

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 Crunden Branch Library
Other names/site number Frederick M. Crunden Branch Library, Church of the Living God
Name of related Multiple Property Listing n/a

2. Location

Street & number 2008 Cass Avenue n/a not for publication
City or town St. Louis n/a vicinity
State Missouri Code MO County St. Louis Independent City Code 510 Zip code 63106

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this x 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 x 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 x local

Applicable National Register Criteria: x A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title JP

Date 2/26/18

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

Crunden Branch Library
Name of Property

St. Louis Independent City, MO
County and State

5. Classification

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

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

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

Education: Library

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion: Religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

Modern Movement

Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Granite

walls: Limestone

Brick

roof: Asphalt

other: Glass

Aluminum

Bronze

☒ NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Crunden Branch Library

Name of Property

St. Louis Independent City, MO

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

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: City of St. Louis

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Areas of Significance

Education

Period of Significance

1959 - 1974

Significant Dates

1959

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Senne, Joseph / architect

Crunden Branch Library
Name of Property

St. Louis Independent City, MO
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>38.643313</u> Latitude:	<u>-90.205828</u> Longitude:	3	<u> </u> Latitude:	<u> </u> Longitude:
2	<u> </u> Latitude:	<u> </u> Longitude:	4	<u> </u> Latitude:	<u> </u> Longitude:

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

 NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ruth Keenoy / Historic Preservation Consultant
organization _____ date December 7, 2017
street & number 5229 Oleatha Avenue telephone 314-637-6441
city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63139
e-mail rdkeenoy@gmail.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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

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

Crunden Branch Library

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Photographs

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

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Crunden Branch Library**

City or Vicinity: **St. Louis**

County: **St. Louis Independent City** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Ruth Keenoy**

Date

Photographed: **April 3, 2017**

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

- 1 of 23. Primary and east elevation; SW.
- 2 of 23. Primary entry detail; S.
- 3 of 23. East elevation; SW.
- 4 of 23. Detail, east elevation; SW.
- 5 of 23. East entry detail; W.
- 6 of 23. Rear elevation; NW.
- 7 of 23. Rear and west elevation; NE.
- 8 of 23. Parking lot; N.
- 9 of 23. Interior lobby; NW.
- 10 of 23. Lobby detail; NE.
- 11 of 23. Chandelier, lobby; W.
- 12 of 23. Reading room; W.
- 13 of 23. Reading room toward assembly room; SE.
- 14 of 23. Kitchen; S.
- 15 of 23. Pantry; NE.
- 16 of 23. Bathroom off kitchen; SE.
- 17 of 23. Lounge toward reading room; NE.
- 18 of 23. Pullman sink, lounge; N.
- 19 of 23. Water fountain; NW.
- 20 of 23. Rear east/west hall; W.
- 21 of 23. Janitor's closet off east/west hall; S.
- 22 of 23. Assembly room; SE.
- 23 of 23. Assembly room; NW.

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Crunden Branch Library

Name of Property

St. Louis Independent City, MO

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n/a

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Summary

Crunden Branch Library is located at 2008 Cass Avenue, St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri. The property is bounded by a public sidewalk flanking Cass Avenue (north), a public sidewalk that flanks N. 20th Street (east), the property line / fence (south) and the property line to the west, which abuts the former site of the Pruitt-Igoe public housing project (demolished in 1974) (**Figure 19**). Crunden Branch Library was constructed in 1959, funded by a major bond issue passed in 1955 that provided money to construct four new branch libraries within the City of St. Louis, including Crunden. The property includes the library (contributing) and an adjacent asphalt parking lot on the west and south sides of the library (contributing). There are no non-contributing resources with the property's National Register bounded parcel. The building was designed by Joseph H. Senne, Consulting Architect for St. Louis Public Library. The former library is a single-story brick and concrete building with a flat roof, limestone clad primary (north) and east elevations, and a solid granite and concrete foundation. The building's style reflects its period of construction, 1959. The library's architectural embellishments reflect PWA Moderne and mid-twentieth century modernism. Such influences are illustrated through the building's fluted, slightly recessed entrances and bronze seals flanking the primary bay (PWA Moderne), as well as its box-like form, curtain wall windows and aluminum sculpture on the east elevation (mid-twentieth-century modernism). The library has been minimally altered since its construction. Alterations include carpeting over original floors and dropped ceilings in some spaces. These changes do not diminish the building's architectural integrity.

Crunden Branch Library is locally significant under Criterion A for its role in education during the period of significance, 1959 - 1974. Currently in use as a church, the building meets Criterion Consideration A. Because the period of significance extends through 1974 (less than 50 years), the building also meets Criterion Consideration G. Both criteria considerations are addressed in Section 8. **Figure 20** provides an overview of the building's interior/exterior layout, as well as directions of photos.

Setting

Crunden Branch Library is situated just north of downtown St. Louis, within the area previously associated with the Pruitt-Igoe public housing project, constructed in the mid-1950s and demolished in 1974. Today, the site that held Pruitt-Igoe is vacant and overgrown. This lot abuts the western edge of Crunden Branch Library's parcel. The library historically served an urban area. Cass Avenue bounds the property's northern elevation and remains a busy east/west thoroughfare. North and east of the library are residential areas supporting recently constructed public housing. Northeast of the library on Cass Avenue is Blewett School, constructed in the mid-1950s to support students living in Igoe Apartments. South of the library is St. Stanislaus Kostka Church (NRL, 1979), which operates a school and Polish Heritage Center. The surrounding neighborhood demonstrates the urban setting associated with the library.

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Crunden Branch Library

Name of Property

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n/a

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

The parcel associated with the library encompasses the building and a parking lot (west and south). Both resources are contributing. The remainder of the parcel is composed of a grassy, flat open area (**Photos 1, 3 and 6**). Sidewalks flank the parcel on the north (along Cass Avenue) and east (N. 20th Street). Flat grassy areas flank the sidewalk leading from Cass Avenue to the main entrance of the library (north elevation). Fences surround the property on all sides, restricting public access with exception of the main elevation, which is not restricted by a fence or gate. The portion of the fence that immediately surrounds the library and encloses the parking area is wrought iron. The remaining fence, which surrounds the large parcel (bounded by the sidewalks) is chain link. A secondary walk leads from N. 20th to the Assembly Room (east elevation). Access to this walk is restricted by the chain link fence. Sidewalks are covered with concrete. The parking lot, which flanks the west and south sides of the library, is covered with asphalt (**Photos 7 and 8**). Parking spaces are not marked. Moveable / impermanent objects include children's playground features – a wooden frame for swings (removed) and a spring-base duck (**Photos 3 and 4**). Exterior lighting (original) is situated near the east sidewalk, covered with a metal mesh case. The lighting rests on a small concrete platform (**Photo 3**).

Exterior Description

Crunden Branch Library is a one-story brick and concrete building with a flat roof, limestone clad primary (north) and east elevations, and a solid granite and concrete foundation (**Photo 1**). The central portion of the building that holds the primary entry bay is slightly raised at the roofline and extends away from the remaining elevation (**Photo 2**). The building is rectangular in plan. Metal coping surrounds the roofline on the east, west and rear (south) elevations. Limestone coping is visible on the façade (north elevation).

North (Primary) Elevation (**Photos 1 and 2**).

The primary elevation of Crunden Branch Library is on the north side of the building, facing Cass Avenue (**Photo 1**). The elevation is clad with limestone. Centered on the façade is the primary entry. This section of the elevation is slightly taller than the remaining elevation. The entry bay surround extends north, away from the remaining elevation, creating a recess for the entrance. The entrance holds original paired glass commercial style doors with aluminum framing and handles. Above the doors (within the recess overhang) is original canister lighting. Flanking the doors are single panels of glass, also framed with aluminum. Above the doors and side panels are three glass panels with aluminum framing. The central window panel above the doors bears a painted sign that illustrates the building's current use, "Church of the Living God" and identifies the pastor of the church. An original metal address is intact above the paired doors, "2008 Cass Ave." The area of the elevation that extends above the recessed bay retains the original engraved name of the property, "Crunden Branch" and below this (also engraved) "St. Louis Public Library." On either side of the engravings are bronze seals, also original (**Photo 2**). The seal to the west represents the City of St. Louis. The seal on the east represents St. Louis

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n/a

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Public Library. Flanking the entry are a book depository (east) and date stone (west, "Erected A.D. 1959"). The remainder of the elevation is composed of continuous original window panels. Each window has an upper and lower light framed by aluminum. Original window bays are intact. Originally filled with 10 two-light panels on either side of the entry, window bays are currently filled with 20 two-light panels on either side of the entry. The elevation has a polished granite foundation.

East Elevation (Photos 3, 4 and 5)

The building's east elevation is clad with limestone and has a polished granite foundation (**Photo 3**). The south end of the elevation holds a public entry that leads into the assembly room (southeast corner) (**Photo 5**). This bay projects slightly away from the elevation. The entry holds original solid paired doors. Engaged, box-like fluting surrounds the doors. Directly above the doors are the words "Assembly Room." Above these words is the name of the library (identical to the primary entry), "Crunden Branch St. Louis Public Library." The remaining elevation holds an aluminum frame sculpture that is original. Letters and numbers originally suspended from the frame have been removed. The north end of the elevation retains an original engraved quotation by Marcus Aurelius, "Our Life Is What Our Thoughts Make It" (**Photo 4**).

South Elevation (Photo 6).

The rear (south) elevation of the library is clad with brick. Flanking the elevation is an asphalt lot. Slightly off-center, near the east end of the elevation, the wall projects for approximately four feet. There is no fenestration on the projecting bay, which appears to house mechanical equipment. A metal fence abuts the projection on the east, surrounding utility-related equipment. The elevation has two entrances near the east end of the building. The east entry holds paired solid doors. The west entry holds a single solid door. There is a louvered metal vent above the paired doors. Rising from the roofline near the paired doors are two large metal hooded vents.

West Elevation (Photo 7)

The library's west elevation is clad with brick. There is no fenestration on the elevation.

Interior Description

Crunden Library holds a large reading room that extends the full length of the building (north), a kitchen (southwest), staff lounge and librarian's office (south central) and assembly room (southeast). Restrooms are located off the kitchen and via a short hallway that connects the kitchen/lounge areas to the assembly and reading rooms (**Figure 20**). The primary public space is the library's reading room, accessible via a lobby that leads into the building from the entrance facing Cass Avenue.

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Crunden Branch Library

Name of Property

St. Louis Independent City, MO

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n/a

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Lobby (Photos 9, 10 and 11).

The lobby, which provides access from Cass Avenue, is set apart from the reading room by a glass enclosure (original) framed with brass (**Photo 9**). The lobby has a polished granite tile floor. Lower walls are covered with polished granite. Upper walls are painted smooth concrete (**Photo 10**). The ceiling has acoustic tile (not original). Centered in the lobby – at the ceiling level – is a brass and acrylic chandelier (**Photo 11**). A small door for the book depository is situated at the northwest corner of the lobby near the floor (**Photo 10**). This door has a brass handle and is framed with aluminum. Freestanding metal heating units span the width of the lobby at the west and east ends of the space. Doors leading to the building's exterior are covered with opaque plastic adhesive (not original) (**Photo 10**).

Reading Room (Photos 9, 12 and 13).

The library's reading room, which originally held shelves containing books and furnishings compatible with standard library activities (such as a check-out desk and card catalogs, see **Figure 15**) remains unaltered in the sense that no divisions have been added to the open area. The ceiling has non-original acoustic tile and fluorescent lighting. The acoustic tile covers a recessed ceiling that originally had track lighting. The walls are painted and the floor is covered with carpet. Pews line much of the space, indicating its current use for religious purposes (**Photo 12**). Original display cases flanking the lobby doors are intact with brass framing and granite bases (**Photo 9**). On the south wall are doors leading to the kitchen and office areas (west end). A solid door flanked by large single panel windows is centered on the south wall, leading to the staff lounge (**Photo 12**). Immediately east of the lounge/windows, a hall extends south from the reading room. The eastern end of the south wall (immediately east of the hall) holds three large continuous single-light windows framed with brass. East of the windows is a solid wood door that leads to the assembly room (**Photo 13**).

Kitchen (Photos 14, 15 and 16)

Access to the kitchen is via a solid wood door leading from the reading room. The kitchen ceiling is covered by original acoustic tile. The room has concrete block walls and a terrazzo tile floor. In the center of the ceiling is a louvered vent flanked by original recessed light fixtures. Cabinets and appliances appear original (**Photo 14**). The kitchen's east wall holds a solid original wood door leading to a restroom and pantry. The pantry has concrete block walls (**Photo 15**). The restroom has ceramic tiled walls (**Photo 16**). An original swinging solid wood door leads into the bathroom from the pantry/kitchen. A solid wood door on the kitchen's east wall leads to the librarian's office.

Librarian's Office and Staff Lounge (Photos 17 and 18)

The librarian's office has original acoustic tile ceilings and vents, fluorescent lights, concrete block walls and a terrazzo tiled floor. The small room has a door on the east wall that leads to the kitchen area, as well as a door on the west wall that leads into the staff lounge. A door on the room's north wall leads into the reading room (**Photo 17**). Adjoining the librarian's office on the

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n/a

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

east is the staff lounge. The lounge has two windows that look onto the reading room (north wall). The lounge has smooth painted walls, a terrazzo floor (tiled) and original tiled ceiling. On the north wall, in the northeast corner of the room, is an original Pullman kitchen with a sink and cabinets (**Photo 18**).

Hall (**Photos 19, 20 and 21**)

Dividing the staff lounge from the assembly room (east) is a hall that leads north/south from the reading room. The hall has a partition shielding an original water fountain (**Photo 19**). The fountain is within a recess on the west wall of the hall. This area is clad with original ceramic tile. The hall (**Photo 20**) terminates at an intersecting east/west hall linking the kitchen (west), restrooms and janitor's closet (central, **Photo 21**) and assembly room (east). The east/west hall has concrete block walls and a terrazzo tiled floor. Doors leading to the various areas (closet, bathrooms, etc.) are original solid wood design.

Assembly Room (**Photos 22 and 23**)

The assembly room comprises the southeast corner of the building's interior. The large room has original acoustic tiles on the ceiling and walls. Lower walls are clad with original ceramic tile. The floor is covered with original terrazzo tile. The ceiling is dropped in sections. Fluorescent lights (original) are visible on the dropped areas of the ceiling. Also intact are original ceiling vents. The aforementioned three large windows on the north wall (east end of the room) provide visibility into the reading room (**Photo 23**). A solid wood door leads from the hall at the northeast corner of the room (east wall). Doors at the southwest corner of the room (east wall) are paired, solid wood (original). These doors exit to N. 20th Street. A solid wood door immediately south of the paired doors leads to a storage area/closet (**Photo 22**).

Integrity

Crunden Branch Library, constructed in 1959, has not been significantly modified over the years. The building's original floor plan and original exterior materials are intact. The only exterior changes since 1959 are (1) loss of numbers and letters that adorned the east elevation's aluminum frame sculpture (aluminum frame remains intact) and (2) window bays on the façade were altered – originally each bay held ten lights; currently the bays hold 20 lights. Interior alterations include some covering of original floors (with carpet) and ceilings (with contemporary acoustic tile). Original materials remain intact below contemporary coverings. Crunden Branch Library is remarkably intact and retains architectural integrity that contributes to its significance under Criterion A: Education, related to the building's original use as a library.

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Crunden Branch Library

Name of Property

St. Louis Independent City, MO

County and State

n/a

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Statement of Significance

Introduction

Crunden Branch Library, located at 2008 Cass Avenue, was constructed in 1959 to support residents living in north St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri (**Figure 1**). The building was designed by Joseph H. Senne, Consulting Architect for St. Louis Public Library.¹ Crunden was one of four branch libraries designed by Senne. All were funded by the City's 1955 municipal bond.² Crunden Branch was constructed to serve the neighborhood's high-rise public housing towers' residents in particular. The building was completed shortly after Pruitt Homes (1955), Igoe Apartments (1956) and Vaughn Apartments (1957) opened. Its location is north of Pruitt School and southwest of Blewett School (which served children living in Pruitt Homes and Igoe Apartments). The building is nominated under Criterion A: Education. The library's role extended beyond that of most St. Louis public library branches. Crunden's staff conducted home visits and supported programs for children attending 24 area public and parochial schools. Most significant was the library's role in assisting students at Pruitt and Blewett Schools and adults living in public housing. The building's period of significance extends from 1959, the year that Crunden Branch Library was constructed through 1974, when Pruitt School closed and buildings associated with the Pruitt-Igoe complex were demolished. The associated level of significance is local.

Crunden Branch Library is currently used as a church and meets Criterion Consideration A. The building's significance relates to its original use as a library. At no time during the period of significance, 1959 – 1974, was the building used for religious purposes. Because the period of significance extends through 1974 (less than 50 years prior to the nomination's preparation), Crunden Branch Library meets Criterion Consideration G. The year 1974 is the logical choice for ending the period of significance. Many educational programs for which the building is nominated remained in place until 1974. Crunden Branch Library was constructed to serve a very large number of residents – many of whom lived in the neighborhood's high-rise public housing towers. The library provided staff and programs to educate adults and children living in public housing that began to close in the early 1970s. In 1974, the final buildings associated with Pruitt Homes and Igoe Apartments closed, as did Pruitt School, which the library supported during 1959 – 1974.

¹ "J.H. Senne Funeral – Library Architect," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (18 January 1964). Clipping available at St. Louis Chapter Office, American Institute of Architects.

² "1955 Bond Issue," Website hosted by the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Available at: <https://www.umsl.edu/virtualstl/phase2/1950/events/bondissue.html> (Access date: 6 February 2017).

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Crunden Branch Library
Name of Property
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n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Historical Overview

Crunden Branch Library opened in 1959 at the southeast intersection of Cass Avenue and N. 20th Street. The building was the city's second branch library named for Frederick Morgan Crunden (1847 – 1911), St. Louis' head librarian during the years 1877-1909 (**Figure 2**). Crunden is credited with modernizing the City's library system. During his lifetime, he received international recognition for his work, serving as vice-president of the International Library Conference at London and President of the American Library Association.³ In 1909 – the same year that Crunden retired – St. Louis opened a branch library to honor Mr. Crunden. Located at the northeast corner of Cass Avenue and N. 14th Street, a few blocks east of the nominated building, the single-story Beaux Arts building was designed by Eames & Young (**Figure 3**). No longer extant, the original Crunden Branch facility was St. Louis' first library north of downtown.⁴ Crunden Branch Library served a “multi-ethnic clientele . . . the poorest of the (city's) population” consisting of German, Russian, Polish, Jewish and African American residents.⁵ The 1909 branch was used in this capacity until 1954, when the library closed due to declining patronage.⁶

After World War II, the neighborhood surrounding the original Crunden Branch Library began to change, prompted by the City's 1947 Plan. Under the plan, much of the area immediately north of downtown was deemed blighted and obsolete. These neighborhoods were slated for urban renewal and many were rezoned industrially. Such was the case for the block supporting the 1909 branch library. Within the immediate area, the 1947 Plan identified new highways and interstates east and west of the library. Notable was a planned east/west connector that linked the highways one block north of the library.⁷ Although not all of the planned highways were constructed, the suggested future use of the neighborhood was sufficient to displace residents and attract industry, which dominated the character of the area by the early 1950s.⁸

With no new branch library planned to replace the original building that closed in 1954, the DeSoto-Carr neighborhood just north of downtown St. Louis (**Figure 4**) was aptly described as a “library desert” when the new branch opened in 1959.⁹ Like its predecessor, the branch library at 20th Street and Cass Avenue served the city's poorest residents. Crunden Branch Library

³ Melvil Dewey, “Frederick Morgan Crunden,” *The Library Journal* (New York: [American Library Association], Volume 36, November 1911), 570.

⁴ Jean E. Meeh Gosebrink, “Saint Louis Public Library's Carnegie Branches,” *Society of Architectural Historians, Missouri Valley Chapter Newsletter* (Volume V, No. 4, Winter 1999), 2.

⁵ Gosebrink, 4.

⁶ “Crunden Branch – 2008 Cass Avenue,” Unpublished information about the library, date unknown. Available at St. Louis Public Library, Central Branch Archives.

⁷ Harland Bartholomew, *Comprehensive City Plan Saint Louis Missouri* (St. Louis: City Plan Commission, 1947), Plate 13 and Map/Insert.

⁸ “Crunden Library Branch Dedication,” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (13 December 1959), 4J.

⁹ “Crunden Branch – 2008 Cass Avenue.”

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Crunden Branch Library

Name of Property

St. Louis Independent City, MO

County and State

n/a

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

supported more than 14,000 residents living in three high rise public housing complexes: Captain Oliver Pruitt Homes (1954), William L. Igoe Apartments (1956) and George L. Vaughn Apartments (1957).¹⁰ The library also served residents living in Carr Square Village – a 1930s public housing project three blocks southeast of the library, as well as individuals who had been patrons of the branch library on N. 14th Street (not extant, as noted earlier).¹¹ Crunden Branch Library was the only branch library in “near north” St. Louis. After the earlier branch closed in 1954, the closest branch library to Crunden’s patrons was the Compton Branch Library at 1624 Locust Street, constructed a year earlier (1958), also designed by Joseph Senne (**Figure 5**). Prior to 1958 (after the original Crunden Branch Library closed in 1954), the closest library to the neighborhood’s residents was the city’s main public library at 1301 Olive Street (**Figure 1**).

As noted previously, Crunden was one of four branch libraries constructed under the 1955 municipal bond. Consisting of 23 propositions, the bond’s primary focus was slum clearance and urban renewal.¹² The city’s 1955 municipal bond for \$110.6 million was overwhelmingly approved by voters – it fueled the city’s highway construction, supported the construction of bridges and parks, new hospitals, public building improvements, waterfront redevelopment, street resurfacing, neighborhood revitalization activities and (in the name of urban renewal and slum clearance) displaced many of the city’s black residents who lived in Mill Creek Valley.¹³ Mill Creek Valley was St. Louis’ largest renewal project to date and it took nearly 20 years to complete. “Named for a creek that ran from Vandeventer and Market streets to the Mississippi River, the Mill Creek Valley stretched from Twentieth Street west to Grand Boulevard, and from Olive Street south to the railroad tracks.”¹⁴ In 1953, Mill Creek Valley supported roughly 20,000 citizens (95% black) and approximately 800 businesses.¹⁵ Many displaced residents from Mill Creek moved into Pruitt Homes and Igoe Apartments – constructed in the early 1950s under federal housing authority/funding (**Figure 6**).¹⁶

While federal and local funding supported St. Louis’ urban renewal activities (such as Mill Creek Valley clearance and the construction of public housing), it was the 1955 bond alone that provided \$1 million for new libraries. Under this funding, Crunden Branch Library and three others: Compton Branch Library at 1624 Locust Street (1958), Buder Branch Library at 5320

¹⁰ Olive Skinner, “Crunden Library’s Wonderful World of Books,” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (13 April 1962). Clipping available at St. Louis Public Library, Central Branch Archives.

¹¹ “Crunden Branch – 2008 Cass Avenue,” St. Louis Housing Authority, “(Public Housing) Project Fact Sheets 1966-67” (Unpublished, 1967), pages not numbered.

¹² “1955 Bond Issue,” Website hosted by the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

¹³ James Neal Primm, *Lion of the Valley St. Louis, Missouri* (Boulder, CO: Pruett Publishing Company, 1981), 495-496.

¹⁴ Tim Fox, *Where We Live: A Guide to St. Louis Communities* (St. Louis: Missouri Historical Society, 1995), 94.

¹⁵ “Mill Creek Valley,” University of Missouri-St. Louis, “Virtual” website (Available at: <https://www.umsi.edu/virtualstl/phase2/1950/mapandguide/millcreeknode.html>), Access date: 25 October 2017.

¹⁶ Katherine G. Bristol, “The Pruitt-Igoe Myth,” *Journal of Architectural Education* (Volume 44, No. 3, May 1991), 183.

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Hampton Avenue (1962) and Divoll Branch Library at 4240 N. Grand Boulevard (1966) were constructed.¹⁷ All of these libraries are extant and were designed by Joseph H. Senne, Consulting Architect of St. Louis Public Library. **Figures 7-9** illustrate Senne's architectural renderings for the new Crunden Branch Library and a photograph of the building, shortly after it opened in the early 1960s.

Joseph Harold Senne (1890 – 1964) was born in St. James, Missouri, the second son of Solomon S. and Margaret Campbell Senne. After Margaret died in 1895, Senne's father remarried and had four more children with his second wife, Rose. Joseph moved in with his grandmother, Mary Senne (who resided in St. James) sometime after his mother's death.¹⁸ He left St. James c. 1910 for St. Louis, where he completed an architectural degree at Washington University in 1914. In 1918, Senne launched an architectural practice. He married Pearl Boch (1893 – 1979), with whom he had four children: John E., Joseph, Jr., Suzanne and Celia. In 1954, Senne accepted the position of Consulting Architect for St. Louis Public Library. Throughout his professional career, he taught architectural courses at Central High School and Hadley Technical High School – schools attended by African-American high school students living near Crunden Branch Library.¹⁹

When Crunden opened in 1959, it was anticipated that the library would support 45,500 residents. The reality is that by 1962, the library served no less than 100,000 residents due to the adjacent high-rise public housing towers. **Figure 10** illustrates a typical weekday afternoon at the library in the early 1960s, when hundreds of students living in the neighborhood flocked to the library.²⁰ Library staff frequented neighborhood schools and made weekly visits to residents. Students, teachers and parents found the library invaluable. Teachers assigned projects that required students to use the library – many schools brought classes to the library on a regular basis. The library served 24 public and private schools in 1962 (**Table 1**). By the early 1960s, more children used Crunden than any of the city's other branch libraries.²¹ Crunden offered a variety of programs for all ages. Music, art and movies were regular events that patrons could attend free of charge.²² The library provided story hours for children; college application assistance and job training for young adults; and reading instruction for adults. Crunden was more than a library – it was a community “center and listening post” where children and adults came to feel safe, accepted, enlightened and encouraged (**Figures 11-12**).²³

¹⁷ “1955 Bond Issue,” Website hosted by the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

¹⁸ United States Census, 1910-1940, Available at: ancestry.com (Access date: 14 April 2017).

¹⁹ Joseph Harold Senne, Professional Membership Information, AIA, St. Louis Chapter (911 Washington Avenue, St. Louis, MO).

²⁰ “Handsome New Library Is a Hit With Neighborhood Kids,” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (29 May 1960), 18 (Sunday supplement); Skinner.

²¹ Skinner.

²² Ibid; Lawrence Gwen, Former teacher at Pruitt School, Grades 6-8: 1964-1974. Interview with Ruth Keenoy, 29 March 2017.

²³ Ibid.

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Table 1. Schools Supported by Crunden Branch Library

Name of School	Location	Public/Private Designation	Ethnic Population Served, Primarily
Blair	2707 Rauschenbach Street	Public	White
Blewett	1927 Cass Avenue	Public	African-American
Carr	1421 Carr Street	Public	African-American
Curtis	2824 Madison Street	Public	African-American
Dessalines	1745 Hadley Street	Public	African-American
Dunbar	1415 Garrison Street	Public	African-American
Howard	2333 Benton Street	Public	White
Jackson	1632 Hogan Street	Public	White
O'Fallon	1409 N. 14 th Street	Public	African-American
Our Lady Help of Christians	1013 N. 10 th Street	Catholic	Italian
Patrick Henry	1220 N. 9 th Street	Public	African-American
Pruitt	1212 N. 22 nd Street	Public	African-American
Sacred Heart	2501 St. Louis Avenue	Catholic	White
St. Bridget	2615 Stoddard Street	Catholic	African-American
St. Casimir's	803 Mullanphy Street	Catholic	Polish
St. Joseph's	1431 N. 11 th Street	Catholic	White
St. Leo's	2337 Mullanphy Street	Catholic	White
St. Liborius	1839 Hogan Street	Catholic	White
St. Michael's	2505 N. 11 th Street	Catholic	White
St. Nicholas	1915 Lucas Street	Catholic	African-American
St. Patrick's	1209 N. 6 th Street	Catholic	White
St. Stanislaus	1421 N. 20 th Street	Catholic	Polish
Webster	2127 N. 11 th Street	Public	White
Zion Lutheran	2005 Benton Street	Lutheran	White

(Source: "Schools Served by Crunden Branch," Available at St. Louis Public Library/Archives/Central Branch).

As noted, many of the library's patrons – adults and children – lived in Pruitt-Igoe. During the years 1953 – 1957, five high-rise public housing projects were constructed in St. Louis (none are extant): John J. Cochran Garden Apartments (1953), Captain Wendell Oliver Pruitt Homes (1954), William L. Igoe Apartments (1956), George L. Vaughn Apartments (1957) and Joseph M. Darst / Anthony M. Webbe Apartments (1957).²⁴ As noted earlier, three of these projects were served by Crunden Library (**Figure 13**). The library building was situated at the northeast corner of the parcels that held Pruitt Homes and Igoe Apartments. Pruitt Homes were named for Tuskegee Airman, Captain Wendell Oliver Pruitt, as was Pruitt School.²⁵ Because Pruitt Homes was constructed at about the same time as the William L. Igoe Apartments (named for U.S.

²⁴ St. Louis Housing Authority, "(Public Housing) Project Fact Sheets 1966-67," Unpublished (City of St. Louis, Housing Authority), 1967 (pages not numbered).

²⁵ "Four School Name Changes Approved," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (8 June 1955), 10A.

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Congressman, William Leo Igoe) and immediately south of Igoe Apartments, the two complexes soon became known as a single entity, Pruitt-Igoe (**Figure 14**).²⁶

Crunden Branch Library's neighborhood began to change once again by the early 1970s. Of great detriment was the rising violence associated with Pruitt-Igoe. Although the city sought redevelopment, the site was deemed "a crushing financial burden [and] uninhabitable public housing project."²⁷ Partial demolition of the towers began in the early 1970s. Only seventeen of the dual complex's 33 buildings were occupied in 1971. In 1974 the entire complex was closed with plans to demolish the remaining towers, at which time Pruitt School was also closed.²⁸ Though few residents remained in Pruitt-Igoe by 1974, those who did relocated to other public housing complexes such as Darst-Webbe.²⁹ Changing demographics and rising crime during the early 1970s led to the exodus of businesses and many residents. As a result, the library became much less viable and closed in 1981.³⁰ Purchased by a religious organization in the 1980s, the building is currently used as a church.³¹

Criterion A: Education

Crunden Branch Library meets Criterion A: Education for the library's role during the period of significance, 1959 – 1974. Crunden Branch Library worked in conjunction with area schools and offered its own variety of programs to fill the gaps where other institutions (e.g., schools and churches) fell short. Although Crunden is best remembered for the library's role in working with residents of Pruitt-Igoe, the library served 12 public and 12 parochial schools (Table 1). The library was an educational center for children and adults living in the Yeatman, Montgomery, Murphy-Blair and Carr Central neighborhoods (Figure 4). When the branch opened in 1959, it was serving approximately 100,000 residents.³² In addition to educating school-aged children, Crunden created programs to educate adults, encourage literacy, provide early childhood learning opportunities and support seniors who were unable to visit the library.

Crunden Branch Library was more than a building that housed books. For many, the library was a place of learning, entertainment and safety. This was particularly true for children who lived in the neighborhood's adjacent public housing complexes – Pruitt Homes, Igoe Apartments, Vaughn Apartments and Carr Square Village. Hundreds of children and teenagers visited the library daily after school. They stopped by Crunden to return and check out books, receive

²⁶ Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, "Igoe, William Leo (1879-1953)," Available at: <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=I000005> (Access date: 24 March 2017).

²⁷ St. Louis Housing Authority, "Final Environmental Impact Statement: Pruitt Homes and Igoe Apartments Public Housing Complex," Unpublished (September, 1974), I-1.

²⁸ Primm, 489.

²⁹ Robert E. Green, former Pruitt School student, 1964-1970, Interview with Ruth Keenoy, 27 March 2017.

³⁰ "Crunden Branch Library," Contents description for collection at St. Louis Public Library/Archives, undated.

³¹ Frances Stepney, Pastor, Church of the Living God, Interview with Ruth Keenoy (3 April 2017).

³² Skinner.

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assistance with school assignments and were encouraged to socialize.³³ Five months after the library opened, an estimated 850 school-aged patrons visited the library daily. Younger children were offered daily story hours. The library coordinated with area schools – staff worked with children at their schools and teachers brought students to the library on a regular basis.³⁴ Each December, the library went “all out,” helping children to make holiday decorations, providing refreshments, putting up a Christmas tree, singing carols and setting up a nativity scene. For many, the annual Christmas party at Crunden was their only holiday celebration (**Figure 16**).³⁵ As one librarian noted, about the children who regularly visited the library . . .

They’ve learned this is a friendly place, a place to show off a toad they’ve found, a place where they can learn why a Mexican jumping bean hops. We get all kinds of requests. A 10-year old came in to ask for a book on how to make money. Another boy asked for all available material on camping in the Ozarks. All summer long he read himself through those hills. Later I found out that he had never been outside of St. Louis all his life.³⁶

Head librarian, Ellen Q. Claus well recognized that the bulk of her library’s patrons lived in public housing – most were poor and African-American. In an effort to reach out to those living in the area, she and one staff member visited residents every Tuesday evening after library hours. Going door to door, the team encouraged residents – particularly those who lived in public housing – to frequent the library where they could find support, educational assistance and free entertainment. The library staff’s ultimate goal was to offer a place where everyone was welcome, regardless of age, educational background, race and class.³⁷ Upon the library’s opening in 1959, Claus directed her staff to perpetuate the standard set by the former branch at Cass and 14th Streets – established in 1909 to serve a largely immigrant population. While the ethnicity of the library’s patrons changed over time – as did its location – the mission remained the same, which was to serve the neighborhood’s residents.³⁸

The new Crunden Branch is located on a lot which was given to the Library by the City. Though it is adjacent to several housing projects (Pruitt, Igoe, and Vaughn), it faces Cass Avenue which divides the Desoto Park area. More white people live north of Cass Avenue than south of it, and it is hoped that the branch may act as a bridge between the two. . . The patronage of the branch is largely Negro and juvenile. There has been a definite attempt to build a feeling of pride of ownership

³³ Skinner; Gwen interview.

³⁴ Skinner; Gwen interview.

³⁵ Skinner; Olivia Skinner, “Good Noise is Encouraged In Fight on Dropouts,” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (25 September 1965), 4F.

³⁶ Skinner, “Crunden Library’s Wonderful. . .”

³⁷ Skinner, “Good Noise is Encouraged . . .”

³⁸ Skinner, “Crunden Library’s Wonderful”

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of the branch in all who come to it, and to treat all patrons so as to increase their sense of personal dignity.³⁹

While Crunden Branch Library matched educational opportunities offered at other branches, such as providing training about how to use voting machines in 1960, the library did far more.⁴⁰ Soon after it opened, Monday hours were extended from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. to encourage “family visits.” Another program encouraged children to return delinquent books without penalty by bringing a parent so that staff could encourage parents to become library card holders.⁴¹ Other activities unique to the branch were teenage talent shows in the auditorium, “career tips,” etiquette classes, Monday evening film and music, visiting elderly patrons at Vaughn to order/deliver books and conducting workshops “on budgeting and marketing for local housewives in the Pruitt-Igoe housing project” (**Figure 17**).⁴²

Ellen Claus’ ultimate vision for Crunden was a “shocking pink bookmobile with a loudspeaker blaring rock ‘n’ roll and blues” and engaging residents to “push carts of books from house to house.”⁴³ Her dream was never realized in terms of the pink bookmobile but the library did educate thousands of St. Louisans, young and old, during the 22 years that the library branch operated (1959 – 1981). Claus and her staff were particularly concerned about those who dropped out of high school or abandoned reading after they finished high school.⁴⁴ The neighborhood’s rate of high school drop outs and juvenile crime rates was “almost 76 per cent higher . . . than the city-wide average,” in 1964. The library’s goal was to repair these statistics by providing education beyond the classroom.⁴⁵

During its initial year of operation, the library checked out more books to children than any of the city’s other branches and hosted 33,488 children (from 15 schools) who came to “hear stories and receive instruction about use of the library.”⁴⁶ The library’s mission to provide the best opportunities possible for residents continued throughout the period of significance, despite growing concerns about neighborhood safety by the late 1960s.⁴⁷ So successful were the programs initiated at Crunden that within six years of the library’s opening, Mrs. Claus was appointed to co-chair a new public library program, “Human

³⁹ “Crunden Branch – 2008 Cass Avenue.”

⁴⁰ “Voting Machines to be Explained,” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (23 June 1960), 8A.

⁴¹ “Crunden Library Hours,” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (6 November 1960), 6H; Skinner, “Good Noise is Encouraged . . .”

⁴² Skinner, “Crunden Library’s Wonderful World . . .” and “Good Noise is Encouraged . . .”

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Oliva Skinner, “225,000 in City Live in Poverty on Low Annual Family Incomes,” *St. Louis Post Dispatch* (26 January 1964), 9A.

⁴⁶ Skinner, “Crunden Library’s Wonderful World . . .”

⁴⁷ “Crunden Branch – 2008 Cass Avenue.

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Development,” which focused on improving literacy throughout the city (**Figure 18**).⁴⁸ Until Pruitt-Igoe and Pruitt School permanently closed in 1974, Crunden Branch Library led the city’s branches in terms of its unique style of educational support for its patrons.

Crunden Branch Library, which replaced an earlier library constructed in 1909 bearing the same name, served an important role in the community it served. For nearly 20 years, Crunden provided educational support, served as a social center for residents and offered services that without the library’s caring staff would have been unavailable. As discussed in this document, Crunden’s head librarian and staff personally assisted residents – children and adults – opening doors to literacy and career opportunities. The library’s many activities, programs and personal connections provided a sense of security and belonging for those living in adjacent public housing. Crunden’s activities were not restricted to public housing residents. Equal opportunities were available for middle class citizens who lived, worked and attended both public and private schools, as noted in Table 1 and Figure 4. Throughout its period of significance, Crunden Branch Library provided exceptional educational assistance and encouragement for all of its patrons.

Conclusion

Crunden Branch Library at 2008 Cass Avenue was constructed in 1959 to replace a 1909 branch library (also named Crunden) that closed in 1954. The 1959 building, designed by architect Joseph H. Senne, is one of four branch buildings funded by the City’s 1955 bond.⁴⁹ Crunden Branch Library meets National Register Criterion A: Education. During the period of significance, 1959 – 1974, the library provided programs and educational opportunities for children, teenagers, adults and seniors living in the north St. Louis City. So successful were many of Crunden’s activities that a Human Development division (co-chaired by Crunden’s head librarian) was established during the 1960s to promote similar opportunities at other branch libraries. This locally significant property is currently used as a church, meeting Criterion Consideration A. The building’s significance relates solely to its use as a library during the period of significance, 1959 - 1974. Because the period of significance extends through 1974, Crunden Branch Library meets Criterion Consideration G. The library’s years of highest patronage/services are integral to the years that Pruitt Homes, Igoe Apartments and Pruitt School were utilized (through 1974). After public housing residents relocated in 1974, the library’s use declined, which led to its closure in 1981.

⁴⁸ Skinner, “Good Noise is Encouraged . . .”

⁴⁹ Stepney; “Crunden Branch – 2008 Cass Avenue.”

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for Crunden Branch Library surround the legally defined parcel for the building per the City of Louis' Assessor's Office (2008 Cass Avenue, Block 6484). The parcel is 269 feet x 130 feet. Boundaries follow the public walk that flanks Cass Avenue on the north, the site formerly associated with Pruitt-Igoe (west), the rear property and fence lines (south) and the public sidewalk that bounds N. 20th Street (east) (**Figure 18**).

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the parcel historically associated with Crunden Branch Library. The definitions of the parcel have not been altered since the building was constructed in 1959.

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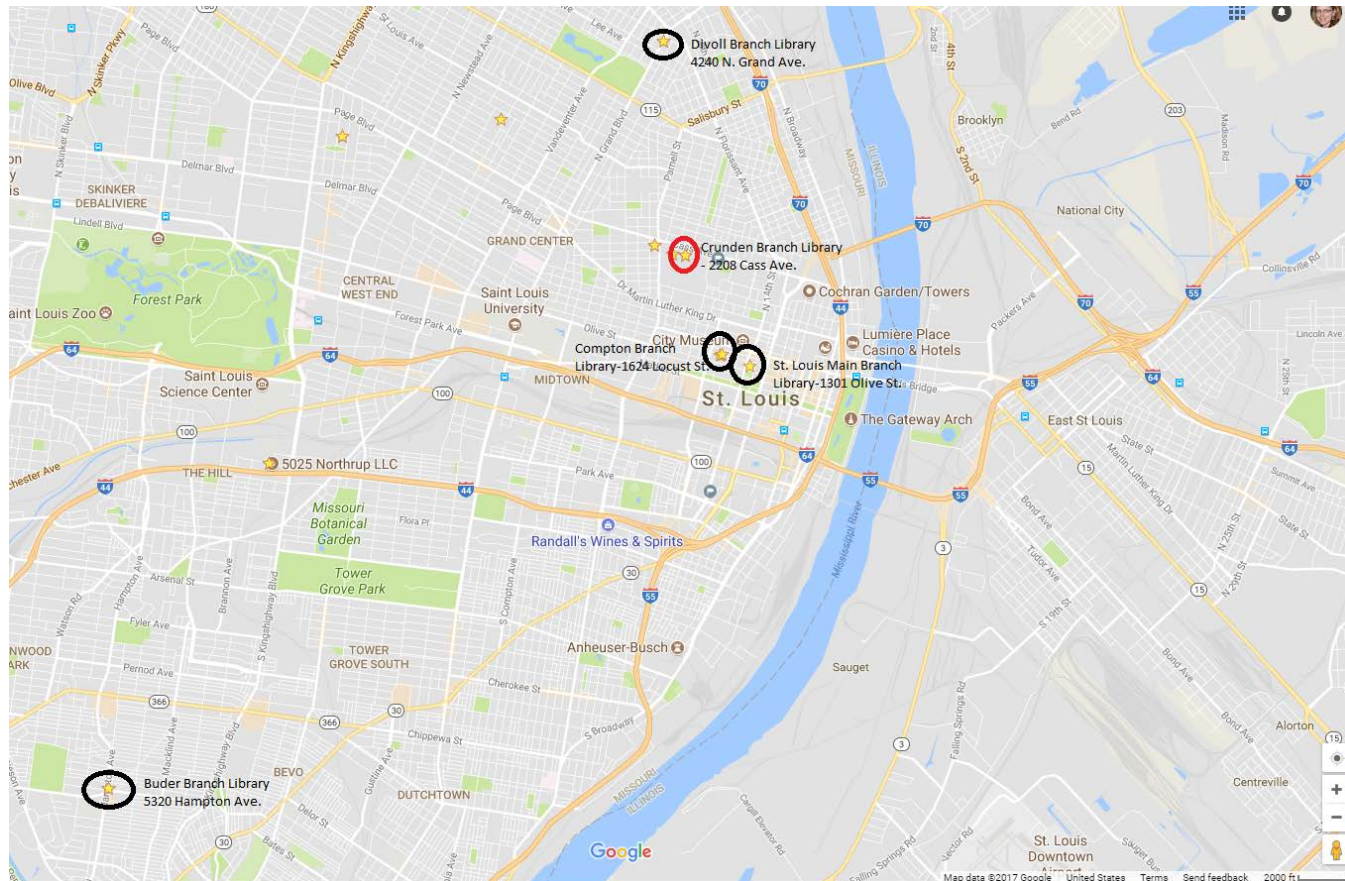


Figure 1. Location Map, Crunden Branch Library (circled in red). When the original Crunden Branch Library on N. 14th Street was constructed in 1909, none of these buildings existed. The main branch on Olive Street was constructed in 1912. The remaining three libraries (Divoll, Compton and Buder) were constructed under the City's 1955 bond. All of the buildings on this map are extant.

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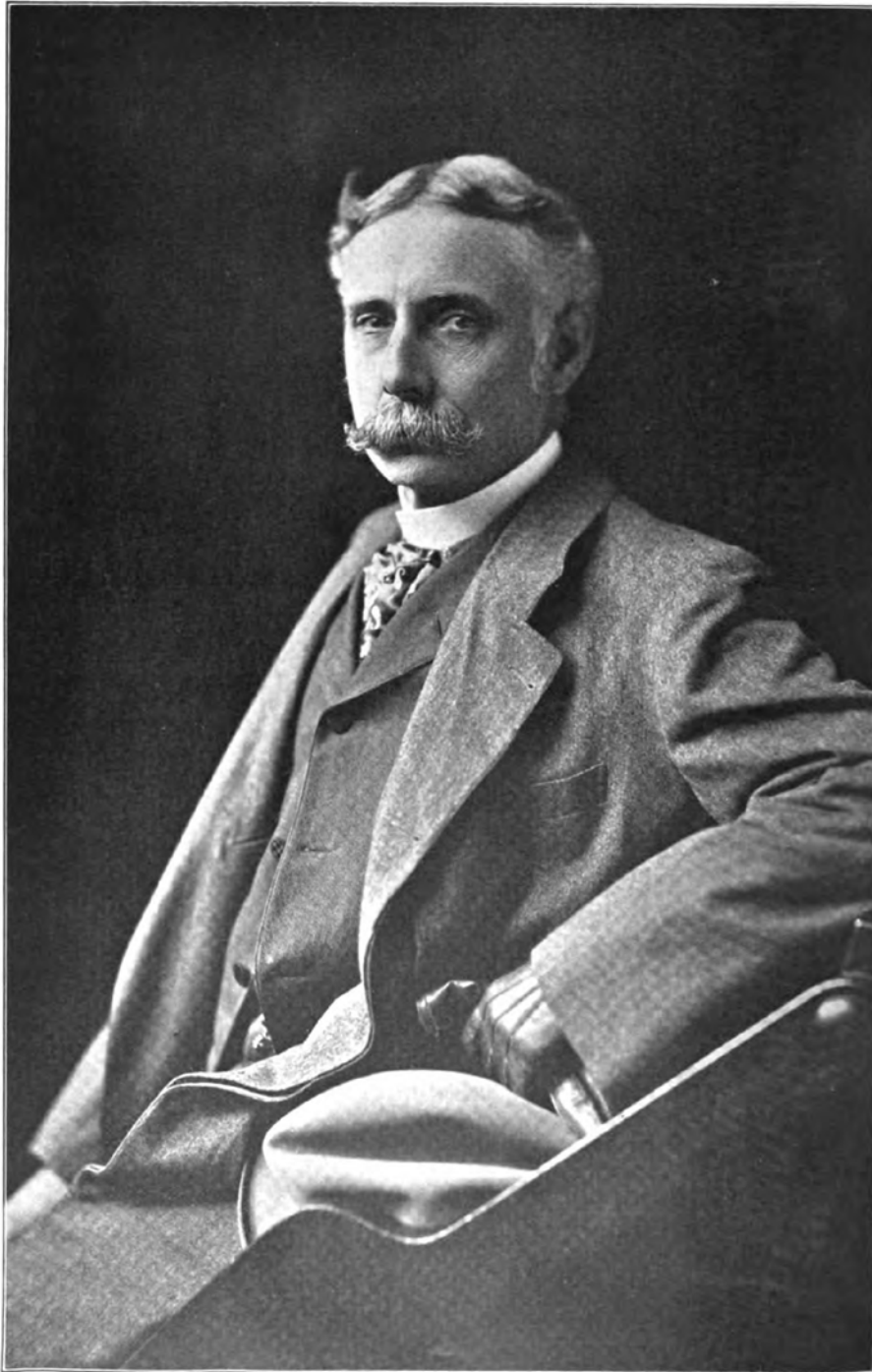


Figure 2. Frederick M. Crunden (Photo Source: *The Library Journal*, New York: [American Library Association], Volume 36, November 1911: p. 540).

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Figure 3. Crunden Branch Library, c. 1970, Cass Avenue and N. 14th Street, view is northeast from Cass Avenue. The building was used as a bank after it closed as a library in 1954 (Photo Courtesy of Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc., 911 Washington Avenue, St. Louis, MO).

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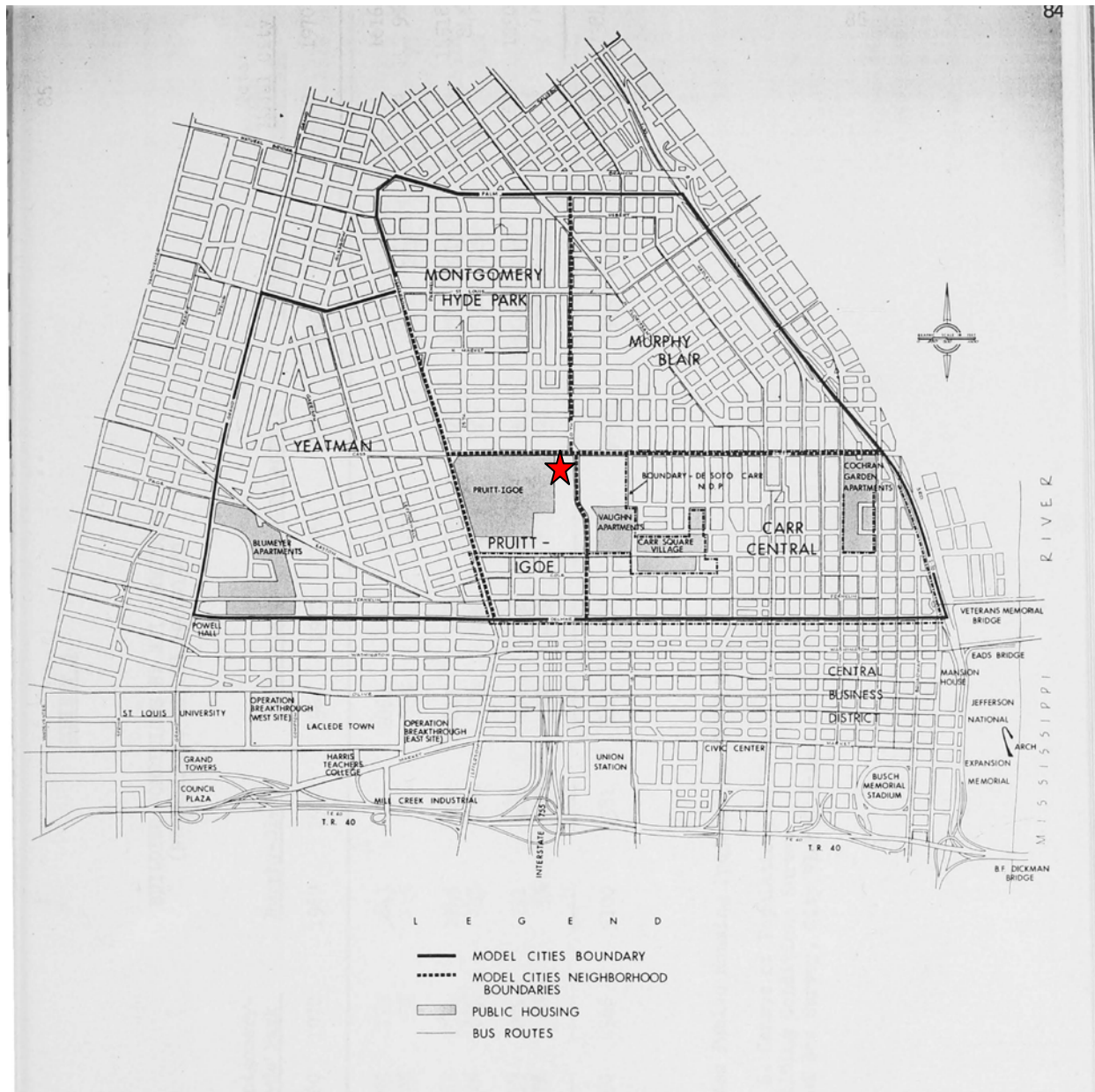


Figure 4. Map illustrating location of Crunden Branch Library, which is denoted by the star. The DeSoto-Carr neighborhood includes the sections marked as “Pruitt-Igoe” and “Carr Central.” (Source: St. Louis Housing Authority, “Pruitt Homes and Igoe Apartments Public Housing Complex,” Unpublished, September 1974, A-2).

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Figure 5. Compton Branch (Film) Library, 1624 Locust Street, SW. Photo by Ruth Keenoy, 14 April 2017.

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Figure 6. Crunden Library and Igoe Apartments, c. 1962. View is southeast. Photo courtesy of St. Louis Public Library, Archives (Central Branch).

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Figure 7. Crunden Branch Library, c. 1960. View is southeast. Photo courtesy of St. Louis Public Library, Archives (Central Branch).

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Figure 8. Joseph Senne's rendering for the Crunden Branch Library. This image depicts the preference that provided the building's final design. Image courtesy of St. Louis Public Library, Archives (Central Branch).

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n/a

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Figure 9. Joseph Senne's rendering for the Crunden Branch Library – a stripped down version of the building that was constructed. Image courtesy of St. Louis Public Library, Archives (Central Branch).

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n/a

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Figure 10. Crunden Branch Library, Reading Room, 1962. Photo courtesy of St. Louis Public Library, Archives (Central Branch).

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n/a

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Figure 11. Crunden Branch Library, Story Hour in the Assembly Room, c. 1962. Photo courtesy of St. Louis Public Library, Archives (Central Branch).

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Figure 12. Arts and Crafts Show at Crunden Branch Library, 1971. Paintings on display by Sidney Lugger. Library staff in photo are Thelma Price and Joe Benson. Photo courtesy of St. Louis Public Library, Archives (Central Branch).

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 13. Location of Crunden Branch Library in relation to Pruitt-Igoe, Vaughn Apartments and Carr Square Village. Source: Googlemaps.com.

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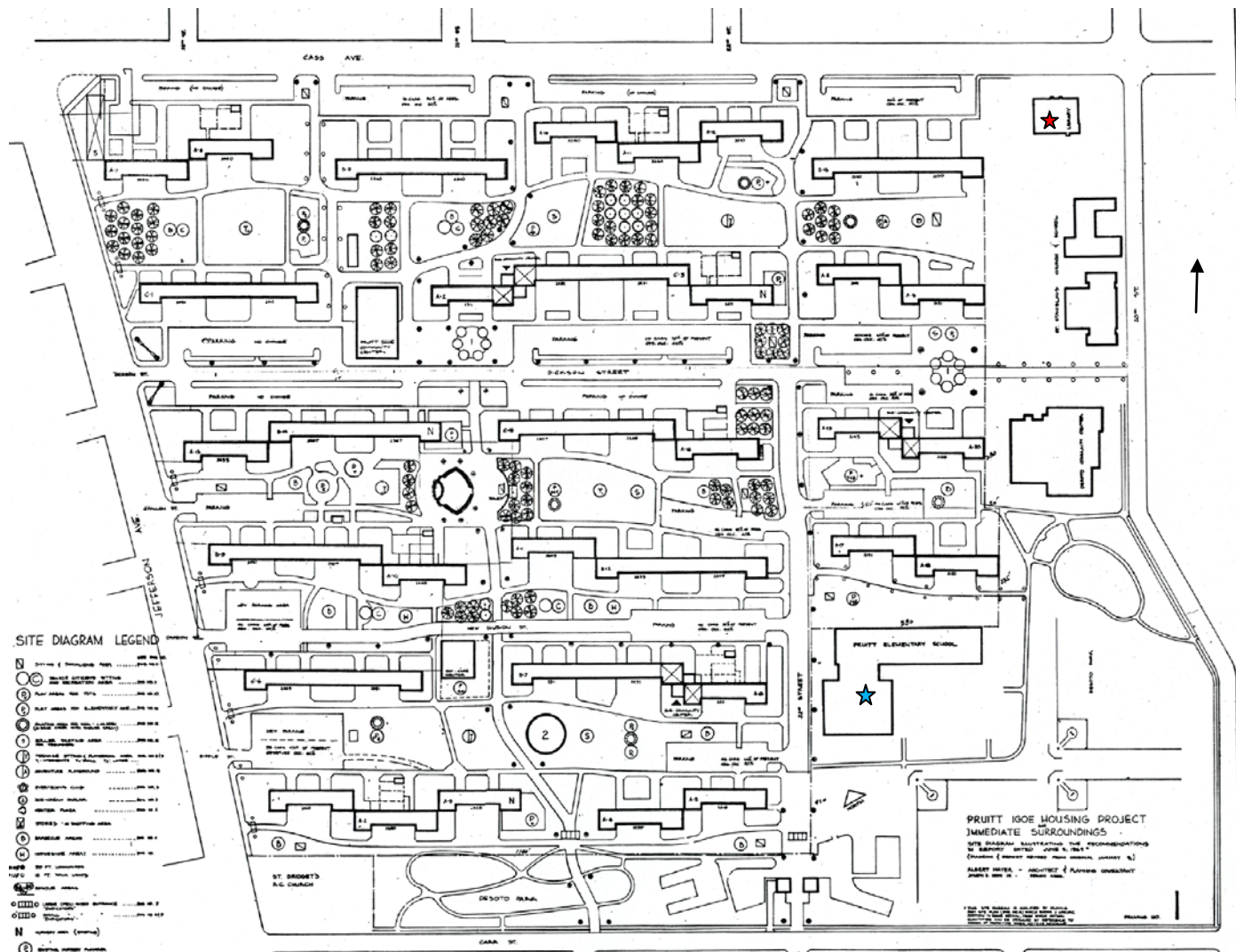
Crunden Branch Library

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n/a

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



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Figure 15. Reading Room, Crunden Branch Library, 1962 (Source: St. Louis Public Library, Archives).

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n/a

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Figure 16. Celebration, 1974. Crunden Branch Library. Photo courtesy of St. Louis Public Library, Archives (Central Branch).

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Figure 17. Young women living in Pruitt-Igoe were among the many groups offered career training at Crunden Branch Library (Source: St. Louis Public Library, Archives).

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



By a Post-Dispatch Photographer

Mrs. Ellen Q. Claus

Figure 18. Ellen Q. Claus, head librarian at Crunden Branch Library, created many of the educational programs at the library (Source: Skinner article, 25 September 1965, 4F).

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n/a

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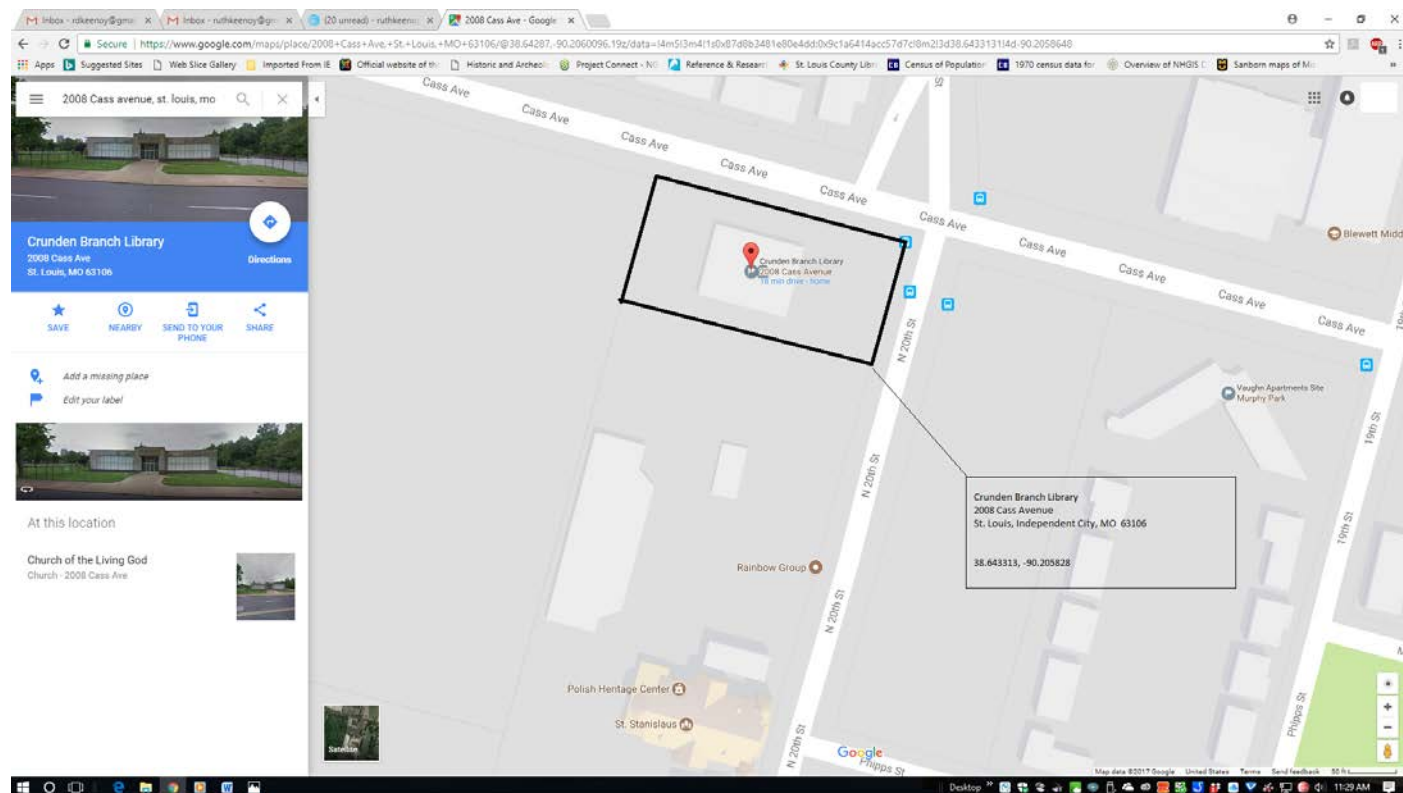


Figure 19. Parcel Map, Crunden Branch Library. National Register boundaries are outlined in bold (Source: Google Maps).

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n/a

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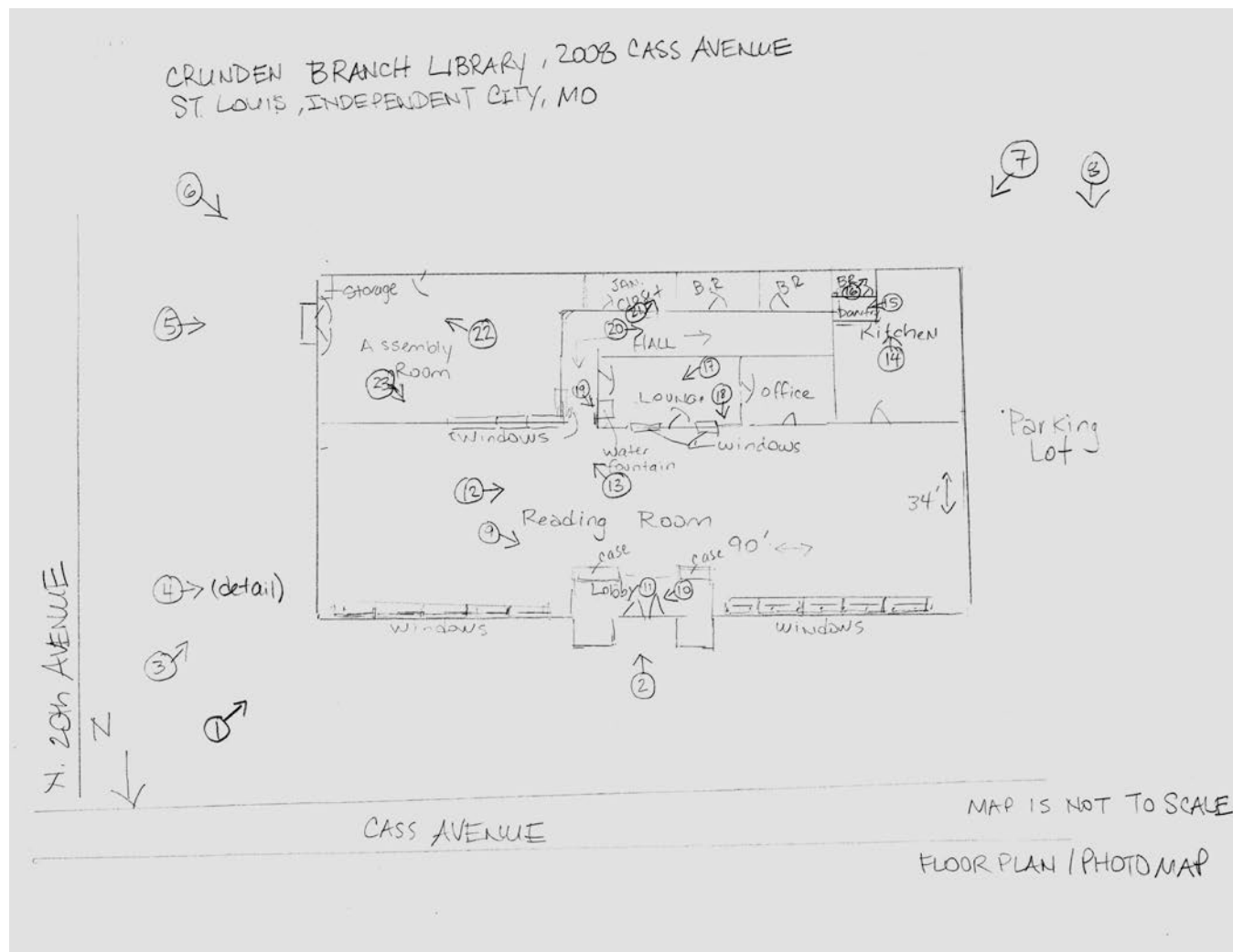


Figure 20. Floor Plan and Photo Log, Crunden Branch Library. Not to scale.





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