

# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

1. No. <b>2</b>	4. Present Local Name <b>Barr Branch Library</b>	
2. County <b>St. Louis City</b>	5. Other Name(s)	
3. Location of Negatives <b>Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. 917 Locust, St. Louis MO 63101</b>		
6. Legal Location Township ___ Range ___ Section ___ Address: <b>Saint Louis, MO 63104</b>	16. Thematic Category <b>Social History: Women's History</b>	28. Number of Stories <b>1</b>
7. City or Town <b>City of St. Louis</b>	17. Date(s) or period <b>1905-06</b>	29. Basement? <b>Y</b>
8. Description of Location Vicinity?	18. Style or Design <b>Classical Revival</b>	30. Foundation Material <b>not visible</b>
9. Coordinates UTM Lat. Long.	19. Architect/Engineer <b>Theodore C. Link</b>	31. Wall construction <b>Masonry</b>
10. Check one: Site Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure Object	20. Contractor or Builder	32. Roof type and material <b>Hipped Tile</b>
11. On National Register? <b>Yes</b>	21. Original Use, if apparent <b>Library</b>	33. No. of bays Front: <b>7</b> Side: <b>4</b>
12. NR Eligible?	22. Present Use <b>Library</b>	34. Wall treatment <b>Brick</b>
13. Part of district? <b>Yes</b>	23. Ownership <b>Public</b>	35. Plan shape <b>Modified T</b>
14. District potential?	24. Owner's name/address, if known <b>City of St. Louis</b>	36. Changes Addition? <input type="checkbox"/> Altered? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved? <input type="checkbox"/>
15. Name of established district <b>Library Historic District</b>	25. Open to public? <b>Yes</b>	37. Condition Interior: <b>Excellent</b> Exterior: <b>Good</b>
16. Further description of important features  <b>See continuation</b>	26. Local contact person or organization	38. Preservation Underway?
17. History and Significance  <b>See continuation</b>	27. Other surveys in which included <b>Missouri State Historical Survey (1981)</b>	39. Endangered? <b>No</b> By what?
18. Description of environment and outbuildings <b>Located at the southwest corner of S. Jefferson and Lafayette in historic district; Barr's Block west, I-44 ramp and highway south</b>	40. Visible from Public Road? <b>Yes</b>	41. Distance from/frontage on road
19. Sources of information <b>See continuation</b>		
46. Prepared by <b>Lynn Josse</b>		
47. Organization <b>Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.</b>		
48. Date <b>9/19/96</b>		
49. Revision Date (s)		

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Name of property: Barr Branch Library  
Historic name: Barr Branch Library  
St. Louis Independent City

42. The Barr Branch Library, completed in 1906, was the first of six original branch libraries financed by a donation from Andrew Carnegie. It was designed by notable St. Louis architect Theodore Link, whose Mount Calvary Episcopal Church on this site was destroyed by the great cyclone of 1896. The library was constructed at a cost of \$72,000.<sup>1</sup>

Link employed a relatively austere Classical Revival exterior to meet the requirements of both his client and the donor, Andrew Carnegie, who favored buildings without expensive ornamental flourish. The one-story building with high, horizontally rusticated stone basement is of red brick trimmed with Bedford stone with a steeply pitched hipped roof of dark red tile. The stone parapet is raised above the recessed entrance. Paired and single brick pilasters, stone keystones, layered brick arches outlining the round-headed windows, and triglyphs in the stone frieze articulate the simple and effective facade. The book stack area, projecting at the rear elevation, is lit by a range of high-set windows; the rear entrance, below grade level, is marked by a stone pediment.

The first floor of the library building is essentially one large space with glass and wood panelled screens separating the children's and adults' reading rooms on either side of the circulation desk. Book stacks were originally arranged behind the desk so that all public areas could be surveyed by one person. Public library requirements were further met by the auditorium and club room in the basement, a lift for books from the basement to the stacks, and a librarian's room convenient to the stacks.

A major renovation in 1995 left the configuration of the upper story intact, although the stacks were replaced and more reading/study space provided as the book collection was reduced. Other changes include the addition of modern lighting and carpeting. The basement, including the club and assembly rooms, was significantly remodeled. The exterior was left substantially intact except for full window replacement. A new rear entry court with concrete sculpture representing the tortoise and the hare provides an accessible transition between the parking lot, west, and the building.

The construction of Interstate 44 (completed in 1972) immediately south made a significant impact on the physical context of the library, but the building exterior is relatively intact and in good condition. With the 7-unit Barr Block (1875) to the west, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Barr Branch Library Historic District.

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<sup>1</sup>The following description is excerpted in part from the "Barr Branch Library Historic District" nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, prepared by Jane M. Porter and Carolyn Toft, Landmarks Association of St. Louis, 1981.

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Name of property: Barr Branch Library  
Historic name: Barr Branch Library  
St. Louis Independent City

43. History/significance

The Barr Branch Library, listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Barr Branch Library Historic District, was completed in 1906 from plans by Theodore C. Link. It is significant as the first purpose-built public library building in St. Louis, and the first of the six original Carnegie branches to be constructed.

Between 1906-1920 numerous women's groups met at the branch, from affiliates of national groups such as the Women's Christian Temperance Union to strictly local groups such as the Barr Branch Mothers' Club. The library was also the meeting place of one of two known neighborhood branches of the Equal Suffrage League of St. Louis. The Barr Branch of the ESL was meeting as early as 1911, just one year after the formation of the parent group.<sup>1</sup> This may be the same group referred to in the 1912/13 Annual Report as a "Woman's Radical Political Education League" which met regularly at the branch.<sup>2</sup> Very little documentation on this offshoot organization is known to exist, and further research may be needed to determine its significance.

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<sup>1</sup>St. Louis Globe-Democrat, April 23 1911, Section 3 p. 8.

<sup>2</sup>St. Louis Public Library Annual Report: 1912-1913 (St. Louis: St. Louis Public Library, 1913) 49.

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Name of property: Barr Branch Library  
Historic name: Barr Branch Library  
St. Louis Independent City

45. Sources

"69 Meetings," St. Louis Republic, February 5, 1917 (page unknown).

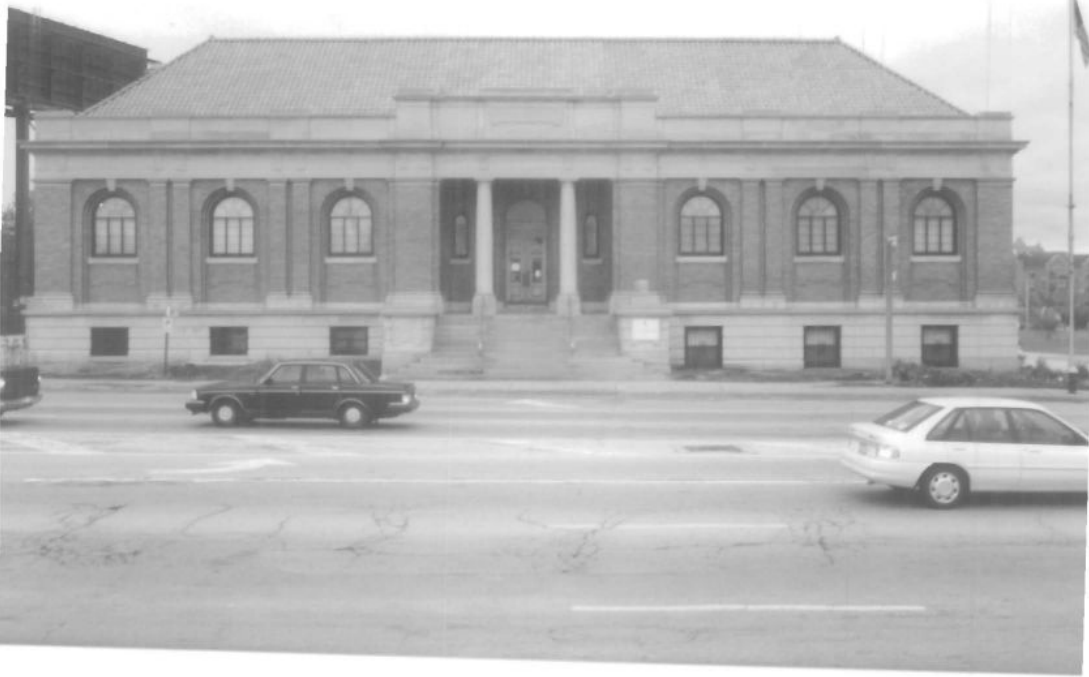
Landmarks Association of St. Louis (Jane M. Porter and Carolyn Toft), "Barr Branch Library Historic District" nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, 1981.

Quigley, Margery. Where Neighbors Meet- An Account of the Use of Assembly and Club Rooms in the Saint Louis Public Library (Saint Louis: Saint Louis Public Library, 1917).

St. Louis Globe-Democrat, April 23 1911, section 3 p. 8.

St. Louis Public Library Annual Report, 1912-1913. St. Louis: St. Louis Public Library, 1913.

Sunday columns on women's club meetings, St. Louis Daily Globe Democrat, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis Republic, 1907-1920.



Barr Branch Library

1701 S. Jefferson, St. Louis MO

facing W

10/22/96

photo by Lynn Josse

Women's Clubs survey

Photo 1 of 1

# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

1. No. <u>3</u>	4. Present Local Name <u>Cabanne Branch Library</u>	
2. County <u>St. Louis City</u>	5. Other Name(s)	
3. Location of Negatives <u>Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. 917 Locust, St. Louis MO 63101</u>		
6. Legal Location Township _____ Range _____ Section _____ Address: <u>1701 S. Jefferson</u> <u>St. Louis, MO 63108</u>	16. Thematic Category <u>Social History: Women's History</u>	28. Number of Stories <u>1</u>
	17. Date(s) or period <u>1906-07</u>	29. Basement? <u>Y</u>
7. City or Town <u>City of St. Louis</u>	18. Style or Design <u>Beaux Arts</u>	30. Foundation Material <u>not visible</u>
8. Description of Location Vicinity?	19. Architect/Engineer <u>Mauran, Russell &amp; Garden</u>	31. Wall construction <u>Masonry</u>
	20. Contractor or Builder <u>Harcy &amp; Hall</u>	32. Roof type and material <u>Hipped</u> <u>Copper</u>
9. Coordinates UTM Lat. _____ Long. _____	21. Original Use, if apparent <u>Library</u>	33. No. of bays Front: <u>13</u> Side: <u>3</u>
	22. Present Use <u>Library</u>	34. Wall treatment <u>Brick</u>
10. Check one: Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	23. Ownership <u>Public</u>	35. Plan shape <u>Irregular</u>
	24. Owner's name/address, if known <u>City of St. Louis</u>	36. Changes Addition? _____ Altered? <u>Yes</u> Moved? _____
11. On National Register? <u>Yes</u>	25. Open to public? <u>Yes</u>	37. Condition Interior: <u>Good</u> Exterior: <u>Good</u>
12. NR Eligible?	26. Local contact person or organization	38. Preservation Underway?
13. Part of district? <u>Yes</u>	27. Other surveys in which included	39. Endangered? <u>No</u> By what?
14. District potential?		40. Visible from Public Road? <u>Yes</u>
15. Name of established district <u>rk Local Historic District</u>		41. Distance from/frontage on road
42. Further description of important features  <u>See continuation</u>		
43. History and Significance  <u>See continuation</u>		
44. Description of environment and outbuildings <u>Located at the NE corner of Union and Cabanne; abandoned orphanage west; residential neighborhood east.</u>		
45. Sources of information <u>See continuation</u>		
46. Prepared by <u>Lynn Josse</u>		
47. Organization <u>Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.</u>		
48. Date <u>9/20/96</u>		
49. Revision Date (s)		

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Name of property: Cabanne Branch Library  
Historic Name: Cabanne Branch Library  
St. Louis Independent City

42. Built in 1906-07, the Cabanne Branch library was the most architecturally elaborate of the six original Carnegie branches, befitting its position as the library of the city's wealthiest neighborhood.<sup>1</sup> The Beaux Arts conception of competition winners Mauran, Russell & Garden ornamented a plan that was essentially similar to those of the other early branches. The building was constructed by Harey & Hall for approximately \$81,000.

The one-story library measures 107 x 68', with typical meeting rooms, assembly room, and rest rooms in the raised basement. The architects dignified the tan brick and Bedford stone building with a monumental entrance, an elaborate projecting arch with mosaic vaults leading to the recessed front doors. Six bays on either side of the arch are defined by engaged Doric columns. A rounded rear projection identifies the location of the library stacks, touted in the early years as the city's only radial stack system.

The exterior remains highly intact except for almost full window replacement and the removal of two front light fixtures. A 1966 interior remodeling resulted in several significant changes (some of which are reversible).<sup>2</sup> The plan was altered by the removal of partition walls separating the reading rooms from the circulation desk. The hung ceiling installed at the same time hides the central clerestory that defined the circulation desk as the heart of the library. Fluorescent lighting fixtures, refinished columns, and modern carpeting are among other modifications.

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<sup>1</sup>Much of the information in this report is taken from "Visitation Park Local Historic District" nomination to the National Register of Historic Places prepared by Carolyn Toft for Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc., 1991

<sup>2</sup>"Cabanne Branch Library," typescript, n.d. (1988?), located at the Cabanne Branch of the St. Louis Public Library.

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Name of property: Cabanne Branch Library  
Historic Name: Cabanne Branch Library  
St. Louis Independent City

43. History/significance

Women's groups through the 1910s met most frequently in the homes of their members; other venues included churches, schools, the new Jefferson Memorial building in Forest Park, and Vandervoort's assembly room. Public libraries provided special and equal opportunity for groups which were not affiliated with a particular church or school. A 1917 publication noted that women's groups made up at least 15% of the meetings at each branch library, and 50% at the Cabanne branch!<sup>1</sup>

Cabanne's most significant association with the women's groups of St. Louis is as the first home of the St. Louis Equal Suffrage League. From its inception in 1910 until it rented a downtown office in 1912,<sup>2</sup> the League met regularly at the Cabanne Branch. Although over one-third of the total League membership came from the affluent Central West End, all wards of the city were represented in the League. Affiliate leagues for Jewish women, businesswomen, young women and working women were formed. The St. Louis group was a statewide leader in the suffrage movement, organizing women at the grassroots level, staging memorable protests and demonstrations, and promoting political action at the local and state level. When the Missouri legislature finally endorsed women's right to vote in 1919, it was in no small part due to the efforts of the St. Louis Equal Suffrage League.

Other women's groups which met regularly or occasionally at the Cabanne Branch through 1920s include the Clotho Club, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Wanderers, the Twentieth Century Art Club, and the United States History Class (whose April 1911 meeting was held to be "one of the prettiest affairs offered by the clubs this season"<sup>3</sup>).

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<sup>1</sup>Quigley, Margery, "Where Neighbors Meet- An Account of the Use of Assembly and Club Rooms in the Saint Louis Public Library." Saint Louis: Saint Louis Public Library, 1917.

<sup>2</sup>The League moved into the Syndicate Trust Building in 1912; see Year 1 (1995) "Organizing for Power" survey for a complete description. Apparently the League also met at the home of Edna Gellhorn in 1911 or 1912.

<sup>3</sup>"Women's Clubs," St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Section 3, p. 8, April 23 1911.

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Name of property: Cabanne Branch Library  
Historic name: Cabanne Branch Library  
St. Louis Independent City

45. Sources

"Cabanne Branch Library," typescript, n.d. (1988?), located at the Cabanne Branch of the St. Louis Public Library.

Quigley, Margery. Where Neighbors Meet- An Account of the Use of Assembly and Club Rooms in the Saint Louis Public Library (Saint Louis: Saint Louis Public Library, 1917).

Regular Sunday columns on women's club meetings, St. Louis Daily Globe Democrat, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis Republic, 1907-1920.

"Visitation Park Local Historic District" nomination to the National Register of Historic Places prepared by Carolyn Toft for Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc., 1991.

Young, Dina M. "The Silent Search for a Voice: The St. Louis Equal Suffrage League and the Dilemma of Elite Reform, 1910-1920," Gateway Heritage, vol. 8, number 4 (Spring, 1988).



Cabanne Branch Public Library  
1106 Union Blvd, St. Louis MO  
camera facing SE

9/1996

Carolyn Toft, photographer

Photo 1 of 5

St. Louis women's  
survey



Cabanne Branch Public Library  
1106 Union Blvd., St. Louis MO  
camera facing E

9/1996

Carolyn Toft, photographer

photo 2 of 5

St. Louis women's clubs  
survey



Cabanne Branch Public Library  
1106 Union Boulevard, Saint Louis MO  
Camera facing NE  
9/1996

Carolyn Toft, photographer

Photo 3 of 5

St. Louis Women's  
Clubs survey



Cabanne Branch Public Library  
1106 Union Blvd, Saint Louis MO  
Camera facing N.

9/1996

Carolyn Taft, Photographer

Photo 4 of 5

St. Louis Women's  
Clubs survey



Cabanne

Cabanne Branch Library

1106 Union Blvd Saint Louis MO

Camera facing W

9/1996

Cardyn Teft, photographer

Photo 5 of 5

St. Louis  
women's clubs  
Survey

# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

1. No. <b>4</b>	4. Present Local Name <b>Carondelet Branch Library</b>	
2. County <b>St. Louis City</b>	5. Other Name(s)	
3. Location of Negatives <b>Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. 917 Locust, St. Louis MO 63101</b>		
6. Legal Location Township ___ Range ___ Section ___ Address: <b>6800 Michigan Avenue Saint Louis, MO 63111</b>	16. Thematic Category <b>Social History: Women's History</b>	28. Number of Stories <b>1</b>
	17. Date(s) or period <b>1907-1908</b>	29. Basement? <b>Y</b>
7. City or Town <b>City of St. Louis</b>	18. Style or Design <b>Classical Revival</b>	30. Foundation Material <b>Limestone</b>
	19. Architect/Engineer <b>Ernst Preisler</b>	31. Wall construction <b>Masonry</b>
8. Description of Location Vicinity?	20. Contractor or Builder	32. Roof type and material <b>Complex Not visible</b>
	21. Original Use, if apparent <b>Library</b>	33. No. of bays Front: <b>7</b> Side:
9. Coordinates <b>UTM</b> Lat. Long.	22. Present Use <b>Library</b>	34. Wall treatment <b>Limestone</b>
	23. Ownership <b>Public</b>	35. Plan shape <b>Modified T</b>
10. Check one: Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	24. Owner's name/address, if known <b>City of St. Louis</b>	36. Changes Addition? <input type="checkbox"/> Altered? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved? <input type="checkbox"/>
	25. Open to public? <b>Yes</b>	37. Condition Interior: <b>Good</b> Exterior: <b>Excellent</b>
11. On National Register? <b>No</b>	26. Local contact person or organization	38. Preservation Underway?
12. NR Eligible? <b>Yes</b>		39. Endangered? By what?
13. Part of district? <b>No</b>	27. Other surveys in which included	40. Visible from Public Road? <b>Yes</b>
14. District potential?		41. Distance from/frontage on road
15. Name of established district		
42. Further description of important features  <b>See continuation</b>		
43. History and Significance  <b>See continuation</b>		
44. Description of environment and outbuildings <b>Faces west on Michigan Avenue in residential area of Carondelet neighborhood</b>		
45. Sources of information <b>See continuation</b>		
46. Prepared by <b>Lynn Josse</b>		
47. Organization <b>Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.</b>		
48. Date <b>9/16/96</b>		
49. Revision Date (s)		

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Name of property: Carondelet Branch Library  
Historic name: Carondelet Branch Library  
St. Louis Independent City

#### 42. Description

The Carondelet Branch Public Library, built in 1907-08 from plans by prolific St. Louis architect Ernst Preisler, stands out as the most classically inspired of the six original Carnegie branches. A prominent Ionic portico, towering over the rest of the low building, leads the patron into the library. Double windows placed over panels with incised geometric designs, grouped three to either side of the portico, add rhythm to the limestone facade. The main volume of the building is wrapped by a cornice and parapet wall. The narrow sides (east and west elevations) feature an engaged portico with two pairs of pilasters framing the paired side windows. A wide rear volume houses the book stacks area. Placement on a high raised basement adds to the monumental aspirations of the composition.

The interior of the library was built on a plan similar to some of the other Carnegie branches, with separate adults' and children's reading rooms and a projecting stacks section centered behind the circulation area. As at most other early branches, the basement featured an assembly room, club room, restrooms, and offices.

The exterior of the building remains highly intact, although all windows and one rear door have been replaced with modern substitutes. Most main level spaces have been remodeled with modern hung ceilings, carpeting, new stacks, and a new main desk. Although the hexagonal floor tile of the basement remains intact, much of the lower level historic interior detail has been stripped.

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Name of property: Carondelet Branch Library  
Historic name: Carondelet Branch Library  
St. Louis Independent City

#### 43. History/Significance

The Carondelet Branch Library is notable for its long-term association with the Carondelet Women's Club. Founded in 1901, the group began as a literary club with a strong civic conscience. One of its first major undertakings was a fundraising effort which culminated in a \$1,000 donation to purchase the site for the Carondelet Branch library. The club continued its support after the building was completed in 1908 (from designs by St. Louisan Ernst Preisler), donating equipment (such as the library's curtains and piano) as well as an annual contribution to purchase books. The club met at the library for over 70 years.

The educational focus of the Carondelet Women's Club was evidenced in such meeting topics as St. Louis and Missouri history, the moral problems and possibilities of motion pictures (in 1914), and the Assimilation of Immigration; it also organized shows of family heirlooms and crafts at the library. A library publication singled out the group for notice: "the programs are progressive, and tend toward subjects that will benefit the community at large."<sup>1</sup> Contemporary accounts sometimes noted the group's lighter side, as on the occasion when members "responded to roll call by reciting limericks."<sup>2</sup> For one festive midwinter occasion trees, shrubs, flowers, "park signs and benches made the room into a likeness of our own Carondelet Park." Husbands and friends were invited to play games and picnic.<sup>3</sup>

Although the Carondelet Women's Club received more newspaper coverage, other women's groups used the Carondelet Branch as well. Another long-standing association is with the local chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, which met at the library regularly from the time of its construction until at least 1917.

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<sup>1</sup>Margery Quigley, Where Neighbors Meet- An Account of the Use of Assembly and Club Rooms in the Saint Louis Public Library. Saint Louis: Saint Louis Public Library, 1917, 20.

<sup>2</sup>St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Section 3 p. 7, March 8, 1914.

<sup>3</sup>Quigley, 20.

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Name of property: Carondelet Branch Library  
Historic name: Carondelet Branch Library  
St. Louis Independent City

45. Sources

Interview with Carolyn George by Lynn Josse, September 30, 1996 (St. Louis).

Menne, Susan. "Carondelet Women's Club Observes 50th Anniversary." St. Louis Star-Times, May 22, 1951, p. 17.

"Preisler, Ernst" architect file. Landmarks Association of St. Louis.

Quigley, Margery. Where Neighbors Meet- An Account of the Use of Assembly and Club Rooms in the Saint Louis Public Library (Saint Louis: Saint Louis Public Library, 1917).

Regular Sunday columns on women's club meetings, St. Louis Daily Globe Democrat, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis Republic, 1907-1920.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Section 3 p. 7, March 8, 1914.

St. Louis Women for St. Louis 1916-1917. St. Louis: Woman's Council of St. Louis (?), 1917.

Scrapbooks of the Carondelet Women's Club, 1901-19???. Collections of the Carondelet Women's Club, St. Louis, MO.



Carondelet Branch Library  
6800 Michigan Ave, St. Louis MO

camera facing SW

9/30/1996

by Lynn Josse

for Women's Clubs survey

2 of 2



Carondelet Branch Library  
6800 Michigan Ave. St Louis MO  
camera facing NE

9/30/1996

by Lynn Josse

for Women's Clubs survey

1 of 2

# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

1. No. 5	4. Present Local Name former Pulaski Savings Association	
2. County St. Louis City	5. Other Name(s) Crunden Branch Library	
3. Location of Negatives Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. 917 Locust, St. Louis MO 63101		
6. Legal Location Township ___ Range ___ Section ___ Address: NW corner of 14th & Cass Saint Louis, MO 63106	16. Thematic Category Social History: Women's History	28. Number of Stories 1
	17. Date(s) or period 1909	29. Basement? Y
7. City or Town City of St. Louis	18. Style or Design Renaissance Revival	30. Foundation Material Limestone?
	19. Architect/Engineer Eames & Young	31. Wall construction Masonry
8. Description of Location Vicinity?	20. Contractor or Builder	32. Roof type and material Hipped Rolled
	21. Original Use, if apparent Library	33. No. of bays Front: 9 Side:
	22. Present Use Vacant	34. Wall treatment Brick (red)
9. Coordinates UTM Lat. Long.	23. Ownership	35. Plan shape Rectangle
	24. Owner's name/address, if known	36. Changes Addition? Altered? Yes Moved?
10. Check one: Site Building X Structure Object		37. Condition Interior: Unknown Exterior: Poor
11. On National Register? No	25. Open to public? No	38. Preservation Underway? No
12. NR Eligible? No		39. Endangered? Yes
13. Part of district? No	26. Local contact person or organization	By what? Neglect
14. District potential? No		40. Visible from Public Road? Yes
15. Name of established district	27. Other surveys in which included	41. Distance from/frontage on road
42. Further description of important features  See continuation		
43. History and Significance  See continuation		
44. Description of environment and outbuildings Located at NE corner of Cass Avenue and 14th Street in near north St. Louis. Urban area characterized by many vacant lots and empty buildings.		
45. Sources of information See continuation		
46. Prepared by Lynn Josse		
47. Organization Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.		
48. Date 10/15/96		
49. Revision Date (s)		

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Name of property: Former Pulaski Savings Association  
Historic name: Crunden Branch Library  
St. Louis Independent City

#### 42. Description

The fourth of the original St. Louis Public Library branches, the Crunden Branch opened in September 1909. The design by well-known local architects Eames and Young was the simplest of the branch libraries to that time, housing all of the services except the boiler room on a basic rectangular footprint. The building is one story high, with a full basement for services and meeting rooms.

The exterior reflects the Renaissance Revival styles fashionable at the time, with neoclassical elements and a strip of terra-cotta framed windows and niches that may reflect the horizontal influences of the Prairie Style. The wall surfaces are of red brick in an unusual bond pattern that alternates two stretchers (with no visible mortar joint between) with a single header. Outstanding terra cotta work included a classically inspired shell and dolphin frieze under a dentil course and cornice, with an ornamented parapet wall above. The molded window surrounds, as well as the rusticated projecting front entry, were also of white terra cotta.

Inside, the main level of the Crunden Branch was conceived as one large room with children's and adults' reading areas separated by a central circulation space. Unlike the earlier libraries, the stacks at Crunden were mainly located along the outer wall, eliminating the need for a separate stacks volume at the rear of the library. Elaborate coved and coffered ceilings were in distinct contrast to the almost austere interiors of the three previous branches. The basement contained a club/assembly room, study room, offices, restrooms, storage, and utility rooms.

In 1959, the Crunden Branch moved out of its small building. The Pulaski Savings Association purchased the decommissioned library and modernized the exterior. Alterations included replacing all of the terra cotta window surrounds on the south and west elevations with limestone, as well as refacing the terra cotta entryway.

Today the former Crunden Branch Library stands vacant in a half-deserted neighborhood, stripped of the vital urban context that had made it one of the city's busiest libraries. The streetcar line that ran down 14th Street is gone, as are many of the buildings that once crowded in nearby. Although the structure of the building appears relatively intact, large sections of the ornate terra cotta have fallen off the cornice, and pieces of limestone facing from the retaining wall and parts of the building are lying at its foundation. All of the openings are presently boarded up.

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Name of property: Former Pulaski Savings Association  
Historic name: Crunden Branch Library  
St. Louis Independent City

#### 43. History/significance

The Crunden Branch Library, opened in 1909, was the fourth of the original branch libraries constructed with an endowment from Andrew Carnegie. Designed by the well-known St. Louis firm of Eames and Young, it was the simplest branch library in plan to that date, although it boasted a much more elaborate interior than the other three.

A 1917 library publication noted that at least 15% of the regular meetings at each branch were held by women's groups, but activities at Crunden have been difficult to trace.<sup>1</sup> Women's meetings at this branch were rarely reported in the major newspapers, apparently because of the poverty and ethnic composition of the area. The Saint Louis Public Library Annual Report for 1909-10 noted the popularity of German, Polish, Russian, and Yiddish titles in this largely immigrant neighborhood.<sup>2</sup>

The most significant association with women's groups appears to be as the regular meeting place of one of two known neighborhood branches of the Equal Suffrage League of St. Louis. The St. Louis League placed great emphasis on gaining allies in various neighborhoods and among different interest groups, resulting in offshoots such as the Business Women's League and the Jewish Alliance. Little documentary evidence has been found on "the young women of the Crunden Center of the Equal Suffrage League," although the center is known to have been active by as early as 1912.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Margery Quigley, Where Neighbors Meet- An Account of the Use of Assembly and Club Rooms in the Saint Louis Public Library. Saint Louis: Saint Louis Public Library, 1917.

<sup>2</sup>Saint Louis Public Library Annual Report, 1919-1910. Saint Louis: Saint Louis Public Library, 1910.

<sup>3</sup>Item in Saint Louis Labor, November 2, 1912, 4.

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Name of property: Former Pulaski Savings Association  
Historic name: Crunden Branch Library  
St. Louis Independent City

45. Sources

Quigley, Margery. Where Neighbors Meet- An Account of the Use of Assembly and Club Rooms in the Saint Louis Public Library (Saint Louis: Saint Louis Public Library, 1917).

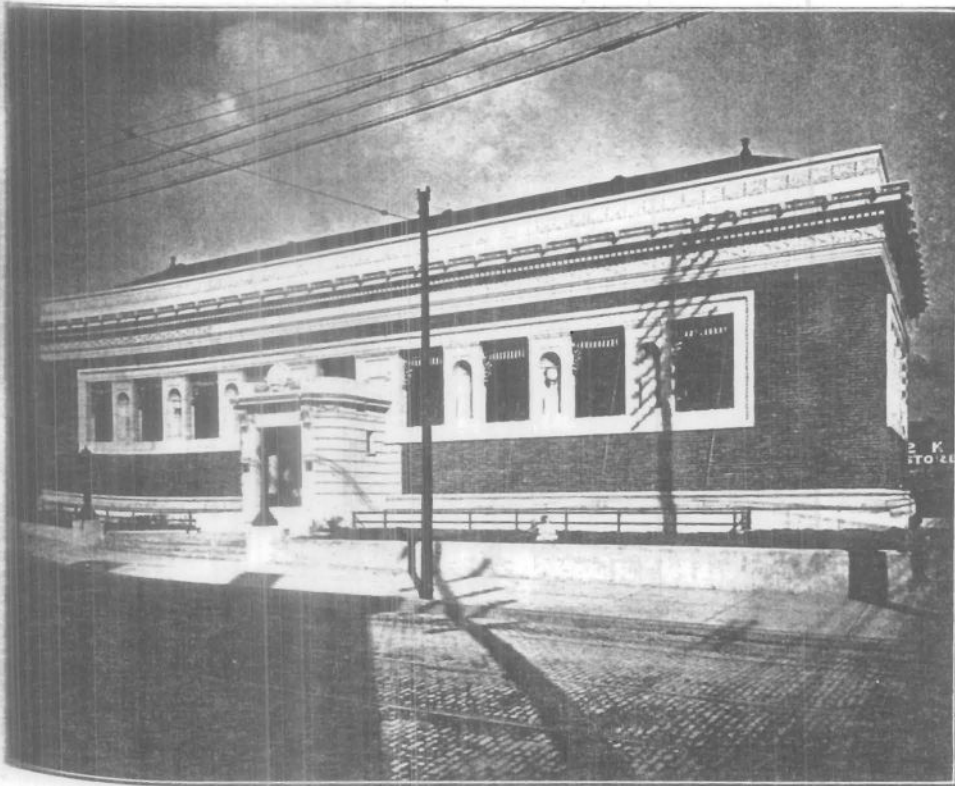
Saint Louis Labor. November 2, 1912. 4.

St. Louis Public Library Annual Report, 1909-1910. St. Louis: St. Louis Public Library, 1910.

St. Louis Public Library Annual Report, 1910-1911. St. Louis: St. Louis Public Library, 1911.

MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY

Crunden Branch Library  
NE corner of Cass Ave. & 14th Street  
Saint Louis, MO  
Camera facing NE  
Historic View (c. 1909)  
Source: St. Louis Library Annual Report, 1908/09  
for "Organizing for Power, 1890-1920: Women and Clubs" survey, 1996



FRED'K M. CRUNDEN BRANCH.



Crunden Branch Library  
14th St at Cass Ave. Saint Louis MO  
camera facing NE

10/23/16

Lynn Josse, photographer

St. Louis MO Women's Survey

1 of 3

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Crunden Branch Library

14th St. at Cass Ave St Louis MO

facing SE

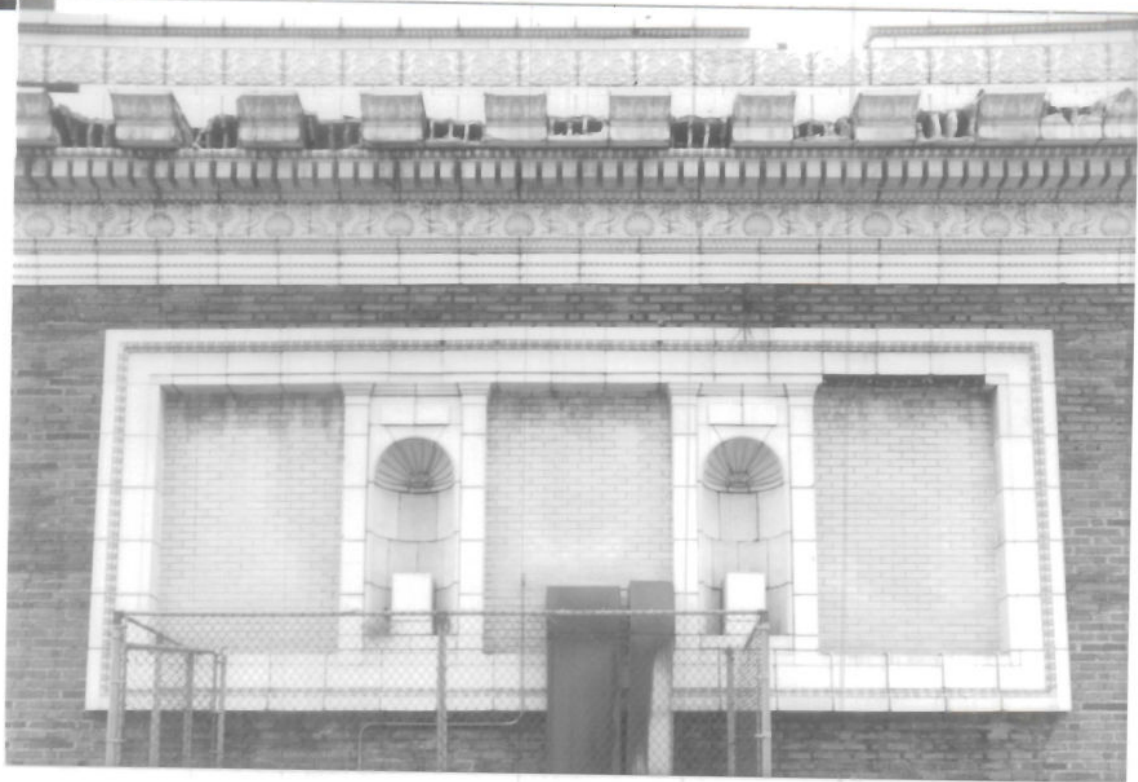
10/23/96

Lynn Josse, photographer

Women's clubs survey 1996

2 of 3

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Crunden Branch Library  
14th St. at Cass Ave., St. Louis MO  
facing S  
10/23/96

Lynn Josse, photographer  
Women's Clubs survey 1996

3 of 3

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## THE EQUAL SUFFRAGE LEAGUE OF ST. LOUIS

### History

The suffrage movement in St. Louis began early. The Woman Suffrage Association of Missouri was founded in 1867, and a suffrage convention in St. Louis later that year attracted both Susan B. Anthony and Julia Ward Howe. By the turn of the century, however, the movement had stagnated and, according to Missouri Historical Society archivist Dina M. Young, by 1903 "Missouri was one of the blackest spots on the suffrage map." It did not hold a state suffrage convention until 1910.

Although it would be hasty to overlook efforts from other quarters, the strongest push to re-organize the suffrage movement came from the well-to-do women of St. Louis. In March of 1910 a group of women met to discuss an affiliation with the National American Woman Suffrage Association. At first called the Committee on Organization, the group formally constituted itself as the Equal Suffrage League of St. Louis on April 8, 1910, and sponsored a speech by the noted English suffragist Ethel Arnold three days later at the Wednesday Club Auditorium. The Wednesday Club had just completed its new headquarters, designed by Theodore Link, at Westminster and Taylor avenues in the Central West End. The Club had been, and would remain, an important catalyst in the suffrage movement. Although the club refused to take a formal position on suffrage, over one quarter of the League's members were also members of the Wednesday Club. Members of the fashionable St. Louis Woman's Club joined the League as well, and over one-third of the total League membership came from the affluent Central West End. All wards of the city were, however, represented in the League. Affiliate leagues for Jewish women, businesswomen, young women and working women were formed. Neighborhood chapters of the League often met in branches of the St. Louis Public Library closest to them.

At first the main League met at the Cabanne Branch of the Public Library, but moved into new headquarters in Suite 1024 of the Syndicate Trust Building at Tenth and Olive streets in 1912. It would remain there until 1918, when it moved next door to room 755 of the Century Building. From 1912 to 1918 the League accomplished a great deal: it organized a referendum on suffrage in 1914 (which was, however, defeated by a considerable majority statewide and in St. Louis) and a number of activities during the Democratic Convention in 1916. In one memorable demonstration during the convention, 7,000 suffragists, dressed in white and carrying yellow parasols, stood in absolute silence along both sides of the route to the convention hall. "The Golden Lane," (as the protest became known) is considered by historians and former suffragists alike to have influenced the Democratic Party in its adoption of the suffrage plank on its party platform. The advent of war in 1917 gave many League members the chance to become active politically through the Women's Committee of the Council of National Defense.

When the National American Women's Suffrage Association (NAWSA) held its 1919 Convention in St. Louis, the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment was imminent and the delegates voted to create a new organization, which became the League of Women Voters. The Equal Suffrage League affiliated with the LWW from the start, becoming the St. Louis chapter of the League of Women Voters. Many of the ESL's leaders remained active in the new organization, among them Edna Fischel Gellhorn, who became a prominent national leader in the League of Women Voters. The ESL's strongest legacy, however, was its role in the creation of a statewide suffrage movement that became very influential in a short period of time. Though its leadership may have been affluent, the goals of the Equal Suffrage League never were.

### Description

The Syndicate Trust Building (former Scruggs, Vandervoort & Barney Department Store) is located at 915 Olive Street in the west half of City Block 273 in downtown St. Louis, Missouri. One of the more handsome downtown buildings, it rises sixteen stories from street level and adjoins the Century Building. It was designed by St. Louis architect H. F. Roach and constructed in 1906-07 by Hill-O'Meara Contractors for the Holbrook-Blackwelder Real Estate Trust Company. The building, although in good condition, has been empty since the summer of 1995; the first floor is boarded up.

Like the Century Building to the east, the Syndicate Trust has been painted gray, diluting the impact of decorative panels (ornamented with wreaths, shields and swords) above the first story and quieting the large shields on the spandrels. Elevations on Olive and Locust Streets are divided into ten bays each, with eighteen bays on North Tenth Street. All elevations at the ground level have been modernized with polished granite and modern windows, and all second story windows have been modified. A second-story sill course of wreaths and flowers encircles the building, continuing around the Century Building. At the third story, blocks with lions' heads surround the building above the openings. At the shaft, panelled pilasters rise eleven stories, culminating in round-arched openings at the fourteenth story. The two-story attic features tripartite windows and is crowned by a row of tiny round openings and an elaborate, projecting, bracketed cornice.

A one-bay 1912 infill building rises seven stories high between the Syndicate Trust and Century Building; it features very little ornamentation. It was constructed to allow the Scruggs, Vandervoort & Barney firm to breach the alley and expand into the Century Building. The company closed in 1967, but the building has been fairly well occupied much of the time since then. During the last two years, however, much of both buildings was gutted in anticipation of the installation of a parking garage that would leave the exteriors of both buildings intact. The owner has abandoned this plan, however, and has repeatedly petitioned the City unsuccessfully to allow the structures to be razed for a surface parking lot.

The Century Building remains in good condition with a high degree of integrity; the primary exterior changes are those done to the first and second stories in modernizing for tenants that included the Cass Bank.

## THE CENTURY BUILDING

1

### Description

The Century Building is a Classical Revival style office and commercial building located at 315 North Ninth Street in the east half of City Block 273 in downtown St. Louis, Missouri. The ten-story, 1896 building adjoins the Syndicate Trust Building via a narrow interstice building. The Century was designed by the St. Louis firm of Raeder, Coffin & Crocker at an approximate cost of \$1,350,00.00. The building has been recently vacated of all but one ground-floor tenant, and the north and east elevations are boarded.

The primary entrance to the building is centered in a recessed bay on Ninth Street (the east elevation), a large, round-arched form highlighted with wreaths and oak leaves and flanked by four engaged, fluted, Corinthian columns. A smaller, pedimented doorway is located immediately to the north on the east elevation. The east elevation is nine bays wide; piers of the bays flanking the entrance were originally rusticated stone blocks. The original polychromatic materials of stone are now painted a soft gray; the building has the appearance of limestone, but that is impossible to tell at this time.

A second-floor sill course of wreaths and flowers provides a handsome accent to the restrained decoration of this building, continuing around and encircling the Syndicate Trust Building. String courses highlight the Century Building at the third, fourth, eighth, and ninth stories. Bays of one-over-one double-hung wood sash in floors four through seven primarily terminate in round arches (some flat arches are interspersed) highlighted by brackets; these bays are separated by large Tudor rose medallions in selected places. Bays on the top two stories are separated by engaged Corinthian columns. Windows at the third story are three-over-one double-hung sash; openings and windows at the first and second stories have virtually all been modified to meet commercial demands over the years. A narrow cornice tops the flat-roofed building.

The north and south sides of the Century are each fourteen bays wide at the third story; the original alley gap between the Century and Syndicate Trust buildings was filled in 1912 by a narrow building, one bay wide and only seven stories high; the Scruggs, Vandervoort & Barney drygoods company, then the owners of the Syndicate Trust Building, had the alley bridged to expand into the Century Building. Any former grand entrance on the south side has been removed; a lone entrance remains on the north side, featuring some scrolled terra cotta work. It, like the doors on the east side, are now boarded. One entrance in working order remains to serve the tenant left on the southeast corner of the building.

The interior of the Century has been substantially gutted in order to install a parking garage; the owner has now abandoned this plan and has repeatedly petitioned the City unsuccessfully to raze the building for a surface parking lot.

## The Century Building description, p. 2

The building's exterior remains in fairly good condition. A balustrade with lamps extending the width of eight bays above the Ninth Street entrance has disappeared, as have iron railings that once accented corner bays above the shaft and finials on pedestals that formerly towered above the roofline. However, despite these changes, the building still presents a handsome facade in a critical downtown vista opposite the Old Post Office (visible at left in photo). The Century Building retains a high degree of integrity.



THE SYNDICATE TRUST BUILDING

915 OLIVE ST.  
ST. LOUIS MO

PHOTOGRAPHER: GYNTHA LONOWISCH

DATE: NOVEMBER, 1995

FACING NORTH EAST

NEGATIVE: LANDMARKS ASSOC. OF ST. LOUIS

49889  
23



8227

**CHUCK NORMAN**  
PROCEEDS FOR  
**HANDICAPPED CHILDREN**

THE CENTURY BUILDING

315 N. NINTH ST.

ST. LOUIS MO

PHOTOGRAPHER: CYNTHIA LONGWISCH

DATE: NOVEMBER, 1995

FACING SOUTHWEST

NEGATIVE: LANDMARKS ASSN. OF ST. LOUIS

2  
1988

# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

1. No. <b>1</b>	4. Present Local Name <b>Gateway Hotel</b>	
2. County <b>St. Louis City</b>	5. Other Name(s) <b>Hotel Statler</b>	
3. Location of Negatives <b>Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. 917 Locust, St. Louis MO 63101</b>		
6. Legal Location Township ___ Range ___ Section ___ Address: <b>822 Washington Ave. St. Louis, MO 63101</b>	16. Thematic Category <b>Social History: Women's History</b>	28. Number of Stories <b>18</b>
	17. Date(s) or period <b>1917</b>	29. Basement? <b>Y</b>
7. City or Town <b>City of St. Louis</b>	18. Style or Design <b>Italian Renaissance</b>	30. Foundation Material <b>not visible</b>
	19. Architect/Engineer <b>George B. Post &amp; Sons</b>	31. Wall construction <b>Steel frame</b>
8. Description of Location Vicinity?	20. Contractor or Builder <b>The Avenue Building Company</b>	32. Roof type and material <b>Flat Rolled</b>
	21. Original Use, if apparent <b>Hotel</b>	33. No. of bays Front: <b>12</b> Side: <b>10</b>
9. Coordinates <b>UTM</b> Lat. Long.	22. Present Use <b>Vacant</b>	34. Wall treatment <b>Brick</b>
	23. Ownership <b>Private</b>	35. Plan shape <b>U-shaped</b>
10. Check one: Site Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure Object	24. Owner's name/address, if known	36. Changes Addition? Altered? <b>Ycs</b> Moved?
	25. Open to public? <b>No</b>	37. Condition Interior: <b>Unknown</b> Exterior: <b>Good</b>
11. On National Register? <b>Yes</b>	26. Local contact person or organization	38. Preservation Underway? <b>No</b>
12. NR Eligible?		39. Endangered? <b>Yes</b> By what? <b>Neglect</b>
13. Part of district? <b>No</b>	27. Other surveys in which included <b>Architectural Survey of the Central Business District, St. Louis (1975-77)</b>	40. Visible from Public Road? <b>Yes</b>
14. District potential? <b>Yes</b>		41. Distance from/frontage on road
15. Name of established district		
42. Further description of important features  <b>See continuation</b>		
43. History and Significance  <b>See continuation</b>		
44. Description of environment and outbuildings <b>Located at the north end of downtown; surface parking lot east; historic theater south; parking lot W; historic apartment building and convention center N; historic hotel SE.</b>		
45. Sources of information <b>See continuation</b>		
46. Prepared by <b>Lynn Josse</b>		
47. Organization <b>Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.</b>		
48. Date <b>9/16/96</b>		
49. Revision Date (s)		

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Name of property: Gateway Hotel  
Original name: Hotel Statler  
St. Louis Independent City

42. The eighteen-story Hotel Statler (1917), listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981, is a recognizable landmark at the north end of downtown St. Louis. At street level, the three story, limestone-faced base is distinguished by seven-bay arcades of round-arched openings on the Washington and St. Charles elevations. The more somber Ninth Street elevation is marked by five round-arched openings balanced by rectangular windows in each corner bay. At the lobby and mezzanine level, rectangular windows are embellished with wrought iron balconies; a stone balustrade which separated the mezzanine from the first floor above has been removed. Brick panels alternate with limestone blocks at the first floor<sup>1</sup> to complete the base and provide transition to the 14-story brick shaft.

The guest floors of the building's body are 12 bays wide across the main (west) facade and 10 bays to the north and south. Double-hung sash windows have two panes top and bottom. A belt course below the 17th story and another stone balustrade (still intact) above it mark the base of the distinctive double-height colonnade that tops the building. A wall of windows is punctuated by Ionic columns, their scrolls now lopped off. The composition is completed by a wide modillioned cornice

The Hotel Statler's detailing is in the style of the Italian Renaissance, although it is considered to be a fairly austere example. The stripped vertical planes of the shaft also reveal Georgian influence. The 650 room hotel is of steel frame construction with concrete floors and roof; brick curtain walls are 12 inches thick.<sup>2</sup> Above the mezzanine level, a light well (facing east) creates the typical U-shaped floor plan.

Reports indicate that the major interior spaces remain intact despite a minor fire and years of vacancy. The lobby and part of the mezzanine floor of the Hotel were boarded up following the fire. With the exception of the missing balustrade and Ionic volutes, a few broken windows, and some apparently minor deterioration at the cornice, the exterior is in good condition and remains highly intact.

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<sup>1</sup>In the European tradition, the "first floor" of the Hotel Statler is above the ground floor and mezzanine; from the exterior, this is perceived as the third floor.

<sup>2</sup>Landmarks Association of St. Louis, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form: "Hotel Statler," 1981.

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Name of property: Gateway Hotel  
Historic name: Hotel Statler  
St. Louis Independent City

43. The Hotel Statler (1917) is listed on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a significant example of the innovative designs of George B. Post & Sons, the New York firm which set the standard for modern hotel design.<sup>1</sup> A February 1918 article in *The Architectural Forum* gave high praise to the four hotels of the Statler chain: "In them the scientific expression of certain principles of hotel design has been developed to such a high degree, and has met with such success, that these principles have come to be accepted as the criteria of contemporaneous hotel practice" (31). The new St. Louis hotel was held to be one of the finest anywhere.

When the St. Louis Equal Suffrage League was called upon to plan what would become one of the most significant events in suffrage history, the splendid new Hotel Statler was an obvious choice. In the decade after its organization in 1910, the Equal Suffrage League parented branch organizations throughout the city, including the Junior Equal Suffrage League, a Jewish Alliance League, and the Business Women's Equal Suffrage League.

In March of 1919, women's right to vote had been approved in many states, and patient suffragists finally anticipated an end to their hard-fought struggles. The annual National American Women's Suffrage Association convention that year was both a victory celebration and a turning point, as 600 delegates from all states planned the next steps for their newly enfranchised organizations. The convention included dinners and speeches, reports, and meetings. With the exception of two mass meetings held at the Odeon Theater,<sup>2</sup> all of the official convention program appears to have been held at the Hotel Statler. The hotel ballroom, an early and significant example of an upper-story ballroom suitable for year-round use, was transformed into a convention hall for the delegates and guests. A capacity crowd estimated at 1200-1300 people (overwhelmingly women) attended Mrs. Carrie Chapman Carr's opening address, and newspapers reported that several hundred more milled about in the hallways or turned back when they were unable to gain admission. The *St. Louis Republic* described the room's appearance at this session: "Patriotic bunting and flags entwined gracefully with festooned pennants of the suffrage yellow. Pots of narcissi, the suffrage flower, formed

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<sup>1</sup>Landmarks Association of St. Louis, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form: "Hotel Statler," 1981.

<sup>2</sup>The Odeon Theater, designed by prominent St. Louis architect W. Albert Swasey, was condemned in 1935 after two damaging fires and razed in 1936. (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch Magazine*, 9/24/1995, page unknown.)

a vivid hedge around the foot of the platform." The convention also spread into the dining rooms and the lobby (where an informational kiosk and a branch post office were specially set up).

The most significant development at the March 1919 convention was the resolution to direct the suffrage movement's members into an alliance of voting women. Proposed and approved in the Statler ballroom, the organization was formally realized as the national League of Women Voters in 1920. For over 75 years, the League has remained an active force in American politics. Although it has moved away from early activities such as citizenship schools, the non-partisan organization continues to educate the American public on important issues.

While the national League of Women Voters was not official until 1920, local Leagues began organizing as soon as the March 1919 convention was over. St. Louis delegates began discussing local organization the day after the convention and by fall had a Colored Division and organizations in almost every ward. The last annual convention of the Missouri Woman Suffrage Association, held in October 1919 at the Hotel Statler, included the new local Leagues of Women Voters in the program.

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Name of property: Gateway Hotel  
Historic name: Hotel Statler  
St. Louis Independent City

45. Sources

"1200 Attend Great Inquiry Dinner of Suffrage Leaders." St. Louis Daily Globe-Democrat, March 26 1919. 1.

"American Woman Suffrage Association Will Open Convention To-Morrow." St. Louis Republic, March 23 1919. 6.

Carlson, Mrs. Henry. "The First Decade of the St. Louis League of Women Voters." Missouri Historical Society Bulletin October 1969. 32-52.

"Delegates Arriving for National Suffrage Meet, Which Opens Here To-Day." St. Louis Republic, March 24 1919. 4 .

*St. Louis Post-Dispatch Magazine*, 9/24/1995, page unknown. (Located at Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Albert Swasey file).

Equal Suffrage League of St. Louis. "Report of the Equal Suffrage League of St. Louis 1918-1919." 1919. Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, Missouri.

Landmarks Association of St. Louis, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form: "Hotel Statler," 1981.

"National Convention of Women Suffragists Opens Here Today; Mayor Will Welcome Delegates." St. Louis Daily Globe-Democrat, March 24 1919. 1.

"National Suffrage Convention: 600 Delegates Represent All States in Union." St. Louis Daily Globe-Democrat, March 25 1919. 1.

"Union of Women Voters Proposed as a Memorial." St. Louis Daily Globe-Democrat, March 25 1919. 2.

Wagner, W. Sydney. "The Hotel Statler, St. Louis, Mo." The Architectural Forum, v. XXVIII, no. 2, February 1918.

"Women Voters' League to 'Finish the Fight' Is Urged by Mrs. Catt." St. Louis Republic,

March 25 1919. 1.

Young, Dina M. "The Silent Search for a Voice: The St. Louis Equal Suffrage League and the Dilemma of Elite Reform, 1910-1920," Gateway Heritage, vol. 8, number 4 (Spring, 1988).



Hotel Statler  
822 Washington Ave.  
St. Louis MO  
Facing NE

10/1996

Lynn Josse, photographer

women's clubs  
survey

1 of 5



Hotel Statler  
822 Washington Ave.

St. Louis

Facing E

10/1996

Lynn Jasse, photographer

women's clubs survey

2 of 5



Hotel Statler  
822 Washington Ave,  
St. Louis MO  
Facing W/SW

10/1996

Lynn Josse

women's clubs survey

3 of 5



Hotel Statler  
822 Washington Ave,  
St. Louis MO

Facing NE

9/1996

Lynn Josse

women's clubs survey

4 of 5



DO NOT  
LIE. PUT IT

DO NOT  
LIE. PUT IT

Hotel Statler  
822 Washington Ave.  
St. Louis MO

Facing S

10/1996

Lynn Josse  
women's clubs survey

5 of 5

**MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM**

1. No. <u>7</u>		4. Present Local Name	
2. County <u>St Louis City</u>		5. Other Name(s) <u>George and Edna Gellhorn House</u>	
3. Location of Negatives <u>Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. 917 Locust, St. Louis MO 63101</u>			
6. Legal Location Township ___ Range ___ Section ___ Address: <u>4366 McPherson Saint Louis MO 63108?</u>		16. Thematic Category <u>Social History: Women's History</u>	
7. City or Town <u>City of St. Louis</u>		17. Date(s) or period <u>1898</u>	
8. Description of Location Vicinity?		18. Style or Design <u>Colonial Revival</u>	
9. Coordinates <u>UTM</u> Lat. Long.		19. Architect/Engineer	
10. Check one: Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		20. Contractor or Builder <u>O. F. Humphrey</u>	
11. On National Register? <u>No</u>		21. Original Use, if apparent <u>Single-family residence</u>	
12. NR Eligible? <u>Yes</u>		22. Present Use <u>Single-family residence</u>	
13. Part of district? <u>Yes (local)</u>		23. Ownership <u>Private</u>	
14. District potential? <u>Yes</u>		24. Owner's name/address, if known <u>Daniel T. Favier</u>	
15. Name of established district <u>est End District (local)</u>		25. Open to public? <u>No</u>	
16. Further description of important features  <u>See continuation</u>		26. Local contact person or organization	
17. History and Significance  <u>See continuation</u>		27. Other surveys in which included	
18. Description of environment and outbuildings <u>Faces north on McPherson mid-block in rehabbed turn of the century neighborhood on quiet street.</u>		28. Number of Stories <u>2</u>	
19. Sources of information <u>See continuation</u>		29. Basement? <u>Y</u>	
20. Prepared by <u>Lynn Josse</u>		30. Foundation Material <u>Limestone</u>	
21. Organization <u>Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.</u>		31. Wall construction <u>Masonry</u>	
22. Date <u>10/9/96</u>		32. Roof type and material <u>Side gable Asphalt shingle</u>	
23. Revision Date (s)		33. No. of bays Front: <u>2</u> Side:	
		34. Wall treatment <u>Brick; slate</u>	
		35. Plan shape <u>Rectangle</u>	
		36. Changes Addition? <input type="checkbox"/> Altered? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Yes</u> Moved? <input type="checkbox"/>	
		37. Condition Interior: <u>Unknown</u> Exterior: <u>Good</u>	
		38. Preservation Underway?	
		39. Endangered? By what?	
		40. Visible from Public Road? <u>Yes</u>	
		41. Distance from/frontage on road	

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Historic name of property: George and Edna Gellhorn House  
St. Louis Independent City

42. Description

The house at 4366 McPherson is one of at least nine dwellings on the 4300 block of McPherson constructed by local builder O. F. Humphrey between 1898-1901.<sup>1</sup> Number 4366, built from a permit issued in 1898, is similar to its immediate neighbors in size, massing, and to a certain extent in detailing.

The house is identified as part of the Colonial Revival movement by its classical detailing, columned front porch, plain surfaces, and overall composition. The front facade is two stories high and two bays wide, with a full-length front porch. The porch, supported on adapted Doric columns, is distinguished by a pediment over the steps and entry on the left, and a rounded projection on the right. The asymmetry is continued at the second story by a bay window with slender, column-like mullions over the front entrance. A wide frieze provides transition to a steeply pitched side gable roof with two hipped dormers.

Due to the layout of the narrow but unusually long lots on this block, the house is much longer than it is wide. The tan brick of the facade gives way to a body of red brick at the sides and back of the house; the gable ends are finished in slate shingles. The long back yard features a variety of tree species.

Alterations to the property include almost full window replacement; the removal of a back porch or steps; 1 boarded up rear window; and modern vinyl or aluminum siding replacing some of the slate in the back. A stacked limestone retaining wall at a small semicircular front terrace adds a modern element to the landscaping. Despite these changes, there have been no major alterations to the front facade, and overall integrity appears fairly high.

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<sup>1</sup>"Architectural Survey of the Central West End - East," Landmarks Association of St. Louis, 1987.

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Historic name of property: George and Edna Gellhorn House  
St. Louis Independent City

43. History/significance

Between 1898-1901, O. F. Humphrey constructed at least nine houses on the 4300 block of McPherson.<sup>1</sup> The house at 4366 McPherson, built in 1898, became significant as the home of Edna Fischel Gellhorn, a Missouri suffrage leader and later a national director of the League of Women Voters. There is also a direct association with the St. Louis Equal Suffrage League, as apparently at least several meetings were held there soon after the Gellhorns purchased the house in 1911.<sup>2</sup> Edna Gellhorn owned the house until 1948.

Before she married or joined the suffrage movement, Edna Fischel was a charter member and first president of the College Club of St. Louis. The College Club was formed in 1901 as a social club for educated women, a counterpart to the male-only University Club.<sup>3</sup> After her marriage, Edna Fischel Gellhorn became active in the suffrage movement at the prodding of her husband George, a German immigrant who believed that women's status as citizens extended to the right to vote and participate in politics. From initial uncertainty in 1910, she rose to the presidency of the St. Louis Equal Suffrage League in 1919. Another significant leadership role was as Chairman of Local Arrangements for the 1919 jubilee convention of the National American Women's Suffrage Association, hosted by the local group at the Hotel Statler. With a universal suffrage victory at hand, the delegates voted to create an organization of voting women citizens, realized formally as the League of Women Voters.

As the first president of the Missouri League, Edna Gellhorn "rode milk trains all over the state persuading women to learn how to use their new power."<sup>4</sup> In St. Louis, she organized citizenship schools, raised money, and promoted numerous civic causes. Her position as a director of the national League was won not only by her decades of service and hard work, but also an immense personal charm and power of persuasion that she used on behalf of all her causes.

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<sup>1</sup>"Architectural Survey of the Central West End - East," Landmarks Association of St. Louis, 1987.

<sup>2</sup>"Transcript of Conversations with Charter Members of the Saint Louis League," March 1956. Typescript. Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri Archives, Saint Louis.

<sup>3</sup>Henrietta Gummels. The History of the College Club of St. Louis. Saint Louis: College Club of St. Louis, 1982.

<sup>4</sup>Avis Carlson, "Dame Edna of Saint Louis," Saint Louis Magazine, November 1968, 21-22.

Edna Gellhorn's work and commitment made her undoubtedly one of the most important St. Louis women of the first half of the 20th century. She lived to be over 90 years old, remaining an active citizen until the end of her life. Her more than 35 years at 4366 McPherson span the earliest and many of the greatest achievements of her career.

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Historic name of property: George and Edna Gellhorn House  
St. Louis Independent City

45. Sources

"Architectural Survey of the Central West End - East." Landmarks Association of St. Louis, 1987.

Carlson, Avis. "Dame Edna of Saint Louis." Saint Louis Magazine, November 1968, 21-22.

Equal Suffrage League of St. Louis. "Report of the Equal Suffrage League of St. Louis, 1918-1919." On file at Landmarks Association of St. Louis.

Gummels, Henrietta . The History of the College Club of St. Louis (Saint Louis: College Club of St. Louis, 1982).

"Transcript of Conversations with Charter Members of the Saint Louis League," March 1956. Typescript. Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri Archives, Saint Louis.



George & Edna Gellhorn House

4366 McPherson Saint Louis MO

Facing S

10/1996

Lynn Jasse, Photographer

Women's Clubs survey

1 of 2



George & Edna Gellhorn House

4366 McPherson St. Louis

facing S

10/96

Lynn Jasse, photographer

women's clubs survey

2 of 2

# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

1. No. <b>6</b>	4. Present Local Name <b>New Life Evangelical Center, Inc.</b>	
2. County <b>St. Louis City</b>	5. Other Name(s) <b>St. Louis Central Y.W.C.A.</b>	
3. Location of Negatives <b>Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. 917 Locust, St. Louis MO 63101</b>		
6. Legal Location Township ___ Range ___ Section ___ Address: <b>1411-1417 Locust St. Louis MO 63101</b>	16. Thematic Category <b>Social History: Women's History</b>	28. Number of Stories <b>5</b>
	17. Date(s) or period <b>1911-1912</b>	29. Basement? <b>Y</b>
7. City or Town <b>City of St. Louis</b>	18. Style or Design <b>Italian Renaissance</b>	30. Foundation Material <b>Limestone</b>
	19. Architect/Engineer <b>Mariner &amp; La Beume</b>	31. Wall construction <b>Steel frame?</b>
8. Description of Location Vicinity?	20. Contractor or Builder	32. Roof type and material <b>Complex Asphalt shingle</b>
	21. Original Use, if apparent <b>Civic</b>	33. No. of bays Front: <b>9</b> Side: <b>3</b>
9. Coordinates UTM Lat. Long.	22. Present Use <b>Civic</b>	34. Wall treatment <b>Brick</b>
	23. Ownership <b>Private</b>	35. Plan shape <b>I-shaped</b>
10. Check one: Site Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure Object	24. Owner's name/address, if known	36. Changes Addition? Altered? <b>Yes</b> Moved?
	11. On National Register? <b>No</b>	37. Condition Interior: <b>Unknown</b> Exterior: <b>Good</b>
12. NR Eligible? <b>Yes</b>	25. Open to public? <b>No</b>	38. Preservation Underway?
13. Part of district? <b>No</b>	26. Local contact person or organization	39. Endangered? By what?
14. District potential? <b>Yes</b>		40. Visible from Public Road? <b>Yes</b>
15. Name of established district	27. Other surveys in which included <b>St. Louis Central Business District</b>	41. Distance from/frontage on road
42. Further description of important features  <b>See continuation</b>		
43. History and Significance  <b>See continuation</b>		
44. Description of environment and outbuildings <b>Located at the northwest edge of downtown; Locust street south; St. Charles Street north; parking east and west</b>		
45. Sources of information <b>See continuation</b>		
46. Prepared by <b>Lynn Josse</b>		
47. Organization <b>Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.</b>		
48. Date <b>9/16/96</b>		
49. Revision Date (s)		

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Present Name: New Life Evangelical Center  
Historic name of property: Central Y.W.C.A.  
St. Louis Independent City

#### 42. Description

Mariner and La Beaume's 1911 Central Y.W.C.A. building is an I-shaped building, five stories high (the rear wing reaches only 3 stories in height), located at the northwest edge of the downtown business district. The June, 1911 edition of the Realty Record and Builder touted the Y.W.C.A. (then under construction) as a soon-to-be "monument to a worthy cause, to which the best element in St. Louis has subscribed."<sup>1</sup> Reflecting the cultured taste of the benefactors, the facade (facing south to Locust Street) is faced with rough-textured brown-gray brick,<sup>2</sup> trimmed with mottled terra-cotta of the same color above a limestone basement story. Between symmetrical stairways to the basement level (trimmed with wrought iron balustrades), two quarter-turn staircases rise to the principal entrance. Paired double-height brick and terra cotta pilasters rise from a projecting stone ledge to carry a substantial terra cotta entablature above the second story. In the Italian Renaissance tradition, the first story features overscaled round-headed openings, here framed with terra cotta, with smaller rectangular windows defining the second story. A hood molding, supported by decorative brackets, distinguishes the larger entrance opening.

Above the second story entablature, the third and fourth story brickwork is treated with a diaper pattern. Terra cotta architraves with fruit patterns and keystones surround the third story windows; above, sills link the paired windows of the fourth story. Although the fifth story is set off by a modillioned wrought iron balcony (with the same ironwork pattern as that on the basement stairs), a continuation of the lower diaper pattern to the corner piers provides visual continuity. Tall pairs of radial-patterned double-hung windows are separated by panels of variegated tile, brick, or terra cotta squares. A deep copper cornice completes the composition.

The building's footprint conforms to an I-shape, with two rectangular walled courts filling in the ground space to a perfect rectangle. The full-height hyphen and three story rear wing are differentiated from the front volume by the use of red brick cladding. Functions were separated between the rear wing and the rest of the building. The front section and connector housed offices and class rooms, with a large auditorium taking up the north wing of the third floor. The fourth floor was dedicated to lodging rooms

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<sup>1</sup>Realty Record and Builder 18 (June 1911): 20.

<sup>2</sup>This brick, unusual for the area, features a large aggregate.

(one of the original missions of the Y.W.C.A. was to provide housing for needy working women). A kitchen and cafeteria occupied most of the fifth floor. The rear wing primarily housed the athletic functions of the building, with two gymnasiums built over a swimming pool and dressing rooms.

At one time, a number of dwellings and other buildings also existed on this block, but none remain. The Central Y.W.C.A. building, now the New Life Evangelical Center, occupies the center third of the block, with parking lots east and west. A number of relatively minor changes to the exterior include several filled-in windows at the back of the building (north); a replacement wall at the west court; and one west window opening decreased in size. Portions of the front volume's upper east and west walls have been repointed using flush joints in stark contrast to the deep rake joints used elsewhere. The building appears to be in generally good condition, although in several areas there are noticeable cracks in the mortar joints.

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Name of property: New Life Evangelical Center  
Historic name: Central Y. W. C. A.  
St. Louis Independent City

#### 43. History/Significance

The Y. W. C. A. building at 1411-1417 Locust Street is significant for its architectural merit as well as its role in the history of the St. Louis Young Women's Christian Association. Built in 1911 from plans by prominent local architects Mariner and La Beaume, the Y.W.C.A. building is considered one of the finest examples of decorative brickwork in the city. Critic S. L. Sherer wrote that it is "not only creditable for the distinction of its design but for the unusual character of its brickwork, a feature that has received increasing consideration at the hands of architects who appreciate the aesthetic value of texture in wall surface and the beautiful effects that may result from the regardful use of brick in varied combination."<sup>1</sup>

The first American Y.W.C.A. was formed in Boston in 1866 for the purpose of protecting "the temporal, moral and religious welfare of young women who are dependent on their own exertions for support."<sup>2</sup> A branch of the related Women's Christian Association formed in St. Louis in 1868, but there was no local Y.W.C.A. until 1905. Like so many other local institutions, the St. Louis Y.W.C.A. was given its initial impetus by the 1904 World's Fair. Under the leadership of Dr. Mary McLean, a group of Christian women opened a home for young girls who came to the Fair "seeking employment or pleasure, exposed to temptation in all its forms."<sup>3</sup> In 1905, the remaining committee members reorganized as an independent Y.W.C.A., which then joined the national organization in 1907. The "Y" grew rapidly, expanding its services, opening an extension program, and absorbing the Women's Christian Association's Training School into its own Educational Department. The donated headquarters building at Lucas and Garrison became inadequate to serve a membership which in 1908 had grown to 3,160.

By the time the Building Campaign was initiated in 1910, the St. Louis Y.W.C.A. Board had already spent several years discussing suitable sites for new headquarters. The donation of a parcel of land on Locust Street by the St. Louis Union Trust Company settled the matter. A \$50,000 challenge grant from Colonel James G. Butler inspired

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<sup>1</sup>S. L. Sherer, "Architecture in St. Louis." St. Louis Public Library, n.d. (photocopy).

<sup>2</sup>Elizabeth Wilson, Fifty Years of Association Work Among Young Women, 1866-1916 (New York: National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association of the United States of America, 1916).

<sup>3</sup>"History of the Young Women's Christian Association of St. Louis, Mo.," 1915-1916, typescript. Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri Archives, St. Louis.

the Campaign to raise the next \$450,000 within two weeks.

On September 25, 1911, President William Howard Taft laid the cornerstone of the new Central Y.W.C.A. building. When the completed structure was dedicated the following May, local membership had risen to 8,159, the largest in the country. The building offered offices, classrooms, lodging rooms, assembly rooms, a cafeteria, two gymnasiums, and a swimming pool.

Regular activities at the Central Y.W.C.A. building in the period prior to 1920 included training classes (in such subjects as Domestic Science); physical education classes; lodging of working girls and women (although most were housed at the Annex building at 1420 Locust and later at the old St. Charles Hotel at 14th and St. Charles); and Red Cross classes and war drives during World War I. In addition, the Central Y.W.C.A. was the location of the first citizenship schools (1919) held by the St. Louis Equal Suffrage League after women were granted the right to vote. The week-long seminars taught women the fundamentals of voting and promoted "the development of speakers and organizers who will perfect the suffrage organization and assure a full representation of women at every election."<sup>4</sup> The St. Louis Republic reported that a police guard would be present outside the building to assure that no anti-suffrage forces disrupted the classes.

The Y.W.C.A.'s Depression-era work emphasized employment services, retraining, leisure time activities, and generally "offering hope and encouragement." A familiar sight in the Central lobby were the many "girls waiting and hoping to be called for a chance to work. . . a tragic picture of how young women all over the world were feeling the impact of the depression."<sup>5</sup> Directors' meeting minutes from this period note that the Y.W.C.A. Board felt changing needs and constituencies had made the Central building too "large and expensive."<sup>6</sup> Despite these early misgivings, the Association retained the property until the 1970s, when it was sold to the New Life Evangelical Center, Inc.

The former Y.W.C.A. Central building remains a tribute to the vision and ambition of women citizens dedicated to the welfare of fellow women. It is one of the city's finest buildings in its style, and is undoubtedly the most significant building in the city associated with the early Y.W.C.A.

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<sup>4</sup>"St. Louis Women Instructed in the Gentle Art of Voting at this Citizenship School," St. Louis Republic, May ? (illegible). Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri Archives (St. Louis).

<sup>5</sup>Memo from Mrs. Anderson to Mrs. Norman, June 26, 1953. Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri Archives (St. Louis).

<sup>6</sup>"Minutes of the Board of Directors," St. Louis Y.W.C.A., December 12, 1938. Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri Archives (St. Louis).

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Name of property: New Life Evangelical Center, Inc.  
Historic name: Central Y. W. C. A.  
St. Louis Independent City

45. Sources

The Brickbuilder v. 22, no. 18 (October 1913). Plates 145-146.

"History of the Young Women's Christian Association of St. Louis, Mo.," 1915-1916, typescript. Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri Archives, St. Louis.

Memo from Mrs. Anderson to Mrs. Norman, June 26, 1953. Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri Archives (St. Louis).

"Minutes of the Board of Directors," St. Louis Y.W.C.A., December 12, 1938. Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri Archives (St. Louis).

Sherer, S. L. "Architecture in St. Louis." St. Louis Public Library, n.d. (photocopy).

"St. Louis Women Instructed in the Gentle Art of Voting at this Citizenship School," St. Louis Republic, May ? (illegible). Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri Archives (St. Louis).

Wilson, Elizabeth. Fifty Years of Association Work Among Young Women, 1866-1916. New York: National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association of the United States of America, 1916.

"Y.W.C.A. Building" typescript, n.d., Landmarks Association of St. Louis.



St Louis Central YWCA

1411 Locust Saint Louis MO

10/23/96

facing NE

photo by Lynn Josse

1 of 2



St. Louis Central YWCA  
1411 Locust St Louis MO  
facing ~~SW~~ NE

10/23/96

Lynn Jesse, Photographer

Women's Clubs Survey

2 of 2

## THE PHYLLIS WHEATLEY BRANCH YWCA

### History

Although not exclusively a local organization, the YWCA has been an active part of the St. Louis community for over 100 years, and the founding of a YWCA branch for African-American women was almost entirely a local effort. In 1911, women from the Union Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church, meeting at the home of Ada Chapman at 2942 Pine Street, formed the Chapman branch of the YWCA. Both the St. Louis and national YWCA leadership encouraged the effort, and by 1912 the branch had grown enough to hire an Executive Secretary. On April 13 of that year, the branch voted to change its name to honor Phyllis Wheatley, the eighteenth century African-American poet.

By 1915 the Phyllis Wheatley branch needed new headquarters. With contributions from both the white and black communities (the black community alone contributed nearly \$10,000.00, a considerable sum at that time) the branch was able to purchase two adjoining buildings at 709 N. Garrison, known collectively as the Dodd House. The Wheatley branch could now offer a full range of activities to young women and girls, including roller skating and swimming. Local church groups and auxiliaries also met there. The buildings adjoined the largely black Mill Creek neighborhood, but active members came from all over the city. The Phyllis Wheatley branch was the only facility of its kind in St. Louis for African-American women.

When Dodd house was condemned as unsafe in 1937, the branch moved to the Metropolitan Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church and then, in 1939, to Holy Communion Episcopal Church at Washington and Leffingwell (now the Jamison Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church). This site was not intended to be permanent, of course, so a building committee was formed in 1939 to locate and purchase a suitable home for the branch. The site selected in 1941 was the Women's Christian Home Building at 2709 Locust St. With residential and athletic facilities, the new building was an ideal location for the branch headquarters. The branch also had a library and dining room, as well as a large back yard.

The Phyllis Wheatley branch's move to its new headquarters could not have been more auspicious. Black immigration to St. Louis, which had slowed during World War II, increased markedly after the war as young men and women crowded into the city in search of jobs. Most of these new arrivals settled in Mill Creek Valley, an area two blocks south from Phyllis Wheatley's new headquarters on Locust. The services that the branch provided to young women were invaluable: it was a safe haven for crime victims, a temporary home for some and a permanent meeting place for others. Groups like the Aurorans, a black women's civic group, met at the branch from the 1940s onward. Its educational and outreach programs filled an increasingly urgent community need. In 1939, the branch undertook the ambitious move of founding a camp for girls

near Troy, Missouri. Objections from nearby residents nearly stopped the venture, but after a trial run during which the campers charmed their neighbors, the camp was an enduring success.

The Mill Creek Valley urban renewal project in the late 1950s was the catalyst in the Phyllis Wheatley branch's decline. Over 435 acres of settled property between Twentieth and Grand, and Olive and Scott, was cleared for mixed-use commercial and residential development. 1,772 families and 610 individuals were displaced without adequate public housing to accommodate them. Moreover, the area's redevelopment proceeded slowly, and its repopulation never reached the mark set in the 1940s. Phyllis Wheatley had to serve an increasingly diffuse population. In 1994, the YWCA consolidated its branches and closed the facility on Locust. Now unused and for sale, but listed on the National Register and still in good condition, the building remains as a testament to the determination of African-American community effort and to the importance of black women in shaping that community.

## THE PHYLLIS WHEATLEY BRANCH YWCA

1

### **Description**

See National Register nomination for the Women's Christian Home/Phyllis Wheatley Branch YWCA, 1983.



THE PHYLLIS WHEATLEY BRANCH YWCA  
2709 LOCUST  
ST. LOUIS MO

PHOTOGRAPHER: CYNTHIA LONGWISCH

DATE: OCTOBER 1995

FACING NORTHWEST

NEGATIVE: LANDMARKS ASSOC. OF ST. LOUIS

19839  
18

# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

1. No. 9	4. Present Local Name R. V. Johnson Educational Building	
2. County St. Louis City	5. Other Name(s) Holy Communion Episcopal Church Parish House	
3. Location of Negatives Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. 917 Locust, St. Louis MO 63101		
6. Legal Location Township ___ Range ___ Section ___ Address: 2809 Washington Saint Louis MO 63103	16. Thematic Category Social History: Women's History	28. Number of Stories 2
	17. Date(s) or period c. 1885	29. Basement? Y
7. City or Town City of St. Louis	18. Style or Design Second Empire	30. Foundation Material Limestone
	19. Architect/Engineer Unknown	31. Wall construction Masonry
8. Description of Location Vicinity?	20. Contractor or Builder unknown	32. Roof type and material Mansard/flat Asphalt shingle/rolled
	21. Original Use, if apparent Parish House/Parsonage	33. No. of bays Front: 4 Side:
9. Coordinates UTM Lat. Long.	22. Present Use Education building	34. Wall treatment Brick; stucco
	23. Ownership Private	35. Plan shape Rectangle
10. Check one: Site Building X Structure Object	24. Owner's name/address, if known	36. Changes Addition? Yes Altered? Yes Moved?
	25. Open to public? No	37. Condition Interior: Unknown Exterior: Fair
11. On National Register? No	26. Local contact person or organization	38. Preservation Underway?
12. NR Eligible? No		39. Endangered? By what?
13. Part of district? No	27. Other surveys in which included	40. Visible from Public Road? Yes
14. District potential? No		41. Distance from/frontage on road
15. Name of established district		
42. Further description of important features  See continuation		
43. History and Significance  See continuation		
44. Description of environment and outbuildings Faces S on Washington several feet above street level in urban area; church east; open lot west; alley north.		
45. Sources of information See continuation		
46. Prepared by Lynn Josse		
47. Organization Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.		
48. Date 10/9/96		
49. Revision Date (s)		

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Name of property: R.V. Johnson Education Building  
Historic name: Holy Communion Episcopal Church Parish House  
St. Louis Independent City

#### 42. Description

The austere stuccoed building at 2809 Washington, formerly the parish house of the Holy Communion Episcopal Church, was once an architecturally elaborate example of the Second Empire style of town house. No building permit has been located in the name of the church, making it appear possible that the building was once a private residence. It appears to have been built in the 1880s; the long rear section may be an early addition.

The two-story parish house is four bays wide; the left bay (which includes the front entrance) is set several feet back from the other three. The forward three bays and a strip at the cornice level at the front of the building have been covered in stucco. An 1894 photograph indicates that the original front door was in the left bay of the projecting section; it also indicates that the facade was stone-veneered and that the now-rectangular window openings once had round and segmental arches. The bracketed cornice is now missing except at a rectangular bay projecting from the right (east) side of the building. The corbeled brick chimneys have been lopped off, and two of the three front dormers have disappeared. The remaining dormer is much altered.

Aside from the front of the building, original brick walls are mostly intact. Beyond the mansarded front section, the rear wing of the building features a parapetted flat roof and irregular fenestration. Several of the windows have been filled in (fully or partially), and an awning has been added at the rear. In addition to the poor architectural integrity, the building's setting has been somewhat impacted by the destruction of neighboring buildings to the west. However, the most important aspect of the building's setting, its relationship with the historic church, remains intact.

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Name of property: R.V. Johnson Education Building  
Historic name: Holy Communion Episcopal Church Parish House  
St. Louis Independent City

#### 43. History/Significance

The first St. Louis Y.W.C.A. formed in 1905 as the successor to an organization that had housed young women during the 1904 World's Fair. The "Y" grew rapidly, and within three years membership had grown to 3,160. In 1911, women from the Union Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church formed St. Louis' first "Negro" branch of the Y.W.C.A. Both the St. Louis and national leadership encouraged the effort, and by 1912 the branch had grown enough to hire an Executive Secretary. On April 13 of that year, the branch voted to change its name to honor Phyllis Wheatley, the eighteenth century African-American poet.

By 1915 the Phyllis Wheatley branch needed new headquarters. With contributions from both the white and black communities (the black community alone contributed nearly \$10,000.00, a considerable sum at that time) the branch was able to purchase two adjoining buildings known collectively as the Dodd House. The Wheatley branch could now offer a full range of activities to young women and girls, including roller skating and swimming. Local church groups and auxiliaries also met there. The buildings adjoined the largely black Mill Creek neighborhood, but active members came from all over the city. The Phyllis Wheatley branch was the only facility of its kind in St. Louis for African-American women.

When the Dodd house was condemned as unsafe in 1937, the branch demolished the old building and moved to "cramped and temporary quarters"<sup>1</sup> in the parish house of the Metropolitan Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1939, the branch found a more satisfactory home, still considered temporary, in the parish house and residence of the Holy Communion Episcopal Church at Washington and Leffingwell (now the Jamison Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church). The parish house at 2809 Washington Avenue still exists, in altered condition; the "residence" was probably part of the parish house but may have been the building next door (destroyed at some time after 1964).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Minutes, St. Louis Y.W.C.A. Board of Directors meeting, June 14, 1937, p.2. Western Historical Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri Archives, St. Louis.

<sup>2</sup>Although referred to as two buildings in the 1939 annual report, the parish house and "rectory" are jointly called "a two story brick building" in the 1940 report.

The 1939 Y.W.C.A. Annual Report contained a long item on the branch's new accommodations:

The two buildings and the play lot were rented from the church with the provision that the church auditorium, which was retained by the church for use on Sunday mornings, be heated for three hours per week. The main building contains offices, club rooms, assembly rooms with stage, dining room with kitchen, a small cement-floor play room, and a small apartment for the janitor. The residence provides space for 18 persons in double rooms with high ceilings; and one single room is reserved for transients. Parlor space is also provided. The buildings are in poor condition, dangerous, and needing basic repairs. They are much more adequate than the former temporary quarters, but still very inadequate for the needs.<sup>3</sup>

The 1940 Annual Report used even stronger terms, stating that the buildings were "more hazardous than the quarters owned by the Y.W.C.A. which were condemned and wrecked several years ago."<sup>4</sup>

Despite these difficulties, the Phyllis Wheatley Branch continued regular operations and programming at both of the temporary locations. One of the greatest achievements at the 2809 Washington headquarters was the opening of Camp Derricotte, the state's first summer camp for African-American girls. After patient work to address the objections of some residents of nearby Troy, the camp opened in June of 1939.<sup>5</sup> The staff of Phyllis Wheatley continued to operate the camp for another 36 years.<sup>6</sup>

As early as 1938 the Y.W.C.A. formed an Interracial Committee to investigate planning a new building on the former Dodd House site. Ultimately, the group chose instead to purchase the Women's Christian Home Building at 2709 Locust Street. In 1941, the Phyllis Wheatley Branch of the St. Louis Y.W.C.A. finally moved out of its temporary quarters at the Holy Communion Episcopal Church and into its own new permanent home.

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<sup>3</sup>1939 St. Louis Y.W.C.A. Annual Report. Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri Archives, St. Louis.

<sup>4</sup>1940 St. Louis Y.W.C.A. Annual Report. Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri Archives, St. Louis.

<sup>5</sup>Annual Report of the Phyllis Wheatley Branch for the Year 1939. St. Louis Y. W. C. A., 1939. Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri Archives, St. Louis.

<sup>6</sup>Three-Score Years and Fifteen: A History of the Phyllis Wheatley Branch YWCA 1911-1986. Saint Louis: 1987.

The 1939 Y.W.C.A. Annual Report contained a long item on the branch's new accommodations:

The two buildings and the play lot were rented from the church with the provision that the church auditorium, which was retained by the church for use on Sunday mornings, be heated for three hours per week. The main building contains offices, club rooms, assembly rooms with stage, dining room with kitchen, a small cement-floor play room, and a small apartment for the janitor. The residence provides space for 18 persons in double rooms with high ceilings; and one single room is reserved for transients. Parlor space is also provided. The buildings are in poor condition, dangerous, and needing basic repairs. They are much more adequate than the former temporary quarters, but still very inadequate for the needs.<sup>3</sup>

The 1940 Annual Report used even stronger terms, stating that the buildings were "more hazardous than the quarters owned by the Y.W.C.A. which were condemned and wrecked several years ago."<sup>4</sup>

Despite these difficulties, the Phyllis Wheatley Branch continued regular operations and programming at both of the temporary locations. One of the greatest achievements at the 2809 Washington headquarters was the opening of Camp Derricotte, the state's first summer camp for African-American girls. After patient work to address the objections of some residents of nearby Troy, the camp opened in June of 1939.<sup>5</sup> The staff of Phyllis Wheatley continued to operate the camp for another 36 years.<sup>6</sup>

As early as 1938 the Y.W.C.A. formed an Interracial Committee to investigate planning a new building on the former Dodd House site. Ultimately, the group chose instead to purchase the Women's Christian Home Building at 2709 Locust Street. In 1941, the Phyllis Wheatley Branch of the St. Louis Y.W.C.A. finally moved out of its temporary quarters at the Holy Communion Episcopal Church and into its own new permanent home.

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<sup>3</sup>1939 St. Louis Y.W.C.A. Annual Report. Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri Archives, St. Louis.

<sup>4</sup>1940 St. Louis Y.W.C.A. Annual Report. Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri Archives, St. Louis.

<sup>5</sup>Annual Report of the Phyllis Wheatley Branch for the Year 1939. St. Louis Y. W. C. A., 1939. Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri Archives, St. Louis.

<sup>6</sup>Three-Score Years and Fifteen: A History of the Phyllis Wheatley Branch YWCA 1911-1986. Saint Louis: 1987.

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Name of property: R.V. Johnson Education Building  
Historic name: Holy Communion Episcopal Church Parish House  
St. Louis Independent City

45. Sources

1939 St. Louis Y.W.C.A. Annual Report. Western Historical Manuscripts Collection,  
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1940 St. Louis Y.W.C.A. Annual Report. Western Historical Manuscripts Collection,  
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1939. Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri  
Archives, St. Louis.

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Historical Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri Archives, St. Louis.

"St. Louis Church Survey," 1990-1995. Missouri Department of Natural Resources,  
Historic Preservation Department. Jefferson City, Missouri.

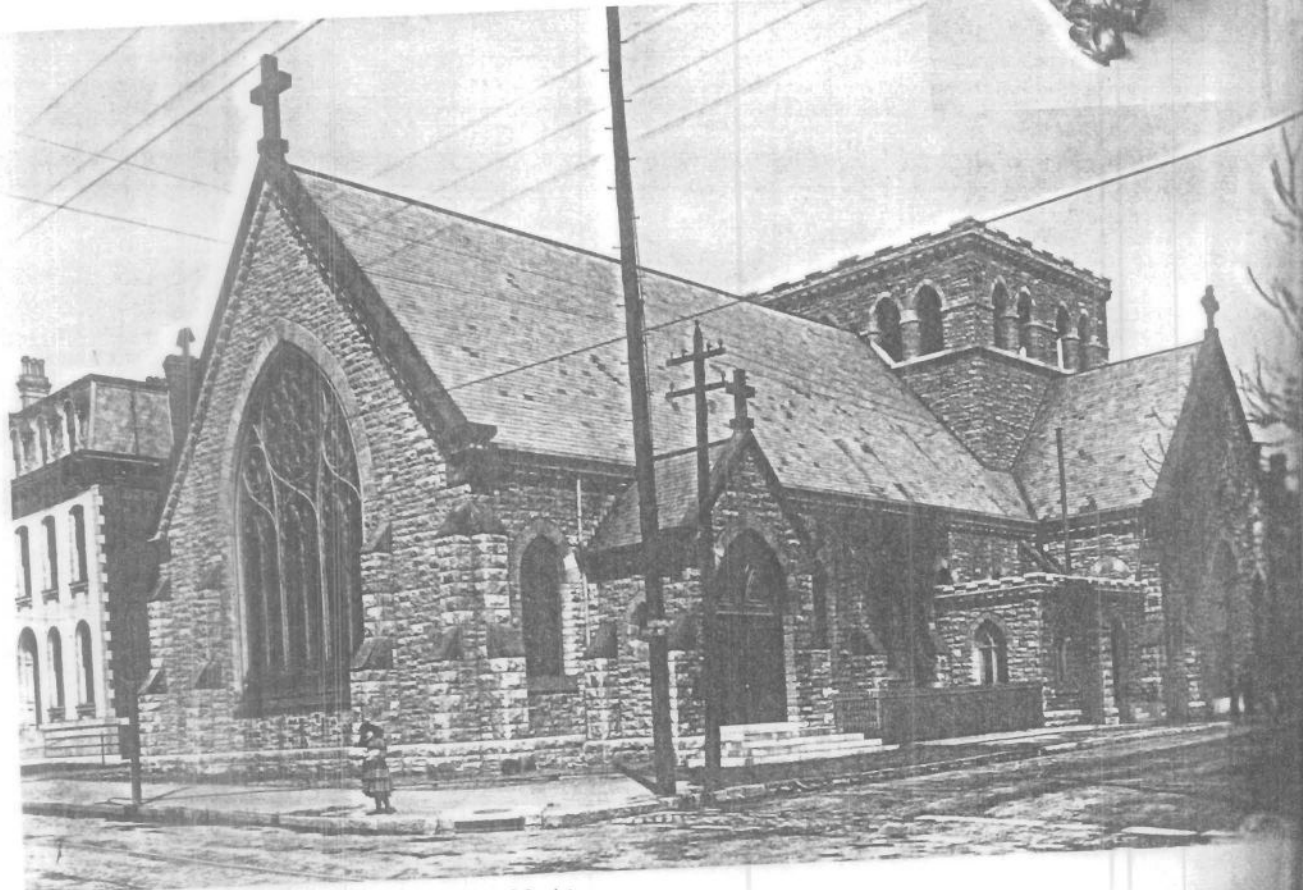
St. Louis Y.W.C.A. Building and Maintenance Report, June 1, 1938 - Jan. 1, 1939, p. 1.  
Western Historical Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri Archives, St.  
Louis.

Stiritz, Mary. St. Louis: Historic Churches and Synagogues. St. Louis: 1995.

Three-Score Years and Fifteen: A History of the Phyllis Wheatley Branch YWCA 1911-  
1986. Saint Louis: 1987.

Built in two phases, the 1870 transept served as a chapel until enlarged by a 700-seat nave in 1876. The sound quality was so poor that the building was considered an "absolute acoustic failure." This defect purportedly was improved by stretching wires the length of the transept.

Detail: Jamison Memorial C. M. E., 1990. Photo: Landmarks Association, Cynthia Hill Longwisch.



*Holy Communion Episcopal, 1894. Missouri Historical Society.*

Holy Communion Parish House is seen at the far left of the photo  
2809 Washington, St. Louis MO  
1894 photo

Source:  
Stiritz, Mary. St. Louis: Historic Churches and Synagogues. St. Louis: 1995. p. 40.



Holy Communion Episcopal Church Parish House  
2204 Washington, St Louis

facing NE

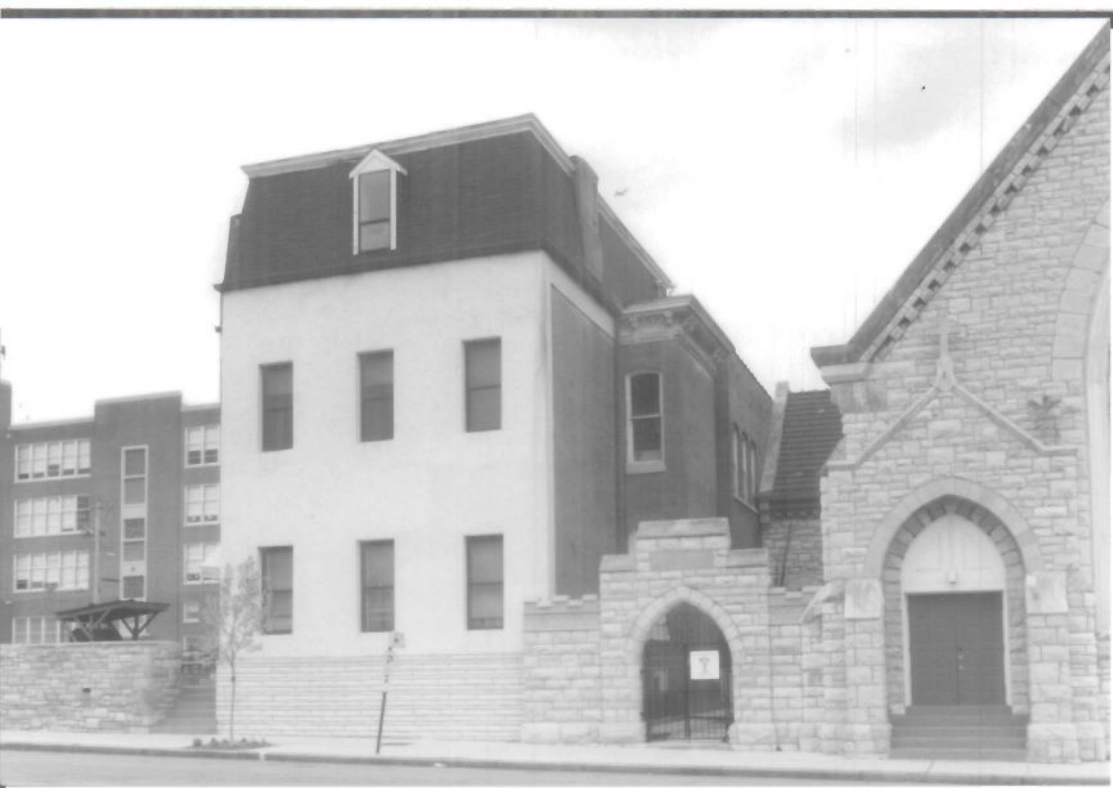
10/1996

Lynn Jesse, photographer

women's club survey

1 of 2

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Holy Communion Episcopal Church Parish House

2809 Washington, St Louis MO

facing NW

10/1996

Lynn Josse, photog.

2 of 2

## THE SAINT LOUIS WOMAN'S CLUB

### History

Founded in 1903, the St. Louis Woman's Club is among the many legacies of the 1904 World's Fair. The Fair's Board of Directors, realizing that a number of foreign dignitaries would have to be entertained at the event, asked six prominent St. Louis women to form a hospitality committee. The six drafted a constitution and articles of incorporation, then invited one hundred additional women to join them. With the backing of the Fair's directors, the club had a strong start. The home of Augustus Frederick Shapleigh at 3621 Washington (near Grand Boulevard in the Midtown district) was given to the club for its use during the fair, and a number of events were hosted there in 1904. The club retained the house until 1912, when it was sold and eventually demolished.

That same year the St. Louis Woman's Club bought the house of William R. Donaldson at 4600 Lindell Blvd. and renovated it for club use, installing an elevator and adding a ballroom. The club is still headquartered there today; the house has undergone periodic renovation but retains much of its original character. The club has hosted a number of important visitors, among them Winston Churchill (during his 1932 visit to St. Louis), Eleanor Roosevelt and actor Charles Laughton. The clubhouse's appointments and furniture are especially fine, having been donated by active members throughout the club's long history.

Like the Wednesday Club, to which many of its founding members belonged, the St. Louis Woman's Club occupies an important place in the history of St. Louis women. Many of its members were active in civic improvement efforts and political reform movements like the Equal Suffrage League. In addition, unlike many other institutions the club has chosen to remain in the city limits of St. Louis, providing a valuable link to the Central West End's historic past.

## Description

The St. Louis Woman's Club, 4600 Lindell Boulevard, is a three-story brick Colonial Revival style house set above grade with a modest, sloping lawn setback. Its walls are a light brown brick with limestone trim and foundation; the hipped and flat roofs of the main building are asphalt shingled; one side porch features a red clay tile roof. The mostly residential Central West End neighborhood is a mix of single family and apartment buildings with some commercial; Lindell Boulevard is a four-lane major east-west thoroughfare. At the rear of the building, designed as a private residence in 1895 by Grable, Weber & Groves, is a 1912 addition. An asphalt-paved entrance drive fills the narrow space to the building's west, circling the building and forming a parking lot at the rear and on the east side, with an exit drive on the east. The building is in excellent condition, having been meticulously maintained. The exterior has been altered very little (see Figure 1) since the rear addition was added in 1912.

The facade of the house is five bays wide, with a three-bay, one-story sun porch attached to the east side at the front. A limestone portico centers the primary elevation; it features a partially balustraded upper portion supported by square Doric columns at the corners, each flanked by two tapered round Ionic columns. Its entablature features a dentilled frieze with egg and dart molding. Double doors have decorative scrolled ironwork and a limestone surround. Above the portico, small engaged Ionic columns grace a Palladian window with limestone surround. Flanking the portico, two rounded bays project from the facade, each with two windows per floor. A projecting limestone string course highlights these two bays, returning to encircle the front and side elevations. At the third story, small windows beneath the widely-overhanging eaves mark the original servants' quarters. Windows on the first and second stories are one-over-one double-hung sash with limestone sills and undistinguished flat arches. A limestone water table wraps around the front and side elevations.

The west side elevation features a projecting square bay with hipped roof; on its south (rear) side is a cast-iron oriel window. Continuing south along the west elevation, next comes a small dentilled pedimented entrance portico with red clay tile roof, supported by two wood Doric columns resting on limestone steps. Two windows are bricked up on this elevation. A door to the basement cut into the foundation is located on this elevation, reached by steps from the driveway. A second side entrance further south is somewhat more grand than the first, having a flat roof and wide overhang to serve as a porte cochere. Doric columns of wood support an entablature with dentilled frieze. Double doors are flanked by 12-pane sidelights. The southernmost section of the west elevation is wider than the rest of the building and has a straight parapet with terra cotta coping.

## St. Louis Woman's Club description, p. 2

The rear elevation, built strictly for function, has a kitchen entrance with a flat-roofed concrete service porch that serves as a loading dock for the delivery of foodstuffs. It has a straight roofline with terra cotta coping. Windows on the first story rear elevation are mostly paired with six-over-six double-hung wood sash. Windows above are one-over-one; all have brick sills and undistinguished flat arches. The rubblestone limestone foundation is visible on this, as well as the west and east, elevations.

Rounding the rear of the building, moving from south to north on the east (side) elevation, the southernmost bay is three stories to accommodate the stage at the end of the second-floor ballroom. This bay has a flat roof. It is attached to a five-bay, front-gabled section that features a parapeted north gable end with three blind lunette windows; both sections date from 1912. First and second-story windows are ten-over-ten double-hung wood sash with brick sills and flat arches. Attached to this are the original house and a one-story room that appears to have been added in 1912. The one-story section also features ten-over-ten double-hung sash with brick sills; it has limestone coping on its flat roof. The remainder of the east elevation is taken up with a group of four leaded casement windows and the sun porch, a one-story appendage with a wrought-iron balustrade around its flat roof. A door is located in the sun porch. The exterior maintains a very high degree of integrity.

The interior of the St. Louis Woman's Club features handsome classical details such as dentilled cove molding, panelled wood wainscoting, and fluted Ionic columns. The 1912 addition provided the building's first floor with both large and small dining rooms and a commercial-style kitchen and pantry; above, a lovely ballroom with stage takes up the bulk of the additional space, with small dressing rooms and a small secondary kitchen also having been added. The primary interior change was made in 1930 to provide better access to the 1912 addition - moving the original staircase from its central location just past the vestibule (facing the entrance) to a location on the building's west side (thus the reason for the bricked-up windows on the west elevation). The current configuration features two sets of stairs flanking the larger of the two west entrances; these curve to two landings and a single wide stair continues to the second floor. Large, round Doric columns anchor the two sets of stairs. The large "Colonial Dining Room" (200-seat capacity) features a panelled ceiling supported by panelled square wood columns. One of the two front rooms is known as the "India Room," and features an installation of exotically-carved rosewood pieces said to have come from Java or Sumatra to the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904; the architectural detailing was supposedly purchased following the Fair with the intention of installing it in this house. The wood includes a wide frieze around the room, a surround on the bay window that includes a ceiling piece, pillars at the doorways, and the fireplace surround.

On the second floor, the 36 x 88' "Colonial Ballroom" features a hardwood floor,

### The St. Louis Woman's Club description, p. 3

engaged, paired Ionic columns, and floor-length windows covered with wood shutters. The cavetto ceiling curves to a recessed rectangular ceiling highlighted with carved brackets. Original cut-glass chandeliers light the room. Segmentally-arched doorways allow entrance to the room; an elevated stage is located at the south end of the room. Chambers located at the front of both the first and second floors feature curved woodwork and glass window panes to accommodate the curved bays.

Stairs leading to the third floor have painted turned balusters. The third floor rooms have not been renovated or redecorated; they were the living quarters for the servants in the original household and tend to be smaller rooms with lower ceilings than below.

The basement has all rock-faced limestone walls with concrete floors. Windows have wrought-iron grillwork. It appears to be very much as built.

With the exception of the "India Room," stair handrails and treads, some of the four fireplace surrounds, and floors, all interior woodwork is painted. Most of the rooms are carpeted over hardwood floors. The interior, like the exterior, has been carefully maintained since it was new. The interior maintains a very high degree of integrity.

The house was built for William Donaldson, a lawyer and later president of the Murphy Mining Co., and a director of the Vandalia Railroad Co. The building was purchased in 1912 by the St. Louis Woman's Club, and it has been in continuous use by the Club since that time. It is the only building left connected with the St. Louis Woman's Club.



THE ST. LOUIS WOMAN'S CLUB  
4600 LINDELL BLVD.  
ST. LOUIS MO

PHOTOGRAPHER: CYNTHIA LONGWISCH

DATE: OCTOBER, 1995

FACING SOUTHEAST

NEGATIVE: LANDMARKS ASSN. OF ST. LOUIS

3  
48829



THE ST. LOUIS WOMAN'S CLUB  
4600 LINDELL BLVD.  
ST. LOUIS MO

PHOTOGRAPHER: CYNTHIA LONGWISCH

DATE: OCTOBER, 1995

FACING SOUTHWEST; EAST/REAR ELEVATION

NEGATIVE: LANDMARKS ASSOC. OF ST. LOUIS

14  
49888

# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

1. No. <b>8</b>	4. Present Local Name <b>Washington Metropolitan A.M.E. Church Parish House</b>	
2. County <b>St. Louis City</b>	5. Other Name(s) <b>Union Methodist Church Parish House</b>	
3. Location of Negatives <b>Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. 917 Locust, St. Louis MO 63101</b>		
6. Legal Location Township _____ Range _____ Section _____ Address: <b>613 Garrison Saint Louis MO 63103</b>	16. Thematic Category <b>Social History: Women's History</b>	28. Number of Stories <b>2</b>
	17. Date(s) or period <b>1883</b>	29. Basement? <b>Y</b>
7. City or Town <b>City of St. Louis</b>	18. Style or Design <b>Italianate</b>	30. Foundation Material <b>Limestone</b>
	19. Architect/Engineer <b>Unknown</b>	31. Wall construction <b>Masonry</b>
8. Description of Location Vicinity?	20. Contractor or Builder <b>unknown</b>	32. Roof type and material <b>Flat Rolled (conjecture)</b>
	21. Original Use, if apparent <b>Parish House/Parsonage</b>	33. No. of bays Front: <b>3</b> Side:
9. Coordinates UTM Lat. Long.	22. Present Use <b>Parish House/Parsonage</b>	34. Wall treatment <b>Brick (red)</b>
	23. Ownership <b>Private</b>	35. Plan shape <b>Rectangle</b>
10. Check one: Site Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure Object	24. Owner's name/address, if known	36. Changes Addition? Altered? <b>Yes</b> Moved?
11. On National Register? <b>No</b>	25. Open to public? <b>No</b>	37. Condition Interior: <b>Unknown</b> Exterior: <b>Fair</b>
12. NR Eligible?	26. Local contact person or organization	38. Preservation Underway?
13. Part of district? <b>No</b>	27. Other surveys in which included <b>Nineteenth Century Church Survey of St. Louis</b>	39. Endangered? By what?
14. District potential? <b>No</b>		40. Visible from Public Road? <b>Yes</b>
15. Name of established district		41. Distance from/frontage on road
42. Further description of important features  <b>See continuation</b>		
43. History and Significance  <b>See continuation</b>		
44. Description of environment and outbuildings <b>The parish house at 613 Garrison is integrally attached to the church to the north; Garrison street and parking E; parking lot W; alley S.</b>		
45. Sources of information <b>See continuation</b>		
46. Prepared by <b>Lynn Josse</b>		
47. Organization <b>Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.</b>		
48. Date <b>10/9/96</b>		
49. Revision Date (s)		

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Name of property: Washington Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church Parish House  
Historic name: Same; Union Methodist Church Parish House  
St. Louis Independent City

#### 42. Description

The parish house attached to the former Union Methodist Church at the southwest corner of Lucas and Garrison appears to have been built after the issuance of an 1883 permit for an estimated \$7,000 dwelling. It shares its north wall with the 1880 August Beinke church, and it is possible (although unconfirmed) that the Trustees chose Beinke again for the parish house. To date no evidence has been found to suggest any other architect's or builder's name.

The facade of the two-story Italianate building is divided into three bays; the left two bays project slightly from the front door at the right bay. Now stripped of its cornice, the facade is defined and given interest by its unique architraves. Notched sandstone lintels (now badly spalling) feature a carved central patera with abstract vegetative wings; corner blocks on either side below the lintel give the window a hooded appearance. Centered on either side of the window are 20 courses of round-edged pressed brick terminated at top and bottom by sandstone blocks (three brick courses high). The limestone water table forms a sill course for the lower windows, while the upper story windows have separate sandstone lug sills. The carved wooden frames hold tall, narrow one over one double-hung windows.

Only the front section of the building features such elaborate work. The rest of the long narrow building, which stretches back for the full length of the church, uses simpler and less expensive materials (such as two over two double-hung windows and segmental arch brick lintels). The entire building is set above street level on a raised basement. The rusticated limestone of the front of the building gives way to an uncoursed random limestone foundation at the rear. Overall integrity is not high; in addition to the stucco strip which replaces the cornice, several windows and part of the door opening have been filled in at the rear.

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Name of property: Washington Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church Parish House  
Historic name: Same; Union Methodist Church Parish House  
St. Louis Independent City

#### 43. History/Significance

The first St. Louis Y.W.C.A. formed in 1905 as the successor to an organization that had housed young women during the 1904 World's Fair. The "Y" grew rapidly, and within a few years membership had climbed to over 3,000. In 1911, women from the Union Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church, meeting at the home of Ada Chapman, formed the Chapman branch of the Y.W.C.A. Both the St. Louis and national leadership encouraged the development of St. Louis' first "Negro" branch. In 1912, the branch voted to change its name to honor Phyllis Wheatley, the eighteenth century African-American poet.

By 1915 the Phyllis Wheatley branch needed new headquarters. With contributions from both the white and black communities (the black community alone contributed nearly \$10,000.00, a considerable sum at that time), the branch was able to purchase two adjoining buildings at 709 N. Garrison, known collectively as the Dodd House. The Wheatley branch could now offer a full range of activities to young women and girls, including roller skating and swimming. Local church groups and auxiliaries also met there. The buildings adjoined the largely black Mill Creek neighborhood, but active members came from all over the city. The Phyllis Wheatley branch was the only facility of its kind in St. Louis for African-American women.

When Dodd house was condemned as unsafe in 1937, the branch decided to demolish the old building and move to temporary quarters.<sup>1</sup> Its first temporary home, just a block away, was the parish house of the Metropolitan Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church. In lieu of rent, the Y.W.C.A. paid light, heat, gas, and water bills for the congregation.

From the beginning, this arrangement was viewed as "far from satisfactory."<sup>2</sup> In the second half of 1938, it was reported that "it is impossible for us to get the proper cooperation on the heat and general care of the building. As a result, our janitor is putting in between 80 and 90 hours work a week."<sup>3</sup> One of many maintenance

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<sup>1</sup>Minutes, St. Louis Y.W.C.A. Board of Directors meeting, February 15, 1937, p.5. Western Historical Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri Archives, St. Louis.

<sup>2</sup>1938 St. Louis Y.W.C.A. Annual Report. Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri Archives, St. Louis. 5.

problems that fall occurred when the furnace was temporarily sealed by the Commissioner of Smoke Regulation.<sup>4</sup>

Despite many difficulties caused by the rented facilities, the branch continued to offer such activities as volleyball, shuffleboard, Chinese checkers, knitting, embroidery, posture clinics, parties, luncheons, and classes (including Maids' Training). There were trips to the opera, workshops for young women, a club of college women, 21 clubs for young girls, a religious education committee, and individual piano lessons. There was also an eight-room apartment at the front of the building, which met only a fraction of the demand for working girls' housing in the area.<sup>5</sup>

As early as 1938 the Y.W.C.A. formed an Interracial Committee to investigate planning a new building on the former Dodd House site, but a new permanent home was not to be found easily. After two years of complaints, the branch moved from the Metropolitan Zion Church to the nearby Holy Communion Church. Although felt to be much more satisfactory, the second church was still described as unsafe and inadequate. In 1941 the Y.W.C.A. purchased the former Women's Christian Home Building at 2709 Locust Street, providing the Phyllis Wheatley Branch a permanent home until 1994.

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<sup>3</sup>St. Louis Y.W.C.A. Building and Maintenance Report, June 1, 1938 - Jan. 1, 1939, p. 1. Western Historical Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri Archives, St. Louis.

<sup>4</sup>Minutes, St. Louis Y.W.C.A. Board of Directors meeting, October 10, 1938, p.4. Western Historical Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri Archives, St. Louis.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid, 7-13; Annual Report Wheatley Branch Y.W.C.A., 1937. Western Historical Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri Archives, St. Louis.

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation  
Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form  
Continuation

Name of property: Washington Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church Parish House  
Historic name: Union Methodist Church Parish House  
St. Louis Independent City

45. Sources

1938 St. Louis Y.W.C.A. Annual Report. Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri Archives, St. Louis. 5.

Annual Report Wheatley Branch Y.W.C.A., 1937. Western Historical Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri Archives, St. Louis.

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Minutes, St. Louis Y.W.C.A. Board of Directors meeting, October 10, 1938, p.4. Western Historical Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri Archives, St. Louis.

"St. Louis Church Survey," 1990-1995. Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Department. Jefferson City, Missouri.

St. Louis Y.W.C.A. Building and Maintenance Report, June 1, 1938 - Jan. 1, 1939, p. 1. Western Historical Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri Archives, St. Louis.

Stiritz, Mary. St. Louis: Historic Churches and Synagogues. St. Louis: 1995.

Three-Score Years and Fifteen: A History of the Phyllis Wheatley Branch YWCA 1911-1986. Saint Louis: 1987.



Union Methodist Parish House  
613 Garrison St. St. Louis MO

facing W/SW

10/1996

Lynn Jasse, photographer

women's history survey

1 of 3

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Union Methodist Parish House  
613 Garrison, St. Louis, MO  
camera facing W

10/1996

Lynn Josse, photographer  
women's clubs survey

2 of 3

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Union Methodist Parish  
House (detail)

613 Garrison, St. Louis Mo

facing W

10/1996

Lynn Josse, photographer

women's clubs survey

3 of 3

## THE WEDNESDAY CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

### History

When the Wednesday Club was founded in 1890, it was only the latest manifestation of a study club that had existed periodically among St. Louis women since 1867. The move to organize more formally was made by Mrs. Edward C. Sterling in 1889 when she gathered a group of women to study the poetry of Percy Bysshe Shelley. Although stories of objections to the club on the grounds that its namesake was atheist are probably apocryphal, the club decided nonetheless to broaden its study and re-christened itself as the Wednesday Club the following year.

The club's mission was focused and determined from the start. All members had to join one of six study sections: Literature and History, Education, Social Economics, Current Topics, Art, and Science. Each section was obliged to make a presentation during the year at a general meeting. By no means was this a mere hobby; the subjects the club members studied reveal an erudition that seems staggering today. As an example, the 1893-4 program for the section on Literature and History took the Italian Renaissance as its topic. Members were to read significant primary works, such as Boccaccio's *Decameron*, in Italian as well as English. The bibliography contained over 100 recommended works, and half of the periodical sources were in French. It is worth noting that many of these women had attended high school, but not college, and were still expected to have a reading knowledge of French. The Wednesday Club's mission was unquestionably academic, and although they were not recognized scholars the club's members took that mission seriously. Moreover, the club established a literary renown for itself by inviting prominent authors to speak and by sponsoring prize contests. Kate Chopin, author of *The Awakening*, was a founding member of the club, and the list of authors who have addressed the club is impressive: Tennessee Williams, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Alexander Wolcott, and Hugh Walpole among them. The club sponsors six literary prizes, the oldest and most famous of which is the Original Verse Contest.

If the Wednesday Club had confined itself to study it would be interesting enough. As a part of the emerging City Beautiful movement at the turn of the century, however, it is an excellent example of organized civic consciousness. That consciousness, moreover, has structural expression for the era in which the club was most active. By 1910 most of the Club's members lived in the Central West End, and the Club had just

from residential areas. The development of Forest Park around the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition (itself a civic statement of the highest order) ensured that the neighborhood would not be crowded out by excessive development as neighborhoods farther east had been. Housing styles were eclectic, ranging from Richardsonian Romanesque to Queen Anne and Federal revival styles. The conscious blending of the modern (as represented by the club's headquarters) with the traditional, and the urban with the rural, became an expression of the ways in which St. Louis' most sophisticated residents saw themselves--possessing the urbanity and refinement of city dwellers and enjoying the purity and relative openness of suburban life.

The club's idealism, wedded to the social status of its members, proved to be its most enduring legacy. In 1892 the Wednesday Club joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and this membership tied the club to a network of national organizations active in movements from women's suffrage to smoke abatement to child welfare. Locally, the Wednesday Club founded an "under-age kindergarten" as well as an "evening dispensary for women" and its own traveling library to encourage literacy. It was active in the establishment of the Civic Improvement League, the Smoke Abatement League and the Art League of St. Louis. In no small measure it was the mother of St. Louis women's clubs, its members having founded civic, political and social clubs like the Humanity Club (which investigated conditions in the city jails), the Equal Suffrage League (q.v.) and the St. Louis Woman's Club (q.v.). The club still exists today, although it moved its clubhouse to Ladue in 1972. The Wednesday Club's mission remains the same, however, and is a testament to the determination of its earliest members and founders.

## THE WEDNESDAY CLUB

1

### Description

The Wednesday Club is a two-story red brick modified Prairie/Craftsman-style building located at 4504 Westminster Place in St. Louis, Missouri. The building, designed in 1907 by noted architect Theodore Link, features a shallowly-hipped roof of asphalt shingles with a wide overhang highlighted by zigzag-shaped rafter ends. The facade, of standard running bond highlighted with limestone and stucco, is centered with double entrance doors with leaded glass windows. A limestone water table is defined by a double-brick soldier course set in the wall at an angle. Leaded glass is used in windows throughout much of the building, contributing a great deal to the character of the design. The building is located on a corner in a tree-lined residential Central West End neighborhood, across from a large stone church. It is located several feet above grade, with a sloping front lawn. The building is separated by only a few feet from an apartment building on the west side; it is only a few feet from the sidewalk on the east side, and an alley is located a few feet from the south elevation. It appears to have been virtually unmodified and has been maintained in very good condition, first by the Wednesday Club and since 1972 by the Learning Center, still the owner. The building maintains a high degree of integrity.

On the primary (north) elevation, side and transom lights with rectilinear leaded glass panes surround the doors; these are flanked by inset limestone shields holding lights. A limestone sill course crosses the facade at the second story. The two outer bays on the nine-bay primary elevation are narrow two-story windows with compound round-headed arches; these are set off by burnt headers set in a quoinlike configuration. Above these, burnt stretchers are set in an open diamond pattern. Between, on the second story, brick "quoining" surrounds each of the seven double-hung, three-over-one paned windows, set in white stucco; a limestone sill course further sets these windows apart. A limestone cornerstone at the northeast corner of the building reads "AD 1908."

On the side (east) elevation, first-floor windows are double-hung wood sash with six-over-six panes topped with leaded lights. They have soldier arches. At the second story, seven evenly-spaced windows are inset in stucco with brick "quoining," much the same as those on the front elevation. A narrow wrought-iron balcony is featured in the center of the second story. At the north end of the east elevation, a two-story round-arched window of leaded glass is topped with the same open diamond burnt brick

## Wednesday Club description, p. 2

building. The south-facing section of the main (two-story) building features buttresses with limestone caps.

The double entrance doors open onto a lobby paneled in wood, with terra cotta- and white-colored hexagonal floor tiles. Most of the interior of the first floor is taken up by a 525-seat theater, whose original seats are set into a steeply sloped, painted wood floor. A stage, primarily intended for lectures, has a hardwood floor. Decorative elements were kept to a minimum in this space. A ticket booth, restroom facilities and cloakrooms take up the remaining first floor space.

The second floor is reached via a flight of wood stairs at the east end of the lobby. A handsome Craftsman door of wooden grillwork allows the upper floor to be shut off from the public. Two large rooms and six smaller ones divide the second floor into spaces for specific uses. The largest, center room features a high ceiling with painted beams, simple, painted woodwork, and narrow hardwood floors. Formerly used as a dining room for the Club, this room has one of the few modifications done to the building: a leaded glass opening in the center of the ceiling designed to be opened to cool the second floor has been covered over with acoustical tiles (this was done by the Wednesday Club prior to 1972). The leaded glass is still at least partially intact, and it is the intention of the owner to eventually restore the opening. Pocket doors at either side of the south end of the dining room open into a smaller, half-timbered room with hardwood floors and a large stained-glass window in the south wall. Small, square rooms open off this rectangular room at the east and west ends; the west room is a storage room, while the room in the southeast corner of the building is a cozy reading room with a beautiful carved wood overmantel flanked by leaded glass windows and built-in shelving. A half-timbered, rectangular room adjoins the reading room on the east side of the second floor, running much of the length of the dining room. A small, plain, square room adjoins its north end. Opposite, a kitchen with original built-in oak and glass cabinets runs most of the length of the dining room on the west side, and a smaller storage room takes up the northwest corner of the building. The north end of the dining room has some small partitions, forming a rectangular space above the lobby equipped with a built-in wood seat/reading nook of Craftsman design. The second floor is now used for educational materials and teachers' workshops. The current owners have refinished the floors on the second floor and have kept woodwork, etc. in original or restored condition. The interior is in excellent condition and is in excellent condition.



THE FORMER WEDNESDAY CLUB

4504 WESTMINSTER PLACE

ST. LOUIS MO

PHOTOGRAPHER: CYNTHIA LONGWISCH

DATE: OCTOBER, 1995

FACING SOUTHEAST

NEGATIVE: LANDMARKS ASSOC. OF ST. LOUIS

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