

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 Schollmeyer Building

and/or common 1976-1982 Arsenal Street

2. Location

street & number 1976-1982 Arsenal Street

___ not for publication

city, town St. Louis ___ vicinity of

state Missouri code 29 county City of St. Louis code 510

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Jeffrey L. Hicks

street & number 1605 South Ninth Street, P. O. Box 12299

city, town St. Louis ___ vicinity of state Missouri 63157

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Louis City Hall

street & number Market Street and Tucker Boulevard

city, town St. Louis state Missouri 63103

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ☒ nodate 1984 ___ federal ☒ state ___ county ___ localdepository for survey records Historic Preservation Program, Department of Natural Resources
Box 176

city, town Jefferson City state Missouri 65102

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☒ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Schollmeyer Building is a two-story brick structure with mansard, providing three storefronts on the first floor and two four-room apartments on each of the upper floors. A one-story wing to the east has one additional storefront. The building is located at the southeast corner of Arsenal Street and Illinois Avenue and faces Benton Park across the latter. The angled corner of the building, intended to confront the intersection, seems less effective since this end of Illinois Avenue has been closed and landscaped. In addition to its corner bay, the building has four bays on the park and six on Arsenal. It is given style and character primarily by its mansard and dormers, which display features of the Queen Anne style, notably the double additional dormer at the center of the Arsenal front and single dormer at the corner, both of which are pedimented and framed by ornamental scrolls on flaring sides. Two smaller dormers on Arsenal and one on Illinois are hipped and shingle-clad. The fishscale slate shingles (now painted aqua) also cover the sides of the smaller dormers and the pediments of the larger ones. A large double chimney rises above the first bay on the Illinois side. It has flared scrolled sides like the larger dormers and frames a round-headed window between the two fluted chimney tops. Another fluted chimney rises directly from the apex of the larger Arsenal Street dormer, while more utilitarian chimneys punctuate the parapets at the east and south ends of the building. Another Queen Anne feature is the glazing pattern of the fenestration. All the street windows except the round-headed one have upper sashes of nine panes, the center one being the largest, edged by narrow rectangles, with small squares in the corners. This pattern was continued in the transom windows of the storefronts, with colored glass for the smaller panes. The Arsenal Street dormer windows still display the pattern clearly. On the second floor it is obscured by recent 9-over-6 storm windows, and some sash is missing. The storefronts and the entry to the second floor (at the west edge of the center storefront) have been covered by vertical board siding, but their transoms survive behind. Most east and south windows are a simpler two-over-two. The storefronts are separated by wide brick pilasters on ashlar bases and topped by a metal frieze. A dentilled brick cornice underlines the mansard. The single-story storefront at the east end of the building, although built at approximately the same time, has somewhat different detailing, notably a modillioned cornice framed by wide brackets. To the south is a three-story gallery facing the vacant Lot 2 (in the same ownership as the building). The gallery has five unequal and very simply detailed bays; currently there is no balustrade. A staircase rising through the gallery has a railing supported by closely spaced square balusters. The upper floors have two four-room apartments each.

The building shows the effects of prolonged vacancy and vandalism. The current owners would like to restore it to its original uses and stylish appearance, cleaning the slates and revealing the window patterns.

Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 1889 **Builder/Architect** Christian Schollmeyer

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Schollmeyer Building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. It is associated with the late nineteenth-century development of the neighborhood around Benton Park, in which it played a key visual role because of its location at the northeast corner of the park. In architecture it marks the transition from the Italianate and mansarded styles characteristic of neighborhood commercial buildings in the period after the Civil War to the Queen Anne style less frequently represented here in this building type. The survival of this building is important to the preservation of the historical ambience of the whole Benton Park area.

Benton Park itself was laid out in 1866 on the site of a former cemetery.¹ It was first called simply "City Park" and was later named for Thomas Hart Benton, Missouri's distinguished Senator who had died in 1858. The surrounding neighborhood, part of the St. Louis Commons, was first platted in the 1850's but developed slowly because of many sinkholes and caverns, which are seen as ponds in Compton & Dry's Pictorial St. Louis of 1875. Just east of the park was a cave named for Ezra English, a brewer who used it to store his beer. He sold it to the St. Louis Cultivated Mushroom Company, who used it to raise mushrooms. In the fall of 1888 the company, led by E. Henry Vortriede, opened a street (first called Wisconsin, later Illinois) along the east edge of the park and sold the lots facing it as the Benton Park Addition.² By the following summer fashionable houses were going up all along the street, and at the corner of Arsenal Christian Schollmeyer was building this structure.³ He was a commission merchant in partnership with Philip and Gustav Hassendeubel.⁴ Born in 1847, he lived with his wife and two children at 3143 South Jefferson Avenue on the west side of the Park. He later acquired a second investment property nearby, at the northeast corner of Arsenal and Wisconsin. The Schollmeyer Building remained in family ownership for at least a decade following Christian's death in 1925. It attracted neighborhood services to its commercial spaces and skilled laborers to its apartments. In one typical year, the storefronts were occupied by a shoe repair, a beauty shop, and an upholsterer, with a grocery at the corner, while one resident was chief engineer for a photographic supply manufacturer.⁵

The Queen Anne style in this country is most often associated with large and picturesque frame houses. As it originated in England in the 1860's and 1870's, however, it was predominantly a style of brick, drawing its inspiration from the northern Renaissance, the later seventeenth century in England, Japan, indeed from almost any source except the Gothic.⁶ The Queen Anne movement was one of the first to consciously imitate vernacular sources, the buildings of ordinary people, instead of the high style, and its vernacular reflection in the Schollmeyer Building seems particularly appropriate. The dormers, with their shaped surrounds, the double chimney with its unconventional central window, the patterning of the windows (which will come out vividly in the restoration), the classicizing divisions between the storefronts, all are characteristic of the Queen Anne style. Traditions die slowly in vernacular architecture, however, and features of the older Italianate and mansarded

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Continuation sheet Schollmeyer Building Item number 8 Page 1

styles are still apparent in the Schollmeyer Building, most notably the mansard itself, but also the cornices of the main block and the one-story wing.

Benton Park reached its zenith in the years immediately after the Schollmeyer Building was constructed. Like Lafayette Park to the north, Benton Park never fully recovered from the effects of the cyclone of 1896, and a further decline set in after World War I. Within the past few years, however, the attractive qualities of the area have once again been recognized, and some renovation has taken place. Restoration of the Schollmeyer Building in its highly visible location would be a boost to the whole neighborhood.

Notes

1. The history of Benton Park is recounted by Theo V. Brumfield, "Benton Park," Missouri Historical Society. Bulletin, XX, 4 (July 1964), pp. 313-316; Norbury Wayman, History of St. Louis Neighborhoods: Lafayette Square and Benton Park (St. Louis: St. Louis Community Development Agency, c. 1980); and M. M. Yeakle, Sr., The City of St. Louis of To-day (St. Louis: J. Osmun Yeakle & Co, 1889), p. 127.
2. St. Louis Recorder of Deeds, Plat Book 13, page 13.
3. St. Louis Building Department, permit 15028, July 16, 1889.
4. Information about Christian Schollmeyer comes from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, February 20, 1925; St. Louis Probate Court, file 61325; and city directories.
5. Gould's St. Louis City Directory (St. Louis: Polk-Gould Directory Co., 1930)
6. The most extensive analysis of the Queen Anne style, especially as it began in England, is Mark Girouard, Sweetness and Light (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1977). Girouard shows many dormers and chimneys similar to those of the Schollmeyer Building. Many of Girouard's points are made concisely by Marcus Whiffen in American Architecture Since 1780 (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1969), pp. 114-121. Typical wooden examples of the style are illustrated by John J.-G. Blumenson in Identifying American Architecture (Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1977), pp. 62-63.

Major Bibliographical References

1. Brumfield, Theo V., "Benton Park," Missouri Historical Society. Bulletin, XX, 4 (July 1964), pp. 313-316.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .22 acre

Quadrangle name "Cahokia, Ill.-Mo."

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UTM References

A

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

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification Lots 1 and 2, Block 2054, City of St. Louis
(Benton Park Addition).

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

state Missouri code 29 county City of St. Louis code 510

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Esley Hamilton

organization _____

date May 1984

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

John Karel, Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation
title Officer, Division of Parks & Historic Preservation

date

7/26/84

For NPS use only

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

date

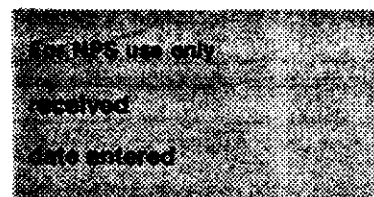
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Schollmeyer Building Item number 9 Page 1

2. Wayman, Norbury. History of St. Louis Neighborhoods: Lafayette Square and Benton Park. St. Louis: St. Louis Community Development Agency, c. 1980.
3. Yeakle, M. M., Sr. The City of St. Louis of To-day. St. Louis: J. Osmun Yeakle & Co., 1889.

Continuation sheet Schollmeyer Building Item number 11 Page 1

2. Jim Denny, Chief, Survey and Registration
and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City

May 1984
(314) 751-4096
Missouri 65102

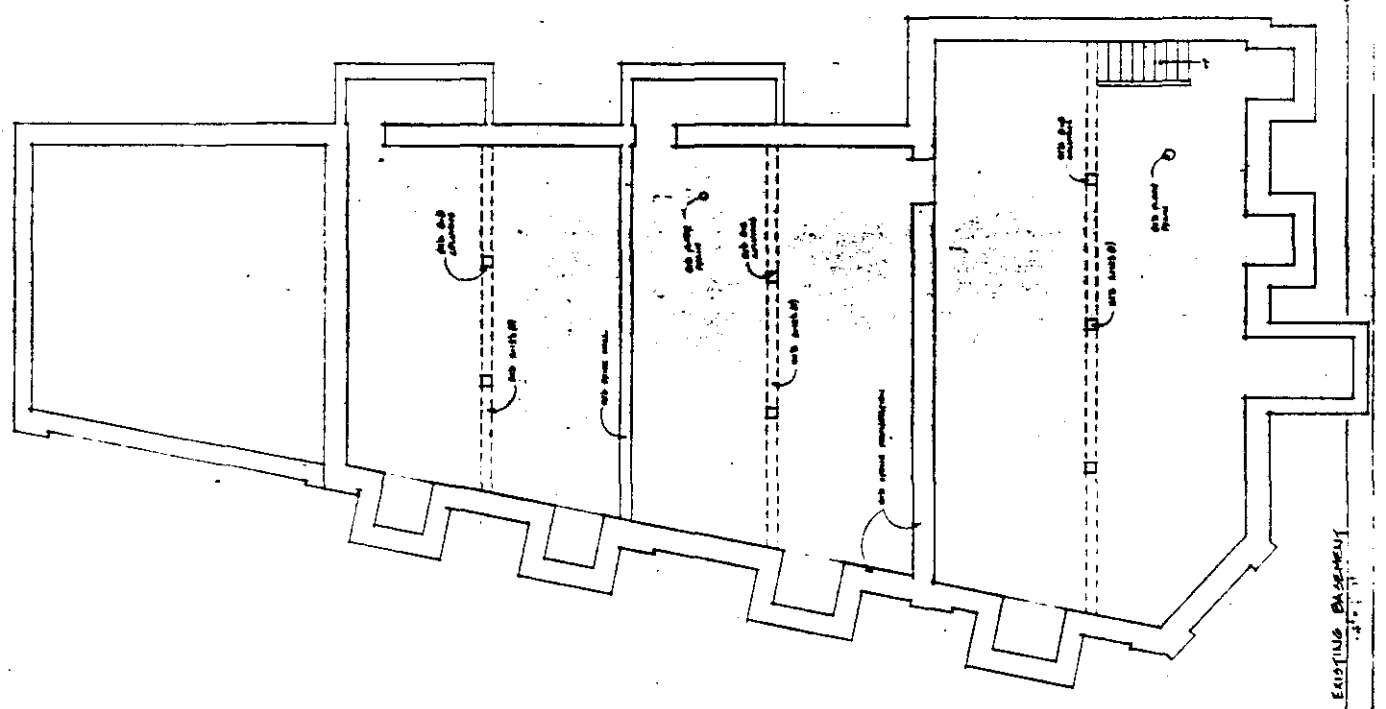
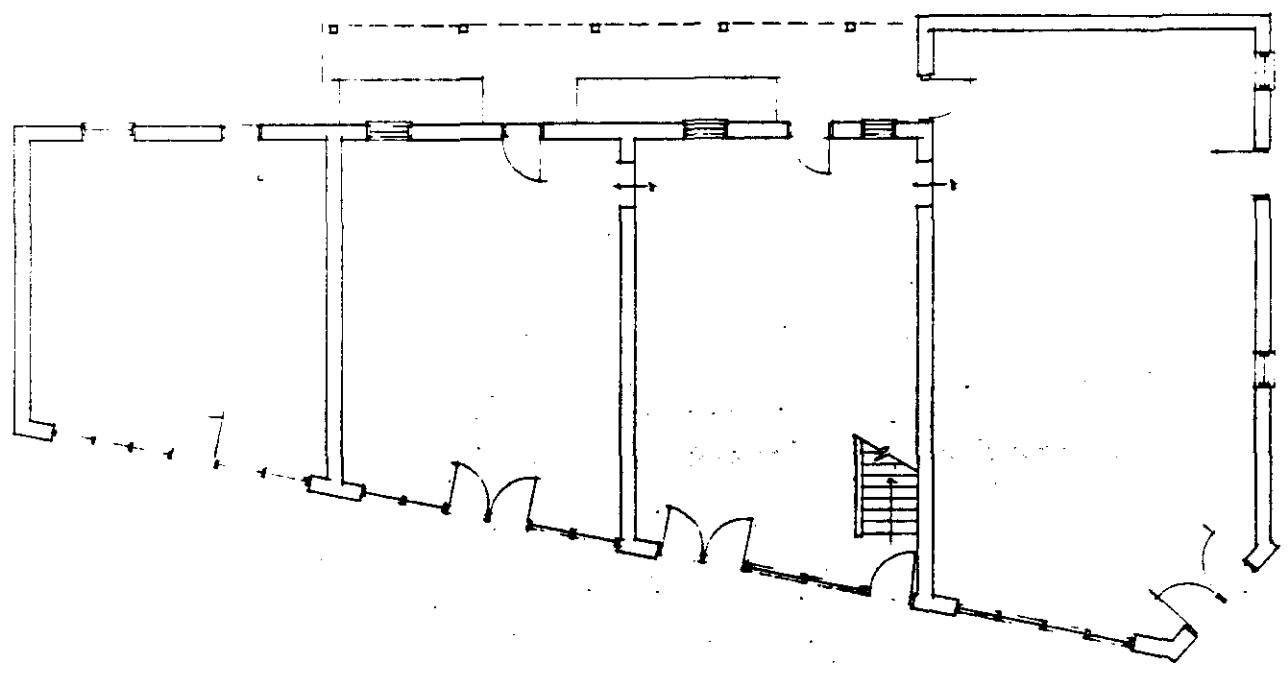
A2

976-32 ARSENAL
ST. LOUIS MO
580

SERIES, INC
405 E. 10th St. / P.O. Box 12288 / Saint Louis, Missouri 63117 / 314-221-2998

EXISTING FIRST FLOOR

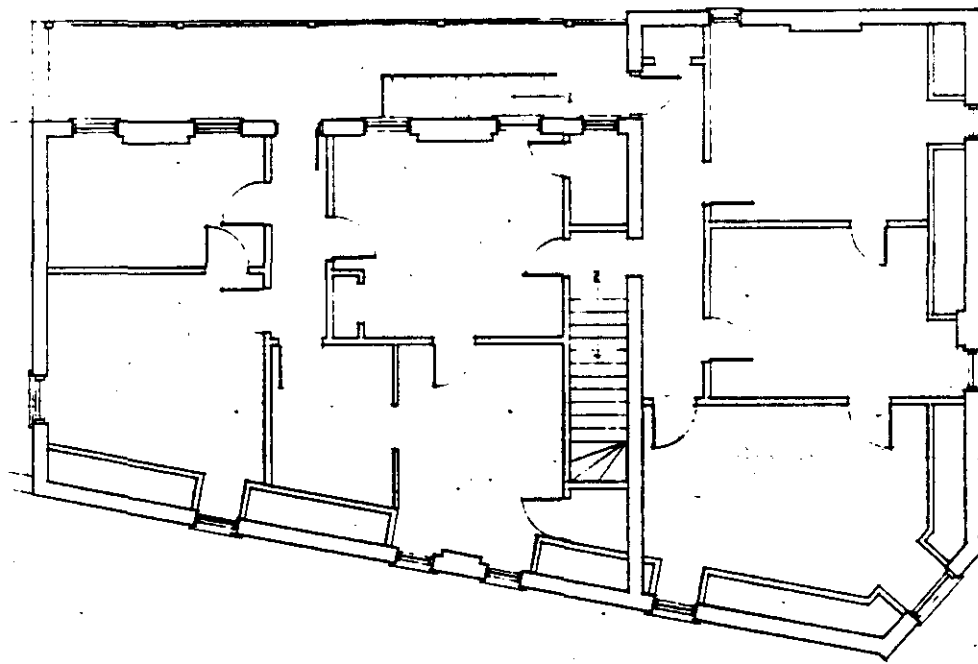
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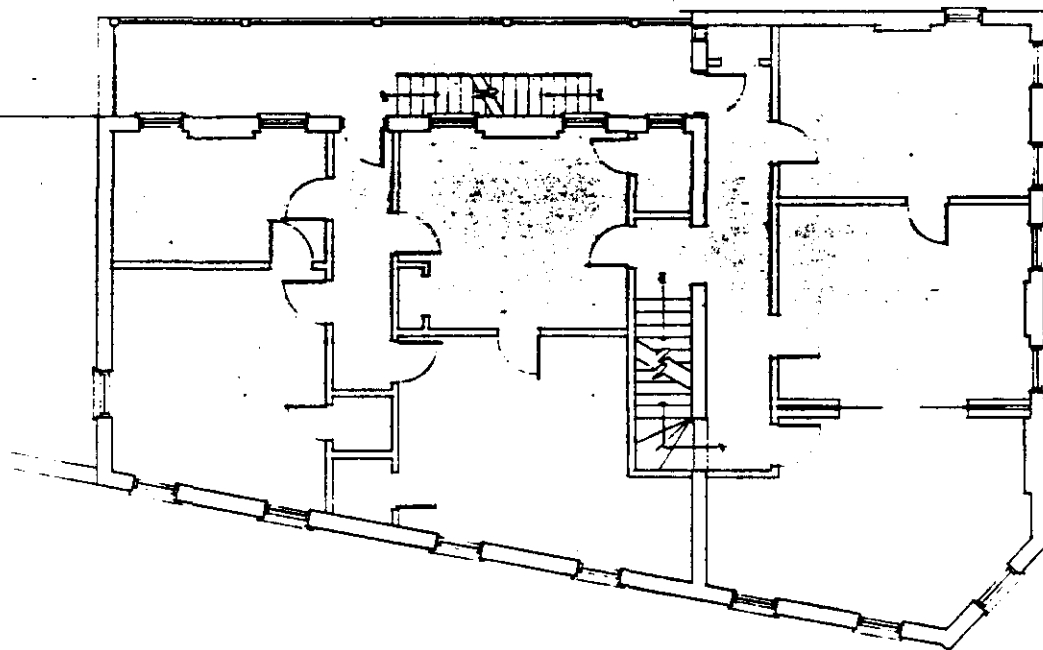
A3

1976-82 ARSENAL
ST. LOUIS, MO
1930

SEVER, INC.
1000 S. 3RD ST. / PO. BOX 12288 / ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63102 / 314-241-1000



EXISTING THIRD FLOOR



EXISTING SECOND FLOOR

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

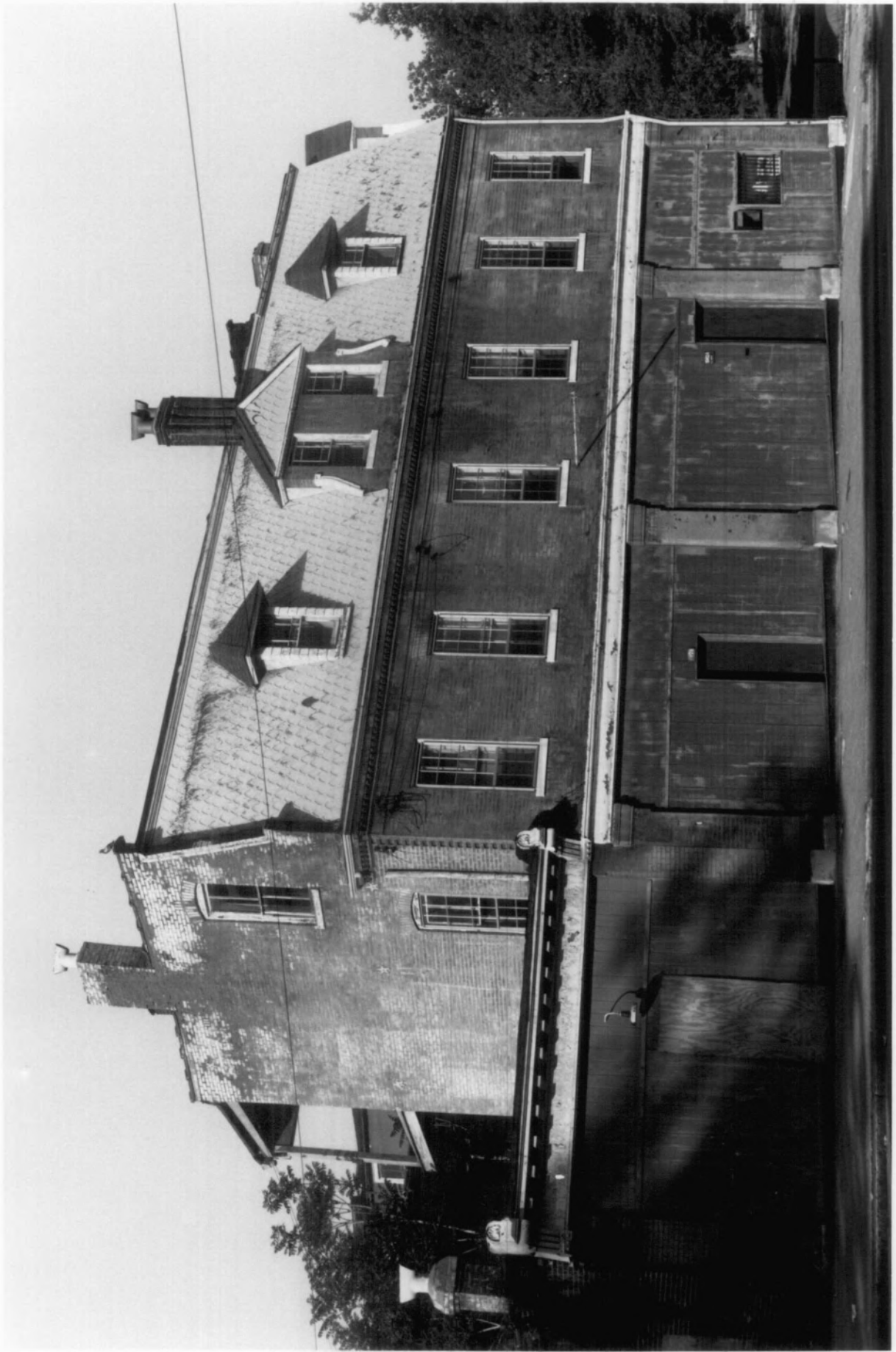
STATE OF MISSOURI
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND WATER RESOURCES



SCHOLLMEYER BUILDING 1 of 4
1976-1982 Arsenal Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63118

Photog.: Esley Hamilton, May 1984
Neg. Loc.: 1169 Ursula Avenue
University City, MO 63130

View of north front (Arsenal Street)
from northeast



SCHOLLMAYER BUILDING 2 of 4
1976-1982 Arsenal Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63118

Photog.: Esley Hamilton, May 1984
Neg. Loc.: 1169 Ursula Avenue
University City, MO 63130

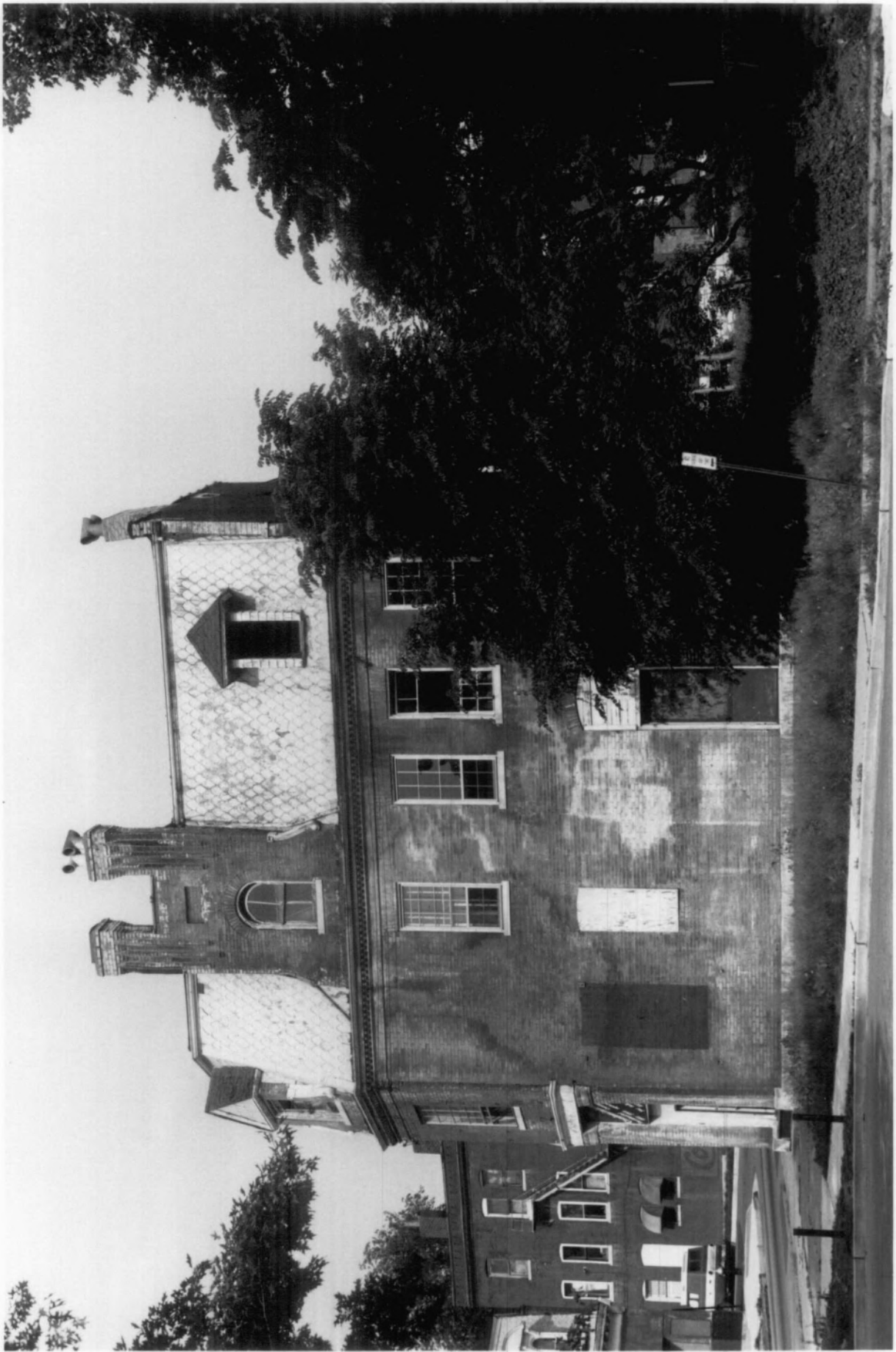
View of north and west fronts from northwest



SCHOLLMEYER BUILDING 3 of 4
1976-1982 Arsenal Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63118

Photog.: Esley Hamilton, May 1984
Neg. Loc.: 1169 Ursula Avenue
University City, MO 63130

View of west front (Illinois Avenue)
from west



SCHOLLMAYER BUILDING 4 of 4
1976-1982 Arsenal Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63118

Photog.: Esley Hamilton, May 1984
Neg. Loc.: 1169 Ursula Avenue
University City, MO 63130

View of south galleries from southeast

