

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 Standard Stamping Company Factory  
Other names/site number Biederman Furniture Company Warehouse  
Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

## 2. Location

Street & number <u>2000 N. Broadway</u>	N/A	not for publication
City or town <u>St. Louis</u>	N/A	vicinity
State <u>Missouri</u> Code <u>MO</u> County <u>St. Louis City</u> Code <u>510</u> Zip code <u>63102</u>		

## 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

 , Acting Division Director JP Date 11/20/19  
11/21/19

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Standard Stamping Company Factory  
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>	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	<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/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/  
manufacturing facility

COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouse

**7. Description**

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

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

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque Revival

foundation: Limestone, concrete  
walls: Brick  
roof: Other: Composite  
other: \_\_\_\_\_

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES**

Standard Stamping Company Factory  
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.

**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.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES

**Areas of Significance**

INDUSTRY

**Period of Significance**

1887-1935

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Becker, Gerhard (architect)

Matthias & Kennedy (builders)

**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): \_\_\_\_\_

Standard Stamping Company Factory  
Name of Property

St. Louis City, Missouri  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** Less than one acre

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

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

1 38.647514 -90.187290 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 Michael R. Allen/Director

organization Preservation Research Office date 12 August 2019

street & number 3407 S. Jefferson Avenue #207 telephone 314-920-5680

city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63118

e-mail [michael@preservationresearch.com](mailto:michael@preservationresearch.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.).

Standard Stamping Company Factory  
Name of Property

St. Louis City, Missouri  
County and State

**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. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

## 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: Standard Stamping Company Factory

City or Vicinity: St. Louis

County: St. Louis City State: Missouri

Photographer: Michael R. Allen

Date Photographed: April 18, 2019 (9-13) and May 9, 2019 (1-8)

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

- 1 of 13: Exterior view, facing northeast.
- 2 of 13: Exterior view, facing northwest.
- 3 of 13: First floor dock, facing northeast.
- 4 of 13: Exterior view, facing northwest.
- 5 of 13: Exterior view, facing southwest.
- 6 of 13: Exterior view, facing southeast.
- 7 of 13: Exterior in courtyard, facing northeast.
- 8 of 13: Exterior in courtyard, facing southwest.
- 9 of 13: First floor interior, facing slightly southwest.
- 10 of 13: First floor interior, facing northeast.
- 11 of 13: Second floor interior, facing northeast.
- 12 of 13: Fourth floor interior, facing northwest.
- 13 of 13: Fifth floor interior, facing northwest.

## Figure Log:

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

1. Standard Stamping Company Boundary Map. Page 15.
2. Map showing location of property within St. Louis.
3. Plan of first floor east.
4. Plan of first floor west.
5. Plan of second floor east.
6. Plan of second floor west.
7. Plan of third floor east.
8. Plan of third floor west.
9. Plan of fourth floor east.
10. Plan of fourth floor west.
11. Plan of fifth floor east.
12. Plan of fifth floor west.
13. Plan of basement.
14. The factory as it appeared on the 1916 Sanborn fire insurance map.

Standard Stamping Company Factory

Name of Property

St. Louis City, Missouri

County and State

15. The factory as it appeared on the 1950 Sanborn fire insurance map.
16. Standard Stamping Company letterhead, 1896.
17. View southeast on Broadway showing cleared site adjacent to the Standard Stamping Company Factory.
18. Sanborn fire insurance map showing dates of construction of sections of the factory.
19. Advertisement for a Standard Stamping Company product.
20. Graniteware coffee pots from St. Louis.
21. Google Earth map.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Standard Stamping Company Factory

Name of Property

St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

## Summary

The Standard Stamping Company Factory is a historic industrial building located at 2000 N. Broadway in St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri. The factory consists of four sections: an original five-story wing along North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street of mill method construction, built in 1887-1892; a concrete-framed extension of the eastern block on its north end, completed in 1920; a one-story wing on the west side of the east block of unknown construction date; and a four-story (with mezzanine) mill method wing at the west completed in 1901 (see figure 18). All of these sections have flat roofs, pressed red brick walls and largely open loft interiors. The 1920 section has a reinforced concrete foundation, but the other sections have coursed rubble limestone foundations. There are small signs of repair work that altered original details, such as infill of window openings and conversion of segmental arched openings into jack arched openings, but the exterior has changed very little since 1920. The interiors have some nonhistoric partitioning, but only in less than half of the original manufacturing spaces. The definitive aspects of this building that convey historic use are the open plan interior loft spaces, described in detail in the Interior section to follow. Overall, the factory possesses an impressive level of integrity.

## Setting

The area around the Standard Stamping Company Factory is an urban industrial setting dominated by the presence of brick manufacturing and warehousing buildings built between 1880 and 1930. The area is laid out on a gridiron pattern running perpendicular to the Mississippi River bank, and architecture transmits the grid pattern in building forms – mostly rectilinear structures set immediately on the sidewalk or street. The area was surveyed by the Landmarks Association of St. Louis in 1989 in the North Broadway Industrial Area Phase I, and the survey notes the consistent character of the area.<sup>1</sup> Generally in the surrounding area, Broadway has wide concrete sidewalks while secondary streets do not consistently have sidewalks. This is due to the historic presence of now-removed railroad spur lines which allowed for direct loading into buildings. After removal or coverage of track, streets often were poured directly to building walls. In the immediate vicinity of the building are several similarly-scaled industrial loft buildings, such as the former Missouri Moline Plow Company warehouse directly north.

Until July 2019, the factory shared its block with the Atlas Enameling Company factory, but now that building is demolished (see figures 15 and 17). This building was built separately and historically is unrelated to the Standard Stamping Company Factory. The parcels have always been separate, and prior to the Atlas Enameling Company a group of tenement flats stood on that site. The Atlas Enameling Company site now is a flat open earthen lot where some grass has been planted. The open lot exposes the internal elevations of the nominated building to full view.

<sup>1</sup> Landmarks Association of St. Louis, *North Broadway Industrial Area Phase I* (1989), available on the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office website. <<https://dnr.mo.gov/shpo/survey-eg.htm>>. Accessed 1 November 2019.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Exterior: West Wing (1901)**

The main elevation of the west wing today faces Broadway, and is divided into six bays distributed symmetrically (see photograph 1).<sup>2</sup> The two central bays are on a projecting wall plane. A coursed rubble water table runs across the elevation. At center is an opening containing a replacement storefront glazing system around a non-historic steel slab entrance door. Non-historic wooden decking with a ramp rises to the door sill, which is above sidewalk level. To each side of the entrance are pairs of historic display windows set into wooden casings. There are central mullions that divide lower lights, which are covered by metal bars, single-pane lights and single-pane transoms above. A non-historic painted sign runs between the heads of these jack-arched window openings and a smooth-cut Bedford limestone sill course beneath the second floor window openings.

The fenestration of the top three floors is similar, with paired window openings in each bay. Originally all openings at the second and third floors were segmental-arched (triple rowlock headers), but alterations on the southwest corner led to conversion to jack-arched openings at an unknown date. The top floor openings historically were jack-arched. The second and third floor windows are paired one-over-one wooden double-hung windows beneath two-light transoms, while the fourth floor openings are paired one-over-one windows without transoms. The third and fourth floor window openings have wooden sills. The elevation has a cavetto cornice beneath a flat parapet currently (but not historically) painted.

On the south elevation of this wing, the rubble stone water table and cavetto cornice with flat parapet continues. The parapet has segmental clay coping tile. The elevation is divided into nine bays formed by recessed brick planes that create the appearance of an arcade. At the base and head of each of the recessed sections are steps of four brick courses that join back to the main brick plane. Where those original segmental arches from the top floor window openings are still intact, they puncture the recessed brick courses. The second and third floor window openings contain paired 15-light wooden windows, while the fourth floor has paired 12-light windows. Openings have wooden sills. In the northernmost bay on the fourth floor, brick infill has removed an original opening, and the repair work is flush with the wall plane. The second and third openings from the west on this floor have brick infill and jack-arch heads now. In the fourth bay from west, there are no openings on the third and fourth floors with flush but non-historic infill. In the same bay is a penthouse whose south wall is flush with the main plane of the elevation.

On the first floor, the first, eighth and ninth bays from west contain paired one-over-one windows beneath double transoms in segmental-arched openings. In the second and third bays from west, historic four-light transoms remain; one opening contains a nonhistoric steel door set in siding and the other a non-historic metal roll-up door beneath the transoms. A nonhistoric wooden deck with stairs is beneath the second bay from west. The fourth bay from west contains a single one-over-one wooden window beneath a transom, now boarded over. In the

<sup>2</sup> Bay counts are based on the floors above the first floor since first floor openings on the south and east elevations are irregular and would necessitate lengthier descriptions.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

fifth and seventh bays from west, there are paired six-light transoms over a historic set of double-lead wooden doors and a wooden roll-up door, respectively. In the sixth bay, a triple transom of nine-light sash is set above a historic wooden roll-up door.

On the north elevation, there are four bays articulated like those on the south bay to the east and west of a central light well (see figure 17). The central two bays have windows corresponding to those on the south elevation, while the others are blind. In the light well above the first floor, there are paired single windows in segmental arches facing north, with lights matching the window types on the south elevation by floor. There are three other bays articulated between the light well and the eastern end of the elevation, with a window bay centered between blind bays. On the east side, a small section of the building is exposed in the courtyard (see photograph 8). The basement rubble stone wall includes a centered window opening with brick segmental arch. On each floor above there are paired segmental-arched windows. On the first floor, these are 12-light wooden windows beneath 9-light transom windows; on the second floor, four-over-four wooden windows; and on the third and fourth floors, 12-light wooden windows.

**Exterior: East Wing (1887-92 and 1920)**

The east wing of the factory is the oldest section, and originally had its address on North Second Street. Later construction placed the showroom and address on North Broadway. The flat-roofed building has mill method construction in its original part, and reinforced concrete construction in its later northern end. The south elevation is divided into 14 bays (see photograph 2). The fenestration is rigorously rational, with repetition of the same paired four-over-four wooden double-hung units in each opening on the upper floors. The openings on the second through fourth floors have vertical segmental headers and wooden filigree eyelid moldings. The openings on the fifth floor have round arches with vertical headers, and four-light transoms above each window. Each floor above the first has continuous sandstone sill courses. There is continuous corbelling courses running above the third and fourth floors, which wrap the corner and extend across the east and north elevations as well. Above the fifth floor is a corbelled cornice that also runs continuously. Part of the cornice is missing at the east, above the three easternmost bays, where repair work replaces it with a flat extension of the wall plane. Above the sixth through tenth bays from east is a shaped brick step above the parapet. A penthouse also rises in that space, above the stairwell. At the west end, a steel fire escape runs and joins to the western wing already described.

On the first floor, a nonhistoric reinforced concrete dock rises to floor level (see photograph 3). A nonhistoric cantilevered metal canopy also runs on this elevation above the dock. Openings here have round arches with vertical headers. There nearly is a pattern of alternating openings with historic wooden roll-up doors and openings with paired historic four-over-four double-hung wooden windows with metal bars, but the sixth and seventh bay from east repeat entrance openings and break the pattern. One of these today contains a nonhistoric metal door set in a storefront system. All other entrance openings retain wooden roll-up doors. Window openings have sandstone sills. All openings have the same four-light paired transom windows.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Standard Stamping Company Factory

Name of Property

St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

The long eastern elevation is divided into 30 bays (see photographs 4 and 5).<sup>3</sup> The original section at the south is 24 bays long, while the addition is six bays long; a slight seam denotes the division. Running above the eighth through fifteenth bays from south is a central shaped step on the parapet, whose ends rise to form plinths.

The addition maintains the historic appearance on this elevation although it has Bedford limestone sill courses in place of the sandstone courses on the rest of the elevation and presents a modern smooth-faced concrete foundation. All windows are exactly the same in configuration as on the south elevation, except for those in the 17<sup>th</sup> bay from north on the upper floors, which are single windows set in single-width openings, and those in the eighth bay from north, where there is recessed brick infill in the fifth floor opening and plywood boarding and brick infill covering the second through fourth floor openings. There is a metal external fire escape in the eleventh bay from south.

On the first floor, there are two large round-arch openings forming the southernmost bays that today contain contemporary metal roll-up doors beneath plywood-clad transom areas. These historically were primary rail loading openings. Other openings on this elevation either repeat single or double variants of the first floor window pattern established on the south elevation or contain recessed loading doors, most with contemporary metal roll-up doors inside. The addition section contains three jack-arched loading openings, one with a contemporary metal roll-up door and two boarded over in plywood (see photograph 5).

The north elevation of the addition sports a more modern appearance, with six bays of jack-arched openings that break from repeating the original building's fenestration although coursing and the cornice continue (see photographs 5 and 6). The top floors have 30-light steel sash windows. At the first floor, there are three loading openings in the center bays, containing contemporary metal roll-up doors. Across the top of the first floor are 15-light steel sash windows; those not immediately above the loading openings have limestone sills. There is a historic single-leaf door in a jack-arched opening the westernmost bay at sidewalk level.

The west and north sides of this block faces a fenced courtyard that today is overgrown with vegetation. The west elevation is divided into 17 bays (see photographs 6 and 7). The 1920 addition has four window bays and a bay of smaller offset windows on a stairwell at north. The run of the 1887-92 section has generally regular fenestration, with some exceptions. All windows on this section are boarded or bricked in. There is a small shed-roofed concrete block-walled addition on this elevation of unknown, but not historic origin. On the north elevation, there are five bays containing wooden six-over-six double-hung windows in segmental-arched openings above the first floor. On the first floor, there is an inset entrance within a round-arched opening set within a relieving arch at the far west end (see photograph 8).

**Exterior: One-Story Wing (c. 1930)**

<sup>3</sup> Again, bay counts are based on the floors above the first floor since first floor openings on the south and east elevations are irregular and would necessitate lengthier descriptions.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Standard Stamping Company Factory

Name of Property

St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

The one-story wing has a flat straight parapet on its west side and roof that downslopes to a gutter on the north street elevation (see photograph 6). On this elevation are two vehicle doors with timber headers, one boarded over and the other containing a non-functional wooden roll-up door. There is a six-light wooden window in a segmental-arched opening with a double rowlock header and wooden sill. On the west elevation, there is a boarded-over person door beneath a multi-light transom near the north, several boarded-over smaller window openings and another vehicle door with timber header at the south containing a wooden roll-up door. The interior of this section currently is inaccessible.

### Interior

Interior spaces throughout the factory largely retain an open loft character. The west wing has a basement while the east wing does not (see figure 13). Due to the eastward slope, the first floor of the east wing sits below the first floor of the west wing (see figures 3 and 4). At the first floor of the west wing is a historic showroom area, with intact tin ceilings and a tall height (see photograph 9). Beyond the ceiling, very little of this space evinces historic finishes. The first floor in the eastern wing is open, with a pattern of finish seen throughout the building: exposed wooden columns and block heads, exposed ridge beams and joists and exposed floor boards forming ceilings (see photograph 10). Exterior walls are exposed brick, which is painted on the first floor and in other areas. The first floor of the eastern wing was used for metal stamping during the period of significance, and was open in plan to accommodate various stationary machines. There are some non-historic partitions on the first floor of the western wing. Above the first floor of the western wing behind the showroom space is a mezzanine level that connects with the second floor of the eastern wing.

The upper floors typically are open loft spaces, such as the second floor western section of the eastern wing (see photograph 11 and figures 5-12). Yellow pine tongue and groove flooring is present throughout the 1887 and 1901 wings, largely in good condition although some over-flooring is present. On the third floor and some of the fourth floor, plywood-clad stud walls divide loft areas into current tenant storage spaces. None of these partitions are permanent or deleterious toward historic feeling. On the north end of the east wing, the 1920 addition has exposed reinforced concrete structural elements and floor slabs (see photograph 12). There is a reinforced concrete arcade at the transition. Several historic stairwells and freight elevators are in place.

The second through fourth floors of the eastern wing were used for manufacturing, with stamped metal elements being assembled into finished pieces. The section between the 1900 building and the long north-south mass of the east wing was used for warehousing finished work. The upper floors of the 1900 addition were used for warehousing as well. All of the factory and warehouse spaces relied on open layouts.

The fifth floor of the eastern wing was used for painting finished pieces, and required a clerestory monitor roof for ventilation since painting produced hazardous, combustible fumes. This historic clerestory monitor system remains in place in the east wing (see photograph 13). Historic drying kilns illustrated on Sanborn fire insurance maps along the west wall are no

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

longer present, but otherwise the space retains is open layout in which painting stations were located. The upper floor shows signs of continued roof failure, and several areas are supported by temporary bracing and column structures. None of the roof failure damage suggests that historic materials have been permanently compromised.

**Integrity**

The Standard Stamping Company Factory possesses integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, association and feeling. The changes to the building since its historic period have been minimal, and are most evident on the exteriors where some openings have been boarded up, infilled or converted from segmental-arched to jack-arched openings. Most significant to the building's ability to display past use are the open industrial manufacturing, painting and warehousing loft areas that today bear a strong resemblance to their probable appearance during the period of significance.

Exposed exterior and interior masonry walls, exposed mill method structural elements, bare wooden floors, daylighting from fenestration and a historic clerestory monitor are all intact to make clear that this building was used for stamped metalware production. Construction of partitions on the second and third floors to accommodate storage tenants have minimal impact, since the partitions are not full-height and are easily removable. Some settling of the building has altered floor level, while water infiltration also has slightly damaged some of the members of the roof structure. However, no changes to the factory have removed its clear ability to demonstrate its method of construction, nor its ability to convey its historic usage as a manufacturing space.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

## Summary

The Standard Stamping Company Factory, located at 2000 N. Broadway in St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri, is locally significant under Criterion A for Industry. The Standard Stamping Company, founded in 1881, was a rising giant in the production of stamped metalware when it built the first part of the nominated factory. The mechanization of metal stamping allowed for the rise of affordable, light-weight consumer, industrial and commercial products. Standard Stamping Company produced a wide line of goods that boosted other industries to advance tin can packaging, provided consumers with affordable cookware and hardware and provided factories with containers necessary for production. The factory allowed the company to increase production so that it would soon be the second-largest producer in St. Louis, and eventually the largest producer, as well as a national actor in the founding of the Tin Can Manufacturers Association of America. From the factory, Standard Stamping Company manufactured metalware on contract and direct to market, supplying consumer, industrial and wholesale items. Throughout most of the company's use of the factory, the local stamped metalware industry was a small market that Standard Stamping Company dominated. The factory retains integrity in all seven aspects and clearly demonstrates its past use and association with the Standard Stamping Company's achievements in the local metalware industry. The period of significance begins with construction of the factory in 1887 and runs through the closure of the company in 1935.

## Metal Stamping, Galvanizing, Tinning and Enameling

Standard Stamping Company distinguished itself through the mass production of stamped containers, cookware and hardware with galvanization, tinning, japanning and enameling processes that ensured durability, rust and corrosion resistance and easy cleaning. Its products offered lightweight and affordable options for consumers, wholesalers and other manufacturers. The Standard Stamping Company's production processes were based on centuries of technological development in metal stamping that had not achieved large-scale mass production until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when the company originated.

The mechanical stamping of sheet metal was essential to development of oil and gasoline containers, paint cans, inexpensive home cookware, roofing and guttering, ductwork, automotive and vehicle components, home appliances, tools and even architectural elements in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The earliest mass production of metal altered to resist rust and corrosion came after the first French patents for coating steel in molten zinc in 1836.<sup>4</sup> Known as galvanization, the process produced structural steel that could withstand weatherization, but also allowed for the production of sheet metals for roofing, guttering and other uses that could be in direct and continual contact with water without deteriorating. In 1837, the English government granted a patent for galvanization, and the process reached the United States soon after.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> "History of Galvanizing." <<http://www.galvanizing.org.uk/hot-dip-galvanizing/history-of-galvanizing/>>. Accessed 19 September 2019.

<sup>5</sup> Colin Bodsworth, *British Iron and Steel: AD 1800-2000 and Beyond* (London: IOM Communications, 2001), p. 80.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Inventor Elisha Root developed the first mechanical drop press in 1850, fomenting the rise of mass production of stamped metalware.<sup>6</sup> Root's process initiated what would be called "stamping," in which sheets of meta were pressed with shaped molds. Prior, stamped metalware was made by artisanal methods in blacksmith or tinware shops, and production was limited. Root's invention coincided with the perfection of means to tin-coat sheets of iron or steel, allowing resistance to oxidation.<sup>7</sup> Known as tinning, the application of tin to iron or steel to prevent rust can be traced back to at least 1620 in Bohemia, but its mechanized application did not come until 1850. Once sheets of tin could be mechanically stamped to coat sheets of iron or steel (also called "black plates"), mass production of tinned metalware was achievable. The tinned metalware industry rose in the United States in the late half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. After 1900, the industry surged in growth due to the demands for tinned stamped metal by automotive and home appliance manufacturers.<sup>8</sup>

Enameling metal can be traced as far back as 1200 BCE, but mass production was not possible until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>9</sup> Enamel is a soft glass that comes from a compound of either silica or flint, red lead, and potash or soda ash that can be colored or made opaque with other additives.<sup>10</sup> Enamel is heated and hardened into masses washed with distilled water, and when applied to metal, is applied after the metal has been treated with an acid bath, washed in water and dried in sawdust. Enamel powder is wetted and applied to the metal, and the metal is then fired in a furnace to make the enamel vitreous.<sup>11</sup> A similar process is called "japanning," after the nation, but involves a lacquer-like resin-based paint instead of enamel.

Enamel makes metal waterproof and easy to clean and, with added pigments, decorative. Enameled metalwares are lightweight, resistant to rust and easy to clean. The first enameled cookware in the United States was made in 1799, and by 1839 branded lines of enamel cookware existed.<sup>12</sup> Mass production was achieved in the United States and Scandinavia by the early twentieth century, and continued through the 1930s.<sup>13</sup> By the 1950s, however, enamelware fell out of fashion as antiquated, and as tempered glassware became popular.<sup>14</sup>

### The Standard Stamping Company

German immigrant George Wiegand founded the Standard Stamping Company in 1881 after several years operating a tin shop in the city.<sup>15</sup> Born in Neuhaus, Havover in 1833, Wiegand immigrated to the United States when he was nineteen years old. At first, Wiegand worked in New Orleans, but ultimately, he chose to settle in St. Louis.<sup>16</sup> After a stint working at the United

<sup>6</sup> S.S. Hecker and A.S. Ghosh, "The Forming of Sheet Metal," *The Scientific American* 235.5 (November 1976), p. 100.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Mary Ellen Snodgrass, *Encyclopedia of Kitchen History* (London and New York: Routledge Press, 2004), p. 350.

<sup>10</sup> Snodgrass, p. 349

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Snodgrass, p. 350

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Snodgrass, p. 352.

<sup>15</sup> Walter B. Stevens, *St. Louis: The Fourth City, 1764-1909* (St. Louis and Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1909), p. 162.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

States Arsenal, where he worked in metal shops, Wiegand apprenticed for five years under A.C. Hull before opening his own tin shop in 1857. Wiegand took leave to serve in the pro-Union Home Guards during the Civil War. After the war, Wiegand's shop trade steadily grew, along with his own capital, and he reorganized it 24 years later into a larger manufacturing company originally called the St. Louis White Enamel Company. Renamed the Standard Stamping Company, the company undertook the manufacture of tinned, galvanized and enamel ware and sheet metal goods.

Wiegand joined his contemporaries Friederick G. and William Niedringhaus into the stamping industry. Several companies were exploring the possibilities of metallurgy to produce light-weight thin, durable metals suitable for making containers, kitchenware, guttering and more. Galvanized and tinned sheet metals could be stamped into various profiles, including watertight forms suitable for uses ranging from gasoline cans to residential-grade tea kettles. The Niedringhaus brothers, who built the St. Louis Stamping Company Buildings (NR 11/10/2009) before founding their own industrial suburb of Granite City, Illinois, developed several significant patents for stamped granite ironware in 1876.<sup>17</sup> The brothers also had started their immense operation in a small tin shop. While the Niedringhaus Brothers specialized in retail cookware products, Wiegand maintained a diversified output largely based on wholesale manufacturing, including cookware, oil cans and other products in early years.

Wiegand had founded his company with financier Lewis D. Perry, descendant of a prominent Virginia family. Perry had attended Cornell University, graduating in the class of 1877, before running a family ranch in Colorado.<sup>18</sup> Perry then moved to St. Louis, following his father, and ended up as vice president of Standard Stamping Company. Perry pursued growth of the company alongside deepening his role in St. Louis' elite business world. Perry eventually became a member of the city's most exclusive club, the St. Louis Club, and a banker, real estate investor and board member of several major corporations.<sup>19</sup> Perry remained a key force in Standard Stamping Company's early growth, eventually departing as an executive in 1895.

The Standard Stamping Company was already prominent enough to be included in an article reporting worker fear of idling in the metal industry in 1883. The article reported that laborers had heard rumors that the city's two largest stamping works, St. Louis and Standard, were idling that winter. The article quoted an emphatic dismissal by Wiegand, who stated that Standard Stamping Company had many contracts for production and would not be able to idle as long as that business continued.<sup>20</sup>

Throughout the 1880s, the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* reported frequently on the tin plate orders of the Standard Stamping Company. Bulk orders were consistent, ranging from 760 boxes of tin plate from Swansea, England in 1886, through 400 boxes of tin plate from Liverpool, England, on 1889.<sup>21</sup> St. Louis Stamping Company also appeared in the same commodity reports, usually

<sup>17</sup> Michael R. Allen, Matthew S. Bivens and Emily Klassen, *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form: St. Louis Stamping Company Buildings* (2009), p. 8-13.

<sup>18</sup> Stevens, p. 234.

<sup>19</sup> Stevens, p. 237.

<sup>20</sup> "Working Men's Woes," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (29 November 1883), p. 5.

<sup>21</sup> *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* (11 December 1886), p. 9; *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* (30 March 1889), p. 17.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

with comparable but often larger orders, such as an 1888 report that St. Louis Stamping Company was ordering 1,357 boxes of tin plate from Swansea, England to 438 boxes of the same for Standard Stamping Company.<sup>22</sup> Earlier, the 1882 publication *St. Louis: Her Trade, Commerce and Industries, 1882-3* had included the two companies as the only metal stamping works profiled.<sup>23</sup>

In 1887, the Standard Stamping Company built its own custom-designed factory on North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and by 1892 would add an addition to the factory. Although Standard Stamping Company did not compete with the St. Louis Stamping Company in the realm of patented innovation, it was not of a lesser industrial register. Prior to building the new factory, the company reported a 100% stock dividend in 1886, for instance.<sup>24</sup> The leaders of the company rose in civic stature, too. Company vice president Perry held a seat on the prestigious St. Louis Merchants' Exchange by 1885.<sup>25</sup>

The Standard Stamping Company's choice of location on the industrial north riverfront was part of an emerging trend to develop the area with heavy industry. As St. Louis' core developed into a commercial and civic center, industry was pushed out north, south and west. By 1875, when Compton & Dry sold subscriptions for their *Pictorial St. Louis* book, they chose to lead by circulating an image of the massive new Merchants Elevator located at the foot of Ashley Street north of the Eads Bridge, calling attention to the capitalization of the north riverfront. After Jay Gould secured control of the new Eads Bridge in 1875, the St. Louis Merchants Exchange sought to locate a new competing railroad bridge where railroads could avoid paying exorbitant "arbitrary" fees to Gould's company.<sup>26</sup>

Led by future mayor and Missouri Governor David R. Francis, the Merchants Exchange secured a landing at Ferry Street on the north riverfront, and built a new three-truss bridge that opened in 1889.<sup>27</sup> Along with the new bridge, the Merchants Exchange also built a railroad line along the north levee of the city, to connect the new bridge to the central city and allow full bypass of Gould's sinecure. This northern track was located just east of North Broadway and enticed significant speculative investment in blocks between the central city and the Merchants Bridge.<sup>28</sup>

The St. Louis Stamping Company already had located in the area in a new factory at Cass Avenue and N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street in 1873, but few major concerns were any further north until the Merchants Exchange heralded the advent of the new bridge and levee railroad line. The Standard Stamping Company was one of the earliest companies to secure land along the line to build a new factory. Standard Stamping Company's location was not idle speculation: its first

<sup>22</sup> *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* (15 September 1888), p. 16.

<sup>23</sup> Jno. E. Land, *St. Louis: Her Trade, Commerce and Industries, 1882-3* (St. Louis: Jno. E. Land, 1882), p. 220.

<sup>24</sup> "Among the Brokers: All Stocks Stronger – A Bullish Feeling in Granite – Mining Gossip," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (November 6, 1886), p. 3.

<sup>25</sup> *Annual Statement of the Trade and Commerce for the Year 1885* (St. Louis: 1885), p. 31.

<sup>26</sup> James Neal Primm, *Lion of the Valley: St. Louis, Missouri* (Boulder, Colorado: Pruett Publishing Company, 1981), p. 309-10.

<sup>27</sup> Primm, p. 311.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

president, banker John D. Perry, was an incorporator of the Merchants Bridge whose daughter had married David R. Francis.<sup>29</sup> (Wiegand would assume the presidency later.)

North Broadway would become a prominent location for industrial development after the railroad opened, and especially after the tornado of 1896. According to architectural historian Lynn Josse, the 1896 tornado struck severely from the Eads Bridge toward Cass Avenue, and destroyed most facilities beyond repair.<sup>30</sup> As a result, most resources in the North Riverfront Industrial Historic District (NR 5/8/2003) to the south of the nominated property were built after 1896.<sup>31</sup> Surrounding the Standard Stamping Company Building, most major multi-story warehouses and factories likewise date to after 1896, although the tornado did not reach the site. The Standard Stamping Company's factory preceded most adjacent development, likely due to the company's connection to the Merchants Bridge project and its faith that the railroad line essential for the factory's survival was a certainty.

The last decade of the nineteenth century saw significant growth in the sheet metal industries in St. Louis. The 1890 Census showed that the city's industrial sector including tin-smith, copper-smith and sheet iron work included 132 companies, capitalized for a total of \$1,132,588 and worth collectively \$1,203,406. Few of these companies had significant individual capital, however, except for the St. Louis and Standard Stamping companies. Within 13 years, Standard would be capitalized to nearly half of the total sector capitalization in 1890.

When the St. Louis Stamping Company, rebranded as the National Enameling and Stamping Company, relocated to Granite City, Illinois in 1896, Standard Stamping Company became the city's largest stamping works. An 1898 directory reported that the Standard Stamping Company was producing a "full line of stamped and pieced tinware and galvanized ware," and that the company utilized three tinning pots.<sup>32</sup> A newspaper article reported also that the company was adding 75 new jobs on September 1, 1898.<sup>33</sup> The company produced cookware, garbage cans, oil and gasoline cans and other products. Capitalization soared in the early twentieth century, with a capital stock increase from \$250,000 to \$400,000 in 1901 followed by an increase to \$500,000 in 1903.<sup>34</sup>

City directories listed only Standard and St. Louis as the city's stamping companies through 1899, although St. Louis Stamping Company remained listed as an ancillary concern of the Niedringhaus brothers that largely handled surplus production for the Granite City works. The newcomer in 1899 was Shepard C. Sidney & Company of Chicago, but its location was inside of the Standard Stamping Company, thus directly profiting Standard Stamping Company. In the 1903 city directory, Whittaker & Weber appeared as a stamping company, but its work seemed related to its ongoing manufacturing of farm vehicles and implements, specifically, whereas Standard Stamping Company products were far more varied from kitchenware to industrial and later, even military

<sup>29</sup> "John D. Perry Dead," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (August 24, 1895), p. 1.

<sup>30</sup> Lynn Josse, *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form: North Riverfront Industrial Historic District* (2003), p. 8-12.

<sup>31</sup> Josse, p. 8-13.

<sup>32</sup> *Directory of Iron and Steel Works of the United States and Canada*, Volume 14 (1898), p. 315.

<sup>33</sup> "Constant Work for Wage-Earners," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (24 July 1898), p. 26.

<sup>34</sup> "Capital Increased," *St. Louis Republic* (14 September 1901), p. 8.; *St. Louis Republic* (11 April 1903), p. 11.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

applications as discussed further below.

In 1903, city directories listed the Geuder & Paeschke Company under stamping works, but the company never moved any production to St. Louis. Geuder & Paeschke, later Geuder, Paeschke & Frey, produced exclusively in Milwaukee but opened sales offices in many cities. A smaller stamping works, Bowman Manufacturing Company at 1858 Menard Street (extant), appears in some directory years in the early twentieth century. Bowman was a fairly small company that eventually, in 1905, became integrated into the larger Crunden-Martin Manufacturing Company to handle all of its galvanized metal production.<sup>35</sup> Another competitor that started operation in this period, but was not listed under stamping works in the city directory, was the Hammond Sheet Metal Company, which manufactured stamped roofing, ceiling systems, siding, sheet metal, ductwork and guttering in the old St. Louis Stamping Company plant.<sup>36</sup> Hammond produced stamped architectural products, which Standard Stamping Company did not.

The 1908 edition *Gould's Commercial Register* lists nine companies under "Stamped and Enameled Ware," and only NESCO and Standard Stamping were of considerable size. Bowman Stamping Company appears, although its output under Crunden-Martin primarily consisted of gas and oil cans supplied under the Crunden-Martin brand.<sup>37</sup> The first time that a works with a facility approaching the size of Standard Stamping Company appeared in the city directory was in 1913, when the Western Enameling Company at 207 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (no longer extant) appeared. By the time that Standard Stamping Company closed in 1935, Western renamed as Western Stamping Company and occupied a large plant at 2920 Cass Avenue (still extant).

In the period in which Standard Stamping Company was St. Louis' largest stamping works, it demonstrated its prowess. The Standard Stamping Company reported real property assets of \$68,470 in 1897, placing it at the higher end of industrial companies in the city of St. Louis with real property assets.<sup>38</sup> In 1906, a group of industrial companies sent representatives to the Southern Freight Conferences to negotiate commodity freight rates with the railroads. Standard Stamping was represented by P.M. Hanson at the conference, indicating its prominence.<sup>39</sup> A newspaper report named Hanson and three other representatives as attending from St. Louis by name.<sup>40</sup> When George Wiegand died in 1908, the Standard Stamping Company was capitalized at \$500,000.<sup>41</sup>

George Wiegand the younger led the Standard Stamping Company from his father's death until his own death twenty years later.<sup>42</sup> At his passing, he held a controlling interest in the company, with \$130,284 worth of company stock and resided on Washington Terrace, a prestigious

<sup>35</sup> Matthew S. Bivens, *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form: Crunden-Martin Manufacturing Company* (2004), p. 8-15.

<sup>36</sup> Allen, Bivens and Klassen, p. 8-18.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> "Assessed for Taxes," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* (5 April 1897), p. 8.

<sup>39</sup> "St. Louis Represented at Southern Freight Meeting," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* (5 June 1906), p. 15.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> "To Save Jobs' Sons Attach Father's Will," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (17 May 1908), p. A8.

<sup>42</sup> "Geo. Wiegand Funeral to Be Held Tomorrow," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* (10 December 1928).

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

private street in the city's Central West End.<sup>43</sup> Wiegand's death started the company's swan song. Although the company continued to produce metalware, the Great Depression along changes in the stamping industry led to a bankruptcy filing in 1935.<sup>44</sup> Consolidation had been the pattern for stamped metalware in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, but by the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, many companies were utilizing smaller non-union jobbers to supply stamped elements, or doing the work internally in the case of large automotive manufacturers. In 1939, the Jakes-Evans Manufacturing Company leased the Standard Stamping Company Factory from its receiver, the Central States Life Insurance Company.<sup>45</sup> By 1950, the plant was occupied by Biedermann Furniture Company (see figure 15), which used it to make wooden furniture. Today, the large building is used as a storage warehouse.

### Standard Stamping Company Products

Throughout the period of significance, the Standard Stamping Company produced a wide range of stamped tinware and stamped enamelware, including cookware, hardware, industrial containers and manufacturer product containers. Although corporate records do not exist, newspapers and other sources provide much evidence of the company's specific output. The company's contract work for other major companies in St. Louis and Dallas supported not only Standard Stamping Company's own growth but also the growth of other industries dependent on waterproof containers for manufacturing processes and consumer goods packaging.

An article in the Dallas Daily Herald in 1883 reported on exhibitors at the city's large Saengerfest, including Dallas' Hughes Brothers & Company, which exhibited decorated enameled containers made for Hughes Brothers & Company's baking powder by the Standard Stamping Company.<sup>46</sup> One year later, following a fire at Standard Stamping Company's factory, the company announced a sale of damaged goods in October 1884. The tinware made by the company offered for sale included oil cans, covered buckets, dinner buckets, milk buckets, coffee pots, stove coffee pots, tea kettles, wash boilers, steamers, lard cans, sauce pans, water buckets, stove sauce pans and tea canisters.<sup>47</sup>

An 1894 advertisement in the *Topeka State Journal* promotes a sale for japanned coal hods (hardware used to carry coal to coal furnaces or fireplace baskets), branded directly by Standard Stamping (see figure 19).<sup>48</sup> An 1896 bill of sale shows that Standard Stamping Company delivered an order of crank tubular lanterns, coffee pots, tea kettles, tea spoons and a table to John Deere Plow Company, which maintained a nearby factory at 2220 North Broadway (see figure 20 for typical graniteware coffee pots of the period).<sup>49</sup> Two years later, Standard Stamping Company was one of the companies that founded the national Tin Can Manufacturers Association of America, demonstrating a strong interest in the growth of

<sup>43</sup> "George Wiegand Left \$226,223," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* (14 February 1929).

<sup>44</sup> "Stamping Company Files Debtor's Petition," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* (5 March 1935), p. 13.

<sup>45</sup> "Group of Buildings Block Long Leased," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (October 29, 1939), p. 3-1.

<sup>46</sup> *Dallas Daily Herald* (18 May 1883), p. 5.

<sup>47</sup> *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* (29 October 1884), p. 7.

<sup>48</sup> *Topeka State Journal* (29 November 1894), p. 4.

<sup>49</sup> 1896 Billhead St Louis Missouri Standard Stamping Company. <<https://www.ebay.com/itm/1896-Billhead-St-Louis-Missouri-Standard-Stamping-Company-/153422164933>> Accessed 19 September 2019.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

stamped tin can manufacturing.<sup>50</sup> Tin cans were being widely used to contain consumer goods, including chewing tobacco, baking powder and soda, and other products manufactured in St. Louis.

In the twentieth century, Standard Stamping apparently continued its diversified production. In 1902, a worker suffered an accident operating a seaming machine that stamped seamed metal buckets.<sup>51</sup> During World War I, Standard Stamping Company's executives urged consumers to save spent enamelware utensils for possible war drive collection. In a 1917 article, the company was one of three local companies (along with NESCO and Crunden-Martin) cited as advocating for the war effort. The article stated that the company was producing enameled, galvanized and tin wares, including a wide range of consumer kitchenware products.<sup>52</sup> A newspaper advertisement from 1920 stated that the company was looking for packers, and named its products as tinware and enamelware.<sup>53</sup>

The steady production of enameled, tinned or galvanized metalware by Standard Stamping Company during the period of significance provided St. Louis, Dallas and perhaps other cities with consumer kitchenware, mass-produced industrial and hardware containers, piecemeal production of tin cans for other manufacturing companies and other products. The stamped products were light-weight and affordable, and waterproof. Although other companies made some of the same products, none demonstrated a diversified range of products made through the harnessing of large capital and a large labor force.

### The Standard Stamping Company Factory

The earliest section of the five-story Standard Stamping Company Factory was completed by 1887 and embodied the application of the Romanesque Revival style to a mill method factory building. The factory was expanded in 1892, but plans do not exist to show how much of the current building was built in 1887 and how much in 1892. Furthermore, the City of St. Louis has lost the building permit records for this City Block. The factory building was a typical Romanesque Revival composition, with robust round arch forms on the red brick building labeled the base and attic floors, differentiating them from the central floors to create a tripartite building division. The style was popular for industrial buildings in St. Louis and across the United States at the time due to the use of bearing wall masonry construction.<sup>54</sup>

Inside, the new Standard Stamping Company factory demonstrated state of the art mill method construction methods. The "mill method" of construction derives from this term and denotes the nineteenth-century method of a repeated relationship of exterior bearing walls, upright columns and cross-beams that allowed for gridded construction with standardized dimensions.<sup>55</sup> Typically the columns and beams were heavy timbers rated for slow combustion, so that

<sup>50</sup> "Tin Can Makers Get Together," *Inter Ocean* (11 January 1898), p. 12.

<sup>51</sup> *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* (21 June 1902), p. 11.

<sup>52</sup> "Enamel Ware Makers Urge Saving Utensils," *St. Louis Star-Times* (29 August 1917), p. 3.

<sup>53</sup> *St. Louis Star-Times* (30 August 1920), p. 17.

<sup>54</sup> Mark Gelertner, *A History of American Architecture: Buildings in Their Cultural and Technological Context* (Lebanon, H.N.: University Press of New England, 1999), p. 205.

<sup>55</sup> Betsy H. Bradley, *The Works: The Industrial Architecture of the United States* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999), p. 32.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

machinery fires would not cause catastrophic loss of entire factories. The floors in the factory were open industrial lofts, allowing for the installation of overhead belts to drive machinery. On the top floor, clerestory monitors let in abundant daylight. This light added to the light emanating from the windows, which were set into the brick walls closely to allow as much natural light as possible. A series of smaller ancillary structures stood immediately west; a one-story section remains adjacent to the east wing today, but the others are now gone.<sup>56</sup> The factory enjoyed well-planned loading on the east (rail) and south (truck) with freight elevators set to maximize efficient flows.

The architect of the Standard Stamping Company's first building was Gerhard Becker, and the commission was perhaps his first substantial industrial design. In his 1894 compendium *Historical and Descriptive Review of St. Louis*, John Lethem noted that Becker's practice gave "special attention to the construction and planning of warehouses and factories."<sup>57</sup> Becker was an enterprising immigrant who had arrived in St. Louis in 1883 and had established solo practice with two employed draftsmen by 1890.<sup>58</sup> Becker practiced through 1916, and designed many larger factories on the north side along with numerous residential and mixed-use buildings. For many years, Becker practiced from an office at 1017 Chestnut Street downtown and resided at 2904 Bailey Street just east of Fairground Park on the city's north side.<sup>59</sup>

Becker's most prominent designs included the Eckhoff Furniture Company factory at 21<sup>st</sup> and Branch Streets, the Hall & Brown Wood Working Machine Company factory on North Broadway, the St. Louis Furniture Workers' Association and the Park & Sons factory. Becker also designed a large hotel and theater proposed for the site of Uhrig's Cave in 1894.<sup>60</sup> A smaller later work was a two-story commercial block located at 2109 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street on the north riverfront, completed in 1905 but now demolished.<sup>61</sup> A triple set of two-story two-part commercial buildings designed by Becker in 1907 still stands at 2100 E. Grand Avenue in the College Hill neighborhood. Becker also designed many residences across St. Louis and St. Louis County. Becker's designs for the Eckhoff Furniture Company (1893; extant) and the Hall & Brown Wood Working Machine Company factory (1910; extant) accentuate the accomplishment of the Standard Stamping Company factory.

In 1898, the company leased the northeast corner of Broadway and Chambers anticipating expansion.<sup>62</sup> The permit for the 1901 west wing, dated May 8, lists Kennedy & Matthias as builders and a construction cost of \$30,000.<sup>63</sup> The design of the building extended the mill method structure of the original building, but it deviated from the earlier emphasis on horizontal

<sup>56</sup> An 1896 letterhead (figure 16) shows the 1887 building as well as several other tall buildings that no fire insurance map documents ever stood on the site. It is possible that these were intended expansions that were never built, and were replaced by the 1901 wing.

<sup>57</sup> John Lethem, *Historical and Descriptive Review of St. Louis* (St. Louis: Ennes Press, 1894), p. 108.

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>59</sup> Lethem; city directories.

<sup>60</sup> "Real Estate News," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (May 27, 1894), p. 22.

<sup>61</sup> Landmarks Association of St. Louis, *North Broadway Industrial Area Survey I*. Inventory form, 1989.

<sup>62</sup> *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* (27 February 1898), p. 26.

<sup>63</sup> Landmarks Association of St. Louis. The City of St. Louis is missing inactive and active building permit records for the city block on which the Standard Stamping Company sits .

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 16

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

bands and round arch forms. The company now occupied the entire block width on the south side of its city block, and within two decades would occupy the entire block width on the east.

The 1920 addition extended the north end of the east block by six bays to meet Madison Street (see figure 15 for the date of construction reported by the Sanborn fire insurance map). On N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, with the exception of substituting limestone for sandstone sill courses, the face of the building replicated the fenestration and brick patterns of the original building perfectly. However, on the north and west faces, the use of jack arches and steel sash belied the work of the east elevation. This was a modern building, and inside it contained a reinforced concrete structure rather than the mill method structure. The architect of the 1920 addition is unknown. Construction of the last major addition to the factory allowed for production to grow through the end of the period of significance.

### Conclusion

The Standard Stamping Company Factory was the home of a major local producer of stamped tinned metal products from its construction in 1887 until the company folded in 1935. In those years, Standard Stamping Company was a major producer of stamped metalware, sometimes leading the field. Standard Stamping Company distinguished itself from competitors in scale of production and diversification of output, as well as through participation in the growth of the national stamped metal industry. The Standard Stamping Company was an integral part of the development of the metal industry in St. Louis, and its factory building retains integrity that helps tell the story today.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 17

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property St. Louis City, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 18

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property St. Louis City, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 19

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property St. Louis City, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 20

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property
St. Louis City, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Boundary Description**

The nominated property includes all of the parcels recorded by the Assessor of the City of St. Louis as parcels number 032000010 and 032000020. The boundary begins at the intersection of North Broadway and Chambers Streets, proceeds east to N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, proceeds north to Madison Street, proceeds east to the west line of parcel 032000010, then south to the north boundary of parcel 032000020, west to North Broadway and south to the original point. The boundary is marked by a heavy yellow line in Figure 1, the Standard Stamping Company Factory Boundary Map.

**Boundary Justification**

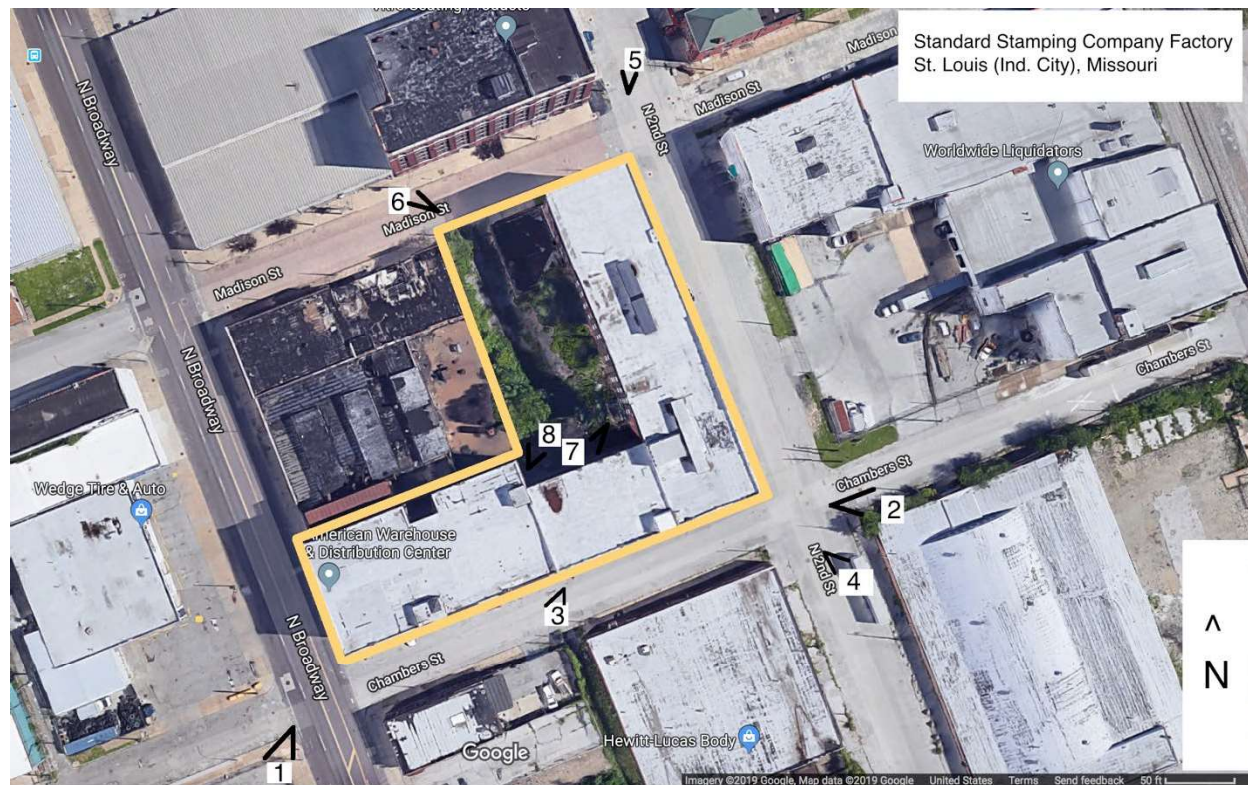
The nominated property includes the entire and only site on which the Standard Stamping Company Factory has stood.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 21

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property
St. Louis City, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 1: Standard Stamping Company Factory Boundary Map and Photo Key  
Source: Google Maps data, 2018 altered by the preparer including exterior photographic key.

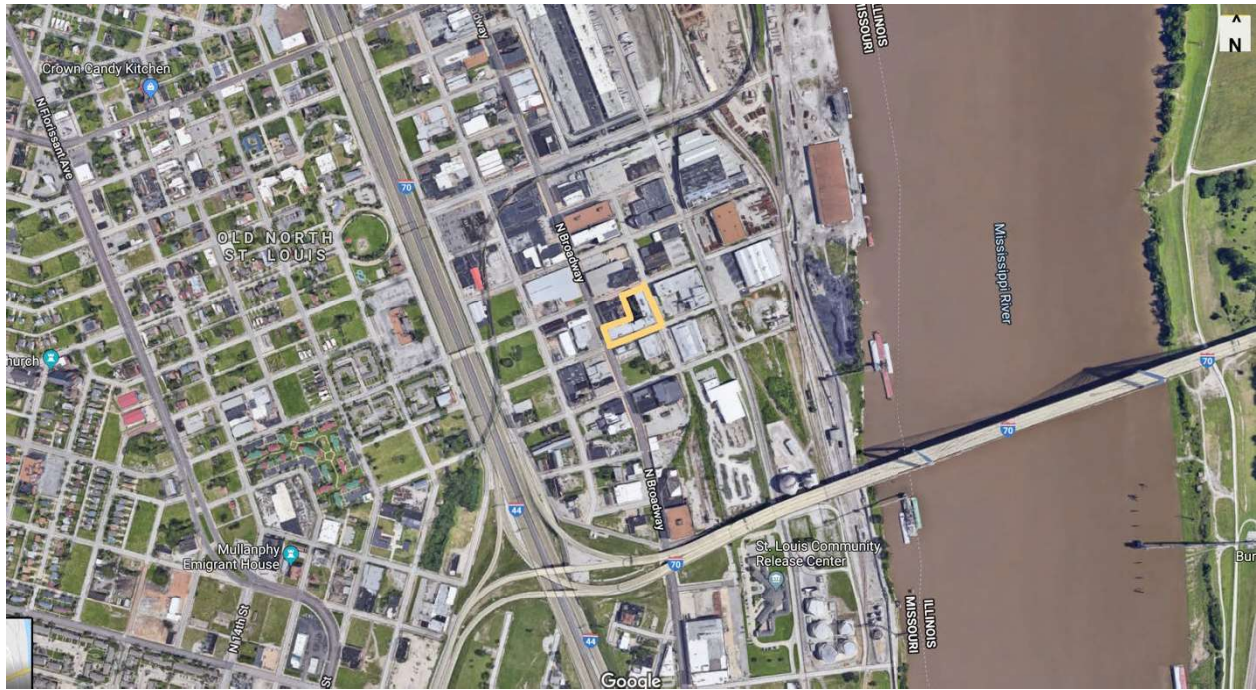


National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 22

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property St. Louis City, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 2: Map showing location of property within St. Louis. Source: Google Maps date, 2018, as altered by the preparer. Latitude: 38.647514. Longitude: -90.187290.

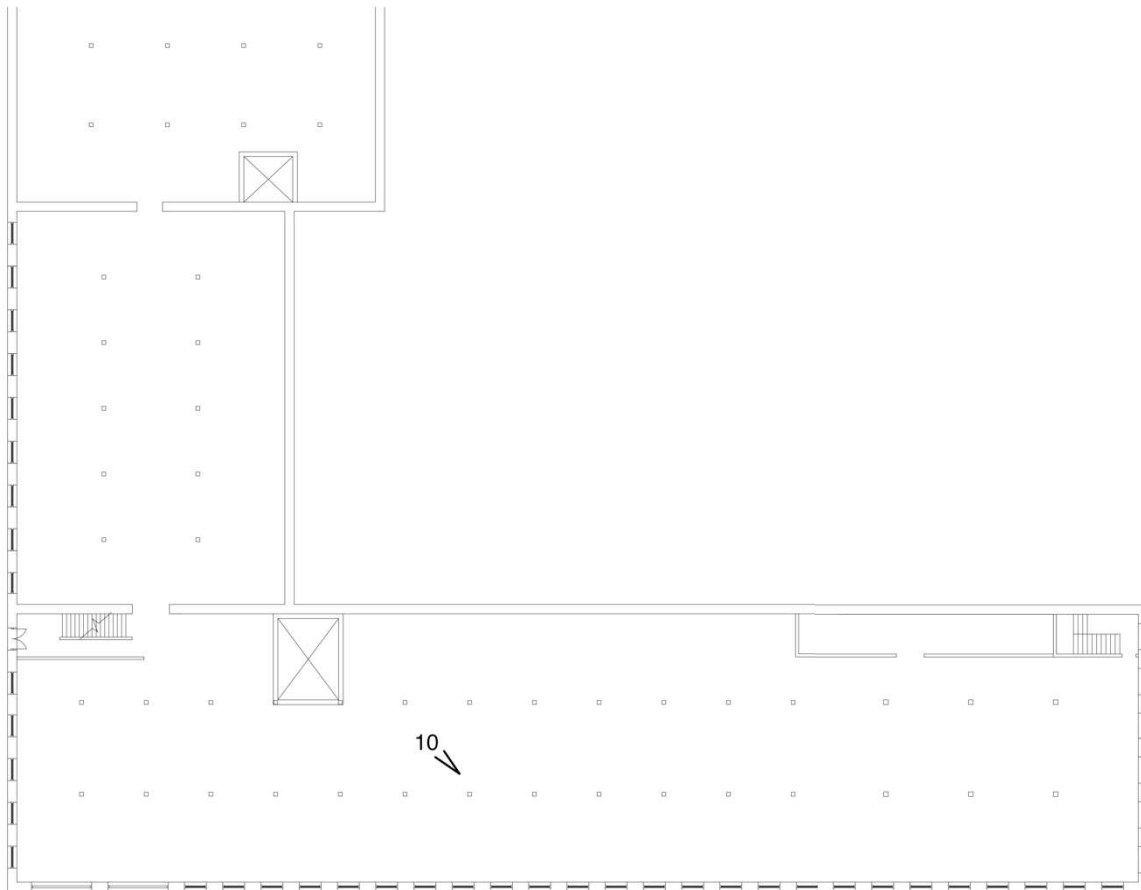


National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 23

<b>Standard Stamping Company Factory</b>
Name of Property St. Louis City, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 3: Plan of first floor east. Source: Blackline Design + Construction, 2019.



1 FIRST FLOOR - EAST  
SCALE: NTS

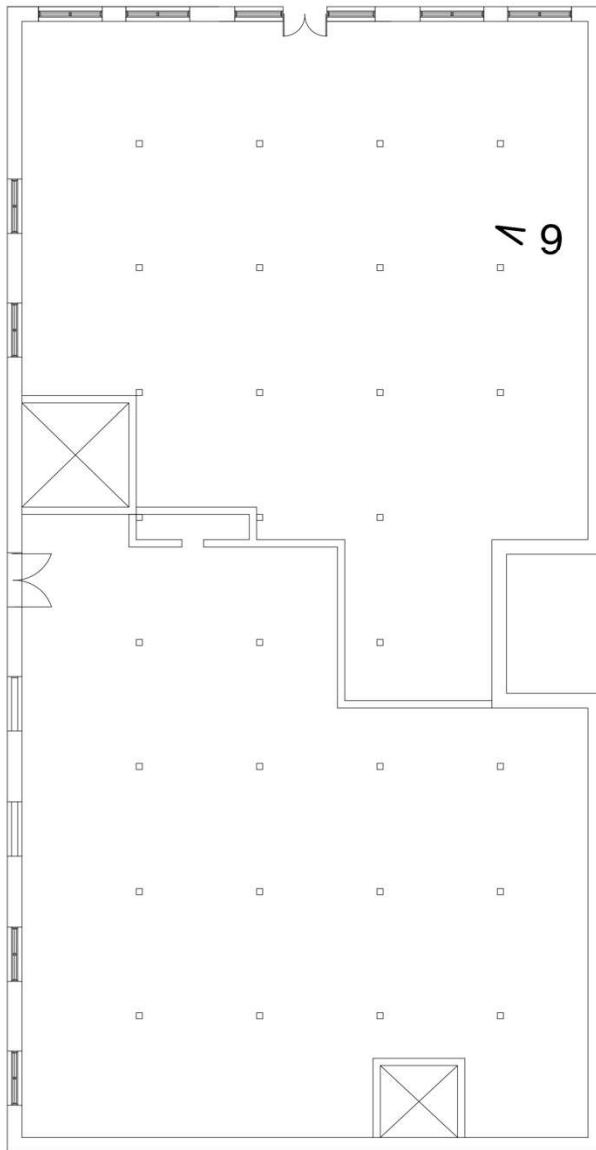


National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 24

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property
St. Louis City, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 4: Plan of first floor west. Source: Blackline Design + Construction, 2019.



1 FIRST FLOOR - WEST  
SCALE: NTS

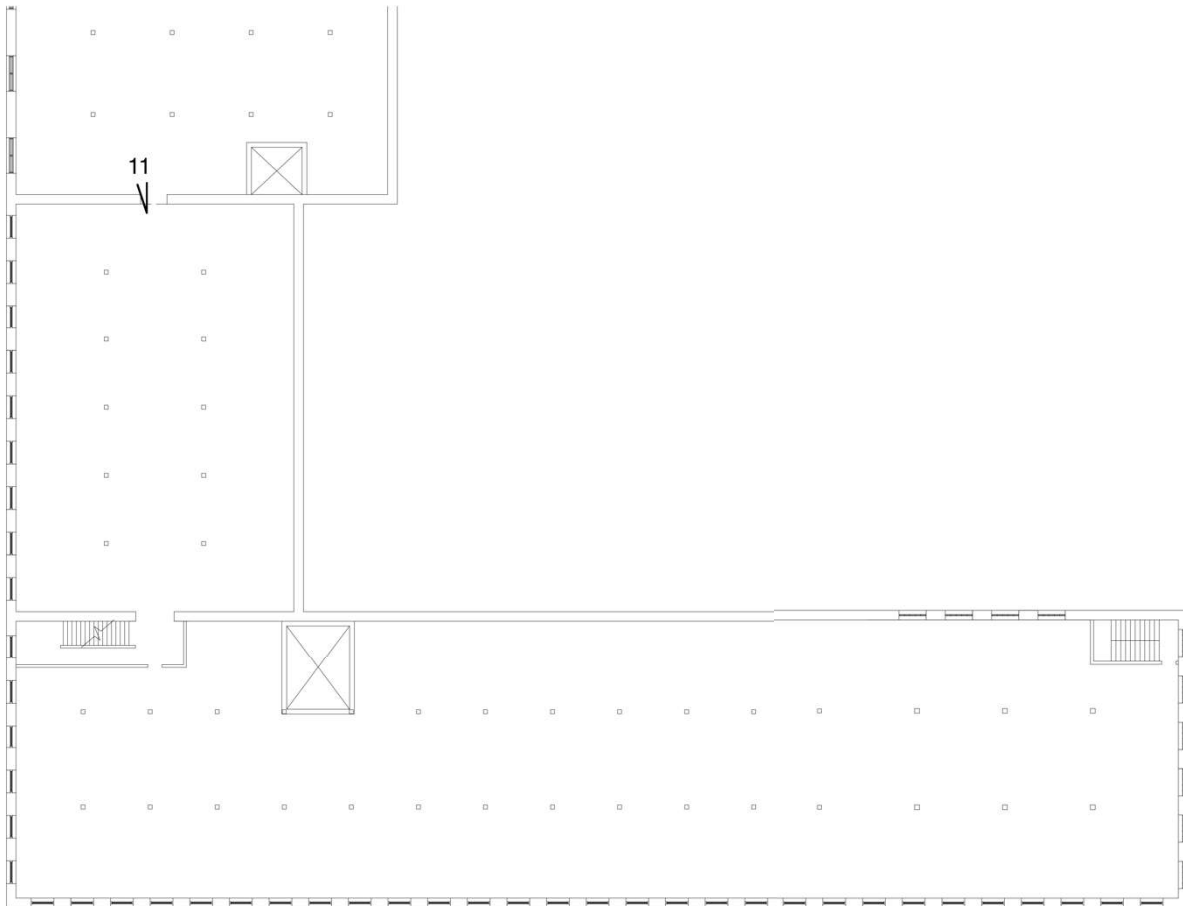


National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 25

<b>Standard Stamping Company Factory</b>
Name of Property St. Louis City, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 5: Plan of second floor east. Source: Blackline Design + Construction, 2019.



1 SECOND FLOOR - EAST  
SCALE: NTS

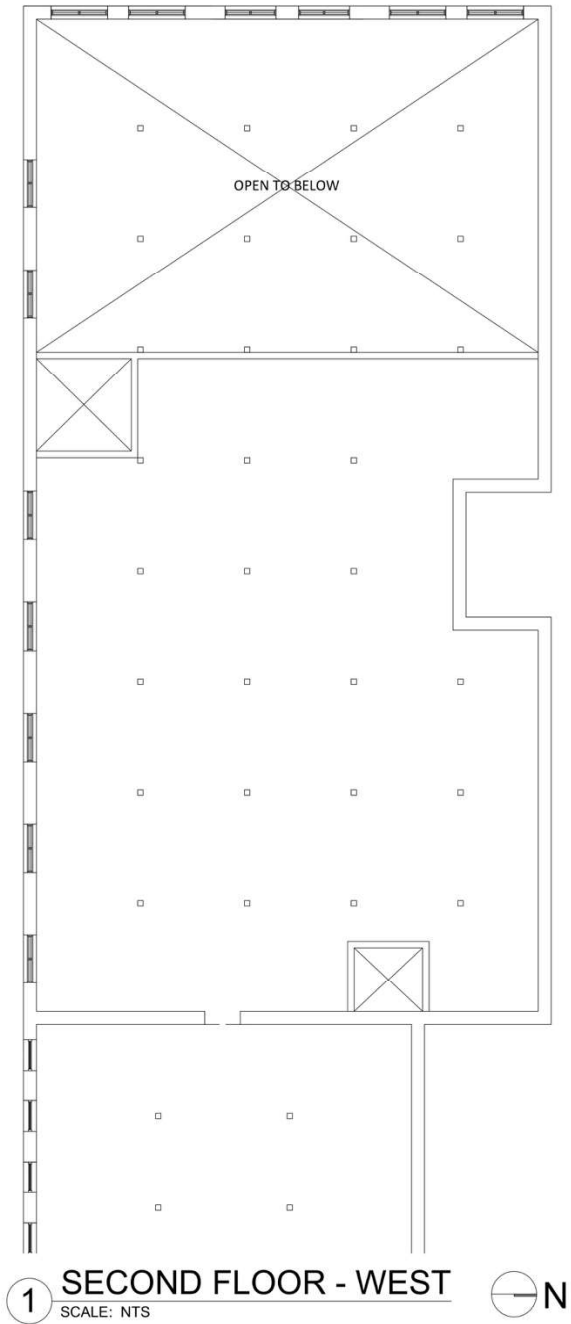


National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 26

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property
St. Louis City, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 6: Plan of second floor west. Source: Blackline Design + Construction, 2019.

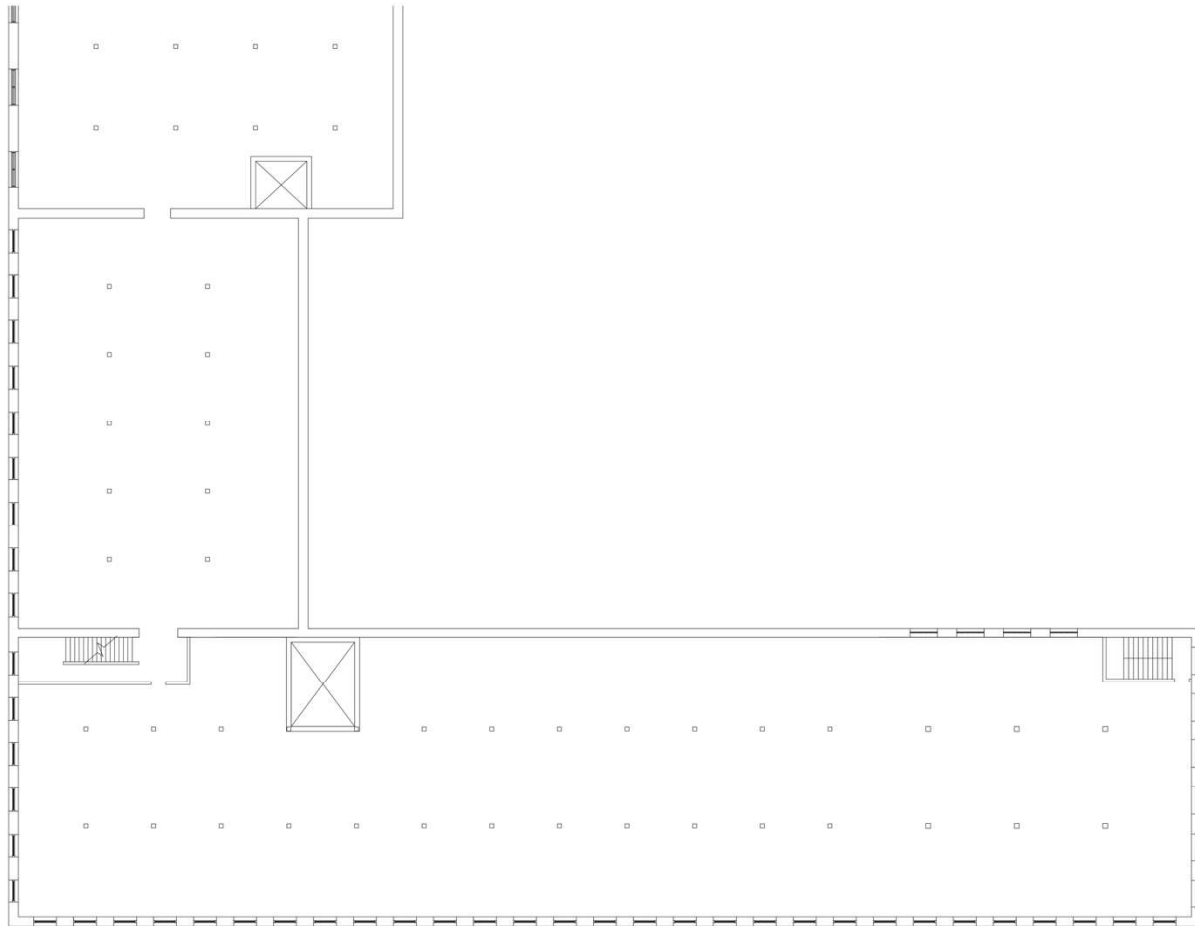


National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 27

<b>Standard Stamping Company Factory</b>
Name of Property St. Louis City, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 7: Plan of third floor east. Source: Blackline Design + Construction, 2019.



1 THIRD FLOOR - EAST  
SCALE: NTS

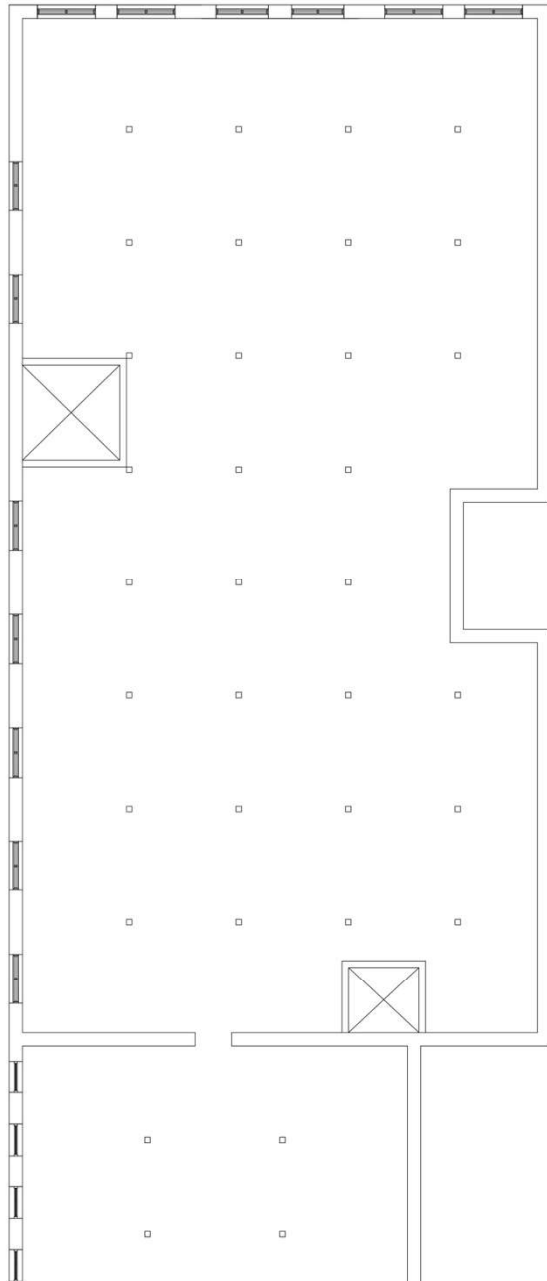


National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 28

<b>Standard Stamping Company Factory</b>
Name of Property St. Louis City, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 8: Plan of third floor west. Source: Blackline Design + Construction, 2019.



1 **THIRD FLOOR - WEST**  
SCALE: NTS

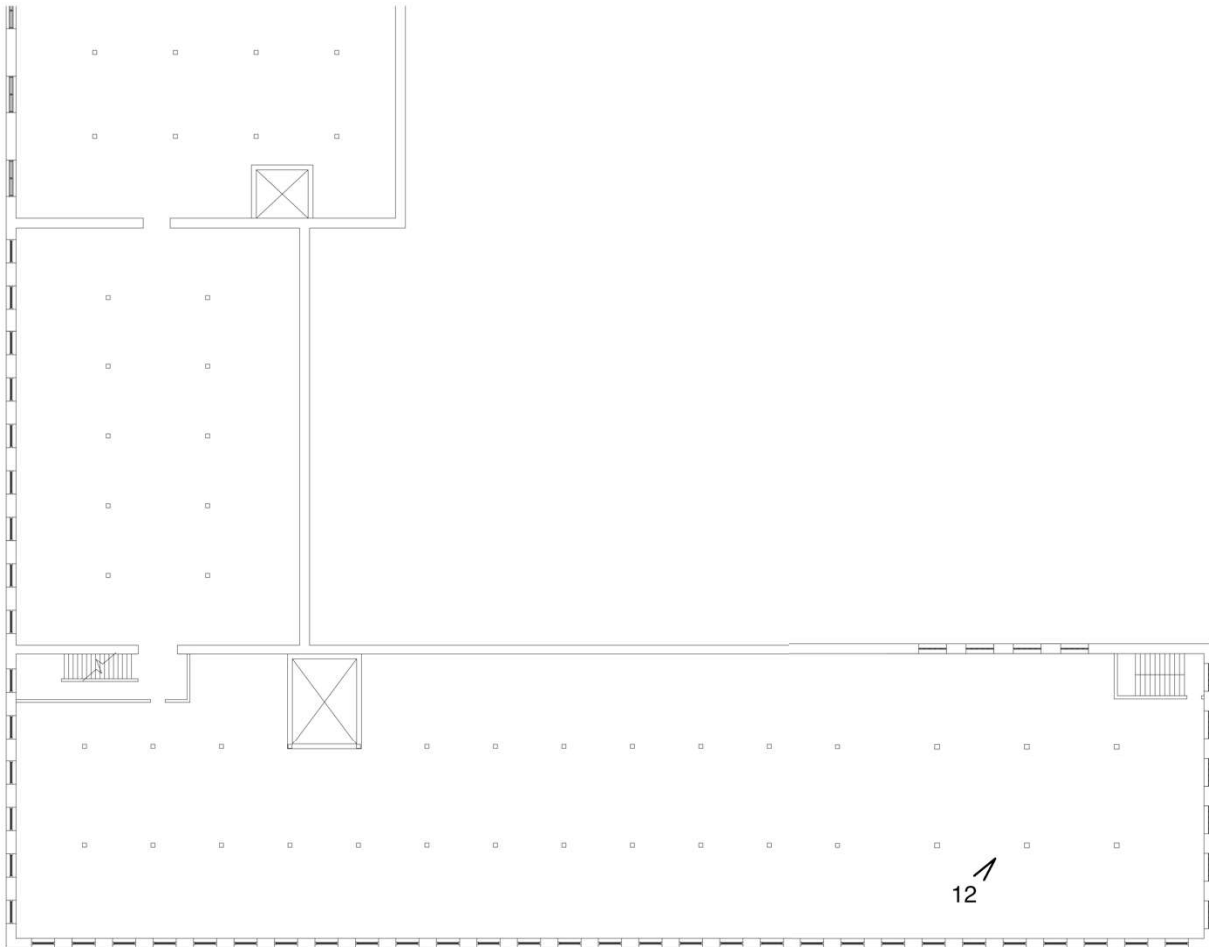


National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 29

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property
St. Louis City, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 9: Plan of fourth floor east. Source: Blackline Design + Construction, 2019.



① FOURTH FLOOR - EAST  
SCALE: NTS

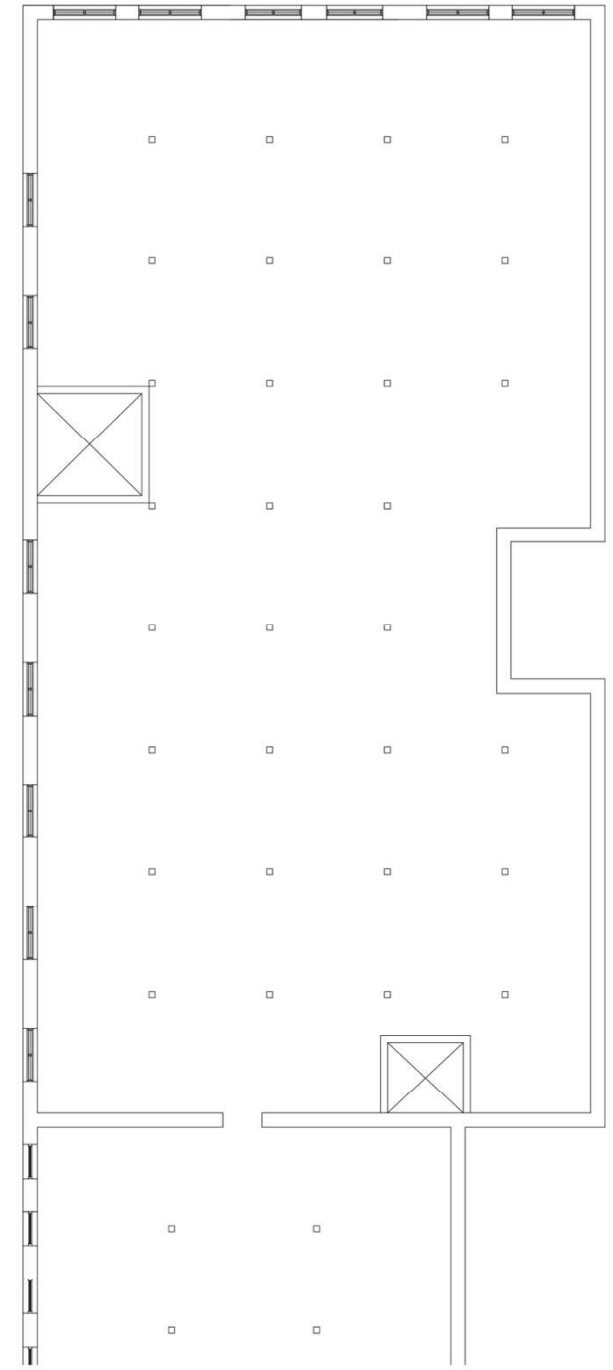


National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 30

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property
St. Louis City, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 10: Plan of fourth floor west. Source: Blackline Design + Construction, 2019.



1 FOURTH FLOOR - WEST  
SCALE: NTS

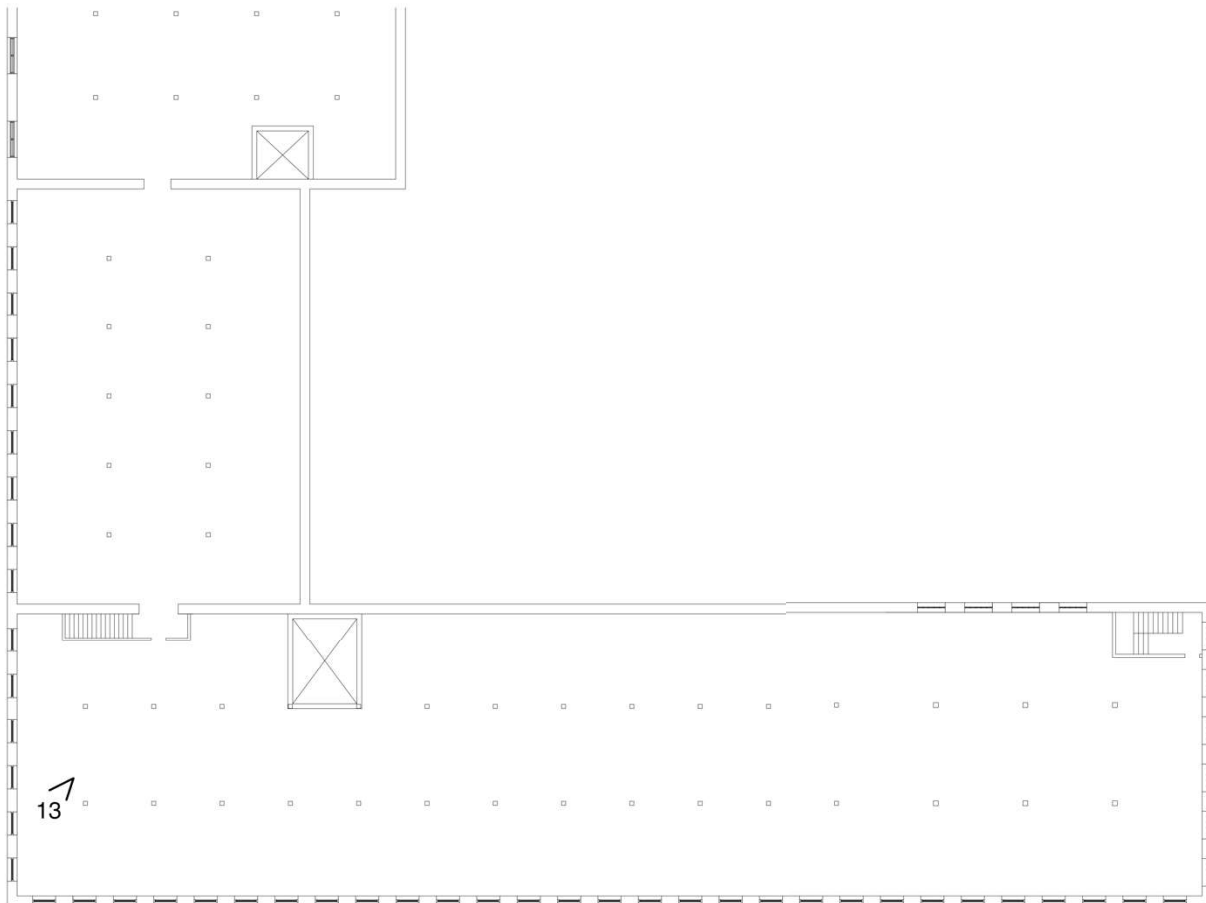


National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 31

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property St. Louis City, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 11: Plan of fifth floor east. Source: Blackline Design + Construction, 2019.



1 FIFTH FLOOR - EAST  
SCALE: NTS

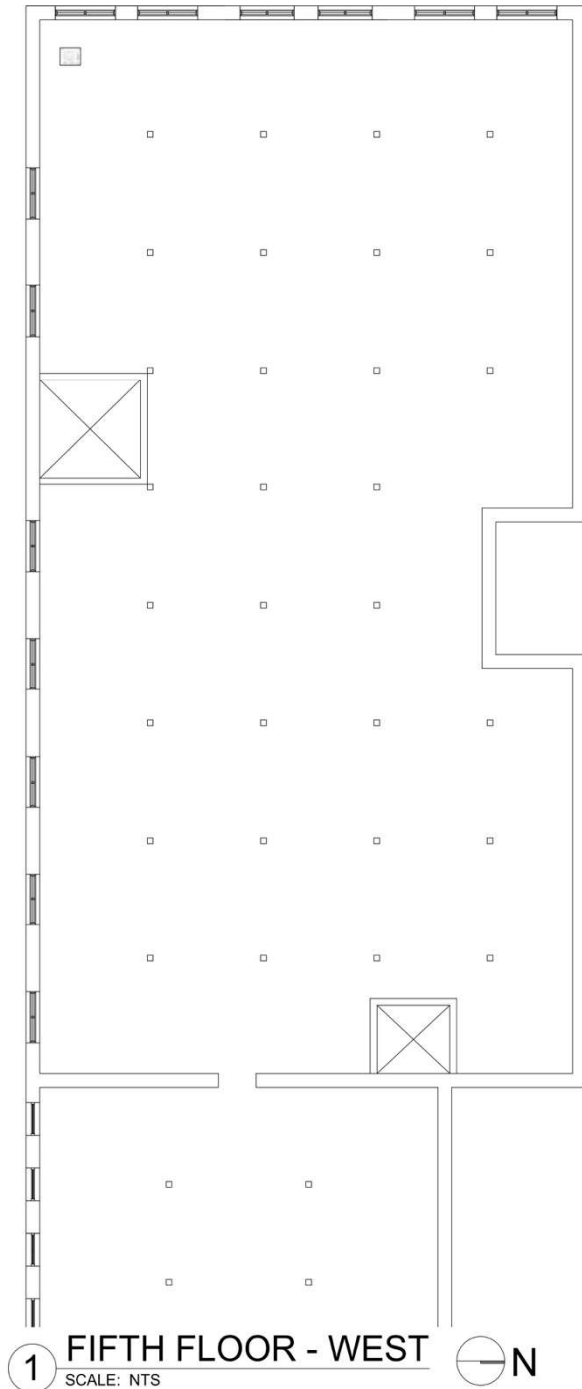


National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 32

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property St. Louis City, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 12: Plan of fifth floor west. Source: Blackline Design + Construction, 2019.

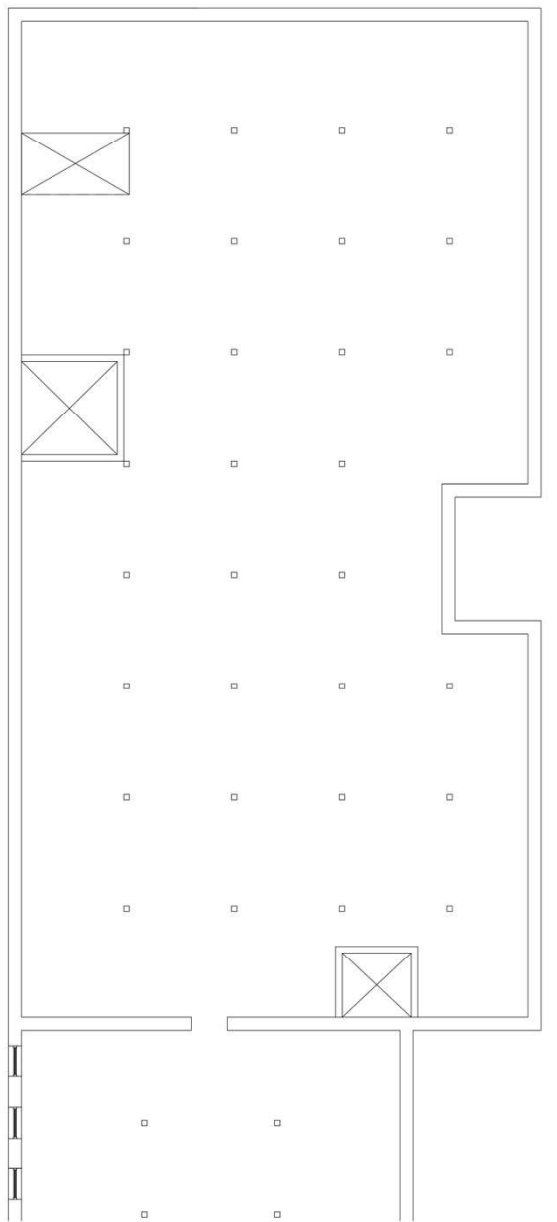


National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 33

<b>Standard Stamping Company Factory</b>
Name of Property St. Louis City, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 13: Plan of basement. Source: Blackline Design + Construction, 2019.



1 **BASEMENT - WEST**  
SCALE: NTS

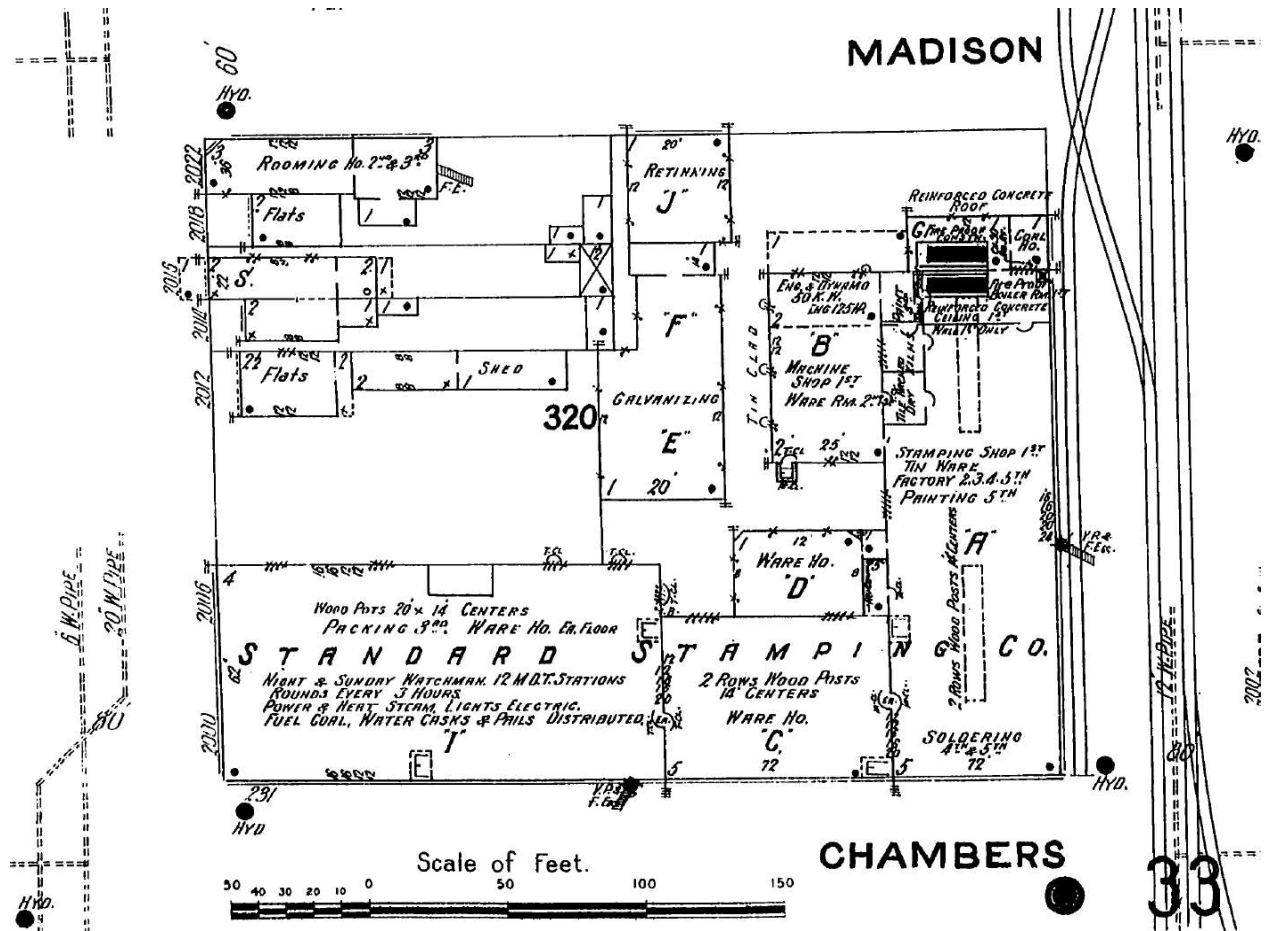


National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 34

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property
St. Louis City, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 14: The factory as it appeared on the 1916 Sanborn fire insurance map. Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, UMI Serials.





National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 36

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property St. Louis City, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 16: Standard Stamping Company letterhead, 1896. Source: eBay auction listings, 2019.



National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 37

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property St. Louis City, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 17: View southeast on Broadway showing cleared site adjacent to the Standard Stamping Company Factory. Source: Photograph by the preparer, August 2019.

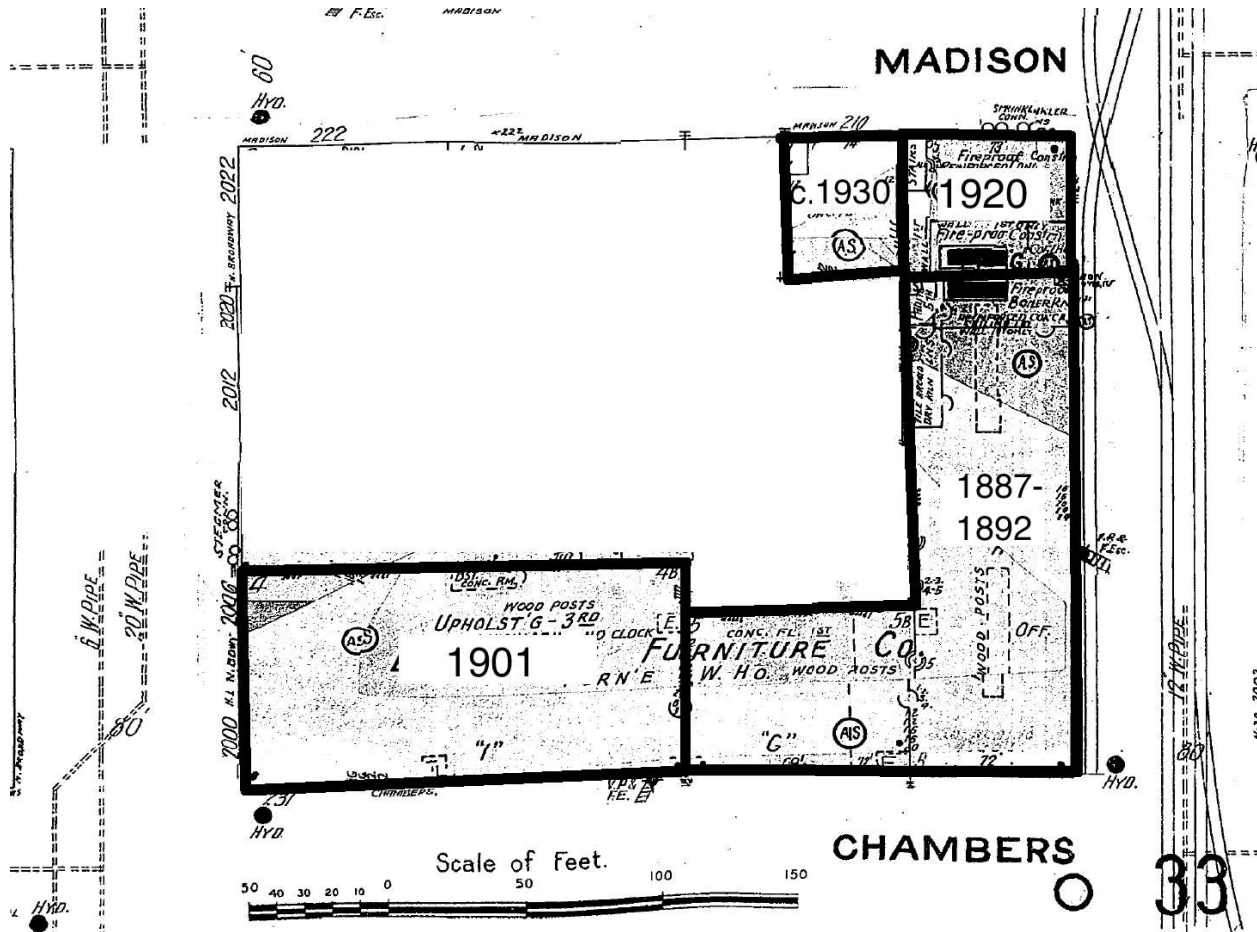


National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 38

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property
St. Louis City, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 18: Sanborn fire insurance map showing dates of construction of sections of the factory.  
Source: Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, UMI Serials, altered by the preparer.



National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number      Figures      Page   39  

Standard Stamping Company Factory
Name of Property St. Louis City, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 19: Advertisement for a Standard Stamping Company product. Source: *Topeka State Journal*. 29 November 1894. p 4.

**SPECIAL  
SALE  
OF  
COAL  
HODS**



Commencing Monday morning, December 3rd, we will hold a Special Sale of one thousand Japanned Coal Hods, full size and good quality, 16 inch at 19c, 17 inch at 22c. Sale will close Saturday, December 8th. You can buy as few or as many as you please at these prices so long as this sale lasts.

**At 19c. Each.**

These Hods are made by the Standard Stamping Company of St. Louis, and are a first class article, usually retailed from 35 to 50 cents. Next week we will receive heavy additions to our Hardware and Tin-ware Department. This week more Floor Oilcloths at 19c, Table Oilcloths at 14c, Mattings at 17c, and a big lot of bargains in Hose arrived. Another shipment Engraved Tumblers 5c each next week.

**The Topeka  
Cash Dry Goods Co.**  
108 East Sixth St.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 40

Standard Stamping Company Factory

Name of Property

St. Louis City, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 20: Graniteware coffee pots from St. Louis. Source: Gateway Arch National Park website, 2019.



National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 41

<b>Standard Stamping Company Factory</b>
Name of Property St. Louis City, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 21: Google Earth Map. Source: Google Earth data, 2019.





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