

Rieger Hotel  
Name of Property

Jackson County, MO  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

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

Working Class Hotels at 19<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets, Kansas City, MO

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Hotel

DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:  
Commercial style

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof asphalt

other terra cotta

**Narrative Description**

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Rieger Hotel  
Name of Property

Jackson County, MO  
County and State

**8. Description**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**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**

**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:

Kansas City Public Library

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

**Areas of Significance**

(enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

**Period of Significance**

1915-1953

**Significant Dates**

1915

**Significant Persons**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Smith, Rea and Lovitt, architects

**Gray Construction Company**

Rieger Hotel  
Name of Property

Jackson County, MO  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one acre

### UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/5 3/6/3/0/0/0 4/3/2/7/9/0/0  
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Property Tax No.

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cydney E. Millstein  
organization Architectural and Historical Research, LLC date August 25, 2003  
street & number P.O. Box 22551 telephone 816.363.0567  
city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64113

## 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

name/title Rieger, LLC  
street & number 1922 Main Street telephone 816.474.5205  
city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64108

**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.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

**Rieger Hotel  
Jackson County, Missouri**

---

### SUMMARY

The Rieger Building, located at 1922 Main Street, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri, was designed by the noted Kansas City architectural firm of Smith, Rea and Lovitt and built by the Gray Construction Company in 1915. As defined in the MPS Cover Document "Working Class Hotesl and 19<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets in Kansas City, MO," the Rieger Building is an intact example of the Two-Part Commercial Block Hotel, featuring "prominent storefronts at the main facade, double-hung, sash fenestration set in groups of three and divided by spandrels between floors." Furthermore, the Rieger displays terra cotta at its facade, which "was used to embellish the main facade from the storefront level and often, through the upper stories, thereby setting off the primary facade form the secondary elevations."

Located within five blocks of the Kansas City's Union Station, sited in the middle of a block on a major thoroughfare. To the north, east and west are other commercial buildings. To the south is a paved parking lot. The west or rear facade is adjacent to an alleyway. A 1950s-era, flat roof commercial building is adjacent to the north facade.

Its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association has been retained in the exterior, meeting the registration requirements as set forth in the MPS cover document. The Rieger Hotel has a metal clad addition with a canopy that extends over the rear section of the main roof, added in 2003. This modification has a minimal affect on the historic integrity of the building.

### ELABORATION

The three story commercial building is constructed of reinforced concrete and brick with a terra cotta veneer on the east or main facade. The original storefront was recently renovated, based on the original design. The storefront features a central, tripartite window unit, flanked by single-leaf wood doors. The storefront unit is crowned by a leaded glass transom. A wide band of white terra cotta divides the storefront level from the upper floors. Original tripartite fenestration features a double-hung, sash 6/1 central unit flanked by 4/1 units. Floors are separated by monochromatic spandrels of highlyornamented terra cotta. A wide cornice with a symmetrically placed nameplate featuring the word "RIEGER" crowns the building. The terra cotta facade is very detailed and contains blocks of several different patterns.

The south facade, generally characterized by masonry walls, is punctuated at the center bays by 3/3, double-hung, sash windows. A non-original metal balcony with large knee-bracing has been placed between the second and third stories. Fenestration of the north facade is paced at

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

**Rieger Hotel**  
**Jackson County, Missouri**

---

the center bays. The rear façade is marked by a single-leaf door at the first story, center bay; 3/3 metal units at the second story and a non-original recessed window bay at the third story. Fire doors with metal balconies mark the north bay of the second and third story. The north and south façades, characterized by a concrete structural grid, feature 3/3 windows. The fenestration of the south and north façades are duplicated at the rear, where a metal fire escape is placed at the north end. The far north bay features single-leaf metal doors. The interior of the Rieger building has been modified over the years and a minimum of historic features remains extant. The Rieger Hotel has a metal clad addition with a canopy that extends over the rear section of the main roof, added in 2003. This modification has a minimal affect on the historic integrity of the building.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

**Rieger Hotel  
Jackson County, Missouri**

### SUMMARY

The Rieger Hotel, 1922 Main Street, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and is locally significant in the following areas: **COMMERCE:** The development of the Rieger Hotel coincides with the historic context identified in the MPS Cover Document "Working Class Hotels at 19<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets in Kansas City, MO": "The Evolution of Travel Modes and Hotel Space in Kansas City: 1880-1915." As a representative example of a working class hotel, the Rieger Hotel was established as a convenient, comfortable and efficient place of lodging. It represents the values and standards in hotel accommodations offered to the working class traveler within walking distance of Kansas City's freight district and Union Station. Alexander Rieger, civic leader, entrepreneur and Czechoslovakian consul, was responsible for the construction of this working class hotel. Along with the Midwest and Monroe, it is one of the few hotels to remain in the 1900 block of Main Street. The period of significance is 1915 through 1953, the end date established by the discretionary cut-off period of the National Register.

### History and Significance

In 1915 Alexander Rieger hired the Kansas City architectural firm of Smith, Rea and Lovitt to design a hotel for the corner of Main and 20<sup>th</sup> Street. As originally designed, the hotel was a small intimate brick and terra cotta, three-story fireproof building. The firm's design also called for ornamental ironwork, marble, tile and terrazzo floors, skylights, and metal framed windows. Bids closed on July 30, 1915. In August it was announced that Gray Construction Company was awarded the job as general contractor.<sup>1</sup>

During its first decade of operation, the building was known as the Rieger Hotel. Sometime during the mid-1920s the building changed hands and became the Traveler's Hotel. E. E. Porter Soft Drinks also had an office located in the building in 1927. In 1941 the building was vacant; however after World War II the building was reopened as the Milton Hotel. Office space was also leased to the Acme Decal Company. After 1961, only the Acme Decal Company remained.<sup>2</sup>

In 1962 Orville Anderson, owner and operator of Anderson Photography, purchased the building from Mrs. Mary G. Jacobs. With no immediate plans for the Rieger Building, Anderson leased twenty-two rooms on the second and third floors for hotel space to the Elms Hotel. It is

<sup>1</sup> *Western Contractor*, July 28, 1915, 30 and August 11, 1915, 29.

<sup>2</sup> Polk City Directories for Kansas City, Missouri, 1916-1965.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

**Rieger Hotel  
Jackson County, Missouri**

---

unclear whether or not this business was related to the Elms of Excelsior Springs, Missouri. In 1964 Anderson Photography moved their headquarters to the first floor and basement area at 1922 Main. The Elms Hotel continued to occupy the upper two floors.<sup>3</sup>

Both working class individuals and travelers stayed at the Rieger Hotel. Like the Midwest and Monroe Hotels, the Rieger Hotel typically catered to single workers without families who found it necessary to live in proximity to their place of employment. One of the most common long-term residents was the traveling salesman who utilized the hotel space as a base of operation.

***Alexander Rieger***

Alexander Rieger was born in Czechoslovakia and immigrated to the United States with his family at the age of nine in 1879. In 1885, at the age of fifteen, Alexander moved to Kansas City where he was employed for a short time as a stock boy for the firm of G. Bernheimer Brothers Dry Goods. Six months later he bought a small grocery store at Third and Gillis. After the grocery business, he established Rieger and Co., dealers in fine liquors, located across the street from the Livestock Exchange Building.<sup>4</sup>

Rieger's business acumen led him to become a major figure in the financial industry during the first thirty-six years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Kansas City. His various positions include director of the StockYards National Bank, founder of Home Trust Company in 1920 and a long affiliation with Merchants Bank beginning in 1916. He was chairman of the board at Mercantile Bank, president of the Community State Bank and a major stockholder in the National Bank of North Kansas City.

---

<sup>3</sup>"Anderson Photo In Move To 1922 Main," *Kansas City Star* 12 July 1964. Not paginated. Clippings, Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City Missouri.

<sup>4</sup>"Alexander Rieger," *Kansas City Times*, 1 July 1936. Clippings, Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City Missouri.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

**Rieger Hotel**  
**Jackson County, Missouri**

---

He is also recognized for his civic leadership within the Jewish community as a member of the board of the United Jewish Charities of Kansas City, the Jewish Orphans Home and Menorah Hospital. Perhaps his most important contribution to Kansas City occurred in 1929 when he was appointed the Czechoslovakian consul for Kansas and Missouri and aided the trade relations between the mid-west and Czechoslovakia.<sup>5</sup> Rieger died of a heart attack in 1936 at the age of 66.<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> "Czechoslovakia Consul to Kansas and Missouri," *Kansas City Star*, 25 January 1929. Clippings, Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City Missouri.

<sup>6</sup> "Alexander Rieger," *Kansas City Times*, 1 July 1936.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 6

**Rieger Hotel**  
**Jackson County, Missouri**

---

### **Bibliography**

"Alexander Rieger," *The Kansas City Times*, 1 July 1936.

"Anderson Photo In Move To 1922," *The Kansas City Star*, 12 July 1964.

"Czechoslovakia Consul to Kansas and Missouri," *The Kansas City Star*, 25 January 1929.

*Polk City Directory*, Kansas City, Missouri, 1916-1965.

*Western Contractor*, July 28, 1915, 30 and August 11, 1915, 29.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 7

**Rieger Hotel  
Jackson County, Missouri**

---

### Verbal Boundary Description

McGee's Addition, All of E Alley and W of Main St. of S 24¼' of Lot 487, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri.

### Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Rieger Hotel, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri.

### Key to Photographs

Len Fohn, photographer, September 2003.

Location of Negatives: Architectural and historical Research, LLC  
P.O. Box. 22551  
Kansas City, Missouri 64113

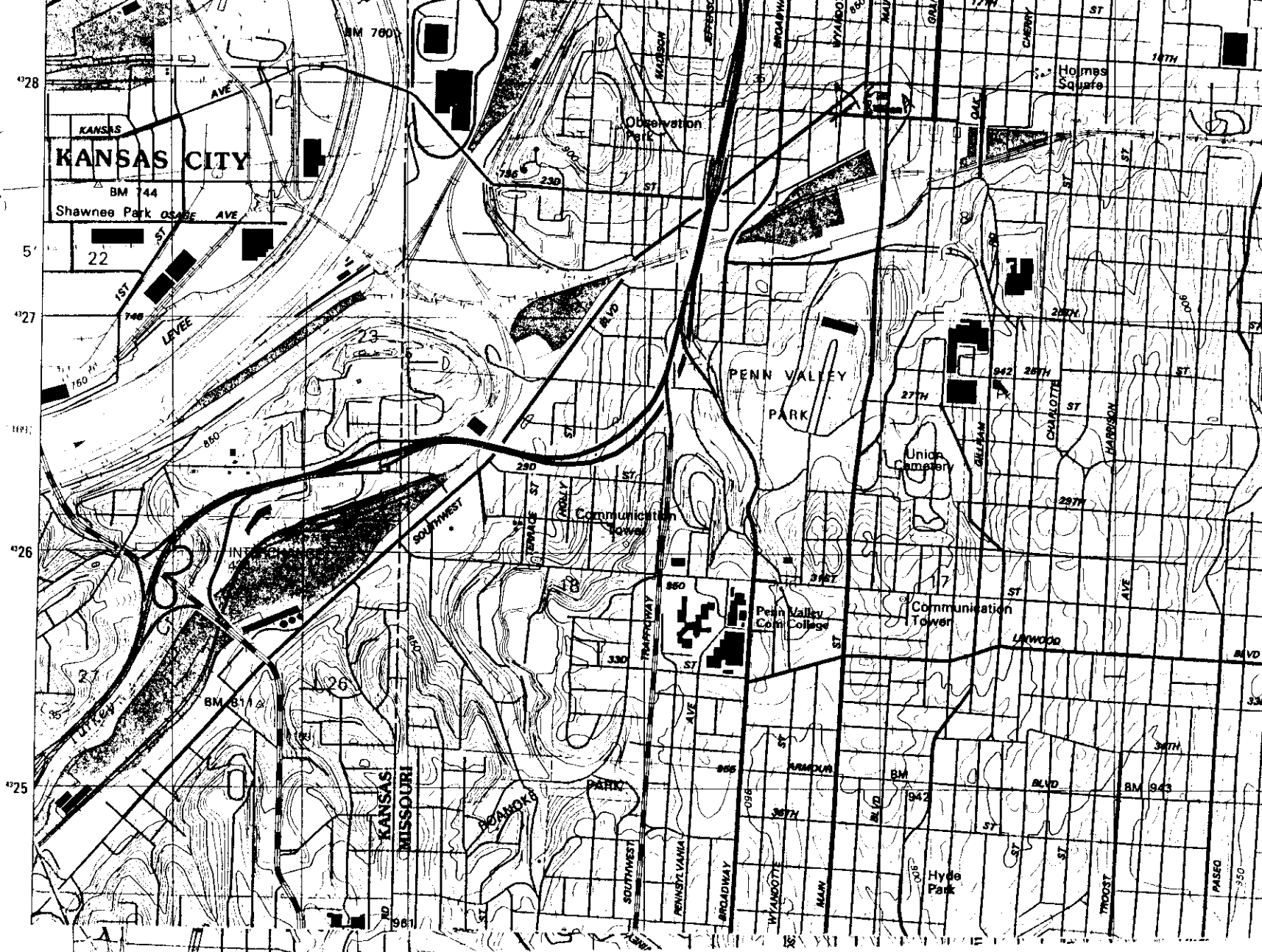
1. Main or east façade; view facing west.
2. Main and south façades; view facing northeast.
3. South façade; view facing north.
4. North façade; view facing southwest.
5. Rear or west façade; view facing east.

Working Class  
Hotels at 1941 &  
Main Streets,  
Kansas City, Mo

A. Midwest Hotel  
15/30000 / 1327870

B. River Hotel  
15/30000 / 1327900

C. Monroe Hotel  
15/30000 / 1327150



RIEGER



For Lease  
Call  
782-9000



MATCH SAWS  
ANYTHING

FOR LEASE  
**Fishmar Co.**  
913-782-9000  
SEE BROKER LIST BUILDING

WHEATON

RIGER

FOR LEASE



PROFESSORS  
ANYTHING

FOR LEASE  
**Fishmae Co**  
913-782-9000

HISRA



HOTEL

