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 Graphic Arts Building	
other name/site number N/A	
2. Location	
street & town 934 Wyandotte Street N/A	not for publication
city or town Kansas City N/A	A vicinity
state Missouri code MO county Jackson code 095 zip code 64105	
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this \(\) n request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion property \(\) meets \(\) does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered sign \(\) nationally \(\) statewide \(\) locally. (\(\) See continuation sheet for additional comments.) Missouri Department of Natural Resources	Il Register I, the Inificant
Signature of certifying official/Title Date State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that the property is: Gentered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. Getermined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet. Getermined not eligible for the National Register. Gremoved from the National Register. Gremoved from the National Register. Gother, (explain:)	Date of Action

Graphic Arts Building Name of Property		Jackson Co County and	unty, MO State	
5. Classification Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (check only one box)		rces within Property y listed resources in the coun	t.)
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
□ private	building(s)	1	0	buildings
public-local	☐ district	0	0	sites
☐ public-State	site	0	0	structures
public-Federal	structure	0	0	objects
	☐ object	1	0	Total
Name of related multiple property is not part of a		in the National Re	outing resources previ gister	iously listed
N/A		0		
6. Function or Use Historic Function (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Fu (Enter catego	Inction ries from instructions)	
INDUSTRY: communicaitons facili	ty	COMMERCE	: business	, <u>.</u> ,
COMMERCE: business		EDUCATION	: college	

				_
Architectural Classification		Materials (Enter catego	ries from instructions)	
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	ENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:		ries from instructions)concrete	
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	ENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:	(Enter catego		
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CR	ENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:	(Enter catego foundation	concrete	

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

Name of Property	County and State
8. Description Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
	INDUSTRY
our history.	COMMERCE
☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	ARCHITECTURE
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.	Period of Significance 1915-1955
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates
Property is:	1915
☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	
☐ B removed from its original location.	Significant Persons (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A
☐ C a birthplace or grave.	
☐ D a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation N/A
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	•
☐ F a commemorative property.	Architect/Builder Tarbet, Samuel B., architect (1915)
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Pratt and Thompson Construction Company, contractor
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8
9. Major Bibliographical References Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more con	tinuation sheets.
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
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 #	State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of repository: Kansas City Public Library
	See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property less than one acre	
UTM References (Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	
1 15 362980 4329370 Zone Easting Northing	2 / Zone Easting Northing
3 / Zone Easting Northing	4 / Zone Easting / Northing
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)	
Property Tax No.	
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)	
11. Form Prepared By name/title Cydney E. Millstein and Mary Ann Warfield	⊠See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10
organization Architectural and Historical Research, LLC	date February 8, 2005
street & number1537 Belleview Avenue	telephone 816.472.4154
city or town Kansas City	state MO zip code 64108
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form:	State_MO Zip oods 04100
Continuation Sheets Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the pro- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any addition	large acreage or numerous resources. the property.
Property Owner name/title Old Town Partners XII, L.P.	
street & number 4510 Belleview Ave., Suite 300	telephone 816.753.9200
city or town Kansas City	state MO zip code 64111
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for appropriate for listing or determine elicibility for listing to list proportion and to appropriate the control of the control	

Jackson County, MO

Graphic Arts Building

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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Summary

The Graphic Arts Building, located at 934 Wyandotte Street, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri, is an eight-story, reinforced concrete (two-way reinforcement) building measuring 84.3' x 114.1' with a one-story annex measuring 24.1' x 74.8' placed at the northwest or rear façade. Designed by Kansas City architect Samuel B. Tarbet, the building was constructed in 1915 by the Pratt-Thompson Construction Company. Articulated at the main facade with Arts and Crafts terra cotta elements (at the entrance surround and flanking piers), the building is a three-part vertical block design with a prominent base and tall shaft further accented with slender terra cotta banding at the corner piers. The terminating story also features Arts and Crafts styled bracketing. Concrete curtain walls, with a brick veneer manufactured by Hy-tex, characterize the exterior. Despite some reversible modifications to the exterior, this Commercial style building retains a high degree of its original integrity and remains in good condition.

Directly to the east and northeast is the National Register listed West Ninth Street/Baltimore Avenue Historic District (and its Boundary Increase I). The Historic Wholesale National Register District is located to the northwest. Modern parking garages are sited directly to the east and south of the Graphic Arts building.

Elaboration

Building permits were issued for the Graphic Arts Building and for the adjacent annex on April 1, 1915. Construction of the Graphic Arts Building, designed by Kansas City architect Samuel B. Tarbet, began in the spring of that year. Although the building was originally designed as a seven-story building, a partial eighth floor was added at that time. The Graphic Arts building has its main entrance on Wyandotte and features an annex to the rear or northwest façade.²

¹ Western Contractor, March 17, 1917, 17 Other firms involved in the construction of the Graphic Arts Building include: Hydraulic-Press Brick Company, St. Louis, manufacturers of the Hy-tex Brick; Automatic Sprinkler Company of America; Empire Electric Company; and the Western Terra Cotta Company. The two-way reinforcement was supplied by the Arkansas Bridge Company.

² Building Permit No. 11435, April 1, 1915, Landmarks Commission, Kansas City, Missouri.

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The main façade of the Graphic Arts Building faces east and is divided into five bays. The storefronts, slightly modified from the original, feature single-leaf doors (except for the storefront at the far north bay) and fixed windows with wide tripartite transoms, obscured at the second and fourth bays (moving south to north). Each storefront bay features a molded, terra cotta surround. The deeply recessed, centrally placed entrance features a double-leaf wooden door with wide terra cotta surround and is flanked by a prominent, fixed window at the north and a single-leaf wood and glass door at the south. The entry bay features geometric patterned, deeply recessed terra cotta paneling, and stylized keystone above the entrance. Flanking the entry bay is basket weave patterned terra cotta placed around geometric styled brackets while the whole is crowned by a wide entablature with the words "GRAPHIC ARTS BUILDING" carved into the frieze. A slender stringcourse separates the first floor from the shaft of the building.

At the upper levels, each of the five bays feature tripartite fenestration with non-original aluminum fixed in place windows with divider bars and wood mullions. Wide brick spandrels divide each floor. End bays are enframed with terra cotta surrounds the same as those of the storefront windows. A terra cotta stringcourse divides the 7th and 8th floors. Segmental arched windows with terra cotta surrounds and carved pendants mark the end bays of the terminating floor. The terra cotta surrounds at the storefront façade are repeated at the central bays of the main shaft and the 8th floor. The prominent shaped parapet, crenelated at the end bays, is embellished with terra cotta coping.

The design of the main or east façade of the Graphic Arts Building wraps to the south façade. The main variant is the first story level which features tripartite fenestration with its original wood mullions. The secondary entrance, placed at the far west bay, has been modified from the original and features one single-leaf glass door and a fixed, aluminum-framed, plate glass window. The entrance features a terra cotta surround and a wide cornice with carved brackets at each end. The remainder of the south façade matches that of the main façade with non-original aluminum-framed fenestration and terra cotta detailing.

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The first bay of the north façade, obscured at the first two stories by the adjacent building, features the same detailing as that of the main or east façade. The remainder of the façade, characterized by the same aluminum window design (in pairs), is without embellishment. The west or alley features a concrete structural grid and is divided into six bays. Fenestration is a combination of three-over-three, double-hung, industrial sash windows and aluminum replacement windows matching the main façade. A concrete water tank enclosure is placed at the center of the west façade. Non-original single-leaf metal doors are located at the end bays.

The annex, located at the west façade of the main building, has its main façade facing south. The current façade of the annex is the result of a 1952 remodeling. The original façade reflected the design of the original Graphic Arts Building. Single-leaf multipaned glass and wood doors are located at the far west and east bays. A wide, industrial sash, multipaned bay window between the entrances sports a cloth canopy. The parapet features stone coping. The east and west facades of the annex share party walls with the Graphic Arts Building and a seven story building on the west. Fenestration of the north elevation of the annex consists of aluminum replacement windows similar to those on the main elevation of the original building.

Future Plans

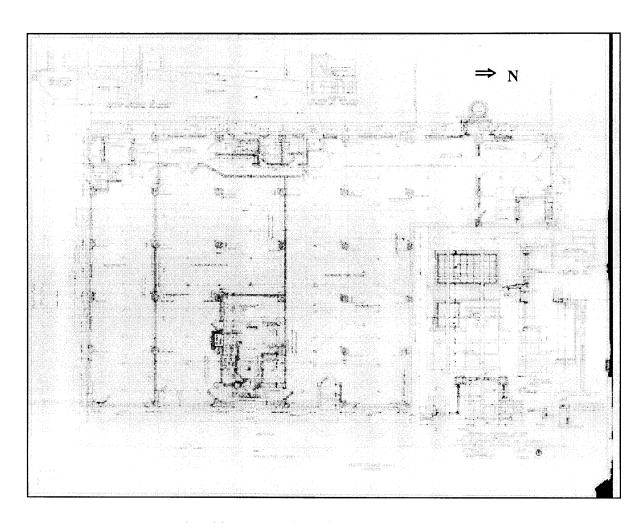
Currently there are plans for the rehabilitation and adaptive re-use of the Graphic Arts Building. Plans for the project, prepared by SWD Architects, Kansas City, Missouri, are in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. Once the proposed plans are completed, they will be submitted to the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office and the National park Service for review and compliance.

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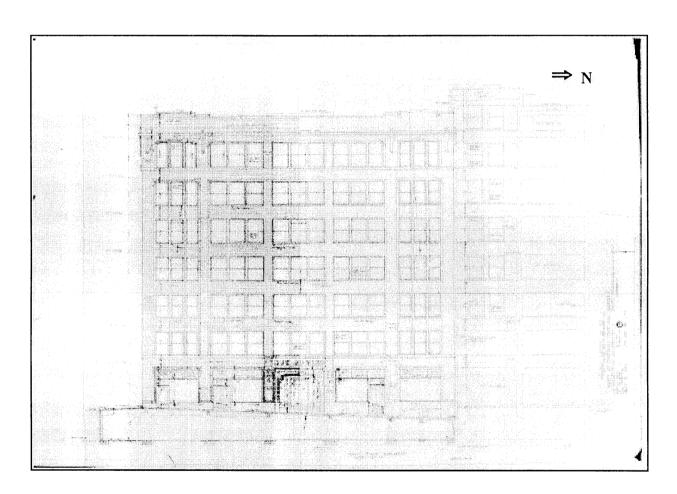
Graphic Arts, Main Building: First Floor Plan

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Graphic Arts, Main Building: East/Primary Façade

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Graphic Arts Building Jackson County, Missouri

Summary:

The Graphic Arts Building, located at 934 Wyandotte Street, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C and is significant in the following areas: INDUSTRY: As headquarters for the Kansas City Graphic Arts Organization, the history of the Graphic Arts Building illustrates its importance as an anchor for the graphic arts industry in the pre-computer years of printing presses, ink, steel and copper plate engraving, typesetting and lithography. For years, it remained the center for commercial printing and its associated trades in Kansas City. COMMERCE: The building's central location and diverse scope of tenants ranging from suppliers of paper and ink, to printers and engravers, to photographers and filmmakers, attests to the symbiotic and cooperative nature that was so vital to the success of the industry as a whole. ARCHITECTURE: Designed by Samuel B. Tarbet in 1915, the three-part Commercial Style Graphic Arts Building is one of the few existing commercial works in the area by the Kansas City architect. It is distinguished not only by its intact Arts and Crafts embellished façade, but also by its use of Hy-Tex brick, a specialized brick used in prominent buildings throughout the United States.

The period of significance of the Graphic Arts Building is 1915 through 1955.

Elaboration

Architect Samuel B. Tarbet designed the building for owner, Correlia M. Thompson.³ Although previous surveys have indicated that the Graphic Arts Building was constructed after the Graphic Arts Annex, the building permits were issued together so construction of both buildings may have occurred in unison. An article in the *Kansas City Star* stated that crews were working in three shifts in order to complete the Graphic Arts Building by July 1, 1915. The article also stated that an annex, adjacent to the west, would be built as well.

The Graphic Arts building was designed as a center for commercial printing and its associated trades. Samuel

³Corellia Thompson was related to Pratt and Thompson, however, no relation was found to Thompson Paper Company, one of the first business firms to locate in the building.

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Tarbet's plan considered issues of live load for the placement of ten-ton printing presses on any or all of the floors. A floor load of 250 pounds per square foot, with a thirty-five percent impact was incorporated into the design. Due to the nature of the industry and its use of paper and flammable products, the building incorporated into its design a superior sprinkler system that included an extra large roof tank with a water holding capacity of 100 tons.⁴

Tenants of the Graphic Arts Building in 1915 included a number of printing companies, stationers, lithographers, engravers, typesetters, photographers and print supply houses. In 1916 the Graphic Arts Organization of Kansas City moved from the New England Life Building to Room 801 of the Graphic Arts Building. According to building permit records, the building went through some major renovations during the 1960s. During the 1970s tenants of the Graphic Arts Building consisted of a variety of businesses including several art studios and a film company. However, typesetters, stationers and photographers were still listed among the tenants. In 1981, the publishing firm of the *Mid West Contractor* moved into Room 500 and *Peter's Report* moved into Room 501. ⁵

Graphic Arts Organization of Kansas City

Exactly when the Graphic Arts Organization of Kansas City was formed is not clear, nor were the specific activities as an industrial organization fully described. However, the organization represented approximately 3,000 people employed in the graphic arts industry within the Kansas City area. According to a brochure from the Kansas City Industrial Exposition of 1923:

[t]he Kansas City Graphic Arts Organization is composed of representative firms in all lines of the printing industry. Its activities include business counsel; legal, credit, and collection services;

⁴Although the building was constructed without a power plant, a concrete stack was built for future needs. Otis Elevator was hired as general contractor for the elevator system that consisted of a passenger elevator with a 2,500-pound capacity and two freight elevators with 5,000-pound capacity each. Steam heat was installed, as well as the most modern plumbing fixtures for the period. Each of the seven floors and the basement contained 9,500 square feet of floor space. The cost was estimated at \$150,000.

⁵ Kansas City Directories: 1915 - 1981 (Kansas City: Gates Publishing Company). Microfilm, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

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employment and organization matters; educational work; accounting, cost finding, and statistical activities; and cooperation in all matters related to the Industry as a whole.⁶

The Graphic Arts Organization occupied offices on the eighth floor of the Graphic Arts Building serving as an anchor for the local graphic arts industry. When the Kansas City Industrial Exposition of 1923 was held at the American Royal Building, October 10 - 20, 1923, the organization was directly involved with the event. The official bulletin for the show, as published by the Graphic Arts Organization, was an extensive advertisement that provided a listing of all the printing shops, envelope makers, letter service companies, lithographers, stationers, typesetters, engravers and supply houses that were members of the Graphic Arts Organization located in Kansas City. More than one hundred twenty affiliated firms were listed.

For over six decades major players in the graphic arts industry were located between 6th and 14th Streets, bounded by Broadway to the west and Main to the east. The Graphic Arts Building, as headquarters for the Graphic Arts Organization of Kansas City, served as an incubator to the industry. The building's central location and diverse scope of tenants ranging from paper making and ink supply, to printers and engravers, to photographers and film makers, all prior to the advent of the computer, attests to the symbiotic and cooperative nature that was so vital to the success of the industry as a whole.

A Tenant's story: Thompson Paper Company, 1916-1977

The Thompson Paper Company, a fifth generation Kansas City firm, was one of the first firms to locate in the Graphic Arts Building. Lee Roy Thompson, Sr., and his father established the Thompson Paper Company in 1916. They were located in the basement of the building along with the Gates Paper Company. In a recent phone conversation, Lee Roy Thompson, Jr., recalled that Gates had one of the

⁶"Kansas City Industrial Exposition: October 10-20, 1923," (Kansas City: Graphic Arts Organization, 1923), 2. The Graphic Arts Organization remained in the Graphic Arts Building until 1960. Twelve vendors that participated in the 1923 exposition were located in the Graphic Arts Building.

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largest presses in the building. He also recalled many of the businesses had a variety of large cutting machines, presses, engraving machines and other equipment that would necessitate the load bearing construction as designed by Samuel Tarbet.

Many of the businesses related to the printing industry were located in the general vicinity of the Graphic Arts Building. At that time, the logic of condensing a business area by industry allowed for an efficient and cost effective method of moving supplies between vendors. In addition to the information taken from printed sources published at the time of construction, Mr. Thompson indicated that an incinerator for the disposal of paper refuse was also located in the basement and utilized by all the tenants. The use of the incinerator was discontinued by the mid 1920s when automobile owners began to complain about the debris of cinders and ash that covered their autos on the parking lots surrounding the Graphic Arts Building.

Several customers of Thompson Paper Company went on to become major icons in the history of Kansas City. One of Thompson's earliest customers was Walt Disney. In one transaction, Disney's Kansas City studio created an advertisement in exchange for paper stock. Thompson Paper Company proudly displays the advertisement on their website. Secondly, Charles and Myrtle Fillmore, the founders of Unity School for Christianity, had completed a new headquarters building at 917 Tracy Avenue. Their prayer publications had been in print for years. However, around the time of World War I, they began buying paper stock from Thompson. Unity became a regular customer for a number of years thereafter. J. C. Hall, another early customer began buying from Thompson around 1917. A young entrepreneur approached Roy Thompson Sr. and asked to set up a business account. Mr. Thompson was reluctant and was concerned that the man would not last in business. Hall later proved himself to Mr. Thompson as the young man's products, including cards, stationary and wrapping paper, eventually formed the Hallmark Card empire.

⁷ Thompson Paper Company, Official web site, accessed January 24, 2005. http://www.handmadepapers.emerchantpro.com/index.html?token=642270067-1387128895-568626404&A=17&B=Contact%20Information

⁸ Roy Thompson Jr., telephone interview with Mary Ann Warfield on January 25, 2005. The company has been in business for over 80 years. Thompson Paper relocated to its current address, 215 Southwest Boulevard, Kansas City Missouri, around 1977. At the age

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Samuel Tarbet

Architect Samuel B. Tarbet (c. 1871-1945) started his career in the construction business in 1905 when he formed a partnership with his brother, Addison M. Tarbet under the name Tarbet Construction Company. The firm survived less than one year. Samuel then decided to work alone as an architect between 1906 and 1910. In 1911-13, Tarbet formed S. B. Tarbet and Company. From 1917 through 1919, Tarbet was listed simply as "architect" in the city directories. For two years beginning in 1920 through 1922, Tarbet formed a partnership with Robert Gornall. By 1923 Tarbet was once again practicing alone and continued on his own until 1943. Samuel B. Tarbet died September 30, 1945, at the age of 74. His wife June, two daughters and his brother Addison who resided in San Diego, California, survived Tarbet

During his career in Kansas City and the surrounding area, Tarbet designed a variety of buildings including single and multi-family residences, commercial and religious properties. Currently, three of his buildings in the Kansas City metropolitan area are listed in the National Register of Historic Places: the Wheeling Corrugating Company Building, North Kansas City, which he designed while in practice with Robert Gornall (NR 10/21/94); the Goodenow Textiles Company Building, 3710 Main Street, Kansas City (NR 4/18/03); and the Kansas City Athenaeum at 900 E. Linwood Boulevard (NR 10/11/79). Tarbet also designed the J. D. Bowerstock Theater, now known as Liberty Hall, in Lawrence, Kansas.

Other buildings by Tarbet include Olathe City Hall, Olathe, Kansas (1910); Oak Park Christian Church, 43rd and Montgall (1916); and a building for B. Cusack and Company of Chicago, 15th and Highland (1909). He designed a number of residences including: H, F. Hill residence, at Chelsea and Smart (1913); C.F. Myers home, located at 3426 Montgall (1912); and the residence of Dr. Guffey, on 42nd at State Line (1912).¹⁰

Hy-Tex Brick Company, St. Louis

of 80, Roy Thompson Jr., continues his affiliation with the company four days a week. Thompson Paper Company is now owned and operated by Debra Thompson, fifth generation.

⁹ Sherri Piland, The Kansas City Athenaeum, National Register of Historic Places, January 23, 1979, 6.

¹⁰ Sherri Piland. "Samuel B Tarbet: Biographical Sources," Personal files compiled from research.

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The Hy-Tex Brick Company manufactured Hy-Tex brick in St. Louis. By the beginning of the 20th century, Hydraulic Press Brick Company, St. Louis, had developed "the most extensive line of special shapes, moldings and ornamental brick in the world." The Hy-Tex name was added to HPB in the 1900s. Prick manufactured by this firm was used in many prominent projects including the Eads Bridge; the Anhueser Busch Brew House (1891) in St. Louis, the Willard Hotel (1901) in Washington, D.C. as well as several prominent New York buildings including the Chrysler Building (1929), the Equitable Life Assurance Building of New York (1915) and the Bank of Manhattan. ¹³

¹¹ Pamela Ambrose and Joseph Heathcott, Ph.D. "The City's Curator: An Interview with Larry Giles of The Building Arts Foundation," *Brick By Brick: Building St. Louis and the Nation* (St. Louis: St. Louis University Museum of Art, 2004), 35. ¹² *Ibid*, 38.

¹³ *Ibid*, 38-39.

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Unpublished

Building Permit, No. 11435 and 11436, April 1, 1915, Landmarks Commission, Kansas City, Missouri
Piland, Sherri. "The Kansas City Athenaeum." National Register of Historic Places. January 23, 1979.
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Graphic Arts Building Jackson County, Missouri

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Graphic Arts Building is Lots 9 and 10 and the south 99.25 feet of Lots 11 and 12, Block 7, Ashburn's Addition, a subdivision in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property of the Graphic Arts Building includes the entire parcel historically associated with the property, as described above.

Key to Photographs

Photographer: Jeff Nichols, North Kansas City, Missouri

Date: January 29-30, 2005

All large format negative are housed at Architectural and Historical Research, Kansas City, Missouri, 64108

- 1. The main (east) and south facades; view facing northwest.
- 2. Detail of main entrance and storefronts at east façade; view facing west.
- 3. Detail of main entrance terra cotta work; view facing west.
- 4. Detail of the upper story fenestration at the east façade; view facing west.
- 5. South façade of the main building with annex; view facing northeast.
- 6. Detail of the south façade fenestration; view facing north.
- 7. Detail of the entrance at the south facade and a portion of the annex; view facing north.
- 8. Detail of the upper story fenestration of the south façade; view facing north.
- 9. The main and north facades; view facing south, southwest.
- 10. The north façade; view facing south.
- 11. The north and west (alley) facades; view facing south, southeast.
- 12. Interior, first floor lobby; view facing east.























