed July 26, 2011).

<sup>10</sup> Wiggins, *Sport in America*, 144.

<sup>11</sup> John Rickards Betts, "The Technological Revolution and the Rise of Sport, 1850-1900," in *The American Sporting Experience: A Historical Anthology of Sport in America*, Steven A. Riess, PhD, (Champaign, IL: Leisure Press, 1984), 156.

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Of the twelve stores listed in 1912, eight were located in the Central Business District. Five (Lowe and Campbell, Schmelzer Arms Company, Wenger and Bishop Hardware, R.S. Elliot Arms Company, and S.G. Spalding and Brothers) were within one block of each other in the 12<sup>th</sup> and Grand vicinity. For the next ten years, the number of sporting goods companies hovered around ten.

In 1926, the first year Lowe and Campbell are listed at their Baltimore address, eight other sporting goods companies are listed in the directory. Most were still located in the Central Business District. In the 1930s the number of companies jumped again – to seventeen in 1930. The prominent names in the Kansas City sporting goods market included Schmelzer Company, Richards and Conover Hardware, A.G. Spalding and Brothers, and R.S. Elliot Arms Company. Department stores, including the Jones Store Company and Montgomery Ward and Company, also supplied Kansas City residents with sporting goods.

In 1930 sporting goods listings were broken out by Manufacturers, Retail, and Wholesale in the city directory. Most were listed as “retail” establishments, including Lowe and Campbell. While eight remained in the central business district, others were more geographically scattered, following the pattern of Kansas City’s growth to the east and south. In 1935, after their merger with Wilson Sporting Goods, Lowe and Campbell is listed as a wholesale operation. The number of companies remained steady throughout World War II, but afterward the number of sporting goods companies increased again. In 1950 nearly thirty companies were listed in the directory. Most were retail establishments. While Lowe and Campbell was listed as a wholesale operation, Wilson was listed as both a wholesaler and a manufacturer.

The number of sporting goods companies declined slightly by 1960. None of Kansas City’s old sporting goods companies were listed in the directories by 1960. Schmelzer, one of the first two companies in Kansas City, was gone by 1930. Spalding was gone by 1945; Richards and Conover by 1955; and R.S. Elliot by 1960. Most of the companies listed were located miles south and east of the central business district, where populations spread throughout the twentieth century. Lowe and Campbell appear to have enjoyed one of the longest tenures amongst the Kansas City sporting goods companies. Its nearly fifty-year run, from 1912 to 1961, continued under the name Wilson Sporting Goods until the 1980s.

### **LOWE AND CAMPBELL SPORTING GOODS**

George C. Lowe and D. Keedy Campbell started Lowe and Campbell Sporting Goods Company in 1912. Their first location was 1113 Grand in the heart of Kansas City’s central business district. That building is no longer extant. In 1921 Lowe and Campbell moved to a 3-story building at 1508-10 Grand where they remained for four years until they moved to their new six-

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story building at 1509 Baltimore. 1508 Grand remains but its architectural integrity has been compromised with non-historic storefront infill and replacement windows. Lowe and Campbell remained at the Baltimore location for thirty-five years until 1961 when they moved eight miles south to 66<sup>th</sup> Street and Troost Avenue into a new one-story building with ample parking.

Lowe and Campbell's entry into the sporting goods market coincided with the sporting industry's explosion in American culture. Both organized, competitive sports and leisure activities were finding popularity with Americans. Lowe and Campbell's early years focused on selling athletic goods to schools, colleges, and independent industrial teams.<sup>12</sup> They also sponsored basketball teams in the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), a non-profit volunteer multi-sport organization. The Lowe and Campbell AAU basketball team won the 1922 championship.<sup>13</sup>

A Lowe and Campbell catalog from 1926 indicates that the company had expanded into Dallas, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and Minneapolis.<sup>14</sup> Kansas City remained the company's headquarters. In 1931, Wilson Sporting Goods, a national sporting goods company based out of Chicago merged with Lowe and Campbell and the Horace Partridge Athletic Goods Company out of Boston.<sup>15</sup> These mergers were common, as large sporting goods companies such as Wilson, Rawlings, and Spalding merged with smaller, local or regional companies to increase their presence in markets all over the country. Interestingly, Lowe and Campbell is listed in the city directory (and Wilson is not) until 1945. In 1946 Lowe and Campbell are listed as retailers and Wilson is listed as a wholesaler, both at 1509-13 Baltimore. The two companies appear to have operated somewhat independently despite their location within the same building.

A 1946 catalog indicates that Lowe and Campbell expanded with operations in sixteen cities including Minneapolis, Pittsburg, Washington, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Nashville, Des Moines, St. Louis, St. Paul, Syracuse, and Charlotte.<sup>16</sup> This growth coincides with the increase in the number of sporting goods companies in the city directory in the 1930s. In the 1946 catalog there are categories for the following sports: archery, badminton, baseball, boxing, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track, volleyball, and wrestling. As well, they sold all matter of sports paraphernalia including class rings, gym mats, gym suits, letters, medals, pennants, trophies, and warm ups.

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<sup>12</sup> "A Sporting Goods Co. to 6601 Troost," *Kansas City Star*, January 29, 1961.

<sup>13</sup> Frederick J. Bowman, interview by J.R. Fuchs, LaJolla, California, March 24, 1970, Truman Library website, [www.trumanlibrary.org/oralhist/bowmanfj.htm](http://www.trumanlibrary.org/oralhist/bowmanfj.htm), (accessed July 13, 2011).

<sup>14</sup> Lowe and Campbell Sporting Goods Catalog: Spring and Summer 1926, ebay website, <http://cgi.ebay.com/1926-LOWE-CAMPBELL-Athletic-Goods-Catalog-/270710793395> (accessed August 4, 2011).

<sup>15</sup> "A Sporting Goods Co. to 6601 Troost," *Kansas City Star*, January 29, 1961.

<sup>16</sup> Lowe and Campbell Sporting Goods Catalog: Fall and Winter 1945-1946, Worth Point website, <http://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/athletic-sporting-goods-catalog-low-campbell-ka> (accessed August 2, 2011).

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In 1953 Wilson constructed a clothing and uniform manufacturing facility at 405 Cloon Avenue on the east end of Kansas City's northeast neighborhood.<sup>17</sup> Operations at two manufacturing facilities (the top two floors at 1509 Baltimore and a basement in a warehouse at 1800 Central) were combined into one story at the new building. By the 1950s the Kansas City Wilson operation was one of four plants that made garments, out of their fifteen total manufacturing facilities. The Kansas City Cloon Avenue location made uniforms for almost every sport and supplied the majority of the uniforms for the major league baseball teams.<sup>18</sup>

A newspaper article from 1961 stated that the Wilson Sporting Goods Company of Kansas City, including its Lowe and Campbell division had moved its offices and warehouse to a new one-story building at 6601 Troost Avenue in Kansas City, Missouri.<sup>19</sup> Large parking lots on two sides of the building accommodated customers. The article mentioned that the new building and location "conforms to the modern-day trend for outlying business locations."<sup>20</sup> The new building housed offices, sales display rooms, and warehouse and shipping facilities. At the time of the move, in 1961, the Kansas City office was the headquarters for the sales territory of Western Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Nebraska. By the time Wilson and Lowe and Campbell vacated their building at 1509 Baltimore, the Wilson Sporting Goods empire included thirty-four sales branches and fourteen factories throughout the United State, Europe, Canada, and Asia. It was recognized as the largest producer and distributor of athletic goods, with an emphasis on golf, tennis, football, basketball, and baseball.<sup>21</sup> Although the article indicates that Lowe and Campbell moved with Wilson, it is no longer listed in city directories after 1960. Wilson continued its Kansas City operation through the 1980s.

Google searches for Lowe and Campbell on the Internet produced links to a variety of catalogs and sports equipment and garments/uniforms with Lowe and Campbell labels on them. Lowe and Campbell paraphernalia is highly collectible today.

George C. Lowe

George Lowe is first listed in the Kansas City directory in 1901. The 1920 census lists his birthplace as Germany in 1880.<sup>22</sup> He was a sales associate for J.F. Schmelzer and Sons Arms

<sup>17</sup> "Wilson to Build," unknown newspaper, February 15, 1953, Envelope Clippings File, Special Collections, Kansas City (Missouri) Public Library.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> "A Sporting Goods Co. to 6601 Troost," *Kansas City Star*, January 29, 1961.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Department of Commerce and Bureau of the Census, *Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920—Population*, Washington DC: Bureau of the Census. George C. Lowe Household, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri, 1920, Series: T625; Roll: 929; Page: 195; Line: 28, HeritageQuest website, <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com.proxy.mcpl.lib.mo.us/hqoweb/library/do/census/results/image?surname=Lowe&givenname=George&series=14&state=5&hitcount=9&p=1&urn=urn%3AUS%3Bcensus%3B14821487%3B103813533%3B14%3B5&searchtype=1&offset=7> (accessed August 4, 2011).



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Company, one of Kansas City's first sporting goods companies, from 1901 until 1910. In 1910 he became a manager of clothing at Gordon & Koppel, a local clothing store. Consequently, Lowe was able to sustain and foster his interest in sports when he became manager of the Gordon & Koppel Athletic Field, which the company constructed within two blocks of Electric Park at 47<sup>th</sup> and Tracy in 1910.<sup>23</sup> It was to be constructed of wood to seat 30,000 people. The field would accommodate football, track and baseball.<sup>24</sup> Gordon & Koppel Field was home to Kansas City's Federal League baseball team, the Kansas City Packers in 1914 and 1915.<sup>25</sup> George Lowe started his own sporting goods company with D. Keedy Campbell in 1912. He remained with Lowe and Campbell for the rest of his career. He is listed in the city directory as the president of Lowe and Campbell until 1939. After that he disappears. Lowe would have been fifty-nine years old in 1939.

### D. Keedy Campbell

D. Keedy Campbell is first listed in the city directory in 1898. Prior to his involvement with Lowe and Campbell Sporting Goods, he worked as a clerk and cashier for Mutual Life Insurance of New York. Not much else is known about Campbell. He appears in the 1910 census as a thirty-year old boarder who was born in Kansas.<sup>26</sup> In 1916 he was the corresponding secretary for the Rockhill Tennis Club.<sup>27</sup> By 1945 he, his wife Kathryn, and their son D. Keedy Campbell Jr. lived in the posh Kansas City suburb of Mission Hills. Campbell was affiliated with local sports organizations. He served as an officer of the Missouri Valley AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) in the 1940s<sup>28</sup> and as president of the USTA/Missouri Valley Section from 1946-1955.<sup>29</sup> He is listed in the city directory as the vice-president and general manager of Lowe and Campbell Sporting Goods until 1949. The last year he is listed in the city directly is 1952.

<sup>23</sup> "Monster Stadium Will Be Built," *Old News from the Kansas City Journal*, February 8, 1910, Vintage Kansas City website, [www.vintagekansascity.com/100yearsago/labels/Electric%20park](http://www.vintagekansascity.com/100yearsago/labels/Electric%20park). (accessed August 4, 2011).

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> "Gordon and Koppel Field," Baseball-Reference.com website, [http://www.baseball-reference.com/bullpen/Gordon\\_and\\_Koppel\\_Field](http://www.baseball-reference.com/bullpen/Gordon_and_Koppel_Field). (accessed July 19, 2011).

<sup>26</sup> Department of Commerce and Labor and Bureau of the Census, *Thirteenth Census of the United States: 1910—Population*, Washington DC: Census Bureau. Francis Wilhelm Household, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri, 1910, Series: T624; Roll: 785; Page: 205; Line: 96, HeritageQuest website, <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com.proxy.mcpl.lib.mo.us/hqoweb/library/do/census/results/image?surname=Campbell&givenname=D&series=13&state=5&hitcount=4&p=1&urn=um%3Aproquest%3AUS%3Bcensus%3B5531400%3B36846691%3B13%3B5&searchtype=1&offset=2> (accessed August 4, 2011).

<sup>27</sup> Irving C. Wright, editor, *Wright and Ditson Officially Adopted Lawn Tennis Guide*, (Boston: Wright and Ditson), 1916, 357. books.google.com,

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<sup>28</sup> "Bill Hargiss Elected Head of Valley A.A.U.," unknown newspaper, October 9, 1940, [www.oberheide.org/hargiss/Missouri%20Valley%20AAU/AAU%20president.htm](http://www.oberheide.org/hargiss/Missouri%20Valley%20AAU/AAU%20president.htm). (accessed August 4, 2011).

<sup>29</sup> USTA Missouri Valley 2006 Yearbook, Missouri Valley USTA website, [www.missourivalley.usta.com](http://www.missourivalley.usta.com). (accessed August 4, 2011).



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Wilson Sporting Goods<sup>30</sup>

The Ashland Manufacturing Company was incorporated in 1913 in Chicago to find ways to utilize byproducts from the meatpacking plants of its parent firm, Sulzberger and Schwarzschild. By 1914, the company was producing tennis racket strings, surgical sutures, and baseball shoes. Thomas E. Wilson was appointed president of the company in 1915. He was a visionary entrepreneur who realized the potential for producing sporting goods. In 1916 he renamed the company after himself. He acquired the Hetzinger Knitting Mills and a caddie bag company with the intention of producing athletic uniforms and golf bags. By 1917 Wilson was manufacturing basketballs, footballs, golf clubs and football helmets. Thomas Wilson left the company in 1918 but he had set it up for profound growth and success.

During the 1920s the company's innovative practices produced the Ray Schalk catcher's mitt, a double-lined leather inflatable football, and waistline football pants with removable pads. In the 1930s Wilson introduced new lines of golf clubs. These innovated goods improved the athletes performance and transformed sports. Wilson prospered through the Great Depression and World War II. By the end of the 1940s, Wilson owned fifteen factories and thirty-one sales offices and warehouses throughout the United States. Many of those factories and sales offices/warehouses were achieved through mergers and acquisitions similar to that of Lowe and Campbell in Kansas City. Wilson continued to acquire highly specialized firms to develop new products and increase its market share. By the 1960s Wilson had an international presence with factories and sales offices in Europe, Central America, and Asia. By the mid 1970s Wilson manufactured the official football for the National Football League, the official basketball for the National Basketball Association, supplied the official uniforms for Major League Baseball teams, and the uniforms and clothing for the 1976 United States Summer Olympic team.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s Wilson pursued endorsements from professional athletes. It continued its tradition of introducing innovative equipment. Today, Wilson remains one of the world's most recognized sporting goods suppliers.

**THE LOWE AND CAMPBELL SPORTING GOODS BUILDING**

A building permit was issued in July of 1925 for the construction of a six-story concrete building at 1509-11-13 Baltimore for stores and light manufacturing at the cost of \$100,000.<sup>31</sup> The owner was the Baltimore Land Company and the builder was the Manhattan Construction Company. The permit did not list an architect for the project, but historic building plans identify Shepard and Wiser as the designer of the Lowe and Campbell Sporting Goods Building.

<sup>30</sup> Unless otherwise noted, the information in this section is from: "Wilson Sporting Goods Company," Funding Universe website, <http://www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Wilson-Sporting-Goods-Company-Company-History.html> (accessed July 8, 2011).

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The neighborhood around 15<sup>th</sup> and Baltimore underwent a transformation in the early twentieth century, around the time the Lowe and Campbell Building was constructed. In 1906 the area immediately surrounding 15<sup>th</sup> and Baltimore, just south of Kansas City's central business district, contained mostly residential buildings and vacant lots (Figure 1).<sup>32</sup> Main Street, Walnut Street and Grand Avenue, the three blocks east of Baltimore, contained primarily commercial enterprises in small one and two-story buildings. By 1939 Baltimore Avenue was nearly devoid of residences (Figure 2). The street was dotted with mostly one- and two-story commercial structures and vacant lots. This coincides with the construction of Union Station (1914), located about a mile directly south at 22<sup>nd</sup> and Main. After the construction of Union Station, the area north of the station transformed into a bustling commercial/industrial district full of warehouses and light manufacturing buildings. The rail-related development did not reach quite as far north as the site of the Lowe and Campbell Building. This area became more auto-related development, which explains the vacant/parking lots.

The lots where the Lowe and Campbell Building was constructed were vacant historically. Even after the Lowe and Campbell Building was constructed, the lots to the north and south of the building remained vacant and were utilized as surface parking lots (Figure 3).<sup>33</sup>

In addition to the development of light manufacturing/commercial buildings in the vicinity of 15<sup>th</sup> and Baltimore, more established commercial and retail enterprises were beginning to move south of the central business district by 1925. Twelfth Street had long been a dividing line between the upper scale retail and commercial enterprises and the grittier, more utilitarian commercial enterprises south of downtown. An article in the *Kansas City Journal-Post* in 1925 identified several businesses that were pushing the boundaries and constructing new buildings south of Twelfth Street.<sup>34</sup> The Lowe and Campbell Sporting Goods Company was one of them. The company, long located within the central business district at 11<sup>th</sup> and Grand, was constructing their new building at 15<sup>th</sup> and Baltimore. The stately Classical Revival detailing on the façade of the Lowe and Campbell Building conveyed the importance of the business, differentiating it from the more utilitarian commercial buildings in the vicinity. Other pioneers included the Robert Keith Furniture Company at the southeast corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and Grand; the Household Fair at 1209-11 Walnut Street; The President Hotel at 14<sup>th</sup> and Baltimore; and the

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<sup>31</sup> City of Kansas City, Missouri Landmarks Commission, Building permit, Permit number 14397, July 29, 1925.

<sup>32</sup> Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, Ltd. *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Kansas City, Missouri*, (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1906). Kansas City (Missouri) Library website, <http://sanborn.umi.com.proxy.kclibrary.org/cgi-bin/auth.cgi?command=AccessOK&CCSI=121n> (accessed August 4, 2011).

<sup>33</sup> Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, Ltd. *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Kansas City, Missouri*, (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1939 and 1950). Kansas City (Missouri) Library website, <http://sanborn.umi.com.proxy.kclibrary.org/cgi-bin/auth.cgi?command=AccessOK&CCSI=121n> (accessed August 4, 2011).

<sup>34</sup> "Twelfth Street Deadline Dims," *Kansas City Journal Post*, September 13, 1925, page 1C.

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Robert E. Lee Hotel at the northwest corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and Wyandotte. Of those buildings mentioned, only the Lowe and Campbell Building and the President Hotel remain today.

In 1931 Lowe and Campbell merged with Wilson Sporting Goods. Wilson operated out of the building on Baltimore Avenue along with its Lowe and Campbell division until 1961 when they moved south to 66<sup>th</sup> and Troost. Wilson remained in the Troost building until the 1980s.

When Lowe and Campbell and Wilson vacated the Baltimore Avenue building, Hoover Brothers Educational Equipment and Supplies moved in from their building at 1020 Oak Street. A few minor changes to the building occurred at the time as depicted in 1961 renovation plans by architects Marshall and Brown. The new display window was punched through the wall at the west end of the north elevation on the first floor. The recessed doorways in the north and south storefront bays were eliminated and display windows that spanned straight across the openings were installed. The office in the northwest corner of the second floor was constructed. No work appears to have been performed on the upper floors. Hoover Brothers occupied the building until at least 1981, as they are the tenant listed on the Historic Resources Survey form.<sup>35</sup>

In keeping with its continuous history of multiple uses, Hanna Rubber Company now occupies the building, with a retail operation on the first floor, offices on the second floor, and manufacturing, distribution, and warehouse facilities on the upper floors. The building retains its historic use eighty-six years after its construction.

### ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

The six-story utilitarian commercial building was constructed for a combination of office, retail, and manufacturing for the Lowe and Campbell Sporting Goods Company in 1925. The concrete-framed building has an ornamental front façade to convey the company's importance. Office and commercial buildings constructed in the early twentieth century commonly exhibited historical revival ornamental details on an otherwise relatively plain, commercial-style building.

The building is a two-part vertical block, which is a common commercial building form for tall buildings (over four stories) that emerged in the late nineteenth century. The two-part vertical block has a lower zone of one or two stories that serves as a visual base for the prominent upper zone, which is four stories or higher.<sup>36</sup> The Lowe and Campbell Building has a terra cotta-clad base that is distinct from the buff brick upper block. Terra cotta accents and brick patterning at the parapet tie the upper and lower portions together visually. The articulated

<sup>35</sup> City of Kansas City Missouri Landmarks Commission. Historic Resources Survey Form for "Hoover Brothers Educational Equipment and Supplies." 1981.

<sup>36</sup> Richard Longstreth, *The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture*, (Washington D.C.: The Preservation Press), 1987, 82.

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engaged pilasters emphasizing the vertical quality and the ornamentation at the top of the building represent maturity in the design of this two part vertical block.

Details in the brick and terra cotta give the building a Classical Revival styling, which is typical of two-part vertical blocks.<sup>37</sup> Most of the embellishments occur in the terra cotta on the first three stories. These include paired fluted pilasters between the bays; arched window heads with decorative cartouches; modillions between the tops of the windows inscribed with the letters "LC" for Lowe and Campbell; a projecting cornice between the second and third stories that spans the width of the building; and terra cotta blocks embellished with festooned urns above garlands on the base of each brick pilaster beginning at the third story. Engaged brick pilasters rise the height of the building from floors three to six and have a recessed course that occurs every fifth course, creating an articulated appearance. At the sixth story parapet, a patterned brick spandrel dotted with floral terra cotta medallions spans the width of the building above the sixth story windows.

The building's organization and styling reflect its historic use. On the exterior, elegant storefronts invited customers into the first floor retail operation. The second floor, which housed offices, is distinguished with ornamental terra cotta and windows that are unique in their configuration and materials. Floors three through six are simply detailed, reflecting the utilitarian nature of the manufacturing and warehousing operations contained within. The upper floors are also pierced with numerous window openings to admit natural light and ventilation to facilitate manufacturing activities. On the interior, the first floor is generally open to provide display areas for merchandise. On the second floor, offices were distinguished with more decorative but simple finishes. Floors three through six have open floor plans with central circulation cores to accommodate manufacturing operations.

### **SHEPARD & WISER (ARCHITECTS)<sup>38</sup>**

Shepard and Wiser were one of Kansas City's most prolific architecture firms of the early twentieth century. During their thirty-three year partnership, Charles Shepard and Albert Wiser designed hundreds of buildings including residential, commercial, institutional, and religious structures. In addition to Kansas City, their designs are found in Tulsa, Oklahoma; Wichita, Kansas; and Amarillo, Texas.

Charles Shepard was born in 1868 and was educated at the University of Iowa. He participated in the design Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines before moving to Kansas City in 1887. In

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<sup>37</sup> Longstreth, 85.

<sup>38</sup> Unless otherwise noted, the information in this section on Shepard & Wiser is taken from Cydney E. Millstein, "Charles S. Keith Residence" National Register Nomination, August 31, 1999.

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Kansas City he first partnered with architect Martin Vrydagh. Vrydagh left the firm in 1893, and Shepard formed a partnership with Ernest H. Farrar. A year later Albert Wiser, an apprentice and draftsman for the firm, joined the partnership and the firm became Shepard, Farrar and Wiser.

Shepard, Farrar and Wiser designed a significant number of buildings in Kansas City during its eighteen-year tenure. Their work included the Loose Manufacturing Company Building (1902), Georgian Court Apartments (1917), and numerous homes in prominent Kansas City neighborhoods like Hyde Park, Mission Hills, and the Country Club District.

In 1918 Farrar's name was dropped, and the firm name officially became Shepard and Wiser. Shepard was the firm's chief designer, while Wiser concentrated on marketing and client relations. Shepard and Wiser commissions included the Sunset Hill School (1919), the Sophian Plaza Apartments (1922)<sup>39</sup>, the Montrose Hotel (1923)<sup>40</sup>, Central Presbyterian Church (1923)<sup>41</sup>, and the President Hotel (1925)<sup>42</sup>. The Lowe and Campbell Building (1925) is an unusual industrial commission for the company, although the fine detail of the classical façade is a testament to their talents. Other known industrial commissions included a building for the Western Electric Company (1923, demolished), which was located at 1644 Baltimore just a block south of the Lowe and Campbell Building; the Carnie-Goudie Manufacturing Company, 514 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street (1925, demolished); and the Chase Bag Company, 201 Wyandotte Street (1922, extant).

In 1927 Wiser left the firm to set up his own practice. Shepard formed his last partnership with Frederick C. Pickett, who had been a draftsman at the firm since in 1908. Their partnership lasted four years until 1931. Shepard died in 1932 at the age of 64. Albert Wiser died in 1937 at the age of 55.<sup>43</sup>

## CONCLUSION

The Lowe and Campbell Building is an intact example of a commercial property type that was constructed to meet a local sporting goods company's retail, office, and manufacturing needs. Lowe and Campbell had established itself within Kansas City's central business district. When it moved south of 12<sup>th</sup> Street in 1925, it constructed a stately but utilitarian commercial building with Classical Revival detailing to project the company's prestige while accommodating its manufacturing operation. The building continued to serve the company after its merger with

<sup>39</sup> Individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

<sup>40</sup> Listed as a contributing building in the National Register of Historic Places listed *Southside Historic District* in 1982.

<sup>41</sup> Listed as a contributing building in the National Register of Historic Places listed *Armour Boulevard MPS District III* in 1983.

<sup>42</sup> Individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

<sup>43</sup> "Albert Wiser," obituary. *Kansas City Times*. May 18, 1937.

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nationally-prominent Wilson Sporting Goods Company. The Lowe and Campbell Building is significant for its associations with the Lowe and Campbell Sporting Goods Company, which had a nearly fifty year presence in Kansas City and merged with Wilson Sporting Goods, a prominent American sporting goods company with an international reach, and as a concrete-frame two-part vertical commercial building with Classical Revival styling completed in Kansas City.

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Lowe and Campbell Sporting Goods Building  
Jackson County, Missouri

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Lowe and Campbell Sporting Goods  
Jackson County, Missouri

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

1509-13 Baltimore, JH McGees Addition, Lot 2 exc north 4 feet, and all of lot 3, and north 23.02 feet of lot 4, block 1.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary of the nominated resource includes the parcels of land historically associated with the property.

**PHOTOGRAPH INFORMATION**

**Name of Property:** Lowe and Campbell Sporting Goods Building

**City or Vicinity:** Kansas City

**County:** Jackson **State:** Missouri

**Photographer:** Brad Finch

**Date Photographed:** July 2011

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

*All digital images labeled as follows: MO\_JacksonCounty\_LoweandCampbellSportingGoodsBuilding\_#.tif*

**1 of 18.** Front (west) elevation, view east.

**2 of 18.** Southwest corner, view northeast.

**3 of 18.** South elevation, view north.

**4 of 18.** Rear (east) elevation, view west.

**5 of 18.** North elevation, view southeast.

**6 of 18.** View of the building from one block north on Baltimore Avenue, view southeast.

**7 of 18.** View of the building from one block south on Baltimore Avenue, view northeast.

**8 of 18.** Windows and ornamental terra cotta in the center bay of the second story, west elevation, view northeast.

**9 of 18.** Windows and ornamental terra cotta in the north bay of the second story, west elevation, view east.

**10 of 18.** Stair and passenger elevator in the central service block, second floor, view southeast.

**11 of 18.** Conference room in the southwest corner of the second floor, view southwest.

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Lowe and Campbell Sporting Goods  
Jackson County, Missouri

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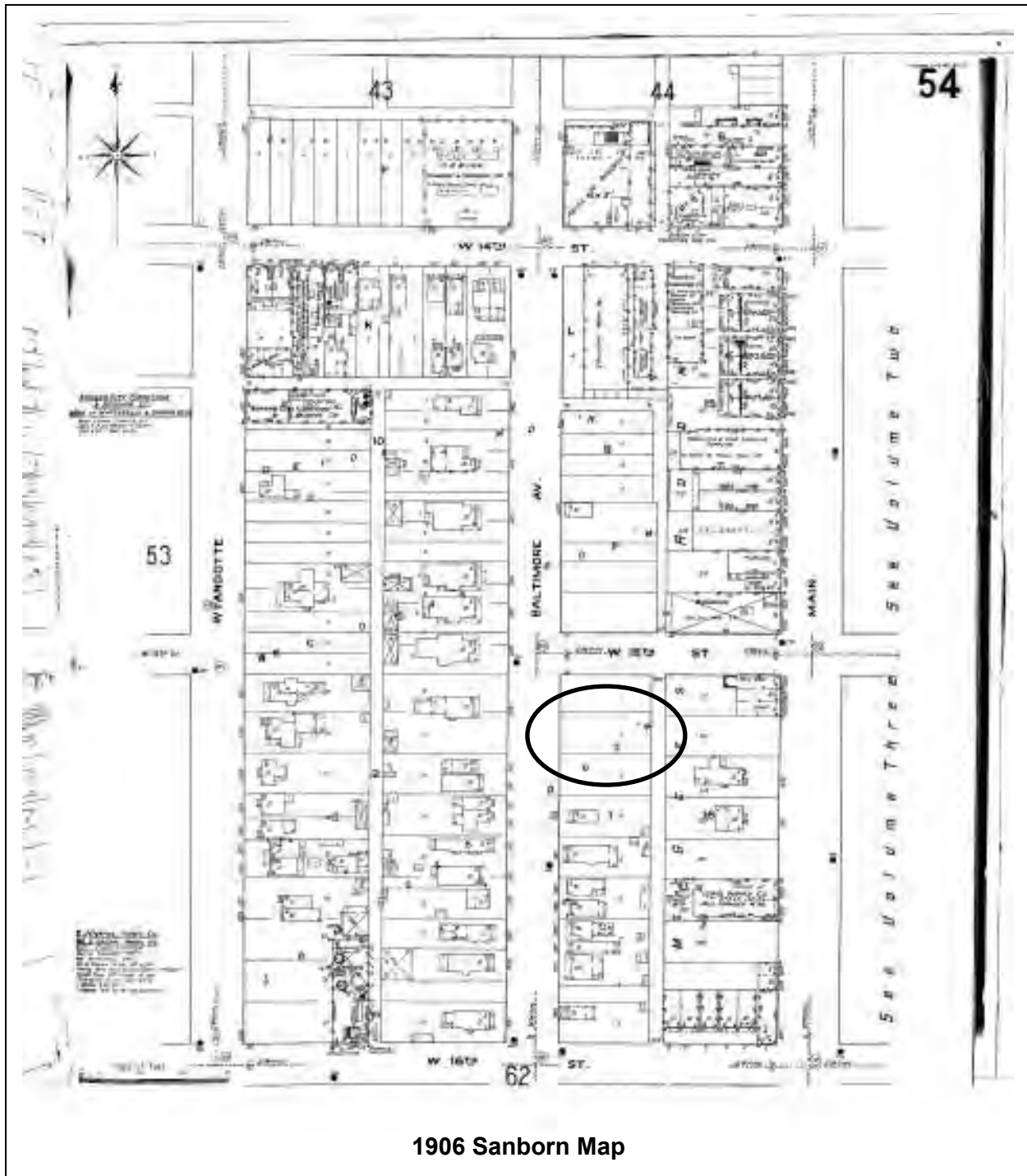
- 12 of 18.** Northwest corner office, second floor, view northwest.
- 13 of 18.** Break room in the southeast corner of the second floor, view southeast.
- 14 of 18.** Break room in the southeast corner of the second floor, view northwest.
- 15 of 18.** Third floor (typical open plan and finishes on floors three through six), view northeast.
- 16 of 18.** Third floor (typical open plan and finishes on floors three through six), view southwest.
- 17 of 18.** Fourth floor (typical open plan and finishes on floors three through six), view west.
- 18 of 18.** Typical industrial windows on secondary elevations, view south.

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Lowe & Campbell Sporting Goods Bldg  
Jackson County, Missouri

FIGURE 1

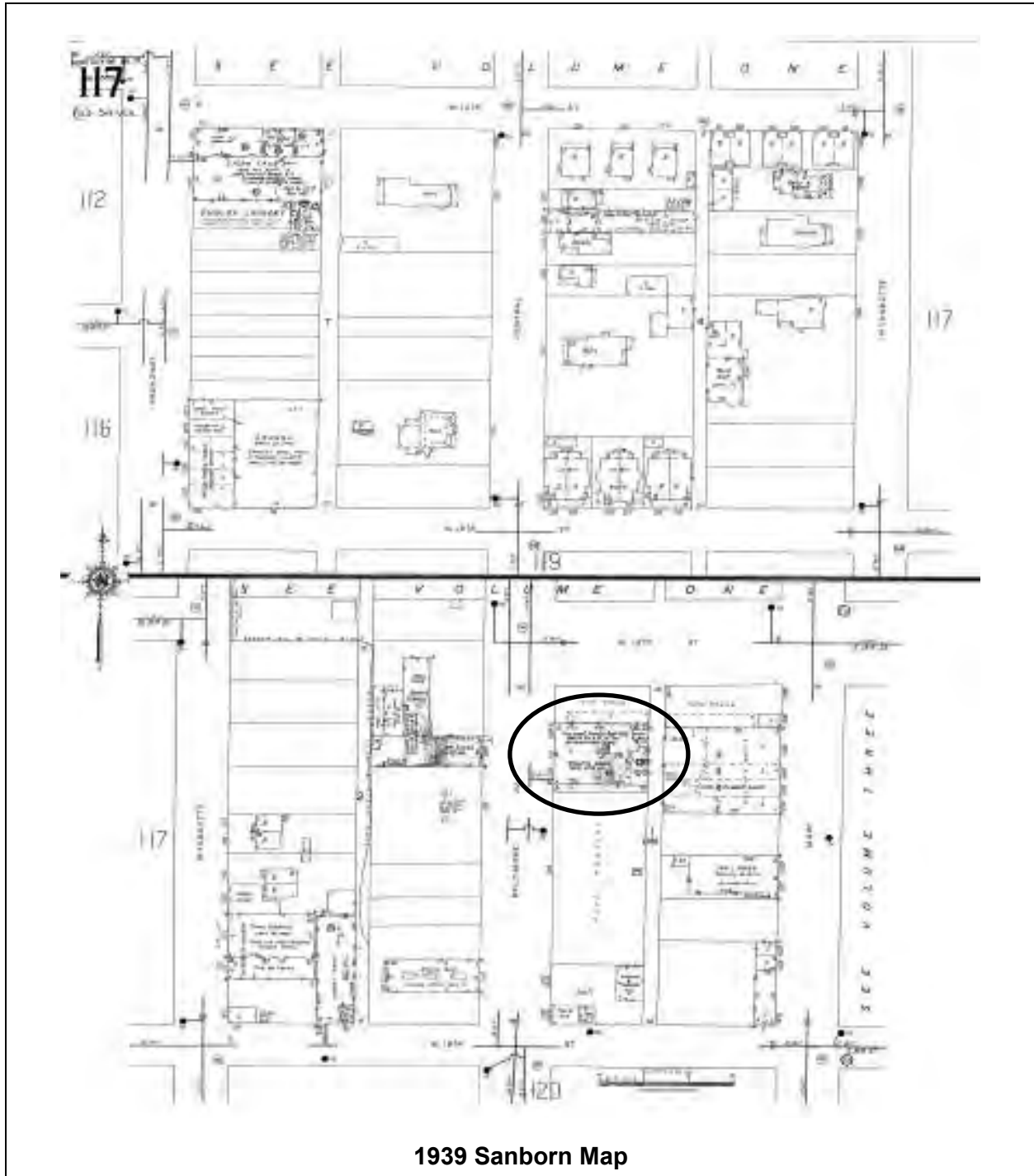


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Lowe & Campbell Sporting Goods Bldg  
Jackson County, Missouri

**FIGURE 2**

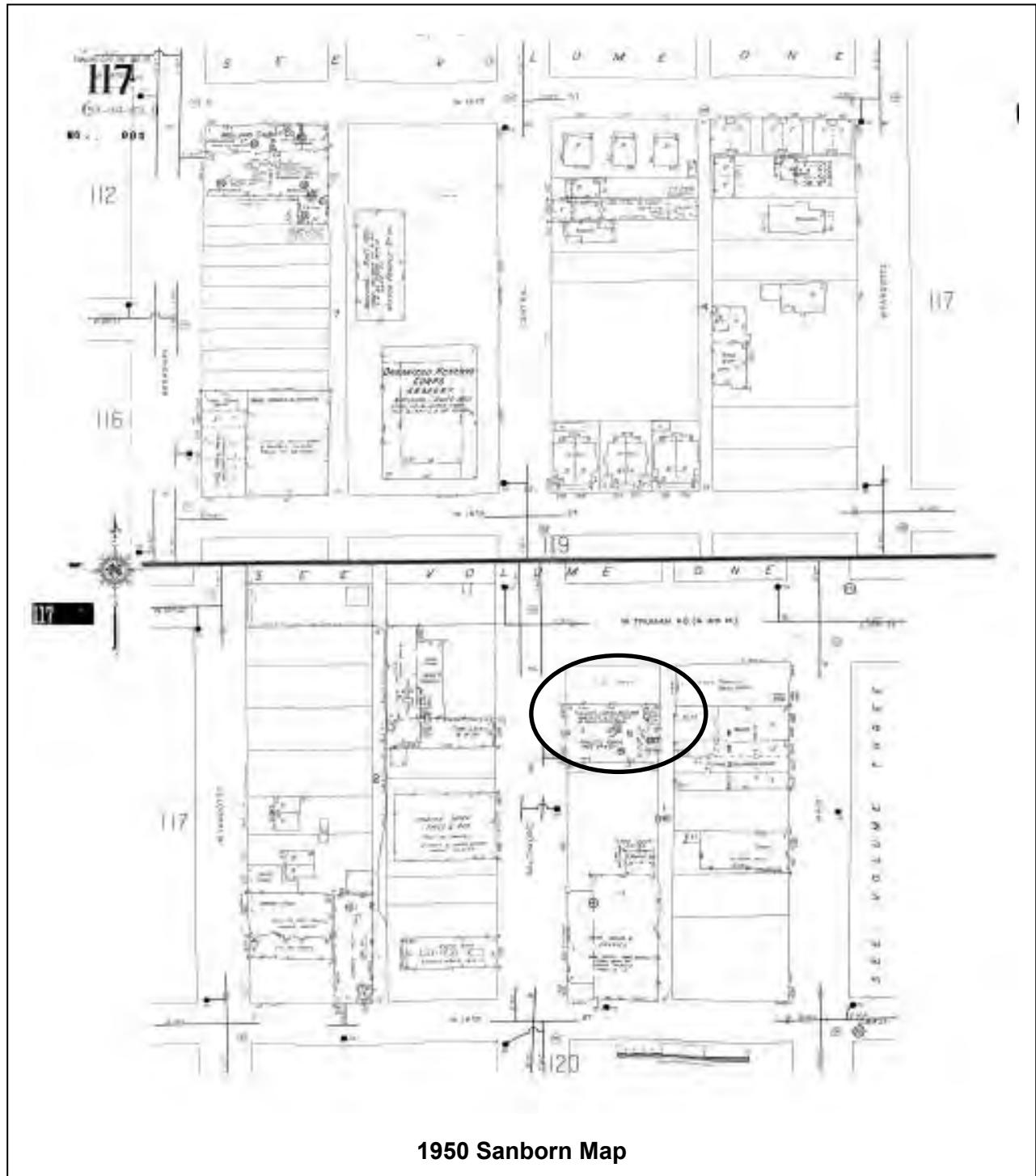


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Lowe & Campbell Sporting Goods Bldg  
Jackson County, Missouri

**FIGURE 3**



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Lowe & Campbell Sporting Goods Bldg  
Jackson County, Missouri

**FIGURE 4**

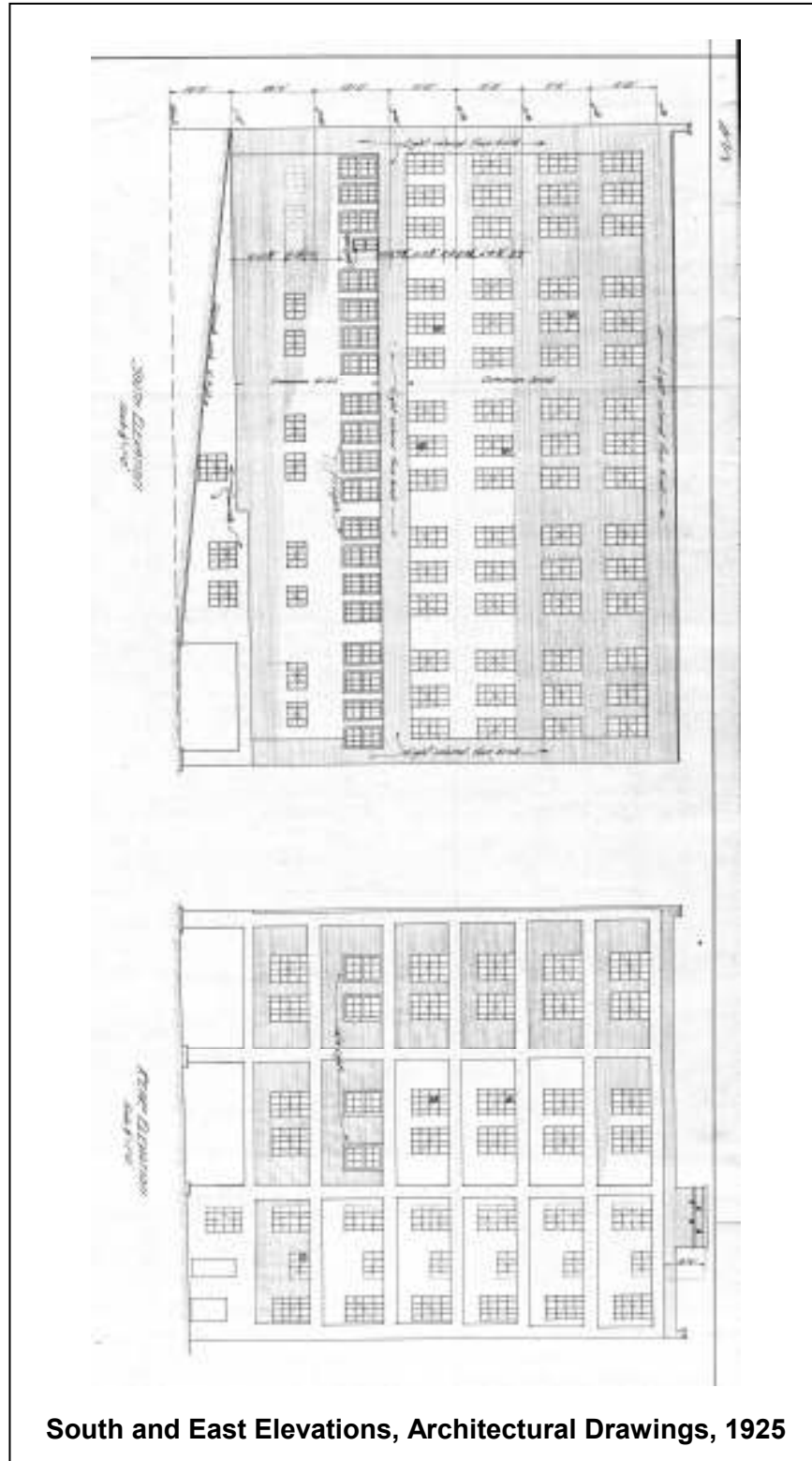


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Continuation Sheet

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Lowe & Campbell Sporting Goods Bldg  
Jackson County, Missouri

**FIGURE 5**



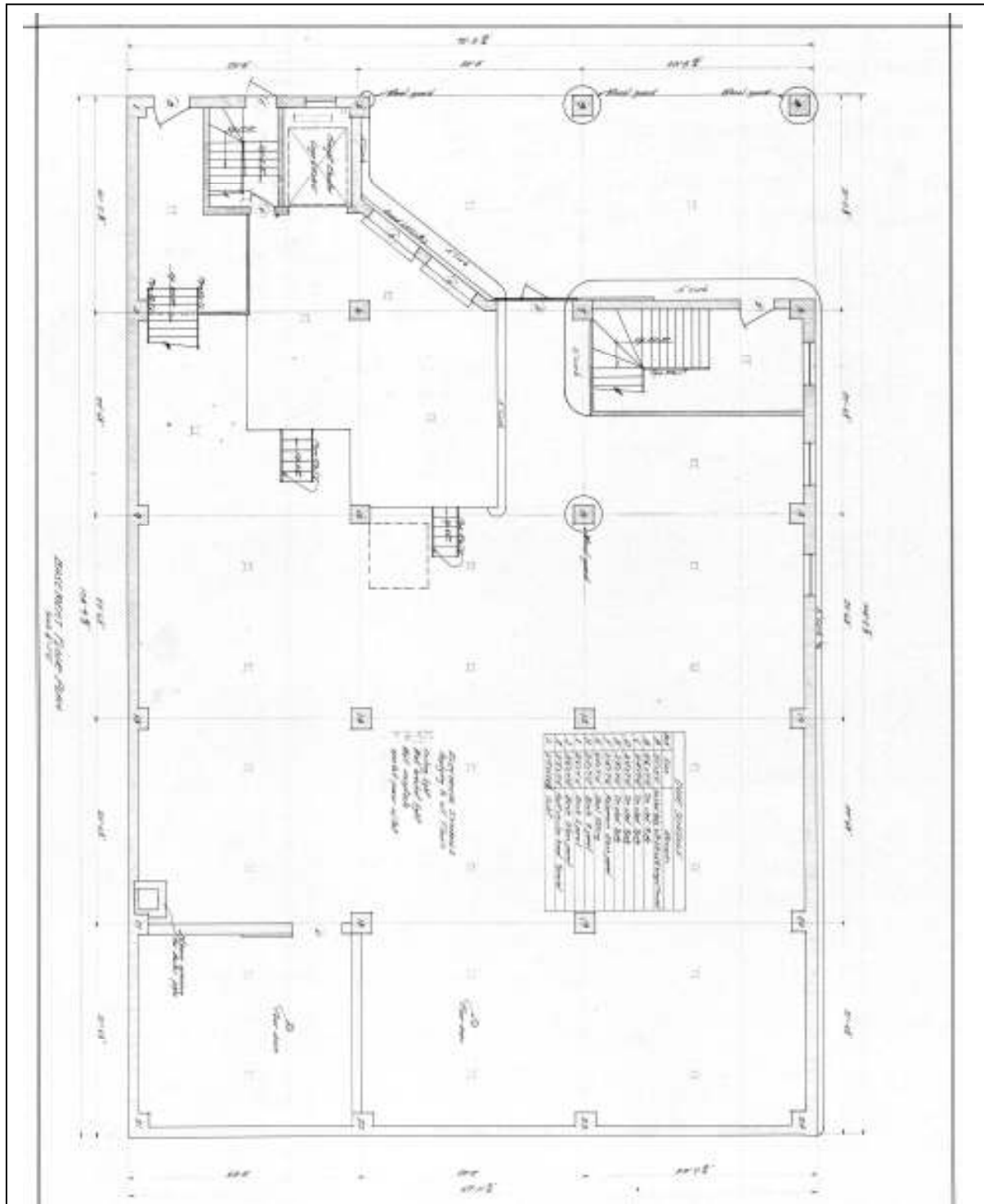


National Register of Historic Places  
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Section number Addtl. Documentation Page 29

Lowe & Campbell Sporting Goods Bldg  
Jackson County, Missouri

FIGURE 6



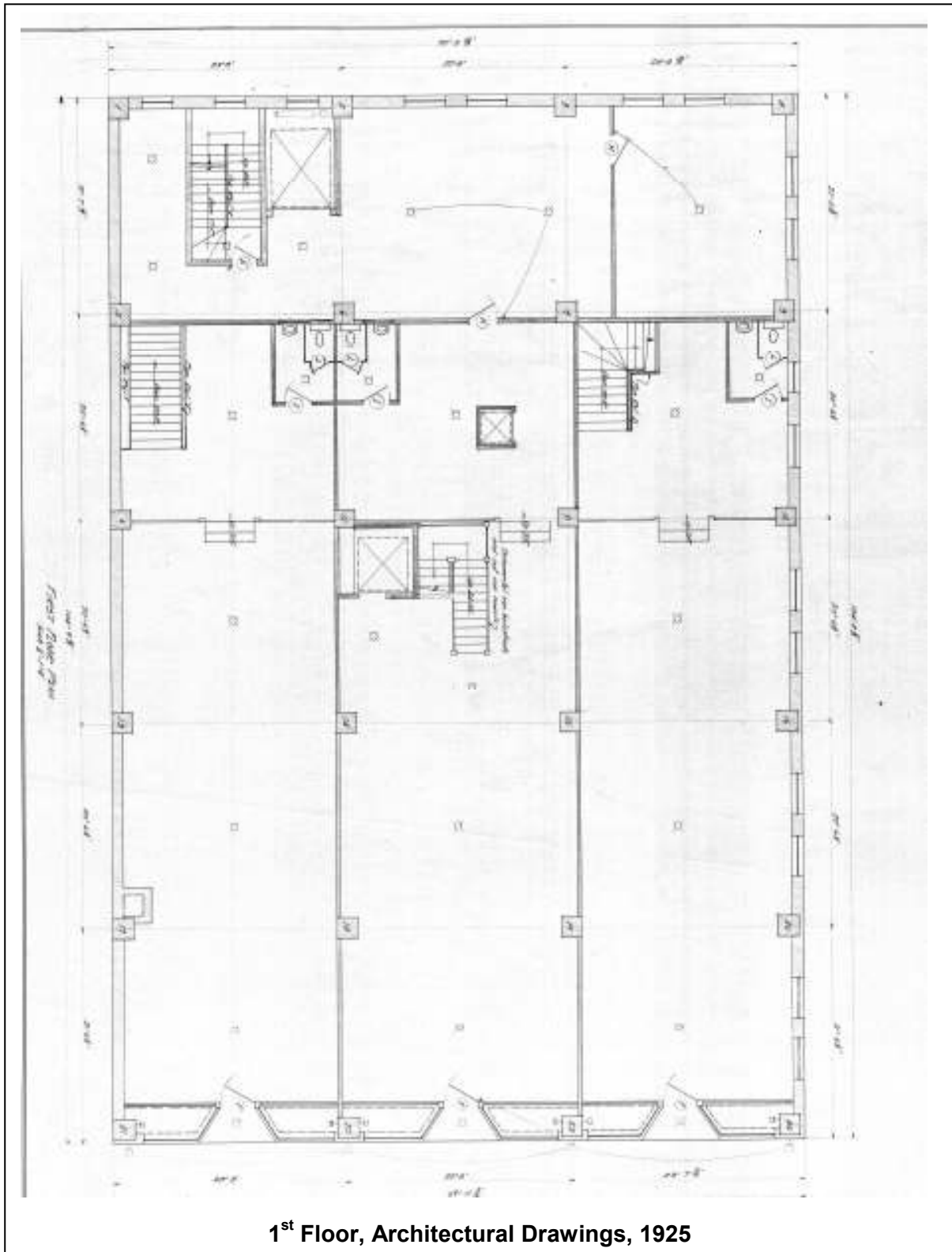
Basement, Architectural Drawings, 1925

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Lowe & Campbell Sporting Goods Bldg  
Jackson County, Missouri

**FIGURE 7**

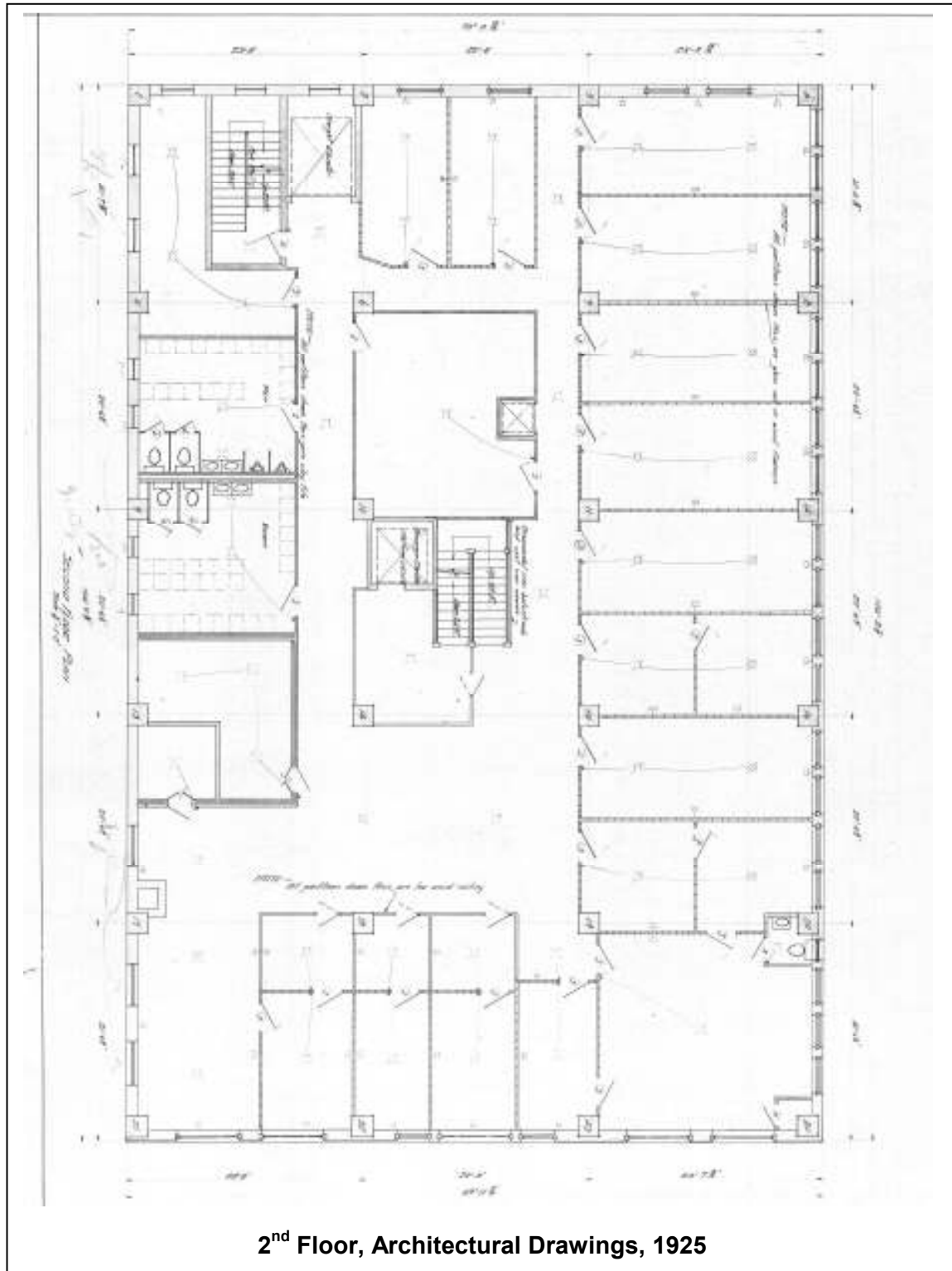


National Register of Historic Places  
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Lowe & Campbell Sporting Goods Bldg  
Jackson County, Missouri

FIGURE 8

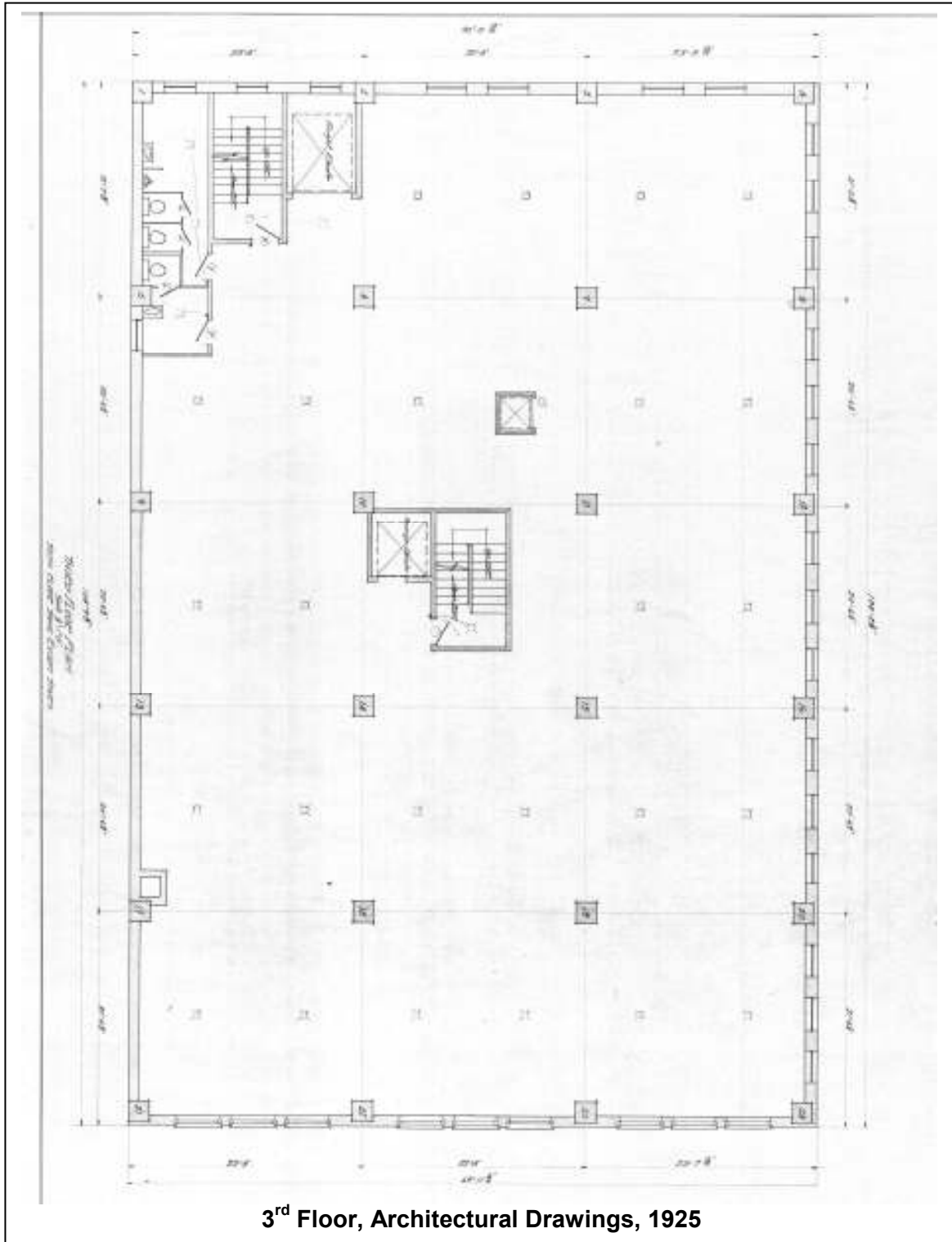


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Lowe & Campbell Sporting Goods Bldg  
Jackson County, Missouri

**FIGURE 9**

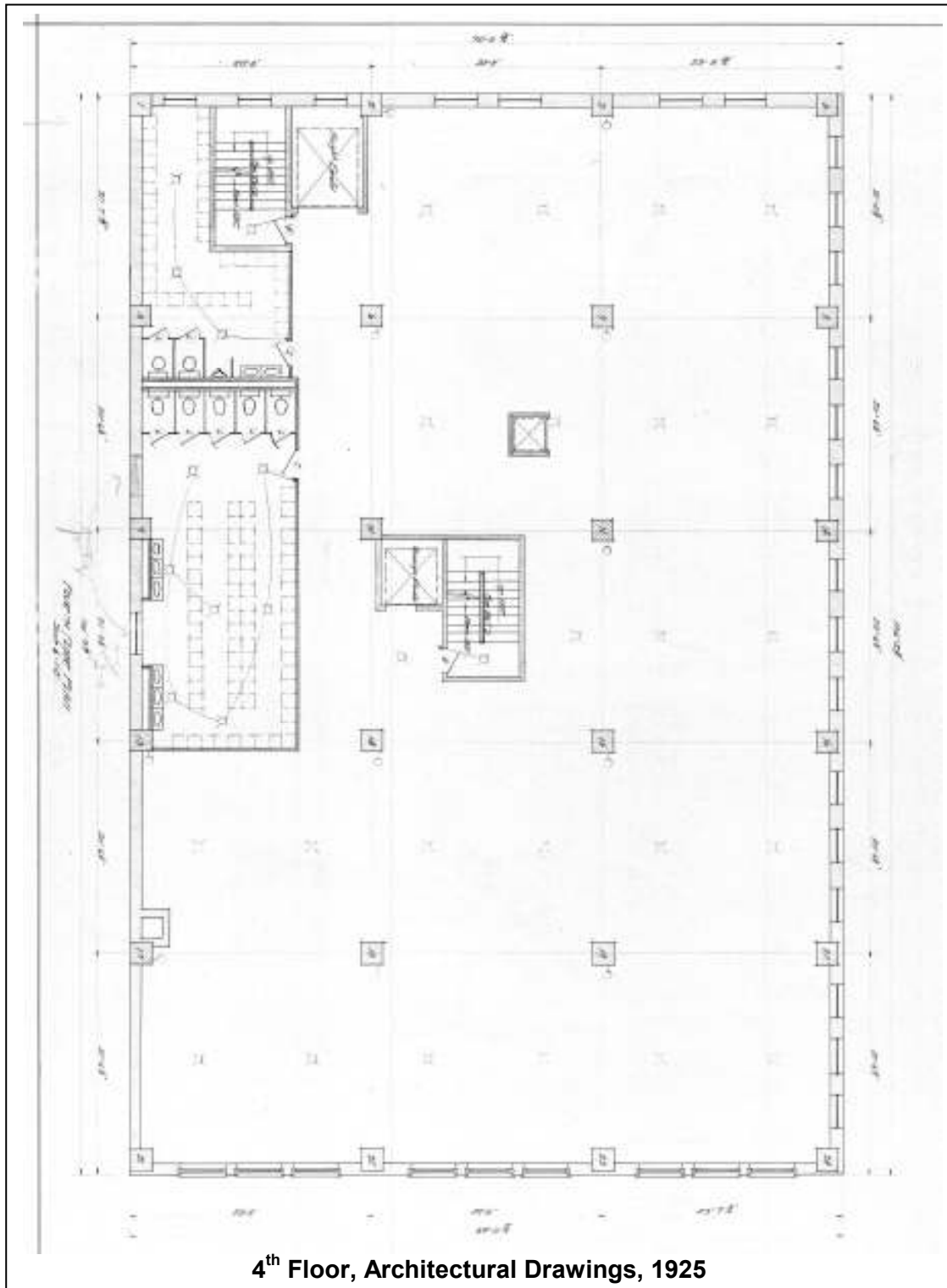


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Lowe & Campbell Sporting Goods Bldg  
Jackson County, Missouri

**FIGURE 10**

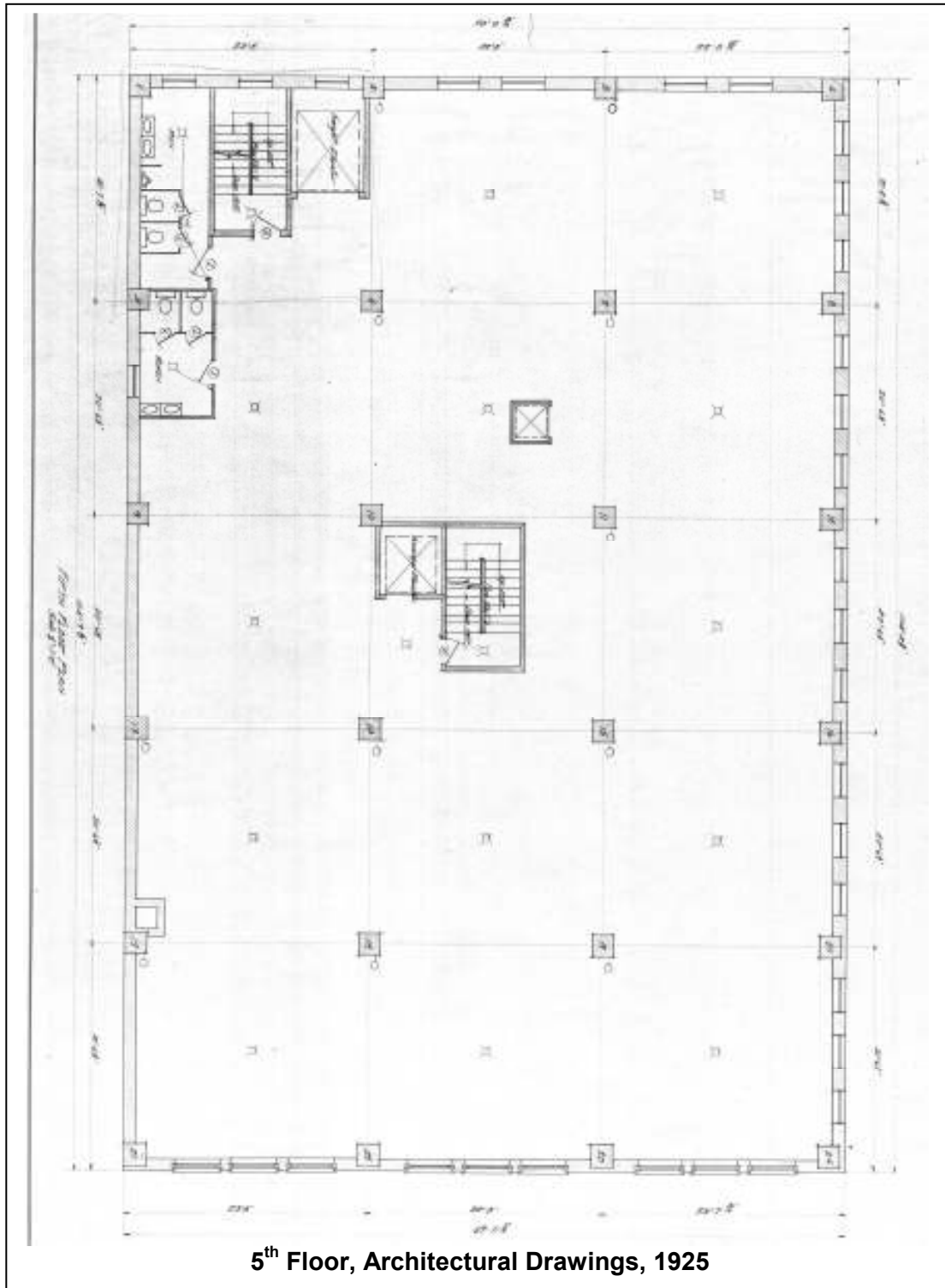


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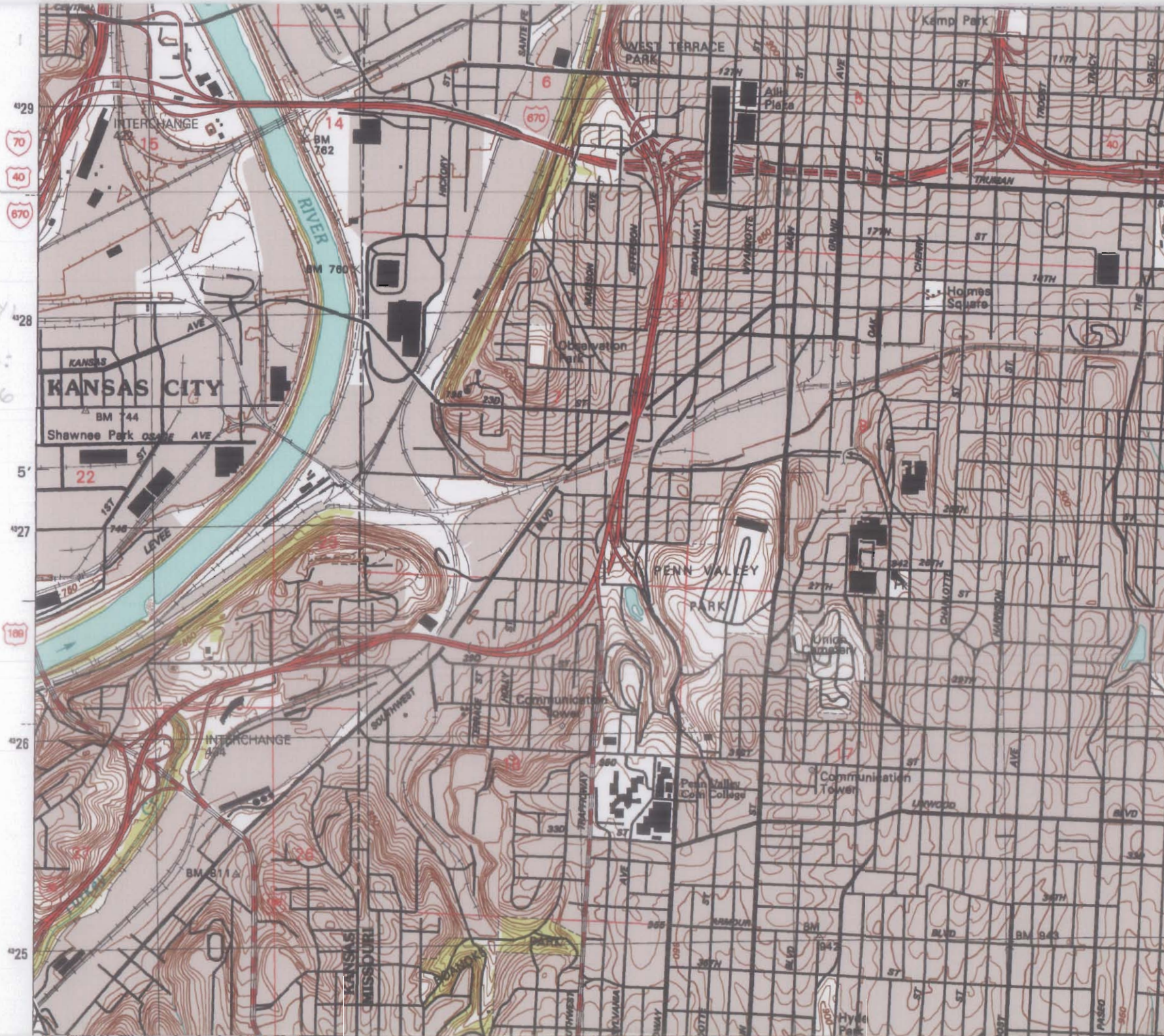
Lowe & Campbell Sporting Goods Bldg  
Jackson County, Missouri

**FIGURE 11**





Lowe and Campbell  
Sporting Goods  
Building,  
Kansas City,  
Jackson County,  
Missouri  
UTM Reference:  
15/362988/328576







HANNA RUBBER CO. SINCE 1826

HANNA

HANNA

1511

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HANNA

















HANNA RUBBER  
COMPANY INC.

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Truman Rd



ONE WAY



Baltimore Ave.

















































