NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. Aug. 2002)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 1-31-2009)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property	no malia Casasana Buildinas			
historic name Pundt Brothers-Ga	ravaglia Grocery Buildings			
other names/site number Pundt Brothers Gre	ocery; Garavaglia Quality Foods			
2. Location				
street & number 2857 Lafayette Ave	enue	not for publication N/A		
city or town Saint Louis	city or town Saint Louis			
state Missouri code MO county	Saint Louis [Independent City]	code 510 zip code 63104		
3. State/Federal Agency Certification As the designated authority under the National Histor for determination of eligibility meets the document and meets the procedural and professional requiren meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend the Comments of See continuation sheet for additional comments of Mark A. Miles Missouri Department of Natural Resources State or Federal Agency or Tribal government of mark of the property meets of the my opinion, the property meets does not my See continuation sheet for additional comments.	ation standards for registering properties in the nents set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, nat this property be considered significantns.) /Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer	e National Register of Historic Place , the property Mmeets does no		
Signature of commenting official/Title		Date		
State or Federal agency and bureau	<u> </u>			
4. National Park Service Certification I, hereby certify that this property is: ☐ entered in the National Register ☐ See continuation sheet. ☐ determined eligible for the National Register ☐ See continuation sheet. ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register ☐ removed from the National Register ☐ other (explain):				
one (explain).	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action		

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia Grocery Complex
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri
South St. Louis Historic Working- and Middle-Class Streetcar Suburbs Multiple Property Documentation Form

5. Classification						
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	N	lumber of Resources			
(Check as many boxes as apply) private	(Check only one box) building(s)		Contributing N 1	oncontributing buildings		
<u> </u>	_			buildings sites		
public-local	district					
public-State	∐site			structures		
public-Federal	structure			objects		
	object		1	Total		
Name of related multiple property is not part of a multip South St. Louis Historic Wo Streetcar Surburbs MPDF	le property listing.)		of contributing res Register: 0	ources previously listed in th		
6. Function or Use Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Cat: Commerce Sub: Department Store		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Cat: Vacant Sub: Multiple Dwelling				
		<u> </u>				
		_				
		_		- <u> </u>		
7. Description						
Architectural Classification (Enter Other: Artistic Front Co			s (Enter categories from i on stone	nstructions)		
	<u> </u>		-			
Other: Two-Part Comm	erciai BIOCK	roof	slate/asphalt			
LATE VICTORIAN		walls	brick			
		other	stone			
			terra cotta	<u>.</u>		

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheet.)

See Continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

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8. Statement of Significance Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Architecture				
the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)	Commerce				
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our	Commerce				
history.					
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant					
in our past.	Period of Significance				
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the	1895-1959				
work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or					
represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose	Significant Dates				
components lack individual distinction. D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information	N/A				
important in prehistory or history.					
	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)				
Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.) A owned by a religious institution or used for religious	N/A				
purposes.					
B removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation				
☐ C a birthplace or a grave.☐ D a cemetery.	N/A				
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.	Aughthor (Duthlan				
	Architect/Builder Gray, F. H., and Brothers				
	Gray, 1.111, and brothers				
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)					
_					
See Continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8					
9. Major Bibliographical References					
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more	continuation sheets.)				
Previous documentation on file (NPS)	Primary Location of Additional Data				
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	State Historic Preservation Office				
has been requested.	Other State agency				
previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register	Federal agency Local government				
designated a National Historic Landmark	University				
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	Other				
#	Name of repository:				
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record					
<u>#</u>					
See Continuation Sheet for Section No. 9					

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Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia Grocery Complex

St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

South St. Louis Historic Working- and Middle-Class Streetcar Suburbs Multiple Property Documentation Form

10. Geographi	cal Data							
Acreage of Prope	erty less than	1 acre						
UTM References	(Place additional UTN	1 references on a continuation shee	et)					
1 15	741420	4277800	3					
Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing		
2	Faction	No otleto -	4	Zone	Easting	Northing		
Zone Verbal Boundary	Easting Description (Doss	Northing ribe the boundaries of the property	on a continu		ŭ	Northing		
verbai bouildary	Description (Desc	ribe the boundaries of the property	on a continu	ation sheet)			
Boundary Justific	cation (Explain why t	he boundaries were selected on a c	continuation	heet.)			-	
							-	
See Continu	uation Sheet fo	or Section No. 10						
44. Faura Duan	and Div							
11. Form Prep	-	and lon Common						
name/title	ivielinga Stev	vard/Jan Cameron						
organization					date	1 June 200)9	
street & number	7406 Leadale				telepho	ne 314-420-3	168	
city or town	Saint Louis				state	Missouri	zip code 63121	
See Continu	uation Sheet fo	or Section No. 11						
	nentation: Subm ation Sheets	it the following items with the	ne complet	ed form:				
Maps	ation sneets							
•	GS map (7.5 or 15	minute series) indicating the	e property'	s location	۱.			
A ske	tch map for histor	ric districts and properties ha	aving large	acreage	or numerous r	esources.		
Photogra	-							
		nd white photographs of the						
Addition	ial Items (Check wit	h the SHPO or FPO for any addition	al items)					
Property Own	er (Complete this ite	m at the request of the SHPO or FP	O.)					
name/title	Anthony Gara	avaglia						
street & number	5401 Elizabet	:h Avenue			telepho	phone 314-664-3397		
city or town	Saint Louis				state	Missouri	zip code 63110	
See Continu	uation Sheet							

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. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia Grocery Buildings

St. Louis [Independent City], MO

South St. Louis Historic Workingand Middle-Class Streetcar Suburbs

Summary

The Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia Grocery Buildings complex, at 2857 Lafayette Avenue in St. Louis, Missouri, consists of three buildings, all constructed in 1895. The buildings exemplify the Two-Part Commercial Block and the Artistic Front Commercial subtypes identified in the South St. Louis Historic Working- and Middle-Class Streetcar Suburbs Multiple Property Documentation Form. The main grocery building faces south from the northeast corner of Lafayette and Nebraska Avenues in St. Louis' Gate District neighborhood. The building's asymmetrical massing and mansard roof suggest Queen Anne and Second Empire affinities, while its exterior materials of brick, sandstone and slate, and its architectural detailing conform to the Romanesque Revival architectural vocabulary. The most architecturally significant of the three buildings is the corner grocery, a 2½-story building which displayed individual items for selection by the customers. A separate area at the rear, with its own entry and storefront, is where customer orders were assembled prior to delivery. A large residential apartment occupies the upper two floors. Behind the grocery is a 1-story warehouse where the stock inventory was stored; and behind the warehouse at the alley, is a 2-story stable for horses and delivery wagons. The building retains most of its original historic character, materials, feeling and association. Aside from minor repairs and more recent reversible alterations, the only significant change to the exterior occurred at the storefronts, which were altered in 1948 and again in 1952 to reflect changing tastes in commercial design and materials.

Rough boundaries of the geographic area on which the MPDF is based include Lafayette Avenue on the north, and the three-building complex is located at the northeast corner of Lafayette and Nebraska Avenues—just across the street. The building fabric on both sides of Lafayette Avenue was developed at the same time, however, with similar scale and building materials, and the two sides are not visually distinct from each other. Although subsequent demolitions have reduced the area's historic context, the Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia Grocery complex was designed as part of a consistent, contiguous neighborhood fabric; therefore, it is reasonable to extend the boundaries of the MPDF to include the Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia complex.

General Features

The Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia Grocery Complex, constructed in 1895, is an elegant example of the Queen Anne/Second Empire style prevalent in late 19th century commercial buildings in St. Louis. The

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grocery building is dominated by a cantilevered turret at the southwest corner. The circular, two-story turret rises above the mansard and is crowned by a conical roof with flared profile and extended eaves. It retains its original slate shingles and decorative copper finial. Windows at the turret's lower story are large, double-hung one-over-one sash under single-light transoms, with heavy sandstone lintels and sills. At its second level, large square casement windows with sandstone sills are placed under steel lintels. A single header course and sandstone frieze continue around the circumference of the turret. The turret retains its original, highly decorative cast-iron soffit; although currently covered with stucco material, the underlying fabric has not been damaged and can be uncovered easily.

A steeply-pitched slate mansard roof is displayed on both street elevations. On the primary (south) elevation, the mansard terminates on the east in a brick stepped half gable. A brick chimney pierces the mansard on the turret's northern side. Dormers on both these facades have a single double-hung one-over-one window and over-scaled pyramidal roofs with extended eaves; most of the dormers retain their original slate shingles. A molded brick stringcourse, placed five courses below the eaves, continues around the building to form a subtle frieze.

The three-bay south façade facing Lafayette Avenue presents a cast-iron storefront at the first story that has received some alteration and is currently boarded. At the second story, one-over-one doublehung sash have flat soldier arches and rowlock sills: a later reconstruction; originally these window heads matched those of the west elevation. This change has not significantly altered the building's historic appearance.

On the west elevation fronting Nebraska Avenue, the storefront — still displaying its original cast-iron cornice — returns a single bay. Flanking this bay, a secondary entry, composed of a double-leaf door under a large transom, is currently boarded. Small square awning windows at the first story illuminate the grocery display area. Like all fenestration on this elevation, they are placed under brick splayed flat arches and have sandstone sills. To the north, a single-leaf door with transom (now boarded) leads to the rear of the grocery area.

Entry to the second and third story residential space was originally made from an interior stair vestibule that is articulated on the exterior by a projecting brick arcade, composed of two semicircular brick arches with archivolt molding, springing from pilasters with stylized brick capitals and bases. The arcading is capped by a decorative cornice of molded brick and corbelling. Originally, the arch on the south was filled by a double-hung window with semi-circular head; the entry on the north

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Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia Grocery Buildings

St. Louis [Independent City], MO

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had a semi-circular transom. In 1952, the residential entry was relocated, the door bricked in and the window closed. Approximately three-quarters north along the Nebraska facade, the design of the grocery's elevation changes: the mansard ends and the façade detailing alters to create the appearance of a distinct, two-story, three-bay building with flat roof. While similar in materials, scale and architectural style, this part of the building, where the grocery orders were assembled, retains its original brick storefront with center double-leaf entry flanked by shop windows under large transoms. The original cast-iron storefront cornice is intact. At the second story, three semi-circular arches with archivolt molding. The appearance of impost blocks is created by projecting molded brick courses. The façade ends in a relatively modest cornice of a projecting brick dentil row and molded stringcourse. Simple pinnacles, with corbelling and dentils, project slightly at each end of the parapet.

The one-story brick warehouse, also constructed in 1895, is more utilitarian and vernacular in design. It connects the main grocery building with a two-story stable at the alley. This building also has a flat roof, its parapets capped with coping tiles. A single-leaf entry and transom under a segmental arch of stretchers is placed on the south, with a small awning window under a double-rowlock segmental arch in the center. The large double-leaf loading door, used to transfer grocery orders to delivery wagons and later to delivery vans, is to the north, with the remnants of a metal signboard remaining above. All openings are currently boarded. The single door, which once opened directly into the storeroom, now provides access through a stair to the second story. A shed-roofed, frame enclosure, sheathed in roofing paper, protrudes through the building's flat roof.

The original stable at the rear of the property is a two-story vernacular brick structure with a flat roof. Small awning windows under double-rowlock segmental arches at each story create two bays and the building terminates in a simple corbelled cornice. On its north elevation, the stable retains its original stable door opening and second-story door into the hayloft. The south wall of the stable, above the warehouse roof, has been parged.

Interior

The interior of the complex has sustained relatively little alteration. The majority of the first story is occupied by the grocery display area, which retains its original pressed metal ceiling, most original casings, baseboards and other trim as well as its original pine flooring. Architectural details in the warehouse and stable are also intact, although utilitarian in detail.

The residential apartment, which occupies the second and third floors of the grocery building, is

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essentially unchanged. It is comprised of seven rooms and a long hallway on the second floor, and two large rooms on the third. Original features include six-panel pocket doors; five-panel interior doors under transoms; fluted casings and corner blocks with paterae; and two-part baseboards. Public rooms have paneled aprons below each window and picture molding. The trim in most rooms retains its original graining.

Alterations and Integrity Issues

The Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia Grocery Buildings complex has sustained some alterations, primarily to the Lafayette (south) façade storefront. In 1948, the original central recessed entry was removed to gain additional interior space, the shop windows were shortened and new bulkheads were constructed and sheathed with decorative tiles. The original cast-iron columns and transom windows were retained.



Figure 1. Front (South) façade and West Façade – circa 1948. (Photo from private collection of Anthony Garavaglia)

In 1952, the storefront was sheathed in Vitrolite panels; most of the Vitrolite remains today, and has

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Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia Grocery Buildings

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been painted. At the same time, the decorative soffit of the corner turret received a stucco finish. Both the original soffit and the cast-iron columns are extant and can be restored.

A portion of the façade above the second story window heads appears to have been rebuilt and the upper story windows, which probably had splayed flat arches similar to those on the west elevation facing Nebraska Avenue, now have flat jack arches of brick. Original sandstone window sills have been replaced in some instances by brick rowlocks. These are all minor alterations that have little effect on the historic appearance of the building.

The MPDF registration requirements state that in order for a building to qualify for individual listing under Criterion C, it must have an "Excellent" integrity rating.1 The Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia Grocery complex meets all of the criteria for this rating. Except for the storefront, most building openings have not been altered and retain their original sash. Where repairs have been necessary, as at the front façade window heads, they have been done in matching brick and are very unobtrusive. Significant character-defining elements, including the slate mansard roof, dormers, chimney and brick detailing are intact, as are all design elements that contribute to the complex's Romanesque Revival motifs. The storefronts have been altered but once, in 1948, within the building's period of significance; alterations completed in 1952 appear to be completely reversible, as important structural elements have not been altered. Finally, while its immediate context has changed, the complex maintains its character as a highly ornamental, late 19th century corner storefront, and it retains as well its association with a grocery delivery business that was a popular amenity in St. Louis for nearly a century.

1 Sally F. Schwenk, Cathy Ambler, Ph.D., and Kerry Davis of Historic Preservation Services, *South St. Louis Historic Streetcar Suburbs Multiple Property Document Form*, St. Louis (Independent City) Missouri, 2005, Section F, p. 31.

For a building to be listed for individual significance in architecture under Criterion C the property must have an "Excellent" integrity rating based on the following criteria.

- The majority of the building's openings on the primary facade should be unaltered or altered in a sensitive manner, using similar materials, profiles and sizes as the original building elements;
- The exterior brick masonry or original wall cladding should remain intact and exposed;
- Significant character-defining decorative elements should be intact;
- Design elements intrinsic to the building's style and plan should be intact;
- The overall feeling or character of the building for the time period in which it was erected should be intact.

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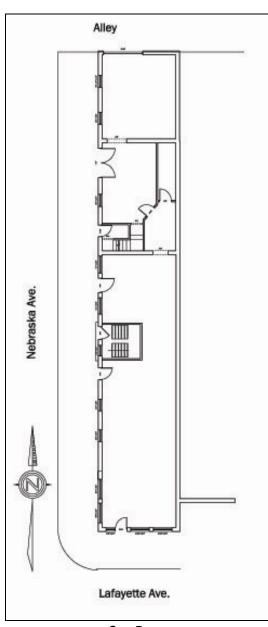
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SITE PLAN

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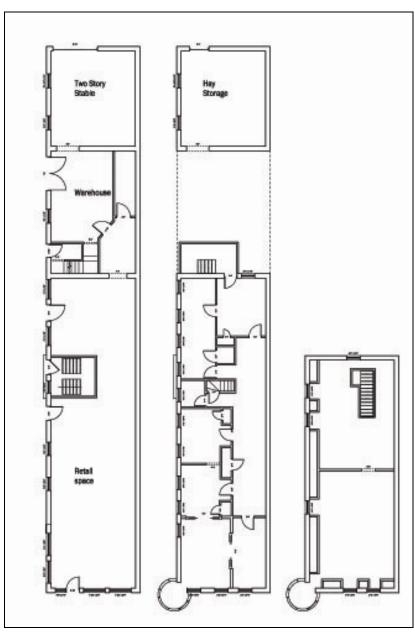
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FLOOR PLAN BEFORE 1952

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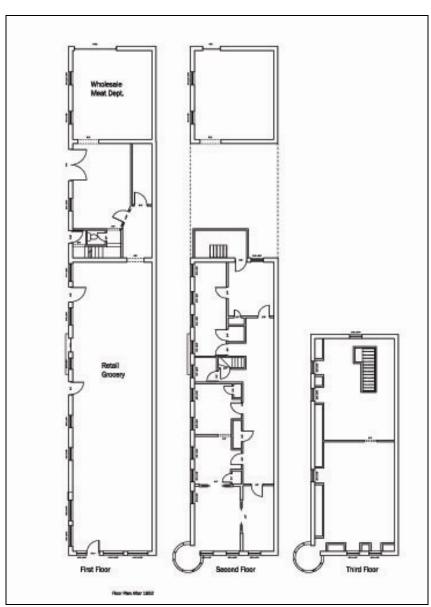
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Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia Grocery Buildings

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FLOOR PLAN AFTER 1952

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Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia
Grocery Buildings St. Louis [Independent City], MO

South St. Louis Historic Workingand Middle-Class Streetcar Suburbs

Summary

Built in 1895, the Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia Grocery Buildings complex, at 2857 Lafayette Avenue in St. Louis, Missouri, is locally significant under National Register Criterion A: Commerce as an innovative 19th and early 20th century commercial enterprise: the home delivery grocery. The three-building complex is equally significant as a definitive example of the neighborhood grocery store that was once ubiquitous throughout the city, but is now essentially a vanished resource. Its period of significance runs from 1895, the date all three buildings were constructed, to 1960, the arbitrary 50-year closing date for periods of significance where activities begun historically continue to have importance but no more specific year can be determined. Throughout this period until it closed its doors for the last time in 1993, Pundt-Garavaglia remained a local grocery and delivery company, serving its developing turn-of-the-20th-century neighborhood. Nominated under the South St. Louis Historic Working- and Middle-Class Streetcar Suburbs Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), the property is associated with the context "South St. Louis Working- and Middle-Class Suburban Neighborhoods: 1880-1940"2. The Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia Grocery Buildings complex is also locally significant under Criterion C: Architecture, as an outstanding example of the Two-Part Commercial Block/Artistic Commercial Front subtypes as delineated in the MPDF. All three buildings retain integrity and are sufficiently intact to qualify for a rating of "Excellent" under the registration requirements for their property type.3

The Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia complex is properly associated with the *South St. Louis Historic Working- and Middle-Class Streetcar Suburbs* MPDF despite being located on the northeast corner of Lafayette and Nebraska Avenues. Although the northern boundary of the MPDF includes only the south side of Lafayette Avenue, this demarcation does not reflect the original development of the area since buildings, both commercial and residential, were erected in response to the presence of the streetcar line that ran along the center of Lafayette: between 1890 and 1910, development proceeded in a consistent manner along both sides of the street. Associating the Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia complex with the cover document is justified by its conformity with other extant historic properties along Lafayette Avenue in architectural vocabulary, exterior materials and construction date.

² Sally F. Schwenk, Cathy Ambler, Ph.D., and Kerry Davis of Historic Preservation Services, "South St. Louis Historic Streetcar Suburbs Multiple Property Document Form," St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri, 2005, Section E, 28.

³ Ibid., Section F, 31.

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Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia
Grocery Buildings St. Louis [Independent City], MO

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Building History

Completed in 1895, the Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia Grocery Complex was constructed by J. D. Healy as a grocery, with a residential apartment on the second and third floors. The contractor/architect was F. H. Gray and Brothers.4 Healy's grocery lasted only a few years: in 1899 the complex was leased by the Pundt family from Omaha, Nebraska. The Pundts created an extremely successful home-delivery service, and gave their name to both the complex and to a neighborhood anchor that endured for decades. The family lived in the rental unit above the store until 1918, when a series of sudden deaths left the business in the hands of Eugene Wessbecker, the Pundts' clerk. Wessbecker continued the Pundts' business practices, retaining the Pundt Brothers' name for another thirty years. When Wessbecker died in 1947, the property fell vacant for a short time during the probate of his estate. The doors were closed and not a single item was removed or altered, until Anthony Garavaglia, son of a family of grocers, purchased the property, its fixtures and all its contents. 5 Garavaglia ran the neighborhood grocery as Garavaglia Quality Foods, although many of his customers still referred to it as "Pundt Brothers." Garavaglia has continued to maintain the complex, although the property has been vacant since his retirement in 1993.

Architecture

The building Jeremiah Healy constructed is an elegant example of the Queen Anne/Second Empire architectural style prevalent in many late 19th century commercial buildings in St. Louis. The Queen Anne style is marked by asymmetrical massing, a variety of roof shapes, and often towers or turrets. In St. Louis, these elements were most often combined with a steeply-pitched mansard roof, an immensely popular element derived from the Second Empire style, which became prominent in St. Louis in the last quarter of the 19th century. The building is also highlighted with architectural details of the Romanesque Revival style: arched openings, both segmental and semi-circular, and the extensive use of corbelled, cut and molded brick laid in a variety of ornate patterns. Throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, teams of master masons competed to create vibrant and intricate designs on building fronts (the sides and rear of buildings were left to less talented crews).6 Registration requirements for the Artistic Front Commercial Property Type in the South St. Louis Streetcar Suburbs MPDF require that the

⁴ St. Louis Daily Record, Available at St. Louis City Public Library, January 7, 1895, Volume X No. 6.

⁵ Copy of original settlement statement, private collection of Anthony Garavaglia.

⁶ Schwenk et al, 53.

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Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia
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commercial building be sympathetic and compatible with its surrounding fabric, 7 and the main building of the complex was detailed to be stylistically uniform with four 2-½ story townhouses constructed adjacent to it on the east. Although the complex is of considerable size, its design was carefully considered to integrate with the scale and architectural vocabulary of the residential buildings that once surrounded it, and to fit well within its neighborhood. The long west elevation was intentionally made to appear as two distinct buildings, to facilitate this impression. To blend the building even more into the neighborhood fabric, the four houses Healy constructed east of the grocery along Lafayette Avenue replicated the grocery's exterior materials, brick color and many of its details. The Healy family resided in one of the houses, which can be seen in the undated historic photograph below.



Figure 1 — 2757 Lafayette Avenue, south elevation, ca. 1930.8 (From the collection of Anthony Garavaglia. Used with permission.)

rhythm and character of the buildings that surrounded it.

The earliest commercial buildings in St. Louis had little to distinguish them from other buildings: they were one- or two-stories, with windows and doors similar in size and

main structure fulfills the requirements of the Two-Part Commercial Property Type9 with its clear differentiation between its commercial first story and residential second and third stories, which present a stylistic unity with the residential character of the street. The dark red brick facades, narrow, double-hung windows, delineated brick and sandstone trim and the

corner turret and dormers of

its mansard roof continue the

Further, the vocabulary of the

⁷ Schwenk et al, Section F, 34.

⁸ All historic photos in this section are from the collection of Anthony Garavaglia, used with permission.

⁹ Schwenk et al, Section F, 47.

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proportion to adjacent houses. As time when on, commercial buildings were constructed with larger entries and shop windows for the display of goods, and many added residential or office space to the second and third stories. 10 As technology improved, shop windows grew ever larger and the structural framing of the first story in cast iron became more delicate. The main storefront of the Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia complex exemplified this expansive treatment, with large glass transoms, low bulkheads and only the narrowest of decorative cast-iron posts supporting its massive second and third stories. The main structure of the storefront, including the transoms and posts, is extant behind alterations the building received in the 1940s, when it became a Tom Boy franchise (see Figure 7), which were limited to the removal of the recessed double-leaf entry and decorative tiling on the bulkheads. These changes do not detract from the building's integrity, as the storefront reconstruction itself has attained historic significance as representative of the development of the complex and changing architectural tastes of the post-World War II period.

As centralized supermarkets became the order of the day, the vast majority of neighborhood grocery buildings underwent substantial renovation or — in many cases — demolition. The Pundt Brothers complex, however, retains all of its original buildings including the shop room, packing room and stable, making it a unique illustration of a vanished cornerstone of marketing before the advent of the supermarket.

Commerce

The Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia Grocery Complex is located in an area of St. Louis that was once part of the Compton Hill neighborhood, and included both upper and middle-class late 19th and early 20th century residential subdivisions. The district had seen only scattered development until the 1890s. The 1875 Compton and Dry atlas shows an area sparsely populated with farms and houses, with little to no commercial development.

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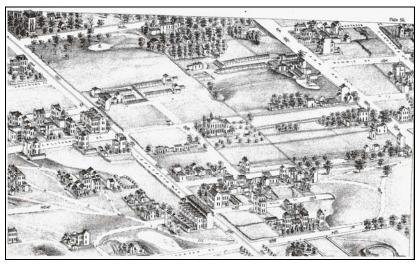


Figure 2 — Plate 58, Pictorial St. Louis: Metropolis of the Mississippi Valley11

By 1890, the St. Louis had become the fifth largest city in the country; and ten years later, St. Louis was in fourth place behind New York, Chicago and Philadelphia. The central factor in its population increase was the influx of European immigrants, particularly from Germany and Ireland. 12 These immigrants settled first close to downtown, where they found employment in factories and breweries. Their proximity

added an additional impetus for wealthier citizens — who could afford private transportation — to flee westward, in quest of space and clean air. The development of horse car and cable lines followed and by the late 1880s, the general press for more space created a demand for an improvement of the city's public transportation system. Electric trolley lines rapidly spread along main streets in the 1890s, including Lafayette Avenue.13 The new streetcars gave middle- and working-class people for the first time the freedom to commute daily to their work while living in a pleasant residential area. They flocked to newly-platted subdivisions that offered modern conveniences, larger yards and a better quality of life.14 By the latter part of

¹¹ *1875 Pictorial St. Louis: Metropolis of the Mississippi Valley*, Plate 58, Richard Compton and Camille N. Dry, Reprinted by Todd A McGraw 1989.

Physical Growth of the City of St. Louis, [publication online], St. Louis City Plan Commission, 1969, available from http://stlouis.missouri.org/heritage/history69/index.html; Internet; accessed 15 September 2007. Page 11
 Schwenk et al, Section E, 24.

David Ames and Linda Flint McClelland, *National Register Bulletin, Historic Residential Suburbs: Guidelines* for Evaluation and Documentation for the National Register of Historic Places [publication online] (Washington, D.C.; Us Department of the Interior, National Park Service National Register, History and Education, 2002); available from http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publicatiobns/bulletins/suburbs/index.htm; Internet; accessed 23 September 2007. Part 5, Page 2

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the 19th century, streetcars ran along both Lafayette and Nebraska Avenues, making the Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia site particularly attractive to commercial and residential development. The area was platted by Frances Sickle of Toledo, Ohio, on June 24, 1885.15 Supporting these new neighborhoods, small commercial facilities began to appear along the streetcar lines and particularly at street corners.16 Soon nearly every block of the city's south side had a commercial business on at least one of its corners.

Groceries were one of the first and most critical enterprises that allowed a neighborhood to develop. St. Louis' neighborhood grocery stores were the descendants of early trading posts and general stores.17 Grocery stores of this era tended to be small, generally occupying less than a thousand square feet. Food was stacked on shelves behind a counter and retrieved at the customer's request by a clerk, who would then weigh and package individual orders.18 For perishable items, customers went to specialty markets: butchers, dairies and greengrocers or to one of the city's markets.19

As the urban population of the city expanded, the close availability of groceries became important to the success of a neighborhood. In a time without refrigeration, most people shopped daily and a convenient neighborhood grocery store became their primary source of provisions. In the 1890 St. Louis city directory, for example, there were listings for 1,453 grocers, serving a population of an estimated 496,224 city residents.20

The Pundt Brothers-Garavaglia company stands out among all its competitors at the time. Its stock was more varied, including meat, cheese and other perishables; and while most groceries might provide a modicum of delivery service, the Pundt Brothers developed a sophisticated

- 15 Land Plat Book 20, Page 40, City of St. Louis Recorder's Office
- 16 Ames, et al, Part 2, 1.
- 17 Frontier trading posts carried food products, but also clothing, furniture, household utensils, farm tools and any merchandise that was difficult or impossible for their customers to make themselves. The general store generally dealt only in bulk dry goods: flour, sugar, beans and spices, for example; and later in canned foods when they became available.
- 18 Groceteria.com: Exploring the History of the American Supermarket, http://www.groceteria.com/about/history.html, accessed 3 June 2009.
- 19 There were a total of seven City Markets in St. Louis in 1883. Mary M. Stiritz, "Union Market," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. St. Louis (Independent City), 1983, Section 8, 1.
- 20 Gould's St. Louis Directory, (St. Louis: Gould's Directory Company, 1890).

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system of selection, packaging and delivery that resulted in a convenient and expedited service that was prized by generations of St. Louis citizens from all economic classes.

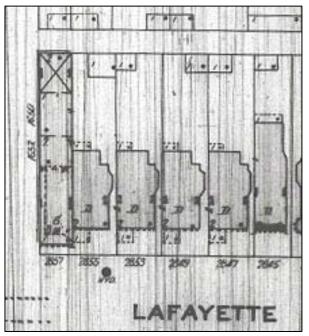


Figure 3 — Detail of 1909 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing grocery complex and four adjacent houses constructed by Healy.21

Jeremiah Healy, an Irish immigrant, 22 purchased Lots 1, 4 & 5 from Frances Sickle on October 26, 1894 for \$9,200.23 "J. D. Healy" was issued a building permit on January 5, 1895, for a "2 story brick store, flat and stable." 24 At the same time, he received a permit to construct four two-story brick residences adjacent to the store on the east [now demolished]. The firm, F. H. Gray and Brothers, Contractors and Architects, was the designer and contractor.

Jeremiah Healy II appears in Gould's Street Directory of 1897 as a grocer at this address; his family resided at 2855 Lafayette, the house directly adjacent to the grocery. His son, also named Jeremiah, worked in the store as a clerk.25 Only two years later, in 1899, the elder Jeremiah sold the grocery business and retired, retaining ownership of the complex and

adjacent residential buildings.26

The Pundts were a large family from Omaha, Nebraska. Henry Pundt had emigrated from Oldenberg, Germany to New York in 1851, then traveled to Milwaukee, St. Louis and finally Omaha. On July 1, 1856, he opened a grocery in Omaha, and became "the oldest grocer in the

²¹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of St. Louis, Missouri. 1909. (Microfilm) Teaneck, N.J.: Chadwyk-Healy1983.

²² U.S. 1890 Census, Available at St. Louis City Public Library, St. Louis, Missouri.

²³ Original Deed, St. Louis City Recorders Office, Book 1246, Page 96.

²⁴ City of St. Louis Permit Archives. Inactive permits. Block 2131.

²⁵ U.S. 1890 Census, Available at St. Louis City Public Library, St. Louis, Missouri.

²⁶ Copy of original bill of sale, Private collection of Anthony Garavaglia.

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city of Omaha, as well as in the State of Nebraska."27 While in St. Louis, Henry had married Doris Thilenious on August 13, 1857 and they had five children in all: Clara, who died in childhood, Emma, Oscar, George and Ida. Henry became a prominent civic leader in Omaha, serving on several boards and was also an agent for the Hamburg and Bremen Steamship Lines.28 When he died in 1895,29 Doris returned with her family to St. Louis.

In 1899, the Pundt family leased the complex at 2857 Lafayette Avenue from Jeremiah Healy, and later from his son, Jeremiah, who had purchased all the Lafayette Avenue buildings from his father in 1907 for \$39,500.30 The leases ran in increments of five years for a fee of \$1,200 a year.31 The Pundts also purchased the grocery business, with all related fixtures and furnishings, including stock, for the sum of \$6,499.91.32 Oscar Pundt incorporated the "Pundt Brothers Grocery Company" on January 21, 1899 with his brother George.33 The family resided in the apartment on the second and third floors.

The Pundts were immediately successful. They set up a highly organized procedure for filling customer's orders and an efficient delivery system. Groceries were displayed in the large front room; orders were filled in the center room, which had its own loading door; inventory was

²⁷ William G. Cutler, *Andreas' History of the State of Nebraska – City of Omaha – Biographical Sketches - Paul~Read*; available from http://www.kancoll.org/books/androuglas/douglas-p43.html#bios18: Internet: accessed 10 October 2007, 15-16.

²⁸ Ibid, 15-16. Henry Pundt was treasurer of the Omaha Standard Club, treasurer of the Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company, and president of the Horse and Cattle Insurance Company, among others.

²⁹ Stan Baumann, Caretaker, Prospect Hill Cemetery, telephone interview with Melinda Stewart, Omaha, Nebraska, October 17, 2007.

³⁰ Jeremiah Healy II became very successful in St. Louis real estate. He used the Lafayette buildings to launch J.D. Healy Real Estate. By 1910, he was president of the Henry Hiemenz Realty Company, at 614 Chestnut. *Gould's St. Louis Directory* (St. Louis, Missouri: Gould Directory Company, 1910).

³¹ Copy of original lease, collection of Anthony Garavaglia, Document dated January 11, 1899.

³² Copy of original Bill of Sale of Goods, collection of Anthony Garavaglia, document dated January 11, 1899. The purchase of the business included "...all groceries, merchandise, show cases, counters, liquors, 1 covered top grocery wagon, 1 park wagon, shelvings [sic], icebox, cigars, tobacco, candies, the register No. 79, household stuff, implements and furniture, and all other goods and chattels whatsoever, mentioned in the schedule hereunto annexed."

³³ A George Braun, aged 63, was included with a single share in the incorporation papers. His exact relationship with the Pundt family has not been ascertained, but Braun had emigrated from Germany about the same period as Henry Pundt. Copy of original incorporation papers, collection of Anthony Garavaglia, document dated January 21, 1899.

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stored in the one-story rear building and its cellar; and horses and wagons were loaded in the attached stable.

[The] east wall had cabinets with glass doors where [the Pundts] displayed one of each of the items they offered. A lady would come in and point to what she wanted to the clerk. The clerk would write a list and take it in the back to a table and fill an order then deliver it to the house. They had a horse-drawn wagon or sometimes, if it was close they would deliver it on the bicycle. The bicycle was still here when [Garavaglia] bought the building [in 1947]. It was a regular 42" bicycle with a 14" wheel and a big basket on front and a sign on the frame to advertise the store. They had an extensive line of imported cheese and sausages and a large coffee blender. There were four glass cash registers. There is still a wagon in the basement and they used it to stock the basement and haul groceries around the basement. They called it a tonnage truck. 34

In addition to nearby residents, the grocery served the very exclusive clientele who lived in the Compton Heights subdivision, a private enclave of large single-family residences about a half mile to the southwest. Their customer list included the Anheusers, of Anheuser-Busch Brewery; the Griesediecks, another famous St. Louis brewery family; the family of Alex Ludwig, a well-known musician and piano manufacturer; and the John Schroers, prominent St. Louis newspaper publishers.35 The grocery's reputation for service and quality merchandise was so well-known that later store owners retained the Pundt Brothers name.

On June 20, 1904, Oscar Pundt died of gastritis and cardiac paralysis 36 and was buried in Omaha. His mother Doris took over the presidency of the company, 37 and George, Oscar's brother and partner, became vice-president and secretary. Sister Ida worked as the grocery's bookkeeper. 38

The business flourished until a series of tragedies in 1918. The elder Jeremiah Healy, who had retained ownership of the building and still resided at 2855 Lafayette, died on July 29. George

³⁴ Anthony Garavaglia, interview with Melinda Stewart, St. Louis, MO, 16 October, 2007.

³⁵ Pundt Brothers Grocery Customer List, Private collection of Anthony Garavaglia.

³⁶ City of St. Louis Department of Vital Records — Registry of deaths, 1876-1908.

³⁷ Gould's St. Louis Directory (St. Louis, Missouri: Gould Directory Company, 1907).

³⁸ U.S. Census - 1910, Available at City of

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Pundt, the grocery vice-president, intentionally shot himself five days later. His sister, Emma, died of nephritis on August 17 and mother Doris died the next day of heart disease. Ida, the one remaining Pundt, left the building and never returned. She retained a financial interest in the grocery until her death in 1946,39 but was no longer active in the company.

Eugene Wessbecker, the Pundts' clerk, took over management of the grocery, retaining the Pundt Brothers name. Wessbecker was another recent immigrant from Germany.40 In 1921 he was president of the Pundt Brothers Grocery Company and his wife, Martha, served as vice-president and secretary, both living in the Pundts' apartment above the grocery.41 In 1947, Wessbecker purchased the complex from the estate of Jeremiah Healy II, who had retained ownership since he purchased it from his father in 1907.42

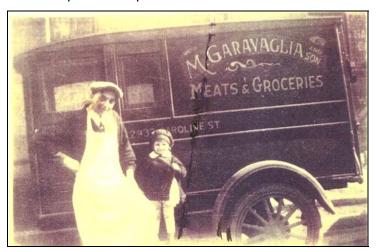


Figure 4 — Anthony Garavaglia and his father Martin, 1933

Wessbecker died that same year on November 23, at the age of 68.43 (Martha had died ten years earlier).44 After a lengthy probate, the grocery complex was purchased by Anthony Garavaglia, its current owner, for \$15,000. The entire inventory of the Wessbeckers was still in the store, including the horse-drawn wagons. 45

Anthony Garavaglia was the grandson of Martin Garavaglia, an immigrant from Italy who, along

with his son Charles, owned several groceries in the St. Louis area. Being born into the

³⁹ Death Index. [publication online] (Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Secretary of State); available from http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources: Internet: accessed 10 September 2007.

⁴⁰ U.S. 1920 Census, Available at St. Louis City Public Library, St. Louis, Missouri.

⁴¹ Gould's St. Louis Directory (St. Louis, Missouri: Gould Directory Company, 1921).

⁴² January 16, 1947, City of St. Louis Recorders Office, Book 1255, Page 29.

⁴³ Death Index. [publication online] (Jefferson City, Missouri: Missouri Secretary of State); available from http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources; Internet.

⁴⁴ Death index

⁴⁵ Copy of original settlement statement, Private collection of Anthony Garavaglia.

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business, it was natural that when Anthony returned from World War II, he would also have a grocery. The business was now operated under the name of Garavaglia Quality Foods, although many of its customers still referred to it as Pundt Brothers.

By 1947, however, the grocery business had changed. The advent of the automobile made home delivery of groceries no longer necessary or even desirable; customers could drive to a wide variety of stores, compare prices, selection and quality, and carry their purchases home themselves.



Figure 5 — South façade storefront in 1948, after the Tom Boy remodeling.

To remain competitive, Anthony opened his new grocery as part of the Tom Boy chain of groceries. Tom Boy Inc. was a national grocery chain known for the high quality of their canned food lines and for the quality of their locally grown meat cut to order on the premises. At the company's height, nearly every town of any size in the United States and Canada had at least one Tom Boy grocery: St. Louis had over 30 stores at one time.46 By associating with Tom Boy, the Garavaglia grocery could provide its

customers with a wider variety of products. The company sent out their own layout department and engineer to re-design the store fixtures and shop windows in 1948. It took over six months to complete the renovation, which included adding decorative tile to the storefront bulkheads and removing the original recessed entry.47

⁴⁶ Joe LeGrand, interview with Melinda Stewart, St. Louis, MO, 17 December 2007. Mr. LeGrand is the owner of the last Tom Boy grocery in St. Louis, at 4414 Donovan Avenue.

⁴⁷ Garavaglia Interview, 16 October 2007.

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Figure 6 — West façade and the delivery automobiles of the Garavaglia Grocery, circa

In 1952, Garavaglia renovated the storefront once again, installing Vitrolite panels and relocating the entry of the upstairs apartment. During his ownership, the apartment was largely unused. A large walk-in freezer was also installed at the rear of the storeroom. Expanding the operation further, Garavaglia established a retail and wholesale meat department which

supplied many prominent restaurants, including the Missouri Athletic Club and the Chase Park Plaza Hotel. Each year the store would purchase blue-ribbon winners at county and state fairs and proudly display their ribbons on the meat case. The grocery was also known for catering weddings, parties and fundraisers. Five delivery vehicles served both the retail and wholesale clients.48 But despite its association with a national chain and its increasing business ventures, the grocery remained a neighborhood fixture where people met to visit with their neighbors and catch up on local gossip. On a shelf by the cash registers, Garavaglia kept photos of every neighborhood boy while they were serving in the military. Only when they came home would their photo be removed. Today, a single photo is still on the shelf.

⁴⁸ Garavaglia Interview, 16 October 2007.

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Figure 7 — Interior of store, circa 1950.

Quality Foods closed its doors in 1993.49

Interstate Highway 44 was constructed a half block south of the grocery in the late 1960s, bisecting the neighborhood and cutting the grocery off from most of its customers. The Interstate also contributed to a change in the demographics of the area, as stable homeowners began to flee the remnant of the old neighborhood. With a more transient population, property values fell and by the early 1980s, once staunch middle-class houses were selling for a pittance. Crime escalated, and finally after several unfortunate incidents, Garavaglia

Beginning in the 1990s, a strong redevelopment effort by the City of St. Louis encouraged new residential development in the area west of the grocery, and once again families are returning to the neighborhood. Garavaglia Quality Foods retains ownership of the complex, which remains vacant but well-maintained and an excellent candidate for rehabilitation.

Conclusion

⁴⁹ Garavaglia Interview, 16 October, 2007. "When Highway 44 was built it hurt us. It sliced the neighborhood in half. It became a war zone in the late 70s and early 80s. Houses were selling for \$1,200 or \$1,300. People would just walk away from their houses. It got bad. People were torching the buildings. The highway just killed the area. It has started coming back but never got back to what it was before the highway."

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For nearly a hundred years, the Pundt-Garavaglia Grocery complex provided convenience and quality service to the residents of the Compton Hill neighborhood on the city's south side. The complex is locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Commerce and Architecture. Under Criterion A, it is a rare remnant of a once widespread commercial enterprise, the local neighborhood grocery and home delivery service. Under Criterion C, the primary corner building—designed to integrate within the fabric of its surrounding neighborhood—is a substantially intact example of a commercial structure with Queen Anne/Second Empire styling, which was a prevalent building type in St. Louis in the late 19th century. Associated with the historic context "South St. Louis Working- and Middle-Class Suburban Neighborhoods: 1880-1940" in the South St. Louis Historic Working- and Middle-Class Streetcar Suburbs MPDF, the buildings retain integrity inside and out and meet the registration requirements for their property type for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, as described in the cover document.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated site is located at 2857 Lafayette Avenue on Lot 1 of City Block 2131, in the Sickles Compton Hill Addition to the City of St. Louis, Missouri. The site measures 22 ft. 1½ in. by 130 ft.

Boundary Justification

Boundaries encompass all of the land that has been associated with the buildings since their construction in 1895.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



