

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Luvties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building  
other names/site number Luvties Pharmacal Company Building

2. Location

street & number 4200 Laclede Avenue [ n/a ] not for publication  
city or town St. Louis [n/a] vicinity  
state Missouri code MO county St. Louis [Independent City] code 510 zip code 63108

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ] )

Signature of certifying official/Title *LaVerne Brondel* 3/6/83  
LaVerne Brondel/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ] )

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
I hereby certify that the property is:		
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register See continuation sheet [ ]	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet [ ]	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, explain see continuation sheet [ ]	_____	_____

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	0 building
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	0	0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0 objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	0 total

Name of related multiple property listing.

(n/a)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register. 0

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Function	Current Functions
<u>INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility</u>	<u>VACANT</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification	Materials
<u>LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS</u>	foundation <u>CONCRETE</u>
	walls <u>CONCRETE</u>
	_____
	roof <u>Asphalt</u>
	_____
	other _____

see continuation sheet [ ]

see continuation sheet [ ]

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**  
 See continuation sheet [x]

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

**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**

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

ENGINEERING

HEALTH/MEDICINE

**Periods of Significance**

1915

**Significant Dates**

1915

**Significant Person(s)**

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation**

n/a

**Architect/Builder**

Bonsack, Frederick C.

Gamble Construction Company

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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

\_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository \_\_\_\_\_

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**  
Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building  
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property less than one acre

**UTM References**

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
<u>15</u>	<u>739 410</u>	<u>4280 130</u>			
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[ ] See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Lynn Josse  
organization Landmarks Association of St. Louis date February 24, 2003  
street & number 917 Locust Street, 7th floor telephone (314) 421-6474  
city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63101

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**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.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional Items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

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

name 4200 Laclede Corp. (attn: Andrew Murphy)  
street & number PO Box 440034 telephone (314) 220-2227  
city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63144

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building  
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

---

### **Summary**

The Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building, located at 4200 Laclede Avenue in St. Louis, Missouri, is a two-story reinforced concrete building constructed in 1915. The building faces north on Laclede in a mixed residential and light industrial area in the middle of a double block with a single site National Register property at either end (Dorris Motor Car Company Building, listed 5/1/1986, at 4100 Laclede, and the Sanitol Chemical Company Building, listed 10/21/1985, at 4264 – both have been converted to residential use). At the façade, nine bays of window openings (with a center entrance at the first floor) are separated by piers and plain spandrels. The building is six bays deep. An early example of the extensive use of concrete (for floors and exterior as well as the structural system), the factory's front and side exterior walls are finished in a stuccoed texture. A small single-story brick addition is at the southeast corner of the building. The interior plan is open. Concrete columns reflect the exterior division of bays (nine bays east-west and six north-south) and are spaced approximately 16 feet apart. An open shaft elevator and staircase are near the center of the building, as is a large concrete safe on the first story. Except for the wood-floored office area, walls, floors and ceilings are finished with concrete. The building retains integrity with the exception of the window openings, which are empty and awaiting the installation of compatible modern replacements (concrete block infill disfigured the window openings until early 2002).

### **Exterior**

The two story building faces north onto Laclede. The facade is divided into nine symmetrical bays separated by concrete piers (Photos 1-2). Concrete spandrel panels between stories are slightly recessed. The top of each pier is decorated with a flat, bracket-like decoration which connects to the concrete cornice. Above the cornice is a concrete parapet wall with slight projections marking the location of the piers. At the center bay, the parapet wall extension is the full bay width, with higher blocks at either end. Other elevations have a similar treatment.

The building is of reinforced concrete construction. Unlike most comparable buildings of the period, in which brick facing usually disguised a concrete frame, the Luyties factory employs concrete as both a structural and a finish material. The three main elevations have a stuccoed texture. The rear of the building, however, clearly retains the characteristic lines of the formwork into which the concrete was poured (Photo 3; Photo 4 shows the difference in textures).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building  
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

---

The center bay's first story has a classically inspired doorway with pilasters and an entablature of concrete. The inner frame, which holds double doors and a fanlight, is of wood. The name "Luyties" is spelled out in the frieze above the fanlight (Photo 2).

The original window openings are now empty. Original sills remain intact. It is the intention of the current owner to install historic replacement windows to approximate the lost originals. (Please see Figure 2 for specifications for replacement windows.)

A loading bay is in the southwest corner of the building. Its large doors at the west elevation were filled in with concrete block, removed in 2002 (leaving the openings empty). At the south elevation, modern doors allow access. There is also a single-story brick extending south from the southeast corner of the building. Permit records date the addition to 1918. The southeastern corner of the original building thickens and extends above the roofline slightly as a chimney.

The roof is an unusual shape, sloped toward the middle of the building to form a center depression draining rainwater to the base of the small utility/elevator/stair room. Five drains channel water to pipes which run down the interior of the building.

### **Interior**

Both stories of the interior are regulated by mushroom top concrete columns spaced approximately 16 feet apart. At the first floor, the front door enters into a wood-floored office area which is anchored at its southwestern corner (directly in front of the front door near the center of the building) by a large walk-in concrete vault. According to company legend, the vault was installed after construction to protect the controlled narcotics used in the manufacturing process. The rest of the floor is open. At the center of the floor plan, an open concrete stair and open-shaft elevator ascend to the second story.

The second story has no interior partitions. The stair from the second story continues up to the service room on the roof. Floors, exterior walls, columns and ceiling are concrete.

At exterior walls of both stories, the space between windows includes a shallow pilaster or buttress-like projection aligned with the interior column grid.

### **Integrity**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 3

Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building  
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

---

Luyties left its building very intact over its 86 years of occupancy. The only major alteration was a concrete block job in 1968-1970 at the windows and west loading door,<sup>1</sup> but these concrete blocks have been removed. New windows are to be installed in the year 2003. Please see Figure 2 for specifications.

The interior of the building does not appear to have had permanent partitions during the historic period, with the possible exception of the safe (date unknown). The office area at the northeast corner of the first floor appears non-historic.

---

<sup>1</sup> City of St. Louis Building Permit records. Comptroller's office, City Hall, St. Louis.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 4

Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building  
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

### Summary

The Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building, located at 4200 Laclede Avenue in St. Louis, Missouri, is locally significant under National Register Criteria A (Medicine) and C (Engineering). Constructed in 1915, the building was designed for one of the world's largest producers of homeopathic remedies. Founded in 1853, the Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company moved to the Central West End neighborhood in the early 1900s. According to company legend, after the first factory in the neighborhood was destroyed in a fire, the president called for a totally fireproof replacement. Architect Frederick Bonsack's response clearly was ahead of its time - a building made entirely of concrete. It is the first known building in the city to use poured concrete for almost every aspect of its structure and its decorative program.<sup>2</sup> The only impediment to the integrity of the building is that the original factory windows are lost and the openings are now empty. The period of significance is 1915, the date of design and construction.

### Homeopathy

Although today homeopathic medicine is often dismissed as an alternative form of medicine with dubious scientific merit, the field was tremendously popular and influential in the 19th and early 20th centuries. A resurgence of interest starting in the 1970s and continuing today makes study of the field's early years even more relevant. Homeopathy is a form of treatment based on the "law of similars," which states that many conditions can be cured by the administration of small doses of natural substances which, in larger doses, trigger similar symptoms to the ones that need to be cured. Homeopathy is controversial, in part, because the remedies dilute the materials to a point where conventional science can not explain how they could be effective. Modern scientific studies on homeopathic remedies show mixed results, but homeopathic remedies of the 1800s often showed higher success rates than their conventional counterparts. Of its history, Richard Grossinger writes:

Homeopathy was developed by the German physician Samuel Hahnemann (1755-1843) in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and quickly became a dominant medical practice in much of the Western

<sup>2</sup> Based on a review of available surveys, including Cynthia Longwisch's "Final Report/Property Type Analysis for Phases I, II, and III of Landmarks Association's Industrial Survey of the St. Louis Riverfront." 1990. On file at Landmarks Association of St. Louis.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 5

Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building  
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

world until the early twentieth century. Its ascent was greatest in North America, cresting during the decade from 1880 to 1890 . . . .<sup>3</sup>

Dr. Herman C. G. Luyties, founder of the Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company, immigrated to St. Louis from Bremen in 1850. Only 16 or 17 years old at the time, Luyties had already studied medicine and homeopathy. According to an 1899 biography, Luyties became:

one of the founders of homeopathy in this country, contributing especially to the advancement of that science in the West. In 1853 he established, at the corner of Broadway and Olive Street, in St. Louis, a small retail homeopathic pharmacy, which at once became recognized as an institution of great value to the homeopathic practitioners of the city. As the homeopathic practice grew in popular favor the demands upon Dr. Luyties' pharmacy increased, and these demands began coming in from all parts of the country tributary to St. Louis. This led to the establishment of a wholesale, as well as a retail, business . . . . Dr. Luyties devoted his life to the upbuilding of this institution, and had the satisfaction of seeing the small plant which he had established develop during his lifetime into the largest homeopathic pharmacy in the world, a credit to its founder and to the city of St. Louis as well.<sup>4</sup>

Luyties left the business in the hands of his children and returned to Europe, dying in Dresden in 1896.

Although not the first homeopathic physician in St. Louis, Dr. Luyties is credited with opening the city's first homeopathic pharmacy. Until this establishment opened, homeopathic supplies had to be purchased at a German bookstore.<sup>5</sup>

During Luyties' lifetime, the influence of homeopathic practice altered the way medicine was perceived. By the end of the 19th century, a variety of local institutions, including the Good Samaritan Hospital, the Blind Girls' Home, the Children's Free Hospital, and

<sup>3</sup> Richard Grossinger, *Homeopathy: The Great Riddle* (Berkeley, California: North Atlantic Books, 1998), 1.

<sup>4</sup> William Hyde & Howard Conard, Eds. *Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis* v. 3 (New York: Southern History Co., 1899), 1330.

<sup>5</sup> T. Griswold Comstock, "Medicine, Homeopathic" in William Hyde & Howard Conard, Eds. *Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis* v. 3 (New York: Southern History Co., 1899), 1430.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 6

Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building  
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

the State Lunatic Asylum at Fulton all were controlled by homeopathic practitioners. Comstock wrote at the end of the 19th century that

there is no doubt... that homeopathy has radically modified the general practice of medicine. One stronghold after another of the old forms of bleeding, cupping, and drugging has been forced to yield, until the more simple and safe forms of the new practice have been quietly adopted. . . . general medical practice in St. Louis, as elsewhere, has been greatly modified by the direct and indirect influence of homeopathy for the last half century.<sup>6</sup>

After the death of Herman C. G. Luyties, his son Frederick August became president of the company. Another son, Herman C. G., Jr., served as vice president and treasurer (at different times) until 1907, when he left the company to devote himself to the toiletries company which the brothers had founded in 1897 (Sanitol).

With a national decline in the stature and popularity of homeopathy in the early 20th century came a corresponding decline in the literature reporting on the trade. Research has yielded little information on the company or the industry as a whole between 1915 and the 1960s. In the mid-1960s, the company still claimed to be the world's largest producer of homeopathic remedies, but no independent ranking has been found to confirm this.

### **Engineering**

Shortly after the turn of the century, both Sanitol and Luyties moved their operations to an emerging light industrial area just east of the fashionable West End neighborhood. Although Sanitol's 1906 factory (listed on the National Register 10/21/1985) received credit in a 1908 *St. Louis Republic* article for opening the area to light manufacturing, it appears that Luyties was also located in the neighborhood by that year.

Company lore relates that when Luyties' Central West End factory burned, the company's president ordered up a new building that would be completely fireproof.<sup>7</sup> In the year the new building was permitted, a local reference book calls the company the "largest of its kind in the world."<sup>8</sup> From the new factory, homeopathic products and

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. 1429.

<sup>7</sup> Interview by Lynn Josse with Forrest Murphy (former CEO of Luyties), October 11, 2001.

<sup>8</sup> *Men of Affairs in St. Louis: A Newspaper Reference Work*. Cecil Morrison Basket. Ed: compiled by C. C. Story. 1915. The Press Club of St. Louis.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

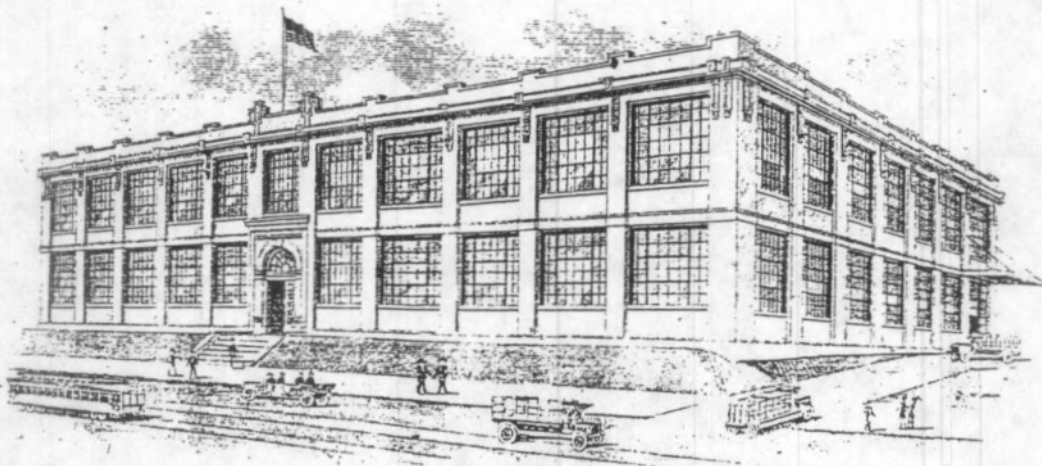
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 7

Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building  
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

general pharmaceutical products “were made and shipped all over the world.”<sup>9</sup> A branch factory was opened near London in 1936; the company would later open a factory in Mexico as well.

Figure 1: from 1918 letterhead. This drawing of the building, which was still used as late as the 1930s, uses artistic license to magnify the building by adding two bays to its facade and one bay in depth.



<sup>9</sup> A. C. Meyer, *The Earlier Years of the Drug & Allied Trades in the Mississippi Valley*. Privately printed. St. Louis, 1948. 70.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 8

Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building  
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

Frederick Bonsack was the architect hired in 1915 to design the factory at 4200 Laclede. With academic training and experience in the office of architect J. B. Legg, Bonsack began his independent career as a general contractor. His first listing as an architect appears in 1892; within a few years he had made a name for himself designing buildings in the company town of Granite City, Illinois. His practice was characterized by a mix of residential and commercial commissions. Only a few were very high-profile, including downtown's Pierce Building (extant but unrecognizable as the skeleton of downtown's Adam's Mark Hotel) and a house on Westmoreland Place. His greatest work was the Coliseum (1908), a 10,000 seat multi-purpose hall which essentially replaced the Exposition Hall designed by his mentor, J. B. Legg. The Coliseum was demolished in 1953.

Bonsack was one of the first architects in St. Louis to exploit the structural and decorative possibilities of concrete, demonstrated in the Wagoner Funeral Parlor, 1905. Demolished in 2001, this building in St. Louis' Midtown National Register district was touted as the "first and largest of concrete construction in St. Louis at that time."<sup>10</sup> The structural system was concrete block. Interest in this relatively new medium was fueled by the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition and the recent availability of good quality Portland cement. Only two other pre-World War I concrete block commercial buildings were identified in a survey of St. Louis buildings. (Concrete block houses also made a major appearance on the St. Louis scene in 1905 in the Goodfellow/Julian and Oakherst Place historic districts, listed 8/13/1987 and 5/5/1987.)

Around this time, reinforced concrete emerged as a practical building system in the United States. The concrete frame was particularly well suited to industrial uses: "buildings could be built quickly, were fireproof, and could resist vibrations from heavy machinery."<sup>11</sup> The proliferation of concrete buildings was accelerated after 1900 by innovations in floor slab technology, where a traditional framing approach with beams and girders was replaced by a solid slab. The slab-and-column principle of concrete construction was first used in Minneapolis' Johnson-Bovey Building, 1906. Its architect and engineer, C. A. P. Turner, patented his system in 1908.<sup>12</sup> It can be assumed that the Luyties building uses a similar system of reinforcement, although no documentation has been discovered and none of the steel reinforcement is visible. Unlike many examples from the period, the exterior walls are also concrete and appear to be part of the structural

<sup>10</sup> "Building on Olive Sold for \$60,000", *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, Jan (June?) 9, 1944.

<sup>11</sup> Amy E. Slaton, Paul E. Gaudette, William G. Hime, and James D. Connolly. "Reinforced Concrete" in *Twentieth-Century Building Material: History and Conservation*, Thomas C. Jester, ed. (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1995). 96.

<sup>12</sup> Carl Condit, *American Building Art: The 20th Century* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1961), 168.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 9

Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building  
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

system. Instead of full columns at the outer walls, there are pilasters (or buttresses) completing the structural grid.<sup>13</sup>

*Use of Concrete as an Exterior Design Element in St. Louis*

Concrete frame construction became fairly common in St. Louis in the decade between 1905 and 1915, but architects were slow to embrace the full potential of the new material.<sup>14</sup> A three-year survey of St. Louis' most prominent industrial area (855 acres along the riverfront, with 346 inventoried buildings) noted:

... the majority of inventoried buildings constructed with concrete frames also featured brick curtain walls rather than exposed concrete. This tendency or bias is likely due to the strong brick tradition in St. Louis, and the active brick lobby against the new material.<sup>15</sup>

The report goes on to note that in the entire survey area there were only a few "exposed concrete-wall factories" (the featured example is a 1920 six to seven-story building by well-known local architect Tom P. Barnett).

The city's earliest identified example of concrete used as a design element in St. Louis is Mauran, Russell & Garden's eight-story Lesan-Gould building, constructed at 1320 Washington (NR 11/6/1986). Built in 1907, the building's facade combines forthright expression of its early system of reinforced concrete construction (patented by engineer Julius Kahn, Detroit) with Arts & Crafts enameled brick ornament. The sides of the building reveal brick filling in the grid of the exposed concrete frame.

Preston J. Bradshaw's 1915 Plaza Hotel complex (NR 5/7/1985) is listed on the National Register as "the first major commercial development in St. Louis to employ all stucco

<sup>13</sup> According to building permit records on file with the City of St. Louis, there have been no structural alterations since construction. All evidence indicates that the concrete structure and finishes of the building as they exist today are original.

<sup>14</sup> Many architects looked down on the use of concrete: In 1909, a substitute teacher at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris was "booed out of the room by outraged students" for attempting to lecture on the subject! (Peter Gossel & Gabriele Louthauser, *Architecture in the Twentieth Century* (Cologne: Benedikt Taschen, 1991), 105.

<sup>15</sup> Cynthia Longwisch, "Final Report/Property Type Analysis for Phases I, II, and III of Landmarks Association's Industrial Survey of the St. Louis Riverfront," (1990?, on file at Landmarks Association of St. Louis), 3.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 10

Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building  
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

exteriors," but Sanborn maps reveal that only one of the buildings is of concrete frame construction and uses brick curtain walls beneath the stucco exterior.

Surveys and National Register nominations identify one other major building from this decade which exploits its concrete construction as part of the decorative scheme on the exterior; this is the 1919 McElroy-Sloan Shoe Company building at 2035 Washington in the Lucas Avenue Industrial Historic District. Albert B. Groves' design enlivens the façade's concrete grid with brick; the sides of the building are typical concrete frame with brick infill.

While architecturally related to all of these early forays in the use of concrete as an expressive exterior material, the Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building is unusual and perhaps unique for the decade of the 1910s in St. Louis. Unlike the Lesan-Gould and McElroy-Sloan buildings, it does not infill with brick on any elevation. The rear (south) wall of the exterior, interior ceilings and some wall areas still bear the print of the formwork boards. Bonsack's plans for the main elevations draw on masonry traditions but do not imitate other materials (except for the formal entrance, its trabeated structure paying tribute to a load-bearing masonry form of construction). Few (or no) comparable buildings in St. Louis existed, but Bonsack may have derived inspiration from other buildings published in architecture magazines (such as Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple in Oak Park Illinois, an early poured concrete building from 1906). According to Slaton et al, "for much of the first half of the century, frank expression of concrete technology appeared only in the most utilitarian of buildings."<sup>16</sup> In the Luyties building, however, Bonsack does not abandon formal design considerations. He dignifies the utilitarian nature of the factory (which was, after all, also the headquarters of a fairly large company) with a formal façade that lacks none of the design elements found in more traditional structures. The fact that this is accomplished entirely in concrete makes the structure of unusual local significance.

### **Integrity**

The significance of the Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Building is that it is among the city's first buildings to use poured concrete for almost every aspect of its structure and its decorative program. It is the earliest identified example of this type of construction in St. Louis. The significant features, therefore, are the concrete elements. The building retains excellent integrity with one major exception: the window openings are currently

<sup>16</sup> Slaton et al, 97.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 11

Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building  
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

---

empty, awaiting historic replica windows to replace the previous inappropriate concrete block infill (now removed). Otherwise, there are few obvious alterations.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 12

Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building  
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

**Bibliography**

- "Building on Olive Sold for \$60,000". *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*. Jan (June?) 9, 1944.
- City of St. Louis Building Permit Records. Office of the Comptroller, City Hall, St. Louis, Missouri.
- City of St. Louis Deed Records. Office of the Assessor, City Hall, St. Louis, Missouri.
- Condit, Carl. *American Building Art: The 20th Century*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1961.
- Gossel, Peter & Gabriele Louthauser, *Architecture in the Twentieth Century*. Cologne: Benedikt Taschen, 1991.
- Grossinger, Richard. *Homeopathy: The Great Riddle*. Berkeley, California: North Atlantic Books, 1998.
- Hyde, William & Howard Conard, Eds. *Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis* v. 3 (New York: Southern History Co., 1899), 1330.
- Interview by Lynn Josse with Forrest Murphy (former CEO of Luyties), October 11, 2001.
- Longwisch, Cynthia. "Final Report/Property Type Analysis for Phases I, II, and III of Landmarks Association's Industrial Survey of the St. Louis Riverfront." 1990. On file at Landmarks Association of St. Louis.
- Men of Affairs in St. Louis: A Newspaper Reference Work*, Cecil Morrison Basket, Ed; compiled by C. C. Story. 1915, The Press Club of St. Louis.
- Meyer, A. C. *The Earlier Years of the Drug & Allied Trades in the Mississippi Valley*. Privately printed, St. Louis, 1948.
- Slaton, Amy E., Paul E. Gaudette, William G. Hime, and James D. Connolly, "Reinforced Concrete" in *Twentieth-Century Building Material: History and Conservation*, Thomas C. Jester, ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1995.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

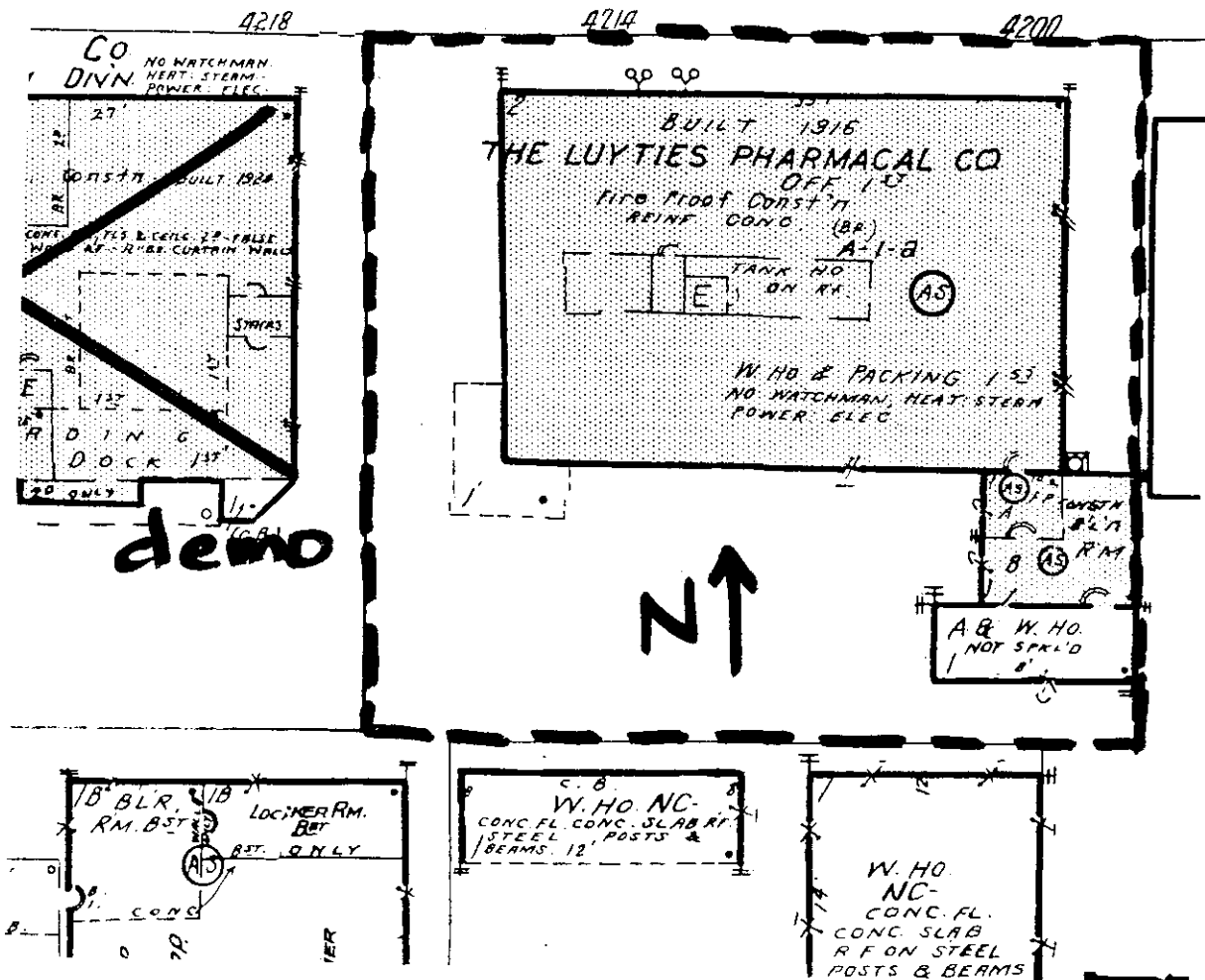
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 13

Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building  
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

Verbal Boundary Description

In the City of St. Louis, Missouri, City Block # 3916: The proposed boundaries are those indicated by a dashed line on the map below. (source: Sanborn Map Company, 1969)



Boundary Justification

The indicated boundaries are those which have been historically associated with the property.

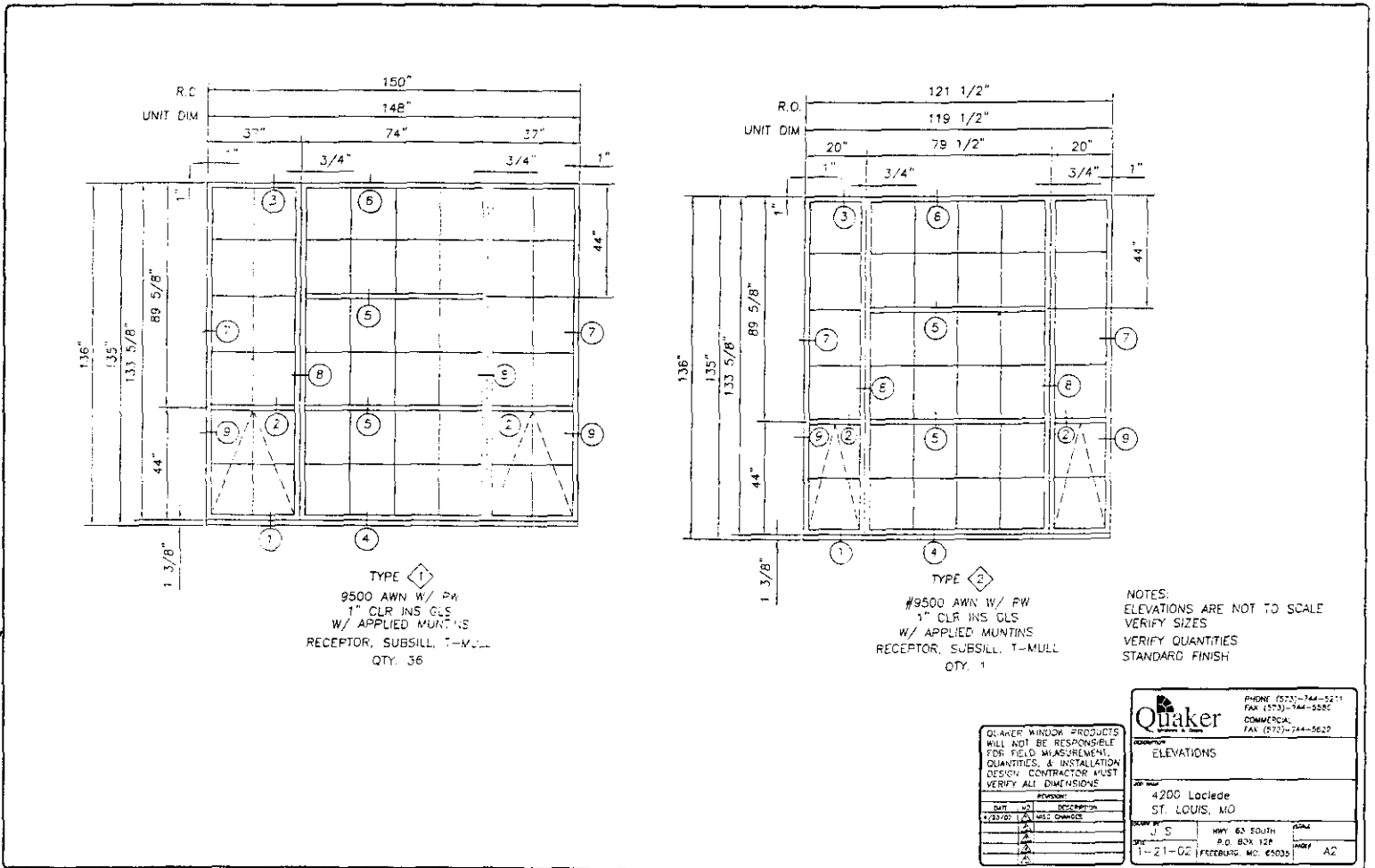
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section drawings Page 14

Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building  
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

Figure 2: Historic replica windows approved by State Historic Preservation Office, to be installed in Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Building. Source: owner



# PLANNING & URBAN DESIGN AGENCY

CITY OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

RECEIVED  
JAN 28 2002  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

January 15, 2002

Ms. Claire Blackwell  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Historic Preservation Program  
Division of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
Post Office Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Ms. Blackwell:

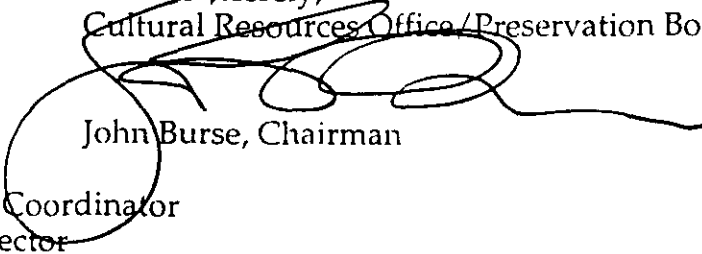
In accordance with the Certified Local Government requirements, the Cultural Resource's Preservation Board of the City of St. Louis has reviewed the National Register Nominations for the following buildings: Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building, 4200 Laclede Ave.; Kulage House, 1904 E. College Ave.; West Pine-Laclede Historic District, roughly bounded by Euclid on the west, Lindell on the north, Sarah on the east and Forest Park Parkway on the south; Fairgrounds Hotel, 3466 Natural Bridge Road; Eastman Kodak Building, 1009 Olive St.

In our opinion, the buildings do meet National Register Criteria, and we recommend proceeding with the nominations.

At our meeting of October 8, 2001, the following motions were carried unanimously:

Approval of the Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building with consideration of the appropriateness of Criteria C of the National Register; Approval of the Kulage House with consideration of the appropriateness of Criteria C of the National Register; Approval of the of West Pine-Laclede Historic District with consideration of the appropriateness of Criteria C of the National Register; Approval of the Fairgrounds Hotel with consideration of the appropriateness of Criteria A of the National Register; Approval of Eastman Kodak Building with consideration of the appropriateness of Criteria C of the National Register.

Sincerely,  
Cultural Resources Office/Preservation Board

  
John Burse, Chairman

xc: JoAnn Radetek, CLG Coordinator  
Kathleen E. Shea, Director

1015 Locust St. \* Suite 1200 \* St. Louis, Missouri 63101

e-mail: [planning@stlouis.missouri.org](mailto:planning@stlouis.missouri.org)





**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 02001442

Date of Listing: March 27, 2003

Property Name: Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building

County: St. Louis

State: Missouri

none  
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*for* Daniel J. Vise  
Signature of the Keeper

March 27, 2003  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Statement of Significance

The period of significance is hereby changed to 1915-1952 to accurately reflect the period in which the property achieved significance in the areas of engineering and health/medicine.

The Missouri State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building  
St. Louis (Independent city), MO

Lynn Jesse

Nov. 2001

Landmarks Assoc of St. Louis

View to SW

#1





Lytles Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building  
St. Louis (independent city), MO

Lynn Josse

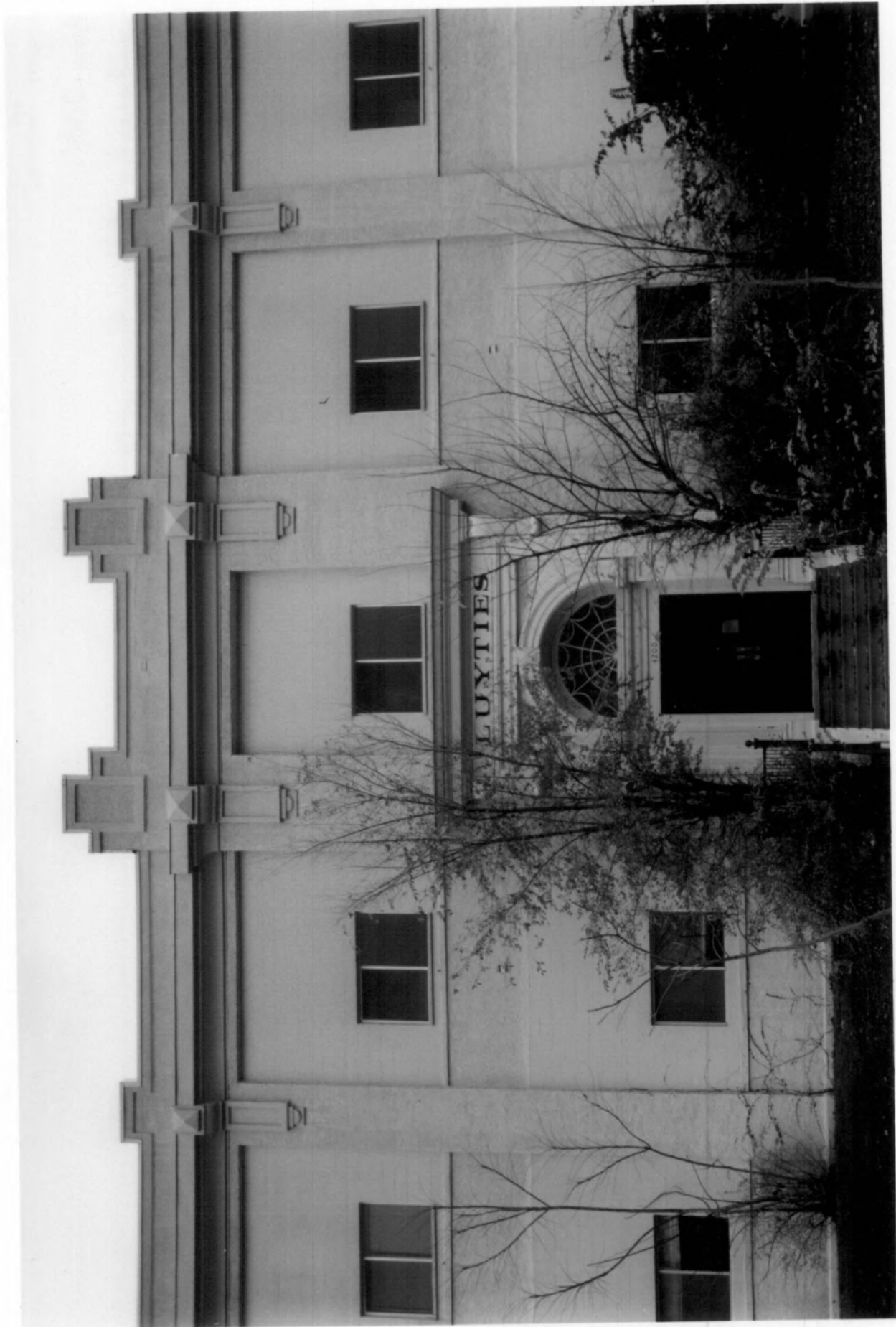
Nov. 2001

Landmarks Association of St. Louis

View to S

#2





Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Company Building

St. Louis (independent city), MO

Lynn Josse

Nov. 2001

Landmarks Assoc. of St. Louis

View to E

# 3



Luoyties Hmerqathlic Pharmacy Company Building  
St. Louis (Independent city), MO

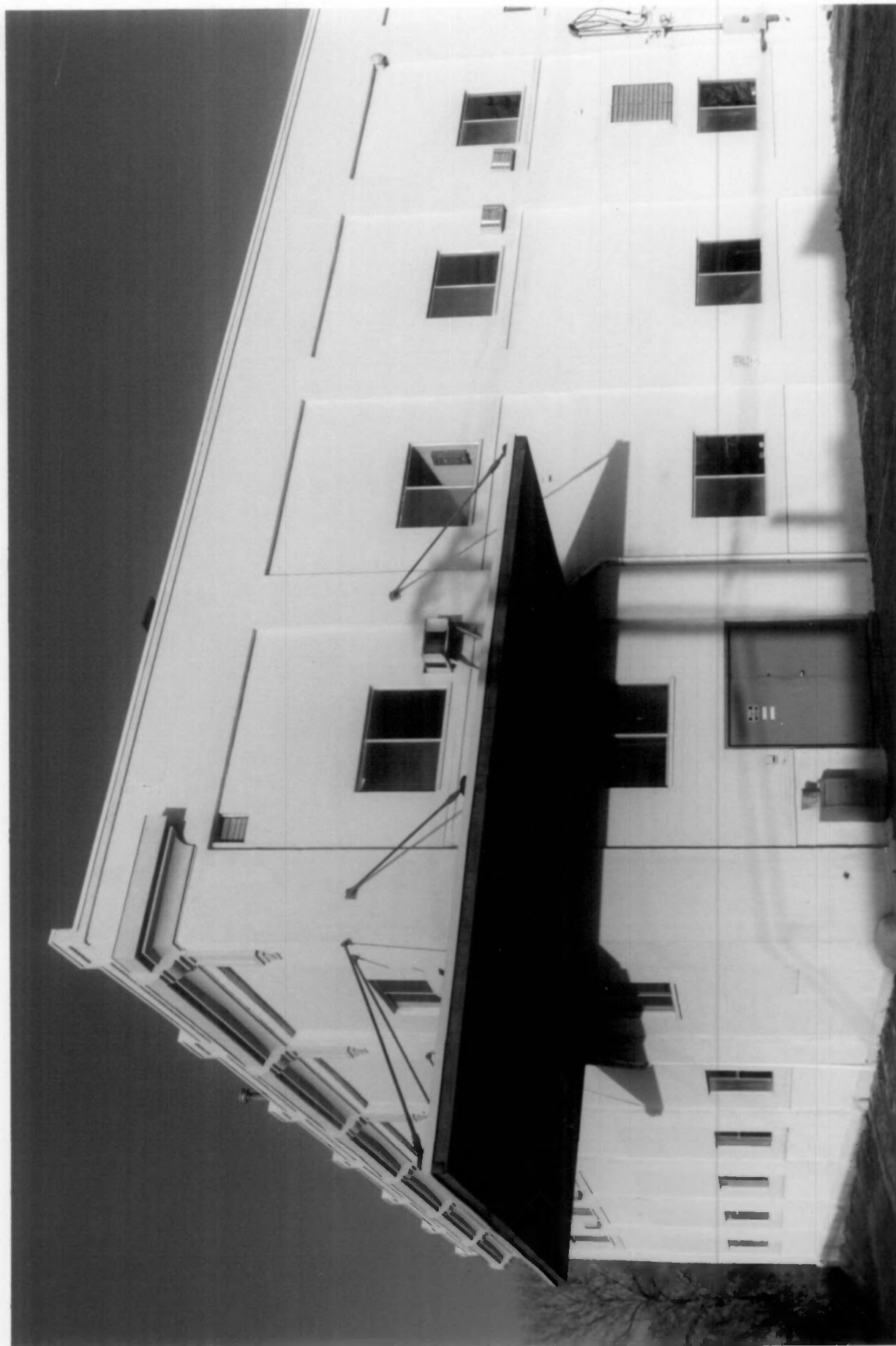
Lynn Jesse

Nov. 2001

Landmarks Assoc. of St. Louis

View to SE

#4



Luyties Homeopathic Pharmacy Co. Building  
St. Louis [Independent City], MO

Lynn Jesse  
10/2001

Landmarks Assoc. of St. Louis  
2nd floor facing W

#85

