

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Century Electric Foundry Complex

Other names/site number Federal-Mogul Foundry

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

## 2. Location

St. & number 3711-3739, 3815R, 3749R Market St., 3700-3800 Forest Park Ave.,

N/A	not for publication
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City or town St. Louis

N/A	vicinity
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State Missouri Code MO County St. Louis (Independent City) Code 510 Zip code 63110

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Toni M. Prawl 09/13/16  
Signature of certifying official/Title Toni M. Prawl, Ph.D., Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

Century Electric Foundry Complex  
Name of Property

St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
3	0	buildings
0	0	sites
2	1	structures
0	0	objects
5	1	<b>Total</b>

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility

Vacant

INDUSTRY/processing site

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other

foundation: Concrete

walls: Brick

roof: Metal

other: \_\_\_\_\_

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES**

Century Electric Foundry Complex  
Name of Property

St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

Industry

**Period of Significance**

1929-1972

**Significant Dates**

1929, 1947

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Pendleton, Louis Baylor – Architect, 1929

Klipstein & Rathmann Architects - 1939

Rathmann, Koelle, & Carroll, Architects - 1947

Becker, William - Engineer, 1947

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Century Electric Foundry  
Name of Property

St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri  
County and State

**Acreage of Property** 9.8

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (See Figure 22 for coordinate map)**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 38.632970 -90.239404 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

\_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1927 or \_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1983

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (On continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification** (On continuation sheet)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Christina Clagett, Architect

organization Lawrence Group date 1 September 2016

St. & number 319 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 1000 telephone 314-242-1562

city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63102

e-mail christina.clagett@thelawrencegroup.com

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:**
  - A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
  - A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. St., NW, Washington, DC.

Century Electric Foundry  
Name of Property

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## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

## Photo Log:

Name of Property: Century Electric Foundry Complex

City or Vicinity: St. Louis City

County: (Independent City) State: MO

Photographer: Aaron Bunse, Lawrence Group

Date  
Photographed: 18<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 42: Exterior north façade of main foundry building looking southwest
- 2 of 42: Exterior detail of north façade main foundry building butterfly monitor roof looking southwest
- 3 of 42: Exterior north façade of main foundry building looking southeast
- 4 of 42: Exterior north façade of main foundry building looking southeast towards former craneway receiving area
- 5 of 42: Exterior north façade of original 1929 powerhouse in main foundry building
- 6 of 42: Exterior northwest corner of main foundry building 1930 addition looking southwest from railroad trestle
- 7 of 42: Exterior northwest corner of main foundry building looking northeast from railroad trestle
- 8 of 42: Exterior west façade of main foundry building 1939 warehouse addition looking southeast
- 9 of 42: Exterior south façade of main foundry building 1939 addition, east façade of 1956 addition looking northwest
- 10 of 42: Exterior south façade of main foundry building 1929 alloy foundry looking north
- 11 of 42: Exterior south façade of main foundry building 1929 looking northeast
- 12 of 42: Exterior south façade of main foundry building 1929 cleaning area looking northeast
- 13 of 42: Exterior south façade of main foundry building 1947 addition looking north
- 14 of 42: Exterior south façade of main foundry building 1980s enclosure of 1947 loading dock looking north
- 15 of 42: Exterior east facade of main foundry building 1980s enclosure of 1947 loading dock looking west
- 16 of 42: Exterior east façade of main foundry building 1947 addition looking southwest
- 17 of 42: Exterior north façade of main foundry building 1947 addition roof towards sand hoppers
- 18 of 42: Exterior east façade of 1937 warehouse and distribution building looking southwest
- 19 of 42: Exterior north façade of 1937 warehouse and distribution building looking southeast at loading dock
- 20 of 42: Exterior west façade of 1937 warehouse and distribution building looking southeast
- 21 of 42: Exterior west façade of 1937 warehouse and distribution building looking east
- 22 of 42: Exterior south façade of 1937 warehouse and distribution building looking north
- 23 of 42: Exterior south façade of 1953 hermetic motor building looking east
- 24 of 42: Exterior east façade of 1953 hermetic motor building looking northwest
- 25 of 42: Exterior south façade of 1953 hermetic motor building looking west toward loading dock
- 26 of 42: Exterior north façade of 1953 hermetic motor building looking southeast
- 27 of 42: Interior of main foundry building 1947 addition looking southwest from mezzanine
- 28 of 42: Interior of main foundry building 1947 addition loading dock, enclosed in early 1980s
- 29 of 42: Interior of main foundry building 1947 addition in second level machine shop looking west
- 30 of 42: Interior of main foundry building 1929 cleaning area looking west
- 31 of 42: Interior of main foundry building 1929 main foundry space looking west
- 32 of 42: Interior of main foundry building 1929 main foundry space looking east towards pits
- 33 of 42: Interior of main foundry building 1929 looking north at cupola furnaces
- 34 of 42: Interior of main foundry building 1929 looking west towards glazing between mezzanine and main foundry
- 35 of 42: Interior of main foundry building 1929 mezzanine looking north toward craneway receiving
- 36 of 42: Interior of main foundry building 1929 alloy foundry blade looking west
- 37 of 42: Interior of main foundry building 1929 alloy building looking northeast toward 1930 warehouse addition

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- 38 of 42: Interior of main foundry building 1939 warehouse addition looking northeast  
39 of 42: Interior of 1937 warehouse and manufacturing building grade level looking northwest in office suite  
40 of 42: Interior of 1937 warehouse and manufacturing building grade level looking south at warehouse roof monitor  
41 of 42: Interior of 1937 warehouse and manufacturing building lower level looking southwest  
42 of 42: Interior of 1953 hermetic motor building looking northwest

**Figure Log:**

1. Century Electric Foundry complex: Legal boundaries. Google Map Edited by Lawrence Group 2016. Not to Scale.
2. Century Electric Foundry 1932 plan and perspective. Drawing by Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Company, courtesy of Larry Nalley.
3. Pond Truss. Source: Sweets Engineering Catalog - Eighth Annual Edition. Sweets Catalog Service, Inc. New York, New York, 1922. Pg. 200.
4. Additional Local Pond Truss Examples:
  - a. GE Lamp Warehouse 4142 Union Blvd., St. Louis. Constructed 1919. Photo by Ruth Keenoy.
  - b. Electric Storage Battery Co. 1058 Vandeventer Ave., St. Louis. Constructed 1929. Photo by Christina Clagett.
5. Foundry Site Development Diagram 1930-1956. Source: Lawrence Group 2016. Not to Scale.
6. Foundry Site Development and Utilization Diagram 1920-1956. Source: Lawrence Group 2016. Not to Scale.
7. Building Section Drawings through original foundry structure by Rathmann, Koelle and Carroll, 1947. Courtesy of Larry Nalley. Diagram by Lawrence Group, 2016.
8. Pillsbury, Edwin S. Drawings from Electric Motor Patent No. 770, 923. 27 September 1904.
9. Early example of Century Repulsion Start Electric Motor. Missouri Historical Society (Saint Louis, Missouri), Business and Industry Archives, Century Electric Company Clippings Folder.
10. Photos of Edwin S. Pillsbury and R.J. Russell, approximately 1940. Missouri Historical Society (Saint Louis, Missouri), Business and Industry Archives, Century Electric Company Clippings Folder.
11. Image of Century Electric Building at 19<sup>th</sup> and Pine in downtown St. Louis. "St. Louis – the Electrical Center." *Greater St. Louis Magazine*, March, 1921: 4.
12. Aerial photo of Century Electric Foundry looking northwest from building across Market St., 1929. Missouri Historical Society (Saint Louis, Missouri), Business and Industry Archives, Century Electric Company Clippings Folder.
13. Exterior Photo of workers atop crane way at Century Electric Foundry, 1929. Missouri Historical Society (Saint Louis, Missouri), Business and Industry Archives, Century Electric Company Clippings Folder.
14. Interior Photo of workers pouring iron in Century Electric Foundry, approximately 1932. Missouri Historical Society (Saint Louis, Missouri), Business and Industry Archives, Century Electric Company Clippings Folder.
15. Century Electric Building at 1831 Chestnut in downtown St. Louis. Designed by Architect Louis Baylor Pendleton and William B. Ittner Architects. Looking northeast from Market St.
  - a. Shelly, Will. *Saint Louis Views. An Artistic and Unusual Selection of Pictures Showing Some of Saint Louis' Outstanding Places of Interest*, 1947. (Other Century buildings visible in background.)
  - b. 1831 Chestnut. 23 June, 2016. Photo by Christina Clagett.
16. Comparable local electrical manufacturing company facilities. "Electrical Manufacturing Known Around the World; Emerson Gave His Name To Fans; Century Claims Firsts, Moloney Makes Transformers," Special Section, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. 25 December 1949, 12-14G.
  - a. Wagner Electric Plant and Headquarters, Wellston, MO.
  - b. Emerson Electric Plant and Headquarters, Ferguson, MO, c. 1940.
17. 1947 Addition documents:
  - a. Construction announcement for foundry addition, looking northwest from across Market St.. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, May 11, 1947.
  - b. Drawing from Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Company, 1953. Courtesy of Larry Nalley.
18. Image of crane way operating above rail car at shed roof, circa 1980. Courtesy of Larry Nalley.
19. Image of sheet metal siding being applied to replace butterfly monitor window openings on south elevation, circa 1980. Courtesy of Larry Nalley.
20. Existing main level plans and site plan with photo key. Source: Lawrence Group, 2016. Not to scale
21. Existing foundry mezzanine level and second level plan, warehouse building lower level plan with photo key. Source: Lawrence Group, 2016. Not to scale.
22. Site Map, 3711-3739, 3749R and 3815R, Market St. St. Louis, Missouri, 63110 as well as 3700-3720 Forest Park Ave., St. Louis, Missouri, 63108. Source: Lawrence Group 2016.
23. Contextual Map, 3711-3739, 3749R and 3815R, Market St. St. Louis, Missouri, 63110 as well as 3700-3720 Forest Park Ave., St. Louis, Missouri, 63108. Source: Lawrence Group 2016.
24. Contextual aerial image looking east. Source: Lawrence Group 2016.
25. Contextual aerial image looking northwest towards Central West End Neighborhood. Source: Lawrence Group 2016.

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Continuation Sheet

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Century Electric Foundry
Name of Property
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NA
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

### Summary

The Century Electric foundry complex is located between 3711-3815 Market St. and 3700-3720 Forest Park Ave. in St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri in the central corridor of the city. The site was originally purchased by Century Electric in 1926 and the nominated property includes three contributing buildings and a contributing railroad trestle and parking lot (two contributing structures) that were developed over the course of 25 years as well as a non-contributing parking lot (structure) (Figure 1). The buildings are of industrial character with some exceptional architectural features at the main foundry building as well as extant industrial equipment. The dominant construction materials are multi-wythe masonry, concrete, steel frame structure, as well as steel sash divided lite windows. Overall, the masonry construction lacks ornament but has a clean and modern industrial aesthetic. The interiors of the sprawling main foundry building include soaring factory spaces, mezzanines, catwalks and offices.

### Setting

The Century Electric Foundry Complex is located just north of Interstate 64 in between the Cortex Innovation District to the west and Grand Blvd. two blocks to the east (Figures 23-25). It is located one block south of the main campus of Saint Louis University, and less than a mile north of the SSM/Saint Louis University Medical Complex (Figure 23). The foundry complex sits on a ten acre site, which in 1929 was near the geographic and population center of the City of St. Louis. The land was part of the Prospect Industrial District; an area adjacent to abundant rail lines populated with manufacturers of machinery, shoes, baked goods, bottling and brewing products, as well as miscellaneous products and a number of warehouses.<sup>1</sup> The construction of the foundry marked the first major expansion of Century Electric west of their downtown St. Louis operations and offices, and was about two miles away (Figure 25). The site was serviced by a rail siding from the nearby Wabash Railroad through the center of the site and vehicles along then-prominent Market St. along the southern boundary. Across from the site to the north at the northwest corner of Forest Park Ave. (historically referred to as Blvd.) and Spring Ave. (historically referred to as St.), sits the Standard Adding Machine Building (NR 10/04/2005) which was owned and maintained by Century Electric from 1920-1969 (Figure 6). Directly east of Spring Ave. is the former Falstaff Brewery (Plant No. 1 NR 7/12/2007) complex now serving commercial functions along Forest Park Ave. while the southern buildings operate as warehouses. West of the nominated complex is vacant land, followed by commercial businesses and a fire station at the corner of Forest Park Ave. and Vandeventer (Figures 22, 24).

### Interior of Buildings and Construction Timeline

**Main Foundry Building:** 3711-3815 Market Street, Contributing Building, 1929, 1930, 1939, 1947

<sup>1</sup> *The Pattern of Industrial Land Use in St. Louis*. St. Louis: City Plan Commission, 1948: 51.

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The most prominent structure in the complex is the main foundry building located at 3711-3815 Market St. and is a continuous structure encompassing nearly 200,000 square feet. The first portion of the foundry was completed in 1929 per the design of architect Louis Baylor Pendleton. Pendleton had already done work for Century Electric in the vicinity, designing an alteration for the Century Electric-owned Standard Adding Machine Building at 3701 Forest Park Blvd, previously mentioned, in 1924 (NR Listed 4 October 2005)(Figure 6). His plans for the 1929 foundry totaled approximately 100,000 square foot and consisted of a concrete slab on grade with steel frame structure supporting precast concrete roof tiles and multi-wythe masonry exterior walls. The core element was a 65,000 square foot rectangular floor space connected to a 290' long by 40' wide blade projection to the west. Attached to the blade was a power plant projecting to the north and a 2500 square foot projection to the south. The large rectangular space housed the main foundry. In the center over what was the foundry floor, the space features an uncommon butterfly profile monitor roof similar to a pond truss (Figures 2-3), with an exceptionally delicate steel truss structural system (Photo 31, Figure 7). The butterfly monitor roofs were fully glazed with operable windows which provided maximum performance in ventilating and lighting factory interiors (Figures 3, 7).<sup>2</sup> There are at least a couple examples of similar roof profiles still standing in the City of St. Louis. A former electrical storage battery company building (c. 1929) sits in the nearby vicinity on 1058 Vandeventer and a former General Electric lamp warehouse (c. 1919) is located a few miles away at 4142 Union Blvd. (Figure 4). Although the roof profiles are similar, they make apparent the elegance in the design of Century Foundry. The interior of the main foundry floor included many pits of various depths to accommodate machinery and equipment, which still remain (Photo 32). South of the central roof and running the same length over the original cleaning area is a flat roof that originally included three linear steel frame operable roof monitors with metal panel ends (Figure 12), each about 60' in length, the central of which partially remains although the glazing has been removed. North of the central space was a mezzanine with a receiving area for material deliveries serviced via the rail siding and crane way, as well as production areas where sand and hot iron was prepared for molding (Photo 34). These spaces accommodated the cooling tower and core room on the east half and the material charging and iron melting cupola furnaces on the west (Photos 33, 34); together, these spaces ran the length of the original main foundry. Between the main foundry floor and mezzanine, the glazing creates a valley that provided ventilation to the mezzanine area (Figure 7, Photo 34). The east portion over the cupola furnaces features a gable roof, half of which is open to the exterior in the former receiving area and crane way (Figure 7, Photo 4). The east portion of roof over the core room included a low-slope roof (Figure 7). Aside from the main production spaces, the blade projection on the west side originally housed the alloy foundry (Photo 36). It originally included a 200 linear foot continuous steel frame operable monitor with metal panel ends (Figure 2), removed in the 1980s.

<sup>2</sup> Bradley, Betsy Hunter. *The Works: The Industrial Architecture of the United States*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999: 196.

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A modest two-story addition in 1930 by architect Edward J. Lawler in the northwest corner provided storage space for flasks and equipment (Photo 37 left half, Figure 6). Similar to the 1929 structure, it consisted of concrete slab on grade with steel frame structure supporting precast concrete roof tiles and multi-wythe masonry exterior walls. In 1939, architects Klipstein & Rathmann provided drawings for a single story warehouse addition of about 16,000 square feet for the storage of brass and copper, constructed on the southwest corner (Figures 5-6) and consisting of similar materials to the previous structures. Several exterior spaces between projections were enclosed between 1944 and 1945 (Figure 6). The most significant addition was the foundry manufacturing building designed in 1947 by architects Rathmann, Koelle and Carroll. The new structure provided approximately 60,000 square foot of additional ground floor manufacturing space (Photo 27, Figure 5) and connected to the original foundry along the east edge of the main building. The southeast corner of the new building at the intersection of Market and Spring St. accommodated a new truck loading dock (Photo 28), enclosed by a later tenant. Again, the building materials were concrete slab on grade with steel frame trusses supporting precast concrete roof tiles and multi-wythe masonry exterior walls. The addition also included a 12,800 square foot suite of second level offices and manufacturing space with windows overlooking the foundry floor and including an 80 linear foot (still intact) monitor roof with metal panel ends (Photo 29). On the north end of the addition interior, there is a mezzanine connecting to grade level on the north exterior with offices below which also turns the corner to the east to an employee break room on the upper level and with views out to the foundry. There are miscellaneous rooms below. Along with the addition, a sand tower clad in sheet metal and about 75' in height was added at the east end of the main foundry building. It was reconstructed to similar specifications by a later tenant and is still a very prominent feature from the surrounding area. A matching sand tower was constructed symmetrically on the west side of the main foundry, but has since been removed. In 1956, in preparation for the impending widening of Market St. into an expressway, the original southern projection along the blade was demolished and the southernmost portion of the 1939 warehouse was also removed and replaced with a shallow masonry addition on its eastern edge (Figure 6). Some interior demising walls have been removed or added over time to create and open up additional interior space.

**Warehouse and Distribution Building:** 3700 Forest Park Blvd., Contributing Building, 1937

The warehouse and distribution building located at 3700 Forest Park Blvd. was constructed not long after the main foundry in 1937 and is comprised of similar materials, although more simplistic architecturally (Figure 6). It is a split-story concrete slab on grade with steel frame structure supporting precast concrete roof tiles and multi-wythe masonry exterior walls. The structure is 150' wide along Forest Park Ave. by 208' wide along Spring Ave. with large steel sash divided lite windows. The main level is at grade along Forest Park Ave. and includes a recessed exterior loading dock in the northwest corner (Photos 18-20). The interior at grade level consists of a suite of offices (Photo 39) in the northeast corner and a warehouse space with exposed

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columns and a single roof monitor with metal panel ends filling out the rest of the floor (Photo 40). The lower level opens to grade on the south end along Spring Ave. and includes loading docks on the west and east elevations. The lower level interior is predominantly an open warehouse space with round reinforced concrete mushroom top columns (Photo 41). The design suggests emphasis on both vehicular and rail distribution.

**Hermetic Motor Building:** 3720 Forest Park Blvd., Contributing Building and Contributing Structure to east, 1953

The hermetic motor building at 3720 Forest Park Blvd. is the youngest building in the complex, constructed in 1953 (Figure 5-6). The design is mundane compared to the other buildings on the property. It is a one-story structure of 39,000 square feet, 240' long along Forest Park Ave. by 160' wide, mostly a single large open space (Photos 42). The foundation is reinforced concrete and the structure consists of steel columns and beams and a bar joist roof structure with precast concrete roof deck panels. The enclosure consists of corrugated metal wall panels and there are minimal exterior wall openings for doors and vents. There is one office block with mezzanine as well as token concrete masonry block partitions dividing the space. A single centrally located steel frame roof monitor with metal panel ends of about 160' in length brings precious light into the space. The contributing structure is a parking lot to the east which is addressed in the exterior description.

**Exterior**

**Main Foundry Building:** 3711-3815 Market Street, Contributing Building, 1929, 1930, 1939, 1947  
South Elevation

Beginning on the west end, the south elevation starts with the edge of the one-story 1939 warehouse addition, altered in 1956 to accommodate expressway construction, as well as the 1956 addition edge. It is about 20' in height. Presently, this elevation is solid masonry with stone coping approximately 125' in length. Some former loading docks have been infilled with masonry (Photo 9). Moving around the corner, the east portion of the 1956 warehouse addition is about 110' feet in length and includes three rectangular window openings with original 56-lite steel sash windows with some operable sections as well as a smaller rectangular opening with 28-lites and a covered loading dock with overhead door at the north end (Photo 10). Moving to the south side of the 1929 blade projection, the original brick is darker in color with terra cotta coping (Photos 10, 11). The structure is one story and about 25' high. From west to east, an original 90-lite steel sash window with operable sections remains under the shed roof followed by a similar opening that has since been covered in sheet metal. Next there is a smaller 60-lite version of a similar window, followed by two more 90-lite steel sash operable windows. There is a large area of lighter colored brick infill at this point, where the 2500 square foot projecting structure was removed in 1956. Finally, there is an overhead coiling door and another opening which has been infilled. Turning the corner to the

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west façade of the original cleaning area, the structure is about the same height as the blade with terra cotta coping. A series of eight original windows (similar to those existing on around the corner to the east) have all been removed and replaced with louvres or overhead coiling doors. There is evidence of multiple layers of reconfiguring on this elevation (Photo 11). Before the existence of the double decker highway later constructed in the place of the later-1950s expressway (formerly Market St.), the southern façade of the cleaning area fronted Market St. and acted as the public elevation and entrance (Figure 12). For this reason, there is a small amount of exterior detailing on this elevation consisting of a brick header above the windows with alternating projecting bricks as well as three rows of projecting bricks a few feet below them (Photo 12). This elevation still includes most of the original 37 vertical strings of 28-lite steel sash operable windows which are highly visible from the lower deck of the highway (Photo 12). Moving east, the south façade of the 1947 addition consists of two floors and is about 35' in height. The steel sash windows on this addition are in more of a mid-century style arrangement; with 65-lites running continuously with no masonry interruption. The panels on these openings are also set horizontally, as opposed to the vertical rectangular arrangement of the older windows. The configuration is 5 panels deep on the upper level and 6 deep on the lower level (Photo 13). At the east end of the south façade is the 1980s-era brick enclosure over the 1947 loading dock which has no openings (Photo 14). The most notable and visible feature on the south elevation is the original 1929 butterfly monitor roof. It rises from approximately 35' at the lowest point in the center to 55' in height at each peak (Photo 11). Original glazing ran the full length east-west along the butterfly monitor for some 260 linear feet and included three rows of approximately 130 operable divided lite windows set vertically as well as two rows of similar design angling about 30 degrees directly below (Figure 7). Each glazing panel was about 5'-9" x 2' wide. These windows were removed and the openings covered in sheet metal in the late 1970s-early 1980s (Figure 19). The angling roof is highly visible from surrounding landmarks and the neighboring interstate highway to the south. The building is near enough to create a sense of enclosure for passing vehicles in the east-bound direction, and a connection to the various roofs in the west-bound direction. Along the top of the central portion of the 1947 foundry, the roof extends slightly higher and includes clerestory windows about 8' in height.

#### East Elevation

The east elevation runs about 225' in length along Spring Ave (Photo 16). At the intersection of Spring and Market, the former loading dock which is now enclosed includes two large overhead coiling doors and a single man-door (Photo 15). The enclosed loading dock is of masonry construction and is about 36' in height with stone coping. The next portion going north is the central portion of the 1947 foundry addition. It is 40 feet in height and about 70' long, composed of masonry with stone coping. It features another uninterrupted span of steel sash operable glazing; with horizontal rectangular panels 30-lites long and 12-lites deep. The most northern 70 feet of the east elevation is of the same material and about 30' in height and features

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an uninterrupted span of steel sash operable glazing with horizontal rectangular panels 46-lites long and 4-lites deep. Down low, there is a window well on Spring Ave. where a row of windows has been infilled.

North Elevation

Along the top of the central portion of the 1947 foundry, the roof extends slightly higher and includes clerestory windows about 8' in height. In the foreground, the east end of the northern elevation along the 1947 foundry consists of masonry with many of the openings infilled. There are three man-door entrances atop a raised platform as the ground elevation change is more drastic in this area (Photo 17). Highly visible on the roof are the sand hoppers and the large piping connecting to the top would cycle sand for reuse (Photos 3, 17). In the center of the main foundry building in the foreground of the northern elevation, is the low-slope roof over the core room and sand processing. Now enclosed in sheet metal (Photo 1), divided lite steel sash windows once ran across this entire section (Figure 13). The long edge of the 1929 butterfly monitor roof is visible on the north elevation (Photo 1), with the top reaching 55' in height. Glazing runs east-west for some 120 linear feet (Photo 2) then there is a return that was similarly glazed (Figure 7) but is now replaced with sheet metal. West of that, there is a another return to the original plane for an additional 60 linear feet, now covered in sheet metal but also once fully-glazed. The original configuration included three vertical rows of divided lite windows, operable by section, as well as two rows similar design angling about 30 degrees directly below (Figure 7). Each glazing panel was about 5'-9" x 2' wide. Many windows are exposed but are deteriorated to varying degrees. The northern end of the original 1929 foundry has its own dramatic roof; a gable rising about 60' high which becomes an open shed on the north side, parallel to the adjacent rail siding that originally included an overhead crane way (Photo 4, similar to Figure 18). A portion of the concrete panel roof was removed by a later tenant. The north elevation of the old powerhouse is visible to the west. It is about 50' in length with about 22' feet visible above grade and about 32' in total height (Photo 5). The brick has been painted and three divided-lite openings (Figure 13) have been infilled with sheet metal and louvres. Detail remaining over the former windows matches that of the south elevation along the 1929 cleaning area. Finally, at the far west end along the remains of the rail trestle is the exterior of the 1930 storage addition. The masonry structure is about 20' high with terra cotta coping. The openings have been infilled with masonry creating a solid mass (Photo 6).

West Elevation

Beginning with the west end of the 1930 storage addition, the structure is 20' high with terra cotta coping. There are three masonry openings that once included 112 divided-lite rectangular panels. The northernmost has been infilled with concrete masonry units and a man-door and the other two have been infilled across the top two rows with sheet metal (Photo 7). Turning the corner to the 50' long portion of the north elevation of the 1929 blade, there is an

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overhead coiling door with a concrete masonry and sheet metal covering followed by two large divided-lite window openings with 84 and 48 vertical rectangular panels respectively. Around the corner on the west end of the 1929 blade, there are two identical openings of 70-lite steel sash windows. The exterior of the 1939 warehouse is about 20' in height (Photo 8). The structure is solid masonry with stone coping. The north edge before the curve is about 20' in length and features a single large 60-lite steel sash window. The warehouse curves from north to south along the rail trestle. The west façade features five generous 60-lite steel sash operable windows. There is one of these large windows, followed by a segment with a door and two small divided-lite windows, then three consecutive large windows. The last has the same shape as the 60-lites, but the lower right corner is configured to accommodate a man-door. The roof of the warehouse includes two skylights (Figure 25).

**Warehouse and Distribution Building:** 3700 Forest Park Blvd., Contributing Building, 1937

North Elevation

On the north elevation, the building is about 14 ½' in height and about 150' in length. The masonry structure includes some moderate detailing such as stone sills and slight undulations between window openings. From east to west, there are two large openings with 15-lite horizontal rectangular steel sash windows followed by a main front door with glazing panels above and two symmetrical steel sash openings on the opposite side (Photo 18). There are also grate-covered window wells on the east end. On the west end, there is a large recessed loading dock with an opening of about 70' in length and 20' tall. The recessed portion is 40' deep and 70' wide (Photo 19).

West Elevation

The west elevation runs about 200' in length and includes many window wells. At the north end, the structure is 14 ½' in height for a length of 22'. The roof then drops about 5' for the rest of the elevation. On the north end, the first window opening includes 44-lite vertically placed rectangular panels (Photo 20) followed by two similar window openings each having 52-lites. The south end has a symmetrical window configuration at the upper level. In the center-north, there is a single man door with concrete ramp. At about the midpoint of the building, there is a retaining wall and grade drop. Just south of that are two large overhead coiling doors on the upper level. At the south end lower level grade, there are two more overhead coiling doors (Photo 21).

South Elevation

The south elevation is about 30' in height, with both levels being fully exposed at grade, and 150' in length. There are 12 steel sash rectangular window openings with 24-lites each on the upper level. There are matching openings on the lower level, but two of those have been infilled (Photo 22).

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East Elevation

The east elevation is about 200' in length along Spring Ave. and varies in height from about 20' above grade at Forest Park Ave. to about 30' above grade at the south end. From the north end, the first two steel sash rectangular openings are similar to those on the north elevation, with longer horizontal panels as opposed to the more vertical rectangular panels on the windows further south. Each of these two openings is 20-lite. From there south on the upper level, run a series of six window openings of nearly square proportion, each 20-lite. Below those on the lower level, are five window openings with 10-lites each. The rest of the upper level is comprised of a series of five 52-lite steel sash windows. Below those are five 15-lite steel sash windows followed by a man-door. At the very south end is an overhead coiling door (Photo 18).

**Hermetic Motor Building:** 3720 Forest Park Blvd., Contributing Building, 1953

North Elevation

The north elevation runs 240' along Forest Park Ave. and is 16' in height and with the exception of some louvres is completely solid. The exterior material is corrugated metal panels (Photo 26).

East Elevation

The east elevation runs 160' in length and is 16' in height. A single large overhead door sits in the southeast corner next to a single man-door and there are several small louvered insets running along the elevation (Photo 24).

South Elevation

The rear elevation is 240' in length and 16' in height and includes three overhead doors, a single man door and a covered loading dock (Photos 23-25).

West Elevation

The west elevation is 160' in length and 16' in height. This elevation includes five small windows (Photo 26).

**Parking Lot:** 3720 Forest Park Blvd., Contributing Structure, 1953

When the original foundry was constructed, the open space northwest of the building and stretching to Forest Park Blvd. was open space and is listed at "playground: property of assured" on an insurance map dated 1932 (Figure 2). By 1953, this space was replaced by the hermetic motor building in the far northwest corner, with a parking lot constructed directly to the east (Photo 24). This parking lot still exists, and is a contributing structure to the foundry complex site. The parking lot slopes several feet from the approximate center of the site in the long direction to the east

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elevation of the building and also includes as a steep slope of several feet from Forest Park Blvd to the northwest corner of the parking lot (Figure 24).

**Parking Lot:** 3700 Forest Park Blvd., Non-Contributing Structure, 1953

The open paved space which connects lengthwise with the west elevation of the warehouse and distribution building was once the site of three buildings outside a jog in the Century property line until the early 1950s (Figure 2). The far buildings to the west were demolished by 1953 when they and the W. N. Matthews and Brothers building and property were purchased for use by the foundry complex. This created a continuous rectangular complex (Figures 5, 6). The Matthews building was used by Century in conjunction with the warehouse and distribution building until it was demolished in 1969. The land was used by later owners for additional parking, a non-contributing site as it exists today.

**Railroad Trestle:** Contributing Structure, 1929

The railroad trestle was constructed to connect the Wabash Railroad to the siding and craneway servicing the main foundry. The major rail line ran east/west and was located several hundred feet to the south of the site. It still exists today in a similar form. The trestle curved around the original building and dictated the form of later additions to the foundry.

**Integrity**

Over time, some exterior elements have been covered or replaced with sheet metal and some openings are visibly infilled with masonry units. The complex has been vacant since 2007, and has endured the effects of neglect, time, the elements, material scrappers and street artists. Although the physical remnants of these factors dominate the current appearance of the foundry complex, the significant historical features are still intact. Current floorplans are highly consistent with and indicative of the historical layout (Figures 6, 20-21). Changes from after the period of significance do not detract meaningfully from the original layout of the buildings and site. A projection on the south side of the main building was victim to expressway construction in the late 1950s, and the westernmost projection was altered for the same reason (Figure 6). Some roof monitors were removed including that in the blade projection during stabilization efforts in the 1980s. Some of the concrete roof tile has been covered with membrane roofing while other portions have collapsed into the building without being replaced. Most recently in 2003, the crane way north of the main foundry building was removed by a later occupant of the site. Despite these changes, the buildings still retain sufficient integrity to convey the significance of the complex. The industrial modern form of the main foundry still dominates visually in its high-visibility location and is highly informative of its function during the period of significance.

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### Summary

The Century Electric foundry complex located between 3711-3815 Market St. and 3700-3720 Forest Park Ave. in St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri is locally significant in the area of INDUSTRY (Criterion A) as the company's singular location for production of motor and generator castings used in their full range of products from 1929-1972. The striking industrial complex connects the contemporary City to Century Electric Company in their prime, when they were an important contributor to the local economy and workforce as an international company based in St. Louis. The foundry was a significant contributor to St. Louis Industry for their integral role facilitating the production of motor castings for all Century Electric's specialized products as they grew and expanded during the mid-twentieth century. The main foundry building, which includes the original 1929 foundry building, a major 1947 addition (connected on east side) and several minor additions, is the centerpiece of a ten acre complex that includes two additional buildings constructed by Century Electric Company along Forest Park Avenue for manufacturing and storage as well as a contributing parking lot and a non-contributing open space.

Electrical Manufacturing was a major industry in the economy of St. Louis throughout the period of significance and Century Electric was one of the top three local companies in the field along with Wagner and Emerson. They were headquartered in St. Louis from 1900-1972 and expanded rapidly producing a variety of electric motors and generators sold internationally. Their motors ranged from the fractional horsepower type that power small appliances to those with enough horsepower to run entire factories. Additionally, they produced a line of desk and ceiling fans. Century Electric consistently pioneered new technologies to improve their products before and during the period of significance. The period of significance begins with construction of the original foundry in 1929 and ends in 1972 when Century Electric Company was merged with and began operating under another company, Gould Inc. The foundry complex marks one of just two company properties in St. Louis that remains historically intact and the foundry building is the most indicative example remaining of Century Electric Company and their operations.

### Early History of the Electrical Industry and Electrical Manufacturing in St. Louis

From the time Thomas Edison devised his incandescent lamp on October 21, 1879, the electrical industry spread light and electrical machinery across the world at a supercharged pace. However, Charles Heisler of Conrad's Brewery in St. Louis is credited with the first local use of commercial lighting in 1878; the year prior to Edison's famed achievement. He used alternating current to operate arc lamps in the brewery.<sup>3</sup> St. Louis grew quickly as an electrical center because it was full of this type of ingenuity as well as being positioned to derive maximum advantage from the electrical power industry. Geographically, St. Louis was centrally situated along the Mississippi River with access to excellent railroad facilities as well as being located near the power source coal

<sup>3</sup> *Journal of the Association of Engineering Societies*. "Electrical Industries in St. Louis." Address by Francis E. Nipher, Retiring President of the Engineers' Club of St. Louis. December 17, 1890, p. 1.

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fields of southern Illinois.<sup>4</sup> Fueled by these factors and the rapidly advancing field of electrical technology, St. Louis entrepreneurs laid the foundation for the city's leadership role as a producer of electric motors, transformers, switchgear, lighting fixtures, and electrical devices. These were contemporaries of other local moguls making their mark in the fur, carriage, footwear, textile, and brewing businesses.<sup>5</sup> Already by the early 1920s, household appliances such as vacuum cleaners, irons, electric ranges and washing machines were becoming ubiquitous across the nation. They all depended on fractional horsepower motors, for which St. Louis was among the largest manufacturing centers in the nation.<sup>6</sup> St. Louis was also a nationally important electrical manufacturing center for transformers and equipment as well as fans.<sup>7</sup> As a result, the electrical industry was one of the most important to the economy of St. Louis, employing 8-10,000 people by 1921.<sup>8</sup> St. Louis Brass Manufacturing Company was the largest manufacturer of lighting fixtures in the world at the time, Moloney Electric Company was a national leader in transformers and Bussmann Manufacturing Company was the second largest electric fuse manufacturer in the nation.<sup>9</sup>

There were three companies, however, that would dominate electrical manufacturing in St. Louis over the next half century, distributing their locally made products all over the world; Emerson Electric Manufacturing Company, Wagner Electric Manufacturing Company and Century Electric Company.<sup>10</sup> These companies were all organized between 1890 and 1900. Emerson was one of the largest electric fan manufacturers in the country and they produced small electric motors as well. Wagner made motors for small appliances and automobile starting motors as well as transformers.<sup>11</sup> Like Century Electric, both of these operations began with modest facilities in downtown St. Louis.<sup>12</sup> In the immediate decades, the "big three" (as later described) homegrown and headquartered manufacturing companies provided a meaningful and long-running contribution to the local economy and job market, despite ongoing consolidation in the industry by the large national firms like General Electric and Westinghouse.<sup>13</sup> By 1939 the largest industries by wage earners in St. Louis were shoe manufacturing, electrical machinery manufacturing and meat packing. Electrical machinery employed 6% of the total number of manufacturing wage earners in St. Louis. It was also one of the most important industries by value, comprising 4% of the total value of products manufactured in the area.<sup>14</sup> Electrical machinery continued to provide increasing

<sup>4</sup> A 'Century' Plus of Electrical Progress: The History of the Electrical Industry in Metropolitan Saint Louis, 1984: 7

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> "St. Louis - the Electrical Center." *Greater St. Louis Magazine*, March, 1921.

<sup>7</sup> Bode Baxter, Karen. "Standard Adding Machine Building" National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 4 October 2005: 11.

<sup>8</sup> "St. Louis - the Electrical Center." *Greater St. Louis Magazine*, March, 1921.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

<sup>10</sup> *St. Louis Section through Fifty Years*. St. Louis: American Institute of Electrical Engineers: St. Louis Section, 1954.

<sup>11</sup>A 'Century' Plus of Electrical Progress: The History of the Electrical Industry in Metropolitan Saint Louis, 1984: 12-13, 12-14G.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Feurer, Rosemary. *Radical unionism in the Midwest, 1900-1950*. Urbana : University of Illinois Press, 2006: 3.

<sup>14</sup> *The Pattern of Industrial Land Use in St. Louis*. St. Louis: City Plan Commission, 1948: 13.

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numbers of local jobs throughout the 1940s; seeing the greatest employment increases along with general machinery production, iron and steel manufacturing and the chemical industry.<sup>15</sup>

### Century Electric Grows Into a St. Louis Manufacturing Leader (1900-1920)

Century Electric Company was organized on July, 1 1900 as the H.E. Lindsey Electrical Supply Company in St. Louis, Missouri.<sup>16</sup> Edwin S. Pillsbury was an engineer working for Wagner Electric Company who had previously worked at Emerson Electric Manufacturing Company. Desiring to go into business for himself, he purchased a stake of Lindsey's company in 1902. Mr. Lindsey left the business in 1903 and the company reorganized as Century Electric Company. They began their business producing Pillsbury's innovative repulsion start single-phase motors, which were used to power small factories (Figures 8-9). In the earliest days, Century could produce only one motor at a time and the first was sold to a St. Louis millinery company in 1903.<sup>17</sup> That same year R.J. Russell, who had been a colleague of Mr. Pillsbury at Wagner in the sales division, joined Century Electric as director of sales. Pillsbury and Russell would prove to be enduring and effective leaders of a formidable St. Louis company, leading together for more than a half-century. Officially, they were President/Chairman of the board and Vice President/Secretary, respectively. However, their spiritual roles were Pillsbury as inventor and innovator and Russell the marketing and sales magnate (Figure 10). In the very beginning, the fledgling enterprise was located in a former church at 1011 Locust St. in downtown St. Louis, long ago demolished.<sup>18</sup>

The company rented a couple intermediate spaces until leasing a seven story building downtown at 19<sup>th</sup> and Olive St. for their main offices in 1907. They would go on to purchase the entire building within a decade. Century continued to produce large repulsion type motors used to power small factories and sold them from St. Louis to China.<sup>19</sup> One of Century Electric's early orders called for shipment of a motor to Siam. With this early start in trade abroad, Century developed an important export business, eventually shipping its products to over 90 foreign countries.<sup>20</sup> The company was skilled in design and production of the opposite scale as well. Their most significant breakthrough was achieved in 1914 and would have an effect on daily life: Century was the first electric motor manufacturer to engineer repulsion type motors in small sizes, making the development of early household appliances possible. The first successful automatically controlled electric home refrigerator was equipped with a Century motor.<sup>21</sup> The Frigidaire division

<sup>15</sup> Ibid: 91.

<sup>16</sup> R. J. Russell. "Corporate History of Century Electric Company, St. Louis, Missouri". June 30, 1955.

<sup>17</sup> A 'Century' Plus of Electrical Progress: The History of the Electrical Industry in Metropolitan Saint Louis. Saint Louis: The Saint Louis Electrical Board, 1984.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Feurer, Rosemary. *Radical unionism in the Midwest, 1900-1950*. Urbana : University of Illinois Press, 2006: 3.

<sup>20</sup> "Electrical Manufacturing Known Around the World; Emerson Gave His Name To Fans; Century Claims Firsts, Moloney Makes Transformers," Special Section, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (25 December 1949), 12-14G.

<sup>21</sup>Feurer, Rosemary. *Radical unionism in the Midwest, 1900-1950*. Urbana : University of Illinois Press, 2006: 3.

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of General Motors Corporation became a major customer, buying a large part of its refrigerator compressor motors from Century until it began producing them in-house.<sup>22</sup> From these early days throughout the period of significance, Century would be a supplier to equipment builders in refrigeration, heating and ventilating. Additionally, Century introduced a line of desk fans to the market in 1911 which they would manufacture until selling the product line in the late 1930s.<sup>23</sup> Within a few years they were also producing ceiling fans for offices and hotel rooms from 36"-54" in diameter.<sup>24</sup> These among other innovations led to rapid expansion. They erected their first new building in 1914, an eight story structure at 19<sup>th</sup> and Pine in downtown St. Louis (Figure 11) which brought their total occupied square footage to 125,000. Between 1917 and 1920, offices and manufacturing spaces were erected or converted from purchased properties around Pine and Olive St. between 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> St. adjacent to their offices, creating a downtown factory complex. Warehousing facilities along a railroad siding were located nearby at 20<sup>th</sup> and Poplar St., adjacent to Union Station and railroad terminal.<sup>25</sup> All of the buildings described within the downtown complex so far have since been demolished.

### Preparing for Expansion

Starting with an original capitol of \$50,000, Century Electric reached \$800,000 in total sales by 1915 and nearly \$8,000,000 by 1928.<sup>26</sup> With their business continually increasing, it was necessary to commence arrangements for the future expansion of their production capabilities. For the first time, they ventured outside of the downtown complex to the Prospect Industrial District located about two miles to the west. It was west of downtown near abundant rail lines at the approximate geographic center of St. Louis. The first official step was the purchase of the Standard Adding Machine Building at Spring St. and Forest Park Blvd. in 1920, which would be leased to tenants until it could later be utilized.<sup>27</sup> The 1920s are also when Century Electric was first credited with being one of the "big three" local electric manufacturers along with Emerson and Wagner.<sup>28</sup> In 1926, in preparation for a much larger development, Century acquired approximately ten acres from the Lilly Busch estate. It was across Forest Park Blvd. from the Standard Adding Machine Building, west of Spring St. and north of Market St. Century now had abundant space for expansion at the ready.

<sup>22</sup> "Century Electric Serves Customers all over the World," *St. Louis Globe Democrat*, 12-13 August 1967.

<sup>23</sup> A 'Century' Plus of Electrical Progress: *The History of the Electrical Industry in Metropolitan Saint Louis*, 1984: 12.

<sup>24</sup> "Century Electric Serves Customers all over the World," *St. Louis Globe Democrat*, 12-13 August 1967.

<sup>25</sup> R. J. Russell. "Corporate History of Century Electric Company, St. Louis, Missouri." June 30, 1955.

<sup>26</sup> "The Spirit of St. Louis – Century Electric Company." *Know St. Louis Weekly*, February 26, 1928: 7.

<sup>27</sup> Bode Baxter, Karen. "Standard Adding Machine Building" National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 4 October 2005.

<sup>28</sup> Feurer, Rosemary. *Radical unionism in the Midwest, 1900-1950*. Urbana : University of Illinois Press, 2006: 2.

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In 1929, the Roth Brothers and Company of Chicago, in business since 1894 and specializing in direct current motors, was purchased by Century Electric Company. This strategy put Century Electric in a position to produce a wider range of motors up to 200 horsepower including single phase, polyphase, and direct current. Additionally, they would produce generators.<sup>29</sup> Century continued to pioneer innovations in motor technology as well, developing motors which were increasingly resistant to dirt and therefore provided users a decrease in needed maintenance. The continued improvement in their motor designs improved electric products from the home to large factories. Small appliances, vehicles and industrial equipment were easier to operate as a result. Century again eased the demand on users by pioneering the use of the wool yarn system of lubrication, eliminating the necessity of re-oiling electric motors for at least a year.<sup>30</sup> Not limited to specific models, these many advances were utilized to consistently improve the wide range of Century products. By 1930, Century's workforce reached more than two thousand as the company continued to advance the technology of electrical motors and generators.<sup>31</sup> To facilitate ever increasing product orders, plans were drawn in the late 1920s for a dedicated foundry on the land at Spring St. and Forest Park Blvd. The design for the two story brick foundry was provided by Architect Louis Baylor Pendleton. The new foundry would consolidate castings for the full catalog of Century products into one location. The first heat was poured on April 30, 1930 (Figure 14 - similar).<sup>32</sup>

### Foundry Operations

Specifically, the function of the new facility was to produce custom gray iron and ferrous alloy castings for Century's electric motors and generators and sometimes parts for non-affiliated purchasers as well. Besides motor castings running the full extent of sizes, the foundry produced other components such as cylinder liners for engines, rear axle housings for tractors as well as other items for agricultural machinery.<sup>33</sup> Product labs, manufacturing functions and packaging were found in the other local Century plants and properties, located at the downtown complex. The foundry was one of the largest job-shop operations in the Midwest from 1929-1972 and specialized in the custom made parts produced to the constantly evolving specifications of Century Electric products and equipment.<sup>34</sup> The foundry allowed Century Electric to increase their economic impact on St. Louis by having the ability to get ever greater numbers of their latest products out to market quickly and at the high level of quality they had become known for in the early twentieth century.

<sup>29</sup> A 'Century' Plus of Electrical Progress: The History of the Electrical Industry in Metropolitan Saint Louis. Saint Louis: The Saint Louis Electrical Board, 1984.

<sup>30</sup> "Electrical Manufacturing Known Around the World; Emerson Gave His Name To Fans; Century Claims Firsts, Moloney Makes Transformers," Special Section, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. 25 December 1949, 12-14G.

<sup>31</sup> Feurer, Rosemary. *Radical unionism in the Midwest, 1900-1950*. Urbana : University of Illinois Press, 2006: 3.

<sup>32</sup> Hamilton, J.L. *History of Century Electric Co. 1900-1943 and Roth Bros. & Co. 1894-1932*. St. Louis: Century Electric Company, 1943: 40.

<sup>33</sup> "New Addition to Foundry Being Built," Building Section, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 11 May 1947, p 1C.

<sup>34</sup> "Century Grew From Two-Item Electric Firm," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 16 February 1964, p 165.

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This work depended on the skills of highly specialized workers, of which the foundry employed about 150<sup>35</sup> in the first decade of operation and around 650 by the mid-1940s.<sup>36</sup> Over the period of significance, Century foundry advertised various employment opportunities for highly skilled workers in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* including cupola tenders, blast house operators, molders, pattern makers and repairers, coremakers, tool and dye makers, casting inspectors, machinists, electrical engineers, mechanics, swing grinders, and sand blasters. This was in addition to supervisors, timekeepers, product inspectors, office managers and staff, purchasers, clerks and various laborers.

The work flow process in the foundry followed a sequence still evident in the plan and section of the main building. The foundry was designed to the highest contemporary standards. It included the latest continuous molding sand conditioning and distributing system, a casting cleaning system and a modern core room for processing the core sand to assemble the molds for motors (Figures 6-7). Adjacent to the north elevation of the foundry was a rail siding from the main Wabash Railroad line equipped with a crane way for efficient handling of the heavy raw materials incidental to operations in and out of the building (Figure 13, Figure 18 similar, Photo 35). The materials went from the railcars to the charging floor where they were loaded from above into the cupola melting furnaces that supplied the hot iron (Photos 33-34). The hot iron was then poured into mold carrying conveyors and sent on to meet the molds mentioned earlier for casting and finally cooling. After emerging from the conveyor belt tunnel (Photo 32), the castings were sand blasted and hand ground in the cleaning area (Photo 30).

### Foundry Complex Evolutions (1937- 1956)

In the northwest corner of the original foundry building, a two-story structure of simple masonry design for storing flasks and other equipment was added during the latter part of 1930 (Figure 6).<sup>37</sup> In 1937, a new warehouse and distribution building was erected in the foundry complex at the corner of Forest Park Ave, and Spring St. This was a new and completely independent structure from the main foundry building. The 90,000 square foot masonry and reinforced concrete building was juxtaposed to the main foundry building opposite the railroad spur (Figure 6).<sup>38</sup> Also at the new building's rear were several vehicular loading docks. 50,000 square feet of the building on the main level was regularly leased to long-term tenants for warehouse use (Photo 40), initially local grocer Tom Boy Stores, Inc. The remainder of the building was utilized by Century Electric as warehouse space (Photo 41).<sup>39</sup>

<sup>35</sup> "Century Plants Reopened Under Injunction," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 21 April 1937, p 3.

<sup>36</sup> "Workers Idled by Strikes to be on Job Tomorrow," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 8 December 1946, p 9.

<sup>37</sup> Hamilton, J.L. *History of Century Electric Co. 1900-1943 and Roth Bros. & Co. 1894-1932*. St. Louis: Century Electric Company, 1943: 40.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> "Contracts Awardsed for Large Warehouse – Century Electric to Erect Fireproof Structure at Forest Park and Spring." *St. Louis Post Dispatch*. 8 August, 1937. Pg. 1C.

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A building addition of about 16,000 square feet in the southwest corner of the main foundry in 1939 provided storage for brass and copper (Photo 38). In the 1940s, several alterations infilled jogs in the building, adding storage space to the foundry (Figures 6).

In 1940, President and Chairman Edwin S. Pillsbury was given the "Pioneer Award" for his success developing the single-phase motor. The award was given by the National Association of Manufacturers for outstanding achievement in securing patents and developing services and equipment of great value to the American Public.<sup>40</sup> In 1942, the company reached \$10,000,000 in yearly sales.<sup>41</sup> That same year, Century finally began to utilize the Standard Adding Machine building at 3701 Forest Park Blvd. (NR listed 10/04/2005), which they had owned since 1920, for the manufacturing of hermetic motors (Figure 6). In 1943, Century sold the foundry to William Jewell College, from whom they immediately signed a long-term lease to exist and develop on the property. The deal was made to improve their cash to debt ratio, and operations continued unchanged as a result.<sup>42</sup>

The other "big three" St. Louis electrical manufacturing companies had continued success around this time as well, and therefore all faced the need for expansion like Century Electric. Emerson Electric continued their fan business and expanded to hermetic manufacturing including refrigeration and air conditioning equipment. They employed about 1500 workers by 1940 when they left the St. Louis City limits for the suburb of Ferguson to erect an immense plant and headquarters on 162 acres (Figure 16b).<sup>43</sup> Wagner Electric continued to expand their fan business, electrical motors and automotive products growing from 1000 employees in 1917 to approximately 6000 by their peak in the early 1950s. They had been located with room to grow since 1906 in the St. Louis suburb of Wellston. Originally 13.5 acres (Figure 16a), the complex had grown to 23 acres with 800,000 square feet of manufacturing space by 1950.<sup>44</sup>

While their two main local competitors expanded in single locations, Century spread the impact on the local economy by continuing to expand at both the downtown and foundry complex sites. In 1947, a new modern corporate office and plant building was erected adjacent to the downtown complex at 1831 Chestnut, in prominent view to those arriving at Union Station (Figure 15a). It was designed by Louis Baylor Pendleton, architect of the original foundry building, and William B. Ittner Architects. The building was subjected to an extreme renovation in the late 1980s;

<sup>40</sup> "Electrical Manufacturing Known Around the World; Emerson Gave His Name To Fans; Century Claims Firsts, Moloney Makes Transformers," Special Section, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. 25 December 1949, 12-14G.

<sup>41</sup> A 'Century' Plus of Electrical Progress: *The History of the Electrical Industry in Metropolitan Saint Louis*. Saint Louis: The Saint Louis Electrical Board, 1984:21.

<sup>42</sup> "Century Electric Foundry Transsquare footer To College Called Tax-Saving Deal." *St. Louis Post Dispatch*. 13 October, 1949.

<sup>43</sup> A 'Century' Plus of Electrical Progress: *The History of the Electrical Industry in Metropolitan Saint Louis*. Saint Louis: The Saint Louis Electrical Board, 1984:15.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid: 12-13.

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in which the terra cotta panels, horizontal bands of windows with shading devices, as well as the entry and vertical circulation mass in the center were all lost (Figure 15b). Also in 1947, ambitious plans were publicized for an addition to the main foundry building which would double the production capacity of the plant. Attached directly on the east side of the main foundry building (Figure 17), the structure stretched the foundry an additional 245 feet east bringing the total frontage on Market St. to 580 linear feet. A loading dock for large trucks was located in southeast corner and the building extended 236 feet north to the rail siding. The new facilities featured additional foundry space (Photo 27) and a mezzanine with a machine shop and general offices. Two 75' high towers were added at the east and west ends of the (original) main foundry space for sand filtering – each tower could hold 300 tons (Figures 5-6). Upon completion, the updated foundry provided employment for 1000 workers in two shifts and had the capacity to melt and process by cupola furnaces (Photo 33) and electric furnace 500 tons of metal in a 16-hour day.<sup>45</sup>

By 1949, Century had produced a total of more than 8,000,000 alternating and direct current motors and generators.<sup>46</sup> They continued producing their wide scale of products from the fractional horsepower type found in small appliance motors and machinery to behemoths up to 500 horsepower installed in heavy industrial field applications. Their motors were in operation all over the world on conveyors, hydraulic power units, in chemical plants, rock processing, food processing and all divisions of metal working. As an example, a combination of two Century motors totaling 550 horsepower installed in the Midwest Limestone Company in Gilman City, Iowa was in constant production crushing 70 tons of limestone per hour.<sup>47</sup> All these varied products shared a common origin; their elements were transformed from raw iron or alloy to specialized components at Century foundry. Century was proud to produce all material components for their products, with the exception of wire, and touted the fact often in the media.<sup>48</sup>

In 1953, Century Electric reached \$25,000,000 in annual sales.<sup>49</sup> The same year, the final expansion at the foundry complex occurred. An unassuming single story building was constructed on the northwest corner of the complex along Forest Park Blvd. to be used for hermetic motor manufacturing, adding capacity to the function of the Standard Adding Machine Building (Figures 5-6, Photos 26, 42).<sup>50</sup> Hermetic motors were used to power hermetically sealed refrigerating machines and were also produced locally by Emerson Electric. The open space in the northwest corner of the foundry complex was a natural location to expand manufacturing, allowing an

<sup>45</sup> "New Addition to Foundry Being Built," Building Section, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 11 May 1947, p 1C.

<sup>46</sup> A 'Century' Plus of Electrical Progress: *The History of the Electrical Industry in Metropolitan Saint Louis*, 1984: 12-13, 12-14G.

<sup>47</sup> "Century Electric Serves Customers all over the World," *St. Louis Globe Democrat*, 12-13 August 1967.

<sup>48</sup> "Electrical Manufacturing Known Around the World; Emerson Gave His Name To Fans; Century Claims Firsts, Moloney Makes Transformers," Special Section, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. 25 December 1949, 12-14G.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Russell, R. J.. "Corporate History of Century Electric Company, St. Louis, Missouri". June 30, 1955: 3.

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efficient one-story facility which was also adjacent to the main foundry where the motor components were cast. A contributing parking lot was constructed to the east of the new manufacturing building (Figure 5). An existing building directly west of the warehouse and distribution building at Forest Park Blvd. and Spring was purchased from the W. N. Matthews and Brothers to be used in conjunction with the new building, however it was demolished in 1969 and used by later occupants for additional parking.<sup>51</sup> By the early 1950s, Century Electric was operating three manufacturing divisions: motors and generators, hermetic motors and foundry.

The setting along Market St. was altered greatly in 1956, when preparations began for the impending widening of Market St. into an expressway that would fall within feet of the main foundry structure. The southern portion of the 1939 warehouse was removed and replaced with an annex on its east edge. The original 2500 square foot projection coming off the 1929 blade was completely removed. In the mid-1970s, a second level upper deck for westbound traffic was added through midtown along path of the expressway, transforming it into the interstate as it exists today. The double-decker structure made it possible for the foundry to continue operations, whereas a traditional side by side configuration would have required demolition of the foundry.

### **Century Electric Marks the End of an Era (Late 1950s - Early 1970s)**

From its humble beginnings, Century Electric Company had grown into a well-respected and highly successful international St. Louis company. Its total area of floor space used for manufacturing had ballooned to 1,140,000 square feet, all in the City of St. Louis, over 350,000 of which was located in the foundry complex.<sup>52</sup> There were branch offices and distributors across the country and sales agencies throughout the world.<sup>53</sup> Overseeing this period of great expansion, Edwin S. Pillsbury and R. J. Russell had been at the forefront of the company all the way, an impressive span of leadership that defined the best of Century Electric Company. This era of leadership came to a close with Mr. Russell's retirement in 1951. It wasn't long after that Edwin Stanton Pillsbury passed away on September 29, 1955, soon followed by Mr. Russell in 1956. After his death, Pillsbury was succeeded as Chairman of the Board of Directors by his son, Fred H. Pillsbury, who had been with the company since 1932 and was serving as president at the time. Manufacturing remained at the Chestnut St. location until 1958. Although vacated spaces in the building began leasing to other companies at that time, some Century Electric offices remained in the building until the mid-1980s.

During the 1950s, competitors opened modern manufacturing facilities in southern states, and it became obvious that Century Electric could not remain competitive if it continued manufacturing in St. Louis with multiple storied buildings and the associated costs.<sup>54</sup> In 1959,

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> "Century Electric Serves Customers all over the World," *St. Louis Globe Democrat*, 12-13 August 1967.

<sup>54</sup> A 'Century' Plus of Electrical Progress: *The History of the Electrical Industry in Metropolitan Saint Louis*. Saint Louis: The Saint Louis Electrical Board, 1984:21.

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Century built a fractional horsepower motor plant in McMinnville, Tennessee, commencing the shift in manufacturing to single story buildings in the southern United States. This was followed in 1964 by the erection of an integral horsepower motor manufacturing plant in Lexington, Tennessee. By 1969, all manufacturing had been moved out of St. Louis with the exception of casting operations at the Century Electric foundry complex.<sup>55</sup> 1969 was also the first year the company reached \$100,000,000 in annual sales, which still had some economic impact on St. Louis due only to continued work at the foundry.<sup>56</sup> Wagner Electric followed a path of consolidation, mergers and factory relocations which took them for the most part out of the St. Louis area. In the mid-1960s, Wagner merged with a New Jersey manufacturer before being acquired by an automotive company. After multiple product divisions were sold off, Wagner Corporation was acquired and absorbed into McGraw-Edison in 1979.<sup>57</sup> The Wagner complex in Wellston has been vacant and deteriorating since 1981, but the Wagner brand name continues to be used for brake and lighting products. Although they moved electric motor production out of St. Louis in the 1960s, Emerson is the lone survivor of the "big three" local electric manufacturers still in operation under the original company. They continue to maintain their Ferguson headquarters in St. Louis County and are still a notable contributor to the local economy.<sup>58</sup>

### **The Foundry Complex after Century Electric (1972-Present)**

In December, 1971 the Century Electric stockholders agreed to merge with Gould, Inc., and the union was completed in June, 1972, concluding the period of significance. Operations did continue at the foundry while the company operated as a division of Gould. In May 1983, Gould sold the division to a group of private investors, and it once again became Century Electric, Inc.<sup>59</sup> Further acquisitions of the company have diminished Century Electric to a brand name that can still be found on commercial and industrial motors, presently produced by the Regal-Beloit Corporation.

As for the foundry, the building suffered from deferred maintenance during the 1970s and deteriorated dramatically during that time. Gould Inc. made limited investments in the property, installing an air pollution dust collector in 1976 and showers and restrooms in 1977. Around 1979, McGraw-Edison took over the property for utilization as a foundry and manufacturing facility. They made dramatic investments to rehabilitate the main foundry building for their operations.<sup>60</sup> This work included replacing the vertical window portions of the butterfly monitor roof on the south side with sheet metal in lieu of repairing the broken, warped and deteriorated steel frames (Figure

<sup>55</sup> Ibid:21.

<sup>56</sup> "Electrical Manufacturing Known Around the World; Emerson Gave His Name To Fans; Century Claims Firsts, Moloney Makes Transformers," Special Section, St. Louis Post-Dispatch. 25 December 1949, 12-14G.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid:13.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid:19.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid:21.

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19). Many of the monitors on the south side of the main foundry roof were similarly stabilized and covered or removed. Broken windows on the interior of the main foundry building were repaired or replaced and various metal siding was added to the main foundry building. The west sand tower erected in 1947 was removed to make room for large furnaces, while the east sand tower was reconstructed. Much debris and abandoned machinery was removed from each building. The foundry began producing automotive brake drums and rotors.<sup>61</sup>

In 1985, Cooper Automotive merged with McGraw-Edison but work in the foundry continued much the same. At this time, 300-350 employees worked in the foundry complex. New pits and subsurface control rooms were added from the 1980s to the early 2000s in the west end of the main foundry space to accommodate new machinery. Equipment such as furnaces was replaced with newer technology. The monitor roof in the western long projection was removed and the roof patched in the mid-1980s due to leaking.<sup>62</sup> Periphery spaces on the west end of the building were used as storage spaces and a small locker room with showers and restrooms was added in the northwest corner. Federal-Mogul Corporation purchased Cooper Automotive and took over the foundry complex in August 1998.<sup>63</sup> Again, operations continued much the same. The foundry was producing Wagner (yes, that Wagner) brand brake drums as well as Ford and Motorcraft brand rotors. The crane way north of the main foundry building was removed in 2003. Federal-Mogul utilized the other buildings in the Century complex for their operations as well. The hermetic motor building was used for machining products. The warehouse and distribution building housed offices for the entire complex including the product engineering group on the main level and a machine shop for tooling on the lower level. The number of employees in the foundry complex fluctuated over the years along with orders, but the machine shops were operating 24 hours a day and the foundry 20 hours a day when business was good. After much of the work was moved overseas, the foundry shut down for good in June 2007.<sup>64</sup> The complex has been vacant since.

### Conclusion

The Century Electric foundry complex located between 3711-3815 Market St. and Forest Park Blvd. in St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri, is locally significant in the area of INDUSTRY (Criterion A) for listing to the National Register of Historic Places with a period of significance 1929-1972. The foundry was one of the largest job-shop operations in the Midwest, specializing in custom made parts produced to the constantly evolving specifications of Century Electric's innovative products while itself providing employment for hundreds at a time including highly skilled workers.

<sup>60</sup> "Interview with Larry Nalley: Electrical Engineer at Foundry 1985-2007." Interview by Christina Clagett. April 29, 2016.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.

<sup>63</sup> Rodengen, Jeffrey L. *The Legend of Federal-Mogul*. Fort Lauderdale: Write Stuff Enterprises, 1998.

<sup>64</sup> "US Industry: Going once, going twice..." Metro section. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. 9 December 2007, D1.

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Despite once having a large plant and office complex in downtown St. Louis, there are only two extant properties where Century Electric motors were manufactured or assembled outside the foundry complex. They are the Standard Adding Machine Building (NR Listed 4 October 2005) which produced hermetic motors as well as the former plant and office building at 1831 Chestnut. The Chestnut building has been severely altered and is difficult to recognize as the same building (Figure 15b). All other buildings that once comprised the downtown complex have been demolished. The Standard Adding Machine building, which sits across Forest Park Ave. from the foundry complex, is on the National Register of Historic Places and has been renovated meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation within the last decade.

The foundry complex has been vacant since 2007, and has endured various abuses as well as natural deterioration. In spite of these developments the significant historical features are still intact. Alterations over time have not drastically changed the important elements of the original building and site. The industrial modern form of the main foundry is still indicative of its historic function and is highly informative of the operations there during the period of significance. As the area around the building rapidly populates with new and sometimes monotonous construction, the legacy of Century Foundry is translated through its compelling industrial architecture.

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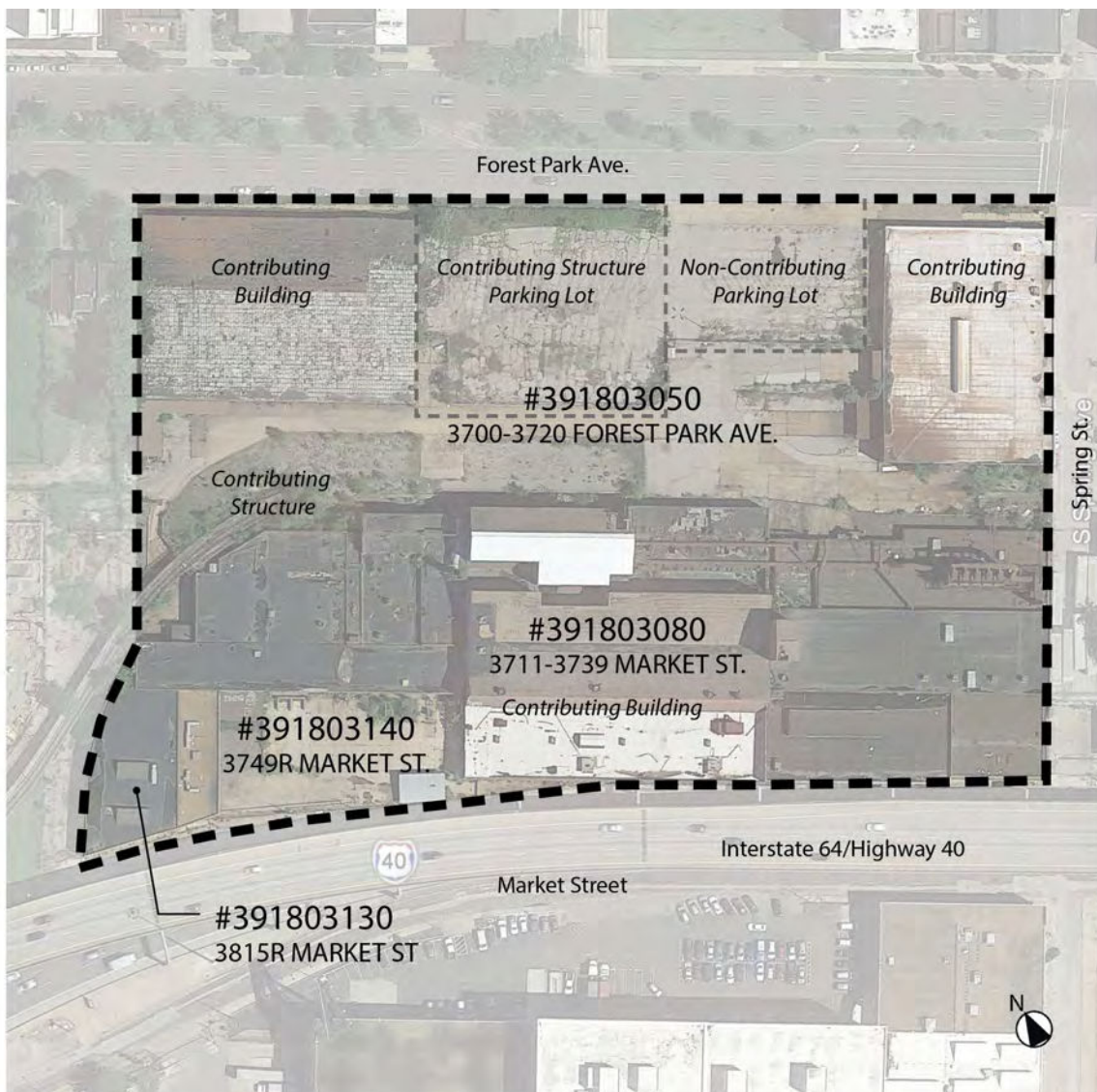
**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is located at 3711-3739, 3749R and 3815R, Market St. 3711-3739, 3749R and 3815R, Market St. St. Louis, Missouri, 63110 as well as 3700-3720 Forest Park Ave., St. Louis, Missouri, 63108. The buildings stand on city block 3918. The parcels are legally identified by the Assessor's Office as parcels 391803080, 391803140, 391803130, 391803050. The current legal boundary of the nominated property is indicated by a heavy dash on Figures 1, 22, 23.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated parcel includes the entire historic site of the Century Electric Foundry complex.

**Figure 1:** Century Electric Foundry complex: Boundary of Nominated Property. Google Map Edited by Lawrence Group 2016. Not to Scale.



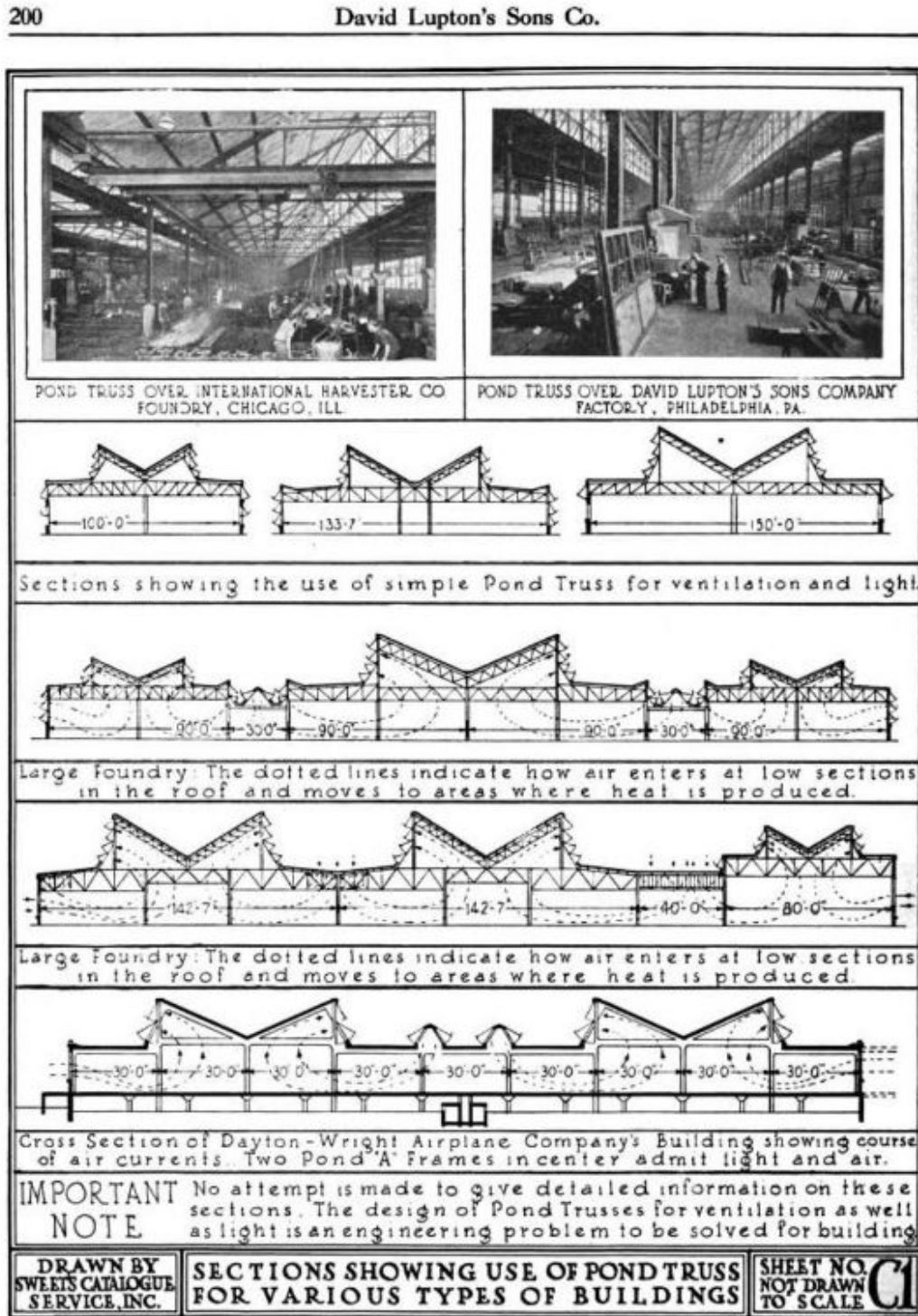


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**Figure 3:** Pond Truss. Source: Sweets Engineering Catalog - Eighth Annual Edition. Sweets Catalog Service, Inc. New York, New York, 1922. Pg. 200.



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**Figure 4:** Additional Local Pond Truss Examples:

a. GE Lamp Warehouse 4142 Union Blvd., St. Louis. Constructed 1919. Photo by Ruth Keenoy.



b. Electric Storage Battery Co. 1058 Vandeventer Ave., St. Louis. Constructed 1929. Photo by Christina Clagett.



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**Figure 5:** Foundry Site Development Snapshots Diagram 1930-1956. Source: Lawrence Group 2016. Not to Scale.



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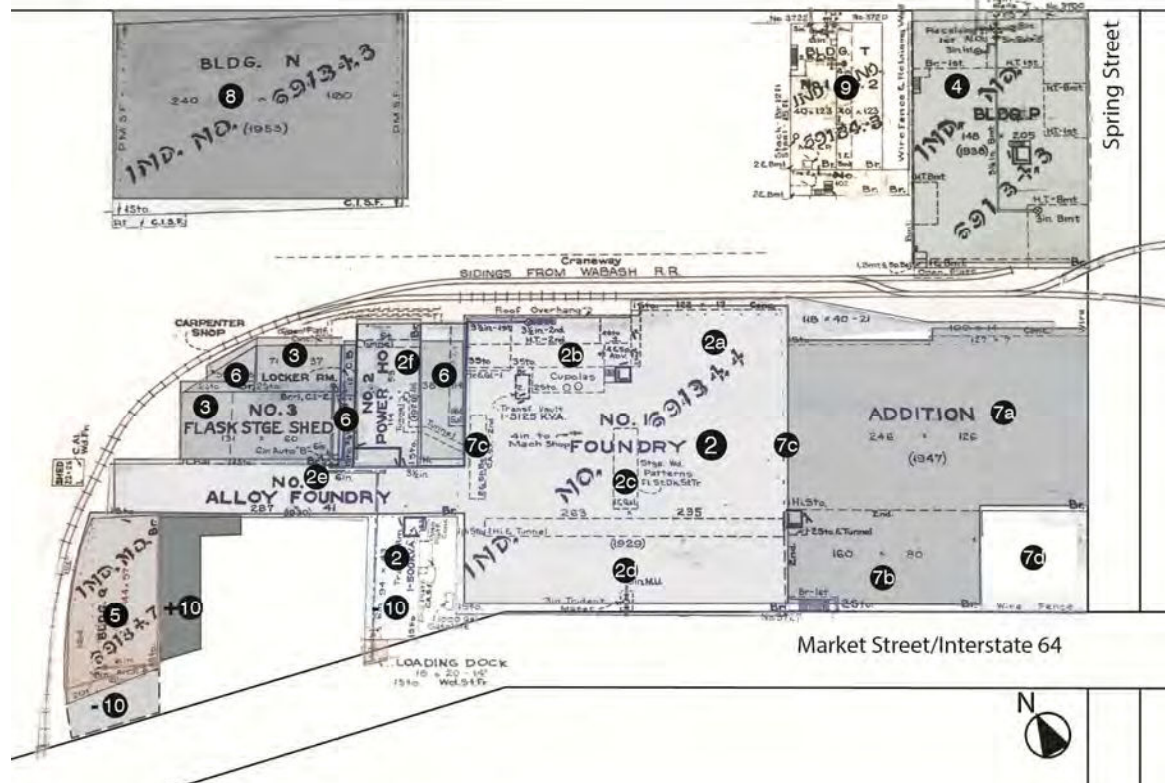
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**Figure 6:** Foundry Site Development and Utilization Diagram 1920-1956. Source: Lawrence Group 2016. Not to Scale.

- 1 Standard Adding Machine Building: purchased 1920, altered and leased out 1924, used by Century 1942
- 2 Main Foundry Building c. 1929: gray iron and ferrous alloy casting for Century Electric motors
  - 2a level 2: cooling tower level 1: core room for sand processing and mold assembly
  - 2b level 2: charging floor for raw material level 1: main cupolas for melting hot iron
  - 2c foundry floor: mold carrying conveyors, overhead crane, molding machines
  - 2d cleaning area
  - 2e alloy foundry
  - 2f powerhouse
- 3 Addition c. 1930: storage for flasks and equipment
- 4 Warehouse and Distribution Building c. 1937
- 5 Addition c. 1939: storage for copper and brass
- 6 1940s: miscellaneous infill
- 7 Main Foundry Addition c. 1947
  - 7a foundry floor
  - 7b mezzanine above: offices and machine shop
  - 7c sand filtering tower
  - 7d loading dock
- 8 Hermetic Motor Building c. 1953
- 9 W. N. Matthews Building: purchased 1953, demolished 1969
- 10 1956: adjustments for expressway construction



Forest Park Boulevard



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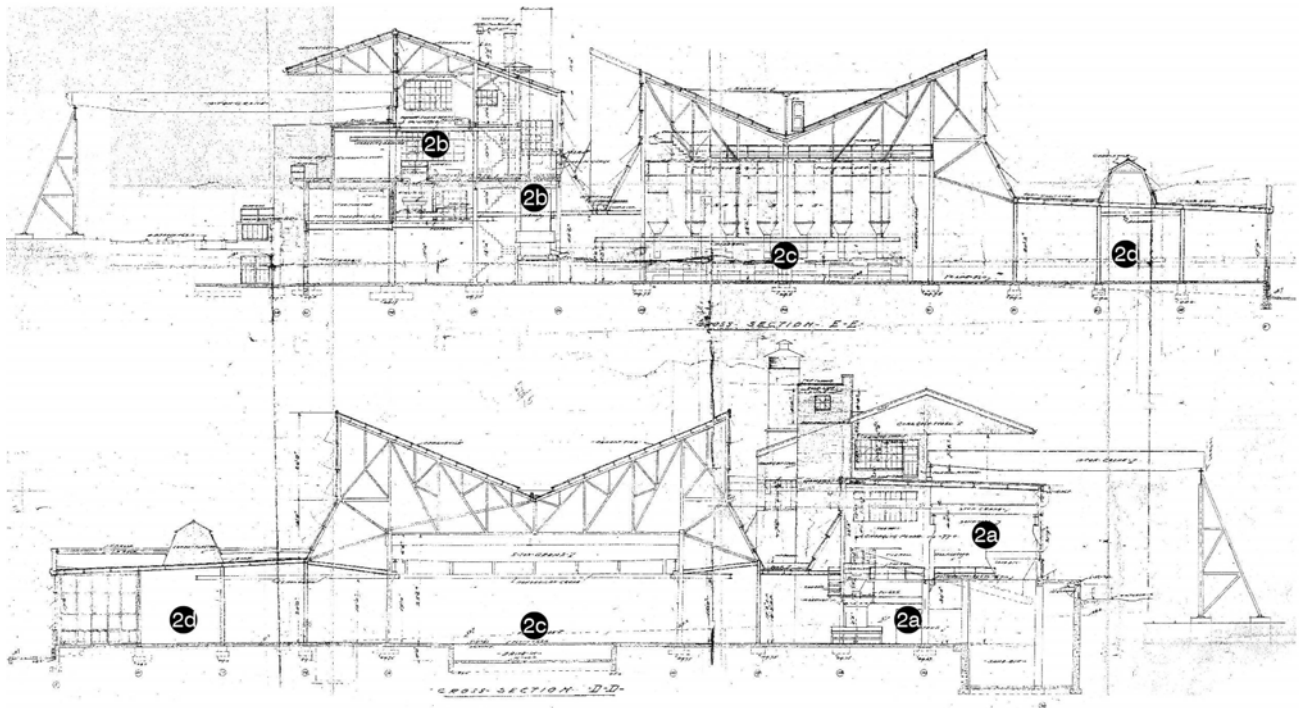
County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 7:** Building Section Drawings through original foundry structure by Rathmann, Koelle and Carroll, 1947.  
Courtesy of Larry Nalley. Diagram by Lawrence Group, 2016.

- 2 Main Foundry Building c. 1929: gray iron and ferrous alloy casting for Century Electric motors
  - 2a level 2: cooling tower level 1: core room for sand processing and mold assembly
  - 2b level 2: charging floor for raw material level 1: main cupolas for melting hot iron
  - 2c foundry floor: mold carrying conveyors, overhead crane, molding machines
  - 2d cleaning area



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**Figure 8:** Pillsbury, Edwin S. Drawings from Electric Motor Patent No. 770, 923. 27 September 1904.

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No. 770,923.

PATENTED SEPT. 27, 1904.

E. S. PILLSBURY.  
ELECTRIC MOTOR.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 27, 1903.

NO MODEL.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

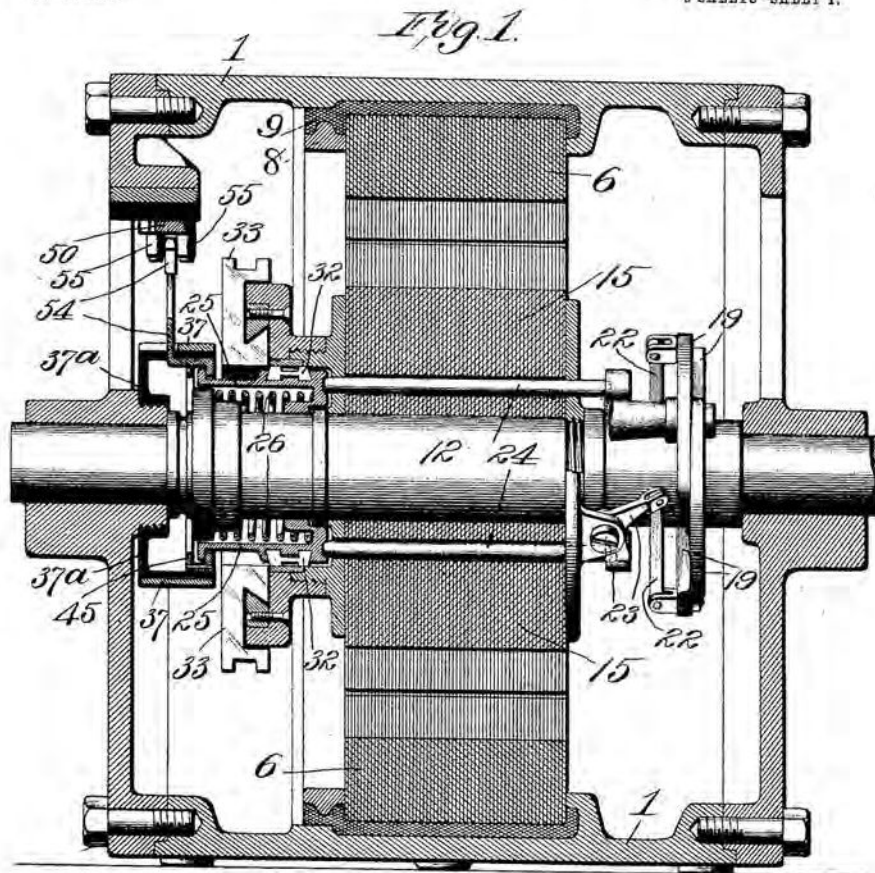
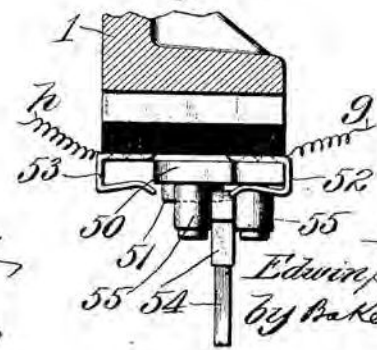


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:  
Wm. Scott  
G. P. Pinner

Inventor:  
Edwin S. Pillsbury,  
by Parkerwell Kennell  
attys.

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No. 770,923.

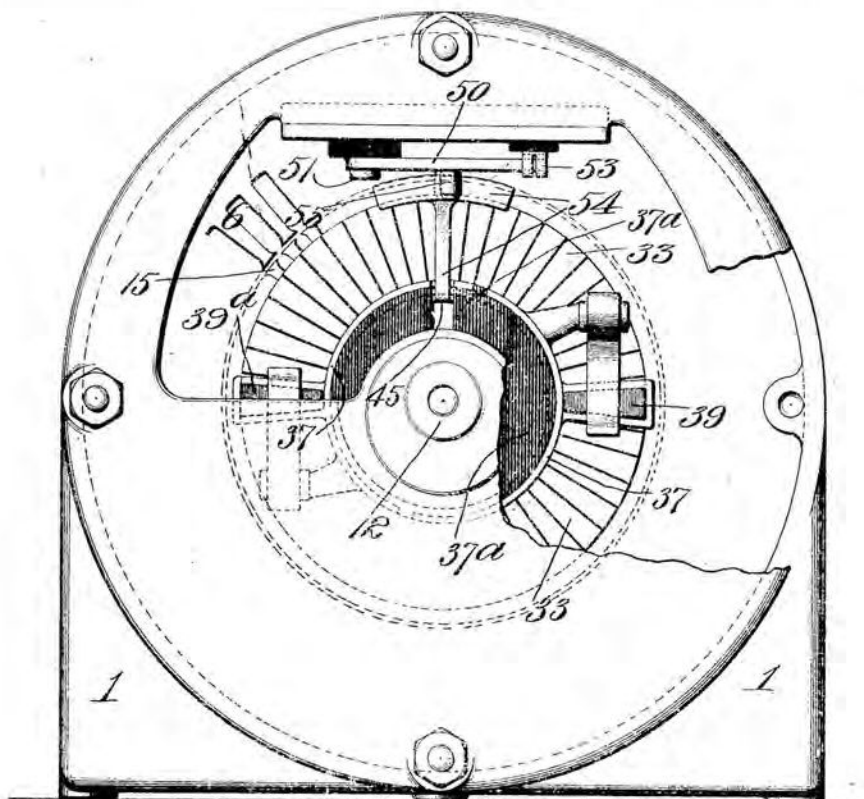
PATENTED SEPT. 27, 1904.

E. S. PILLSBURY.  
ELECTRIC MOTOR.  
APPLICATION FILED JULY 27, 1903.

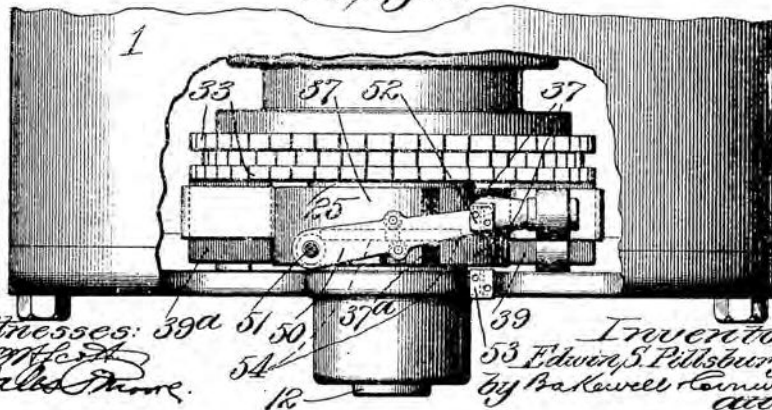
NO MODEL.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



Witnesses: 39a 51 50,  
Wm. H. St.  
Edw. H. Moore.

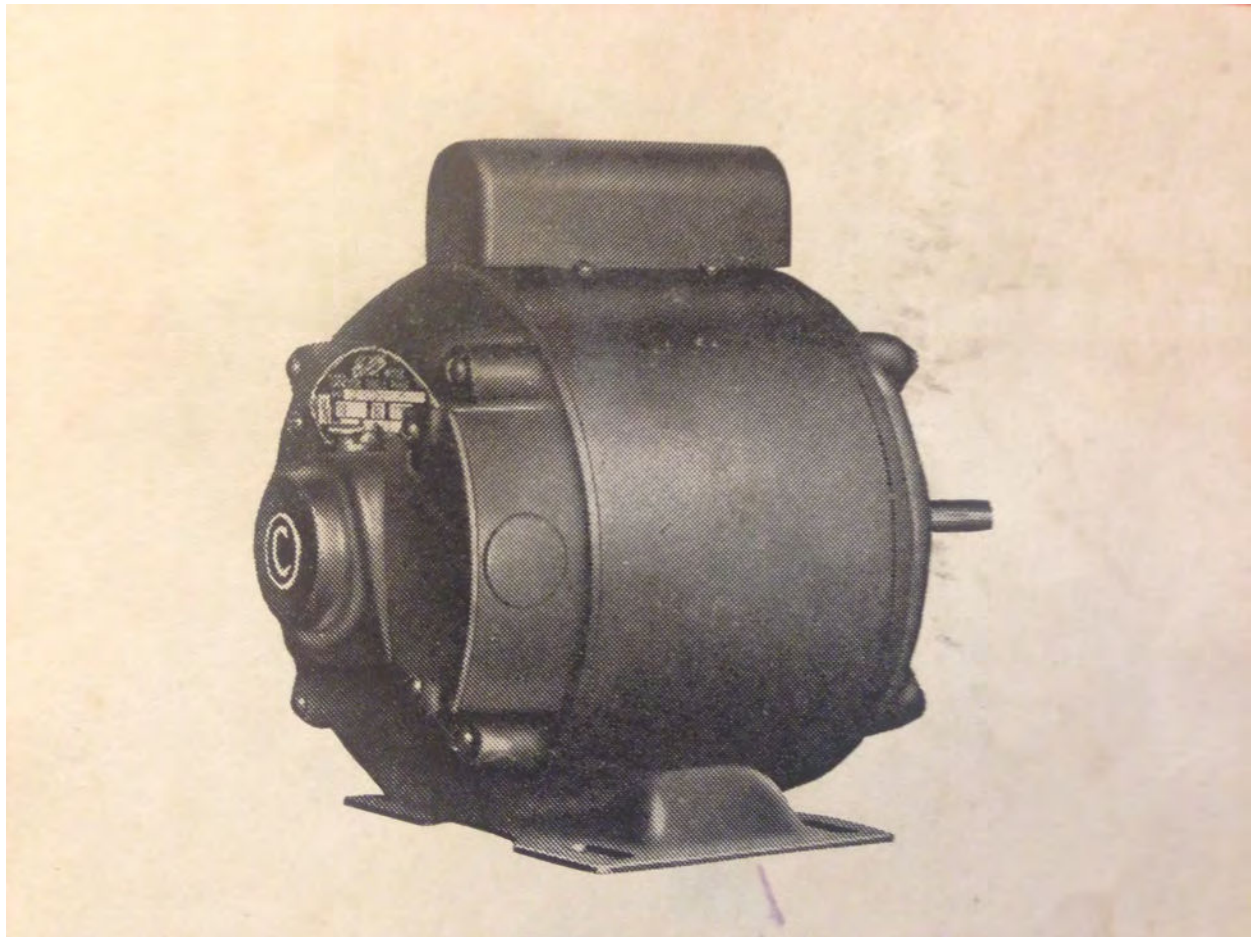
Inventor:  
53 Edwin S. Pillsbury,  
by Frankwell Carmichael  
attys.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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Century Electric Foundry
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County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 9:** Early example of Century Repulsion Start Electric Motor. Missouri Historical Society (Saint Louis, Missouri), Business and Industry Archives, Century Electric Company Clippings Folder.

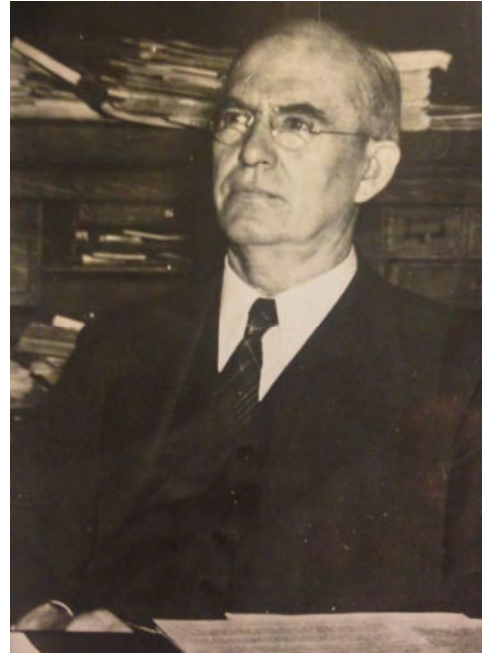


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**Figure 10:** Edwin S. Pillsbury (left) and R.J. Russell (right), approximately 1940. Missouri Historical Society (Saint Louis, Missouri), Business and Industry Archives, Century Electric Company Clippings Folder.



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**Figure 11:** Image of Century Electric Building at 19<sup>th</sup> and Pine in downtown St. Louis. "St. Louis – the Electrical Center." *Greater St. Louis Magazine*, March, 1921: 4.



*Main plant of the Century Electric Company, the largest manufacturer of single phase motors in St. Louis.*

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**Figure 12:** Aerial photo of Century Electric Foundry looking northwest from building across Market St., 1929. Missouri Historical Society (Saint Louis, Missouri), Business and Industry Archives, Century Electric Company Clippings Folder.



**Figure 13:** Exterior Photo of workers atop crane way at Century Electric Foundry, 1929. Missouri Historical Society (Saint Louis, Missouri), Business and Industry Archives, Century Electric Company Clippings Folder.

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Continuation Sheet

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Century Electric Foundry

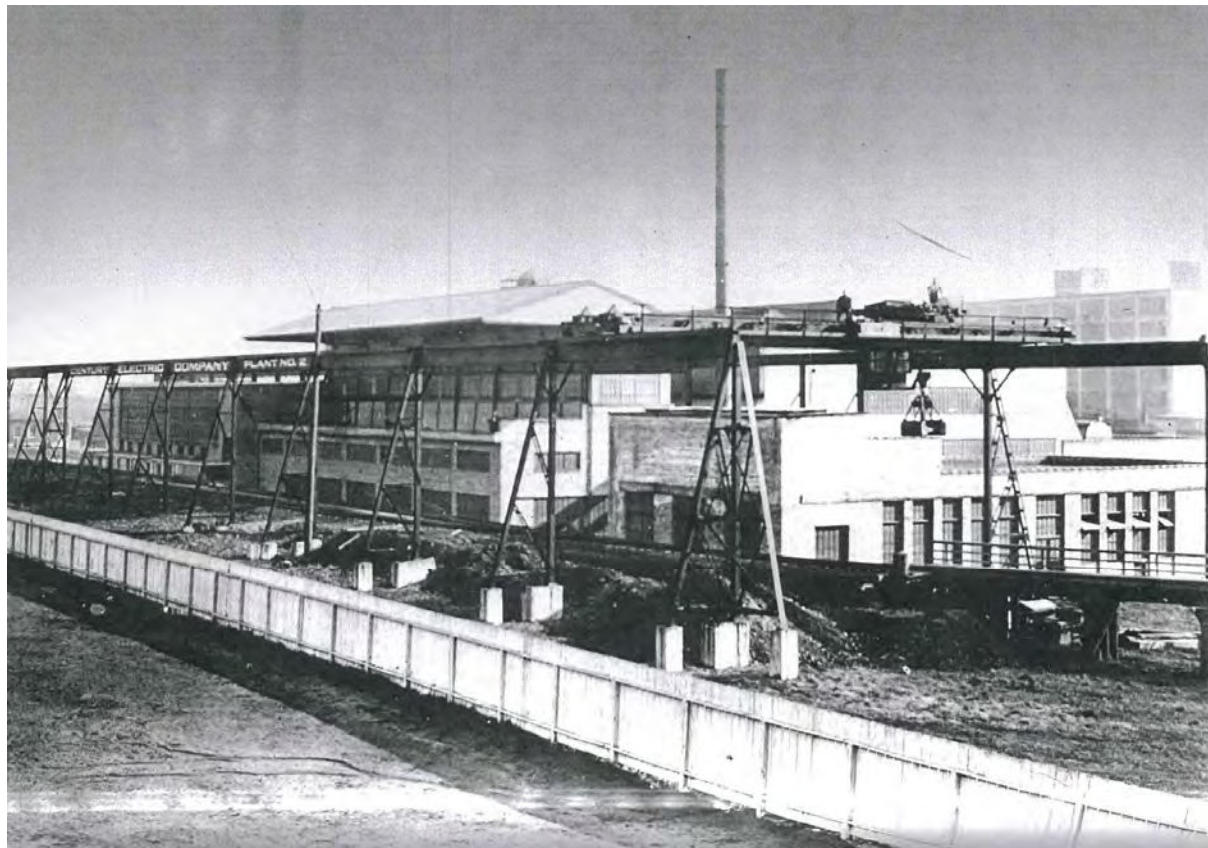
Name of Property

St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

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N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



**Figure 14:** Interior Photo of workers pouring iron in Century Electric Foundry, approximately 1932. Missouri Historical Society (Saint Louis, Missouri), Business and Industry Archives, Century Electric Company Clippings Folder.

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**Figure 15:** Century Electric Building at 1831 Chestnut in downtown St. Louis. Designed by Architect Louis Baylor Pendleton and William B. Ittner Architects. Looking northeast from Market Street.

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- a. Shelly, Will. *Saint Louis Views. An Artistic and Unusual Selection of Pictures Showing Some of Saint Louis' Outstanding Places of Interest*, 1947. (Other Century buildings visible in background.)



- b. 1831 Chestnut. 23 June, 2016. Photo by Christina Clagett.



Figure

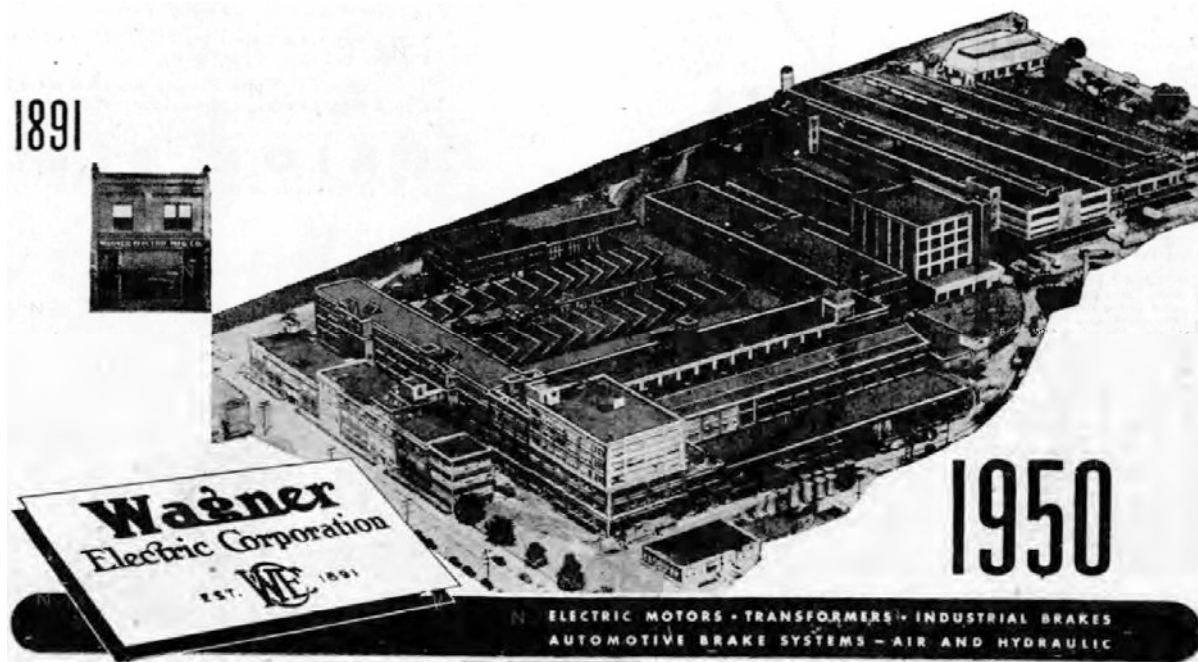
National Register of Historic Places  
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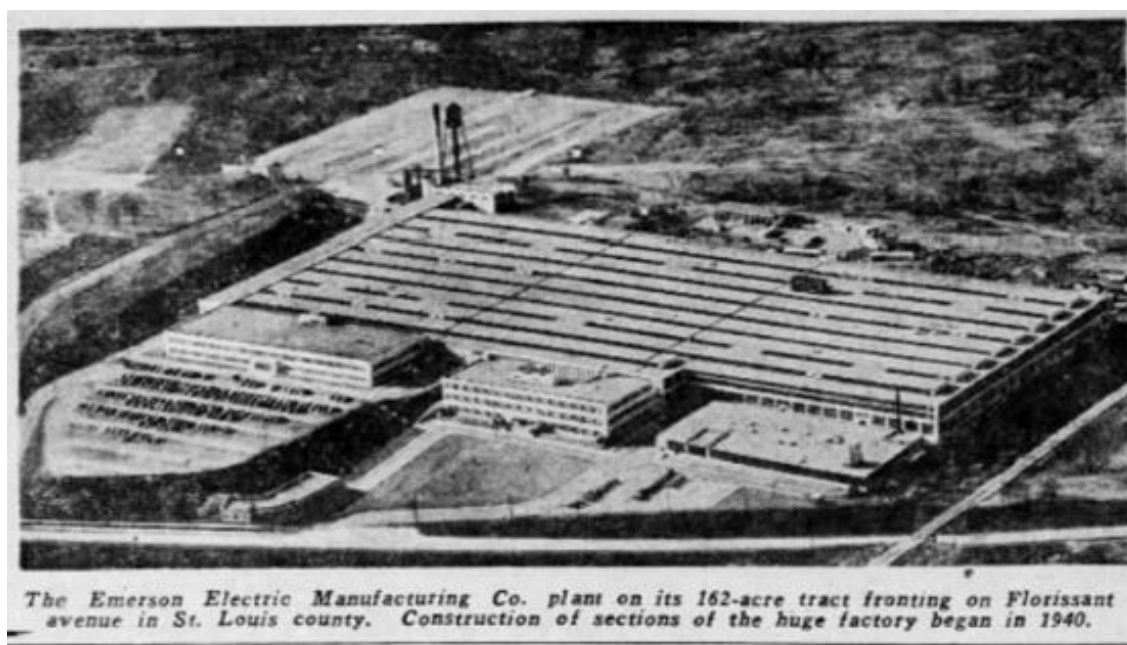
Century Electric Foundry
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N/A
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Comparable local electrical manufacturing company facilities. "Electrical Manufacturing Known Around the World; Emerson Gave His Name To Fans; Century Claims Firsts, Moloney Makes Transformers," Special Section, St. Louis Post-Dispatch. 25 December 1949, 12-14G.

- a. Wagner Electric Plant and Headquarters, Wellston, MO.



- b. Emerson Electric Plant and Headquarters, Ferguson, MO, c. 1940.



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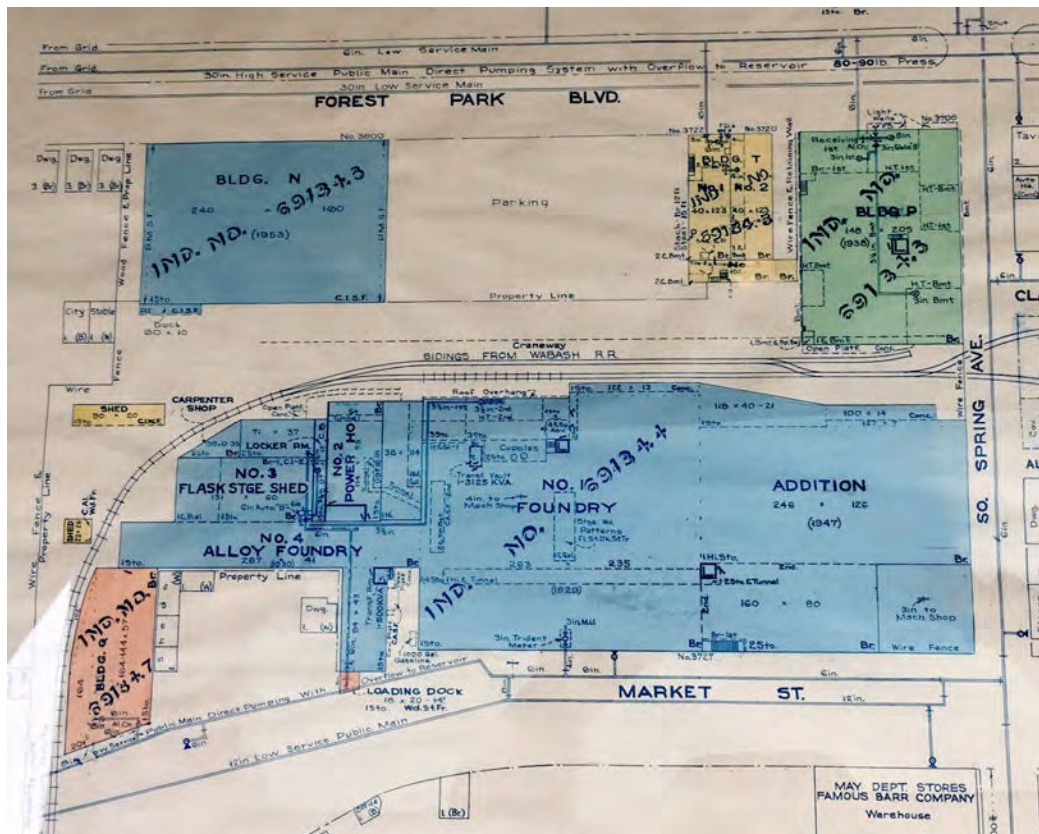
Century Electric Foundry
Name of Property
St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 17: 1947 addition documents:

- a. Construction announcement for foundry addition, looking northwest from across Market St.. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, May 11, 1947.



- b. Drawing from Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Company, 1953. Courtesy of Larry Nalley.



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Century Electric Foundry

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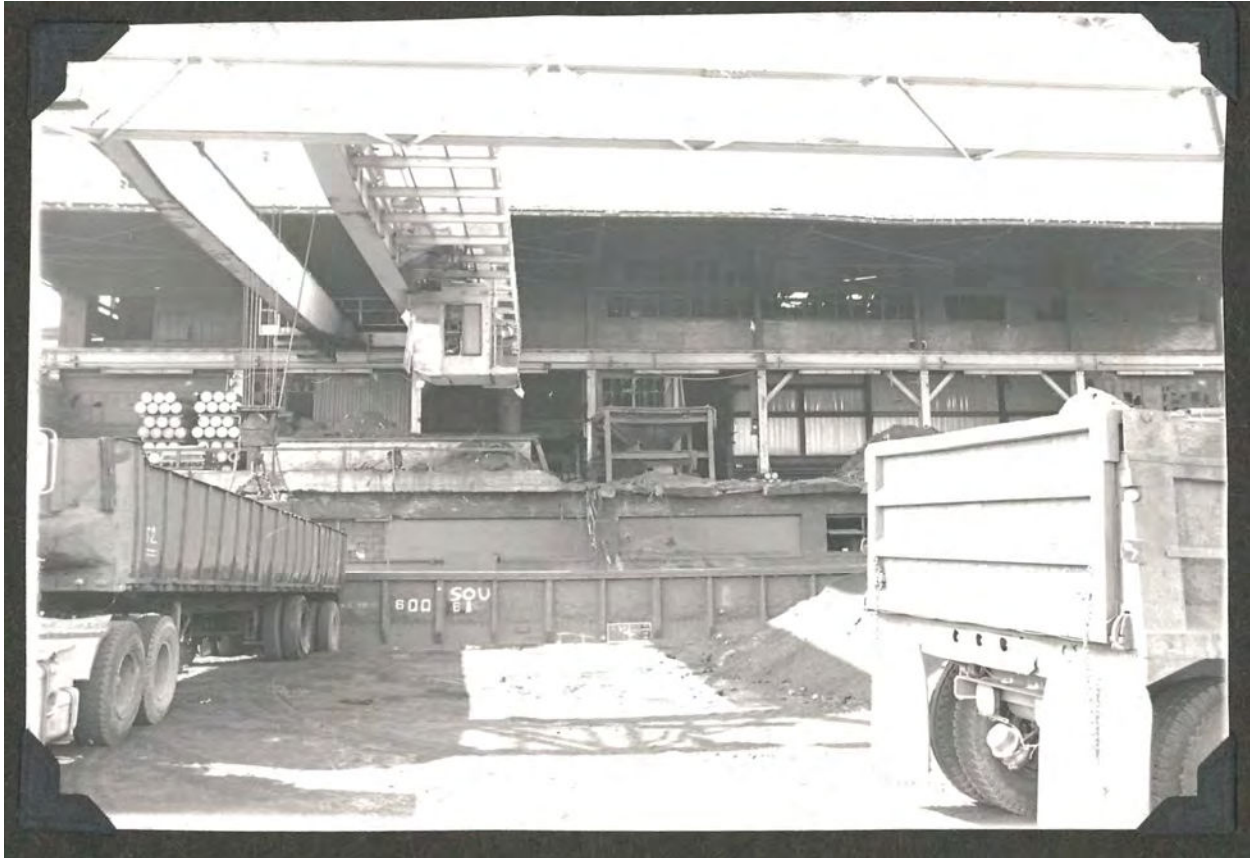
St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 18:** Image of crane way operating above rail car at shed roof, circa 1980. Courtesy of Larry Nalley.



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**Figure 19:** Image of sheet metal siding being applied to replace butterfly monitor window openings on south elevation, circa 1980. Courtesy of Larry Nalley.

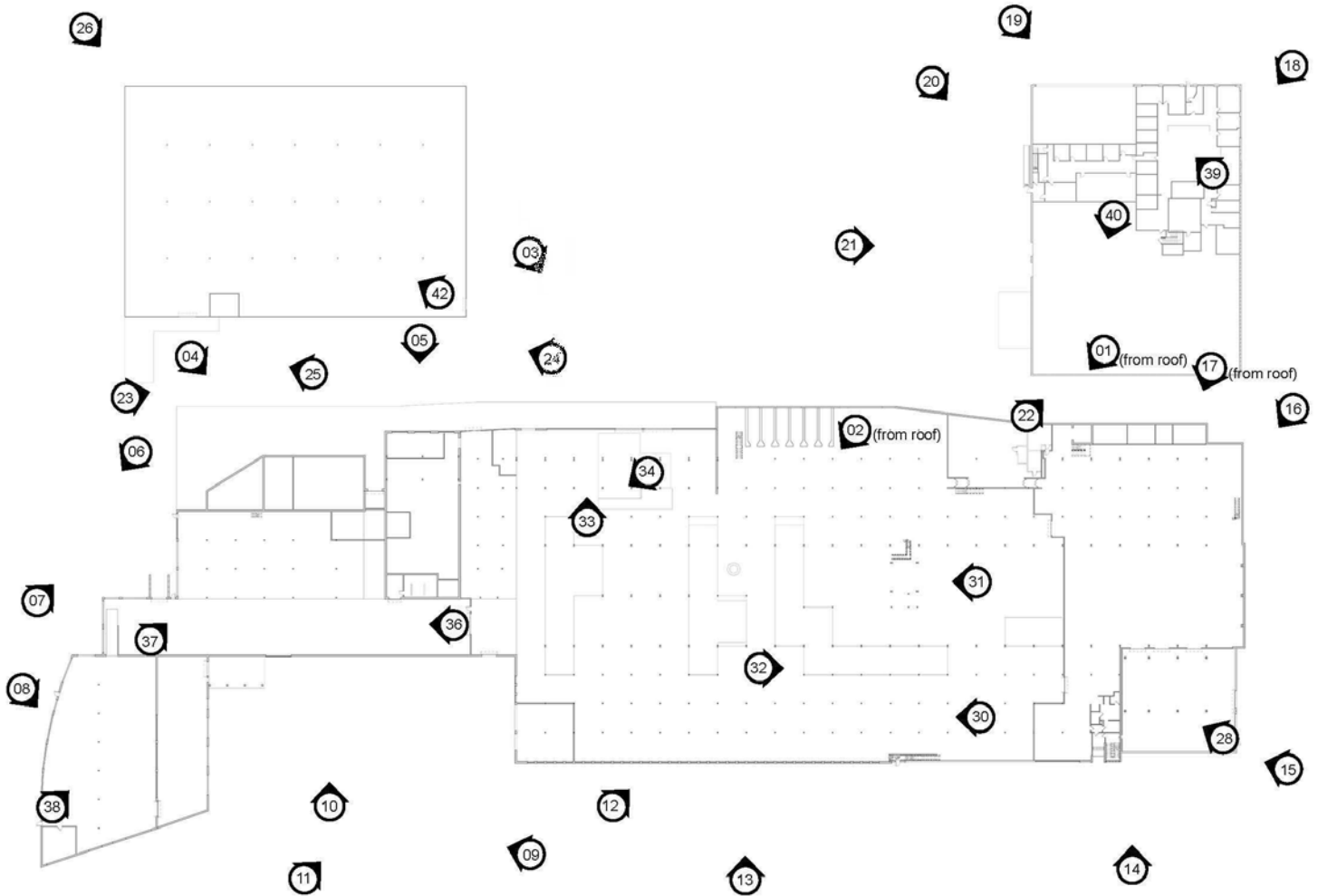


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Figure 20: Current main level plans and site plan with photo key. Source: Lawrence Group, 2016. Not to scale.

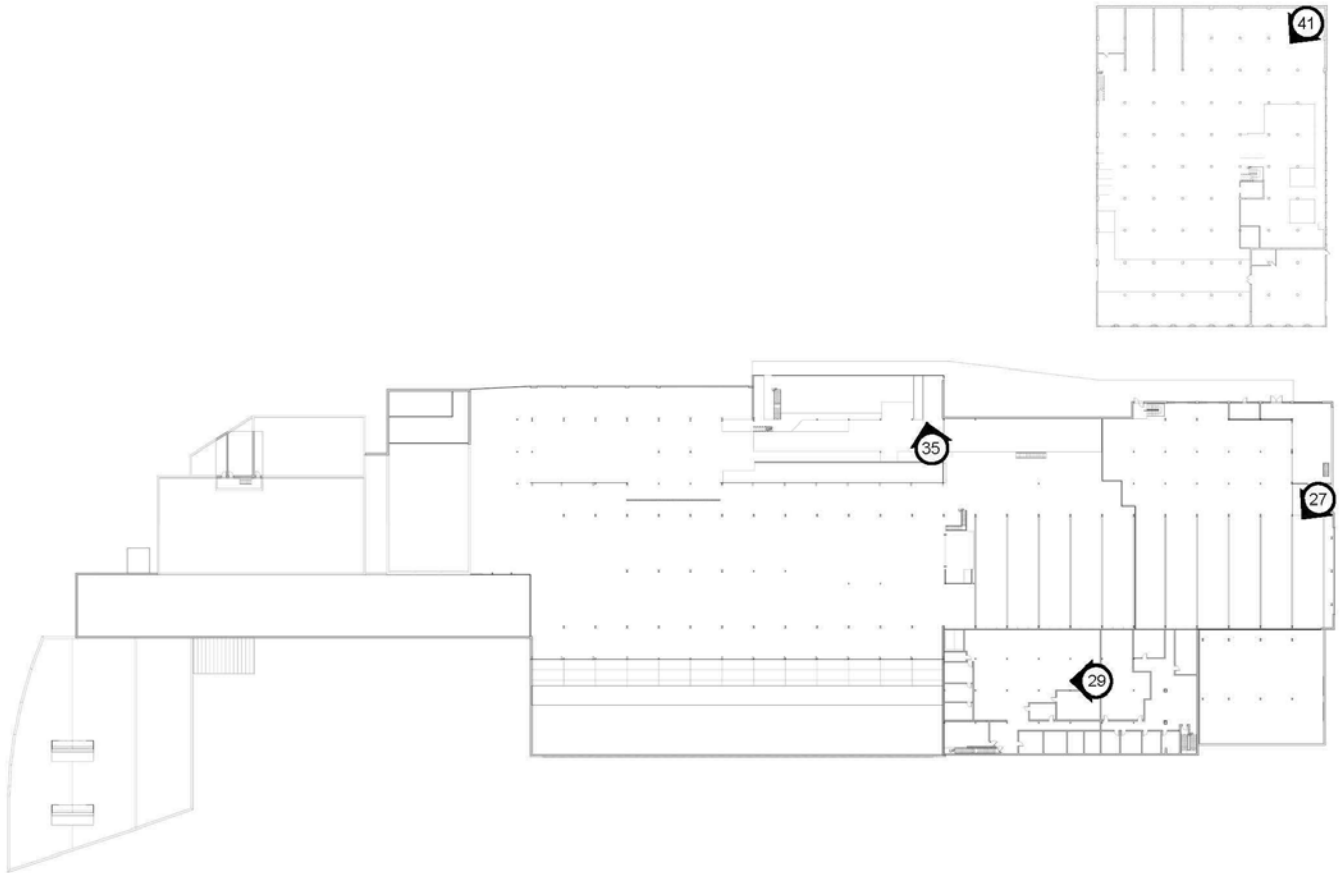


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Century Electric Foundry
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**Figure 21:** Current foundry mezzanine level and second level plan with photo key, currant warehouse building existing lower level plan with photo key. Source: Lawrence Group, 2016. Not to scale.



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**Figure 22:** Site Map, 3711-3739, 3749R and 3815R, Market St. St. Louis, Missouri, 63110 as well as 3700-3720 Forest Park Ave., St. Louis, Missouri, 63108. Source: Lawrence Group 2016.

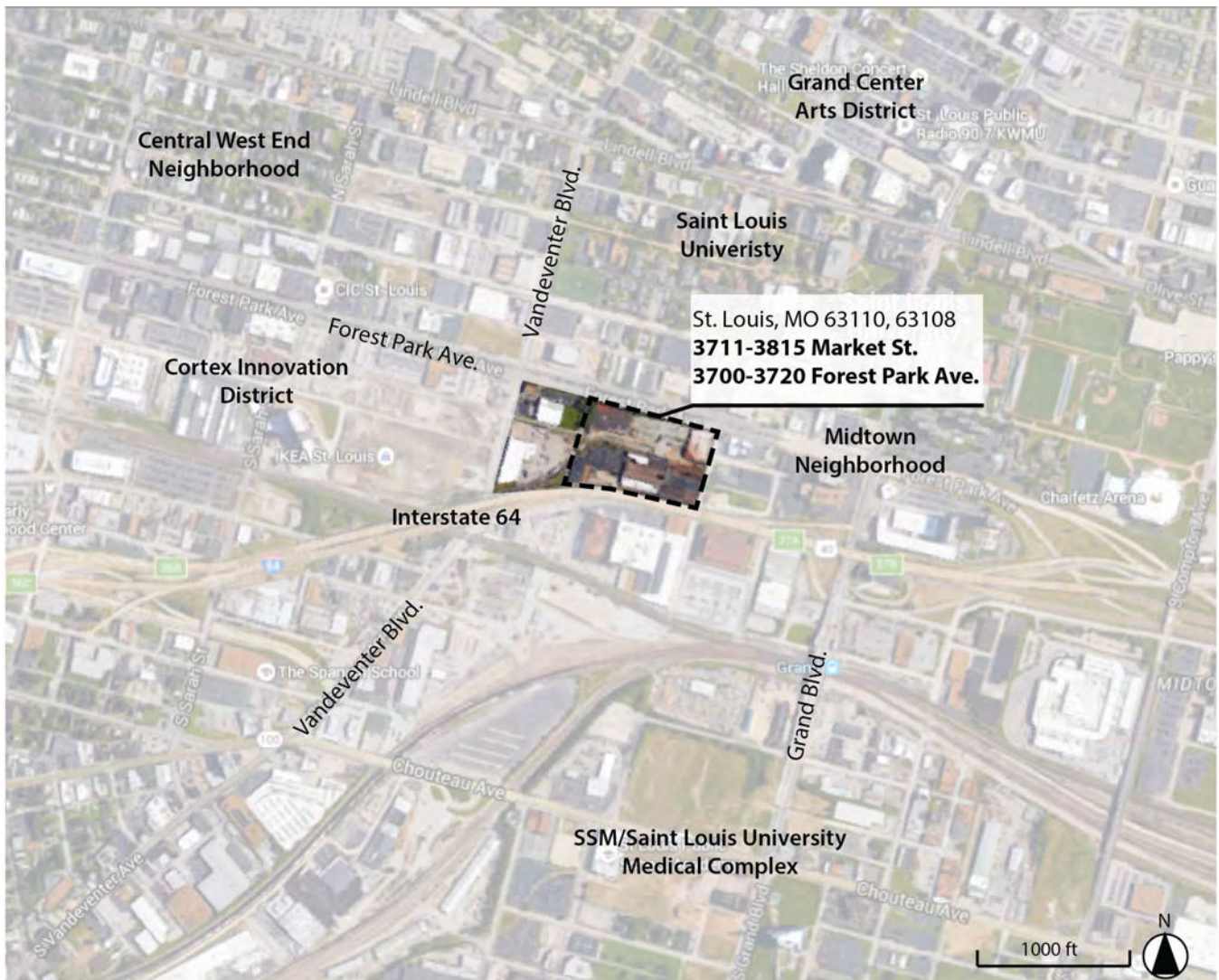


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Century Electric Foundry
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N/A
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**Figure 23:** Contextual Map, 3711-3739, 3749R and 3815R, Market St. St. Louis, Missouri, 63110 as well as 3700-3720 Forest Park Ave., St. Louis, Missouri, 63108. Source: Lawrence Group 2016.



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**Figure 24:** Contextual aerial Image looking northwest towards Central West End Neighborhood. Source: Lawrence Group 2016.



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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 25:** Contextual aerial Image looking east towards downtown St. Louis. Source: Lawrence Group 2016.



Owner Contact:













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**BACK TO HOLLYWOOD**  
EXTRAORDINARY  
PRIZES IN APRIL

**IKEA**





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**GAME SHOW**  
**ORIGINATOR**  
**HOLLYWOOD**  
FRIDAYS IN APRIL

**FREE WELD**

**THE CAPE**





IN SUPER

SPOT

SPOT

WAVE

WAVE

WAVE





Handwritten graffiti in black ink, appearing to be a stylized signature or tag.

Handwritten graffiti in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, abstract shape.

Handwritten graffiti in blue ink, consisting of a circle with a vertical line through it.

Handwritten graffiti in blue ink, consisting of a stylized letter 'U'.

Handwritten graffiti in blue ink, consisting of a stylized letter '7'.

Handwritten graffiti in blue ink, consisting of a stylized letter '2'.

Handwritten graffiti in blue ink, consisting of a stylized letter '3'.

Handwritten graffiti in blue ink, consisting of a stylized letter '3'.

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HCK

BT

LUNGE

CLAY

WESLEY

POT

WESLEY

WESLEY

WESLEY

WESLEY

LUNGBUDR LYSRE

WIL OFB YAKSAP RAT FAG SUZYe

18/102 X 18/102 18/102 18/102 18/102 18/102



"Klazz" →



2015  
Catch  
Ripper

Large, stylized graffiti letters in black and white with pink outlines.

Small graffiti tag.

Small graffiti tag.

Small graffiti tag.

OIL STORAGE











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