

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 Acme Brass and Machine Works Building

other name/site number Acme Pattern and Model Works Building

2. Location

street & town 609-611 East 17th Street N/A not for publication

city or town Kansas City N/A vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Jackson code 95 zip code 64108

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

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

05/27/04
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:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ 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:) _____

Acme Brass and Machine Works Building
Name of Property

Jackson County, MO
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A

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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY: Manufacturing Facility

Current Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: Professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Two-Part Commercial Block

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	Concrete
walls	Brick
roof	Asphalt
other	

Narrative Description

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

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

8. Description**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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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):

- ☐ 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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE**Period of Significance**

1922

Significant Dates

1922

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hitt, S. W. (architect)

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other Name of repository:

Kansas City (MO) Public Library

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1

UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/5 3/6/3/7:0/0 4/3/2/8/2/8/0
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lot 4, Block 54, William Tom's Subdivision, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri

Property Tax No. N/A

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of this resource correspond to the City lot with which it was historically associated.

☐ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Rosin, Partner and Kerry Davis, Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Services, LLC date April 2004

street & number 323 West 8th Street, Suite 112 telephone 816-221-5133

city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64105

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

name/title Studio 611, LLC

street & number 5525 Mission Road telephone 913-530-6279

city or town Fairway state KS zip code 66205

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section Number 7 Page 1

Acme Brass and Machine Works Building
Jackson County, Missouri

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION STATEMENT

The Acme Brass and Machine Works Building is a small, rectangular two-story industrial building located at 609-611 East 17th Street in Kansas City, Missouri. The surrounding neighborhood is a secondary industrial district that developed during the early to mid-twentieth century, approximately one mile south of the City's central business district and one-half mile northeast of the Crossroads Historic Freight District near Union Station.¹ The Acme Brass and Machine Works Building has a concrete foundation and red brick walls laid in common bond. Textured reddish-brown brick covers the primary (north) elevation, which rises to a stepped parapet. The parapet hides a barrel-shaped membrane roof. The only architectural ornamentation is simple brickwork on the primary façade that utilizes header and soldier bricks to delineate window lintels and sills, the masonry frame of a sign panel, and a belt course above the second-story openings. The rear (south) wall abuts the north wall of an industrial building of a similar era that faces west onto Cherry Street (1711 Cherry Street). The Acme Brass and Machine Works Building retains a high degree of integrity, clearly exhibiting its character-defining physical features, materials, and spatial configuration of a distinct property type.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Building Exterior

On the primary (north) façade, sixteen-light industrial-style steel windows with an operable four-light center pivot sash define the four regular bays of the second story. A brick belt course composed of header and soldier bricks forms a continuous lintel above these windows. Each opening has a header brick sill.

On the first story, two pedestrian entrances flank the historic, wood-framed commercial display window. This window features three fixed sections of plate glass topped by a transom composed of four fifteen-light hopper sash windows. Metal bars, installed for security, and an opaque film cover the plate glass windows. The window has a header brick sill. The modern steel door that fills the doorway at the east end of this elevation leads to the first-floor manufacturing space. A

¹ Both Union Station and the Crossroads Historic Freight District are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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historic three-quarter-light wood door fills the west bay's entrance, which leads into a vestibule. Each of the openings has a lintel of header and soldier bricks similar to those at the second story. Between the stories, a course of projecting header bricks outlines a rectangular panel at the center of the building. Within the panel, a painted metal sign attached to the masonry wall reads "ACME BRASS & MACHINE WORKS."

Fenestration on the east elevation, which faces onto an alley, matches the industrial-style windows found on the second story of the primary façade. There are nine pairs of windows on both the first and second stories. The windows, which have concrete sills and thin steel lintels, are separated from their neighboring windows by thin, vertical brick spandrels. A loading dock with an overhead door occupies the southernmost bay on the first story on this elevation.

The west elevation features four bays of single windows on the second story and three bays on the first story. Each opening has a concrete sill and steel lintel. The second-story fenestration matches the industrial-style windows found on the east and north elevations. Although the first-story windows now contain glass block, the size and shape of the original openings remains intact.

Building Interior

The building's interior is largely defined by the historic open manufacturing spaces that dominate each floor. On both floors, the structural brick walls remain exposed. Parallel brick piers that project slightly into the interior space interrupt at regular intervals the flush surfaces of the east and west walls. On the east elevation, between each bay of paired windows are brick piers. Each pair of piers carries a structural member across the width of the building. On the first story, the piers support riveted steel beams that bear the wood joists and cross-bracing of the second-story floor structure. On the second story, the piers support riveted steel, arched roof trusses that form the barrel-shaped roof. The exposed structural members form the ceilings on both stories. The first-story floor is poured concrete and the second-story floor is composed of narrow wood boards.

From the east doorway, one enters directly into the first-story manufacturing space. The west entry accesses a vestibule at the northwest corner of the building. From the vestibule, one can

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enter the first-story space through a historic paneled wood door or one can climb a flight of quarter-turn stairs to the second story. The staircase retains beadboard walls, wood trim, and a pressed tin ceiling. It terminates on the upper level in an original partitioned office space. The walls of the office have beadboard covered panels flanking large pieces of plate glass. A pair of paneled wood and glass doors leads from the southeast corner of the office into the work area.

The original hand-operated freight elevator provides access to both floors and is in the southeast corner of the building. Beadboard enclosures surround the elevator shaft at each level. The elevator retains its historic wood gate and floor as well as its steel carriage and pulley wheels.

Non-historic intrusions are limited to two small bathrooms with gypsum board walls, constructed near the northwest corner of the building on each floor.

Setting

Twentieth century buildings of a similar size, massing, and design surround the Acme Brass and Machine Works Building. Interspersed amongst the buildings are asphalt parking lots that provide access to loading docks and vehicular bays. A paved brick alley runs adjacent to the building's east wall. Immediately to the west of the building, a tall chain-link fence surrounds an asphalt parking lot.

Integrity

The Acme Brass and Machine Works Building remains essentially unaltered from its original design and appearance. The simple utilitarian form, the lack of decorative finishes, the open floor plan, and the exposed structural elements on the interior clearly communicate the building's historic industrial function. The only significant changes to the building were the replacement of the first-story windows on the secondary west elevation with glass block and the removal of the wood floor at the first story. The latter of which was required to mitigate toxic conditions created during the historic use of the building. All other aspects of the building's original design remain intact. The new bathrooms added to each floor were sensitively placed to allow the open floor plan to remain essentially unchanged. The building clearly communicates its historic function and associations and retains a very high degree of architectural integrity.

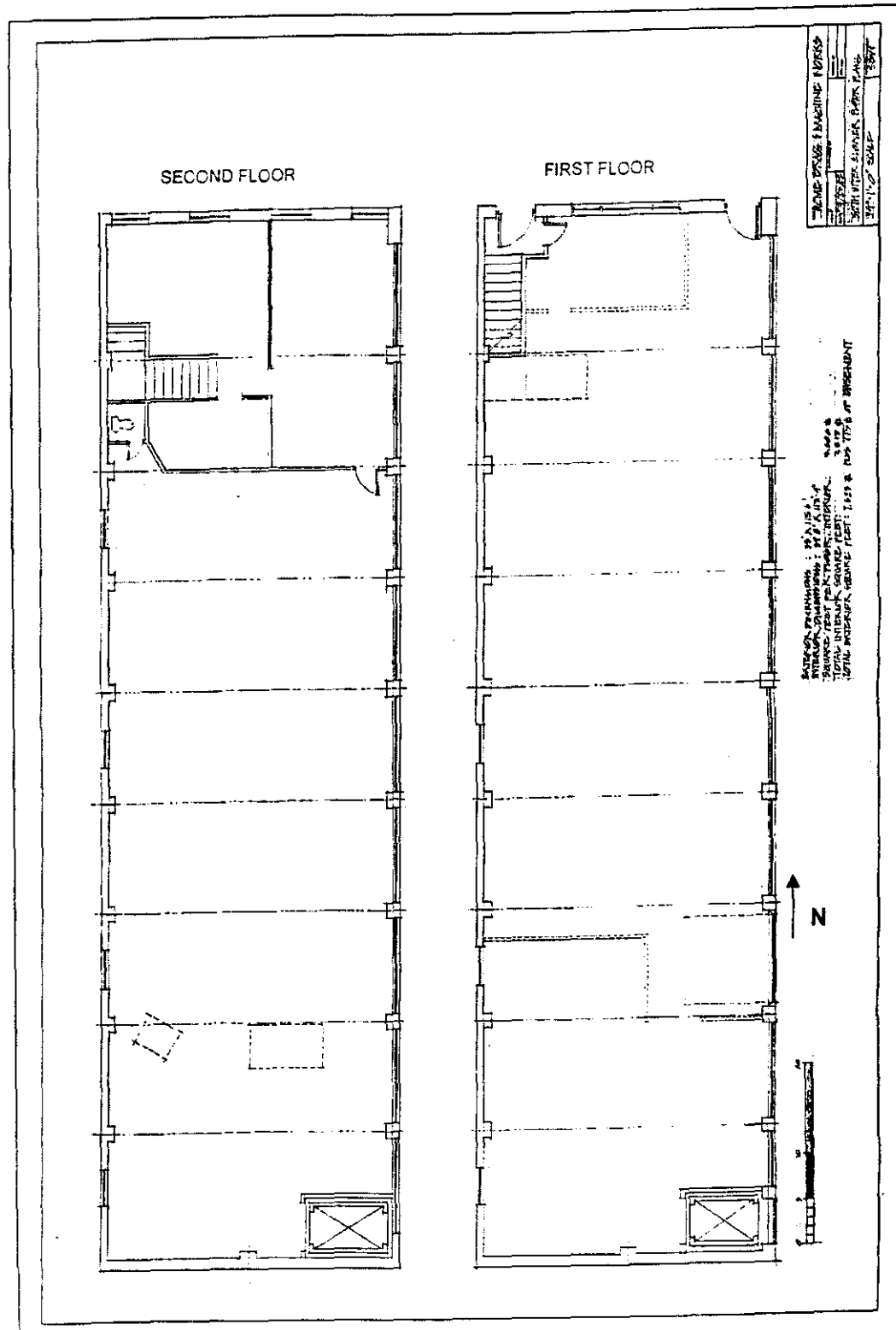
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FLOOR PLAN



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Jackson County, Missouri

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Acme Brass and Machine Works Building, located at 609-611 East 17th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C for its significance in the area of ARCHITECTURE. The building is a locally significant example of a small manufacturing facility constructed in one of Kansas City's secondary industrial districts shortly after World War I. As was common during this period, the building's architect gave the property its distinctive character by applying a brick commercial block façade to a functional industrial plan. Behind the veneer, the building structure incorporated the most recent advances in commercial building technology, particularly a riveted steel truss roof system. Owned by the same family for over eighty years, the building remains essentially unaltered from its original design. Its high degree of integrity emphasizes the unique adaptation of this type and method of construction for a small industrial design. Its period of significance is 1922, the year in which it was built.

ELABORATION

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN MIDTOWN AND PROPERTY HISTORY

Midtown Industrial District

Around the turn of the twentieth century, Kansas City's commercial center began to expand south from the central business district. By 1909, the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps document commercial and industrial development beginning to replace a residential neighborhood along Locust, Cherry, Holmes, and Charlotte streets, south of 15th Street. The 1909 Sanborn map shows that the vicinity of 609-611 East 17th Street contained residential blocks lined with one- and two-story single-family dwellings and a series of two-story row houses facing 16th Street. The property at 611 East 17th Street was a small two-story dwelling with a one-story rear ell and a privy in the backyard. One-story commercial buildings lined the blocks facing 15th Street (now Truman Road). Churches occupied the northeast corners of East

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16th Street at the intersections of Cherry and Holmes streets. A few industrial facilities on the south encroached on the residential neighborhood.²

The light-industrial district that developed south of 15th Street (now Truman Road) was sufficiently north of the Terminal Railway tracks and east of Union Station that it was not fed by rail spurs to support the transportation of goods. Unlike the Crossroads Historic Freight District or the West Bottoms industrial area, this secondary industrial district featured smaller manufacturing and service businesses that served local needs and depended on trucks rather than trains to transport their products. As a result, surface parking lots providing access to loading docks and parking for company trucks are interspersed amongst the historic buildings. The Acme Brass and Machine Works Building, located adjacent to an alley, incorporated a loading dock at the rear of its east elevation.

Property History

A January 1922 building permit records the construction of the Acme Brass and Pattern Works Building at a cost of \$15,000. The builder S.W. Hite [sic] applied for a permit for the construction of a two-story brick machine shop with a composition roof.³ A notice in the *Western Contractor* trade journal one week later confirms the construction of the building from private plans.

At this time, the Acme Brass and Machine Works Company had been in business for approximately ten years.⁴ The first listing for the company appears in the 1912 city directory. August K. and Albert J. Hummel operated the business at 16 East 17th Street, sharing an address with Acme Pattern and Model Works. The latter company, run by J. M. Majewski Jr., E. J. Nigh, and K. P. Laemmle, produced "wood or metal patterns and models" according to the 1914

² *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Kansas City (Missouri) and Its Environs* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1909). Kansas City: Kansas City, Missouri Public Library [database online]; available from <http://proxy.kclibrary.org:2269/mo/4720/dateid-000005.htm>; Internet; Accessed 20 January 2004.

³ Review of city directories suggests that S. W. Hite, the builder listed on the building permit, was most likely Samuel M. Hitt, an architect with offices in the Sheidley Building. Nothing else is known about architect Hitt.

⁴ Unless otherwise noted, information about the Acme Brass and Machine Works and Acme Model and Pattern Works companies comes from Kansas City city directories published between 1910 and 1951.

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city directory. Acme Brass and Machine Works and Acme Pattern and Model Works shared that address until the construction of 609-611 East 17th Street in 1922.⁵

It appears that both companies formed around 1911. In 1910, all five principals of the two companies worked for other employers. Albert and August Hummel were both machinists; Albert worked for the Central Brass Works Company. Karl Laemmle was a pattern maker with Mulder Pattern Works and Joseph M. Majewski was a pattern maker with Scully Pattern and Model Works. There is no listing for the employer of pattern maker Earl Nigh.

As late as 1920, the city directories reveal that the 600 block of East 17th Street remained entirely residential. However, it was slowly changing into a growing industrial neighborhood when the Acme Brass and Machine Works and Acme Pattern and Model Works companies moved. The 1922 city directory lists the two companies occupying premises 607-609 East 17th Street, although the address is correctly described as 609-611 East 17th Street the following year, when both companies took out expanded directory listings. Acme Brass and Machine Works described their services as "Brass works of all kinds — Mfgs Farley, Drinking Fountains and Ball Cocks, Polishing and Nickel Plating." Acme Pattern and Model Works built "Wood & Metal Patterns & Models — Patent right work of all descriptions." That year Acme Brass and Machine Works was one of seven brass works operating in Kansas City. The other companies were located in the downtown business district and the industrial East Bottoms. One, Progressive Brass Manufacturing Company, was located around the corner at 1711 Cherry Street.

Very little changed at 609-611 East 17th Street over the next three decades. Laemmle, Nigh and Majewski continued to operate the Acme Pattern and Model Works company from the second floor space, while the Hummel family ran Acme Brass and Machine Works on the first story. In 1940, the city directory described the scope of services offered by the pattern makers as "Mechanical and Ornamental Patterns — Bronze Tablets, Signs, Memorials and Letters."



⁵ This address was also known as 1628 Oak Street.

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Acme Brass and Machine Works experienced some changes during its long history. The 1930 city directory lists only August Hummel in association with the brass works; Albert Hummel ceased to be listed in the city directory that year. August Hummel was the only name listed in the city directories in association with the company through 1933. The 1934 city directory lists Mrs. Margaret M. Hummel (August's wife) as president; Karl A. Hummel as company manager; and Louise M. Hummel as bookkeeper. The members of the organization were essentially the same the following year — Margaret, now referred to as the widow of August Hummel, was president-treasurer; Karl was vice president; and Louise was company secretary. In 1940, the list of company officers included Margaret, Karl, and John Hummel, as well as Mrs. Louise H. Renault. Five years later, Kathleen Hummel (later Kathleen Gier) was also listed among the officers of the company. By 1950, Roger Renault (Louise's husband) and Karl Hummel had left the family business to form their own company, Able Machine Works, which was located nearby at 1514 Charlotte Street.

By 1950, the neighborhood surrounding the brass works building was largely industrial. Especially south of 16th Street, small- and medium-sized industrial factories and suppliers replaced the blocks of dwellings. Typical businesses included auto service companies, electrical wholesalers, chemical companies, commercial bakeries, machine shops, and small foundries. The Sanborn Map at this time describes the "Acme Patterns & Models" building at 609-611 East 17th Street as thirty feet tall with twelve-inch thick brick walls and a composition roof. A machine shop occupied the first floor and a woodworking shop was located on the second floor.⁶

The original owners (Majewski, Laemmle, and Nigh) ran Acme Model and Pattern Works for nearly fifty years, ceasing operations around 1960.⁷ The Hummel family continued to operate Acme Brass and Machine Works until 2000. The present owners purchased the building in 2002. An art studio now occupies the first story and a paint studio is on the second story.

⁶ *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Kansas City (Missouri) and Its Environs* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1909 Corrected to 1951), Kansas City: Kansas City, Missouri Public Library, Missouri Valley Room [database online]; available from <http://proxy.kclibrary.org:2269/mo/4720/dateid-000017.htm>; Internet; Accessed 20 January 2004.

⁷ Kruger Technologies, Inc.. "Phase 1 Environmental Assessment: Acme Brass and Machine Works, 611 East 17th Street, Kansas City, Missouri" (Lenexa, Kansas: Kruger Technologies, Inc., 30 September 2002), 16.

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EVOLUTION OF THE INDUSTRIAL BUILDING PROPERTY TYPE IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Design

Beginning in the late nineteenth century, the design of Kansas City's industrial buildings followed national trends. The post-Civil War period saw a rapid rise in the size of urban areas and commercial districts became specialized according to administrative, retail, wholesale, and industrial uses. New building types developed and existing building types evolved to meet the specialized functions of the country's rapidly developing industries. These forms adapted popular, academic, or "high style" designs as well as simple utilitarian styles.

During the first decades of the twentieth century, the country's urban centers, including Kansas City, experienced another rapid rise in population. Rapid growth and increased industrialization created profound social problems. As Americans turned their attention to addressing these issues, there was a cultural shift from the aesthetic abstractions of the Victorian period to the economic, social, and physical realities of the early twentieth century. Architects increasingly turned to styles that were more utilitarian. In Kansas City, the growing number of new commercial structures documented the shift to a more functional approach to design.

The patterns of industrial development in Kansas City and the types and styles of industrial structures built after World War I and before the Great Depression reflected both national trends and the unique circumstances of Kansas City itself. Most utilitarian, industrial, and non-retail commercial buildings had minimal architectural ornament, which was usually limited to patterned brickwork or sparse terra cotta ornamentation. Because they lack a distinct architectural style, these buildings are classified first by form and secondly by stylistic features.

The *Historic Resources Survey Plan of Kansas City* identified and classified a number of vernacular commercial and industrial building types. "Urban Commercial Building Forms, 1870-1940" includes the Two-Part Commercial Block sub-type.⁸ Many examples of this property type are found throughout Kansas City's industrial areas — some are executed in the

⁸ City of Kansas City, Missouri Landmarks Commission, *Historic Resources Survey Plan of Kansas City* (September 1992), 160-168.

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popular architectural styles of the day and others, such as the Acme Brass and Machine Works Building, feature more restrained stylistic touches.

The Acme Brass and Machine Works Building exemplifies the Two-Part Commercial Block form, which can be found throughout Kansas City's older neighborhoods as both commercial retail buildings and as light industrial buildings. These buildings are two to four stories in height and feature a distinct horizontal division that reflects internal functions. Industrial buildings that utilize this design typically include offices and small sales/service operations at the front of the building on the first floor, and have light manufacturing and storage areas at the rear of the building and on the upper floors. The raised brick panel at the center of the Acme Brass and Machine Works Building's façade marks the separation of the upper and lower floors, each of which housed a distinct business complete with office and work areas.

Construction Materials and Techniques

The Civil War accelerated the development of metallurgical industries and the post-war fabrication and use of iron and then of steel as structural building components transformed construction technology. By the beginning of the twentieth century, the nation's increased capacity to supply structural steel in a range of shapes and forms fueled its popularity over the less satisfactory wrought iron and cast iron. The development of steel skeleton framing greatly reduced the use of timber and masonry materials as structural building elements.

At the same time, the manufacture of portland cement, which began in 1870, gave impetus to the use of brick and stone masonry for the walls of large buildings. Into the twentieth century, dark brick and stone were popular for industrial applications. Following World War I, the use of pastel-colored terra cotta and unglazed bricks with soft yellow and russet tones created a rich tapestry-like effect in masonry walls. By the 1930s, poured concrete construction and cast-concrete ornament were commonly used. When coupled with the advances in steel technology, the result was a drastic improvement in fireproof construction for industrial and commercial buildings.

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During the early twentieth century, industrial design evolved to take advantage of technological innovations as well as advances in design and construction.⁹ The importance of the technological discoveries and the advent of their commonplace usage profoundly affected the buildings erected during the first three decades of the twentieth century. During this period, the handicraft of the nineteenth century building trades increasingly gave way to industrial mass production. Reinforced concrete became nearly ubiquitous in commercial and industrial architecture and, as the Acme Brass and Machine Works Building illustrates, the use of riveted, rigid-frame trusses and the cantilever accelerated the use of steel construction during the 1920s and the Great Depression years.

As fireproof materials became firmly established as the preferred building fabric, concrete and steel structural members supplemented brick and stone construction. Like reinforced concrete, structural steel allowed for larger, column-free interior spaces. Large multi-pane steel windows, typically with operable central hoppers, provided work areas with ample light and ventilation. All feature loading docks for trucks and/or boxcars. The interior configuration of these facilities provided space for manufacturing and processing, as well as for offices and storage. Industrial buildings adapted the form and façade treatments popularized for Main Street commercial blocks, with architectural ornamentation notably scaled back if not absent all together.¹⁰

The design of the Acme Brass and Machine Works Building embodies these trends. It featured a fireproof masonry structure supplemented by a steel truss roof and structural cross beams. The barrel-shaped roof was a distinctive and early application of riveted steel technology. Bands of large multi-light steel windows lining the long side walls provided light and ventilation for the interior. Ornamented only with the simplest brickwork, the façade design references the styling of the Two-Part Commercial Blocks that dominated Main Street commercial districts around the country. The "ornamental" treatment of the brick is extremely sparse. It is limited to a soldier and header course above the second-story windows; matching lintels on the first-story openings; slightly projecting header sills on all the windows; and a course of headers framing a brick panel between the first and second stories. While the interior of the building featured office areas at

⁹ Sally F. Schwenk, Historic Preservation Services, LLC, "Railroad Related Historic Commercial and Industrial Resources in Kansas City Missouri," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, (Kansas City: City of Kansas City Missouri Landmarks Commission, 2000), E-22.

¹⁰ Ibid., E-21.

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the north end of each floor for the businesses it housed, the majority of each floor was dedicated to the work of each business.

ARGUMENT FOR SIGNIFICANCE

As outlined above, the Acme Brass and Machine Works Building is locally significant as a pristine example of the small manufacturing facilities constructed in Kansas City's secondary industrial districts in the post-World War I period. The building remains virtually unaltered and clearly reflects its original design. The Acme Brass and Machine Works Building incorporates twentieth century advances in industrial construction technology. In particular, its riveted steel truss structure and barrel-shaped roof illustrate the advances in steel technology that led to its popularization after World War I. Constructed in 1922, it is an early example of this transition in industrial design. Through its use of steel structure, masonry walls, and multi-light steel windows, it clearly illustrates the pattern of features common to small industrial buildings of the early twentieth century. The architect of the Acme Brass and Machine Works Building deftly adapted a Main Street Two-Part Commercial Block façade to a utilitarian building form. The absence of nearly all architectural ornament emphasizes the historic industrial function of the building. In addition, the building's location in an industrial area outside a railroad freight district and the placement of its loading dock facing the brick alley on the east reflect an important transition in the location of manufacturing facilities in the second decade of the twentieth century when businesses increasingly relied on trucks rather than railroads to transport goods. Its high degree of architectural integrity distinguishes this property from other properties of similar vintage and type in its neighborhood.

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Acme Brass and Machine Works Building
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Acme Brass and Machine Works Building
Jackson County, Missouri

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

Photographer: Kerry Davis, Historic Preservation Services, LLC
Date of Photographs: February 2004
Location of Negatives: Studio 611, LLC, Fairway, Kansas

<u>Photograph No.</u>	<u>Description and Camera View</u>
1)	North elevation. View looking south.
2)	East and north elevations. View looking southwest.
3)	West elevation. View looking east.
4)	First-story space. View looking north.
5)	Door from first-story space to vestibule. View looking northwest.
6)	Stairwell to second story. View looking south.
7)	Second-story office. View looking southeast.
8)	Second-story space looking toward office. View looking southwest.
9)	Second-story space. View looking south.



ACME BRASS & MACHINE WORKS













THE BEST
SER

KEEP R.C.
WORKING!
ALL DAY LONG
10:00 AM - 10:00 PM



