

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Former Seventh District Police Station

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2800 South Grand Avenue

not for publication

city, town St. Louis

vicinity of

state Missouri

code 29

county City of St. Louis

code 510

3. Classification

Category

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

Ownership

- public
 - private
 - both
- Public Acquisition
- N/A in process
 - being considered

Status

- occupied
 - unoccupied
 - work in progress
- Accessible
- yes: restricted
 - yes: unrestricted
 - no

Present Use

- agriculture
- commercial
- educational
- entertainment
- government
- industrial
- military
- museum
- park
- private residence
- religious
- scientific
- transportation
- other:

4. Owner of Property

name WVP Corporation

street & number 1276 North Warson Road

city, town St. Louis

vicinity of

state MO 63132

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Tucker Boulevard at Market Street

city, town St. Louis

state MO 63103

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title 1. Missouri Historical Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date December 1983

federal state county local

depository for survey records

Historic Preservation Program
Missouri Department of Natural Resources; P. O. Box 176

city, town Jefferson City

state MO 65102

© 1983, Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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

Built in 1901, the three-story Seventh District Police Station and one-story stable are red brick institutional buildings trimmed with ornamental molded brick, stone and terra cotta. They are located on the southeast corner of Grand and Magnolia Avenues on St. Louis' south side.

Measuring approximately 75 feet on the east and west elevations and 50 feet on the north and south, the station rises from a rock-faced stone foundation. Corner bays of the west and north (primary) elevations are slightly stepped forward, creating a pavillion effect; light red sandstone lintels are employed on first and second story windows and rusticated brick dresses third story openings. An attic story trimmed with stepped brick blind arcading rises above bands of ornamental molded brick on the primary elevations. The east (rear) and south elevations are articulated with segmentally arched windows, most of which are now bricked-in; new stairs are installed at the northeast corner of the building. A comparison of the building today (Photo #1) with its appearance circa 1907 (Photo #2) reveals reversible alterations. A cement block addition now partially conceals the two stone arched entrances at the northwest corner and a doorway at the southwest corner is partially filled with stone. Renovation plans include the removal of these new materials, reconstruction of the original double dormer on the west elevation, and replacement of the aluminum-framed windows on the primary elevations with new sash following the original glazing patterns.

The red brick stable is approximately 30 feet wide on the east and west elevations and 60 feet deep on the north and south elevations. The building rises from a rock-faced stone foundation. The primary (west) facade is articulated with a large arched entrance trimmed with molded brick. Rectangular windows with red sandstone lintels flank the entrance. (Photo #1-right.) A red terra cotta rosette and coping trim the facade gable on which is mounted a finely crafted red terra cotta horse head (Photo #3). Exterior alterations are minor and include bricking-in segmentally arched windows on the north, south and east elevations, boarding the arched entrance and closing the facade windows with false stone.

No architecturally significant features are present on the interior of either the station or stable.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1901 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Seventh District Police Station and Stable are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places according to Criterion C and are significant in the following area: ARCHITECTURE: Constructed in 1901, the buildings are well-preserved examples of St. Louis' few remaining historic police stations. The station and stable are distinguished by fine brick masonry construction and ornamental detailing in brick, stone and terra cotta.

When St. Louis city boundaries were extended for the last time in 1876, almost all of the annexed area lay west of Grand Avenue (Figure #1). Although the center of population had been steadily moving westward for several decades, the newly annexed land was still sparsely inhabited. By 1890, however, public transit lines were connecting downtown St. Louis with western suburban tracts and streetcar suburbs mushroomed as subdivision platting proceeded at an accelerated rate.

Among the consequences of the city's growth was the need for police protection in the newly developing residential sections. By 1895, boundaries of three of the city's eight police districts had been extended considerably west of Grand Avenue but without an increase in policemen to patrol the added territory. Chief of Police Annual Reports in the mid-1890s consistently argued the "pressing needs" for more officers to patrol the expanded city and cited statistics which unfavorably compared the city's current ratio of eleven men to the square mile to the nineteen men twenty years earlier. A comparison of St. Louis' manpower ratio with those of five other large cities further dramatized the situation: Boston had twenty-three per square mile; New York City twenty-one; Baltimore, nineteen; and Chicago and Philadelphia both sixteen. Numerous St. Louis policemen were forced to walk double beats and a tiring twelve-hour shift contributed to the problem of efficient protection.¹ As Police Chief Harrigan summarized the situation in 1895:

The area and population of St. Louis being considered, its Police Department is numerically one of the weakest in the United States. . . . The increase of the force has not by any means kept pace with the extension of the area, and what adds to this difficulty is the fact that St. Louis has a finer and more extensive system of streetcar railways than any other city in the world. Rapid transit lines extending in every direction have enabled our people to build homes and make thickly settled districts of portions of the city that a few years ago were used for farming purposes.²

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

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Former Seventh District

Continuation sheet Police Station, St. Louis Item number 8

Page 1

Despite continued pleas for more men, Police Department appropriations remained frozen throughout the 1890s, a result, in part, of the deadlock existing between the Democratic Governor-appointed St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners and the Republican St. Louis municipal government.³ Compounding the problem, Mayor Henry Ziegenhein's "economy" administration (1897-1901) decreased the city debt by \$2.7 million but failed to improve municipal services and much of the city was still left without sewers, paved streets, lights or police protection.⁴ With the Police Department at the mercy of local politicians who held up bills and refused budget increases, the only hope for improvement was by State action. Finally, in 1899, through the persistent efforts of Harry B. Hawes, President of the St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners, the State Legislature passed a bill amending the 1861 Act which first established the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department.⁵

Among the significant features of the new statute were provisions for expedient approval of Police Department budgets, a sizable increase of three hundred patrolmen and the redistricting of the city from nine to twelve police districts each of which would be equipped with a "station house or houses, with all things and equipments required for the same, and all such other accommodations as may be required for the use of the police."⁶ While benefits of the statute extended city wide, conditions in the southwestern sector were markedly improved. The creation of a new Seventh District with east-west boundaries reaching from Compton to Kingshighway provided the first police protection west of Grand Avenue on the south side of the city (Figure #1).

Within a short time after the Seventh District was established, a building permit was issued in November 1900 to the St. Louis Police Department for a new station and stable on the southeast corner of Grand and Magnolia. With an emphasis on functional plan, the commodious three-story brick station (the first fruits of the 1899 statute) included a gymnasium on the third floor -- an innovative feature for St. Louis stations at the time. The station also was reported to have housed the Police Academy, a training school for patrolmen located after 1928 in a separate building downtown. The exterior design continued nineteenth century St. Louis brick building conventions and displayed an interesting variety of textures and patterns in the stone and brick ornamental detailing. The fortress-like treatment of the attic story with stepped-brick blind arcade added a distinctive element, recalling nineteenth century armory design (Photo #1). Mounted on the facade of the adjoining stable, an unusually well-executed terra cotta horse's head is a rare surviving example in the city (Photo #3).

The boundaries of the new Seventh District encompassed an area with elevated land grade which for several decades had been attracting wealthy residents

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Former Seventh District

Continuation sheet Police Station, St. Louis

Item number 8

Page 2

For NPS use only

received

date entered

whose mansions were scattered along Grand Avenue. Tower Grove Park, cultivated over the years into a showcase of Victorian English garden design, had also helped establish this suburban tract as a fashionable location. Residential density was relatively low, however, until after 1891 when critical streetcar lines reached the area and the barrier of nearby railroad tracts was removed with the completion of the Grand Avenue Suspension Bridge which connected the city's north and south sides. A decade before the Seventh District Station was completed in 1901, residential development was underway just east of Grand Avenue in Compton Heights (south St. Louis' most prestigious private subdivision) and in subdivisions whose boundaries extended west of Grand. After full municipal services were provided in subdivisions west of Grand in the early twentieth century, the Seventh District neighborhood rapidly grew and, by 1910, was reported to encompass "some of the best residence parts of the city and many manufactories."⁷

The Seventh District Station continued to serve the area until 1960 when the city was redistricted and the Grand and Magnolia buildings were sold to the local branch of the National Association of Letter Carriers, a union which represented more than two thousand mailmen in the St. Louis area. Recently, the buildings have been purchased by the WVP Corporation (engineers, architects and planners) which will move its St. Louis office to the old station. Restoration plans which propose to return the station buildings as closely as possible to their original appearance will preserve a significant landmark of St. Louis' south side.

FOOTNOTES

¹St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, St. Louis Police Department Illustrated (St. Louis: St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, 1902), n.p.

²St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners, Annual Report (St. Louis: Board of Police Commissioners, 1895), pp. 613-14.

³The Hon. Harry B. Hawes, A Noonday Discussion of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Law: Its Passage in 1861 and Amendment in 1899 (St. Louis: By the Author, circa 1901), pp. 16-20.

⁴James Neal Primm, Lion of the Valley: St. Louis, Missouri (Boulder, CO: Pruett Publishing Co., 1981), pp. 372-73.

⁵St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners, History of the Metropolitan Police Department of St. Louis, 1810-1910 (St. Louis: St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners, circa 1910), p. 132.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Former Seventh District
Continuation sheet Police Station, St. Louis Item number 8

Page 3

⁶Missouri, General Assembly, The Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri, 1899, Vol. II, p. 1456.

⁷St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners, History of the Metropolitan Police Department, p. 159.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Cahokia, IL/MO

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The former Seventh District Police Station is located in City Block 1447 and measures 110 feet along Grand Avenue and 60 feet along Magnolia and the east/west alley of CB 1447.

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

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By © 1983, Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.

name/title 1. Mary M. Stirtz, Research Associate

organization Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. date 30 December 1983

street & number 721 Olive Street, Room 1113

telephone (314) 421-6474

city or town St. Louis

state MO 63101

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

Fred A. Saper

title Director, Department of Natural Resources and
State Historic Preservation Officer

date

2/8/84

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

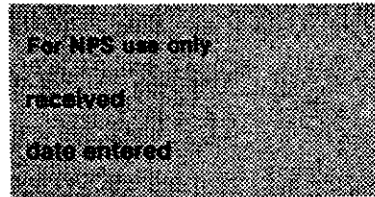
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



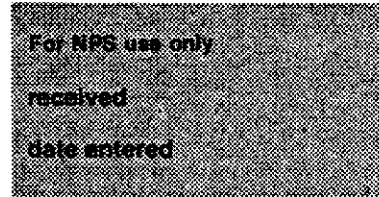
Former Seventh District
Continuation sheet Police Station, St. Louis Item number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Hawes, The Hon. Harry B. A Noonday Discussion of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Law: Its Passage in 1861 and Amendment in 1899. St. Louis: By the Author, [circa 1901].
- Missouri, General Assembly. The Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri, 1899. Vol. II, p. 1456.
- Primm, James Neal. Lion of the Valley: St. Louis, Missouri. Boulder, CO: Pruett Publishing Co., 1981.
- St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners. Annual Report. St. Louis: St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners, 1890-1907.
- _____. History of the Metropolitan Police Department of St. Louis, 1810-1910. St. Louis: St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners, [circa 1910].
- St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. St. Louis Police Department Illustrated. St. Louis: St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, 1902.

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

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



Former Seventh District
Continuation sheet **Police Station, St. Louis** **Item number** 11 **Page** 1

2. James M. Denny, Chief, Survey & Registration
and State Contact Person

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City,

30 December 1983
314/751-4096
Missouri 65102

7981 III NE
(CLAYTON)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

ST
GEOLOGICAL SU

90°15'
38°37'30"

740000m.E.

741

742 1580 000 FEET (MO.)

40

4278000m N.

44

1 010 000 FEET
(MO.)

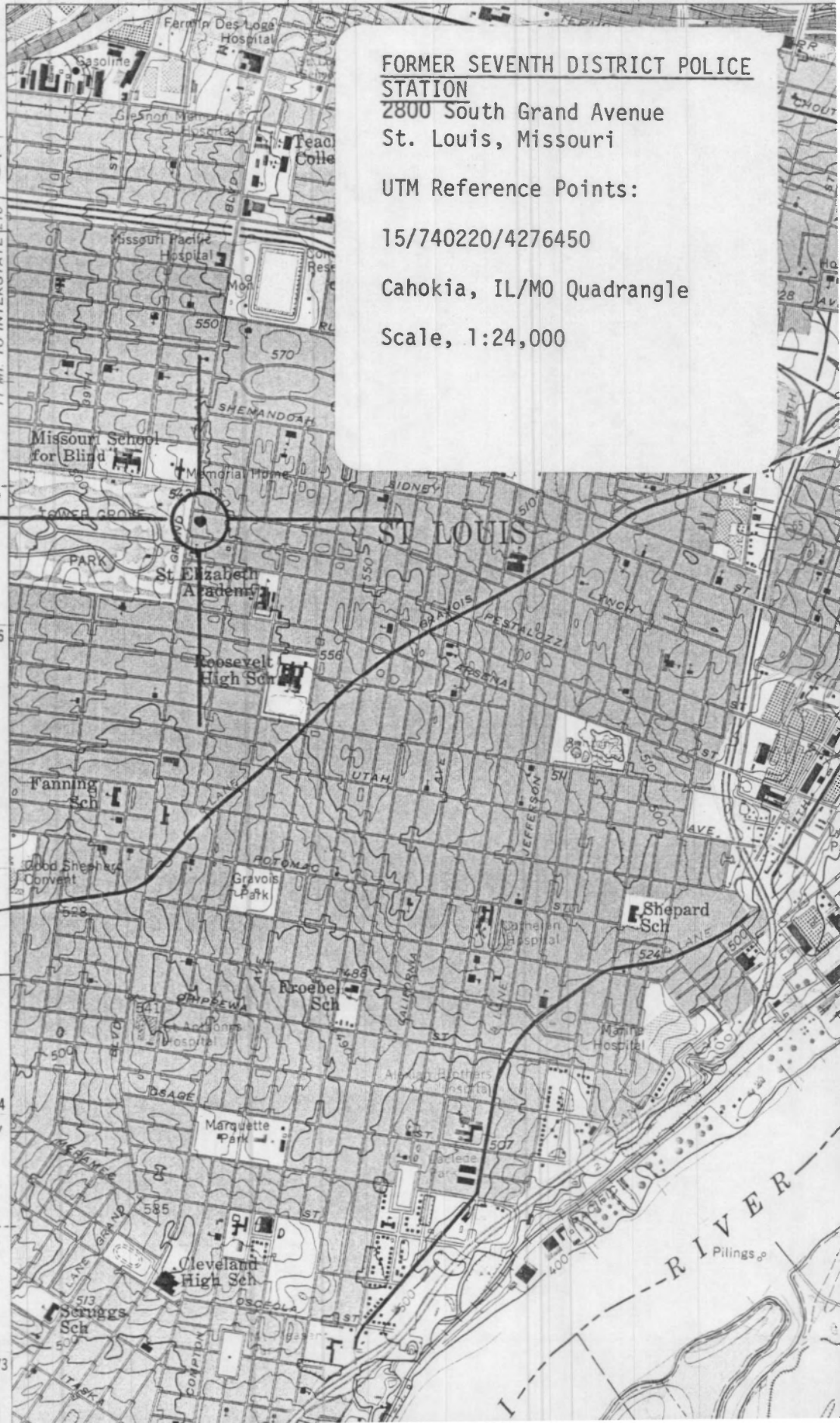
11 MI. TO INTERSTATE 270

4276

35'

4274

4273



FORMER SEVENTH DISTRICT POLICE
STATION

2800 South Grand Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

UTM Reference Points:

15/740220/4276450

Cahokia, IL/MO Quadrangle

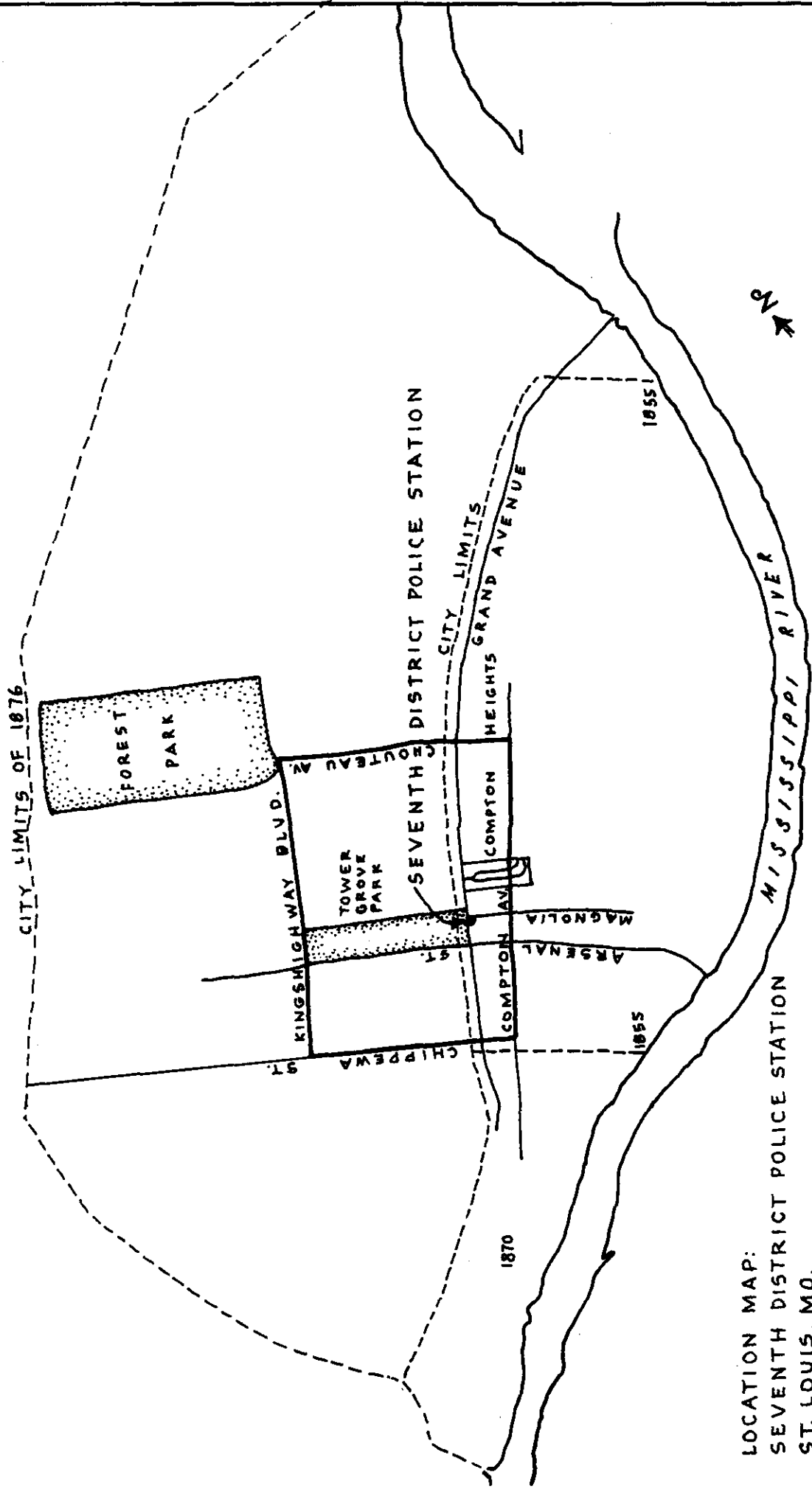
Scale, 1:24,000

FORMER SEVENTH DISTRICT POLICE
STATION

2800 South Grand Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

Figure #1 Location Map:
Seventh District
Police Station &
City Limits

Pat H. Baer, Draftsman
December 1983



LOCATION MAP:
 SEVENTH DISTRICT POLICE STATION
 ST. LOUIS, MO.

— SEVENTH DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

FORMER SEVENTH DISTRICT POLICE
STATION

2800 South Grand Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

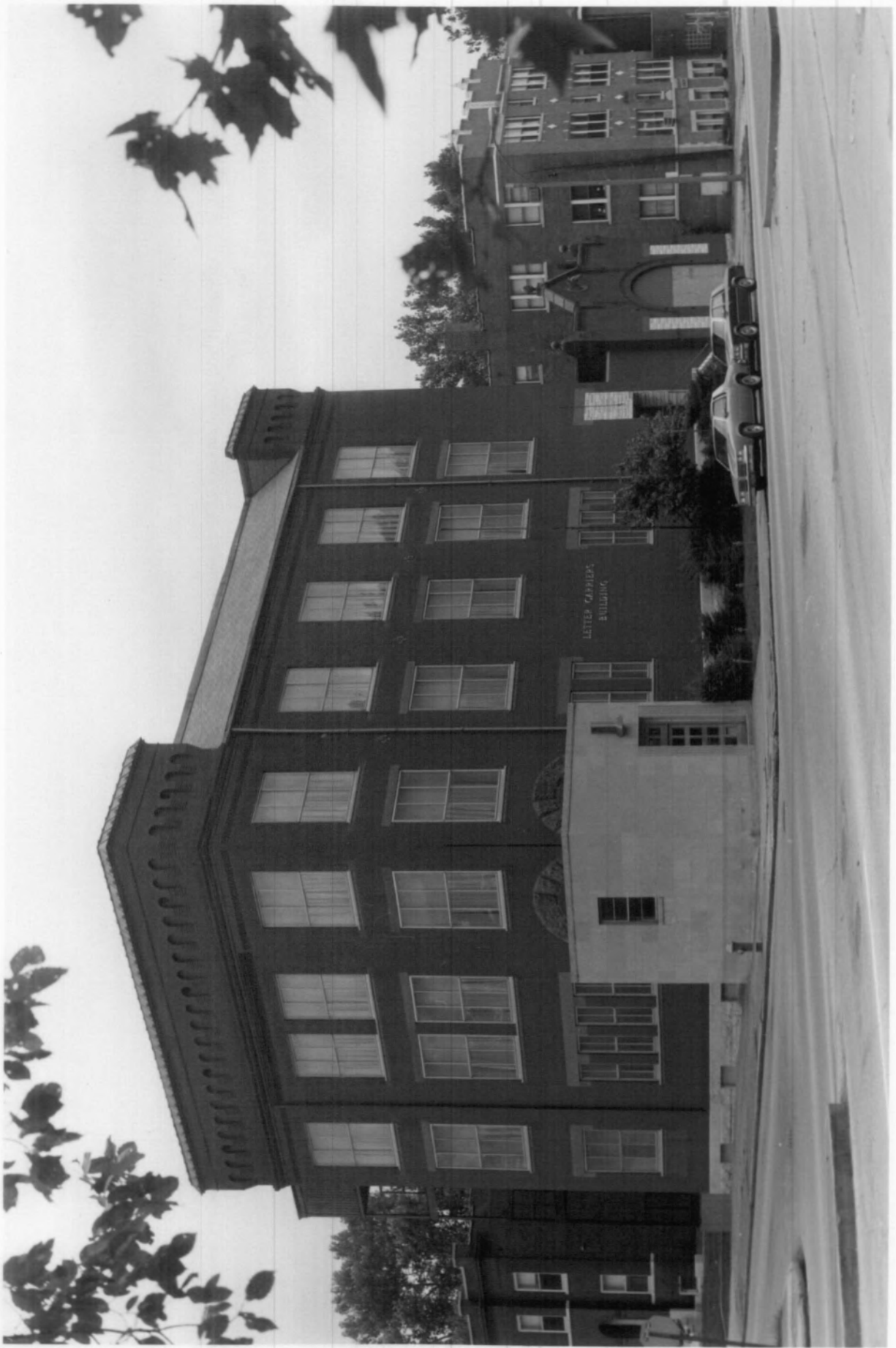
#1 of 3 West (principal) and
north elevations.

Photographer: Paul Tripodi

Negative: WVP Corporation
1276 N. Warson Road
St. Louis, MO 63132

Date: 1983

Camera facing southeast.



FORMER SEVENTH DISTRICT POLICE
STATION

2800 South Grand Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

#2 of 3 West (principal) and
north elevations.

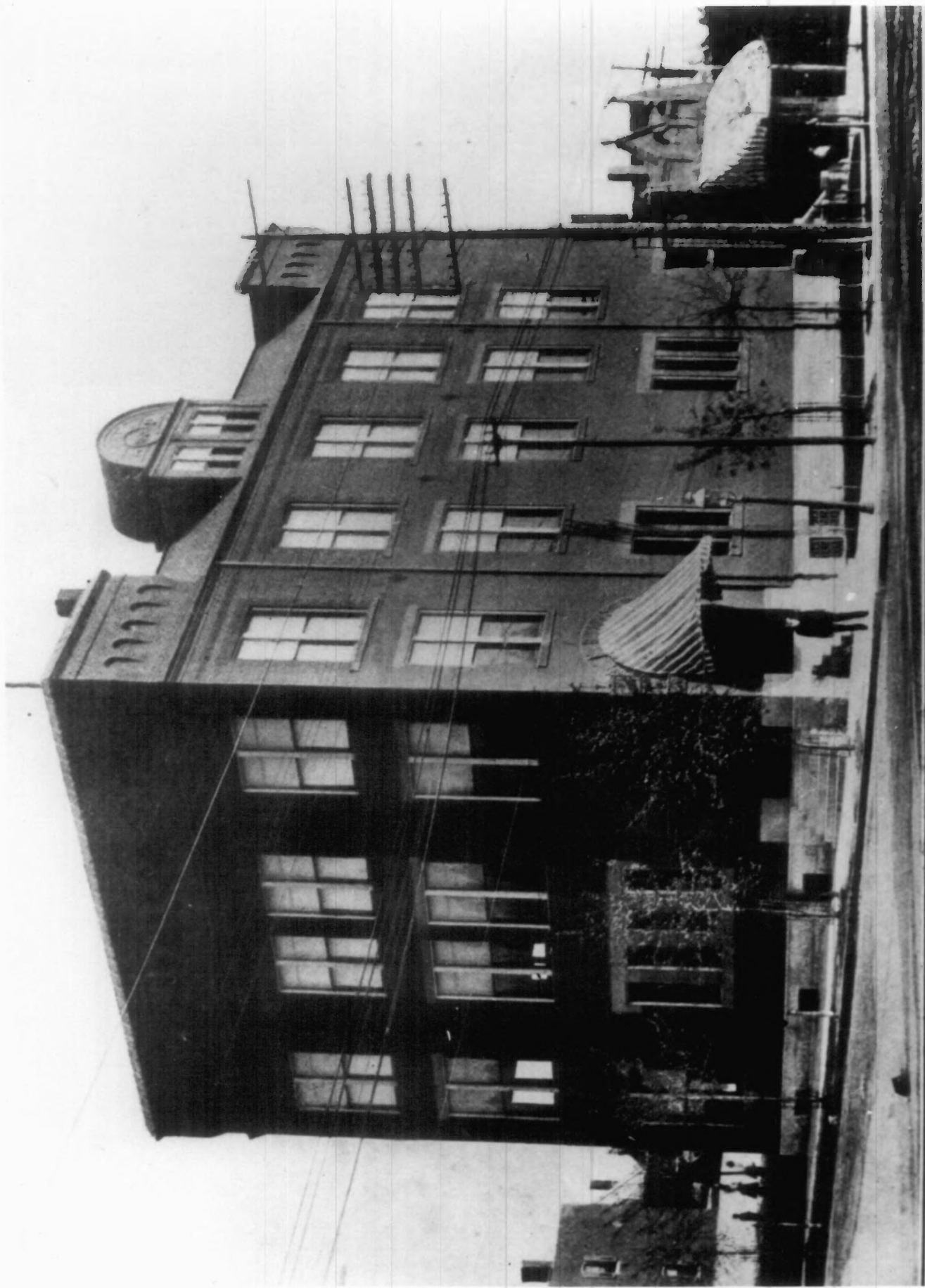
Date: 1907

From: St. Louis Board of Police
Commissioners, Annual
Report, 1907.

Photocopy & Negative:

WVP Corporation
1276 N. Warson Road
St. Louis, MO 63132

Camera facing southeast.



SEVENTH DISTRICT POLICE STATION.
Corner Grand and Magnolia Avenues.

FORMER SEVENTH DISTRICT POLICE

STATION

2800 South Grand Avenue

St. Louis, Missouri

#3 of 3 Detail of west elevation
of stable.

Photographer: Paul Tripodi

Date: 1983

Negative: WVP Corporation

1276 N. Warson Road

St. Louis, MO 63132

Camera facing east.

