# 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 an 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	The state of the s
historic name Wachter Motor Car Company Building	
other name/site number William Buol Livery and Funeral Home, Sidney-Nebraska Garage Co	ompany
2. Location	
street & town 2600-2614 Nebraska Avenue	N/A not for publication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 63118
3. State/Esteral Attency/Serinication	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties of Historic Places and meets he procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be continuationally statewide locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)    Signature of certifying official/Title   Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO   Date	in the National Register In my opinion, the considered significant
Signature of certifying official/Title Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4 **National Park Service Certification*  I hereby certify that the property is:  Signature of the Keeper  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.	Date of Action
☐ other, (explain:)	

Wachter	Motor Car	Company	Building	
Name of	Property			 

St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri Historic Auto-Related Resources of St. Louis, Missouri County and State

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply) resources in the count.)	Category of Property (check only one bo	Number of Resourd x)	ces within Property (Do not include prev	riously listed
,		Contributing	Noncontributing	
X private	x building(s)	1		buildings
public-local	☐ district			sites
public-State	☐ site			structures
public-Federal	☐ structure			objects
	☐ object	1		Total
Name of related multiple property (Enter "N/A" if property is not par	y listing Numb t of a multiple property listing.)		ources previously listed onal Register	
Historic Auto-Related Resources	of St. Louis (Independent City	), <u>MO</u>	N/A	
6 Function or Use Historic Function (Enter categories from instruction Specialty Store/Automotive S	ns)	Current Fu (Enter cate Vacant/not	gories from instructions	S)
·n				
Pescription Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instruction		Materials (Enter cate	gories from instructions	s)
Other: Two-part commercial	block	foundation	Stone	
		walls		
		roof	Asphalt	
<del></del>		other		

**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

Wachter Motor Car Company Building Name of Property	St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri Historic Auto-Related Resources of St. Louis, Missouri County and State
	ALLEST A PRODUCTION OF THE PRODUCT O
8. Statement of Significance	A second Circuif conse
Applicable National Register Criteria  (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
(V) A Done and it was a little with a contact that have a said	Commerce
(X) A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Commerce
( ) 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.	Period of Significance 1925-1957
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	
Property is:	Significant Dates 1925
☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	
☐ B removed from its original location.	Significant Persons (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A
☐ C a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation
☐ D a cemetery.	<u>N/A</u>
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
F a commemorative property.	Architect/Builder Dunn Brothers (Dunn, Patrick)
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Dam Bloures (Ballin, Factory)
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 cont	
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
	·
preliminary determination of individual listing (36	X State Historic Preservation Office
CFR 67) has been requested	Other State agency
☐ previously listed in the National Register ☐ previously determined eligible by the National	☐ Federal agency ☐ Local government
Register	☐ University

designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Other Name of repository:

Wachter Motor Car Company Building Name of Property	St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri  Historic Auto-Related Resources of St. Louis, Missouri
0. Geographical Data	County and State
Acreage of Property less than 1 acre	<u> </u>
UTM References (Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	
1 <u>15 741270 4276740</u>	2 <u>/</u> ///// /////
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
3 / ///// ////// Zone Easting Northing	4 / / ///// / ////// Zone Easting Northing
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.) Lots 50,51 and 52 of O.D. TUCKER'S SUBDIVISION and which was taken for the opening of Sidney Street, fronting depth Eastwardly of 125 feet 2 inches to an alley.  Property Tax No. 207700205	I in Block 2077 of the City of St. Louis except that part of Lot 52 g 49 feet 11 inches on the East line of Nebraska Avenue by a
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.) These boundaries incorporate all of the property that has legal description.	been historically associated with this building and the property's
1 (Form Prepared By	See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10
name/title Melinda Stewart	·
organization	date 10/31/06
street & number 7406 Leadale	telephone 314-420-3168
city or town St. Louis	state Mo zip code 63121
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets  Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating  A Sketch map for historic districts and pre Photographs: Representative black and white photograph  Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO	operties having large acreage or numerous resources. hs of the property.
Property Owner name/title Kyle Miller. Paramount Properties	

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.).

telephone 314-452-4993

zip code 62298

state III

street & number 1012 Country Club

city or town Waterloo

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.

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018 (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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_	St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

#### Narrative Description SUMMARY

The Wachter Motor Car Company building is a two-story, flat-roofed red brick structure. Built in 1896 as a livery, warehouse and funeral home, and originally of brick heavy timber construction, in 1925 the front third of the building was removed and the remainder converted to an automotive garage and service station. The upper floor was then re-supported by structural steel columns and beams; the second story retains its original wood posts and beams. A new front facade was constructed, exhibiting modest decorative elements in the Craftsman style. Despite some later alterations, the Wachter Motor Car Company building retains considerable integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship and expresses its historic feeling and association as an early automotive service structure. The building thus meets the registration requirements of the Service Station property type in the "Historic Auto-Related Resources, City of St. Louis, 1880-1955" Multiple Property Document.

#### **ELABORATION**

#### Site

The Wachter Motor Car Company Building, 2600-14 Nebraska, measures 49 ft 11 inches by 76 feet and is set back 49 feet from the front property line. It is bounded by Nebraska Avenue and Sidney Street on the north and a city alley on the east. The original pole sign from the original 1925 service station remains at the northwest corner of the site. A temporary security fence, which will be removed when rehabilitation is complete, has been erected across the front of the property and an adjacent side lot.

#### **Exterior**

The Wachter Motor Car Company building, facing west, has a three-bay front elevation in yellow wire-cut brick that also veneers the front foundation. (Photo 1). The facade was constructed in 1925 to complete the conversion of the building from a livery/funeral home to a service station. The first story presents a storefront on the north, with center single-leaf entry flanked by large display windows above brick bulkheads. Storefront windows have been replaced with aluminum fixed sash, installed after a fire in 1965. To the south are

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_	St Louis (Independent City), Missouri

two garage door bays, the southernmost retaining the original wood-paneled, multi-light vehicle door. Three large window openings are symmetrically arranged on the second story. They are currently filled with aluminum fixed sash and slider windows, also dating to the 1965 alterations. All openings are under steel lintels and trimmed with stylized flat soldier arches and rowlock sills of red brick, with decorative terra cotta impost blocks. Between first and second stories, a decorative sign board is created by brick rowlocks with small limestone insets at each corner. Below the shaped parapet, a similar decorative panel serves as an intermediate comice. The centers of both panels have been filled with stucco. Terra cotta coping caps the parapet, which is further marked by individual red brick soldiers placed at the center and at each simple comer pinnacle.

The north elevation (Photo 2), facing Sidney Street, displays the building's original red brick laid in common bond above a coursed rubble limestone foundation. The parapet, stepping slightly down to the rear of the building, displays three brick chimneys and is capped with clay parapet tiles. The eight bay facade presents small casement windows under double rowlock segmental arches with brick rowlock sills, another alteration dating from the 1925 conversion. At the same time, a double-leaf door and transom below a steel lintel was inserted on this elevation, opening on a stairway leading to the second floor. At the second story, slightly taller double hung windows are placed asymmetrically; a large segmentally-arched commercial doorway also appears at the second story; it retains its original wood door, visible from the building's interior. This opening and the first story windows are currently covered with metal siding.

The south facade (Photo 4) is similar to the north, except that the front third is comprised of interior brick that was exposed when an attached residential building was demolished by condemnation in 1998. A single-leaf door on this elevation is flanked by larger double hung windows which are asymmetrically set on the second floor. All openings are under double rowlock segmental arches. Two brick chimneys are visible on this elevation, and the parapet is capped with clay tiles.

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The east (rear) elevation (Photo 3) has three new openings dating from the building's 1925 conversion: a center vehicle entry, which retains its original wood paneled door, flanked by two large openings filled with metal industrial sash. All are placed under steel lintels; the windows have cast concrete sills. Other openings on the facade appear to be original to the 1896 structure and include large double hung windows under rowlock arches on the first story; two single-leaf doors and two small fixed windows with wood lintels and sills on the second. The rear foundation has been parged with concrete and one second story window has been infilled with concrete block. All openings on the facade have been boarded or covered in metal siding.

#### Interior

The first floor (Photos 5, 6 and 7) remains unaltered from its use as a garage and service station. Large structural steel columns and beams support the second story and allow a large open area in which the cars were serviced. The 1932 Sanborn map indicates the building had the capacity for 20 cars. Walls are exposed brick and have been painted; the floor is poured concrete. In the northwest corner, the location of the original office area accessed from the storefront is evident by a raised finished floor and remnants of the original interior partitions. The original wood-burning stove from 1925 is centered on the north wall.

The double-leaf entry on the north facade leads to a steep wood stairway to the second floor, lined with Georgian-style handrails. (Photo 8) Most of the second floor, with the same exposed brick walls as the first floor, is open and unfinished, except for a small utility room, with walls of tongue-and-groove car siding, located in the southeast corner. The front of the second floor is partitioned into two offices and a small bathroom. While more finished than the rest of the building, the trim in these rooms is utilitarian, consisting of simple casings, baseboards and chair rail; the front wall remains exposed brick.

#### REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS AND INTEGRITY ISSUES

According to the registration requirements of the "Historic Auto-Related Resources, City of St. Louis" MPD, the building must be easily identifiable as a service station, whether or not it still has gasoline pumps; it must retain its original wall material and roof form and identifying exterior features such as

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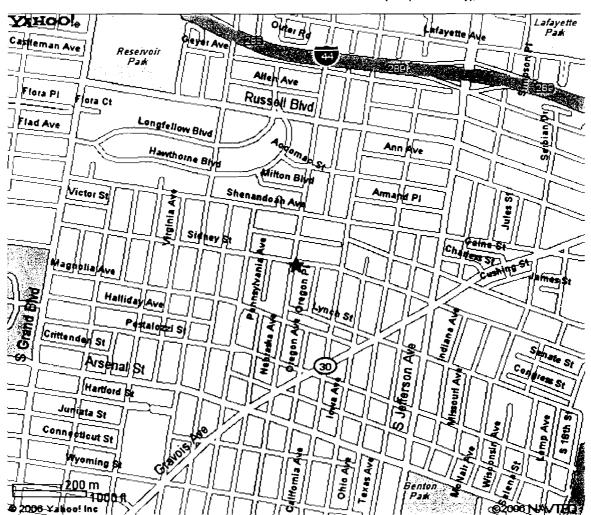
Section number_	_7	Page	_4	Wachter Motor Car Company Building
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garage bays, even if they may be modified with new doors. The location of original openings should be clear, "...even if original materials have been altered or openings infilled." The requirements also state that the interior must retain the large open expanses with high ceilings in the surface bays, most interior features; concrete slab flooring and ceiling support structure; and overall, have integrity of association and design associated with its period of significance and historic use.

The Wachter Motor Car Company building displays all the details that define it as a service station structure under the registration requirements of the MPD. The location of the building within a primarily residential area; its highly visible position at a street corner; and above all its deep front setback, allowing both installation of gas pumps and off-street parking for customers' vehicles, are characteristic of the building's function as an early automobile service station. The Wachter Motor Car Company retains all of the openings original to its 1925 conversion and the original appearance of the front facade is easily distinguished. The two vehicle entries are unaltered, one retaining its original service door. Most other openings, although currently closed, are extant and will be re-opened; and those windows that have been inappropriately replaced will be restored in the rehabilitation project. The open first floor, concrete flooring and steel support system are intact; as is the second story office area.

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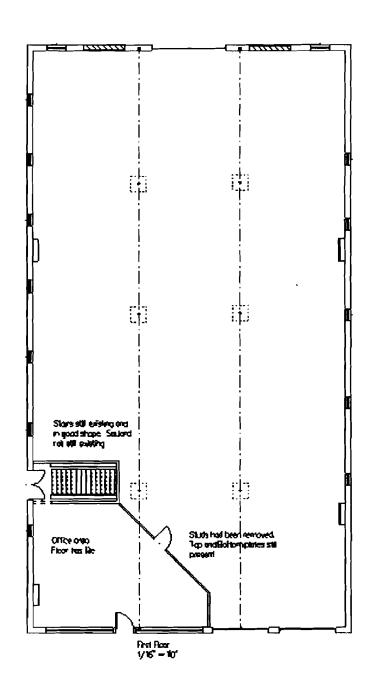
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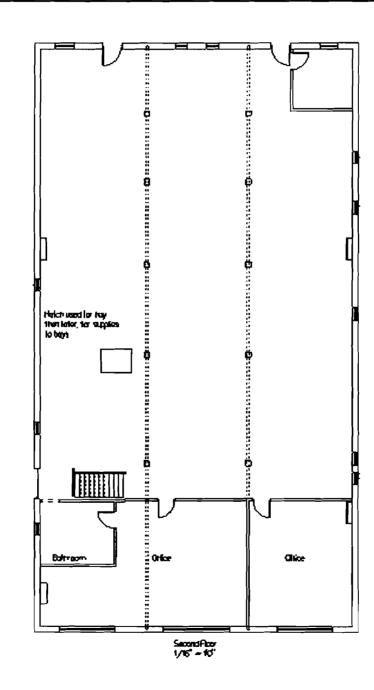
Wachter Motor Car Company Building St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri



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### Narrative Statement of Significance SUMMARY

Constructed in 1896 as a livery and converted in 1925 to an automotive related business, the Wachter Motor Car Company is significant under the National Register Criteria A: Commerce, for the building's role as a service station. Throughout its period of significance of 1925 – 1957 the building served as a gas station and automotive repair shop. The building had a local importance as an integral part of a specific neighborhood in servicing cars and is an example of the move away from the centralization of business in the downtown district as the population became more mobile and able to move into the suburbs.

The building retains its original exterior wall material and roof form, as well as the garage bays from its conversion to a garage in 1925. The locations of windows and doors are clearly identifiable, even though the original materials have been altered and the opening infilled. The interior retains its large open expanse with high ceilings in the service bays, most original wall surfaces, the concrete slab flooring and the original ceiling and support structure.<sup>2</sup> Thus, the Wachter Motor Car Company meets the requirements for registration under the Multiple Property Document entitled "Historic Auto-Related Resources of St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri." under the context of Marketing and Servicing the Automobile in St. Louis, 1900-1955".

#### **BUILDING HISTORY**

Built in 1896 by owner William Buol, and the Dunn Brothers contractors, 2600 Nebraska was originally a livery, warehouse and funeral home. William Buol had been in the undertaking business with his father, Paul, who had several undertaking establishments in the area. William Buol's business soon became known as the "largest and most perfectly equipped in Southwest St. Louis." He and his family lived in the attached house many years and his brother, Joe, soon joined him in the business.<sup>3</sup>

After William Buol died in 1923<sup>4</sup> the building was leased to Harold Wachter by Buol's children, Olinda and William Jr., and became the Wachter Motor Car Company. By 1925 William Buol Jr. started the Sidney-Nebraska Garage concurrent with the Wachter Motor Car Company and advertised for auto repairs in the City Directory as Sidney-Nebraska G&J Motor Company.<sup>5</sup> Conversion from a livery to an automotive related business was a logical transition for the building during this time. During the 1920's the automotive industry exploded. In 1923 Gould's St. Louis Directory contained 416 pages of auto registrations for the City of St. Louis (approximately 81,000 registrations) (7) and by 1925 there were 642 pages with approximately 120,000 registrations.(8)

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Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

In 1923, Gould's City Directory contained 416 pages of auto registrations for the City of St. Louis (approximately 81,000 registrations) <sup>6</sup> and by 1925 there were 642 pages with approximately 120,000 registrations.<sup>7</sup>

Although there were still some liveries listed in the city directory, their primary business was undertaking and the businesses that had the dual services of livery and undertaking were dwindling. In 1908 the City of St. Louis had established ordinances restricting the construction of new automotive businesses, particularly gas stations. This was another important factor in the conversion of 2600 Nebraska because it was considered in the suburbs at the time.

The building was in a unique position of being available to the neighborhood as most filling stations were only located on major thoroughfares through at least 1934.8 The intersection of Sidney and Nebraska also had a grocery store and a drug store. One of the long-term residents in the area said that the reason she moved to the neighborhood was because most things that she needed were within walking distance and convenient.

The existing building today reflects the changes and usage from its original conversion to a service station. In 1925 the front third of the building was removed and the front façade was rebuilt. This allowed for installation of gas pumps and an underground tank, insertion of two garage door bays for service bays, and street curb cuts and drives on Nebraska and Sidney to allow access for cars to enter and leave. As indicated by a comparison of the 1909 and 1932 Sanborn maps, and the 1909 photo of the building from the "Southwest Saint Louis – Its Mercantile Interests and Prominent Citizens" magazine article and a recent photo (Photo 3), the side window and door openings remained unaltered. The second floor was used for inventory. The hoists on the ceiling and the hatch in the floor, which were used to bring equipment from the second floor to the service bays, remain today.

The 1925 redesign of the front façade not only met the needs of the new use for the automobile but also was consistent with the architectural trends in business at the time. Prior to 1925, the main street model prescribed "shop fronts along the sidewalk, surmounted by several stories of flat wall, capped by a large ornamental cornice.<sup>10</sup> The invention of the automobile necessitated a change in the conventional thinking of advertising to "capture the attention of an audience passing by at high speed."<sup>11</sup> Business signs became larger. While large bank buildings with their names etched in the stone comices in large letters was an example of this type of advertising 2600 Nebraska, with its stuccoed signage area bordered by brick, would serve the same function. Also the yellow brick

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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#### Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

used in the construction of the front façade would have set it apart from the surrounding red brick buildings and made it more noticeable to the driver and passengers of the automobile as it passed by.

After 1925 there were very few alterations to the building. According to the building division of the City of St. Louis there was a permit in 1960 to erect a sign for Derby Oil Company and in 1965 there was a permit to repair fire damage to the ceiling and roof joists, flooring, windows and trim. Some of this fire damage is still evidenced on the second floor in the support posts and a portion of the wood support beam is newer.

The building changed ownership several times throughout the years operating as Ken & Ray's Skelly Service then Derby Oil Company. It operated as a service station through 1979 when, as Curly's Auto Repair shop, it closed with the death of Curly. Following it briefly became Phillips 66 Glass Company and Gravois Glass but has now been vacant many years.

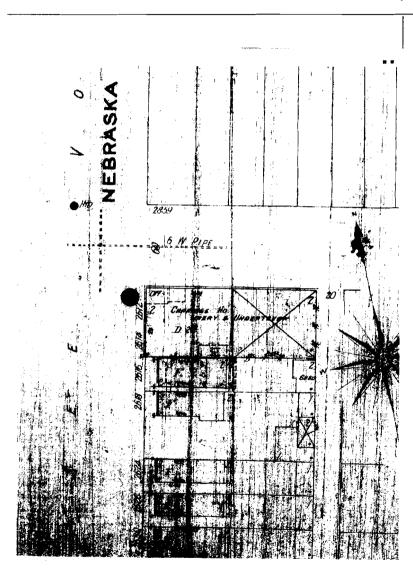
#### CONCLUSION

Wachter Motor Car Company is a building which transitioned from a livery to a service station in 1925. It remained operational in the automotive industry throughout its period of significance from 1925 to 1957, retaining its original appearance as a garage to present, thus meeting the registration requirements for listing in the National Register under the Multiple Property Document, "Historic Auto-Related Resources, City of St. Louis" under Critera A: Commerce.

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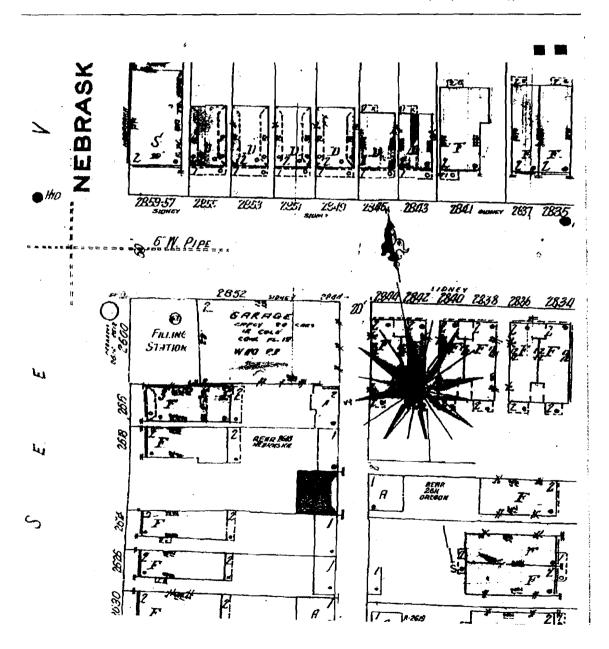
Wachter Motor Car Company City of St. Louis (Independent)



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1932 Sanborn Map, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Missouri. (microfilm) Teaneck, N.J., Chadwyck-Healty, 1983 Reel 21, Volume 4, Page 53

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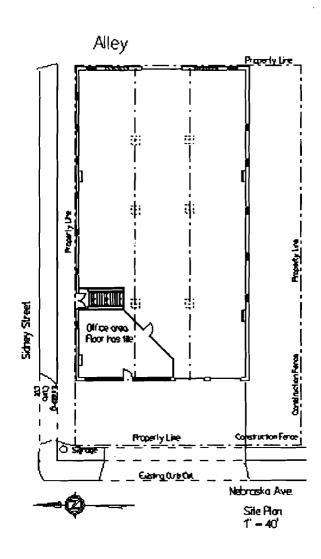


BUOL BROS LIVERY AND UNDERTAKING ESTABLISHMENT

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Endnotes:	<del></del>		
• •	National Register of His	y and Mandy K. Ford, "Historic Auto-Related Re storic Places – MPD, St. Louis (Independent Cit	
<sup>2</sup> Ibid, p. 26.			
<sup>3</sup> N.P Zimmer et al, Southwest Southwest St. Louis, p. 24.	! Saint Louis – Its Merca	ntile Interests and Prominent Citizens	of
<sup>4</sup> Probate Court Records, City of	of St. Louis (Independent	t City), November 27, 1923, PC# 59.60.	
<sup>5</sup> Gould's St. Louis Directory (St	t. Louis: Gould Directory	y Co., 1925) Self published, 1917 – 1927.	
<sup>6</sup> Gould's St. Louis Directory (St	t. Louis: Gould Directory	y Co., 1923) <b>Sel</b> f published, 1917 – 1927, page	ıs 1507-1923.
<sup>7</sup> Gould's St. Louis Directory (St	t. Louis: Gould Directory	y Co., 1925). Self published, 1917 - 1927, pag	jes 1623-2234
<sup>8</sup> Chester H. Liebs, <i>Main Street</i> Company), p. 43	to Miracle Mile: Amerci	ian Roadside Architecture (Boston: Little, Brown	n, and 🚣
*City of St. Louis Building Pern	nit Archives, September-	October 1927.	
<sup>10</sup> Liebs, Main Street to Miracle	<b>Mile, 40</b> .		
<sup>11</sup> Ibid., 39.			
12City of St. Louis Building Pen	mit Archives, January 19	965.	

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Major Bibliographical References		

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Fire Insurance Maps of Saint Louis, Mo. (microfilm) Teaneck, N.J.: Chadwyk-Healy, 1983.

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Keenoy, Ruth, Karen Bode Baxter, Timothy P. Maloney and Mandy K. Ford, "Historic Auto-Related Resources of St. Louis (Independent City), MO" National register of Historic Places – Registration Form, St. Louis (Independent City), 2005 (NR listed 15 September 2005)

Liebs, Chester H., Main Street to Miracle Mile: American Roadside Architecture (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company) 1985.

Probate Court Records, City of St. Louis (Independent City), November 27, 1923

Zimmer, N.P., et al., Southwest Saint Louis – Its Mercantile Interests and Prominent Citizens of Southwest St. Louis. Missouri Historical Society Library, St. Louis, Missouri.

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018 (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Photo Log - The following information is the same for all photos

Photographer: Melinda Stewart

**July 2006** 

Photo #1: Exterior, Front (West) Façade,

Photo #2:` Exterior, North Façade

Photo #3: Exterior, Rear (East) Façade

Photo #4: Exterior, South façade

Photo #5: Interior First Floor, looking southwest toward front

Photo #6: Interior First Floor, looking west toward front

Photo #7: Interior First Floor, looking to rear

Photo #8: Interior Second Floor, looking down staircase

Photo #9: Interior Second Floor, looking to rear

Photo#10: Interior Second Floor, Office area

