

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic The Olympia

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 3863 West Pine and 200 North Vandeventer not for publication

city, town St. Louis vicinity of

state Missouri code 29 county St. Louis City code 510

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Grandell Development Co., Inc., c/o Mercantile Commerce Trust Co.

street & number 3590 Lindell

city, town St. Louis vicinity of state Missouri 63108

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Louis Recorder of Deeds

street & number City Hall, Market Street and Tucker Boulevard

city, town St. Louis vicinity of state Missouri 63103

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Box 176

city, town Jefferson City vicinity of state Missouri 65102

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Olympia is a flat-roofed, seven-story apartment building located at the northeast corner of West Pine and Vandeventer Streets in the Midtown section of the City of St. Louis. Externally the building is essentially unaltered from its original appearance, with the exception of some of the ground-floor storefronts facing Vandeventer, which exhibit some superficial remodeling. Stylistically it is representative of the second phase of high-rise design in America, when the Aristotelian formula of base, shaft and capital, as refined by Louis Sullivan, was clothed in historical ornament, in this case post-Renaissance, probably French classical.

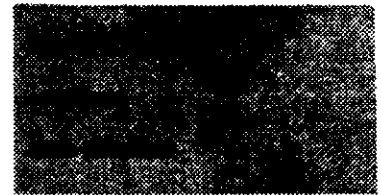
The seven-story portion of the Olympia is L-shaped, with eight bays facing West Pine and nineteen on Vandeventer. Filling out the rest of the lot is a one-story garage, with a recessed pedestrian door on West Pine and two garage doors under the pediment on Vandeventer. These entries and the first two floors of the taller portion are clad in white terra cotta simulating ashlar masonry, rusticated in the sense of having channeled joints forming an overall pattern. Above this visual podium rise four floors of variegated brick, buff to yellow-brown. The bricks have vertical striations and are laid with occasional courses of Flemish bond. They are set in mortar mixed with honey-brown aggregate. The top floor, also brick, is lavishly ornamented. It rests visually on a broad stringcourse with cornice. Windows are set in arched terra cotta frames with high-relief lunettes or are crowned by rounded pediments. At the top is a cornice with a frieze of console-like modillions, and crowning the building is a terra cotta parapet composed of a blind arcade and scrolled broken pediments. One such pediment is centered over the West Pine entrance while two balance the Vandeventer side. They are ornamented with richly modeled acanthus-leaf scrolls and have central shields, each carrying a diagonal band ("bend dexter"). An oval armorial plate above the main door carries a similar device, probably of no heraldic significance.

Windows on floors two through seven are wooden and double-hung. Most are in pairs of six panes over one, but the two bays over the monumental entry on the West Pine side and bays 2, 7, 11, 14, and 19 on Vandeventer have smaller single windows of three vertical panes of textured glass over one. Fenestration on the sides and rear of the building is comparable. Three windows on the ground floor to the right of the monumental West Pine entry and one to the left have segmental arches with radiating voussoirs and keystones ornamented with scrolled consoles. At the intersection is a storefront with its entrance behind a corner pier that is ornamented with spiraling colonnettes at its edges. Farther north on Vandeventer are a service entrance and eight additional storefront bays, divided by terra cotta piers and all under a continuous cornice. Behind the facade, several of these retail spaces have been merged.

The most striking features of the ground floor are the main entrance on West Pine and the garage entrance on Vandeventer, both outstanding examples of ornamental terra cotta. The main entry is framed by paired corinthian pilasters that rise to the third floor, where above the central windows a scrolled pediment lifts a fleur-de-lis. The pedimental area, the piers between second- and third-floor windows, the panel between floors, and the spandrels of the arched doorway are filled with spiraling vines. A frieze between first-floor spandrels and second-floor windows is supported by three scrolled brackets and decorated with the classical wave pattern. The splay of the doorway arch is also molded in a leaf pattern.

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Continuation sheet The Olympia

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The garage doors are segmental-arched, with radiating voussoirs. Above them the cornice continuing from the line of storefronts supports a broad scrolled broken pediment, rising from the center of which is a short obelisk. Like the other pediments, this one is ornamented with twining foliage and centers on an armorial device, this time an oval escutcheon. The north wall of the garage, bordering the alley, has five bays of industrial-type windows in metal frames.

Inside, the entryway has terrazzo floors, and the stairs have marble risers and treads. There are two elevators, one for passengers and one for service. At present there are 90 apartments, including 24 efficiencies, 36 studios, and 30 one-bedroom units. The garage accommodates 36 cars.

The Olympia is located near the southwest corner but slightly outside of the Midtown Historic District. That National Register district includes several hotels and apartment buildings contemporary and similar in appearance to this one. The neighborhood, in the lee of St. Louis University, has a mixture of commercial, residential and institutional uses and has in recent years seen some tentative beginnings of the revival that is so advanced only a few blocks to the west in the West End Historic District.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates constructed 1926-27 **Builder/Architect** Weinberg Const. Co./D. R. Harrison

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

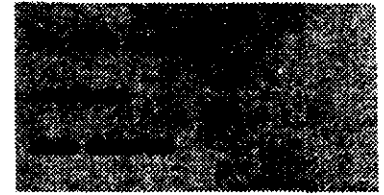
The Olympia is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in that it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a period and method of construction. It is significant in the area of architecture. The Olympia is a good example of the use of glazed terra cotta in the mainstream architecture of the 1920's. Its broad areas of beautiful clay modeling executed by the Winkle Terra Cotta Co., a St. Louis firm, rank the building high among its surviving contemporaries.¹

The use of architectural terra cotta was given its early impetus in St. Louis by three projects in the early 1890's, all designed by the Chicago firm of Adler and Sullivan: the Wainwright Building (a National Historic Landmark), the Union Trust Building (listed in the National Register) and the St. Nicholas Hotel (demolished). Winkle's expert fabrication of Louis Sullivan's complex, layered patterns assured that firm's reputation. White glazed terra cotta began to be seen at the turn of the century, and it came into its own with the small but masterful Gill Building of 1907 at 622 Olive, clad from top to bottom in sleek, "self-cleaning" white by the Kansas City architect Louis Curtiss. The Railway Exchange Building, a block-square twenty-story display of white glazed terra cotta, went up across the street five years later. Unlike the forward-looking Gill Building, the Railway Exchange Building drew its ornamental designs from the European past (in this case the early French Renaissance), and such conservatism was to become the norm in the 1920's. By then taller buildings generally mixed white terra cotta and brick in proportions (especially where red brick was used) reminiscent of the Georgian era. The terra cotta was typically matte or satin in finish rather than glossy and was used to imitate structural masonry elements as well as sculptured ones. A leading practitioner of this style was the St. Louis architect Preston Bradshaw (1884-1953), a monograph of whose work appeared in 1924.² Four of Bradshaw's hotels were built in the vicinity of the Olympia: the Chase, the Melbourne, the Coronado, and the Forest Park (all listed in the National Register). Like the Olympia, all were brick-clad steel-frame structures, faced on their ground and mezzanine levels with terra cotta and similarly accented on their top stories and parapets. Although the modeling of individual ornamental details might be lush, the overall tone of these buildings is one of dignity and restraint.

The architect of the Olympia, David R. Harrison, came to St. Louis from New York about 1922 and quickly became established not only as a designer but also a builder. The Harrison Construction Company advertised "Harrison quality built" apartments, residences and commercial buildings.³ Many of these apartments were of the characteristic St. Louis type of three stories with six or twelve units and were located in the West End and Clayton. But Harrison also did other apartments on the scale of the Olympia and even larger, including 4605 and 4615 Lindell in the West End Historic District.⁴ These projects also employed Winkle terra cotta. Another Harrison design featuring white terra cotta was the ABC Auto Sales building for a Hudson-Essex dealership.⁵

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Harrison did not limit his practice to his own projects but, as was recalled by the developer of the Fashion Square Building at 1307 Washington Avenue (a National Register building), he was very exacting, wanting absolute control over his designs.⁶ In the case of the Olympia, he worked with Ida Weinberg, the owner of the building, and her husband Max, the contractor. The building permit was obtained October 1, 1926, and construction extended to the following November.⁷ Apparently Harrison got the control he needed, because the Olympia compares favorably in quality with his other work and with that of his contemporaries in St. Louis.

Notes

1. An index to the work of the Winkle Terra Cotta Company has been prepared by the Northwest Architectural Archives of the University of Minnesota. The Olympia was order number 13849, December 20, 1926. Some replacement pieces were ordered January 29, 1942.
2. The Work of Preston J. Bradshaw (St. Louis: Blackwell-Wielandy, 1924); St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "Preston J. Bradshaw Dies; Architect Here," December 7, 1953.
3. St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Real Estate Section, August 16, 1925.
4. Ibid, April 22, 1928; Northwest Architectural Archives.
5. St. Louis Globe-Democrat, December 27, 1927. The dealership was located at 3517 Page.
6. This and foregoing facts about D. R. Harrison were provided by Debbie Wafer.
7. St. Louis Daily Record, October 2, 1926; Building Permit D-4694.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Real Estate Section, August 16, 1925.
2. The Work of Preston J. Bradshaw. St. Louis: Blackwell-Wielandy, 1924.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .48 acre
Quadrangle name "Granite City, Ill.-Mo."

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>9</u> <u>9</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	D	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
E	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	F	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
G	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification The southwest corner of City Block 3927, fronting south 97.42 feet on West Pine and west 213.19 feet on Vandeventer.

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

state Missouri code 29 county St. Louis City code 510

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title ^{1.} Esley Hamilton

organization _____ date March 1986

street & number 1169 Ursula Avenue telephone (314) 727-0428

city or town University City state Missouri 63130

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Frederick A. Brunner, Ph.D., P.E., Director, Department of Natural Resources,
title and State Historic Preservation Officer date 6/18/86

For NPS use only

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

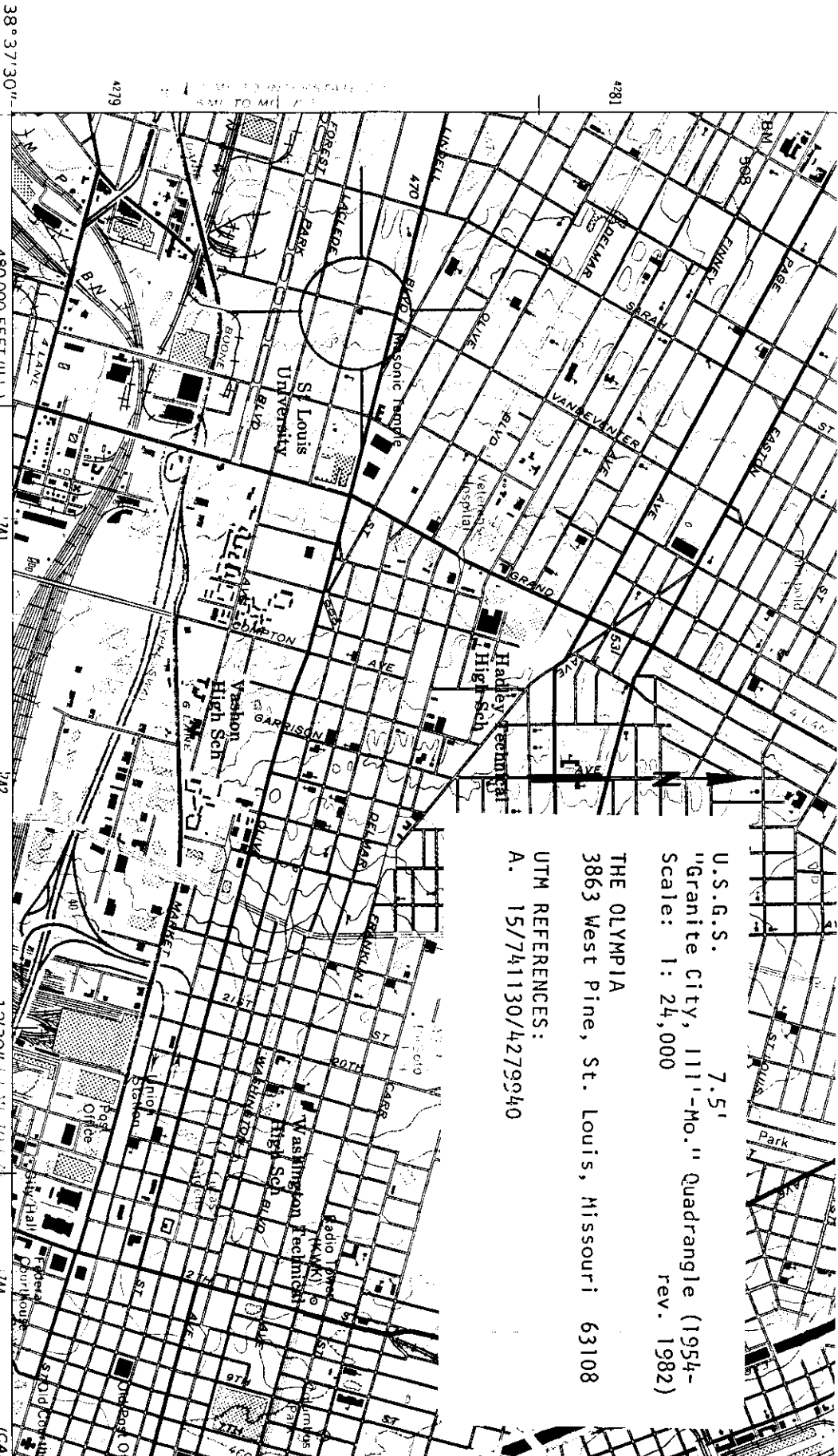
date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration



U.S.G.S. 7.5'
 "Granite City, 111'-No." Quadrangle (1954-
 Scale: 1: 24, 000
 rev. 1982)

THE OLYMPIA
 3863 West Pine, St. Louis, Missouri 63108

UTM REFERENCES:
 A. 15/741130/4279940

(WEBSTER GROVES)
 1961, III SE

38° 37' 30" 90° 15' 480 000 FEET (ILL.)

Mapped by the Geological Survey
 Revised by the Army Map Service
 Published for civil use by the Geological Survey

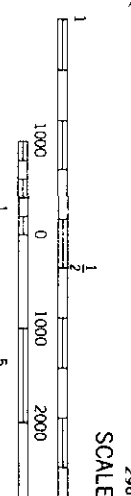
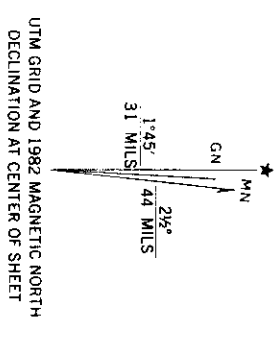
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from planetable surveys by the Geological Survey 1930 and 1933. Planimetric detail revised from aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1954

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grids based on Illinois coordinate system, west zone and Missouri coordinate system, east zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 2 meters south and 9 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER
 STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 AND THE DIVISION OF GE
 MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURA
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

0 5 10 15 20 FEET

213.19 FT

WEST PINE

PROPERTY LINE

WHARTON PETERS
1,490 SF

OFFICE

WHITE HOUSE RETREAT
1,068 SF

BEAUTY SHOP
597 SF

CLEANERS
857 SF

GARAGE
9,929 SF

BOGART'S
3,733 SF

YATKEMAN
REALTY
879 SF

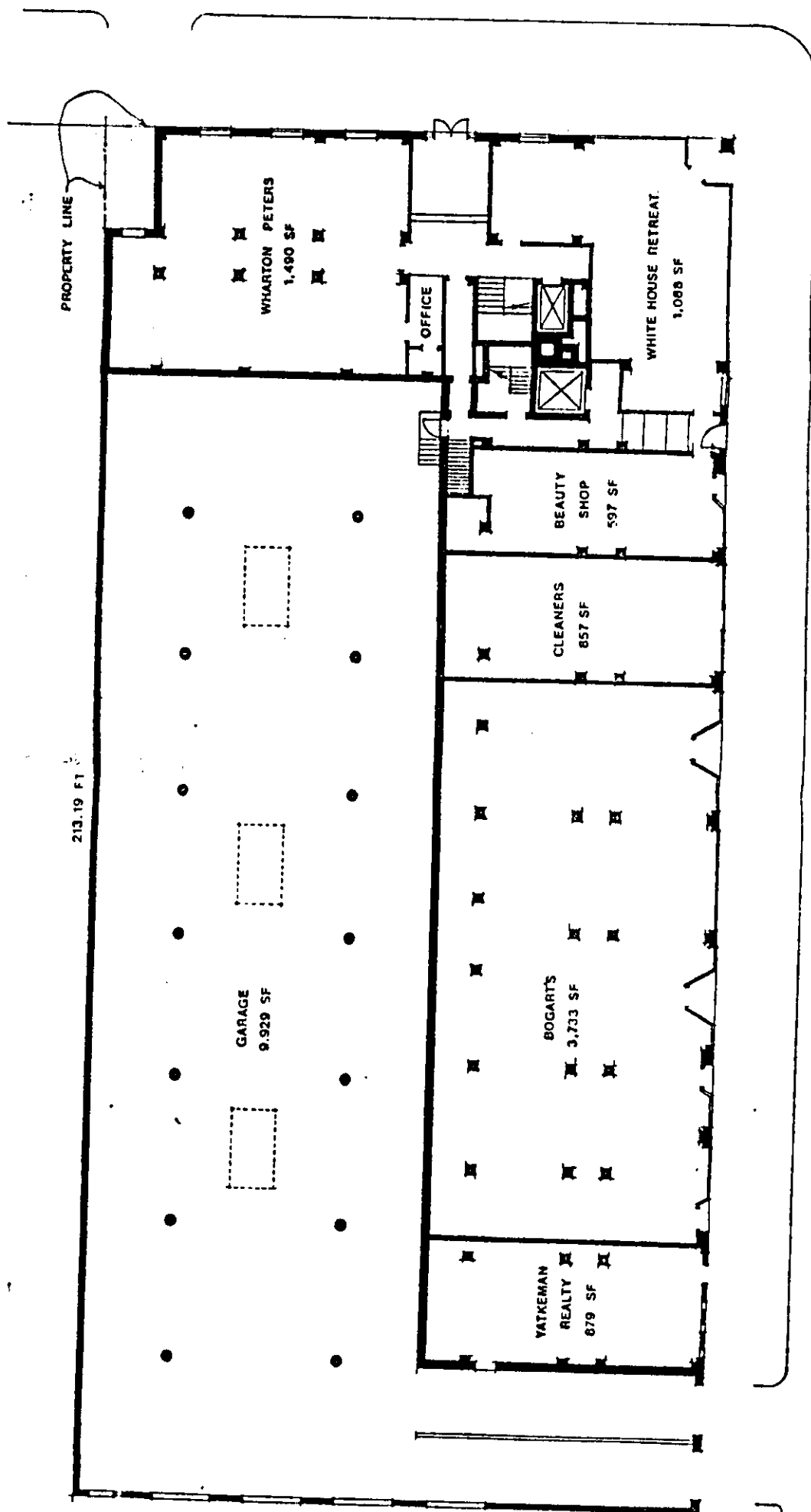
VANDEYENTER

ALLEY

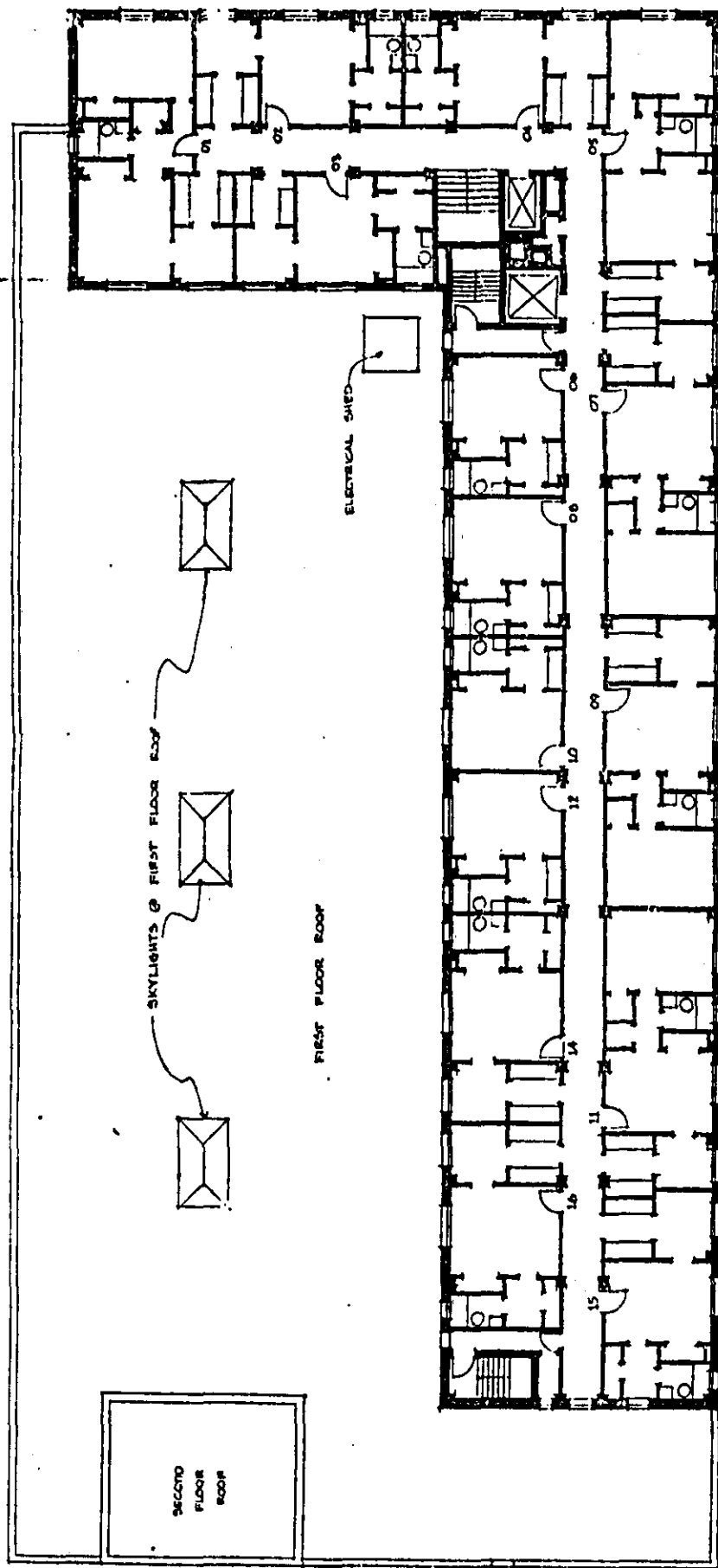
97.42 FT

THE OLYMPIA APARTMENTS
3003 WEST PINE, SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63108
EXISTING GROUND FLOOR

Figure 1



0 5 10 15 20 FEET



THE OLYMPIA APARTMENTS
3863 WEST PINE, SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63108
EXISTING TYPICAL APARTMENT FLOOR

Figure 2

THE OLYMPIA

1 of 5

3863 West Pine
St. Louis, Missouri

Photog.: Esley Hamilton, March 1986
Neg. Loc.: St. Louis Historic Properties
17 W. Lockwood, Webster Groves, MO 63119

Fronts on Pine (right) and Vandeventer (left)
from southwest



THE OLYMPIA
3863 West Pine
St. Louis, Missouri

2 of 5

Photog.: Esley Hamilton, March 1986
Neg. Loc.: St. Louis Historic Properties
17 W. Lockwood, Webster Groves, MO 63119

Pine front and east side from southeast



THE OLYMPIA
3863 West Pine
St. Louis, Missouri

3 of 5

Photog.: Esley Hamilton, March 1986
Neg. Loc.: St. Louis Historic Properties
17 W. Lockwood, Webster Groves, MO 63119

Main entry from south



THE OLYMPIA

3863 West Pine

St. Louis, Missouri

4 of 5

Photog.: Esley Hamilton, March 1986

Neg. Loc.: St. Louis Historic Properties

17 W. Lockwood, Webster Groves, MO 63119

Entrance to garage, 220 N. Vandeventer,
at NW corner of building, from west



GENERAL
AUTO REPAIR
Phone 534-5140

OPEN
BLOW DOWN
Light Air
Space!
OPEN!

W

220

THE OLYMPIA
3863 West Pine
St. Louis, Missouri

5 of 5

Photog.: Esley Hamilton, March 1986
Neg. Loc.: St. Louis Historic Properties
17 W. Lockwood, Webster Groves, MO 63119

Closeup of north end of Vandeventer front,
from west

