

**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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Western Tablet & Stationery Company, Building #2
other names/site number WESTAB, Building #2; Meade Corporation, Building #2

2. Location

street & number 1300 South 12th Street not for publication N/A
city or town St. Joseph vicinity N/A
state Missouri code MO county Buchanan code 021 zip code 64506

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 for 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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark A. Miles

June 29, 2007

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/ Deputy SHPO

Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register.
- other,

(explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Western Tablet & Stationery Co., Bldg. 2
Name of Property

St. Joseph, Buchanan Co., 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 count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic Resources of St. Joseph, Buchanan Co., Missouri

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY / manufacturing facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT / NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY MOVEMENTS / Prairie School

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other TERRA COTTA

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheets

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 N/A

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 year of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry

Period of Significance

1920-1942

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Western Tablet & Stationery Co., Bldg. 2
Name of Property

St. Joseph, Buchanan Co., Missouri
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.6 acres

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 341873 4402180
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Linn Hopkins
organization Hopkins Oates & Associates date January 2007
street & number 974 Philadelphia Street telephone (901) 278-5186
city or town Memphis state TN zip code 38104

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

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

name Foutch Brothers LLC, c/o Steve Foutch
street & number 8109 Hillside Drive telephone (816) 820-9183
city or town Weatherby Lake state MO zip code 64152-1628

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 listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Historic Resources of St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri
Western Tablet & Stationery Company, Bldg. #2
St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri

Description

Building #2 of the Western Tablet & Stationery Company is a six story and raised basement, reinforced concrete frame and brick masonry building designed with Prairie style-derived influence, located at 1300 South 12th Street in St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri. The core of the original building was constructed in 1920 with eight bays of its front facade facing South 12th Street, and running seven bays in depth to the west along Mitchell Avenue. In 1941, an L-shaped addition was built to allow the building to fill out its entire block, running an additional eight bays in depth along Mitchell Avenue, and two additional bays in width added to the front South 12th Street façade. The identity of the architect who designed this facility and its addition is unknown. The property is an excellent example of the Property Type "Warehouse/Light Manufacturing Facilities" as defined in the Associated Historic Context statement "Queen City of the West: Commerce in St. Joseph ca. 1865-1929", as amended to 1929-1945, and meets the registration requirements set forth for this property type.

Even though it was built for use as a manufacturing building, the building's design was crafted to concentrate exterior ornamentation in key locations on its facades to break up the monotony of brick and large grids of multi-light steel casement windows. A pattern of cornice, shaft and base is delineated by horizontal bands of terra cotta located between the first and second floors, above the sixth story windows, and atop the crenellated parapet. The intersections of monumental brick pilasters separating window bays with these horizontal bands became the location on the sixth floor for the placement of rectangular plaques draped with geometric, abstract garlands; and, on the belt course between the first and second floors, of stepped elements above and below the belt course. The corner entrance bays are more highly expressed at South 12th and Mitchell, South 11th and Mitchell, and at the original southeastern corner of the building on South 12th Street. Each of these bays was given pairs of narrower multi-light steel casement windows to express verticality, which was emphasized by allowing the parapet line of these areas to extend above that of the rest of the building. The parapets of the corner bays are slightly peaked and embellished with larger variations on the abstracted plaque and garland motifs used to decorate the sixth floor piers. Below the cornice, a belt course of terra cotta delineates a blind arch above the pairs of sixth floor windows, with the plaque and garland motif employed as a stylized keystone in the center of the arch. Much the same vocabulary of detailing is employed below at the first and second floor levels in decorating the surrounds of the entrances or the corresponding window bays around the corner that light the entrance foyers and stairs.

The entrances to the building have doors that were replaced ca. 1980 with single-light, metal frame doors. However, the original "clathri" motif transom is retained above the "Employees Entrance" on South 12th Street, but the transom has been covered on the "Office Entrance" at South 12th Street and Mitchell Avenue. It is not known if the original transom survives beneath the extant panel. Even so, the Office Entrance does still retain its cast iron console bracket-motif sconces, which also retain ball globes similar to those the fixtures would have had ca. 1920. The entrance on South 11th Street was built in 1941-42 as a part of the addition that uses an 18-light steel casement window in its transom.

The windows of the building vary in size and fenestration based upon their location, the ceiling height of the floor they serve, and the needs of the spaces they serve. All of windows are steel casements, some with operable center swing sashes, some with awning sashes, and some that are simply fixed sashes. The manufacturing floors are served by 40, 48, 64 and 70 light steel casements, while windows in the articulated

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Historic Resources of St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri
Western Tablet & Stationery Company, Bldg. #2
St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri

bays and those serving stairways in other parts of the building include 12, 16, and 20-light sashes. Several of the windows on each of the facades have seen minor alterations to permit the installation of air conditioning units, louvered vents, and similar modifications.

When the 1941-42 addition was made to the structure, it was not practical to demolish and relocate the expressed corner bay on the southeast corner of the original building on South 12th Street, and so it was left in place to help reduce the "down time" that this would cause to the operation of the manufacturing equipment during construction. Instead, the addition provided two bays containing recessed truck loading docks with overhead rolling doors at ground level in the two new bays on the southeast corner, and the upper floors were simply detailed like mid-façade windows bays on South 12th Street or Mitchell Avenue. A symmetrical set of recessed loading docks were also built into the new South 11th Street façade. The new south (Renick Street) façade of the building was afforded even less detail than the remainder of the building, in part because it faced on the Rock Island Pacific Railroad right of way, with Building #4 of the Western Tablet & Stationery Company complex located immediately opposite the railroad tracks. Four loading bay doors were built on the ground floor level of the south façade to allow deliveries by rail and by trucks. It is not known what type of bay doors may have originally been installed in these locations, but there is evidence of a narrow shed-roofed awning over each. Two additional loading bay doors were added to the façade in the place of original window openings after Building #4 was demolished ca. 1965. Several other alterations to the south façade have been made, including the bricking-in of four window openings, and the conversion of a column of smaller window bays into loading bays that could allow machinery to be loaded or unloaded from each floor.

The design of the entire building is based around a grid of heavy, reinforced concrete piers on each floor which permitted the facility to support the weight and motion generated by large printing presses, paper presses, and other large machines. Of additional concern to its engineers was the significant weight of large quantities of paper, which were printed, embossed, cut, folded, punched and glued to make the company's finished paper goods. The columns diminish in diameter on each successive floor above the basement, and they were cast in place and given flared tops to spread their support to intersecting beams, which in turn, supported the thick, formed concrete floor slabs. The exception to this rule is the sixth floor of the original 1920 part of the building, where smaller square piers were used. The reason behind the change from round-formed columns to square is not known.

The interior spaces are clearly divided into three functions: manufacturing areas; shipping and receiving; and, administrative spaces. The administrative area occupies a very small percentage of the total floor space of the building, perhaps a total of 20,000 square feet. Administrative functions related to basic employee needs (human resources, personnel, payroll, first aid, etc.) were located in rooms spread along a single-loaded corridor on the first floor facing South 12th Street. The upper administrative functions (sales, purchasing, management, etc.) were located on the second floor in an L-shaped office concentrated on the South 12th Street side of the building and extending along a double-loaded corridor along two-thirds of the length of the Mitchell Avenue façade. The office areas on both floors have seen periods of substantial alterations and new construction over time, to the point where it is doubtful that any of the existing partitions, corridors and openings remain in their original place. At one time, single-light oak doors and architraves were used for each office door, but only a handful of the total number originally in place now remain, including one door that serves as the entrance to a small conference room at the west end of the administrative wing on the second floor. A chrome and black steel and wrought iron stair inside the office entrance of the building remains as an alteration from the 1941-42 construction work.

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Historic Resources of St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri
Western Tablet & Stationery Company, Bldg. #2
St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri

The shipping and receiving functions of the building were concentrated on the first floor and basement levels. The only aspects of the building's design that reflects this use are the loading bay doors and delineated "lanes" for driving forklifts, and a series of storage bunkers in the basement intended for the storage of flammable chemicals and printing inks.

The remainder of the building (basically two-thirds of the second floor and all above it) is now composed of very large open spaces once filled with large and loud machinery. The only evidence left of the machinery can be found in the "shadows" of the machines footprints on the concrete floors.

It is very difficult to recognize the transition points between the original 1920 building and its 1941-42 addition on the exterior facades of the building, but there is clearer evidence on its interior. There is virtually no difference in appearance between the size and details of the structural systems used in 1941-42 as opposed to 1920, with the exception that round columns were used in 1941-42 to support the roof on the sixth floor, as opposed to the square piers used in 1920. Seams in the concrete floors on each level are readily apparent, though, and there are two-bay sections of the original southern exterior wall that were left in place to support the elevator and fire stairs left from the 1920 construction. Since the new floor plates had to abut these parts of the exterior walls, additional piers had to be built to buttress the seam in this location. Chases were constructed next to some of these piers to serve as chutes for paper scraps to be sent to the basement for recycling.

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Historic Resources of St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri
Western Tablet & Stationery Company, Bldg. #2
St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri

Significance

The Western Tablet & Stationery Company's Building #2, located at 1300 South 12th Street in St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Industry as a locally significant resource for its role as the administrative and manufacturing center of the Western Tablet & Stationery Company complex in St. Joseph, the hub of a national giant in the manufacture of bound and unbound consumer paper products during most of the 20th century. Once the construction Building #2 was completed in 1920, it was placed in service as both the administrative headquarters of the company and as its principal manufacturing facility for the finishing and packaging of the writing tablets and other paper goods made by the company. With the construction of its massive addition in 1941-42, all manufacturing, printing, assembly, finishing and packaging functions of the company became centered in Building #2, leaving the remainder of the complex in use for the storage of raw goods and finished products ready for shipment to market. Therefore, the period of significance demonstrated by Building #2 spans from its initial construction in 1920 through 1942 when its expansion was completed. The property is an excellent example of the Property Type "Warehouse/Light Manufacturing Facilities" as defined in the Associated Historic Context statement "Queen City of the West: Commerce in St. Joseph ca. 1865-1929", as amended to 1929-1945. The building also meets the registration requirements set forth for this property type. There are two other surviving buildings once associated with the Western Tablet & Stationery Company complex; however, neither possesses the levels of importance that Building #2 does in terms of either architectural integrity or the history of its administrative or operational roles within the company, as noted below.

Founded in St. Joseph in 1906 by Henry Dayton and William Albrecht, the Western Tablet & Stationery Company was to become a national giant in the consumer paper industry by the mid-1920s, a position it would retain well into the 1960s (Anonymous 1944:n.p.). The company fueled its growth through its "stock in trade" by manufacturing of inexpensive packaged stationery goods and the more ubiquitous ruled writing tablet. Without question, the most familiar products produced by Western Tablet were its "Spiral", "Big Chief" and "Hytone" composition books, an item arguably used by nearly every school student and aspiring author in America from the 1920s through the 1960s. The Hytone and Spiral composition tablets are trademarked items still widely used in America, particularly among American grade school and college students; these products are manufactured today by the Meade Company, who purchased Western Tablet & Stationery in 1966 (Anonymous 1979:n.p.).

Western Tablet set up its company operations in 1906 in a building (no longer extant) at South 4th and Mitchell Avenue, but soon outgrew this small structure and moved in 1910 to a new building located in the block bounded by South 13th Street, Mitchell Avenue, South 12th Street, and Renick Avenue. Referred to as "Building #1" in most company histories, the growth of the company quickly outpaced additions made in 1912 and 1916, thus facilitating the need in 1920 for an expansion to another site (Ibid 1944:n.p.). A block of land was acquired across South 12th Street from Building 1, and construction begun in 1920 on the six story, 157,880 square foot "Building #2". When completed, Building #2 immediately became the center for all of the company's office administration and most of its product manufacturing, finishing and packaging operations. Western Tablet's astonishing growth though the 1920s required still more space for the storage and distribution of its products, resulting in the acquisition of "Building #3" (built ca. 1920 for the Missouri Valley Sack Company, acquired 1924); and the construction of "Building #4" (built ca. 1925, demolished ca. 1965. Ibid 1944:n.p.; see also illustration from *St. Joseph News-Press* [1956: n.p.] which follows).

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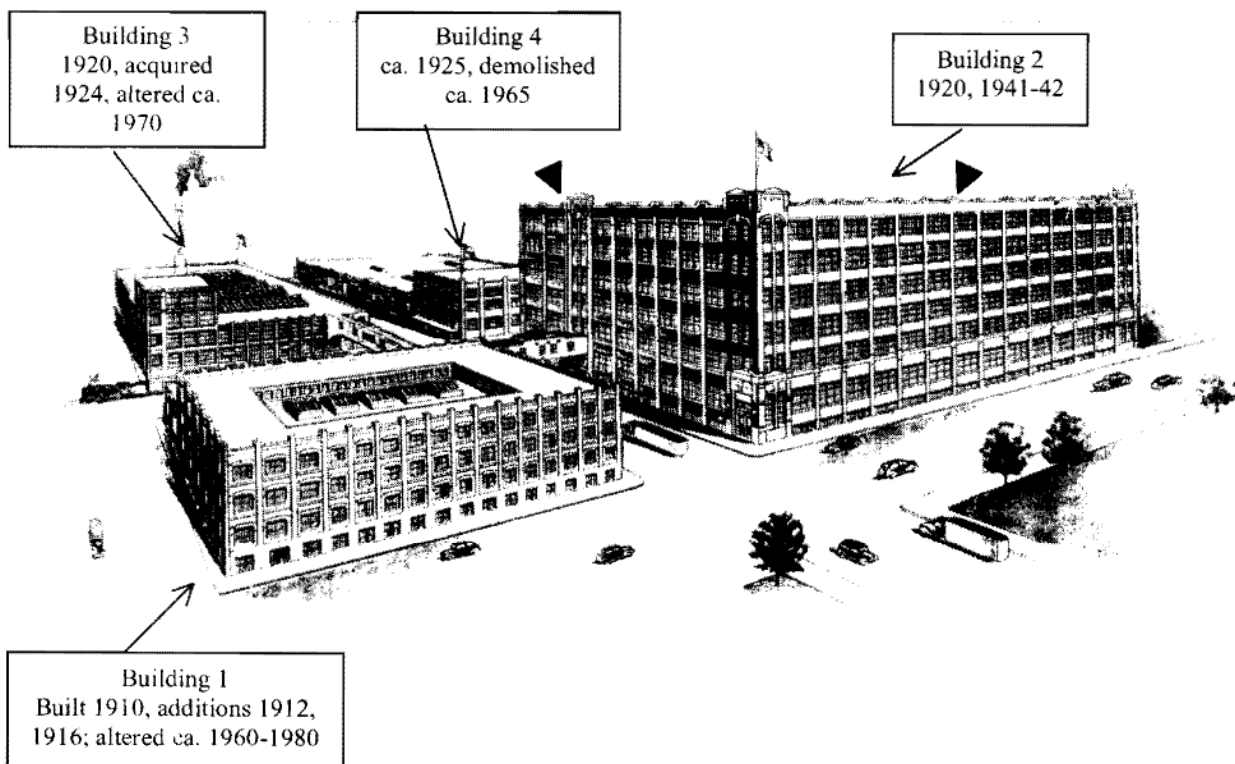
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Historic Resources of St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri
Western Tablet & Stationery Company, Bldg. #2
St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri

While the other extant buildings in the Western Tablet complex have played roles in the company's history, Building #2 is clearly the most important and best preserved among them, and thus best represents the significance of the company's St. Joseph complex. Building #1 is the earliest extant property, but it has witnessed several gross alterations in the early 1960s through the 1980s that have rendered it almost unrecognizable when compared with early images of the complex. Building #3, on the other hand, is better preserved, but its role in the manufacturing process of the company's products was seemingly limited to printing until that role, too, was usurped by Building #2 following its expansion in 1941-42. Thereafter, Building #3 was solely used for warehousing and distribution of the company's paper products.

Much of the expansion of Western Tablet & Stationery in the late-1920s came about through the acquisition of a half dozen smaller-sized competitors in the East, Northeast and Upper Midwest. Consequently, the administrative national headquarters of the corporation were moved to Dayton, Ohio in 1927 to centralize corporate administration among all of these entities. Most of the manufacturing elements for all of these divisions remained in St. Joseph (Anonymous ca. 1979:n.p.).



View of the Western Tablet & Stationery Company complex as pictured in 1948, looking southwest across the intersection of South 12th Street and Mitchell Avenue. The corners of the original 1920 building are indicated by the black arrows.

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Historic Resources of St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri
Western Tablet & Stationery Company, Bldg. #2
St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri

Once the nation re-emerged from the doldrums of the Great Depression, the Western Tablet & Stationery Company saw its business rocket once again, requiring the company to triple the size of Building #2 by adding 300,741 square feet, for a total of 458,621 square feet of space (St. Joseph *News-Press* 1941:n.p.). Construction on the addition began in May of 1941 and was finished in 1942 in spite of the labor and materials shortages caused by the outbreak of World War Two. Upon completion, Building #2 of the St. Joseph division became the exclusive manufacturing facility for the entire company.

The fortunes of the Western Tablet & Stationery Company continued to flourish after World War Two, particularly since many of its products were available to serve the demands of the explosion of the population of school age children born in the "Baby Boom" generation of the late-1940s and 1950s. Apart from becoming the world's largest manufacturer of these simple school supplies, the company also provided a range of products for the ever-expanding office products market of the post-War era (Anonymous ca. 1979:n.p.). Throughout the post-War era, Building #2 retained its place as the center of national manufacturing operations for the company.

The venerable old Western Tablet & Stationery Company was reorganized in 1964 and given the name "WESTAB" to impart a more "modern" image. It is not known if this move was done to attract the public's attention or to attract an outside buyer for the firm, but whatever the case, WESTAB was purchased by the Mead Products Corporation in 1966 (Anonymous 1979:n.p.). For another thirty years, more or less, the St. Joseph Division continued to be successful and profitable part of the Mead Corporation. By the mid-1990s, though, periodic reorganizations and "downsizing" of the St. Joseph facility were made in attempts to increase profitability and efficiency. The efforts apparently did not meet with the Mead Corporation's expectations; the St. Joseph facility was closed in 2004, and its buildings put up for sale. A rehabilitation project is now underway that will convert the building to apartments and retail space, thus providing it with the opportunity to be preserved as an important part of St. Joseph's heritage in a new role for its community.

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Historic Resources of St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri
Western Tablet & Stationery Company, Bldg. #2
St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri

Major Bibliographic Sources

Anonymous

Ca. 1979 "Mead Products, 1906-1979". Business files, St. Joseph Museum .

Anonymous

1944 "A Tribute to William Albrecht", June 16, 1944. Business files, St. Joseph Museum.

Anonymous

Ca. 1980 "Welcome to Meade Products, St. Joseph Division". Business files, St. Joseph Museum.

St. Joseph News-Press

"New Building for Western Tablet Plant", April 24, 1941. Clipping files, St. Joseph Museum.
"In Appreciation of 50 Years of Progress", July 1, 1956. Scrapbook 05.13.6, St. Joseph Museum.
"Western Tablet Co. is Observing its Golden Anniversary", July 1, 1956. Clipping files, St. Joseph Public Library.

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Historic Resources of St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri
Western Tablet & Stationery Company, Bldg. #2
St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri

Verbal Boundary Description

The property in nomination occupies the whole of Block 32, lots 1 through 10, in the South St. Joseph's Addition as shown on Plat Book 1, Page 45; an irregular site measuring approximately 330 feet from east to west and 240 feet from north to south, more or less, as marked in dashed line on the accompanying site plan for Block 32.

Boundary Justification

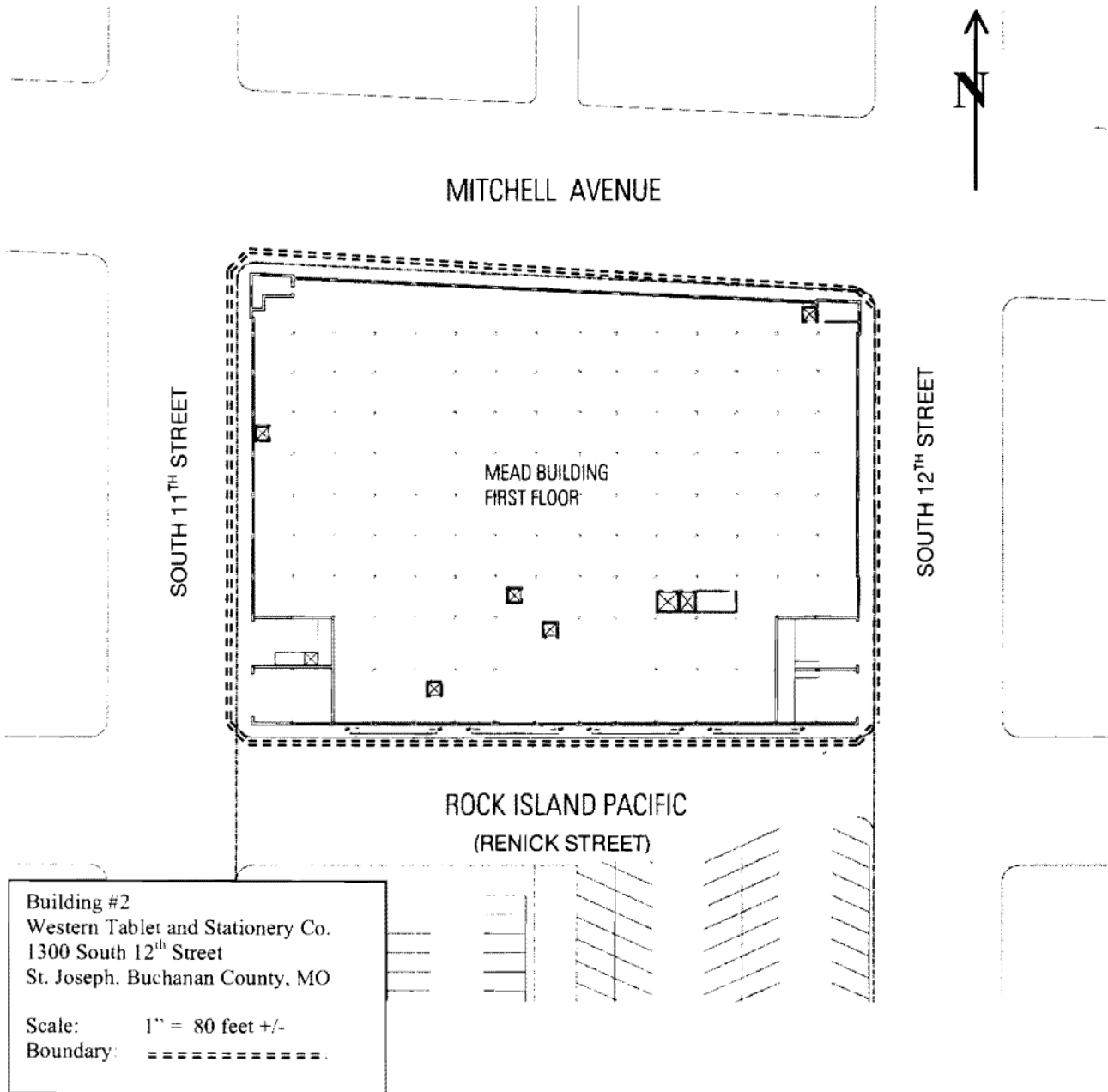
The property in nomination contains all of the property associated with the development of Building #2 of the Western Tablet & Stationery Company complex during its period of significance from 1920 to 1942. The boundary excludes other lots and buildings once associated with the Western Tablet & Stationery Company complex in St. Joseph due to their losses of architectural integrity.

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Historic Resources of St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri
Western Tablet & Stationery Company, Bldg. #2
St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri

Photo 7 of 52

View of the west façade of the building, looking generally north along South 11th Street from the corner of Renick Street. The western façade is further indication of the great care that was taken to match the new construction work of 1941-42 with the earlier designs and materials of the building.

Photo 8 of 52

The entrance located facing South 11th Street differs from the entrances opposite it on South 12th Street only by the use of a steel frame multi-light casement sash in its transom.

Photo 9 of 52

This view shows how the corner bays were treated on the side adjacent to the corner entrances-- in this case, at the corner of Mitchell Avenue at South 11th Street. The Prairie-styled cornice detailing used here closely follows that used on the roof cornice above.

Photo 10 of 52

View of the southern (Renick Street) facade of the building, looking north. Renick Street was, up until recently, a street in name alone, since its right of way was largely consumed by multiple tracks and sidings associated with the Rock Island Railroad line and its predecessors; therefore it is not surprising that this façade was the least decorated on the building. In addition, the parking lot to the left was originally the site of Building #4 in the Western Tablet complex, which was demolished ca. 1965.

Photo 11 of 52

This view to the west along Renick Street shows that the tracks for the main line of the Rock Island Railroad and some of its sidings built to serve Building #2 after its expansion in 1941-42, though the construction of the addition itself was only made possible by the abandonment of several other sidings along this right of way during the 1930s.

Photo 12 of 52

Of the six loading docks that are extant on the south (Renick Street) façade, only four appear to be original to the construction of the 1941-42 addition. In this photograph, the bay at center is one of the original openings, while the flanking bays were created from original window openings. The loading docks were built to serve shipping and receiving by both rail and truck. The fact that loading bays usable by trucks could be built in here and block a railroad right of way indicates just how severely rail service had declined in general in St. Joseph by this point in time.

Photo 13 of 52

The basement of the building was used for general storage, as well as to house some of the mechanical service for the structure. This view was taken looking to the south along the east wall of the floor.

Photo 14 of 52

View from the east wall of the basement looking off to the west. The basement was originally illuminated and ventilated by a series of strip windows located at the level of the sidewalks on the exterior, but these were eventually enclosed since they would allow rainwater and snow melt to enter the basement.

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Photo 15 of 52

View from a point nearly at the center of the basement, looking to the northwest towards the fire stair in the northwest corner at South 11th Street and Mitchell Avenue.

Photo 16 of 52

View of a series of fire-proof storage bunkers located near the south wall of the basement, which were probably built to store solvents, inks and glues used in the manufacture of the finished writing tablets and other paper products.

Photo 17 of 52

View of the two large truck loading bays on the southwest corner of the building facing South 11th Street.

Photo 18 of 52

View from just inside the southwest truck loading docks, looking north across the first floor to the Mitchell Avenue side of the building.

Photo 19 of 52

View from the southwest truck loading docks looking northeast across the first floor.

Photo 20 of 52

View of two of the loading docks located mid-way along the south wall of the first floor. The dock at right is original to the building, while the one at left was probably added ca. 1965.

Photo 21 of 52

View from mid-way along the south wall of the first floor, looking east toward the loading docks in the southeast corner of the building.

Photo 22 of 52

View along the east wall of the first floor, looking from the employee entrance at far left to the two large truck loading docks in the southeast corner of the first floor.

Photo 23 of 52

View of the employee entrance on South 12th Street, which was completely renovated ca. 1980 to include the ramp in place there today.

Photo 24 of 52

View from the employee's entrance along the single-loaded corridor that provided access to the company's administrative offices. The framed, drywall partitions and dropped ceilings show that these office areas were completely rebuilt ca. 1970, leaving virtually no historic fabric intact in this portion of the building.

Photo 25 of 52

A view of one typical office space showing its dropped ceilings and paneled walls.

Photo 26 of 52

Another view of a typical office space along the east side of the building's first floor.

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Photo 27 of 28

This cast iron stair with its chrome hand rail is located just inside the office entrance to the building at South 12th and Mitchell Avenue, and it is one of the only stylish architectural elements in the building. It's design and detail suggests that it was the result of a 1941-42 upgrade of the original stair located here.

Photo 28 of 52

View of the second floor from just inside the stair in the northeast corner, looking east along the office corridor to the conference room door, illuminated at center.

Photo 29 of 52

View from the southwest corner of the office core on the second floor, looking north and east across the general clerical area back to the stair in the northeast corner of the building.

Photo 30 of 52

This view was taken at the southeast corner of the building looking east along the east wall of the building. This perspective reveals that the entire office core of the second floor was redeveloped ca. 1970 with new frame and drywall partitions and dropped ceilings. Virtually nothing of the original plan of the offices remains intact.

Photo 31 of 52

When the offices were redeveloped ca. 1970, some expensive original (1920 or 1941-42) millwork was salvaged and reinstalled in the new office plan, along with other millwork contemporary with the ca. 1970 redevelopment period. The number of doors and other packages of millwork still intact is limited, however, and none appears to be in its original location.

Photo 32 of 52

View from the northwest corner of the second floor, looking back to the east along the northern leg of the partitions that separate the former office areas from the manufacturing floor.

Photo 33 of 52

View from the same point looking southeast.

Photo 34 of 52

View along the south side of the second floor, looking east to the doorway entering the office area at the far end of the view.

Photo 35 of 52

View of the former entrance to the third floor elevated walkway over South 12th Street to Building #1 of the Western Tablet complex.

Photo 36

View along the east wall of the third floor, looking north.

Photo 37

View from the northwest corner of the third floor looking east along the north wall.

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Photo 38 of 52

View from the northwest corner of the third floor looking south along the west wall.

Photo 39 of 52

View from the northwest corner looking southeast across the third floor.

Photo 40 of 52

View from the northwest corner of the fourth floor, looking east along the north side of the building.

Photo 41 of 52

View from the northwest corner of the fourth floor, looking south along the west side of the building.

Photo 42 of 52

View from the southeast corner of the fourth floor, looking north along the east wall of the building.

Photo 43 of 52

View from the third bay north from the southeast corner of the fourth floor, looking west. The small office areas seen here were apparently built ca. 1970.

Photo 44 of 52

View from the southeast corner of the fifth floor, looking north along the east side of the building.

Photo 45 of 52

View from the southwest corner of the fifth floor, looking east along the south side of the building.

Photo 46 of 52

View from the southwest corner of the fifth floor looking northeast.

Photo 47 of 52

View from the southwest corner of the fifth floor, looking north along the west side of the building.

Photo 48 of 52

View from the northeast corner of the sixth floor, looking south along the east wall of the building.

Photo 49 of 52

View from the southeast corner of the sixth floor, looking west along the north side of the building.

Photo 50 of 52

View from the southeast corner of the sixth floor looking northwest. The one of the principal freight elevators and stair cores is located behind the square brick piers at center; the elevator and stair were originally located on an exterior wall of the building that was internalized in 1941-42. The additional piers were needed to support the seam between the two additions in this location.

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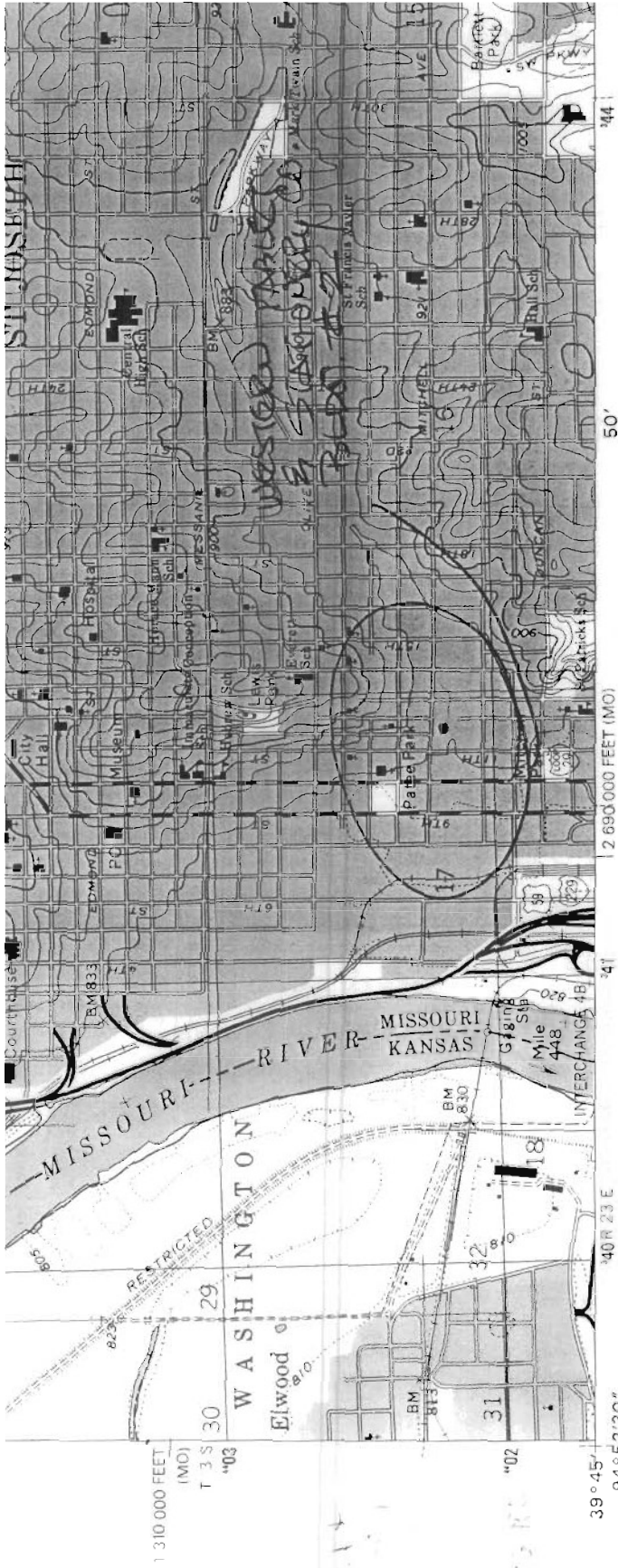
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Photo 51 of 52

View of Building #3 in the Western Tablet complex, originally constructed in 1920 to house a paper bag manufacturer and acquired by Western Tablet & Stationery in 1924. Almost all of the first floor openings have been altered (ca. 1970), and so this building possesses less historic and architectural integrity than Building #2, located diagonally across South 12th Street.

Photo 52 of 52

View of Building #1, constructed in 1910 with several subsequent additions and many recent alterations. Though this is the original building in the complex, its architectural integrity has been totally compromised by alterations to its window and door openings, and the removal of all or parts of at least one floor ca. 1970. Given this, it is clear that Building #2 best represents the industrial significance of this complex.

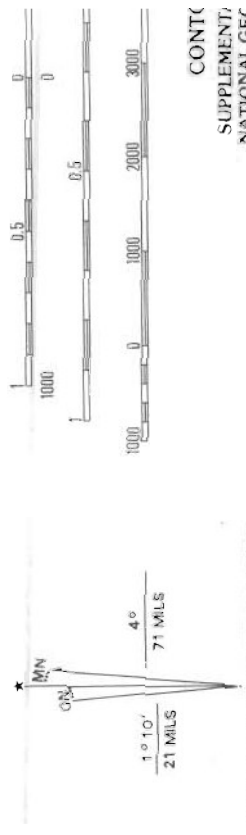


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Topography compiled 1969. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1997 and other sources. Public Land Survey System and survey control current as of 1971

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 15
 10 000-foot ticks: Missouri Coordinate System of 1983 (west zone). 2 500-meter ticks: Kansas Coordinate System of 1983 (north zone)

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software
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 Landmark buildings verified 1971



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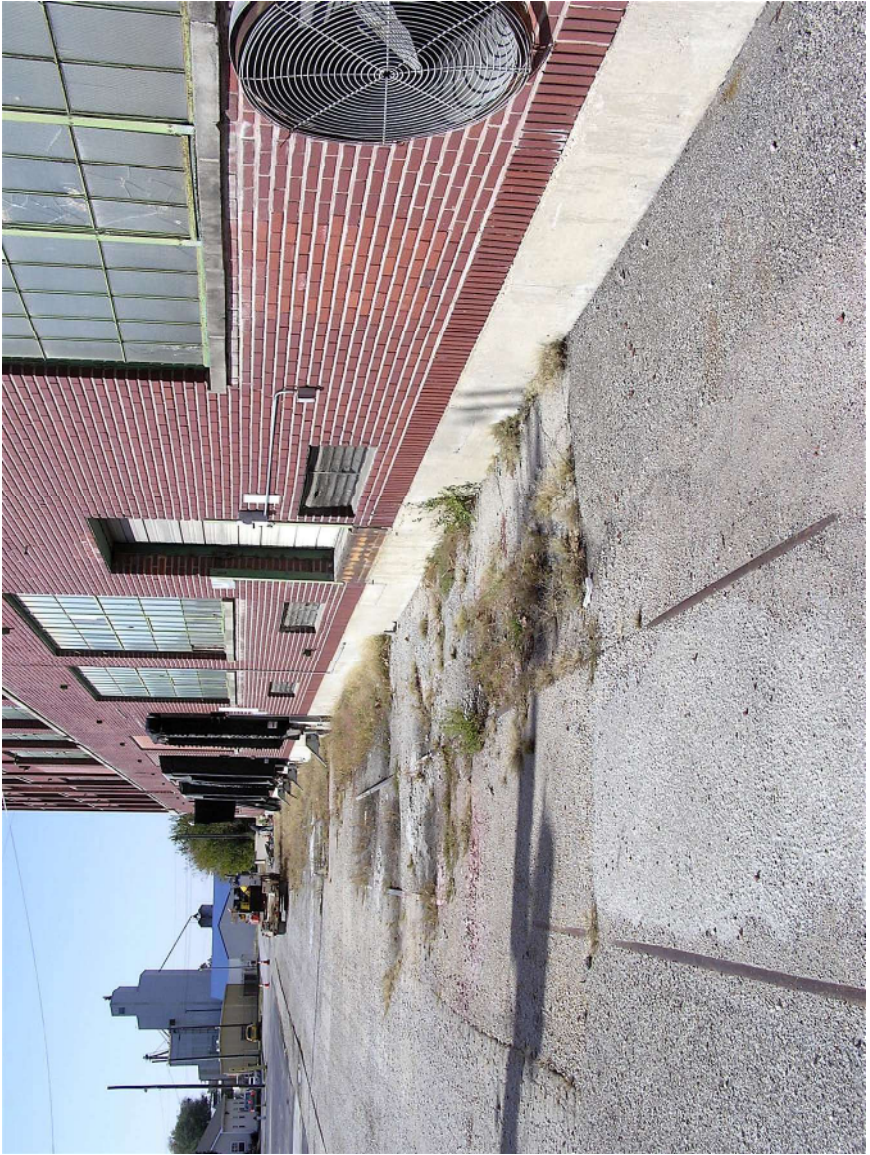
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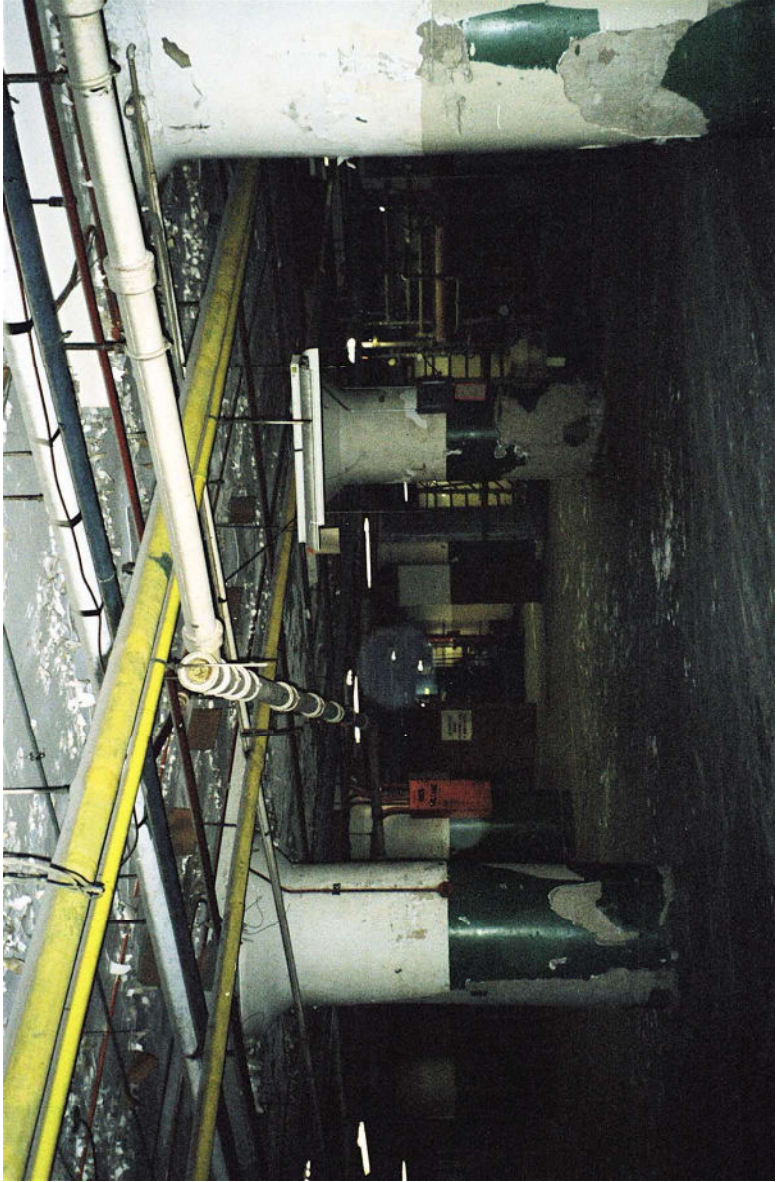






































































































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