

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

1. Name of Property

historic name Spool Cotton Co. Building

other names/site number n/a

2. Location

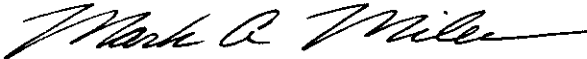
street & number 1113-15 Locust Street [n/a] not for publication

city or town St. Louis [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county St. Louis (Independent City) code 510 zip code 63101

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
[x] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register
of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [x] meets []
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [x] locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)



06/16/04

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles

Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date

[] 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
See continuation sheet [].

Spool Cotton Co. Building
St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ Total
		1	0

Name of related multiple property listing.

n/a _____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0 _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

COMMERCE/TRADE/Business _____

Current Functions

vacant _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals _____

Materials

foundation_limestone _____
walls_brick _____

roof_asphalt _____
other_limestone _____

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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

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.

Areas of Significance

Commerce

Periods of Significance

1905 - 1929

Significant Dates

n/a

Significant Person(s)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Wright, Lealon B. (contractor)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic 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: Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

A. Zone 15 Easting 744070 Northing 4279480

B. Zone Easting Northing

C. Zone Easting Northing

D. Zone Easting Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sect. 7 - Stacy Sone, Researcher; Sect. 8 - Carolyn Toft, Director

organization Landmarks Association of St. Louis date April 1, 2004

street & number 917 Locust St., 7th Floor telephone 314-421-6474

city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63101

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

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name New City Neighborhood Redevelopment LLC c/o Dennis Flatness

street & number 308 N. 21st St. telephone 314-436-2399

city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63103

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Spool Cotton Co. Building
St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

Summary

The five-story Spool Cotton Co. Building at 1113-15 Locust Street is located in downtown St. Louis, Missouri just east of the intersection of Locust and Tucker (12th Street). The red brick, Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revival style building was constructed in 1904. Its most distinguishing features are the twin round arched windows in the fourth story. The arches spring from limestone capitals that cap two-story brick pilasters. A limestone sill and a brick dentil course below the fifth story as well as a corbelled brick cornice accents the building's top level. The two-bay lower story has a limestone base and a subtle brick cornice. Alterations to the exterior include the original wood-framed window and door replacements with metal-framed windows and doors and the removal of a narrow cornice. Significant alterations on the exterior are limited to the replacement of the original storefronts with aluminum-framed windows and doors. Although the original storefront configuration is not apparent, it is clear that the bay divisions have remained intact. Another significant alteration is the building's isolation between parking lots where it once joined similar-sized buildings. The Spool Cotton Co. Building is currently vacant.

Exterior

The rectangular building fronts approximately 35 feet on Locust Street (photo 1) and about 100 feet along the east and west facades. Engineering records on file at St. Louis City Hall indicate the facade is pressed brick, an expensive type of brick used to face buildings. The building's sides and rear facades are a lower quality brick. The first story facade consists of two bays with glass and aluminum frames that replaced the original storefront openings in 1955. The single glass door-entrance is in the eastern bay where it is centered between two glass panels and a three-part transom. Aluminum-framed windows comprise the western lower story bay (no historic photos have been discovered that show the original storefront). Extending across the top of the first story is a narrowly layered brick cornice that recesses slightly from top to bottom.

The two bays in the second and third stories are positioned directly over the two storefront openings. Each bay has three double-hung replacement windows. Centered between the window bays and on the outsides are brick pilasters with limestone bases and capitals. The frieze area of each capital is decorated with three small circles carved into the stone. Brick spandrels over the top of the second and third stories have a panel outlined in brick with a raised brick circle design in the center.

The fourth story bays are round under arches that spring from the limestone capitals. The composition of these levels is a three-story, twin-arched arcade resting on unbroken brick

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Spool Cotton Co. Building
St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

pilasters. The same circle design that appears in the spandrels over the second and third stories is repeated over the top of the fourth story between and on the outsides of the two arches.

Dividing the fourth and fifth floors is a limestone stringcourse with a brick dentil course below. Two bays of three double-hung, aluminum-framed windows comprise the fifth story and sit on the limestone stringcourse. An arcade of corbelled brick arches extends across the top of the facade.

Originally wedged between buildings (figure 1), the Spool Cotton Co. Building has no openings on its east (photo 2) and west facades (photo 3). The rear (north elevation) has three bays in each level (photo 3). Concrete blocks fill two of the first story bays. In floors two through five, the easternmost bay is a single segmental arched window. The two other bays are paired windows. A fire escape extends across the westernmost bay and an elevator tower is located over the east side.

Interior

Each level of the interior has nearly identical features. The historic interior was divided length-wise down the middle with six square wood columns on each level (photo 4). The floors are wood throughout and are mostly exposed except for some carpet in the first story. Approximately the front 2/3 of the ceiling on the first floor is tin (painted brown). The remainder of the ceilings are wood. All the levels were completely open except for the brick partition in the northeast corner that partitioned off a freight elevator and a wood stairway. During the 1970s occupancy of a frame shop, a metal stairway was added to the front of the interior that extended from the basement to the second floor (photo 5). The rear half of the first story is divided from the front by a drywall partition. Some offices and rooms were created in the second story.

Integrity

Despite some alterations (window and door replacements, storefront replacement, the addition of an interior stairway and isolation between parking lots) the building retains the features that identify it as the Spool Cotton Co. Building. It retains integrity of materials, design, workmanship and association.

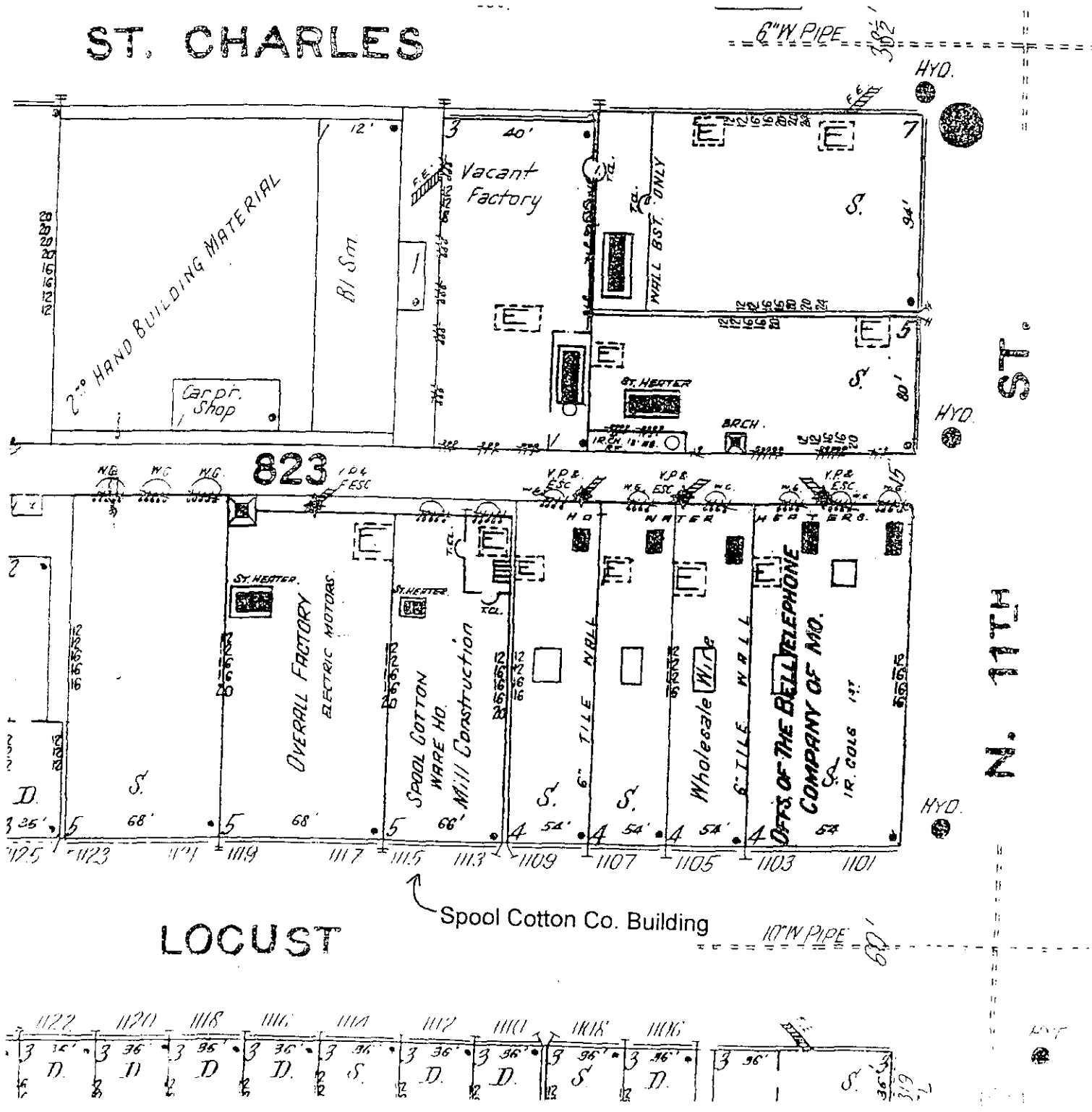
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Spool Cotton Co. Building
St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

Figure 1 (Sanborn Map Co., 1909)

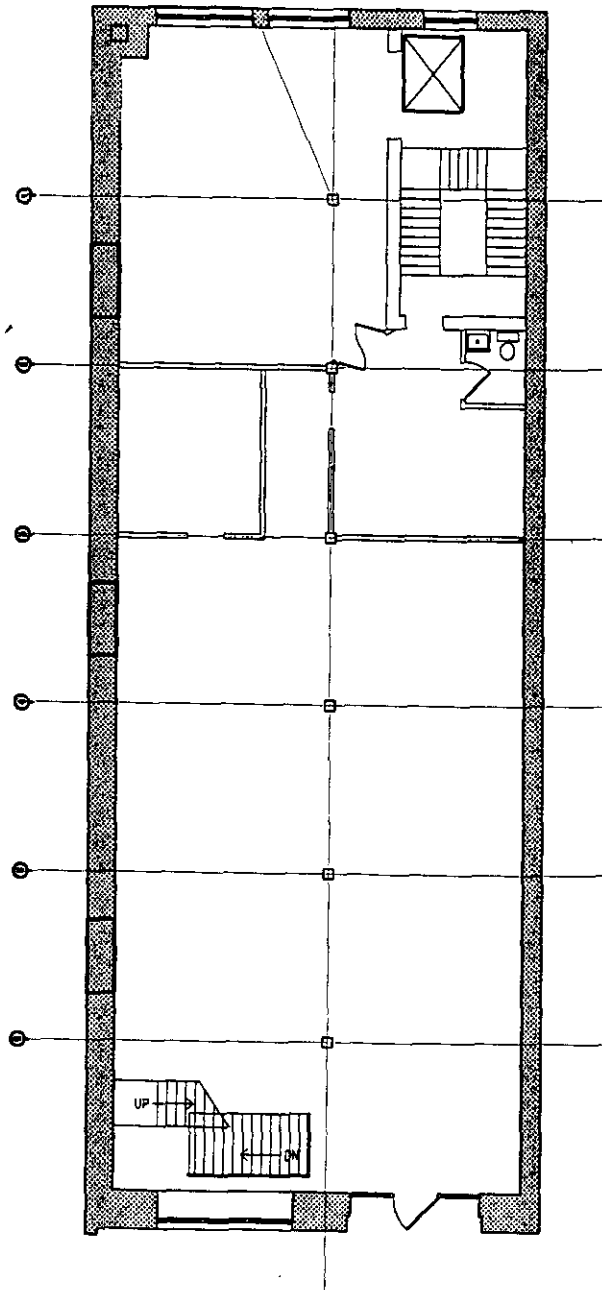


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Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 4

Spool Cotton Co. Building
St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri



THE LAWRENCE GROUP
ARCHITECTS

PROJECT: 1113 Locust St.

Existing First Floor Plan

PROJECT NO.: 04055

SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"

DATE:

05/25/04

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Spool Cotton Co. Building
St. Louis(Independent City), Missouri

Summary

The Spool Cotton Company Building at 1113-15 Locust Street in downtown St. Louis is locally significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A in the COMMERCE area of significance. Constructed in 1904 as an investment property funded by capitalist William Carrie Moore, the narrow five-story building was the St. Louis home office and sales room for one of the giants in the distribution of cotton thread throughout the United States. Many agents for additional thread companies were soon attracted to the thriving early 20th century garment district, but no other extant building is so exclusively associated with this small-scale yet essential product. Although Spool Cotton relocated in 1916, the building at 1113-15 Locust continued to attract other thread companies until 1929. The period of significance runs from 1905, the date of completion, to 1929.

Background

Cotton thread apparently originated in the British Isles in response to a shortage of silk thread during the Napoleonic Wars. In 1812, Patrick Clark opened the first documented cotton thread company; a few years later members of the James Coats' family established a thread mill and named their company J & P Coats. Relatives of both founding families emigrated to the United States during the 1840s. Within two decades, each company had established plants in America.¹ Although Clark and Coats consolidated in 1896, they retained separate identities. Two years later in 1898 the Spool Cotton Company became Clark's and Coats' sole selling agent in the States. That same year a British Trust—The English Sewing Company—purchased Willimantic Linen (the largest manufacturer of any type in Connecticut) and the Merrick Thread Company (located in Holyoke, Massachusetts) to form the rival American Thread Company (ATCO).²

-
- 1 1866, George Clark invented the first thread suitable for sewing machine use, giving it the matter-of-fact name "O.N.T." for "Our New Thread."
 - 2 Information on the general history of cotton thread was gleaned from "Vintage Fabrics: In Search of Warp Ends," a July/August 2001 online newsletter by Joan Kiplinger, along with a series of articles posted by ThreadCity.com with support by *the Chronicle* of Willimantic, an online history of Coats & Clark and research by the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Weir Farm Heritage Trust, Wilton, Connecticut for "The Factory Village," an oil painting from 1897 by J. Alden Weir.

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Spool Cotton Co. Building
St. Louis(Independent City), Missouri

Both Spool Cotton and American Thread would gravitate to the growing western garment market centered in St. Louis. Spool Cotton Company arrived first, in time to be listed at 701 North 7th Street in Gould's 1900 Commercial Register. By the 1901 edition, Spool Cotton had settled in at 1117 Locust Street where it remained until the new building next door was completed in 1905. Recruited by Wrought Iron Range as 2nd Vice President, William Carrie Wright of Knoxville, Tennessee purchased the site on Locust for not quite \$32,000 in 1892. His decision in 1904 to begin construction of an investment property coincided with the important announcement reported in "Big Realty Deals on Locust Street" by *The St. Louis Republic*: "The revival of interest in real estate on Locust Street in anticipation of opening that thoroughfare through the present site of the Coliseum and the erection of the new City Library there was manifested yesterday in the sale of three pieces of downtown investment property at prices aggregating \$335,000." "Old buildings of little value" with a frontage of forty-six feet directly across from Wright's parcel went for \$55,000—a substantial appreciation above what Wright had paid twelve years earlier.³

Elaboration

A building permit was issued to Moore on August 29 of 1904 for a five-story warehouse estimated to cost \$25,000. Well-established contactor Lealon B. Wright carried out design and construction.⁴ It is certainly possible that the building was tailored to fit Spool Cotton's requirements. Company agents, located next door for the past four years, were the sole occupants in Moore's new building for over a decade. In 1916, J & P Coats and Brooks Spool Cotton (representing Jonas Brook & Bros. from New York) also became tenants.

3 "Big Realty Deals on Locust Street." *The St. Louis Republic*, December 30, 1904.

4 Wright, who made the prestigious 1906 edition of *The Book of St. Louisans*, was born in Ohio and attended college at Washington University in St. Louis. He maintained his office in the Chemical Building downtown and lived in St. Louis County.

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Spool Cotton Co. Building
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Figure # 2 Caricature from The "I Used To Know ____" Club collection circa 1915.

Thread could be a profitable career path. One of Spool Cotton's agents, Oscar Lawrence Halsey (see above), parlayed his income from six years in the thread business into a prominent automobile company venture and a lavish apartment in the Central West End. On the eve of WWI, St. Louis boasted twenty-one companies including giant American Thread. Scattered at various downtown locations they combined to offer an amazing variety of thread (mercerized, buttonhole twist, embroidery, darning, pure dye, machine twist of various grades, carpet, waxed, variegated etc.) adapted to meet local manufacturing requirements for underwear, outer garments, hats and ribbons, boots and shoes, straw-goods and other products. This dramatic increase in the number and variety of thread companies from a mere handful at the turn of the century reflected St. Louis' rising importance as a diversified manufacturing center.

No evidence has been found to suggest that thread was manufactured in 20th century St. Louis, even though cotton mills were active in the 19th century and distribution of the raw material remained an important part of local economy. Nor has research to date

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Spool Cotton Co. Building
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unraveled the three-year mystery (1918-21) when all three tenants at 1113-15 Locust moved west to 1722 Locust leaving Moore's building vacant. Spool Cotton elected to remain there as did Brooks. Wholesale commission merchant Julius Glaser represented all five intertwined tenants attracted to the Spool Thread Building in the 1921 City Directory. All five relocated to the 5th floor of 1709 Washington in 1930. Remington Rand Business Service's move that same year into 1113-15 Locust signaled the end of an era.

No other St. Louis building can match Spool Cotton's niche in the garment district marketplace. The nearby Silk Exchange Building (NR 9/2/82) demolished in 1995 after a disastrous fire was associated with a variety of small notions including buttons, lace and embroidery. The Corticelli Silk Thread Company once occupied an entire building at the southwest corner of 10th and St. Charles, but it too has been razed. With easily moved merchandise, thread companies tended to be peripatetic tenants in multi-use structures. The Spool Cotton Building survives as a notable exception to the rule.

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Spool Cotton Co. Building
St. Louis(Independent City), Missouri

Bibliography

"Big Realty Deals on Locust Street." The St. Louis Republic, December 30, 1904.

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Kiplinger, Joan. "Vintage Fabrics: In Search of Warp Ends.", July/August 2001, posted by ThreadCity.com.

Leonard, John W., ed. The Book of St. Louisans. St. Louis: The St. Louis Republic, 1906, 1906.

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Sanborn Map Co., Insurance Maps of St. Louis, MO. New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1938.

Stiritz, Mary M. "Washington Avenue: East of Tucker District" National Register nomination, 1986.

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U.S. Federal Census, 1900.

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Spool Cotton Co. Building
St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

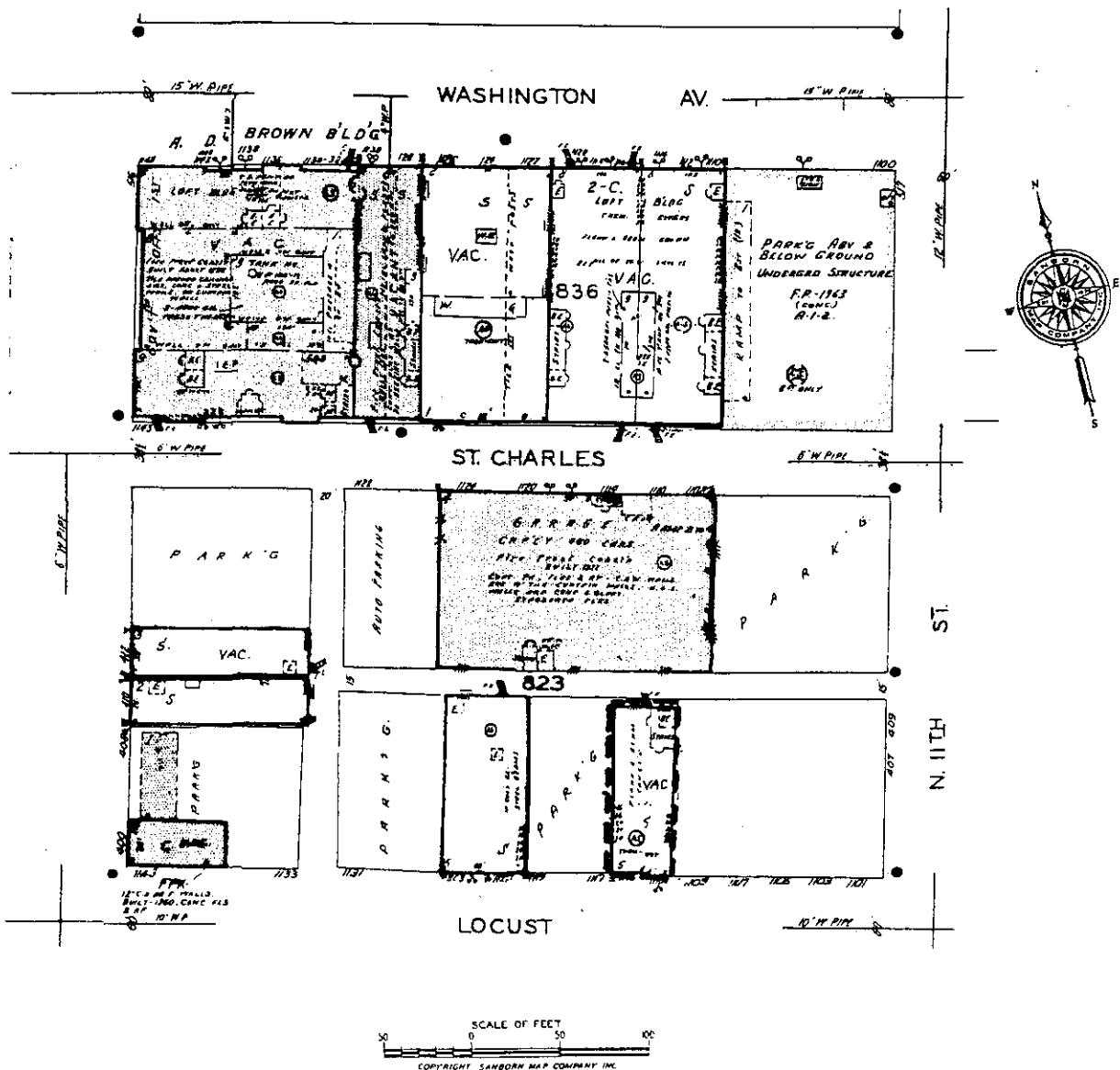
Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated parcel is indicated with a broken line on the accompanying map entitled "Spool Cotton Co. Building Boundary Map."

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property is the same as the building's footprint.

Spool Cotton Co. Building Boundary Map Source: Sanborn Map Co., 1997



Zone 15
 Easting
 4219480

720 000 EET
 (ILL WEST)

38°37'30"
 90°15'



Produced by the United States Geological Survey

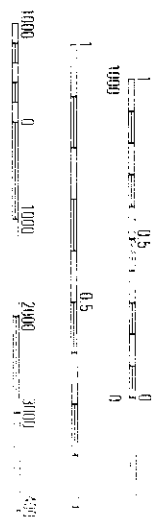
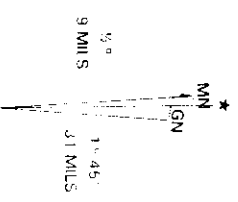
Topography compiled 1952. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1993 and other sources. Photoinspected using imagery dated 1998; no major culture or drainage changes observed. PLS and survey control current as of 1954. Boundaries, other than corporate, verified 1999

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 15
 10 000-foot ticks: Illinois (west zone) and Missouri (east zone)
 Coordinate Systems of 1983

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software

Contours that conflict with revised planimetry are dashed
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

UTM GRID AND 1999 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR
 SUPPLEMENTARY
 NATIONAL GEODETIC
 TO CONVERT FROM ILL
 THIS MAP COMPLETES WITHINA
 AND ILLINOIS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 AND DIVISION OF GE
 MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATI
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC



20%
 TOTAL RECOVERED FIBER

Spool Cotton Co. Bldg.

St. Louis (ind. city), MO

Stacy Sore

Feb. 2004

Landmarks Assoc. of St. Louis

View to NW

1 of 5



Spool Cotton Co. Bldg

St. Louis (ind. city), MO

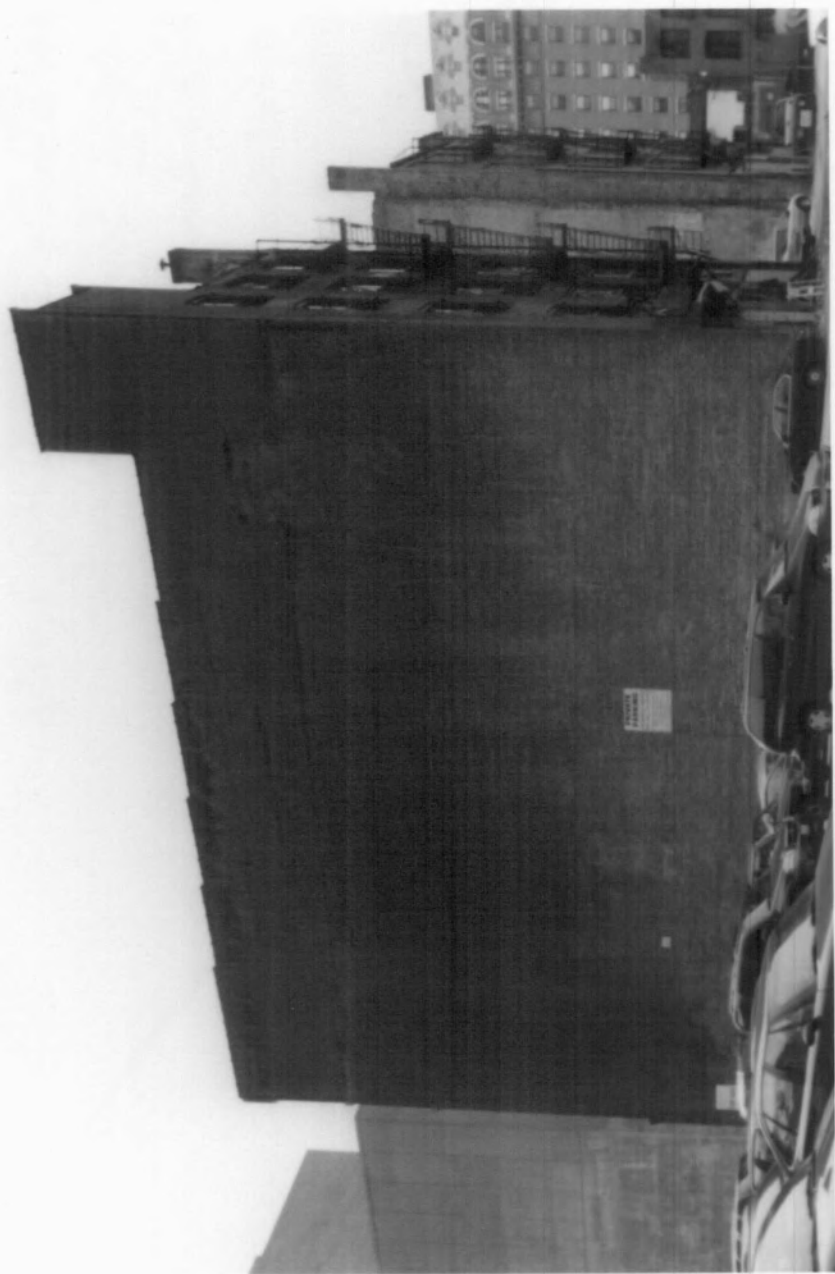
Stacy Scene

Feb. 2004

Landmarks Assoc of St. Louis

View to SW

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Spool Cotton Co. Bldg.
St. Louis (Ind. City), MO
Stacy Sone

Feb. 2004

Landmarks Assoc. of St. Louis
vic to SE
3 of 5



Special Cotton Co. Bldg
St. Louis (Ind. City), MO

Stay Same

Feb. 2004

Landmarks Assoc of St. Louis
View to S

4 of 5



Speel Cotton Co. Bldg

St. Louis (ind. city), MO

Steely Stone

Feb. 2004

Landmarks Assoc. of St. Louis

view to S

5 of 5

